



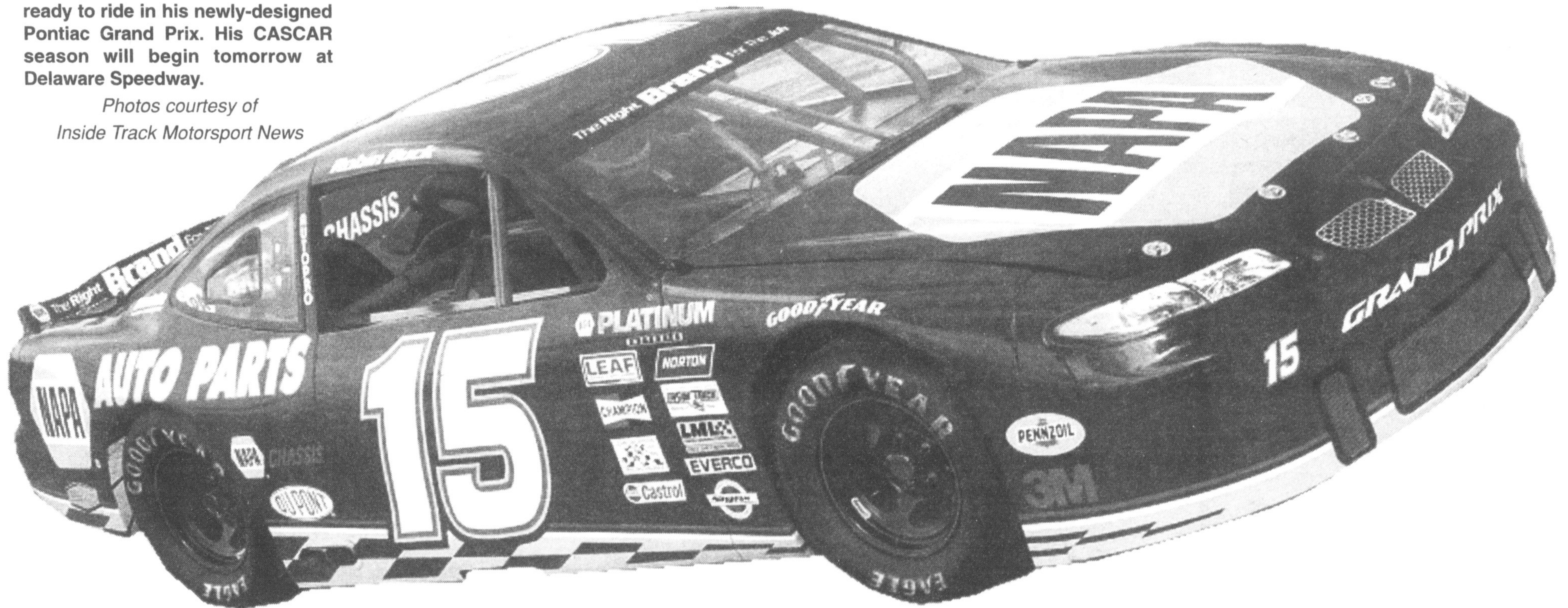
# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2002

Campbellville's Robin Buck is ready to ride in his newly-designed Pontiac Grand Prix. His CASCAR season will begin tomorrow at Delaware Speedway.

Photos courtesy of Inside Track Motorsport News



## Local CASCAR veteran refueled for 2002

### Buck's financial backing beefed up for new season

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Robin Buck will be fully fueled when he heads onto the race track tomorrow.

Once again enjoying complete sponsorship from a retooled NAPA Auto Parts, Campbellville's CASCAR veteran will make his presence felt in all 12 Castrol Super Series events this year.

"We'll be in every race, both road and oval," said Buck, who begins the 2002 CASCAR season this weekend at Delaware Speedway.

Tomorrow could almost be considered a new start for the 42-year-old — who raced just four events last year including the Toronto Molson Indy, which he won for the second time in three years. Beside renewed financial backing, Buck will have a new car number — 15 — plus new colours, a new trailer and, most important, a new vehicle specifying designed for the oval events.

And if that wasn't enough, he heads into the season with a new-

found enthusiasm after having time to recharge his mental battery last season.

"Some drivers do get burnout, especially in NASCAR and Formula One," he suggested. "I'm not sure I necessarily needed a break (with limited schedule last season), but I do feel refueled."

