



MAY 29, 2017

# **FastTrack**

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# **Austin Dillon Returns #3 to Winning Ways**

# Truck Series Losing Teams; Needs Better Schedule

Red Horse Racing, which had been a fixture on the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series for the past 13 years, closed its doors last week.



**DON COBLE**

**NEMCO**

Racing Motorsports driver John Hunter Nemechek admitted his family's team may be forced to scale back to a part-time schedule.

As funding continues to dry up at the truck series level, some teams are left to deal with financial realities of their industry.

The recently-released 2018 schedule probably won't help, former truck and Xfinity series owner Kevin Harvick said.

Harvick, who also drives in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series for Stewart-Haas Racing, got out of the team ownership business after the 2011 season. He still has an insight to the struggles of the lower tiers and remains passionate those series.

He went into a tirade last week during his "Happy Hour" radio show on SiriusXM NASCAR radio, saying trucks should go back to smaller short tracks to rebuild its relevance.

"The truck schedule is racing at a ton of the wrong race tracks," Harvick told his radio audience. "They should be back at Louisville [Motor Speedway], they should be back at some of these grassroots race tracks. The truck series should be helping us build our grassroots program, from Late Models on up, by having a truck race there."

Next year's schedule has 23 races. Nineteen of them are in conjunction with Cup races. Attendance across the board has dropped considerably in the past five years. Given the choice, most fans will opt for a Cup race than arrive a day or two earlier for a truck race, Harvick said.

Two-time truck champion Todd Bodine agrees.

"First of all, I think having all three series at any given racetrack is a mistake," he said. "It's not the right deal. Racing can't afford to do that."

Bodine likes the idea of either trucks or Xfinity cars working as the opening act for a Cup race, but not both. And like Harvick, he wants the trucks back on the short tracks that created a strong foundation for the series 20 years ago.

"Racing at South Boston [Va.] doesn't make for great TV, but the trucks need to be at South Boston," Bodine said. "It's great to get these guys some experience on the mile-and-a-half tracks to get them ready for the next step, but we don't need to be there all the time. Half of the races on mile-and-a-half tracks is ridiculous."

"The truck series isn't in trouble, but it's hurting."

Another obstacle for the trucks is the early-season schedule. The season starts consecutive week-ends at the Daytona International Speedway, Atlanta Motor Speedway and Las Vegas Motor Speedway. A three-week layoff is followed by a race at the Martinsville Speedway and another five-week gap.

NASCAR is aware of the truck series challenges. The sanctioning body has been working behind the scenes to reduce costs of doing business.

One suggestion could be requiring race promoters to work harder. Some are content with revenue of the current television contract, so they don't get out into the community to promote events. Since Cup races get a significant cut of TV revenues, that's where most promotional resources are spent.

"You've got to get butts in the seats," Bodine said. "You need to get back to old-school promoting. And you need to make it affordable."

For Red Horse and it's two drivers – Brett Moffitt and Timothy Peters – it may be too late. For Nemechek, help can't come soon enough.

"It does weigh on me," Nemechek said. "We definitely need to find some more team sponsorship. We may have to cut back to a part-time schedule."

Harvick insists moving to smaller tracks not only would attract new fans, it would put the truck series back on center stage.



**Red Horse Racing's two trucks line up for inspection at Kansas Speedway in May. Truck #17 was driven by Timothy Peter and truck #7 was driven by Brett Moffitt. After 13 years in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, the team has closed their doors. (redhorseracing.net photo)**

"Go to these grassroots race tracks and guess what? That's where the trucks need to be racing because they're going to put 10,000-to-15,000 people in the grandstands every week to watch these races because they're

unique events," he said. "Take the trucks somewhere where everybody wants to see them." While there still is a truck series to see.

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### ON THE COVER:

MENCS - STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES

# Austin Dillon Puts No. 3 Chevrolet Back in Victory Lane on Fuel-Mileage Gamble

By REID SPENCER  
CONCORD, NC - Armed with a new crew chief and a gas tank that held just enough fuel to get him to the end of 600 miles with less than a second to spare, Austin

Dillon won the first Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series of his career and put the vaunted No. 3 Chevrolet back in Victory Lane for the first time since 2000.

Working for the first time in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series with crew chief Justin Alexander, Dillon was one of eight drivers who stayed on the track when the strongest cars in the Sunday night's Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway—the Toyotas of eventual runner-up Kyle Busch and third-place Martin Truex Jr.—came to pit road on Lap 368 of 400.

Saving fuel for the entire run, Dillon trailed Jimmie Johnson, who also stayed out, until the seven-time champion ran out of gas with less than three laps left. With Busch and Truex in hot pursuit, Dillon had just enough fuel to get to the finish line.

The No. 3 Chevrolet owned by

Dillon's grandfather, Richard Childress, returned to the winner's circle for the first time since the late Dale Earnhardt won his last race on Oct. 15, 2000 at Talladega. After Earnhardt's death in the 2001 Daytona 500, Childress retired the number in NASCAR's premier series until Dillon ran his first full season of Cup racing in 2014.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," Dillon said in Victory Lane. "I can't believe it. I was just really focused on those last laps. My fiancé wrote in the car, 'When you keep God in first-place, he will take you places you never imagined.'

"And, I never imagined I be here at the 600 Victory Lane. Praise the Lord and all these guys who work so hard; and my pit crew is the best on pit road. I love it for them. We're in the playoffs. It's awesome."

Dillon, who led only the final two laps, had to restrain himself from using too much fuel in pursuit of Johnson.

"I was just trying to be patient with the No. 48," Dillon said. "I could see him saving. I thought I'd saved enough early, where I could attack at the end, but I tried to wait as long as possible. And when he ran out, I figured I'd go back in and

save where I was lifting, and it worked out.

"I ran out at the line, and it gurgled all around just to do one little spin and push it back to Victory Lane."

Matt Kenseth ran fourth, followed by Joe Gibbs racing teammate Denny Hamlin, as Toyotas claimed positions two through five.

The fireworks started early at the 1.5-mile track, more than six hours before the race ended. On Lap 20, five laps before a scheduled competition caution, a large piece of debris shot from the back of Jeffrey Earnhardt's smoking No. 33 car into the path of Chase Elliott's No. 24 Chevrolet.

The debris knocked a hole in the nose of Elliott's car, and flames erupted beneath the engine compartment as fluid spilled from the Chevy. Brad Keselowski skidded through the oil, as if his No. 2 Ford had hit a patch of ice, and piled into the back of Elliott's car, destroying both machines.

"Somebody broke, and there was just oil everywhere, and I couldn't turn," Keselowski said. "I ran into the back of Chase. Somebody broke in front of him, and then he ran over what they broke and then he broke, so there were two cars broke in front of me and just oil everywhere."

"You couldn't stop and turn. You couldn't do anything. It's a real bummer for our team. We had a really fast Miller Lite Ford, and I think we had a shot at winning tonight, but that's how it goes."

Elliott was equally disappointed

that his car was on a wrecker in the garage.

"The No. 33 broke something ahead of me and I ended up hitting it," Elliott said. "I hit it pretty hard. I knew it had hurt our nose at least, then I saw some flames and figured we were laying down oil too, I guess."

"Brad couldn't get stopped and ended up kind of finishing us off, but it was a bummer. I hate it. I don't really know what you do about stuff like that. Just move on."

After the subsequent restart on Lap 28, the rest of the first 100-lap stage ran caution-free, with Kyle Busch passing Truex on Lap 90 and pulling away to secure the playoff point accorded the stage winner.

Truex was leading when the caution flag flew for the third time on Lap 142 after Matt DiBenedetto's No. 32 Ford slammed into the outside wall. Moments later, NASCAR red-flagged the race because of the threat of heavy rain and lightning in the area.

The rain arrived and drenched the track, forcing a delay of 1 hour, 39 minutes, 56 seconds before the cars started rolling again.

Truex dominated after a restart on Lap 176 and won the second stage going away. The driver of the No. 78 Toyota appeared headed for another victory in Stage 3 until series leader Kyle Larson blew a tire and pounded the wall on Lap 292.

"I got really loose into (Turn) 3 and hit the wall and got a lot of damage, and the tire started to go down and then exploded in (Turn) 1," Larson said. "I just hate it that I made a mistake there in Turn 3 and got in the wall."

"I wasn't even running hard up there. I just got loose and then I hit it and it ruined our day. I'm hoping to hold onto the point lead and then go to Dover next week and try to do better."

(As it turned out, Truex took over the series lead by five points over Larson, with Keselowski 82 points back in third-place.)

After Larson's accident, Truex lost three spots on pit road on Lap 294, ceding the stage win to Denny Hamlin.

But Truex, who led a race-high 233 laps—and led the most laps in the Coca-Cola 600 for the third straight year with only last year's win to show for it—regained the top spot after a restart on lap 334, clearing Kyle Busch through the first two corners, and soon pulled away to a two-second lead.

Then Dillon's fuel-mileage play changed everything.



While #3's most famous driver, Dale Earnhardt, was known for his "pass in the grass" moves, the #3's current driver, Austin Dillon, has made it his signature move to "slide in the grass" after winning. The victory in the Coca-Cola 600 is his first in the Cup series. (SARAH CRABHILL/GETTY IMAGES photo)

# Late Pass Gives Ryan Blaney Win at Charlotte

By REID SPENCER  
 CONCORD, NC - Kevin Harvick was between a rock and a hard place with three laps left in Saturday's Hisense 4K TV 300 at Charlotte Motor Speedway, and Ryan Blaney took full advantage of the veteran driver's conundrum.

Passing Harvick for the lead after a restart on Lap 198 and 200, Blaney crossed the finish line .244 seconds ahead of the driver of the No. 41 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford.

Blaney had pushed Harvick to the front past eventual third-place finisher Austin Dillon on a restart after the 10th caution, brought out when Michael Annett's No. 5 JR Motorsports Chevrolet scraped the Turn 3 wall on Lap 176.

But when Blaney powered his No. 12 Team Penske Ford into second-place after the 11th caution, Harvick was faced with a dilemma when the caution flew for the final time for Darrell Wallace Jr.'s spin on Lap 194. If Harvick chose the inside lane for the final restart, second-place Blaney would have lined up in front of Team Penske teammate Brad Keselowski, setting up the possibility of a ferocious push.

Harvick chose the top lane but couldn't clear Blaney through the

first two corners after the restart with three laps to go. Blaney surged ahead and had the lead by the time he exited Turn 4. End of story.

"We were able to push Kevin (Harvick) to the front and get to second, and that gave us a shot and got by him at the end there on that last restart," said Blaney, who won at the same track that gave his father, Dave Blaney, his only NASCAR XFINITY Series victory in 2006. Dave Blaney was at CMS on Saturday to celebrate with his son.

"To win at a track where my father did is pretty cool," Blaney said.

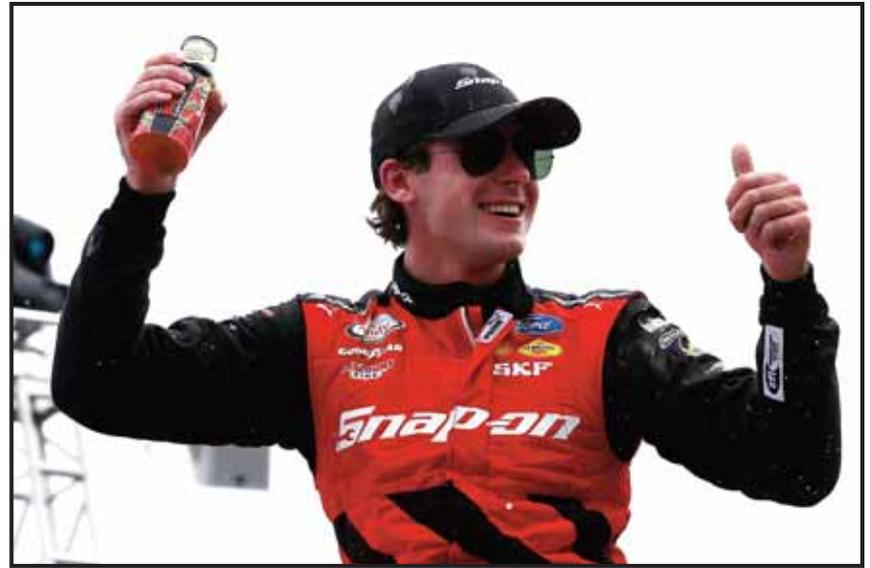
Blaney won for the first time this season, the first time at Charlotte and the fifth time in his career.

Harvick took the defeat philosophically, knowing he was confronted with a pair of difficult choices at the end.

"I knew I was in a pickle then," Harvick said. "I didn't really know what to do. If you take the bottom and get the 12 (Blaney) and 22 (Keselowski) hooked up, we might have got beaten worse."

"We just got beat by the 12. He did a great job all day on the restarts."

In fact, Blaney led 107 laps to Harvick's 58, but was shuffled back to third during his final pit stop on Lap 160 when he was blocked in his stall on pit road.



Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 Snap-On Ford, celebrates in victory lane with a "thumbs up" sign. (SARAH CRABHILL/GETTY IMAGES photo)

"I thought we had a really good pit stop," Blaney said. "I just kind of got boxed in, didn't angle out very well. That was on me. But luckily we were able to get back on the front row and give us a shot. It was so hard starting third when you only have a couple of laps to get to the front row."

"That was really tough, and I thought we were going to run out of laps to make it happen."

The final caution, however, gave Blaney the opportunity he needed.

Christopher Bell finished fourth in his NASCAR XFINITY Series debut, after a remarkable recovery from a spin off Turn 4 on the third lap of the race. Turned sideways by a tap from Ryan Reed's Roush Fenway Racing Ford, Bell's No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota slid through the infield grass but

avoided major damage to the undercarriage.

Bell spent the next 195 laps working his way back toward the front.

"I'm glad it was 200 laps, because we used every single bit of it," Bell said. "We didn't have a lot of luck on the restarts at the beginning of the race, starting on the bottom, but we got the luck (with outside starting positions) when we needed it at the end."

Denny Hamlin finished fifth, followed by Keselowski, Cole Custer, Brennan Poole, Brendan Gaughan and Tyler Reddick.

Despite his crash and 35th-place result, Sadler retained the series lead by six points over JR Motorsports teammate Justin Allgaier, who started from the pole and finished 12th.



Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 Snap-On Ford, pits during the NASCAR Xfinity Series Hisense 4K TV 300 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. (BRIAN LAWDERMILK/GETTY IMAGES photo)

# Playoff Makeover Headlines 2018 NASCAR Schedules

## *Daytona 500 Returns to Historic Presidents Day Weekend*

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - NASCAR today announced sweeping changes to the lineup of tracks that make up the playoffs as part of its 2018 national series schedules.

