

Slick 50 Nationals delayed by rain

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Straight Talk Talk with Gordie Bonin, driver of the Smokin driver of the Smokin Joe's Funny Car

Date of birth: Sept. 30, 1948 Place of birth: Prince Albert, Sask.

Hometown: Diamond Bar, Calif.

Family: wife, Jody; pets, Brandy, Turbo, Norris

Years in the sport: 20

Nickname: "240"

Career highlight: winning Funny Car at the silveranniversary U.S. Nationals (1979)

Full-time occupation: professional driver

Hobbies: golf, motorcycles

I got my start in racing street racing my dad's car.

The thing I love most about racing is winning and making friends all around the country.

Most embarrassing moment at the drags: too many to list, trust me

The toughest thing about racing is surviving the rumor mill and dealing with the downtime between races.

The best race car I ever had: my current ride, the Smokin' Joe's Mustang

Personal car: '94 Mustang GT convertible

Toughest loss: the Hawaiian Vacation sponsorship

Favorite opponent: John Force

Nemesis: John Force

Persons in drag racing I most admire: Don Prudhomme and Roland Leong

Living person I most want to meet: Roger Penske

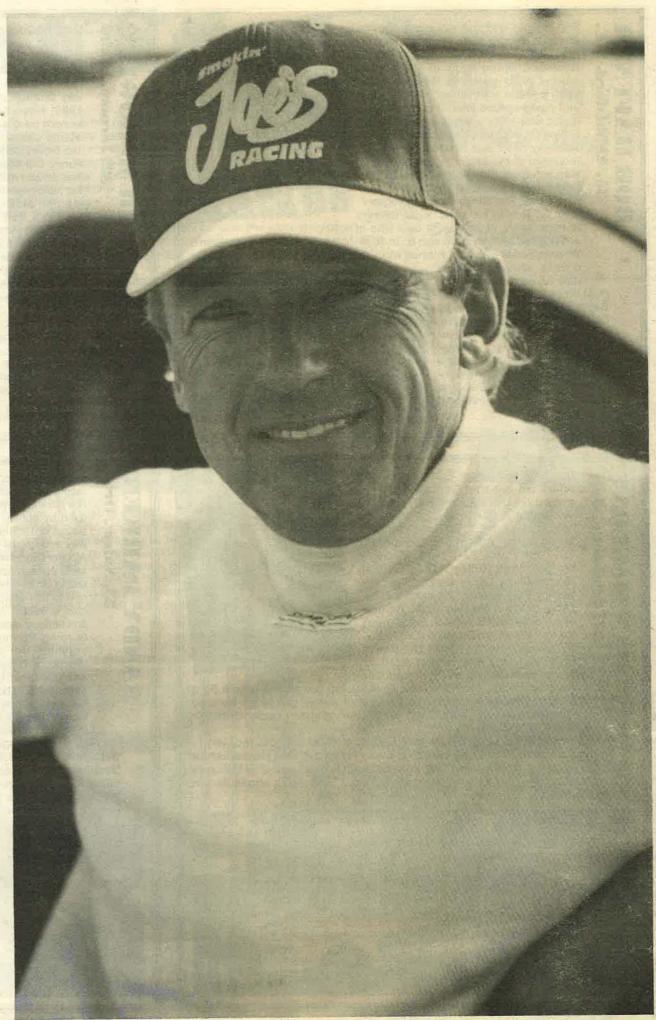
If I wasn't a drag racer I would be involved in the business end of the sport.

Big break: working with Roland again in 1993

Lifelong hero: Wally Parks

Nobody is better than me at irritating my wife.

Favorite movie: Ghost



Favorite entertainer: Tim Allen

Favorite foods: sushi, seafood

Favorite TV shows: Home Improvement, Frasier

Favorite actor/actress: Robert Redford/Demi Moore

My kind of music: Bob Seger, Rod Stewart

Pet peeves: people who embellish everything

Biggest regret: that I didn't drive a race car for 12 years

Nobody knows I once attempted to bathe my 16-pound cat.

Bad habit I'll admit to: I won't admit to any.

Last person I'd want to race in a final: Don Prudhomme

People think I had hair once, but it's really just been one long bad-hair day.

I hope I never have to quit driving a race car before I'm ready to.

Smartest thing I've ever done: pursued my dream of being a professional racer through a lot of peaks and valleys

Dumbest thing I've ever done: too many to pinpoint just one

Best day of my life: the day I married Jody

Best advice I ever received: marry Jody

Advice to aspiring racers: Never give up on your dreams.

Future racing goal: to win the Winston championship

NO RACES TODAL ... if the politicians get their way.

Some members of Congress are threatening sports sponsorships. They want to make the decisions for drivers, promoters, sponsors, and fans.

Sponsorship has been an important force in helping develop motorsports and other popular sports. Sponsorship helps keep ticket prices down and makes more events affordable for everyone.

But what happens if government regulation forces major sponsors out of sports? Some top racing teams could be dismantled. Ticket prices will be higher. Fewer events will be broadcast. More events will be carried only on pay-per-view. That's why the American Coalition for Entertainment & Sports Sponsorship is working to protect sponsorship — and freedom of speech — from government interference. A recent national poll conducted for ACESS by the Roper Organization found that 74% of sports fans oppose government efforts to ban certain companies from sponsoring sports events.

With sponsorship, the spectacular growth of motorsports has been a dream come true. Don't let the politicians turn our dream into a nightmare.

Start by joining ACESS today.

AMERICAN COALITION for ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS SPONSORSHIP

GRASS-ROOTS PETITION TO PRESERVE THE TRADITION

Add my name to the petition. As a loyal racing fan, I join with ACESS to oppose government efforts to interfere with sports sponsorships.

Signed:	- / J - TRI		Contraction of the local sectors
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Address:		10.24	
City:	State:	ZIP:	
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Send me more informatio	n about ACESS.		Managering)

Detach & mail to: P.O. Box 27380, Washington, DC 20038-7380

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SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

