

THE MIDWEST RACING CONNECTION

www.theracingconnection.com

THE MIDWEST'S SHORT TRACK AUTO RACING AUTHORITY

May 2016 Vol. 20, No. 1

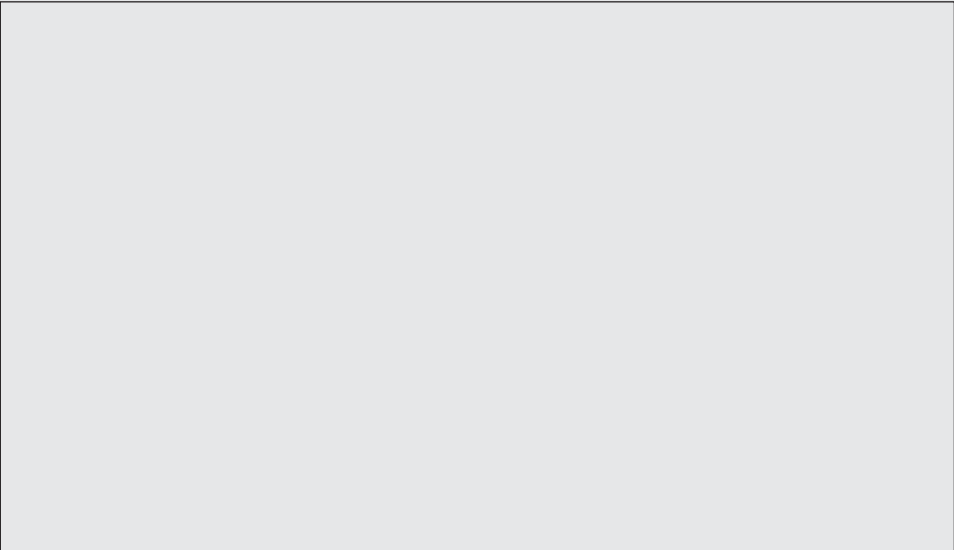
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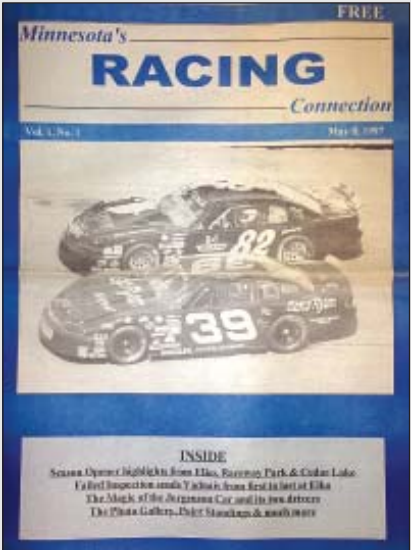
Inside...