Next season, the final regular season race in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series will be contested at iconic Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and the Round of 16 kicks off at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

NASCAR has added a second short track to the playoff slate, as the historic ¾-mile Richmond International Raceway hosts the second playoff race for the first time, and Charlotte Motor Speedway serves as the first cutoff race, with an intriguing twist – and turn. The Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series will race on the road course oval at Charlotte, marking the first time the playoffs will see a road-course layout among its 10 races.

With Charlotte moving to the cutoff of the Round of 16, Dover International Speedway now hosts the first race of the Round of 12 – another playoff first.

Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Great American Race, the Daytona 500 returns to its traditional Presidents Day weekend on Sunday, February 18.

Speedweeks kicks off with an action-packed Sunday, February 11 at Daytona International Speedway, with a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series season-opening double-header featuring the Clash and Daytona 500 pole qualifying.

“Fan feedback was a major driver in developing these schedules, and we worked very closely with the industry to set the stage for an exciting 2018 season,” said Steve O’Donnell, NASCAR executive vice president and chief racing development officer. “This season has delivered more dramatic moments to fans, and with the adjustments to the 2018 schedules we’re in a great position to build upon that success.”

Richmond’s spring race returns to Saturday night, and the spring triple-header at Dover moves to the first week in May.

The NASCAR Camping World Truck Series joins NASCAR Goes West, the annual three-race trek to the West Coast, making March 2-4 a triple-header weekend at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

The fall weekend at Las Vegas serves as the final regular season event for the NASCAR XFINITY Series, with a three-race opening round of Richmond, Charlotte and Dover. The fall Bristol race will finalize the playoff field for the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, with Round of 8 races at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, Las Vegas and Talladega.

All races will air on either the FOX or NBC family of networks, MRN, PRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

For more information visit [www.NASCAR.com](http://www.NASCAR.com) and [www.IMSA.com](http://www.IMSA.com), and follow NASCAR on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat (‘NASCAR’).

### 2018 MONSTER ENERGY NASCAR CUP SERIES SCHEDULE

Date	Site
02/11	Daytona International Speedway (Clash / Daytona 500 Qualifying)
02/15	Daytona International Speedway (Duel)
02/18	Daytona 500
02/25	Atlanta Motor Speedway
03/04	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
03/11	Phoenix International Raceway
03/18	Auto Club Speedway
03/25	Martinsville Speedway
04/08	Texas Motor Speedway
04/15	Bristol Motor Speedway
04/21	Richmond International Raceway
04/29	Talladega Superspeedway
05/06	Dover International Speedway
05/12	Kansas Speedway
05/19	Charlotte Motor Speedway

(All-Star Race)	Speedway	07/13	Kentucky Speedway
05/27	Charlotte Motor Speedway	07/21	New Hampshire Motor Speedway
06/03	Pocono Raceway	07/28	Iowa Speedway
06/10	Michigan International Speedway	08/04	Watkins Glen International
06/24	Sonoma Raceway	08/11	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course
07/01	Chicagoland Speedway	08/17	Bristol Motor Speedway
07/07	Daytona International Speedway	08/25	Road America
07/14	Kentucky Speedway	09/01	Darlington Raceway
07/22	New Hampshire Motor Speedway	09/08	Indianapolis Motor Speedway
07/29	Pocono Raceway	09/15	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
08/05	Watkins Glen International	09/21	Richmond International Raceway
08/12	Michigan International Speedway	09/29	Charlotte Motor Speedway
08/18	Bristol Motor Speedway	10/06	Dover International Speedway
09/02	Darlington Raceway	10/20	Kansas Speedway
09/09	Indianapolis Motor Speedway	11/03	Texas Motor Speedway
09/16	Las Vegas Motor Speedway	11/10	Phoenix International Raceway
09/22	Richmond International Raceway	11/17	Homestead-Miami Speedway
09/30	Charlotte Motor Speedway		
10/07	Dover International Speedway		
10/14	Talladega Superspeedway		
10/21	Kansas Speedway		
10/28	Martinsville Speedway		
11/04	Texas Motor Speedway		
11/11	Phoenix International Raceway		
11/18	Homestead-Miami Speedway		

### 2018 NASCAR CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES SCHEDULE

Date	Site
02/16	Daytona International Speedway
02/24	Atlanta Motor Speedway
03/02	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
03/24	Martinsville Speedway
05/04	Dover International Speedway
05/11	Kansas Speedway
05/18	Charlotte Motor Speedway
06/08	Texas Motor Speedway
06/16	Iowa Speedway
06/23	Gateway Motorsports Park
06/29	Chicagoland Speedway
07/12	Kentucky Speedway
07/18	Eldora Speedway
07/28	Pocono Raceway
08/11	Michigan International Speedway
08/15	Bristol Motor Speedway
08/26	Canadian Tire Motorsport Park
09/14	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
10/13	Talladega Superspeedway
10/27	Martinsville Speedway
11/02	Texas Motor Speedway
11/09	Phoenix International Raceway
11/16	Homestead-Miami Speedway

### 2018 NASCAR XFINITY SERIES SCHEDULE

Date	Site
02/17	Daytona International Speedway
02/24	Atlanta Motor Speedway
03/03	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
03/10	Phoenix International Raceway
03/17	Auto Club Speedway
04/07	Texas Motor Speedway
04/14	Bristol Motor Speedway
04/20	Richmond International Raceway
04/28	Talladega Superspeedway
05/05	Dover International Speedway
05/26	Charlotte Motor Speedway
06/02	Pocono Raceway
06/09	Michigan International Speedway
06/17	Iowa Speedway
06/30	Chicagoland Speedway
07/06	Daytona International



P.A.S.S.

## Concord PASS South Event Postponed Due To Wet Grounds And Weepers

CHARLOTTE, NC - Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials announced Wednesday afternoon that this Friday night's Old Glory 125 for the PASS South Super Late Models at Concord Speedway has been postponed due to extremely wet grounds and weepers on the track surface.

Despite a forecast for sunny and clear weather on Friday, Concord and the surrounding areas have been under flood warnings and received several inches of rain over the last few days, which have left the grounds fully saturated. Track officials have long struggled with weepers, especially between turns one and two, which have been further exacerbated by the recent rains. Both track owner David Laton and general manager Jennifer Campbell hope by announcing the postponement now it will save teams and fans money that might be incurred for travel. PASS and track officials will evaluate schedules and see what date works best to reschedule the events for Concord Speedway.

"In the best interest of the PASS teams and, with several different weather outlets predicting more heavy rain for the next two days,

Tom Mayberry and I agreed that it was best to go ahead and postpone the events scheduled for this weekend at Concord," said Campbell. "Hopefully, this will allow the teams to cancel hotel reservations and will also give them the opportunity do something else for Memorial Day weekend. We look forward to having PASS back in the near future."

The next PASS South Super Late Model event on the schedule will be at Southern National Motorsports Park on Saturday, July 15th. Entry forms for PASS races at Thunder Road International Speedway, Speedway 95 and Lee USA Speedway are currently posted at ProAllStarsSeries.com.

The Pro All Stars Series is recognized as North America's premier sanctioning body for asphalt Super Late Models and boasts such marquee events as the Oxford 250 at Oxford Plains Speedway and PASS South's Easter Bunny 150 and Mason-Dixon MegaMeltdown 300 at the historic Hickory Motor Speedway. For technical information concerning all PASS divisions please send questions to [passracing@roadrunner.com](mailto:passracing@roadrunner.com). Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

Southern Super Series

## Southern Super Series Introduces Good, Bad & Ugly Awards for Anderson Speedway

PENSACOLA, FL - When the Southern Super Series presented by Sunoco makes its first trip to Anderson Motor Speedway (SC) on June 10, the series will be offering a trio of unique awards to its competitors. Series promoter Tim Bryant recently announced the "Good, Bad and Ugly" awards that will be handed out to a trio of competitors.

The "Good" award will be handed out to the highest finishing driver who also competed in the Southern Super Series race at Five Flags Speedway (FL) on April 28. That is the bonus that most drivers will want to be chasing.

For those who don't experience as much luck, there will be the "Bad" and "Ugly" awards. The "Bad" award will be given to the lowest finishing driver who also competed in the SSS race at Five Flags, while the "Ugly" award will be handed out to the driver who crashes out the worst in the Border Wars 250 at Anderson. This award will be decided by Southern Super Series officials.

Bryant explained that there is also a possibility for the "Ugly"

award to be split between two drivers if they're both involved in a crash and suffer severe damage.

All three award winners will receive a \$500 bonus for the race.

"We're always looking for new ways to help out our racers, not only those who finish well but also those who come to our events and don't experience the best of luck," Bryant said. "While we hope that none of our drivers experience the ugly, we want to be able to help them out a little bit if they do."

The Border Wars 250 at Anderson Motor Speedway will feature a 125-lap Super Late Model race featuring both the Southern Super Series and CARS Tour Super Late Models. The CARS Tour Late Model Stocks will also compete in a 125-lap race that day.

Stephen Nasse holds a 15-point lead over Chandler Smith in the Southern Super Series championship standings entering the event.

For more information on the Southern Super Series presented by Sunoco, head to [www.southern-superseries.com](http://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](http://www.Facebook.com/SouthernSuperSeries).

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**Phoenix Raceway**

PHOENIX, AZ - City of Avondale officials today helped Phoenix Raceway celebrate an important milestone for its Phoenix Raceway Project Powered by DC Solar by delivering the first four truckloads of steel that will be used to construct the grandstand addition.

The vehicles were led by an escort from the Avondale Police Department and the official Phoenix Race-

way Toyota Camry promotional car as part of a special parade down Avondale Boulevard.

City of Avondale officials and loyal Phoenix Raceway ticket holders accompanied members of the Okland Construction team (builder for the project) riding in the four trucks that carried the steel to the project site outside of the famous dogleg.

These four trucks, carrying 40,000 pounds of steel each, are the first of 100 total trucks that will transport the steel throughout the project.

Since 1964, Phoenix Raceway has been the premier motorsports venue in the Southwest. Founded as an open-wheel racing mecca, Phoenix Raceway is proud to once again host the Phoenix Grand Prix Verizon IndyCar Series race under the lights on April 29. Phoenix is the only track in the West to feature two Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series weekends a year, beginning with the Camping World 500 race weekend in March 17-19. The schedule is anchored by the Can-Am 500 race weekend on Nov. 10-12, the semifinal race in NASCAR's Playoffs after which the field is reduced to the final four championship contenders.

For more information, visit [www.PhoenixRaceway.com](http://www.PhoenixRaceway.com).

**Darlington Raceway**

DARLINGTON, SC - Darlington Raceway will once again partner with the Darlington County School District in a multi-agency summer reading program designed to emphasize the importance of reading and combat summer learning loss for students in Darlington County.

Almost 7,000 DCSD students in kindergarten through eighth grade will participate in the summer reading program, which involves Darlington Raceway, the Darlington County Library system, the TEACH



**The first load of steel for Phoenix Raceway's Project Powered by DC Solar was delivered to the track. (PR photo)**

Foundation, and South Carolina Future Minds in a districtwide effort.

"We want our local children to excel in school and grow up to make a positive impact in the world we live in," Darlington Raceway President Kerry Tharp said. "We are more than happy to utilize our resources at the track to encourage a child to read more and improve their education."

"We greatly appreciate Darlington Raceway, the TEACH Foundation, the Darlington County Library System and South Carolina Future Minds for supporting summer reading in Darlington County. With their help, we can combat summer learning loss and help our students continue to learn throughout the summer," said Dr. Eddie Ingram, district superintendent.

During the summer reading program, students in kindergarten through eighth grade countywide will read books and then take Accelerated Reader (AR) tests at any of the local branches of the Darlington County Library System. The Darlington County Library System has computers available for the tests and specialists who can help guide students to the appropriate books as well as set them up with the AR tests. Each grade level will have specific point goals.

When the program concludes in August, all students who reach their AR point goals will be rewarded with a special fieldtrip. In addition, the top three readers in each grade will receive a special trip to Darlington Raceway on Friday, Sept. 1, to receive a once-in-a-lifetime experience at the track's legendary Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500 race weekend.

To kick off this year's summer reading program, South Carolina Future Minds (SCFM) partnered with Darlington Raceway and the Darlington County School District

on Friday, May 26 to provide free books for students at Lamar Elementary in Lamar, SC and Rosenswald Elementary/Middle School in Society Hill, SC.

"We are thrilled to work with Darlington Raceway and Darlington County School District to tackle summer reading loss among our extraordinary public school students," South Carolina Future Minds Executive Director Caroline Mauldin said. "Every child deserves the chance to reach their potential—in and out of the classroom—and it is through innovative, exciting partnerships like this one that we will ensure that all of South Carolina's children do just that."

SCFM will utilize a summer literacy grant they recently received from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to provide free books to the students to help them build their own home libraries and begin working toward their summer reading goals. SCFM champions world-class student achievement by developing excellence in teaching, encouraging collaboration among public education stakeholders, and connecting private financial support to public schools.

The summer reading program is just one of many partnerships Darlington Raceway has supported over the years as part of its youth initiatives. It also offers one of the best kids ticket offers in the industry with 12-and-under half-price for any seat to the Bojangles' Southern 500.

The track also introduced the Raceway Rascals Kids Club presented by Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan in 2015.

Darlington Raceway's award-winning throwback campaign is the The Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR, featuring the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500® on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017. The NASCAR XFIN-

ITY 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](http://DarlingtonRaceway.com). You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Raceway at [DarlingtonRaceway.com](http://DarlingtonRaceway.com), on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway) and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TooToughToTame](https://twitter.com/TooToughToTame).

**Dover International Speedway**

DOVER, DE - Gordon Ramsay, the British-born, award-winning chef who has gained international recognition for his original TV productions, will serve as the grand marshal for the "AAA 400 Drive for Autism" Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race at Dover International Speedway on Sunday, June 4 (1 p.m. ET, FS1), track officials announced today.

Ramsay will give the command for the 40 drivers in the "AAA 400 Drive for Autism" field to start their engines before the green flag drops.

Ramsay, 50, is the host of the new weekly live cooking competition and talk show "The F Word," which premieres on Wednesday, May 31 on Fox. Throughout each hour-long episode, cooking competition will be combined with a variety show as Ramsay chats with surprise guests and VIPs in the dining room and appears in unique field segments with fans and culinary experts.

"We're really ramping it up a notch with this new live cooking show each week," Ramsay said. "I can't wait for viewers to see the other surprises we have in store for each episode."

