



FEBRUARY 2, 2018

# FasTrack

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## Keselowski Comes from Last to First to Win Daytona Clash



Alec Bowman Puts #88 on the Pole for 2018 Daytona 500



Donny Schatz Takes Home His First DIRTcar Nationals Big Gator Championship

# Goodbye Danica

Danica Patrick faces the final 1,000 miles of her driving career with the same enthusiasm and positive outlook that meant far more to NASCAR than her driving record.

Even with no victories in 190 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup and 61 XFINITY series starts, she left a footprint in the sport that will be missed.

Thousands, if not millions of fans, many who don't know the difference between a restrictor-plate and a rearview mirror, found purpose with each of her passing laps.

To them, she always will be a winner.

The Daytona 500 will be her final curtain call in NASCAR. She then will call it quits following the Indianapolis 500 in May.

While her lack of success behind the wheel of a stock car – just seven top-10 finishes and one pole position in six years – is obvious. But there is a far more important question that goes beyond the record books:

Was NASCAR better with Danica Patrick?

Kevin Harvick believes racing will miss his former Stewart-Haas Racing teammate.

"There's really no way to measure everything that she's brought to the sport and the things that she's done for the sport," he said. "She's a mega-star. If you look at the things that she's accomplished, who do you compare it to, really?"

It's impossible to ignore her reach beyond racing's customary boundaries. In the process, she motivated an entire generation of new fans – mostly girls – that anything is possible if a dream is followed by tenacious work.

She dreamed big, worked hard and dared to be great. It wasn't always easy, but she will leave NASCAR after the Daytona 500 with a genuine sense of accomplishment.

"I think that if there is one difference that I feel is that you have to get a team behind you, but to believe in you and maybe it's a little harder because women have not proved themselves as much as men, but every driver has to prove themselves to their team," she said.

"There is still that responsibility and that challenge is still at hand for every single driver to find a group that believes in them and gives them what they need and puts them in the right scenario."

"Perhaps it's a little bit harder for me, just based on history, but I've had great opportunities as a driver. Sometimes I think it's been better than others, but that could probably be said for every single driver out there."

"My own banner is bigger than any other banner for what I want to accomplish for myself, and then the trickle-down effect is what it is. But, no one expects more than me."

Her road to success started with a determination she could accomplish anything she wanted – even in a sport dominated by men.

Her former crew chief, Tony Gibson, fondly remembered fans writing notes on the garage area windows at Daytona. He gave away lug nuts to people clamoring for a unique keepsake that transcended something deeper, more influential, than sports.

"I think that's really cool for our sport and I think that's going to help our sport grow," he said.

Patrick admitted her role was consuming and overwhelming. But like everything else she's accomplished in her life, she's found a way to make it work – if not turn it into a success.

"I think you can only lead by example and I don't necessarily want my example to be to step outside the box and be a girl in a guys' world, that's not what I'm trying to say," she said. "But if you have a talent for something to not be afraid to follow through with it and not feel like you are less qualified or less competent to be able to do the job because you are different. It's to ignore that and let it be about what your potential is."

"I enjoy being inspirational to these kids."

With the lack of future sponsorship last season, there were suggestions her time at Stewart-Haas Racing was coming to an end. When she got to the Homestead-Miami Speedway last November for the season-finale, she tearfully made it official.

She was done.

"So, this will be my last year as a full-time driver," she said while crying during her announcement. "I did



**Danica Patrick takes time from practice to talk to the media concerning her last Daytona 500. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)**

kind of waiting to hear what you have to say. The weight of the room was pretty heavy. It's just how I was feeling.

"There's part sad and there's part happy. I'm pretty excited, too."

Her final two races – which will be marketed as the Danica Double – will coincide with her racing full speed toward a new dream – fitness and diet.

She released a workout and diet book, "Pretty Intense," a 90-day program that she vowed will change a person physically and emotionally. She also has her own yoga clothing line called "Warrior by Danica Patrick Fashion."

After winning a celebrity edition of Food TV's "Chopped," she's tinkering with the possibility of a cooking show.

Patrick decided to make her curtain call at the Indianapolis 500 because her third-place finish there in 2009 is the best by any woman in the race's 101-year history.

She's also the only woman to win an IndyCar race, the Japan 300 in 2008, and she was voted as IndyCar's Most Popular Driver for six consecutive years, starting in 2005.

"My plan is to be at Indy, and then I'm done," Patrick said. "That is my plan. After Indy, that's the end."

And a new beginning.

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BRAD KESELOWSKI - MATT THACKER/NKP  
ALEC BOWMAN - NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY  
DONNY SCHATZ - PAUL ARCH

## Last to First: Brad Keselowski Charges Through the Field to Win the Advance Auto Parts Clash; Alex Bowman Takes Pole for 60th Annual DAYTONA 500

Brad Keselowski won Sunday's Advance Auto Parts Clash at Daytona International Speedway with a dominating last-to-first run over the course of the 75-lap event.

The Advance Auto Parts Clash (run in segments of 25 and 50 laps), a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series non-points, invitation-only battle, is always a highlight of Speedweeks. The 17-driver field featured 2017 pole winners, former Clash champions, former DAYTONA 500 pole winners who competed full-time in 2017 and drivers who qualified for the 2017 Monster Energy Series playoffs.

Keselowski, in the No. 2 Miller Lite Ford, was followed by his Team Penske teammate and 2015 DAYTONA 500 champion Joey Logano (No. 22 Shell Pennzoil Ford), with last year's DAYTONA 500 champion Kurt Busch (No. 41 Haas Automation/Monster Energy Ford) finishing third. The top three escaped from a last-lap, Turn 3 incident that involved several cars.

Keselowski – a former Monster Energy Series champion – led 41

laps in securing only his second victory at Daytona International Speedway and his first during a Speedweeks. His only previous DIS victory came in the 2016 Coca-Cola 400.

Last year, Keselowski started first in the Clash via the annual blind draw format, but finished sixth. "This year we got last [in the draw] so we said this will be the year we win it and sure enough, here we are," he said. "It's a great way to start the season."

"I hope I can repeat this in seven days in the DAYTONA 500."

Sunday marked the return of an old-school Speedweeks scheduling tradition, as DAYTONA 500 Qualifying Presented By Kroger and the Advance Auto Parts Clash combined for an afternoon double-header.

Prior to the Clash, Alex Bowman won the pole for the 60th annual DAYTONA 500 set for Sunday, Feb. 18, with a lap of 195.644 mph in the No. 88 Nationwide Chevrolet Camaro on the famed DIS 2.5-mile tri-oval.

Bowman is in his first fulltime year with Hendrick Motorsports in the car formerly driven by the newly



**Daytona 500 pole winner Alex Bowman (center) poses with his car owner Rick Hendrick (left) and crew chief Grey Ives in victory lane Sunday. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)**

retired Dale Earnhardt Jr. Previously, Bowman drove the No. 88 in 2016 as a substitute for Earnhardt, who was injured that season.

Sunday, Bowman topped the leaderboard after both of the two qualifying rounds; the first round pared 40 drivers down to 12 for the second and final round. Bowman posted his fastest speed in the second round, edging out 2016 DAYTONA 500 champion Denny Hamlin by 0.130 seconds for the pole. Hamlin qualified the No. 11 FedEx Express Toyota Camry at 195.092 mph. Two-time DAYTONA 500 champion Jimmie Johnson – he's also the seven-time Monster Energy Series champion – was third in the No. 48 Lowe's for Pros Chevrolet Camaro at 194.734.

The qualifying session "locked in" Bowman and Hamlin for the front row of the DAYTONA 500 and also established the grids for Thursday's Can-Am Duel, a pair of 150-mile races that determine the DAYTONA 500 grid after the front row. Bowman has the pole for the first Duel event, with Hamlin on the pole for the second Duel race.

Bowman gave Hendrick Motorsports its 20th DAYTONA 500 pole – and its fourth consecutive. That allowed team owner Rick Hendrick to tie the record for most consecutive poles also held by Harry Rainer (1979-82, with drivers Buddy Baker, Bobby Allison and Benny Parsons).

"I think this is still a little surreal," Bowman said. "Driving for Hendrick Motorsports ... and to get to drive what I think is the best race car in the business."

"I'm just lucky enough to be able to hold the steering wheel in one of Mr. H's (Rick Hendrick) race cars. Very thankful for that opportunity."

Bowman extended a recent trend of excellence by the No. 88 team at Daytona International Speedway and 2.66-mile Talladega Superspeedway, the huge, high-banked tracks where NASCAR mandates restrictor plates. Last year, Earnhardt qualified second for the DAYTONA 500 and had the pole for the Coca-Cola 400 held in July at DIS. Then, in October, Earnhardt took the Talladega pole.

"The car has been fast since we unloaded," Bowman said. "I'm just really happy for the whole race team, from the engine shop to the aero group to the chassis shop. Everybody worked so hard this winter. I just got to hold the steering wheel."



**Clash winner Brad Keselowski celebrates with a little Miller Lite and his crew members after holding off teammate Joey Logano for the win. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)**

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## Self Survives Daytona; Wins Wild Lucas Oil 200

**D A Y T O N A BEACH, FL** - Like he was shot out of a cannon, Salt Lake City, Utah's Michael Self, on the last lap, jumped out to a 10-length advantage in overtime to win the wild ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards Lucas Oil 200 Driven by General Tire Saturday night at Daytona Int'l Speedway.

Self, in the No. 15 Venturini Motorsports-prepared Sinclair Lubricants Toyota, also survived two late-race multi-car crashes to get in position for the biggest win of his career.

"Survived man...just survived," said Self in victory lane.

"I got really lucky. I made it through all the wrecks. This thing is rough...it's beat up. I made some mistakes, but we were able to overcome them. I had a lot of help on the radio...that's why we're here. This is especially great for Sinclair. It's insane how rewarding this feels. That company took a chance on me. They're from my home state, and that's really special."

With the leaders bunched up the entire way, even Self had no idea how he managed to drive away from the pack in the end.

"I have no idea how we got that big lead...I really don't. The car just

took off. I was worried going down the backstretch...all those cars behind me with all that momentum. Those guys just seemed to stall each other out behind me."

Two multi-car wrecks inside of 10 laps remaining sent the race into overtime during which several cars crashed on the backstretch coming to the checkered flag, including leaders Sean Corr, Chase Purdy and Travis Braden. That put Self in the lead for the final restart, the second attempt at a one-lap finish.

Willie Mullins, in his own No. 3 Crow Wing Recycling-CW Metals-Bugsy's Auto Ford, dodged all the wrecks and came home second, a career-best for the Fredericksburg, Virginia driver.

"We had a really good plan," said Mullins. "Drop back from our ninth starting position and drop to the back, conserve fuel and make sure we were there at the end. Then we finally ran up to the front. I'm just so thankful for this all volunteer crew. We do this out of a little garage in Virginia. I couldn't be happier."

Sheldon Creed finished third in the No. 28 United Rentals Toyota.

"We started in the back...it worked out kind of nice tonight," said Creed. "We saved so much fuel in the beginning. Then we got sucked up in the draft...it's how we got to the front. We got some really good pushes from the 54 and 27.



Michael Self wins a wild season opener at Daytona International Speedway. (arca.com photo)

It's all about making deals with the drivers around you. We had good people around us all night."

Self's Venturini Motorsports (VMS) teammates Tom Hessert (No. 55 U.S. Turf Equipment Toyota) and Natalie Decker (No. 25 N29 Capital Partners Toyota) finished fourth and fifth respectively, giving VMS three finishes inside the top-five.

Max Tullman finished sixth in the Zoomi-Myota Chevrolet for Mason Mitchell Motorsports. Noah Gragson gave DGR-CROSLEY a seventh-place finish in the No. 54 Switch-Safelite Auto Glass Toyota. Leilani Munter, also in a Venturini car, finished eighth in the No. 20 VeganStrong.com Toyota.

Andrew Belmont finished ninth in the No. 2 ModSpace Ford. Riley Herbst, in the No. 18 NOS-ORCA Coolers-Terrible Herbst-Advance Auto Parts Toyota, finished 10th.

From the 39-car starting field, 19

cars managed to wiggle around and through the wrecks to finish what turned out to be a 92-lap race, rather than the scheduled 80. Several drivers were taken to the infield care center. All were examined and released.

When asked about the continued attempts at green flag finishes, Self said, "I like racing all the way to the checkered flag. It's what the fans want and I applaud ARCA for keeping that going."

Mullins echoed something similar.

"We're here to race to the checkered flag," he said. "If we have to put it away all crumpled up in a box then so be it. The fans aren't here to see a caution finish. As a racer, I wouldn't want it any other way."

The next event for the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards is the Music City 200 at Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville Saturday night, April 7.

## Todd Gilliland Edges Harrison Burton In a Win For The Ages

NEW SMYRNA, FL - If Sunday night's NASCAR K&N Pro Series East finish is any indication, the sport's future is going to be exciting.

Todd Gilliland and Harrison Burton, a pair of NASCAR Next drivers, put on a two-lap brawl that had fans on their feet at the finish

and social media buzzing long after the checkered flag flew.

Gilliland emerged with the victory in the New Smyrna 175, diving under Burton for the lead on the white flag lap and winning the drag race down the back stretch. Cole Rouse, another rising young star, nearly made it three-wide across the line and stole the runner-up spot from Burton at the finish.

"Hard racing for the win," Gilliland said of the battle. "That stuff is going to happen. We were both very hungry to get the win."

Burton, who led 79 laps, lost the top spot on Lap 131. But with two to go, he used a bump-and-run into Turn 3 to take the lead back. Gilliland, though, muscled his way by less than a half-lap later.

The victory was the sixth career on the East for the 17-year-old, and was his 19th victory combined in the K&N Pro Series.

"Luckily we put this Toyota Camry in Victory Lane," said Gilliland, who will be running a split schedule between the K&N Pro Series and Camping World Truck Series after winning the last two K&N Pro West titles. "I can't thank everyone on my team enough. It's a dream come true to be back here."

The Sherrills Ford, North Carolina, driver started from the outside of the front row after Burton

won the pole, and the two swapped the lead back and forth throughout the race. The major twist in the battle came when Gilliland and the rest of the leaders pitted during the first of two race breaks on lap 63 and Burton stayed on the track.

Burton found himself in fuel conservation mode for the rest of the race – up until the final few laps of battling.

"We were saving gas from the beginning of the race," Burton said. "At the end of the race, you aren't think about it when you are racing like that, but I'm sure we were pretty close. It was just two guys going hard for the win, that's what we come to do, we are both racing

for the W."

Rouse's Bill McAnally Racing teammate, Derek Kraus, finished fourth.

Tyler Ankrum, who blew a motor in practice and was forced to start at the tail end of the field, nearly drove to the front and rounded out the top five.

Spencer Davis finished sixth, followed by Anthony Sergi, Ronnie Bassett Jr., Tyler Dippel and Brandon McReynolds.

The New Smyrna 175 will air on NBCSN on Tuesday Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. ET. The NASCAR K&N Pro Series East returns to the track on April 14 at Bristol Motor Speedway for the Zombie Auto 150.



Todd Gilliland edges Harrison Burton and Cole Rouse at the line at New Smyrna Speedway for the first win of the season. (NASCAR photo)

## Four Races Worth \$10,000 To Win or More as SSS Announces 2018 Schedule

PENSACOLA, FL - The Southern Super Series presented by Sunoco announced its slate of races that will make up the series schedule for 2018. Among the highlights as the Southern Super Series (SSS) enters its fifth season will be at least four races that will pay \$10,000 or more to the winner.

The 11-race schedule for SSS will begin with the 42nd annual Rattler 250 at South Alabama Speedway (Opp, AL) on Sunday, March 18 and conclude with a new event, the Mobile 300, at the famed Mo-

bile Int'l Speedway (Mobile, AL) on Sunday, October 28.

The four races to pay \$10,000 or more include the aforementioned Rattler 250 and the Mobile 300. Also included in that mix will be the Short Track U.S. Nationals at Bristol Motor Speedway (TN) on Sunday, May 20 and the combination event with the CARS Tour Super Late Model Series at Anderson Motor Speedway (SC) on Saturday, June 9.

In all, the series will visit eight different race tracks in six different states.

"In assembling the 2018 schedule for the Southern Super Series presented by Sunoco, it was our

aim to provide races at a variety of tracks spread across the calendar," said Tim Bryant, promoter of the SSS.

"We wanted our races to be spaced apart, so that the aggressive teams could participate in all the races while still being allowed to run with any of the other sanctioning bodies we work so well with. With increased purses at multiple events and our commitment to a year-end points fund, plus other exciting news coming together, we're already anxious to get to Opp, Alabama for the Rattler 250 to get things started."

The deep south Super Late Model Tour will also visit the Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville (TN) on Saturday, April 7, Montgomery Motor Speedway (AL) on Saturday, June 30 and Watermelon Capital Speedway (Cordele, GA) on Saturday, August 25.

The only track that will host more than one event in 2018 will be Pen-

scola's Five Flags Speedway. The SSS will stop at the track in the Panhandle of Florida on four occasions.

Three stops will occur on Friday nights, on April 27, June 22 and July 20. Its final stop will be a Saturday night show at FFS on September 22.

The Southern Super Series has several other major announcements that will be made in the coming weeks. For more information on the Southern Super Series, visit [www.southern-superseries.com](http://www.southern-superseries.com).

Make your plans now to attend the season-opening event for the Southern Super Series presented by Sunoco. The Rattler 250 will take place at South Alabama Speedway from Friday, March 16 through Sunday, March 18.

More details surrounding the event will be announced soon, but the schedule and other information can be found by visiting [www.southalabamaspeedway.com](http://www.southalabamaspeedway.com).

# PASS South Super Late Models Set Dates For 2018 Schedule

CHARLOTTE, NC - Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials announced several dates today for the 2018 PASS South Super Late Model schedule. The South's original and longest running Super Late Model tour will be highlighted in 2018 by beginning the season with two of the biggest and most prestigious races in the region. With seven dates confirmed, the PASS South Super Late Models will compete on at least five different venues over the course of the 2018 season, with one date left to confirm and up to two more events possibly to be announced by mid-January.

"We believe this schedule should work well for our racers in and outside the southeast region in 2018," said PASS President Tom Mayberry. "We realize everyone is busy and we have worked very hard to avoid any conflicts with other series or track schedules.

We're very appreciative for all of our enthusiastic track owners that have partnered with us again for our 13th season of racing in the South. We've got several big things on the burner for next year and are excited for the possibilities."

The 2018 season will start on, February 23-24, at Dillon Motor Speedway with the 13th Annual South Carolina Clash. After a very competitive race last year, the 200 lap event will once again be the first contest of the 2018 PASS National Championship Series, asphalt Super Late Model racing's only true national championship.

The PASS South Super Late Models will then move to the Tarheel State for the 13th Annual Easter Bunny 150 at Hickory Motor Speedway on Saturday, March 31. Hickory, the longest tenured track on the PASS South circuit dating back to 2006, will once again hold the biggest and most traditional Super Late Model race in the Carolinas. As always, the Easter Bunny 150 is expected to attract some of the top short track racers in the country for one of the most sought after trophies in the sport.

In May, the series will move to one of the fastest and most unique tracks in the country. PASS will ex-

pand its relationship with Concord Speedway by again hosting the Old Glory 125 on Friday night, May 25 as part of the big Memorial Day weekend festivities in the Charlotte area. The famed triangular half-mile, known for its legendary Big 10 Series, will once again also see the PASS South Super Late Models as part of the 16th Annual North-South Shootout on November 9-10. Additionally, PASS will be the exclusive sanctioning body for Super Late Models at Concord Speedway in 2018.

The PASS South Super Late Models will also return to two of the Mid-Atlantic's most exciting speedways in 2018 with a couple of 150 lappers. Orange County Speedway will host the series on Saturday night, July, 21 before the tour moves to South Boston Speedway on Saturday night, August 11 for a twin bill with the NASCAR Late Model Stocks.

PASS will close out the 2018 season by crowning the series champion at the 13th Annual Mason-Dixon MegaMeltdown 200 at Hickory Motor Speedway on Saturday, November 17. Final confirmation for any other dates will be released by January 20. Additional information on support divisions will also be announced in the near future.

## PASS Releases 2018 North Super Late Model Schedule

NAPLES, ME - Coinciding with the series banquet tonight, Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials announced the release of the 2018 schedule for the PASS North Super Late Models. The Northeast's top short trackers will once again compete at some of the best speedways in New England and Canada, highlighted by the 45th Annual Oxford 250 at Oxford Plains Speedway on the final weekend of August. The season will begin for the third straight year at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in Connecticut as part of the Ice-breaker weekend on April 7-8. PASS will return to Canada in 2018 with a first ever trip to New Brunswick's Petty International Raceway in June. The PASS North Super Late Models will compete on 10 different speedways in 4 states and Canada in 2018.

"We believe this is another really great schedule for the PASS North Super Late Models," said PASS President Tom Mayberry. "This year we will celebrate our 18th year of sanctioning races throughout the United States and Canada and we're glad to begin new partnerships, while continuing to build on old ones. The Oxford 250 has found a home with its August date and has solidified its place as one of short track racing's biggest events and we're glad to continue that tradition in 2018."

The 45th Annual Oxford 250 will continue as one of the crown jewel events in short track racing with racers from all across North America set to compete for \$25,000 to win, plus guaranteed lap leader money on August 24-26. The 250 will again cap off a full weekend of short track racing action on the famed Oxford Plains Speedway in Maine's biggest sporting event of the year. Last year, Curtis Gerry took home over \$30,000 in his first ever win in the 250.

A final tune-up to the Oxford 250 will take place on Sunday, July 29 at Oxford Plains Speedway. In addition, Oxford Plains Speedway will once again host the PASS North Super Late Models on Sunday, April 15, and Sunday May 20 and will crown the PASS North titlist with the season finale on Saturday, October 13.

Following a successful debut in 2016, PASS will again sanction a special Independence Day weekend show at Oxford Plains Speedway on Sunday, July 1. This event will be a non-points event, featuring PASS "non-winners." The winner will be given a guaranteed starting spot for the 45th Annual Oxford 250.

In 2018, PASS North returns to Canada debuting at Petty International Raceway in New Brunswick on Saturday, June 2. PASS North will also be returning to Speedway 51 in Groveton, NH on Saturday, August 11 for the first time since Trevor Sanborn took the checkered flag there in 2010.

Maine's Beech Ridge Motor Speedway will host the PASS North Super Late Models three times in 2018, featuring the PASS 300 on Saturday, April 28, followed by events on Saturday, July 7, and on Saturday, September 22.

