

SportsWednesday

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Photo by Brent Foster

Robin Buck holds up his winning trophy in the CASCAR event at the Toronto Molson Indy on Saturday.



Photo by Brent Foster

Robin Buck gave a lot of credit for his victory to his car's new chassis built by Linken Manufacturing on Wallace Road in Oakville.

Buck returns to Indy winner's circle

By Rod Jerred
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

CASCAR racer Robin Buck may no longer live in Oakville, but still plays a major role in his racing success.

Following his victory at the CASCAR race at the Toronto Molson Indy Saturday, Buck was quick to credit his new chassis built by Linken Manufacturing on Wallace Road.

"It made all the difference in the world," said Buck of the new chassis.

Two years ago, Buck won the inaugural CASCAR Superseries at the Molson Indy, but last year he was forced to withdraw due to car troubles after completing just 16 laps of the 30-lap course.

"Last year we built a new car for the

road race and it was not very good at all," he said.

So this year, he turned to Ken Stewart, at Linken Manufacturing, a specialist in building chassis for racing cars and street rods.

He's been making chassis for a long time (26 years)," said Buck. "He is a specialist in making racing chassis. I always knew he knew what he was doing and I was always impressed by what he has done."

Even though Buck is only racing in four CASCAR events this year, he scrapped last year's car and had Stewart build a new chassis for his 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix sponsored by UAP/NAPA.

"Everything is well thought out," said Buck. "Everything is very easy to work with."

Stewart, who witnessed the victory from the sidelines with Buck's crew said, "I was very pleased with the results."

Buck's victory was only his second CASCAR race this year.

His team chose to scale back to competing in only the four CASCAR road course events this year. The move was based partly on Buck's solid background in street racing as a driver in the Players GM series in the 1980s and early 90s, and the high profile of the four CASCAR road events: Mosport, Toronto Indy, the Trois-Rivières Grand Prix in Quebec and the Vancouver Indy.

"With a limited budget we are maximizing our exposure and effort," explained Buck.

At Mosport earlier this year, Buck

was in contention for the lead when another car crashed into him, ending the race.

Fortunately, the damage was mostly cosmetic and Buck felt confident going into last weekend's Molson Indy CASCAR event.

Although Don Thomson Jr. jumped into an early lead, Buck said he wasn't worried.

"It's a long race," said Buck. "I wanted to see how he would run, what kind of pace he would keep."

When he overtook the lead, Buck said he tried to slow down the pace to reduce the pressure on his tires.

"Although it's the type of course where you don't have trouble with tires overheating, it can build up a lot of heat on the tires," he said.

Late in the race, both Thomson and Buck were challenged by CASCAR points leader Kerry Micks.

"I thought originally he was just trying to get into second place and would hang out there," said Buck.

Instead, after passing Thomson, Micks tried to overtake Buck.

At that point, Buck said, "I thought, 'Well I'm going to make him work for it.'"

Micks ended up spinning out of control at the end of the lake Shore Boulevard straightaway.

Buck lost the lead to Thomson on two subsequent restarts, "but I passed him right away," he said.

His next CASCAR event is in Trois-Rivières Aug. 3-5 followed by the Vancouver Indy on the Labour Day



Photo by Barrie Erskine

The goaltender for the Oakville Strikers U10 Boys All Stars makes a save on way to a 3-0 shutout over the Oakville Heat U9 All Stars in an exhibition soccer match at Blakelock High School, Saturday afternoon.

Majors win opening pair in district playdowns

The Oakville Little League Majors began the road to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Penn. Began with two wins at the district playdowns in Toronto on the weekend.

Their journey continues tonight at Toronto's High Park against the highly touted High Park squad.

They opened the playdowns with a decisive 14-1 win over Orangeville.

Pitcher Alden Black struck out eight, had two singles, two rbi's and four assists to back up a potent Majors attack. Unheralded Adam Davidson racked up a double, two singles, two runs and four rbi's.

Adding to the hitting barrage were Scott DeGroot (double, two singles, two runs, rbi), A.J. Obrodovich (double, bunt single, 2 runs), Roger Lambert (double, single, two runs), Chris Stewart (two bunt singles, two runs), followed by Paul Jurgaitis (double, rbi), Patch Channing (single, run), Matt Downer (single), and runs by Sergio Lujan and Ryan Mallough.

In the second game, Oakville downed

Ancaster 11-6.

The Majors were looking forward to their next opponent Ancaster who had rung them up 2-1 in their only defeat this season.

After two innings, they found themselves down 4-0, and it looked like a long night. But the Majors struck back with three in the third to trail by one. Into the fourth hits (and walks) saw Oakville come up with six big ones for a 9-4 lead.

With one out in the fifth, keeping up the pressure as they had been doing all evening, Ancaster loaded the bases. Matt Downer relieved Scoot DeGroot 3ks) and allowed just one hit, one run, striking out 2! A.J. Obrodovich finished it up in the sixth (2k's) for a 11-6 win.

Leading the hitting attack were Roger Lambert (3 singles, 2 runs, rbi), Chris Stewart (2 bunt singles-4 in two games, 2 runs, rbi), Ryan Malhotra (single, run), DeGroot, a double; other runs: Adam Davidson (3), Ryan Mallough, Patch Channing, Downer; other rbi's: Paul Jurgaitis (2), Alden Black (2), Channing (2), Downer.

Davidson helps Canadian rowers win silver in Munich

Oakville Olympian Chris Davidson helped Canada's Lightweight Men's Four team win a silver medal in the Rowing World Cup in Munich, Germany on Sunday.

The silver medal was one of three medals won by Canadian teams Sunday.

"Canada did well today," said Canadian National Team lightweight coach Terry Paul. "We picked our top crews and came here to test the waters, and we have three medals. The standard in Canada is good and it's a good gauge for the rest of the team."

The lightweight men's four faced a field of Olympic (France) and former World (Denmark)

champions. Denmark was first, followed by Canada, Austria, France, the Netherlands and Spain.

They finished just over three seconds behind Denmark at 6:18:33.

The 30-year-old Davidson has been a member of the lightweight fours for nine years and was part of the Sydney Olympics team that finished seventh overall.

He attended E. J. James elementary school and Appleby College in Oakville. His parents were both doctors at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital before leaving to set up practice in Florida in 1988.



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