Photo Gallery



Short Track Buzz



20 Years of MRC

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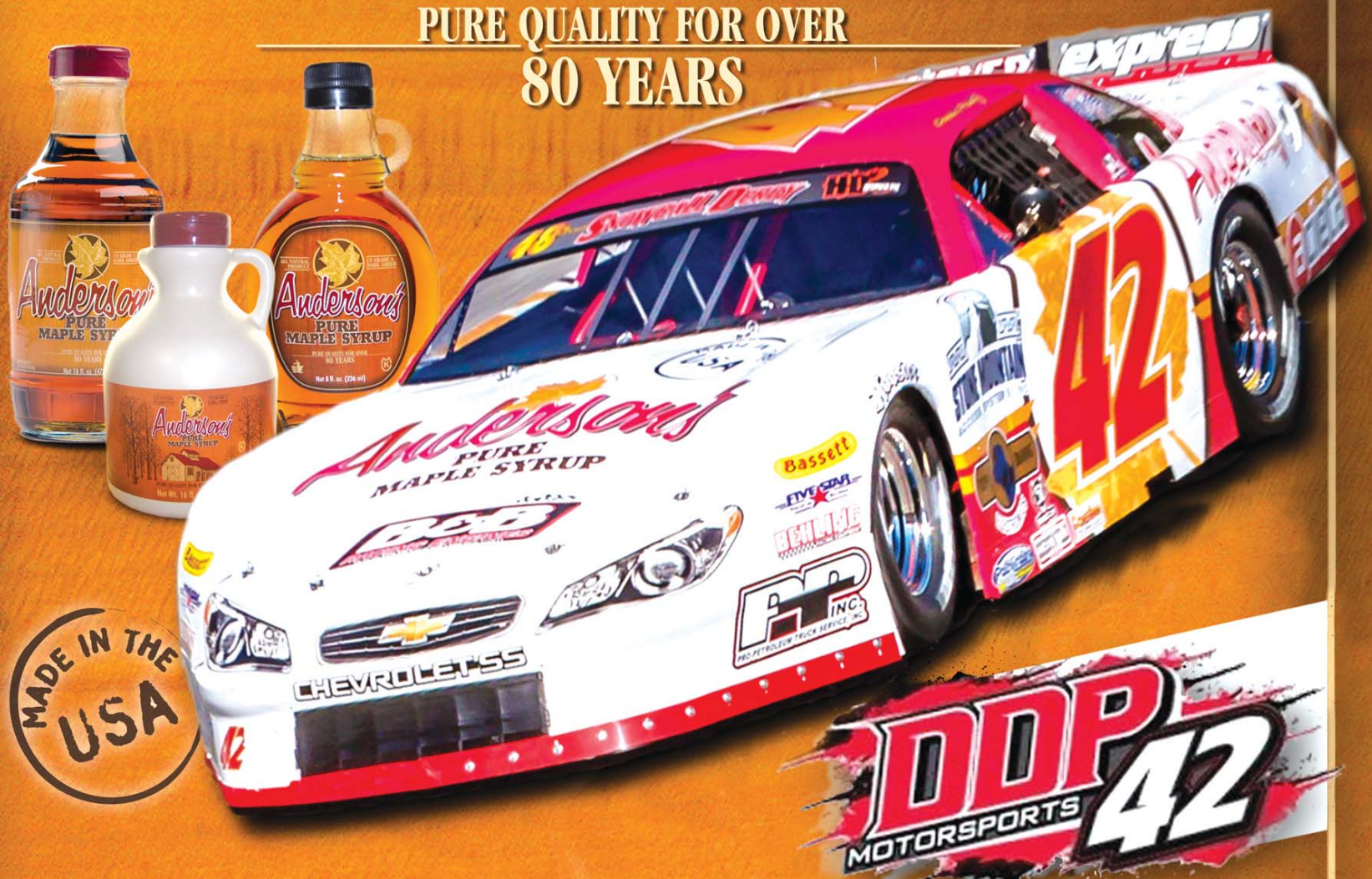
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Publisher's Note

