

Former racer recalls fast life

By Al Zwackey
staff writer

Marshall Robbins walked away from the world of auto racing eight years ago. But he's feeling the itch to return.

As a driver, Robbins was named the Sports Car Club of America rookie of the year in 1970. He finished third in the Trans Am series in 1973, the best showing by an American entry. In 1974, he reached a pinnacle by winning the SCCA national championship.

It was then that he called it quits. But not permanently, the way things look now.

Recently, while perusing the entries in the 1982 Indy 500, Robbins, a Birmingham resident, was dismayed to find not a single entry from Detroit.

To Marshall Robbins, that was a mortifying oversight for a city that still likes to think of itself as the motor capital of the world.

"That's what got me started," he recalled. "Going over this list and seeing no Detroit entries got me thinking. I thought maybe it was time for me to come back home."

The urge to dip his hands in motor oil returned. Robbins paid his first visit to the track in eight years just a few weeks ago, and he says he's "seriously considering" placing an entry in the 1983 Indy race.

That would involve finding a top-flight automobile and a talented driver, for Marshall Robbins' days as a driver are over.

THE INSTINCT to return behind the wheel is still there. But last month's tragic accident that claimed the life of driver Gordon Smiley played a big part in convincing Robbins to stay off the track.

He recalled watching the crash on television.

"Prior to that, I was thinking of doing some test driving in an Indianapolis car," Robbins said.

"I'm a great believer in going with the flow. And the flow told me to stay out of the damn race car. It didn't take Smiley's death to tell me, per se, but I learned something from it relative to my own feelings.

"Because, you can go out there in the best-prepared car and not make a mistake, and something can break on you — and at the speed you're going you're just liable to do the same thing."

Fear and death seem to be a driver's constant companions, and the only way to cope with it, said Robbins, is to convince yourself the dangers don't exist.

"See, if you're a good race driver, you can see that Gordon Smiley crash and say, 'That happened to him. He made a mistake. It isn't going to happen to me.' You can block it out of your mind. If you can't do that, you'd better get out of racing," he said.

Robbins was speaking from experience. "My best year driving as far as my

skill level, was my last year. . . I really became a race driver that last year," he said. "Consciously, I had looked out the danger of racing, even when somebody was hurt that I knew well — but I couldn't block it out unconsciously. I'd wake up screaming in the middle of the night."

"THE UNCONSCIOUS mind was saying, 'Hey! This is baloney! Don't do it!' It was really time for me to get out."

Sponsoring a car and driver at Indy would be like taking a step on untried terrain to Robbins. Before he got involved in driving in 1970, his family sponsored cars at Indy for some 20 years. Marshall learned to love the sport from his father, the late James Robbins, owner of the Troy-based Jim Robbins Co.

After his father died in an airplane accident in 1966, Robbins continued to sponsor entries at Indy until 1970 when spiraling costs drove him out.

In the eight years away from the sport, a lot has changed. It was a little strange to him at first when Robbins visited the track a few weeks ago. But then he started seeing some familiar faces and began to feel at home again.

The biggest difference was the cars themselves.

"It was like everything was the same, yet everything was different," he said. "My learning curve when I got there was like absolutely verticle."

"The big difference is the new basis for the cars. The cars now are incredibly fast and terribly dangerous."

Robbins stressed that his return to Indy as a sponsor still isn't definite.

Harrison wins WSL net crown

For all practical purposes, the Western Six League tennis meet, which took place May 26, was a dual meet between Farmington Harrison and Northville.

Harrison, which won the league meet with 21 points, won all seven flights in straight sets. And, with the exception of the second and fourth singles positions, it was Northville that opposed the Hawk netters.

Northville was second with 11 points, followed by Canton with four and Walled Lake Western with three. Livonia Churchill was shut out in the meet. The final league meet standings also was the exact order of finish in the overall standings.

Adam Gordon was the No. 1 singles champ as he defeated Arvin Seedarhan of Northville, 6-1, 6-0. The No. 1 doubles team of Jody Bhagat and Nick Lessing defeated their

Northville opponents, 6-2, 6-3.

Canton's No. 4 singles player Ray Lademan advanced to the finals, but fell to Harrison's Evan Hughes, 6-4, 6-1.

- Team Standings: 1. Harrison, 21; 2. Northville, 11; 3. Canton, 4; 4. Walled Lake Western, 3; 5. Churchill, 0.
- No. 1 Singles: Gordon (Harrison) defeated Seedarhan (Northville), 6-1, 6-0.
- No. 2 Singles: Brady (Harrison) defeated Smith (Northville), 6-1, 6-0.
- No. 3 Singles: Cory (Harrison) defeated Schok (Northville), 6-0, 6-2.
- No. 4 Singles: Hughes (Harrison) defeated Lademan (Canton), 6-0, 6-1.
- No. 1 Doubles: Bhagat and Lessing (Harrison) defeated Oullette and Abraham (Northville), 6-2, 6-3.
- No. 2 Doubles: Manokian and Shapiro (Harrison) defeated Six and Anstie (Northville), 6-2, 6-2.
- No. 3 Doubles: Back and Morrison (Harrison) defeated Oigen and Vandeworren (Northville), 7-5, 6-3.

sport shorts

Hills golfer logs first hole in one

Doug Harmala, a 26-year-old Farmington Hills resident, recorded a hole in one during a recent round of golf at Birmingham's Lincoln Hills Golf Course.

