

20TH RUNNING OF THE TORONTO MOLSON INDY

All is quiet on feud front

Focus is on the Indy for Tracy and Tags

TERRY KOSHAN
Toronto Sun

ALEX TAGLIANI refused to throw a barb at fellow Canadian Paul Tracy yesterday, not even for old time's sake.

On the eve of the Toronto Molson Indy a year ago, Tagliani and Tracy were at each other's throats verbally and in the local newspapers after a couple of on-track incidents between the two, including a two-point penalty against Tagliani for blocking Tracy at a race in Portland.

There are no such fireworks this year.

"It was perfect timing (last July) to let our personalities come out a little bit," Tagliani said yesterday. "Paul is great for that. He can create attention and a little spark."

But what about now, Alex? Wouldn't you love to restart your verbal engine? Apparently not. Tagliani, a 32-year-old native of Montreal who is looking for his first win this year, would much rather concentrate on trying to gain his second career Champ Car victory. He is tied for ninth in the circuit's drivers standings with Canadian rookie Andrew Ranger at 69 points.

"You're not going to act like actors

and make it happen if there is nothing in the air," said Tagliani, who won at Road America last year. "I respect him on the track. So far, he is the man because he is consistent and he is driving really well. If we are able to challenge him (on Sunday), it means we are doing pretty good."

Tracy barely gave the question much thought when he was asked about the feud of 2004.

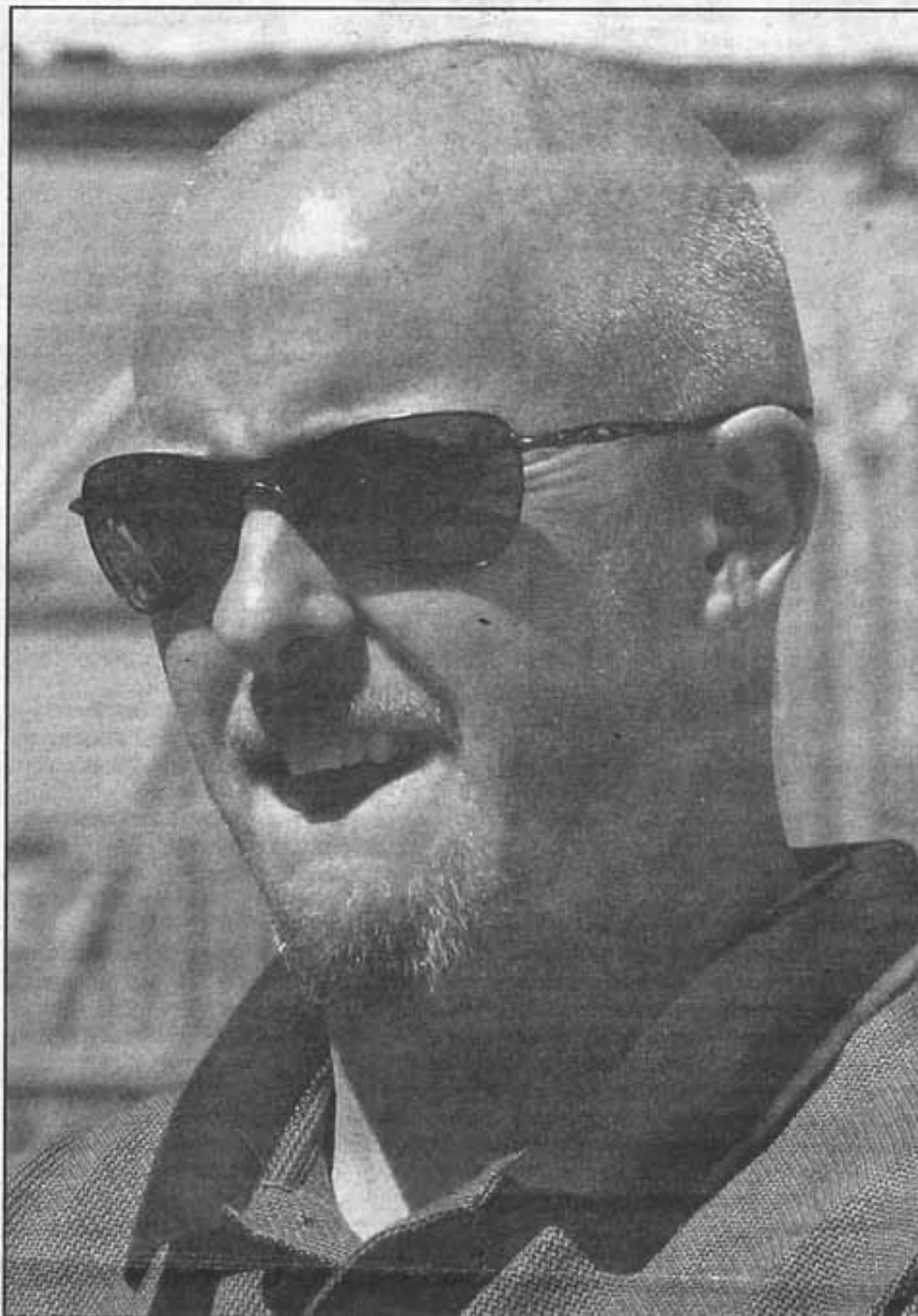
"Yeah, pretty much," Tracy said when asked if things are more calm now between himself and Tagliani. "This year is going better than last year, so we are just being quiet."

