



MARCH 20, 2017

FastTrack

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

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Droughts End in Phoenix Desert



Ryan Newman Makes Late Pit Stop Work

Justin Allgaier Double Dips with Win and Dash 4 Cash in Phoenix



Message Received

There were 17 pit road speeding penalties issued by NASCAR in the first two races, and just five in the last two.

Consider it message received.

A heavy right foot has been especially costly for Kevin Harvick and Joey Logano. Harvick gave away what

should have been a dominating victory at the Atlanta Motor Speedway when he was ticketed on his final stop. And on Sunday, Joey Logano led 82 of the first 122 laps at the Phoenix International Raceway before he triggered a red light on NASCAR's radar gun.

Logano went from first to last and he never recovered. Late tire failure eventually sent him to a 31st-place finish.

"Got a pit road penalty and it was hard to get back up there," Logano said.

Harvick's mistake was even bigger. After leading 292 laps, often by more than 100 yards, Harvick was forced to move to the back of the field during the final restart after being nailed with 13 laps to go. Although he passed five cars in the final 10 laps, he still only finished ninth.

"It's my own doing," Harvick said.

His late-race mistake clearly had a huge effect on last Sunday's outcome, it paled in comparison of other costly gaffes.

David Ragan gave away the 2011 Daytona 500 when he restarted with the lead with seven laps to go. He moved his car from the top lane to the bottom a few feet before taking the green flag at the starting line, which led to a black flag – and an eventual 14th-place finish after he served a drive-through penalty down pit road.

Trevor Bayne surprisingly inherited the lead for what became one of the most-surprising wins in Daytona history.

Sterling Marlin also earned his place in the Daytona blooper reel in 2002. All cars were parked on the backstretch during a red-flag period following a crash, and Marlin, the race leader, used the opportunity to get out and pull the right-front fender away from his tire. He ap-

parently forgot it was illegal to make repairs under the red flag.

The penalty elevated Ward Burton to another unlikely Daytona win.

But no mental malfunction was bigger than Mark Martin's Xfinity Series race in 1994 at the Bristol Motor Speedway. He was leading during a caution flag on the final lap when he pulled off the track and into Victory Lane thinking the race was over.

There still was one lap remaining.

"I can't believe anyone could be that stupid," Martin said at the time.



DON COBLE

Other late-race missteps include:

- Juan Pablo Montoya led 116 of 160 laps in 2009 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, but he lost the win with a speeding penalty;

- Marcos Ambrose turned his engine off at the Sonoma Raceway in 2010 to save gas with seven laps remaining, only to have trouble getting it restarted. By the time he got the engine going, he was back in sixth place.

Now that NASCAR's made it clear there's very little gray area when it comes to enforcing its rules. And that's got many teams recalculating their strategies.

"We will have to look at our math and figure out what was going on there," Jimmie Johnson said after getting ticketed twice in Atlanta last Sunday. "The first one, I'm sure I could have gotten popped. The second one I made sure I didn't get popped again and I still got in trouble. So, we might have had something off on our end."

Matt Kenseth also got caught twice at Atlanta.

"We just sped on pit road there some – all our lights were right, so I don't know," he said. "We must have – something happened there and that got us behind."

Then we were trying to get caught up and it happened again, so we just had to forget about our indications, just go real slow down pit road and finally came back from it all."

Brad Keselowski won when Harvick was sent to the back. He said everyone is trying to cut as many corners as possible, even if it comes with the risk of getting caught.

"You've got to run right to the limit. Sometimes you're going to go over," he said. "I thought a couple



Joey Logano's pit crew work their magic, but Logano was penalized for coming into the pits too fast and went from first to last in the race at Phoenix International Raceway Sunday. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

times today I might have gone over. I knew it was close. But that's what we do. That's what makes us competitors is trying to find every limit, every opportunity. The opportunity is at the margin, and it's at the limit."

NASCAR lets teams see where

speed traps are positioned on pit road, and they encourage everyone to make their calculations during practice sessions.

And since the sanctioning body doesn't issue any warnings, everyone is paying greater attention.

Consider it message received.

Welcome 2017 Race Fans!

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ON THE COVER:

MONSTER ENERGY NASCAR CUP SERIES - GETTY IMAGES

NASCAR XFINITY - MATT THACKER/NKP

The Way It Should Be

Last year, NASCAR announced new participation rules for its three national series, limiting the number of XFINITY and Camping World Truck Series races that full-time drivers in the Monster Energy Cup Series will be allowed to compete in during the 2017 season.

The guidelines announced limit Cup drivers with more than five years' full-time experience to a maximum of ten races in the XFINITY Series and seven events in the Camping World Truck Series. The new parameters also prohibit Monster Energy Cup drivers with that experience level from participating in those two series final eight events of the year – the regular-season finale and the seven-race playoff for both circuits. Also, the same restrictions apply for the Cup drivers and the XFINITY Series Dash 4 Cash races.

I have been preaching for years that the rules for Cup drivers racing in the XFINITY and CWTS levels of NASCAR should be revised. And, this rule change late last year is not the first step in that direction. Prior to the 2011 season, NASCAR mandated that drivers select one of the three major series in which they would receive championship points. That rule change ended a reign of Cup drivers clinching the title as full-time double-dippers in the XFINITY Series.

Last Saturday at Phoenix International Raceway, the first true test of this new guideline was evident. The DC Solar 200 was run without Monster Energy Cup drivers like Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick, Brad Keselowski, Joey Logano, Dale Earnhardt Jr., or Kasey Kahne in the starting field. It should be noted that the DC Solar 200 was the first of four XFINITY Series Dash 4 Cash events this season as well.

Now before you get too excited and write a letter to the editor, I realize that several full-time Monster Energy Cup Series drivers did compete in the Phoenix XFINITY race. However, Austin Dillon, Ryan Blaney, Ty Dillon, Erik Jones, and Daniel Suarez all have fewer than

five years of full-time Cup Series experience. Therefore, the new guidelines do not apply for these competitors. The same applies for Kyle Larson, Chase Elliott, or other Cup drivers with less than five years Cup experience.



DENNIS PUNCH

As I sat and watched the DC Solar 200 from Phoenix last Saturday, I couldn't help but reflect on just what I was viewing - an actual XFINITY Series race! From start to finish, the race was competitive. There were battles for position from the lead back through the pack. There was not one driver leading all but three laps in a dominating, somewhat boring victory. I actually watched a race among XFINITY Series drivers. I know that there were Cup drivers racing, but, based on their age and experience level, they were XFINITY-like drivers too.

Justin Allgaier won his first race of the 2017 season and captured the \$100,000 Dash 4 Cash bonus in the process. But, as I look at the results of the race, I couldn't help but smile. Second through tenth were Ryan Blaney, Erik Jones, William Byron, Elliott Sadler, Darrell Wallace Jr., Daniel Hemric, Brennan Poole, Michael Annett, and Ty Dillon. Then, look at the next five finishers – Ryan Reed, Matt Tifft, Blake Koch, Tyler Reddick, and Brendon Jones. All, except Sadler, young, talented drivers in the be-

ginning stages of their NASCAR careers. Many have worked their way through the NASCAR ladder system, racing in Late Models, Regional Touring Series, and the Camping World Truck Series. In short, the DC Solar 200 was what the XFINITY Series was meant to be.

Now, I'm sure there will be race fans who did not enjoy not seeing their favorite Monster Energy Cup Series driver dominate the XFINITY race and win by half a lap. But, if they are truly fans of our sport, the competition and action throughout the field from start to finish was great racing. In fact, it gave those of us who follow the sport on a regular basis a glimpse of what a future Monster Energy Cup Series race may look like.

Another interesting part of the Phoenix XFINITY race was the new Dash 4 Cash format this year. When NASCAR announced their new format for races in the top three levels, the Dash 4 Cash program had to take a new look as well. With each race now being run in three stages, it made sense to incorporate the Dash 4 Cash format into that program. Their new format for the four Dash 4 Cash races would be the top two eligible drivers in each of the first two stages of a race would compete in the final stage for the \$100,000 bonus. The highest finisher among those four drivers would win the bonus money. If a driver wins two Dash 4 Cash bonus prizes, it would equal a race win in terms of playoff eligibility. Plus, should a driver win all four Dash 4 Cash prizes, XFINITY will award him an additional \$600,000

bonus. Therefore, Justin Allgaier has an opportunity, should he win the remaining three Dash \$ Cash bonuses, to earn a cool \$1 million payout from XFINITY. I believe this is a much-needed program for the XFINITY Series, and I think the format used for eligibility gives more XFINITY teams an opportunity to win one or more prizes. The remaining Dash 4 Cash races are Bristol (4/22), Richmond (4/29), and Dover (6/2).

I applaud NASCAR and XFINITY for their new programs, formats, and eligibility. While NASCAR is limiting Cup drivers with five years or more full-time experience rule, they do have a structure set allowing them to compete. Cup drivers may race in a maximum of ten XFINITY and seven Camping World Truck Series events. Basically, that means Busch, Harvick, Earnhardt, Jr., etc... can race in ten of the 21 remaining events, four of which are stand-alone races. In the Camping World Truck Series, after eliminating the playoff races, there are still 16 races where they could compete, five of which are stand-alone.

Bottom line is the race fans actually get the best of both worlds. They get to see their Cup favorites race in ten (or seven) races during the 2017 season in either XFINITY or CWTS. Plus, they get to see the XFINITY regulars battle among themselves for the Dash 4 Cash bonuses and their championship playoff. Same holds true for the Truck Series. It's a very good balance for the competitors and the race fans. It's not perfect yet, but it's getting closer.



Austin Dillon (2) and race winner Justin Allgaier (7) battle for the lead in Phoenix. (BRIAN LAWDER-MILK/GETTY IMAGES photo)

Ryan Newman Breaks Drought with Late-Race Strategy

By REID SPENCER
AVONDALE, AZ -
When the winner of Sunday's Camping World 500 was announced, officials might have thought for a moment that they got the wrong envelope, a la Warren Beatty at the Oscars.

But, no, there was no mistake. Ryan Newman was the unexpected winner of the fourth Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race of the season after a late caution gave his No. 31 Richard Childress Racing team the chance to break a

drought dating to 2013.

Staying out on old tires for a two-lap overtime run at Phoenix International Raceway, Newman pulled away when eventual fourth-place finisher Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (who stayed out during the final caution) and runner-up Kyle Larson (who pitted for two tires) got together in the first corner after the final restart on Lap 313.

Newman's 18th career victory was his second at Phoenix but his first since he won the Brickyard 400 on July 28, 2013, driving for Stewart-Haas Racing. The win was RCR's first since Kevin Harvick took the checkered flag on Nov. 10, 2013 at Phoenix before departing for Stewart-Haas the following year.

"I've lost count—that's how long it's been," Newman said of a winless streak that had reached 127 races. "What a gutsy call by (crew chief) Luke (Lambert). I called for two tires, and he called for none."

"I've won more races with no tires than I have with four. I'm just proud of these guys. We had a good car all day. We kept it out of trouble and collected in the end."

Lambert entered the media center for his post-race interview with the words, "I'm a relieved individual," a sentiment Newman clearly shared.

"It's sweet for so many reasons,"

Newman said. "This is the longest drought I've ever had. A hard-fought battle, a hard-fought race, a hard-fought four years."

Newman led a trio who stayed on the track after polesitter Joey Logano's blown right front tire sent his No. 22 Ford into the Turn 1 wall to cause the eighth and final restart of the afternoon. Stenhouse and Martin Truex Jr. restarted on old tires in second and third, respectively, with Larson in fourth place in the outside lane with fresh rubber on the right side of his No. 42 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet.

Larson liked his position—until he and Stenhouse collided in Turn 1.

"I knew we were in the best spot," said Larson, who finished second for the third straight race and for the fourth time in five events. "Just, yeah, turned across Ricky's nose and got sideways, killed both of our runs off of (Turn) 2, and allowed Newman to get out on us. ..."

"Hindsight is always 20/20, but I should have went a lane up in (Turns) 1 and 2. I should have known to just stay close to Newman. That's what I wish I would have done."

Larson, who took over the series lead, crossed the finish line .312 seconds behind Newman. Kyle Busch ran third, followed by Stenhouse, Brad Keselowski, and Harvick. Daniel Suarez and Erik Jones came home seventh and eighth, respectively, each scoring a career-first top 10 in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series.

