



AUGUST 24, 2015

# FastTrack

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

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**Ryan Blaney  
Battles Back  
to Win  
Bristol Truck  
Race**

**Joey Logano Masters Bristol  
Night Race Again**



**Kyle Busch Pulls into Another  
NXS Victory Lane**

# Time to Get Frantic...

With only two races remaining in NASCAR's regular season, the formula for qualifying for the Chase for the Championship has become even more frantic.

For stars like Tony Stewart, Greg Biffle, Kasey Kahne, Kyle Larson, Aric Almirola, A.J. Allmendinger, Danica Patrick and

Austin Dillon, there's only one real option: They have to win one of the next three races.

"We feel the pressure, trust me," Biffle said.

For drivers like Jamie McMurray, Paul Menard, Ryan Newman, Jeff Gordon and Clint Bowyer, it means holding onto their precarious positions in the point standings. Of course, a victory also would give them an automatic spot in the playoffs.

And for Kyle Busch, who now is 29th in the standings, he has to avoid engine problems and crashes to maintain his top-30 spot in the current Chase lineup.

With the Darlington, the most-treacherous speedway on the schedule, and Richmond ahead, things are about to get testy.

"You don't want to just go into that Chase and be a part of it and

be the first guy out," Bowyer said after finishing fifth at Bristol Saturday night. "You want to go into that Chase with some confidence and momentum and some good runs where you can maybe go a few rounds in there."

Bowyer is at the bottom of the point standings of those who can qualify without a race victory. He's 35 points ahead of Almirola and 37 ahead of Kahne. That means he has to get through Darlington and Richmond without any problems. If anyone ranked behind him wins in the next three races, Bowyer suddenly would be outside the cut line.



**DON COBLE**

"At this rate we're going to need to win," Kahne recently told MRN

Radio. "That's the only way we'll go into the Chase. We've got to get a little better. I need to get a little better."

"The main thing is that all of the equipment we get at Hendrick Motorsports is good enough to win every weekend.

"We need to get on the ball here and do that, and I don't see any better weekend to do that than the next one."

Almirola needs a home run, especially after finishing 17th at Bristol.

"It's not the weekend I wanted," he said after losing 12 points to Bowyer.

Allmendinger's team is building new cars for the desperate stretch drive, crew chief Brian Burns said.

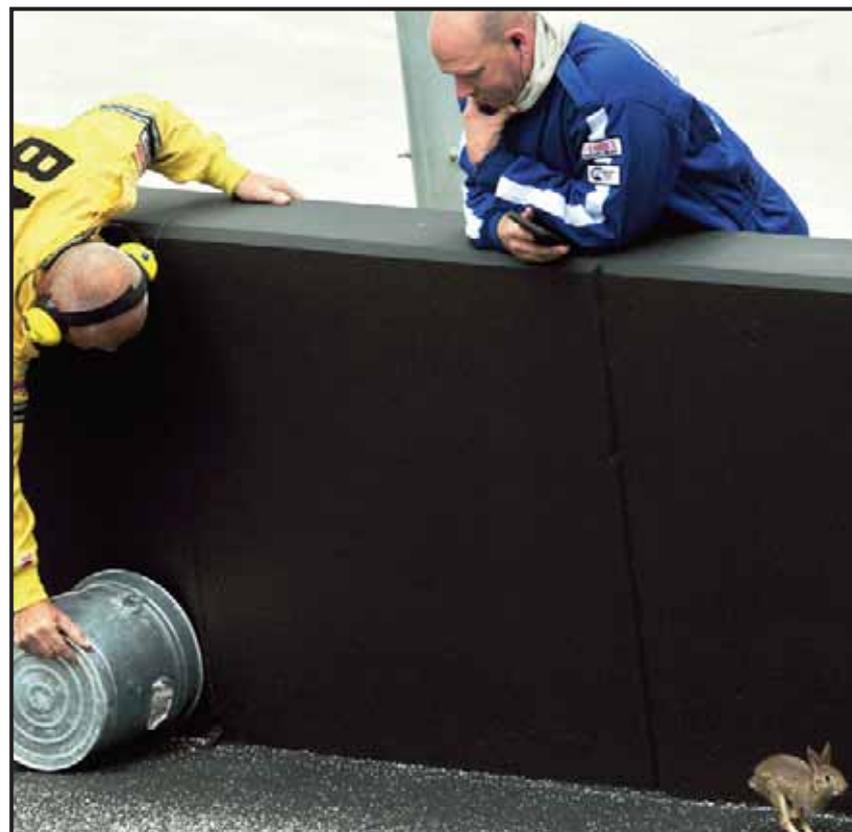
"We will also have a new car for Darlington," he said. "We still feel like we have a shot to win before the Chase."

Newman finished 10th at Bristol.

More important, by getting through the race unscathed, he solidified his spot in the standings.

"Not the end result that we wanted, but a good points day for us," he said. "That is part of what we are racing for right now."

Which only adds to the pressure.



Things weren't all about competition racing at Bristol this weekend. Many a trap and hustling went into capturing this small but fast bunny to get him off the track during practice. (RONDA GREER photo)

## Inclement Weather Forces Millstream Cancellation UNOH All Star Action Resumes Labor Day Weekend

FINDLAY, OH - With strong storms moving into the Findlay, Ohio area just after 6:30PM, and more weather forecasted for the rest of the evening, UNOH All Star officials were forced to cancel Sunday night's UNOH All Star Circuit of Champions program at Millstream Speedway near Findlay, Ohio. The event was scheduled to end a three-day stretch for the UNOH All Star Circuit of Champions through Michigan and Ohio. The program will not be rescheduled. Please visit [www.millstreamspeedway.net](http://www.millstreamspeedway.net) for more details regarding the rain check policy. Passes can be mailed in or used for the September 27 program at Millstream Speedway.

UNOH All Star travelers will enjoy a weekend away from competition before returning to action for three consecutive events during Labor Day weekend. The Attica Raceway Park in Attica, Ohio will host UNOH All Star Circuit of Champions competition on Friday and Saturday, September 4 and 5. "Ohio's Finest Racing" facility will award \$3,000 on Friday night, all before capping off their "Attica Ambush" weekend with a \$5,000 payday on Saturday, September 5. The Labor Day weekend tripleheader will conclude with action at the Wayne County Speedway in Orrville, Ohio on Sunday, September 6. Wayne County Speedway will award \$5,000 on Sunday night.

Those seeking additional information regarding the UNOH All Star Circuit of Champions should visit the official online home of the UNOH All Stars at [www.allstarsprint.com](http://www.allstarsprint.com). Series updates and breaking news will be posted regularly on the official Twitter account of the UNOH All Star Circuit of Champions: <https://twitter.com/ASCoC>

### FasTrack Racing Journal is now available as an online e-magazine!!

We are pleased to announce some big and exciting changes. FasTrack will now be available online only. We will still be covering all the racing series, off track news and other features that you have grown to love. With this change we can bring you all the news in a weekly format throughout the racing season. All you have to do to continue receiving FasTrack Racing Journal Online for FREE is to send your email address to [fastrackjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:fastrackjournal@yahoo.com) with the subject line SUBSCRIPTION.

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NSCS/NXS - NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAY  
NCWTS - RONDA GREER

# More Than Racing in Thunder Valley

As I drove back through the Tennessee and North Carolina mountains from Bristol Motor Speedway last weekend, I couldn't help but think about all the years that I have made the same trip. After every memory than flashed through my mind, I always came back to the thought of just how special this past racing weekend was. It may rank in my top five ever in Thunder Valley.

When you no longer travel to every race in one of the three top divisions of NASCAR, you appreciate each and every visit to the track now. Such was my weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway.

When I drove to the track Friday morning, I could sense that something was special of this trip. The closer that I got to the track, the more excitement I felt. I started to see more race fans camping further away from the track than usual. I saw fans carrying their coolers walking toward the track in the early morning heat. I found more traffic on the highway than I was use to seeing at this time of day heading toward the speedway. It's was like "years ago" when Bristol was the most coveted tickets on the NASCAR circuit every year. And, when I neared the entrance to the track, the camping areas were filling with thousands of equally-excited race fans.

When I reached the credential office, I saw two media friends of mine who I haven't seen since the Charlotte Motor Speedway Media Tour in January. Needless to say, picking up my credentials was delayed a few minutes as played "remember when" about our earlier days at Bristol. A great beginning to a great weekend.

After parking, I began my walk to the tunnel and the wonderful experience of entering one of my all-time favorite tracks.

I felt like a kid who just saw his first bicycle under the Christmas tree when I made those final steps up the ramp into the Bristol garage area. I must admit that I had to step to the side of the tunnel and just marvel at this facility and think of where I was and what was happening here.

As I entered the Media Center, I quickly saw several old friends who I haven't seen in several weeks. A few saw me enter and came to greet me as I found my seat. After enjoying a few minutes to renew friendships, I sat at my seat and began to reflect. In case you start to see a trend here, you're exactly correct. One of the first things that came to mind was how much I



**DENNIS PUNCH**

used to take for granted when I traveled the circuit each week. Now, don't misunderstand for a minute that I didn't take my job or each race seriously. I most certainly did. But, when you travel with and see the same group of friends and associates each and every week for almost forty weeks, sometimes you fail to stop and truly appreciate each one the way you should. That was the feeling I had when I saw so many friends at Bristol for the first time in weeks.

I knew that I had several interviews to attend and a couple of scheduled meetings, but spending those few moments with friends was the most important thing on my immediate schedule. Before long, it was lunch – always a treat at Bristol Motor Speedway. Last Friday was no different. A burrito bar with all the fixins complete with sweet potato funnel cake for dessert. Not only was the food special, but I joined a group of media and public relations friends at a table to enjoy "stimulating" conversation with our meal. If we were on an hourly job with a scheduled lunch break, I'm sure we would have exceeded that time limit. But, this was an opportunity to enjoy the company of some of the most trusted and valued friends in our sport. Time well spent.

After all the socializing, it was time to get serious about my actual purpose to be in Bristol. I walked through both the Sprint Cup and XFINITY garages, taking time to shake hands and greet many friends who I haven't seen in a while. After conducting my interviews, I walked between turns one

and two and stood next to the inside wall to watch practice. It really didn't matter whether it was Cup or XFINITY cars on the track, it was Bristol. And, yes, the hair stood up on my arm just watching these cars drive through the turns.

After practice, I had the opportunity to do something that I have never done at Bristol. Here's where several of my friends would make a funny comment or remark! Thanks to my friend Tim Southers with NASCAR, I was able to take my first ride around the high banks of Bristol Motor Speedway in the pace car. Dylan Kwasniewski piloted my ride around "The World's Fastest Half-Mile" and gave me more than one anxious moment. Riding as a front seat passenger down the straightaways over 90 mph and entering the turns "close" to the outside retaining wall was quite the experience.

As I mentioned to him as my ride concluded, I've been coming to Bristol Motor Speedway, let's just say more years than he's been around, and Friday was my first trip around the track in a pace car or any vehicle. I have always appreciated the talent and endurance that it takes to compete at Bristol, but after only five laps in a pace car, I can truly understand everything that I have heard through the years. I just can't imagine racing with forty or so other cars on those high banks.

Having the opportunity to say hello to several drivers and team members who I have had the privilege to work with over the years only added to this special weekend. Having them actually remember you was icing on my cake.

Saturday only confirmed the "special" feelings that I had the day before. Visiting with so many friends and associates during the day brought a huge smile on an old man's face. As race time approached, my heart began to race with anticipation.

One of the coolest things about Bristol is always the pre-race activities. However, this year I took more time to enjoy each and every minute. Seeing the camera on the skydiver as he flew into the track was amazing. Whoever thought of this was brilliant, and the pictures of the track and surrounding area during his decent were breathtak-

ing. Seeing and hearing the Tennessee and Virginia Tech marching bands perform certainly increase the hype (if that's possible) for the Battle of Bristol NCAA football game next year. That will be a "must see" event at Bristol.

Always one of the highlights of Bristol pre-race is the children from Motor Racing Outreach singing the National Anthem. What makes it extra special is to see the drivers and their wives so proudly watching their children perform. If you've ever seen a driver using his cell phone to video his child (children) sign the National Anthem before climbing in his car for 500 grueling laps at Bristol, you'll get a very warm feeling in your heart. If you don't, get your heart checked.

As previously mentioned, I've been coming to Bristol for many years. I've been there when the seating capacity was less than 20,000. I was there when you drove across the track in turn two to enter the infield. I was there and worked in the "media bunker" in the infield. I have been a spotter on top of the press box and suites when they were located in turn one. I have worked to put up a Busch and Budweiser inflatable beer can on the bank outside turns one and two. I was there when the news of the Alan Kulwicki tragedy was announced. I was there when grandstands began growing and growing around the high banks. I sat in the turn two stands to watch Dale Jr. run his first-ever race at Bristol driving Ed Whitaker's local entry. I have had far too many enjoyable experiences away from the track in neighboring Bristol and Johnson City. Thanks to Anheuser-Busch, Inc. and Food City for providing many of those numerous memories.

But, this weekend was special. The staff at Bristol Motor Speedway always extends the warm hospitality and welcome. The fans are always a unique group at Bristol, and that's a positive for our sport. In a world where the news is filled each day with so many unpleasant issues, a weekend trip to the races at Bristol Motor Speedway was a much-needed and refreshing adventure. Thanks to everyone who helped make it so meaningful. I know "It's Bristol Baby", but this was special. Certainly more than just at race. Very special.

# Logano Holds Off Harvick to Defend Bristol Night Race Title

By REID SPENCER  
BRISTOL, TN -  
With Kevin Harvick hounding him mercilessly for 63 laps, Joey Logano kept his No. 22 Team Penske Ford out front after taking the lead on a Lap 438 restart and held on to win Saturday's Irwin Tools Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Successfully defending last year's victory at Thunder Valley, Logano won his third race of the season, his second at the .533-mile short track and the 11th of his career.

Harvick recovered from two pit road speeding penalties to finish second, a mere .220 seconds behind Logano. Polesitter Denny Hamlin ran third, and Clint Bowyer got a much-needed fourth place result in his No. 15 Michael Waltrip Racing Toyota.

It was a fascinating Chase over the final 63 laps, as Harvick would bury his No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Chevrolet into the corner at the top of the track, catch Logano in the turns and watch as Logano dived to the bottom on corner exit and pull away.

"There's not much time to look in the rearview mirror, but I realized how different his line was than mine," Logano said. "He'd drive in so hard and almost get to my back bumper, and then I'd drive off really good."

"It's kind of interesting to watch a race like that, when two cars are a similar speed, but in two completely different ways. That's what's so fun about Bristol is you can drive the car about five or six different ways and make it fast, so it's fun to race here."

Harvick said Logano's ability to diamond the corner gave the Ford an advantage when it came to working traffic.

"He was just one step ahead of me in traffic," Harvick said. "I couldn't get my car to rotate across the center like I needed it to, and every time I tried to force it, it would snap the back out."

