

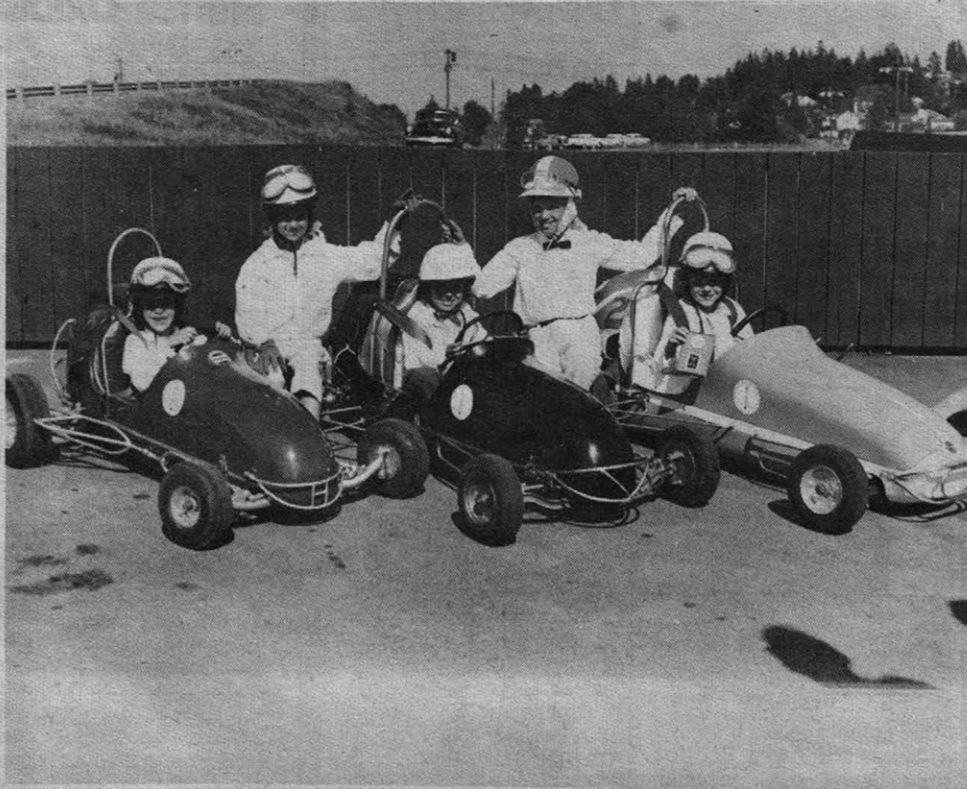
Quarter Midget Racing Is Exciting Sport

Quarter midget racing is a sport which is becoming ever more popular in the eyes of both parents and children alike. It is one sport which allows the parent to bind a little closer the family ties which are so important today, by enabling parent and child to participate together as a team. However, unlike many other family sports, the child is the center of attraction, with dad running a close second as handler and mechanic. Of course, mother is in the rooting section, cheering on her crash-helmet offspring, whether he be in the leading position, or in the back of the pack.

Occupation-wise, the dads in the Northgate Quarter Midget Club represent an assortment of professions and although the majority have not had previous mechanical experience, they soon learn to recognize and correct any faulty parts in the motor of the car. The young drivers, also have the opportunity to learn the working mechanism of a car through helping their dads. One of our girl drivers, a veteran midgeteer of five years, better known by team members and crowds alike, as Ginger the Bomb, Donaldson, knows her car inside out and will never have to sit by the wayside awaiting help when she starts driving on the highways.

The most important and regarding part of Quarter Midget Racing is teaching our young drivers to be Safety Conscious. Safety and good sportsmanship are closely related. Each driver is required to have a shoulder harness and safety belt with quick release buckle, approved crash helmet, goggles, leather gloves and a long sleeve jacket. Cars are inspected for safety standards, drivers are immediately disqualified if they should break any safety rules during a race and often the driver disqualifies himself, if he accidentally breaks a rule, such as hitting a pylon, etc. These youngsters are completely familiar with these rules.

