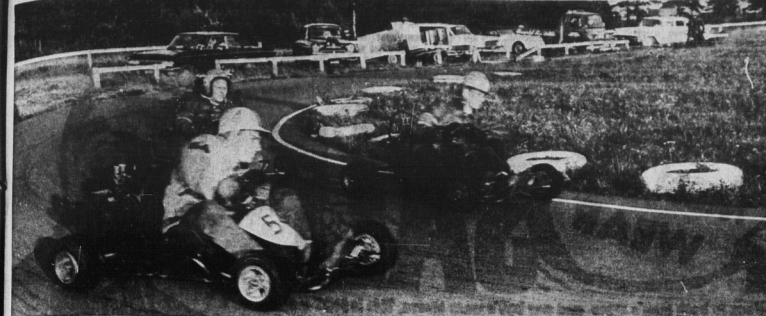


Island Karters Get Ready For Maritime Championships



**STRICT SAFETY RULES ARE FOLLOWED AS KARTS HIT SPEEDS OF UP TO 80 M.P.H.
COVEHEAD TRACK, DRIVERS RATE WITH BEST IN BUSINESS**

Noisy Toys Enjoy Greatest Year Ever Here

By GEORGE CONDON

You may not know too much about them and you may think them noisy toys, but go-karts and the sport associated with them are fast making a hobby as reckoned with.

Four years ago a go-kart was a completely unknown article on the island and the world for that matter. But in those few years since, karting has become the fastest growing family sport in North America and now even the Russians are catching up the bug.

There is no estimate available as to the number of karts now on the tracks, but some idea can be gained when one realizes that on P.E.I. alone there are in the neighborhood of four dozen karting clubs. And it is still a fledgling sport in the Maritimes.

Large cities like Toronto, Chicago, Phoenix and Los Angeles have literally thousands of karts and each year about this time they hold regional championships which in turn lead to annual championships sponsored by the excitement aroused by these tiny machines is fast rivalling that of automobile racing.

MARITIME CHIPS

One such regional championship will be held right here at the Covehead Kart Park on the Labor Day weekend when some 50 karts from three provinces are expected to attend for the Maritime Championship races.

The Covehead track in the island's go-kart Mecca and is located about nine miles from Charlottetown.

The first look at a go-kart is not to leave a person rather shocked.

They resemble a chain saw with a steering wheel and a four ash-tray sized tires add nothing to the impression. But, don't let that fool you, and this is where most people go wrong. These things may look like toys but they are anything but. Like misused lawn mowers, but they are real racing machines capable of unobscured speeds. In fact these speedsters have been clocked at close to 80 m.p.h. which is faster than the first running of the Indianapolis 500 back in 1911.

The speed, by the way, was clocked by a Charlottetown-owned kart only a few weeks ago.

You have to see one racing on a track however, before the exhilaration and excitement of the sport can be appreciated. The hand drawing card is, as far as the family is concerned, the downright fun that can be had with one of these creatures.

They are simple enough to drive consisting only of two foot controls, one for the gas and one for the brake, and a steering wheel. Once you've mastered the technique of climbing down the seat (the seat is about three inches from the ground) all you do is steer.

UNCANNY STABILITY

It is the simplicity of operation as well as the uncanny stability of these machines that make them so popular with the ladies and the younger set. But their speed and the ability to take to make them so really fast, as well as the competitive nature, are more than enough to bring any man's ego.

But, it takes a track before a kart shows its true colors. They often hit 45 or 50 m.p.h. on the straight, a way depending on the length, which is usually around 100 feet, and 20 miles per hour or more while negotiating turns.

Yes, it is on the turns where the men are really separated from the boys. A good kart racer can slide his machine around a curve at close to 35 miles per hour and yet still have no perception to pass along the vehicles and dodge flying stones at the same time.

Someone is inclined to think that there is absolutely no need at which the driver's corner may be entered with a kart. But then, someone will tell you that karting can become a very serious game. Accidents, however, are seldom serious as safety is emphasized at all levels and there are countless rules and inspections that drivers and karts alike must follow.

Karting here in P.E.I. began shortly after stock car racing was disbanded about four years ago and there was an obvious need for a new motor sport.

THEY WERE HOME MADE

The first karts here were homemade, mostly with chain saw motors and odds and ends.



LOOKING HERE FIVE YEARS AGO, KARTING NOW FAST GROWING SPORT

The racing in those days was done on a clay track and it was not long before it was evident that something better was needed.

Work was begun immediately on a paved track at the Covehead site. Without any assistance, other than a few donations from local merchants, the members of the Kart Club did all the work on the track themselves.

They levelled the area, graded the track, built the grandstand, erected the poles and the lights, did all the electric wiring, built the control building and installed a loud speaker system.

Only the actual paving itself was done by an outside firm.

With the new track kart racing really came into its own in P.E.I., and for the last three years with the paved track in use, kart racing has become a spectacular sport as well as competitive one.

The Covehead Kart Club has been holding races every Saturday night throughout the summer months drawing 200 to 250 paid customers rain or shine.

And slowly but surely people are beginning to realize that these little machines are truly entertaining and they are flocking to the track in ever-increasing numbers to see them.

The Covehead track is now recognized as the finest in the Maritimes, and one of the better ones in Canada. The local drivers are also making themselves known as among the tops in the business.

BEST IN COUNTRY

On several occasions this year people who know karting in the U.S. have come up to the Covehead people and told them that they had just witnessed some of the finest racing in the country.