Harmala, a 1974 graduate of Southfield High School, used a 9-iron to ace the Lincoln Hills' No. 2 hole, a par-3, 166-yard test. The ace was his first in 14 years of golfing. He finished the round with a 1-over-par 36.

WESTERN WRESTLER

Dave Denny, a wrestling standout during his high-school days at Farmington, has earned a varsity letter for his mat efforts at Western Michigan University.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Vikings, a youth football team for boys ages 8 to 13, will hold a registration session on June 12, a Monday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Coleman's Church, Middlebelt and 14 Mile roads.

Free physical examinations will be provided, but applicants must have birth certificates. For additional information, call 553-9431 or 478-3327.

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Clarencville School District

Counties of Oakland and Wayne

State of Michigan

Tax Anticipation

(General Obligation Limited Tax)

AWARD OF NOTES: For the purpose of awarding the interest on each bid will be computed on a 360-day year basis by determining at the rate or rates bid the total dollar value of all interest on the notes from June 15, 1982 to their maturity and deducting therefrom any premiums. Bids may include calculation of interest cost based upon the above computation but the calculation shall be subject to verification by the municipality based upon the rate or rates bid. The notes will be awarded to the bidder whose bid on the above computation produces the lowest dollar interest cost to the municipality. No proposal for the purchase of less than all of the notes or at a price less than their par value will be considered.

Published in the LIVONIA OBSERVER, June 7, 1982.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OAKLAND AND WAYNE COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Annual Election of the qualified electors of Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties, Michigan, will be held in the Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties, Michigan on Monday, June 14, 1982.

The polls of election will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., Local Time.

The places of voting shall be as follows:

Precinct 1: Clarenceville Junior High School
20210 Middlebelt Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152

Precinct 2: Clarenceville Senior High School
20155 Middlebelt Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152

Only registered voters are eligible to vote.

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER, that at said election there will be two (2) members elected to the Board of Education for a four (4) year term each. The candidates for the four (4) year terms are:

Linda M. Ahbert
Lorene P. Erickson
Charles W. Goodwin
Daniel G. Morrison

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER, that there will be submitted a millage renewal proposition in substantially the following form to be voted upon by the electorate:

MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION

"As a renewal of millage previously authorized which expired in 1981, shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be levied against all taxable real and tangible personal property in Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties, Michigan, be increased, as provided by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan by \$3.00 per one thousand dollars of the assessed valuation, as finally equalized, of all such property in said School District for a period of five (5) years, from 1982 to 1986, both inclusive, for the purpose of paying general operating expenses of the School District?"

Each person voting in said election must be a citizen of the United States, above the age of eighteen (18) years and a registered voter of the School District.

COUNTY TREASURER'S STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT NO. 62 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1933 AS AMENDED

I, C. Hugh Dohany, County Treasurer of the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that according to the records in my office, as of April 19, 1982, the total of all voted increases in the tax rate limitation above the 15 mills established by Section 6 of Article IX of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 affecting taxable property in the Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties, is as follows:

Local Unit	Voted Increase	Years Increase Effective
Clarenceville School District	11.00	1976 to 1983 Incl.
	5.00	1977 to 1986 Incl.
	1.00	1981 to 1983 Incl.
	9.00	1981 to 1985 Incl.
Schoolcraft College	None	
County School District of Oakland County	50	Unlimited
	50	Unlimited
	50	Unlimited
County of Oakland	25	1982 to 1986 Incl.

Dated: April 19, 1982

/s/ C. HUGH DOHANY
C. HUGH DOHANY, Treasurer
Oakland County

STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 216 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 AMENDING THE PROPERTY TAX LIMITATION ACT

I, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, County Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that as of April 27, 1982, the total of all voted increases in excess of the Constitutional fifteen mill tax rate limitation and the years such increases are effective are as follows affecting the taxable property of Local Unit:

Local Unit	Date of Election	Voted Increase	Years Increase Effective
County of Wayne	Aug. 8, 1978	1 mill	1982 to 1984 inclusive
Township of Redford	Nov. 2, 1965	1.50 mills	1982 to 1985 inclusive
	Aug. 7, 1973	2 mills	1982 to 1983 inclusive
Schoolcraft Community College District		None	None
Oakland County Intermediate School District	June 14, 1965	.50 mill	1982, indefinitely
Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties	Jan. 19, 1976	11 mills	1982 to 1985 inclusive
	Jan. 17, 1977	5 mills	1982 to 1983 inclusive
	June 8, 1981	10 mills	1982 to 1985 inclusive

Dated: April 27, 1982

/s/ Raymond J. Wojtowicz
Raymond J. Wojtowicz
Wayne County Treasurer

This Notice is given by order of the Board of Education of said School District.

Dated: May 4, 1982

/s/ MICHAEL T. MANORE, Secretary to the Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties, Michigan Board of Education

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