

# SPORTS

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## Felton to add Vintage Cup race to varied resume

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WATKINS GLEN — If you are a serious race fan, and want to converse with someone who knows about different types of race cars, the person to chat with is Atlanta native Gene Felton.

Why?

He has driven IMSA GTO cars.

NASCAR cars.

Trans-Am cars.

American Challenge cars.

Felton also co-piloted a car with NASCAR driver Sterling Marlin in the 1990 Banquet Challenge Firehawk Endurance race last August.

How much experience does Felton have?

He was the 1976 AAC Mechanic of the Year and has 45 career AAC wins.

The guy is a virtual walking encyclopedia

of race cars.

"I've pretty much driven everything with four wheels," he said.

How many different cars has Felton, a four-time AAC (All-American Challenge) champion, climbed into the cockpit of?



**Watkins Glen**

"It would be tough to tell you how many cars," he said. "More years than I'd like to count."

Felton will race in the Watkins Glen Vintage Grand Prix this weekend at Watkins Glen International, featuring the Formula 1 Reunion.

Felton, who participated in Thursday's practice session, is glad to be back at the

Glen. "This is always a fun place to come back to," he said. "The competition is always stiff in this type of racing."

Felton, who started racing in 1964, will drive a 1966 Mustang GT 350 in the Group 6 race. Group 6 racers will qualify Saturday at 2:25 p.m., Their race is scheduled for Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

"It is running good," he said. "We are always looking to go faster and we have a few tricks up our sleeves. We're ahead of where we were at this time last year, so we are happy."

Of all the cars he has driven, Felton's favorite are Sedans. "Being from down south, I grew up watching stock cars," he said. "I've driven some stock cars myself, I've driven on dirt, asphalt and in Winston Cup. I guess it is because I grew up with Sedans. It was just a natural thing to do."

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Felton competed in the NASCAR circuit in 1976.

"I'm not claiming to be a NASCAR driver," he said.

"But, I have had some experience, just to know that those guys are great at what they do, and I respect them."

Felton has been around a while, and hopes he isn't going anywhere soon.

"As long as my hands and my feet move, I plan to compete in racing," he said.

"Or as such a time where I can't be competitive, and of course, I'll know it is time to quit then.

"I don't think I've slowed down any," he continued.

"Age is just something that is on your birth certificate."