"He was able to go in really high and before the center of the corner drive down the corner and I was just having to wait just a split second to be able to put the throttle back down, and I couldn't do that,



Joey Logano (22) keeps just enough distance between himself and Kevin Harvick (4) to take the checkered flag Saturday night at Bristol Motor Speedway. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)

that huge diamond all the way to the bottom like he could, and that was really beneficial for him through traffic...

"He was able to get those huge runs up off the exit of the corner and just stayed one step ahead of me through traffic, I felt like, and in clean air we probably were a little faster, but it didn't really matter. I

had to be in front of him to show that."

Brad Keselowski came home fifth, followed by Carl Edwards and Kyle Busch, who led a race-high 192 laps but was hit with a pit road speeding penalty on his last stop under yellow on Lap 432.

Logano took over from there and racked up 176 laps out front in a

race that saw 14 lead changes among five drivers. The runner-up finish was Harvick's 10th of the season.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished ninth, followed by Ryan Newman and Jamie McMurray, who solidified their positions in the fight for the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup berths on points. McMurray and Newman are 10th and 11th in the standings, respectively, the highest-scored drivers without a victory this season.

Given that there have been only 11 different winners in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series this year, at least three drivers are certain to qualify for the Chase on points.

Kyle Busch, a four-time winner and 29th in the standings, also moved closer to locking up a Chase berth, padding his advantage to 46 points over 31st-place Cole Whitt. Busch, who missed the first 11 events of the season because of injury, must remain in the top 30 for the next two races to qualify for the Chase.

Busch wasn't pleased when NASCAR flagged him for the speeding penalty, but he made a masterful drive from the rear of the field to eighth place.

"I was proud of Kyle, keeping his cool and getting back up, because I think that gave us some more points, some more cushion there," team owner Joe Gibbs said. "I think he's doing a really good job of focusing and not losing his poise."



The celebratory champagne was not only flowing, but spraying all over victory lane after Joey Logano's win at the Irwin Tools Night Race and BMS. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

## Kyle Busch Grabs Overtime XFINITY Win at Bristol

By REID SPENCER  
BRISTOL, TN - When Chris Buescher's Ford faltered on a green-white-checked restart on Friday night at Bristol Motor Speedway, Kyle Busch took full advantage, as is his custom.

In a Food City 300 that went to two laps of overtime at the .533-mile short track,

Busch finished .427 seconds ahead of Kyle Larson, as Buescher faded to 11th after his car failed to pick up fuel off Turn 2 of the next-to-last lap.

The victory was Busch's third of the season in the NASCAR XFINITY Series, his eighth at Bristol and the 73rd of his career, extending his own series record.

"This is home—this is where I'm supposed to be," Busch said, standing outside the car in Victory Lane. "I wish I was here Wednesday night (after the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race), so we could continue the sweep lookout for (Saturday), but that was a second place. Oh, well."

Polesitter Denny Hamlin ran third, followed by Ty Dillon and Daniel Suarez, who got a bonus for his top-five run. As the highest fin-

ishing eligible driver in the XFINITY Dash 4 Cash program, Suarez picked up an extra \$100,000.

Pit strategy put Buescher at the front of the field under the fourth caution of the race, caused by Cale Conley's spin in Turn 4. Staying out on older tires while most of the lead-lap cars came to pit road for fresh rubber and fuel, Buescher nevertheless pulled away from Busch during a succession of restarts, as Busch saved his equipment for what he thought would be the inevitable late-race caution.

"I let the 60 (Buescher) go," Busch said. "He ran out there to about a straightaway on us, and I was just trying to save and do what I could to keep my tires underneath me. I knew we were going to get some cautions at the end to bunch us back up, and fortunately we did."

"I wasn't sure they were going to make it on fuel (having pitted on lap 131 of 302), and obviously they cut it close—a little too close."

Busch got the yellow he needed, just in time. Brad Teague's wreck on the frontstretch with five laps left set up the green-white-checked and gave Busch the chance he needed.

Buescher, who saw his series lead shrink to 19 points over Ty Dillon, knew he could have made it to the end on fuel, had the race not gone to overtime.

## Ryan Blaney Battles Back from Penalty for Thrilling Victory at Bristol

By CHRIS KNIGHT  
BRISTOL, TN - A spin with four laps to go in Wednesday night's UNOH 200 at Bristol Motor Speedway proved to be the saving grace for Brad Keselowski Racing's Ryan Blaney, who grabbed the lead on a green-white-checked restart to

win his first race of the 2015 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series season.

Blaney recovered from an early race penalty for jumping a restart to find himself closing on leader Matt Crafton with five laps remaining. When Ty Dillon spun on Lap 196, it triggered the final caution of the night and the opportunity for Blaney to steal Crafton's thunder. On the final restart, Crafton's truck sputtered, failing to come up to speed, allowing Blaney to take off and seal his fourth career NCWTS victory.

"It feels really good," Blaney said. "I'm proud of everyone on this No. 29 team. I've had a chance to drive this truck four times this year and we've come really, really close every single time and to finally get it to Victory Lane, my last start of the year for this truck, it really means a lot to get Chad (Kendrick, crew chief) and Brad (Keselowski, team owner) back to Victory Lane."

"To do that in that fashion coming from a lap down and being able to drive through the field like that says a lot about our race team and a lot about what as an organization we can do."

Keystone Light Pole Award winner Kyle Busch's slow start allowed outside pole-sitter Blaney to steal the lead early by the exit of Turn 1, controlling the field through the first caution on Lap 31 for a spin in Turn 2.

On the restart, Blaney roared away from the field, but a few laps later, NASCAR black-flagged him on Lap 37 for jumping the restart, forcing a pass-through penalty, giving the lead to Cole Custer.

Busch, who restarted fifth, methodically worked his way forward and attempted to take the lead away from the young NASCAR Camping World Truck Series winner, but Custer kept Busch at bay through the race's second caution



Ryan Blaney is all smiles as he visits BMS victory lane after the green-white-checked finish. (RONDA GREER photo)

on Lap 79 for debris in Turn 1.

Busch and Johnny Sauter would trade the lead following the caution, before Custer returned to the top spot on lap 90.

A more than 1.5-second lead for Custer would be erased when Ray Black Jr. and Caleb Holman crashed in Turn 4 on lap 112.

With darkening skies overhead and the threat of rain approaching the World's Fastest Half-Mile, a majority of the teams elected to stay out. Despite his best efforts, Crafton tried to snatch the lead away from the JR Motorsports driver, but to no avail.

Custer slowly saw Crafton become a diminishing factor in his rear-view mirror until he hit heavy lap traffic with 50 laps remaining. That's when Spencer Gallagher spun in Turns 3 and 4, and Custer found himself trapped in the high-line and collided with Gallagher.

Heavy front-end damage sent the No. 00 Chevrolet to pit road for repairs, eliminating the NASCAR Next driver from competition. As the accident happened, Crafton slipped by on the inside and took the lead -- which he held until the green-white-checked restart that lost him the race.

While under yellow for the fourth time of the night, heavy rain began to fall, causing a red flag for 45 minutes, 50 seconds while the track was dried.

Next up for the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series is the Aug. 30 race at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park for the third-annual Chevrolet Silverado 250.



After capturing the checkered flag, race winner Kyle Busch heads to victory lane for the celebration. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)



# PUBLIC AUCTION

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#### PARTIAL SALE LISTING – RACE PARTS

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## Partridge Rolls To First Career NASCAR K&N Pro West Win

DACONA, CO - Ryan Partridge turned a dominant performance Saturday night at Colorado National Speedway into his first career NASCAR K&N Pro Series West victory.

The 25-year-old rookie from Rancho Cucamonga, California, won his first Coors

Light Pole Award, and then went out and led all but one lap in the NAPA Auto Parts 150.

Partridge's No. 9 Sunrise Ford/Eirbach Springs/Lucas Oil Ford crossed the finish line 1.7 seconds in front of runner-up Blake Williams. The 20-year-old Williams was making his third career start and posted his second top five.

Partridge was the 2014 NASCAR Whelen All-American Series California champion running in the Late Model Division at Irwindale Speedway. He was making his 13th career start Saturday and is in his first full-time season with car owner Bob Bruncati. Partridge's previous best was a runner-up finish in the series' last race at Evergreen Speedway in Washington.

Defending race winner Chris Eggleston came home third, followed by David Mayhew and Brandon McReynolds.

Rookies Gracin Raz, Alex Schutte, Noah Gragson and Nicole Behar finished sixth through ninth, while 2014 Sunoco Rookie of the Year James Bickford was 10th.

Schutte was the last car on the

lead lap as the race went caution-free for the final 89 laps.

Eggleston was the only other driver to lead, taking the point briefly on a Lap 29 restart. He and Partridge are tied on points, with Gragson falling six points behind with three races remaining. Raz is 12 points back in fourth.

The NASCAR K&N Pro Series West heads to Meridian Speedway for the NAPA Auto Parts Idaho 208 on Saturday, Sept. 5.

The NAPA Auto Parts 150 from Colorado will air on NBCSN on Thursday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. ET.

### *Preece Wins Delayed, Rain-Shortened NASCAR Whelen Modified Race At Bristol*

BRISTOL, TN - Ryan Preece positioned himself in the right place at the right time, and took home the Bush's Beans 150 trophy Wednesday in the annual combination race for the NASCAR Whelen Modified and Whelen Southern Modified Tours.

On a night that saw rain pause, and ultimately shorten the Bush's Beans 150, Preece grabbed the lead on Lap 75 just before the mid-way break and held the position during a subsequent caution on Lap 96. As rain and severe thunderstorms loomed during track clean-up, NASCAR officials threw the yellow-checkered flag on Lap 103, sending Preece's No. 6 TS Haulers/East West Marine Chevro-



Ryan Partridge celebrates his NASCAR K&N Pro Series West win Saturday night in the NAPA Auto Parts 150 at Colorado National Speedway. Justin Edmonds/Getty Images for NASCAR

let to Victory Lane.

Promptly, during those Victory Lane ceremonies, the deluge ensued.

It marked Preece's 15th career Whelen Modified Tour victory, and first at the famed .533-mile Tennessee oval. The Berlin, Connecticut, native's fourth win of the campaign also moved him back into the lead in the season standings.

Coors Light Pole Award winner Woody Pitkat – who entered the day one championship point ahead of Preece – finished second after leading the majority of the first half of the race and Donny Lia joined him on the podium in third. Ryan Newman and Bobby Santos brought home the top five.

Andy Seuss, Jeff Goodale, Chase Dowling, Timmy Solomito and Patrick Emerling completed the top 10.

Seuss was the highest-finishing Whelen Southern Modified Tour entry, and received credit for a victory for that tour.

The Bush's Beans 150 originally went green as scheduled just after 6 p.m., but Lap 2 accident that took out three potential checkered flag contenders in Justin Bonsignore, Doug Coby and Todd Szegedy proved to be the first hurdle of the evening. While under caution for clean-up, rain arrived, which forced the resumption of the Bush's Beans 150 to after the conclusion of the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series event.

The Whelen Modifieds returned to green flag action nearly five hours later just after 11 p.m.

The Bush's Beans 150 will air on NBCSN on Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. ET.

The Whelen Modified Tour will return to action on Aug. 29 at New York's Riverhead Raceway while

the Whelen Southern Modified Tour's schedule will resume on Sept. 5 at Langley Speedway in Hampton, Virginia.

### **Fanatics Introduces New Line Of NASCAR Home Tracks Apparel**

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - A new line of NASCAR Home Tracks apparel is available for fans to purchase on the NASCAR.com Superstore powered by Fanatics.

In partnering with Fanatics, the largest retailer of officially licensed sports merchandise, this marks the first time that officially licensed items are available under one banner for each of NASCAR's regional touring and weekly series.

Through the NASCAR.com Superstore powered by Fanatics, fans can now purchase both men's and women's t-shirts and sweatshirts in multiple colors. Items are available for the NASCAR K&N Pro Series, NASCAR Canadian Tire Series presented by Mobil 1, NASCAR Mexico Series, NASCAR Whelen Euro Series, NASCAR Whelen Modified and Whelen Southern Modified Tours and the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series.

"From our five U.S.-based series to our three international circuits, we've received great interest from fans to wear their favorite series' colors," said George Silbermann, NASCAR vice president for regional and touring series. "Through our partnership with Fanatics, we can now offer our fans series specific apparel that allows them to proudly display their love for Home Tracks racing."

Fans can link directly to the touring and weekly series merchandise from the NASCAR Home Tracks homepage.



Ryan Preece celebrates his rain shortened win at Bristol Motor Speedway with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Series. This victory was his 15th with the series. (D. Hierwarter photo)

## Fike Gets First Career ARCA Victory

10th First Time Winner for the 2015 ARCA Racing Series Season

SPRINGFIELD, IL - A.J. Fike won his first ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards race Sunday, becoming the 10th driver of the season to pick up their first victory. And, the Galesburg, Ill. native did it in his home state.

"I'm kind of at a loss for words right now," Fike said in victory lane, surrounded by a throng of supporters.

Fike actually dominated the SuperChevyStores.com 100 at the mile dirt at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. He led 60 of the 104 laps and had a lead of nearly seven seconds with 10 laps to go. He survived a late restart to win over Kyle Weatherman by 0.759-seconds. Fike's previous career best was second at Berlin Raceway in 2004.

"The car was perfect off the trailer," Fike said. "I can't say enough about everyone on the team, my pit crew, my dad. This is a great win for us. It's very exciting."

Weatherman was second – his

third runner-up of the season – in the No. 22 Cunningham Motorsports Dodge. Springfield native Kelly Kovski was third in the No. 16 Billingsley Towing-Hoosier Tire Midwest Chevrolet. Josh Williams and Tom Hessert rounded out the top five. Williams, in the No. 6 Muselman's Apple Sauce-SW Florida Cable Construction Chevrolet, moved into second place in the ARCA Racing Series driver point standings while Hessert, in the No. 77 Barbera's Autoland Dodge, earned his 10th top 10 of the season.

SCOTT Rookie Hunter Baize finished sixth in the Ken Schrader-owned No. 52 Federated Auto Parts Chevrolet while Highland Park, Ill. driver David Levine finished seventh in the No. 59 MOMO-TraqGear-Ford Performance Ford. A fourth Illinois driver, Ryan Unzicker, finished eighth with James Swanson and Austin Wayne Self rounding out the top 10.

Series point leader Grant Enfinger finished 20th after his car stalled on the track early in the race and he fell several laps down. He led the first eight laps and was one



**A.J. Fike celebrates in victory lane after winning the mile dirt track of the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Fike was the 10th first time winner of the season so far. (arcaracing.com photo)**

of six different leaders.

After the final caution flew, the race restarted on lap 101 with the green flag. Weatherman was fourth but got a great restart and drove deep into turn one right behind Fike. He held on for the second spot.

"It was a hard fought battle by the whole team," Weatherman said. "I thought we might be able to get to the No. 27 if the 6 hadn't gotten into me on that restart, but that's racing. It was a good day. It

was a lot fun for me out there."

Kovski, who served as crew chief several races for Enfinger earlier this season at GMS Racing, was happy with his third-place finish.

