

Sutter ————— continued from Page 12

there,” McCord said. “It’s one of those long overdue inductions and fitting with this class.”

The patriarch of the Sutter family graduated from Marion in 1943, where he was a successful basketball player in his own right. He was known to be a great passer and scorer, but he also played well on the defensive end of the floor.

After graduation, Sutter went on to establish his own business, Sutter’s Dairy Products, Inc., and served as the president for many years.

However, at the age of 46, Sutter felt called to receive a collegiate education. In 1970, he resigned his position at Sutter Dairy Products and enrolled at Indiana Wesleyan University, then Marion College, as an education major.

Along with his collegiate studies, Sutter became the captain of the Marion College tennis team – playing alongside and against players who were 20 years his junior.

Even so, he thrived. “It’s such a neat story,” McCord said. “You are looking at a successful businessman [who decided] to go back to school and get his education...and play tennis. This is a Hollywoodesque type story...and we saw it in Grant County.”

They say that Father Time is undefeated, but Jack Sutter was the rare exception to the rule. While final stats at Marion College were not provided, Sutter changed the IWU program for the better, helping to lay the foundation for their



Jack Sutter

future success.

The tennis program has gone on to be one of IWU’s best, and recently won the 2019 Crossroads League Regular Season & Tournament Championship.

The tennis complex at IWU bears his name, and in the city of Marion, it will not soon be forgotten.

“You need look no further than the fact that his name is above the tennis courts,” McCord said. “When people walk onto the Indiana Wesleyan tennis courts, they are going to see the name Jack Sutter. He took the program to place it had never been and did so as a guy in his late 40’s. Hollywood couldn’t write a better script.”

Gas City Speedway tweeks schedule

A huge, five-division show called the “Jack and Jiggs Classic,” named in honor of track owner Jack Himelick and former promoter Jiggs Thomason, is scheduled for this coming Friday night, Aug. 7, at Gas City I-69 Speedway.

Non-wing sprint cars, USAC Speed2 midgets, modifieds, street stocks and hornets will provide the action, which starts with hot laps at 6:30 p.m. and racing at 7:30 p.m.

COVID-19 has forced the track’s “Night of Destruction” slated for Saturday, Aug. 15 to be postponed until next year, so fans are asked to put it on their calendars for Aug. 14, 2021.

With that change track promoter Jerry Gappens has tweaked this year’s schedule and added a program for Friday, Aug. 14 called the “Mid-Summer Showdown.” It will feature non-wing sprint cars, modifieds, street stocks, hornets and a special school bus race with local pastors as the drivers. The contest for clergy members is billed as the “Faster Pastor” race. Congregations are encouraged to attend to support their pastors as they explore a new form of fellowship.

Teams trying to find that extra bit of speed will have

the opportunity to participate in a “test and tune” session on Wednesday, Aug. 19 before the Dale Korporeal’s Candy Man Classic on Friday night, Aug. 21. Non-wing sprint car drivers will compete in twin 20-lap features for a total purse of \$20,000. Modifieds, street stocks and hornets will share the billing.

The track will be dark Friday, Aug. 28 but it will host its Labor Day Weekend Classic on Friday, Sept. 4. Non-wing sprint cars, modifieds, street stocks, hornets and micro sprints are on the card. The modified feature will pay \$1,000 to win and \$150 to start.

The heroes of September 11, 2001 take the spotlight on Friday, Sept. 11 with “A Salute to First Responders/Battle of the Badges” program. Non-wing sprint cars, USAC Midwest Thunder Speed2 midgets, modifieds, street stocks and hornets will be in action. A special “Battle of the Badges” race featuring local police, fire and rescue personnel is also planned.

No Friday night racing is slated for Sept. 18, but the following day, Saturday, Sept. 19, the track will host the Gas City Power Pull, which is an Indiana Pulling League-sanctioned truck and tractor pull.

A special Thursday night show on Sept. 24 is set aside for the third annual “James Dean Classic” featuring the USAC AMSOIL national sprint cars and micro sprints. Part of the area’s James Dean Festival, it’s a can’t-miss event. (There won’t be any racing at Gas City on Friday, Sept. 25 due to this show the day before.)

The 2020 season will conclude on Friday, Oct. 2 and Saturday, Oct. 3 with another huge show, the second annual “Fall Festival of Speed.”

The Friday, Oct. 2 lineup will include non-wing sprint cars, USAC Midget Cup series (full midgets and D2s), IMCA RaceSaver winged sprints, micro sprints and AVSCA vintage sprint cars.

On Saturday, Oct. 3 the season finale has modifieds, late models, street stocks, super streets, hornets and the Dirt Track Truck Series taking the spotlight.

Details are on the track’s website at GasCityI69Speedway.com. Fans and competitors can also follow it on Twitter: @GasCitySpeedway; Instagram: @GasCitySpeedway and Facebook: GasCitySpeedwayOnTheGas.

Gas City I-69 Speedway is located on State Road 22 approximately a half-mile west of Interstate 69’s exit 259.

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