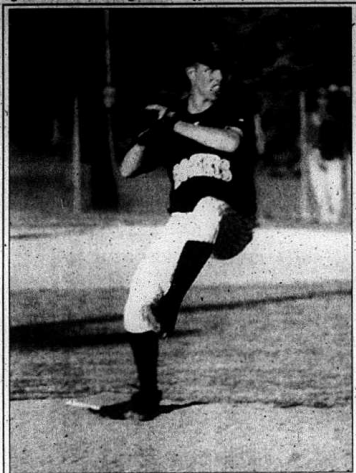


The Racing Reporter



Rockcastle County High School pitcher Aaron Anderkin will pitch in Saturday's Kentucky Kick Start baseball Junior East-West All-Star game which will be played at Slugger Field in Louisville. Anderkin was the winning pitcher for the local American Legion team on Monday night against a combined Lexington Christian and Lexington Catholic team. Anderkin struck out eight, walked one and gave up three hits in the 12-1 game.

By Gerald Hodges

The Racing Reporter
Rudd wins at Nadeau's expense
SONOMA, Calif. - The break turned around for Ricky Rudd, driver of the No. 28 Havoline Ford Sunday, but not for Jerry Nadeau of Richard Petty's No. 44.

In a strange finish to the Dodge Save Mart 350 road course race at Infineon Raceway, Rudd took the lead with less than three laps to go when leader Jerry Nadeau's Dodge had a rear-end gear break.

Rudd had been the victim of three bad breaks over the past two months, a crash at Richmond, a loose wheel at Dover and a flat tire at Pocono. But this time it was Nadeau that was bitten.

Rudd was five seconds behind the No. 44 Dodge as the final laps counted off.

"I hated to win it this way with bad luck for somebody else, but we'll take it. We may have been owed something, but not at Jerry Nadeau's expense, or the Petty's."

"We were not going to catch him," Nadeau, who had a one-race fill-in for Steve Grissom was trying for his first victory since Atlanta in November 2000. Petty Enterprises haven't won since 1999.

"I tell you, it always happens to me," said a dejected Nadeau. Pole-sitter, Tony Stewart finished second. Terry Labonte, Kurt Busch, and Jeff Green rounded out the top-five.

Finishing order: 1. Ricky Rudd, 2. Tony Stewart, 3. Terry Labonte, 4. Kurt Busch, 5. Jeff Green, 6. Elliott Sadler, 7. Mark Martin, 8. Bill Elliott, 9. Ryan Newman, 10. John Andretti, 11. Robby Gordon, 12. Mike Skinner, 13. Bobby Labonte, 14. Kevin Harvick, 15. Dale Jarrett, 16. Johnny Benson, 17. Kyle Petty, 18. Joe Nemechek, 19. Ricky Craven, 20. Dave Blaney, 21. Casey Atwood, 22. Michael Waltrip, 23. Steve Park, 24. Brett Bodine, 25. Ron Fellows, 26. Todd Bodine, 27. Rusty Wallace, 28. Jeremy Mayfield, 29. Jeff Burton, 30. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 31. Bobby Hamilton, 32. Jim Ingelbright, 33. Hut Stricklin, 34. Jerry Nadeau, 35. Jimmie Johnson, 36. Jimmy Spencer, 37. Jeff Gordon, 38. Ken Schrader, 39. Matt Kenseth, 40. Ward Burton, 41. Boris Said, 42. Austin Cameron, 43. Sterling Marlin.

Top-10 points leaders after 16 of 36 races: 1. Martin-2198, 2. Martin-2136, 3. J. Gordon-2116, 4. Johnson-2112, 5. Stewart-2110, 6. R. Wallace-2054, 7. Rudd-2050, 8. Kenseth-2020, 9. Busch-2003, 10. Elliott-1972.

Nascar will continue to fine teams
Do you think NASCAR should disqualify a winning driver if his car is found to be in violation of the sanctioning body's rules?

"There are people that believe NASCAR should disqualify or take away a driver's win if he or his team is in serious violation of those rules. From my standpoint, I only see minor violations occurring because of the inspection process all cars go through before the race. A car can go through up to seven different inspections, plus occasional random car checks in their stalls."

