

LOVE OF SPEED KINGS' WIVES TELL WHY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1914.

Wives of Kings Sa

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Three Give Bits of Racing Philosophy and All Are Eager for Husband's Triumph

When the crack of the starter's gun sends away 16 of the fastest racing cars in the world to burn the Santa Monica race course in the great fight for the famous Vanderbilt cup on February 21 there will be at least three women who will "drive the race."

For the wife of a racing driver—the wife of the grim, steely, dust-begrimed figure that pilots the speed demon along the swift miles—"drives" every inch of the race. She may not sit behind the giant taped wheel, nor handle the roaring car, but she gives her heart, her mind and her prayers to the car and its driver, as no one else of all the thousands of spectators can.

Mrs. Earl Cooper, Mrs. Frank Verbeck, and Mrs. Barney Oldfield, wives of speed kings, will all be on the course to see the Vanderbilt. And they declare that

"watching and waiting" in the pits or the grandstand is just as hard and nerve-racking as fighting on the track at 100 miles an hour.

Yet none of them would stay away—not one of them but has for her husband some talisman of luck, some special signal of hope and cheer during the race.

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Here Are the Wives of

SPUR TO RACE VICTORY

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Here is What the Wives of 3 Speed Kings Say of Races

Racing philosophy of the wives of three speed kings who will battle for victory in the Vanderbilt cup race:

Mrs. Earl Cooper—Man fights for one of three things—money, ambition or the ONE woman. I believe that he will fight hardest for the woman. That is why I would never let Earl drive a race without being where he could see me and keep the thought bond strong between us.

Mrs. Frank Verbeck, bride of two months—Love is the greatest inspiration in the world. That is why I believe Frank will win. The men who have to beat a man who is driving to be a hero to his bride will have to go some.

Mrs. Barney Oldfield—There are four wheels on every racing car and you have to keep tires on them all the way around. The best way to help a man is to know the game and figure out the best way to save tires and engines.

"I guess I will be pretty nervous," she said today. "but I want to be there, and I am sure that nothing can happen to Frank. When we were married I didn't ask him to give up racing, but I did ask him to let me see every race. I think he is going to win, because he has a certain quality of fearlessness, and yet coolness, that is fine. He is awfully young, I know, but I feel that his youth is his greatest asset."

"I shall keep cool and I will pray for him. He knows that, and the men who have THAT to beat will have to 'drive some.'"

But Mrs. Oldfield, who for eight years has watched the track victories of her driver-husband, is more technical, much more business-like.

"No one ever wanted a man to win more than I want Barney to win," she declared. "But I believe the best way to help a man is to KNOW."

"Now I realize that in a long race like this—everyone has a chance. There are four wheels on a car and you know you have to keep tires on them all the way. I try to figure out the best way to prevent troubles of any kind."

"But I'm just a woman, and I believe a lot in thought and prayer. I have given Barney a little prayer that I have had since I was a girl. He never goes anywhere or drives without it. It is our mascot, and it will be at the Vanderbilt."

OLDFIELD TO GO AFTER RECORD

Hopes to Set Dirt Track Mark for Mile on Exposition Park Circuit Tomorrow

The best day's sport ever seen on a race track in this end of the State, was the prediction made yesterday by a number of sports in speaking of the fine racing program that is to be given tomorrow at Exposition Park.

The Los Angeles Driving Club and the Harness Horse Association have combined forces for this occasion and have prepared a card of events that will please almost any taste for those who like speed and excitement. Trotting, pacing and running races, an exhibition mile by the coast champion racer and the attempt by Speed King Barney Oldfield to beat his own dirt track world's record of a mile in an auto in 46 2-5 seconds, should be enough to stir up the most blasé.

Barney Oldfield looks like the top line on this card, for few persons have ever seen an auto going faster than a mile in fifty seconds, and Barney is to try and beat his own record. He will use a 3-horsepower Charles and has a good chance, if everything goes right, for the track is fast and in fine condition, according to report.

In addition to this expected thriller, the spectators will have a chance to see the speedy pacer Dan Prouty, with a record of 2:02 1-2, and he will be driven an exhibition mile.

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They Are Mrs. Barney Oldfield, Mrs. Earl Cooper. Photo of Mrs. Oldfield

LOVE THE SPUR TO VICTORY SAY WIVES

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Barney Oldfield looks like the top tier on this card, for few persons have ever seen an auto going faster than a mile in fifty seconds, and Barney is to try and beat his own record. He will use a 30-horsepower Christy and has a swell chance, if everything goes right, for the track is fast and in fine condition, according to report.

In addition to this expected thriller, the spectators will have a chance to see the speedy pacer Don Fronto, with a record of 2:02 1/4, and he will be driven an exhibition mile.

Five or more runners will meet in a three-furlong dash in an owners' handicap and this promises to be for blood, as one of the entries is the well known High Street that has run here a number of times. Willie See, the old time long shot rider, will have a mount in this race.

BARNEY OLDFIELD may not be able to annex many trophies by prolonged spins over sand dunes, but when it comes to playing tag with pneumatic tube

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"I tell you that there is nothing like having some one to fight for. I think that men all fight for one of three things—money, ambition or—the woman. And they will fight the hardest, drive the fastest and be the steadiest because of the one woman."

"When the race is over I am more tired than he. Ev-



Corona race, a few months ago. She will be the bride of the Vanderbilt Cup race and she thinks that Frank is going to win it—as a wedding present for her.

flights over a circular course, he makes 'em all sit up and howl "take it."