

Out of Bounds

JASON SNYDER

Winston Cup season features persistence, courage and change

In NASCAR's 50th anniversary year, the 1998 Winston Cup Series provided to fans around the nation the true meaning of competition. The continued drive to be the best, the courage to fight through all adversity, and the ability to withstand the ongoing changes that surround you. If this is the true meaning of competition, then there should be no questioning the heart and desire of the country's fastest growing sport.

Winston Cup racing holds one of the proudest histories that sports have to offer. NASCAR started out racing sedans on dirt tracks in 1948 and has progressed to today's 33-race schedule featuring aerodynamically made cars driving on short tracks, superspeedways and road courses. But there is more to the history of racing than the advancement of the cars and tracks. The drivers have given racing a proud past and a solid foundation for the future.

Who would have thought that a man named Bill France Sr. with a vision of stock car racing would have evolved to be where it is today? He said, "I believe stock car racing can become a nationally recognized sport..." But that vision of the founder's hopes is escalating far and beyond what he could have expected. Stock car racing is not only nationally recognized, but it is now growing from just recognition to the devotion and spirit of some of sport's most enthusiastic fans.

Red Byron could be considered the first big name driver to take the track back in NASCAR's inaugural season in 1948. "Fireball" Roberts, Junior Johnson, Lee Petty and Ned Jarrett all carried Winston Cup through the 1950's and into the 60's when "The King" Richard Petty dominated. Petty had a career like no other. He won 200 races and seven season titles which has given him the most recognized name in all of motorsports. Benny Parsons, Buddy Baker, Cale Yarborough, A.J. Foyt and Bobby Allison owned the early 70's. The late 1970s and throughout the 1980's, Winston Cup brought to the tracks today's legends that are slowly being replaced by the sport's future stars. Seven time champion Dale Earnhardt, Darrell Waltrip, Harry Gant, the late Neil Bonnett, Rusty Wallace and "Awesome" Bill Elliott marked greatness in their day. And before I enter today's era, it would be an injustice to not mention the late Alan Kulwicki and Davey Allison who died at the peak of their careers. It can't be denied that racing fans know who brought this sport to where it is today. But where the sport is going will always have fans wondering. If this 1998 sea-

son is any indication, the sport can only be going up. This season continued the great history of competition, sportsmanship, courage, and determination that has given NASCAR such a respected name.

By just reading the headlines during this past season, you would know that the season was dominated by Jeff Gordon and his "Rainbow Warriors" (pit crew). You'd see his convincing points lead over Mark Martin and his record



tying 13 wins for the year. But you wouldn't see the importance that crew chief Ray Evernham and the "Rainbow Warriors" played in the overall success of Gordon. It must have been nice to drive a perfect car to Victory Lane so often avoiding all wrecks and problems with the car during the race. Not to wish any harm to this controversial and mostly disliked racer, but let's just say without those Rainbow Warriors guiding Gordon, there would have been no pot of gold sitting at the end of the rainbow.

The 1998 season featured much more than just the domination of Gordon. Many other incredible moments marked the season and kept the respectability of Winston Cup racing growing. The first moment came in the season's first race, The Daytona 500.

Just as it would seem unfair to have neglected John Elway of a Super Bowl ring, so would it seem to have neglected Dale Earnhardt of a win at the Daytona 500. For years Earnhardt fell short in his attempts to win the most coveted race in motorsports. But just as fans began to say he was washed up and couldn't win anymore, Earnhardt went on to prove those critics wrong. "The Intimidator" once again looked intimidating and the race world witnessed a great moment in racing. The Winston Cup teams lined up on pit road to congratulate the victor as the '98 season was off and running in memorable fashion.

The beginning of the season belonged to the team of Rusty Wallace and Jeremy Mayfield. Wallace and Mayfield teamed together to capture first and second in the points as it took a few races for Gordon, Mark Martin and Dale Jarrett to get going. But as the season moved on, Gordon and Martin turned the Winston Cup Series into a two-man show.

Gordon and Martin combined for 20 wins in the 33 race schedule. Martin, however, continuously found himself chasing Gordon and realized that second place finishes weren't helping. Gordon was consistently holding off Martin in the late stages of the races and

was pulling away in the point standings.

Following the Bud at the Glen in Watkins Glen, N.Y., Martin suffered an emotional setback. His father and two other family members were killed in a plane crash. He then dedicated the next race at Michigan to his father. He appeared to have the race won as he was pulling away from Gordon and the rest of the pack. But a late caution brought the field together for the final few laps as Gordon took the lead and held on for the win. An emotional Martin apologized after the race, which turned the heads of many race fans. He then went on to win the following race at Bristol in memory of his father.

The 1998 season also saw Ricky Rudd extend his streak for consecutive seasons

with a win. Despite a sub-par season for Rudd that saw him finish 22nd in points, he was able to pull into victory lane at the NAPA Auto Care 500 in Martinsville. Rudd overcame exhaustion due to overheating in the car and rode his #10 Tide Ford to victory for the 16th consecutive year, breaking the record previously held by Dale Earnhardt and Darrell Waltrip.

