

Sports

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Auto engineer has designs on record

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Few people can claim to have set a land-speed record while sitting behind the wheel of an automobile.

Furthermore, not many would have the courage to attempt the feat.

But, if all goes well this week, Karl Staggemeier will be party to two such records.

The 29-year-old Farmington resident and his partner Gary Eaker are making their second visit to the Bonneville Salt Flats this week, hoping to set a five-mile course record in the C-Production Class.

When the General Motors aerodynamics engineers first traveled to the remote site near the Utah-Nevada border in July, their sole purpose was to test their 1988 Pontiac Trans-Am on the vast expanse of salt.

IT WAS MERELY by accident they happened to break the three-mile record, Stag-

geimer said, as they shattered the existing mark by 23 miles per hour with a 213.9 mph run.

"Personally, we didn't look on it as much of an accomplishment, because the car wasn't running well," he said. "We went out there to see how the car would run."

"We thought we should have been up around 225, but we did what we set out to accomplish."

That included becoming licensed, something the Bureau of Land Management, which is charged with the care of the unique natural preserve, requires of every first-time driver.

The purpose, of course, is "to make sure you and the car are up to the task safely," Staggemeier said.

But their main intent all along was to prepare for the August record attempt. Getting a three-mile record was nice, but the five-mile performances are considered the true standards.

STAGGEMEIER AND Eaker, who conduct wind tunnel experiments at the GM Tech Center in Warren, hope to reach 250 mph, "which would make it the fastest production car in the world regardless of class," according to Staggemeier.

The current records for the production-class vehicles are 219 mph in A, 218 in B and 217 in C. The addition of nitrous oxide to the fuel mixture could result in a speed of 270 mph.

"That," Staggemeier said, "would be the fastest speed for a passenger car bar none."

Other cars with super-charged engines have traveled 250 mph, and the fastest recorded speed on salt was 323 by the rocket-powered Blue Flame. But cars such as the one Staggemeier and Eaker operate must remain a likeness of the original models produced by the factories.

"We have to use engines similar to the kind that come in the cars," Staggemeier said. "We can't put a big block Chevrolet in our Trans-

Am."

Blue Max Racing of Charlotte, N.C., offered to build two engines when the duo embarked on its expanded hobby. Staggemeier describes them as "NASCAR-Winston type engines but a little bigger." Engine displacement is used to divide cars into one of the production classes, and the Staggemeier-Eaker team has a 369 cubic-inch, small-block Pontiac four barrel.

"IT'S PRETTY MUCH a stock-car motor but a little healthier," Staggemeier said.

The idea to get involved in speed racing was a natural offshoot from the job Staggemeier and Eaker, 32, of Utica do every day of the week.

"We're both car nuts," Staggemeier said. "I had a series of hot rods in high school, and this is the next extension of that."

"Through the contacts we've made, all the circumstances were right for this, and all the pieces came together."



Karl Staggemeier plans record-speed attempt

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Wolverines complete playoff miracle in OT

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The hype and hysteria didn't rival a Soviet Union-U.S. hockey game, and the world wasn't glued to its TV sets for an Olympic telecast.

But Al Michaels still would have asked "Do you believe in miracles?" after the Wolverines won the Metro Summer Hockey League championship Wednesday.

The Wolverines, who came from nowhere a few weeks ago to finish on top, completed their Cinderella season by trimming the Wildcats 9-8 in two overtimes at the Plymouth Ice Arena.

Coach Dave Cyplik, whose team was 0-9-1 before winning its last four games — including three in the post-season, had a simple answer to Michaels' would-be question.

"Yeah, I always have," he said.

"Anything can happen in the playoffs."

"THIS IS AN awesome feeling. All those guys have got a lot of courage to come back from the kind of regular season we had and win the whole thing."

The championship game was truly that. The sea-serpents battle was the most exciting of the five MSHL finals to date, according to longtime observers of the league.

