

# Bid to bring back speedway

**SPEEDWAY racing on the East Rand took a spill in the cinders way back in 1958 and is only now making a comeback.**

Support for the sport is fast growing on the East Rand and organisers and sponsors are now looking for a suitable venue in the hope of starting up a league in the Transvaal.

The nearest track is out at Rainbow on the Alberton highway which is used for hotrods, dragsters and speedway.

"We would like to have something more localised to cater for the demand of the East Rand and we shall consider any suggestions or offers," said Mr Ernie Blignaut, one of the organisers trying to get the whole thing into gear.

Mr Blignaut, a former speedway rider for the Springs Stars, added:

"Ideally we are looking for a raceway with a circumference of approximately 400 m and facilities such as toilets."

Basically a sport for the younger bloods of the community, he said even those who were perhaps now too old to ride themselves, but who remembered the spills and thrills when Springs still had the cinder raceway at Olympia Park, had offered their full support.

Speedway racing, which once had the potential to become a

really popular sport in South Africa, was stalled in its prime by two main factors.

One was that at the time there were not enough riders for outlying districts in the league and so riders from other teams raced for them, subsequently to find they were often competing against their teammates.

The other factor, according to Mr Blignaut was the arrival of Australian ace, Trevor Redman, who bought himself a highly competent team of riders from various league stables around South Africa to set up in opposition to South African Buddy Fuller and from here on speedway puttered slowly to a standstill.

Buddy Fuller did eventually start the sport up again by opening the Dunswart Raceway and then moved to Durban to manage the King's Park Raceway. Since then a few tracks have sprung up periodically around the country.

If a venue is established in Springs the sport will be run under the auspices of the Automobile Association, but until then organisers are on the lookout for suitable site.

If anyone does have any ideas or offers they are requested to contact Mr Ernie Blignaut at 812-2226/7/8.



*There is a strong following of speedway enthusiasts building up in Springs who would like to see a revival of the sport and perhaps a raceway track set up in Springs. Here are the Springs Stars as they used to be when speedway was in its prime on the East Rand from left, back row: Josey Punto, Ernie Blignaut, Roy Bester, (one of the internationals whose name has been lost in the archives), Doug Davies and Fred Fotheringham. Front left: Dave Naude, the team mascot, Tony Edwards.*

#### FACTUAL LINE-UP:

D.Naude, E.Blignaut, R.Bester, N.Nichols, D.Davies, C.Raats; knlg: F.Fotheringham, mascot, Tony Edwards.