



Marty Horton, left, and Randy Madden battle through the turn at Showtime Speedway. The drivers are also hunting for the modified points title with Madden of West Portsmouth, Ohio, holding the lead over runner-up Horton.



Paul Steagall waits patiently in his G24 bomber before a recent race at Showtime Speedway. The Olive Hill driver currently leads in the bomber during point chase, despite missing two weeks while serving in the National Guard.



First year driver Rich Lowe pilots his bomber around Showtime Speedway. Lowe sold his car and pulled out of racing at mid-season.

Steagall family races for fun

OLIVE HILL. Racing is a family affair for the Steagall family. While Paul Steagall does the driving, his brother, John, is in the pits and his family is in the stands. "It's something the family can do," John noted. "We are and three kids come every week." Paul said recently during action at Showtime Speedway. The family is involved more than on just race nights. "We work on that car almost every night just to stay competitive," John explained. Paul currently leads the point standings at Showtime. However, he pointed out, "We're out here for the fun of it."

The racing bug struck the Steagalls quickly. Paul and John went to a race at Fleming County Speedway five years ago. Two weeks later, Paul was on the track racing. "It didn't cost anything to build one," Paul said. He estimated he had \$400 to \$500 in that first year. The rest has gone up over the past five years. He estimated the average bomber at Showtime costs about \$1,500. Paul had some early success at Fleming County. "He won four or five races," John said. "The Steagalls agree the most important part of building a bomber is maintenance. That's the main thing to get your car where you can finish a race," Paul said. He noted at least one driver has run all seasons, but still has not finished a race. According to the Steagalls, bomber racing is the most economical and allows most everyone to participate. However, sponsors are a very important part of putting a car on the track. "If we didn't have the good sponsors, we couldn't run," Paul explained. Among his sponsors are James

True Value, John's Repair Shop, Hoke Auto Parts, Lowe's Office, Cecil Salvage, Cecil Car Wash, Porter's Tires, Lee's Used Car, Fish Lee's Repair Shop, Lee's Chassis Lifter and Tires and more friends. John noted building the car is only part of the expense. "It costs an about \$100 per week, if not more," he said. "I've already spent \$67,500," Paul said. That was before the first race started. He also noted that did not include John's \$15 pit pass. Even with the pitfalls, the Steagalls enjoy racing and plan to continue. "It's better than gambling and better than drinking," John joked.

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Jackie Boggs continues family tradition; among leading drivers

GRAYSON. For 24-year-old racer Jackie Boggs, the tradition to the race track was a "lot of things on this car are the same as I had in '87," Boggs explained. Among the major items still in use from his first car are the transmission, rear end and brakes. "I own everything you see," he added. While he does use a new T&H engine, Boggs has a 1989 model chassis. "I'm just a low budget operation and I've got to take care of what I've got," Boggs explained. "For what I've got, I think I've done real well."

While his first car was a gift, Boggs has been raising on his own since that time. "A lot of things on this car are the same as I had in '87," Boggs explained. Among the major items still in use from his first car are the transmission, rear end and brakes. "I own everything you see," he added. While he does use a new T&H engine, Boggs has a 1989 model chassis. "I'm just a low budget operation and I've got to take care of what I've got," Boggs explained. "For what I've got, I think I've done real well."

Jackie Boggs' standing at all three tracks might well have been even better. "I've missed races at all of them," Boggs pointed out. While Showtime runs on Friday nights, both Portsmouth and KY run on Saturdays. Boggs explained that early in the season, when one of the tracks was running late models the other was not, thus allowing him to stay at the head of the points battle at both tracks. Through racing this past Saturday night, Boggs had run four times at Portsmouth and finished with a pair of firsts and two seconds. At KY, he had won two races and been runner-up three times. Boggs devices his full time to racing. While not driving in the winter months, he helps his dad, who continues to run in the southern states or build car bodies.

Richardson seeks to improve as late model racer

OLIVE HILL. An interest fostered as a teen finally put Mike Richardson behind the wheel of a race car almost 20 years later. The 27-year-old driver began racing three years ago. Unlike many new drivers that start in the bomber division, Richardson went straight to late models. Richardson's interest in racing began long before he was old enough to get a driver's license. "When Walt Lowe used to race years ago, I helped on the pit crew," Richardson said. "I guess it just stuck."

Richardson said he was only 13 or 14 when he began helping with the Lowe built car. "I went all over the place with him and he taught me," Richardson said. Although Lowe left racing, Richardson continued his interest, attending races as a spectator. Finally, Richardson decided he wanted to drive his own car. "I was 16 years old when I set my foot down and decided I was going to do it," Richardson said. He used his age at the time as the qualifier for his car and he has continued to carry the #34 on the side of his racer. "I've tried to learn a whole lot of experience in a little time," Richardson added. "We ran at Olive Hill Fleming County Raceway, Dan's Aluminum Welding, Park, Southern Ohio Speedway and

Richardson is trying to get some sponsors lined up for next season and move up with a competitive engine. "It's hard to wait until next year," he said. "I'm always wanting more, but I think I'm doing quite well for what I've got," Richardson said. Besides the out-of-pocket expense, Richardson and his friends put lots of work into keeping the car on the track. "We put in about 100 hours a week," Richardson explained.

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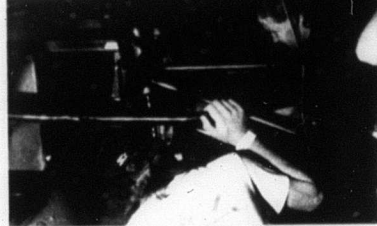
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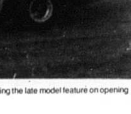
"Supporters of Jackie Boggs"



Jackie Boggs, right, learns through the opening for the rear tire to make repairs on his car following a recent heat race. He and his crew were able to make the repairs and run in the feature.



Dennis Little of Wurtland slides through the turn during qualification at Portsmouth Raceway Park.



Mike Richardson of Olive Hill picked up his first win of the season by taking the late model feature on opening night at Mud Lick Valley Raceway on the track's opening night.

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