Speedway 95 in Hermon, ME returns to the PASS North schedule for a fifth consecutive year with a 150 lap event slated for Sunday, June 17.

PASS will make its first of four trips in 2018 to the state of New

Hampshire on Saturday, May 5 at Star Speedway. PASS will make its only stop of the year at White Mountain Motorsports Park on Saturday, September 15. The series will also be in the Granite State on Friday, August 3 for an event at Lee USA Speedway.

The Super Late Models of PASS will compete again at Thunder Road International Speedway in Vermont, but for the first time ever, will have two races there. The PASS North Super Late Models will race for 150 laps, joined by the Thunder Road Late Models, for the Mekkelsen Memorial Day Classic 100 on Sunday, May 27. Then, the night before the 56th Annual Milk Bowl at Thunder Road, PASS North will return for a 150 lap race on Friday, September 28.

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 legendary Oxford 250 at Oxford Plains Speedway and PASS South's Easter Bunny 150 at the historic Hickory Motor Speedway.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions please send questions to [passracing@roadrunner.com](mailto:passracing@roadrunner.com).

For media or marketing questions, please contact Alan Dietz at 704-231-2039 or [alandietzpass@live.com](mailto:alandietzpass@live.com).

Please visit [ProAllStarsSeries.com](http://ProAllStarsSeries.com) for more information. And, 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.

## PASS Super Late Model Racers Preparing To Kick Off 2018 Season At Dillon

CHARLOTTE, NC - Racers from across the country are busy counting down the days as the 2018 Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Super Late Model season opener at Dillon Motor Speedway draws closer. The 13th Annual South Carolina Clash 200 at Dillon on Saturday, February 24 will not only mark the beginning of the PASS National Championship Series, but it will also be the first race of the PASS South Super Late Model schedule.

Ever since the first South Carolina Clash was held at nearby Florence Motor Speedway in 2006, the event has been one of the featured races annually on the PASS schedule. Since that first Clash

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won by the late Charlie Bradberry, a stellar list of drivers have gone to victory lane including two-time Clash winner, Ryan Blaney, as well as Justin Wakefield, Ben Rowe, Preston Peltier, Austin Theriault, Daniel Hemric, and Tyler Church. In last year's race, Jared Irvan took advantage of a late-race restart to beat Christian Eckes to the checkered flag at the conclusion of 200 laps at Dillon.

Newly turned 17-year-old driver Kodie Conner from Kannapolis, NC is excited to return to Dillon for the 200 lapper which will begin the South's oldest Super Late Model championship. After a second place finish at Dillon in 2016, Conner was involved in an accident last year that he believes played a part in costing him the series championship.

"After last year and falling out of the race at Dillon to begin the year, it actually changed the end of the season for Team KCR," says Conner, who owns his team now following the passing of his grandfather, Jerry, in 2017. "I felt I was not able to catch up to Matt [Craig] after that. We've ran good at Dillon in the past, and as an owner-driver now, I feel we will run good there in a couple of weeks."

A former PASS Pro Late Model champion, Conner has competed the last two seasons in the Super Late Model ranks, finishing second to Matt Craig in the final standings both years. With plenty of seat time behind him and additional sponsorship support in 2018, Conner hopes not to only make a run at the PASS South title, but to compete for the PASS National Championship as well.

"This season is my year," says Conner. "I and my father, Shannon, have worked extremely hard and we believe we can continue to compete with teams that have a bigger budget than we do. I'm definitely excited about this upcoming season with the PASS series."

All the action gets under way on Friday, February 23 at Dillon Motor Speedway with open practice for all competing divisions from 2 – 5 PM. On Saturday, February 24, practice will begin at 10 AM with qualifying starting at 12:30 PM for the PASS Super Late Models, SuperTrucks, and U-Cars/FWD, fol-

lowed by main events starting at approximately 2 PM.

PASS Super Late Model entry forms for the events at Dillon, Caraway, and the 45th Annual Oxford 250 can be found at [ProAll-StarsSeries.com](http://ProAll-StarsSeries.com).

## PASS Sets 2018 Dates To Crown Super Late Model's National Champion

NAPLES, ME - Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials have released the six dates and locations that will make up the 11th Annual PASS National Championship Series.

The schedule is comprised of six premier Super Late Model events, at a diverse group of tracks in both PASS North and PASS South, that will determine an overall PASS National Champion. The PASS National Championship Series will see the champion crowned in the final race of the 2018 season at Hickory Motor Speedway in the 13th Annual Mason-Dixon Meltdown 200. And, for the first time ever, the PASS National Championship Series will visit Richmond Raceway in Virginia to headline the inaugural Commonwealth Classic on October 19-20. Additionally, the Spring's most prestigious short track race in the country, the 13th Annual Easter Bunny 150 at Hickory Motor Speedway, will now see the top three finishers get guaranteed starting spots, not only for the 45th Annual Oxford 250 at Oxford Plains Speedway, but also for the Commonwealth Classic at Richmond.

Since 2008, some of the best short track racers in North America have captured the PASS National Championship including Cassius Clark, Ben Rowe, Preston Peltier, Jay Fogleman, and Joey Doiron. While awards are currently still being finalized, the champion will once again receive a one-of-a-kind championship trophy featuring the American Bald Eagle. Additional awards will be announced at a later date.

"11 years ago, with our presence across the Eastern Seaboard and Canada, we felt the time was right to crown Super Late Model racing's only National champion," said PASS President Tom Mayberry. "This is probably the most diverse schedule we've ever put together with tracks of varying sizes and shapes to compete on. The Oxford 250 continues to be one of the crown jewels of short track racing. And, the addition of Richmond, will put all the competitors on a neutral site for the first time."

The PASS National Championship Series, along with the 2018 PASS South championship season, gets underway in just one month with the 13th Annual South Carolina Clash at Dillon Motor Speedway in South Carolina on February 24. Fans will get to see drivers from across the spectrum of short track racing as the PASS Super Late Models will race for 200 laps and \$6,000 to win and \$700 to start, plus a major event for the Dillon Motor Speedway SuperTrucks paying \$1000 to win and a UCAR/FWD race paying \$500 to win as part of the South Carolina Clash.

From Dillon Motor Speedway in February, the 2018 PASS National Championship Series will kick off the New England racing season and will be contested again at one of the fastest tracks in the country. The PASS Super Late Models will compete for 75 laps at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in Connecticut as part of the annual Icebreaker weekend April 7-8, along with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. The Icebreaker will also once again double as the PASS North Super Late Model championship season opener.

The PASS National Championship Series will stay in New England for perhaps the most legendary of all short track races. The 45th Annual Oxford 250 at Maine's Oxford Plains Speedway on August 26 will continue a tradition that started in 1974 and has seen such winners as Butch Lindley, Geoff Bodine, Junior Hanley, Ricky Craven, Kevin Harvick, and Kyle Busch. And, with one of the richest purses in all of Super Late Model racing, the Oxford 250 should once again attract North America's best drivers, all competing for the \$25,000 winner's share, plus an additional \$25,000 in lap leader money.

The 2017 winner, Waterboro, ME's Curtis Gerry, bested over 60 other drivers to claim over \$30,000 for his first win in the prestigious race.

The Fall will be busy with the PASS National Championship moving South for the final three events of the season. The PASS Super Late Models will headline the inaugural PASS Commonwealth Classic at Richmond Raceway on Saturday night, October 20. The PASS Super Late Models will compete in a 100-lap event on the famed three-quarter mile

oval, paying \$10,000 to win and \$700 to start. Additionally, Late Model Stocks will return to Richmond Raceway for the first time in a number of years, competing in a 75 lap race, paying \$7,000 to win and \$700 to start. Both the Limited Late Models and Street Stocks will make their first ever starts at Richmond Raceway with the Limiteds racing for 50 laps and \$4000 to win and the Street Stocks racing for 25 laps and \$2000 to win.

The PASS National Championship Series then moves to Concord Speedway for the 16th Annual North-South Shootout on Saturday, November 10. PASS will be the exclusive Super Late Model tour at Concord Speedway in 2018, with a PASS South event scheduled there for Friday night, May 25. The 2018 North-South Shootout will again be a test of man and machine for 125 laps around the treacherous half-mile triangular speedway. It will be a big weekend of racing that will see the Tour-Type Modifieds also competing for 125 laps in one of the biggest races of the season.

Finally, the PASS National Championship Series will conclude just one week later with the 13th Annual Mason-Dixon Meltdown 200 on Saturday, November 17 at the legendary Hickory Motor Speedway. The 200 lap contest will once again crown both the PASS National Championship Series and PASS South Super Late Model champions.

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 PASS South's Easter Bunny 150 at the historic Hickory Motor Speedway and the legendary Oxford 250 at Oxford Plains Speedway, and new for 2018, the inaugural Commonwealth Classic at Richmond Raceway.

For media or marketing questions, please contact Alan Dietz at 704-231-2039 or [alandietzpass@live.com](mailto:alandietzpass@live.com).

Please visit [ProAll-StarsSeries.com](http://ProAll-StarsSeries.com) for more information and don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.



# 2018 ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS Schedule Released

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS has officially released the 2018 Schedule for the ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS.

The ARCA/CRA Super Series 2018 season will consist of 16 total races, with 12 of those being point events. 2018 will be the 22nd season of competition for the Template Super Late Model touring series that first raced in 1997.

"We are really excited about the 2018 schedule with the ARCA/CRA Super Series," remarked R.J. Scott, Managing Partner of CRA. "Our 22nd season will provide our drivers with a great variety of challenging races on some of the best race tracks in the nation, with some of the most prestigious late model events in the country!"

The 2017 Chase format for determining a series champion produced more teams competing for a championship, in every CRA division, than the previous year. Officials want to see that continue for the tracks and fans, while addressing ways to put more value in being the overall series point's leaders. CRA will announce final changes to the Chase format for 2018 at the awards banquet on January 5th.

The 2018 racing season kicks off with the traditional non-points opener for both the ARCA/CRA Super Series and the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour with CRA SpeedFest 2018 at Watermelon Capital Speedway in Cordele, Georgia on Saturday-Sunday, January 27th & 28th. The ARCA/CRA Super Series race will be a 200 lap event, counting yellow flag laps up to lap 175. This event has traditionally attracted the best Super Late Model drivers from both the North and the South in this early season battle.

The ARCA/CRA Super Series will then kick off its 2018 point season on Saturday, April 7th at the famous Fairgrounds Speedway in Nashville. The event will be a co-sanctioned event with the Southern Super Series and the CARS Tour and the race program will include the ARCA Racing Series Presented by Menards.

The series will then head north to Toledo Speedway, located in

Toledo, on Saturday, April 14th for a 100 lap event with the outlaw-bodied ARCA Late Models also having a 100 lap feature. From there the series will travel to Anderson Speedway, located in Anderson, Indiana, on Saturday, May 5th, the first of two events on the fast quarter mile oval.

The series will then head to Bristol Motor Speedway as part of the huge Second Annual Short Track U.S. Nationals, an event that will be co-sanctioned by the Southern Super Series and the CARS Tour on Saturday-Sunday May 19th & 20th. Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series driver Bubba Wallace won the inaugural U.S. Nationals of Short Track Racing Super Late Model event at the famed "last coliseum" last May.

The series will then return to Kil-Kare Speedway in Xenia, Ohio on Saturday, June 2nd. That track reopened in 2017 season after being closed the previous two seasons.

On Monday, June 11th the series will make the first of two visits to Berlin Raceway, for the \$20,000 to win Money in the Bank 150. This will be a special non-points CRA sanctioned event in 2018. The series stays in Michigan for its next event at Flat Rock Speedway on Saturday, June 23rd.

On Monday, July 16th the series returns to Anderson Speedway for the famed Redbud 400. The event will return to a weekday event, the Monday after the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series event at Kentucky Speedway. The series will then head to Baer Field Motorsports Park in Fort Wayne, IN on Saturday, July 28th.

The series will head back to Kalamazoo Speedway located just outside of Kalamazoo, Michigan to be part of the famous Kalamazoo Klash event on Wednesday, August 8th. That event will be the first Chase event for the series.

The series will stay in Michigan with the Battle at Berlin 251 at Berlin Raceway on Monday, August 13th. This will be a special non-points CRA sanctioned event in 2018.

The series will then make its first of two visits to the famous High Banks of Winchester Speedway located in Winchester, Indiana for the traditional World Stock Car Festival over Labor Day Weekend, with the feature event on Monday, Septem-

ber 3rd. This event will be the second Chase event for the series.

The series will then head to the famed Lucas Oil Raceway, located just outside of Indianapolis, Indiana on Saturday, September 8th. As previously announced, this event will be the Speed51 Super Select, a winner-take-all invitational non-points race that will pay the winner up to \$10,000.

The second visit to Toledo Speedway on Saturday, September 15th is up next for a 100 lap event as part of the famed Glass City 200, which will also include a 100 lap event for the outlaw-bodied ARCA Late Models. This event was very successful event for the series in 2017 and will be the third Chase event for the series.

The ARCA/CRA Super Series will crown their 2018 Tour Champion with the 47th Running of the prestigious Winchester 400 on Sunday, October 14th, in its second visit of the season to Winchester Speedway.

For more information about all four touring series' within Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS, please go to the series website at: [www.cra-racing.com](http://www.cra-racing.com). You can also follow CRA on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Champion Racing Association" as well as Twitter at: [www.twitter.com/CRAracing](http://www.twitter.com/CRAracing).

## Short Track U.S. Nationals at Bristol Entry Forms Released for CRA

SALEM, IN - Officials from Champion Racing Association (CRA) have released their online entry forms for the Short Track US Nationals at Bristol Motor Speedway presented by Vores Welding and Steel. Due to the unique and nationally significant nature of the event, entries will only be taken online. Track and Series organizers request that all teams that plan to race at the event should enter as soon as possible, to assist with planning and logistics for the event.

Currently, there is no cut-off to the number of entries, but should that need arise as a result of overwhelming response, the order of entries would be one of the tools used to determine who would be eligible to race.

Again, series officials stress that there is currently no cut-off on the number of entries, but if that changes, the order of entries would be the one of the tools they use to determine the list of participants for

the event.

Event officials are making every effort to park as many rigs as possible inside the track in the Super Late Models, JEGS/Pro Late Models, Late Model Stocks and Street Stocks.

If some teams are required to park rigs outside and pit on pit road, date of entry will be one of the factors used in deciding which teams will be eligible to have their rigs inside the race track.

- Super Late Model Entry Form: <https://carstour.wufoo.com/forms/p10gqeib1kswypx/>

- Pro Late Model/JEGS Tour Entry Form: <https://carstour.wufoo.com/forms/xq4k1r17vnqp4/>

- Street Stock Entry Form: <https://carstour.wufoo.com/forms/xk6c93p0cjf1a6/>

## FLUIDYNE to Continue Sponsorship of Cool Under Pressure Award

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials have announced that FLUIDYNE has agreed to continue its Contingency Award Sponsorship with CRA and its ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS and the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance for the 2018 race season. 2018 will be the sixth consecutive season FLUIDYNE has been a sponsor with CRA.

At each ARCA/CRA Super Series and JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour event during the 2018 season, the FLUIDYNE Cool Under Pressure Award will be awarded to a driver or team, who are the coolest under pressure for that event as decided by series officials.

The FLUIDYNE Cool Under Pressure Award will consist of a \$100 FLUIDYNE Product Certificate with the ARCA/CRA Super Series and a \$75 Product Certificate with the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour.

FLUIDYNE will also award each series 2018 Champion and Rookie of the Year with \$100 FLUIDYNE Product Certificates at the 2018 CRA Awards Banquet.

FLUIDYNE is a manufacturer of innovative cooling products for a wide variety of high performance applications including Aluminum Oil Coolers, All Aluminum Radiators, Rear End and Transmission Coolers, Water to Oil Heat Exchangers, High Output Cooling Fans and related cooling accessories.

More information on FLUIDYNE and its products is available at [www.fluidyne.com](http://www.fluidyne.com).

## Schatz Masters Lapped Traffic to Capture Second Consecutive Win and First DIRTcar Nationals Championship

BARBERVILLE, FL - Donny Schatz is starting 2018 firing on all cylinders, which is bad news for the rest of the competition. Schatz fought off a pesky Brian Brown early in the race and held off charges from Sheldon Haudenschild and Brad Sweet late to capture his fourth win in five nights at Volusia Speedway Park. Schatz, who has won just about everything to win in Sprint Car racing, captured his first ever DIRTcar Nationals Big Gator Championship.

Brian Brown won the Craftsman Club Dash earning the pole of the 30-lap Feature alongside Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year contender Parker Price-Miller. Brown was strong leading the opening circuit before Schatz flew underneath the FVP No.21 to lead lap two.

Rico Abreu brought out the lone yellow flag of the Feature on lap six. On the ensuing restart, Brown muscled his way back by Schatz to lead laps seven and eight before Schatz overtook him once again to lead lap nine and the rest of the way, despite challenges from Haudenschild and Sweet.

"We slowed down in traffic a lot," Schatz said in Victory Lane. "We thought we had a solid car in the Dash, but this is the time to learn," said the driver who won four of five Features at DIRTcar Nationals. "Sometimes you win some you shouldn't, I think we were lucky we started up front," a humble Schatz added before being awarded his first ever Big Gator trophy.

Friday night's Feature winner Sheldon Haudenschild worked forward from his 13th starting spot into the top three on lap 12 and moved by Brown into second on lap 16. Haudenschild, who is in his first year with the Stenhouse Jr. - Marshall Racing No.17, brought the capacity crowd to their feet as he closed in on the Tony Stewart Racing No.15 but couldn't pull the trigger.

"Catching Donny Schatz and passing Donny Schatz are two completely different things," Sheldon said with a smile. While Sheldon had his eyes set on the No.15,

Brad Sweet powered his NAPA Racing No.49 around the cushion, eventually overtaking Sheldon in turn two with five laps remaining.

Sweet closed on Schatz, but was never able to mount a series charge and settled for second - his fourth podium in five nights. "My guys worked hard all week and we are still chasing the 15. He makes us better though and we'll take second," Sweet said.

Jason Johnson finished his strong week with a fourth-place finish and 15th-starting Chad Kemenah completed the top five. Haudenschild picked up KSE Hard Charger honors advancing 10 positions.

That completes the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series portion of the 47th Annual DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park. The Outlaws return to action in two weeks in Texas at the Cotton Bowl Speedway in Paige, TX on Friday, February 23, 2018 and then LoneStar Speedway in Kilgore, TX the following night Saturday, February 24.

### Schatz Extends Points Lead with First Outlaw Win of 2018

BARBERVILLE, FL - Clearly, Donny Schatz has a flair for the dramatic in 2018. After sweeping All-Stars competition with a pair of thrilling victories, Schatz excited the DIRTcar Nationals standing room only crowd once again Satur-



Donny Schatz hoists his Golden Gator at Volusia Speedway Park after winning his first ever DIRTcar Nationals Big Gator Championship. (Paul Arch photo)

day night, exchanging slide jobs with Jason Johnson en route to his 250th World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series Feature victory. Johnson settled for second with Tim Shaffer, who rebounded from a nasty crash last night, completing the podium.

Johnson won the Craftsman Club Dash and set a torrid pace from the drop of the green. Paul McMahan and Tim Shaffer continued their fantastic battle from the Dash and went side-by-side for multiple laps battling for the runner-up position. That battle allowed Schatz to close in from his sixth position.

By the halfway point, Shaffer had established the position and Schatz had worked into third. Johnson continued to lead, maneuvering lapped traffic at a rapid pace. A lap 17 yellow for 2018 Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year contender Parker Price-Miller cleared Johnson from the heavy traffic but allowed Schatz to restart on his bumper.

On the restart, Schatz quickly

disposed of Shaffer and set his eyes on the Eunice, LA native. Johnson was able to keep Schatz at bay in clean air, but in traffic Schatz narrowed the gap quickly.

With three laps to go, Schatz engaged Johnson with a big slider arousing the huge DIRTcar Nationals crowd. Johnson turned back underneath the nine-time Series Champion, but Schatz prevailed to lead the white flag lap and never look back.

"That is what we live for," Schatz said in reference of the slide job exchange with Johnson. "It had my heart pumping," Donny added before asking the crowd if they enjoyed the show. "Good. Come back tomorrow, it will be even better."

Johnson, despite leading 28 laps, was in good spirits, "I hesitated too long in traffic and Donny never hesitates. He is one of the toughest in the business," Johnson said before praising his crew for their efforts.

Tim Shaffer and the Demyan-Rudzik Racing, who will follow the World of Outlaws through the entire month of March, put together a new car after flipping last night and Shaffer cited the quick turnaround was a part of racing. 10th-starting Brad Sweet and 18th-starting David Gravel had strong runs to complete the top five. Last night's winner, Sheldon Haudenschild picked up KSE Hard Charger honors coming from 21st to seventh.

### Haudenschild Thrills Crowd for First Career Outlaw Win

BARBERVILLE, FL - Sheldon Haudenschild passed race-long leader Paul McMahan on a Lap 27 restart to win his first career World (Continued Next Page)



Donny Schatz takes the checkered flag at Volusia Speedway Park for his first Outlaw win of the season during the DIRTcar Nationals. (Paul Arch photo)

**Continued...**

of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series Feature in thrilling fashion at the DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park. Haudenschild, in his first Outlaw start with the Stenhouse Jr.-Marshall Racing No.17, assumed the runner-up position with three laps remaining after Ian Madsen caught the rut in turn one and landed on his side. The 2017 Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year muscled his way underneath McMahan, who was nursing a flat tire, on the restart and never looked back for a popular victory in front of the standing room only crowd. McMahan held on for second with Shane Stewart completing the podium.

McMahan won the Craftsman Club Dash, earning him the pole on the opening night of the 2018 World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series 40th Anniversary Season alongside Madsen. McMahan, in search of his first Outlaw win since 2015, was strong all night and led the opening lap before a Red Flag for David Gravel and Tim Shaffer halted the action. Gravel and Shaffer were both uninjured, but the accident scene took some time to clean up, providing the first Open Red of the 2018 Season.

When action resumed, McMahan continued to show the way in his new ride for 2018, the Tom



**Sheldon Haudenschild raced his way to his first career World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series win during the DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park. (Paul Arch photo)**

Buch 13. McMahan navigated traffic masterfully and survived another restart with 11 to go as Madsen threatened to take the lead.

With three laps remaining Madsen bounced hard in the looming rut in turn one and lost the handle of the KCP Racing No.18. That was all that Sheldon Haudenschild needed. Haudenschild pounced on McMahan down the backstretch, overtook the veteran and went on to win by 1.418 seconds.

