

David Pearson Didn't Have Big Bucks



David Pearson, "The Silver Fox," at Richmond in 1964. Photo courtesy of NASCAR

style of stock car racing. Now when we say NASCAR, we're talking about a sport, a way of life, a phenomenon, and all things surrounding this type of racing.

Several decades ago the sport centered around the drivers. Many of them raced without any major sponsors.

"Silver Fox and 'Little David' are two nicknames used to describe David Pearson, the three-time Winston Cup champion.

"The best there's ever been," is Richard Petty's description of Pearson.

Pearson was born on December 22, 1934, in Whitney, S.C.

He started racing in 1952 in a 1940 Ford coupe, in Woodruff, S.C. He pocketed \$13 after winning his first race, but liked the thrill so much that he knew racing was his life.

In 1960, Pearson bought his own late model Chevrolet race car and headed to Daytona where he came in 18th. He raced in the first World 600 and came in 10th.

He was named Rookie of the Year in 1960.

Then in 1961, David went on to win three major victories, the World 600, the Firecracker 250 and the Dixie 400 at Atlanta-making him the first man to win, in a single year, on three of NASCAR's Big Four tracks.

In 1964, Pearson won eight races on the short tracks and was the fastest qualifier 12 times. In 1966, driving for Dodge, he won 10 of his 15 Grand National victories on dirt tracks, and then earned enough points on the su-

perspeedway to win the first of his three NASCAR championships. Pearson switched to Ford, and in 1968, drove the Ford to 16 victories and 36 finishes in the top five.

In 1969, he became the first man to break the 190 mph barrier at Daytona, qualifying his Ford Talladega at 190.029 mph. He then went on to win the 125-mile qualifying race. In March at Rockingham, he scored a victory in the Carolina 500 and gained victories on each on the South's existing superspeedways.

Pearson entered 572 races, out of which he won 105, and placed within the top five 301 times. Pearson was the NASCAR Winston Cup Champion in 1966, 1968 and 1969.

He was equally good on road courses (four wins), superspeedways (48 victories) and short tracks (54). He also won 23 dirt track races, and won at least one time at almost every venue.

Pearson is perhaps a legend not only for his driving stats but for his legendary rival with Richard Petty. Petty was quoted in the March 1993, Stock Car Racing Magazine as saying:

"Writers were asking me last year who was the best driver I ever raced against. I told them David Pearson. David and I ran more first and seconds than anybody else, and we raced together on dirt track, superspeedways, and road courses, big and little tracks. It didn't make any difference; you had to beat him every week."

One of their most memorable duels took place at Daytona in 1976. Pearson had fallen back about a second behind Petty but made up the distance in the last three laps. While fighting for the lead in the backstretch, Pearson and Petty got together sending Pearson into the wall and Petty into the grass about 100 feet short of the finish line. Pearson, who had managed to keep his car running, inched his way to the checkered flag at 20 mph. For most fans, this ranks as one of the all time, if not the, greatest finish in history.

Even though Pearson went on to have major sponsors, his yearly racing budget never exceeded \$75,000. That's pocket change compared to today's teams.

A lot has changed in NASCAR since Pearson was in the spotlight. The sport is team and sponsor focused. No longer is there room for an owner/driver

in big league NASCAR racing. Even a single one-car operation has upwards of 100 people.

"We've been very fortunate," Chad Knaus, crew chief for Jimmie Johnson said. "This has been an incredible ride we've been on since 2002. ... It's a lot different than what it used to be. The crew chief used to have to get out there and build the shocks and set up the race cars and do all that stuff himself."

Hendrick Motorsports has more than 500 people, so crew chiefs mainly supervise.

"I'm very fortunate that Mr. Hendrick allows me to employ the people that we need to and have teammates like what we've got that we're able to delegate to very smart people, and they kind of feed me the information, and we adjust as we need," Knaus continued. "So it's really not me who's the one that's it, it's all the guys. It's all the people we've got at HMS, we've got at the shop, the guys we've got to travel weekly with the 48 team."