I don't think we'll ever see another Winston Cup winner outright disqualified. I believe NASCAR will

continue to levy fines because of sponsor involvement."

The cost to a primary sponsorship on a major team is upwards of \$10 million. On six or seven of the top teams, it skyrockets to \$15 million. NASCAR might be the 275-pound gorilla that can sit anywhere it pleases, but they aren't going to mess around with a Fortune 500 company by disqualifying their winning car.

No sir, both NASCAR and the teams need the money too badly. The big boys at NASCAR know which side of their bread the jelly is on.

I don't think Mike Helton, their top draw, really wants to strip anyone of a win or points, because of the uproar it would cause. He knows there are only so many American companies right now that can shell out \$10-15 million to sponsor a race car.

The sport of stock car racing needs those big corporate dollars. Without the big bucks, NASCAR would wither faster than a watermelon on the vine on a hot scorching July day. It would be a lose-lose situation for both NASCAR and the sponsor. There's just too much money, prestige, and bragging rights for it to happen.

Other Racing

KVAPIL IS TRUCK WINNER
The results of the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series O'Reilly Auto World 200, run Saturday, June 22 at Millington, TN: 1. Travis Kvapil, 2. Jerry Cook, 3. Ted Musgrave, 4. Jason Leffler, 5. Dennis Setzer, 6. Rich Bickle, 7. David Starr, 8. Coy Gibbs, 9. Mark Crawford, 10. Brian Rose, 11. Jon Wood, 12. Robert Pressley, 13. Brendan Gaughan, 14. Lance Norick, 15. Carlos Contreras, 16. Lance Hooper, 17. Bill Lester, 18. Mike Bliss, 19. Bobby Dotter, 20. Randy McDonald, 21. Matt Crafton, 22. Brian Soccolowski, 23. Carl Edwards, 24. Rodney Sawyers, 25. Jerry Hill, 26. Ryan Hemphill, 27. Brian Portenga, 28. Tom Powers, 29. Teri McDonald, 30. Dana White, 31. Jamey Caudill, 32. Chad Chaffin, 33. Jason Small, 34. Phil Bonifield, 35. Morgan Shepherd, 36. Michael Richey.

Top-10 points leaders after 8 of 22 races: 1. Starr-1224, 2. Musgrave-1223, 3. Crawford-1204, 4. Bliss-1150, 5. Leffler-1118, 6. Kvapil-1100, 7. Setzer-1088, 8. Pressley-1076, 9. Cook-1064, 10. Gaughan-1035.

Clanton claims 7th win at I-70
Odessa, Mo. - Joey Clanton continued to make ASA history, with his seventh victory in the season's first nine events, passing Butch Miller on lap 289 leading to a victory in the Missouri 300 presented by Jax-King and Price Chopper at I-70 Speedway.

For Clanton, it marks an eleventh career win in only 49 starts and moves him into the 11th position on the all-time ASA win list.

1) Joey Clanton, 2) David Stremme, 3) Butch Miller, 4) Kyle Busch, 5) Robbie Pyle, 6) Kevin Cwynski, 7) Mike Garvey, 8) Chris Wimmer, 9) Gary St. Amant, 10) Pat Kelly, 11) Dan Fredrickson, 12) Jeff Klem, 13) John O'Neal, 14) Casey Smith, 15) Greg Stewart, 16) Ed Brown, 17) John Webb, 18) John Silverthorn, 19) Todd Kluever, 20) Greg Williams, 21) Rick Beebe, 22) Wayne Anderson, 23) David Helle, 24) Richard Fincher, 25) Russ Tuttle, 26) Mark Cole, 27) Pontiac, 28) Rich Gardner, 29) Chad Wood, 30) Peter Cozzolino, 31) J.C. Beattie Jr.

ASA Racing points after 9 of 20 races: 1) Clanton, 1,692; 2) St. Amant, 1,497; 3) Cwynski, 1,479; 4) Fredrickson, 1,425; 5) Stremme, 1,400; 6) Garvey, 1,378; 7) Pyle, 1,322; 8) Beebe, 1,281; 9) Kluever, 1,255; 10) Busch, 1,244.

There was no Busch Series racing last weekend.

Weekend Racing

No Winston Cup racing this weekend. Their next race will be the Pepsi 400, July 6. The Busch and Craftsman Trucks are at the Michigan Mile in West Allis, Wisconsin.