The caution for Logano's blown tire, the result of a melted bead,

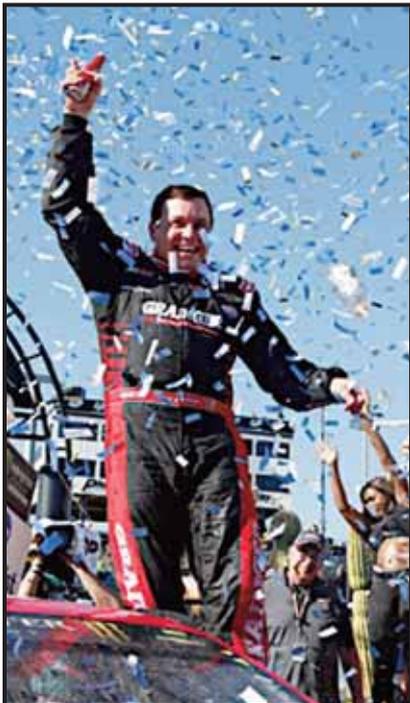
stopped Busch's march to Victory Lane. The driver of the No. 18 Toyota had a lead of nearly three seconds over Larson when Logano hit the wall.

"Right on time," Busch said sarcastically, after the yellow flag was displayed with five laps left.

Told it was for Logano—with whom Busch came to blows last week after a last-lap wreck at Las Vegas—Busch said, "Trust me—I know."

Busch restarted fifth (from the inside lane) for the final two-lap run and got bottled up behind Larson and Stenhouse.

"We really needed the outside like Larson had," Busch said after the race. "Overall, we should be proud of our run today and we will move on."



Above: Ryan Newman celebrates in PIR's victory lane. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo) Below: Ryan Newman, driver of the #31 Grainger Chevrolet, takes the lead on the final restart of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Camping World 500. (SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES photo)

Justin Allgaier Perseveres to Win NASCAR XFINITY Race in Phoenix

By REID SPENCER
AVONDALE, AZ - Justin Allgaier popped a tire during his celebratory burnout after Saturday's DC Solar 200 at Phoenix International Raceway.

But you can forgive the driver of the No. 7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet if he was a trifle rusty with his donuts—Allgaier hadn't been to Victory Lane in the NASCAR XFINITY Series since August in 2012 at the road course in Montreal.

On a blistering afternoon that brought emotions to a boil at the one-mile race track in the Sonoran Desert, Allgaier sailed away with a magnificent restart with four laps left and finished .741 seconds ahead of runner-up Ryan Blaney, who started 33rd after inspection issues kept him off the grid during qualifying earlier in the day.

"You have no idea how proud I am of you," Allgaier radioed to his team after he crossed the finish line and broke an 80-race drought.

After climbing from the car, Allgaier began to digest what he had just accomplished, not the least of which was claiming the \$100,000

bonus in the first Dash 4 Cash race of the season. The victory was Allgaier's fourth in the series.

"Last year was tough," Allgaier said of a winless 2016, his first year with JRM. "We had really good runs all year but we weren't able to get to Victory Lane. This was the same group of guys we had last year, and to be able to do it here in Phoenix and win the first Xfinity Dash 4 Cash race..."

"This is a team effort. We had four really good JR Motorsports hot rods out there."

In fact, with polesitter William Byron running fourth and series leader Elliott Sadler coming home fifth, JRM put three cars in the top five and four in the top nine (with Michael Annett finishing ninth).

With 10 laps left, contact from Cole Custer's Ford sent Austin Dillon's No. 2 Chevrolet hard into the outside wall, collecting Ryan Sieg's Chevrolet in the process. After caution flew on Lap 191, Dillon rode Custer's car into the outside wall, earning a summons to the NASCAR hauler for Dillon and crew chief Justin Alexander.

"He over-drove the corner and took us out with it," Dillon said after exiting the infield care center.



Justin Allgaier starts his celebration in Phoenix's victory lane after winning the DC Solar 200 and the \$100,000 Dash 4 Cash. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

Dillon wasn't particularly apprehensive about the meeting with NASCAR.

"We'll probably just have a Coke and discuss things," he said optimistically.

Custer took full responsibility for the incident.

"It was 100-percent my fault," said the Sunoco rookie driver. "I got in there too deep, got really loose going in and couldn't put any wheel into it. That was pretty much it. Just all my fault. Something that won't happen again. We had a great race leading up to that.

"We didn't start out at all how we

wanted to, but by the end we were probably a fifth- to eighth-place car. I thought that was a really good sign for us. I thought we had a really good Haas Automation Ford.

It's unfortunate I cost us and the 2 car there."

Under the circumstances, Custer wasn't surprised at Dillon's retaliation.

"It definitely sucks for us points-wise, but I guess you can kind of expect that when he gets taken out," Custer said. "I can understand how frustrated he is about it. It is what it is. I will try not to have that happen again."



Race winner Justin Allgaier finishes up his victory burnout with a blown tire and fender damage to his #7 Brandt Camaro. (RUSSELL LABOUNTY/NKP photo)

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SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017



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Solomito Charges Late for Myrtle Beach Win

First Winner for Newly Unified Whelen Modified Tour

MYRTLE BEACH, SC - One year ago, Timmy Solomito captured his first career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory in the season-opening Icebreaker at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motor-sports Park.

Fast-forward a year later, the Islip, New York, driver was celebrating a victory in the season-opening race once again. This time, the win came in South Carolina.

Solomito captured the win in the Performance Plus 150 presented by Safety-Kleen on Saturday at another historic venue, the half-mile Myrtle Beach Speedway, and became the first winner on the newly formed unified Whelen Modified Tour.

Solomito's No. 16 Starrett Tools Ford took the lead for the final time following a late-race caution that setup the final restart and held off Rob Summers on a green-white-checked finish to take down the victory. The win was Solomito's fifth career on the tour after his breakthrough 2016.

"My team did a great job," said Solomito. "We knew we had to ride and save our stuff as much as possible for the end of the race. I knew the last five laps we had to run as hard as possible and my team gave me a car good enough to do that."

Rob Summers, who scored his first Coors Light Pole Award since 2001 earlier in the day, led a race-high 72 laps but came up just short of the victory with a second place finish behind the wheel of his No. 64 Fastrock Electric Chevrolet.

Andy Seuss made a late charge to finish third after spinning just after the halfway point. Ryan Preece was also able to climb to the front late and finish fourth, with Max Zachem rounding out the top five.

Justin Bonsignore was sixth, followed by Rowan Pennink – who led 38 laps – Woody Pitkat, Les Hinckley III and Burt Myers.

The race was slowed by eight cautions, with four coming in the final 30 laps, including one on Lap 145 and a subsequent one on Lap 148 that winnowed the field and took out several contenders. The

final yellow pushed the race to 155 laps.

In the offseason, NASCAR unified the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour into one tour that stretches from New Hampshire to South Carolina.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns to the track at Thompson for the Icebreaker 150 on Sunday, April 2.

Eggleston Victorious At Tucson Speedway

Earns First K&N Pro West Win of 2017 After A Late Race Pass

TUCSON, AZ - It was a back-and-forth battle all day, but Chris Eggleston came out on top at Tucson Speedway.

Leading 80 of 150 laps in the NAPA Auto Parts Tucson 150, Eggleston beat pole-sitter and defending NASCAR K&N Pro Series West champion, Todd Gilliland, to the line to take his sixth career NASCAR K&N Pro Series West victory with his No. 99 NAPA Filters Toyota.

The 27-year-old from Erie, Colorado native, said he stepped up his game for the second half of the event and is grateful to start the 2017 season off in Victory Lane after a doubtful off-season.



Chris Eggleston kicked-off the 2017 with a bang, earning the first win of the season and the chance to win the NAPA 500 Challenge bonus. (Chris Coduto/NASCAR via Getty Images photo)



Timmy Solomito opened the 2017 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season in Victory Lane following the Performance Plus 150 at Myrtle Beach (S.C.) Speedway on Saturday. (Adam Glanzman/NASCAR photo)

In a way, the same can be said for second-place finisher Gilliland. Leading a total of 70 laps throughout the night, the 16-year-old from Sherrills Ford, North Carolina, and his No. 16 NAPA Auto Parts Toyota held off the pack on numerous late restarts to bring it home in the runner-up position for the second straight year at Tucson. The result also continues a streak of nine consecutive top-10 finishes for the NASCAR Next driver.

One of the drivers Gilliland had

to hold off was 20-year-old Garrett Archer. In only his second K&N West start, the Maple Valley, Washington, driver jumped his No. 27 Recruit 4 Business Ford to the outside lane on the final restart, advancing from sixth to second until Gilliland re-passed him for the spot. Still, a third-place result is a positive way to kick off the year, he says.

In what was a relatively clean night of racing, there were still a handful of single-car spins that halted the action. Salvatore Iovino, who spun in final practice earlier in the day, continued to struggle with the car's handling, losing his No. 38 Infinite Wireless Chevrolet on three occasions in the 150-lapper.

He was not the only one, as Riley Herbst and Rich DeLong III also lost their cars on each end of the track.

On the positive end, Zane Smith came home with a top-five finish in fourth followed by Will Rodgers in fifth, while Derek Kraus, Brandon Schilling, Kody Vanderwal and Nicole Behar rounded out top 10.

Eggleston's victory at Tucson, also put him in the position to win \$100,000. As a part of the NAPA 500 Challenge, should a driver win all four races, they will take home the steep money bonus.

The NASCAR K&N Pro Series West will be back in action for race two of the NAPA 500 Challenge Thursday, March 23 at California's Kern County Raceway Park.



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Farrington Poised To Continue PASS Title Run At Orange County

CHARLOTTE, NC - In his young career, Maine's Dave Farrington, Jr. has found quite a bit of success racing locally in his home state. The 24-year-old is a race winner and champion at Beech Ridge Motor Speedway in Maine and has been a consistent front runner competing

in a limited schedule of ACT Late Model events in recent years. But now, thanks in part to an offseason shoulder surgery for former series champion, Jay Fogleman, and an unfortunate snowmobile accident for Trevor Sanborn, Farrington will team with the Woodman Racing team to compete for both the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) National and South Super Late Model championships. The duos next race together will be the upcoming Orange Blossom Special at Orange County Speedway on Saturday, March 25.

"We watched Dave race last year with PASS at Concord and again this season at Dillon in his own car and we were impressed with how he gets the most out of his equipment," said car owner, Dick Woodman. "We contacted Dave

and tested at Hickory a few weeks ago and that went real well. We have always been fortunate to have real good drivers in our cars, blue collar guys, who grew up racing and want to race until they are old and gray, and Dave fits that mold."

For Farrington, it is the opportunity of a lifetime. A chance to still compete in his family-owned cars in New England, while joining the Woodmans and sponsors Energy Dynamics, Cribbs Creek Outfitters and Plants Seafood, for a chance at two of the biggest titles in Super Late Model racing.

"I can't thank Dickie and Becky [Woodman] enough for giving me a shot," says Farrington. "I've never really had a chance to just show up at a race track and just drive. It's a new experience to not be turning the wrenches and making all the adjustments. I believe it'll lead to great communication and a solid team effort with the Woodman Racing team. We anticipate running about 30 races this season between our car and the Woodman Racing car and I can't thank them enough for their support."

While it is a great chance to showcase his talent, Farrington knows it will not be easy competing in the south on tracks he has never

even seen before. At Dillon in his own machine, he finished sixth against some of the best talent Super Late Model racing has to offer. But a mechanical problem at Southern National in his first effort with the Woodman team did not produce the result they feel was deserved.

Now, Farrington heads to Orange County, again against the best of the best in Super Late Model racing, for a race that is doubly important to both the PASS National Championship and PASS South Super Late Model title.

"It's a positive feeling knowing that Woodman Racing has had prior success at Orange County and we will certainly make every effort to win there," says Farrington. "I make it a priority to familiarize myself with these tracks by watching both on board cameras and from a fan's perspective. We hope to put the bad luck behind us from Southern National and have a very good run at Orange County and then continue on to Hickory."

In addition to the PASS South championship, the Orange Blossom Special will serve as the first race on the "Road To The Oxford 250," with the winner receiving a guaranteed starting spot in the \$25,000 to win race coming up in August.

4-time PASS National champion, Ben Rowe, is in contention once again, along with former PASS South champions, Matt Craig, Tate Fogleman and Tyler

Church. Other National Championship contenders that have entered so far include Spencer Davis, Kodie Conner, Sarah Cornett-Ching, Derek Griffith, Tanner Thorson, and JP Josiasse.

Action gets under way on Friday, March 24 for the "Original" Orange Blossom Special with rotating practice from 3 - 6 PM for the PASS Super Late Models, Southern Modified Racing Series Tour Mods, and USAC Eastern Midgets. On Saturday, March 25, pit gates open at 11 AM, with rotating practice for from 1 - 3:30 PM, qualifying at 4 PM, the Pit Party at 5:45 PM and feature racing set to begin at 7 PM.