Jeff Burton laid claim that he will be a force in the future with a dramatic win over Jeff Gordon at the Exide NASCAR Select Batteries 400 in Richmond. Burton finished 5th in points. Jeremy Mayfield also showed his ability throughout the season as he also beat Gordon to the line in the Pocono 500 at Pocono Speedway. Because of his early season success, Mayfield finished 7th in points, only 23 points behind another young racer in Bobby Labonte.

As the season wound down and Gordon had all but clinched the Winston Cup Championship, Dale Jarrett gave the sport another gutsy performance. Battling sharp pains in his stomach, Jarrett wasn't expected to complete any of the final races of the season. Jarrett went on to not only complete the races, but he finished in 2nd at Atlanta in the final race of the season to finish 3rd in points.

This '98 season put an exclamation point to the end of NASCAR's first 50 years of existence and propelled the sport into a promising future. There is no doubt that motorsports will continue to grow in popularity, but the credit has to go to the founders and legends that brought this sport to where it is today. From 1948 to 1998, NASCAR and Winston Cup have shown the sports' world (that at times lacks the competitive spirit sports are known for), what competition is all about. And it was this 1998 season that continued that high standard of pride, courage, determination and the ongoing pursuit to be the best.

Snyder is sports editor for *The Beacon*. *Out of Bounds* appears weekly on this page.

INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

Intramurals

3 vs. 3 Basketball

In Conjunction with Schick SuperHoops M, W
- Games begin Monday, November 1

Registration Deadline: November 13

5 vs. 5 Basketball

M, W
- Sign ups are in fall semester
- play begins spring semester

Registration Deadline: December 11

Recreation

Commuter Euchre Tournament

Registration Deadline: November 6

AMCC Athlete of the Week

Michelle Malatesta's 15 saves earns her AMCC recognition

Freshman Michelle Malatesta was named the AMCC Athlete of the Week for women's soccer in the week of November 2 - November 9. Despite a 3-0 loss in the ECAC Playoffs, Malatesta recorded 15 saves for Behrend to keep the Lions within striking distance.

Malatesta comes to Behrend from Bethel Park High School in Bethel Park, PA. This AMCC honor was her second of the season and of her collegiate career.

Frostburg tops Lions in conference semifinals

Jamie Salapek
staff writer

The Behrend volleyball team ended their 1998 season last weekend at the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference championships. The tournament was held at Frostburg State.

The Lions went up against Frostburg in the semifinal round yet reluctantly bowed out after three matches. Behrend played well but their game wasn't at its best. Tiffany

Beers put down nine kills and hustled for sixteen digs. Mary Good had eight kills and added thirteen digs as Allison Millet also contributed with six kills. Frostburg swept the Lions 3-0 with scores of 5-15, 3-15 and 15-17.

Tanya Deats, Tiffany Beers and Mary Good were recognized for their leadership and ability as they were selected All Conference players for the tournament.

Behrend ended the season with a respectable 12-23 record against tough competition. Head

coach Cindy Jacobelli commented, "we have a young team who are looking forward to playing together next year. We will be loosing Angela Traister, yet we have high expectations and great potential for the future."

The Lions kept the fans on the edge of their seats during many intense matches throughout the season. Much fan support was appreciated and is encouraged as the Lions hope to improve in the years to come.

Nittany Lion's soccer falls short at ECAC playoffs

Jason Snyder
sports editor

For the second straight season, the Behrend women's soccer team advanced to the ECAC playoffs. Due to the win at the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Championships, the Lions were seeded third in the playoffs.

In a must win game against Franklin and Marshall on Saturday,

November 7, the Lions were able to keep the game close. Freshman Michelle Malatesta recorded 15 saves in goal against the overpowering Franklin and Marshall team. However, Behrend fell short, 3-0 ending their season.

Despite the hard fought loss in the ECAC semifinals, the Behrend women still proved to be a strong force in the AMCC and the region. The 1998 team posted a Penn State

Behrend women's soccer record for wins in a season with 15.

The 15-3-3 record for the season added to head coach Dan Perritano's career mark since taking over the soccer program at Behrend. Under the direction of Perritano, the Lady Lions have gone 50-16-6 in the past four seasons.

The Behrend Classifieds

Jason-	Ann, Crystal, Noemi	Oliver,
I hope I see you this	I love you guys	Can you smell what the
weekend	Soiiiiii	Rock is cooking?
Delores		
		Dele

Students and employees of Penn State Behrend are invited to submit a free classified ad in *The Beacon*. Types of ads may include personal messages and items for sale. Maximum classified length is 25 words. Persons who submit ads must state their affiliation with Behrend. Classifieds are meant for individual use. Official notices and group events should be submitted to the Calendar editor. Businesses must pay regular advertising rates. *The Beacon* can not guarantee the publication of all classified submitted for space purposes. Classifieds should be sent to the Classified editor at *The Beacon*, Reed Building or dropped off at *The Beacon* offices, or sent to behrcoll4@aol.com. Deadline for submission for publication in that week's paper is Monday at 5:00PM.

The Beacon needs Sports writers

if interested call 898-6488