



TVMRFC

THE 2010 VILLAGES CUP

Sunday, April 18, 2010

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Sunday, April 18, 2010 - A Day to Remember!

The day started out much like March 21, with overcast skies and the threat of rain in the air. Unlike March 21, however, the rain held off until late afternoon, allowing us to complete the inaugural running of The Villages Cup. And a great day it was!



Track personnel prepare the karts for the track

Thirty-two members reported for the 12:45 pm drivers meeting, displaying a variety of emotions ranging from excited, to nervous, to confident, with a few “Why did I sign up to do this?” After Race Director Gerry Hafer read the “rules of the road,” and after several of the more serious contenders “walked the track” in search of their preferred racing line, and after Speedway Park officials completed their pre-race

work on the karts to be used, the participants for the first heat reported to the track for kart assignments. This was not a scientific process...it was more one of who would fit in which karts, and the logistics of fitting heads in helmets and butts in seats generated a few amusing moments until the field was ready for the first heat.

Anyway, shortly before 1:30 pm, the field was set for the first heat, and racing got underway.



Walking the track, searching for a groove!

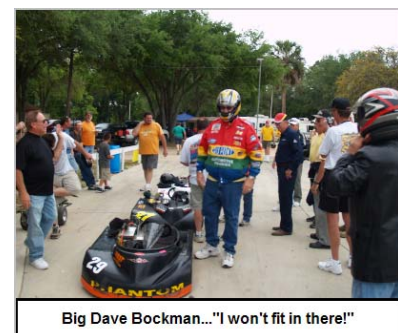


The stands were crowded, watching Big Dave take a warm-up lap,

Meanwhile, up in the grandstands and at strategic viewing locations around the Speedway’s 1/8 mile oval, well over a hundred spectators had gathered to watch one of the greatest spectacles in Villages sports history...The 2010 Villages Cup competition! They were treated to an awesome display of racing, complete with close competition, jumped-starts, cautions, close finishes, and, yes, a few wrecks. In many ways, the event mirrored a NASCAR event.

Round 1 – The first 8 single-elimination heat races

With four cars to a heat, the stage was set for what would give each competitor a taste of the track in 5-lap sprint races. After taking three warm-up hot laps, the field for each heat was lined up behind Speedway Park’s pace car according to their random draw for starting spots. By design, the individual assignments to each heat were purely random, with no handicaps allowed (in other



Big Dave Bockman...“I won’t fit in there!”

words, size did not matter!) This random assortment of drivers led to some interesting competition and, after the eight heats were completed, the field of 32 was reduced to 16, with the 1st and 2nd finishers in each race earning transfers to the next round. First round heat winners were: (1) Wendy Touchette; (2) George Glotfelty; (3) Arnold Birchwale; (4) Richard Psyk; (5) Keith Mohldenhauer, (6) Mike Touchette; (7) Gary Blackburn; and (8) Bill Ponstein. All eight races were clean and green all the way, with the only real on-track excitement coming in Race No. 3 when Zoe Ann Burt, running 2nd to Arnold Birchwale, made a bold move in turn 4 of the final lap to take the lead. Diving to the inside, Burt's cart hit the loose inner cushion and momentarily slid sideways, but she was able to correct and still finished a close second.

Round 2 – Four heats to determine the semi-final line-up

With the transfer racers now having some competitive experience behind them, Round 2 produced an elevated level of tension. The 16 competitors again took three hot warm-up laps before being turned loose for the 5-lap sprint, and it was an awesome sight to see. The chips were on the table, and all 16 competitors were “up on the wheel” as the green flags fell.

Second round heat winners were: (1) George Glotfelty (we saw a trend emerging here!); (2) Richard Psyk; (3) Dave Colbert; and (4) Corky Eck. This round produced some heated action, but only one accident, that being hard-charging Zoe Ann Burt's collision in the closing laps of Race No. 10 with Dean Vetter, resulting in a minor injury and a major frustration for Burt.



Round 3 – The semi-finals

Now, we're down to the closing stages of The Villages Cup competition, with the field set for what would determine assignment to either the Consolation event or the Championship feature. In many respects, this round was considered by the drivers to be a critical round, since placement in their heat would ultimately determine the size of their trophy! The third and fourth place finishers in the 5-lap Round 3 heats would compete in the Consolation Race—another 5-lap sprint—with the first and second place finishers going on to the 10-lap Championship Feature.