Sean Skinner of Livonia finally ended the lengthy contest with the game-winning goal at 2:26 of the second 10-minute overtime.

hockey	
METRO SUMMER HOCKEY LEAGUE	
FIRST TEAM	
D Dan Murphy	Lakers
D Dan Pugh	Lakers
D Mark Lee	Wildcats
D Chris Hines	Wildcats
F Tim Hines	Wildcats
F Mark Pomeroy	Wildcats
SECOND TEAM	
D Scott Hunter	Huskies
D Dave McAllister	Huskies
D Wayne Macdon	Spartans
Alan Gagne	Wildcats
F.P. LaFolche	Huskies
F Dennis Egan	Bulldogs
Most improved player: Joe Almet, Huskies (Lions Church); 14 goals, 10 assists, 34 points	
The league's most valuable player has yet to be named.	

Skinner, a 1987 graduate of Stevenson High who played last season for the Redford Royals, shot the puck past his former Junior A teammate, Wildcats goalie Doug Abraham.

Coming up on the left wing, Skinner found himself alone on that side after a scattering pass by Livonia's Matt Wiljansen found its way through traffic. He got behind the

defensemen before they could recover and went 1-on-1 with Abraham.

"I had the same shot in the second period," said Skinner, who had two goals and three assists on the night. "After I missed the first time I was mad."

"I DID A fake and went too wide. I didn't do it quick enough. The second time I took the shot."

"It happened so quick I really didn't have time to think," he added. "I thought: Yeah, I'm past that guy; now I've got a shot."

Skinner's goal ended what had been a fantastic overtime duel between Abraham and his Wolverines counterpart, Ron Elyna. Both goalies made spectacular saves, sometimes several in succession as they survived wild scrambles in front of their respective nets.

"Goalkeeping was the key in overtime," Wildcats player/coach Alan Carnes said.

"Their goalie kept them in the game, and our goalie kept us in the game. That's why the overtime lasted so long."

While the Wolverines celebrated a hard-earned victory, which made it all the more enjoyable, it was a hard loss for the Wildcats.

"Real hard — because everybody was trying so hard," Carnes said. "The goal they scored was not that good of a goal, a long shot. Overtime always ends like that — not on a very nice goal."

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THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Leif Gustafson suffered a gash over his right eye when he was slammed into the boards while chasing the puck into one corner of the

rink. Gustafson stayed in the game, however, and helped lead the Wolverines to an overtime victory in the MSHL championship game.

Livedoti's goal to restore team's confidence

By C.J. Risk
staff writer

Transition? Rebuilding? What's that?

For this football season at least, those terms have no meaning to the majority of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association teams. When the team that has dominated the league for the past decade (winning seven titles) returns 12 starters, it's safe to assume it will be picked to repeat.

Hope College does (return a dozen starters) and is (picked to repeat). But the Flying Dutchmen share the favorite's role with Albion, which has 14 starters coming back. And three of the five other MIAA teams have more starters returning than either of the favorites.

Leaving Olivet, which was chosen to finish fifth (out of six) under new coach Dominic Livedoti. A year ago, Livedoti was preparing West Bloomfield's high school team for a new season. A star at wide receiver for Olivet 25 years ago, he has no illusions regarding the task confronting him.

BUT THAT doesn't dampen his enthusiasm.

"I hope that, at Olivet, we can put some fun back in the game and get some confidence back," he said at Thursday's MIAA media day at Hope College in Holland.

However, Livedoti refused to set concrete goals for himself or his team.

"Prediction-wise, I'd like to say we'll be in every ball game," he said.

He doesn't have a lot to begin his tenure with. Of the potential starters, few are from the suburban De-

Brian Hood
Alma linebackerDom Livedoti
first-year Olivet coach

troit area, which should provide Livedoti's recruiting base. That will change.

For members of Livedoti's first recruiting class — from West Bloomfield: defensive back Chris Alexander, tight end Mark Fritz, linebacker Tom Lamb and quarterback/defensive back Dan Stowberry.

Others who could help down the line are offensive tackle Eric Chatfield, from Rochester (Adams), and quarterback Mark Murray, from Farmington Hills (Harrison), who transferred from Wayne State.

WHATEVER LIVEDOTI accomplishes this season could be impressive, considering what he's up against.

For starters, the Cornells play just one of their first five games at home. And then there's the rest of the

is senior linebacker Steve Freier (6-foot-2, 220), from Garden City. An all-MIAA second-team selection in '87, Freier tied for second among the Brits in tackles with 75.

