

# Local driver wins title

*Boland bestows championship on 12-year-old son of crew member*



**Tim MILLER**

Earlier this year, Bruce Boland said he would be focusing on winning the championship in the Ontario-based Pro Modified Racing Association in 2007.

With a new engine in his 1953 Corvette-bodied Pro Mod, the veteran drag racer felt he had a strong shot at the title.

And after competing in the five PMRA events, the Hamilton driver took the title, even though he did not win any of the races.

Driving the B & B Racing entry, Boland's consistency and attendance paid off for the 52-year old auto shop owner, amassing enough points to go to the top of the 23-car field.

After the final round in the final race at Grand Bend recently, Boland was all smiles, even though he lost the race to Joe Boniferro of Niagara Falls. He knew he had won the title as he tried to catch Boniferro at over 200 mph.

Boland also wanted to go on record as bestowing his title to a son of one of his crew members.

"This one's for Kevin," he said. This one's for him. He helped us out at all our races. He came to all our events. He was my biggest fan." Boland dedicated his success to Kevin Short, 12-year old son of crew member Brad Short. Kevin died of a heart ailment this summer.

Even with the new 2500-horsepower supercharged engine, Boland and his crew had some

problems getting all the power to the ground earlier in the season, but after some trial and error with tires and clutch set-ups, the car was turning some impressive quarter mile runs, with times in the 6.3-second range.

Second place in the series was a tie between Matt Guenther of Livonia, NY, and Scott Wildgust of Stratford.

■ ■ ■

Another recent title winner was the Go Big Racing Team that captured the Amateur 600 Sport Bike class in the Parts Canada Superbike Championship.

Class rookie rider Paul Glenn of Keene, Ont., had a slim lead going into the final event at Shannonville last weekend, and finished third on his Suzuki GSX-R600, giving him enough points for the title.

Meanwhile teammate Ross Millson of Hamilton ran in the Pro 600 class during the season, took 13th in the final race, and placed 11th in the overall standings in a field of almost 40 teams.

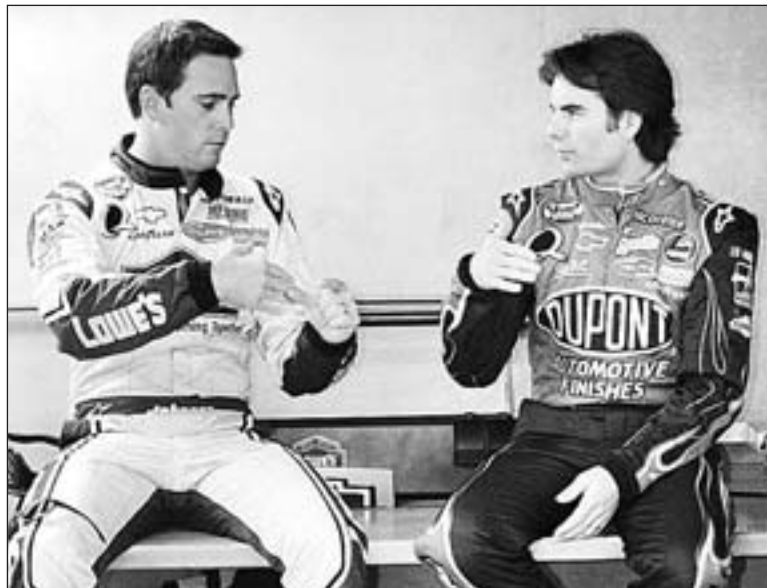
"All went fairly well," said the 25-year old Millson earlier this week.

"Paul's (Keene) title win was our main goal for this year." Millson also rode a Suzuki this year.

Millson mentioned the team not only competed in the Canadian-based Superbike series, with events from Calgary to Nova Scotia, it took place in SunTrust Moto-ET Endurance Series in the U.S., with venues ranging from Daytona in Florida to Iowa.

The logistics of getting prepared and to the tracks is a major undertaking with a limited budget.

"We're working on next year already. Right now our main focus is Daytona."



HAMILTON SPECTATOR FILE PHOTO

**REVVED UP.** NASCAR drivers Jimmie Johnson, left, and Jeff Gordon are locked in a tight battle as the race for the Nextel Cup title heads down the final stretch.

## The Chase is on for Hendrick's two top drivers in race for title

[ CHARLOTTE, N.C. ] Rick Hendrick can remember the last time two of his drivers raced down to the wire for a championship and the anguish it caused him.

Terry Labonte and Jeff Gordon were locked in a tight battle during the 1996 season, and Hendrick, the team owner, had to navigate the politics of supporting both without showing favoritism.

"I think it put me in a knot more than it did them," he said.

He better brace himself for a lot more angst.

Gordon and current Hendrick teammate Jimmie Johnson open the Chase for the championship this Sunday at New Hampshire as the favorites to win the Nextel Cup title. Johnson is seeded first and Gordon second in the Chase standings after they dominated the "regular season" with a combined 10 victories in 26 races.

Although they raced each other for the championship in 2004 — both lost to Kurt Busch in the closest finish in NASCAR history — they didn't have the same pressures that are following them this year. Because of their steady performances all season, Johnson, the defending series champion, and Gordon, a four-time champion, are expected to battle each other

for the title.

Johnson hopes it happens.

"I think that would be good for the sport and I think it would be good for me and Jeff both," he said. "But I would love to see it end with me winning the championship and him finishing second. It would certainly elevate my status...."

Hendrick believes his star drivers are heading into what could be an intense, 10-week battle.

"I think it's going to be a war," he said. "I just hope they will use good judgment and not do anything stupid that ruins things for both of them. It's hard to race, though, and not make a mistake sometimes. And I'd like to think we won't, not with the way both of them are running."

Hendrick actually has three title contenders, with Kyle Busch starting the Chase in ninth. Busch can't be counted out, but his impending switch to Joe Gibbs Racing to drive a Toyota next season makes him a dark horse, at best.

These are the issues Hendrick must deal with during what's expected to be the best Chase yet, and his experience from Labonte's victory over Gordon 11 years ago just might come in handy.

The Associated Press

## McLaren faces stiff sanctions if found guilty in F1 spy case

[ PARIS ] Just days after its one-two finish at the Italian Grand Prix, the McLaren team faces possible heavy sanctions today in the spy scandal that has rocked Formula 1.

McLaren will go before a hearing of the World Motor Sports Council in Paris to face new evidence in the investigation into the team's alleged use of secret technical documents belonging to F1 rival Ferrari.

If found guilty, McLaren could face stiff punishment, ranging from expulsion from the championship this season and next to deduction of points from the team or drivers Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso.

Rookie English driver Hamilton and two-time F1 champion Alonso of Spain took the top two spots Sunday in Italy — at Ferrari's home track of Monza — to extend McLaren's lead in the constructors' championship to 23 points.

Hamilton leads the drivers' standings with 92 points, followed by Alonso with 89. Ferrari teammates Kimi Raikkonen (74) and Felipe Massa (69) are third and fourth with four races remaining in the F1 season.

Alonso has reportedly submitted evidence to FIA following the governing body's request that McLaren's drivers co-operate in the inquiry.

The case broke open in July when a 780-page technical dossier on Ferrari cars was found at the home of McLaren's chief designer, Mike Coughlan, who was later suspended. Ferrari mechanic Nigel Stepney, who allegedly supplied the documents, was fired.

The World Motor Sport Council ruled in July that McLaren was guilty of fraudulent conduct for possessing the Ferrari documents but did not punish the team because there was insufficient evidence the material was misused.

The Associated Press