

TRW
Sportsman
Allstars

TRW Sportsman

Stars teams set

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Drag Racing



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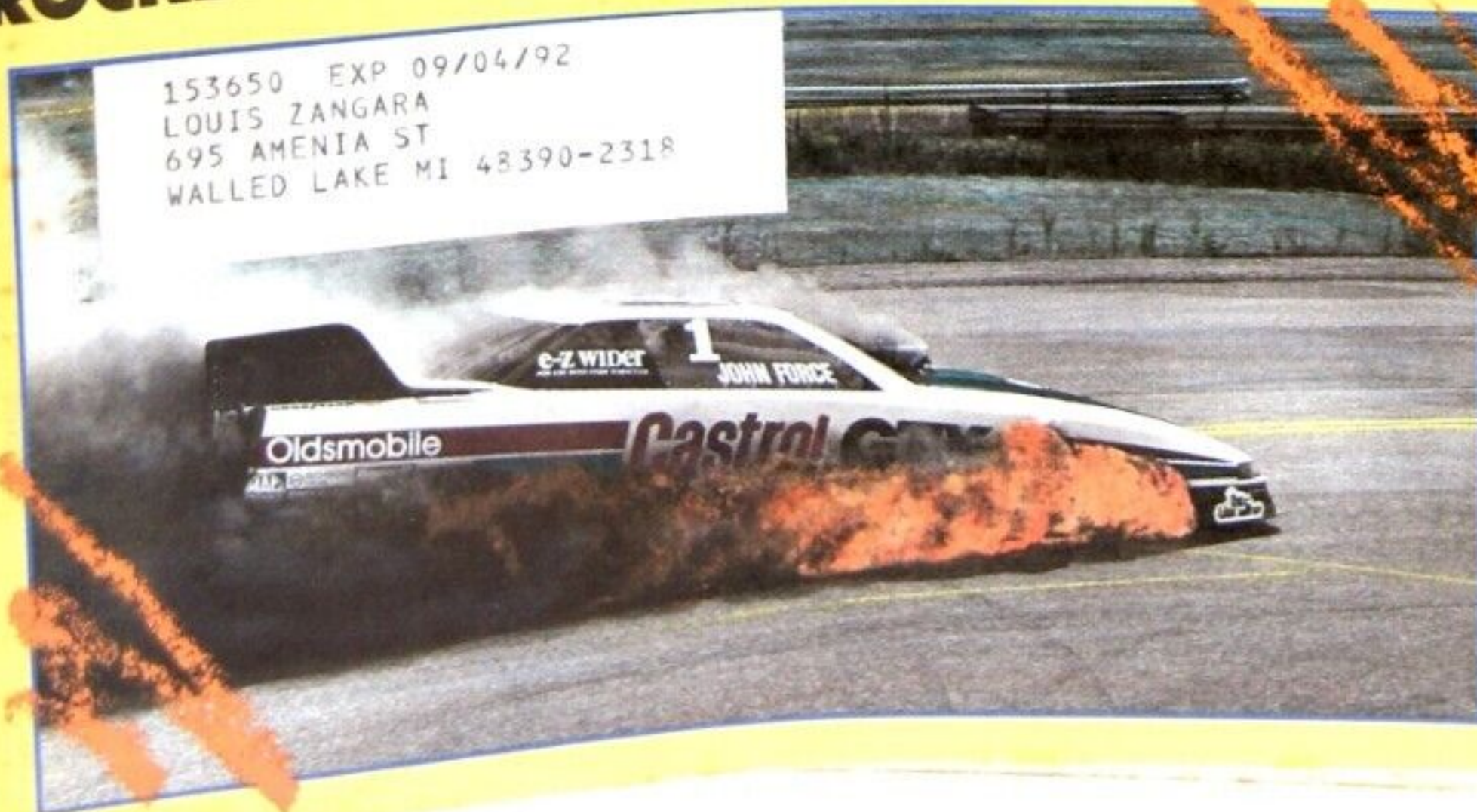
Oldsmobile

springnationals

SOUVENIR ISSUE



ROCKETSHIP BLAST-OFF: Inside Jeff Taylor's Olds Achieva



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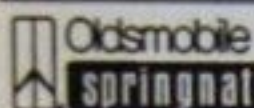
First Look:

FORCE'S FIRE-FIGHTING FLOPPER

Winston Champ
has some hot
ideas for his
newest flame

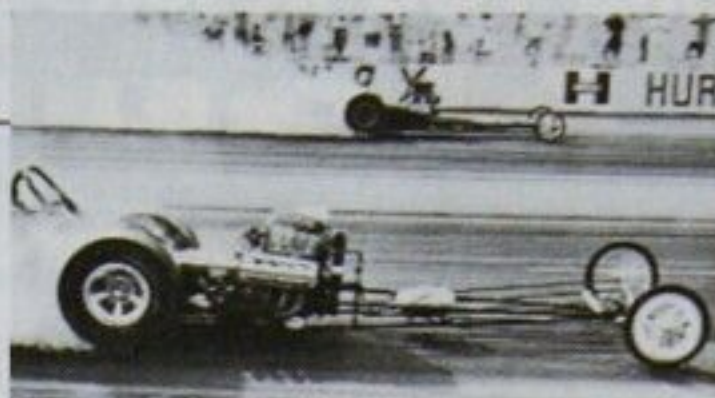
June 12, 1992

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AT PRESS TIME

The grand opening of Thunder Valley Raceway Park in Noble, Okla., provided a lot of great action for race fans. John Force debuted his new fire-fighting Funny Car with a 5.25; Jim Epler hopped into the Funny Car seat in a new partnership with Johnny West; and Eddie Hill cranked out runs of 4.99 and 4.95 in his Pennzoil Top Fuel dragster. Of course, all of the details are in this week's issue.

On the cover:

Jeff Taylor's high-flying Super Stock Olds Achieva leads the lineup of Rocket racers heading into the Oldsmobile Springnationals (photo by Auto Imagery). Winston Funny Car Champ John Force has ridden out many fires, like this one at last year's Le Grandnational-Molson, but now he's determined to avoid a fire and crash like the one he experienced at the Mid-South Nationals (photo by Phil Burgess/hand coloring by Teresa Long).

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Bits

from the pits

Nickens On Richardson



If it's true that it takes one to know one, then Winston Comp Champion David Nickens' impression of the awesome performance of a fellow Texas superstar and Division 4 TRW All-Stars squad member, five-time 1992 National event winner Edmond Richardson (pictured), certainly deserve to be heard. "He's incredible," said Nickens, who with 23 titles is 11th in career wins. "He's on a storybook streak. He really deserves it. He lives, eats, and sleeps drag racing. He'll sit around with a practice Tree for six or eight hours a day. All he thinks about is his car and working the Tree. Driving a race car is mentally demanding, and that's where Edmond excels. His spirit never breaks, and he never gets down on himself when he loses. His confidence level is incredible. I doubt seriously if anyone will beat him this year. I'm not saying

he's going to win every race, but it'll have to be a freak deal. Someone will have to make a perfect or near-perfect run. If he's late, he knows what to do — he has to break the guy out — and he just does it. When you have confidence, you know what to do; there's no indecision. I'm glad he's on our side for the TRW race."

Quarter-Mile Video Games



Many have seen the television commercials extolling the respective advantages of Sega and Nintendo home video games, but what about their perceived advantages on the dragstrip? In Europe, two Scandinavian Alcohol Dragster teams have carried the Sega-Nintendo battle to the quarter-mile. Finland's Anita Makela, who raced at the '91 Arizona Nationals in her Bob Meyer-built entry, is sponsored by Sonic the Hedgehog and his friends at Sega. Tony Donges, of Sweden, is sponsored by Nintendo. Which one is better? On the track, the Makela/Sega entry currently is the leader, boasting a 6.11-second best lap. The Donges/Nintendo car is a tick behind at 6.18 seconds.



Northwest Doorslammers Assn. Sets Schedule

The Northwest Doorslammers Association (NWDA) has announced its 1992 event schedule. The six-race tour will begin at Race City Speedway in Calgary, Alta., July 1, followed by races at Mission Raceway in Vancouver, B.C., July 18-19; M.H.B.R.A. Raceway in Medicine Hat, Alta., Aug. 1-2; Saskatchewan Int'l Raceway in Saskatoon, Sask., Aug. 15-16; and N'kakym Eagle Motorplex in Ashcroft, B.C., Aug. 22-23, then return to Race City Speedway, Sept. 5-6, for the season finale. The NWDA, in its third season, features eight-car qualified fields of nitrous-assisted and blown-alcohol doorslammers performing in the low-seven-second range at speeds approaching 200 mph. Glen May recorded the quickest run last year, a 7.02 at 187 mph, in his blown alcohol Thunderbird. For more information, call Joe Delaney, (504) 574-3031.

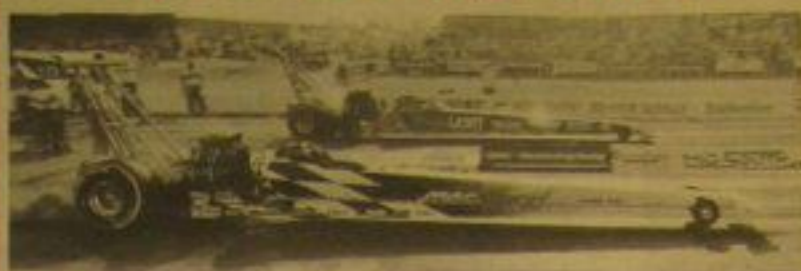
McAmis Wins First Sunoco Race Fuels Shootout

At Old Bridge Township Raceway Park in Englishtown, N.J., Tim McAmis of Moscow Mills, Mo., won the first race in the 19-race Sunoco Race Fuels Shootout series lock, stock, and barrel. Driving his 706-cid big-block Chevy Corvette, McAmis defeated a red-lighting Mark Carter in the final round with a 6.72, 205.33. McAmis was king of performance in all ways, setting Low E.T. and Top Speed with a blistering aggregate time of 6.69 at 213.01 mph.

