

Farmer loves racing

Corn, carburetors keep driver going

By JIM MERRIOTT
jimmeriott@nwkans.com

Lloyd Meeske likes to go fast and in circles. Though he makes his living raising corn and wheat and pinto and kidney beans, he also loves burning rubber in his two-barrel Holley carburetor 350-cubic-inch Chevrolet engine, which produces 300 horsepower.

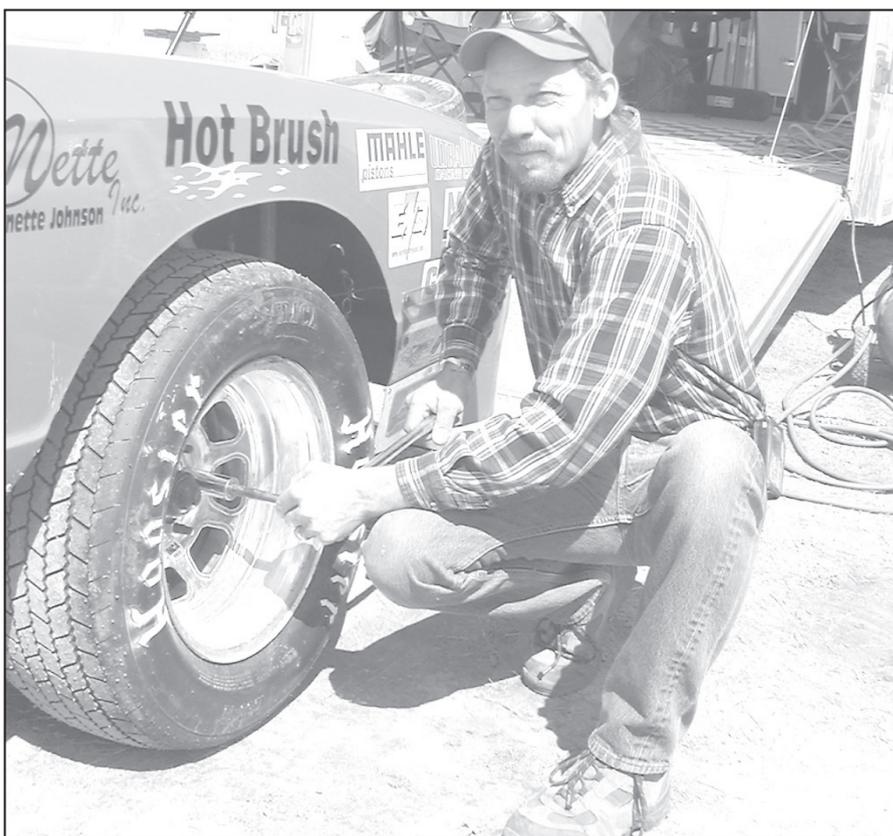
The Nebraska farmer drives stock cars on the dirt tracks in the Tri-State area, and a week ago Sunday he brought his 1985 Chevrolet Monte Carlo to Oberlin to compete in the first race at the Decatur County Speedway, formerly the Oberlin Speedway.

"This is my third year racing full-time," he said. "My team gives it our best shot each summer. Our goal each year is to get our crop in the bin and our car in the winning circle."

"We store our grain over the winter and export it to northeast Colorado feed lots in and around Greeley. Colorado is a cattle state; it cannot produce enough feed supply for its cattle."

"It's been a good year for prices, but just like everything, prices continue to rise."

"With the big stink over water between Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska, I have to laugh. Nebraska farmers have been using metered well water since the 1970s. At first, we all thought it was a bad thing. But over that period, we learned how



STOCK CAR DRIVER Lloyd Meeske from Champion, Neb., tightened the lug nuts on his 1985 Chevy Monte Carlo before to the races at the Decatur County Speedway earlier this month. Meeske finished third in the main event. — Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

to conserve water, something that other states are learning. What we learned is how to conserve our water by using less, to produce more. It ended up being a good thing in the long run.

"Now that Colorado farmers are raising a stink over well water and surface water, it's easy to see that farmers who aren't willing to change, will have some tough times in the future. I'm not sure what will happen to the small independent farmers," Meeske said, as he tight-

ened the lug nuts on the red No. 32 Chevy.

"We follow the lead of the state of Iowa not only in racing, as it's the front runner of the sport, but keep a keen eye on what they do in the field."

"I am glad to see Oberlin back on the schedule, I missed racing here last season, but raced here two years ago."

"It looks like Joe Bellm might have close to 75 or more cars here today, that is a good thing, we all

want a win-win situation for the drivers, the promoter and the community we race in."

With new concessions, new management and drivers coming from Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado, racing is getting a rebirth here in Oberlin.

"Each year, a new generation of young drivers and fans comes out to the track, just as a seed sprouts into a seedling. That is a good thing."

Seventh-grade girls take first in Sainty

The Decatur Community Junior High seventh-grade girls came in first, the eighth-grade girls and seventh-grade boys fourth and the eighth-grade boys seventh in St. Francis last Tuesday.

Oberlin competed against Oakley, Dundy County, Neb., Burlington, Colo., St. Francis, Atwood, Cheylin, Idalia, Colo., Bethune, Colo., Brewster and Weskan.

Mikaela Dorshorst took two firsts and Keatra Fisher the 4x200-meter relay team took first place.

