

## ROUNDUP

# Dixon Gets First Top Fuel Victory of Year

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHANDLER, Ariz. | **Larry Dixon** raced to his first Top Fuel victory of the season and 42nd overall Sunday, beating Dave Grubnic in the final of the Checker Schuck's Kragen NHRA Nationals at Firebird International Raceway.

Jack Beckman and V. Gaines also won their divisions in the second NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series event of the season.

Dixon drove his dragster to a 4.532-second, 327.19-mph victory over Grubnic to tie Tony Schumacher for ninth place on the NHRA career victory list.

Beckman drove his Dodge Charger R/T to a 4.868-second run at 320.20 mph to edge Robert Hight for his fourth career Funny Car win.

In Pro Stock, Gaines grabbed his first win in seven years, driving his Dodge Stratus to a 6.702 at 205.38 against Jason Line.

### Driver Dies in Australia

ADELAIDE, Australia | A 27-year-old V8 touring car driver died early today, two days after he was injured in a race crash.

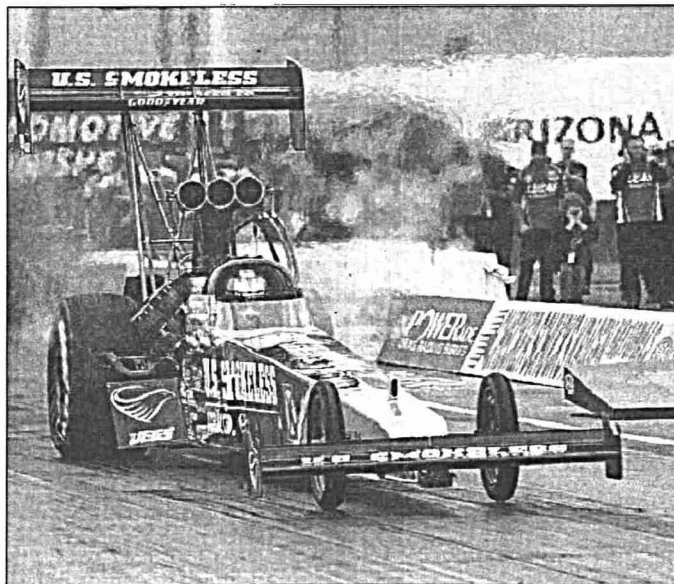


PHOTO BY NHRA

**LARRY DIXON** and his U.S. Smokeless Tobacco dragster win Top Fuel at the NHRA event Sunday in Chandler, Ariz.

Ashley Cooper, from Ulladulla in New South Wales state, was critically injured when his vehicle hit a safety barrier at the exit of a corner at more than 120 mph.

Cooper was attended to by senior medical personnel at the Clipsal 500 support race and was taken by ambulance to

Royal Adelaide Hospital, where he remained in a coma and on life support until his death.

He was married and had two young children.

Race officials said Cooper had severe head trauma, swelling of the brain and internal injuries following the accident.