NASCAR's fan base has remained strong, with TV ratings rebounding this season after back-to-back years of decline. Most analysts blame noticeably smaller crowds at the track and plummeting merchandise sales on economic conditions. Foreclosures, higher bills and gas prices, as well as soaring job cuts across all sectors, have left NASCAR fans feeling the economic pinch.

The economic times are tough for many Americans, and destined to get tougher. The sports world won't be spared. NASCAR is just the first of the big-four sports to feel the pinch. While NASCAR is striving to lower costs, such as eliminating all testing, the sport is team oriented. It takes a lot of players to field just one NASCAR Cup car. The sport will never go back to its prior days.

The strong will survive and the weak will get out ... or merge. Being in NASCAR is like being in Las Vegas. As long as your money holds out, it's a great place to be. When the money is gone, you are on your way out the door.

Next week: The Fast, Brief Life of Lee Roy Yarbrough

Racing trivia question: Which old-time driver was often called, "The Wilkes County Wildcat?"

Last week's question: Which Series will Sam Hornish race in 2009? Hornish will continue to race in the Cup Series.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodges-news@earthlink.net.

Racing Roundup

By Brad Vores

As we count down the days until the Christmas holiday, Hagerstown Speedway brought a close to its 2008 season with its annual banquet Saturday night at the Hagerstown Elks Lodge.

Roy Deese Jr. of Laurel, Md., Mercersburg's Andy Fries and Mechanicsville, Md.'s Dale Hollidge were honored as 2008 track champions at the speedway.

Deese's Late Model title was his sixth career, moving him into a tie for second with Denny Bonebrake. He is just two titles behind all-time leader Nathan Durboraw.

Deese had two feature wins and held a 179-point lead over Durboraw for the championship. Jim Yoder finished third in points ahead of JT Spence, Scott LeBarron, Kirk Ryan Jr., Paul Crowl, McConnellsburg's Marvin Winters, Gary Stuhler and Big Cove Tannery's Frankie Plesinger.

Special Late Model awards went to Mike Lupfer (Sportsmanship), Durboraw (Hard Luck), Crowl (Most Improved) and Spence (Best Appearing Car).

Fries' Late Model Sportsman title was his second straight at Hagerstown and it came over Ashley Barrett by 54 points at the end of the season. He also had two feature wins at the track in 2008.

Following Fries and Barrett in points were Barry Miller, Jerry Bard, Dylan Yoder, Terry Flaherty, Kyle Lear, Richard Walls, Scott Palmer and Wayne Walls, Jr.

Receiving special awards in the sportsman were Bard (Sportsmanship), Palmer (Hard Luck), Barrett (Most Improved) and Weaver (Best Appearing Car).

Hollidge's first Pure Stock championship came in his first full season at the track after earning four wins and top-five finishes in all but one race. He won the title by 53 points over Hans Stamberg, with Drew Fitzsimmons, Kevin Keefer and Steve Lowery the top-five point finishers. Needmore's Bill Reitober finished seventh in Pure Stock points.

Photographer Jason Walls won the 2008 Media Award from the speedway for his work with the speedway Web site and photographers during the season.

Emmert "Mert" Stine and Johnny Grum were inducted into

the Hagerstown Speedway Hall of Fame.

Hagerstown will kick off the 2009 racing season with the annual Race A Rama car show in mid-February at the Valley Mall and the first green flag action will take place on Saturday, February 21, with the Late Models and 410 Sprints. A Sunday raindate will be used for all early season events.

That's a wrap on another week. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday and an early start on Christmas shopping. It's appearing as if PSU will get a match with USC in the Rose Bowl. A PSU blowout sure would be nice to get the team some respect that's been lacking from most all sports analysts this season. Until next time, e-mail reaches me at BVores@aol.com.

Livestock Reports

GREENCASTLE
November 24

Steers: high choice and prime 2-3, 1270-1425 lbs., \$88 to \$91.50, few to \$93; choice 1-3, 1175-1310 lbs., \$84 to \$87.50; select 1-2, \$70 to \$80; standard 1-2, \$56 to \$65.50.