Entry forms for the Orange Blossom Special, along with the 44th Annual Oxford 250 and upcoming events at Thompson Speedway, Hickory Motor Speedway, Oxford Plains Speedway and Beech Ridge Motor Speedway, can be found at ProAllStarsSeries.com. The 2017 license forms for the PASS Super Late Models are also available at ProAllStarsSeries.com.

Drivers purchasing licenses for the 2017 season will receive bonus points for each race they are pre-registered for and will also save money towards any events that they enter early.

Please visit ProAllStarsSeries.com for more information and don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

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Bristol Super Late Model Lock In Berth on the Line at Dominion Raceway

MOORESVILLE, NC - The 2017 CARS Tour season opener at Concord Speedway introduced several new formats to the series that included knockout qualifying and live pit stops. These new formats created excitement and unknowns throughout the weekend, but the CARS Tour competitors will witness a completely different format the next time they take the track.

The River City QDMA Duels at Dominion pres. by Virginia Is For Lovers on March 25th will be the first of three races in which the CARS Tour will use a duel-race format for the Super Late Model and Late Model Stock Car divisions. An event that would normally be 150 laps for both series will be divided into two back-to-back 75-lap fea-

tures, and will be accompanied by a single car qualifying format with no live pit stops. The CARS Tour will also use the duel-race format at Hickory Motor Speedway (May 6) and Myrtle Beach Speedway (September 16).

While the Late Model Stock Car Tour drivers will approach Dominion Raceway as they would any other race, there is added pressure for the Super Late Model drivers. The Duels at Dominion will act as a lock-in race for the Short Track U.S. Nationals at Bristol Motor Speedway for the Super Late Model drivers, with the highest average finisher for both races earning an automatic bid into the inaugural event. The increased stakes and duel-race format at Dominion have forced many SLM competitors to adjust their strategy for the upcoming event.

"I'm excited about the duel race format," said SLM competitor Gus Dean. "It's definitely going to be dif-

ferent. It's going to be a balance between conserving your stuff for the first race to be able to run the second, but you also want those points. I think the biggest battle will be deciding when to push and when to conserve."

Although Dean does not plan on running in the U.S. Nationals, he believes that the prize of a locked-in position at Bristol will lead to excitement for both fans and competitors. Other drivers, like part-time SLM competitor Spencer Davis, have expressed concerns over the duel-race format.

"I don't really like the idea of the twin races," said Davis. "People have tried to run them before and it never really works out. It gives excitement for the fans, but at the end of the day, you're here to race. There should only be one race winner, not two."

Dominion Raceway itself will also provide an interesting test for the drivers, as it is a new addition to the 2017 schedule, as well as one of the youngest speedways in the United States. Completed in 2016 as a replacement to Old Dominion Speedway, the track has only hosted one major touring rac-

ing event during its short history, which was a K&N Pro Series race on May 30, 2016. Davis won that race, and which featured several CARS Tour alumni that include Christian Eckes and Harrison Burton.

The SLM duel races are expected to attract several local short track racers who are seeking an opportunity to earn a guaranteed spot at Bristol. Among them will be Virginia native Quin Houff, who is coming off his first superspeedway start at Daytona in the ARCA series, and who will be making his Xfinity Series debut later in the year. The lock-in race for LMSC will be the Catawba Valley 300 at Hickory Motor Speedway on May 6th.

For more information on the CARS Late Model Stock Tour and the CARS Super Late Model Tour, visit www.carsracingtour.com. Be sure to stay active and social with the tour by liking "CARS Tour" on Facebook, following @CARSTour on Twitter, and scrolling through photos on Instagram @car_tour. Additional series information can be obtained by calling the CARS Tour series office, located in Mooresville, N.C., at 704.662.9212.

Open Test Dates Announced for Short Track U.S. Nationals

BRISTOL, TN - Bristol Motor Speedway officials announced today that there will be two open testing days for the upcoming Short Track U.S. Nationals.

The first test will take place on Saturday April 29, and the second test will be held on Saturday, May

13. Space will be limited so teams are asked to register for the tests as soon as possible. These dates will be the only opportunity for teams to test prior to the event.

The highly-anticipated signature event, May 19-21, will showcase the world's best short track racers competing for the first time on the high-banks of the World's Fastest Half-Mile, one of the most famous short tracks in the world.

Gates will open at 8 a.m. on

each day of testing and practice will run from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Testing fees are \$100 per car and \$25 per crew member. Significant amounts of track time should be available for all cars, however the specific amount of practice times per division will be determined once a total car count is established.

Each team must register to compete in the Short Track U.S. Nationals to participate in the open test sessions. To purchase your test date entry, please visit www.bristolmotorspeedway.com/tickets/us-short-track-nationals/. Online registration for each session ends the Sunday prior to each test date.

More than 500 race cars split among the six classes are expected to be in competition during the three-day event, including racing in Super Late Model, Pro/Crate Late Model, Late Model Stock, Modified, Street Stock and Compact. The five sanctioning bodies that will be represented are CRA (Super Late Models, Pro Late Models, Street Stock), CARS Tour (Super Late Models, Late Model Stock), Southern Super Series (Super Late Model), National Short Track Alliance (Modifieds), VORES Compact Touring Series (Compacts).

For more information, please visit www.bristolmotorspeedway.com.

Outerwears to Continue Crew Chief of the Year Award

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials have announced that Outerwears Performance Products has agreed to continue as a marketing partner with CRA and its ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS

for the 2017 racing season, that will begin on Saturday, April 8th at Fairgrounds Speedway in Nashville, part of the North/South Super Late Model Challenge Presented by Team Construction Co-sanctioned with the Southern Super Series.

Outerwears will once again sponsor the Outerwears Crew Chief of the Year Award, which will include a \$1000 cash bonus and a trophy.

The award will have a different format to determine a winner in 2017. The award will be based upon the new Chase format that CRA is going to use to determine its Champions in 2017. The final four scheduled races will be utilized for the Chase to determine a series Champion and the Outerwears Crew Chief of the Year Award. To be eligible a team must have raced in at least 75% of the races to that point and be in the top 8 in series wins (then points). The top five eligible teams Crew Chiefs will be awarded points at each of the last four Chase events, 5 for the highest finisher, down to 1 for fifth high-

est. The Crew Chief earning the most points in the four Chase events will be the 2017 Outerwears Crew Chief of the Year Award winner.

Based in Schoolcraft, Michigan, Outerwears has been on the track improving performance and creating champions since 1979. Designed using Terra-Flo technology Outerwears radiator screens provide the perfect balance between airflow and debris deflection, allowing peak airflow and longer radiator life. For more information visit www.outerwears.com.

More information on the CRA is available at www.cra-racing.com.

Auto Club Speedway

FONTANA, CA - Latin singer Pepe Aguilar will serve as Honorary Starter for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Auto Club 400 race at Auto Club Speedway on Sunday, March 26. As Honorary Starter, Aguilar will wave the green flag to start the Auto Club 400, and watch the stock cars take their first lap on one of the oldest oval track surfaces and the fastest tracks on the

NASCAR circuit. The event will be televised at 12:30 p.m. (PT) on FOX.

As the first Mexican Latin singer to serve as the Honorary Starter at the Speedway, Aguilar will be involved with pre-race ceremony activities including driver introductions and special NASCAR awards. He will be joined by this year's Pace Car Driver Kaitlin Olson, National Anthem Singer Skylar Stecker and other dignitaries.

Aguilar, the son of two Mexican icons: Antonio Aguilar and Flor Silvestre, is a five-time Grammy Award winner and four-time Latin Grammy Award winner along with multiple Lo Nuestro Awards - including the coveted "Excellence Award" along with several Latin Billboard awards selling over 15 million records worldwide. He's currently on tour with an upcoming show at the Greek Theater in Los Angeles on April 22.

"We're excited to have Pepe participate in our race weekend as the Honorary Starter. We have a large Hispanic fan base that I'm sure will also enjoy hearing that Pepe will be here cheering on Daniel Suárez," said Dave Allen, President of Auto Club Speedway.

Aguilar released his 26th album in 2016 titled "No Lo Había Dicho" ("I Have Not Said") that celebrates the past, present and future of Mexican music infused with Rock, Pop, Cumbia, Vallenato and even Banda.

To see Pepe Aguilar wave the green flag at the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Auto Club 400, purchase tickets starting at \$45.00 by calling 800-944-RACE (7223), log on to www.autoclub-speedway.com or visit the Auto Club Speedway ticket office at 9300 Cherry Avenue, Fontana.

Talladega Superspeedway
TALLADEGA, AL - Seven-time



Jimmie Johnson holds a special Kids Question & Answer session at Talladega Superspeedway in 2016 during the debut of the Jimmie Johnson Family Ticket Package. (TSS photo)

NASCAR champion and two-time Talladega Superspeedway winner, Jimmie Johnson, is set to again host an exclusive Kids Question & Answer Session as part of the incredible Jimmie Johnson Family Ticket Package at NASCAR's Most Competitive track on the morning of the GEICO 500 on Sunday, May 7.

This special family ticket package provides a unique race morning experience for the kids prior to watching 40 of the sport's most talented drivers try and tackle Talladega from the most comfortable seats in NASCAR, located in the Talladega Grandstand. The Jimmie Johnson Family Ticket Package includes all the following:

- \$48 ticket(s) for adults and \$24 ticket(s) for children (12-and-younger) for the GEICO 500
- 10% off merchandise purchased at the Fanatics NASCAR Trackside Superstore located in the Fan Zone outside Talladega Superspeedway's frontstretch
- The opportunity to attend the one-of-a-kind Kids Q&A session with Jimmie on Sunday morning, May 7

In addition to the Kids Q&A session, the youngsters will participate in hands-on activities during a special learning program, led by NASA's trained educators. The focus will be centered on aerodynamics, grip, speed and other key racing elements used in NASCAR. The lessons will help demonstrate the relationship between NASA and motorsports. Each kid who attends the Q&A will also receive a four-color Jimmie Johnson NASA Rockets to Racecars activity book centered on STEM education.

Johnson, who joined Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt Sr. as the only drivers to win seven Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series championships with his title in 2016, has captured two checkered

flags at Talladega Superspeedway. In addition to his win in 2006, his triumph in 2011 over Clint Bowyer by just .002 seconds holds the closest finish in NASCAR history.

The driver of the No. 48 Lowe's Chevrolet SS, has seven top-five finishes, 11 top-10s, four pole positions and has led 467 laps at Talladega.

To take advantage of this extraordinary ticket package and gain up-close access to one of NASCAR's most successful drivers, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call 1-877-Go2-DEGA.

Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - For avid runners, the opportunity to run a 5K on the high banks of Darlington Raceway's historic egg-shaped will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

With that said, the track is hosting its Spring Fling 5K on Saturday, April 1, and registrations are still available for the race. The Spring Fling 5K will begin at approximately 8 a.m. and feature a unique course around the track's property, beginning and ending on the start-finish line.

"We encourage runners throughout the area and region to sign up and have a truly unique 5K experience around Darlington Raceway," track President Kerry Sharp said. "The entire event is shaping up to be a fun-filled day at the track for our local community."

Advance registrations for the Spring Fling 5K are available by visiting www.ItsYourRace.com and searching for keyword 'Darlington.' The 5K registration is as follows: \$32 from March 16-31, \$35

day of the event. All runners who sign up will receive a \$25 rebate voucher towards a frontstretch ticket order to the Sept. 3 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bo-jangles' Southern 500 (restrictions apply).

The Spring Fling 5K is just one part of the first-ever Darlington Spring Fling presented by Genesis Health Care event on April 1.

The community day will also feature an Easter egg hunt and free community lunch courtesy of Genesis Health Care.

The Easter egg hunt will be held from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and open to all kids 12 and under who are members of Darlington Raceway's Raceway Rascals presented by Future Scholar kids club. Membership cards will need to be shown at the infield check-in point to participate in the hunt. Over 1,000 eggs will be hidden around the track's infield with special golden eggs offering race tickets and other great prizes.

If your 12 and under child is not a member of the Raceway Rascals presented by Future Scholar kids club, simply sign up the day of the event at the infield registration tent.

The day will conclude with a free community dinner in the Cale Yarborough Garage area courtesy of Genesis Health. The community dinner, which will take place following the egg hunt, is a great opportunity for families to enjoy a day at the track and partake in free food and beverages that will be provided.

