



FEBRUARY 18, 2019

FastTrack

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

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Joe Gibbs Racing Brings Home Top Three in Daytona

This One is for J.D.

DAYTONA BEACH, FL – The moments following Sunday's Daytona 500 were filled with reflection, appreciation, anticipation, uncertainty and, of course, joy.

Denny Hamlin's team did all that in Victory Lane.

Everyone else did it on the long ride back home.

Hamlin eased a little emptiness in his heart by driving his No. 11 Toyota to a victory. For the first time in his NASCAR career, J.D. Gibbs wasn't there, at least not in real life, to join in celebration. But his emotional presence certainly was felt.

Gibbs, the son and co-founder of Joe Gibbs Racing, lost a long battle on Jan. 11 with complications of a degenerative neurological disease. It was the son who discovered Hamlin racing on the local short tracks near his home in Chesterfield, Va. Young Gibbs then convinced his father to hire Hamlin.

Included with a second-place effort by Kyle Busch and a third by Erik Jones, a top-three finish was the most-fitting way for the racing organization to pay homage to J.D.

"The whole (Gibbs) family — they did so much for me over the course of my career," Hamlin said. "This one is for J.D. We're desperately going to miss him the rest of our lives. His legacy still lives on through Joe Gibbs Racing and I'm proud to do this for them."

However, the time to celebrate and reflect will be short-lived. The racing season offers no time to rest. The series moves to the Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday and everyone will face the uncertainty of a new rules package.

"I can tell you the unfortunate truth is we probably just lost the day (on Monday) preparing because we're going to be here putting a car in a museum (at Daytona), and that's OK with us," crew chief Chris Gabehart said. "With all the unknowns in NASCAR right now, with the rules package, I think you guys are in for a treat week to week. You're never going to know. Everybody is trying to figure it out and every racetrack is going to be a little bit different."

Each track will have its own set of guidelines, with a combination of

a smaller tapered spacer to restrict horsepower by as much as 200 and special air ducts that should lead to more side-by-side racing.

Daytona was an anomaly in more ways than one. Crashes and restrictor plates put a premium on luck. In reality, being at the right place at the right time was far more important than having the fastest car.

Of course, J.D. Gibbs' recent death created even more storylines.



DON COBLE

In reality, the real season starts at Atlanta since that kicks off the new book of rules that will be used the rest of the season.

"Atlanta is brand new for everybody," Michael McDowell said. "It's a new rule package.

Who knows? It could be like Daytona and Talladega. If it is, I'll do really well because these are my best tracks, but Atlanta will be a fresh start for everybody and we'll see who has the speed and how the cars race and move on from there."

Rarely has the entire sport been so apprehensive ahead of a race. Nobody knows what to expect.

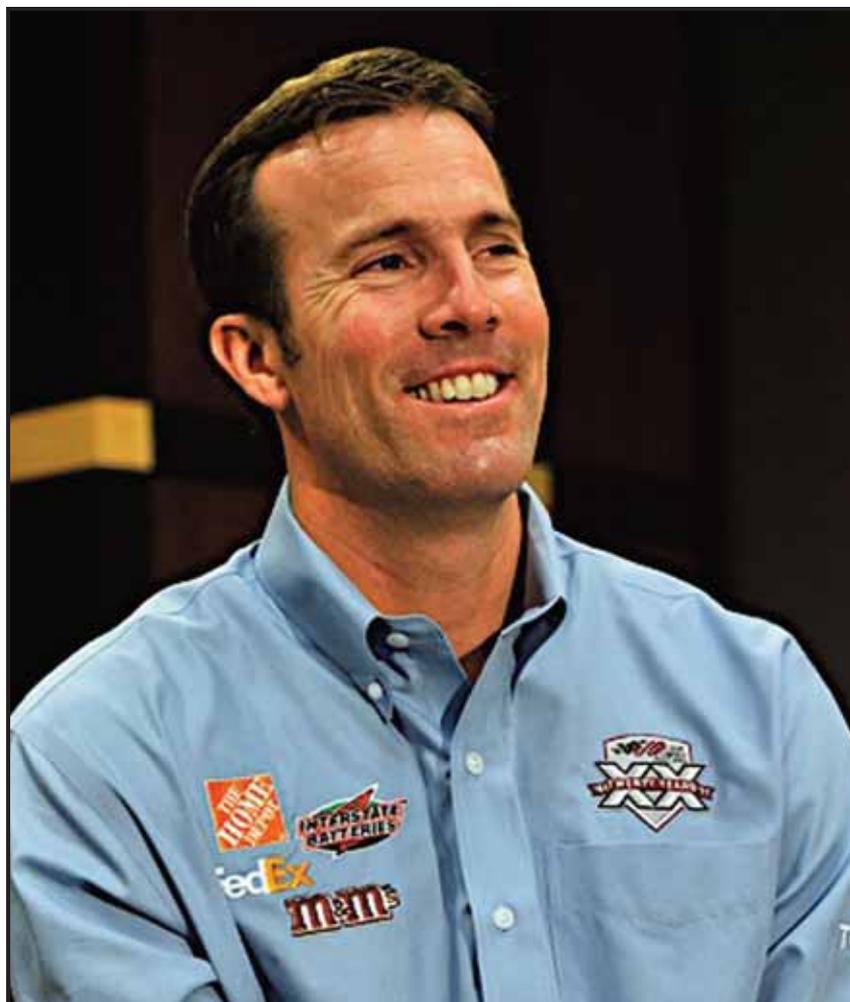
"The racing is going to change," Joey Logano said. "It's going to be different when we get to Atlanta than we've ever had before. We don't really know -- expect the unexpected, I guess, just like we were for the Daytona 500. You just don't know how those races are going to play out, and each track is going to be different.