Holstein steers: high choice and prime 2-3, 1400-1550 lbs., \$77.50 to \$80.50; choice 2-3, 1280-1480 lbs., \$72.60 to \$77.25; select 1-2, 1100-1400 lbs., \$53 to \$71; standard 1-2, \$53 to \$95.

Heifers: choice 1-3, 1075-1225 lbs., \$84.50 to \$87.75; select 1-2, \$72 to \$79; standard 1-2, \$56 to \$63.

Cows: breakers 75-80% lean, \$46 to \$52.50, few \$55.75; boners 80-85% lean, \$35 to \$42.50, few \$45; lean 85-90% lean, \$23 to \$35; shells, \$22 and down.

Bulls: yield grade 1, 1350-2050 lbs., \$53 to \$57.75; yield grade 2, 1100-1525 lbs., \$47 to \$52.

Feeder cattle: steers, medium 1, 550-700 lbs., \$75 to \$87; heifers: medium 1, 350-426 lbs., \$62 to \$73; 450-550 lbs., \$66 to \$74; bulls: medium 1, 370-420 lbs., \$85 to \$98; 425-525 lbs., \$72 to \$80; medium 2, 600-750 lbs., \$59 to \$70.

Calves: vealers, standard and good, 80-115 lbs., \$15 to \$25; utility, 54-80 lbs., \$5 to \$15. Farm calves; No. 1 Holstein bulls, 94-120 lbs., \$85 to \$95; 88-92 lbs., \$20 to \$40; No. 1, 94-120 lbs., \$50 to \$75; No. 1 Holstein heifers, 86-118 lbs., \$150 to \$215; No. 2, 72-88 lbs., \$50 to \$150. Beef cross bulls and heifers, 72-90 lbs., \$15 to \$100.

Hogs: Barrows and gilts, 45-50% lean, 220-260 lbs., \$46 to \$57; 40-45% lean, 300-360 lbs., \$42 to \$48; sows 1-3, 400-500 lbs., \$40 to \$44; boars, \$5 to \$10.

Sheep: slaughter lambs, high choice and prime 85-100 lbs., \$111 to \$117; 90-115 lbs., \$98 to \$105; 60-85 lbs., \$88 to \$110; good and choice 60-85 lbs., \$70 to \$80; slaughter sheep, \$29 to \$40.

Goats: kids, selection 1, \$27 to \$35; selection 2, \$19 to \$26; selection 3, \$5 to \$18; yearlings: selection 1, \$68 to \$80; selection 2, \$45 to \$65; nannies, \$40 to \$56; billies \$100 to \$150.

FORBES ROAD JR. HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL			
Dec. 5	SHC	4:00	Jan. 16 F-M 4:00
Dec. 9	at Tussey	4:00	Jan. 19 Shalom 4:00
Dec. 12	at Hyndman	6:00	Jan. 20 at SHC 4:00
Dec. 17	at Mt. Union	4:00	Jan. 23 So. Fulton 4:00
Dec. 19	Chestnut Ridge	4:00	Jan. 27 at C. Ridge 4:00
Dec. 23	at Everett	4:00	Jan. 30 MHS 4:00
Jan. 2	NBC	4:00	Feb. 2 Everett 4:00
Jan. 5	Tussey	4:00	Feb. 3 Mt. Union 4:00
Jan. 9	at MHS	4:00	Feb. 6 at F-M 4:00
Jan. 12	at Shalom	3:30	Feb. 10 at NBC 4:00
Jan. 13	Hyndman	6:30	Feb. 13 at So. Fulton 4:00

FORBES ROAD GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL			
Dec. 8	at Tussey	6:30	Jan. 12 at Hyndman 6:00
Dec. 10	at Hancock	5:30	Jan. 15 F-M 6:30
Dec. 11	Hyndman	6:30	Jan. 19 at Belleville 6:00
Dec. 15	Belleville	6:00	Jan. 22 So. Fulton 6:30
Dec. 18	Chest. Ridge	6:30	Jan. 26 at C. Ridge 6:00
Dec. 22	at Everett	6:00	Jan. 29 MHS 6:30
Dec. 29 & 30			Feb. 2 Mt. Union 6:00
	Lions Tourn.	TBA	Feb. 3 Everett 6:30
Jan. 2	NBC	6:30	Feb. 5 at F-M 6:30
Jan. 6	Tussey	6:30	Feb. 9 at NBC 6:00
Jan. 8	at MHS	6:30	Feb. 12 at So. Fulton 6:30