"We are going to keep trying," Kovski said. "We've got a good car and hopefully we learned something for DuQuoin."

The ARCA Racing Series races next at DuQuoin, another mile-long dirt track. That race will take place Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7.

## Second Annual Weekend with the 88s Set to Take Sports Nation by Storm

CHARLOTTE, NC - NASCAR's No. 88 driver Dale Earnhardt, Jr. and Carolina Panthers No. 88 tight end Greg Olsen have teamed up to raise money for the Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina. The fundraising event called, "Weekend with the 88s," will

offer one lucky winner and their guest an unprecedented experience in sports spectating.

Weekend with the 88s kicks off Saturday, Oct. 31 with a behind-the-scenes tour of JR Motorsports and \$200 to spend at the JR Nation retail store. It continues with an escorted, all-access tour of Bank of America Stadium's luxury boxes, locker room, weight room, training room, in addition to a meeting and photo with Greg Olsen.

The next day's itinerary includes a roundtrip, weather-permitting helicopter ride from Concord, North Carolina, to Martinsville Speedway to experience the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race, fully equipped with garage passes, grandstand tickets and an exclusive meet-n-greet with Earnhardt Jr. for the winner and a guest.

The experience will conclude Nov. 2 with Monday Night Football at Bank of America Stadium, where the winner and their guest will watch live as the Carolina Panthers take on the Indianapolis Colts. The winner will receive Panthers gear, exclusive parking, pre-game sideline passes and premium game tickets.

Only 8,888 raffle tickets valued at \$18.88 will be sold. The raffle kicked off on Aug. 18 and ends Oct. 11 at 11:59 p.m. The winner will be drawn Oct. 12. All proceeds will

benefit the Levine Children's Hospital. Fans can learn more about the raffle or purchase a ticket at [www.weekendwiththe88s.com](http://www.weekendwiththe88s.com).

### Labonte Foundation "Tour de Reason" Quickly Approaching

TRINITY, NC - Counting down the days to the Bobby Labonte Foundation "Tour de Reason" Bike Ride, Foundation founder Bobby Labonte is inviting everyone from the local Triad to Charlotte and throughout the Carolinas to come out and join him on Saturday morning, August 29 for a morning of fun, whether you cycle or not.

Although the day will be highlighted by the annual cycling event featuring cyclists from throughout North Carolina and beyond, Labonte is personally inviting the local community to come and enjoy the event. Sure to be a highlight of the day will be the opportunity to win an autographed race helmet signed by the 2000 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion through a raffle drawing.

The event begins with the cyclist's departure from downtown

Thomasville at 8:30am on either a 35- or 64-mile cycling tour of Davidson and Randolph counties and festivities continue through noon. Those who attend can cheer on the participants as they start and finish the ride and enjoy live entertainment, various vendor booths and wander the quaint downtown Thomasville Main Street shops.

All proceeds from the event and the helmet raffle will benefit two important causes: Communities in Schools Backpack Pals and Bicycling in Greensboro. The Communities in Schools Backpack Pals program sends backpacks home with children at the end of the school week, filled with nutritious meals for those who would not normally have food over weekends.

All pre-registered participants will receive a t-shirt and event gift bag. Plus, for those who raise \$300 for the Bobby Labonte Foundation, you will receive an official Bobby Labonte Foundation 2015 Tour de Reason jersey and bib shorts;

For further information and to register for the bicycle ride, visit [www.bobbylabontefoundation.org](http://www.bobbylabontefoundation.org) or call 336-434-1800.

## Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Automobile and racing enthusiasts will get the exclusive opportunity to view the iconic cars of NASCAR Hall of Famers during the Sept. 24-27 AutoFair at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Historical vehicles driven by "The King" Richard Petty, Rusty Wallace and Dale Earnhardt will be among the many cars displayed in the Nationwide

Showcase Pavilion.

Petty, a living legend who was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2010, will have his 1971 No. 43 Plymouth Roadrunner in the Nationwide Showcase Pavilion. The King holds many NASCAR Cup Series records including most wins (200), most starts (1,185) and is tied with Dale Earnhardt for most championships (seven). The driver of the famous "Petty Blue" car has a total of five wins at Charlotte Motor Speedway: the 1961 100-mile qualifying race, two Coca-Cola 600s (1975 and 1977) and two Bank of America 500s (1975 and 1983).

Known for driving the iconic black No. 3, Earnhardt, a 2010 NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee, actually raced the No. 2 for several years early in his career. To pay homage to the mark the "Intimidator" left on the sport, AutoFair will host the No. 2 Wrangler Pontiac Grand Prix he raced during the 1981 season. The short-track/road course car ran several times in 1981, when Earnhardt drove for Rod Osterlund, before being sold to a racer on the west coast. After being found again in 2013, the car was restored by Rhine Built in 2014.

In addition to being tied with Petty for the most NASCAR Cup championships, Earnhardt had a total of 676 starts and 76 points-paying victories during his lifetime, five of which were won at Charlotte Motor Speedway. This year marks the 35th anniversary since Earnhardt's first win at the speedway in the 1980 Bank of America 500.

Bill Elliott, father of up-and-coming NASCAR star Chase Elliott, is a recent 2015 inductee. The former driver, known as "Awesome Bill from Dawsonville," wheeled a 1987 Ford Thunderbird once upon a time that will grace AutoFair's Nationwide Showcase Pavilion. Elliott,



**This 1971 Plymouth Roadrunner, once driven by Richard Petty, will be one of many cars in the NASCAR Hall of Fame display. (Brent Hajek photo)**

who was named one of NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers, had a 37-year driving career with a total of 828 starts, 175 top five finishes and 44 wins. Two of his career points-earning wins took place at the famed Charlotte Motor Speedway.

David Pearson was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2011. Throughout Pearson's 27 year career, he had a total of 574 starts, 105 wins and 113 Poles, and earned the Rookie of the Year award in 1960. The 1971 Wood Brothers No. 21 Mercury Cyclone will be on display representing Pearson's career. This historical vehicle won 11 of the Wood Brothers' 19 victories during the 1972-1973 seasons with Pearson behind the wheel. The car was also driven by Cale Yarborough.

Another stock car driven by 2012 inductee Yarborough will join the display during the Sept. 24-27 event. The 1977 Oldsmobile, owned by fellow Hall of Famer Junior Johnson, had four wins in 1979 and six wins in 1980 with Yarborough in the driver's seat.

Three Ford Galaxies' driven by Glenn "Fireball" Roberts' in 1963, Fred Lorenzen in 1965 and Wendell Scott in 1966, plus a 1994 No. 2 Ford Thunderbird driven by Wallace, are also among the wide array of historical vehicles to be displayed.

The Charlotte Motor Speedway AutoFair annually attracts more than 100,000 visitors, features nearly 50 car club displays and offers a surplus of automotive parts and memorabilia for sale or trade.

AutoFair is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$11 for adults (including tax) and free for kids 13 and under with a paying adult. Parking for the event is \$5. For tickets or additional information call 1-800-455-FANS (3267) or visit the Charlotte Motor Speedway website.

Connect with Charlotte Motor

Speedway on Twitter or Facebook. Keep up with all the latest news and information from the speedway by downloading the new Charlotte Motor Speedway mobile app.

### Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Talladega Superspeedway is proud to once again offer an "Unrestricted" VIP package like no other in sports, one that will give fans incredible behind-the-scenes access throughout the upcoming Alabama 500/fred's 250 Powered by Coca-Cola race weekend, Oct. 23-25.

These very-limited quantity packages will provide fans up-close and personal accessibility to the garages, pits and other exclusive track activities leading up to the fred's 250 Powered by Coca-Cola NASCAR XFINITY Series event on Saturday, Oct. 24 and the Alabama 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series event on Sunday, Oct. 25 - the final event of the Contender Round in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup where the field of 12 eligible drivers will be cut to eight at the checkered flag.

"Fans ask us how they can take their incredible experience at NASCAR's Most Competitive track to an even higher level," said Talladega Superspeedway Chairman Grant Lynch. "From the response from those who have experienced our 'Unrestricted' VIP package the past two race weekends here, we think we have accomplished that goal. We can't wait for October."

The "Unrestricted" VIP package is available for only \$475 (must be purchased in addition to a grandstand ticket) for fans 18 and over. It includes a parking pass for the weekend plus:

Friday, October 23:

- NASCAR Sprint Cup and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Garage and Pit access.

- Ability to stay in the infield for the "Big One on the Blvd" featuring activities with star drivers, parade, games, music and more.

- Hot Lap around the 2.66-mile, 33-Degree Banked Track in a Talladega Grand Marshal Car.

Saturday, October 24:

- NASCAR Sprint Cup and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Garage and Pit access.

- Gatorade Victory Lane Photo Opportunity with fred's 250 Trophy (prior to race).

- Guided NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Garage Tour (Tour Guide TBA).

- Reserved Area in front of Driver Introduction Stage for fred's 250.

- VIP Area access for Saturday Night Infield Concert.

- NASCAR Pace Car 101 with Pace Car Driver Brett Bodine.

- Q&A with Team Spotters' Tab Boyd (Joey Logano) & Rocky Ryan (Justin Allgaier).

Sunday, October 25:

- NASCAR Sprint Cup Garage and Pit access.

- Reserved Area in front of stage for NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Driver Question/Answer Session.

- Gatorade Victory Lane Photo Opportunity with Alabama 500 Trophy (prior to race).

- Guided Pit Road Tour (Tour Guide TBA).

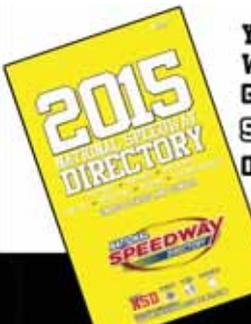
- Reserved Area next to Red Carpet Entrance to Driver/Crew Chief Meeting.

- Reserved Area in front of Driver Introduction Stage for Alabama 500.

The unmatched access that the "Unrestricted" VIP package provides is available by calling the Talladega Superspeedway ticket office at 855.518.RACE.



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**Bristol Motor Speedway**

BRISTOL, TN - In a spectacular career that's spanned more than two decades, Jeff Gordon has collected some big, big trophies for his shelf. The one that Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS) awarded him Friday, though, is probably the most sizable one of all.

Saturday, Aug. 22 marked Gordon's final race at Bristol as a full-time Sprint Cup Series

driver, a run that he made in his iconic Rainbow Warrior paint scheme. To commemorate his last appearance and his expansive history as one of NASCAR's greatest competitors, BMS is naming a portion of the Last Great Colosseum the Jeff Gordon Terrace.

"Bristol Motor Speedway plays so many roles in the industry and in our guests' lives," said Jerry Caldwell, general manager for BMS. "It's a battlefield. It's home, two or three times a year, to thousands of guests, some of whom have been coming here for generations. And it's a monument to the legends of NASCAR. As Jeff Gordon makes his last full-time run here, we can't think of a better way to recognize him than to place him among our ranks of champions who have dedicated their lives to racing excellence."

A four-time Sprint Cup Series Champion, Gordon first ran at Bristol in April 1993, finishing 24th. His first Bristol win came in April 1995, when he captured his first of four consecutive spring races. He has logged more than 21,500 laps on the World's Fastest Half-Mile, and led for 2,713 of those. Overall, Gordon's Bristol record includes 45 starts, five victories, 17 top fives, 25 top 10s and five poles. He has been named one of NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers.

"We want to honor Jeff for his contribution to our sport, and we look forward to his continued presence in the industry," said Caldwell. "The Jeff Gordon Terrace will be a great reminder of everything he's accomplished and all that he's done for his fans."

**Dover International Speedway**

DOVER, DE - For the first time in the history of Dover International Speedway, the track is peeling back the curtain on the mandatory driver & crew chief meeting held



before each NASCAR Sprint Cup Series event. As part of the new Ultimate Fan Pass, available for the first time before the Oct. 4, 2015 "AAA 400" event, 100 fans will have a never-before-available opportunity.

The new add-on package includes a seat in the driver & crew chief meeting on Oct. 4; a custom, limited-edition, keepsake chair that features the Dover International Speedway logo, Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series logo, and event date; a three-day cold pit pass that provides access to pit road; "Breakfast with the President," which provides fans with the chance to catch up with Dover International Speedway President & CEO Mike Tatroian on the morning of the AAA 400; and a guided tour of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series garage.

"This is such a unique opportunity for 100 lucky fans to get unprecedented access to our upcoming race weekend," said Tatroian. "Because of space limitations, pit passes are normally reserved for NASCAR-licensed competitors and officials, safety workers, sponsors and members of the media. The new Ultimate Fan Pass provides fans with access that has never been made available to the public in Dover. And they get to literally take their seat with them – a comfortable, collectible chair to keep."

The custom chair will be positioned in the new driver & crew chief meeting with a view of the activities that morning. After the meeting, fans will be able to pickup their chair after the race from a designated location outside the track.

The driver & crew chief meeting is a mandatory meeting that is attended by every NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver and their crew chief, along with NASCAR officials, track officials, dignitaries and spe-

cial guests. The meeting is led by senior NASCAR officials, and provides competitors with a rundown of procedures and protocol before the race begins.

The Ultimate Fan Pass is available for \$500, and a grandstand ticket is required on your account to purchase the package. Fans must be 18 to purchase. For more information, call Brandon Crist at 302.883.6620 or bcrist@dovertorsports.com.

**Martinsville Speedway**

MARTINSVILLE, VA - Martinsville Speedway's Green Flag Experience just got even more entertaining with the addition of Clint Bowyer.

Bowyer, often referred to as one of the funniest drivers in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, joins Jeff Gordon and Kurt Busch as drivers scheduled to take part in emceed question-and-answer sessions the morning of the Goody's® Headache Relief Shot®500 on Nov. 1.

In 19 career NASCAR Sprint Cup Series starts at Martinsville, Bowyer has posted 12 top-10 finishes, with a career best of second in 2013.

Additional NASCAR personalities taking part in the Green Flag Experience will be announced in the coming weeks.

The cost of the Green Flag Experience is \$40 until Oct. 1, when the cost increases to \$50. The price will increase to \$60 the week of the race. Admission to the Green Flag Experience does not include a ticket for the Goody's® Headache Relief Shot® 500.

Advance ticket prices for the Goody's® Headache Relief Shot® 500 begin at just \$45.

The Goody's® Headache Relief Shot® 500 is the first race of the Eliminator round in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup.

Tickets to the Green Flag Experience, as well as the Goody's® Headache Relief Shot® 500 on Nov. 1, the Kroger 200 on Oct. 31 and Virginia Lottery Pole Day on Oct. 30 can be purchased by calling 1.877.RACE.TIX. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.martinsvillespeedway.com.

**New Hampshire Motor Speedway**

LOUDON, NH - The second race in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup championship will kick-off to the "Beat of the Music" when country music star, Brett Eldredge, takes the stage to headline the SYLVANIA 300 pre-race concert on Sept. 27. Eldredge, reigning winner of the CMA New Artist of the Year award, will visit New Hampshire Motor Speedway for the first time since performing at FanFest in September of 2011.

