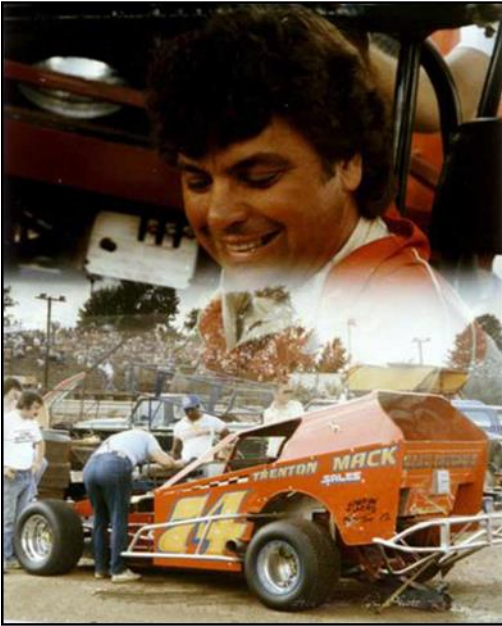


## PHOTO TRIVIA

from the Summer, 2021 issue



Ace Lane, Jr. Photo/Compliments of 3widespicturevault.com

*Once a racer, always a racer. Here's a cool 1980s composite photo of a racer who hails from a town not far from the location of this photo. The really interesting thing is that he also raced during this past season—that's 2021. Who is this man of steel? Bonus: this driver also has ties to the subject of this issue's lead article: how?*

**Stan "The Man" Ploski**, from Ringoes, NJ, began his racing career in 1962 as a teammate to his father, Stan, Sr., in identical yellow #27Sr. and #27Jr. 1937 Chevrolet Sportsman coupes. Ploski, Jr. went on to have a stellar career as a dirt racer.

Ploski's rookie season ended with the 1962 NJ State Novice Championship. He won 18 *straight* Sportsman races at **Flemington (NJ) Speedway** the next year, prompting management to upgrade him to the Modified division.

Ploski racked up multiple wins every season. Some wins came in his #27Jr Chevys; some came in other cars – like Dick

Cozze's #80; Paul Deasey's #707; **Ken Brenn, Sr.**'s #24 coupe; the Norcia brothers' #81; Pete Chesson's #76; Mike O'Shea's #74; and the Critelli's. The Brenn/Ploski team had much success in the early '70s: they took down two Flemington Modified titles (1971 and 1973); Flemington's 1973 National Dirt Track Championship 200, the 1973 East Windsor championship, and 1973 NJ State Modified honors. Also in 1973 were two 100 lapper victories at Five Mile Point Speedway in Kirkwood, NY. Ploski's last Modified championship came in 1977 at Flemington Speedway, in one of the few Chevy Gremlins built by Kenny Weld. He was still going strong into the 1980s. He won two Tri-Track 100 lappers in the #74 "Bulldog Express" cars (above photo). His last Modified win at Flemington was on August 10, 1985.

Ploski demonstrated that he is not only a talented driver on dirt by racing the newly-paved and redesigned Langhorne (PA) Speedway in 1965. He finished a respectable second to Bill Slater in the National Open Race of Champions.

He retired after the 1990 season, when Flemington Speedway was paved. Until...

In June, 2019 Ploski took a wicked ride in a wingless Sprint car at New Egypt (NJ) Speedway. After winning his heat race, he had a hard flip down the front stretch in the feature. He was hospitalized for a few days as a precaution. Thankfully, Ploski had no injuries, but he certainly had some stretched muscles. Other issues kept him out of the cockpit for the 2020 season.

Fast-forward to the 2021 season. Ploski ran the season in a wingless Sprint car at New Egypt Speedway. He finished 9<sup>th</sup> in points for the season. Not bad for a 77-year old hotshoe!



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