Saturday, June 29, GNC Live Well 200 for Craftsman Trucks, race 9 of 22 races; Starting time: 2:30 p.m. (EST); TV: ESPN; Distance: 200 miles; Defending champion: Ted Musgrave, Dodge.

Sunday, June 30, GNC Live Well 250 for Busch cars, race 17 of 34 races; Starting time: 1:30 p.m. (EST); TV: FX Channel; Distance: 250 laps/200 miles; Defending champion: Greg Biffle, Ford. The Milwaukee Mile track information: One mile oval; Banking in turns: 9 degrees; Banking on straights: 2.5 degrees; Length of front/backstretch: 1,265 feet.

Fun Comment

P.N. Bolton, NC: "Will Ricky Rudd retire after this season or will he continue?"

A person I think Rudd will sign a one-year contract to race through 2003.

Racing Trivia-Question: Who is the owner of the No. 29 Goodwrench Chevrolet driven by Kevin Harvick? Answer: To Last Week's Question: Winston Cup points leader Sterling Marlin is from Tennessee.

SOUND OFF: If you have an opinion about NASCAR or Sunday's Winston Cup racing and want to be heard, call us within one hour after the end of call at 1-800-726-7022. The call is free, and if we use your comments in our next column, we'll post you a photo of your favorite driver.

Gerald Hodges/The Racing Reporter is a syndicated NASCAR columnist. If you have a racing question that you would like answered send it to The Racing Reporter, P.O. Box 160711, Mobile, AL, 36616, or e-mail it to: 110335.405@compuserve.com

How not to treat a friend

Gene Tapia has been my racing hero and friend since 1967. But I sure didn't show any loyalty to him back in 1996.

I've always had a great deal of trouble with foot and mouth disease. When I was a boy growing up, I had a tendency to say and do things that were better left alone.

Until I was about 12 years old, my grandmother lived with us. Growing up in rural Lowndes County, Alabama in the late 1800s, before women were liberated, she hid her snuff-dipping habit from most outsiders. One day our local Baptist preacher came to visit. Grandma Jackson, who was sitting in her rocker in the living room, made a dash for the bathroom faster than any NFL tailback ever went into the end zone.

After the preacher shook hands with everyone, we all sat down. "Where is Miz Jackson," asked the reverend.

"Oh she is in the bathroom washing her teeth," replied my mother. "She'll be out shortly, she knows you're here."

"Yeah, she's brushing them good to get all that Garrett snuff out," I added. Now you see what I'm talking about.

Racing fans that remember Richard Petty's racing days might recall Gene Tapia. He was one of the old time racers who helped get NASCAR

off the table and into corporate boardrooms, and then quit, because he didn't like the way Bill France Sr. handled the drivers.

Gene raced with Richard's dad, Lee Petty, the Flock brothers, Fireball Roberts, Curtis Turner, Jimmy Thompson, Jim Paschal, and Frank Mundy. His idol was Buck Baker, but Gene's closest friend was "King of the Dawsonville, Georgia" was his favorite driver.

I met Gene in the pits at Mobile International Speedway. I was the proud owner of the No. 10-4, a supermodified, that ran about four seconds slower around the half-mile asphalt track than Gene's No. 327.

In racing language, my 10-4 was a pile of junk that the other drivers tried to avoid. "King of the Supermodifieds" at the time. He had won several national and world titles, and was at the top of the southeast racing ladder.

It was one of those hot, muggy July nights with the heat index in the high 90's that are common along the Gulf coast. What made it even worse was the beer we had consumed on the way to the track. The combination of Budweiser, heat, a broken fuel line, and an ill-handling race car, made it a night hard to forget.

I guess the Lord knew I needed some relief.

"Son, what seems to be your problem?" the man asked, as I lay on my back in the grease and racing fuel under the car trying to fit a header bolt into the engine head.

I looked up and saw that the man standing next to my car was in his early 40s and very muscular. He wore a starved gray uniform, and had the look of someone with a larger-than-life type personality.

It was Gene Tapia.

Here we were a struggling team with a pile of junk, that had never finished higher than fourth in a race and the only number one driver was offering us help.

I was asked that he would even stop to talk, let alone assist us.

