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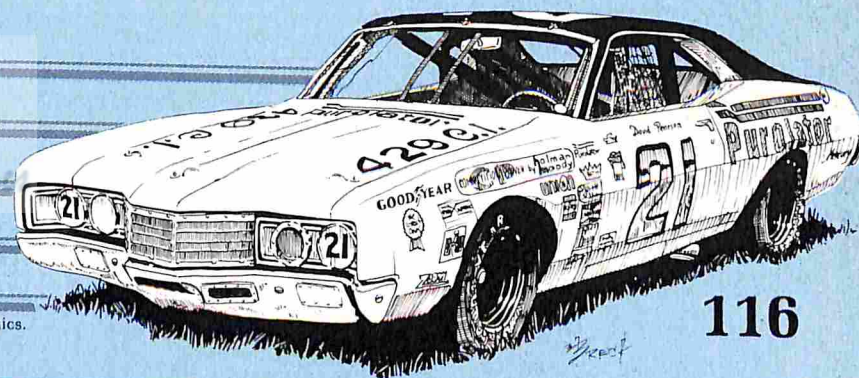
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COVER: One of the most talked-about cars of the new Grand National season is Harry Ranier's '85 Hardee's Thunderbird, built under the direction of Waddell Wilson and driven by Cale Yarborough. Mike Slade shot the new 'Bird at Charlotte Motor Speedway just hours after the car was completed and the paint had dried. For a closer look at this Ford, turn to page 52.

The '84 season was an exciting year in all areas of oval track racing, and we've got a wrapup of it all in this issue, including all the big-name personalities. Ala Cagati photographed both Richard Petty and Mario Andretti for our cover, and Bob Applegate and Big John Estopell caught Dick Trickle and Steve Kinser in action, respectively.

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