

Motorsports Press Association presents 35th annual honors

PLEASANTON, CA, Jan. 10 —At its 35th annual awards banquet at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, the Motor Sports Press Association honored several auto racing participants in Northern California.

Photos of the recipients are alongside this story.

Unable to be present were Gary Scelzi, Drag Racer of the Year Gary Scelzi who was the 1997

NHRA Top Fuel Champion.

Also unable to be present was Hall of Fame inductee Nick Rescino of San Francisco, CA. During his lengthy career Rescino won the 1972 and 1975 driving titles at the ½ mile paved San Jose Speedway. That was followed by the 1980, 1981, 1983, and 1984 driving on the dirt at the San Jose Fairgrounds. Plus, he won the Johnny Key Memorial race six times.



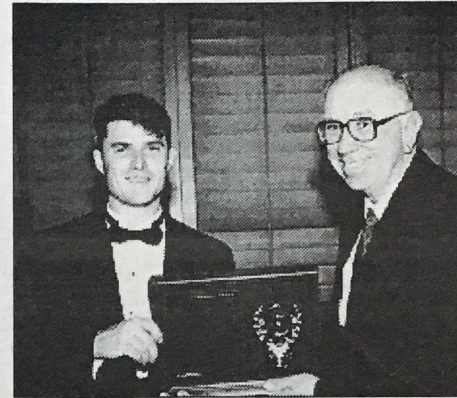
Earning MSPA journalism awards for their 1997 efforts were, from left, Floyd Busby, in Media Specialization; Jim Lautz, electronic-video production; George Hague, automotive feature; Elliott Ness, motorsports feature; and Cody Coleman, color photography.



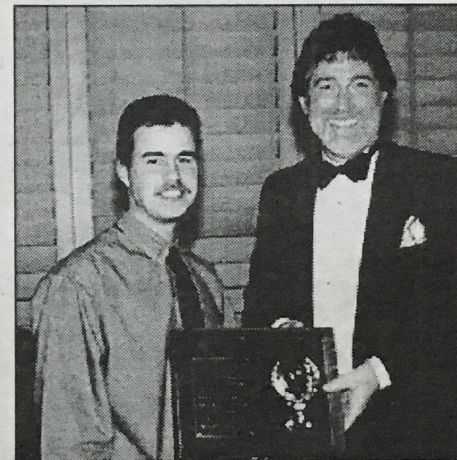
Floyd Albin, San Carlos, CA, at left was named



Hank Butcher, San Leandro, CA, was one of



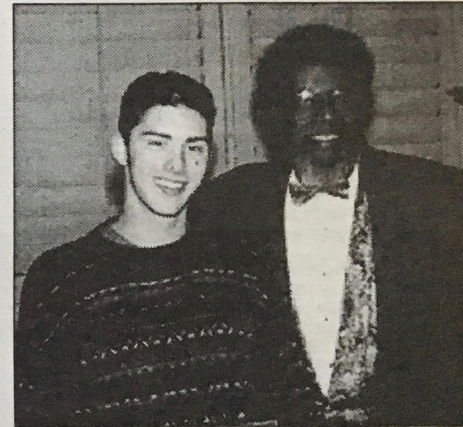
Jeff Glenn, Pleasanton, CA, at left, was honored by the Motor Sports Press Association Jan. 10 as the 1997 Closed Wheel Driver of the Year-Road Course. Making the presentation is *MotoRacing* editor John Kelly. Glenn won the driving championship of the American City Racing League.



Bobby Hogge IV, Salinas, CA, at left, is named the MSPA's Closed Wheel Driver of the Year-Oval Track. Making the presentation is Bill Sessa, Stock Car Racing magazine correspondent. Hogge won the 1997 NASCAR Regional Championship, and was the Watsonville Speedway Grand American Modified Champion.



Mel and Maralyn Hall, at center and right, were named MSPA's Motor Sports Persons of the Year. The Halls operate Twin Cities Speedway in Marysville, CA. They recovered from the winter of 1996-97 which saw their track under six feet of water and went on to promote another successful and becoming community benefactors serving Marysville. Making the presentation is George Hague.



Brent Kaeding was named the MSPA's Open Wheel Driver of the Year-Oval Track. As Kaeding was racing in Australia, his son Bud Kaeding accepted his award presented by Paul Tyler, freelance contributor to *Circle Track* magazine and the San Mateo (CA) *Times*. The senior Kaeding won the 1997 NARC Sprint Car Championship, his 10th; won the 1997 King of California Championship, his ninth; and won the 1997 Speedweek title.