Racing According to Plan



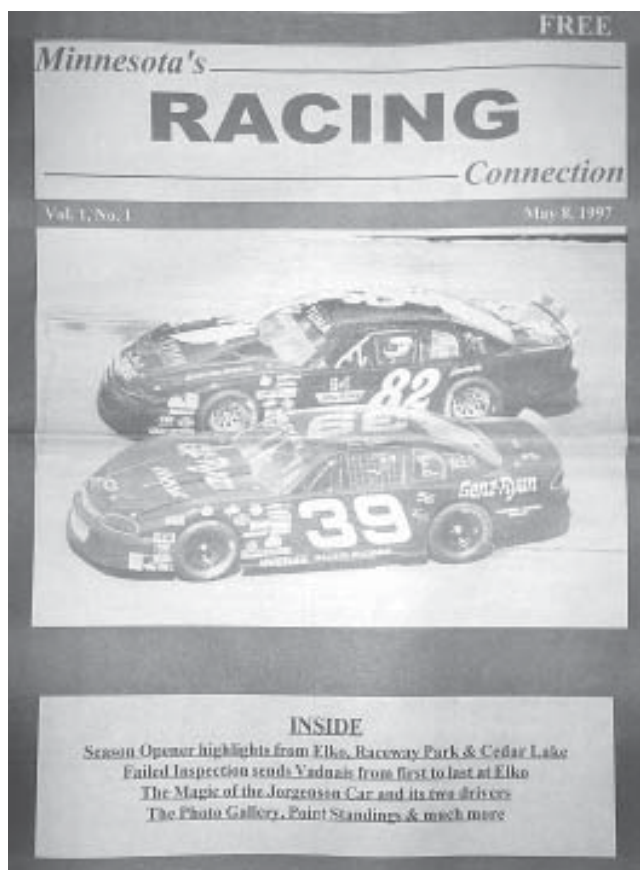
Dan Plan

This issue of The Midwest Racing Connection marks the 20th year of the publication in print. Originally started by Rob Hahn as Minnesota's Racing Connection, yours truly purchased the publication in 2006 and ten years later, here we are.

I didn't set out with a goal of owning a racing paper as part of my career. Rob presented the opportunity, and it seemed like a good idea to me. Now, I would be lying if I said everything has gone as I had envisioned 10 years go. When I purchased the publication, my intent was to gradually step away from my daytime job, and grow MRC into my full-time occupation. Similar to many short track race car drivers want to get paid for a living driving racer cars, I was hoping to get paid for a living putting together a racing paper.

Well, things didn't necessarily pan out the way I had hoped for, but we're still here. The distribution of the paper at race tracks has doubled and is now in three different states. Each issue is now available in electronic format free of charge on our website. Over the years, we've added several new columnists with

The History of MRC



unique views of the sport. Some of the columnists we added were new to the concept of writing a column while two of them (Dale P. Danielski and Charlie Spry) were formerly columnists in the racing paper I grew up reading, The Checkered Flag Racing News. We've also added photographers from across this region of the country that provide us with phenomenal photos.

If you were to ask me if the paper is where we had planned it to be at this point, the answer would be no. If you asked me if I'm satisfied of the growth of the

The Midwest

RACING

Connection

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***Auto Racing Facts,
Observances and
Opinions***



Dale P. Danielski

*Racing Facts, Observances and Opinions
continued on page 7*



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- JULY 16 - 40 LAPS OF LATE MODEL RACING
- AUGUST 20 - BUCK NIGHT & 40 LAPS LM RACING
- OCT. 6-7-8-9 - 47TH OKTOBERFEST RACE WEEKEND



Weekly Race Events - Qualifying: 6:15 • Racing: 7:30

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Racing Nuggets



Jacklyn Daniels-Nuttleman

paper in the last 10 years, I would most definitely say yes. There simply aren't many racing papers left in this day and age, but there still seem to be a number of people out there that like to physically pick something up and read. To this day, I still enjoy seeing people in the stands reading a copy of The Midwest Racing Connection.

Miscellaneous news & notes;
Cedar Lake Speedway kicked off their 59th season early in April. Several new improvements were put in place during the off-season with new seats in the bleachers along with gravel added to the tailgate section in turns 3 & 4. One can only imagine what they'll have in store when the track celebrates its 60th season next year.
Dells Raceway Park and LaCrosse Speedway also held their annual Icebreaker and Frostbust events.

RACING BEGINS AT **2** P.M.
qualifying at 12:45 p.m.

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Historic Sprint Car comes back to life



Race fans from the upper-Midwest that had the pleasure of growing up in the 1980's, were able to witness some great Sprint Car racing during this era. The major circuit for these cars during this time frame was the Midwest Sprint Association and featured these drivers in all of their glory on the big half-miles of Fairmont and North Starr Speedway.

One of the MSA circuit champions and top drivers of this era was Bob Hop in the Gillund Enterprise/Justice Brothers car.