The Spring Fling will also have a charitable component to it, as all guests are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to support The Lord Cares food bank of Darlington.

All guests will need to enter the event through the track's Gate 39A infield tunnel entrance (will be closed from 7:45 a.m. – 9 a.m. for 5K). The Spring Fling 5K will take place on the start-finish line/pit road. Easter egg hunt registration will take place by the tall scoring pylon in the middle of the infield.

To be a Spring Fling sponsor,
(Continued Next Page)



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contact Darlington Raceway Account Executive Michael Smith at 843-395-8892 or email mwsmith@darlingtonraceway.com.

Darlington Raceway's award-winning throwback campaign is now The Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR featuring the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500® on Sunday,

Sept. 3, 2017. The NASCAR XFINITY Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 will race on Saturday, Sept. 2, 2017. Tickets are on sale now by calling 866-459-7223 or visiting DarlingtonRaceway.com.

You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Raceway at DarlingtonRaceway.com, on Facebook at Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway and on Twitter at Twitter.com/TooToughToTame. Fans are encouraged to post their Bojangles' Southern 500 stories and memories at #TraditionContinues, #BojanglesSo500 and #SportClips200.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - An exciting new schedule, race format and fan activities will deliver more NASCAR action and thrills than ever to the Brickyard 400 race weekend July 21-23 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

All on-track action for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series will take place over a condensed two-day schedule, Saturday, July 22 and Sunday, July 23. Practice and qualifying are set for Saturday, with the 24th annual Brickyard 400 at 3 p.m. (ET) Sunday.

A full schedule of speed Saturday also will include qualifying and the race for the NASCAR XFINITY Series event, with the 250-mile race starting at 3:30 p.m. The event weekend will start Friday, July 21 on the 2.5-mile oval with two practice sessions for the NASCAR XFINITY Series.

An engaging, new Friday Fan Fest featuring stars of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series and the popular Hauler Parade that afternoon and evening will complete the opening day of race weekend at IMS.

"This new, fan-friendly schedule packs all of the on-track action of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup

Series into Saturday and Sunday," said J. Douglas Boles, IMS president. "Friday's focus will be on providing engaging opportunities for our spectators, as NASCAR XFINITY Series practice and Fan Fest activities kick off one of the biggest weekends of the season for IMS and NASCAR."

Superstars of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series will interact with spectators during the Friday Fan Fest, with other entertainment options also available for the entire family. Fans then can head to nearby Main Street in Speedway for the popular, annual Hauler Parade in the evening. Colorful, gleaming Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series haulers will be lined up on Main Street for fans to see and photograph, with displays, promotions, music and food and beverage vendors also part of the fun.

The schedule Saturday, July 22 features more than five hours of on-track action from NASCAR's two top series, from 9 a.m. until the early evening hours.

Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series practice kicks off the Saturday schedule from 9-9:55 a.m., with another practice from 11-11:55 a.m. Then the NASCAR XFINITY Series takes center stage with qualifying at 12:45 p.m. followed by the race at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday will see a thrilling conclusion as Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series drivers compete for starting spots in the Brickyard 400 during three-round qualifying starting at 6:15 p.m.

The intriguing, new three-stage race format for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series and the NASCAR XFINITY Series will make its IMS debut during both races on this weekend.

Kyle Busch will attempt to be-

come the first driver to win the Brickyard 400 in three consecutive years and join Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson in the exclusive club of drivers who have won this marquee NASCAR event at least three times.

Tickets are on sale now at IMS.com for all three days of the Brickyard 400 event weekend. Kids 15 and under are free all three days when accompanied by an adult General Admission ticket holder. Visit IMS.com for more information about the Brickyard 400 weekend.

Auto Club Speedway

FONTANA, CA - Forget to pack something for your infield stay during the Auto Club 400 Weekend? Don't worry, Albertsons and Vons have you covered!

Auto Club Speedway and Southern California supermarkets Albertsons and Vons, have extended its partnership to bring fans on-site groceries during NASCAR's Auto Club 400 Weekend.

The company currently boasts 354 stores that serve millions of Southern Californians and is the official grocery partner of Auto Club Speedway.

The 5,000-square foot on-site grocery store will provide an array of grocery needs to infield guests. On Thursday, March 23 the doors will open and remain open every day throughout race weekend (Thursday, March 23 – Sunday, March 26).

"We are thrilled to be returning to Auto Club Speedway as the official grocery partner," states Albertsons, Vons and Pavilions President, Lori Raya, "NASCAR's Auto Club 400 Weekend is an exciting adrenaline packed event for Southern California residents, and our team is geared up to serve racegoers at our infield store."

Race fans will be able to find all of their camping and cooking needs in the store, from charcoal to food and groceries, as well as ice, beer, snacks and other campground favorites. The store will also serve as the unofficial social hub of the campground as race fans start each day with coffee, donuts, breakfast burritos and the morning paper. Fans are also encouraged to visit the service desk for any special requests.

With 354 stores across Southern California, Albertsons and Vons – which also operates Pavilions – is the largest division of Albertsons Companies Inc. The company is one of the world's largest food and drug retailers, with more than 2300 stores in 35 states and the District of Columbia under 18 banners, including Albertsons, Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, Jewel-Osco, Shaw's, ACME Markets, Tom Thumb, Rاندalls, United, Star Markets, Market Street, Amigos and Carrs.

To purchase tickets to NASCAR's Auto Club 400, call 1-800-944-RACE (7223) or visit www.autoclubspeedway.com.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Mark Zuckerberg is no stranger to innovation, but the CEO of Facebook tested the limits on something entirely new on Tuesday at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Zuckerberg joined Hendrick Motorsports driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. for a high-speed ride around the iconic 1.5-mile superspeedway before climbing behind the wheel of a NASCAR Racing Experience stock car.

Zuckerberg's trip to Charlotte Motor Speedway is part of a year-long challenge that involves visiting every U.S. state and meeting with people to learn more from communities and help Facebook continue to positively influence the world. Zuckerberg's 800-horsepower adrenaline rush followed an earlier tour of the nearby Hendrick Motorsports facility and a meeting with Charlotte Motor Speedway President and General Manager Marcus Smith.

"This is fun," Zuckerberg said during his drive around the track. "I understand why so many people love this."

Riding shotgun alongside Earnhardt, the driver of the No. 88 Nationwide Insurance Chevrolet, proved to be a fun endeavor for both participants.

"It was fun to go out there for a few laps with Mark and to give him an idea of what you feel when

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Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Hendrick Motorsports driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. filmed a Facebook Live during a ride along event at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. (Jonathan Coleman/CMS photo)

Continued...

you're in a race car," Earnhardt said. "We definitely got up to a pretty good speed there."

Having the acclaimed developer visit the speedway was a thrill for Smith.

"It's really neat to have Mark in North Carolina and to have him visit Charlotte Motor Speedway," Smith said. "It's a priceless opportunity.

It's great to see these worlds collide. Dale Jr. and NASCAR have a huge community on Facebook so it's really cool to see all of this come together."

Zuckerberg used Facebook Live to broadcast the experience at Charlotte Motor Speedway. To learn more about his challenge, visit his Facebook profile or the Year of Travel Page.

TICKETS: To purchase 2017 race event tickets, camping and race-day upgrades, fans can call the speedway ticket office at 1-800-455-FANS (3267) or shop online at www.charlottemotorspeedway.com.

KEEP TRACK: Fans can connect with Charlotte Motor Speedway by following on Twitter and Instagram or become a Facebook fan. Keep up with all the latest news and information with the Charlotte Motor Speedway mobile app.

Phoenix Raceway

PHOENIX, AZ - As Phoenix Raceway welcomes racing fans for the first time in 2017, the anticipation is growing for the track's modernization project. To harness the excitement during the Camping World 500 weekend, a New Phoenix Raceway Preview Center is giving fans an up-close-and-personal view of what's to come for the Phoenix Raceway Project Powered by DC Solar.

"This is a great way to showcase to all of our guests what the future holds," said Phoenix Raceway President Bryan R. Sperber. "From being able to sit down in the new chair-back seats coming to the grandstands, to the unique aspects of the project, you can see the excitement building for what everyone can expect to see in 2018."

Located on the DC Solar Power Pavilion (formerly Fan Midway) right along Turn 1, the New Phoenix Raceway Preview Center tells the story of what fans can ex-



Fans get a look at what is to come at the new Fan Zone at Phoenix Raceway expected to be completed by November 2018. (Phoenix Raceway photo)

pect once the project is completed in time for the fall NASCAR race in November 2018.

There is a bank of the new stadium-style, chair-back seating which will replace the metal bleachers throughout the existing seating bowl of the Allison Grandstand. The same seats will also populate the new grandstand, which will be constructed adjacent to the Allison Grandstand. Additionally, fans can learn more about the suites, including Club 64 – the marquee fan hospitality option, which is one of the many highlights of the project.

Club 64, an all-inclusive, lounge-style setting with a birds-eye view of the track, will open in time for the Can-Am 500 weekend this November. Packages for the Can-Am 500, which are available for individual ticket-buyers and small groups, are already on sale and can be reserved through Phoenix Raceway's website.

Fans can learn more about the Phoenix Raceway Project Powered by DC Solar and obtain news, updates and alerts by visiting www.phoenixraceway.com.

Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - Spring cleaning is upon us and Darlington Raceway is giving the local community an opportunity to sell their unwanted items at the Palmetto Goodwill Great Pee Dee Yard Sale on Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The local community is encouraged to sign up for vendor space to sell unwanted items. An 18x20 space* is \$25 until Friday, April 21. On April 22 (day of event), prices per space will increase to \$30. Vendors will be able to set up their space on Friday, April 21 from noon to 5 p.m. Registration forms are

available by stopping by the Darlington Raceway ticket office or your local Goodwill store during normal business hours or by visiting DarlingtonRaceway.com. For more information, call 843-395-8813.

Each registration will include a voucher** for \$25 off one (1) frontstretch ticket order to the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500 on Sept. 3. Entry to the event to shop is free of charge.

"The Palmetto Goodwill Great Pee Dee Yard Sale is a prime opportunity for the local community to come out to the track and participate in a garage sale style event and in turn get money back off a race ticket," track president Kerry Tharp said. "We're looking at new and different ways to utilize our facility for our community and hosting this type of an event is a unique way of doing so. We appreciate the partnership with Palmetto Goodwill on this event."

All items not purchased during the yard sale can be donated to Palmetto Goodwill, which will have trucks on site to pick up any items. Palmetto Goodwill is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to help people achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work. More than 90 percent of Goodwill's revenue goes to fund mission related services.

Darlington Raceway will also be collecting non-perishable food items during the event to benefit Harvest Hope Food Bank in Florence, SC.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series stars Kyle Larson, Danica Patrick, and Chris Buescher are scheduled to

participate in the traditional Fan Question & Answer Session at Talladega Superspeedway's start-finish line prior to the running of the GEICO 500 on Sunday, May 7.

Fans will have the opportunity to ask the drivers questions about the GEICO 500, where the winner will be all but assured a spot in NASCAR's season ending playoffs. Access to this special session, which is tentatively scheduled for 9:30-10:45 AM (CDT), is available by purchasing Talladega's Pre-Race Pit Pass Upgrade. Additional drivers/personalities that will be a part of the Fan Q&A line-up will be announced in the near future.

In addition to the Fan Q&A, the Pre-Race Pit Pass Upgrades gives fans a crew member's perspective by getting to stroll down pit road and receiving access to up-close looks at some of NASCAR's finest during multiple festivities race morning. Pre-Race Pit Pass Upgrades are \$75, and also includes access to witness the red carpet entrance for the driver's meeting as well as the pre-race stage to cheer for the drivers during pre-race introductions.

Larson, the 24-year-old driver of the No. 42 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet, has run six Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series (MENCS) races at Talladega Superspeedway, with his best finish of sixth coming last fall - his second career top-10 at NASCAR's biggest and baddest track.

Patrick, pilot of the No. 10 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford, enters her fifth full-time season in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, making eight starts at Talladega Superspeedway.

Buescher, driver of the No. 37 JTG Daugherty Racing Chevrolet, is in his second full-time season in the MENCS. Buescher has also competed in races at Talladega in the ARCA Racing Series and NASCAR XFINITY Series (NXS).

The Pre-Race Pit Pass Upgrade will be in effect Sunday, May 7, from 8:00 a.m. CDT until the conclusion of the driver introductions. The GEICO 500 gets underway at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

Don't miss out on other great experiences Talladega Superspeedway has to offer this spring, including include Pre-Race Pit Passes, The Sunday VIP Experience, The Unrestricted VIP Experience, Premium Box Seating and much, much more.

