

# Driver gearing for top U.S. circuit

BY CHRIS SHANAHAN  
U-X-B-R-I-D-G-E  
TWP. Peter Gibbons visited Sunset Speedway a few years back and quickly decided stock car racing was for him. Today, he's in the

driver's seat as a rookie on the NASCAR North circuit. He's a full-time racer, taking his 1985 Buick Regal to about 25 races in the United States and another five in Canada.

"I liked the competition at the track," he recalls of his days as a spectator. "And so far the Goodwood-area driver has enjoyed a competitive track career. He ranks among the top NASCAR newcomers

following a successful season last year racing a late-model Camaro at Sunset north of Bradford. Peter began his career on the stock car (amateur) circuit at the Sunset track and was named top rookie there, as he was the following year in the Camaro.

He moved up to NASCAR in hopes of attracting a sponsor that'll enable him to pursue his ultimate goal of competing in the prestigious Grand Nationals. There, he'd be up

against many of auto racing's legendary drivers. Peter's anxious to reach this level within four years, but his next step is likely the late-model sportsman class at U.S. super speedways.

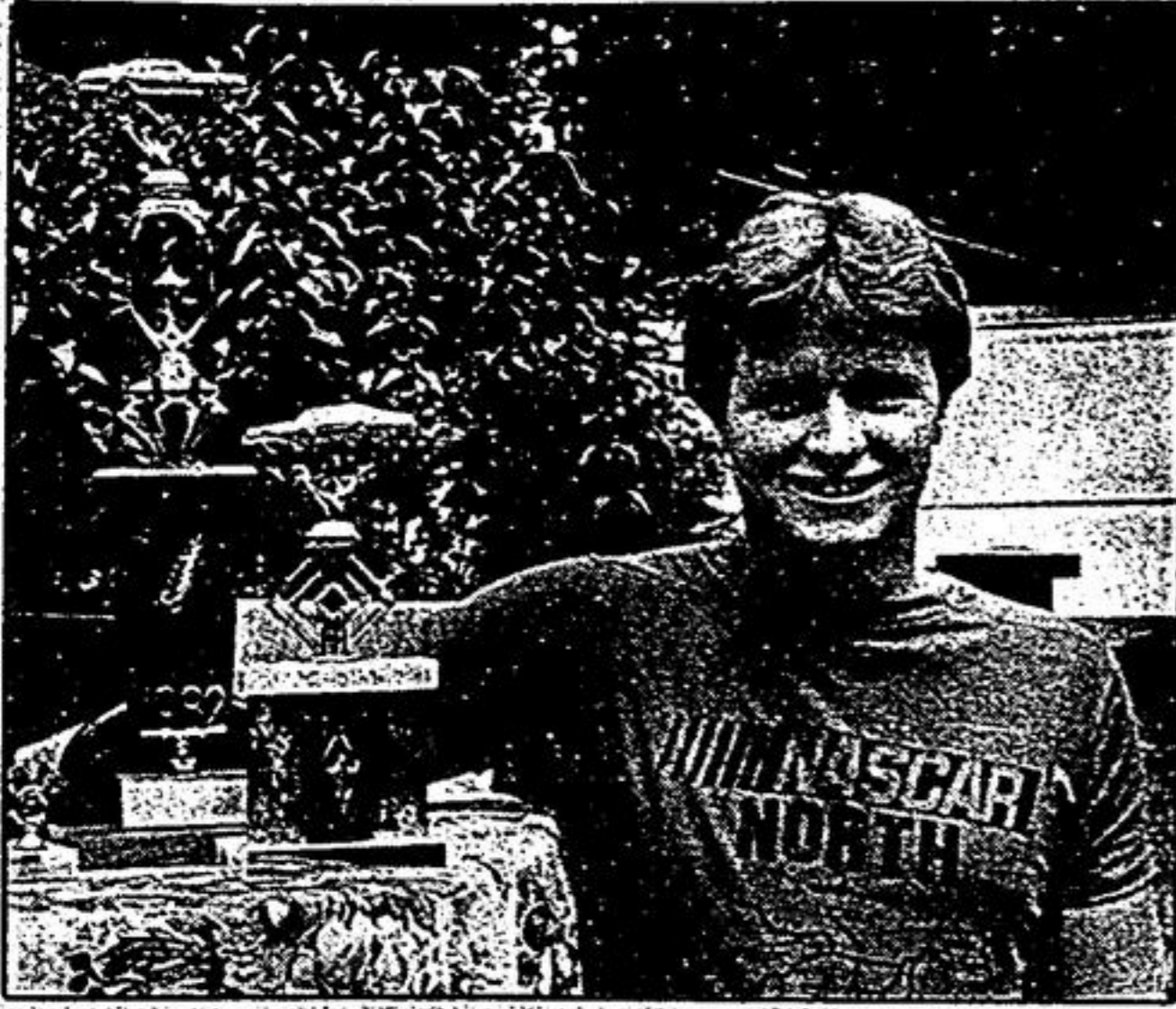
The 23-year-old driver has the full support of his parents and of his manager, Ed Hakonson, of Whitechurch-Stouffville. "Peter definitely has the ability to become a Grand National driver,"

