

"The Stat Geek"

by Nelson Holmberg, R/CU statistician



(Jeff Stubbers photo)

R/C Unlimiteds is now more than halfway through its 30th Anniversary, and the racing has been fantastic.

So far this year, we've seen four different race winners – Don Mock (Atomic Cup, Gar Wood Memorial, Dean Chenoweth Memorial); David Newton (Apple Blossom Cup); Dave Brandt (Rose Cup, President's Cup, Bill Muncey Memorial, Governor's Cup); and Kirk Maupin (Columbia Cup).

With just five races left, the battle for the driver's championship is heating up. The race, which looked like a runaway for Mock early in the season, has Mock and defending champ Dave Brandt just less than 2,000 points apart from each other. In third place, Bill Brandt is less than 2,000 behind his son.

So there's quite a race going on up top.

This & That

Mock, Blacksten, and **Bill Smiley** all have a chance to get a milestone win at Ellensburg. Mock's next win will be his 30th, Blacksten's will be his 15th, and Smiley's will be his 10th ... Dave Brandt has a chance to join a crowd with two career wins in the Bill Muncey Memorial. If he achieves that, he'd be the sixth different driver to win twice in that race.

Final Berths

Through nine races this season, 20 different drivers have earned spots in the final heat. Nine different drivers have made it to the final more than once, and only one driver, Mock, has been in each of the nine finals this season.

Finals Participants	Finals	Wins	Pct.
Don Mock, 84 Atlas Van Lines	9	3	.333
Jeff Stubbers, 83 Miss Rock.....	7	0	.000
Bill Brandt, 98 Close Call.....	7	0	.000
Dave Brandt, 95 PICO American Dream.....	6	4	.667
David Newton, 02 Miss Budweiser (T-6).....	5	1	.200
Lee Robertson, 78 Squire Shop	4	0	.000
Harry Gatjens, 94 Miss Budweiser (T-4)	4	0	.000
Kirk Maupin, 77 Squire Shop.....	2	1	.500
Roger Newton, 02 Miss Budweiser (T-3)	2	0	.000
Rich Matkin, 99 Appian Jeronimo.....	1	0	.000
John Gatjens, 74 Lincoln Thrift.....	1	0	.000
Bill Smiley, 57 Thriftway Too	1	0	.000
Dave Blacksten, 98 Lumar Window Film.....	1	0	.000
Dave Reiser, 86 Thor Racing	1	0	.000
David Jensen, 69 Pride of Pay N' Pak	1	0	.000
Fred Stock, 90 Winston Eagle.....	1	0	.000
Gary Grembowski 82 Budweiser Light.....	1	0	.000
Greg Ross, 89 Risley's Express.....	1	0	.000
John Hruby, 78 Miss Circus Circus	1	0	.000
Kerry Case, 74 Northwest Tank Services	1	0	.000
Kirk Maupin, 77 Esquire Products.....	1	0	.000
Nigel Steere, 78 Charley's Girl.....	1	0	.000
Troy McIntire, 91 Winston Eagle	1	0	.000
Doug DeWitt, 63 St. Regis	1	0	.000

Rookie Race

It's about time to start the watch for the 2003 R/CU Rookie of the Year Award. Three candidates are in the running this year, **Robert McIntyre, Marc Connelly, and Dave Helton**. While none of the three has made a final, they've all been in connies this year. With five races still to go, it could be an all-out battle for the Rookie of the Year award this year. The last five Rookies of the Year are: **Steve Schmitz** (2002), **Kyle Bannister** (2001), **Mick Shutt** (2000), **John Stubbers** (1999), and **Jeff Stubbers** (1998).

This year's Rookie Watch:

Rookies	Points
Robert McIntyre, 78 Squire Shop	6,152
Marc Connelly, 69 Notre Dame	3,504
Dave Helton, 02 Skyway Park Bowl & Casino	3,321