For all ticket upgrade information, call 1-877-Go2-DEGA or visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com.

Schatz Charges Late to Win Sixth Race of 2017

TULARE, CA - Fargo, North Dakota's Donny Schatz found more late-race magic on Saturday night getting around Kasey Kahne Racing teammates Brad Sweet and Daryn Pittman with just a few laps left en route to his sixth victory of the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series season.

The triumph for Schatz was his first at the Thunderbowl Raceway in Tulare since the 2007 season and came aboard the familiar Tony Stewart Racing/ Arctic Cat No. 15 machine. The eight-time World of Outlaws champion was settled in the third spot as the laps wound down, until making a thrilling move around the outside of the speedway to thread his way by the leaders in heavy lapped traffic.

"It feels really good to finally say we won in Tulare again," Schatz said emphatically on the front stretch. "I didn't think the track would take rubber so it kind of caught me by surprise. I really tried to save my tires and when we got to traffic late in the race the pace slowed down a lot. I decided I might as well try something and luckily it worked. I get all the credit, but it's really all about my team. We have an incredible group of people that work on this race car and that makes it so much fun. I can't thank all our sponsors enough for supporting us and giving us the opportunity to win races."

The 35-lap feature started out with a three-wide battle for the lead that saw Pittman get the better of it to motor out into the lead over Sweet and pole sitter Shane Stewart.

Early on in the feature the racing was fantastic throughout the field, as the slick surface made for some tremendous action. Caution periods kept the leaders out of traffic however, as Pittman held command out front. Once the midway point of the feature approached rubber began to come down on the surface and made passing opportunities limited. Sweet had kept Pittman in his sights though and hounded the rear bumper of the Great Clips No. 9 for much of the distance.

When the five to go signal was given the top-three bunched up as

Schatz looked to make his move. With 32-laps in the record books the current World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series point leader blasted to the high-side to drive around Sweet for the second spot. He then stayed up high and charged around Pittman for the lead coming down to complete lap 33. After that Schatz pulled away to take the checkered flag by 1.951 seconds back to runner up Pittman.

Even though he was disappointed in the outcome Pittman kept an upbeat attitude following the race saying, "This is basically a new team this year with our crew chief change so hopefully it will be a momentum boost for us. I did everything I could tonight, but our engine just wouldn't run right in the feature. I definitely didn't want to see the rubber because our car wouldn't pull forward in it. Tulare is a tough track for me so I'm happy to be on the podium. It's a long season and the wins will come. I'm definitely happy with the effort that our whole has put forth."

Sweet crossed the stripe in third to earn another podium finish in the Kasey Kahne Racing/ Napa Auto Parts No. 49 Sprinter. "I was nervous that it would take rubber and Donny pretty much showed why he is the best tonight. He was able to make his line work the best and kind of schooled us, so we'll keep plugging away to try and get better. We have some good tracks for us coming up so that has me excited.



Donny Schatz raced his way to his sixth victory of the season after some late race magic at Thunderbowl Raceway. (Paul Arch photo)

We'll move on to Stockton and hopefully get a win next week."

Wooster, Ohio's Sheldon Haudenschild capped a strong weekend by finishing in the fourth spot, while Rutherford's Rico Abreu rounded out the top-five. Completing the top-10 were Shane Stewart; Eunice, Louisiana's Jason Johnson; San Jose's Tim Kaeding; Lemoore's Carson Macedo and Watertown, Connecticut's David Gravel. Hanover, Pennsylvania's Logan Schuchart earned the KSE Hard Charger Award by coming from 25th to 13th in the feature.

Australian Ian Madsen won the night's Last Chance Showdown, with Shane Stewart taking home the Craftsman Club Dash. The four 10-lap heat races were picked off by Jason Johnson, Sheldon Haudenschild, Donny Schatz and Rico Abreu. Shane Stewart kicked-off

the night by setting fast time in the 36-car field with a lap of 13.392 around the one-third mile clay oval.

The World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series will return to action this coming Friday and Saturday at the Stockton Dirt Track for the FVP Western Spring Shootout.

Gravel Steals Tulare from Stewart

TULARE, CA - After scoring his first Thunderbowl Raceway World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car Series win last season Watertown, Connecticut's David Gravel returned on Friday night and made it back-to-back, earning his first series victory of 2017.

Gravel stalked race-long leader Shane Stewart as the laps wound down and made a beautiful power move to the outside with just a few
(Continued Next Page)

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circuits remaining to claim the victory aboard his No. 5 machine.

"I've watched Rico Abreu and Kyle Larson a lot here at the Trophy Cup so have definitely learned a thing or two about this place," said Gravel on the front stretch. "Ever since the first time I came to Tulare it's been an awesome place for me, and it feels great to win

back-to-back here. I had nothing to lose there at the end so I just gave it a shot up top and luckily it worked out for us. My team gave me a great car so I can't thank them enough. It's been a crazy road these last few years, and I'm really happy with where I am right now. Hopefully we can come back tomorrow and do it again."

The 35-lap feature started out with pole sitter Stewart getting the jump over outside front row Donny Schatz, who had won five of six races contested thus far going into Friday.

Grass Valley, CA's Brad Sweet quickly moved into second and tried to track down Stewart, prior to the caution waving for Willie Croft on lap nine. On the restart Carson Macedo then got upside down to bring out the red flag. On the next attempt Sweet challenged Stewart for the lead, but the Bixby, Oklahoma pilot was able to fend him off and motor away out front.

Things began to heat up at this point as the surface began to come in and allowed drivers the chance to dice it up for position on the one-third mile clay oval. Gravel and Sweet proceeded to fight hard for the second position going back and forth during one five-lap stretch. After exchanging the runner spot multiple times Sweet assumed the position and began to close in on Stewart with just 10-laps to go.

Things then came to a halt on lap 27 when Rutherford, CA's Rico Abreu got upside down in the first and second corners while battling around the top-five.

On the restart Gravel was able to get around Sweet to grab second, before the final caution of the night flew for Terry McCarl on lap 30. After that Gravel stepped up his challenges on the leader when going back green and closed in on Stewart. With just a couple laps left he made the move of the race to go



David Gravel takes the checkered flag at Thunderbowl Raceway for his first win of the 2017 season. (Devin Mayo/WoO photos)

around Stewart and drive off to claim his second career Thunderbowl Raceway triumph by 0.977 seconds.

Stewart crossed the stripe in second to earn his fourth straight runner up finish in World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car competition at Thunderbowl Raceway.

"We had a good car tonight, but the driver just didn't make the right moves late in the race," said the pilot of the Larson Marks Racing/Eneos No. 2 mount. "Sometimes the yellows work for you and sometimes they work against you. Tonight they didn't quite work in our favor, but that's how racing goes. Hats off to David Gravel, he drove a great race there at the end and found the faster line. I also have to give a big thanks to Kyle Larson, Justin Marks and all my guys. We have 90 races a year, so you just have to come back and concentrate on the next one. Big thanks to all the fans for coming out to Thunderbowl Raceway tonight."

After racing near the front of the field for the entire feature Sweet brought home a third place finish at the checkered aboard the Kasey Kahne Racing with Mike Curb/Napa Auto Parts No. 49 Sprinter. "Running third definitely isn't the goal, but anytime you can finish on the podium with the World of Outlaws is something to be proud of," Sweet commented.

"We had a good car tonight and I feel like we're starting to gel. It's basically a whole new team this year with Kale working on the 49 car and we are making gains. We'll come back tomorrow and hopefully improve two more positions. This is one of my home tracks so I'd really like to get a win here."

Wooster, Ohio's Sheldon Haudenschield put on an entertaining charge in the feature to come from 19th to fourth and claim the KSE

Hard Charger Award. The Rookie of the Year contender was very impressive on the tricky Thunderbowl clay and was reminiscent of his father Jac during the night. Australian James McFadden rounded out the top-five in the main event after putting together a solid night. Completing the top-10 were Hanover, Pennsylvania's Logan Schuchart, Schatz, Paradise, CA's Kyle Hirst, Nashville, Tennessee's Paul McMahan and San Jose, CA's Tim Kaeding.

The night's 12-lap Last Chance Showdown was captured by Mount Vernon, Washington's Jason Solwold, with the Craftsman Club Dash going to Shane Stewart. The four 10-lap heat races were picked off by Owasso, Oklahoma's Daryn Pittman, Brad Sweet, Shane Stewart and Donny Schatz. Rico Abreu started out the night by setting the fastest lap in the 36-car field with a blistering 12.630.

Abreu Looks For More Glory at the Western Spring Shootout

STOCKTON, CA - In the brief history of the Stockton Dirt Track no driver has taken the checkered flag more than Rutherford's Rico Abreu, who will look to add more at the FVP Western Spring Shootout this Friday & Saturday March 24 & 25.

In his career Abreu has captured five victories with the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series, including the FVP Western Spring Shootout finale in 2015. Along with that night he has raced to three other career wins at the Stockton Dirt Track, a venue that opened in the 2013 season. This weekend will also be the first World of Outlaws test of the track since modifications were completed to bring the front stretch closer to the grandstands at the end of last year.

"We've had a lot of success at the Stockton Dirt Track and look forward to competing there this week," said Abreu. "It's never easy running against the World of Outlaws, but I definitely have a lot of confidence with the speed we had in Las Vegas, as well as Tulare last weekend. Paul Silva always gives me a great car no matter where we go, but we've seemed to be especially strong at Stockton. We're excited to see all the fans and hope they will pack the grandstands like usual this weekend."

All competitors this weekend however, will be searching for a way to stop the hottest Sprint Car driver in the country at the moment, current World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series point leader Donny Schatz. The Fargo, North Dakota veteran has won the last three series visits to the Stockton Dirt Track and goes into the FVP Western Spring Shootout on the heels of his sixth victory in the first eight races of the season.

Schatz goes into Friday holding a 72-point lead at the top of the standings over Brad Sweet, who is coming off back-to-back podium finishes in Tulare last week. David Gravel; Jason Johnson and Shane Stewart currently round out the top-five in World of Outlaws points going into Stockton.

Two-night adult General Admission tickets for the FVP Western Spring Shootout weekend are available for a great value at just \$59 and two-night Reserved Grandstand tickets cost only \$69. Single-night tickets & box seats are also available. Children 10 & under are free in G.A. only. To reserve your seats simply visit <https://dirt-car.ticketforce.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=232> or call (844) 347-8849.

The front gate opens at 4pm each night, with will call/ ticket sales starting at 3pm Friday and 1pm on Saturday. Racing is slated to start at 7pm both nights.

On Saturday morning there will be a pancake breakfast on the fairgrounds from 8am-11am in building two at the end of the camping midway. On Friday morning if you're looking for a good breakfast spot check out the Ranch Coffee Shop, located near the fairgrounds at 1872 E Mariposa Rd, Stockton, CA 95205. Prior to the races on Saturday a live band and car show will also be held behind the grandstands in the camp midway.

More information on the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series can be found at www.woosprint.com/.

Outlaws Head to the House of Hook

First Stop in March at Whynot Motorsports Park

CONCORD, NC - The World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series is gearing up to head back out on the road for the first time since the conclusion of DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park at the end of February. The first stop in March will

be at Whynot Motorsports Park in Meridian, Miss. on March 24 and it will be nothing less than an action packed shootout.

In the past, when leaving the February jaunt the points gap has been pretty wide making it a catch up game for the rest of the season for some but this season that is not the case. Only four points separates the first and second position in the championship points standing and only 28 points between first and fifth. That means one race can make it or break it for the point's

leader.

Headed into the Feature at Whynot Motorsports Park, Brandon Sheppard and Rick Eckert will lead the way in the points race. Although we still have a long way until we reach the World of Outlaws World Finals every race counts towards the end of the season.

"We still have a long way to go until the end of the season but this is the first time in a couple years that we've come out of Florida this close in points and we're in a good of a position," said Eckert.

Whynot Motorsports Park is also known as the 'House of Hook' because "it is hooked up, wide multi-groove, plain badass race track," according to track owner and promoter Rodney Wing. The track is a 3/10ths progressively-banked oval and is known around the racing industry for its great track conditions and even better racing.

"We have a track that is very very racey and I think the fans can

expect to see a lot of three and four-wide action throughout the entire night with the best drivers in the country," said Phillip Hathcock, Whynot Motorsports Park Marketing Director.

"This is definitely the biggest race we've had come to our facility and we are excited to present an event of this magnitude to our fans."

