

# 16 races, 2 wrecks and 1 broken toe

Ex-snowmobile racer wins inaugural Villages Cup in fun-filled day

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By Keith Pearlman

George Glotfelty was a champion snowmobile racer in Maryland in his younger days.

There was no snow Sunday at Speedway Park, but Glotfelty had no problem moving from a snowmobile to a go-cart as he became the first winner of The Villages Cup.

Glotfelty and 31 other members of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club took to the 1/8-mile clay track in Fruitland Park for a fun day of racing that ended with Glotfelty winning the 10-lap championship feature.

Glotfelty jumped out in front of fellow finalists Corky Eck, Wendy Touchette and Dave Colbert early on and never looked back.

"I knew I needed to jump out front early if I wanted to win it," Glotfelty said. "I managed to find a hole between two cars and squeeze through there to move to the front."

Glotfelty said he enjoyed driving the carts.

"I got the 29 car the whole day and that was probably the fastest car out here," Glotfelty said.

The Villages Cup champ was one of several drivers in the field with previous racing experience.

"I used to race snowmobiles a long time ago up in Maryland," Glotfelty said. "I raced in a four-state area. I went to the world series for snowmobile racing in New York."

Gerry Hafer, the club president, wasn't surprised to see Glotfelty win the Cup.

"He's a serious racer," Hafer said. "He really knows how to drive. I knew that from the start. I wasn't surprised at all that he made it to the feature. All four of the drivers who made the feature are all serious racers."

Hafer was pleased with the quality of racing and the turnout at Speedway Park.

"It was a fantastic day," Hafer said. "We've never done anything like this and it's the first time the track did something like this. But everything went off without a hitch. Even the weather turned out OK. We got in 16 races, had two wrecks and one broken toe."

The broken toe belonged to Zoe Ann Burt, who was involved in the first wreck of the day in the second quarterfinal heat.

Gary Blackburn survived the second wreck-unsclathed. Racing in the second semifinal heat, Blackburn went over Keith Moldenhauer's front end and went airborne. Both racers were able to resume the race.

Blackburn didn't realize how serious the wreck nearly was.

"I had no idea I went airborne," Blackburn said. "I had no way to get through there."

Hafer said getting into the cart brought on some nostalgia.



"It's been 30 years since I got in one of these," Hafer said. "It brought back some memories. But the carts today are nothing like we used to race back then. These things are fast. Once you get out there it feels like you're going faster than you actually are."

Hafer said he hopes the club is able to get back on the track again soon.

"We want to do it at least annually, but I think judging by people's reactions they're going to want to do this again sooner than that," Hafer said.

Glottfelty said he'd be back to defend his Cup title.

"I'll definitely be back," Glottfelty said. "It was a great day. This was a great idea. I can't wait to do it again."



Mark DiOrto / Daily Sun  
**George Glottfelty of The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club** raises his arm in the air Sunday after winning The Villages Cup at the Speedway Track in Fruitland Park.