



Three time champion

Chester Graham, left, receives a trophy emblematic of the Midland Golf and Country Club men's championship. Graham won the title for the third time,

defeating another three-time winner, Jeff Bales. Graham recorded 229 for the three-day event compared to Bales's 232.

Schmidt's success plagued with problems during race

Midland race car driver Gunter Schmidt drove his Volkswagen Fox to its fastest qualifying time of the season, earning him first in class and sixth place overall at the Sport Car of America Labour Day National Races held at Mosport.

But a spectacular car crash in corner two and a fiery start-up in the pits may have kept Midland race car driver Gunter Schmidt from the winner's circle.

The fire started after gas spilled when Schmidt's car was being refueled. When he turned on the ignition, there was an explosion and the burning gas engulfed the car.

"It's just the odds," Schmidt said. "You expect that someday it might be your turn."

Schmidt's first problem was a flat tire on his motor home on the way to Mosport, located 30 km east of Toronto. Unable to find someone to fix it, he kept pumping it up until he could make it to the track.

During Friday's practice in the Formula Ford, the engine blew, but not before Schmidt had qualified in eighth spot.

Saturday was spent

rebuilding the Formula Ford's engine complete with some parts borrowed from fellow competitors. Qualifying practices were still ongoing, but Schmidt's eighth-place finish held.

A rainy Sunday greeted the racers. Schmidt's Ford was making some knocking noises so he didn't practice in an attempt to save wear on the engine. He had a good start but he spun out during the second lap, crashing backwards into the wall. The impact crumpled the gear box, and put the engine through the radiator.

Schmidt had little time to assess his injuries as he prepared for the five-hour endurance run in his Volkswagen. This time, there would be three drivers. Ivan Graham would start, Schmidt would drive the middle and Brian Graham would finish.

Because of the wet conditions, they started the race with rain tires, but right from the first lap they were plagued with tire pressure problems. Even with frequent stops, they were still second in class and 12th overall.

The car began to stutter after Schmidt's first lap at

the wheel. They worked the car over during the 20-minute pit stop and Schmidt returned to the track to run the fastest lap of the race. Now third in class, 14th overall, Schmidt began to challenge the leader, Lloyd Service. To the spectator's delight, the two drivers demonstrated superb ability until they bumped fenders. Schmidt checked for front wheel damage.

After the gas-generated explosion, Schmidt resum-

ed the race. But 15 minutes later, the car stopped in corner eight. The crew worked on the fuel pump, short wired it and Graham was able to complete the race.

Schmidt is confident his Volkswagen will be ready to compete in the Indian Summer Endurance Series Race at Mosport on Sept. 17 and 18 and his Formula Fox will be ready for the Rothmans Trans Am Sept. 23 to 25. "I'll be ready," he said.

Happy Birthday Buzz

"Hope you come alive at 65 Dear!"

Love Margaret

Kings hit the ice in first practice

The Penetanguishene S. Charlebois Junior C Kings held their first practice of the 1988-89 season last night at the Penetanguishene Arena.

The camp continues Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights with an exhibition game scheduled for Saturday against Bradford of the Central Ontario League.

The practices and the game begin at 8:30 p.m. with the exception of Friday's practice, which starts at 8:15 p.m.

The Kings will stage another exhibition tilt Sept. 20 against the Stayner Siskins at 8:45 p.m. and will host Orillia Laidlaws Junior B Sept. 22 at the same time.

League to hold draft

The fall draft of the Penetanguishene Recreational Hockey League will take place Sept. 18 at the Penetanguishene Arena.

The draft is open to any hockey player over 18 years of age and starts at 1 p.m.

For further information on the league and the draft contact Randy Robbins (549-8718), Bob Gravel (549-8244) or Terry King (549-8378).

Terry Carruthers will be the coach this season, assisted by Trent Maracle. The trainer is Doug Waugh and Bert Mayer is the Equipment Manager. Other team officials are Dave Brunelle, general manager, Rob Scheniman, assistant general manager, Pete King, team manager, Andrew Zurawski, training coach, Dennis

Brunelle, Pierre Genier and Hubert Robitaille, directors.

The Kings have come to an agreement with the Orillia Junior B Laidlaws, formerly known as the Travelways. The agreement is not really a new idea. In the past, Orillia players who were not originally part of the team found spots in Penetang.

As those players progressed and openings occurred in Orillia, those players would transfer back. The agreement now becomes official.

Orillia has brought in several members of the Shediac, New Brunswick AAA midget team and one of those players has already been slated to suit up for Penetang.

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