Full-time Series regular and 2016 Rookie of the Year, Billy Moyer Jr., is especially excited to visit Whynot Motorsport Park as it is one of the closer tracks that the Series visits to his hometown of Batesville, Ark. Moyer Jr. raced at Whynot in 2016 during the Fall Classic and ultimately finished seventh.

"We buried ourselves in the points a little bit so we could use some strong runs coming up," said Moyer Jr. "We started like dead last for [the Fall Classic] so we passed a lot of cars that night so hopefully we can do it again and get a top five but the main thing is to get a top ten. They put a lot of effort into their track prep. It's a pretty fast little joint it gets pretty slick and racey and pretty wicked fast."

For the 2017 Season the Series

will travel with 15 full-time drivers and their crews, a team of seven Officials and attracts attention nation-wide. Many dedicated Late Model racing fans from around the country are making plans to head to Meridian, Miss. to see some Outlaw action up close and personal.

"We are really looking forward to having the World of Outlaws in town," said Dede Mogollon, Executive Director of Visit Meridian Tourism. "A few years ago the Series was scheduled to visit Meridian and the community was very excited but due to bad weather the event was cancelled. We are excited for the opportunity to host the Series again and to be able to show off the town of Meridian to racing fans and show them what we have to offer. We have over 2,000 hotel rooms, a wide variety of great restaurants and live music around town every night that fans will be able to enjoy before and after the race."

The World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series Craftsman Club Feature at Whynot Motorsports Park will consist of a 50-lap, \$10,000-to-win event. Tickets are available online here and by phone at 844-DIRT-TIX.

Weekend Events at Atomic and Brownstown Postponed

BATAVIA, OH - The weekend's events at Atomic Speedway in Chillicothe, OH and Brownstown Speedway in Brownstown, IN have been postponed. With the forecast for mixed precipitation and unseasonably cold tem-

peratures at both venues, Speedway and Series officials have agreed to postpone the events.

The 3rd Annual Buckeye Spring 50 will now take place on Thursday, April 20th. The event will feature a complete program of: Miller Welders Time Trials, Heat Races, B-Mains, and a 50-lap, \$10,000-to-win main event. The Open Wheel Modifieds will compete for \$1,000-

to-win.

The Thursday, April 20th event at Atomic Speedway precedes a trio of events that includes: Sharon Speedway (Hartford, OH) on Friday, April 21st; Hagerstown Speedway (Hagerstown, MD) on Saturday, April 22nd; and concludes with Port Royal Speedway (Port Royal, PA) on Sunday, April 23rd.

For more information, visit www.atomicspeedway.net.

The 20th Annual Indiana Icebreaker - now dubbed The Tribute to Steve Barnett - sets up an action-packed doubleheader at

Brownstown Speedway on Friday-Saturday, September 22nd-23rd.

The Tribute to Steve Barnett on Friday, September 22nd will include a complete program of: Miller Welders Time Trials, Heat Races, B-Mains, and a 30-lap, \$7,000-to-win main event. The action will ratchet up on Saturday, September 23rd with the 38th Annual Jackson 100 - featuring a full program of: Miller Welders Time Trials, Heat Races, B-Mains, and a 100-lap, \$15,000-to-win main event.

For tickets and more information, visit www.brownstownspeedway.com.

March 18th ULTIMATE Event at County Line Raceway Postponed

ELM CITY, NC - With an abysmal forecast of 90% chance of rain during the day coupled with temps dipping near freezing in the evening hours, officials with County Line Raceway and the ULTIMATE Super Late Model Series have made the decision to

postpone the Saturday, March 18th

Tar River Rumble. A make-up date will be announced later.

"It is a real shame to lose a race this early in the season. But the forecast for Saturday is terrible and we just don't want those fans and teams to have to deal with all those weather issues. It is just too much of a gamble for everyone. We want to thank everyone that was planning to come out and support us and invite them up to join us on April 8th at Virginia Motor Speed-

way for the \$20,000 Aaron's King of the Commonwealth." said ULTIMATE Series Director Kelley Carlton.

To keep up with all the up to the minute news and happenings with the ULTIMATE Super Late Model Series be sure to find and like ULTIMATE Super Late Model Series on Facebook and follow @ULTIMATESupers on Twitter and @ULTIMATE_Supers on Instagram.

The ULTIMATE Super Late Model Series would like to recognize their marketing partners for the 2017 season which include:

American Racer, Hoosier Race Tires, VP Race Fuels, M&W Transport, PPM Racing Products, Arizona Sport Shirts, DirtonDirt.com, Big A's Custom Graphics, AR Bodies, Five Star Race Bodies, Schaeffer's Racing Oil and Lubricants, Autolite Sparkplugs, RockAuto.com, Safecraft, Simpson, Thomas Clarke Performance Web Design and RacingJink.com.



Hafertepe Perfect at The Lucas Oil Devil's Bowl Spring Nationals

MESQUITE, TX - Sam Hafertepe, Jr. proved unstoppable at the 44th annual Devil's Bowl Spring Nationals as the No. 15h sailed to his second victory in as many nights with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network.

Having to bounce back from an inauspicious start that saw Sam slip back to sixth from a third starting spot, the point was held by Johnny Herrera with Justin Henderson in tow.

"You know, I looked like an idiot there early on. I think we fell back to sixth and that's not like us but we just had it a little too tight early on. I had them make a change after that 305cid A-Feature and we probably shouldn't have made the change, but it actually made our car great later on in the race," commented Hafertepe, who also topped the night's IMCA RACE-saver Sprint Car feature event. "I just have to say, hats off to everyone who helps make this thing happen."

Caution working Lap 6 as the leaders found the tail of the lead lap, the field rolled back to life with John Carney II taking over the runner-up position Lap 7 with Hafertepe back to third by Lap 8. Working into slower traffic, the leaders ran multiple grooves on the Devil's Bowl with Herrera working low in one and two, then high in three and four while Carney railed the cushion.

With momentum and traffic working to his favor, the No. 11x bolted to the lead on Lap 18. Taking over second two laps later, Hafertepe pursued Carney with great vigor; running down the No. 11x as the pair approached slower cars. Able to move the No. 15h through the different grooves of racing, Hafertepe took the point with eight laps to run.

Leaving Carney to battle for second with Herrera and Henderson, the No. 11x would see his night come to an early close due to a cut right rear tire that brought out the caution on Lap 24.

Keeping the No. 45x at bay on the restart, Johnny was left to contend with the No. 1 of Justin Hen-

derson who grabbed away second on Lap 28, but there was not catching Hafertepe as the Texas native raced the win by 3.337 seconds.

Justin Henderson's runner-up finish was his second result in as many nights. Like Henderson, the No. 45x placed on the bronze step for the second night running. Improving his position by one from Friday night, Washington's Seth Bergman raced to a fourth place finish with Wayne Johnson rebound from a DNF on Friday night to round out Saturday's top-five.

Another driver turning a 180 on the weekend, a fresh bullet under the hood put Aaron Reutzel sixth with Sammy Swindell coming from 11th to seventh. Ray Allen Kulhanek crossed eighth with Sean McClelland ninth. Earning the CP-Carrillo Hard Charger of the Night, Zane Lawrence advanced eight spots to finish tenth.

Saturday saw 44 drivers returning to competition in the 44th Devil's Bowl Spring Nationals. Five Heat Races were topped by Scott Bogucki, Chris Martin, Kaley Gharst, Zane Lawrence, and Sean McClelland. Qualifier wins went to Skylar Gee, Wayne Johnson, and Aaron Reutzel. A pair of B-Mains went to Scott Bogucki and Zane Lawrence.

The Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series National Tour presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network returns to competition at the Randolph County Raceway in Moberly, Mo. on Sunday, March 26, 2017. For more information on the Show-Me oval, log onto www.randolphcountyraceway.com.

For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series, log onto www.ascsracing.com.

Hafertepe Dominates Lucas Oil ASCS Devil's Bowl Spring Nationals Opener

MESQUITE, TX - Picking up seemingly where he left off in 2016, Sam Hafertepe, Jr. led start to finish to pick up his first win of the season with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network in the series opener at the 44th Devil's Bowl Spring Nationals.

"I don't know how good we really were. I thought I heard him [Henderson] behind me a few times but



Sam Hafertepe Jr. swept the weekend events at the Devil's Bowl Spring Nationals proving unstoppable to his fellow Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series competitors. (Randy Garcia/ASCs photo)

it may have very well be that we were just over turning it but I'll tell you what, that car on the restarts was just so good rotating the corner," commented Hafertepe.

"We had to make big changes after the Heat Race. We just weren't where we needed to be. Everybody thinks I know this place really well, and I thought I did too but we just had to go to work on the car again and that's what we did last year. If things weren't going good, we just went after it and gave the car what we think it needed."

Giving thanks to his crew, family, and fans Hafertepe followed up saying, "Right now I just have to say that I've got Shirley Kears in my thoughts and prayers for everything she's going through right now and I hope things get better soon."

Earning the outside of the front row, Hafertepe got the jump of pole sitter, Ryan Roberts, going into the first two turns. Chased by Justin Henderson through the opening laps, the No. 1 would get his first chance at the leader with a Lap 5 caution for Wayne Johnson who was having braking issues.

Unable to keep pace with Hafertepe's No. 15h, the field went under the caution again on Lap 11.

Keeping the field at bay once again, the leaders quickly raced their way to the back of the field. Having to carefully time slide jobs through traffic, Henderson with Herrera in tow were able to close, but never able to capitalize as Sam Hafertepe, Jr. sped away to the victory by 1.786 second.

Chasing Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour points for the first time, Justin Henderson crossed runner-up in the NSCHoF No. 1.

"Sam is on a different level here than most so running second to him isn't bad. I don't know if we had

anything for him. Lapped traffic was difficult but this EMI Chassis, Parker Engine was great. Bryan [Sundby] worked hard all night and gave me a good car and just have to thank BDS Motorsports," said Henderson of his runner-up result.

With the start of the race key to his success, Johnny Herrera took the race five wide on the opening lap to advance from eight to the final podium step.

"On the start, they left the top wide open. A few guys got tight there and I was able to sneak by and really, it was just a hope and a prayer. I knew we had to get there in a hurry before we fell in line because here, the guys that start up front tend to finish up front."

Racing back and forth with Seth Bergman throughout most of the A-Feature, John Carney II captured the final transfer spot into Saturday's championship feature event with Seth Bergman completing the top-five.

Moving up from 12th, Matt Covington came up to finish sixth with Blake Hahn seventh. Josh Baughman from 13th came up to eighth with Travis Rilat capturing the CP-Carrillo Hard Charger of the Night with a run from 18th to ninth. Brandon Long completed the top-ten. Paring with the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region, Ray Allen Kulhanek was the highest finishing regional driver.

The opening night of the Devil's Bowl Spring Nationals saw 48 drivers draw in for competition. Six Heat Races went to Josh Baughman, Johnny Herrera, Chad Wilson, John Carney II, Ryan Roberts, and Sean McClelland. Qualifiers were topped by Justin Henderson, Blake Hahn, and Wayne Johnson. The night's B-Mains went to Dustin Morgan and Travis Rilat.

Majeski Goes Back-to-Back at The Rattler

KINSTON, AL - The trophy looks the same. The check is for the same amount. However, Ty Majeski's win in the 2017 Rattler 250, the season opener for the Southern Super Series presented by Sunoco, tells a vastly different story than his previous triumph.

Majeski grabbed the lead for the first time all day from Harrison Burton on a restart with just 19 laps to go on Sunday afternoon. In 2016, Majeski dominated the race, leading all but eight laps en route to his marquee win in the Deep South.

"We definitely didn't have the car to win all day," Majeski told Speed51.com powered by JEGS. "We were not in the race track quite where we needed to be. We weren't the best car today, and probably shouldn't have won. But in my opinion, those are the days that define you as a team and as a driver. When you win races you shouldn't, they are always special.

While Majeski and Burton were the dogs, Jeff Choquette played the role of the rabbit early on. Choquette led the first 211 laps - the second most amount in event history - but saw Garret Jones and Burton pounce on him following the competition caution at lap 200.

Jones restarted third, and made the most of his four new sticker tires by going right after Choquette. The two waged a tremendous battle for the lead before Jones slipped by on the inside. However, Jones' stay out front was short lived, as Burton wrestled the lead away from Jones just a lap later.

Burton appeared to be on the way to another win in dominant first quarter of the 2017 season, but botched the restart with less than 20 to go.

"I had a lot of crap on my tires and need to do a better job cleaning them off," Burton explained. "I just couldn't get going, and it took me too long to get back up to speed. Once the car came back, we were really fast. It's just a heart-breaker."

