



LINING UP THE HOBBY STOCKS for their first heat, Lee Don Scott (above) was among dozens of people who helped make the car races a success at the Oberlin Speedway. Part of his job is making sure no car goes onto the track before its time and everyone lines up in point order.

Race cars roar at Oberlin track



FANS STOOD ON TOP of trailers to get a better view of the track from the pits during races on July 3 in Oberlin.

Jennings couple keeps wheels turning

The Fourth of July weekend was the time for bombers, cruisers and modifieds to light up the area.

No, not fireworks, race cars.

The Oberlin Speedway was in full swing on July 2 and 3 as cars from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado sped around the 3/8-mile oval track for points and money.

Promoters Don and Paula Bolt of Jennings have plenty of experience. They have done the races in Oberlin ever since the track reopened in 2003, and they have promoted the races at Norton's Elmwood Park Speedway for eight years. They also help out with races at WaKeeney and Stockton.

The Oberlin track is IMCA sanctioned, Mrs. Bolt said, which means that points earned here go toward racers' track, state, regional and national standings.

There were several racers on the track the Fourth of July weekend who are high in regional and state standings, Mrs. Bolt said.

Among Kansas leaders are David Murray Jr., Oberlin, and Randy Wilson, Wichita, in IMCA modifieds; Jason Schoenberger,

Russell, IMCA stock cars; and B.J. Dauler, Marquette, hobby stocks. Murray, Schoenberger and Dauler are nationally rated, she said.

As promoters, the Bolts do everything from setting up the races to buying the merchandise for the concession stands. During the last races, the Golden Plains High School cheerleaders were selling concessions as a fund raiser. Mrs. Bolt said that different groups run the stands during the summer.

The Oberlin track had two rainouts early in the season, and Mrs. Bolt said that she is trying to reschedule the races. It's difficult, she said, since Oberlin can't get races on a day that Norton, Lexington, Neb., or Deshler, Neb., is running because they are too close and would draw off too many racers.

While there were people all over the place, both in the pits and in the stands, Mrs. Bolt said that attendance at the Oberlin races is down this year, averaging only about 300 a weekend. Races are down in attendance across the country, she said.



PAULA BOLT GOT THE LINE UPS down on paper (above) while her husband Don (left) stayed in the thick of things on a four-wheeler, making sure the cars were all safe and legal.

Story and photos by Cynthia Haynes