

# Thompson In Action

Mickey Thompson, that old motorized war horse, is starting a new career in drag racing.

Thompson has built a pair of Mustang "funny cars" that already have hit 199 miles an hour, and he plans to run everybody else off the drag strips of America with them.

Although he won't be driving either of his cars — he has veteran drivers Danny Ongais, 27, of Carlsbad and Pat Foster, 25, of Downey for that — Thompson will take them to Riverside International Raceway the weekend of March 15-16 for the sixth annual Hot Rod Magazine Drag Racing Championships.

The so-called "funny car" is the hottest machine going in drag racing. It is neither funny nor all car, being a virtual dragster in construction with a light fiberglass shell over it that makes it look like something normally seen on the street.

Mickey's Mustangs, called Mach I and Mach II are powered by 427 cu. in. single overhead cam Ford engines, fuel-injected and supercharged to produce bursts of power in excess of 1500 h.p. The engines are typical of those used most recently in fuel dragsters raced by Connie Kalitta, Don Prudhomme and Pete Robinson.

Hawaiian-born Ongais first distinguished himself five years ago by winning major championships of NHRA, AHRA and UDRA, all the titles there were to win, five years ago. He joined Thompson last fall for a multiple record assault at Bonneville, and together they set more than 350 records for stock bodied cars in one week.

Foster became a local racing name driving a hot Corvette that was popular with the fans. Last season he competed in fuel dragster ranks.

Ongais and Foster burst upon the funny car scene two weeks ago in a meet at Las Vegas, where they mowed down the toughest field of funny car drivers ever assembled. In an unheard of finale, both team cars matched against each other for top eliminator honors, Ongais and Foster each hit 199 m.p.m. Ongais won.

"We already got over the best," Thompson said. "I think we really can beat everybody this year."

That feat would be remarkable, considering there are only a dozen Ford-powered "funnies" in the U.S., which has more than 1,000 known to be in competition.

Thompson will know just how good a prognosticator he is later in the year. After the Hot Rod meet at Riverside one of the cars will go on tour across the nation, while the other will remain in California to compete closer to home.

"That way, I don't have to race my two cars against each other," he said. "I'll only enter the two of them in the big meets, like the one coming up at Riverside."

The funny car championship at Riverside will share the limelight with top fuel eliminator, each winner taking a big chunk out of the \$25,000 posted for eight eliminator brackets. In the two-day meet, qualifications will be held all day Saturday and eliminations on Sunday.

To keep one of his drivers from eliminating the other by meeting in early rounds, Thompson will instruct them to set fast qualifying times, as they did at Las Vegas. That could mean both cars may set elapsed times well under 7½ seconds for the quarter-mile.

Thompson, incidentally, hasn't raced on a drag strip himself since 1964, when he drove a fuel dragster powered by a Pontiac engine. The same Detroit executive S. E. Knudsen, who helped the Long Beach speed king acquire good engines then is backing him in 1969.

Knudsen was head of General Motors' Pontiac Division then, and he is president of Ford Motor Co. today.

## Four Rain Outs

After four weekends of rain outs the ARC Figure 8 modified and stock cars will try once again to present a 10-event double-header program at Ascot Park in Gardena Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m.

More than 70 drivers will be on hand to compete. Qualifying runs will begin at 1 p.m.

Heading the field will be Larry Peters of Covina. He scored a clean sweep on the last Figure 8 outing at Ascot a month ago. Peters drove his car to the day's fastest qualifying time, won the trophy dash, his heat race and the 20-lap feature.

While the stock cars have presented two programs this season at Ascot, the speedy modified division will be making its 1969 debut. The modifieds will race in a 6-lap trophy dash, two 10-lap heat races, and a 20-lap feature race.

The stock cars will compete in a 6-lap trophy dash, three 10 round heat races, and a 20-lap main event.



**SWIMMER . . .** Mike Stevenson is among three returning lettermen at El Camino College. The college faces Valley in a home meet.

## Rams Take Look at Newcomers

Things are happening in March . . .

Coach George Allen already has plans for the 1969 Rams rookies. On the weekend of March 22-23, the first-year men will assemble in Long Beach for physicals and a brief workout. "We've brought the rookies in for an early look the past three years," explains Allen, "and I feel the program is definitely worthwhile. It gives the coaching staff a chance to see the kids before camp. If we can catch a weight problem or a physical handicap now, it might help the boy's chances of making the club."

The Ram coaches have already huddled with the club's No. 1 draft picks, however. Jim Seymour and Larry Smith have each made a brief trip to Los Angeles and Bob Klein is a Southland resident.

On March 17, the Ram delegation, headed by owner Dan Reeves, will attend the combined AFL-NFL meetings in Palm Springs. The newest Ram coach, LaVern Torgeson, is due to report for work the first week in March. Torgeson, a member of the Steeler staff last year, assumes the defensive line duties held by Marion Campbell, who moved to Atlanta as head defensive coach.