One such statement was made by a man from Texas and another was from California where he had followed karting for several years.

The members of the Covehead have been taking top honors at almost all the races in the Maritime Kart Club from Halifax to Montreal.

The Woodstock, N.B. Club recently made a tour of the east coast states where they "cleaned up" in the races, yet they have been beaten by the Covehead on several occasions.

Kart racing in the Maritimes will reach its height on the last round of the Maritime championships will be held here.

It is expected that at least 30 karts from all over the Maritimes, including some from Halifax and Dartmouth, St. John and Woodstock will be viewing for honors along with the local crew.

Warm-up races will be held on Saturday night and the east-west teams get up to the track on Sunday morning, beginning at 10 o'clock and continuing all day.

These will be well organized races as are all Covehead events for the sport of karting has reached a fine point in the past



YOUNGEST, OLDEST DRIVERS, DWAYNE HOBSON, MERRILL MACLEAN

few years in order to obtain maximum safety and greater spectator interest.

There are very strict rules regarding the wearing of safety helmets and leather jackets and the observation of driving rules and mechanical inspection.

Some rules are laid on the local scene, but others go as far as the letter a national level since karting has now spread across the globe.

The world guiding body for karting is the F.I.A. in Paris, the international organization for all motor sports.

DRASTIC CHANGES

Karts themselves have changed drastically since those home brew types of a few years back. They now are factory made with bucket seats, driven by big engines with twin carburetors, and more often then not, set the budget back about \$600.

For the coming regional championships, George Scantlebury, Charlottetown, president of the Maritime Karting Association, as well as the secretary-treasurer of the Covehead Club, has extended an invitation to all Islanders to come out to the track on Monday to see the world's newest sport at its best.

Covehead president C. H. Stewart, and vice-president,

Probable Pitchers Bonshaw Grabs Pair

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Probable pitchers for today's major league baseball game, with win-loss records in brackets:

American League
Los Angeles, Chance (11-13) at Detroit, Lary (2-6) (N)
Chicago, DeBussche (3-4) at Kansas City, Rakow (6-8) (N)
Baltimore, McNally (6-5) (N) at Boston, Nichols (1-2) and Morehead (8-10) at New York, Bouton (17-6) and Terry (14-13) (N)

National League
New York, Friend (11-0) at Pittsburgh, Friend (15-11) (N) Philadelphia, Bennett (7-2) at Chicago, Jackson (14-12)
Milwaukee, Glininger (8-8) at Houston, Nettbart (8-3) (N)
Cincinnati, Purkey (6-8) at Los Angeles, Ritchie (11) (N) St. Louis, Simmons (11-6) at San Francisco, Sanford (12-12) (N)

Keith Carmichael, are equally enthusiastic.

So maybe it will be worth it to take a joint out there.

You will never know what it is like unless you do.

Bonshaw Grabs Pair

Bonshaw is two games up in their best-of-five semi-finals series with Hunter River in the Gulf Southball League.

Sunday afternoon Bonshaw took the first two games in the series 1-5 and 7-6.

In the opener Jim MacLeod pitched for Bonshaw and E. Bernard for Hunter River. H. Imman and John Blatch of the winners hit three-for-four.

In the nightcap Blatch hurled for the victors and Roddie Matheson for Hunter River. Pat MacLean and J. MacLeod hit homers for the winners. P. Johnson and E. Bernard banged out triples for Hunter River.

Yastrzemski Is In Front

By BEN OLAN

NEW YORK (AP) — And a little man shall lead them.

This may be the case as far as Mister 5 foot 5 1/2 Albie Pearson of the Los Angeles Angels is concerned.

A week ago Pearson trailed Boston's Carl Yastrzemski, the American League batting leader by 36 points. Monday the Angels' outfielder was in third place 16 points behind Yastrzemski. Between them was the crushing Al Kaline of Detroit, the 1955 batting champ.

Pearson hit a 345 pace in last week's games. He collected 12 hits in 22 tries and led his average 11 points to 310. Kaline picked up two points to 320 with eight hits in 23 attempts while Yastrzemski fell nine points to 326 with a seven-for-24 performance.

Leon Wagner of the Angels and Rich Rollins of Minnesota were deadlocked for third at 303. Wagner gained six points with 10 safeties in 25 tries and Rollins lost nine points on a four-for-28 showing.

NL RACE CLOSE

The National League batting race also tightened considerably as Dick Groat slumped and Tommy Davis surged. Groat, the St. Louis shortstop, collected only three hits in 30 attempts last week and dropped 15 points. He was hitting .329, the same as Davis, going into Monday's game against San Francisco Giants.

Davis rushed up to deadlock for the lead by climbing five points on an eight-for-25 showing. The Dodger outfielder is the defending N.L. Hitterholder.

Roberto Clemente of Pittsburgh tumbled one place to third. He lost four points to 323 with six hits in 24 times at bat. Vada Pinson of Cincinnati advanced one notch to fourth at 321 while Milwaukee's Hank Aaron moved up one place to fifth at 315.

Aaron continued to lead the senior circuit in runs batted in with 106 while San Francisco's Willie McCovey was the top man in home runs with 54.

Dick Stuart, Boston's slugging first baseman, slammed three homers and drove in five runs to maintain in the American League lead in these departments. He has 33 homers and 93 RBI.

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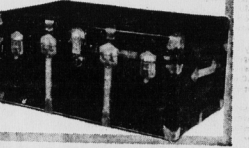


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