



Randy Packham en route to fourth-place finish.  
(Photo courtesy of John Larsen)

## Progressively improving

# New Ash racing team busy

By JOHN LARSEN

Since the end of last year's racing season, the Brampton firm of Ash Engineering has been busy making a lot of changes.

A new team, consisting of Randy Packham and Wayne Pinney, has been formed.

Twenty-year-old Packham, the driver, had competed in only three novice races and one Formula Ford event prior to the 1980 season. He started his racing career in karting and was the Canadian National Champion in both 1977 and 1978.

Pinney has managed Formula Fords for 10 years and has been a member of several championship winning teams.

Ash Engineering has constructed an entirely new car to campaign in the 1980 season. Packham and Pinney designed the Ash 80F003 in their Brampton shop during the winter.

The team feels that the advantages of creating their own car, as opposed to purchasing a race-ready car, are far greater. The knowledge and experience that are gained in building, testing and racing this car are overwhelming.

The completion of the Ash car

Motorsport Park, Packham qualified on the pole and led two races from start to finish. In the feature event, he again started from pole position and was leading when the throttle linkage broke only six laps into the race. This resulted in the team's only 'Did Not Finish' this year.

On September 13 and 14 at the Canadian Road Race of Champions held at Mosport, the Ash car could qualify no higher than 15th due to a bothersome misfire. The crew did a valve job on the Ford engine late Saturday.

On Sunday, ast the best Formula Ford competitors from across Canada took to the track, poor weather loomed overhead.

Randy Packham steadily gained on the front-runners from the drop of the green flag. At the end of the second lap, he was running ninth.

Halfway through the race, the clouds gave way and the track became damp. When his rivals were still going at dry weather speeds, which resulted in numerous spins and accidents, Packham drove the Ash car with precision to a well-earned fourth-place finish.

behind a strong effort as spare suspension parts and chassis will be constructed in the Brampton shop.

The series in which Packham and Pinney participate in, is

usually run on both the Mosport and Shannonville tracks. Ash Engineering, however, will run their car in a Formula Ford event held in conjunction with the Grand Prix of Canada at Montreal this weekend.

# SPORTS

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