OUTWITTING THE NEXT GUY IN SOAP BOX RACING

BECOMING AN ENTRANT:
In order to become an entrant you must be between the ages of eleven to fifteen, and must go to school.

RULES & REGULATIONS:
There are several rules & regulations that you must go by. The entrant must design & construct the racer by himself. They are given specifications on the length, height, & width of car. There are several clearance rules, weight of driver & car, cost and a few other minor details. The most important rule is concerned with the wheels, being the major part of the race.

CONSTRUCTION OF CAR:
The car may be made of several elements. It may be covered with wood, tin aluminum, fiber glass or papier-mâché. Every car must have a well-built brake and steering system. Springs may be built of wood only. The car should be more or less streamlined to a good aerodynamic design. Weight must be built in car of wood only. The car may not cost over 15 dollars.

PROCEDURE OF LOCAL RACES:
On race day all cars must pass inspection. Then all cars are taken to the top of the hill where they are set on a ramp, and then are released at once so they will get a even start. Being a gravity race, downhill maximum weight would be to the advantage. The winner of each heat is taken back to
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PROCEDURE OF LOCAL RACES: (cont.)

the top of the hill where he will compete with other winners. Being a elimination type of race they will race till the last three cars.

WINNERS OF LOCAL VICINITYS:

All local winners are sent to Akron, Ohio, where they will compete for the grand prize of five thousand dollars. There are about one hundred and fifty seven local winners representing various citys, towns and other countrys. Soap Box Racing is sponsored by the Chevrolet dealers and a local newspaper from each city.

HOW TO BECOME A CHAMPION:

This is the question that go's thru the minds of thousands of young lads who make a honest effort and would almost give anything to become a champion. I can truthfully say that 90% of the boys work hours and hours, just to be disappointed. WHY? Because they are either too lazy to go out to find out what makes a champ, maybe because their inexperience, or maybe their not rich enough. Well, Soap Box Racing is not a young lads game. It's for about 10% of the boys' fathers to build a good car and then, try to find four superior wheels that in their opinion can not be beat or hard to beat. Being in Soap Box Racing for seven years, I have met over a dozen boys who have gone to Akron and have either placed first second or third in the finals. I have gone to school
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HOW TO BECOME A CHAMPION: (cont.)
with some and have met the acquaintance of others.
How these fellows have gone back are all similar.

Wheels. There are a few ways to get superior wheels.
1. You must go through hundreds of sets of wheels
and by actual testing on the track you can determine
which are the best. (It will take close to a year
to test all wheels.)

2. About the biggest crime in wheels is where the
fathers pressed the bearings out and put precision-
made ball bearings in. Also they will buff the
rubber down about a one-eighth of an inch, and then
dip the whole wheel in a solution or just plain
white gas and by chemical reaction the rubber will
react to this treatment and will be twelve inches
again, (Wheels are all the same diameter: 12"

The rules specifically say you must not tamper with
the wheels at all. You must buy them at the Chevolet
agency and use them at the race only. If every one
would go by the rules then it would be luck who got
the better wheels, and the race would consist of
many things, like a well-constructed car, good
driving, good rear wheel alignment, good suspension,
good weight distribution and a few other things.
Having the wheels fixed by an expert may cost up
to four hundred dollars, but it is truly worth it
if you want to become a champ. There are several
headaches and you must have patients. Everything
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HOW TO BECOME A CHAMPION: (cont.)
must be perfect. You should never be disappointed if you don't win because if you don't, there was a better person outwitting you.

I have just mention briefly and roughly a few things on what it takes to become a champion.

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN SOAP BOX RACING:
I started when I was thirteen years of age and my older brother John suggested to me if I would be interest in entering. It sounded interesting so we started from scratch. After three to four months, we finish our master piece. The day of the race came and we thought we had the winner.

To our surprise we lost our first heat. We were real disappointed and discourage. Thank God, someone took a interest in us and he happen to be one of what you might call the clung. He told us that we were banging our heads against a stone wall if we did not know a few things that was going on, which we soon learned. I would have to give all the credit to my brother, because he made a point to find out everything that had to be done. The next year I grew a little and we thought we would build one for my younger brother George. New ideas went into action that year. We tried a few sets of wheels and were given a few and then we picked the four that were best. We placed tenth out of six hundred entrants. We did not stop there. We got more ideas, better wheels, and returned to the track the following
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MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN SOAP BOX RACING: (cont.)

year. Once again we improved by going up to the finals. We were determined to win this race yet.
We entered a few local races which were sponsored by small cities, and they just gave trophies and prizes. We won one of those but that didn't give us the right to go to Akron. This was our final year since my brother was fifteen. We had quiet a bid of experience behind us. It was just a few years but my brother John knew as much if not more than a person of ten years of experience. We were so determined to win that we travel to Phoenix, Arizona, because we wanted to win for sure. The competition at Los Angeles is one of the hardest spots in the United States. We knew we had the best car and one of the best sets of wheels that could used. Through a lot of expense and time our dreams came true. We had the rights to go to the east. The day of the finals came, and racing began. We had won our first three heats and died through each one, knowing that if he would lose won heat he would be eliminated. He was up for the final heat. The winner would win 5000 dollars, the boy that took second would win $4000. & the third winner would win $3000- all in college scholarships, plus several other wonderful prizes. Well, George took second losing by a foot and a half. Every time George went down John & I went right down with him.
Good

This is one of the most interesting reports I've seen. I read it twice. The writer's account of
our own experiences in a casino was excellent. The style is informal and conversational. Overall, a +.

Bad

No Spelling! No Grammar! Very unprofessional.

C+