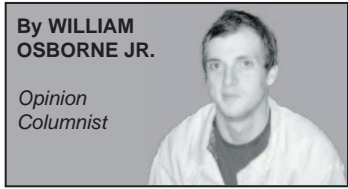


Champions remembered



2007 began on a sad note for the world of NASCAR racing as two long-time favorites passed away this January.

Charles Robert "Bobby" Hamilton, Sr., who died on Sunday, Jan. 7, was a driver and owner in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series circuit and the winner of the 2004 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series championship.

Hamilton owned Bobby Hamilton Racing based in Mt. Juliet.

In his years of full-time Winston Cup racing (1991-2002) the cotton-headed Hamilton garnered four wins, his most dramatic coming in April 2001 driving a car for Andy Petree.

An exhausted Hamilton slumped to the ground after the race and was given oxygen from a tank before giving victory lane interviews.

Bobby quit school at the age of 13 and began his racing career at Nashville Speedway USA, now Music City Motorplex, racing on the weekly circuit where he won the track championship in 1987.

Hamilton broke into the Winston

Cup ranks in a very unusual way.

He was asked to drive one of the "movie cars" for the film "Days of Thunder," qualifying fifth in a movie car at the 1989 Autoworks 500 race in Phoenix.

The car was the Exxon #51 driven in the film by Rowdy Burns.

Bobby Hamilton was an underdog for the majority of his career, competing in a field where corporate sponsorship pairs with affluency and good looks to equal track success.

Bobby Hamilton was his own self-made man.

After 2002, he entered the Craftsman Truck Series driving for his own team.

Hamilton picked up two wins in his first year on the circuit and finished sixth in points.

The following season, he picked up four wins and clinched the championship, the first time in 12 years that an owner-driver had won a NASCAR championship.

He won an additional two races on his way to another sixth-place points finish in 2005.

Another holdover from earlier times was the late, affable racer and commentator Benny Parsons, who succumbed to complications of cancer treatment on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Parsons rose from poverty in the foothills of Wilkes County, North Carolina to NASCAR stardom in the

1970s.

Coming from a home where there was no electricity or running water, Benny began racing in the 60s, but had moved to Detroit in the early 70s to drive a cab for his father's taxi company.

Bill Donoho, president of Fairgrounds Speedway, knew of Parsons' racing experience and paid his way to come to Tennessee and drive in a Grand National race.

This jump-started Benny's career. In 1973, he defeated the likes of David Pearson and Richard Petty for the Grand National Championship.

He raced until 1988, winning 21 races.

Benny was most recently known as a lap-by-lap commentator for TNT's coverage of Nextel Cup races.

The hugely popular and likable man from North Carolina was recently named one of NASCAR's 50 greatest drivers in a public poll.

Bobby and Benny were prime examples of true grit in a sport that every year lacks a little more elbow grease.

They are champions immortalized to some hardcore NASCAR fans as folk heroes and forever will stand as examples that hard work can make dreams come true.

More importantly, they remind us that good guys can still win.

SGA Meetings

All meetings at 12:30 p.m.

Feb. 12
Rochelle Center

Feb. 26
Rochelle Center

Mar. 12- 12:30
Honors Room

Mar. 26- 12:30
Honors Room

Apr. 9- 12:30
Rochelle Center

Apr. 23- 12:30
Rochelle Center

UNIVERSITY REPS VISIT VOL STATE CAMPUS

The following universities will be on the Vol State campus to meet with students about transferring to their university after graduating from Vol State. The university reps will be located in the Advising Center, Suite 174, in the Ramer Administration Building, on the following dates:

Austin Peay State University

Tuesday, February 20 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Tuesday, March 13 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Middle Tennessee State University

Thursday, February 1 9 a.m. - noon
Thursday, February 15 9 a.m. - noon
Thursday, March 1 9 a.m. - noon
Thursday, March 15 9 a.m. - noon
Thursday, March 29 9 a.m. - noon
Thursday, April 12 9 a.m. - noon

Tennessee State University

Wednesday, February 7 9 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, February 21 9 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, March 21 9 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, April 4 9 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, April 18 9 a.m. - noon

Tennessee Tech University

Wednesday, January 31 9 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, February 14 9 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, February 28 9 a.m. - noon