Tracy, of course, is coming off a win in Cleveland on June 26 and consistently refers to the Toronto Indy as the biggest on his calendar. The Thrill from West Hill is first in the drivers standings with 128 points, one more than rival Sebastien Bourdais. In five races this season, Tracy has won twice and finished in the top five in all but one event.

Before the first day of qualifying, Tracy was mindful of the fact the pole-sitter at the Toronto Indy has won the race in each of the past three years.

"I wouldn't say I am any more confident (because of the victory in Cleveland), but I feel good about this weekend," said Tracy, who won in Toronto in 1993 and 2003. "We feel we have a better car on the street course than we have had the past couple of years."

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—Adrian Wyld, CP

■ PAUL TRACY, who leads the Champ Car drivers standings, tells reporters yesterday that things will be much quieter between he and Alex Tagliani this weekend after their verbal jousting marked last year's Toronto Molson Indy.

For this driver, the weight wasn't worth it

MIKE ULMER
Toronto Sun

TIM HAURANEY says that anyone can do what he has done.

Hauraney will drive car No. 31 at the Toyota Atlantic Series at the Toronto Molson Indy.

And while auto racing seems tough enough, it's a snap compared to what it took for Hauraney to get there.

The 23-year-old Peterborough native found his future in racing undermined by his weight. At his heaviest, the 5-foot-10 Hauraney weighed in at 265 pounds.

"I was ways big," he said at yesterday's Toyota Atlantic media day. "As the years went on in high school, I got bigger and bigger and bigger."

His weight became an impediment in high school when he was passed over as a high school quarterback.

"That kid of turned me away from football," he said. "I lost interest in everything. I lost motivation, and then I put on more weight."

Hauraney got involved in

the sport when he was 18. Unlike many racers, he didn't have the money to compete on the cart circuit. He was a mechanic at the Bridgestone Racing School in 1999 and at 20, landed a test with Britain West Motorsports.

They liked his potential, but didn't like what they saw.

"They said: 'Look, you're a good driver but you're going to have to lose some weight to get into the car.'"

That's what did it for Hau-



HAURANEY
New lifestyle

clist Lance Armstrong.

He stopped associating with friends who didn't have a clear idea where the were going.

"I had friends that were into bad things," he said. "I had to really had to start looking at who I was being friends with and who actually appreciated me for being a friend."

The result is a great looking prospect, maybe for auto racing, definitely for everything that comes after.

"It's just determination," Hauraney said. "You have to discipline yourself. Anyone can do it. Anyone."

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AUTOBriefs

McMurray moving on

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Jamie McMurray will leave Chip Ganassi Racing after his contract expires to drive the No. 6 car for Roush Racing in 2007.

Roush did not say yesterday who will drive the No. 6 next season while they wait for McMurray. Mark Martin is retiring from Nextel Cup racing at the end of this season and his seat is one of the most coveted in NASCAR.

McMurray has long been a rumoured candidate for several top rides, but Ganassi has held him to the contract he signed in 2002. When his name was mentioned for other jobs last season, Ganassi picked up the option for this season.

Speedway leveled

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — Atlanta Motor Speedway looks as if it was in a high-speed crash after a tornado caused as much as \$40 million US in damage.

"Everything but the track surface has suffered some kind of damage, said speedway president Ed Clark, who estimated damage of \$25 million to \$40 million from the storm Wednesday night. "There are some buildings that will have to be torn down."

Entire sections of the grandstand and luxury boxes are shredded. Oak trees, flagpoles and light towers are snapped. On some of the speedway's condominiums, the roof is caved in and windows are shattered.

It's a gut feeling

TONY STEWART, winner of the last two Nextel Cup races, likes to joke about his stocky build.

Asked after his victory two weeks ago on the road course in Sonoma, Calif., if he considers himself an athlete, Stewart replied: "With a gut like this, do you consider me an athlete?"

Asked what he does to stay in shape, Stewart joked: "Channel up. Channel down."



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