Ramsay's other productions include the Fox shows "Masterchef," "Masterchef Junior," "Hell's Kitchen," and "Masterchef Celebrity Showdown."

The "AAA 400 Drive for Autism" Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race is the centerpiece of the June 2-4 NASCAR tripleheader weekend, which also includes the "Bar Harbor 200" presented by Sea Watch International NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race on Friday, June 2 (5:30 p.m. ET, FS1) and the "OneMain Financial 200" NASCAR XFINITY Series Dash 4 Cash race on Saturday, June 3 (1 p.m. ET, FS1).

For tickets or more information, call (800) 441-RACE or visit [DoverSpeedway.com](http://DoverSpeedway.com). You can also keep up with the Monster Mile at [Facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway](https://www.facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway), or on Twitter and Instagram at @MonsterMile.

## Schuchart Shines Bright in Charlotte

CONCORD, NC - After starting in the third position for the Outlaw Showdown at The Dirt Track at Charlotte Motor Speedway for the 30-lap Feature event, Logan Schuchart had a scare just before the half-way mark of the race. When Schuchart he attempted a slide job on the leader Brad Sweet, he overshot

the attempt, forcing him up to the wall. Still managing to continue on, Schuchart would get another opportunity as the field came to the white flag, Schuchart would slip by Sweet for the lead. The driver of the No. 1s machine would round the final circuit of the 4/10-mile clay-oval en route to his third win of the 2017 World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car Series season.

Earlier this week, the Shark Racing team of Logan Schuchart and Jacob Allen put out a cry for help on social media for the second time this season looking for a way to get their two-car operation to the race-track. After getting help from the racing industry friends, the two-car team showed up at New Egypt Speedway just as the Heats were getting underway. Schuchart would eventually qualify for the Feature event through the Last Chance Showdown and go on to finish 12th from the 24th-starting spot.

"We got a lot of people that stand behind us and that put these racecars on the track," said Logan Schuchart. "I just have a lot to be thankful for just to be in this position, [to] race in Charlotte and with the World of Outlaws."

Fast forward three-days and the No. 1s of Logan Schuchart not only made it to Charlotte (thanks to the help from their newly-repaired toterhome) but he and the Shark Racing team ended the night by standing in Victory Lane, grabbing his third win of the 2017 season.

When the field got the green flag for the 30-lap Feature at The Dirt Track at Charlotte Motor Speedway, it was the Brad Sweet show looking to cap off the sweep, having won quick time, his Heat race and the Craftsman Club Dash. Rocketing out to a big lead, Sweet worked the top-groove as he caught the tail end of the 24-car field.

Schuchart would had started

third in the Feature event threw a slide job in turns three and four on Kraig Kinser for second place as the field came to complete lap five. Schuchart would set his sights on the No. 49 NAPA Auto Parts entry of Sweet as they both picked their way through lap traffic. On lap 11, Schuchart attempted another slide job that failed to stick, causing him to tag the outside turn two wall.

"I thought we had a chance at Brad [Sweet] earlier in the race and I tried to slide him but my throttle stuck and ran me way too far into the corner," said Logan Schuchart. "We actually got into the wall and I think we bent a wheel."

Still able to continue, Sweet opened up the gap over Schuchart as the laps ticked away.

The Hanover, PA-driver made one-final attempt at Sweet as the two exited turn four; Schuchart made this attempt stick and would hold off Sweet and Daryn Pittman for his third win of the season.

"Winning in Charlotte, North Carolina in front of all these fans, is what makes our sport," added Schuchart. "You fans in the stands is what make us come out and continue to do what we do, thank you," exclaimed Schuchart.

"Overall tonight was good for us," stated Brad Sweet who won quick time, his heat race and the Craftsman Club Dash. "I just got stuck behind those lap cars, that's where you win or lose these races. Hats off to that team; Logan drove a great race."

The 2016 Outlaw Showdown winner, Greg Wilson made up 10 position in the Outlaw Showdown Feature event to bring home another top-five at Charlotte and earn the KSE Hard Charger award.

Clyde Knipp had an impressive run at Charlotte, bringing his No. 13 machine home in 16th place, a career run for the California-MO driver.

Logan Schuchart's teammate, Jacob Allen gave Shark Racing two top-10 finishes on the evening by finishing in the ninth position.

### David Gravel Victorious at New Egypt Speedway

NEW EGYPT, NJ - David Gravel continued his east coast dominance Wednesday night at New Egypt Speedway by picking up his third win of the last four World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car



Logan Schuchart celebrates Friday after winning the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Cars' Outlaw Showdown at The Dirt Track at Charlotte. (HHP photo)

Series races and his eighth-overall win for the 2017 season. Gravel, no stranger to the D-shaped clay oval, cut his teeth in Sprint Car racing at New Egypt in his URC Sprint Car.

"I'm glad I could win in front of everybody here that came out to watch me," Gravel said. "I have to thank Barry, Derek and Zack for working hard to give me a good car; I just have to do my part."

Jason Johnson and Gravel lead the 24-car field to the green flag to start the 30-lap Feature. Gravel dove into turn one and came out of turn two as the new leader on the initial start and never looked back.

The first caution of the night was brought out on lap six for a slow Tyler Ross.

Donny Schatz and Brad Sweet put pressure on Johnson for second on the restart as they went three-wide going into turn one. Sweet came out on top as he pulled away in second.

Dave Blaney, Jason Sides and Davey Sammons went upside-down in turns one and two bringing out the red flag on lap seven, all drivers were ok. The four-time defending race winner, Daryn Pittman was also involved, causing wing damage and a broken front axle.

After spending time in the work area, Sides, Pittman and Sammons were able to rejoin the back of the field. Blaney suffered too much damage to return.

After the field got going again, Gravel was able to get back out front and hold a steady lead over Sweet until they caught lap traffic on lap 14.

Gravel maneuvered his way through the lap cars smoothly until Sweet and Schatz started the second and third-place cars a glimmer of hope.

With four laps remaining, Schatz

dove under Sweet going into turn one and took away the second spot by the time he exited for the back stretch.

Schatz then set his sights on Gravel but only to have a lap car act has a pick as they exited out of the final turn.

"I'm sure he was close," mentioned Gravel about Schatz. "I really couldn't do anything. It was a pretty narrow track but I just tried not to slip up. I don't know if he was running high or low. I was trying to be patient in lap traffic."

Gravel crossed the line and took the victory over Schatz, Sweet, Shane Stewart and Jason Johnson. Gravel is red-hot on the east coast having won three races in the last week.

"It's been a great year and hopefully we keep doing this," Gravel noted.

The 2016 defending World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series Champion, Schatz, felt his car wasn't good enough to beat Gravel.

"We got there in traffic but that's what it was going to take to win the race," Schatz said. "The lap cars were pretty tough to get around. He was better than we were in the open. You're not going to win these races anymore if you're not a very good car and we just haven't seem to get that right rear feel. We'll keep working on it."

Third-place finisher, Sweet, was happy with his performance in his No. 49 machine despite rough track conditions.

"There were some holes out there and lap traffic and that's what easily wins or loses it," Sweet added. "We were right there on David and tried to move up a little bit but there wasn't much up there. David did a good job and just kind

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of managed the race and kept his car out front in the right position."

Shark Racing ran into hauler troubles heading to New Egypt forcing them to arrive late. Logan Schuchart tagged on to the back of the heat race while Jacobs Allen's car arrived later and made it just in time for the Last Chance Showdown. Schuchart transferred to the feature through

the Last Chance Showdown from last place and finished in a solid 12th-place finish, grabbing the KSE Hard Charger Award in the process.

Pittman, who had won the last four races at New Egypt, was set to start ninth in the third heat and immediately went pit side to change an engine after trailing oil on the track.

Pittman qualified second in the Last Chance Showdown to transfer into the Feature. He was then tangled up in an early wreck, damag-

ing the wing and breaking the front axle. Pittman made it back out and finished 14th.

Donny Schatz kicked off the night with the fastest time in time trials with a time of 13.422. Heat races went to Stewart, Shaffer and Gravel. Johnson won the Craftsman Club Dash and Jason Sides won the last chance showdown.

### Team World of Outlaws vs. Team Knoxville Raceway

CONCORD, NC - When it comes to providing a fan friendly atmosphere, no track does it better than Knoxville Raceway. Knoxville is one track that every Sprint Car racing fan wants to visit; not just because of the storied track history or the action around the track grounds but for the activities that the track offers.

When the "Big Guns" from the World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car Series rolls into Knoxville, IA on June 9 and 10 for the Brownells Big Guns Bash, fans will either be cheering for Team World of Outlaws or Team Knoxville as both group of drivers will be looking to stake their claim as the

best Sprint Car drivers around.

Last year during the two-race weekend, it was a draw when local driver, Terry McCarl took the victory on the opening night. The World of Outlaws wouldn't be denied however, when nine-time Knoxville Nationals winner, Donny Schatz evened the score by snagging his ninth victory of the 2016 season the following night.

The Outlaws will head into the Knoxville weekend with a stacked field of players including David Gravel, Jason Johnson, Joey Saldana and the rest of the full-time drivers.

Team Knoxville will try to beat the Outlaws to the punch with their regular drivers including Brian Brown, Kerry and Ian Madsen, Austin and Terry McCarl just to name a few.

Fans are encouraged to choose a side by wearing Red or Black for Team World of Outlaws or by wearing white for Team Knoxville.

On Friday, June 9, when the Brownells Big Guns Bash kicks-off, Knoxville Raceway will be offering a special promotion with \$1.00 Busch Light cans!

On Saturday afternoon at 3pm, before the action gets underway on

the track, bragging rights will be on the line during a human Foosball game when drivers from Team Knoxville square off with the drivers from Team World of Outlaws. The match will take place behind the front stretch grandstands.

Directly after the Foosball game and back by popular demand, fans that have tickets for Saturday's race will get a once-a-year opportunity to experience Knoxville up-close and personal during the Pre-Race Fan Pit Walk from 4pm - 5pm. Fans will be able to check out their favorite Sprint Cars and the teams' transporters as well as mingle with their favorite drivers before they hit the half-mile track later that evening.

The competition will stretch even further as a special fan challenge will take place during the event. Team World of Outlaws fans will take on Team Knoxville fans to see who is the strongest during the Craftsman Tool Box Challenge - by lifting Craftsman tool boxes full of Craftsman tools.

Tickets for both nights are available at or by calling the Knoxville Raceway ticket office at 641-842-5431 or by visiting [WorldofOutlaws.com/Tickets](http://WorldofOutlaws.com/Tickets).

## Brandon Sheppard Grabs Win Number Four at Wayne County

ORRVILLE, OH - During the World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series event at Wayne County Speedway, a fan in attendance decided to support the Series further than the purchase of his ticket. Joe Seins, from JD Empire Trucking, posted an extra

\$2,500 towards the to-win-amount of an already \$10,000 prize. Series powerhouse, Brandon Sheppard, was the lucky winner of the evening as he found his way to Victory Lane for the first time since the beginning of the month.

"We've had a good car every time we've hit the track, we just haven't had things go our way and that's why it's called racing and not winning" said Sheppard. "We couldn't do this without all of our help and all of our sponsors."

Sheppard started sixth in the feature and found his way past five cars to claim the lead on lap 21. Further proving that no matter what

number the Rocket 1 driver pulls in the redraw, he can still find his way to the front.

Yet, the most impressive hard charger of the evening was Devin Moran, who started 19th in the feature and found his way to Sheppard's bumper by lap 34. With several cautions throughout the event, Moran was hoping to pass the no. 1 during the restarts but Sheppard was able to significantly pull away from the field every time.

"Just to start back that far and be able to come up to second just shows how good the race track was to race on," said Moran. "I really thought we had a shot to win this thing once we got in to second but Brandon and them guys were really good and I used up my tires a little bit too much. Starting 19th and running second, it was a good night. I can't complain."

Moran and his crew worked diligently throughout the day in order to land on the podium for the second night in a row. Unlike the previous night at Atomic Speedway, the stars did not align quite as nice for Moran as he had some mechanical



Brandon Sheppard raced his way to victory lane at Wayne County Speedway. (Paul Arch photo)

issues during his heat which would place him eighth in the Last Chance Showdown. Between the heat and the Showdown the Tye Twarog/DMR team was able to dial in the Rocket XR1 as Moran went on pass seven cars to win the Showdown.

Shane Clanton also had his hands full getting ready for the feature after he lost the right side and nose of his car during his heat race. He and Brian Shirley were running door-to-door on the front straightway towards the checker flag when the pair got tangled.

Despite damages, Clanton's momentum kept him going, ultimately putting him in the redraw. Luckily, for Clanton the damage was mostly cosmetic so it was all hands on deck for him and his crew to get ready for the big show.

Frank Heckenast Jr. and his crew chief Axle Wicker helped put the nose of their 99jr machine on the Capital Race Car. Clanton was trying to avoid using his backup car at all costs because it would ultimately cost him his redraw position which was a guaranteed top-six

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start in the feature. The crews' hard work paid off as Clanton went on to make an steady run during the feature where he stayed among the top-five every lap. He finished fifth.

Chris Madden rounded out the podium at Wayne County Speedway after making a last-lap pass around young gun, Tyler Erb. Madden also set a new track record of 16.580. The previous track record was 16.737 held by Russ King.

Next up for the World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series is the Ray Varner 50 at Tazewell Speedway on June 2 followed by the Billy Clanton Classic at Senoia Raceway on June 3.

## Devin Moran Wheels His Way to First Series Victory

CHILLICOTHE, OH - Devin Moran struck gold at Atomic Speedway during the World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series first appearance in 2017 in his home state of Ohio. Moran landed his first quick time of the season during qualifying, won his heat race and led all 50-laps of the Craftsman Club Feature to wheel his way to his first career Series win.

"When I crossed the checker flag I was yelling in my helmet," said Moran. "Everything fell in our favor tonight. We had the car right and that's what it starts with. Then we got quick time, won our heat and drew a good pill. It's been a picture-perfect night here. It's awesome to get our first win in Ohio on a night like this."

While pulling his Tye Twarog Racing/DMR machine down the front stretch on his way to park it in Victory Lane, fans rushed to the fence waving and yelling for their newly-earned home state hero. After letting out a battle cry under a shower of confetti, Moran jumped from the roof of his car and headed straight towards his dad, Donnie, for a high-five and a hug.

"This is awesome. This is what we have worked towards for a long time and he's finally come to his age here a little bit and got up on the wheel and got the job done tonight," said Donnie Moran of Devin's win.