The "friendly" rivalry between Majeski and Burton wrote another chapter Sunday afternoon. The two young drivers combined to win three races at the World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing in New

Smyrna. With Burton winning SpeedFest and Majeski bagging the Rattler, they now have chalked up the two biggest early-season Super Late Model races in the Deep South.

Majeski said he enjoys racing with Burton, and has a lot of respect for him.

"He is really fast lately, and has been for a couple of years," Majeski said of his rival. "They really picked up their game when they got their new Fury car, and were probably better than us again today. We're close, but not where we want to be. Harrison is one of the best every week right now."

Burton paid the same respect to Majeski.

"Both the teams, the 91 and the 12, work really hard all the time," Burton said. "They always bring us good cars to the track. I got to know Ty a little bit through NASCAR Next. Everyone wants to beat everyone, but I think we might want to be each other even more."

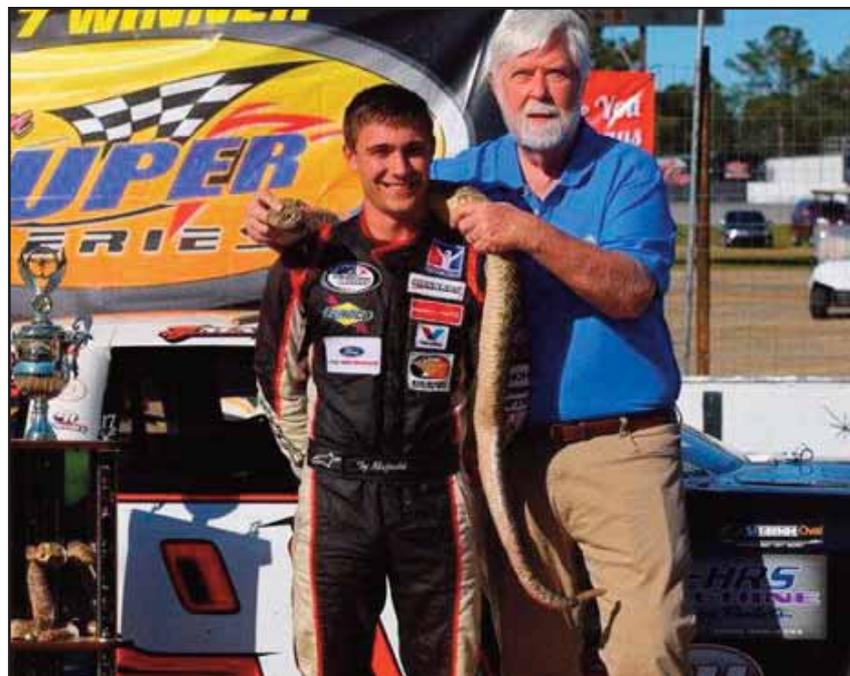
For the second night in a row, Choquette was left thinking what might have been. After leading more than half the race in Saturday's Baby Rattler, he suffered a mechanical issue while leading. In Sunday's race, he simply lost the handle late in the going.

"We got the lead early and led all the way until lap 200-and-something," Choquette said. "The only thing we changed was to put four tires on it. We went from leading by a straightaway to a straightaway behind. That is just one aspect of the racing that you can't control. You can make all the adjustments you want, but if those four tires don't go, there is nothing you can do.

With the win, Majeski puts his name among some of the elite in South Alabama Speedway. He becomes just the second driver to win back-to-back Rattlers, and only the fourth driver in the history of the event to win more than one 250.

When told, he entered a list with the likes of Ronnie Sanders and Grant Enfinger, Majeski was humbled.

"This is one of the premier Super Late Model races in the country every year," Majeski said. "The best teams and best drivers in the country come together for this race, and have for a long time. It was really special to win it one time, and to come back down here and win it again makes it even better."



Ty Majeski won his second straight Rattler 250 on Sunday afternoon. (Speed51.com photo)

Next up for the Southern Super Series presented by Sunoco is a stop at Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville (TN) for a combination event with the ARCA/CRA Super Series on April 7-8.

For more information on the Southern Super Series presented

by Sunoco, head to www.southern-superseries.com. Also be sure to follow the Southern Super Series on Twitter, @SoSuperSeries, and give us a like on Facebook by heading to www.Facebook.com/SouthernSuperSeries.

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Coos Bay Speedway

D A Y T O N A BEACH, FL - The racing season at Coos Bay Speedway takes the green flag on 2017 on April 1, and for the first time, the track will race under the NASCAR banner.

Coos Bay is a .387-mile high-banked dirt track in western Oregon. Located 2 ½ hours southwest of Eugene and less than 20 miles from the Pa-

cific Ocean, the multi-purpose venue also features an eighth-mile NHRA drag strip and hosts yearly Mud Drag events.

"Coos Bay is a tremendous place to race and joining the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series is a great opportunity for fans and competitors," said track owner and manager Drake Nelson. "We are looking forward to the 2017 season and are really excited about all the great racing Coos Bay has to offer."

Drake and his wife Kimberly bought Coos Bay in November from long-time owner Chuck Prather. Drake Nelson is a third-generation promoter and has been involved in a number of race tracks in the Midwest and Pacific Northwest. His brother Adam is part of the ownership group that operates Meridian Speedway in Idaho, which joined the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series last year.

"With Meridian being part of the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series, we were really able to see up close the value of having a track be part of the program," said Drake Nelson.

"Drake Nelson and his family bring a wealth of short-track experience to Coos Bay and NASCAR is pleased to welcome the track into the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series," said Kevin Nevalainen, NASCAR director of weekly racing. "The opportunity is now there for drivers to compete for the track championship as well as bragging rights in Oregon with the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series state championship."

U.S. state and province championships are determined by the best 18 finishes at tracks within the respective state or province. The national championship is determined by a driver's best 18 finishes overall for Division I, and best 14 finishes for Division II-V.



Super Late Models will be the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Division I for Coos Bay in 2017. (Outlaw Photography photo)

The Super Late Models will be the track's Division I under the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series banner. The Sportsman Late Models will be Division III, with Street Stocks as Division III and Hornets as Division IV.

The oval track runs on Friday nights through Sept. 9, with the Super Late Model Tidal Wave 50 highlighting the summer on July 29.

The practice of crowning U.S. state and Canadian provincial champions dates back to the earliest days of NASCAR. Bill Counts won the Oregon Sportsman title in 1967, while the Late Model Sportsman title was awarded for the state from 1978-80.

Established in 1982, the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series is NASCAR's championship program for weekly short track auto racing with paved and dirt tracks throughout the United States and Canada.

Connecticut-based Whelen Engineering is the series' title sponsor. Whelen Engineering is a leading manufacturer of automotive, aviation, industrial and emergency vehicle lighting. NASCAR tracks and pace cars across North America are among many showcases for Whelen products.

Franklin County Speedway

After a less than desirable forecast of rain, snow and bitterly cold temps forced the cancellation of the season opening Commonwealth Clash, Franklin County Speedway officials have now set the season opener for Sunday March 26th.

The Spring Throwdown will now kick off the 2017 season, a season that's expected to be the biggest in the 48 year history of Franklin County Speedway. With a full schedule of events that span from weekly racing to stops by some of the regions best touring series it's sure to be a big season.

"We get to hit the reset button," said track promoter Langley Austin. "We were geared up and ready to get open this past weekend but when you're staring at the forecast and all you see is snow, rain, sleet and temps ranging from the 30's to 40's, you know you're in for a bad weekend. Instead of trying to force an opening we just went ahead and backed up to punt and we'll be twice as ready to go next weekend."

Several competitors have taken advantage of early practice sessions and Austin has been fielding a lot of phone calls and messages from racers who are ready to go racing. The field of cars for most everyone division has increased with many cars expected to be ready in time for the rescheduled season opener.

"Lots of new cars and new drivers who have bought cars this winter and are planning to run this season. We felt really good about our car counts in Late Models, Mini Stocks and U-Cars last season while struggling in Mini Cups and Street Stocks but we feel we're making strides in all divisions to have some of the best average car counts in this region. The cast of drivers expected to compete for the Late Model and Mini Stock championships this season are among the best of the best this region has to offer."

In addition to the increased car counts, an increased fan base is expected as well. During the final handful of events in 2016 the fan base grew significantly and with an offseason of upbeat conversations about the facility Austin expects that to grow even more starting next weekend.

"Fans are naturally attracted to Franklin County Speedway anyways. I mean, there's no better race track to watch a race at anywhere. That's not an opinion that's

an undisputed fact. Over the course of last year we grew the fan base back steadily and even on some hot sweltering Sunday evening's last September we were able to bring in some of the biggest crowds in years. We're excited that this seasons mix of Sunday and Saturday events will bring even greater results."

With the reset season opener expected to see even larger fields given that more teams and drivers have had time to get their cars ready for opening day. Sunday March 26th at 3pm will begin the 48th consecutive season of racing at Franklin County Speedway. Make plans to attend. Adult tickets \$10, kids 5-12 \$5 and children under 4 get in free.

More information check out www.FCSpeedway.com or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MoonshineCapitalPromotions/ or contact Langley Austin at 276.613.4208.

Kingsport Speedway

KINGSPORT, TN - The green flag must wait for another week at Kingsport Speedway.

A forecast of rain and cool temperatures has forced the season-opening Food City 175 that was scheduled for this Saturday, March 18 to be placed on hold until next Saturday, March 25.

Speedway officials have been closely monitoring the weather and feel that this is the best call for everyone.

"No one wants to see the green flag wave more than us," said Karen Tunnell, Kingsport Speedway general manager. "However, we feel it is in everyone's best interest to postpone the first race until next weekend."

"We want the season opener to be fun and exciting, not cold and full of rain, so we'll try again next

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week.”

The additional week will allow also allow for the facility to have final preparations made and for race teams to have another week to prepare.

The schedule and event details will carry over into next week-end's race. Grandstands will open at 11 a.m. and racing will begin at 2 p.m.

The Kingsport Speedway Tailgate

Party that was scheduled for Friday at the Food City on Clinchfield Street in Kingsport has been moved to next Friday, March 24.

For more information on Kingsport Speedway, visit newkingsportspeedway.com. Also follow Kingsport Speedway on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Rockford Speedway

The temporary hassle of snow and cold is merely an illusion...racing season is just one month away!

The WXRX 200 lap enduro featuring four-cylinder cars officially brings life to the new racing season Saturday afternoon April 15 at Rockford Speedway with a 3 PM start time. Event rules and regulations along with the official entry form are now available online at rockfordspeedway.com.

The four cylinder endurance race features 200 laps of wide open racing action, with the first 100 circuits to be contested on the oval track, while the final 100 laps will take place on the tricky “Monza” course.

This year's event offers a \$500 top prize, and offers hundreds of dollars in bonuses for the following: Best Appearing Car, Highest Finishing Station Wagon, Highest Finishing Automatic Transmission, Highest Finishing Driver under 18 years old and Highest Finishing Driver over 55 years old PLUS new bonuses for Furthest Traveler (\$50) and a \$50 bonus to any entrant whose last name starts with the letter "X".

For additional information on the WXRX 200 lap four cylinder enduro, please contact Rockford Speedway at 815-633-1500.

Southern National Motorsports Park

After monitoring several different forecasts for Saturday night, South-

ern National Motorsports Park has made the decision to postpone the season opening race to Sunday, March 26th.

Southern National Motorsports Park made the decision after seeing forecasts ranging from a 70 percent chance of rain to a 90 percent chance of rain. The decision to move the race to Sunday, March 26th is part of Southern National's commitment to working with other tracks.

The March 26th date avoids conflicts with South Boston Speedway's season opener and the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) race at Orange County Speedway.

The schedule for the season opener and more details about the race will be posted soon.

For more information about Southern National Motorsports Park, check out SNMP's website at www.snmpark.com, “like” Southern National Motorsports Park on Facebook or “follow” @SNM_Park on Twitter.

Stafford Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - On Time Accounting (OTA) of Feeding Hills, MA, will return to the Stafford Speedway contingency program and present a \$100 bonus for each 2nd place SK Light feature finisher. With 22 races on the schedule, On Time Accounting will contribute a bonus of \$2,200 to SK Light drivers during the 2017 season. When combined with contingency awards from Dunleavy's Truck & Trailer Repair, Maybury Material Handling, Olson Apartments, and New England Racing Fuel, SK Light drivers will be racing for over \$9,000 in bonus and \$2,200 in fuel certificates during the 2017 season.

“We're excited to be back at Stafford for another season,” said Mike Margiotta, president of On Time Accounting. “This season we're also doing some sponsorship with David Arute on his #75 SK Light car, so we're looking forward to another exciting season of racing and having a fun year of helping the teams out. We love being able to help teams out, being at the track, and being among the teams and the drivers. I don't think there's any other sport that can match the excitement, commitment, and comradery of motorsports.”