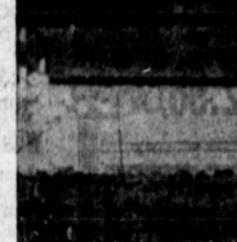
Two rookies have signed Ram contracts. They are Richard Harvey, a defensive back from Jackson State who was the club's eighth draft choice, and George Smith, a free agent running back from South Carolina State.

# 'Hollypark Is For the Birds'

Hollywood Park, famous for the exploits of its thoroughbred champions, is equally renowned as one of the world's most beautiful race tracks. And much of its attractiveness is generated by the colorful infield of lakes and flowers, a 38-acre park of unusual beauty.

But Jacques Shelton, former Hollywood stuntman, some-time television actor and full-time aviculturist, envisions the infield of the luxurious Inglewood track becoming even more celebrated.

"The possibilities for making Hollywood Park unique as a bird sanctuary are limitless," Shelton says enthusiastically. "There is more water surface — 10 to 12 acres of it — on Hollywood Park's seven lakes, with the necessary adjacent land, than can be found concentrated in one area anywhere in the country."



Shelton, who has been added to the Hollywood Park staff as a consultant, will try and diversify the inhabitants of the lakes. His goal is to have at least one species of every available kind of waterfowl residing on one of the infield lakes, already home to one of the largest collections of geese and swans in the nation.

# CIF Reaches 3rd Round



## Alcindor Highly Regarded by NBA

Every once in a while a story appears in a newspaper commenting that Lew Alcindor has to do this or that if he wants to make it big as a professional basketball player. National Basketball Association coaches, all 14 of them, take a more practical view. They think Alcindor can be a pro star immediately; in fact, they've thought so since the first day as a sophomore at UCLA.

For the third straight year, Alcindor is on the College All-American selected by the NBA coaches.

Alcindor, the 7-2 senior center of UCLA's two-time NCAA championship team, and 6-5 junior guard Pete Maravich of Louisiana State University, were the only unanimous choices on the 1969 star team. They are the lone repeaters from last year's team.

Rounding out the first five are Spencer Haywood, 6-8 sophomore center for Detroit University and the U.S. Olympics basketball star, leading Big 10 scorer Rick Mount, 6-4 junior guard for Purdue, and Jo Jo White, 6-3 guard who graduated from Kansas in February.

The coaches picked their team among college players with the greatest potential for becoming pro stars. The coaches, in general, look for size, speed, shooting ability, and defense. Lew Alcindor has it all.

"Show you what kind of immediate contribution to a pro team Alcindor can make," says Chicago Bull Coach Dick Motta, "Last year, Alcindor played against Elvin Hayes twice. The first time Houston beat UCLA. But Alcindor had been out that week with an eye injury. The next time they played, in the NCAA tournament, Alcindor had a big edge."

"Hayes is leading the NBA in scoring now. He is a great success in our league because he is a great player. But you can imagine what Alcindor will do. Nor question about it; he is the most awesome prospect since Chamberlain and Russell."

Maravich draws similar raves. It is felt he can do anything with a basketball he wants. Maravich has come under criticism for showboating.

## Track Meet Slated for El Camino

El Camino's track team is host to Cerritos Friday. First event is scheduled to get underway at 3 p.m. in the El Camino track.

In the Metropolitan Conference Relays at Bakerfield Feb. 21, Pasadena nosed out El Camino for second place, 56-53. Bakerfield placed first with 99 points. Rounding out the field were Pierce (47), Cerritos (44), Long Beach (43), Santa Monica (32), and Valley (29).

El Camino has a young team, according to coach Bob Myers. The team is strong in the middle distances, and figures to have a chance to cop the Metropolitan Conference title.

Coach Myers can not pick a winner this year, although he does feel Bakerfield looks good after its showing in the conference relays.

"Any one of five teams could do it. That includes Bakerfield, Pierce, Pasadena, Long Beach, and El Camino," Myers said.

The Warriors have several outstanding prospects. In the 880, Bob Stephens and Doug Williams, both freshmen, have run 1:55.

Mike Larella, a sophomore, is the squad's top sprinter with a 9.7 100-yard dash to his credit.

El Camino also has two outstanding high jumpers. School record holder is Dan Kenny at 6'4½". Bill Hully, a freshman jumped 6'4".

Pasadena has good balance and depth and its showing in the conference relays was impressive.



**ANOTHER TRY . . .** Named as coach of the West team for the annual Lions All-Star High School Football Game next summer is George Swade of Bishop Montgomery High. Swade coached the West to a victory over the East in the 1967 game.

## EL CAMINO TO MEET LONG BEACH

El Camino College's Warrior baseball squad will meet Long Beach City College Saturday in an afternoon Metropolitan Conference game.

Long Beach is the defending state champion.

"Long Beach is traditionally a good, solid team. An off-season for that club is a good year for anyone else," Coach Chuck Freeman said.

The coach is taking an optimistic look at his own squad.

"Our team is young and inexperienced. However, every game we play brings the players more of that needed experience, giving the club a chance to improve through learning," Freeman said.

