



NEWS RELEASE

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Willamette Cup Next Up for Oberto Championship Series

WOODLAND, Wash. — The R/C Unlimiteds Oberto Championship Series will make its second appearance of the year in Woodland, September 27-28, as it brings the Willamette Cup to Horseshoe Lake Park.

Defending series champion **Dave Brandt** (Kennewick, Wash.) won the first race Woodland race — the Rose Cup — on May 18. Brandt's Woodland win started a streak of four consecutive wins this season. He's won five of R/CU's 12 races so far this season.

Don Mock (Seattle) leads the series standings with 17,663 points, and four race wins. Brandt is in second place with 16,975. His father, **Bill Brandt** (Kennewick, Wash.), enters the Willamette Cup with 14,056 points, good for third place. Bill Brandt has also won one race.

Spectators and media are welcome and invited to come join the R/CU Oberto Championship Series during its visit to Horseshoe Lake Park. More information about R/CU, its schedules, the boats, and the drivers is available online at www.rcunlimiteds.org, or at the race course. R/CU normally opens the pits to spectators for 15-20 minutes between the second and third sets of heats.



Practice and testing will take place from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27. The course opens at 8 a.m. for two hours of testing and practice on Sunday, Sept. 28. Racing begins at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday. Four sections of heats consisting of three-lap sprints will make up the format of the race day. Two five-lap consolation heats will then precede the five-lap winner-take-all final.

Local Participation

Several drivers from the Clark County/Portland area are expected to compete in the Willamette Cup. Vancouver's **Mick Shutt** leads the local contingent with 3,908 points this season. He's currently 32nd (nearly 90 boats) in the points standings. Shutt drives a scale model of the 1977 Anheuser Busch Natural Light. **Nelson Holmberg** (Vancouver, Wash.) is 37th with 2,632 points, driving his model of the 2000 Oh Boy! Oberto. **Geof Amos** (Vancouver, Wash.) has amassed 1,370 points in just two races this season and sits in 50th place. Battle Ground's **John Earnest** was recently inducted into the club's Hall of Fame, with 162,181 career points. Before this season, Earnest had been racing since the late 1970s. He has not raced with the club this year. Earnest's point total is fifth all-time in club history. Washougal's **Steve Herbert** also has a boat in development status for the club. While building his boat, Herbert is not racing. Several drivers also hail from the Portland area, including **Dave Blacksten** (Canby, Ore.), who is fourth in all-time career points with 163,104. This season, Blacksten has earned 7,627 points. Others from the Portland area include: **Dave Reiser** (2,407 points), **Kerry Kjos** (1,800), **Bob Adderly** (1,727 points), **Norm Nordby** (919 points), **John Howell** (1,087), **Dave Adderly** (750), and **Pat Bristol** (600 points).

— more —

R/CU's History In Woodland

The spring Rose Cup, and the fall Willamette Cup, have been run in Woodland since 1993. Before that, the two races had been run on Portland's Force Lake since 1976. Next to the Gold Cup, which has been run every year since the club's inaugural season (1974), the Rose Cup and Willamette Cup are the longest-running races in the club.

Celebrating Anniversaries

Oberto Sausage Company is celebrating its 85th year in business this year, the same year that R/C Unlimiteds is celebrating its 30th year of racing.

Oberto Series Flagships Expected

At least five different Oh Boy! Oberto hulls are likely to make an appearance in the R/CU pits during the Columbia Cup. Expected are the 2000 Oh Boy! Oberto (Nelson Holmberg), 1990 Oh Boy! Oberto (Marty Schallenger), 1988 Oh Boy! Oberto (Geof Amos), 1982 Oh Boy! Oberto (Ron Hartley), and the 1975 Oh Boy! Oberto (Marty Schallenger).

Big Boat-Little Boat

Roger Newton (Renton, Wash.) is not only the founder of R/C Unlimiteds, and the inventor of racing these types of models, he's also the crew chief for the real unlimited hydroplane known as Silver Dollar Casinos Presents Mister Home Loans. The U-25 Superior Racing Team is Newton's 'real job', now that he's retired from a career with the Renton Fire Department. Newton is second in all-time career points in the R/C Unlimiteds ranks.

Roundnoses Versus Pickleforks

It is not at all uncommon to see the old days relived at R/CU Oberto Championship Series races, as the old roundnose boats, as well as the conventional hulls (driver behind the engine) square off against the technological sleds of today in R/CU heats. In 2003 three different eras are represented by the top five boats: including the 1984 Atlas Van Lines, the 1995 Pico American Dream, the 1997 Close Call, and the 2002 Miss Budweiser (T-6). The 1972 Hallmark Homes is the club's top roundnose boat, sitting 15th overall.

Team Brandt Still Not Close to Family Record

Despite six wins between them this year, **Bill** and **Dave Brandt** are still four wins short of tying a club-record for wins by a father-son duo in the same season. **Lee** and **Jesse Robertson** combined to win 10 races in 1999.

Triple Crown Update

With just the Gold Cup left to go in terms of completing the Triple Crown, competition is close. **Don Mock** leads the standings, but by just 100 points over **Lee Robertson**. Both **Bill** and **Dave Brandt** are each just 550 points back. **Gary Grembowski**, **Robert McIntyre**, and **David Newton** all have a chance to win the Triple Crown as well. The Triple Crown is awarded to the driver who scores the most points in the Atomic Cup, Diamond Cup and the Gold Cup. Mock has won the last three Triple Crowns. No one else has ever won three in a row.

Three Dot Notes

After 12 races, 13 different drivers have already passed the number of points they scored in total last season, including Vancouver's **Mick Shutt** (+850 points), **Geof Amos** (+676 points), **Nelson Holmberg** (+234 points), and Fairview's **Kerry Kjos** (+150 points) ... Ellensburg's **Jeff Heimkes** made it to the final for the first time in his career, winning the first consolation at the Silver Cup with his 82 Executone, and taking fourth place in the final ... **Don Mock's** Silver Cup win was only his second-ever win in Ellensburg ... It's possible that **Dave Brandt** and **David Jensen** can reach career win milestones with just two races remaining. Brandt needs just one more win to reach 20 career victories. Jensen, meanwhile, is one Gold Cup victory away from his third straight (for the third time in his career) ... **Bill Brandt's** Diamond Cup win moved him from a tie for 43rd in career wins, to a tie for 33rd in career wins ... **Don Mock** is the defending champion of the upcoming Willamette Cup.

Next Stop on the Oberto Championship Series

The next race of the 2003 Oberto Championship Series is the Gold Cup, set for October 4-5 in Chelan, Wash. **David Jensen** (Lynnwood, Wash.) is the two-time defending champion.