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"LITTLE GEM".. QM PYLON CHAMP

Austin Leftwich's winning QM racer is a converted Sig "Doubler" kit. By BRAD SHEPHERD.

● When the "DOUBLER" was in the developing stages some 7 years ago, as a combination model for sport flying and a small pylon racer, it was hardly envisioned by this 'feller' who dreamed it up that it would eventually become the World Champion Quarter Midget racer . . . not once, but three times, in the hands of one of the foremost pylon racing devotees in the country.

Austin Leftwich has used the converted DOUBLER "Little Gem" since winning his first World Championship for Quarter Midget Racers at Mentor, Ohio in 1969. Since that time, he has won two more World Champs, and a host of other trophies, using the same model refined to the degree shown on this conversion drawing.

We would like to quote a few things from Austin's most recent letter:

"Because of my successes with the design, and also because it is so easy to build (and fly), there are 8 other active competitors here in Atlanta who compete with them. Five of them are novices who wanted very much to compete in the event, but were unsuccessful in trying to master the race course with some of the strictly Quarter Midget design kits on the market. Every one of them has managed to compete successfully with his version of the Little Gem.

"The enclosed sketch (incorporated in the drawing) has been distributed widely throughout the Southeast and there have been 30 to 40 Little Gem's produced from it. There were 17 Quarter

Midget events in 1973 within 350 miles of Atlanta. I managed to compete in 8 of these meets, Gail Jacobsen (Assoc. VP SCE for Quarter Midgets) was flying a Little Gem and was either 2nd, 3rd or 4th."

My sincere thanks to Austin for his assistance in helping me prepare this conversion drawing. The record of wins speaks for itself . . . an inexpensive kit, a little imagination and who knows, you might even make the 'Champ' hustle a little harder. From the correspondence we've had over the past 4 years, he would like nothing better. He's a real great 'sportsman' and competitor who wants all modelers to get the same enjoyment he receives from the hobby. I tip my hat to him. ●

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