

Southern Drivers Are Disappearing



"Tiger" Tom Pistone after a 1950s win at Soldier Field

as the "Converted Yankee." Glenn "Fireball" Roberts once described Pistone as "the toughest guy there is to beat on quarters and half-milers."

While he is not listed as One of NASCAR'S 50 Greatest Drivers, "Tiger" was probably the greatest short track driver of all time. He was about 5 foot, three inches and 130 pounds, but drivers knew not to mess with him, because he was one tough customer.

With a shoestring budget and a heart full of desire, "Tiger Tom" scored two Grand National (now Sprint Cup) victories in what can be best described as a colorful racing career.

He was born March 17, 1929. His family never dreamed he would grow up to be one of the best race car drivers to ever hit the sport.

"In 1950 I met Andy Granatelli through some of my buddies," he said. "He was the promoter at Chicago's Soldier Field. There was a lot of racing that went on at the time, not just NASCAR, but USAC was very big."

"A normal Soldier Field crowd would be 38,000, and whenever there would be a Police Benefit race, the crowd would go to nearly 100,000."

Tiger's first race was in a 1941 Ford, but he later moved to a Chevrolet. He was so competitive and had such a desire to win that he flipped his racer 22 times in one season.

Winning a Soldier Field track championship was quite an accomplishment, but "Tiger" did it five times, between 1951-55.

His first start in NASCAR competition was June 30, 1956, before a crowd of nearly 40,000 wild fans. It was a convertible race and fans watched as he held his own against NASCAR's best.

As the laps wound down, it appeared the little man from Chicago might have a chance at winning. During lap 94 of the 100-lap race, "Tiger" stood on the gas pedal of his No. 54 Chevrolet and passed legendary Curtis Turner for the lead.

Turner tried every racing trick in the book to regain the lead, but when the checkered flag was given, it was "Tiger" that roared into victory lane.

His style of driving and success brought him many fans. One of his biggest admirers was a

youngster from the Chicago suburb of Elmhurst named Fred Lorenzen. As a young man, Lorenzen's goal was to one day be as great as his hero, "Tiger Tom."

"We went into NASCAR ice cold," continued Pistone. "Myself and one mechanic went down to run at Martinsville. We got into Winston Salem, N.C., and stopped at a Golden Shell service station."

"There was a very tall man there, that turned out to be Bill France Sr. He asked us what we were doing, and we told him we had come down to race."

"He said, 'Well, boys, I hate to tell you this, but that race was run last week.' Boy were we shocked to hear that."

"France took us under his wing and allowed us to use his garage to work on our car."

"Racing wasn't nearly as expensive back then as it is today. In 1959 you could buy a race-ready Ford from Holman-Moody for \$5,500, and that included the engine."

His two Grand National wins came May 17, 1959 at Trenton, N.J., and June 21, 1959 at Richmond, Va.

"Tiger" hung up his racing helmet in 1968, and began building cars and chassis full-time for other drivers. Some of the names that drove his equipment included Jim Hurtubise, Tiny Lund, Richard Brickhouse and Harry Gant.

He continues to furnish all type of racing parts and equipment from his shop in Charlotte, as well as help younger relatives gain prominence in NASCAR. When asked when he planned to retire, he said, "I've still got racing fuel in my veins, but I'm trying to sell my business so I can spend more time with my wife."

For additional information on "Tiger Tom," log on to his Web site: www.pistonetigertom.com.

Next Week: The Driver Called, "Pops."

Racing Trivia Question: How many wins did Kyle Busch get in 2008?

Last Week's Question: Which state is Kasey Kahne from? Answer: Washington.

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

Boys Basketball

Southern Fulton 46, Hancock 39
Southern Fulton increased a two-point advantage following the halftime break and picked up a win in the first round of the Tri-State Shootout Friday evening by downing Hancock 46-39. Josh Wertz and Josh Hall had 12 and 11 points, respectively, and Luke Mellott netted nine points and pulled down 10 rebounds for the Indians. Jesse Smartt added seven assists and three steals.

Clear Spring 53, Southern Fulton 48

Some key foul shooting in the final quarter of Saturday's championship game allowed Clear Spring, Md., to walk away with the Tri-State Shootout title and a 53-48 win over the Southern Fulton Indians. Luke Mellott led his Indian teammates with 13 points, seven rebounds and six steals during the Indians' first loss of the 2008-09 season. Mellott was also named to the all-tournament team. Both Josh Wertz and Josh Hall hit double digits with 11 and 12 points respectively.

Forbes Road 75, Southern Huntingdon 62

Forbes Road had a huge second half Friday night, easily defeating the Southern Huntingdon Rockets in the opening game of the Fannett-Metal Christmas Tournament by 13 points. Jesse Newman netted a whopping 33 points, and Brandon Mellott added 14 points and four steals. Trent Black wrapped up the evening with 13 points, seven assists and 15 rebounds.

Fannett-Metal 56, Forbes Road 40

Forbes Road's Jesse Newman was held to 12 points Saturday evening during the championship round against tournament hosts the Fannett-Metal Tigers, who won the tourney for the first time in 14 years. Newman was aided by Trent Black, who finished with 11 points, 12 rebounds and three steals. Tanner Henry was the next highest scorer with six points.

