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Tuesday July 25, 2006

**Local Sports**

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# Holland native racing for spot on TV show

*Votes from fans can send Marc Miller into NASCAR Busch Series ride*

Marc Miller called it was "a thrill" to race in front of a large crowd last weekend when 75,000 fans packed the stands for the Edmonton Grand Prix in Alberta, Canada.

Now Miller, the only American driver on the CASCAR circuit, Canada's version of NASCAR, hopes a lot of those fans, as well as people in Holland, will support him in a new reality show.

Miller has made an initial cut for the television show "Racin' For A Livin'."

The premise is simple: JVI Productions has compiled a list of "rookie" drivers who will compete for the top spot, a seat in a car to drive in NASCAR's Busch Series next summer.

Miller, a Holland native, has been named as one of 21 "Wild Card" selections, with the top five vote-getters there becoming part of the series that will be taped sometime this fall. Miller needs your votes to get one of those five spots.

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Miller

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As of Monday afternoon, Miller was eighth in the Wild Card voting. While he missed opportunities to stump for votes last week as he was in Canada prepping for the race in Edmonton, he's back home now and is pumping up the publicity machine for his future.

A lack of funding currently only allows Miller to race part-time on the CASCAR circuit, but he would like to get a full-time seat.

Being on this show, even if he doesn't win, would give him some valuable seat time as well as visibility in front of the judges, a group of NASCAR veterans.

In two races so far this season, Miller has been the victim of bad luck rather than bad driving.

In the Edmonton Grand Prix on Saturday, Miller finished 13th, but he said he had a Top 10, perhaps a Top 5 car.

"I was up to 10th when the first caution flag came out, then I was up to sixth when another guy decided he was going to race me through a turn where there really wasn't a lot of room," Miller said. "He pushed me off, but when I got back on the track I moved up to fourth before track officials ruled that I had gone four wheels off (the track) and used that to advance my track position.

"They made me do a stop-and-go through the pits and that knocked me back to 24th, but I got back up to 13th by the time the race ended. I got a lot of quality seat time and I finished the race on the lead lap, so that was good.

"Those are tough calls to make," Miller said, "but I believe it was the wrong call. I was leading the guy going into the turn and I've got the rubber on the side of my car, his front tire just in front of my rear tire, to prove it."

Miller didn't have much better luck in his first race at Mosport International Raceway in Bowmanville, Ont. He qualified 17th and had worked his way up to sixth place before he broke the rear axle on the 34th lap of 51 scheduled.

"Six seems to be an unlucky number for me ... in both races I've gotten up to sixth place when something bad happened," Miller said. "Maybe I'll have better luck in our next race (the Grand Prix of Trois Rivieres in Montreal the weekend of Aug. 4-6)."

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