says Hakonson, sitting in on a recent interview. "In order to accomplish that, he'll need a major sponsor next year. And we're actively seeking one."

And while the racer's mother, admits she was naturally apprehensive about her son's career decision, she now says "he's chosen this and I'll back him up."

Expensive sport Hakonson stresses that competitive racing at any level requires a huge financial outlay. It takes a minimum of \$1,000 a week to go racing, according to the manager, who notes that this money is in addition to the substantial amount required for a car, tow trailer and other accessories.

Hakonson, involved in the business with a company that designs race clothing, describes the Goodwood driver as "a real athlete" who doesn't smoke or drink. This clean image is quite a departure from the well-worn racing stereotype of life in the racing fast lane, he says.



A well-stocked trophy case is evidence of Peter Gibbons' successful three-year auto racing career. After receiving top rookie honors in both stocker and late-model classes, the 23-year-old Goodwood-area resident is speeding around NASCAR North tracks in places in the United States and Canada. His manager, Ed Hakonson, describes that circuit as the 'Grey Cup' of the sport, while calling Grand National the 'Super Bowl'. Peter wants to enter the big bowl game within four years.

—Chris Shanahan



Peter Gibbons learning fast as NASCAR rookie

Peter Gibbons races his 1985 Buick Regal on the highly-competitive NASCAR North circuit. He's attempting to attract a major sponsor to assist his climb to the U.S. Grand National level. Peter was

born and raised at Musselman's Lake and now lives on Conc. 2, Uxbridge Township.

—Ed Hakonson

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## SOCCER SHORTS

**MINOR MOSQUITO**  
Fame International was defeated 7-1 by the Markham B team. Steve Fockler scored the lone goal for Fame.

**MINOR PEE WEE**  
Two Stouffville teams went head-to-head Thursday night. The Panthers A team defeated the Strikers B team 4-0. Panther coach Alfons Rubbens said both teams played excellent soccer. He credited Ken Marshall's Soccer school (one-week clinic) as a great influence. "Nine of my Panthers were in the school...three of the four goals we scored last night were on fundamental techniques taught at the school," he remarked. Strikers goalie Jeff Heddle played great under tremendous pressure from the Panther strikers.

**MINOR BANTAM**  
The Stouffville Real Estate Royals defeated Newmarket 3-0 in a heated match last Tuesday night. Royals coach Martin Johannessen said his team was only in "second-gear for this one."

**JUNIOR GIRLS**  
The Whitechurch-Stouffville squad defeated Bradford 3-1. Kim Burch, Lisa Zeck and Shannon Cooney scored the goals.

**HOUSE LEAGUE SOCCER (MITES)**  
July 16 — Standard Aggregates beat Waldherr Engraving 3-1. Macleans Carpet and Ravi United tied at 0-0.  
July 18 — Neil Patrick Motors defeated Macleans Carpet 2-0. Ravi United tied Waldherr Engraving 1-1.

## Fun League

Stouffville ladies softball scores for July 16:  
Canadian Tire downed Lee Sand & Gravel 17-14. Home-runs by Jan Kennedy of Canadian Tire and Doreen Ertl of Lee Sand.  
Ken May Realty beat Used Car Trade Centre 17-10. Home-runs by Cathy McArthur, Anne Spice, Karen Larsen and Lynne Tyler — all for Ken May.

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## MARKVILLE TOYOTA'S ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**DAVID LIGHTFOOT**  
David Lightfoot, age 12, pitched a 14-inning championship game win 3-2 for Unionville Albright Squirts. David hit 3 home runs in the tournament including one to tie the championship game in the bottom of the 12th inning.

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