"That was the plan. I saw [McMahan] had a tire going down. I wanted to square the car up and get underneath him on the backstretch," an elated Haudenschild said in Victory Lane. "This team works incredibly hard. I can't thank Stenhouse Jr.-Marshall and NOS Energy enough," Sheldon added.

Obviously disappointed, McMahan also referenced his flat tire but credited Haudenschild for driving a great race. Stewart, who failed to

qualify for last night's All-Star Feature, was pleased with his team's rebound effort. "I'll take a podium finish on the first night. That is way better than we have been here in the past," Stewart said with a smile.

Donny Schatz maintained his DIRTcar Nationals points lead coming from 14th to fourth with Cory Eliason coming home an impressive fifth.

A DIRTcar Nationals event high 35 cars signed into action with Logan Schuchart setting fast time with a blistering lap of 12.975. Brent Marks scored the KSE Hard Charger Award coming from 25th to finish in the top ten.

### **WoO to Make Debut on Bridgeport's New 3/8 Mile Track in 2018**

CONCORD, NC - For the first time in over two decades, the World of Outlaws Craftsman®

Sprint Car Series will return to Bridgeport Speedway in Bridgeport, New Jersey, however this time with a twist. The Series will make its first start on Bridgeport's newly constructed 3/8-mile track on Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

Bridgeport Speedway is a world-class dirt track facility that features three dirt track configurations. The most commonly used is the spacious 5/8-mile that features Big-Block Modifieds on a weekly basis. Additionally, Bridgeport features a 1/4-mile track and the aforementioned 3/8, which the Outlaws will tackle during their first East Coast swing of 2018.

"Being in New Jersey, we know that we are in Big-Block Modified country and our big track is perfect for Big-Block [Modified] racing. But, we wanted to open the door for new opportunities in the dirt track world, and our new 3/8 configuration allows that," said Bridgeport Speedway Director of Marketing Kolby Ramey.

Bridgeport Speedway is quickly climbing up the echelon of elite dirt track facilities and will be the only stop for the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series in New Jersey in 2018.

This will be the eighth time The Greatest Show on Dirt has visited Bridgeport with the previous seven taking place on the 5/8 configuration. Remarkably, Sammy Swindell has won five of those World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series races.

Tickets will be released to the public on March 6. Stay tuned to WooSprint.com and social media channels for further information.

## **Winter Freeze at Screven Motor Speedway Cancelled**

CONCORD, NC - The persistent and ongoing rain in eastern Georgia has forced the cancellation of this weekend's World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series Winter Freeze event at Screven Motor Speedway, which was to be held Feb. 8-10.

"With the rain we are getting today added to what we are expected to get Friday and Saturday, we would never be able to prepare the racetrack and grounds properly," said Screven Motor Speedway owner James "Redd" Griffin.

"It is in the best interest of the track, our drivers, and fans to cancel the event at this time," said Series Director Matt Curl.

"We are looking forward to getting the 2018 season started off on a great note next week at Volusia Speedway Park's DIRTcar Nationals."

For more information on the Winter Freeze event visit [www.screvenmotorsports.com](http://www.screvenmotorsports.com).

### **World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series' 2018 Schedule Expands**

CONCORD, NC- Jan. 19, 2018- The World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series' 2018 schedule

just got even bigger with new additions and updates to an already exciting 30th commemorative anniversary season.

"Our goal for 2018 was to develop a diverse schedule that covers a large geographic area in effort to serve dirt late model fans across the country," said Series Director Matt Curl. "With the addition of tracks, alongside a few updates to our schedule, we feel as though we have delivered."

The Outlaws will return to Lavnania (GA) Speedway for the first time since 2014 on May 3. This \$10,000-to-win event will kick off a now three-day weekend through the South that includes Cherokee Speedway in Gaffney, SC on May 4 and the much-anticipated Billy Clanton Classic on the unique gray gumbo of Senoia Raceway in Senoia, GA on May 5.

Headlining the middle of June

will be back-to-back nights in New York followed by a single night in Ohio. The previously scheduled event on Thursday, June 14 shifts to Stateline Speedway in Jamestown, NY followed by Ransomville Speedway on June 15 and Wayne Country Speedway on June 16. The Series visit to Stateline Speedway will be their first return since 2013, when Series veteran Shane Clanton stole the checkers from a sixth place starting position.

The Series will make three stops in the state of Iowa between July and August, including the return of Dubuque Speedway for the first time since 2005 on July 6, Davenport Speedway on July 24, and Farley Speedway on Aug. 6.

To keep up to date on the latest news and information regarding the World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series, visit [woolms.com](http://woolms.com) or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

## Davenport Rules Bubba Raceway Park

OCALA, FL - Jonathan Davenport's return to the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series in 2018 is off to a superb start, capturing his third series win of the year on Sunday night at Bubba Raceway Park. Davenport became the third different leader of the 50-lap main event when he took the top spot for good on lap five from Tyler Erb.

Tim McCreadie and Erb started on the front row, with McCreadie leading the first two laps until Erb forged in front on lap three. When Davenport went by Erb two laps later, he never looked back, but was challenged late in the race by Earl Pearson Jr.

Earl Pearson Jr.'s Lucas Oil, Black Diamond Chassis finished in second with last year's Lucas Oil Rookie of the Year, Hudson O'Neal coming home in third. Jimmy Owens was fourth with Kyle Bronson taking fifth.

"I thought I was going to turn over at the start. I didn't know that hole was quite as big as it was," said the 34-year-old winner in Lucas Oil Victory Lane. "Tyler [Erb] had a harder tire on at the start and I knew it wouldn't fire after a few restarts. Our car was really good through the middle of the race. The slime came back up just a little bit. Then the rubber came back really hard. I was just trying to protect my right rear tire. I was grinding on the right front and then I started to feel it vibrate."

"You are always concerned about tire wear at this track. This place is so oddly-shaped. You could bounce in turn one and then in three you had to be easy. If you went in too hard, you would just slide out. There is a lot going on in the cockpit that a lot of people can't see."

The Lance Landers Motorsports team's winning car is sponsored by: Crop Production Services, Spartan Mowers, Valvoline, ACS Warranty, Penske Racing Shocks, Midwest Sheet Metal and Mega Plumbing of the Carolinas. His Longhorn Chassis is powered by a Durham Racing Engine.

Pearson had his best finish of the season with a runner-up position to Davenport. Pearson closed on Davenport in the final laps to

make the final outcome close. "I knew that both of us were on soft tires," said Pearson, who was referring to Davenport's choice of tire as well. "I didn't have much of a tire left. I just started riding to the end."

Hudson O'Neal made his second podium finish of the week. "I think I had a little bit more of a tire left than those guys ahead of me. I didn't know if anybody was closing in on me. I am very happy with this third-place finish after the week we had at East Bay. We struggled all of last week. It feels good to get back on the podium," said the driver of the Todd Burns-owned, Dyno One, Club 29 entry.

Completing the top five were Don O'Neal, Matt Cosner, Jason Fitzgerald, Scott Bloomquist and Chub Frank.

### Bronson Strikes Gold in East Bay Finale

TAMPA, FL - Kyle Bronson raced to the biggest victory of his career on Saturday night during the finale of the Wrisco Industries Winternationals - presented by E3 Spark Plugs. Bronson lives only a short distance from the race track and managed to defend his home turf valiantly. He took the lead on lap 55 and then held off Jonathan Davenport for the win, in front of a capacity grandstand.

Bronson marked his first career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series win, after charging from the tenth starting spot. The \$12,000 payday was the richest in the 27-year-old's career-to-date. Bronson was the sixth different leader of the highly entertaining race.

The first three spots were swept by Longhorn Chassis drivers as Bronson, Davenport, and Brandon



Jonathan Davenport (center) celebrates his win at Bubba Raceway Park in victory lane with second place finisher Earl Pearson Jr. (right) and third place finisher Hudson O'Neal (left). (HeathLawsonPhotos.com photo)

Overton drove to podium finishes. Josh Richards and Earl Pearson Jr completed the top five in the action-packed finale.

Davenport and Billy Moyer Jr.; a pair of Crop Production Services sponsored entries; started on the front row with Davenport grabbing the early lead. Moyer Jr. gained the top spot from Davenport on the fourth lap. Scott Bloomquist became the third leader of the race on lap ten. Bloomquist held the top spot until Richards took charge on lap 27. A caution with 20 laps to go bunched the field up and that allowed Overton to zoom into the lead on lap 42. Bronson began to make his move on the field as he quickly closed in on Overton. After a lap 53 caution then restart, Bronson took just two laps to gain the lead, driving around Overton coming off turn number two.

Bronson had to withstand one more caution with 57 laps complete to seal the deal. Davenport closed the gap on Bronson in the final laps but fell just short at the checkers. Bronson went to Victory Lane in the Longhorn by Weaver, Durham-

powered entry sponsored by Brandon Ford, Brandon Collision, Racecar Engineering, and Dream Team Technologies.

"I got up to second and I thought how quickly I was catching him [Overton]. I was going for the win and I threw tire conservation out the window. Everybody has a lot of laps here now. It's great to win in front this big crowd. It has been a long-time-coming. This is only our second win ever in a super late model. I want to dedicate this to Bo Hammond, who passed away last week. He taught me a lot about these cars, without him I don't know where I would be. Thanks to Randy Weaver for all he has done for our team."

Davenport, who was seeking his third win of 2018, knew a good-points night was helpful in the battle for this year's championship. "It was a very good point night. Congratulations to Kyle on the win, he drove a heck of a race. I wasn't going to do anything crazy there at the end. The car really came to life after that last caution. I got underneath him going into three and four, but I couldn't quite get there."

Completing the top ten were Scott Bloomquist, Devin Moran, Brandon Sheppard, Darrell Lanigan, and Gregg Satterlee.



Kyle Bronson celebrates in victory lane with his son after his win at East Bay Raceway. (HeathLawsonPhotos.com photo)

### Davenport Stops Richards at East Bay

TAMPA, FL - Jonathan Davenport passed Josh Richards on lap 47 and then held him off for the win on Friday night at East Bay Raceway Park during the 42nd Annual Wrisco Industries Winternationals - presented by E3 Spark Plugs. Gregg Satterlee came home in third, followed by Billy Moyer Jr.,

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and Mason Zeigler.

Davenport picked up his 29th career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series win and his fourth ever at "The Clay by the Bay." Davenport started sixth in the field, and never ran outside the top three during the 50-lap main event. Richards stayed glued to the bottom of the track for most of the latter half of the race as Davenport swept to the outside of the 1/3-mile oval. Davenport dove down low for a few laps but eventually came back to the top soon enough so that he was able to get around Richards.

"It's going to be a hard battle all year long on this series," said Davenport who was congratulated by Richards in victory lane after the race. "I knew I was going to be in tire conservation mode the entire race. He [Richards] ran down on the bottom for most of the race. There was some traction from the middle to the top that I noticed during the caution flag. My car just wouldn't handle on the bottom. I thought I was hurting my tires for most of the race, but fortunately they held up."

"I told myself I needed to man up out there and go to the top. The car went real good coming into and off the corners and then I got that run on him near the end and took the lead. Man, I am out of breath. I hoped the fans enjoyed that one. I got a feeling its is going to be like this all year."

Richards was looking to win his third straight points-earning event this season but saw his win streak come to an end at the hands of Davenport. "I wish now I had moved up on the race track. I was trying to defend around the bottom. We had a pretty good lead I think before that caution. Congratulations to him on the win. He earned it. We fell short just a little bit tonight. He [Davenport] did a great job tonight. I should have stayed in the middle or went the top of the track earlier. The bottom was starting to take black and was slowing up."

Satterlee, racing in front of his family came home with a third-place finish in the Satterlee Petroleum Distributors, Rocket Chassis. "We made a big change before the feature and it paid off," said Satterlee, who started tenth on the grid.

"We got off to a good start and we definitely have made great strides this week. This track is so tough to figure out, but we will work some more on the car and hopefully get it just a little bit better for tomorrow night. All of family is down here today. It's rare that they get to see me race in person."

Davenport pilots the Double L Motorsports, Longhorn Chassis powered by a Durham Racing Engine and is sponsored by: Crop Production Services, Spartan Mowers, Valvoline, ASC Warranty, Penske Racing Shocks, and Mega Plumbing of the Carolinas.

Completing the top ten were Brandon Sheppard, Jimmy Owens, Brandon Overton, Don O'Neal, and Earl Pearson Jr.

## **Sheppard Romps from 21st at East Bay**

TAMPA, FL - Brandon Sheppard charged from the 21st starting spot to win Thursday night's Wrisco Industries 42nd Annual Winternationals - presented by E3 Spark Plugs at East Bay Raceway Park.

Sheppard won the Winternationals opener on Monday night. Tonight, he took the lead from Tyler Erb on lap 22 and then held off Hall-of-Famer Scott Bloomquist for the win. Trailing Sheppard and Bloomquist to the finish line were Devin Moran, Josh Richards, and Tyler Erb.

Jimmy Owens led the first two laps of the 40-lap main event before Kyle Bronson took the top spot. Bronson led one circuit until ninth-place starter Tyler Erb surged by him for the lead of the race. Erb then held the point until Sheppard's charge from the inside of row 11 was complete, taking the lead which he never relinquished.

"I was very concerned those last nine laps," said the winner in Lucas Oil Victory Lane. "I was having trouble seeing my signal guys. I didn't really know how close they were to me. I swear I kept hearing a rattling in my left rear. I don't what that was about. We worked hard to get up there. It was gritty out there on the surface. We qualified a little better than we have been. We got in that wreck in the heat and then we broke a driveshaft and knocked the rear end out of it before having to come out of the B-Main, it was long night for sure."

"My team just never quit on me. Thanks to Mark Richards, Steve Baker, everybody at Rocket Chassis, my crew, Dan, Austin, J.T., Brian, and everyone else. Thanks to my dad and grandpa back home.



**Brandon Sheppard celebrates in victory lane after starting 21st to race his way to the win at East Bay Raceway Park. (HeathLawsonPhotos.com photo)**

This race is for my grandpa, he had pretty serious neck surgery this morning. Thanks to them for giving me a racing career to begin with. My girlfriend, son, daughter, and everybody who was watching back home."

Bloomquist started on the pole in his New Direction Ag sponsored car and never led a lap, but heavily pressured Sheppard to the very end. "It was little bit of tire management at the end. We put a little pressure on him. We dived down to the inside a couple of times. I got loose in one of the corners and he was able to get away from me enough. I said to myself you better not push your luck here. The car was good but we have a couple more things to work on. We have done a lot of testing here this week. The points get back going tomorrow night so hopefully we can have a good run. We should be on our game for the next three races."

Moran in his Tye Twarog-owned, Tommy Pope Construction, Rocket battled from eleventh to take his second podium finish of the week. "This track was really crazy tonight. I really wasn't expecting to do what it did. But we adapted, and we crept up through there. We struggled a little bit last night, but the start to the week was good. I don't know what to do but we have got to where we can beat that blue and white number one car."

Sheppard's winning Mark Richards Racing entry is powered by a Durham Racing Engine and sponsored by: Valvoline, Seubert Calf Ranches, Gunter's Honey, Petroff Towing, Ace Metal Works,

Sallack Well Service and Sunoco Race Fuels.

Completing the top ten were Brandon Overton, Jimmy Owens, Earl Pearson Jr., Chub Frank, and Bobby Pierce.

## **Overton Strikes at East Bay**

TAMPA, FL - Brandon Overton took the lead on lap 26 from Josh Richards and led the remaining 14 laps to capture his first career East Bay Raceway Park win on Wednesday night. The 42nd Annual Wrisco Industries Winternationals - presented by E3 Spark Plugs produced another spectacular feature race, as the 40-lapper saw three different leaders, and lots of action throughout the field.

Overton's third career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series victory came over Josh Richards, Gregg Satterlee, Jonathan Davenport, and Bobby Pierce.

Overton pilots the Chip Stone and Randy Weaver-owned Longhorn Chassis and started on the outside of the front row. He fell back to as far as fourth in the opening laps of the race, as a torrid battle between Jimmy Owens and Richards took place in front of him. Owens led the first three laps, before relinquishing the top spot to Richards. Overton worked his way back into the top three as he passed Satterlee and then set his sights on Richards.

Overton chased down Richards passing him for the lead. Richards and Satterlee tried to run down Overton late in the race, but Overton crossed the line in first to give Longhorn Chassis back-to-back wins for the week.

"I probably don't have 100 laps total in racing at this track. We have had so much stuff go wrong in these two weeks. We had to borrow an engine from Randy Clary just to run this week. This track changes so much, but it's bad to the bone for sure. We nearly got Jonathan [Davenport] for the win last night and to start on the front row tonight I thought was going to help, but we lost some spots at the start. We were able to gain some ground on those guys up front and the cautions helped as well. I got underneath Josh [Richards] there a few times before I passed him. It's great to finally get a win here! Again, we haven't run here that much in the past, but I am really looking forward to the rest of the week."

Richards tried to stay close to **(Continued Next Page)**

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Overton but wound up holding off Satterlee for the runner-up position. "We are going in the right direction," said the defending Lucas Oil National Champion. "Congratulations to Brandon on the win, he earned it. Our car was getting much better tonight as we keep tweaking on it. We should be really good by the end of the week when the points start back up."

Satterlee had a solid run going on Tuesday night and was pleased with his third-place finish tonight. "We had a good race car last night. We didn't get the finish we wanted, so we worked on some things today to make it better, and it was. I thought I could get under Josh for a moment, but to finish third with these guys, that says a lot. Thanks everyone who helps us out, we appreciate it."

The winner's Longhorn Chassis is sponsored by: Brandon Ford, Crossfit by Overton, A.F. Stone Professional Medical Services, Henderson Motorsports, Dream Racing Technologies, Dierck's LTD, Mission Transport, Outlaw Graphics, and Ted Brown's Quality Paint and Body Shop.

Completing the top ten were Dennis Erb Jr., Billy Moyer Jr., Tyler Erb, Kyle Bronson, and Darrell Lanigan.

### Holding Off Overton, Davenport Wins at East Bay

TAMPA, FL - Jonathan Davenport fought off a furious late-race challenge from Brandon Overton to win night two of the Wrisco Industries 42nd Annual Winternationals - presented by E3 Spark Plugs at East Bay Raceway Park.

A caution with 22 laps complete set up and eight-lap shootout between Davenport and the tenth-place starting Overton. The two raced the outside line around the 1/3-mile oval using every inch of the cushion that remained. Davenport went to the outside of a lapped car as Overton went low, heading into turn one on the final lap. Overton slid almost all the way up the track, but left Davenport room as he went on to take his third career win in the Winternationals.

Tonight, marked the first win of the newly formed team for car



**Jonathan Davenport held off a late race charge from Brandon Overton to win at East Bay Raceway Park. (Paul Arch photo)**

owner Lance Landers and his driver Davenport, who recorded his 28th career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series victory. Overton finished second in the Chip Stone, Randy Weaver-owned entry, followed by opening night winner Brandon Sheppard grabbing third in the Mark Richards Racing, Rocket. Josh Richards and Tyler Erb completed the top five drivers.

In Lucas Oil Victory Lane Davenport recalled thinking he was going to lose the race during the waning laps. "I thought I had run over something during those last few laps. The car wasn't the same, but it's great to get that first win for Lance Landers. Thanks to my crew, Jason Durham, Kevin Rumley, and everyone that helps. They have worked their tails off, we have a few more days to go. Jason and Kevin put their heads together after last night and we were spot on today. They always say the first one is the hardest to get. I just hope my crew is as proud of me as I am of them. I just want say hello to everyone watching back home. My son Blaine and wife Rachel I know are tuned in to watching it online."

Overton was pleased with his performance after a tough start to his Speedweeks at Golden Isles. "It hadn't been nearly as good of a start to speedweeks so far, as it was last year that's for sure. We just need to race a little bit more. As I said, we have had a terrible start to the year. Hopefully with this run, we can get rolling. The slide job on the last lap got off to a good start, but at the end I was thinking I need to get out of it or I could wreck both cars."

Sheppard was looking for his second win in a row but finished third. "On that final restart, I chose the bottom. I thought I could get enough grip off the corner and then shoot across to get to the top of the track. They [Davenport and Overton] had a way better restart than I did. I went out on a limb and chose the bottom. A first and a third to start the week is great. I need to get qualifying better. I haven't qualified very well since we have been down here. I think if we do that better, then we will start up front in these races."

The winner's Lance Landers Motorsports, Longhorn Chassis is



**Brandon Sheppard (#1) takes the checkered flag at East Bay Raceway Park over Devin Moran (#9). (Paul Arch photo)**

powered by a Durham Racing Engine and sponsored by: Crop Production Services, Spartan Mowers, Valvoline, ASC Warranty, Penske Racing Shocks, and Mega Plumbing of the Carolinas.

Completing the top ten were Bobby Pierce, who started 24th, Kyle Bronson, Devin Moran, Earl Pearson Jr., and Timothy Culp.

### Sheppard Edges Moran in East Bay Opener

TAMPA, FL - Brandon Sheppard passed Devin Moran coming off turn four on the final lap to win the opening night of the Wrisco Industries 42nd Annual Winternationals - Presented by E3 Spark Plugs.

The 30-lap, Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series event saw four different leaders. Moran held the top spot at two different points and finished in second, with Earl Pearson, Jr. claiming the third position. Jonathan Davenport was in contention for the win until the end when he came home fourth. Scott Bloomquist romped from his eighteenth-place starting spot to finish fifth.

"I really didn't find anything, it was treacherous getting off the corners. I had to get off the bottom in the brown. It's tricky. I guess I never lifted on that last lap. My dad texted Mark [Richards] before the race and told him to get on me and that I needed to get up on the wheel more," said the former Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series Rookie of the Year.

"I knew my dad was at home watching on television. I can't thank Mark Richards and Steve Baker enough for what they have done for me, and everybody at Rocket Chassis as well. It's a dream come true to drive for them. My dad and my grandpa have always supported me, and I appreciate that."

Kyle Bronson started from the pole and led the first lap of the event until Moran forged ahead. Josh Richards then picked up the pace as he took the lead for the first time on lap thirteen. Richards led three circuits until Sheppard appeared at the head of the field for the first time on lap sixteen.

Two circuits later, Moran regained the point and looked to be on his way to first career win at "The Clay by the Bay." However, Moran was forced to battle lapped traffic entering turn three on the final lap, allowing Sheppard to go high on the track and beat Moran to the finish line by a narrow margin.

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Moran was pleased with his second-place finish, but disappointed he didn't get that first win at the 1/3-mile oval. "It was an awesome race. With all the rain they got yesterday, Al [Varndore] did a great job with the track. It would have been better if we would have won. My dad [Donnie] and brother [Wylie] were at home tonight and I had my brother Tristan here. It was a good run. We will come back tomorrow and try to improve one more spot," said the driver of the Tye Twarog-owned, Eddie's Sunoco, Rocket.