"You're going to have to give it some time to really understand if it's better or not or what to like or dislike about it because as these teams evolve and start to figure out this setup, you're going to see the racing change again.

"What you see in Vegas (on March 3) to Vegas (Sept. 15) is probably going to be a little bit different. If we give it time and give it a chance, we'll see what happens. We'll all know next week."

Hamlin's victory snapped a 47-race winless streak, and it locked him into the NASCAR Playoffs later this year. The real challenge is to move past Daytona and all its unusual rules and circumstances to focus on the meat of the schedule.

A year ago, Austin Dillon won the Daytona 500, and after that, he only had one top-five finish in the final 35 races.



J. D. Gibbs will be always be a part of Joe Gibbs Racing. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

Gabehart isn't worried. He believes Daytona will be the catalyst for a sensational season.

"We're going to go win 35 more races, the way I look at it," he said. "People say you can't win every race, and I disagree. I show up every weekend to win, and I know Joe Gibbs expects that of us, I

know Denny does, and I know my race team does. My intent is to win 35 more times, and we may fall short, but I'm going to Atlanta to get another one."

And riding a wave at Daytona that included so much reflection, appreciation, anticipation, uncertainty and, of course, joy.

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ON THE COVER:

SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES

Dreams Can Come True

Speedweeks 2019 at Daytona International Speedway is complete and in the record books. And, if any race fan wanted an exciting kickoff to the 2019 NASCAR season, they certainly got their wish.

Tracks like Daytona and Talladega, the two superspeedways on the NASCAR schedule, have historically been known as having “first-time winners”. This week at Daytona was no exception.

We have already documented the American Auto Racing Association (ARCA) race that began Speedweeks last week. Harrison Burton won his first-ever superspeedway race with his victory in the 200-mile season opener. The son of Jeff and Kim Burton won his third career ARCA race, but his first at Daytona. Burton will drive a full schedule this season for Kyle Busch Motorsports in the Gander Outdoor Truck Series.

The season-opener for the NASCAR Trucks provided the second first-time winner of Speedweeks. Austin Hill, driving for Hattori Racing, survived eleven cautions and multiple accidents to score his first-ever NASCAR victory. It was the first win in 52 career NASCAR Truck Series races for the 24-year old competitor. Hill was hired by Hattori Racing after Brett Moffitt, 2018 Champion, was released after winning the final two races in 2018 securing the Series title. Hill, who brought financial backing to the team, was hired to pilot the defending championship team. Hill was one of only nine trucks still running after two overtimes last Friday evening. The win gave Hattori Racing a three-race winning streak in the Series – last two of '18 and Daytona '19.

“When we went to overtime, man, I was just so scared,” Hill stated. “There was so much stuff running through my head. The whole last lap my heart was pounding. I never thought in a million years that I would win at Daytona.”

In the Xfinity Series opener at Daytona, Michael Annett won his first career NASCAR race. Annett led the final 45 laps to edge JR Motorsports teammate Justin Allgaier for the victory. The win was the fourth in five years at Daytona for JRM at Daytona. Driving for long-

time sponsor Pilot Flying J, Annett scored his first career victory in 230 races.

“My first words were eight years,” Annett said. “My guys have stood with me through hard times, when everyone counted us out and wondered why I got to drive this car. Our slogan at JRM this year is ‘One team, one dream, one goal’. This is one of them, so we’re starting good.”

Dale Earnhardt Jr., one of the owners of JRM, commented about their victory.

“I’m extremely happy for (Crew Chief) Travis Mack,” Dale Jr. stated. “I needed him here with Michael Annett. I felt that combination would be great. So, we’re seeing the results of that union. It’s been a tough road for Travis (Mack), equally tough for Michael



DENNIS PUNCH

(Annett). It’s been a day of redemption for both of those guys. I’m really proud for them.”