"It was clear four years ago that Brett had the potential to be a country music superstar," said Jerry Gappens, the speedway's executive vice president and general manager. "We are immensely proud to have him back on our frontstretch stage to perform in front of the greatest fans in NASCAR."

Eldredge, 29, grew up in Paris, Ill., the state his sophomore album Illinois is named after. The album features his newest hit single, "Lose My Mind". In 2010, Eldredge was signed to Atlantic Records. His first album, Bring You Back, debuted in August 2013 and featured three singles – "Don't Ya," "Beat of the Music," and "Mean to Me" – all of which Eldredge co-wrote and reached number one on the charts.

This fall, Eldredge can be seen performing at venues across America as a part of the annual CMT tour, this year titled "Suits and Boots," with Thomas Rhett.

The concert is free for all ticketholders and will begin at noon, prior to driver introductions for the SYLVANIA 300. Fans that purchase a pre-race pit pass (\$75 for adults; half-price for children) can get even closer to Eldredge and watch the show with stage-front access right on the frontstretch.

Tickets to see Eldredge and the SYLVANIA 300 start as low as \$25 with children admitted for half-price. Camping and ticket upgrades, including the pre-race pit pass, are also available. For more details or to purchase tickets, please stop by our Ticket Office, visit the speedway website at www.nhms.com, or call our Ticket Hotline at (603) 783-4931.

**Talladega Superspeedway**

TALLADEGA, AL - Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Talladega Superspeedway's most recent winner, has been named the first driver scheduled to take part in the track's Pre-Race Fan Question & Answer Session at the start-finish line on Sunday, Oct. 25, prior to the start of the Alabama 500.

Race fans will get to ask NASCAR'S Most Popular Driver

questions in advance of the most anticipated race of the season where the field of 12 Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup contenders will be trimmed to eight at the checkered flag of the Alabama 500.

Fans that purchase Talladega's "Pit Pass Upgrade" can have access to this special session, which is tentatively scheduled from 10:00-11:20 AM (CDT). Not only can they get an up-close look at NASCAR's finest with the Pit Pass Upgrade, but they can also take in all the festive activities at the pre-race stage, including Driver Introductions. Additional drivers/personalities that will be part of the fan Q&A line-up will be announced in the near future.

Earnhardt, Jr., who pilots the No. 88 Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports, won at Talladega in May in convincing fashion, leading a race-high 67 laps of the 188-lap event. It marked his sixth triumph at NASCAR's Most Competitive track, tying fellow Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jeff Gordon for second on the all-time win list at the 2.66-mile, 33-degree banked venue. He is the only driver in history to win four consecutive NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races at the biggest, baddest track on the planet. His triumph here in May also locked him into the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup.

With a victory in the Alabama 500, Earnhardt, Jr. could join some elite company. Since Talladega Superspeedway was constructed in 1969, only two drivers have been able to win three of the four NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races held in a single season at NASCAR's "Super" tracks - Talladega and Daytona International Speedway. Pete Hamilton was the first in 1970, sweeping both events at Talladega while adding a triumph in the Daytona 500. Dale Earnhardt, Sr., pulled off the feat in



**Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Talladega Superspeedway's most recent winner, stands with the GEICO 500 trophy and the Freedom Trophy in Gatorade Victory Lane after his sixth Talladega triumph in May. Race fans with a "Pit Pass Upgrade" will get to ask NASCAR'S Most Popular Driver questions prior to the most anticipated race of the season, the Alabama 500, during the Q&A Session at the start-finish line on Sunday, Oct. 25. (Talladega Superspeedway photo)**

1990, sweeping both Talladega events as well as the Coke Zero 400 at Daytona. Earnhardt, Jr. captured the GEICO 500 in May then followed it up with a triumph at Daytona in July.

In addition to the Driver Q&A, pre-race festivities at the Driver Introduction stage will include introductions of special guests and VIPs, as well as the Honorary Starter and Grand Marshal of the Alabama 500, which is set for a 1 PM (CDT) start. The "Pit Pass Upgrade" is \$75, but also includes more opportunities for up-close access on race day.

The "Pit Pass Upgrade" allows fans to enjoy a crew member's perspective on race morning. Fans can stroll down Pit Road where the cars will be placed in position to start the race, and have the opportunity to see the crews set up each pit stall. It also allows access to The Red Carpet Entry into the Drivers Meeting. Fans will see drivers, crew chiefs, team owners, celebrities and NASCAR officials walk the red carpet into the meeting, where race procedures and protocol will be explained.

The Pit Pass Upgrade will be in effect on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. until the conclusion of Driver Introductions. To purchase, simply visit [www.talladegasuperspeedway.com](http://www.talladegasuperspeedway.com) or call 1-877-Go2-DEGA.

After walking Pit Road, fans will get to experience Talladega's roomy and comfortable 21- and 22-inch wide chair back grandstand seats. The five large Sprint Vision HD video boards, two that are 40-foot x 80-foot, will be back and placed along the frontstretch to pro-

vide unbelievable views of action on the track from every seat in the house. The video boards are an initiative that will be implemented at all ISC tracks in the future.

**Charlotte Motor Speedway**

CONCORD, NC - As Jeff Gordon prepares to make his final start at Charlotte Motor Speedway during the Bank of America 500 on Oct. 10, speedway officials are rolling out a multifaceted campaign to mark the milestone in a fashion fitting the future NASCAR Hall of Famer.



**Gordon**

As part of the speedway's newly announced "Jeff's Last Ride: A 24-Day Salute" campaign, fans can take advantage of unique ticket and collectible merchandise packages to be part of the four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion's final race at NASCAR's home track. All packages include great race tickets and a lineup of collectible merchandise that celebrates the future Hall of Famer's achievements at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Race fans will also be invited to share their memories of Gordon with legions of fellow fans through social media.

"There simply is no way to fully express the depth of our appreciation to Jeff for all that he has done both on and off the racetrack," said Marcus Smith, president and gen-

eral manager of Charlotte Motor Speedway. "Since his first Sprint Cup Series win at Charlotte in the 1994 Coca-Cola 600, Jeff has established himself as one of the world's most prolific drivers and earned the respect and admiration of millions of race fans. On a personal note, I look forward to seeing him compete at the Bank of America 500 in October and I'm glad he'll continue to be part of our sport as he moves into the next chapter of his career."

Plans for the "Jeff's Last Ride: A 24-Day Salute" include:

- Original Bank of America 500 souvenir program artwork by Sam Bass, NASCAR's first officially licensed artist, honoring "Jeff's Last Ride" at Charlotte Motor Speedway;

- Personal stories, memories and well-wishes from sports personalities, community leaders and other celebrities through daily videos posted to [JeffsLastRide.com](http://JeffsLastRide.com);

- Fans sharing unforgettable moments and remembrances via social media to congratulate the four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup champion;

- A collection of iconic No. 24 race cars and Gordon's personal cars showcased during the Charlotte AutoFair, Sept. 24-27;

- Partnerships with businesses across the Charlotte region to "paint Charlotte 24" in the final 24 days before the only Saturday night race in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship;

- A 24-day social media campaign that reflects on Gordon's top moments over the course of his career at Charlotte Motor Speedway;

- "Jeff's Last Ride" ticket and career celebration merchandise package offers fans great/better/best-value opportunities to witness Gordon's final race at Charlotte Motor Speedway and a collection of limited-edition merchandise to honor Jeff's Last Ride at the legendary speedway. Packages start at just \$139, plus tax.

For more information about Charlotte Motor Speedway "Jeff's Last Ride: A 24-Day Salute," visit [www.JeffsLastRide.com](http://www.JeffsLastRide.com) or join the conversation on social media using #JeffsLastRide. To purchase ticket, camping or race-day upgrades, visit [www.charlottemotorspeedway.com](http://www.charlottemotorspeedway.com) or call 1-800-455-FANS (3267).

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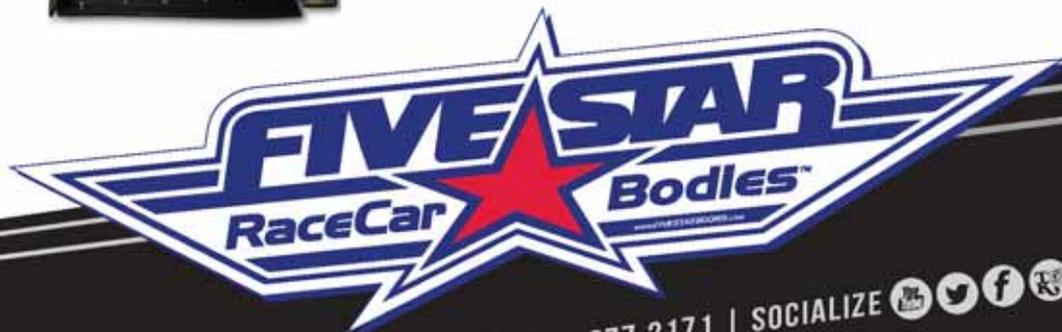
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## Donny Schatz Wins Wild Gerdau Magic City Showdown

MINOT, ND - Donny Schatz picked up a wild win Sunday night at Nodak Speedway's Gerdau Magic City Showdown presented by Schatz Crossroads Truck Stop as he found the luck and longevity that eluded others.

The win in front of a hometown crowd was his 25th World of Outlaws Sprint Car Series victory of the season and fourth straight series win at the track.

"This is incredible. Thanks to all you guys, thanks to my family. This is an awesome place to be," Schatz said. "Glad to be here, glad to be a part of it and I'm just damn glad to get the win tonight."

Schatz had a brush with bad luck earlier in the night. While running second in his heat race, he had a tire cut down. Luckily for him, the incident happened on the final lap and he was able to finish in third.

After a second place run in the Dash, Schatz started on the front row of the feature with Paul McMahan. Through the first 10 laps, Schatz maintained a close following distance while McMahan worked his way through traffic. As the battle heated up, the two drivers were at times bumper-to-bumper and side-by-side. Schatz looked for a line around as McMahan tried to hold off the No. 15 Bad Boy Buggies/Chevrolet Performance car.

Lapped traffic proved pivotal for Schatz in the battle though. He and McMahan side-by-side off of turn on lap 12, split a lap car, McMahan to the low side and Schatz to the high side with the better run off the corner. Schatz took over the lead.

For McMahan, the night got much more challenging just two laps later. First he lost his transponder then his tire cut down. His team scrambled to replace the tire under caution and saw their hope for good night fade as McMahan returned from the work area at the tail end in 13th.

"I'll tell you what, we were pretty good there and I felt it going low while I was out front," McMahan said. "It was getting tighter and tighter and kind of walling around on the right rear. I was just hoping it would go non-stop but unfortu-

nately it didn't."

Schatz led the field to green but had a new handful in Brad Sweet.

"He gave me the death slider going into one and two and I just couldn't get back by," Schatz said. "We needed some traffic."

Through a succession of cautions, Sweet continued to maintain a lead over Schatz. Then disaster struck. Sweet himself had a tire cut down as he paced the field under caution with just three laps to go. Schatz retook the lead and though Daryn Pittman tried to run him down, Schatz parked his car on the front straight.

"This whole race team does a phenomenal job making adjustments," Schatz said of his Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing team. "We're kind of in a learning spot right now trying some different things. Some nights it's better, some nights it's not. Tonight we could have been a little bit better but then the other night we were really good at the end of the race."

Perhaps the biggest story of the night was McMahan who faced adversity with his CJB Motorsports team and overcame it. McMahan drove his No. 51 CJB Motorsports/Bair's Tree Service car back through the field, steadily picking up positions on each restart. By the final restart, he battled around the No. 29 of Kerry Madsen for third with just two laps remaining.

It was a long and difficult road to get back on the podium for McMahan.

"We got back out, drove our ass off to get back to third," McMahan said. "In the results it's going to look like we backed up two spots but I passed an awful lot of cars tonight."

For Pittman, the night was perhaps a picture of what could have been for his No. 9 Great Clips/Sage Fruit team as he charged to the lead on one of the mid-race restarts only to have the caution fly before a lap could be completed.

"We took the lead on that restart, had a great restart. I didn't want to see that caution," Pittman said. "I wasn't sure we were going to be able to hold on to it but I had a really good car and I can tell you, just what little bit of clean air I felt, felt a lot better than being behind people."

"It's a good finish. We would have liked to have won, it would have been great if Brad could have won and we could have run second or third but that's how it goes. We'll just keep fighting."

## Richards Outduels Clanton at Eriez Speedway

, Completes Sweep of World of Outlaws Late Model Series Three-Race Weekend

ERIE, PA - Josh Richards of Shinnston, W.Va., wrapped up a perfect weekend on the World of Outlaws Late Model Series with a dominating victory in front of a near-capacity crowd Sunday night at Eriez

Speedway.

Richards, who opened the national tour's three-race weekend with victories at Atomic Speedway in Chillicothe, Ohio, on Friday and Saturday, overtook WoO LMS points leader Shane Clanton of Zebulon, Ga., on lap 31 of Sunday's 50-lap A-Main at Eriez and cruised through the remainder of the caution-free race on his way to his ninth WoO LMS victory of the season and his fifth in the tour's past six races.

"That was a lot of fun. I love the fans up here and this is an awesome racetrack," said the 27-year-old Richards, whose third WoO LMS victory at Eriez marked the 58th series win of his career. "I had a lot of fun this weekend. It's a little surreal, but we're just gonna keep racing and doing what we love to do."

Richards' Valvoline-sponsored Rocket Chassis house car crossed the finish line 4.550 seconds ahead of Clanton, who settled for second in his Weldbank Energy Capital Race Cars house car. Frank Heckenast Jr. of Frankfort, Ill., was third in a Club 29 Race Car with Chub Frank of Bear Lake, Pa., fourth in a Longhorn Chassis and Max Blair of Centerville, Pa., fifth in a Rocket Chassis.

Starting from inside the second row, Richards went by second-starting Heckenast early and chased the polesitting Clanton through the opening laps. Clanton initially pulled away from Richards, but Richards began closing the gap when the two leaders reached traffic just after lap 10.

Richards pressured Clanton through traffic during the follow circuits and edged ahead at times. But it wasn't until lap 31 that he finally completed the pass and grabbed the lead for good.

Richards cruised from there, knifing his way through traffic in lapping all but the top 12 cars.

"Clanton was really good early," said Richards, who is now tied with Clanton for the most victories on this year WoO LMS tour. "I think we might have adjusted a little bit too far, and early in the race I was a little bit too free. I had to be really methodical through lapped traffic and try to get through there the best I could."

"The car was really maneuverable. I can't think my dad (Mark Richards of Rocket Chassis) enough. He's one of the smartest guys in the industry."

In settling for second, Clanton kept his string of strong finishes going with his sixth consecutive top-five result and his fourth straight finish of third or better. While he finished second to Richards for the second straight night, he still leads him in the series standings by a comfortable 154-point margin with seven races remaining on the tour's schedule.

"His car is just a little bit better than ours right now," Clanton said. "We'll go home and do some more homework and hopefully get one spot better. He's done his homework this past month and it's showing. We had it back at the beginning of the year, now we just need to get back on top. We're close, we just need to get a little bit better."