Everett 54, Forbes Road 51

Forbes Road's four-game winning streak came to a halt last Tuesday when the Cardinals fell by a mere three points to the Everett Warriors. Jesse Newman led his teammates during the 54-51 league loss, the first of the year for the Cardinals, with 21 points. Tanner Henry followed with 11 points, and Trent Black posted double digits with 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Southern Fulton 62, Hyndman 39

Southern Fulton's perfect season continued last Tuesday when the Indians easily dispatched of the Hyndman Hornets by the final score of 62-39. During the league match at Hyndman, Josh Hall opened up the game netting six three-point shots. Hall finished with 18 points and five rebounds. Josh Wertz was the

next highest scorer with nine points, and Jesse Smartt added seven points, five rebounds and five assists.

Chestnut Ridge 59, McConnellsborg 49

The McConnellsborg Spartans streak of losses jumped to seven last Tuesday with Chestnut Ridge utilizing their home court advantage for a 10-point Sideling Hill League victory. Ryan Deffbaugh and Drew Wink both totalled 17 points, and Deffbaugh added 13 rebounds for a double-double. Nathan Swope followed with eight points.

FCCCS 52, Lighthouse Christian Academy 37

In spite of needing better rebounding, Fulton County Community Christian School made up the difference with its shooting both from the field and from the foul line. Seth Gordon led the Chargers Friday, December 19, against Lighthouse Christian Academy with 16 points. Kenny Linninger and T.J. Leedy followed with 13 and 10 points respectively, during the Chargers 52-37 victory.

Girls Basketball

Southern Fulton 51, Hyndman 20

Southern Fulton's strong defensive effort easily propelled the Lady Indians over the Hyndman Hornets Monday evening. Clinching the Sideling Hill League game 51-20, Brooke Whiteside fell just short of a double-double with 14 points, eight steals and four assists. Teammate Natasha Bard contributed nine points and 10 rebounds, while Lacey Beatty and Chelsey Hollenshead finished with nine and seven points, respectively.

Chestnut Ridge 45, McConnellsborg 35

McConnellsborg's offense was held to a miserly three points in the final period of Monday evening's game, allowing Chestnut Ridge to break free for a 45-35 Sideling Hill League win. J.J. DeShong and Casey Pollock both reached double figures with 10 points, and Michelle Baker rallied for eight points, three assists and two steals. Courtney McClure rounded out the home game with six points, nine rebounds and three assists.

Everett 60, Forbes Road 25

The Forbes Road Lady Cardinals shot a meager 17.9 percent from the floor Monday evening during a 60-25 trouncing at the hands of the Everett Warriors. Teammates Patience Whitman, Kaili Hockensmith and Jessica Gearhart all tallied four points for Forbes Road. Ky Fraker led the defense with eight rebounds.

Selected For Leadership Program



Dakota Unger has been selected from more than 240 area high school sophomores to attend the Central Pennsylvania Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Seminar. The seminar will be held May 14-17 in Millersville University.

Unger is a student at Southern Fulton High School and the son of Julie and Phil Unger. Students are chosen based upon demonstrated leadership and potential for continued leadership growth.

HOBY leadership seminars bring together a select group of high school sophomores with groups of distinguished leaders in business, government, education and the professions to discuss present and future issues. The goal is to provide the youths with a stimulating forum for learning about critical issues while broadening their understanding of their leadership potential and quest for self-development.

Free Veterans Outreach Available

Jim Krobath of the Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center will visit F&M Trust in the Penn's Village Shopping Center in McConnellsborg on Tuesday, January 13. Free help and advice will be available for veterans and family members from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

To be eligible you must be a veteran with wartime service or the surviving spouse of one. There are several pension categories and income levels for each. The first, for a veteran or a surviving spouse living independently, is \$11,830 and \$7,933, respectively. Those who require "aid and attendance" from another person, housebound, or living in a nursing home or an assisted living facility, the income levels are set higher. Certain "out-of-pocket" medical expenses reduce the annual "gross" income to meet or fall below the set limits. Call to find out if you are eligible for this benefit. A representative will have answers to questions and provide more information about these and other federal/state benefits.

Bring separation document or other proof of service to the outreach location. Veterans needing information or assistance at time other than the scheduled visit can call the center toll free at 1-800-032-0930, e-mail at gvoac@comcast.net or visit gvoac.com.



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January 10, 2009

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The event begins at 4:30 p.m. with appetizers, followed by the Steel Plate Challenge. Wild game meal at 5:30 p.m. with guest speaker, Charles Alsheimer at 6:30 p.m.

This is open to all hunters and is provided at no charge. To help us prepare for the evening, please call to reserve your seat today at 717-573-2212 or online at www.needmorebiblechurch.org

Needmore Bible Church is located at, 6939 Great Cove Road, Needmore, PA 17238



Marriage License

Bill Foster Shoop, 47, Spring Run, and Kriste Diane Parker, 35, Spring Run, applied for a marriage license at the local courthouse during the past week.

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Happy New Year

At the close of another year, we look back with fond memories, on all the good times we've had serving our neighbors, and hope that the year ahead is filled with good fortune, good health and lots of good times for all of you.

For your generous support, we are sincerely grateful.



With Our Thanks At Year's End

Through both good times, and not-so-good times, we always know that we can count on the friendship of neighbors like you, and this gives us much to celebrate at this festive time of year.

To all of you from all of us, go our best wishes for a year filled with hope, peace, happiness

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Just In Time... 2009!



Before the clock strikes the midnight hour, we want to wish all of our friends and their families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

We loved every minute of serving you this past year and look forward to seeing you again in the year ahead.

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