So, two first-time winners in the Gander Outdoor Truck Series and the Xfinity Series to start the final weekend of Speedweeks '19. Could we see a “three-for-three” with a new winner in the Daytona 500?

As the Monster Energy Cup Series Daytona 500 reached the final fifty laps, it looked as though the possibility of having a third first-time winner could actually happen. However, several multi-car crashed in the final laps eliminated several of the major contenders to win their first career MECS race at Daytona.

The final laps came down to a battle between Denny Hamlin, Kyle Busch, and Joey Logano. Hamlin and Logano had previously won The Great American Race; Busch looking for his first. Having to race into overtime, Denny Hamlin scored his second Daytona 500 victory and the 32nd career MECS win for the Virginia driver. However, this victory was so much more?

Hamlin drove the #11 car for Joe Gibbs Racing. The #11 being very important to members of this team. J.D. Gibbs, the eldest son of Joe Gibbs, passed away on January

11th from complication with a degenerative neurological disease. J.D. was very instrumental in the hiring of Denny Hamlin at Joe Gibbs Racing and #1 was his (JD) number when he played sports. All of the cars displayed decals honoring JD Gibbs for the race. To say it was an emotional afternoon would be an understatement.

“The whole (Gibbs) family, they’ve just done so much for me throughout my career,” Hamlin added.

“This one’s for JD. We’re desperately going to miss him the rest of our lives, but his legacy still lives on at Joe Gibbs Racing.”

“I think I was so dumbfounded with everything the first time (winning the 500) with the photo finish and everything,” Hamlin continued. “This one will let me soak it in a little more. I’m going to have a terrible hangover tomorrow, but I’m going to enjoy it the rest of my life.”

Team owner and father of J.D., Joe Gibbs, put the significance of this win in perspective.

“This is the most emotional and biggest win I’ve ever had in my life in anything.”

And, a wonderful way to close the curtain on Speedweeks '19 at Daytona.



The whole Joe Gibbs Racing team of Denny Hamlin celebrates their win of the Daytona 500. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

Denny Hamlin Gets Emotional Second Daytona 500 Victory

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Five weeks after the death of Joe Gibbs Racing president J.D. Gibbs, the driver he discovered won the Daytona 500 for the second time.

In a two-lap dash in overtime Sunday at Daytona International

Speedway, Denny Hamlin held off teammate Kyle Busch to win the 61st running of the Great American Race, an event that featured massive fireworks with five late cautions that left 14 cars on the lead lap at the finish.

The victory was Hamlin's 32nd in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, and it broke a 47-race drought for the 38-year-old from Chesterfield, Va., who had stickers on his No. 11 Toyota Camry commemorating J.D. Gibbs and Glen Wood, patriarch of the Wood Brothers Racing team who passed away on Jan. 18.

"It was just one of those days where I felt like it was meant to be," said Hamlin, who was paired with new crew chief Chris Gabehart. "Hats off to Kyle as well. I know he was eagerly wanting his first victory in the Daytona 500, but today we just weren't going to be denied."

"The whole (Gibbs) family - they did so much for me over the course of my career. This one is for J.D. We're desperately going to miss him the rest of our lives. His legacy still lives on through Joe Gibbs Racing and I'm proud to do this for them."

Understandably, team owner Joe Gibbs was overcome with emotion when talking about his late son after the race.

"J.D.'s name is on that car," Gibbs said. "That's his number. J.D. found him (Hamlin). What hap-

pened here is really unreal. I just thank the Lord for letting us be a part of this."

Busch chose the bottom lane for a restart on Lap 199 of 200, but Hamlin surged ahead on the backstretch moments before contact between the Fords of Clint Bowyer and Michael McDowell triggered a nine-car wreck that forced overtime. NASCAR stopped the race

Hamlin crossed the stripe .138 seconds ahead of Busch, who was frustrated in his 14th unsuccessful attempt to win the 500.

"When he gave me the top (on the Lap 199 restart)," Hamlin said, "I was literally doing a little cheer in my mind, thinking my playbook said, 'Always choose the top no matter who's behind you—it doesn't matter.' I've been on the front row for so many restarts and lost 'em because I've been on the bottom."

"Obviously, there were circumstances that happened behind us that allowed us to be in front at the caution."

Busch didn't regret his decision

What had been a relative calm race turned chaotic in the late going. After a restart with 10 laps left, all hell broke loose as the field approached Turn 3. Contact from Paul Menard's No. 21 Ford sent Matt DiBenedetto's No. 95 Toyota spinning into the outside wall and back across traffic. By the time cars finished wrecking, 21 cars had sustained damage ranging from minor to catastrophic.

DiBenedetto was eliminated from his maiden run in the No. 95 Leavine Family Racing Toyota Camry, leaving Menard to do a mea culpa when he exited the infield care center.