The secondary is talented and deep, with sophomore Scott Bissell (6-6, 180), from West Bloomfield (Farmington Hills), a possible starter. He had two interceptions last season.

NOTHING IS certain, of course. Alma coach Phil Brooks has either 16 or 18 starters back from a team that was 2-3 in the MIAA, 5-4 overall in '87. One of the question marks, a player coming off an injury, is a key to the Scots' chances.

Junior defensive tackle Evan Vlasineck (6-3, 335), from West Bloomfield, tore up his knee in the fourth game last year.

"If you had asked me in December, I would have said I didn't think he'd play football again," Brooks said.

But Vlasineck has worked hard at rehabilitation and could start.

Should his comeback be successful, he'll line up with a talented neighbor — senior linebacker/defensive end Brian Hood (6-1, 215), from Farmington Hills (North Farmington). Hood was a second-team all-MIAA choice last season.

"It's a key player for us," Brooks said. "It would take an act of God to keep him out. He's something."

Brooks called the offensive line an area of concern, with some good and some bad. Three seniors are gone, but three with experience return, including junior tackle Alan Lyneight (6-5, 245) from Farmington Hills.

Defensive concerns coach Pete Schmidt.

"Defensively, we fell off a little last year," he said. "If we get our defense back to where we were a couple of years ago, we'll do OK."

One player Schmidt is counting on

football

O&E PLAYERS IN THE MIAA

ADRIAN COLLEGE: Tony Boucher, sophomore offensive back, from Plymouth Canton; Geoff (Chip) Davis, freshman running back, from Detroit Country Day; Matt Fowler, senior, from Farmington Hills; Mark Koppel, sophomore defensive back, from Westland (Lions Church); John Lee, sophomore quarterback, from Southfield-Lathrup; Pete Mazzoni, sophomore quarterback, from Livonia Stevenson; Kevin McCreary, sophomore linebacker, from Redford Union; Brian Tolsted, freshman linebacker, from West Bloomfield (Bloomfield Hills Andover).

ALBION COLLEGE: Scott Bissell, sophomore defensive back, from West Bloomfield (Farmington Hills); David Briggs, junior offensive lineman, from Plymouth Canton; Brian Brown, sophomore offensive lineman, from Westland John Glenn; Brian Dawood, sophomore running back, from Troy; Bill Deery, sophomore linebacker, from Rochester Adams; Brad Demaree, sophomore defensive back, from North Farmington; Steve Fries, senior, from Garden City; William Johanson, sophomore defensive lineman, from Troy; Mike Murray, sophomore linebacker, from Bloomfield Hills; Gary Schwed, sophomore linebacker, from Farmington Hills; Dave Tooley, junior tight end, from Troy Athens; Steve Stessel, freshman wide receiver, from Farmington Hills; Scott McKee, freshman linebacker, from Redford Catholic Central; Ryan O'Rourke, freshman defensive lineman, from Troy.

ALMA COLLEGE: Brian Hood, senior linebacker, from North Farmington; Alan Lyneight, senior offensive tackle, from Farmington Hills; Matt Lyneight, senior defensive back, from Farmington Hills; Dom Livedoti, first-year coach, from Farmington Hills; Dom Livedoti, first-year coach, from Farmington Hills; Dom Livedoti, first-year coach, from Farmington Hills.

ROCHESTER ADAMS: Dan Stowberry, sophomore quarterback, from Farmington Hills; Eric Chatfield, sophomore offensive tackle, from Farmington Hills; Mark Fritz, sophomore tight end, from Farmington Hills; Tom Lamb, sophomore linebacker, from Farmington Hills.

WEST BLOOMFIELD: Chris Alexander, sophomore defensive back, from West Bloomfield; Scott Bissell, sophomore defensive back, from West Bloomfield; Evan Vlasineck, sophomore defensive tackle, from West Bloomfield.

WESTLAND: Mark Koppel, sophomore defensive back, from Westland; John Lee, sophomore quarterback, from Westland; Pete Mazzoni, sophomore quarterback, from Westland.

YVONNE: Kevin McCreary, sophomore linebacker, from Yvonne; Brian Tolsted, freshman linebacker, from Yvonne.

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