Summer Heat 2 In Bakersfield

The Summer Heat 2 Jackpot event at Bakersfield Raceway in California July 11, to be presented by Action Company of Bakersfield and Al Gibson and sponsored by Action Company, Rainbow Car Wash, Lamar Supply, Budweiser, and Winston, will offer full and Pro Trees, three brackets, including bikes, and a 100-percent payback jackpot. For more information, call (805) 861-8101.

Top Fuel Is Going Nuclear



When Cory McClenathan and Michael Brotherton eased their Top Fuelers into the staging beams for the final round of the Mid-South Nationals, Dave Settles had to be smiling. Both cars were being fueled by the "nuclear" fuel pump that the former Texas drag racer and fuel-system expert debuted just last summer.

McClenathan only took delivery of the new pump at the Mid-Souths, joining several other new top-name customers, including Don Prudhomme and Joe Amato. Other users/future users include Jack Clark (on whose car the pump debuted with a victory at last year's Mopar Parts Summernationals), Connie and Scott Kalitta, Billy Lynch, Pat Dakin, Pat Austin, both McDonald's cars, Jim Head, and Doug Herbert. "We're getting pretty good coverage," Settles admitted modestly.

The switch to the nuclear pump comes as word has spread of its incredible reliability. According to Settles, none of his pumps have needed to be rebuilt. Several of the alternative fuel pumps will last only two or three runs before their performance begins to deteriorate and throws off the tune-up. Flaves John Medlen, crew chief for Prudhomme, "(Having the nuclear pump) will be as good as having our good pumps everywhere."

Two prominent names are missing from Settles' list of superstar customers: Kenny Bernstein and John Force.

"I know I'll eventually get them," said a confident Settles. "The pump will last a lot longer than those everyone has. It's a little different (to learn), but you can make anything work if it'll live long enough to make it work. It only makes sense."

Bernstein's crew chief, Dale Armstrong, acknowledged, "(A nuclear pump) is on the list, it's just not a priority. We have pumps that we think really are delivering what we need. We didn't even have to put a piston in our engine in Memphis. If you have a pump that delivers the right amount of fuel and you're not hurting the pump or the engine with it, I don't see any point in putting (a different pump) on just because the guy next door is doing it."

Medlen and Armstrong, who have used Sid Waterman-built pumps for years, have indicated that they also will be experimenting with a new Waterman gear pump that looks promising.

Fatal Attraction Gets Face Lift



The Pick Your Part-sponsored Fatal Attraction jet dragster has undergone a complete makeover for 1992. The J-34-powered dragster, completely new from the ground up, was overhauled at H&S Race Cars, with lettering and graphics applied by "Reno" Roth. The car, which will make its NHRA National event debut at the Sears Craftsman Nationals in Topeka, Kan., reportedly

already has run in the low sixes at better than 260 mph. The 30-foot dragster will make exhibition runs at select NHRA National events in 1992.

Arizona Super Street Assn. Race

At the Arizona Super Street Association's second event, backed by Motra Transmissions, club president Brian Griffey wheeled his '70 Dodge Charger past a tough crowd at Phoenix Raceway Park in Wittman, Ariz. Griffey ran near the factored 10.99 index all day and ran closer to his dial to defeat Bill Hatcher, who had defeated the association's first winner and low

qualifier, Bryan Downing, in the double-breakout final, 10.97 to 10.94. The association also receives backing from Whiteline Racing, Hughes Performance, Shaffers Chassis Works, S&D Performance, Mopar County, Standard Auto Supply, B&G Racing Computers, The Hop, and Charlie Waller's. For more information, call (602) 878-2887.

Gunfighter Tour Shootout At Firebird

Firebird Raceway's 16th Annual Roundtree Chevrolet/J-105 Fox Hunt played to a capacity crowd that came to see jet dragsters and a new feature dubbed The Gunfighter Tour, which pits Alcohol Funny Cars against blown alcohol roadsters. The T.A.F.C. team of Moffitt & Bratton, which has spent the last two years away from the sport building its machine-shop business, debuted a '92 Probe flopper in partnership with McDowell Motorsports. Don Moffitt squared off in the final against Mitch McDowell's '23-T roadster and took the win with a Low E.T. blast of 6.50 to top McDowell's 6.81. Mark Kidd and Rick Northup each took Super Pro honors at the two-day event.