Making his first appearance at Eriez Speedway, Heckenast steadily improved all night after qualifying third fastest in his group and finishing second in his heat race. By the main event, he was well adjusted to the track thanks to its similarities with tracks in his home state.

"This place is pretty awesome," Heckenast said. "It's kind of like the tracks back home in Illinois. I think we were the only ones with that left-rear tire on, so I was pretty nervous, but it worked out alright. Josh is on kill right now, so I didn't really expect to beat him."

Rick Eckert of York, Pa., was sixth at the finish with Chase Jung-hans of Manhattan, Kan., seventh. In finishing eighth, Jared Miley of Pittsburgh, Pa., scored his third top-10 finish in three WoO LMS appearances this season. He was followed by Morgan Bagley of Longview, Texas, in ninth and Eric Wells of Hazard, Ky., in 10th.

The WoO LMS takes the upcoming weekend off in preparation for a blockbuster Labor Day weekend in the Keystone State.

## Late Race Pass Gives Donny Schatz Win at River Cities Speedway

GRAND FORKS, ND - With a late race pass of Paul McMahan at Friday night's Second Leg of the Northern Tour at River Cities Speedway, Donny Schatz picked up his 24th World of Outlaws Sprint Car Series victory of the season.

With the hard fought win, Schatz also scored the sweep of series events at the track in 2015. He stood in victory lane when the Outlaws were in Grand Forks on June 19.

"These three guys working on the racecar, they are the ones you should be talking to," Schatz said. "They're just incredible. (Driving the late model tonight) kind of threw me off a little because I didn't get a lot of time to talk to them in between races. They made great calls to try to make things better for me. We finally got our racecar back to where it's better late in the race and they've worked hard to make that happen."

Schatz picked up quick time to start the night in his No. 15 Bad Boy Buggies/Chevrolet Performance car with a lap of 10.398.

McMahan battled past Schatz in the night's Dash and took the top starting spot in the 40-lap feature. When the green flag fell, Schatz tried hard to get around McMahan but the CJB Motorsports driver held the position.

Through several cautions in the early going, a bunched up field and restarts provided opportunities for several drivers not least of which was Schatz and Mark Dobmeier, the winningest driver in River Cities' history.

Joey Saldana had taken over the second position from Schatz in his No. 71m Motter Equipment car on an early restart. When the field came to green following a caution on lap 17, the second, third and fourth place running cars of Saldana, Schatz and Dobmeier bunched up and set up a three-way battle for position.

Schatz and Saldana battled side-by-side on the restart and through the succeeding lap. Advantage to Schatz as Dobmeier rode the cushion at the top around Saldana.

"We had a really good car and I gave it away on that restart there," Saldana said. "I don't know what I was thinking. Running the bottom and no, I'm going to try sliding to the top. That was a total mistake on my part."

As McMahan worked his way through lapped traffic, Schatz closed on the leader. McMahan beat Schatz down the front into turns one and two but Schatz ran down McMahan in turn three, lap after lap, McMahan blocked the line and held Schatz off.

The final stoppage of the night occurred on lap 27 as Jason Sides, Dusty Zomer, Austen Wheatley and Mitch Mack were caught up in a crash on the exit of turn four. All drivers were OK.

On the restart a new face emerged. Jason Johnson, who started the feature in 16th had steadily worked his way to sixth and when green flag again flew, Johnson moved from that position to third in one lap.

The pitched battle for the lead once again returned as McMahan worked to hold off Schatz. Lap after lap, with Schatz on the bottom of turns one and two and McMahan on the top, McMahan held off the No. 15. One bobble though was all it took for Schatz to get around McMahan off of turn two. As Saldana fought back in to the top three for his position, Schatz did not look back in the final eight laps.

For Saldana, the third place finish was a solid run for his team but a missed opportunity.

"I had to work my way back up there and had a shot at second and just didn't run a smart race the whole 40 laps," Saldana said. "But it was definitely a good solid effort by the whole team. Anytime you can be on the front straightaway after a World of Outlaws race, you've accomplished something."

McMahan, who finished second to Schatz after leading the first 32 laps of the feature, said his team has been making strides to get better after a rough middle part of the season. Ultimately though, he said every Outlaws team is chasing Schatz.



Schatz

## Richards Completes Sweep Of Ohio Oval's World of Outlaws Late Model Series Doubleheader

CHILLICOTHE, OH - Josh Richards put on another stellar performance Saturday night at Atomic Speedway, leading all 50 laps of the night's main event to complete a sweep of the 3/8-mile oval's World of Outlaws Late Model Series doubleheader weekend.

The three-time WoO LMS champion left no doubt as to who was the dominant car at Atomic's two-race event in driving his Valvoline Rocket Chassis house car to a lead of more than eight seconds in Saturday's caution-free race. Richards, 27, earned \$10,150 for his eighth WoO LMS victory of the season and his fourth in the national tour's past five events.

"This car was a dream to drive," said Richards. "I love coming here to this awesome track. To drive all over it and move around like that, it was a lot of fun."

Richards crossed the finish line 8.471 seconds ahead of WoO LMS points leader Shane Clanton while Jared Hawkins settled for third after challenging Richards through the race's early portions. Devin Moran was fourth with R.J. Conley rounding out the top five.

Starting from the fifth position, Clanton steadily moved forward in his Weldbank Energy Capital Race Cars house car before taking the second spot from Hawkins on lap 47.

Although he fell short of the victory, Clanton continued to march toward his first-career WoO LMS

title with his fifth consecutive top-five WoO LMS finish and his third straight finish among the top three. His lead over Richards at the top of the WoO LMS standings sits at 158 points with eight races remaining on the season.

"It took me so long to get by a couple guys there and lapped traffic was pretty tough with the cushion as big as it was in one and two," Clanton said. "I didn't wanna take no chances. We needed to finish where we were and come home second. Josh has been on a roll. Our Capital Race Car is pretty good right now, just needs to be a little better."

After starting alongside Richards on the front row, Hawkins was the only driver to provide Richards a serious challenge. Hawkins' Rocket machine kept pace with Richards through the early laps with Hawkins even taking a few looks under Richards when the leaders reached lapped traffic around lap 10.

But Hawkins couldn't maintain Richards' pace and faded late. He settled for third in completing a solid weekend.

"I was surprised I was keeping up with him because I was really pushing it," Hawkins said of his attempt to keep pace with Richards early in the race. "I'm sure I burnt my stuff up there. Those last 20 laps were a handful."

Jason Montgomery was sixth in the final rundown, with Eric Wells aking seventh. Chub Frank was eighth with Chris Ferguson and Chase Junghans rounding out the race's top 10 finishers.



Josh Richards swept both nights of World of Outlaws Late Models Series action at Atomic Speedway. (Paul Arch photo)

## Kerry Madsen Claims His First Win of 2015 at Junction Motor Speedway

MCCOOL JUNCTION, NE - After a season of podium finishes and consistent runs that had yet to result in a win, Kerry Madsen finally ended his year-long World of Outlaws Sprint Car Series winless drought with a victory at Junction Motor Speedway's NAPA

Auto Parts Sprint Car Extravaganza presented by Mid-Nebraska Land Development.

Madsen led flag-to-flag and became the 20th different driver to win an Outlaws feature this season.

"We got on a roll last year and somehow we got off it," Madsen said. "And the last month we have been working so hard to try to get our racecars better and we had a great week last week and tonight. You can just never feel complacent when you're on the front row with Donny. I was pushing hard, there probably wasn't really another line, but you're just expecting some big slide job. So every lap you drive as hard as you can. Just great to get the result."

Madsen, who came in to 2015 after a season that saw him in victory lane six times, last won an Outlaws feature on Sept. 7, 2014 at Antioch Speedway.

Joey Saldana kicked off the night by scoring his season-leading 13th quick time in qualifying and set a new track record of 13.528 seconds. Saldana's fast lap beat the old 13.586 second record set by Daryn Pittman in 2013.

When the series hit the track for the 30-lap feature temperatures had fallen to an unusually cold 55

degrees and the challenge of the night was amped up with a sustained 10 mph wind.

Madsen and Donny Schatz took up positions on the front row. Madsen jumped out to an early lead with Schatz trying to chase down the No. 29 American Racing Custom Wheels car.

"I caught it really well and got (Donny) right where I wanted him in one and two, got the slider, we had that little bit of moisture in the bottom of three which made it easy," Madsen said of his move for the lead.

He caught the back of the field by lap six and began working his way through.

The only caution of the night flew on lap 11 and proved pivotal for Saldana who spent the early half of the race in third. When the green flag once again fell, Saldana battled Schatz through turns one and two and dove low in three and four, trying a slider on Schatz's No. 15 Bad Boy Buggies for second. As the two cleared turn four, Saldana had taken over the position.

Madsen again caught the back of the field on lap 18 and Saldana tried to close the gap on him. Madsen however had built up a persistent one and a half second lead.

As the laps wound down, Schatz caught Saldana in traffic. On laps 27 and 28, Schatz tried to make the move around the No. 71m for second but, despite getting side-by-side, was not able to make it work.

Saldana, who finished the night in second, said his Motter Motorsports team is doing what they need to and the consistency is there, they just need to find that little something extra to put them over the top.

## Richards Gets First-Career Atomic Speedway Victory

CHILLICOTHE, OH - Josh Richards kept his recent World of Outlaws Late Model Series hot streak rolling Friday night with a convincing victory during the first of the national tour's back-to-back nights of racing at Atomic Speedway.

Richards, the three-time WoO LMS champion overtook race-long leader Darrell Lanigan on lap 26 of Friday's 40-lap race at the 3/8-mile oval and drove his Valvoline-sponsored Rocket Chassis house car to his third victory in the past four WoO LMS events.

The \$8,650 triumph marked Richards' seventh WoO LMS win of the season and the 56th of his career. Even more significantly, the victory was Richards' first at Atomic Speedway.

"This is an awesome racetrack," Richards said of the historic Buckeye State race facility formerly known as K-C Raceway. "I love coming here, but this is one that's always alluded me. I actually won my first big check here 10 years ago, but it was just a dash. It feels good to finally win one here."

After pulling away on the race's final restart with six laps remaining, Richards crossed the finish line 1.791 seconds ahead of Eddie Carrier Jr. WoO LMS points leader Shane Clanton finished third, while Tim McCreddie charged from the 23rd starting spot to finish fourth and Frank Heckenast Jr. advanced from 19th to fifth.

The first half of the race featured a battle between a pair of three-time WoO LMS champions in Richards and Lanigan. The polesitting Lanigan led the way through the race's caution-plagued opening laps, as the third-starting Richards made an early move to take second from Jackie Boggs.

Richards chased Lanigan through the first half of the race before turning up the pressure just after the midway point. Lanigan's bobble exiting turn two on lap 26 gave Richards the opening he needed. He took advantage, using a slidejob to complete the winning pass in turns three and four.

"He was good out in clean air by himself, but after we'd run some

laps I could gain on him," Richards said of his battle with Lanigan. "He slipped up, and I knew I had to take it while I could because he doesn't mess up very often."

Lanigan wasn't able to make a serious bid to retake the lead after losing it to Richards. He faded in the following laps, dropping back to fourth before slowing on lap 32 and retiring from the race.

Advancing from the seventh starting spot in his Optima Batteries Rocket Carrier used a lap-

35 restart to take second from Clanton. But the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series regular wasn't able to keep pace with Richards through the closing laps. He settled for the runner-up finish in just missing what would've been his first career WoO LMS victory.

"I think we had a third place car, and then got a good run on Shane that last restart," Carrier said. "I think he kind of hit a hole and pushed a little bit and I got him. I was probably holding him up, but I'll take second."

Clanton drove his Weldbank Energy Capital Race Cars house car to another solid finish in recording his 21st finish of the third or better on this year's WoO LMS campaign. The series veteran holds a 162-point lead over Richards as he chases his first series championship.

Rick Eckert recovered from problems that forced him to slow and cause a lap-three caution to finish sixth, while the night's fast qualifier Chris Ferguson finished seventh after running as high as fourth midway through the race. Chase Junghans rallied from 24th to finish eighth with Morgan Bagley and Mason Zeigler rounding out the top 10.

The race was slowed by eight cautions, including a number of yellow flags that involved front runners. Second-starting Boggs slowed and retired from the race on lap 12, while Matt Westfall slowed from a top-10 spot on lap 19. Lanigan's slowing machine on lap 32 was hit by 10th-running Duane Chamberlain. The final caution waved for a tangle resulting from a top-10 battle between Devin Moran and Steve Casebolt.



Richards



Kerry Madson raced his way to his first win of the 2015 season at Junction Motor Speedway. (Paul Arch photo)

## Bloomquist Wins "Whiskey City 50" at Lawrenceburg Speedway

LAWRENCEBURG, IN - Scott Bloomquist scored his first career win at Lawrenceburg Speedway on Saturday night with his victory in the "Whiskey City 50." Bloomquist took the lead from Steve Francis on lap 17 and led the rest of the way for the win.

Jonathan Davenport, moved to second on lap 17 and stayed there the rest of the way.

Jimmy Owens came from ninth to finish third, followed by Eddie Carrier Jr., and 18th starting Dennis Erb Jr. rounding out the top five finishers.

"We have been here a number of times and it's the first time for us

to win here. Our car was very maneuverable the whole night" said Bloomquist. "I was worried a bit in that heat race. We fell back to third. I didn't realize it was that greasy on the bottom and the top was that fast."

Francis was looking for his second win in his last three starts Lawrenceburg, and bolted to the lead at the start of the race. He led the first 17 laps of the race until he suffered a right-rear flat tire, relinquishing the top spot to Bloomquist.

A caution with ten laps to go bunched the field up one more time, but Bloomquist maintained a pace that kept Davenport at bay for the remainder of the race.

Davenport was pleased with his runner-up finish.

"This is only the second time we



Scott Bloomquist celebrates in victory lane at Lawrenceburg Speedway on Saturday night. (Steve Alcorn/LOS photo)

have been here, so to finish second is pretty good. I'd like to thank Kevin and Lee Roy Rumley and all my sponsors. It was a good point's night so we will head to Pittsburgh next week and try to win that one."

Owens finished third and said that starting too far back was too much to overcome.

"We hung in there the best we could. We hauled it up there to third, but I just couldn't keep my line

on the bottom. My hat's off to those guys [Bloomquist and Davenport]. We will go get them next time!"

Completing the top ten were Jason Jameson, Earl Pearson Jr., Brandon Sheppard, Don O'Neal, and Jared Landers.

For the latest breaking news on the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, log onto [www.lucasdirt.com](http://www.lucasdirt.com) and follow the series on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

## Seth Bergman Picks Up a Victory at Cotton Bowl Speedway

PAIGE, TX - Picking up win No. 11 on the season, Seth Bergman completed the weekend sweep of the Southern Trailer Works ASCS Gulf South Region presented by Griffith Truck and Equipment, earning his third career Gulf South win, and first at the Cotton

Bowl Speedway in Paige, Texas.

