

PONTIAC PAVEMENT POUNDERS

SHOOTOUT

LONE STAR PART IV: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SOUTHERN RUN FOR HPP CONCLUDES WITH 4 PONCHOS THAT THE CHIEF WOULD BE PROUD OF



BY STEVE BAUR

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It was a southern affair with proper grilling on the barbecue, the sun blazing, and hot Pontiacs burning up the quarter-mile at the Texas Motorplex. If you've been reading the last few issues, you know that we've been bringing you some quick Pontiacs lately and this month is no exception. The *HPP* staff made the most of our track rental in Ennis, Texas, by inviting nearly 25 cars to slice and dice elapsed times, while we snapped the shutters on our cameras. What we have for you this month is the last of the Motorplex madness, but mark our words, these won't be the last Pavement Pounders.

Mark Doyal of Georgetown, Texas, banged the

gears in his Tremec 5-speed-equipped '79 Trans Am, while it was smooth shifting for Tim Fisher of Ft. Worth whose '98 GTP slid down the track gracefully while knocking down mid- to low-13-second elapsed times.

Grace was not in Manhattan, Kansas' Mark Zafron's dictionary, as his big and brawny '67 Firebird belittled the race surface with 10-second times. Representing the late-model musclecar crowd was Brandon Barr of The Colony, Texas. Slammed on the ground with attitude, Brandon's LT1-powered Formula sniffed plenty of giggle gas, which made its trip down the track all the more enjoyable.

The weather was hot, in the low to mid-80s all day with 50-60 percent humidity, but it was the track and not the weather that most of our contestants fought during the day. The track surface was on the slippery side, which left many of the

high-horsepower Pontiacs looking for traction.

Putting together a shootout of such magnitude requires more than just a few magazine staffers, so we'd like to thank the Dallas Area Pontiac Association and members Randy Allen and Bob Cook for helping to organize the event and assisting the *HPP* staff in keeping everything working smoothly throughout the day. We must also thank Kadin Betts and Thom Reaves for manning the grill and providing everyone with hot dogs and hamburgers, as well as Arriba Fire-Roasted Mexican Salsas for providing its products. Lastly, we thank Sewell Pontiac and in particular, Saadallah El Jundi who loaned us a '04 GTP so we would be spared the misfortune of driving a mundane rental car. So here is the final installment of our Lone Star shootout for 2003, but fear not as we have plenty more pavement pounders coming in the future.