The car pictured in this page last raced in 1988 and is currently owned by Glenn Gillund and family. Gillund Enterprises is a long time sponsor of many race tracks and drivers over the years, and are dedicated to preserving the history of these cars.

This year, Gillund Enterprises will be the title sponsor for the Mississippi Valley Vintage Race Car Association. The MVVRCA will race in Iowa at some big name tracks like Knoxville, and Oskaloosa.

Recently, Rob Caho started working on restoring the Bob Hop car to its former glory. "I went to them and asked if we could restore this beautiful car and race it this season with the MVVRCA."

Rob is looking forward to getting this car back into shape, "The most challenging part of restoring this car was it sat outside year around and the weather did a number on it. The mice filled the headers up with dog food and got into the engine, and had to pull apart the engine because it would not turnover."

When asked about what it will feel like to have the car completed, Caho stated. "The most rewarding part of this restore is seeing all the faces of the people smiling and talking about this car that love to see this car race back in the days on the track, Almost everyone has a story."

There are a large number of fans that still remember Bob Hop, John Stevenson and Jerry Richert battling across the region. Thanks to Rob Caho and the Gillunds's, another generation of fans will have the opportunity this year to see one of the legendary cars in action again.





Photo Gallery



Rockford Speedway kicked off their 69th season early in April
Jimmy Ambruoso photo

Rusty Wallace and Stan Burnick at the Illinois Hall of Fame induction
Jimmy Ambruoso photo

A packed house for the Icebreaker at Dells Raceway Park
Bruce Nuttleman photo

Kim Strom's Trickle Tribute Hornet at Lacrosse
Bruce Nuttleman photo

Bob Cook in action at Cedar Lake Speedway
Martin DeFries photo

A photo finish for the Great North Sportsman Series
Mark Melchiori photo



Photo Gallery

Lacrosse Sportsmen driver "Mr. Excitement" Bob Fort
Dale Danielski photo

Rib Lake, Wisconsin's Brad Seavers opening weekend at Cedar Lake
Martin DeFries photo

Drivers Eric Campbell, Brent Kane and friends enjoy a night at Cedar Lake
Brewster Baker photo

Shawn Pfaff greets daughter Jacinda following her first feature win
Bruce Nuttleman photo

Stateline Staffing Services fast dash lineup at Rockford Speedway
Jimmy Ambruoso photo

The tailgate section is always a fan favorite at CLS
Brewster Baker photo



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MULTI-DAY NATIONAL EVENTS

The Masters - June 16-18th
UMP DIRTcar Summer Nationals Touring Late Models and USMTS Modifieds!

World of Outlaws Sprint Car Showdown - July 8-9th
Complete program World of Outlaw 410 Sprint Cars and UMSS 360 Sprints Cars each night!

USA Nationals - Aug. 4-6th
World Of Outlaw Late Models \$50,000 to Win!

The Legendary 100 - Sept. 14-17th
A ton of cars and the best local racers in the area.

SPRINT CAR EVENTS

Spring Sprint Special - May 7th
USMSS 360 Sprint Cars

The Triple Crown - June 4th
\$3,000 to win IRA OUTLAW SPRINT CARS

World Of Outlaws Sprint Car showdown - July 8 & 9th
Complete program World of Outlaw 410 Sprint Cars and UMSS 360 Sprint Cars each night!

16th Annual Jerry Richert Memorial - Sept 10th
IRA 410 OUTLAW SPRINT CARS & UMSS Sprints

CAN'T MISS SPECIALS

School Bus Races - May 14th

Pack The Track Night - May 28th
FREE GRANDSTAND ADMISSION

Firecracker Special - July 2nd
Our Annual HUGE Fireworks Display

Eve of Destruction / FREE T-shirt Night! - July 30th
A night of stunts and destruction