The second driver of the season to sweep a weekend with the Gulf South Region, Seth pocketed a \$1,000 bonus courtesy of Challenger Drilling, Griffith Truck and Equipment, and Cooper Motorsports to bring his weekend winnings to \$7,000.

Bergman drove to victory from seventh with Jordon Mallett crossing runner-up. Ray Allen Kulhanek grabbed third with Michael McNeil from eight to fourth. Jacob Lucas completed the top-five.

Klint Angelette was sixth with Tommy Bryant seventh. Channin Tankersley was eighth followed by Kevin Ramey and Tyson Hall to complete the top-ten.

With Kulhanek's third to Ramey's ninth, the five time ASCS Gulf South Champion has gone

from 11 behind to 11 ahead, taking over the point from Kevin Ramey with Channin Tankersley slipping to a 47 point disadvantage with two nights to go at the Battleground Speedway on Friday, September 4 and Saturday, September 5 in Highlands, Texas.

For continued updates on the ASCS Gulf South Region, log onto

[www.ascsracing.com](http://www.ascsracing.com).

## Bergman Rocks ASCS Gulf South at Waco

WACO, TX - They all count, but the lap that counts the most is the final one, and Seth Bergman was the one who led it on Friday night with the Southern Trailer Works ASCS Gulf South Region presented by Griffith Truck and Equipment.

Pulling off a final lap pass to collect the night's \$3,000 payday at the Heart O' Texas Speedway,

Seth's win makes the driver of the Corridor Electric No. 23 the eighth different winner of the season.

The 10th win of the year for Bergman, the Washington shoe worked past Ray Allen Kulhanek for his first with the Gulf South Region in 2015. Kulhanek crossed second with series point's leader, Kevin Ramey, taking the final podium step. Zane Lawrence and Michael Lang completed the top five.

Claud Estes cross sixth with Michele Melton, Jacob Lucas, Caleb Martin, and Dustin Gates from 17th completing the top-ten.

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## Caleb Griffith Earns Butler All Star Win with Last Corner Pass

QUINCY, MI - Steve Kinser was a half-turn away from celebrating a UNOH All Star Circuit of Champions Michigan sweep on Saturday night, August 22, at the Butler Speedway near Quincy, Michigan, but was halted just before the celebration could begin.

Caleb Griffith, a Castalia, Ohio native and former Attica Raceway Park track champion, ended Steve Kinser's brief Michigan reign with a last corner pass to earn a second-career UNOH All Star Circuit of Champions victory. It was Griffith's first UNOH All Star main event win of the 2015 season. The pilot of the Marshall Motorsports #33M collected \$5,000 for his efforts at Butler Speedway.

"I love coming here" said Caleb Griffith, "When the race started, I felt like we were a little too free. We backed up a little bit and got passed by a few guys. As the race went on, I started to find an area to race on above the groove where the cushion used to be. I started to get better and figured out it wasn't as hard on my tires. I thought I was going to get Greg (Wilson) before that caution came out. He got away from me a little bit after we went back to green, but I ended up getting a great run off of turn two on the white flag lap to pass him. I figured it was time to go for it and try to get around Steve (Kinser), also."

Caleb Griffith started third on the

main event grid and raced inside the top-five during the entire 30-lap distance. After dropping as far back as fifth in the running order, Griffith worked his way back into third by lap 22; just before the event's first and only caution on lap 26. Griffith would advance two more positions during the remaining four circuits; eventually working under the #W20 of Greg Wilson for second with a diamond move off of turn one on the white flag lap.

The winning move occurred in the final corner when Griffith drove low into turn three and successfully worked under Steve Kinser. Griffith out-raced the 20-time World of Outlaws champion toward the checkers; becoming the third different UNOH All Star winner at Butler Speedway in the last three starts. Kinser, who led the first 29 laps of the 30-lap main event, would settle for second, followed by fourth starting Greg Wilson. The top-three finishers would face periods of heavy lapped traffic throughout the entire contest.

"I've been watching Steve Kinser race since I was five or six years old" said Caleb Griffith, "To get around him like that for the win is pretty big. I think I've only been here (Butler Speedway) twice. We ran second the first time and we won here tonight. I love coming here."

Cody Darrah would improve two positions to finish fourth on Saturday night after starting on the outside of row three. It was a second consecutive fourth place finish for the Red Lion, Pennsylvania native



Caleb Griffith completed a last lap, last corner pass on Steve Kinser to steal the win at Butler Speedway. (Paul Arch photo)

in the state of Michigan. The "Steel City Outlaw" Tim Shaffer rounded out the evening's top-five finishers after starting eighth.

### "King Kinser" Wins Against the All Stars at I-96 Speedway

LAKE ODESSA, MI - Bloomington, Indiana's Steve Kinser continued his long-lasting kingship on Friday night by winning the 35-lap UNOH All Star Circuit of Champions main event at the I-96 Speedway in Lake Odessa, Michigan. Formally known as "The King" to the entire sprint car community, Steve Kinser earned the \$5,000 victory in great fashion; holding off rising star Sheldon Haudenschild and Pittsburgh native Danny Holtgraver to ultimately end Dale Blaney's five-race UNOH All Star win streak. The pilot of the familiar Bad Boy Buggies, Tony Stewart Racing, #11 is now tied with Doug Wolfgang and Danny Lasoski for 12th on the all-time UNOH All Star win list with 37 victories. The win was a career-first at I-96 Speedway during UNOH All Star competition.

"I just want to thank my entire crew" said Steve Kinser, "They gave me a great car here tonight and it was fantastic to drive. Even when we got caught up in traffic, we were able to drive right through it. Just a great night all together for us."

Steve Kinser started third on the main event grid and would soon take command of the field after pole sitter Dustin Daggett drove off of the speedway on the opening lap. The 20-time World of Outlaws champion maintained the top spot the entire distance; surviving four

cautions, the last with 13 laps remaining, and periods of lapped traffic to secure his place in victory lane.

Wooster, Ohio's Sheldon Haudenschild raced into the runner-up position after starting on the outside of row two. The three-time UNOH All Star winner in 2015 chased "The King" the entire 35-lap distance. Even after countless attempts to use lapped traffic as an advantage, Haudenschild would fail to reel-in Kinser. The podium finish now gives Haudenschild ten UNOH All Star top-five finishes in 2015.

"This car has been great to drive the last few months" said Sheldon Haudenschild, "Ever since Bonzai jumped on board with us, things have been great. Everyone works hard and I can't thank them enough. Just happy with how things are going."

Danny Holtgraver, who started on the outside of the front row, would join Sheldon Haudenschild in the pursuit to catch "The King" soon after the start, but came home two positions short. The former Lernerville Speedway track champion drove the Phoenix Racing #59 to a third place finish at I-96 Speedway; a second consecutive third place finish during UNOH All Star competition.

Cody Darrah would rally two positions to finish fourth. Tim Shaffer rounded out the evening's top-five finishers after starting in row five.



Steve Kinser earned his 37th career UNOH All Star Circuit of Champions victory at I-96 Speedway ending Dale Blaney's 5 race winning streak. (Paul Arch photo)



## Brady Short Gets Midwest Sprint Car Series Brownstown Speedway Win

BROWNSTOWN, IN - Brady Short raced to victory Saturday night at the Brownstown Speedway. It was the first appearance ever of the Midwest Sprint Car Series at the speedway.

Short was driving the Cam Potorff owned sprint car. The victory was Short's ninth this season in competition with MSCS. The win was also the Bedford Blasters fifth straight MSCS feature win. The record setting performance moved Short into a tie with Jon Stanbrough as the driver with the most all time MSCS series wins. Both drivers now have 20 feature wins each!

Brady Short led most of the 25 lap feature. He took the lead from Nick Bilbee on lap three. However once he took the lead he was challenged by Dickie Gaines repeatedly. Gaines had started tenth in the Soudrette machine and was running second by lap seven. Short used the high line to produce enough momentum to secure a lead on the straights. Gaines relied on an inside lane that shortened the quarter mile oval and allowed him to pull even in the turns. The fight for the lead continued with neither driver willing to change lines. Gaines had looks at the lead but could never capitalize on any of them in what became one of the most interesting match ups of the year for fans to watch. Short's winning margin was just .353 seconds. Nick Bilbee of Indianapolis finished third.

Bub Cummings and Stephen Taylor rounded out the top five for the feature. It was the best finish of the season with MSCS for both drivers. Cummings races out of nearby Bedford, IN, while Taylor is from Wellington, New Zealand. The second five included Brandon Mattox, Jordan Kinser, Tony Main, Dakota Jackson, and Logan Hupp.

The track was race ready. The drivers formed packs and racing developed on back through the field. Speedsters moving up five or more spots included Gaines and Cummings plus Tony Main, Dakota Jackson, Jordan Kinser, and James Lyerla. Kinser would earn the Keizer Aluminum Wheels Hard Charger of the Race in climbing

from seventeenth up to seventh. James Lyerla received the Wilwood Tuff Brakes Award after finishing eleventh thus just missing a top ten spot.

There were only three caution periods during the main event and they were early on. The yellow on lap 5 was for Hunter O'Neal. Then on lap six Carson Short brought out the yellow and a wrecker was needed to tow his damaged car to the pits. The final yellow was on lap nine for an incident involving Pat Giddens and Hunter O'Neal.

The three MSCS heat races were won by Hunter O'Neal, Nick Bilbee, and Brady Short. Bilbees run produced the most passing points for any driver and with the redraw gave him the pole for the feature. O'Neal's heat race win was his first at an MSCS race.

The next event for the Hoosier Tire Midwest Sprint Car Series will be held on Sunday September 6th at Tri-State Speedway in Haubstadt, IN. The sprints will be joined at the "Labor Day Weekend Challenge" by the UMP Modifieds and MMSA Mini-Sprints to make this a triple header of open wheel racing.

### Short and Short One-Two at The Laura Stockon Memorial Race

FLORA, IL - Saturday night the Hoosier Tire Midwest Sprint Car Series raced at the revitalized Route 45 Raceway in a special event held in memory of Laura Stockon who was a lifelong supporter of sprint car racing and a former MSCS car owner. The feature distance was set at 32 laps as further recognition. The pre-race ceremony included driver introductions followed by the customary 4 wide parade lap. Then the parade was over and duals continued throughout the laps all back through the field.

Carson Short lead the first lap. Chase Stockon had a fast car and he took the lead on the second lap. He continued as the early leader and most likely the crowd's sentimental favorite. He kept the 32 out front as Brady Short became the challenger. The duals intensified! Chase held off Brady Short while Carson Short had to contend with Jordan Kinser. Behind them



**Brady Short won at Brownstown Speedway and Route 45 Raceway. Here he celebrates in Route 45's victory lane with the Stockon family after winning the Laura Stockon Memorial Race. (www.mscssprints.com photo)**

more packs formed. The track was fast. The leaders began overtaking and lapping cars. Traffic forced lane changes. On lap 17 Chase made contact with Chet Williams on the backstretch and William's car flipped. Chase's car was pushed to the work area with a flat rear tire and other damage.

The race was restarted with Brady Short as the new leader. Carson Short would restart second.

The top two in MSCS points had 15 laps to decide the race. Brady had a left rear tire that was low. There was another yellow for an incident in turn two during which Jadon Rogers spun. All efforts to catch Brady were futile. The Bedford Blaster collected another feature win. That was number 8 with MSCS this year.

Carson Short held off Jordan Kinser in an everlasting dual. Brandon Mattox was effective at the bottom of the track in moving up to

finish fourth. James Lyerla converted a smooth run to a fifth place finish. Donny Brackett, Kent Schmidt, Tommy Rockwell, Jadon Rogers, and rookie of the year point leader Brandon Morin rounded out the top five.

Kent Schmidt was awarded the \$300 for being the Angle Building Hard Charger for the Laura Stockon Memorial Race. He will also receive the usual Keizer Aluminum Wheels contingency award. Schmidt had started in next to the last row.

Brady Short and Jordan Kinser won the two heat races which offered prize money contributed by various sponsors. MSCS driver Brian "Doc" Wallace was involved in an accident as the cars were hot lapping prior to the heat races. The throttle stuck and he took a wild ride. Precautionary measures dictated that he be transferred to the hospital for further evaluation.



**Brian Wallace flips after his throttle stuck during hot laps at Route 45 Raceway. He was taken to the local hospital as a precaution. (www.mscssprints.com photo)**

## Wilson Gets Back to Winning Ways at Mobile

MOBILE, AL - After a three-win and near championship-winning season in 2014, signs pointed towards Donnie Wilson continuing those winning ways into 2015 on the Southern Super Series presented by Sunoco. Through the first 10 races of the year, however, those signs were turned in different directions than victory lane.

Wilson, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, changed all that and got back to his winning ways Saturday when he scored his first Southern Super Series victory of 2015 in the Lee Fields Memorial at Alabama's Mobile International Speedway.

Wilson qualified second and started fourth following a re-draw, but got back to the runner-up spot by the race's halfway point. He then worked past Kyle Grissom for the lead on lap 79 that he would not relinquish en route to ending a 17-race Southern Super Series

winless drought.

"It's been a long time coming," said Wilson in victory lane. "We just haven't been as good this year, but it finally came together tonight."

While Wilson was in command under green flag conditions, several late-race restarts set Wilson up for duels with Augie Grill, with whom he battled and collided with in July's SSS event at Five Flags Speedway.

When the green flag flew for the final time with four laps to go Saturday night, space became tight between Wilson and Grill once again. Grill got his right side tires off the pavement on the backstretch at Mobile, but was able to gather his car back up to finish second while Wilson drove his No. 82 to victory lane.

"I squeezed him at Pensacola and I admitted I did that," said Wilson. "Tonight, it was a restart and he was on the high side. The high side here just takes you up automatically. He was at my quarters, kind of the same deal, but it was just one of those deals. I didn't do anything on purpose. He thought I



Donnie Wilson picked up his first Southern Super Series win of 2015 at Mobile. (Speed51.com photo)

squeezed him again, that's all there is to it."

Wilson and Grill exchanged their sides of the incident with one another during post-race ceremonies.

"We're fine, he's just upset," added Wilson. "He races hard and he wants to win just like the rest of us. He's just upset and thought I didn't give him enough room. I thought we did and it's all good."

Behind Wilson and Grill, 15-year-old Garrett Jones scored a career-best Southern Super Series finish with his third-place result. 2014 SSS champion Bubba Pollard

was fourth, while current series point leader Casey Smith finished fifth. Smith has yet to finish outside the top 10 in the 11 Southern Super Series races this season.

The Southern Super Series presented by Sunoco will be back in action on Saturday, September 13 in the 51st Annual Alabama 200 at Montgomery Motor Speedway.

For more on the Southern Super Series, visit [www.southernsuper-series.com](http://www.southernsuper-series.com), follow @SoSuperSeries on Twitter and "Like" Southern Super Series on Facebook.

## Hunter Baize Goes To Victory Lane at Flat Rock Speedway after Thrilling Victory

FLAT ROCK, MI - Champion Racing Association's (CRA) yearly visit to the 1/4 mile high-banked paved oval of Flat Rock Speedway, located south of Detroit in Flat Rock, Michigan was next on the schedule for the running of the 7-Up 125.