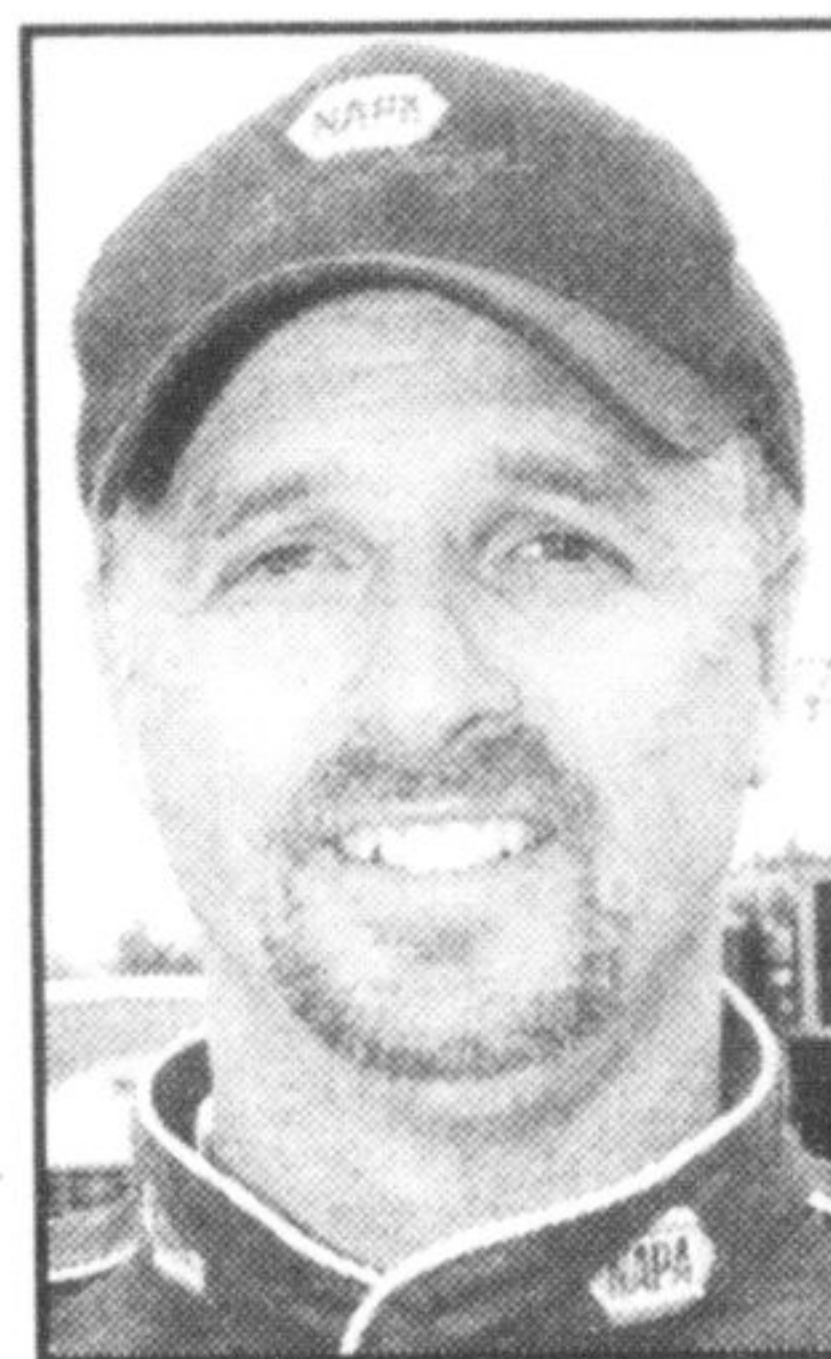
"I'm as anxious for the season to start as I've ever been."

Backed by a pit crew led by Miltonian Al Haringa Jr., Buck used his spare time constructively last season — assuming the role of play-by-play commentator for the CASCAR races he didn't compete in.

This provided him with a new perspective on the sport he's spent most of his adult life involved with, and reaffirmed a notion that in recent years he's gradually embraced.

Stressed Buck, "Races aren't won on the first lap. Of course nobody likes to get passed, but you've got to have mental patience out there. I think I've developed more of that over the last few years."

Patience, he said, can be a particularly effective ally during the



Robin Buck

oval-track events — where seemingly-endless circling can wear down even the most seasoned racers' focus.

"Over 250 laps, it's easy to get (mentally) caught," explained Buck.

The Campbellville native — whose support team is split between Milton and Oakville — has been primarily known for his road-track prowess in recent years, but aims to broaden his success.

While car trouble and a nasty collision at Mosport hindered his efforts last year, Buck showed his NAPA backers that he could win the big one with a near-flawless Molson Indy triumph at the CNE.

Enjoying a problem-free drive out of his newly-built Pontiac Grand Prix, he led for all but two of the 31 laps on the way to grabbing the checkered flag. That — plus the return of full sponsorship — has only served to bolster a confidence level which, despite the occasional speed bump, has never seemed to waver much.

"You've got to believe that you're the best out there, or at least that you're doing your best. That's what separates the top finishers from the also rans."

Buck will try to include himself in the former group this weekend and then gradually build toward a Toronto Molson Indy title defense at the CNE July 5 and 6.

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	TEAMS	G	W	L	T	PTS
1	HOLY ROSARY	3	3	0	0	6
2	SOUTH SIDE "2"	2	2	0	0	4
3	MILTON BIBLE	3	2	1	0	4
4	SOUTH SIDE "1"	3	2	1	0	4
5	ST. GEORGES	1	1	0	0	2
6	NEW LIFE "B"	1	1	0	0	2
7	BOSTON	2	1	1	0	2
8	NEW LIFE DEAF	2	1	1	0	2
9	ST. PAULS	3	1	2	0	2
10	KNOX	2	0	2	0	0
11	NEW LIFE "A"	3	0	3	0	0
12	GRACE	3	0	3	0	0