10th Annual \$10,000 TO-WIN ENDURO! - SEPT 24th

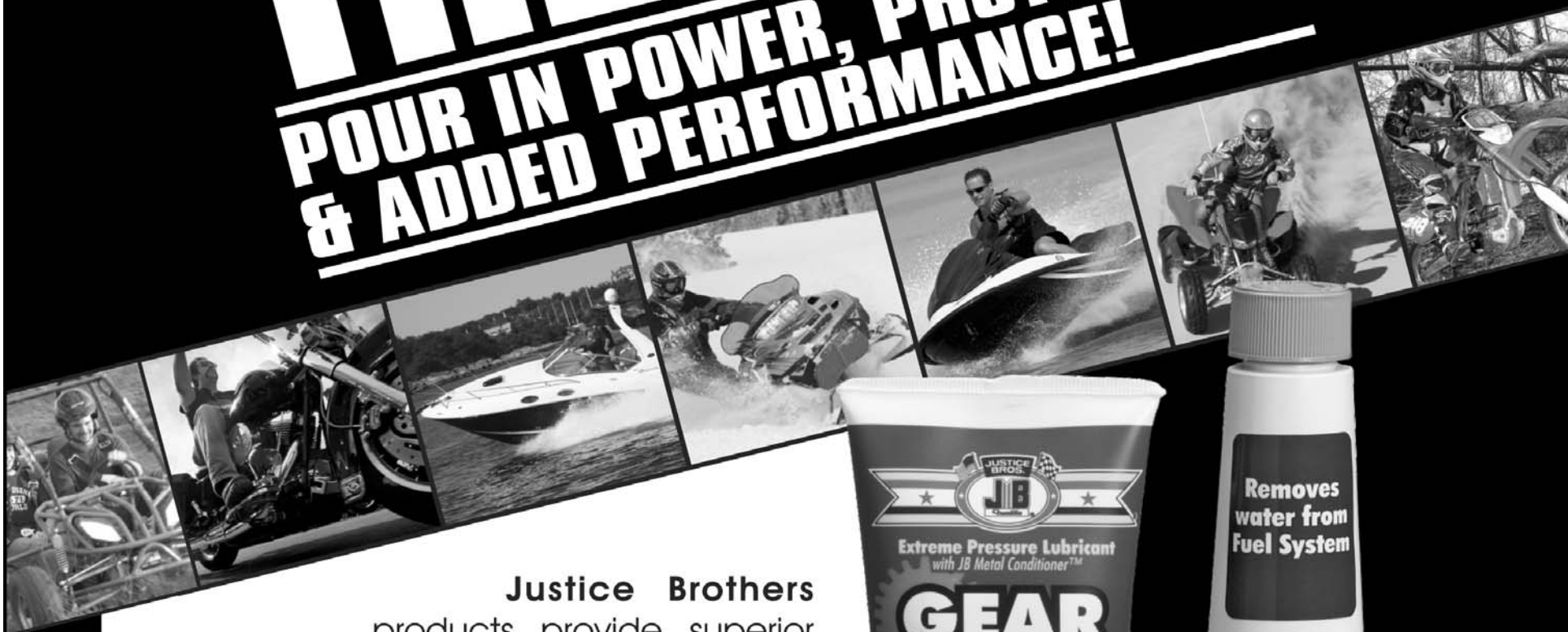


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International fluid transfer solution specialists PIRTEK have created the opportunity of a lifetime for Matt Brabham in next year's 100th Indianapolis 500, set to take place on May 29.