At the end of 125 laps it would be 17-year-old Rookie of the Year title contender, Hunter Baize bringing home his second win of his freshman campaign after leading 124 of the 125 lap event. The Bremen, Kentucky driver started on the pole of the 7-Up 125 and after briefly losing the lead to 2014 JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Champion, Dan Leeck on a restart on lap eight, Baize recovered a lap later, passed him back and went the distance for the victory.

After EDCO Welding Fast Qualifier, 16-year-old Overall and Rookie points' leader, Grant Quinlan pulled the minimum of a five for

an inversion, Baize and Leeck would bring the field to the green flag for the 125-lap event around the Southeastern Michigan speed plant. Baize jumped out to the lead with Leeck and third place starter, Brian Campbell settling in behind him. The trio quickly got away from the rest of the pack who were still scrambling for position.

Two quick cautions flew on lap seven as Jerry Andrews and Eddie Van Meter made contact in turn one. The second caution came moments later when rookie, Mark Lambert looped his mount and collected Kalamazoo Klash XXIII winner, Ali Kern and hometown favorite from near-by Newport, Michigan, Matt Hall. Kern was able to continue minus a right front fender while Hall lost the entire front end. He would later return but dropped out a few laps later due to handling issues suffered due to the incident.

Once the green flag came back out, Leeck used his momentum from restarting on the high side to briefly take the lead from Baize, his first career lap led in ARCA/CRA Super Series competition. How-

ever, a lap later, Baize stormed back on the inside to retake the point. The next 86 laps went green with Campbell eventually catching and passing Leeck and set his sights on Baize. Several times Campbell tried to make the outside lane work only to feel his tires heat up and he would be forced to tuck back in behind Baize.

The last caution flew on lap 93 and by this time, six cars were left on the lead lap plus the 'free pass' recipient, Kern. On the restart, Campbell again tried to make the outside lane work, but Baize would hang tough on the bottom. With 12 laps to go, Leeck skated past Campbell to take back the runner-up spot and immediately began to challenge Baize for the win. Leeck challenged Baize several times, but the Kentucky rising star held him off to secure his second checkered flag of the 2015 season for his Hunter Baize Racing Team, Three-Time CRA Championship winning Crew Chief, Butch VanDoorn.

Leeck, in just his fourth career ARCA/CRA Super Series start, settled for second in his #12 Mr. Asphalt Chevrolet.

Rounding out the podium finishers was Campbell in his #47 Merritt Speedway Ford.

Three-Time ARCA/CRA Super

Series Champion, Scott Hantz overcame a spin with 32 laps to go to post a fourth place showing in his #72 South Pointe Radiator Chevrolet.

A second Rookie within the top five, Jordan Pruitt claimed a career high fifth place finish in his #8 Gaylord Ford-Lincoln Ford.

Quinlan, who raced in the top five for most of the event, slipped to sixth at the end of the race and saw his point's leads in both the Overall and Rookie standings dwindle to just 18 markers. Kern recovered from her lap seven incident to post a seventh place showing ahead of Lambert, who also recovered from the same incident and collected the second Hoosier Racing Tire Performance award with an eighth. 2014 Rookie of the Year, Wes Griffith Jr., was shown ninth as Van Meter completed the top 10.

Earlier in the day in EDCO Welding Qualifying, Quinlan won his second straight Fast Qualifier award in two races with a 12.154 = 74.050mph. The ARCA/CRA Super Series Track Record in Flat Rock, Michigan remains with Two-Time Series Champion, Travis Braden who turned a 12.034 back in the series' first ever appearance at the Southeastern Michigan speed plant back on August 8th, 2012.

## Tillison Takes Lead in National Championship Race

**Oklahoma Driver Moves to Top of NASCAR Whelen All-American Series**

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - There's a new name at the top, and for the first time in seven years, he's a dirt-track racer.

Thomas Tillison Jr. won twice over the weekend in Oklahoma – Friday night at Flint Creek Speedway in West Siloam and Saturday at Salina Highbanks Speedway. His wins on the .375-mile dirt ovals pushed him past Connecticut's Keith Rocco and to the top of the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series national standings.

"I'm elated," said the 41-year-old from Wellston, Oklahoma. "This weekend was big for us. When you're that close in points, and you're battling every week, everybody has their sights set on you.

"It's been pretty nerve wracking; especially during the week. But when they give you that one to go and you're coming to the green, it just goes back to instinct and you know what you need to do."

Tillison has collected 12 wins with 20 top fives in 24 starts. He has 658 points and a 12-point lead over Rocco.

It is the first time this season Rocco or two-time national champion Lee Pulliam has not occupied the top spot, and the first time since Sept. 8, 2008, that a driver from a dirt track has been atop the national standings.

Rocco has eight wins, 25 top fives and 31 top 10s in 36 starts racing his asphalt Modified at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, Stafford Motor Speedway and New London-Waterford Speedbowl. The Wallingford, Connecticut, driver has led the national standings the entire season. He finished third at Thompson Wednesday, fourth at Stafford Friday and fourth at Waterford Saturday.

With his accession to first place, Tillison also has a number of milestones lined up.

As a first-year NASCAR Division I license holder, Tillison also leads the Jostens Rookie of the Year standings. In the first two seasons of the rookie program, New York's Nick Heywood is the highest finish-

ing rookie at 13th last year.

Tillison is looking to become the first dirt driver since Gary Webb in 2000 to win the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series championship. Brian Harris, who raced in Iowa, was the last dirt track driver to be in first place and he eventually finished second by two points behind Virginia's Philip Morris in 2008. Duane Howard from Grandview finished third in 2010.

The Whelen All-American Series points season will run through Sunday, Sept. 20.

Flint Creek is in its first season as a NASCAR-sanctioned track. Tillison runs a Modified there, and competes in the AmeriFlex Hose A Modified Division at Salina.

"It's really made it possible for this to happen," said Tillison of Flint Creek joining the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series. "When you get down to the end of the year, all those wins are so important. We're excited. Very excited."

Tillison said in the middle of the summer, where he won four races in six starts, he found himself taking some chances he didn't normally take. And some of them didn't work out. In the second half of July, he had a win but also two finishes outside the top 10.

He said he had to have a talk with himself, and his crew: "Don't make changes, because what we've been doing is what's got us here."

It's worked. In his last six starts, he's added four more wins to his total.

Tillison leads the championship standings at Salina with three races remaining, and is second behind Steve Holzkamper at Flint Creek with four races left.

Rocco has six races remaining at New London-Waterford, including twin 30-lap features on Sept. 13; two races at Thompson (twin 25-lap features Aug. 26); and five at Stafford.

Ryan Preece, who competes with Rocco at Thompson and Stafford in addition to racing at New York's Riverhead Raceway, is third with 622 points and two-time national champion Lee Pulliam is fourth with 612.

Preece won at Thompson Wednesday and Riverhead Saturday, and finished second at Stafford Friday.

Pulliam leads the series with 18 wins, and finished second and fourth at Virginia's South Boston Speedway on Saturday. He's also raced at Virginia's Langley Speedway in Hampton and Motor Mile Speedway in Radford, as well as

Caraway Speedway in Sophia, North Carolina.

Jimmy Zacharias, competing in the asphalt Modified divisions at New York's Chemung Speedrome and Holland Motorsports Complex, rounds out the top five with 609 points.

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

### Top Five Breakdown:

#### • Tillison

Best: One 41 and eight 39s

Worst: A 30, a 32, a 33 and three 34s.

#### • Rocco

Best: Four 41s and three 39s.

Worst: Two 30s and three 32s.

#### • Preece

Best: One 41-point win and three 39s.

Worst: Five 32s.

#### • Pulliam

Best: One 41 and six 39s

Worst: Two 27s and two 28s.

#### • Zacharias

Best: Two 41s and four 39s.

Worst: A 24, two 28s and a 29.

Zacharias won at Chemung Speedrome in New York on Friday.

Tillison isn't the only new name making a championship run.

Taylor Holdaway, who has nine wins in 17 starts racing at Ontario's Sunset Speedway moved up to sixth. Holdaway had a 15th and DNF in his first two starts of the season in May. Sitting at 583 points with five races remaining, Holdaway can gain significant ground with his 18th race as well as erasing those opening night finishes with better results.

And Minnesota's Jacob Goede also has just 17 starts to date, and has 578 points. He has seven Late Model races remaining at Elko Speedway.

Holdaway won the first feature at Sunset Saturday and finished fifth in the second. Goede finished fourth at Elko Saturday.

Kres VanDyke is seventh with 17 wins while racing at South Carolina's Greenville Pickens Speedway and Anderson Speedway, Tennessee's Kingsport Speedway, Virginia's Lonesome Pine Raceway in Colburn, as well as Motor Mile and Caraway.

Ted Christopher (New London-Waterford, Stafford, Thompson) and Matt Bowling (South Boston, Caraway, Motor Mile and Langley)

round out the top 10.

The top three in the national standings, as well as state and province champions, track champions, top finishers in the Div. II-V and special award winners, will be honored at the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Awards in December.

## Championship Drive Reaches Final Month

**NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Division II-V Update**

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - The drive for NASCAR Whelen All-American Series championships in Division II-V is nearing the home-stretch as just a month remains in the 2015 points season.

The premiere Division I championship has received plenty of attention for its closeness as Thomas Tillison Jr. overtook Keith Rocco for the national lead this past week, but there is also plenty left to be settled in the other four division national title pictures as the points season nears its Sept. 20 conclusion.

The Whelen All-American Series Division II rankings actually have the largest gap between first and second as Columbus (Ohio) Motor Speedway's Kyle Purvis leads Chris Hawkins – of Oklahoma's Salina Highbanks and Flint Creek Speedways – by 38 points, but the real battle here is for the rest of the top 10 positions. Less than 20 points separate Hawkins from drivers currently ranked third through seventh in the division. Thomas Neal of North Carolina's Bowman Gray Stadium currently holds the final podium position, but nine other drivers are within 20 points of his total.

Division III features the tightest championship battle as Ryan Jenkins from Midwestern ovals Adams County, I-80 and Junction Motor Speedways leads fellow dirt-tracker Chuck Schutz Jr. of Grandview Speedway in Pennsylvania by just three points. Brent Kane of Elko Speedway in Minnesota is also within striking distance at just 16 points out in third place.

Elko's Grant Brown still has some work to do to gain a title in Whelen All-American Series Division IV with a 19-point advantage on Ryan Smith from Columbus. Defending champion AJ Sanders from Bowman Gray and Caraway Speedway, also in North Carolina, currently maintains the third spot, 46 points out.

Like Tillison in Division I and Hawkins in Division II, Jack Kirby is

**(Continued on next page...)**

(Continued...)

also in contention for a national title thanks to his success at Flint Creek and Salina. Kirby has compiled a 31-point lead in the Division V standings over Justin Schelitzche, but there is still plenty left to decide in this division. Aaron Van Fleet from Pennsylvania's Motordrome Speedway is just three points behind Schelitzche in third place while Elko's Ashley

Bell is not that far off of the podium, 25 points behind Van Fleet.

Whelen All-American Series Division II-V drivers are ranked by their best 14 NASCAR point finishes in series-sanctioned events. Drivers receive two points for every car they finish ahead of – up to 18 cars – and three points for a win, with an additional two points if the driver starts 10th or lower.

In 2014, for the first time, NASCAR recognized champions from each of its divisions of the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series.

In previous year, NASCAR's Finalist Program recognized the achievements of drivers outside of the Division I. Jared Umbenhauer (Grandview, Div. II), Jon Plowman (I-80 and Adams County, Div. III), Sanders (Div. IV) and Donovan Beacham (Greenville and Anderson, Div. V) were the inaugural national champions.

## Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - Reigning USAC Southwest Sprint Car champion R.J. Johnson of Laveen, AZ, put the wraps on the Third Annual "Freedom Tour" by winning Saturday night's 30-lap main event atop the 3/8-mile Dodge City Raceway Park clay oval.

While Johnson held off Ryan Bernal and Charles Davis, Jr., for the \$2,500 payday, other winners on the night included Brendon Gemmill in IMCA Modifieds, Marlin Hogie in IMCA Stock Cars and Matt O'Hair in IMCA Hobby Stocks.

With his triumph, Johnson became the fourth different winner in as many rounds of USAC Southwest "Freedom Tour" action after Charles Davis, Jr., Blake Hahn and Mike Martin topped the opening three legs.

"We've struggled so bad all week long that we finally broke out the backup car tonight," Johnson



R. J. Johnson along with his crew and family celebrate putting the wraps on the Third Annual "Freedom Tour". (DCRP photo)

said in victory lane. "If you ask me, I think the backup car is pretty damn good."

After topping the third and final heat race after Stevie Sussex and Martin won the first pair of heats, Johnson gridded the field outside the second row with Davis, Jr., and McQueen leading the way to the green flag.

Looking for his second win of the week, Davis, Jr., gunned into the early lead Shon Deskins and Johnson making their way past McQueen for second and third, respectively, on a lap three restart following Michael Bonneau's turn two flip.

With Davis, Jr., working the top side of the track in the Massey Motorsports No. 50, Johnson began working the low side and was making progress in short order. Johnson surged past Deskins for second on the eighth round and then raced past Davis, Jr., for the lead three laps later.

As the lead pack fought for space on the bottom, Ryan Bernal worked his way up to third by the 12th circuit after making a quick rush from 12th to fifth in the opening handful of circuits.

When Davis, Jr., drove too hard into turn three on the 16th round, Bernal took quick advantage and moved into second. Bernal kept the pressure on Johnson the rest of the way, making one final bid off the final pair of corners only to come up short at the line.

"I wasn't sure if we were gonna win one this year," Johnson said after the triumph aboard the Ford-powered Kodiak Products No. 77m Sherman. "Last year we won the opener, so I'm glad we could close it out this year."

Bernal settled for second in the Tri-L Mandarin Ranch No. 56 with Davis, Jr., crossing the stripe in third. Martin and Deskins rounded out the top five.

After the initial start of the feature was waved off, Jeremy Huish got into the turn three and four wall and flipped after Michael Bonneau spun on the low side.

Patrick Stasa was transported after taking a hard ride entering turn one on the third lap of the second heat.

## Grandview Speedway

BECHTELSTVILLE, PA - Craig VonDohren, the current Grandview Speedway T.P.Trailers Modified point leader with just two point races remaining, worked his way to the front from his 14th starting position and was able to overtake Tim Buckwalter on the 22nd lap restart to chalk up his fourth TP Trailers NASCAR Whelen Modified feature on Saturday night.

"The track was a bit tricky tonight, but we have a bunch of good people working on the Bicknell chassis to provide a fast car," commented the seven-time point champion in victory lane with his Pioneer Pole Buildings No. 1c. In addition to the \$2500 first place money he received \$250 from T.P. Trailers, \$150 in products from VP Fuels for running gas and a \$600 Ingersoll-Rand Tool Pack from NASCAR sponsor Ingersoll Rand on RCN-TV 4 night.

