

GATORNATIONALS NOTEBOOK

Humphreys makes debut in Pro Stock



NORM FROSCHER

"He's just one of those drivers who come along once every two decades," extolled the speaker in the Gainesville Raceway Pro Stock pits early Saturday.

The speaker is Pro Stock Hall of Famer **Bob Glidden**, who might have fit the that very same description himself, with 85 victories and 10 Championships, but the subject is barely past the beginning end of his Pro Stock career.

Justin Humphreys of Monrovia, Md., just 30 in his first race in the new RaceRedi Motorsports Pontiac GXP. He sits 10th in the lineup for today.

After not qualifying at the Winternationals and at Phoenix last year, Humphreys made his first starting lineup here at Gainesville, qualifying 16th and racing **Greg Anderson** in the first round.

"He started Pro Stock racing (after Sports Compact) at the first of last year and by the end of the year he was one of the top drivers in Pro Stock.," says Crew Chief Glidden. "We feel pretty good going into this season. We have a new car and that will be good for us.

"He is one of the best drivers I have ever seen. If we — including engine builder **Richard Maskin** — put a fast car under him, he will win a lot of races," Glidden said

Stay tuned.

■ **HERBERT HONORED:** Doug Herbert,

driver of the SnaponFranchise.com Top Fuel dragster, was presented a plaque by the Marines he hosted Saturday, between his qualifying runs.

From the Gator Detachment of the Marine Corps League, it read in part, "In salute to 'For My Boys Tour.'

Herbert's two sons were killed in a traffic accident just before the season and that's his effort.

■ **TIME FLIES:** Don't I know you? Two visitors at the raceway Saturday were former driving stars **Shirley Muldowney** and **Darrell Gwynn**.

Muldowney was sporting a chic short haircut when she visited the new tower, while Gwynn confided

his little daughter is already in the fourth — that's right, fourth — grade in south Florida. Time flies.

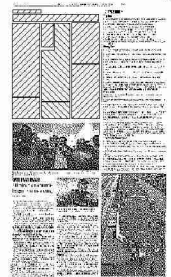
■ **TRIVIA QUESTION:** Top Fuel today, and what driver better than **Tony Schumacher**: He went to the finals in his first NHRA national event back in 1996. Where did that take place?

- A. Pomona, Calif.
- B. St. Louis
- C. Gainesville
- D. Indianapolis

Answer at the end.

■ **TOP FUEL PATER:** What's the worst job you've had, perhaps something you parents had you doing as a youngster, before reaching this level of competition?

Brandon Bernstein, Bud King Fueler: "The worst job I had was working for a grocery store in Dallas when I was about 17 years old. My shift was from 4 a.m. to 1 p.m. so I had to get up really, really early in the morning. I worked in the produce department and I had to unload



the trucks, cut corn, melons, and replenish and stock the bins.

"I am *not* a morning person, but I had the job for about six months until school started again."

Larry Dixon, U.S. Smokeless Tobacco: "The worst job I ever had was when I was 12 or 13 I had the task of looking after my mom's business of breeding and selling of these Chinchilla Persian and Himalayan cats.

"She had as few as 6 and at one point as many as 13. She would sell these kittens anywhere from \$150-200 and I was getting like \$5 a week allowance. No fun. To this day I haven't had a cat since."

Cory McClenathan, Fram : "The worst job I had before reaching this level was digging ditches for construction so they could lay the pipe before they laid the concrete foundations. I had just turned 16 and my dad gave me a 1961 ragtop VW that was three different colors of primer and had a beat-up motor in it. The very next day he took me to his buddy's construction site and dropped me off and said, 'Here's

your new job.'

"I did it for a year, through school and on the weekends and during the summer full-time. The only thing it really taught me was how to drink a lot of beer, because when you hang around those construction guys you learn how to drink beer. It was quite a job to have."

Tony Schumacher, U.S. Army: "I can remember when I was about 10 years old, my dad had me do two jobs every week that I was not real happy with. I had to sweep the garage and make sure every leaf was out of there and then I had to scrub the garbage cans with bleach in addition to power washing them. I can assure you that those garbage cans were not very pleasant to deal with.

"But, you know, we all had to do chores when we were kids. As an adult now, I can relate to what my dad was trying to teach me about being responsible. Hopefully, as my own kids grow up, I can instill in them those same values."

■ Trivia Answer: D

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