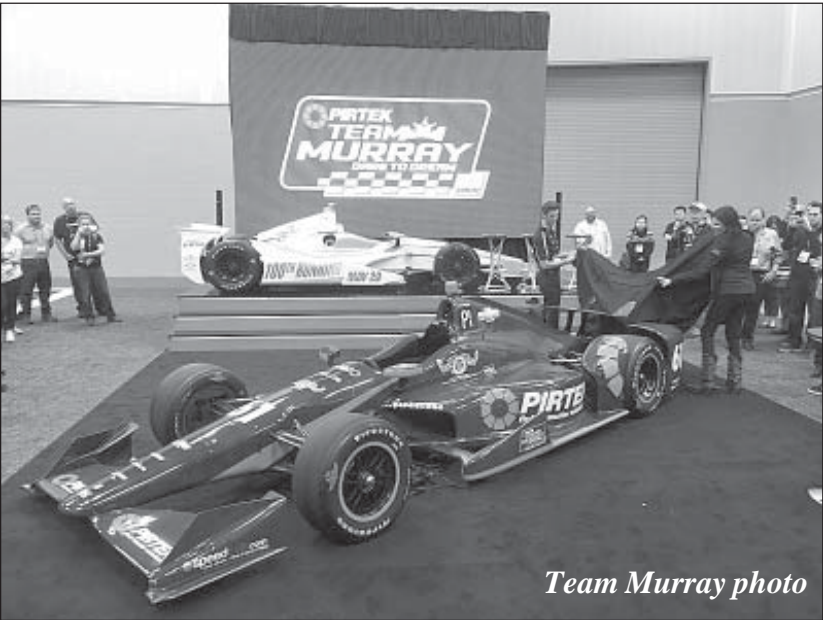
Brabham, just 21, will become just the third third-generation driver to qualify for the 500, following in the footsteps of his grandfather Sir Jack who drove the first ever rear-engined car in the race in 1961 and his father Geoff, who had a best finish of fourth from his 10 starts (1981-1993).

The team has been created by Australian motorsport identity, Brett "Crusher" Murray and will be run in conjunction with KV Racing



that the 100th running of the Indy 500 will provide the perfect platform to accelerate awareness of the PIRTEK franchise system and products to the wider US market.

While preparing for the 100th Indy 500 will be significant enough, PIRTEK will be working with Team Murray management on a series of business and charitable initiatives leading up to the May events. The investment will also be leveraged globally, but especially in the Australian and New Zealand markets where the Brabham name is legendary.



Technology, who won the Indy 500 in 2013 with Tony Kanaan. The entry will be known as PIRTEK Team Murray and will compete in the Angie's List Grand Prix road course race at Indianapolis on May 9 and the 100th running of the Indy 500 on May 29.

Executive Director of PIRTEK International, Glenn Duncan, is overseeing a national expansion plan of its unique franchise model that integrates mobile and 'bricks and mortar' service and supply centers across the 48 mainland US states. Globally, PIRTEK has successfully used sports – and motorsport in particular – to promote its brand for more than 30 years. Duncan believes

The PIRTEK program holds even more significance when you realize that Matt was born in the US, raised in Australia and now resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. Brabham has spent the last four years forging his open-wheel career in the US. He won the USF2000 and Pro Mazda Championships before progressing to Indy Lights.

He is set to get seat time in a varied list of events in preparation for this year's Indy 500, which he is hoping will lay the foundation for a full-time IndyCar drive.

21-year-old Brabham will be the ninth Australian to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 since Rupert Jeffkins, from Maitland in NSW, drove in the very first event in 1911 in a car entered by the Velie Motor Company, from Illinois.