There are three divisions in the Northgate Quarter Midget Club and these are determined by age. The novice division are drivers four through seven years of age, and of course, the little tykes



SOME QUARTER MIDGET RACERS ARE SHOWN here. From left they are Scooter Johnson, Landa Koreski (kneeling), Nolan Koreski, Cole Johnson (kneeling), Dale Johnson with main event plaque.

are really the crowd pleasers. Little Scooter Johnson, age five, kept the crowds on the edge of their seats last year, as in race after race he would start out in a winning position, only to have something happen during the race to put him out such as, in the main event of one race he was leading the pack 19 out of 20 laps and on the first turn of the last lap spun completely around and ended up last. On a trophy dash he led the pack again until the last lap when suddenly his car stopped. His dad had forgotten to fill the gas tank. From that time on, Scooter checks his gas tank before he starts a race.

Scooter also had to contend with his brother Dale, in the same division as himself. Dale was six during the first part of the season that Scooter could pass every car on the track, except, of course, Dale. It wasn't because Dale's car was faster than Scooter's, actually it was slower, but Scooter had a complex. Towards the end of the season, Scooter got over his complex, passed Dale and recovered from his last lap jinx and has been in the

running ever since. This season he will be a lad to watch in his little red 22 car, a veteran driver at the ripe old age of 6.

High point winner in the novice division last year was Danny Devine, age 6, and a real pro he is. Danny piled up an astonishing amount of trophies last year and his father has had to build in a special trophy wall of shelves to hold them all. After this season, if Danny continues as he has been, daddy might have to start in on another wall.

The stock division boasts twice as many cars as the two other divisions, as the drivers range in age from 8 to and through eleven. Larry Exner, age 9, made the first record of the season this year, with Mike Murphy, car No. 99, topping Larry's record by several seconds. Larry and Mike, both are three and four-year veterans and these boys excel in sportsmanship.

The Modified division is for children between the ages of 12 and 15 and are the real pros of the quarter midgets. These boys and girls drive a faster car than the other two divisions, as father is allowed to modify it, to Club specifications. Wayne McDonald was the high point winner in the modified division last year, although he has two girls hot on his heels for that coveted position. Ginger Donaldson and Geraldine Murphy, gave Wayne some pretty heavy competition. Wayne is off to a good start again this year and he has several new drivers in the division to vie against.

As far as the expense of midget-teering, a used car costs from \$150, to \$200. However, after this initial output of cash, the family can all enjoy this recreation at very little expense. The club dues are very nominal, as is the driver and handler insurance. There is very little depreciation of used cars and most of the drivers participating this season have cars that once belonged to others five and six years before them and will belong to someone else sometime in the future. These cars are built for long wear and protection of the driver. In the years since quarter midgets first be-

in a race. His first two or three races he is placed in the back of the pack and is not allowed to pass any of the cars, but to follow only. After that period, he may then be allowed to race.

Danny Coons, Larry Exner, Sherry Norton, Cole Johnson, Sandy Norton, Larry Kenn, Mike Murphy, Bobby Crowley, Steve Tilden, Ross Demmel, Jimmy Leithex, John Moss, and David Badgley are some of our stock division drivers this season.

Wayne McDonald, Dick Barrett, Pat Murphy, Geraldine Murphy, Doug Lamon, Brad Baxter, Jeff Stith, and Ruth Jennings are some of our modified division drivers.

There are many children from the same families participating, such as Pat Berdine and Mike Murphy, brothers and sister, Dale, Scooter, and Cole Johnson brothers; Sherry and Sand-

came popular all of the various clubs throughout the United States boasted not one serious accident. This percentage tops just about every other sport in which children participate.

Novice Division drivers, Steve Roe, Dale Johnson, Scooter Johnson, Paul Eiffert, Andy Erickson, Mike Joehnk, Mike Karr, Dino, McDonald, Denise Sheidis, Ginger Spencer, Joe Spencer, Chris Thorton, Denise Thorton and Bruce Exner.

Several of the above drivers are new this year and have just completed driver training school, which all drivers have gone through before they are allowed to race. Driving school is taught by the club and is free of charge to new drivers. When a child has learned the flags, safety rules and regulations, and good driving habits he will then be qualified to drive



BOBBY CROWLEY was high point award winner at annual banquet.