Moran's redraw placed him on the outside of pole sitter, Frank Heckenast Jr. On the first lap Moran took the lead before creating an impressive 1.426-second gap between him and the rest of the field in only two laps time. With the help of lap traffic, Heckenast began to reel in the Rookie of the Year Contender but unfortunately due to mechanical issues he was forced to retire from the feature on lap 25.

The pivot point of the race for eventual second-place finisher, Steve Casebolt, was lap 30 when a caution fell for Morgan Bagley as he slowed on the track. Under the same caution, Brian Shirley called it an early night and Shane Clanton headed to the pits with a right rear flat. At the time of the caution, Shirley was running seventh and Clanton was running fourth. With Clanton out of the picture, Casebolt moved to fifth for the restart of which he took big-time advantage of. Casebolt jumped up the chain on the restart moving from fifth to second in the span of just one lap.

Casebolt was sporting a brand-new ride for the Outlaw race at Atomic Speedway thanks to Jim Beeman and Tader Masters, but you would never know because he was able to finish second from a thirteenth start.

"I think I got the call on Tuesday, and we put this thing together in a hurry," said Casebolt. "Working with Tader Masters has always been a dream of mine. I know how good he is with racecars and I've always wanted to learn from him. I think tonight showed that he had no doubt in me. I have to thank Jim Beeman for putting this deal together. Without him there's no way Tater and I would have gotten the chance to work together."

Series powerhouse and current points leader, Brandon Sheppard, rounded out the podium for the 50-lap \$10,000-to-win event at Atomic Speedway.

## Event at West Virginia's Tyler County Speedway Has Been Canceled

CONCORD, NC - Overnight storms with more heavy rain expected have forced World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series officials along with the team from Tyler County Speedway to cancel Sunday's event. Track and series officials will get together this coming week to look for a possible date to reschedule the race at the West Virginia bullring.

For more information on the World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series visit WoOLMS.com or find us on social media at on Twitter and Facebook.

## Prairie Dirt Classic Sets New Format, Payouts and Weekend Information

FAIRBURY, IL - When Fairbury American Legion Speedway and the World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series Officials first announced their partnership back in the spring of 2013, one thing was certain: the Prairie Dirt Classic was set for greatness. Taking home DirtonDirt.com's National "Race of the Year" honors three out of the past four years, the Prairie Dirt Classic has become one of the elite events in the country. Set apart by the green-to-checkered excitement on the track and the passionate FALS fans off it, the 28th annual Prairie Dirt Classic presented by the Bank of Pontiac will again set the bar high in 2017. The two-day \$30,000-to-win World of Outlaws-sanctioned event set for July 28-29 will feature the top drivers in the country chasing a total payout of \$93,000 that includes \$1,500 to start for the 100-lap feature event.

Fairbury officials are excited to announce the continued partnership with of the Bank of Pontiac as title sponsor for the Prairie Dirt Classic weekend. The relationship between the Bank of Pontiac and all the new sponsors for the PDC weekend will allow the event to reach an even higher level for fans, drivers and crews.

New to the Prairie Dirt Classic format in 2017, Showdown Features will headline what will be a wild Friday night of racing around the quarter-mile bullring known as FALS on July 28. Drivers entering the PDC weekend in both the World of Outlaws action and the Summit Racing Equipment Modified Nationals will go through hot-lap sessions and qualifications before they are split up into four (4) Showdown Features in their respective classes based on their qualifying times. Throw the heat races out the door and strap in for eight "Saturday Night Shootout" style features with the best drivers in the country on the opening night of the Prairie Dirt Classic.

Each of the four World of Outlaws Showdown Features will be 25 laps in length and pay

\$2,500 to win, including \$200 to start for each competitor. The top four (4) finishers from each event will transfer to the Prairie Dirt Classic finale on Saturday night, July 29, with the top two finishers from each Showdown Feature redrawing to set the first four rows of the PDC 100-lapper. Sixteen drivers will earn their spot in the PDC from the Showdown Features on Friday night and the top three finishers from two (2) B-mains on Saturday will join them. Two (2) World of Outlaws and two (2) Fairbury Speedway provisionals will round out the 26-car field for the running of the 28th annual Prairie Dirt Classic.

The eighth annual Prairie Dirt Shootout presented by Summit Racing Equipment will again play a big part of this awesome weekend of racing at FALS on Saturday night as the Late Model Non-Qualifiers feature will pay \$2,000 to win and \$300 to start. The 25-lap Shootout will start 20 cars, which means 46 drivers will compete in a feature event and earn additional money for the weekend. Continuing again in 2017, the winner of the PDC Shootout will have the option to take the \$2,000 or turn down the winner's money and gain a starting spot in the 28th annual Prairie Dirt Classic. Last year Jonathan Davenport won the Shootout, started 27th in the 100-lapper and was up to 10th by lap 45 before mechanical issues ended his night, proving it could be worth the gamble.

The Summit Racing Equipment Modified Nationals will also follow this exciting format for their weekend event. Four 15-lap Showdown Features will be on the card Friday night with each paying \$500 to win and \$100 to start. The top four (4) from each Modified Showdown Feature will transfer to the 40-lap Summit Racing Equipment finale paying \$5,000 to win on Saturday night, with the top two (2) from each Showdown Feature redrawing to set the first four rows of the headliner. Sixteen transfers from the Showdown Features will join with the top two (2) finishers from two (2) B-mains on Saturday and four (4) Summer Nationals provisionals to round out the 24-car field.

Full Payouts of all the events can be found at [www.fairburyspeedway.com](http://www.fairburyspeedway.com).



## Pierce Charges to Show-Me 100 Victory at Lucas Oil Speedway

WHEATLAND, MO - Bobby Pierce came from the 14th starting spot to win 25th Annual Lucas Oil Show-Me 100 - Presented by Protect the Harvest.com on Sunday Night at Lucas Oil Speedway.

Pierce took the lead from Earl Pearson Jr. on lap 87 and then pulled away for his third crown-jewel victory in less than a year. The 20-year-old became the 12th different driver to win the Show-Me 100, a race his father, Bob, finished in the top-five on four different occasions.

Pearson led 86 of the 100 laps to ultimately finish second in the Carlton and Kemp Lamm-owned Longhorn Chassis Ford with Tim McCreddie taking third in the Sweeteners Plus, Pro Power, Longhorn. Scott Bloomquist; the only 5-time winner of the annual Memorial Weekend event; finished in fourth and Jonathan Davenport, the 2015 champion of the race came from the 30th starting spot to finish fifth.

"Last year we started 29th and got up to the front and had the lead under caution when we suffered a flat tire. So yes, this feels like redemption from last year's disappointment. We started 14th tonight, but it was a lot harder, once you get up there with those guys it got a little tougher."

"I just want to thank a lot of people associated with this car, Hoker Trucking, Allgayer Inc, Champion Spark Plugs, Premier Waste Services, Berger's Marina, Carnaghi's Towing." Pierce's Bob Pierce Platinum Race Cars is powered by a Pro Power Engine.

"The track would make the car bounce like a basketball. I know they were trying to make it a good track, and it did make for some good racing, so hats off to the track crew. I know they were wanting a good show for television. It was a heck of a race. Congrats to Earl on second and T-Mac for third. I am sorry I got into him [McCreddie] there at one point."

Pearson was seeking his first career Show-Me 100 victory. "The track started out smooth and we had a good car all night, we got the lead from Tim [McCreddie]. It got a

little choppy on the cushion and it was Bobby's kind of track. We held him off for nearly 90 laps. It was a good run for the Lucas Oil Racing TV car. We have been running strong. The fans saw one heck of a show this weekend."

McCreddie recorded yet another top five with his third-place finish after starting from the pole. "We struggled in the holes tonight just like we did last year. We set-up for the track like it had been the last two nights. Hats off to my guys. The Longhorn crew is working hard to get us to victory lane. It's all about winning races. If you win races your chances of winning a championship are better against this caliber of drivers.

Completing the top ten were Gregg Satterlee, Dennis Erb Jr., Jared Landers, Josh Richards, and Shannon Babb.

### McCreddie Wins Tribute to Don and Billie Gibson

WHEATLAND, MO - Tim McCreddie took the lead on lap 30 from race-leader Jimmy Owens and then went on to win the 40-lap, Tribute to Don and Billie Gibson on Friday night at Lucas Oil Speedway. The event was co-sanctioned by the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series and the Lucas Oil MLRA Series.

McCreddie's second full-year of running the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series tour has been off to a fruitful start. He claimed his third win of the season in the Sweeteners Plus, Penske Racing Shocks, Pro Power Racing Engines, Longhorn Chassis No. 39; it was also McCreddie's first ever win at Lucas Oil Speedway. Owens; who has eight career wins at the track; finished in second in his Ramirez Motorsports, E3 Spark Plugs, Boomtest Well Service, Durham Racing Engines, Rocket Chassis. Don O'Neal's Clint Bowyer Dirt Motorsports, Peak Antifreeze and Coolant, Clements Racing Engines, Club 29 entry finished third, with Scott Bloomquist and Josh Richards completing the top-five.

Darrell Lanigan led the first 14 laps of the race until Owens charged to the lead. Owens then ran the top line as McCreddie came from the outside of row number five using the bottom groove and



Bobby Pierce celebrates in victory lane after winning the Show-Me 100 at Lucas Oil Speedway. (LOLMDS photo)

closed the gap on the leader. McCreddie then chased down Owens and passed him on lap 30 to take the top spot. McCreddie withstood two cautions late in the race to take his car to victory lane by several car lengths at the end.

"I want to thank the Labonte family for putting faith in me to drive their cars. A Longhorn Chassis won here last night with Earl [Pearson] and we brought home the win tonight. From where we started and as good as the track was, I thought it would be tougher than it was. The car rolled through the corners at the beginning of the race and I was passing cars low and high, it handled like a dream."

"We showed a lot of speed tonight like last night. But when I got up there with Jimmy [Owens] I knew it would be tough to get by him. He runs so well here, if you can pass Owens here, then you have really done something special. This is my first win here and I will probably never get close to what he has done at this race track. To beat guys like Jimmy and [Don] O'Neal you must be near perfect to get it done. I just hope tomorrow night that we can run all 100 laps consistently, but you never know," said the 43-year-old driver.

Owens was all smiles afterwards even though he suffered a rare defeat at Lucas Oil Speedway. "We have had so much success here that it's hard to get down about getting beat tonight. He [McCreddie] was good, no doubt about it. For a guy to come from where he started, that says a lot about this race track tonight. It was a good hard race and I hope the fans enjoyed it. We just have the right set-up for this track and could run anywhere on it tonight."

"I had some miscommunication with my crew, I was running high

and I should have gone down low where McCreddie was running. Anyway, I thought I could get back around him, but he was strong tonight and he deserved the win. We had a good points night again and should get a good starting spot here tomorrow night for the big show."

O'Neal charged late in the race to capture a third place finish. O'Neal started fifth and battled with Owens for the second spot towards the end of the race. "We had a good car tonight. The crew worked hard after last night, it was a good comeback as well. Tonight's B-Mains were awesome and I figured the feature would be the same way and it definitely did not disappoint."

Completing the top ten were Payton Looney, Earl Pearson Jr., Dennis Erb Jr., Mike Marlar, and Chris Simpson.

### Pearson Powers to Cowboy Classic Victory

WHEATLAND, MO - Earl Pearson Jr. gained the lead on lap 15 from Jesse Stovall and then held off Scott Bloomquist in the final laps to win the Cowboy Classic - presented by Hot Rod Processing on Thursday night at Lucas Oil Speedway. The event was co-sanctioned by the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series and Lucas Oil Midwest Late Model Racing Association (MLRA).

Pearson kicked off the 25th Annual Show-Me 100 weekend with his second LOLMDS win of the season over Bloomquist, Jimmy Owens, Tim McCreddie, and Mike Marlar.

It was a very competitive race from start to finish as Pearson withstood a lap 39 restart challenge from Bloomquist, who had pulled

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even with Pearson several times in the final six laps but could never clear him.

"That was a heck of a race," said Pearson in Lucas Oil Victory Lane. "Stovall was good early on the top. We were trying to find a spot on the track to be consistent at. The car kept moving around. The traffic was tough, but everybody gave each other plenty of room to pass.

I didn't want to see that last caution. I saw on the scoreboard that Scott [Bloomquist] was behind us. I knew he wouldn't try a slide job and take both of us out. He drove us clean. He got beside me there several times, but my car was better into three and four than his."

"I knew Jimmy [Owens] was back there as well. They went out before the race and tilled the top and that made for some good racing. I don't know if it would have held up for 100 laps, but it was good enough for 45 tonight. I want to thank my crew and all my sponsors. Thanks to Carlton and Kemp Lamm and the whole Dunn-Benson Ford Team - it's always good to win here at Lucas Oil Speedway."

The four-time LOLMDS National Champion's Longhorn Ford is powered by a Wallace Racing Engine and sponsored by Dunn-Benson Ford, Lucas Oil Racing TV, MAVTV, Penske Racing Shocks, Sunoco Race Fuels and Freeport Recycling.

Bloomquist who started on the pole, finished second in his Crop Production Services, Reece Monument Company, and Mark Martin Automotive-sponsored Sweet-Bloomquist entry. "I knew I was a sitting duck when they went out and worked the top of the track. I waited a few laps too late to get going. I lost two positions there at the start. I could finally go to the middle and top and gained back those spots that I lost. It was a good race there among the four of us. A lot of front tires I think we're giving up there late in the race. We will be ready for Saturday Night!"

Owens was in the hunt coming on to finish in third place. "This Ramirez Motorsports car was really good tonight. It took us a while to get going. We caught those guys up front after [Tim] McCreddie and I had a good race going on there. We just have the right set-up for

this track that is why we have been so successful here in the past. We will come back tomorrow night and get better and then get ready for 100 laps on Saturday Night."

Completing the top ten were Darrell Lanigan, Bobby Pierce, Gregg Satterlee, Mason Zeigler, and Billy Moyer Jr.

### Bloomquist Victorious in Inaugural Go 50 at I-80 Speedway

GREENWOOD, NE - Defending Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series National Champion, Scott Bloomquist won his fifth series event of the 2017 racing season on Tuesday Night at I-80 Speedway. Bloomquist took the lead from Darrell Lanigan on lap ten and led the rest of the way to score the 82nd career series win in the First Annual Go 50.

First-time I-80 Speedway visitor, Mason Zeigler finished in second while 16th-starting Earl Pearson Jr. came home in third. Gregg Satterlee was fourth and Tim McCreddie extended his streak of top five finishes by placing fifth at the stripe.

Bloomquist extended his points lead over McCreddie with the win and was pleased with his car for most of the race, "We battled with Lanigan early on; I had to find a line to run at the start. There were several cautions and I was a bit concerned about the tires firing on the restarts. Towards the end of the race, the car was faster and I got a better handle on turn two, it had been causing the car to push a few times."