The racing was fast and furious, but again with only one serious incident. That involved Gary Blackburn and Keith Mohldenhauer colliding between turns 1 and 2, with Blackburn's kart careening airborne over the front end of Mohldenhauer's and landing on its wheels. Neither driver was injured, and both shook it off to take their positions in the Consolation Race. Joining Blackburn and

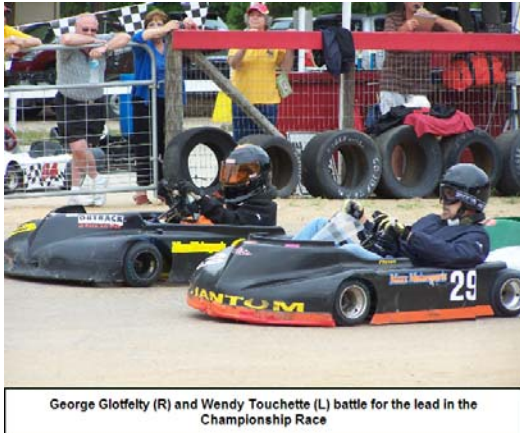
Mohldenhauer in the Consolation were Richard Psyk and Dean Vetter, while transfers from Round 3 to the Championship Feature were Wendy Touchette, George Glotfelty, Corky Eck, and Dave Colbert.

Round 4A – The Trophy Rounds (Consolation Race)

These two races were for all the marbles. The Consolation Race saw smooth-running Dean Vetter take command early, leading Psyk, Blackburn, and Mohldenhauer to the finish to capture the first-place consolation trophy.

Round 4B – The Trophy Rounds (Championship)

This race started with a surprise for all drivers, with a random draw for cart assignments followed by a random draw for starting position. Wendy Touchette drew the pole position, with Corky Eck starting on the outside pole, Dave Colbert on the inside of row 2, and George Glotfelty in the fourth/shotgun position. With a daring move at the green flag, Glotfelty swept from fourth to first and took an early lead. Touchette battled back, but used up her equipment trying to recapture the lead and eventually yielded second place to Eck, while Colbert stayed close behind the lead pack in fourth place. There were no serious incidents in the feature, with Glotfelty maintaining a steady margin over Eck to the finish.



As an added bonus to the day's fantastic racing card, Florida Short Track Racing Legend [Dick Anderson](#) joined the action to assist in the presentation of trophies to the Consolation and Championship drivers. Anderson, usually on the receiving end of any trophy exchange, complimented all of the drivers on their command of the tough Speedway Park track and observed that the event was a highly successful one for both The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club and Speedway Park.



The 2010 Villages Cup Competitors!

But Wait...There's More!

While the exhausted Villages Cup competitors were reliving their day of racing, trash-talking their counterparts, and just plain winding down, another contest was quietly preparing to take the track. Legendary Florida stock car racers [Buddy Pearce](#) of Spruce Creek and Fruitland Park's John Gamble were suiting up for the day's "Celebrity Race"—an event in which the two veterans would take on 8 year old Nic Fernandez, a rising star on the local go-kart racing circuit and last-year's Rookie of the Year at Speedway Park.

The "Celebrity Event" was billed as a 5-lap past champions showdown, designed to accomplish one of two objectives: either to give the young Fernandez some pointers from professionals, or to show the "old guys" what the younger generation is all about. The outcome was a draw on both objectives, though, as the cagey Pearce jumped out to a quick lead while Gamble and Fernandez battled for second place. Pearce held the lead all the way to the checkers, although Fernandez, driving an aggressive line, began steadily closing the gap. Pearce's lead was diminishing rapidly over the final two laps, with Fernandez coming up about three kart-lengths short. But, as they say in stock car racing, "catching him is one thing, passing him is something else," so even with another lap or two, there's no doubt that the spectators would have seen a dramatic finish.



Gamble (L) and Pearce (R) discuss pre-race strategies with Cup competitor Buster Burt (Center)



Nic Fernandez (L) closing fast on Buddy Pearce in Celebrity Event.

But Wait...There's Still More!!

At the request of several spectators, the husband-wife team of Mike and Wendy Touchette were invited to compete head-to-head in a 5-lap dual to determine the Touchette Family Championship. Both agreed to accept the challenge, with Mike gracefully allowing Wendy to assume the pole position. His strategy, it was assumed, would be to get the jump at the flag, pull a surprise pass, and never look back. Mike, however, being a realist, played his cards wisely and held second through most of the event, never allowing Wendy to get more than a kart-length or two ahead. It was thought that his strategy would be to save his power move for turn four of the last lap, and maybe it was, but Wendy was in the groove and would have none of that. They battled to the checkers, with Wendy pulling away to put yet another notch in her racing belt. As they say, Mike, "Oh well, that's racin!"

Some Additional Photos of the Event