Seventh-grade girls:

- Cassidy Shields, 100-meter hurdles, second, 18.8 seconds; 100-meter dash, sixth, 14.3; and high jump, fourth, 4 feet.
- Dorshorst, 100-meter dash, third, 13.6; 200-meter dash, first, 30.8; and triple jump, first, 29.2.
- Fisher, shot put, first, 20-11, and discus, second, no distance recorded.
- Taylor Macfee, 200-meter dash, sixth, 31.5; discus, second.
- Darbi Rouse, 800-meter run, fourth, 2:58, and high jump, second, 4-6.
- Jordi Wasson, long jump, 11-8.
- The 4x200-meter relay of Rouse, Dorshorst, Samantha Wrinkles and Shields, first, 2:06.

The eighth-grade girls were led by Kia Blau, who medaled in four events including two firsts.

Eighth-grade girls

- Blau, 100-meter hurdles, first, 17.4; 100-meter dash, second, 13; 200-meter dash, second, 28.8; and shot put, first, 34-6.
- Megan Huntley, long jump,

sixth, 12-8, and triple jump, third, 26-11.

- Serena Stacy, discus, fifth, 68-0, and shot put, third, 27.
- Samantha Anderson, discus, third, 73; shot put, 26; and triple jump, sixth, 24-6.

Seventh-grade boys:

- Zach May, 100-meter hurdles, second, 18-1; long jump, second, 14-2; and triple jump, second, 31-5.
- Ryan May, triple jump, third, 30-9, and 100-meter dash, fifth, 13.6.
- Kade Brown, 100-meter hurdles, third, 18.8, and triple jump, sixth, 26-0.
- Tyler Bruggeman, discus, fifth, 84-0.
- Channing Farr, discus, fourth, 86-0.
- Brady Fortin, 100-meter dash, third, 13.3, and shot put, third, 29-8.
- The 4x100-meter relay team of Brown, Z. May, Fortin and R. May, third, 56.1.

Connor McHugh led the eighth-grade with a first place finish.

Eighth-grade boys:

- Matthew Wittman, 100-meter hurdles, sixth, 19.2.
- McHugh, 1600-meter run, first, 5:59.
- Lakota Dennis, 200-meter dash, fourth, 28.1.
- Nolan Henningson, 400-meter dash, fourth, 1:04.
- Tyler Shields, 3200-meter run, fifth, 14:19.
- Saeger Grafel, triple jump, sixth, 30-6, and high jump, fifth, 4-8.

- The 4x100-meter relay team of Grafel, Dennis, McHugh and Shields, sixth, 55.2.
- The 4x200-meter relay team of Grafel, Dennis, Wittman and Henningson, second, 1:58.
- The 4x400-meter relay team of Shields, Garrett Berry, Wittman and Henningson, fifth, 4:56.

"We are getting better and bet-

ter," said Coach Keith Grafel. "We are now starting to get some contributions from almost everyone. Numbers still hurt us, but we still find ways to be successful. Every grade level has some really good athletes."

On Thursday, the junior high will be in Hoxie for a 3 p.m. start against Hoxie, Oakley and Atwood.

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A Familiar Face

Chapter Five - by Kay Hively

Opening the library book, Scotty began to read. The book had pictures of the little house in Lamar, Missouri, where President Truman was born. It looked very small, almost like a child's playhouse.

Eagerly, Scotty read and looked at the pictures. But after about an hour, he put his book away. He had promised to play ball with his friends.

Grabbing his ball glove, Scotty hurried outside. His father, who was weeding flowerbeds, waved to Scotty as he raced off to the park.

Most of the boys were already at the ball field. Everyone had brought gloves, and two boys had baseballs. But no one had brought a bat. Jimmy Powers, who lived near the park, offered to run home and get one. Scotty went home with Jimmy and soon they came running down the street. Jimmy carried a wooden bat and Scotty carried an aluminum one.

Jimmy always used a wooden bat when he played ball. Scotty and his friends couldn't understand why. Jimmy said it just felt better, and he liked the sound of the ball hitting the wooden bat.

Since Jimmy was the best batter in school it was hard for the other boys to argue. Everyone had tried the wooden bat, but it didn't help them hit the ball any better. But when Jimmy used the wooden bat, he could hit the ball farther than anyone else.

As soon as Scotty and Jimmy got the bats to the park, the play began. Each team played hard and everyone was having a good time. Scotty played far out in left field. He enjoyed playing out there. From left field, he could watch everyone on the bases and he could see everyone bat.

After five innings, the teams were tied at seven runs each. Then, as Scotty's team came up to bat, a jagged bolt of lightning raced through the sky. This was followed by a big rumble of thunder.

All the boys knew it was dangerous to play outside when there was thunder and lightning. It was time to go home.

Quickly, the boys had their equipment gathered up and were running out of the park. Scotty ran as fast as he could, but before he reached home rain began to fall. After losing his cap, he finally made it to the front porch, but he was dripping wet.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Truman photo by Harry Barth. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.

By Judith Stewart

Things to Think About and Do

- When lightning flashed, the boys left the park. What creates lightning? What did Benjamin Franklin discover about lightning? Draw a picture of three things not to do when it's lightning.
- Do you have a favorite baseball team? What kind of bats does that team use? What is a Louisville Slugger? Where is it made? Are wooden bats allowed in the baseball leagues in your community?
- Make a list of all the different sports that are reported on in your newspaper. Use a ruler to measure the length of each story in inches. Create a chart comparing the total inches for each sport. Why is there more coverage of one sport over another?

Visit the Truman Presidential Museum & Library at www.trumanlibrary.org

Next Week Chapter Six - Helping the needy

Newspapers for Oberlin Elementary Sixth grade provided by Great Northwest Insurance Agency.