

# RENOWNED SPEED KINGS TO RACE AT STATE FAIR

Barney Oldfield and Many Others Will  
Start Here

One hundred of the most daring drivers in the automobile race game have been registered for the 1918 campaign by the International Motor Contest Association. Included in this list are several famous speedway stars, who have returned to their first love, the dirt track. While there has been a heavy drain on the younger contingent of racers, due to the war, all the veterans are on hand. Among drivers licensed who have participated in I. M. C. A. meets are Barney Oldfield, Fred Horey, George Clark, "Wild Bill" Endicott, Jules Elingboe, Tom Alley, Arthur Chevrolet, Gaston Chevrolet, Floyd Willard, Jimmy Toft, Bab Cline, Leon Duray, Verne Soules, Dave Kitzla, now in France with the 330th Field Artillery; Lieutenant Art Klein of the aviation corps; Percy Ford, Ben Gottoff, Earl Cooper, Sig. Hughdahl, Larry Doyle, Irvin Hoffman, Charles P. Hawkins, Jake Strickler, Phil "Red" Shaffer, Al Streigel, Frank Clements, Eddie Hearne, Tommy Milton, Cliff Woodbury, Jerry Wundeerlich, Glenn Breed, Johnny Mais, Ray Lampkin, Jesse Calahan, Louis Disbrow and others.

With these drivers and fifty others to draw upon, Secretary Stire, of the Mississippi State Fair is confident that one of the best fields that ever faced a starter on the Jackson oval will participate in the speed battles here October 26. Prize money and trophies amounting to \$2,000 have been offered as inducements to the gasoline monarchs to set new records in the Jackson races. Horey, Clark, Endicott, Alley, Chevrolet, Willard and others have been mailed entry blanks. Miss Stire believes she will be able to give out some information within the next few days as to the probable starters.

## Neutral Zones Planned

Many rules were adopted at the last meeting of the executive board of the International Motor Contest Association for safety of spectators at auto races, sanctioned by the I. M. C. A., and one of the most exacting is the rule that requires dirt track promoters, race managers and drivers to supply new and efficient steering apparatus for every car coming into their possession. Disqualification and a heavy fine is the penalty for failure to carry out this rule, as many accidents have been caused in the past by the breaking of steering apparatus in races.

Neutral zones must also be established and maintained on each turn and stretches during the running of races. These zones must be 40 feet in width on the inner and outer curves and 30 feet on the stretches. Another new rule adopted is that before official sanction is given for any race, the officials of the fair or exhibition must furnish satisfactory evidence to the I. M. C. A. that they have familiarized themselves with the Contest Rules, and have taken reasonable precaution to safeguard the general public and contestants, including the proper preparation of the course, and especially for the prevention of dust, the policing of the course, the closing of entrances and erecting fences where needed.

The manner in which the last auto races were conducted here was very satisfactory to the public and the I. M. C. A., and a sanction has been granted for the speed battles, which will be held Saturday, October 26.

## Races are Successful

The policy adopted by the dirt tracks several years ago of paying cash bonuses and making the prize money only a few thousand dollars, has in turn been adopted by the speedways, as it has proved the only successful method of conducting automobile races. This year the large speedways of America, including New York, Chicago, Cincinnati and Uniontown, have conducted big races with only a few thousand dollars offered in prizes, while the remainder of the \$25,000 was offered in bonuses and guarantees to the competing drivers. And every race of 1918 has been a success from all points, whereas in 1917 but three speedways meets made money and were able to pay off all their prizes.

As far back as 1911 the dirt tracks of the United States organized and made guarantees to such drivers as Endicott, Burman, Oldfield, Clark, Horey, Hearne, Milton and others, and would offer \$3,000 to \$5,000 as prize money in each meet. Since that time the dirt tracks have conducted over 80 per cent of the racing of the North American continent, and with this same policy in vogue, the meets at all the big fairs and exhibitions have been wonderfully successful.

In 1915 the large State Fairs and Expositions and Canadian Exhibitions organized their own association, which had the power to sanction and govern races. Since the I. M. C. A. was formed over 350 days of auto racing has been sanctioned and fatal accidents have become rare and infrequent. All the members of the Southern Fair Circuit are also members of the International Motor Contest Association. The auto races which will be held here at the State Fair have been sanctioned by the I. M. C. A. and all the drivers are registered professionals.