"The track was in great shape all night long; they had a lot of rain this week; it was fast. You had to have a good handling car out there tonight with those conditions. They always do a good job here in track prep. We look forward to coming back in July for the Silver Dollar Nationals."

His Sweet-Bloomquist car is powered by an Andy Durham Racing Engine and sponsored by: Reece Monument Company, Mark Martin Automotive, Crop Production Services, Base Fuels, Sweet Mfg., Horton Coal, Sorbera Chiropractic, Petroff Towing, Lucas Oil, and Crossfit by Overton.

Bloomquist was challenged briefly by Zeigler in the Ohio Pyle Vacation Rentals, No. 25Z on a few occasions, but each time Zeigler would take a shot at the lead, Bloomquist would pull away. "For our first time here, we are very pleased. We came out to S&S here in Greenwood for work on our



Scott Bloomquist (right) celebrates his fifth win of the season and the 82nd of his career in victory lane at I-80 Speedway. (LOLMDS photo)

trailer and we decided we would stay and race. I am glad we did. It's a fun race track to run on. We will be back in the future, no doubt about it. This new Rocket XR1 car has been bad fast from the time we started running it," said the runner-up who posted his second LOLMDS podium finish of the year.

Pearson roared from the outside of row eight to finish third. "It was

definitely a good run for the Dunn-Benson Ford, Longhorn Chassis. We were good on the bottom of the track. It was in great shape and very fast tonight. Now, we can head to Wheatland with a strong car and try to win the Show-Me 100."

Completing the top ten were Josh Richards, Darrell Lanigan, Don O'Neal, Steve Francis, and Dennis Erb Jr.

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## Jonathan Cornell Scores At Double X Speedway With ASCS Warrior Region

CALIFORNIA, MO - Getting his first ASCS sanctioned victory of the 2017 season, Sedalia's Jonathan Cornell made it career win No. 32 with the Speedway Motors ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps at Double X Speedway in the annual Tribute to Jesse and Daniel.

Going from the outer lane of the front row, Cornell never relinquished the lead during Saturday's 25 lap A-Feature with the runner-up spot going to Kyle Bellm, who came through the field from the eighth starting spot. Lexington's Brad Ryun was bronze on the finish. Fourth went to Taylor Walton and fifth to Cody Baker.

Baker would end up in Victory Lane on Saturday night in a special Non-Wing feature event put up by the Hockett family.

Evan Martin crossed sixth with Corey Nelson seventh. Taking the challenge to drop to the tail of the A-Main, Randy Martin made it back to eight from 20th; right where the California, Mo. native was scheduled to start originally. Miles Paulus from 17th was ninth with Tyler Black also charging hard from 18th to tenth.

The Speedway Motors ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps is back in action on Saturday, June 3 at Lake Ozark Speedway in Eldon, Mo. The race is a make-up for the original May 27 date being rained out.

For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the seven regional tours that make up the over 150 dates across the ASCS Nation in 2017, log onto <http://www.ascsracing.com>.

### Severe Weather Postpones ASCS Warrior Region at Lake Ozark Speedway

ELDON, MO - With a severe weather threat closing in, officials with Lake Ozark Speedway have made the call to postpone the return of the Speedway Motors ASCS

Warriors Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps to Saturday, June 3.

The Speedway Motors ASCS Warriors Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps is still a go on Sunday, May 28 for the Tribute to Jesse and Daniel at Double X Speedway in California, Mo.

Speedway grounds will be open at 1:00P.M. (CDT) for tailgating with cars hitting the track at 7:00P.M. (CDT). More information on the track and events can be found on the Double X Speedway Facebook Page.

For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the seven regional tours that make up the over 150 events across the ASCS Nation in 2017, log into <http://www.ascsracing.com>.

### Sam Hafertepe, Jr. Dominates ASCS Gulf South at The Devil's Bowl

MESQUITE, TX - Sam Hafertepe, Jr. has stated that the Devil's Bowl Speedway is his favorite track, and so far in 2017 the Sunnyvale, Texas racer is perfect at the Mesquite half-mile with Saturday's \$3,000 paycheck coming with the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region.

Sam's third win on the year at



Jonathan Cornell celebrates with his family in victory lane after winning at Double X Speedway. (Terry Ford/ASCs photo)

the Devil's Bowl, and seventh overall in ASCS competition, the Hwy. 79 Collision/J&J Auto Racing No. 15h shot straight to the lead from the fourth starting spot to pace all 25 laps for his 11th career ASCS Gulf South score.

Just off his first ASCS victory of the season one night ago, Ray Allen Kulhanek kept his momentum going with a runner-up finish while Washington's Seth Bergman came up to finish third. Switching cars after Friday night, Johnny Herrera wheeled to a fourth place finish after starting 12th with John Carney II placing fifth.

Matt Covington sixth was followed by Sammy Swindell in seventh from 16th. Channin Tankersley, Harli White, and 17th starting Blake Hahn completed the

top-ten.

For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the seven regional tours that make up the over 150 dates across the ASCS Nation in 2017, log onto <http://www.ascsracing.com>.

### Ray Allen Kulhanek Wins With ASCS Gulf South at RPM Speedway

CRANDALL, TX - Kicking off a three night Memorial Day Weekend swing, the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region stopped by RPM Speedway in Crandall, Texas with series point's leader Ray Allen Kulhanek picking

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## Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series

Continued...

up his first victory of the season in ASCS competition. The \$2,000 triumph also ties Ray Allen Kulhanek with Gary Wright for second on the all-time ASCS Gulf South win list at 23.

Utilizing a late race caution, Kulhanek made his bid for the top spot going three wide with race long leader, Channin Tankersley, and Sam Hafertepe, Jr. with a

pair of laps to run. Able the clear the stout duo, Kulhanek was trailed by Hafertepe with the No. 21t winning out by roughly ten car lengths.

Hafertepe earning silver would be joined on the podium by Channin Tankersley.

Coming from eighth, Wayne Johnson crossed fourth with Sammy Swindell making up the top-five. Austin Mundie held on to finish sixth, followed by Blake Hahn from 15th who advanced to the A-Feature via a win in the B-Main. Also qualifying out of the B-Main, Tommy Bryant rolled from 17th to eight with Seth Bergman ninth. Matt Covington finished tenth.

For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the seven regional tours that make up the over 150 dates across the



**Ray Allen Kulhanek (center) celebrates his first win of the season at RPM Speedway. (ASCS photo)**

ASCS Nation in 2017, log onto <http://www.ascsracing.com>.

## ASCS Gulf South At Lone Star Speedway Rained Out

KILGORE, TX - Officials with the Lone Star Speedway in Kilgore, Texas have called off tonight's races with the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region on account of rain and a forecast calling for more throughout the day and night. The event will not be made up.

The Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region re-

turns to competition on June 2 at the Heart O' Texas Speedway in Waco and Cotton Bowl Speedway in Paige on June 3.

For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the seven regional tours that make up the over 150 dates across the ASCS Nation in 2017, log onto <http://www.ascsracing.com>.

## Worsening Forecasts Moves Lucas Oil ASCS Return To Colorado To October

TULSA, OK - With a forecast

now showing a 100 percent chance of rain, BST Promotions and the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series National Tour presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network have decided to postpone the weekend's events at El Paso County Raceway and Phillips County Raceway until Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8.

El Paso County Raceway will take the Saturday date, with Phillips County on Sunday. All pre-purchased ticket will be honored at the rescheduled dates. Anyone with questions, or needing a refund for their ticket must do so by contacting BST Promotions at (720) 404-0400.

The dates will now follow the Fall Brawl at I-80 Speedway in Greenwood, Neb. on Saturday, September 30.

"We hate to get up there and watch Joe get hammered and lose that kind of money because it's raining. We really appreciate him booking races with us and are looking forward to the chance to race at his facilities. We've heard nothing but good things about his tracks," said ASCS National Director, Matt Ward.

The next outing for the Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network will be the start of the ASCS Speedweek Friday, June 9 at West Texas Raceway in Lubbock, Texas. For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series log onto <http://www.ascsracing.com>.

## Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions

## Byron Reed Edges Craig Mintz for Attica Victory

ATTICA, OH - For the first time since 2013, and for the 11th time during his storied career, Monclova, Ohio's Byron Reed is a main event winner with the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions, this time holding off Craig Mintz and DJ Foos at Attica Raceway Park to officially kick-off Memorial Day weekend. Reed,

who started fifth on the feature grid, did not take command of the 40-lap program until lap 28, but swapped positions with Craig Mintz and Chris Andrews on multiple occasions until solidifying his place at the top of the running order. As an added note, it was Reed's first Arctic Cat All Star victory at Attica Raceway Park since June 18,

2010, as well as his fifth overall. "That's what I love about Attica," Reed explained in victory lane. "Especially when you get into these 40-lap races. I'm not sure I was the best car here tonight, but you just keep battling and battling and battling. Sometimes, things just go your way."

Reed worked his way forward immediately, crossing under the flagstand for the first time fourth in the running order, ultimately moving ahead to take third on the following circuit. Three cautions before hitting double-digits on the lap counter kept the field stacked, allowing Reed and Craig Mintz, who was making his first start of the 2017 season, to race nose-to-tail with race leader Chris Andrews. Reed and Mintz continued to apply pressure on Andrews for the next 20 circuits, eventually intensifying as the trio of frontrunners reached



**Byron Reed raced his way to victory lane at Attica Raceway Park holding off Craig Mintz for his first win since 2011. (Paul Arch photo)**

the back of the field.

Despite Andrews scored as the leader during each of the initial takeover attempts, nearly a half-

dozen lead changes would occur between laps 24 and 27, with Reed eventually coming out on top to

**(Continued Next Page)**

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officially lead lap 28. A final caution on lap 31 would stack the field one final time, but clean air and an open race track proved to be too beneficial Reed.

Mintz chased the familiar Crown Battery-backed No. 5 to the final checkers, followed by DJ Foos, Broc Martin and Stuart Brubaker. Andrews, who led the first 27 circuits before battling

the remaining distance inside the top-three, slowed due to low fuel issues just before the finish and settled for seventh.

"I don't know, but if nobody had

fun watching that, then you need to find a different sport," Craig Mintz explained, driver of the Ed Neumeister-owned No. 11N. "That was a great time tonight. Byron, Chris, DJ; those guys are all so much fun to race with and you can trust those guys. It's fun, clean racing. When we all got into lap traffic, that was the most fun. That was probably the most fun I've had in a long time. I can't thank Ed Neumeister enough for this opportunity. That whole crew really busted their butts tonight."

"When you have the momentum, you do not want to let off," Byron Reed said when discussing racing through traffic. "I'm sure you've heard the expression 'my ass cheeks were starting to pucker.' Things were getting pretty tight. I didn't want to back off because I knew that was my chance;

there was a small hole in traffic and I had to take it."

## Severe Weather Forces Memorial Classic at Mansfield To Be Postponed

MANSFIELD, OH - With most of the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions program in the books at Mansfield Motor Speedway, severe weather intervened and forced Arctic Cat All Star and Mansfield officials to postpone the remaining portions of the Memorial Classic program on Sunday evening, May 28. An official rain date will be announced in the coming days. Fans are encouraged to stay tuned online at [www.allstarsprint.com](http://www.allstarsprint.com) and [www.mansfieldmotorspeedway.com](http://www.mansfieldmotorspeedway.com), as well as on all of the available social media net-

works, for further details.

With Memorial Day weekend in the books, Tony Stewart's Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions will switch gears and direct their focus back toward competition in Western Pennsylvania, this time visiting Lernerville Speedway and Mercer Raceway Park for a pair of programs on Friday and Saturday, June 2-3, respectively. The first of two Western Pennsylvania invasions this season, originally scheduled for May 5-6, was postponed due to wet weather and unseasonably cold temperatures.

The Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions will return to Western Pennsylvania in mid-July, visiting Eriez Speedway, Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway and Tri-City Raceway Park for the second annual I-79 Summer Shootout on July 21-23.

## Stockton, Repeats in Winning the Memorial Weekend Classic

HAUBSTADT, IN - Chase Stockton won the annual "Memorial Weekend Classic" held at the Tri-State Speedway and sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series. The 25 lap event paid \$2,500 to win. Stockton also won this particular event in 2016. The Fort

Branch, IN, driver found the opportunity he needed on lap 19 when he passed Max McGhee and took command of the remainder of the race.

Alongside his car parked in victory lane, Stockton reflected on the run.

"In starting sixth this was tough to do. I managed to maneuver and get by him in lapped traffic."

The effort also earned the driver the Keizer Aluminum Wheels Hard Charger of the Race Award. It was a straight up start for the field based on heat race results. Having a fast car with a smooth operator helped. The combination was also responsible for setting the overall fast time at 13.929 seconds. Stockton's DRC sprinter is powered by a Fisher Engine. The sponsors are Superior Tank and Trailer and Ted Brown's Quality Auto.

Placing second in this one after a terrific effort was Max McGhee. McGhee jumped into the lead from the second row at the start and

opened up the lead. The chase was on. He led for 18 circuits in the contest. It was, as he suggested, "exciting for the fans!"

The two Shorts ran third and fourth in the main. They began the race paired up on the front row and stayed in the hunt. Brady Short took third. Carson Short finished fourth. The two also had collected heat race wins. McGhee won the third heat. Kyle Cummins moved up through the field to take the final top five spot.

Donny Brackett was sixth followed by Robert Ballou, Dakota Jackson, Brandon Morin, and Aric Gentry. Chet Williams picked up the Wilwood Tuff Brakes Award in finishing eleventh. Kent Schmidt won the B Main. Second in the twelve lapper was rookie competitor Stephen Schnapf. It was Schnapf's first night in a sprint car.

Circumstances sidelined a couple of drivers early in the event. Kyle Stearns scratched for the evening after an accident in turn four during group qualifying. Critter Malone's car stopped off turn four with an oil fire in the third heat.

Stan Beadles of Owensville, IN, won the 25 lap UMP Open Wheel Modified feature. The event was completed in short order. Zach Fair was the runner-up followed by Matt Lane, Dustin Beck, and Clay Lane.

The three heat victors were Matt Lane, Zach Fair, and Clay Lane.

The MMSA Mini Sprints competed to wrap up the triple header.

Rod Henning was victorious in finishing ahead of Beau Binder, Andrew Bradley, Jesse Vermillion, and Scott Bradley. Henning and Binder won the two preliminary heats.

The MSCS Sprint Cars will be returning to Tri-State Speedway on June 10 for their next race. The "Summer Showdown" pays \$2,500 to the Sprint Car feature winner. The UMP Open Wheel Modifieds will also be in competition and it is a special event for them.