It was a long time coming, but Lou Egrie Jr., who has been knocking on the door in search of a win for the past few weeks, finally led from start to finish in the 25-lap BRC NASCAR Late Model feature. He held off runner-up Dan Green's challenges to claim his first-ever career win in the division.

Brad Brightbill, winless since August 29, 2013 at the track, wrestled the lead away from Steve Young on the 13th lap and kept two-time winner and second place finisher Paul Kline behind him to pull the Savage L&B No. 29G into the winner's circle for his first win of the season in

the 25-lap NASCAR Sportsman feature.

Feature wins by Lou Egrie Jr. and Brad Brightbill brought the season win total to 30 across all three divisions of NASCAR competition.

In the Blast From the Past Vintage car action Dennis Drain won the 15-lap A feature while Dave Smith topped the field in the 15-lap B feature.

## Canyon Speedway Park

PEORIA, AZ - Bob Ream, Jr., and Ryan Roath took the headline feature events that topped off a hot night of racing action on Saturday at Canyon Speedway Park's Fourth Annual Summer Slam.

While Ream, Jr., reeled in ASCS Southwest winged Sprint Car honors and Roath captured his first IMCA Modified win of the year at CSP, other Summer Slam victors included Chris McCurdy, Jr., in Pure Stocks, Joe Peterson in Renegades and Cody Batten in Micro Sprints.

In the winged Sprint Cars, Ream, Jr., made a late move around Lance Norick to take top ASCS Southwest honors in the 25-lap feature event. Ream, Jr., took his first CSP checkered flag of the year ahead of Norick with Billy Chester, Ryan Linder and Tyler Seavey in the top five.

Ryan Roath rallied from eighth to claim his first 9th World Vapor IMCA Modified feature win of the season ahead of pole starter Ty Rogers with Guy Norton, Garrett Funk and George Fronsman in the top five.

Chris McCurdy, Jr., snapped a five-race stretch of Matt Martinez and Zack Madrid Arizona Differential Pure Stock domination by racing to his fourth CSP win of the year in Pure Stocks ahead of Madrid and Martinez with Darren Olney and Marlowe Wrightsman also in the top five.

Joe Peterson raced from sixth to capture his first Scottsdale Muffler & Automotive Renegades win of the year ahead of John Romero and Chuck Thornton with Cody Batten picking up his second Micro Sprint win in the last three events by crossing the stripe in front of Kyle Huttenhow and 11th-starter Mason Keefer.

Action continues at Canyon Speedway Park on September 5-6 with the Arizona Differential Pure Stocks "Stock Car Shootout 100" with 9th World Vapor IMCA Modifieds, Scottsdale Muffler & Automotive Renegades, AMA Mod Lites and Dwarf Cars in action as well on both nights.

## Lebanon I-44 Speedway

LEBANON, MO - Budweiser Modified veteran David Bates took advantage of his front row outside starting spot and led all 54 laps of the 2nd Annual Roper Family Classic presented by Whelen Engineering Thursday night at the Lebanon I-44 Speedway to capture his 4th feature win of the season as NASCAR's Kenny Wallace made a special visit to compete in

the O'Reilly Auto Parts Pro Late Model feature.

For Bates, the win was an emotional victory as he has close ties with the Roper Family. "Dale used to race with my father and we ran together for many laps, when Tony Roper went ASA racing I helped him on the road early in his career. Dean was a friend of the family along with Dale Jr. as the racing community of Fair Grove all know and respect the family".

Bates jumped from his outside front row spot to set a quick pace early as Kansas City area driver David Strode tucked in behind the leader while point leader Tim Swearengin followed in third spot. All eyes were on the back of the pack as defending Roper Classic Champion and six time feature winner Ricky Icenhower was coming from the seventh starting spot. As Bates pulled away quickly, Strode was fending off Swearengin for second place as Icenhower and Richard Lewis swapped spots. The only caution of the long distance feature flew on lap five when Lewis spun on the backstretch slowing the pace. On the restart, Bates again pulled away leaving Strode to fend-off Swearengin and Icenhower. Icenhower moved into third spot on lap 8 as Strode was having a great run in second. After a very tight 4 lap battle, Icenhower finally moved into 2nd place and tried to close the gap on Bates. Icenhower quickened his race pace, but Bates did the same maintaining a 10 car advantage while Strode had broken away from Swearengin and Rodrick Icenhower with a strong 3rd place showing. As the race went caution free, Icenhower did manage to close some distance on Bates, but the former three time Modified Track Champion would pick-up the pace and never looked back. Icenhower, Strode, Swearengin and Rodrick Icenhower com-



**David Bates wins Roper Classic with Dale Roper Sr and Dale Roper Jr in Winners Circle. (LEBANON I-44 SPEEDWAY photo)**

pleted the top 5 all on the lead lap. "We wanted this feature bad." said Bates. "I was in the hospital last season when it came around. Being a 3-time Pavement Champion along with Dale really means a lot to me as the family is very well respected in our racing community. One of the pre-race favorites and defending Track Champion Stephen Counterman was atop the leader board in practice, but transmission problems put them on the trailer before the races began. Bates and Ricky Icenhower grabbed the heat race wins.

For O'Reilly Auto Parts Pro Late Model driver Kevin Donahue, lady luck finally shinned on him despite having 2 tires go down on the hauler coming to the track. Donahue jumped from his front row outside starting spot and withstood a late race surge from current point leader JC Newell in capturing his 1st win of the season and became the 8th different winner in 10 features this season. Donahue powered ahead with Jimmy Vanzandt, Brennon Willard, and Steve Holt in tow while Kenny Wallace was starting from the 13th spot. A lap 2 caution slowed the pace as defending track champion Kaleb Allison got tangled along with Josh Woody and Cole Rouse and restarted at the rear. Donahue wasted no time on the restart in opening the lead as Vanzandt, Willard, Holt and Newell were door to door. On lap 6 Willard moved into 2nd place but couldn't gain any ground on the leader. Newell moved around Vanzandt on lap 8 as Rouse and Holt along with Paul Jepsen battled for 5th spot. As the race went caution free, Willard and Newell kept the 2nd place spot hot back and forth until lap 20 when Newell made an inside pass as

Wallace was bringing Allison with him into a battle in the top 5. In the closing 10 laps, Newell known as "The Stoutland Rocket" closed the gap each lap but came up short with Donahue grabbing the victory. Following the lead duo to the stripe were Willard, Rouse from the 12th starting spot, and Holt in the top 5 while Wallace rallied to 6th followed by Allison, Jepsen, Vanzandt who slid-up in turn 4 late in the race losing a few spots, Payton Lucas and Brian Brown all 11 on the lead lap. Heat race wins went to Vanzandt and Holt.

## Riverhead Raceway

RIVERHEAD, NY - Saturday night at Riverhead Raceway was a night to celebrate the rich history of Long Island stock car racing at Riverhead Raceway as well as to look toward to the future. In the nonstop 35-lap NASCAR Modified feature event Ryan Preece of Berlin, Ct., considered by many one of the brightest young talents in the game, won his fourth feature of 2015. The Old Timers night hosted by Barbara & Jim Cromarty drew 15 Vintage race cars along with many racing personalities from Islip Speedway and Freeport Stadium as well as Riverhead Raceway.

For Ryan Preece the stars lined up just right Saturday as he set fast time touring the 65-year old quarter mile in 11.721 and for once found some luck in the redraw pulling the pole position. Tom Rogers was second quick in qualifying 11.762 and picked the outside pole setting up a very interesting front row with the two leading winners at the track this season. When former Islip Speedway starter Ray Morturano threw the green Preece tried to

edge away from Rogers with Tommy trying to gain and run on the outside. However Rogers quickly changed his game plan tucking into second behind Preece and immediately put the pressure on Preece from behind.

Early in the contest Ryan's car was tight through the corners and Rogers tried to execute the crossover move off turns two and four but Preece was wise to the strategy and able fight off the challenges. With the race going caution free Preece's car started to come in around 15-laps into the race which allowed the former NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion to open a comfortable gap over Rogers in the later stages of the race, while impressive rookie Kyle Soper sat third. The top three cars all were separated by a few car lengths late in the contest.

When the checker flag waved it would do so first over Ryan Preece in the East West Marine Chevy of Bill & Barbara Park. "I can't say enough about Team Park" Preece boasted in victory lane "I knew if I could keep Tommy behind us early the car would fire around lap 10 to 15 and it did just that" Ryan also noted "I wish Brian Slaga of East West Marine could be celebrating with us but he's in the hospital and we hope this cheers him up".

Tom Rogers Jr. of Riverhead was runner-up in the CAC Industries Chevy with Kyle Soper of Manorville third in the Jack Anthony Pools entry. In an impressive run John Fortin Jr. of Holtsville was fourth staying in front of his father John Sr. who completed the top five.

A couple of weeks back when John Baker of Brookhaven won his first career Late Model feature he did so comfortably but his second career win Saturday was anything but easy. There was plenty of action at the front of the field early in the 30-lap event with Shawn Patrick seeking his first win of the year taking the early lead over Jeremy McDermott. While that duo dived for the top spot Mike Bologna who started the race 8th was lurking in third and on lap 3 he slipped by McDermott for second and went right to work on leader Patrick. After 10 laps of trying to find a way by Patrick for the lead Bologna finally hit pay dirt on lap 13 taking the race lead. John Baker who got shuffled to the back of the field in an early race tangle raced his way back to second on lap 14 with McDermott running third. Baker was all over the back bumper of Bologna when

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a late race yellow waved on lap 26 setting up a four lap dash for the cash. When the race went back green Baker went back to work and with just over a lap remaining ducked to the inside of Bologna entering the third turn to take over the lead. With Bologna stuck on the outside McDermott followed suit and took over second. With his right front fender flapping in the breeze John Baker in the Staria Automotive Chevy was first under the checkers with Jeremy McDermott of Riverhead second in the JDP Mechanical entry. Mike Bologna of Melville would have to settle for

third in the Schlaugies Fuel Oil Chevy.

## Rockford Speedway

Despite already having four Late Model wins under his belt in 2015, it has been a stressful last three-plus weeks for Michael Bilderback.

The South Beloit native won his fourth race of the year on July 24 with the Big 8 Late Model Series at State Park Speedway in Wisconsin, only to spin at the checkered flag and get blasted by an oncoming car, resulting in a full night of work to get his car ready to race at Rockford Speedway. The next two weeks at Rockford would see Bilderback and team suffer back-to-back motor misfortunes, putting his season on the brink.

But Saturday night, a return to the top was in order, as Bilderback set fast time, won his fast dash and later in the night claimed the 30 lap feature event for the Stanley Steamer NASCAR Late Models. The victory was Bilderback's fifth Late Model win of 2015 and his fourth conquest at his hometrack.

Bilderback started the feature from the sixth position, behind front row starters Justin Sellers and Wayne Freimund. When the green flag waved, Freimund edged ahead of Sellers for the lead with Jon Reynolds Jr following Freimund and taking the second spot. By lap five, Reynolds was the new sheriff in town, assuming the lead from Freimund. Following the pass of Freimund, Reynolds was able to make some space between himself and the rest of the pack, including Bilderback, who made his way to second by lap ten.

Over the course of the next ten laps, Bilderback chased down Reynolds, erasing every inch of the lead built up by 'Driver X' in a matter of seven laps. With ten laps remaining, Bilderback made his move, breezing to the inside of Reynolds to take the lead at the start/finish line. As the leaders made their way to turn three, the battle for the lead ended abruptly, as Reynolds' Chevrolet went up in a ball of smoke and fire, sending him spinning and bringing out the race's first caution flag. This occurrence ended the night for Reynolds, but aided several others, including point leader Jake Gille.

Gille, who came into the race finishing no worse than second in any race he had

ran this year at Rockford, crossed the line sixth with ten laps to go, following near disaster just a couple laps prior. As Gille and Freimund battled for third, the two drivers came together in the middle of the first and second corners, sending Gille sideways as he collected Sellers. The contact with Sellers set Gille straight again and the field continued on, with the point leader losing only two positions, but falling out of contention for the race win. But with the restart, Gille chose the bottom lane of the speedway and began to maneuver his way back towards the front. As the laps ticked away, Freimund and Gille found each other again, this time off of the fourth corner, sending Gille spinning. The yellow flag came out and Freimund quickly admitted guilt, utilizing the 'tap out' rule which sent him to the back and gave Gille his spot back in third.

On the final restart, Gille went door-to-door with John Beinlich for second place as Bilderback rode away. When the checkered flag flew, it was Bilderback three-plus carlengths ahead of Beinlich in second, while Gille continued with his persistent and consistent ways, finishing third. Tom Gille and Mitch Garfield started in the back row of the Late Model feature and battled each other for position most of the way. When the dust settled, Tom Gille ended the race fourth with Garfield collecting a top five.

## Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGROVE, PA - TJ Stutts has found a lot of speed in the second half of the 2015 racing season as the Liverpool driver powered to his fourth win of the year in Saturday night's 25-lap 360 sprint car main event at Selinsgrove Speedway following a thrilling wheel-to-wheel duel with Mark Smith of Sunbury.

Driving the Wise Motorsports No. 23, the \$2,000 victory was Stutts' 24th career at Selinsgrove in 358-360 sprint car competition.

Jeff Rine of Danville scored his fourth win of the year and the 95th of his career at Selinsgrove in the 25-lap super late model main event on Bernheisel Race Components Night.

Brad Mitch of McClure raced to his fifth win of the year in the 15-lap pro stock feature, while Curtis Lawton of Danville drove to his first career win in the 12-lap roadrunner race.

Drivers from all divisions participated in a helmet collection for the family of Jim Campbell Jr. at intermission. Campbell lost his life in a sprint car racing accident at Williams Grove Speedway Aug. 14. The collection for the Campbell family totaled \$2,128.00

Selinsgrove Speedway returns to racing action at 7:30 pm with a three division racing program featuring 360 sprint cars, super late models, and pro stocks. The late models will utilize the World of Outlaws Late Model Series format as part of a "tune up" for the 17th Annual Late Model National Open slated for Sept. 6.

Track officials announced the World of Outlaws Late Model Series National Open will be a 40-lap event paying \$8,000 to win. Ticket prices for this year's race have been reduced to \$25 for adults and just \$10 for students. Tickets can be purchased on race day only. The limited late models will be on the Sept. 6 racing card.

Steve Collins darted into the lead at the drop of the green flag in the sprint car feature only to spin into the second turn guardrail. Brian Nornhold restarted the race in second and drove into the lead when the race resumed.

Nornhold was trailed by polesitter John Braim and Kevin Albert for the first five laps. On the sixth lap, 12th-place starter Mark Smith horse-powered his way into the runner-up position and started to reel in Nornhold. On the 12th circuit, Smith pulled a slider in turn four with some contact sending Nornhold into a spin.

When the race resumed, Smith had eighth-place starter TJ Stutts on his tail and the two leading feature winners this season squared off in a thrilling duel for the lead as the two saw-sawed for the front spot. Once Stutts secured the lead about three laps into the duel, he stretched his lead and drove to a 3.8-second victory over Smith, Jason Schultz, Braim, and Larry Kelleher.

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