The Ronnie Stuckey Enterprises, Black Diamond, Lucas Oil entry driven by Earl Pearson Jr. battled amongst the top five the entire race before crossing the finish line in third. "Those kids up front put on a good show, that's for sure," smiled Pearson afterwards. "For the first night here at East Bay we will take this and build from there. That was a heck of a show in front of me. They were dicing it out, back and forth, the fans had to enjoy that one."

Sheppard's winning Mark Richards Racing-owned, Rocket Chassis entry is powered by an Andy Durham Racing Engine and sponsored by: Valvoline, Seubert Calf Ranches, Gunter's Honey, Integra Racing Shocks, Ace Metal Works, Sallack Well Service, and Sunoco Race Fuels.

Completing the top ten were Josh Richards, Billy Moyer Jr., Tyler Erb, Austin Hubbard, and Corey Conley.

### **Richards Goes Back-to-Back at Golden Isles**

BRUNSWICK, GA - Defending Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series National Champion, Josh Richards overcame several obstacles to win Saturday night's RhinoAg Super Bowl of Racing - presented by General Tire final at Golden Isles Speedway.

Richards had to resort to a back-up car, after issues arose with his main car during an earlier heat race. Richards then had the power steering fail on the back-up car as he tried to start the B-Main. The Best Performance Motorsports team ten fixed the issue, barely

making the call to start the 60-lap main event, as Richards was the final car to enter the race track.

Richards had to take a series provisional and was scheduled to start 23rd on the grid, but due to his lateness while the crew worked on his car, he was relegated to the 26th and final starting position. Richards charged through the field and despite a lap 46 pass from Tyler Erb, went on to record his second win in-a-row to start the 2018 LOLMDS season.

In Lucas Oil Victory Lane for the 24th time in his career, the 2017 National Champion used the same car he won the Dirt Track World Championship with last year to race in tonight's main event. "It was close," said Richards elaborating on the fact he nearly missed the start of the race. "No one sees what goes on behind the scenes, but this really is a team sport. I can't thank everyone enough. This is the same car we ran at Portsmouth in October last year. We had to get it out in a hurry. I broke a power steering line out there when I was just testing it. Good thing I went out there or we would have never known."

"Danny and all the guys from my dad's crew chipped in to get it ready. We just threw some stuff on it and then rolled it out on the track. I didn't expect to come out with a win. We were just hoping to finish the race. We were going along pretty good and we were passing a lot of cars. I got out in front and then I started to ride it out. When he [Tyler Erb] got by me, I picked it up and was fortunate to get back around him. We were able to pull away from him and finish it off."

Kyle Bronson, in his Brandon Ford, Longhorn by Weaver, came home in second for his best career LOLMDS finish as he fought past Tyler Erb for the runner-up position. Dennis Erb Jr. came from eleventh to finish fourth, and Brandon Sheppard completed the top five.

Afterwards, Bronson was pleased with his crew, and he dedicated his run to his late friend Bo Hammond, who passed away last week. "Bo was a mentor of mine. He taught me a lot about these cars. I wanted to win this one for him tonight, but we will take second place. We were a bit snug at the start of the race. The car started to really come around. I want to thank Randy Weaver for his help. We had some trouble with lapped cars for a while out there. It's a solid finish for us. Thanks to all the fans that came out tonight."

Tyler Erb's First Class Septic, Rocket Chassis led laps 6 through

23 before relinquishing the lead to Richards. Erb fought back and momentarily took the lead on lap 46 before Richards passed him once again. "The car was really good early on. We led a lot of laps. We started to gain back on him [Richards] and I was able to get by him, but it only lasted one lap. I really thought we had the car to win the race."

Richards' winning car is owned by Eric and Kelly Brock, and is sponsored by Best Performance Motorsports, Bulk Material Lift.com, Bazell Race Fuels, Keyser, Hoosier, Boxo USA, Sunoco, Integra, Valvoline, Alexander Lawn and Landscaping, and Impact Race Gear. The Rocket Chassis #1 is powered by a Durham Racing Engine.

Completing the top ten were Brent Larson, Bobby Pierce, Darrell Lanigan, Boom Briggs, and Jonathan Davenport.

### **Richards Wins Exciting Season Opener**

BRUNSWICK, GA - The 2018 Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series season kicked off in grand fashion on Friday night of the RhinoAg Super Bowl of Racing - presented by General Tire. Defending series champion Josh Richards earned a hard-fought victory over 2017 Rookie-of-the Year, Hudson O'Neal.

Richards took the lead from Jonathan Davenport on lap five and then held off a furious late-race charge from the 15th-place starting O'Neal. O'Neal made what appeared to be a winning pass on Richards in turns three and four on the final lap, but Scott Bloomquist was sitting in the middle of turn four and brought out a caution, negating O'Neal's pass for the lead.

In the end, Richards was able to hold off O'Neal to score his twenty-third career LOLMDS victory. The driver of the Best Performance Motorsports car took the first event of the season over O'Neal, Davenport, Jimmy Owens, and Brandon Sheppard.

Richards and Davenport exchanged the lead three times in the first five laps of the 50-lap main event, with Richards forging ahead. Owens challenged Davenport for third, and finally got by him. Owens ran in second for several laps until O'Neal and Davenport got around him late in the race.

Richards breathed a sigh of relief in Lucas Oil Victory Lane, "I knew I was a sitting duck, I didn't

pay attention to the scoreboard. I thought I was protecting the top from Davenport making the pass and here comes Hudson on the bottom. He got to the bottom of the burn in turn three and got by, but then the caution came out."

"We were too tight to steer down off turn two. I thought I had lost the race. Fortunately, the caution came out and we were able to hold him [O'Neal] off on the last lap. It is a great way to start the season. We didn't run Gateway and Arizona like some of the guys did. We were getting ready for this. There really isn't an off-season anymore. If the race stays green, he [O'Neal] would have had us."

While the 17-year-old O'Neal was denied his first career LOLMDS feature, he was happy with his close call. "I just wish we hadn't started so far back. We probably had the fastest car during the race. Yes, it was a desperate pass there on Josh on that final lap and then I saw the caution flag and said oh no. We can build on this. It is just a matter of time before we get that first Lucas Oil win."

Davenport was looking for his fourth career win at Golden Isles, and felt he had a good run for his new race team, owned by Lance Landers. "This is a new engine combo that I haven't run before. It will take a little bit of time to get used to that. I didn't cut up my right rear tire enough. I was hoping some cars would run the top and help clean it off more. It was a great run for us and we will back tomorrow night after making some adjustments."

Completing the top ten were Earl Pearson Jr., Tim McCreadie, Kyle Bronson, Mason Zeigler, and Don O'Neal.

### **Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series Announces 2018 Broadcast Schedule**

BATAVIA, OH - In 2017, race fans enjoyed the thrilling, edge of your seat racing action of the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series on four major television networks: MAVTV Motorsports Network, NBC Sports Network, CBS Sports Network, and CBS Television Network. Additionally, streaming services Lucas Oil Racing TV and DirtonDirt.com brought the high-speed, dirt slinging excitement worldwide.

This season, the television exposure is expanding to include even more of the premier national  
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touring series for dirt late models. In 2018, Lucas Oil Production Studios and DirtonDirt.com will produce an unprecedented amount of original, high-definition Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series content. Over seventy-five (75) original airings are scheduled across the various networks and streaming services, more than doubling the series' exposure in recent years.

"Our television package is one of the most fundamental elements of our overall program," said Rick Schwallie, Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series Director. "We are grateful for the dedication of those at Lucas Oil Products, Lucas Oil Production Studios, and DirtonDirt.com for allowing us to continue the growth and exposure of the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series."

Lucas Oil Racing TV brings the adrenaline-pumping Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series racing to fans worldwide. Twenty-one (21) events will be streamed LIVE on the digital network in 2018 - providing multi-camera coverage, driver interviews, behind-the-scenes content, instant replays and more! To learn more or subscribe today, visit: [www.lucasoilracing.tv](http://www.lucasoilracing.tv).

DirtonDirt.com will provide LIVE pay-per-view coverage of thirteen (13) Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series events in 2018. The continuous on-track action will include multiple camera angles, driver interviews, instant replays, and much more! For additional information, visit: [www.dirtondirt.com](http://www.dirtondirt.com).

In just five short years, MAVTV Motorsports Network has increased from eleven (11) original airings to twenty-five (25) for the 2018 season, continuing to make MAVTV the destination for motorsports enthusiasts around the world. You can find MAVTV Motorsports Network, now available in high-definition, on DIRECTV Channel 214.

For cable customers, view the list of nationwide providers at: [mavtv.com/get-mavtv/providers](http://mavtv.com/get-mavtv/providers).

Dedicated to serving passionate sports fans in over 90 million households, the NBC Sports Network will feature ten (10) pulse-pounding Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series episodes in 2018.

For nearly two decades, the

CBS Sports Network has provided in-depth coverage of a variety of sports. This season, CBS Sports Network will bring eight (8) Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series events to motorsports enthusiasts everywhere.

For the eighth consecutive year, CBS Television Network (reaching over 112 million households) will air the Lucas Oil Show-Me 100 - Presented by ProtectTheHarvest.com from Lucas Oil Speedway.

## Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series Honors Season Champs

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Josh Richards' maiden season with the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series officially came to a close Friday night with the annual Awards Gala at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, where he was awarded the Championship title.

The 29-year-old, Shinnston, WV native was rewarded with a \$75,000 points-fund check, along with a \$10,000 bonus from Sweet Manufacturing. Other awards claimed by the 2017 National Champion include: Eibach Springs Most Heat Race Wins (\$500), Midwest Sheet Metal Points Leader Spoiler Challenge (\$1,000), Simpson Most Top Five Finishes (\$500), and the Sunoco Race for Gas (\$3,000).

Richards and the Best Performance Motorsports team ended their banner season with the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series with 10 wins, 28 top-fives, 38 top-ten performances and collecting a total of \$415,050 in earnings.

"I'm so blessed to be able to do what I love," said Richards. "I'd like to thank Eric [Brock] for believing in me and giving me this opportunity. "Without so many great people putting their faith in me, none of this would be possible. The team ... Randall [Edwards] and Tyler [Nevins] and everyone involved with this the team, it means more to me to win it for them than it does for myself. I'm happy for all of them."

Richards' #1 entry is sponsored by: Bulk Material Lift.com, Corey Frazer-State Farm Insurance, Alexander Lawn and Landscaping, Ultimate Firepit, Sunoco Race Fuels, Integra Shocks, Keyser Manufacturing, and Valvoline.

Richards, who will drive for Best Performance Motorsports again in 2018, is ready to return to action.

"I'm just ready to go race," Richards said. "We're not putting any pressure on ourselves. It's the same as this year - just go out and

race and try and get better each and every day."

Hudson O'Neal received the 2017 Lucas Oil Rookie of the Year - Presented by Hot Rod Processing award. Seventeen-year-old O'Neal, the son of former Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series National Champion, Don O'Neal, finished ninth in the overall Championship Standings during his first-ever year on a national tour.

O'Neal completed his first season with the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series totaling 7 top-five finishes and 17 top-ten performances. In addition to his \$10,000 in prize money, O'Neal received product certificates from: AR Bodies, Earnhardt Technologies Group, FAST Shafts, Keyser Manufacturing, Performance Bodies, QA1, and Wrisco Industries.

"Todd Burns has given me the world," said an emotional O'Neal. "What an accomplishment this is for me and my team. It's an honor to be standing on this stage in front of the best drivers in the world. I want to thank all my competitors for their advice, their support, and allowing me to live my dream. I am excited to be back with this team and chase the Lucas Oil tour in 2018."

O'Neal attributes his success this season to the support of his sponsors, which include: Peak Antifreeze and Motor Oil, Tarpy Trucking, Sub-Surface of Indiana, West Side Tractor Sales Co, Kimball Midwest by Krissie, Mark Martin Automotive and Penske Racing Shocks.

Other awards presented included:

- ASi Racewear Crown Jewel Cup - Presented by DirtonDirt.com: Tim McCreadie (\$10,000)
- Bad Boy Mowers TV Race Challenge - Presented by E3 Spark Plugs: Tim McCreadie (\$10,000)
- Ohlins Shocks Chassis Builder of the Year: Rocket Chassis (\$1,000)
- COMP Cams Engine Builder of the Year: Durham Racing Engines (\$1,500)
- DirtonDirt.com Cash Clip of the Week: Tim McCreadie (\$2,000)
- Allstar Performance Power Move of the Year: Scott Bloomquist (\$500)
- Simpson Most Top Five Finishes: Josh Richards (\$500)
- Midwest Sheet Metal Point Leader Spoiler Challenge: Josh Richards (\$1,000)
- Eibach Springs Most Heat Race Wins: Josh Richards (\$500)
- Miller Welders Most Fast Time Awards: Scott Bloomquist (\$500)
- Sunoco Race Fuels Show-Me

100 Bonus: Earl Pearson Jr. (\$2,000)

- Sunoco Race Fuels Race For Gas: Josh Richards (\$3,000)
- Wrisco Most Feature Wins: Scott Bloomquist (\$1,000)
- PFC Brakes Most Pole Awards: Tim McCreadie (\$500)
- Outerwears Crew Chief of the Year: Randall Edwards (\$1,000)
- Optima Batteries Hard Charger of the Year: Dennis Erb Jr. (\$500)
- Mike Swims Award of Excellence: Ritchie Lewis

## New Format Leads to Bigger, Richer Topless 100 in 2018

BATAVIA, OH - One of dirt track racing's most illustrious crown jewel events is growing. The 26th Annual COMP Cams Topless 100 - presented by Crop Production Services is adding over \$46,000 in total purse money to the three-night event, on August 16-18.

For the first time, the 26th Annual Topless 100 will feature a complete program of: Time Trials, Heat Races, B-Mains, and a \$5,000-to-win main event on Thursday and Friday nights. Drivers will earn points in each of the two preliminary nights that will determine the line-ups for Saturday night's finale. On Saturday night, consolation events for the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series will be held, followed by the 100-lap, \$40,000-to-win Topless 100.

The total purse for the weekend, which is co-sanctioned by the COMP Cams Super Dirt Series - Presented by Lucas Oil, will grow to over \$185,000. "It was time to take it to the next level," said Mooney Starr, Batesville Motor Speedway Promoter. "With more racing for the fans and more money for the drivers, this is sure to be one of the best Topless 100 weekends ever."

"The Topless 100 has a rich history and ranks as one of the most prestigious events to win in dirt late model racing," said Rick Schwallie, Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series Director.

"Mooney and Connie Starr have been pillars in dirt late model racing for over two decades. We can't thank them enough for continuing their vision for this event and striving to make it bigger and better in 2018 and beyond."

For tickets and more information on the COMP Cams Topless 100 - presented by Crop Production Services, visit: [www.batesvillemotorspeedway.com](http://www.batesvillemotorspeedway.com) or call (870) 613-1337.

## Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour Reveals 2018 Lineup of Events

TULSA, OK - The 27th year of competition with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network kicks off in March with a lineup of 44 events on the way, and more to come as final details get worked out.

The series will start the 2018 run at the 45th Devil's Bowl Spring Nationals on March 16 and 17 with the next stop just across town at the Texas Motor Speedway for Tony Stewart's Texas Sprint Car Nationals during the Spring NASCAR weekend.

Announced during PRI, the series will head back to Pennsylvania for the first time since 2007 with debut events at Williams Grove Speedway in Mechanicsburg, Penn. on May 4 and Selinsgrove Speedway in Selinsgrove, Penn. on May 5. Leading into the Pennsylvania doubleheader will be a stop at Paducah International Raceway on April 27. The following night stands as a TBA for now.

Another National Tour debut follows as the series heads for Humboldt Speedway in Humboldt, Kan. on May 9 with Lakeside Speedway picking up May 10. Both are a part of the NASCAR weekend at Kansas Speedway.

The month of June is when business really picks up with Speedweek kicking on June 8 at West Texas Raceway in Lubbock, Texas. Route 66 Motor Speedway in Amarillo on June 9 is followed by the Devil's Bowl Summer Nationals on June 12 with Lawton Speedway in Lawton, Okla. on June 13 and Creek County Speedway on June 14. While Friday remains a TBA for now, the biggest change will be the finale of Speedweek shifting to Salina Speedway in Salina, Kan. Normally at Lucas Oil Speedway, the Missouri oval will be readying for a major event at the Off-Road track.

Following Speedweek, the series will head north for the 47th Jim Raper Memorial Dirt Cup at Skagit Speedway in Alger, Wash. on June 16, 17, and 18. The \$15,000 to win event will be followed by the Fred Brownfield Classic at Grays Harbor Raceway in Elma, Wash. on June 29 and 30.

The Grizzly Nationals at Gallatin Speedway on July 6 and 7 begins the trip back to the Knoxville Nationals. The following weekend is still TBA with details set to emerge in the coming weeks as series and track official finalize details. The second year at Mason Motor Speedway in Mason City, Iowa on July 29 will give way to the 28th annual Knoxville ASCS 360 Nationals at the famed Knoxville Raceway. Dishing out over \$100,000 in prize money, the three-day affair will be followed by the return of the Osky Challenges with the 410cid Front Row Challenge on Monday followed by the return of the Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network on Tuesday, August 7. With the Knoxville Nationals kicking off the following night, fans will have 10 straight nights of racing to enjoy.

Missouri State Fair Speedway for the Sunday Fair event on August 19 will have the teams making another debut visit at the Sweetwater Speedway in Rock Springs, Wyo. on August 24 and 25. Only one other date has been contested in Wyoming with the series stop at Gillette Thunder Speedway in 2015.

From Wyoming to Minnesota and Missouri, a pair of \$10,000 to win events will be on tap with the newly formed Jackson ASCS 360 Nationals, happening August 31 through September 2 at Jackson Motorplex in Jackson, Minn. and the Jesse Hockett/Daniel McMillin Memorial September 20 through September 22 at Lucas Oil Speedway in Wheatland, Mo.

I-80 Speedway's Fall Brawl will end out the month on September 29, leaving the final four dates on the season with the Devil's Bowl Winter Nationals on October 19 and 20 and Creek County Speedway's Fall Fling on October 26 and 27.

With a few more dates in the works, any updates to the 2018 lineup for the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network will be posted to <http://www.ascsracing.com>. Anyone with any questions or needing information on scheduling an event can contact Terry Mattox at (918) 838-3777 or email [ascsterry@gmail.com](mailto:ascsterry@gmail.com).

The 2018 season will again be headed by ASCS National Coordin-

nator, Matt Ward. Chief of Timing and Scoring will remain in the charge of Ashleigh Ward. Duties of Pit Steward will again be headed by Roy Wood with Bryan Hulbert again serving as the announcer for the series. Over a dozen drivers have announced their intention to compete in this year's National Tour. Driver highlights and profiles will be posted as the season draws closer.

The 2018 season will also include over a dozen nights of racing on the MAVTV Motorsports Network with the first rounds set to be filmed at the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track. The full MAVTV lineup will be announced as soon as it's finalized. Further coverage will be provided nightly by [Racinboys.com](http://Racinboys.com), which remains as the official online broadcast provider of the American Sprint Car Series. The show will be anchored by Scott Traylor with Brandon Hahn working trackside and Jeff Kristensen on camera.

### ASCS Mid-South Region Sets 2018 Lineup

TULSA, OK - The 2018 season for the ASCS Mid-South Region is just around the corner, and a lineup of 17 events has been released across Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

New to the ASCS Mid-South lineup in 2018, Tennessee National Raceway in Hohenwald, Tenn. will kick things off on April 7 with the following week seeing the ASCS Mid-South Region replacing the former Southern Outlaw Sprints at Mississippi's Jackson Motor Speedway for King of the Wings III with the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region on Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14.

Little Rock's I-30 Speedway will see the most action with seven of the scheduled dates, including taking place at the quarter-mile oval known as "Hammer Hill". The first I-30 Speedway showdown will go green on May 12.

On to Riverside International Speedway on Thursday, June 28, the mid-week affair will kick off a four-night ASCS Mid-South Speedweek with Crowley's Ridge Raceway on Friday, June 29, I-30 Speedway on Saturday, June 30, and Diamond Park Speedway on Sunday, July 1.

Back to Riverside on Saturday, July 21, the following week transitions back to I-30 Speedway on Saturday, July 28 before the series heads out for return trips to Jack-

son Motor Speedway in Byram, Miss. on Saturday, August 11 and Tennessee National Raceway on August 25.

A showdown with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Red River Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products on Saturday, September 15, the series debut at Centerville Super Speedway follows on Saturday, September 29. Following that, it's one final stop for three nights at I-30 Speedway on October 4, 5, and 6 for the 31st COMP Cams Short Track Nationals.

For the 2018 season, Terry Mattox will again head the ASCS Mid-South Region and can be reached at (918) 417-0624 or by email at [ascsterry@gmail.com](mailto:ascsterry@gmail.com) for scheduling and series question.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the Regional Tours that make up the ASCS Nation in 2018, log onto [www.ascsracing.com](http://www.ascsracing.com), follow on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter (@LucasOilASCS).

### ASCS Warrior Region Reveals 25 Race Lineup For 2018

TULSA, OK - Rolling into the series' 15th season of competition, the Speedway Motors ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Warps will see a lineup of 25 events in 2018 with nine tracks across Missouri and eastern Kansas on the schedule.

Fans of Lake Ozark Speedway will enjoy five nights of competition in 2018 as the Eldon, Mo. has holiday weekend plans covered, starting Memorial Day Weekend with events on May 25 and 26. Off until June 30, as the nation readies for Independence Day Weekend, the final two showdowns come during Labor Day Weekend on September 1 and 2.

Three Missouri ovals will see a combined 12 nights of racing in 2018 with Double X Speedway, Lucas Oil Speedway, and Randolph County Raceway each in action four times.

In California, Mo. the dates on the lineup include May 27, June 17, July 1, and July 27. For Wheatland, Mo. the Impact Signs Open Wheel Showdown on May 5 and three-day National Tour co-sanctioned Hockett/McMillin Memorial, happening September 20-22, will be the dates of choice. The final track with four nights is Randolph County Raceway in Moberly, Mo. which will kick

**(Continued Next Page)**

off the 2018 season on April 14. Returning July 7, the final two nights will be October 12 and 13 to end out the season.

Going for three rounds of competition, U.S. 36 Raceway in Osborn, Mo. will go green on June 8, July 20, and October 6.

