

... Found Dead At Marsh Creek Go-Kart Track He Promoted ...

Heart Attack Takes Life Of Former Mod Champ Ron Paulson



By EARL KRAUSE

HONEYBROOK, PA - Arthur "Ronnie" Paulson, one of Delaware dirt Modified racing's biggest winners during the 1970s and a popular favorite on Northeastern speedways for many years, has passed away.

Mr. Paulson, 59, died on Tuesday, September 25 after being stricken with a heart attack at the Marsh Creek, Pa., Go-kart track that he owned and operated since 1985. Ron had been working at the facility when the heart attack occurred. He was pronounced dead at Brandywine Hospital in Coats-

ville, Pa.

Marsh Creek Speedway, a paved course in Glenmore, Pa., will continue to operate in Ron Paulson's memory in 2002, under the direction of his sons, Ron and Jeff.

This past Friday, at the final scheduled kart race of the season at Marsh Creek, Ron's racing career and life were recalled during a heartfelt tribute over the track microphone by his best friend and fellow competitor Bob Higgenbotham.

Ronnie Sr. drove the "PB" Modifieds in the 1970s, and competed through 1984. He fielded those cream colored,

quick-running mounts with his brother Jake, thus the signature "PB" (for Paulson Brothers) designation on the car.

Ronnie began his career in the mid-1970s, running a 1956 Ford in the Late Model division at Grandview Speedway in Bechtelsville, Pa. That was the first of the PB-lettered stock cars. In 1977, the Paulson brothers entered dirt Modified competition with the former Anthony's Furniture No. 1 Mustang. That mount became the initial "PB" Modified for Ronnie Paulson, and started him on a fine career that gained many victories.

Ultimately, he became one of the biggest winners in Delaware Modified competition. He earned the 1977 driving title at Delaware International Speedway - then known as U.S. 13 Speedway - and for many years held the record for most wins at that track. Ron was also a winner and strong competitor at the half-mile Georgetown Speedway (which later became Sea-Coast) in the 1970s.

Along with his strong runs in Delaware, Ron Paulson became well-known for his solid performances at New Jersey's Bridgeport and East Windsor; at Reading, Pa., and on the touring MODCAR Modified



circuit of the 1980s. He last competed in 1984, then took over ownership and operation of the Marsh Creek track in 1985.

In the years that followed, Ron made Marsh Creek into one of the region's leading kart facilities.

He also enjoyed working with son Ron in the RSP Towing business; and being on the team of the No. 316 Sportsman car driven by youngest son Jeff at Pa.'s Big Diamond and Grandview. In fact when Jeff finished a strong

sixth in Grandview's event of Sept. 22, Ron was there and very happy after his son's successful evening on that clay oval.

Born in Philadelphia, Ron attended Interboro High School in Glenolden, Pa., and served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1962.

He was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Goddard Lodge No. 383 in Coatsville, Pa. Ron was also an avid golfer, and enjoyed playing cards and shooting pool.

He was the son of the late Walter F. and Hannah Rivell Paulson Jr.

Mr. Paulson is survived by his wife, Karen, to whom he was married for 36 years; two

sons, Ronald Scott and Jeffrey, both of Honey Brook, Pa.; a brother, Jacob; and two sisters, Adeline Paulson Welsh of Millsboro, Del., and Margaret "Peggy" Paulson Kozak of Las Vegas, Nev.

A memorial service was held on September 30 at Labs Funeral Home in Honey Brook.

"My dad went through life enjoying every moment," said son Ron, who traveled and worked with him on the No. PB Modified as a teenager. "His view was the same as the words in that song (from Bobby McFarron in the 1980s) that was on the radio - 'don't worry, be happy'."

"That's how he looked at it. He had a great life."