In addition to their contingency program bonus, On Time Accounting is continuing their “Racing Bucks” program which is available to all Stafford Motor Speedway teams. All a team has to do is refer a client to On-Time Accounting, and as long as that client remains

with OTA, OTA will send the team a check for 10% of the monthly billing for the referred client once OTA has been paid with no cost to the race team.

“The Racing Bucks program offers teams a tremendous opportunity to get an annuity to help fund their race team at no cost,” continued Margiotta. “We're very excited about the Racing Bucks program as it provides an unlimited amount of money to the teams. It's Easy, it's Fast, it's Racing Bucks.”

Based in Feeding Hills, MA, Mike Margiotta established On Time Accounting in 2006. The company offers complete accounting services locally, regionally and nationally in the areas of accounting, bookkeeping, payroll, taxes, and credit and collections. Margiotta has over 25 years experience with Fortune 200 companies and he brings this knowledge to work for his clients and OTA's specialty is serving small- to-mid-size firms, including new business startups. OTA can be found online at www.otanortheast.com, and their Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/On-Time-Accounting-152109364875594.

The first On Time Accounting SK Light contingency bonus of the 2017 season will be up for grabs during Stafford Speedway's 46th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler Weekend on April 28-30. The 46th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler gets underway Friday, April 28 with a practice session for Stafford's weekly divisions and the Mr. Rooter Trucks. The practice session will be open to the public at no charge. Action continues on Saturday, April 29 with Coors Light Pole Qualifying for the Whelen Modified Tour cars, along with heat and consolation races for Stafford's weekly divisions and the Mr. Rooter Trucks. Saturday will wrap up with feature events for the SK Light, Limited Late Model, DARE Stock, and Mr. Rooter Trucks. Spring Sizzler action continues Sunday, April 30 with the NAPA Auto Parts Pit Party from 11am-noon followed by Stafford's SK Modifieds® in a special 45-lap feature and Late Models joining the Whelen Modified Tour in feature action.

Tickets for the “Greatest Race in the History of Spring” are on sale now at the Speedway Box Office. Tickets are priced at \$40.00 for adult general admission tickets, \$5.00 for children ages 6-14, and children ages 5 and under are admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult. Reserved

seating will be priced at \$42.00 for all ages. All ticket prices include 10% CT Admission Tax. Discount Tickets will be available at all 71 participating NAPA Auto Parts stores beginning on Monday, April 3rd. For a full list of the 71 locations throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, call the speedway office or visit us on the web at www.staffordmotorspeedway.com/participating-napa-auto-parts-stores.

For more information on the contingency program or to order tickets for the 46th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler contact the Stafford Motor Speedway track office at 860-684-2783 or visit us on the web at www.staffordspeedway.com.

Fast Start For Whelen All-American Series Tracks Starting To Take The Green Flag For 2017

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Drivers from all over the country are already in hot pursuit of NASCAR Whelen All-American Series track championships.

The season is officially underway at a number of tracks, with even more slated to begin the racing season by the end of March.

Among those who are already off to a hot start is three-time NASCAR Whelen All-American Series National champion Lee Pulliam, who has already collected victories in two extra distance events at South Carolina's Myrtle Beach Speedway on Feb. 11 and Southern National Motorsports Park in Kenly, North Carolina, on March 4.

Pulliam isn't the only driver off to a fast start. Cody Haskins started off the regular season at Greenville Pickens Speedway in South Carolina by sweeping twin late model stock car features, Harrison Burton won two times en route to winning the 51st World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing crown at Florida's New Smyrna Speedway, and Dave Roberts kicked off his track championship defense at Anderson Motor Speedway in South Carolina with a a visit to Victory Lane.

Here is a quick look at some of the tracks that have already begun the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series season or are slated to begin before the end of March.

- Myrtle Beach opened the South Carolina racing season on Feb. 11 with the second annual Ice

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Breaker. The regular season kicks off on March 18 when the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour joins the weekly late model class for a day of racing. The track hosts events every other Saturday night from March 18 until Oct. 21.

- Tucson Speedway in Arizona opened the season on Feb. 4 with the Chilly Willy 150 for super late models, which was won by Owen Riddle. The .375-mile high-banked asphalt oval will sanction racing every Saturday night through Oct. 28, with super late models serving as the premier division. It hosts the NASCAR K&N Pro Series West season opener this Saturday.

- New Smyrna has had a number of early-season events: Cole Anderson of Northfield, Minnesota, swept the Red Eye 100 on Jan. 4, and the Orange Blossom 100 on Jan. 24, for the Super Late Model Division, while Burton edged fellow

NASCAR Next drivers Spencer Davis and Ty Majeski to take the World Series crown in February. The half-mile asphalt oval opens its regular season on March 25 and will race every Saturday night until the season finale on Oct. 28.

- Greenville Pickens, opened its regular season on March 4 and the half-mile slightly banked asphalt oval hosts weekly racing every Saturday night, with twin late model stock car races scheduled once a month through Sept. 16.

- Historic Hickory Motor Speedway in North Carolina began the new season of racing on March 6 with twin late model stock car features, which were won by Ryan Millington and R.D. Smith. The .333-mile asphalt track will host nine more double feature evenings as well as several extra distance events for the late model stock cars on Saturday nights through Oct. 21.

- Southern National Motorsports Park in Kenly, North Carolina, kicked off the year with a 150-lap race for the late model stock car division on March 4. The track hosts racing once or twice a month, with the headlining late model stock cars slated to compete in nine twin features at the four-tenths-mile as-

phalt oval from March 18 through Sept. 10.

- Anderson Motor Speedway, located in Williamston, S.C., began the racing season on March 10. The track will host racing on Friday nights from March through Aug. 25, including a pair of twin 40-lap features for the late model stock cars on May 12 and July 14.

- California's Irwindale Speedway opened the new season on March 11 with veteran driver Nick Joanides besting track champion Trevor Huddleston in a 50-lap late model feature. The track will host events twice a month from March through September, including eight events featuring twin races for the headlining late model division.

- Caraway Speedway in Sophia, North Carolina, was slated to open the season on March 12, but a poor weather forecast forced track officials to postpone the season opener until March 19. The late model stock car class will headline 13 out of 23 nights of racing during the season, highlighted by the 171-lap Rusty Harpe Memorial on June 30.

- Kingsport Speedway in Tennessee kicks off 2017 on Saturday night, March 18 with the Food City

175. The .375-mile semi-banked concrete oval, which features late model stock cars as the top class, will host weekly racing on most Friday nights beginning March 31 through Sept. 1.

- The Bullring at Las Vegas Motor Speedway rings in the new season of racing beginning on March 25, with the paved oval slated to host 15 nights of racing through Nov. 18. The premier super late model division will compete on most of those nights, which includes special evenings like Hometown Heroes Night (May 8), Pack the Track Night (May 13), Military Appreciation Night (May 20) and the Chris Trickle Classic (June 3).

Established in 1982, the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series is NASCAR's national championship program for weekly short track auto racing.

NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Division I drivers are ranked by their best 18 NASCAR points finishes in series-sanctioned events. Drivers receive two points for every car they finish ahead of – up to 18 cars – and three points for a win, with an additional two points available if the driver starts 10th or lower.



Cody Hopkins swept the Late Model Division features at Greenville Pickens Speedway in South Carolina last Saturday night. Greenville Pickens Speedway

Hickory Motor Speedway

The Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars would play host to Cosmo Motors Night at the Races for the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series with another great menu of racing.

The One Design Super Trucks rolled off first on the night with the #30 of Joey Shuryan on the pole and the #26 of Charlie Neill to his outside.

From the start Neill would flex his muscle and jump to the early lead with Shuryan battling the #15 of Sheflon Clay, the #36 of Tyler Dayton, and the #51 of Allen Huffman for 2nd through 5th. The front runners Clay, Dayton, Huffman, and Shuryan would battle hard until Dayton would move by to make a run at the leader. He would come up just short as Neill would grab the win, in only his 2nd One Design Super Truck start, with Dayton finishing runnerup. Clay would hold on for the 3rd position, Shuryan would grab 4th, and Huffman would work his way from the back to round out the top 5.

Next up would be the Cosmo Motors Street Stocks and their 30 lap feature. Cody DeMarmels in the #18 would grab the pole with Kevin Eby in the #03 starting to his outside. DeMarmels would nose ahead at the start but Eby would make him work hard as he would keep the pair side by side for several laps. DeMarmels would eventually pull ahead and drive to the win with Eby finishing 2nd. Terrence Tucker in #10 would make the most out of his first Hickory Motor Speedway 2017 visit by grabbing 3rd, while Marshall Sutton in the #64 and Eric Evans in the #07 would round out the top 5.

The Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models would line up next for Round #2 of the Paramount Kia Big 10 Racing Challenge with the #51 of Jeremy Pelfrey on the pole and Pat Rachels in the #34 to his outside. The pair would run side by side for a several laps until Rachels would finally nose ahead. Rachels and Pelfrey would run nose to tale for several laps until the #21 of Monty Cox would bring his Cadillac in to the mix. Cox would work his way around Pelfrey with 15 to go and set sail for the leader. Rachels would fight hard to maintain the lead but Cox would prove too tough

and get around him for the lead with only 5 laps to go. Pelfrey would also take the opportunity to follow Cox and move by Rachels as the three men would mix it up for the win. Cox would drive on to the win and do his signature burnout on his way to Victory Lane. Pelfrey would finish 2nd and Rachel's would take home 3rd. Mitch Walker in the #29 would finish 4th with Alex Reece in the #18 finishing 5th.

The Renegades would hit the track next with the #69 of Ben Campbell at the point and the #71 of Kyle DiVanna in the #71 to his outside. Campbell would take the early lead with DiVanna close in his tire tracks. The pair would be glued together the first 8 laps until a caution would bunch the field. On the restart the pair would tangle with Campbell spinning sending them both to the back of the field for the restart. Danny Cump Jr. In the #97 would move to the point for the restart and mayhem would continue at the front of the field with numerous restarts and the entire field getting their shot at a top 3, at one time or another. When the dust settled Darren Dickinson in the #6 would be the first to checkered flag and grab another win with Kyle DiVanna close behind in 2nd. Crump would hold on for 3rd, David Hason the #83 would take 4th, and

Casey Meyer in the #18 would finish 5th.

The NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Bojangles Late Models would be roaring to go after sitting in the wings waiting their turn and watching all the great racing action. Ryan Millington in the #76 would set the fast time and grab the pole with Charlie Watson in the #9 to his outside, Tal Davidson in the #77 and Justin Carroll in the #57 to his outside. Millington would move to the early lead in the 100 lap feature event while Watson and Carroll would soon join him. Watson would make his move after a few laps and jump to the front moving around Millington. The trio would run single file for numerous laps until Millington decided that he wanted to move back to the lead and would take the point. Carroll took the opportunity to look under Watson and moved to the 2nd position to begin his bid for the lead. Millington would lead for a few laps but Carroll would work his way around and take the top spot with Watson following around for 2nd. But as soon as things were looking good for Carroll it all changed as something went amiss in his drivetrain and he would have to come to the pits for the evening. A caution would fly with 9 laps to go and bunch the field for a final rally. Watson would

take point, Millington to the outside, Davidson inside 2nd row, and Ty Gibbs in the #18 outside 2nd row. When the green flag flew Watson would get a great start and move back to the lead as Millington would have his hands full holding off Davidson. Watson would drive on to his 2nd win of the year with Millington holding on for 2nd. Davidson finished 3rd, Gibbs would grab 4th after coming back from a hard crash last week, and Mitch Walker in the #29 would finish 5th .

Race fans are in for a treat next week as the Bandit Big Rig Series pays America's Most Famous Short Track a visit on Cosmo Motors Big Rig Racing Night. Also in action is a full slate of NASCAR Whelen All-American Series action will be the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Bojangles Late Models running twin 40 lap features, Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models, Cosmo Motors Street Stocks, 4 Cylinders, and Renegades.

Gates open at 5pm, Qualifying at 5:30pm, Autograph Session at 6:30pm, and Racing at 7:30pm. Tickets are only \$16 Adults, \$14 Youth/Seniors, Children 10 & under FREE!

For more info check us out at www.hickorymotorspeedway.com, Facebook and Twitter.



Charlie Watson (9) battles with Ryan Millington (76) for the lead in the Bojangles Late Model Series race at Hickory Motor Speedway Saturday night. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)