Two nights at the Missouri State Fair Speedway will split between stand-alone and co-sanctioning with the Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour with the Regional even on June 29 to kick off the three-day run with Lake Ozark and Double X Speedway. The Missouri State Fair will see its action on August 19.

Two nights in Kansas with since stops a Heartland Park Topeka on May 4 leads into Lucas Oil Speedway with both events co-sanctioned with the ASCS Red River Region. Lake Side Speedway with the Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour on May 10 rounds out Kansas stops.

One final track on the lineup with a single date on the 2018 lineup is a new pairing for the ASCS Warrior Region as the series goes head-to-head with the ASCS Mid-South Region at Legit Motor Speedway in West Plains, Mo. The June 23 date marks the first time the track has

been on the Warrior lineup since 2009.

For the 2018 season, Larry Hol will remain at the director of the Speedway Motors ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps. Any additional dates will be announced as they are confirmed.

### **ASCS Red River Looking at 20 Dates in 2018**

TULSA, OK - Going into the fourth year of competition, the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Red River Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products is looking at a 20 race run throughout Oklahoma with events also slated in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Texas.

The 2018 slate is set to open with co-sanctioned events at the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track with the Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour on April 6 and 7. Only one date on the lineup is still listed as a TBA on June 1. In all, 10 tracks are listed on the 20 race lineup with the season running from April through October.

"When we put the schedule together, we wanted to have a solid lineup for teams and fans to follow without wearing them out either. Barring having to reschedule anything, we've tried to put the season where everyone races every other weekend with each weekend being

a double-header so it's more financially viable for everyone involved," commented ASCS Red River Region Director, Terry Mattox.

Oklahoma's Creek County Speedway takes the bulk of the lineup with six shows. Other Oklahoma ovals include Lawton Speedway with two events and Tri-State Speedway. Five dates in Kansas include stops at Humboldt Speedway, Caney Valley Speedway, Heartland Park Topeka, and 81-Speedway.

The ASCS Red River Region will team up for two dates at I-30 Speedway with the ASCS Mid-South Region. Lucas Oil Speedway in Missouri will see one event with the ASCS Warrior Region co-sanctioning the event.

### **MAVTV to Air 13 Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour Races in 2018**

TULSA, OK - MAVTV Motorsports Network has confirmed the broadcast of 13 nights of the racing with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series (ASCS), presented by MAVTV.

First on the list for the 2018 season is Tony Stewart's Texas Sprint Car Nationals at the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track on Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7. Next will be the Jim Raper Memorial Dirt Cup, happening June 21-23, is followed by the Knoxville ASCS 360 Nationals on August 2-4.

Another three-day affair for fans to enjoy is the Hockett/McMillin Memorial, takes place September 20-22, with the final two nights of the season set to round out the TV lineup at Creek County Speedway on Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27.

Owned and operated by Lucas Oil Products, MAVTV Motorsports Network is a television network with its roots deep in the automotive world. MAVTV offers an unparalleled line-up of exclusive motorsports that includes prestigious events such as the Chili Bowl, The AMA Pro Motocross series, and the Lucas Oil Challenge Cup.

Having been a part of the MAVTV lineup since its inception, close to 2,000 hours of Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour competition has been shown. With the launch of the Lucas Oil Racing TV (LORTV) app in 2016, fans are now able to go back and watch every Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour event ever broadcast on the MAVTV Motorsports Network.

Lucas Oil Racing TV is the first streaming TV network dedicated solely to the world of motorsports - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The app is available through [www.LucasOilRacing.TV](http://www.LucasOilRacing.TV) for viewing on smartphones and tablets, as well as Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Android Tablets, and Roku.

To subscribe or get more information, please visit [www.LucasOil-Racing.TV](http://www.LucasOil-Racing.TV).

## **MSCS Releases 2018 Schedule**

HAUBSTADT, IN - Today the Hoosier Tire Midwest Sprint Car Series officials released the schedule of the various events set to be held in 2018. There are eighteen MSCS sanctioned events listed. Seven different dirt tracks will host events for the 410 non wing sprint car series.

A balanced MSCS schedule has events for each month starting in early April and not ending until October. Racing begins on Saturday night April 7th at the Lincoln Park Speedway in Putnamville, IN. The occasion is the annual "Indiana Open Wheel - Come Racin' Fest." The winner will receive \$3,000.

Next, MSCS and USAC will race together in the "Spring Showdown"

at Tri-State Speedway on April 28th. This annual co-sanctioned event will pay \$5,000 to win! MSCS and USAC also competes together on September 15th for the "Haubstadt Hustler." That event offers the biggest pay-out of the season with \$10,000 going to the winner.

The "Midwest Madness" show at Tri-State Speedway on May 12th will also include an appearance of the MOWA Wing Sprints. The two series will provide separate shows at Haubstadt again on July 14th. These crowd pleasers are both on Saturday nights!

Memorial Day weekend beginning on May 25th, MSCS will race at Bloomington Speedway on Friday, Lincoln Park Speedway on Saturday, and Tri-State Speedway on Sunday. That weekend rates as the only "Triple Trek" of the season. It all begins with the "Josh Burton Memorial" on Friday. All 3 feature events will pay \$2,500 to win.

June kicks off with the first head to head meeting of the MSCS sprints and the POWRI WAR sprints. The two series will compete together in a "Summer Showdown" at Tri-State Speedway on June 9th.

The Winner will bank \$5,000! Then Brownstown Speedway will host an MSCS sanctioned sprint car event on Saturday June 23rd. The Jackson County Fairgrounds always provides a unique and pivotal stop for the series.

There are two "Double Header" weekends later in the season. MSCS will go back to back with appearances at Daugherty Speedway and Kickapoo Speedway on June 29th and 30th. It should be a great match-up of Indiana and Illinois drivers!

The other big weekend is August 11th and 12th. MSCS will follow up on an appearance for the "Hoosier Sprint Nationals" paying \$5,000 to win at Tri-State Speedway on Saturday with a visit to the legendary Terre Haute Action Track Sunday.

MSCS will also provide the second round of action during the "Bill

Gardner Sprintacular" on Saturday July 7th. The Sprintacular drew 40 entries in 2017. MSCS will also return to Putnamville's Lincoln Park Speedway for a 4th visit on August 18th.

The Labor Day Weekend Challenge on Sunday September 2nd at Tri-State Speedway will pay \$3,000 to win. It is a great opportunity for crews to get set for the upcoming "Haubstadt Hustler." Following the Hustler, Tri-State Speedway will host the MSCS Season Finale on October 13th. The feature winner will receive 5,000 and the coveted "Harvest Cup." A continuing tradition will have the new MSCS Champion and Rookie of the Year being honored at the track.

With each new season there are new races, new faces, different tracks, increased challenges, and all the suspense that follows each green flag! Any changes or late additions to the schedule will be outlined with a news release at that time. Everyone can follow breaking news for the series by visiting [mscsprints.com](http://mscsprints.com) or on facebook.

## Christopher Bell Goes Back To Back At The Chili Bowl

TULSA, OK - With the thunderous applause of packed grandstands, Oklahoma's Christopher Bell added his name to the history books yet again with his second Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire victory in as many years.

Handing Keith Kunz his seventh win as a car owner, and fourth consecutive since 2015, the weekend included three preliminary night wins and a Saturday night podium sweep.

"Once in a lifetime. This week was once in a lifetime," commented Kunz on his team's achievement.

Despite the win, Bell felt a sense of disappointment after he regained the lead in the closing laps when Kyle Larson's night ended with mechanical failure under the bonnet of No. 01.

"It's special to win the Chili Bowl. With over 300 something cars, it's always going to be special, but I'm disappointed. I feel like Kyle got robbed, I got robbed, and the fans got robbed. I wanted to race it out, and I know the fans wanted us to race it out too so I'm disappointed we didn't get to do that, but I'd rather be lucky than good any day," commented Bell.

Chasing Kyle Larson through the first 10 laps as the freshly tilled clay of the Tulsa Expo Raceway began to evolve, a restart on Lap 11 saw Bell charge the cushion for the lead off the fourth turn.

Caution on Lap 17, Larson held off the charge of Christopher Bell with the two pulling away from the field. Running down the back of the field, it was a high-speed chess match with Larson making the right move on Lap 26 to reclaim the top spot. Steadily pulling away as Bell found himself mired behind slower cars, the race came under caution on Lap 34.

Back to green with Bell unable to keep pace, Kyle was well ahead before his pace began to slow a few laps later. With Bell closing, the reason for the drop in speed made itself known as the engine gave out a massive cloud of smoke on Lap 41. Ducking into the infield, the iRacing No. 01 came to a rest well away from the racing surface.

With a straightaway advantage

and slower cars around, Bell was pursued by Rico Abreu but the traffic was not enough to slow the No. 71w enough for Rico to challenge as the checkered flag fell with Bell winning by 3.162 seconds, and laps past 10th place.

Rico Abreu in second, the third member of the Kunz camp on the podium was Spencer Bayston. Racing through the field from 17th, Tanner Thorson's day began in the first C-Feature before ending with a fourth-place run in the A-Feature. Earning the final transfer from the first B-Feature, California's Ryan Bernal stormed through the field to fifth after starting 23rd.

Despite an issue with the engine, Brad Sweet held on to finish sixth with Justin Grant in tow. Chase Johnson's first appearance in the Saturday finale ended in eighth with Kevin Thomas, Jr. ninth. Rolling from 24th, Chad Boat made up the top-ten.

Saturday's round of Alphabet Soup began with double N-Features. The biggest mover through the soup was Shane Stewart who advanced from L-Feature to I-Feature competition. 11 more drivers saw action in at least three features with another 91 in at least two features.

The weeklong Fastenal Flip Count reached a total of 70 among 60 drivers. All were able to walk away with Simpson also in on the mix at flips 25 and 50. For the 25th flip, a HANS Device was awarded to Brady Bacon with the 50th flip getting Seatbelts, which went to Shane Pace.



Christopher Bell parked his Keith Kunz owned No. 71w in Victory Lane for the second year running at the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire. (Chili Bowl /Joe Orth photo)

### Abreu Returns to Victory Lane with Hard Rock Casino Qualifying Night Triumph

TULSA, OK - After 15 ½ weeks out of a Racecar following a hard crash at the Four Crown Nationals, California's Rico Abreu was the class of the field in Wednesday's Hard Rock Casino Qualifying Night A-Feature.

Securing a spot in his sixth career Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire championship A-Feature with his third career prelim triumph, Abreu's win was a true testament to his talent and patience behind the wheel, answering nearly 20 laps of slide-jobs from Oklahoma's Tyler Thomas.

"That's some intense shit," said Abreu in Victory Lane of the race with Thomas, which despite its intensity, never saw the pair drive each other in an unprofessional manner.



Rico Abreu held on to win Wednesday's Hard Rock Casino Qualifying Night to lock into the finale of the 32nd Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire (Chili Bowl/Joe Orth photo)

Elaborating on the race in the press conference, Rico stated, "I don't think it gets any better or intense than that, especially because you are racing for the lead. On these slide jobs, people come up short and run into each other and that's when you see wrecks, but I feel like it goes both ways in these situations where if you're the leader getting slid, you let out of the gas and let them slide across, then turn down and drive right back by him. That's the way it was done tonight."

Giving chase to Thomas through the first four laps, the race for the point went three-wide on the fifth revolutions with Alabama's Kevin Thomas, Jr. taking the lead. Unable to hold off Tyler Thomas the following lap, the caution would fall as the field worked Lap 7 with the caution lights coming on for Parker Price-Miller.

Back to Lap 6, Abreu slung his Keith Kunz Motorsports No. 97 to the curb, picking off second on the restart and setting sights on the lead. Narrowly edging out Tyler off the fourth turn to complete Lap 9, the lead was in his hands off the second turn of Lap 10.

Back to the advantage of Tyler Thomas two laps later, the pair resumed their exchange of bottom to top corners before the caution again came out. Protecting the low line from the slide, the top was clear for Abreu to build his run. With a full head of steam, Rico pulled the trigger and snagged the lead away on Lap 15. The only time during the race that the No. 97 had distance over the race for second, yellow lights appeared again with 19 laps complete.

Slide for slide with the BT Machine No. 91t with Abreu able to make it around first every time, the final caution with two to go was still not enough to deny the California

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# Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals

Continued...

shoe a much-awaited return to Victory Lane.

Crossing 0.655 seconds ahead of Tyler Thomas, the final podium step and transfer spot into Saturday's A-Feature, remained in the hands of Kevin Thomas, Jr. despite the pressure of having Sammy Swindell on his back bumper the final 10 laps. Exchanging fifth numerous times with Ryan Robinson over the course of 25 laps, the top-five would finally round out with Chris Windom.

Ryan Robinson in sixth was trailed by the very hard charging Jason McDougal. Having to come from 11th in the second C-Feature, McDougal advanced position 34 times to earn his seventh-place finish. J.J. Yeley eighth was chased by Gary Taylor with Jeb Sessums, who was the Hard Charger for the A-Feature with 14 positions gained, rounding out the top-ten.

A field of 85 drivers drew in for Wednesday's Hard Rock Casino Qualifying Night. So far, 171 drivers have seen action in the 32nd Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire.

Going into Thursday, the Fastenal Flip Count has reached 34 with Brady Bacon getting a HANS Device from Simpson Race Products as the event's 25th flip. In all, every crash ended with the driver able to walk away.

The 32nd Lucas Oil Chili Bowl National presented by General Tire continues on Thursday, January 11, 2018, with the night sponsored by John Christner Trucking. The River Spirit Expo Center opens at 9:00 A.M. with Hot Laps at 4:00 P.M. and racing at 5:00 P.M. (CT).

General Admission tickets, which double as a Pit Pass, are sold at the event and are \$45 per weekday and \$60 on Saturday. Purchasing consecutive days does save the buyer money. Fans unable to attend can find online PPV coverage at <http://www.racinboys.com>.

For continued updates on the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire, fans can follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with @CBNationals. All official press, updates, and results on the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire can be found online



Joined by family and crew, Kyle Larson wheeled to victory in Tuesday's opener at the 32nd Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire. (Chili Bowl/Joe Orth photo)

at <http://www.chilibowl.com>.  
Kyle Larson Opens 32nd Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals With Victory In Tuesday's Warren CAT Qualifying Night

TULSA, OK - In a car owned by his father, California's Kyle Larson picked up his fourth career Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire preliminary victory to tie the driver of the iRacing No. 01 with the late Bryan Clauson for third on the all-time preliminary night win list.

"It's great to get a win for my Dad. I haven't been in a car he's owned since I was in Karts," said Larson who will take the green in his sixth Lucas Oil Chili Bowl championship event on Saturday night.

Giving chase to pole sitter, Zach Daum, at the start Larson was never lost hold of the Toyota No. 5d, taking several shots at the lead throughout the opening laps. Searching lines after a caution with three laps complete, Larson utilized a Lap 5 restart to jump to the cushion and build his run on Daum.

With momentum off the fourth turn, the difference was 0.043 seconds at the line on the eighth round with Kyle securing the top-spot through the first and second turns.

On getting the lead, Larson stated, "I knew if I could get some momentum built up, I could get by [Zach] Daum on the top and I was just hoping he didn't move up, but

he left me a lane and I was able to get the lead. After that, I just ran a decent pace, but I knew I could run harder."

With Larson putting distance on the field, focus turned to the race for the final two transfer spots into Saturday's A-Feature as Zach Daum came under fire from Brad Sweet. Swapping lines and position numerous times through the race's mid-point, the battle came to a close on Lap 20 as Daum hit the brakes to avoid the flipped No. 1b of Travis Rilat; forcing the engine to stall out in the second turn.

Moving Justin Grant into the mix, who had bounced about from third to fifth throughout the race, the NOS Energy Drink No. 7bc began an onslaught of attacks on Sweet for the second spot with each slide job met in kind.

While both Sweet and Courtney were able to keep Larson in sight, with Sweet taking one last shot on Lap 22, neither was able to mount the charge as Kyle crossed the checkered flag 1.170 seconds ahead of the battle for second.

Able to hold off the challenges, Brad Sweet grabbed second. Punching a ticket to his fourth A-Feature, his 2018 attempt marks the end of a five-year A-Feature drought, with Tyler Courtney making his second consecutive appearance with his place on the final step of Tuesday's podium.

Hard Charger on the night, England's Tom Harris advanced nine spots to fourth in the Bob East No. 4 with Logan Seavey making up the top-five.

2018 Chili Bowl Rookie, Giovani Scelzi crossed sixth with Jake Neuman seventh. Brad Loyet made up six positions to eighth with Scott Evans advancing eight times to ninth. Racing around the top-five early on, Justin Peck ended up rounding out the top-ten.

Also on tap during Tuesday's opener, the Vacuworx Invitational Race of Champions found its sixth different winner with Arizona's Chad Boat picking up the victory. Drawing the pole in the 10th annual Vacuworx Invitational Race of Champions, Chad led every lap but was not without challenge as Kyle Larson laid on a charge in the closing laps that nearly saw the iRacing No. 01 steal away the win, but the smooth laps of the No. 84x secured the night's \$6.363.63 payday.

A field of 86 drivers made up Tuesday's Warren CAT Qualifying Night to kick off the 32nd Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire.

So far, the Fastenal Flip Count stands at 12 with two drivers making repeat appearances, but all were able to walk away. The driver who is the 25th to tumble will get a free HANS Device from Simpson Race Products.

## Donny Schatz Goes Two-For-Two with The All Stars at Volusia

BARBERVILLE, FL - For the second time in as many days, Fargo, North Dakota's Donny Schatz is an Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 main event winner, officially sweeping All Star Circuit of Champions competition at Volusia Speedway Park during the 47th Annual DIRTcar Nationals.

Schatz's route to victory on Thursday evening was just as impressive as the night before, ultimately diminishing a near-straightaway lead held by Chad Kemenah at the midpoint of the 30-lap program. The rally earned the now 18-time All Star winner another \$5,000 payday, crossing under the final checkers by a margin of victory equaling 2.439 seconds over Kemenah and Kasey Kahne Racing's Brad Sweet.

"We had an awesome race car," said Donny Schatz, pilot of the Tony Stewart-Curb/Agajanian Racing, Textron Off Road-backed, No. 15. "It's good to have Rick [Warner] here with us tonight. It feels good to have the entire team together. We are definitely hitting on all eight cylinders right now."

Schatz started from the pole position and led the first eight circuits before feeling any pressure from those racing behind him. Kemenah, who started fourth on the main event grid, worked his way to the back bumper of the defending World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series champion, eventually driving underneath Schatz as the pair battled through turns one and two on lap nine.

Even with lapped traffic starting to intensify, Kemenah powered to a commanding lead, jumping ahead by a near-straightaway advantage as the leaders raced passed the crossed flags. As the laps clicked down, Schatz started to come back to life, diminishing Kemenah's advantage in traffic to less than a second by lap 22. By lap 25, Schatz was back in command, utilizing the topside of the speedway to cruise around Kemenah as the pair raced through turns one and two.

From that point forward, it was all Donny Schatz, rapidly gaining

an advantage through traffic that stretched to nearly three seconds when the final checkers flew. Kemenah held on to finish second, followed by Brad Sweet, David Gravel, and Kyle Larson.

"I really didn't know what to expect with the track. I was trying to play it cautious," Schatz explained, who was weary about the reworked racing surface. "I didn't want to go to the top until I knew it was going to hold me. I got to traffic and really couldn't move around and that's when [Chad Kemenah] got by us. By that time, I knew I had to bide my time and be patient with what the track was going to do. We ended up getting him back in traffic and that's what it takes; being able to race through traffic like that. It definitely helped to be close to the front tonight."

"Sometimes leading isn't the place to be, I guess," Chad Kemenah said, pilot of the Hunter Racing, Bonnell's Rod Shop, No. 10H. "When you have to get beat by [Donny Schatz] it makes things a little bit better. The way I got around him was the same way I got beat. I just thought I had nothing to lose. I could see that he was hung up behind the lapped cars and I kinda held my breath and ended up getting around him. But when you get to traffic, you have to pick and choose the right lanes. Somebody that is that good behind you is probably going to pick the lane that you're not in."

"I had a good feeling before I left home," Schatz continued. "My trainer said I was in 'ass kickin' mode' so I want to thank him for that."

The Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 will not return to competition until Friday, April 6, when the Series invades Atomic Speedway in Chillicothe, Ohio. "America's Series" last visited the southern Ohio high-banks on August 26 with the "Buckeye Bullet" Dave Blaney picking up the \$10,000 top prize.

### Schatz Charges From 12th to Win at Volusia

BARBERVILLE, FL - Mounting an impressive hard charge to the front, Fargo, North Dakota's Donny Schatz led the final nine circuits on Wednesday evening to claim \$5,000 during the opening night of the sprint car segment of the 47th



**Donny Schatz went two for two with the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions at Volusia Speedway Park during the DIRTcar Nationals. (Paul Arch photo)**

Annual DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park.

The victory, Schatz's eighth during Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 competition at the Barberville half-mile, occurred in fantastic fashion, advancing forward from 12th on the feature grid during a non-stop 30-lapper to cross under the final checkers 1.079 seconds ahead of Kasey Kahne Racing's Brad Sweet and CJB Motorsports' David Gravel.

"These guys did a great job," Schatz explained, pilot of the Textron Off Road, Ford Performance-backed, No. 15. "This team has been strong for a long time. It feels good to get that first win out of the way. We wish Rick [Warner] could be here tonight. Maybe at the end of the week he will be. He does so much for this race team. We're glad to get it done for him tonight."

Wasting little time, Schatz advanced into a top-five position as early as lap nine, soon challenging six-time and defending All Star champion, Chad Kemenah, and Brad Sweet for the point position. The defending World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series champion solidified the runner-up spot by lap 13, then setting his focus on race leader, Brad Sweet, who led all but one lap during the first 21 circuits of the 30-lap program. Schatz made his first official bid for the top spot on lap 22 and made it stick, ultimately driving underneath Sweet at the entrance of turn one and surviving a drag race down the backstretch and into the entrance of turn three.

"I don't know that we got as close as it looked," Schatz explained. "It may have looked close to the fans, but Brad [Sweet] and I had a few city blocks between us."

The track locked down and I didn't really expect it to lock down that quick. If I would have been in a different position when it did lock down, I would have been in trouble. I was really struggling at the end. It's just the way some days are. The dynamics of the dirt are always changing."

"When the track gets rubber like that, when you get caught one lane out it feels like ice, but if you are in the groove then it feels like there are spikes in your tires. Unfortunately, I slipped out of the groove and it cost us," Brad Sweet explained. "We got better and better and better every time we hit the track tonight. This is a new team with a new crew chief. We were searching around a little bit trying to find the perfect balance for this Napa Auto Parts, No. 49 car."