I don't remember what advice or racing parts Gene gave us that night, but what I do remember was his mannerism and personality. He treated a fourth class, racing owner in a first class manner.

Gene went on to win back-to-back World 300s in 1967 and '68. I went on to become a manager and supervisor for T.G. & Y. Stores. I quit and went to work for myself in 1978. Two years later, he hung up his racing helmet.

It wasn't until I moved back to Mobile, Alabama and began writing stock car racing columns for the Mobile Register that our paths crossed again. I saw him and his wife Racine at several racing events where he was usually the featured speaker or host.

The telephone in my office rang one September day in 1997. It was Suzanne Harvey, wife of Sandy Harvey, who was crew chief on the No. 62 Barnett Racing late model.

"Gerald, I need your help."

"O.K., Suzanne, what is it?"

"I need you to make a press-kit for Mr. Gene Tapia. We think he is eligible for induction into the Alabama Racing Pioneers Hall of Fame in Talladega."

"Well, sure Suzanne. Give me a few days. I'm pretty busy right now."

I never found the time to make that press kit. But Gene Tapia didn't need my help or a press kit.

The last week of November 1999, I received another call. This time it was from John Cameron, Sports Editor of the Mobile Register.

"Gerald, we want you to go to Talladega, December 9. One of our local drivers, Gene Tapia is being inducted into the Hall of Fame that night."

Little League Update

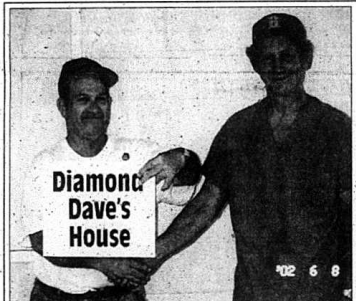
By Diamond Dave

Minor League

Tuesday, June 18th
Mets 17 Reds 8
Twins 12 Rockies 8
Friday, June 21st
Mets 16 Twins 9
Tigers 12 Pirates 9
Saturday, June 22nd
Mets 12 Pirates 8
Tigers 14 Mets 12
Home runs:
Charles Kirby, Mets, 3.
Tyler Smith, Mets, 1.
Chris Samuels, Mets, 2.
Jordan Powell, Mets, 1.

Major League

Thursday, June 20th
White Sox 3 Indians 1
White Sox 13 Indians 3
Home run: Jacob Riddle, White Sox.
11/12-Year-Olds
Rockcastle 7 Rockcastle 4
Home run: Dakota Smith, Rockcastle and Tyler Weaver, Richmond.
Rockcastle 5 Richmond 3
Babe Ruth
Saturday, June 22nd
White Sox 9 Garard 4
Monday, June 24th
Indians 14 Crab Orchard 4
White Sox 3 Reds 1
Matthew Burkhardt - 1 hitter



Rockcastle County Little League parents and players presented Diamond Dave Brock a sign (made and donated by Kevin Fletcher) to hang on his press box at the baseball field. With David in the picture is Paul Hering. Paul runs the concession stand. We appreciate you guys very much. You do a great job!



The Coach Pitch 2002 season has completed with the Orioles taking the tournament championship. The Orioles also finished second in the regular season and won their last nine games to finish 12-3. Pictured, front row from left: Raymond Morgan, Chris Evans, Lora Souder, Tommy Shafer, Brandon Stewart, Rachel Johnson and Stephanie Dixon. Second row from left: Sarah Martin, Jasmin Johnson, Tyler Holman, Eric Roberts and Tyler Davis. Back row from left: asst. coach Rodney Stewart and head coach Don Roberts. Not shown is assistant coach Anthony Cahill. All Star practice is now underway with two teams representing Rockcastle Co. Coach Pitch A tournament is scheduled for Brodhead July 12-14. Come out and support your local All Stars.



The 2002 Major League White Sox finished their season as league and tournament champions. Members of the team are shown above, front row from left: Tanner Childers, John L. Taylor, Thomas McClure, Travis Carpenter and Dustin Reynolds. Second row from left: Justin Lear, Robert Jones, Mary Saylor, Jordan Cook and Kate Riddle. Back row from left: coaches Lee Earl Adams, Johnny Boone Saylor and Cleton Saylor. Not pictured were Kyle Riddle and Derrick Pittman.