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Bluegrass Nationals

Even Mother Nature can't stop the show!



Plus a whole lot more!!!



Expectations, Dues, and Reality

As you have come to expect with the "Grassroots Tech Barn," our topics of discussion are anything but predictable. This month we want to veer a little and discuss the realistic expectations of a beginning racer, paying dues, and the reality of the matter as a whole.

In this world of kart racing, many things have evolved over the years. We began by participating at the local level where winning was rewarded with a trophy. We



then advanced to state and national events where prestige, pride, and bigger trophies were the order of the day. Today this has evolved to a never ending list of series and money races scattered all over the country, each trying to entice the racer by offering a larger purse than the others.

This has also affected the mindset of racers as well as the parents of the younger drivers. Rather than to begin by participating at the local level, and adding a money race or bigger event here and there to improve their skill level, many now are jumping straight into the fire. Some even really go overboard and do it head first by entering a major event as one of their first attempts at racing.

Good equipment is definitely a necessity in today's world of kart racing, but merely having this equipment, and or a pair of deep pockets is not a guaranteed trip to victory lane. Seldom does an inexperienced racer jump in and be up to speed right away. Some do manage to achieve this in what seems to be record time. However, this is the exception rather than the rule.

This is the point that reality begins to set in. Spend-

ing several thousands of dollars will not overcome the lack of on track time. Just as years of school only get you partially prepared for the workforce, money only gets you partially prepared for competition. At this point, this is where the dues, or as some may call them, "lumps" come in.

The size and number of these lumps are determined by the racer. Everyone in this sport has taken their share, some of us have even gotten a few shares. One thing for sure, one cannot escape without a few. Reality is really shining through now, every racer must pay their share of dues. This is just a fact of life.

If experience has taught us anything it is that there is no substitute for experience. This sport is much more difficult than it looks. With that being said, it would be wise to hone skills at a lower division or at a local level before taking on the stars of the sport racing for the big money. This will enable the racer to gather experience while keeping themselves out of the eye of the storm.

Nothing ruins a day at the track like a major mistake by a novice that alters the outcome of a race, especially when there is a lot on the line. No one wants to be the goat that ruins the day by making a dumb move because they didn't know better.

Jumping in too deep also has a negative effect upon the morale of the racer and the crew. Nothing is more disheartening than getting it "handed to you" over and over as you are learning the ropes. Racing at a local or lower level usually has a higher rate of success, and successes,



small or large are important to maintain a positive outlook.

Every dad wants their kid to be racing's "next big thing" and will do most anything within their power to help them achieve this goal. Few will groom them into an experienced racer by progressively moving them up through the ranks as they should.

Take the time to advance yourself, or your young driver in the proper way. The same steps don't apply to everyone, just use good judgment and try not to get in too far over your head. It is much easier to breathe when you can get at least a little air, just a little food for thought. See you next month!




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