

Lions Drag Strip Reopens

Lions Drag Strip in Long Beach will resume their regular Saturday night drag racing program this week, with eliminations starting at 7:30 and time trials from 3:30. The Lions Club-sponsored strip was closed last week, because of the NHRA National Championships in Indianapolis.

According to strip manager, Mickey Thompson, this week's

meet should be full of competition, as it will be the only chance for drivers to tune their cars before the big Western Championships that start the following Saturday night, Sept. 16. The championships will be held over a four-week period, with a meet every Saturday night. Top eliminator will be worth \$1000 each night, with cars from out of the Southern

California area receiving an extra \$1000 should they win. The meet is expected to break records in nearly every class, in fact the record books have already taken a beating. More cars from out of state and more cars that have traveled the standing 1/4 mile in less than 9 seconds are entered than have ever been a West Coast meet.

A few of the drivers that will be on hand this week and for the championships as well are, Tom McEwen, Jack Chrisman, Lefty Muddersbach, Jesse Schrank and Cary Cagle. Local drivers are favored, with Tom McEwen of Long Beach and Lefty Muddersbach of Pico-Rivera given the best chance for the winner's circle.

SPORTS

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SEPTEMBER 7, 1961

Motorcycle Racers Set for Ascot Park

Motorcycle racers hit the home stretch of the 1961 season tomorrow night at Ascot Park, Gardena, with some of the year's biggest events just around the corner.

All riders are back from the east and midwest to conclude the season at the 183rd and Vermont half-mile oval, and racing director J. C. Agajanian announces a return to the popular three-class program.

Neil Keen of Pasadena, Bob Skibsted of Riverside and Ron Nelson of Palmdale thus will be defending their championship point leads tomorrow night in the expert, amateur and novice divisions respectively.

One of the major events coming up is the California half-mile championships to be reeled off Friday night, Sept. 15, with Keen out to dethrone defending state champ Sammy Tanner of Bellflower.

The state finals are scheduled for 20 laps, the same distance as the national eight-mile AMA finals at Ascot last July when Keen roared away and hid from Carroll Rewesber of Milwaukee, Wis., the national champ.

All the expert leaders are due to go against Keen and Tanner including Jack O'Brien of Santa Monica, Stu Morley and Al Gunter of Los Angeles, Dick Dorresteyn of San Pablo (1959 state champ), Johnny Gibson of Duarte, Joe Leonard of San Jose, Roger Reim of

South Gate, Don Hawley of Inglewood and others.

Racing tomorrow night starts at 8:30 o'clock with one lap qualifying at 7 p.m.

Veteran one-armed Allen Heath, the Northridge auto body repair specialist who is the only driver to win three big car main events this season, today was a solid favorite for Saturday night's 30-lap, eight-race speedfest at Ascot Park.

Heath, probably the hardest-charging driver in California Racing Assn. ranks at this time, won his third main event win last Saturday night when he copped a 100-lap double-main in decisive style. It was Heath's second main win in a row, and his third in seven weeks.

Heath's major competitor, another well-known veteran driver from Anaheim, Billy Cantrell, blew a piston in last week's trophy dash to eliminate him from the night's racing. Previous to that Cantrell had won three straight main events at Ascot, including a USAC midget win over Indy winner A. J. Foyt. He also won at Clovis two weeks ago.

"It seems that every year it takes less time to fly across the ocean and longer to drive to work," Edward H. Bonekemper, H.A. Field (Pa.) Penn Valley Times.

South Bay Bowl Schedule Men's Doubles Tournament

Southern California's finest bowlers will inaugurate the 1961-62 winter season Sept. 9-12 at South Bay Bowling Center here in the 18th annual Bowling Proprietors' Assn. of America, Inc., National men's doubles match game championship.

Among current entrants in the four-day tournament that officially marks the beginning of the new pin campaign are 23 teams from the Southland, including what is expected to be the youngest duo in the field of a maximum of 144 units.

The "whiz kids" are Long Beach State College honor student, David Grooms, 17, of Norwalk, and blond Ron Winger, 20, of Van Nuys.

Winger only last Aug. 13 won the first Cal-State Masters' singles championship at Fresno when he sailed unbeaten through the finest talent developed in the Golden State.

Local stars include Norm Meyers of Los Angeles, honored last July by the Southern California Bowling Writers' Assn. as the "Bowler of 1960-61" in their ninth annual poll. Meyers will team with veteran Bill Bunetta, veteran Chicago performer now listed out of Fresno.

Availability of a limited number of reserved seats for all eight programs for the 1961-62 tournament, Saturday through Tuesday, is being rapidly exhausted according to officials. Tickets may be purchased at South Bay Center (1515 Hawthorne Blvd., Redondo Beach) or reserved by calling FRontier 6-2453 or SPing 2-2596.

CJA Stock Cars Run at Western Saturday Night

Dick Cook, Lakewood, and Marvin Heinis, Sylmar, go after main event victories in Saturday night's CJA Stock Car races at Gardena's Western Speedway where they will compete in a nine-event card.

Heinis returned to action recently, and piloted his Oldsmobile to his fourth triumph of the year. Cook took his second victory of the year last week. He is currently second in this year's points. Over 100 laps of racing is on the night's card. Ten makes of cars are entered.

They will face the top ten drivers in points, led by Arley Seranton, Compton (Oldsmobile); Jerry Plotts, Gardena (Ford); Gene Davis, Santa Monica (Oldsmobile); Bill Ferrier, Newhall (Ford); Frank Denny, Los Angeles (Oldsmobile); Bill St. James, Gardena (Ford); Eddie Kusch, Compton (Buick); Chuck Townsen, Gardena (Dodge); and Danny Franco, Van Nuys (Oldsmobile).

The racing card, which will consist of over 100 laps of racing topped by a 40-lap feature. Time trials will start at 7:00 p.m. followed by the first race of the night at 8:15 p.m.

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