



Stouffville resident Perry Iannuzzi, 42, steered his 1991 Mustang GT to the title in the Solo 1 Competition A Super Stock Class for the 2000 season.

# Iannuzzi races his way to the checkered flag

*Stouffville auto racer wins the battle against the clock*

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Correspondent

Perry Iannuzzi and his 1991 Mustang GT have won their race against the clock.

The 42-year-old Stouffville resident has been declared the champion in the Solo 1 Competition A Super Stock Class for the 2000 season.

For Iannuzzi, the title comes in only his second season of Solo 1 level competition after six years on the Solo 2 circuit. In the overall 2000 Solo 1 standings, he was 11th on the season out of 140 drivers competing in 15 categories. The season consisted of 12 events held over six weekends at the Mosport and Shannonville driver development tracks.

Iannuzzi says Solo 1 racing provides drivers an opportunity to experience the thrill of motorsports without risk. Drivers race on an individual basis on timed intervals, with their fastest three or four laps deciding their overall standing in each race.

"You race against the clock, not the other drivers," says Iannuzzi, adding that advanced racing skills are not required for an individual to compete.

"It's grass roots level racing without the inherent danger of going wheel to wheel."

Drivers come from all walks of life, competing in a wide range of cars.

"It's for anyone who wants to race. We have people from the age of 16 through 70 racing. You can drive anything from your wife's Honda through a Winston Cup Busch Car."

While Solo 1 categories include stock, super

stock and street prepared, the majority of the racers use street cars, says Iannuzzi.

Iannuzzi said the sport has proven popular since its inception 50 years ago. He said many professional racecar drivers including Canada's Scott Goodyear got their start in Solo 1 racing.

"Everybody who comes out gets hooked." The sport is growing in popularity every year. "In 1998 there were 68 racers. In 2000 there are 140 and there's a waiting list."

It's also a cheap way to race, he added. "It costs \$85 a day to run at an event. And with Solo 1 racing, you're not running on weekends and pounding and painting the car the rest of the time."

In his rookie Solo 1 season in 1999, Iannuzzi finished ninth out of 41 novices, and 31st overall out of 100 drivers. He says the satisfaction in Solo 1 racing comes from just taking part.

"It's not a spectator sport, you won't see it on TSN. It's a participation sport. It's for people who want to run."

For aspiring Solo 1 drivers, there are race schools held each year at the Mosport and Shannonville tracks, including classroom and on track instruction.

Iannuzzi suggests Solo 1 race could become a family affair. His 13-year-old son Darryl is already into motocross racing and plans to take up kart racing next year.

His 17-year-old daughter Jennifer has expressed interest in Solo 1.

Iannuzzi said he wouldn't have a problem if the two decided to take up the sport due to the safe nature of Solo 1 competition.

"I've never had an injury. You're not racing anybody but the clock."

## Midget Clippers sail off with tournament title

The Stouffville Clippers midgets skated off with the hardware at the recent Clarington Toros Mid Fall Hockey Tournament after downing Ajax 5-3 in the title game.

Chris Carruthers recorded the hat trick for the Clippers while Jean Bourqui and Spiros Tsiopoulos added singles.

Backed by a solid netminding effort from bantam call up Michael McManus, the Clippers won their first game over Kitchener 4-0. The Clippers then

battled Oshawa to a 1-1 tie and concluded preliminary round action with a 7-3 win over Pickering.

Advancing to the semi-finals, the Clippers edged Uxbridge 2-1 to reach the final.

Scoring for the Clippers in its preliminary round and semi-final games were: Jean Bourqui three goals, three assists; Andrew Gibson two goals, five assists; Michael Sullivan two goals, two assists; Justin Amyotte two goals, one assist; Chris Carruthers one goal, four assists; Richard Mulder

See BANTAM, page 27.

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