## George Trapp Chosen Best Metro Player

Flashy George Trapp, who led Pasadena City College to the basketball championship of the Metropolitan Conference, has been named player of the year by vote of the conference coaches.

Trapp scored 255 points in 14 conference games for an 18.2 average pacing the Lancers to the title in their first year in the conference after being a traditional powerhouse in the Western State Conference.

The All Metropolitan Conference team:

- FIRST TEAM**  
 F—John Van Vleet (Cerritos)  
 F—Willie Flowers (Pasadena)  
 C—George Trapp (Pasadena)  
 G—Al Shumate (Valley)  
 G—Morris Thomas (Valley)
- SECOND TEAM**  
 F—Jon Borbert (Long Beach)  
 C—Darrel Daniel (El Camino)  
 C—Bob Horn (Cerritos)  
 G—Doug Smith (Santa Monica)  
 G—Tony Rodriguez (Cerritos)
- Honorable Mention: Floyd Quarm (Pierce), Chuck Collins (Bakerfield), Kirby Gordon (Long Beach), Mike White (Pierce), Steve Hostker (Pasadena).

## Oilers Defeat Tartars

A feeble 12 points in the second half ended the Torrance High School basketball season last night. The Tartars were eliminated from the CIF "AAAA" by Huntington Beach, 62-41.

A capacity of 1,800 saw the lack-luster game at the West High gym.

Torrance lead through most of the first half until a desperation shot at the buzzer gave the Oilers a 30-29 edge. The Tartars had seven points in the third quarter and five in the fourth quarter, making but three field goals. They were ineffective against the press and a collapsing defense used against center Bruce Baker.

Bob Fernley fouled out at the start of the fourth period and Baker went out with three minutes to go.

In two other CIF games, North High lost to Ventura, 66-77, in a game played at Ventura and South High was toppled by Notre Dame, 84-67, in a game at San Fernando Valley State College.

Torrance, one of three Sky League entries in the playoffs, got off to a 66-46 win over Arcadia in the first round.

The Tartars outscored Arcadia in every quarter, making a 26-14 runaway of the fourth heat.

Bruce Baker scored 25 points and Greg Jasper had 17 for the victors.

While scoring only four points, Bob Fernley held Mike Larkin of the losers to 16 points.

Bill Souza and Jim Fox combined to give Coach Will Boerger a strong starting unit.

In a first round game North High had Loyola pinned to the floor by a 22-point margin with two minutes to go before settling for 79-66 verdict.

Scoring big for North was Jim Thomas with 31 points. His sidekick Dan Anderson tallied 19 and Harlen Peet had 13 points. Tom O'Mara scored 24 for Loyola.

Thomas had his highest score of the year against the Cubs.

An opening victory was also turned in by South High. The Spartans' Dennis Rector scored a field goal with a rebound in the final second of play to beat Santa Barbara, 4-5. Rector had 18 points in the game.

A slowdown brand of basketball was played throughout the first half with the Dons taking a 19-15 halftime edge. During a pickup of the tempo in the second half, both teams exchanged leads.

Chris Clemens popped a field goal with 24 remaining to give Santa Barbara a 46-45 margin. South had five shots at the winning goal before Rector connected with the winning tip.

## Torrance League

| MONDAY CHURCH LEAGUE AT NORTH HIGH        |       | W | L |
|---|-------|---|---|
| South Bay Church of God                   | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Pacific View Baptist                      | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Walteria Assn. of God                     | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Div. Assn. of God                         | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Torrance Four Square                      | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Resurrection Lutheran                     | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| TUESDAY OPEN LEAGUE AT SOUTH HIGH         |       | W | L |
| Mattel                                    | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Techni-Tool Product                       | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Julis                                     | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| O'Neal and Co.                            | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Torrance Teachers                         | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| South Bay Club                            | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| WEDNESDAY AMBLE LEAGUE AT NORTH HIGH      |       | W | L |
| City Slickers                             | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Daily Breeze                              | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Harbor                                    | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Food Co.                                  | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| P.F.C. Ind.                               | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Magnavox Labs                             | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Computer Sciences                         | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| SIX FT. AND UNDER LEAGUE AT NARBONNE HIGH |       | W | L |
| Bryants                                   | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Local Union #458                          | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Daves Den                                 | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| The 3'ers                                 | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| P.F.C.                                    | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Hawks                                     | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| THURSDAY INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE AT NORTH HIGH  |       | W | L |
| Harbormeds                                | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Harbor                                    | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Food Co.                                  | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| P.F.C. Ind.                               | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Magnavox Labs                             | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Computer Sciences                         | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| THURSDAY WIDE OPEN LEAGUE AT HARBOR J.C.  |       | W | L |
| V.I.P.                                    | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Branch Office                             | ..... | 1 | 0 |
| Harbor J.C.                               | ..... | 1 | 0 |

**ONE IN EVERY CROWD . . .** All but one of the pure white Whistling Swans brought to Hollywood Park jumped into the water on cue of Jacques Shelton, one of the country's leading aviculturists and a member of the staff at the "Land of Lakes and Flowers." The swans are among rare birds brought to the race track.