FORBES ROAD JR. HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL			
Dec. 8	Tussey	4:00	Jan. 12 Hyndman 4:00
Dec. 9	at CVCS	4:30	Jan. 15 at F-M 4:00
Dec. 11	at Hyndman	4:00	Jan. 20 CVCS 4:00
Dec. 15	Shalom	4:00	Jan. 22 at So. Fulton 4:00
Dec. 18	at C. Ridge	4:00	Jan. 26 Chest. Ridge 4:00
Dec. 22	Everett	4:00	Jan. 29 at MHS 4:00
Jan. 2	at NBC	4:00	Feb. 3 at Everett 4:00
Jan. 5	at Shalom	3:30	Feb. 5 F-M 4:00
Jan. 6	at Tussey	4:00	Feb. 9 NBC 4:00
Jan. 8	MHS	4:00	Feb. 12 So. Fulton 4:00

FORBES ROAD BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL			
Dec. 5	at Shanksville	6:00	Jan. 13 Hyndman 6:00
Dec. 9	Tussey	6:30	Jan. 16 at F-M 6:30
Dec. 12	at Hyndman	6:00	Jan. 19 Shalom 6:00
Dec. 15	at Belleville	6:00	Jan. 20 SHC 6:30
Dec. 19	at C. Ridge	6:00	Jan. 23 at SF 6:30
Dec. 23	Everett	6:30	Jan. 27 at C. Ridge 6:30
Dec. 26, 27			Jan. 30 at MHS 6:30
	F-M Tourn.	TBA	Feb. 2 at Everett 6:00
Jan. 2	at NBC	6:00	Feb. 6 F-M 6:30
Jan. 5	at Tussey	6:30	Feb. 10 NBC 6:30
Jan. 9	MHS	6:30	Feb. 13 SF 6:30

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F.C. COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL			
Dec. 4	at CVCS	5:30	Jan. 27 Highland 4:30
Dec. 5&6	at Calvary Tourn.		Jan. 30 Adams Co. 5:30
Dec. 12&13	at CVCS Tourn.		Jan. 31 at Shalom 2:00
Jan. 6	at Davidsville	5:00	Feb. 6 Calvary 6:00
Jan. 9	at Covenant	5:00	Feb. 10 Bedford CIA 5:30
Jan. 13	Bedford CIA	5:30	Feb. 13 Carlisle 4:30
Jan. 16	at Adams Co.	5:30	Feb. 20 & 21
Jan. 20	at Heritage	4:00	at Covenant Tourn.
Jan. 23	at Carlisle	4:30	Feb. 24 at Highland 4:30
			Feb. 26 Davidsville 5:00

Home games are played at Needmore Bible Church
6939 Great Cove Road, Needmore

F.C. COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL			
Dec. 5&6	at Calvary Tourn.		Jan. 23 at Carlisle 5:30
Dec. 8	Calvary	6:00	Jan. 27 Highland 6:00
Dec. 12&13	at Calvary		Jan. 30 Adams Co. 7:00
Dec. 18	CVCS	5:00	Jan. 31 at Shalom 3:30
Dec. 19	at Lighthouse	7:00	Feb. 6 Calvary 7:30
Jan. 6	at Davidsville	7:00	Feb. 10 Bedford CIA 6:30
Jan. 8	Shalom	5:00	Feb. 13 Carlisle 5:30
Jan. 9	at Covenant	6:30	Feb. 17 Lighthouse 7:00
Jan. 13	Bedford CIA	6:30	Feb. 20&21
Jan. 16	at Adams Co.	7:00	at Covenant
Jan. 19	at at Calvary	6:00	Feb. 24 at Highland 6:00
Jan. 20	at Heritage	5:00	Feb. 26 Davidsville 7:00

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2001 Ford Focus - Coming In
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