### Haudenschild Goes Wire-to-Wire to Claim Bubba Army Winter Nationals Finale at Bubba Raceway Park

OCALA, FL - For the first time in his career, Wooster, Ohio's Sheldon Haudenschild is a winner in the state of Florida, this time earning \$5,000 against the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 during the third and final night of Bubba Army Winter Nationals competition at Bubba Raceway Park in Ocala. The victory raises Haudenschild's win total to 17 with "America's Series," crossing under the final checkers with the "Madman" Kerry Madsen and defending All Star Circuit of Champions champion, Chad Kemenah, in tow.

"That was a blast tonight,"  
**(Continued Next Page)**

# Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions

Continued...

Sheldon Haudenschild said, pilot of the Stenhouse Jr./Marshall Racing entry. "To get through the first week with this NOS Energy, Stenhouse Jr./Marshall Racing team feels good. They've been killing it and we're having a lot of fun. That is what matters in the end."

Haudenschild survived a pair of cautions and multiple waves of heavy traffic during his campaign at the front of the running order. Despite traffic, Haudenschild never faltered, extending his advantage to nearly three seconds by the midpoint of the 30-lap program. By the time caution flags flew for the first time on lap 17, Haudenschild's advantage was over five seconds.

"I knew to get to lapped traffic in a hurry," Haudenschild explained. "You just have to be careful and get through them really fast. It is definitely tough especially with how narrow turn four gets. I had to take a chance there a couple of times with lapped cars. Luckily it all worked out."

Caution flags appeared for the second and final time on lap 22 once again erasing a commanding two second lead for the 2017 World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series Rookie of the Year. The final nine circuits proved to be no distraction for Haudenschild, eventually crossing under the final checkers with a near-two second lead over Kerry Madsen and Chad Kemenah.

"I knew [Kerry Madsen] and [Tim Shaffer] were going to be fast because they've been fast all week," Haudenschild continued. "To beat guys like that feels really good. I wanted to be fast this week and I knew we would be. This team has really good equipment and it is filled with great crew guys. We were able to put it all together."

Earning a second consecutive runner-up finish aboard the Jackson Nationals, No. 2, the "Madman" Kerry Madsen climbed ahead from sixth on the main event grid, charging to fourth by lap ten before utilizing each of the main event restarts to advance into third and eventually second.

"I'm a little disappointed for us," Kerry Madsen said. "I think we could have been up there and challenging a little bit harder. We got



**Sheldon Haudenschild celebrates in victory lane after winning the Finale of the Bubba Army Winter Nationals at Bubba Raceway Park. (Paul Arch photo)**

close at the end, but the laps burned out pretty quick and we ran out of time. Regardless, it was a good run for the team. I want to send out a special thanks to the team and everyone back at the shop."

For his second MSD Performance Hard Charger Award in three days, Hunter Racing's Chad Kemenah picked up 13 positions during the All Star Circuit of Champions finale at Bubba Raceway Park, driving forward from 16th on the feature grid to finish third.

## **Shaffer Edges Madsen to Win Night Two of Bubba Army Winter Nationals**

OCALA, FL - The "Steel City Outlaw" Tim Shaffer made the most of his front row starting position on Friday night, eventually leading all 30 circuits around Bubba Raceway Park to claim his first Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 main event victory of the season. The pilot of the No. 49X earned \$5,000 for his efforts, edging out Kerry Madsen for the 61st victory of his career against the All Star Circuit of Champions.

"This is great for the Rudzik team," Shaffer said. "Everyone works so hard back at the shop. That hard work makes all of this happen."

Shaffer started from the outside-pole position and earned the early advantage, racing by the flagstand for the first time with Tyler Clem and Sheldon Haudenschild in tow. The Aliquippa, Pa., native maintained a quick pace at the front of the running order until caution flags appeared for the first time on lap nine. Unfortunately for Clem and Haudenschild, the caution flag was

the result of their misfortune, each collected by a stopped lapped car.

Green flag conditions soon returned with Shaffer resuming his campaign at the front of the running order. With Clem and Haudenschild out, it was Mark Smith inheriting the runner-up position, followed closely by Coleman Gulick, and Kerry Madsen.

While Shaffer controlled the point, pushing his advantage to nearly two seconds even with traffic coming back into play as early as lap 14, it was Madsen who was attracting the attention, driving by Gulick on lap 11 and eventually squeezing under Mark Smith on lap 20. On lap 21, caution flags appeared for the second and final time once again erasing Shaffer's advantage.

With rubber starting to come into play around the bottom of the speedway, it was obvious that Shaffer had the edge despite Madsen's speed. Madsen followed Shaffer back to green on lap 21 and raced on the tail tank of the familiar No. 49X for the next nine circuits. Once again, traffic came into the picture but this time acting as a roadblock around the thin lane of rubbered-up racing surface. Madsen made a few attempts to squeeze under Shaffer, but the attempts failed. The "Steel City Outlaw" prevailed for his third All Star Circuit of Champions victory at Bubba Raceway Park.

Kerry Madsen chased Shaffer to the line, followed by Mark Smith, Coleman Gulick, and Paul McManan.

## **Kemenah Hard Charges from 17th to Win Opener at Bubba Raceway Park**

OCALA, FL - Six-time and de-

fending Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 titlist, Chad Kemenah, kicked-off his 2018 campaign in a big way, not only scoring the All Star Circuit of Champions season opener at Bubba Raceway Park worth \$5,000, but doing so from the inside of row nine.

Kemenah advanced sixteen positions during his charge to the front of the field, ultimately withstanding a competitive field and ten cautions, two of which resulting in open red flags, to earn a 34th-career All Star victory; his first ever in the Sunshine State. Kemenah's efforts also earned him the MSD Performance Hard Charger Award.

"Smoke" Tony Stewart finished second during the All Star opener at the Ocala, Fla., venue, followed by Dave Blaney, Parker Price-Miller, who led the first 21 circuits before giving up the top spot, and Carson Short.

By the midpoint of the 30-lap program, Kemenah was racing within the top-five, soon pressuring those battling for podium positions just in front of him including Dave Blaney, Tony Stewart, and race leader, Parker Price-Miller. A caution on lap 20 would give Kemenah another prime opportunity to advance, ultimately driving by Dave Blaney and Tony Stewart on the ensuing restart, all while utilizing the bottom of the speedway.

Two circuits later, Kemenah was pressuring Price-Miller for the top spot. Despite leading over half of the main event, and surviving six cautions during the first 20 circuits including three consecutive that plagued the initial start, Price-Miller's efforts soon wore out, eventually surrendering the point position to Kemenah at the exit of turn four on lap 22.

Even with four more cautions halting his momentum, a pair on lap 23 and another pair on lap 27, Kemenah was invincible, stretching his final margin of victory to 3.067 seconds despite the race ending with a small string of only four consecutive laps.

"I'm not sure anyone was going to have anything for those guys," Tony Stewart, owner of the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1, said of Chad Kemenah. "We just needed things to go green for a little while longer. I'm proud of my guys. I think this team has gained a lot over the winter. I feel really good about how things got started."

"This really says what my team is about," Chad Kemenah added. "We never quit."

## Weiss Wires Wild West Shootout Round Five with Stormy Scott & Josh Cain Victorious as Well

SAN TAN VALLEY, AZ - Canada's Ricky Weiss turned in a dominant performance in Saturday night's fifth round of Keyser Manufacturing Wild West Shootout presented O'Reilly Auto Parts action by wiring the Super Late Model field in the 40-lap feature event atop the 1/3-mile FK Rod Ends Arizona Speedway clay oval.

Weiss raced to a nearly six second triumph to pocket \$5,000 in the non-stop affair for his second win of the six-race mini-series after topping the opener seven nights earlier.

"This thing works in the mud, it works in the slick, it works in the rubber, it works everywhere," Weiss commented afterwards.

While Weiss reached Hoker Trucking Victory Lane again, Stormy Scott and Josh Cain posted their first wins of the mini-series in accompanying Modified and X Modified competition.

In the 40-lap Black Diamond/Club 29 Super Late Models presented by M&W Transportation main event, Weiss gunned into the lead at the outset and wasted little time checking out on the field to keep himself alive for a potential Keyser Manufacturing bonus of \$10,000 if he can make it three wins on the week in Sunday's \$13,000-to-win finale. Don Shaw, also with a pair of wins, is eligible for the bonus as well.

Weiss streaked under the checkered flag a healthy 5.852-seconds ahead of Cade Dillard with Ryan Gustin, Brandon Sheppard and Shaw rounding out the top five.

The MVT/Border International USRA Modifieds presented by Arizona Differential offered up the fifth different winner in as many rounds of action with New Mexico's Stormy Scott taking the 25-lap triumph from the third starting position.

Scott raced to the line ahead of Johnny Scott, Shane Sabraski, Lucas Schott and R.C. Whitwell.

Josh Cain added his name to the win ledger as well by topping the 20-lap RHRSwag.com X-Mods presented by Barnett Harley-Davidson feature event.

Cain became the fourth different

winner of the series ahead of Miah Christensen with Lance Schill, Eric Haugland and Cole Searing among the top five.

### **Marlar Masters Wild West Shootout Round Four**

SAN TAN VALLEY, AZ - After being in the hunt throughout the previous rounds, Tennessee's Mike Marlar put together a perfect night on Friday to capture his first Keyser Manufacturing Wild West Shootout presented O'Reilly Auto Parts win in the 30-lap Super Late Model feature event atop the 1/3-mile FK Rod Ends Arizona Speedway.

Marlar wired the field to capture the \$5,000 bag o' loot after finishing no lower than fourth in the opening three legs of the six race mini-series.

"We were close there all week long," Marlar commented in victory lane. "Little things were keeping us out."

While Marlar became the third different winner in four Super Late Model events, Blake Jegtvig became the fourth different winner in as many Modified main events while Cole Searing posted his second X Modified win of the week.

After establishing the fastest overall time in group qualifying and then winning his heat race, Shaw gunned into the lead at the outset of the 30-lap Black Diamond/Club 29 Super Late Models presented by M&W Transportation feature and led all the way en route to



**Ricky Weiss celebrates in victory lane after winning the fifth round of the Wild West Shootout at Arizona Speedway. (WWSO photo)**

Hoker Trucking Victory Lane for his first career Wild West Shootout triumph.

Marlar kept opening round winner Ricky Weiss at bay over the final half of the race to secure the win by 0.638-seconds. "I got by a few little tight spots with some lapped cars, but got through 'em good."

Weiss settled for runner-up honors with defending Wild West Shootout champ Bobby Pierce rounding out the podium in third after holding down second until the 18th lap. Chris Simpson and Earl Pearson, Jr., rounded out the top five.

After a 12th-place finish, two-time winner Don Shaw still has a shot at an extra \$25,000 from the Keyser Manufacturing Quarter-Million Bonus if he can top the final two rounds. Marlar and Weiss have a shot at a \$10,000 bonus if either can win the final two events.

Blake Jegtvig made it four different winners in as many rounds of MVT/Border International USRA Modified presented by Arizona Differential action by parking it in

Hoker Trucking Victory Lane after 25 laps of action.

Jegtvig took the win from the third starting position with 11th-starter Stormy Scott, current Wild West Shootout points leader Johnny Scott, pole starter Jake O'Neil and Tyler Peterson rounding out the top five.

Cole Searing became the first repeat winner in RHRSwag.com X-Mods presented by Barnett Harley-Davidson competition by taking the checkered flag in the 20-lap feature event.

Searing beat Round Three winner Jason VandeKamp to the line with Eric Hauglane, Lucas Rodin and Josh Cain rounding out the top five.

### **Shaw Scores Again in Wild West Shootout Along with Schott and VandeKamp**

SAN TAN VALLEY, - Don Shaw made it two Keyser Manufacturing Wild West Shootout presented O'Reilly Auto Parts wins in a row by racing to victory lane in Wednesday night's 30-lap Super Late Model feature atop the 1/3-mile FK Rod Ends Arizona Speedway.

With his second win in a row, the Ham Lake, Minnesota racer still has a shot at a \$100,000 Keyser Manufacturing bonus if he can run the table over the final three rounds this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"Let's take this one step at a time," Shaw said after his second \$5,000 triumph of the six-race mini-series.

While Shaw earned Super Late Model honors, Lucas Schott and Jason VandeKamp both made their first Wild West Shootout visit of the year to Hoker Trucking Victory Lane in Modified and X Modified action, respectively.

**(Continued Next Page)**



**Mike Marlar raced his way to his first Wild West Shootout win during round four action. (WWSO photo)**

**Continued...**

Shaw gridded the 30-lap Black Diamond/Club 29 Super Late Models presented by M&W Transportation feature in the fourth position and took command when race leader Cade Dillard tangled in traffic after eleven laps.

Shawn paced the field the final 19 circuits and took the checkered flag 0.457-seconds ahead of reigning Wild West Shootout champ Bobby Pierce even as his engine lost power at the line.

Pierce settled for runner-up honors, commenting that, "We've got three more nights to go and I think we're getting better and better figuring out this car more."

Brandon Sheppard advanced ten positions to round out the podium in third with Mike Marlar maintaining his series points lead with a fourth-place run. Chase Junghans rounded out the top five.

Starting from the front row outside, Lucas Schott became the third different winner in as many rounds of MVT/Border International USRA Modified presented by Arizona Differential action by winning the 25-lap feature.

Schott raced to the stripe ahead of Shane Sabraski and Jason Krohn. Opening round winner Ricky Thornton, Jr., rallied from 19th to capture fourth while Johnny Scott charged from 21st to round out the top five.

After falling just a lap shy of winning the second round of RHR-Swag.com X-Mods presented by Barnett Harley-Davidson competition on Sunday night, Jason VandeKamp rebounded by winning Wednesday night's 20-lap event.

VandeKamp raced from the front row to score the win ahead of Round Two winner Cole Searing with Steve Muilenberg, 14th-starter Dewayne Tesch and Lucas Rodin among the top five.

## **Shaw Shines in Wild West Shootout Round Two**

**SAN TAN VALLEY, A -** Don Shaw emerged atop an eventful 40-lap Super Late Model feature to take the \$5,000 winner's share in Sunday's headliner that capped the second round of 12th Annual Keyser Manufacturing Wild West

Shootout presented by O'Reilly Auto Part action atop the 1/3-mile FK Rod Ends Arizona Speedway.

Following some early drama in the battle for the point between 2017 Wild West Shootout champ Bobby Pierce and Round One winner Ricky Weiss, Shaw battled past Pierce in the closing circuits to take the Black Diamond/Club 29 Super Late Models presented by M&W Transportation triumph from the 13th starting position.

"We did some wholesale changes on the car, I think it worked," Shaw quipped in Hoker Trucking Victory Lane.

While Shaw enjoyed Super Late Model victory lane, Johnny Scott wired the field in USRA Modified action and Cole Searing cashed in on Jason VandeKamp's last lap misfortune to take X-Modified honors as 141 cars filled the pit area in the second night of six rounds of competition over a span of nine nights.

With Shaw mired seven rows deep in the Black Diamond/Club 29 Super Late Models presented by M&W Transportation feature, reigning Wild West Shootout champ Bobby Pierce gunned into the lead at the outset from the pole starting position after a quick engine change following heat race action.

As Pierce established early command, Saturday night winner Weiss rallied from seventh into second on the opening circuit and soon moved in to challenge Pierce for the lead. Weiss slid into the lead on the 11th round, only to have Pierce recapture the point two laps later after trading several sliders along the way.

Weiss kept the heat on and surged ahead at the stripe upon the completion of the 23rd round after Pierce bobbed on the turn four cushion. But, contact near the end of the frontstretch sent Weiss skidding off the track at the turn one exit, ending his hopes at the Keyser Manufacturing \$250,000 bonus for a sweep of the six races.

With 18 laps remaining, Pierce took off with Mike Marlar in tow as Shaw made his way into third by the time a caution flew with just ten laps remaining. Shaw took advantage of Marlar on the restart to capture second and then slipped under Pierce for the lead in turns one and two on the 37th round en route to Hoker Trucking Victory Lane.

Pierce chased the reigning WIS-SOTA Late Model champ to the line with Marlar settling for third for the second night in a row.

Ryan Gustin was fourth with Brandon Sheppard rounding out

the top five.

While the \$250,000 bonus is out of the picture, either Weiss or Shaw could still pocket a \$100,000 bonus courtesy of Keyser Manufacturing by running the table over the remaining four rounds to make it five wins in six events. Four wins in the six race mini-series would be worth a \$25,000 bonus with \$10,000 for any driver that takes three wins.

Johnny Scott was the class of the MVT/Border International USRA Modified presented by Arizona Differential field, gunning into the lead at the outset and maintaining solid command throughout the 25-lapper.

In Scott's wake, Shane Sabraski outlasted Jason Krohn for runner-up honors with rim-riding Jake O'Neil and Matt Leer rounding out the top five.

Persistence paid off for Huron, Cole Searing as he battled past Dewayne Tesch in the final corner of the 25-lap RHR-Swag.com X-Mods presented by Barnett Harley-Davidson feature after race-long leader Jason VandeKamp lost power on the final circuit.

While Searing worked forward from the sixth starting position, VandeKamp distanced himself from the field following the race's final caution period. VandeKamp held a near half-lap lead as the white flag flew, only to suffer drive-line failure in turn two on the final circuit.

As VandeKamp coasted sans power down the backstretch, Tesch and Searing closed in and raced by in turn three with Searing edging ahead exiting turn four to take the win by less than a car-length.

Saturday night winner Scott Bintz, Josh Cain and Miah Christensen rounded out the top five behind Searing and Tesch.

## **Weiss Wins Wild West Shootout Opener**

**SAN TAN VALLEY, A -** Canada's Ricky Weiss cashed in on the opening leg of the 12th Annual Keyser Manufacturing Wild West Shootout presented by O'Reilly Auto Part by racing to a \$5,000 Super Late Model victory in Saturday night's headliner atop the 1/3-mile FK Rod Ends Arizona Speedway.

After surrendering the point prior to midway to Chris Simpson, the Manitoba racer rallied back by on the high side in the closing rounds to top the initial round of Black Diamond/Club 29 Super Late Models presented by M&W Transportation competition.

"This is a great field, it's the best of the best and feels good to be here," Weiss said in Hoker Trucking Victory Lane.

While Weiss enjoyed Super Late Model victory lane, Ricky Thornton, Jr., and Scott Bintz visited Hoker Trucking Victory Lane in Wild West Shootout action as well by besting the USRA Modifieds and X-Modifieds, respectively, as a total of 139 cars filled the pit area for the first of six rounds of competition over the next eight days.

In the Black Diamond/Club 29 Super Late Models presented by M&W Transport feature, Weiss lead the initial 17 circuits before Simpson slipped by on the low side exiting turn two on the 18th round.

But, as Simpson approached lapped traffic in the latter stages, Weiss spied an opportunity to pounce back on the lead.

Weiss raced back around Simpson on the high side to take command on the 34th round, putting himself in line for a potential Keyser Manufacturing \$250,000 bonus for the driver that can top all six rounds.

Simpson settled for runner-up honors, commenting that, "It sucks leading that many laps and losing like that, but all in all it was a good night."

Mike Marlar filled out the podium in third with Brandon Sheppard and Garrett Alberson rounding out the top five.

Ricky Thornton, Jr., picked right up where he left off last year, racing to victory lane in the 25-lap MVT/Border International USRA Modified presented by Arizona Differential feature event after topping last year's Wild West Shootout points.

After three aborted starts, fourth-starter Thornton, Jr., split the front row of Josh Angst and Matt Leer at the outset en route to a wire-to-wire triumph in the non-stop affair.

It worked out well for Thornton, Jr., as he cruised out front the entire distance with Lucas Schott taking runner-up honors ahead of Stormy Scott, who rallied from 12th to the show position in the early rounds. Angst and Justin Kay rounded out the top five.

In RHR-Swag.com X-Mods presented by Barnett Harley-Davidson action Scott Bintz found his way back into victory lane by wiring the field from the pole position in the 20-lapper.

Bintz left little doubt about this one, leading the duration to the stripe ahead of Cole Searing, Lucas Roden, Stephen Muilenberg and Shawn Fernkes.



## Daytona Int'l Speedway

D A Y T O N A  
BEACH, FL - Superstar vocal group Rascal Flatts will perform the pre-race show at the 60th annual DAYTONA 500 on Sunday, Feb. 18 (FOX, FOX Deportes, MRN Radio and SiriusXM Radio), the opening race of the 2018 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series season.

Rascal Flatts recently released their 10th studio album (Big

Machine Records), as well as back-to-back chart topping singles "Yours If You Want It" and "I Like The Sound Of That." Known as one of the hottest-selling touring acts in any genre with over 10 million tickets sold and as the best-selling country vocal group of the past decade, Rascal Flatts has sold over 23.4 million albums, over 34.3 million digital downloads worldwide, as well as earning over 40 trophies from the ACA, ACM, AMA, CMA, People's Choice and more, also making them the most awarded country group of the past decade.

"Rascal Flatts has been around for nearly two decades, establishing itself as one of America's most popular musical acts – in any genre," said Daytona International Speedway President Chip Wile. "We are proud to have this outstanding trio on hand for our milestone 60th annual DAYTONA 500. We will have a great concert to precede "The Great American Race," producing an extraordinary entertainment doubleheader for our fans."

All race fans who purchase a UNOH Fanzone/Pre-Race pass for the DAYTONA 500 will be able to view Rascal Flatts' DAYTONA 500 Pre-Race Show – as well as driver introductions – from the grass trioval area. A limited number of DAYTONA 500 Pre-Race Show ticket packages, available starting at \$240, have been designed around Rascal Flatts' appearance. The package includes a DAYTONA 500 ticket, UNOH Fanzone/Pre-Race access and VIP area access to the performance. Race fans who have already purchased DAYTONA 500 tickets can add UNOH Fanzone/Pre-Race access and VIP area access for \$115. All VIP ticket packages are on sale now.

Those wishing to attend the 60th annual DAYTONA 500 Monster En-

ergy NASCAR Cup Series race will need to act quickly. Fans should also note:

- Tickets can be purchased by calling 1-800-PITSHOP or visiting [www.DAYTONA500.com](http://www.DAYTONA500.com).
- Hospitality and premium seat packages, including the Trioval Club, the Rolex 24 Lounge, Harley J's and UNOH Fanzone/Pre-Race are also available.
- For all other Speedweeks events, children 12 and under are \$10 in reserved grandstands and free in general admission areas and in the UNOH Fanzone.
- Fans can also visit PrimeSport.com, the new official ticket exchange and travel package provider of Daytona International Speedway. Offering multiple options for tickets, lodging and hospitality, <https://www.primesport.com/d/daytona-500-tickets> is ideal for fans looking for the ultimate racing experience.

## Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - Darlington Raceway will celebrate Daytona Day and the start of the 2018 NASCAR season by hosting its seventh annual Daytona 500 Community Watch Party on Sunday, Feb. 18.

The event will start at 1:30 p.m. and continue until the conclusion of the Daytona 500. The party will be hosted at Mellow Mushroom, 120 Dunbarton Dr., in Florence, S.C.

The Community Watch Party will feature a food and drink special courtesy of Mellow Mushroom. Fans who attend will have the chance to win tickets, pit passes and pre-race ceremony wristbands, along with other prizes and giveaways to the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500 on Labor Day weekend.

Coca-Cola and Crown Beverages are proud partners of the community watch party. Coca-Cola will be providing a racing simulator and other activities, plus have a sampling station on site, for guests that attend.

"Now in our seventh year, our community watch party is a great way for us to engage with our local race fans and celebrate Daytona Day and the start of the 2018 NASCAR season," track President Kerry Tharp said. "We're excited that the event will once again be held at Mellow Mushroom, which is a great venue to watch The Great American Race on February 18."

Additionally, with the Daytona 500 quickly approaching, Darlington Raceway will be a presenting

sponsor of live coverage from Daytona Speedweeks. Local media partners WMBF NBC and WWFN 100.1 FM 'The Fan' will broadcast live from Daytona International Speedway beginning on Feb. 15 through the Daytona 500 on Feb. 18.

Darlington's local MRN affiliate, WEGX Eagle 92.9 FM (iHeart Media Florence), will also be doing live reports for the World Center of Racing. The Daytona 500 can be heard live on Eagle 92.9 FM (MRN) beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 18.

Darlington Raceway's award-winning throwback campaign is The Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR featuring the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500® on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018. The NASCAR XFINITY Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 will race on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018. Deposits can be made 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](http://Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway) and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TooToughToTame](http://Twitter.com/TooToughToTame). Fans are encouraged to post their Bojangles' Southern 500 stories and memories at #TraditionContinues, #BojanglesSo500 and #SportClips200.

## Daytona Int'l Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Academy Award, Golden Globe, SAG winning and Emmy nominated actress Charlize Theron has been named the Honorary Starter for the historic 60th annual DAYTONA 500 on Feb. 18 at Daytona International Speedway. Theron will wave the green flag for the DAYTONA 500, the season-opening race (TV – FOX, FOX Deportes; Radio – MRN, Sirius XM) for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series.

Theron stars in and produces the upcoming Amazon Studios film "Gringo," under her production company Denver and Delilah's banner. The film will be released in theaters nationwide on March 9. "Gringo", a dark comedy mixed with white knuckle action and dramatic intrigue, explores the battle of survival for businessman Harold Soyinka when he finds himself crossing the line from law abiding citizen to wanted criminal. The film also stars David Oyelowo, Joel Edgerton, Amanda Seyfried, Yul Vazquez, Thandie Newton and Sharlot Copley.

Theron won both an Oscar and Golden Globe for Best Actress in 2003 for her stunning portrayal of serial killer Aileen Wournos in "Monster." She has also starred in such notable films as "The Cider House Rules" (1999); "The Italian Job" (2003); and "North Country" (2005), which resulted in Golden Globe and Oscar nominations. She has most recently been seen in box office hits such as "Atomic Blonde", "The Fate of the Furious" and "Mad Max: Fury Road" as well as a producer on the Netflix original series "Mindhunter".

Recent DAYTONA 500 Honorary Starters include Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee LaDainian Tomlinson; actors Gary Sinise, Angie Harmon, Ashton Kutcher and Whoopi Goldberg; and Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Ken Griffey Jr.

"Charlize Theron is the latest in a long line of accomplished entertainers, athletes, U.S. military members and others to serve as the Honorary Starter for the DAYTONA 500," said Daytona International Speedway President Chip Wile. "We are thrilled to have her as our guest at "The Great American Race" and we are certain race fans will feel the same way."

## Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - Texas Motor Speedway is planning on its "World's Largest" Daytona 500 Watching Party getting even bigger this year.

Last year's highly successful event attracted in excess of 300 RVs and more than 3,000 campers and tailgaters to the Texas Motor Speedway infield for NASCAR's opening race weekend at Daytona International Speedway. The race was shown live on the world's largest TV known as "Big Hoss."

Given favorable weather, Texas Motor Speedway will look to top those numbers when the infield is opened Feb. 17-18 as fans will be allowed to camp or tailgate for free and enjoy the racing action from

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Daytona Beach, Fla., on the mammoth 12-story tall, high-definition TV located on the backstretch.

The two-day public event begins when the gates to the South Tunnel open Saturday, Feb. 17, at 8 a.m. CT for those looking to camp overnight. It will also be open to for those tailgaters interested in

The 2017 Daytona 500 Watching Party brought more than 3,000 campers and tailgaters to TMS.

Watching the season-opening XFINITY Series Powershares QQQ 300 race from Daytona, beginning at 1:30 p.m. CT (TV: FOX Sports 1). The weekend culminates with the 60th running of the Daytona 500 on Sunday, Feb. 18, beginning at 1:30 p.m. (TV: FOX).

In addition to the racing action and pre-race shows on "Big Hoss," there will be plenty of additional entertainment throughout the weekend. There will be free Chevrolet Camaro pace car rides on track; a cornhole tournament; campsite and tailgate area decoration competition; promotions and live remotes from 95.9 The Ranch and Hank FM; and the NASCAR-themed "Talladega Nights" for the Saturday night movie entertainment on "Big Hoss", beginning at 7 p.m.

O'Reilly Auto Parts will provide gift cards to the top-three finishers in the cornhole tourney as well as gift cards and trophies to the best decorated campsite and tailgate areas. O'Reilly Auto Parts also will provide tailgate goodie bags to the first 500 attending the weekend event.

Fans can even ensure they have the best seat and camping spot available in 2018 as speedway ticket representatives will be on hand to provide interested fans a guided tour and allow them to make their seat or camping selection in person.

Fans are permitted to bring their own food and beverage to the infield.

Those interested in camping or tailgating must RSVP at [www.texasmotorspeedway.com/DaytonaRSVP](http://www.texasmotorspeedway.com/DaytonaRSVP) before Sunday, Feb. 11. Spots for the watching party are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For a complete Daytona 500 Watching Party schedule, visit

[www.texasmotorspeedway.com](http://www.texasmotorspeedway.com) or download Texas Motor Speedway's free mobile app.

### ***Daytona Int'l Speedway***

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - "The Great American Race" will have an all-American flavor this year when the National Anthem is played by Navy Band Southeast prior to the 60th annual DAYTONA 500 on Feb. 18 at Daytona International Speedway.

The DAYTONA 500 is the season-opening race (TV – FOX, FOX Deportes; Radio – MRN, Sirius XM) for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series and will mark Navy Band Southeast's third appearance at the "World Center of Racing." The popular group previously played the National Anthem prior to the Coca-Cola 400 in 2015 and 2017.

Navy Band Southeast was established in 1995 and is one of 11 official United States Navy bands. Proudly representing the Commander, Navy Region Southeast, the band consists of trained professional musicians dedicated to the highest levels of musical performance. Inspiring pride and patriotism through music, the band performs more than 350 engagements annually throughout the Southeast.

"Navy Band Southeast is a perfect fit for our events at Daytona International Speedway," said speedway President Chip Wile. "Their involvement in our pre-race activities continues a longstanding DIS tradition of involving the military and more importantly, respecting and honoring our troops. Navy Band Southeast delivers the Star-Spangled-Banner in a stirring, traditional fashion that always resonates with NASCAR fans who are either in attendance or watching on television."

Tickets for the 60th annual DAYTONA 500 and other Speedweeks events can be purchased online at [www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com](http://www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com) or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP. Fans can stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and Snapchat, and by downloading Daytona International Speedway's mobile app, for the latest Speedway news throughout the season.

### ***Michigan International***

BROOKLYN, MI - Michigan International Speedway is marking its 50th anniversary in 2018 with a season-long celebration.

Lawrence H. LoPatin's vision of

building a speedway in Michigan became reality on September 27, 1967 when he broke ground on Michigan International Speedway in Cambridge Township just south of Brooklyn. The Detroit-area land developer designed the facility along with City Engineer Charles Moneypenny, who designed Daytona International Speedway. The inaugural race was a 250-mile open wheel event won by Ronnie Bucknum on Oct. 13, 1968.

"The track has a long history and we are planning a season-long celebration to commemorate all the historic moments and great drivers," track President Rick Brenner said. "Fans will want to stay tuned as we continue to rollout different highlights to showcase the history of our sport and the automobile in Michigan."

Some ways fans can currently enjoy the memories include:

- Website – The track will post videos and photos that celebrate the history of the two-mile speedway at [www.mispeedway.com/50years](http://www.mispeedway.com/50years). In addition, fans can follow along with a special timeline chronicling the key historical events.

- Car and Memorabilia Display – The track will create a special car and memorabilia display that features the history of racing at MIS for fans to enjoy both race weekends in the New Holland Fan Plaza.

- Iconic Drivers and Moments – Throughout the season the track will feature all the great drivers and moments on its social media channels and website.

- Pace Car – As part of the celebration, the track is incorporating fan photos on the promo pace car in 2018. Fans can submit their favorite photo to [contact@mispeedway.com](mailto:contact@mispeedway.com) during the submission period until Feb. 23, 2018.

The track has created a special 50th anniversary logo for 2018 that will be utilized throughout the facility and on promotional items. The gold M in the middle harkens back to the original logo. The color has been changed to gold from green to represent 50 years. The trees and the sun at the bottom tie in the current logo. The circle incorporates the design of the inaugural logo.

NASCAR returns to Michigan International Speedway twice in 2018 and you can be part of the action. The Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series FireKeepers Casino 400 weekend is June 8-10. On Aug. 10-12 the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series will return to NASCAR's fastest track.

Tickets to the two NASCAR weekends go on sale to the public on February 8. And fans will want to get their tickets fast to save up to \$50 per grandstand ticket and up to \$30 per campsite.

Children 12 and under are free on Fridays and Saturdays. On Sundays, children 12 and under tickets start at \$15. Children 12 and under can attend three days of NASCAR action for just \$15, ensuring families a weekend of fun at affordable prices.

And fans can stay after the LTi Printing 250 in June for the free Saturday post-race concert featuring 38 Special. After the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race in August, The Cadillac Three will headline the free concert. All fans with a Sunday admission will gain access to the concert! The concert will take place behind Turn 3.

Nestled in the lush Irish Hills of Southeastern Michigan, Michigan International Speedway is NASCAR's fastest racetrack. It has been the love of NASCAR racing and the thrill of a great time for race fans and drivers alike for 50 years.

### ***Daytona Int'l Speedway***

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Organizers today announced that super duo Sugarland has been added to the third edition of Country 500 – The Great American Music Fest at Daytona – set for May 25, 26, & 27, 2018 at Daytona International Speedway. Sugarland has sold nearly 10 million albums domestically and has seven #1 singles to their credit and is reuniting after a seven-year hiatus. Sugarland joins previously announced artists Toby Keith, Chris Stapleton, Dierks Bentley, Billy Currington, Tyler Farr, Randy Houser and many more at the upcoming Country 500 Music Festival. Other artists added to the Country 500 lineup include Brandy Clark and Clare Bowen.

Three-day weekend passes, VIP packages, camping and travel packages are on sale now through [Country500.com](http://Country500.com). Fans should plan to take advantage of the special early-bird pricing (\$185) for 3-day weekend general admission passes available now through January 23.

Already a Memorial Day tradition, Country 500 draws over 75,000 fans from across the world to Daytona International Speedway, the "World Center of Racing," for an unforgettable weekend of music, camping, and summertime fun at one of America's most iconic sports destinations.

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Country 500 Music Festival features the biggest names in country music performing on two stages and offers festival-goers the chance to camp inside the infield of the famed speedway for the three-day celebration. Festival-goers will be able to get up close and personal with some of their favorite country stars at artist meet-and-greets.

Numerous additional features—such as a wide variety of food and beverage options, outdoor games, the iconic Ferris wheel, and much more—will contribute to the all-around atmosphere of Country 500.

Fans should stay connected with Country 500 on Facebook, at [Country500.com](http://Country500.com) and #Country500 on Twitter to get the latest information on the event as it becomes available.

### Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - Atlanta Motor Speedway will add a new multi-purpose bar and hospitality area within its grandstand seating area that will be utilized for events at the track year-round. It will offer an all-new and enhanced fan experience, while providing a highly social and engaging atmosphere during events at the historic racing and entertainment venue located just 25 miles south of downtown Atlanta.

Located 20 rows up from the track surface in the Earnhardt Grandstand, the "Restart Bar" derives its name from its location overlooking the NASCAR restart zone on the track's frontstretch.

Complete with high-end amenities including a bar, high-top tables, front-row seating overlooking the track, space for games and activities, and both open-air and indoor quiet areas, the Restart Bar will have the flexibility to accommodate up to 300 guests per event.

The Restart Bar will be completed in time for next month's Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 NASCAR weekend and will deliver not only a more interactive space during all track events, but a whole new take on event entertainment as the facility continues to explore ways to better serve the needs of its patrons.

"Our goal at Atlanta Motor Speedway is to provide a winning

experience to every customer, every time," said AMS president Ed Clark. "The Restart Bar provides a thrilling new option for our patrons to make their attendance at Speedway events extremely memorable."

NASCAR racing returns to Atlanta Motor Speedway Feb. 23-25, 2018, featuring the Rinnai 250 XFINITY Series and Active Pest Control 200 Benefiting Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Camping World Truck Series doubleheader on Saturday, Feb. 24 and the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, Feb. 25.

For more information or purchase tickets today, call the AMS ticket office at (770) 946-4211, (877) 9-AMS-TIX or visit [www.atlantamotorspeedway.com](http://www.atlantamotorspeedway.com).

### Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Playoff drama will be at an all-time high this fall at Charlotte Motor Speedway. On Monday, speedway officials revealed the finalized, revolutionary Roval layout ahead of the historic Bank of America 500 race weekend Sept. 28-30. The first road course race in the history of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs will see drivers attempt to tackle a 17-turn, 2.28-mile road course that features a faster infield portion and additional passing opportunities.

The removal of two of the final three infield turns before returning to the iconic oval for the NASCAR course layout promises to give drivers more speed, quicker lap times and more chances to race their way to the front – and into the record books.

A remarkable, 35-foot elevation change between Roval Turn 4 – the track's lowest point – and Roval Turn 9, its highest, means that the winner will literally face highs and lows before basking in the glow of victory.

"With these updates, the Roval is sure to provide the best show for the fans and the most challenging road course race for drivers," said Marcus Smith, the President and CEO of Speedway Motorsports, Inc.

**TICKETS:** To purchase tickets fans can call the ticket office at 1-800-455-FANS (3267) or shop online at [www.charlottemotorspeedway.com](http://www.charlottemotorspeedway.com).

### Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - In year four of its award-winning throwback platform, Darlington Raceway will be celebrating "Seven Decades of

NASCAR" for its 2018 campaign.

The Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR will be celebrated during the track's Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500® and NASCAR XFINITY Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 weekend on Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

December 14, marks NASCAR's 70th birthday, as the first meeting at the Streamline Hotel in Daytona Beach, Fla., took place on this day in 1947, a meeting that eventually led to the official formation of NASCAR on Feb. 21, 1948.

Throwback weekend will honor specific moments in each decade of the sport's storied history, many of which occurred at Darlington Raceway. Recognizing many special iconic memories in NASCAR over the past 70 years will give industry stakeholders and fans an opportunity to honor the sport in a variety of different ways.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Darlington Raceway and the NASCAR industry to celebrate the sport over a seven decade period during our 2018 throwback weekend," Darlington Raceway President Kerry Tharp said. "We have been era specific the past three years, so we felt it was important to recognize the 70th anniversary of NASCAR with our 'Seven Decades of NASCAR' celebration next season and give the teams, sanctioning body and others a wider brush to paint a picture capturing memorable moments we might not have celebrated in year's past."

In tribute to the 70-year history of NASCAR, Darlington Raceway will focus on iconic occasions that occurred in the sport, many of which took place at the track Too Tough To Tame, including Ned Jarrett's record-setting 14-lap victory in the 1965 Bojangles' Southern 500, Ricky Craven's record-setting photo finish over Kurt Busch in 2003, and Jimmie Johnson's 2012 Bojangles' Southern 500 win, which gave team owner Rick Hendrick his 200th career victory, among others.

For the fourth straight year, Darlington Raceway is also excited to announce it will once again highlight its rich history with a commemorative ticket design for the Bojangles' Southern 500 linking the past, present and future.

"We have produced commemorative tickets for our fans every year of the throwback program, which is an important part of our platform," said Tharp. "We appreciate how much the fans have supported Dar-

lington Raceway and want them to walk away from our weekend with a special keepsake that recognizes our rich history and honors the stars of our sport."

Just in time for the holidays, Darlington Raceway has also started the ticket renewal process with fans receiving an e-mail communication to renew their tickets and campsites early with the ability to print a gift letter when they renew.

Paper ticket renewals will be mailed in early February, but fans may log in to their accounts now to receive exclusive renewal benefits. Renewing tickets early guarantees seats at the track's best value prior to the opening of all remaining seats to the general public on March 28.

Renewing fans receive many great benefits for being a loyal customer for Labor Day weekend.

Renewal benefits include:

- The track's best value of the season for the Bojangles' Southern 500® and Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200
- Convenient four-part payment plan
- One free admission to the Darlington Raceway Museum (\$7.50 value)
- One free Lionel RCCA (Racing Collectables Club of America) Membership (\$19.95 value)
- First 1,000 accounts renewed receive a 1/64th scale Darlington diecast (\$8.99 value)
- All renewal accounts are entered into a random drawing for a chance to attend the 4th annual Bojangles' Legends Breakfast on Sunday, September 2, 2018
- Special renewal pricing for Darlington Stripe Zone Hospitality (\$30 savings)
- Special renewal pricing for all-inclusive driver intros, pre-race concert and pre-race pit road access (\$15 savings)
- Special renewal pricing for an exclusive "Untamed Access" race day experience (\$10 savings)
- Special renewal pricing for FanVision rentals (\$20 savings)
- Special renewal pricing for Racing Electronics scanner rental (\$10 savings)
- Fans can create custom "Weekend Ticket Packages" (Practice, NXS & MENCS) that range from only \$55-\$124 per Adult and \$20-\$64 per Youth 12 & Under based on grandstand locations
- Guests may renew their tickets and campsites by calling 866-459-RACE (7223) or visiting [www.DarlingtonRaceway.com/renewals](http://www.DarlingtonRaceway.com/renewals). The renewal deadline is Friday, March 9.

## Caraway Speedway

Caraway Speedway is revamping their racing program with an eye toward offering drivers, teams and fans exactly what they've been asking for.

Track promoter Darren Hackett has been working every year since taking the reigns of Caraway Speedway to elevate the tracks racing program. Last year's move to Friday nights helped take the track in a better direction, giving them a night for racing with most other tracks not competing. This season he's making more changes in hopes of raising car count and fan attendance.

This season among the changes is a move to make the Limited Late Models the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Division I and moving the Late Model Stock Cars to a part-time schedule. That schedule will give Late Model Stock Car teams a chance to still compete but in bigger, higher profile and better-paying races.

"The Late Models have got so expensive to run that most of the teams are chasing money these days," said Hackett. "We have to adapt to what they're doing and you can't blame them for wanting to run in higher-paying races with what it cost them to race today. We're hoping our three race schedule will give them the incentive to come run with us on three dates that not many other tracks are racing and a chance to win some big money."

The three races will take place on Sunday March 4th, Saturday July 7th and Saturday October 27th. The first two events will be 99-lap races with a base payout of \$3,000 to win with the finale having a base payout of \$5,000. Additional money can be won through a "Gambler's Challenge" which will allow teams to pay a slightly higher entry fee and win nearly twice as much money or more.

"The Gambler's Challenge brings a whole new element to these races. Regular entry fee for the first two events will be \$125 for \$3,000 to win but they can gamble on themselves and for a \$250 entry fee they can win \$5,000. At the Mid-Atlantic Shootout, it'll be \$5,000 or \$10,000 depending on the entry fee. It's our way of letting the racers decide what they want to pay for an entry and what they

hope to win at the end of the night."

The format for the "Gambler's Challenge" is similar to what was used at last years Thanksgiving Classic event at Southern National Motorsports Park with great success and high marks from the regions racers.

Additionally, Late Model Stock Cars will follow the 2018 CARS Tour rulebook instead of the NASCAR Late Model rulebook. A change that Hackett hopes will lure some of the touring drivers to come race with him since he's not up against any CARS Tour dates.

"Going with the CARS Tour rulebook is going to help us," commented Hackett. "I've talked to a bunch of racers who just plan to run CARS this season and with us running the same rules, they say they'll come and run with us. It won't take much changing for a guy running at a track by NASCAR rules to compete with us."

The first of the three big Late Model Stock Car races will be a part of the season-opening event at Caraway. Sunday March 4th kicks off another season of racing and with the changes made and money available it should be one of the races to put on your bucket list this season.

For more information on Caraway Speedway, visit their newly redesigned website at [www.CarawaySpeedway.com](http://www.CarawaySpeedway.com) or visit them on Facebook at @caraway.speedway. You can also call the track office at 336.629.5803.

## Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - Setting the stage for a stellar 2018 racing season, Dodge City Raceway Park competitors and fans celebrated the recently-completed 2017 season with Saturday night's annual Awards Banquet.

More than 200 attendees took in Saturday night's festivities at the Western State Bank Expo adjacent to the 3/8-mile DCRP clay oval with the top contenders in each of the track's five championship chase divisions recognized during the evening.

Taking top accolades in each division were Taylor Velasquez in Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars, Clay Sellard in IMCA Modifieds, Jeff Kaup in IMCA Sport Modifieds, Angel Munoz in IMCA Stock Cars and Reagan Sellard in IMCA Hobby Stocks.

"People like to think this stuff is easy, but it's not. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment," Velasquez of Turpin, OK, said after collecting championship honors for



**Dodge City Raceway Park celebrates all of their champions at the end of the year banquet. (DCRP photo)**

the second year in a row. "I've been in a racecar since I was eight years old and there's no other place I would rather race, it's a true honor to win a second championship at Dodge City Raceway Park."