## A.J. Hopkins Winner at the Lincoln Park

PUTNAMVILLE, IN - A. J. Hopkins won the Hoosier Tire Midwest Sprint Car feature race Saturday night at the Lincoln Park Speedway. The "Memorial Weekend Special" was a real contest throughout. The race was not the typical quick 25 lapper as numerous incidents kept the tow and push trucks busy. Avoiding the next one added to the challenge of being fast enough to fend off movers from back in the pack.

A. J. Hopkins was up to the task. His car was fast and his experience as a regular at the track paid off. The victory was worth \$2,500. Hopkins took over the lead on the 10th lap but had close company and a challenge from Brady Short those remaining laps. Carson Short shot into second on the 24th lap. Robert Ballou grabbed third. Brady Short would finish fourth during that shuffle at the front after a late race restart following a spin by Brandon Morin. Shane Cockrum was fifth.

The victory was the second for A. J. Hopkins in MSCS competition. Both have been earned at the Lin-

coln Park Speedway. His DRC Sprint Car is sponsored by Nalon Race Engines, Banning Engineering, and Grass Roots. It is owned by Fred and Sandy Hopkins

Other race leaders during the feature include polesitter Jarett Andretti and Stevie Sussex. Hard luck prevailed in both cases. Andretti led 5 laps before a broken axle ended his chances. Sussex led the next 4 laps and then brought out the yellow with a spin on lap 12. He restarted and finished 11th to take the Wilwood Tuff Brakes Award.

Jon Stanbrough led those drivers placing sixth through tenth. Dickie Gaines was seventh followed by Max McGhee, Brandon Mattox, and fourteen year old Jadon Rogers. Max McGhee was the Keizer Aluminum Wheels Hard Charger of the Race with a gain of 12 spots.

Drivers dropping out of feature competition early included Chad Boesplug, Kevin Thomas Jr., and Kyle Cummins. Boesplug's car exited on the hook with front end damage. Thomas was battling for the lead with two other cars when he was involved in an accident that sent his car bouncing into turn one bring out the only red flag for the event. The yellow was displayed at least 6 times! Cummins dropped out after 12 laps.

Three heat races were held with Jarett Andretti, Shane Cockrum, and Chad Boesplug taking those wins, The redraw prior to the feature was a zero so the first heat winner started on the pole in straight up formation. Brandon Morin had led all qualifiers with a 13.286 lap! Dickie Gaines came back to win the B Main.

## Speedway Children's Charities Gala Raises a Record-Setting Estimated \$890,000

CONCORD, NC - The biggest stars in the NASCAR industry came together Wednesday for the 37th annual Speedway Children's Charities Gala sponsored by Sonic Automotive and Speedway Motorsports, Inc. The

fundraising event is estimated to have generated a record-setting \$890,000. Held at the Ritz-Carlton in downtown Charlotte, the black-tie dinner and auction was hosted by FOX's Adam Alexander and Shannon Spake, with entertainment provided by GRAMMY award-winning musician Darius Rucker and special honors being bestowed upon NASCAR Cup Series driver Jimmie Johnson.

"The Speedway Children's Charities Gala was very successful this year and the attendees had a wonderful time," said Lisa Starnes, executive director of the Charlotte Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities. "We are very thankful for all of our sponsors and supporters. Due to their generosity, we will be able to make an impact on the lives

of many children this year."

The night was designed to honor Johnson, a seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion. Johnson is the only driver to win five consecutive NASCAR Cup Series championships with his amazing run from 2006-'10. With 82 career NASCAR Cup Series wins, Johnson has his eye on an unprecedented eighth championship, breaking the three-way tie he presently holds with Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt Sr.

"For more than 17 years, Jimmie Johnson has achieved amazing success on the track as a talented driver, but he has also been a wonderful spokesperson for the sport of NASCAR and a generous supporter of Speedway Children's Charities," said Marcus Smith, vice chairman of Speedway Children's Charities. "The gala was the perfect opportunity for us to thank him for all he's done to help children in need around the country."

Gala attendees enjoyed the musical talents of Darius Rucker, who is known for being a GRAMMY award-winning musician and a true southern gentleman. Rucker first attained multi-platinum status in the



GRAMMY award-winning artist Darius Rucker, second from right, performs with his band at Wednesday's Speedway Children's Charities Gala at the Ritz-Carlton in Charlotte, North Carolina. (HHP photo)

music industry as former lead singer and rhythm guitarist of GRAMMY award-winning Hootie & the Blowfish. Then, Rucker accomplished what few others are able to achieve by re-introducing himself to the world as a country artist. Since that time he has released four consecutive albums to top the Billboard Country albums chart and earned a whole new legion of fans. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Rucker was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 2012 and then in 2014 Rucker won his third career GRAMMY award for Best Solo Country Performance.

Last year the Charlotte Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities

granted almost \$815,000 to 93 deserving charities in the Charlotte region. In 2016, the eight chapters of Speedway Children's Charities collectively granted almost \$3.1 million to 450 charities to help children. Since Bruton Smith founded Speedway Children's Charities in 1982, the organization has awarded more than \$49 million to other nonprofits across the country. Speedway Children's Charities are operated by Speedway Motorsports, Inc.

For more information on Speedway Children's Charities or to see how to volunteer or make a donation, visit [www.speedwaycharities.org](http://www.speedwaycharities.org).

### Daytona Int'l Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Daytona International Speedway announced today a scheduling change for next season that restores a Speedweeks tradition dating back to 1979 with the Advance Auto Parts Clash returning to a Sunday afternoon start, one week before the prestigious DAYTONA 500.

The Advance Auto Parts Clash, the annual non-points event for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, will be held Sunday afternoon. The Clash will be preceded by DAYTONA 500 Qualifying Presented By Kroger.

The Saturday, Feb. 10 lineup will have a doubleheader consisting of Monster Energy NASCAR Cup practice followed by the Lucas Oil 200, the season-opening race for

the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards.

The Advance Auto Parts Clash was first held in 1979 and won by Buddy Baker. The event was on a Sunday from 1979-91 (rain forced a Monday start in 1983) and after a one-year switch to Saturday, returned to Sundays from 1993-2002. In 2003 it moved to a Saturday night start.

The Advance Auto Parts Clash and DAYTONA 500 Qualifying Presented By Kroger shared the same day on the schedule from 1979-84. The scheduling change follows the return this season of the race's original name.

"This year we brought back the name and next year we're bringing back the rest of the Clash's tradition," said Daytona International Speedway President Chip Wile. "Combining the Clash with qualifying is going to give our fans an outstanding afternoon of NASCAR action and will provide the perfect lead-in to the Can-Am Duel qualifying races and the DAYTONA 500."

This year's Advance Auto Parts

Clash was a 75-lap/187.5-mile race split into two segments, with the competition caution at Lap 25 separating the segments. The field featured 2016 pole winners, former Clash champions and former DAYTONA 500 pole winners who ran full-time last season. In addition, all drivers from the 2016 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup playoffs were eligible. The Clash was won by Joey Logano, the 2015 DAYTONA 500 champion.

Already securing a spot in the exclusive field for the 2018 Advance Auto Parts Clash by winning a pole are Chase Elliott, Kevin Harvick, Brad Keselowski, Logano, Kyle Larson, Matt Kenseth, Ricky Stenhouse and Ryan Blaney.

Daytona International Speedway's next major event will be the second annual Country 500 music festival ([www.country500.com/](http://www.country500.com/)) on May 26-28. In July,

NASCAR returns for a weekend under-the-lights doubleheader. On Friday, June 30, the NASCAR XFINITY Series' DAYTONA Firecracker 250 Powered By Coca-Cola will be held. On Saturday, July 1, the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series will be back for the 59th annual Coke Zero 400 Powered By Coca-Cola. Tickets for all 2017 Daytona International Speedway events can be purchased online at [www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com](http://www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com) or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP. Stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and Snapchat.



## Southern National Motorsports Park

LUCAMA, NC – Mason Diaz swept the twin Late Model features at Southern National Motorsports Park on Saturday to score his third and fourth wins of the 2017 season and extend his points lead in the track championship standings.

“All in all, a good night,” Diaz said.

“Mike Darne Racing made fast cars this weekend. We led in qualifying, both practices, and won both races. It’s the best weekend ever. That’s we’re looking for this season is wins and running up front.”

Diaz executed a bump-and-run on teammate Jonathon Findley with two laps to go in the first race to take the lead, and the win.

“The pass with Findley at the end of the run, had to do what I had to do to win,” Diaz stated. “He would’ve done the same to me, at least I hope he would. Just because we’re teammates doesn’t mean we race each other clean on the track. We had the better car. He definitely had a fast car too.”

After an eight car invert, Diaz was lined up to start the second race in eighth but mechanical problems sidelined Findley before the start of the race. Diaz methodically worked his way to the front, taking the lead on lap 19 and driving away from Chris Chapman and Rusty Daniels to score the win.

“Had to be patient,” Diaz commented. “There was a whole bunch of side-by-side racing at the beginning and I just had to wait for it to file out and make my move to the front.”

Diaz’s sweep at Southern National on Saturday came after a disappointing result to a strong run at Caraway Speedway on Friday. Diaz started the race on the pole and had been running in second when late race contact knocked him out of the race.

“We were up front,” Diaz explained. “We were definitely competitive. We brought the wrong motor package for there, but it was a good experience. We are looking forward to going back there and being faster.”

The sweep at Southern National was Diaz’s most successful night at the track so far this season. He currently leads in the standings at



**Mason Diaz (center-left) in victory lane at Southern National Motorsports Park with mother Janet (left), father Michael (center-right) and sister Trinity (right). (ANDY MARQUIS photo)**

Southern National Motorsports Park, where he is racing for the track championship.

### Grandview Speedway

BECHTELSVILLE, PA - Danny Erb, shut out of the winner’s circle since July, 2015, was close to victory lane on numerous occasions this season only to be plagued by mechanical gremlins, made his own luck on Saturday during K&N Performance Filters Night at Grandview Speedway. He took advantage of an opportunity to put the Terry Fasnacht-owned, Conestoga Valley Custom Kitchens No. 44 in the lead, when leader Mike Kellner got trapped behind two lapped cars racing side-by-side. Erb shot through a hole and into the first spot on the eighth lap of the T.P. Trailers 30-lap NASCAR 358 Modified Feature and went on to score his first win of the season.

In the 25-lap BRC NASCAR Late Model Feature, opening night winner Ron Kline, who has struggled to claim another victory, led from start to finish to finally “get the monkey off his back” and be back in the win circle. He is the first repeat winner in the division.

Sophomore racer Ryan Higgs overpowered one-time NASCAR Sportsman feature winner this season Dylan Swinehart on the eighth lap restart of the 25-lap event and withstood all challenges the rest of the way to capture his first career triumph at the track. The Nazareth, PA. native dedicated the victory to his late uncle John.

All feature winners in the activities sponsored by K&N Performance received monetary awards from T.P. Trailers, product awards from V.P. Fuels providing they ran gas and met all the necessary requirements and the Dan’s Deli ½-way Hoagie certificate.

Modified action saw Kellner

charge from third to first at the drop of the green with challenges coming from Erb, Colt Harris, Blaine Bracelin and Ray Swinehart.

Kellner’s sizeable lead was being shortened when he approached lapped cars with runner-up Erb closing in fast waiting for the opportunity to take over the lead.

Despite being shown the move-over flag several times the back of the pack continued racing side-by-side as they were running for positions also. Their actions were the break Erb needed to make something happen. Erb squeezed the Nick Gatto powered mount between Kellner and the others to become the new leader on the eighth circuit.

Within no time Erb outdistanced himself and was now being chased down by Kellner, Harris, Swinehart and Kyle Borrer.

Heavy traffic came onto the front runners again by the 19th lap and it was heads up driving.

The only caution of the race was when Blaine Bracelin hit the home-stretch wall with heavy impact on the 21st lap. He was uninjured, however, the car sustained considerable damage. Before the restart Swinehart, while running fourth and Brett Gilmore, who earlier was in the thick of the battle, went pit side and were out of contention. The leader continued to be Erb, but Kellner lost momentum and fell back to fifth with Borrer, Jeff Strunk, who was charging through the pack from 23rd after finishing second in the consi, and Jared Umbenhauer were second through fifth. Craig Von Dohren joined the front five on the 23rd lap.

In the later stages Erb hopped the cushion off turn four, had it sideways but still managed to stay in first.

Erb finally had a change of luck and pulled into victory lane for his

third career win. Unfortunately his car owner Terry Fasnacht was not in attendance to see him park the Touch of Green Landscaping special in victory lane since he was feeling under the weather. This is the second win he missed. Turning in his best performance since the opener for a well-deserved second was Strunk followed by Borrer, Von Dohren and Umbenhauer.

Kellner, Ron Seltmann Jr., Harris and Erb were the heat winners. Consies went to Doug Manmiller and John Willman.

Kline wasted no time putting the Jr. Grebe owned No. 3 into first at the start of the Late Model feature followed by Steve Todorow, Brian Shuey, Bryon Sipe and Chuck Schutz.

Shuey overtook second on the fourth lap to take chase after Kline, who had a hefty lead built up.

The field closed in on Kline several times during the numerous cautions, but on the 13th lap yellow when Jordan Knepp and Dirk Rimrott tangled on the backstretch, Shuey made a huge run to try and get underneath him, but to no avail and Kline was off and running.

Shuey’s solid run ended with five laps to go when he stopped in turn four with a flat left rear tire for the final caution. The lead never changed as Kline was still first.

No one was able to stop Kline from claiming his 38th career win. Finishing second was Todorow trailed by Sipe, Schutz and Steve Wilson.

Andrew Kreis set the pace for one lap in the Sportsman feature before Jeromy Guistwite took over the reins. That lead was short-lived since on the second lap caution needed when Mike Mammana and Jim Housworth tangled between turns three and four Swinehart motored into the top spot.

Behind Swinehart jockeying for positions were Guistwite, Dean Bachman, Higgs and Kreis.

Higgs advanced to second on the seventh lap to put his bids in for the lead.

Kurt Bettler brought out the final caution when he stopped in turn four on lap seven. On this restart Higgs outgunned Swinehart to become the new pacesetter in the outside groove, but Swinehart hung in there down low never giving up as he was all over his back bumper.

With five laps to go Higgs and Swinehart approached lapped traffic and fast approaching to make it a three-way battle was last week’s feature winner Ryan Lilick.

Higgs never surrendered the  
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lead and went on to chalk up a hard-fought win chased across the line by Swinehart, R. Lilick, Bachman and Lisowski.