Upcoming Events

July 30, 2016
Cedar Lake Speedway



May 7th
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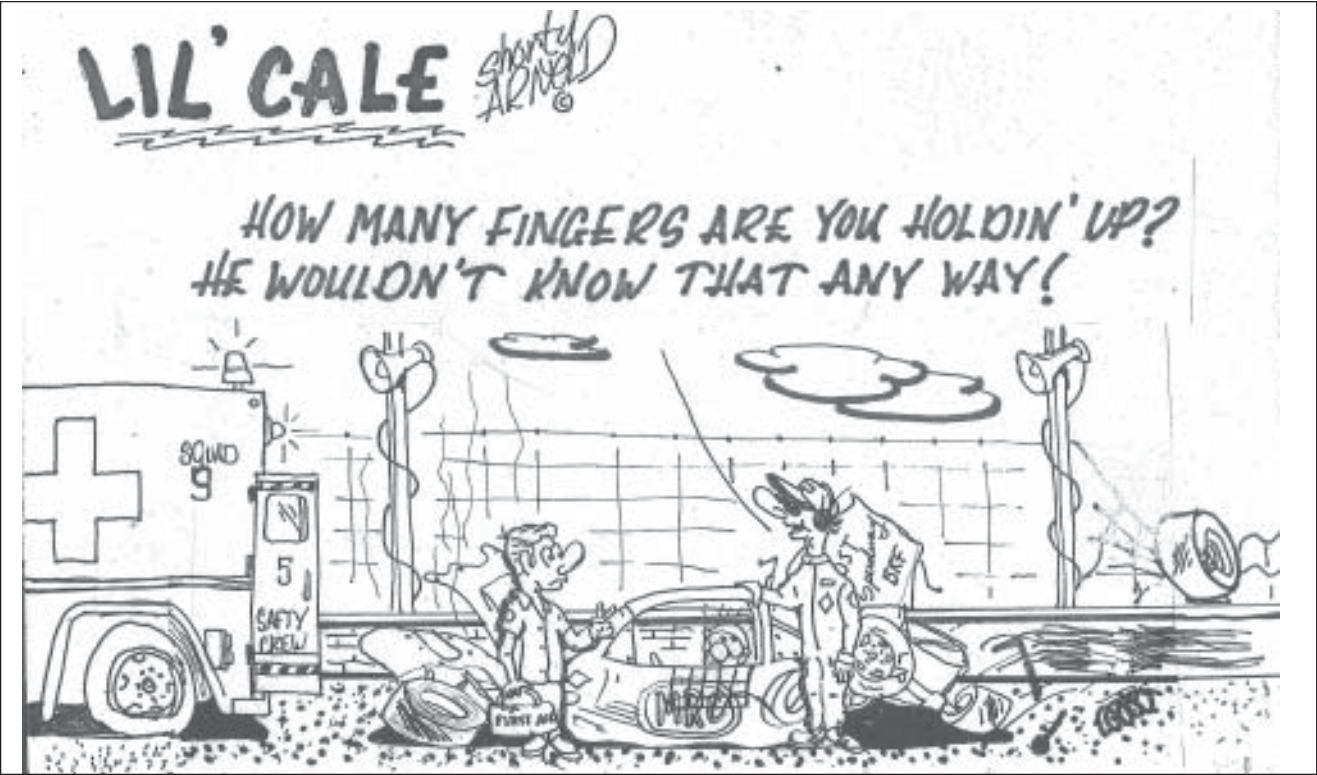


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Photos-Marketing-Media

CLS & Spring Lake Speedway highlights

Frostbust & Ice Breaker photos/ highlights



Driver of the Month

Kulwicki DDP Drivers Full Page

The Midwest Racing Connection Directory Page

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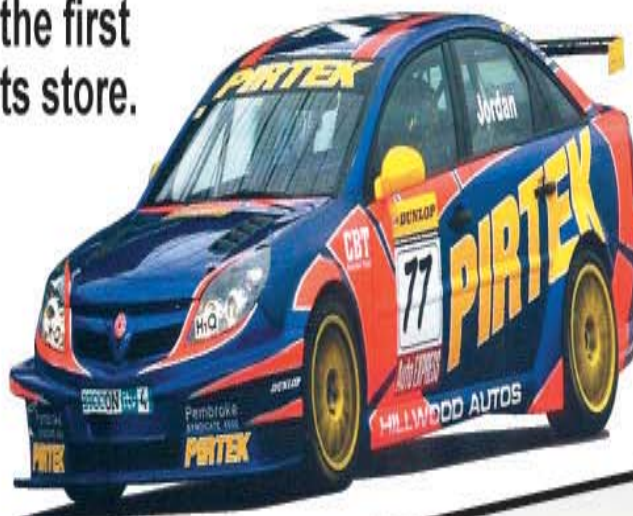
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