While others among the top ten and each champion also picked up their hardware and point fund monies, Stock Car champ Angel Munoz picked up an extra \$100 and the 2017 DCRP Feature Winner board for racking up the most feature wins over the course of the 2016 season. Munoz racked up six wins to top the overall win charts that included 28 different winners in 44 overall championship points chase feature events.

Additionally, each of the top ten in the Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars was awarded an SFI-approved front axle tether that becomes mandatory at the track in 2018 while the top five in each of the IMCA-sanctioned classes (Modifieds, Sport Modifieds, Stock Cars and Hobby Stocks) received a complimentary IMCA license for the 2018 season.

Check <http://www.dodgecityraceway.com/media/photos/2017-dcrp-awards-banquet-january-27-2018/> for images from the 2017 DCRP Awards Banquet.

With the 2017 Awards Banquet completed, attention turns to the 2018 season that begins in a few short weeks with opening night set for Saturday, March 31, after an open practice session one week earlier on March 24.

The 2018 season at Dodge City Raceway Park is loaded with a number of big events including the return of the World of Outlaws Sprint Car series "Boot Hill Showdown" that wraps up the DCRP season on October 20, the DCRP

Sprint Car Nationals on June 15-16, the inaugural USMTS event at DCRP on June 8, the Sixth Annual Modified Stampede on April 21, the Fifth Annual Sport Modified Mayhem on August 18, the popular Driver's Appreciation Night on July 27 and the Sixth Annual Jerry Soderberg Memorial Championship event on September 15 along with the introduction of a Coaches Race on August 25 and an Enduro event on September 22.

The complete 2018 schedule of events at Dodge City Raceway Park is available at <http://www.dodgecityraceway.com/schedule/>.

Dodge City Raceway Park is located on the south edge of Dodge City, KS, on US 283, then 0.9 miles west on US 56, then 0.1 miles south. For more information, contact the track at 620-225-3277 or check [www.dodgecityraceway.com](http://www.dodgecityraceway.com)

## Irwindale Speedway

IRWINDALE, CA - It's been called "The Fastest Half Mile West of The Mississippi," "House of Drift" and the Irwindale Dragstrip. . For seventeen years racers, drifters, and gear heads alike funneled through the gates to enjoy the roar of the engines and the smell of sweet burning rubber.

Beginning February 1, Tim Huddleston, Agoura Hills based racer and business owner along with Bob Bruncati and Justice Brothers, will commence the start of a new era. This group of race enthusiasts will continue to produce Thursday Night Thunder on the drag strip and Weekly Racing Series events on the Half-Mile Speedway.

"We are excited to keep the amazing events of the past and bring new exciting shows to the

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families and fans that have joined us over the years," Tim Huddleston said. "Jim Cohan and 211 Entertainment were instrumental in this transition and I'm thankful they kept the track running the last five years."

Weekly Racing Series will take the green flag on March 10 with a full season schedule. The full racing schedule is available at [www.irwindalespeedway.com](http://www.irwindalespeedway.com). The facility also remains available for studio and private rental. Additional events will be announced in the coming weeks.

## Rockford Speedway

Officials at Rockford Speedway have unveiled the list of key dates for the upcoming 2018 racing season, the Speedway's 71st season of continuous operations.

The first official gathering of 2018 takes place on Friday night March 9, with Driver Orientation Meetings at the Forest Hills Lodge. There will be a Rookie Orientation at 6 pm, followed by a General Meeting discussing licensing and race procedures at 7 pm. Race teams are able to register their car numbers, purchase R.A.C.E. and NASCAR Memberships, reserve their season pit pads and pick up decal kits for the upcoming year.

On Saturday April 7, the track comes to life for the first time in 2018, with the traditional season-opening 200 lap four-cylinder Enduro which hits the "high banks" at 1 PM that Saturday afternoon.

Sunday April 15 brings the 41st Annual Spring Classic, featuring the Big 8 Late Model Series, the Mid American Stock Car Series and American Super Cup Series. Six days later, on Saturday night April 21, it's the 71st NASCAR Season Opener, beginning the Saturday night slate for 2018. The NASCAR points season runs until September, culminating in "Night of Champions" on Saturday September 8.

Your favorite thrill shows return to Rockford Speedway again this summer, with The Original Trailer Race of Destruction scheduled for Saturday night June 9, while the World Famous Figure 8 Trailer Race hits the track on Saturday night August 4. The "Beatin' & Bangin' Boat Race" sails onto center stage Saturday August 25, with Miller Lite "Night of Thrills" returning on Saturday night September 15.

The best Late Model racers in America converge on Rockford Speedway Saturday evening June 30 as part of a "Late Model Double Header", with the running of the Kar Korner All Star 100 for the ARCA Midwest Tour and the Stanley Steemer NASCAR Late Model 'Star Spangled 76.' Midweek racing returns to Rockford Speedway again this year, with Wednesday night racing beginning June 13 and continuing until August 8. Including in that nine-week run of Wednesday racing is a special July 4 'Fireworks Extravaganza' on Independence Day.

The 53rd installment of the National Short

Track Championships is set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday September 28, 29 and 30. Make plans now to attend 'One Great Racing Weekend!'

The 27th running of the Bahama Bracket Nationals, featuring nearly 200 cars racing against each other and the clock, hits the track Saturday and Sunday October 13 and 14.

The 2018 season then comes to an end with the 38th Goblin 250 Sunday afternoon October 21.

Makes plans now to be part of Rockford Speedway's 71st season of racing and entertainment this summer!

## Selinsgrove Speedway

SELNSGROVE, PA - Selinsgrove Speedway officials released an action-packed 25-race schedule today that is highlighted by a number of high-profile motorsports events during the 2018 racing season.

All the excitement and anticipation surrounding the upcoming season is being amplified by the speedway's biggest change in its 72-year history with the pit area being moved outside the half-mile oval to provide fans with a wide-open view of the wheel-to-wheel racing action on the track!

For most Saturday night shows, the Mach 1 Chassis 360 sprint cars, Jeff's Auto Body & Recycling Center super late models, A&A Auto Stores pro stocks and Collier Paving/A&A Auto Stores roadrunners will make up the weekly fanfare.

Throughout the season, the speedway's regular divisions, visiting divisions, and sanctioning groups will be showcased in special events as part of the track's 56th consecutive season of auto racing.

The green flag will wave on the season opener at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 7, for the 360 sprint cars, super late models, and pro stocks. Grandstand gates on Opening Day will open at 4 p.m. with pit gates at 3 p.m. Race time will be 6 p.m.

Officials scheduled a pre-season practice day

for any division of race car that will be competing at the track in 2018 Saturday, March 31, from 1-4 p.m.

One of the many highlights this season will be the much-anticipated May 5 visit by the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series in a two-race Battle of the Groves weekend with Williams Grove Speedway (May 4).

The United Racing Club (URC) and Patriot Sprint Tour (PST) will either sanction or co-sponsor several 360 sprint car events again this year. These races include the May 26 Jack Gunn Memorial (URC), June 2 Kramer Kup (URC), June 16 Joe Whitcomb Memorial (PST), Aug. 4 Mach 1 Chassis National Open (URC), and Sept. 2 Summer Spectacular (URC/PST).

Fans should also mark their calendars for a rare mid-week show featuring Firecracker 30 main events for both the 360 sprint cars and super late models Tuesday, July 3. Pro stocks and a professional fireworks display will also be a part of the holiday celebration.

Selinsgrove and Port Royal Speedways will host the Moon Shine Camo Route 35 Dirt Late Model Series for the third consecutive season. Each track will run three races as part of this year's enhanced series, with Selinsgrove's dates slated for May 19, July 21, and Aug. 11.

The Northeast Ultimate Super Late Model Series will make its first-ever appearance at the track June 9 for the Showdown on Sand Hill. On the same night, the Mason Dixon limited late models will also make their first stop at the track.

The Craftsman World of Outlaws Late Model Series will be back with a new date for the \$10,000-to-win 20th Anniversary Jeff's Auto Body & Recycling Center Late Model National Open Sept. 22.

The popular and competitive pro stocks will have the most events at the track this year with 23 dates including the A&A Auto Stores Pro Stock 20 April 28. The Collier Paving Roadrunner 20 will be run June 23.

The 410 sprint cars will take the spotlight several times this season in the Ray Tilley Classic

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April 22, PA Speedweek Finale July 8, and in the \$10,000-to-win Jim Nace Memorial/36th Annual National Open Sept. 15 sanctioned by the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions.

Limited late models will take to the sweeping half-mile track on at least six race dates this season. The PASS/IMCA 305 sprint cars, Mid-Atlantic modifieds, Penn Mar Vintage Race Car Club, and Eastern Museum of Motor Racing will also have track time in 2018.

The season will conclude with the mega motorsports event The World Series of Dirt Racing featuring no less than 10 different divisions of racing under the promotional reigns of Richie Tobias and Doug Rose Oct. 11-14.

Selinsgrove Raceway Park, the one-fifth mile track located inside of Selinsgrove's half-mile oval, will feature weekly Friday night go kart competition for the 18th consecutive season. The go kart opener is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, March 25.

Various classes of karts will be featured in special Pro Series races during the season and the Burris Money Series (BMS) events have been scheduled for April 8, May 20, and July 15. The annual Middlewarth Potato Chips Firecracker Special for go karts will be held June 29.

The annual Motorsports Show at the Susquehanna Valley Mall is slated for Sunday, Feb. 25 through Friday, March 2. Teams can register their race cars for the show now by emailing [publicrelations@selinsgrovespeedway.com](mailto:publicrelations@selinsgrovespeedway.com) or calling 570.523.8420.

For the latest news and the full 2018 schedule of events, visit [selinsgrovespeedway.com](http://selinsgrovespeedway.com) or follow us on Twitter and Facebook. The speedway office can also be reached at 570.374.2266.

## Southern National Motorsports Park

LUCAMA, NC - Southern National Motorsports Park will kick off its 23rd season of racing on Saturday, March 3rd with a \$4,500-to-win Late Model Stock Car race in the Dogwood 265 presented by Solid Rock Carriers.

The Dogwood 265 will utilize the

Racing Roulette format which was implemented for the Thanksgiving Classic. Drivers who pay a \$150 entry fee are eligible to race for the \$4,500-to-win payout. Under the \$150 entry fee, second place will pay out \$1,700 and third will pay \$1,200.

"We want to open up with a big show," Southern National Motorsports Park general manager Charlie Hansen said. "The Dogwood 265 will be a big show with the purse we've put together for the return of the Late Model Stock Car division. \$4,500 to win and \$500 to start should be enough to draw in a lot of the top drivers in the region to compete here on a day that no other track around is running."

Drivers who pay the regular back gate fees are eligible to race for \$3,000-to-win and \$600-to-start.

The March 3rd date will be the first of five dates, and nine races, during the regular season for the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Late Model Stock Car division. The class will run directly out of the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series rulebook and each race will play a pivotal role in the championship battle.

The nine race championship will pay \$3,000 to the eventual champion and drivers who compete in regular season races are eligible for a \$1,000 bonus for each race they run during the regular season if they compete in the Thanksgiving Classic in May.

"Getting open early for our racers was paramount," Hansen remarked. "It gives them a chance to compete here with us before other tracks seasons even get started. We think with our schedule only consisting of five dates and nine races for a \$10,000 points fund that racers have a lot of incentive to come and run at Southern National."

The championship battle could be wide open this year with reigning champion Mason Diaz exiting the racing scene at Southern National Motorsports Park.

"This year's championship is wide open for someone new to get themselves a title or for someone, maybe a veteran to return and get another track championship," Hansen commented. "I'm expecting one of the best championship battles in years with the limited number of races and the money that's being put on the line for the champion."

The Dogwood 265 presented by Solid Rock Carriers will also feature racing for the Charger division, the relaunched Mini-Stock division run-

ning out of the Carolina Mini-Stock Challenge rules and the Bandolero division.

Pit gates open at 8am, practice will start at 10am, qualifying takes place at 12:45pm and the Dogwood 265 presented by Solid Rock Carriers will commence at 2pm. The Late Model Stock Car division will compete for 150 laps.

Tickets will be available at the gate. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, active military and students with ID, \$5 for kids ages 6-12 and kids five and under free.

For more information about Southern National Motorsports Park, check out SNMP's website at [www.snmpark.com](http://www.snmpark.com), "like" Southern National Motorsports Park on Facebook or "follow" @SNM\_Park on Twitter.

## Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - 2018 NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee and vintage racing enthusiast Ray Evernham will serve as Grand Marshal for the 2018 NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler®, scheduled for April 28th and 29th. Known as one of the all-time greatest crew chiefs in NASCAR history, Evernham will be in attendance the entire race weekend and three of his vintage Modifieds will participate in Saturday's Vintage All-Star event.

"When we heard Stafford was hosting a vintage event Spring Sizzler® weekend, we circled the date on our calendar," explained Evernham. "My passion for modifieds runs back to my racing days at Wall Stadium competing against some of the all-time greats. The Spring Sizzler has always been a marquee event for Modified racing and it just made sense to bring out some of our classic mods to turn some laps at Stafford. I'm looking forward to meeting some fans and having a fun weekend at Stafford."

Before transitioning to a crew chief role, Evernham, a New Jersey native, began his racing career running Modifieds at Wall Stadium during a golden age of short track racing. The transition out of the cockpit and into the pit box began when Evernham was hired by International Race of Champions (IROC) as a chassis specialist. His success at IROC landed him a job with Alan Kulwicki in the NASCAR Cup series and eventually with future hall of fame driver Jeff Gordon. Together Ray and Jeff would revolutionize the sport and go on to win 47 cup races and 3 Cup championships together.

"Through the years Ray has always been a great supporter of

Modified racing," explained Stafford Speedway General Manager Mark Arute. "It's an honor to have a NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee serve as Grand Marshal for our biggest race weekend of the year, the NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler®. Ray is also a great historian for the sport through his vintage collection and all of us here are excited to see the vintage cars he brings up for Sizzler weekend."

Evernham intends to bring three fully restored vintage Modifieds to compete in NAPA Spring Sizzler® Saturday's Vintage All-star event.

"We're bringing the #99 car that Geoff Bodine won the Spring Sizzler® with in 1980 along with Richie Evans and Charlie Jarzombek cars," continued Evernham. "I hope the New England race fans enjoy seeing those legendary cars on track. We will run all three cars in Saturday's feature and have them on display at Sunday's Pit Party."

New for 2018, the Vintage All-Star Series will run a 20-lap feature on Saturday, April 28th and will be made up from late 70's and early 80's Modifieds. All three of Evernham's cars will compete in the event. Race fans will have the opportunity to meet Ray and check out his vintage Modifieds at the NAPA Auto Parts Pit Party prior to the Sunday portion of the NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler® on Sunday April 29th.

The 47th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler® is scheduled for April 27-29. Tickets for the "Greatest Race in the History of Spring" are on sale now at the Stafford Speedway Box Office. Tickets are priced at \$40.00 for adult general admission tickets, \$5.00 for children ages 6-14, and children ages 5 and under are admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult. Reserved seating is priced at \$42.00 for all ages. As always, Stafford Motor Speedway offers free parking with overnight parking available. All tickets are good for both Saturday and Sunday admission. All ticket prices include 10% CT Admission Tax. Discount Spring Sizzler® tickets will be available beginning in March at participating NAPA Auto Parts stores. For a list of the participating NAPA stores for the 2018 season, please go to <http://staffordmotorspeedway.com/participating-napa-auto-parts-stores/>. 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).



## Tri-State Speedway

HAUBSTADT, IN - Tri-State Speedway at Haubstadt, IN, will hold this year's season opener for the track on Saturday April 14th. The winged sprint cars of the World of Outlaws will headline the show that evening. This appearance is the only time the outlaws will race at Haubstadt during the season. It will be one great start to a varied and promising schedule consisting of twelve special events.

The non-wing sprint cars will make a first appearance at Tri-State Speedway on Saturday April 28th. Spectators will witness the action as the United States Auto Club Sprints and the Midwest Sprint Car Series Sprints compete in the co-sanctioned "Spring Showdown" paying \$5,000 to win.

There will be two races during May. The annual "Midwest Madness" event will be followed by the "Memorial Weekend Classic." The MOWA Wing Sprints will share the race card with MSCS on May 12th. Then on Sunday May 27th MMSA Mini Sprints will appear along with the MSCS 410 Sprints.

The UMP Open Wheel Modifieds will continue to anchor the programs at the track. The class will make 11 appearances during the season. Plus the feature winners will receive \$1,000 on April 14, July 28th, September 2nd, and October 13th. Then at the Summit Modified show on Sunday June 24th the feature will pay \$1,500. That is on the date for the annual Late Model Summernationals event.

Earlier that month on June 9th the MSCS Sprints will compete in a co-sanctioned event with the POWRi WAR Sprints. The winner for this "Summer Showdown" will receive \$5,000. The race will mark the first time these two organizations will meet.

The MOWA Wing Sprints will return to race on July 14th. It is the "Sprint Stampede" with a triple header including the MSCS Sprints and the MMSA Mini Sprints. It will be an all sprint car tripleheader!

MMSA will also return to race at the "Harvest Cup."

The MSCS Sprints will make 9 appearances at the track during 2018. In addition to the events already mentioned MSCS will compete in the "Hoosier Sprint

Nationals" on August 11th and the "Harvest Cup" which will conclude the season on October 13th. Both of these MSCS features pay \$5,000 to win. The IMCA Race-saver Sprints will be added as an additional class for the "Hoosier Sprint Nationals" this season. The "Labor Day Weekend Challenge" for MSCS on Sunday September 2nd has a \$3,000 to win purse.

On July 28th the speedway will host the finale of the USAC "Indiana Sprint Week." The USAC Sprints will also return on September 15th for the one and only "Haubstadt Hustler." This will be the biggest race of the season for non-wing sprint competitors. USAC & MSCS will both take up the challenge in this co-sanctioned event. The top prize is \$10,000. The Saturday September 15th and October 13th events will have rain dates set for Sunday of that weekend.

Ticket information is available by calling 812-768-5995. Ticket prices do vary for different events on the schedule. The speedway also offers reserved seating. Advance tickets for the World of Outlaws event will be on sale starting February 19th. Further details on each event are also available at [www.tristatespeedway.com](http://www.tristatespeedway.com). The speedway also posts updates on face book.

## Volusia Speedway Park

BARBERVILLE, FL - While DIRTcar Nationals participants and spectators were the first to enjoy the renovations to Volusia Speedway Park, weekly racers will continue to reap the rewards all year long as the Speedway re-opens for the 2018 season.

The 50th season of weekly racing will begin on Saturday, March 17 and will continue well into November on Saturday nights.

For two days; Sunday, March 11 and Monday, March 12 a special event with the AMA Flat Track Motorcycles will compete on the half-mile clay track and Tuesday, March 13 at the Volusia Speedway Park's fifth-mile dirt oval located adjacent to the half-mile speedway.

The 2018 management team will be stronger with the addition of Florida businessman and entrepreneur Tom Whipple as the new promoter. Whipple has an extensive background in racing, competing recently with his son Michael at Volusia Speedway and all the Florida dirt tracks in several different racing divisions as well as competing in ARCA, SCCA and APBA events.

"I am looking forward to helping build on the success John Allen had last year" said Tom Whipple, "I

have a long history and a fond attachment to the facility and am humbled and proud to be a part of celebrating the 50 years of history and creating new memories and traditions."

Back for a second straight year to host weekly racing is partner John Allen. Allen, no stranger to Volusia Speedway Park, got his start at eight years old when he helped pit for local teams. A successful businessman in his own right and longtime Florida resident operates a plumbing business. Aside from running his plumbing business, Allen contributed to the facility as a track sponsor.

"I'm excited to have Tom Whipple join me on this venture," Volusia Speedway Park lease co-holder, John Allen. "Tom will be more involved on the day-to-day of the financial side of the business and will allow me to focus more on the general maintenance and assist with the promotion of the track."

When Allen was asked what some of the biggest challenges of running the dirt track was in his first year he said: "there were some big hurdles last year, for example being on top of the rules and learning the business of running a race track - this was new for me it wasn't like running a plumbing business, but it was definitely an experience."

Whipple and Allen plan to continue to put a lot of time and effort into the facility but will continue to step up with big paying events for all the divisions, "we will continue to have some of the big shows, like the \$5,000-to-win Street Stock event, the 23rd annual Powell Memorial featuring a \$5,000-to-win Late Model event. Back after a one-year break is the Benny Corbin Memorial race that will pay \$5,000-to-win for the V8 Thunderstocks. Volusia Speedway Park's founder Benny Corbin's son, Kent continues to help out and is very special to us - so having this event is big deal."

The major improvements made around the facility will not only benefit the major events that Volusia Speedway Parks host, such as DIRTcar Nationals but the weekly racer and fan that attend on any given Saturday Night.

For more information on Volusia Speedway Park and the weekly racing program, visit [www.VSPRacing.com](http://www.VSPRacing.com).

## Southern National Motorsports Park

LUCAMA, NC - Southern National Motorsports Park has named Charlie Hansen as its general man-

ager ahead of the 2018 season.

Hansen was with Southern National Motorsports Park when the track reopened in 2012 season and has been at Southern National in some capacity just about every season since. He has nearly two decades of experience in motorsports operations, serving at several tracks including Wake County Speedway, Clary's Speedway, King's Raceway and Fayetteville Motor Speedway.

"I am excited to return to Southern National," Hansen said. "It is my goal to bring the overall appeal back to Southern National. I will concentrate on making sure every car owner, driver, sponsor and fan experience at Southern National is a great one. I promise, it will be the best place to race at in 2018."

Southern National Motorsports Park track owner Michael Diaz appointed Hansen as general manager with the hopes of accomplishing goals the two originally set in 2012.

"I'm glad to have Charlie back as general manager," Diaz said. "We have some unfinished business to take care of at Southern National since our separation as him being general manager in 2012. A lot of things were planned on that we never had a chance to accomplish, and accomplishing those things will be our focus. He puts 150 percent into what he puts his mind into and does a great job accomplishing the things we talk about at Southern National."

"He was the complete mastermind for our first Demolition Derby last year and that was the first Southern National event ever held that I was not there for and it was a huge success.

"I look forward to more events like that in 2018 and the future with Charlie back at the helm. He's already making changes and getting racers excited about the 2018 season."

Among the changes already made is the reinstatement of the Charger division, the return of the Day of Destruction and Monster Truck show and a common rules package with other tracks and series. In addition to the already made changes, Hansen is also working on track loyalty incentive packages, enhanced payouts and lower racing fees.

Common rule packages that have already been adopted are the Carolina Mini-Stock Challenge rules for the Mini-Stock class and the Southeast Limited Late Model Series rules for the Limited Late Model division.