Heats were won by Guistwite, Swinehart and Bachman. Housworth won the consi.

The Sportsman stocks will be featured on Saturday, June 3 with a \$1,500 to win 40-lap main event.

Also in action will be the TP Trailers 358 Modifieds and BRC Late Models. Adult admission is \$20 for this special event while youngsters 6 through 11 pay just \$5 while kids under 6 are admitted free.

And on Sunday, June 4, 1 p.m. action will include Big Car Enduros (twin 60s), Small Car Enduros (twin 60s), Junkyard Car Enduro (50-laps), Ladies Race plus Blast from the Past Vintage Cars (two classes- two features)

Grandview Speedway continues to be one of the most successful NASCAR short track operations in the nation having been presenting stock car racing events under the Rogers family promotion for the past 55 years. The season at Grandview continues from late March to November. The one-third-mile, banked clay track is located on Passmore Road, just off Route 100, in Bechtelsville, PA, 10 miles north of Pottstown. A full line of concession and novelty items is offered. Fans are invited to the pit area after the racing events have been completed and racing equipment loaded into the trailers. Race information is available at [www.grandviewspeedway.com](http://www.grandviewspeedway.com), Facebook, Twitter and at 610.754.7688. And it is a good idea to link up with [Rainedout.com](http://Rainedout.com) to get latest info on rainouts.

## Kingsport Speedway

KINGSPORT, TN - It's not that Chad Finchum hadn't been running out front at any point this season in contention for a win, because he's led several laps in the three races he's ran in the Model City. Finchum, 22 years old and from Knoxville, finally sealed the deal and impressively captured his first NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Late Model Stock Car victory Friday at Kingsport Speedway on Patriot Mining Night at the Races.

Finchum set fast-time in Late

Model Stock Car qualifying at 15.099 seconds to narrowly edge out Wayne Hale's quick-lap at 15.106. The roll of the dice produced an invert of the top three qualifiers for the feature, thus placing Ronnie McCarty and Hale on the front row for the 60-lap main event.

Hale jumped out to the lead over Kres VanDyke, McCarty, Finchum and Zeke Shell on the opening lap. The race's first caution waved just three circuits in when Luke Sorrow spun between turns one and two, with Nik Williams, Darin Silver and Jamie Harrison each getting involved.

Off the double-file restart, VanDyke moved into the lead over Hale, Finchum, McCarty and Robbie Ferguson. Finchum passed Hale for second place on lap 5, and set his sights ahead on leader VanDyke.

You could hear a buzz among the crowd over loud sound of the racing engines, because VanDyke and Finchum have had their "heated moments" this season in racing incidents, with VanDyke coming out on top recording two feature wins and Finchum left disappointed parked in the pits with a wrecked race car on two occasions.

Racing is all about competition, and fans love seeing rivalries between the competitors. There are some in attendance weekly at "The Concrete Jungle" who say VanDyke is the villain, and Finchum the good-guy. That's all the ingredients for a good short-track racing rivalry.

Finchum closed to VanDyke's back bumper and got a strong run off the bottom exiting the fourth turn onto front straightaway on lap 8 to pull alongside VanDyke. They battled for the lead side-by-side for right at seven laps before Finchum pulled ahead on lap 13. Caution waved on lap 15 when Shell suddenly slowed on the backstretch and stopped between turns three and four with right-front brake/wheel hub assembly issues which would end his race prematurely.

On the ensuing double-file restart, Finchum chose the inside with VanDyke on outside. With the field racing down into the first turn, Finchum took VanDyke up the track and powered into the lead racing off the second corner. Behind Finchum and VanDyke in the running order were McCarty, Ferguson and Hale.

With a clear view out front, Finchum was setting a blistering

pace around the .375-mile banked concrete oval and began putting some distance between himself and closest challengers VanDyke and McCarty. At the midway distance of the race Finchum held a half-straightaway advantage over the pair, with McCarty pressuring VanDyke for the second spot.

Ferguson began to fade, losing positions to Hale, Williams and Joey Trent to fall back to seventh in the running order. With Finchum in control leading the field, McCarty worked his way past VanDyke for second place on lap 40. But McCarty was never able to separate himself from VanDyke as the laps began to count down.

Finchum received the white flag holding a 10 car-length lead over McCarty and VanDyke. Racing up off (turn two) VanDyke got to the inside of McCarty and at end of the backstretch entering the third corner the cars were side-by-side. VanDyke emerged from the battle with McCarty holding the second position, while McCarty was left sitting sideways in middle of the track off exit of the fourth turn as he spun, with drivers behind him forced into evasive moves to avoid hitting McCarty.

Finchum took the checkered flag for the victory over VanDyke, and with the precarious situation involv-

ing McCarty's car sitting sideways on the front straightaway the yellow flag waved to freeze the field, with Hale, Williams and Trent rounding out the top five. Completing the top 10 finishers were Ferguson, Derrick Lancaster, Derek Lane, Sorrow and McCarty.

Royce Peters of Kingsport recorded his second Modified Street victory of the season when apparent winner Kevin Wolfe's car failed post-race technical inspection. Finishing behind Peters were Paul Shull, Jared Broadbent, Rusty Clendenin and Dennis Deese.

Kenny Absher of Kingsport and Billy Ketron entered the night of racing separated by only two points in the Pure 4 standings. When the checkered flag waved they were separated by two finishing positions, with Absher getting his second win of the season and Ketron finishing third, thus putting them tied for the points lead.

With a strong 25-car field taking the green flag, in the early going the action was fast and furious among several drivers, which produced two- and three-wide racing and ultimately led to some caution periods involving multiple cars.

But with the laps winding down and the front-running trio of Absher, John Ketron and Billy Ketron work-

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Chad Finshum finally wins one at Kingsport Speedway as he celebrates in victory lane after taking the Patriot Mining Night at the Races Late Model race. (DREW HIERWARTER photo)

(Continued...)

ing lapped traffic, the Ketrons were primed-and-ready to make their move should Absher pick the wrong line in overtaking the slower cars. The top three cars were right together on the white flag lap, and racing off the fourth turn Absher sped to his second victory over John and Billy, with William Hale and Craig Phelps rounding out the top five finishers.

Kevin Canter of Abingdon, Virginia, was pressured the entire distance by David Brown in the 30-lap Mod 4 feature, with the duo swapping paint on occasions. Brown was lurking just waiting for Canter to make a mistake to open the door. But Canter never missed a beat in holding Brown off to capture his fourth consecutive victory, with Jerry Miller, Chris Amburgey and Hershell Robinette rounding out the top five finishers.

Doug Austin of Castlewood, Virginia, outran Jamie Meadows to capture his second Pure Street feature win of the season. Finishing third through fifth, respectively, were Jay Swecker, Stacey Castle and Peter Alley.

Clynis Phillips of Clintwood, Virginia, won the Mountain Empire Vintage Racing feature over William Jones, Dicky Mooney, Jeremy Mullins and Calvin Crabtree.

## Bowman Gray Stadium

WINSTON-SALEM, NC - For your average driver, the 83rd victory wouldn't seem particularly significant. But for Tim Brown of Tobaccoville and the crew of his number 83 car, the 83rd victory is a landmark.

Brown's grandfather raced in a number 83 car. Brown has run the number 83 for his entire racing career. And now that he's clinched his 83rd win, it's a reminder of where he's come from.

"It's special to me being 83 - my grandpa's number," said Brown. "I sat right up there in the stands as a kid just wanting to do this. And when I sat up there just wanting to do this, I never dreamed about winning at all."

Brown qualified on the pole for the fourth week in a row. He won for the third week in a row after leading the way in Saturday's first 25-lapper for the Brad's Golf Cars Modified Series.



**Tommy Neal cheers as he exits his car after winning the Midway Mobile Storage Sportsman 100. (ERIC HYLTON PHOTOGRAPHY)**

Chris Fleming of Mount Airy moved past Lee Jeffreys of Wallburg to take second, with Jeffreys coming in third.

The "Madhouse Scramble" sent last week's winner, Michael Clifton of Walkertown, to the pole again for the start of the second Modified 25-lap race. James Civali of Davidson was starting on the outside and itching for his first win at the Madhouse.

As the green flag dropped, Civali battled with Clifton, but the struggle sent Civali banging against the turn four guard rail. Amazingly, Civali was able to steer back into the groove, although he lost some position. As he tried to fit his way back into the pack, he collided with Randy Butner of Pfafftown.

Butner, however, raced on - able to maintain second place position right on the bumper of race leader Clifton. The number 5 car of Butner began to narrow the distance separating him from Clifton until he made a clean pass to the inside to take over the lead on lap four.

"Michael went in and his car slid up a little bit too much. It seemed like all four wheels were sliding, and it opened up the inside groove - so we just jumped in there and closed that hole up," said Butner. "When an opening becomes available like that you got to take advantage of it."

With Clifton falling back on the outside row, Burt Myers of Walnut Cove took over second and began pressuring the rear bumper of Butner. Although the early race collision left him with some damage, Butner still held off Myers to grab the win.

"We knocked the front end out of line in that deal with the 79 car [of

Civali] on the back stretch," said Butner. "The bent suspension was giving me some problems. Burt was able to get to my bumper. He let me know he was back there, but he ran me clean."

Saturday night was the Midway Mobile Storage Sportsman 100 - the "big one" of the season for the Texas Steak & Tap House Sportsman Series. Zack Clifton of Walkertown was the fastest qualifier, but Defending Champion Tommy Neal of Walkertown drew the pole when the top six qualifiers redrew for position.

Neal shot out into an early lead and had to defend the top spot again and again from outside row challenges from Derek Stoltz of Walkertown, John Holleman of Winston-Salem, Taylor Branch of Lewisville, and Michael Adams of Yadkinville. Neal was successful each time and held on to his position.

Derek Stoltz began turning on the heat during the final laps of the race, pressuring Neal and delivering tap after tap to Neal's bumper. On turn four of the final lap as they headed towards the checkered, Stoltz moved Neal enough to get up beside him. But in a photo finish, Neal beat Stoltz to the line to take the win.

In the Q104.1 New Country Street Stock Series, Amber Lynn of Walkertown had a strong race for the second week in a row. She passed Brian Wall of Winston-Salem on the final lap to steal away the lead and the win.

Chase Hunt of Lexington won the first 15-lap race for the Law Offices of John Barrow Stadium Stock Series, with Billy Cameron, Jr. taking checkered in the second 15-lapper.

## Eldora Speedway

ROSSBURG, OH - While just a few races into the 2017 racing season, Eldora Speedway today confirmed its Major Event dates for 2018.

The announcement coincided with the release of the calendar for each of the three NASCAR National Series.

The first major event weekend of the 2018 season, the 24th running of the \$100,000-to-win Dirt Late Model Dream will be contested Thursday-Friday-Saturday, June 7th-8th-9th, 2018.

The 35th annual Kings Royal Weekend, featuring the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Cars, will once again take place Thursday-Friday-Saturday, July 12th-13th-14th, 2018. The "Jokers Wild" will kick-off the weekend on Thursday night followed by Friday's "Knight Before" event. The three-day extravaganza culminates in Saturday night's tradition-filled \$50,000-to-win classic.

The NASCAR Camping World Truck Series returns to Eldora for the sixth consecutive year on Wednesday, July 18, 2018. The primetime event remains the only dirt race scheduled amongst the NASCAR top-tier series. As part of Eldora's tradition of showcasing different divisions of dirt racing, the DIRTcar UMP Modifieds and Eldora Stocks will have a special event on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 and invitational features as part of the Wednesday program.

For 47 years, the famous World 100 - The Biggest Dirt Race In The World™ - has been scheduled on the first Saturday following Labor Day and 2018 continues the tradition.

On-track activity will once again begin Thursday, September 6th, followed by another full show on Friday, September 7th, 2018 and concluding with a full-program for Dirt Late Models and the \$51,000-to-win 100-lap feature event on Saturday, September 8th.

The balance of the 2018 special event schedule, including May's #LetsRaceTwo Doubleheader for the World of Outlaws and USAC National Sprint Cars and September's 37th running of the Four Crown Nationals will be announced in the coming months.

Tickets for all scheduled events in 2017, including this Sunday night's Johnny Appleseed Classic by Miller Lite, are available now by calling the Eldora box office at (937) 338-3815 and [www.EldoraSpeedway.com](http://www.EldoraSpeedway.com).

## Antioch Speedway

MORGANTON, NC - Brian Carswell #13 from Valdese led every lap on his way to victory in the Heintz performance renegades V8 event. John Reynolds #55 finished a closet second, David Minton #90 third, Everette Dunlap #50 fourth and Blane Huffman #27 fifth.

Andrew Durham #42 from Jonesville

won a very competitive Heintz performance Modifieds main event. Chris Stowe #52 got the jump at the drop of the green with Everette Dunlap #50, Steven Valentine #419 and Durham in hot pursuit. Durham was able to make the pass for the lead on the outside in turns 1 & 2 on lap 7 and went on to take the checker flap, Stowe passed Joel Bray #25 with 4 laps remaining to finish second, Bray overcame an early caution to finish third. Dunlap fourth and Valentine rounded out the top five.

Carswell #69 won his second race of the night by leading every lap in the Tjs Motorsport Thunder Bombers/psv8 race. John McElrath #63J second, Tim Moretz #44 worked his way through the field to finish third, Mike Brown #11 fourth and John Reed #81 fifth.

Tim Bristol #71 from Morganton led flap2flag easily winning the James wagoner's welding Super Stock 4 race. Trevor Chatham #00 out battled Paul Butler #4 to finish second, Butler a closet third. Jimmy Milsaps #20 third and Kile Sisk #29 fifth.

Adam Vandiver #95 from Dallas NC won a hard fault battle to take the checkered flag in the Rpm graphics Pure Stock 4 event. Phillip Benfield #60 passed Chris Butler #B9 when Butler bobble exiting off turn 4 coming to the checkered flag to finish second Butler third, Riley Dunford #18d worked his way from the rear of the field to finish fourth and William Myers #17 fifth.

Bobby Larair #5 from Lincoln ton out battled his dad to take the victory in the Extreme FWD's race. Harald Larair #9 got beat at the finish line and had to settle for second, Justin Biahop #2 came in third, Timmy Wilson #777 fourth and Billy Motes #12 fifth.

Colby Burks #73 from Morganton took the lead on the second lap and went on to take the win in the Maddox energy drinks Young Guns



**Brian Carswell and company celebrates leading every lap to his win in the Heintz Performance Renegades V\* event. (ANTIOCH SPEEDWAY photo)**

main event. Mason Pugh #22 second, Alexis Motes #12 worked her way from the rear to cross the line in third, Chesnie Chatham #9 fourth and Emilee Baker #526 rounded out the top five.

## Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGROVE, PA - The sun shined for one of the first times on a Saturday night all year as Selinsgrove Speedway offered one of its most exciting weekends in racing. PEPSI Night at the track saw the second appearance of the season by the United Racing Club 360 sprint cars plus the Pro Stock 20, Late Models, and season opener for the Roadrunners.

Eddie Strada showed the way early before he had car problems taking him out of contention on lap number seven of the 25-lap URC 360 sprint car main event. Nate Snyder was in search of his first win at the track since 2011. Numerous restarts gave Derek Locke and Cody Keller opportunities to try to go by the race leader. Snyder held tough at the front.

On lap 17 Locke made his best attempt to take the race lead after reeling in Snyder in lap traffic. Locke pulled even with Snyder, but Snyder fended off the challenge and got away from Locke on his way to the checkered flag. Locke finished in second just ahead of Mallie Shuster.

Jason Shultz gave the fans a thrill coming from the 19th starting spot to finish in fourth in front of Keller. Larry Kelleher, Chad Layton, Chris Coyle, Curt Michael, and Troy Betts completed the top ten finishers.

Heat races for the 360 Sprint Cars were won by Jason Clauss, Eric Tomecek, and Brett Michalski.

Hayes Mattern looked like a lock

to be the Late Model feature winner on Saturday night as he drove away from the field in the 20-lap feature. A lap eight yellow flag would change the whole complexion of the race. Mattern did not get a good restart and Danny Snyder took advantage of it racing into the top spot. Snyder led the way until lap 12 when Mattern would get the top spot back and bring Steve Campbell with him.

Campbell followed Mattern closely for the next few laps before pulling to the inside on lap 19 to try to grab the win away. Campbell's car spun at the exit of turn two during the battle on the final lap.

The spin set up a one lap shootout that saw Mattern hold off a pretty tough charge from Donnie Schick who finished second. Snyder was third across the line followed by Tony Adams and Gene Knaub.

Luke Hoffner finished sixth with Dave Stamm, Nate Long, Zach Kauffman, and Meade Hahn crossing the line as the top ten.

Late model heat wins went to Meade Hahn and Danny Snyder.

Brad Mitch can recall a lap 12 caution flag as one of the crucial moments in his quest to be a two time winner of the A&A Auto Stores Pro Stock 20. Mitch slid up the race track and allowed Tommy Slanker to take the race lead, but a yellow flag negated the pass and Mitch was placed back in first spot.

Slanker spent the rest of the race tailing Mitch at the front with Shawn Lawton hanging in the shadows running third. On the final lap Slanker dove to the inside of Mitch setting up a drag race finish. The finish became very melodramatic when Slanker's car began dumping fluid and his car slowed off turn 4 allowing Mitch to pull

away to the win over Shawn Lawton.

AJ Stroup, Slanker, and John Fowler were the top five finishers. Johnny Bouse finished in sixth with Brandon Moser, Peanut Heintzleman, Noah Jensen, and John Schoch rounding out the top ten finishers.

Tommy Slanker, Shawn Lawton, and Brad Mitch won heat races with Lawton winning the cash dash. Each heat race winner received \$40 from the family of Jim Payne as well as a dash payout.

The night cap run by the Roadrunners kept the fans on the edge of their seat. Keith Bissinger, the defending champion, flipped in his heat and was starting deep in the field. A returning Bob Bussey grabbed the lead away from Ryan Leister early on. Brian Johnson got into the outside wall on a restart that saw he and Bissinger run a lane higher than what the track had to offer. It was at that point that Bussey realized he needed to move up to the high side of the track before he got passed.

Bussey did just that and won the Roadrunner season opening event. Bissinger finished second ahead of Will Brunson, Smith Cope, and Leister.

Roadrunner heat race wins were captured by Ryan Leister and Darren Rice.

For the second week in a row the speedway had many of the standing track records broken. Meade Hahn broke the track record in the Late Models after the first heat race of the night before Danny Snyder broke it again in the second one.

Next Saturday will mark the third race of the season at Selinsgrove Speedway for the united racing club in the annual Kramer Cup in memory of former champion Kramer Williamson. The Race will run 30 laps and pay \$2,573 to win.

The Mid Atlantic Modifieds and Econo Late Models will also join the Sprint Car teams as well as the Pro Stocks.

Track gates will open at 5 p.m. Racing will start at 7 p.m.

## Stafford Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Due to a change in weather patterns and forecast for the rest of the afternoon and early evening, Stafford Speedway officials have decided to postpone the Inaugural Dunleavy's Truck & Trailer Modifiedz Night to Friday June 9th. All activities scheduled for tonight's

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Dunleavy Modifiedz Night will be held on Friday, June 9th including the 40-lap SK Light Modified \$2,500 to win special event, 50-lap SK Modified event, Fireworks, as well as special pricing for members of the Armed Services.

"We hate to postpone events especially new events that everyone is so excited about," explained Stafford General Manager Mark Arute.

"With such a full schedule for the Dunleavy Modifiedz special we need maximum track time and current weather conditions will not allow for that. We'll give it another go June 9th, we're all looking forward to this big event for the weekly guys."

Stafford Speedway returns to action next Friday, June 2nd for the inaugural Modified Touring Series 125. The Modified Touring Series will take to the track with qualifying heats beginning at 6:15pm. Stafford's five NASCAR Whelen All-American Series divisions will also be in action.

Tickets for this event are on sale now and are priced at \$30.00 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 seat tickets are \$32.00 for all ages. All ticket prices include 10% CT Admission Tax. Stafford Motor Speedway offers plenty of free parking along with overnight parking available for self contained Recreational Vehicles.

For more information, contact the Stafford Motor Speedway track office at 860-684-2783 or visit us on the web at [www.staffordspeedway.com](http://www.staffordspeedway.com).

## Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - Colorado's Jake Bubak made the most of his first visit of the season to the 3/8-mile Dodge City Raceway Park clay oval by posting a convincing win in Sunday's Lewis Automotive Night 20-lap Precise DCRP Sprint Car feature event.

While Bubak got in a good tune-up for the upcoming \$3,000-to-win Lewis Automotive DCRP Sprint Car Nationals, other Sunday night winners included Clay Sellard in IMCA Modifieds, Jeff Kaup in IMCA Sport Modifieds, Angel Munoz in IMCA



**Jake Bubak celebrates in Dodge City Raceway Park's victory lane after winning in his first visit to the facility, (DCRP photo)**

Stock Cars and Reagan Sellard in IMCA Hobby Stocks as 104 cars filled the pit area.

In the 20-lap Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Car feature, Bubak chased Tyler Knight in the opening rounds before rallying by on the high side of turns three and four to take command on the fifth round.

From that point on, the Aurora, CO, racer proceeded to lap all the way up to seventh in the non-stop affair aboard the Myers Racing Engines/S&S Trailer Sales No. 9x Maxim to secure the win.

"Traffic was pretty crazy, at one point they were literally three-wide ahead of me and there was nowhere to go," Bubak said.

Liberal's Tracey Hill slid past Knight for second on the ninth lap and tried to track down Bubak. But when Bubak worked through a gaggle of lapped cars just past the midway point, it was game over as he raced on to nearly a half-lap margin at the checkered flag.

Hill crossed the stripe second in Bubak's wake with Knight, Nick Haygood and Koby Walters rounding out the top five.

In the 20-lap IMCA Modified feature, Bucklin's Clay Sellard battled into the lead on the ninth round and led the rest of the way to put a stop to Cole Traugott's recent run of domination.

While Tracy Link paced the early rounds, Sellard worked forward from 12th on the heels of Mike Lunow, who started one row further up. The duo reached second and third, respectively, behind Link within a half dozen circuits before charging by on the ninth round with Sellard taking command.

Meanwhile, Traugott was working his way through the field from 13th after winning the "B" Main as

the driver of the No. 9 was searching for his ninth win in his last nine visits to DCRP.

Traugott worked up to second by the 14th round, trailing Sellard by a dozen car-lengths. Traugott nibbled away at the advantage but could only cut in half by the time the checkered flag flew.

Sellard enjoyed his first DCRP win since June of last year ahead of Traugott with Lunow, Jeremy Chambers and Link in the top five.

In IMCA Sport Modified action, Woodward's Jeff Kaup captured his second win of the season by in turn denying Dakota Sproul a second straight win in the 20-lapper.

With Kaup and Sproul working forward from the fourth row together, Brian May held off a heavy pack for three rounds before Sproul raced by to take command with Kaup racing into second just three laps later.

Kaup rallied past Sproul for the point on the ninth round and then fought off a relentless series of challenges from the Ellis, KS, shoe,

including one last-lap bid, to take the win. Sproul settled for second with Kevin Tabor, May and Adam Weber rounding out the top five.

Lamar, Colorado's Angel Munoz stayed perfect in IMCA Stock Car action by racing to his third win in as many tries in the 20-lapper.

After starting eighth, Munoz battled past early leader Dusty Witthuhn for the point on the tenth round and led the rest of the way with Witthuhn holding off Cody Zimmerman for runner-up honors. Zimmerman, Michael Smith and Gregg Schell chased the lead duo across the stripe.

The night rounded out with a storybook ending for Bucklin's Reagan Sellard, who rebounded from a heat race flip to win the 20-lap IMCA Hobby Stock feature event.

After a wild flip exiting turn four by Norman Carr one lap into the feature, defending champ Matt O'Hair pounced on Gerald Walker for the lead on the restart as Sellard working his way through the pack from 14th.

O'Hair seemingly had the race in command until a lap 12 bobble in turn three opened the door for Sellard, who was working the mid-line past the lead pack. Sellard's momentum carried him past O'Hair and he denied late pressure and a strong last-corner bid from O'Hair to take the win.

The second Sellard win of the night came ahead of O'Hair with Duane Wahrman, Tathan Burkhart and Cody Williams rounding out the top five.

Action continues at Dodge City Raceway Park next Saturday night, June 3, with the Stock Car Spectacular that features \$750-to-win for IMCA Stock Cars along with Precise Products DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds and IMCA Hobby Stocks.



**Clay Sellard is joined by family and friends to celebrate his win in the IMVA modified feature. (DCRP photo)**

## Franklin County Speedway

Stage racing was introduced in the NASCAR Cup Series this season to rave reviews by fans and on Sunday night in the Memorial Day Bash Franklin County Speedway had their own version of stage racing.

Stage racing is dividing the race into segments with additional points awarded for top running cars.

The Memorial Day Bash was a three segment 100-lap event with stage breaks at lap 50 and 80 and the race conclusion on lap 100. The race to lap 50 would have a long break with the Mini Stock race in between. Lap 80 was simply a caution to reset the field and the race was on to the finish.

Kyle Dudley dominated the day. He qualified on the pole and was inverted to fourth for the start of the race. He quickly made his way toward the front before a great battle with Ricky Gillespie who was subbing for Jonathan Hall who was on vacation at the beach. Gillespie held the lead for a while before Dudley got by him prior to the break to secure maximum points winning the first segment.

Ricky Gillespie would suffer a cut tire late and brought out a caution that would aid his father Bobby Gillespie who was having a great run but had faded back a little bit before the caution. Bobby would stay with Dudley on the restart but he was no match for the dominant driver. Bobby Gillespie finished second with Ricky third, Daniel Hutson fourth and Josh Leedy completing the top five in the first segment.

Dudley would once again be inverted to fourth for the start of the second segment and had to contend with both Gillespies who were both having a strong run all night. Daniel Hutson would restart from the pole flanked by Ricky Gillespie. They had a great start to the second segment and raced side by side for a couple of circuits around before Hutson slipped a little and let Gillespie get by.

From there the younger Gillespie once again led before Dudley took the lead prior to the end of the second segment.

Dudley once again scored maximum points for segment number two. With no invert for the final 20-



**Chad Burnopp (right) drenches fellow competitor Brian Turner on his first win in the Mini Stock division. (SHANE GREEN photo)**

lap segment Dudley continued his dominance of the night as Bobby Gillespie worked to try and get by his son Ricky but to no avail. Ricky in his substitute role would grab a second place finish with Bobby third, Leedy fourth and Hutson fifth.

In the mini stock race rookie Brian Turner picked up his first win in dominating fashion over last weeks first time winner Cole Martin. Josh Phillips finished third, Miles Markham fourth and Chad Burnopp fifth.

Jason Warsing picked up another win in the V8 Street division after taking the lead from Adam Hollingsworth who was making his first start in five seasons. Hollingsworth had the lead but Warsing muscled his way past to get the top spot. Hollingsworth would finish second but was dis-

qualified for having the wrong shocks on his car as spec shocks are required in this division. Steve Brodie inherited second with James Woods third.

Tony Housman once again dominated the U-Car division. He easily won the 25-lap race over WJ Altizer and Mike Reed. Altizer had started from the pole but Housman muscled his way past for the lead. Altizer would come under fire for second position from Reed but Reed slipped up and they made contact as Altizer drove away to a second place finish. Housman would be disqualified in post race technical inspection for his frame height being too low. Altizer inherited the win, his first of 2017 while Reed suffered the same fate as Housman and was disqualified from his third place effort. Tyle Har-

ison and Jason Janney completed the top three finishers in the reset finishing order.

Franklin County Speedway springs back into action this Saturday night with the first Karnage Carnival Night of Destruction taking place at 6pm. The Night of Destruction will feature some of the wildest events in the tracks 48-year history including a Blindfold race where the driver will race around the track with a blindfold on and a passenger directing them around. It will also feature a \$1,000 Any Car race, the first Demolition Derby at the track in over a decade, Tuff Truck Tug-of-War, Street Car Drag Racing and so much more. It will also feature three divisions of racing including Stock 4, Flatheads and Mini Cups.

Advance tickets are available online. Advance tickets are \$10 for Adults, \$7 for Youths (5-12 years old) and children 4 and under get in free. Tickets at the gate will be \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Youths (5-12 years old) and children 4 and under get in free.

Grandstands open at 3pm with the first event slated to roll off at 6pm. Tickets are expected to sell out early, so either get your tickets online in advance by Thursday June 1st or arrive early to ensure you get a seat.

For more information on the Karnage Carnival Night of Destruction or to purchase your advance tickets visit [www.FCSpeedway.com](http://www.FCSpeedway.com) or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MoonshineCapitalPromotions/> or contact Langley Austin at 276.613.4208.



**Ricky Gillespie (25) tries to hold off Kyle Dudley (4) in the first segment of the 100-lap race. Gillespie led a bunch of laps but in all three segments Dudley was able to get by and collect the points and eventually the win. (SHANE GREEN photo)**