"I'm not really sure what hap-



Denny Hamlin hoists the Harley J. Earl trophy overhead for the second time in his career after winning the Daytona 500. (CHRIS GRATHEN/GETTY IMAGES photo)

pened," Menard said. "I hooked the 95. I was trying to get to his outside, and he was kind of in the middle and he went to the outside and was going back and forth. The 12 (Ryan Blaney) had a big run, so I jumped up in front of him and hooked the 95."

"I'll take the blame for that one, I guess. We had really fast Fords. I sped on pit road and got us behind. We had to play catch-up. We had a shot there at the end though. It was time to go. It's frustrating that we have to put ourselves in that position to race this way. I tried backing off but wrecked a lot of cars."

Two more cautions for multicar wrecks followed before Hamlin could make his decisive two-lap run to the finish and claim the Harley J. Earl trophy for the second time.

for the second time for the clean-up, and Hamlin chose the top lane for the final restart on Lap 206.

By design, Hamlin pulled down in front of Busch as the cars headed for Turn 1 and held the lead the rest of the way, as Busch, Joey Logano, McDowell and Erik Jones fought for position behind him.

to let Hamlin drop down in front of him after the overtime restart. "Strength in numbers," Busch explained. "We were trying to protect at least one of our cars being able to get to Victory Lane, and I felt like we were able to do that with being able to do what we did on that last restart."

"But, overall, it's certainly bittersweet. It's awesome to see a JGR car in Victory Lane with Joe and J.D. and everything that's gone on this offseason with all that. But it's very, very bittersweet for all those that support us and all my team guys that work so hard to try to get to Victory Lane and get our Daytona 500 victory."

"He's got two. I've got none. We just have to move on and go to the next time."



The "big one" kept coming over and over again knocking out many top ranked teams. (RUSSELL LABOUNTY/NKP photo)



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Michael Annett Puts No. 1 JR Motorsports Chevrolet in Daytona Victory Lane

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Michael Annett won a numerologist's delight on Saturday at Daytona International Speedway.

After an offseason change from No. 5 to No. 1 on the sides and roof of his JR Motorsports Chevrolet, Annett held off teammate Justin Allgaier in the NASCAR Racing Experience 300 at the 2.5-mile superspeedway to claim his first victory in the NASCAR Xfinity Series in his 230th start.

"Eight years in the series—this is amazing," said Annett, who struggled through a 2018 season that failed to produce a single top-five finish. "I couldn't have done it without these guys (the crew). They've stuck with me through the hard times when everybody counts us out and wonders why I get to drive this car, and I think we showed it today—they worked their tails off on this."

"We got the 1 in Victory Lane. Our slogan this year is 'One team, one dream, one goal.' This was one of them, so we're starting off good."

Brandon Jones ran third in his No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota Supra in the debut race for that model. Ryan Sieg ran fourth, followed by Austin Cindric and

Christopher Bell.

Allgaier tried to pair up with Jones on the final lap but couldn't mount a sustained run on his teammate, who held the lead for the final 45 of 120 laps.

"I followed Michael a few years ago in an ARCA race, and I remember seeing that Pilot/Flying J (sponsor logo) on the back bumper," Allgaier said. "I could beat him then, and I couldn't do it today. I tried really hard there at the end."

"First of all, hats off to everybody back at JR Motorsports. To see a car that was that strong... all four of our Camaro SS's were strong today. To see Michael get his first win... he's tried so hard, and to see the time and the effort he's put in, especially this offseason, it's really, really cool. I was disappointed I couldn't make a run, but a great way to start the season."

The victory was also the first for crew chief Travis Mack, who was released from the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series team at Leavine Family Racing (with driver Kasey Kahne) in midseason last year. He teamed with Annett for the last 14 races of 2018.

"It's been a tough road for Travis Mack," said team owner Dale Earnhardt Jr. "It's been an equally tough road for Michael Annett. This was redemption for both those guys."

The first caution of the race not



Michael Annett celebrates with his team in Daytona's victory lane after winning Saturday's NASCAR XFINITY Series season opener. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

for a stage break came on Lap 71, when the escape hatch in the roof of Brad Keselowski's No. 12 Ford broke loose and landed in the tri-oval grass.

That particular piece had broken on Lap 1, and the Team Penske crew had spent the cautions at the ends of the first two stages trying to secure it—in vain. After the hatch went flying, Keselowski took his car to the garage and retired in 37th.

"I felt like I was back in the '50s running a convertible here on the beach," Keselowski said wryly. "That was interesting. The roof, escape hatch, whatever it's called, looks like there was a defect from the factory on the body and just nothing we could do. The guys tried to fix it, but it's in a spot where you can't get to it and work on it."

"It's made the way it's made. It's one of those things outside your control, and sometimes that's just

how things go... I know we had a car that could win today. It broke on Lap 1, Turn 1, and we did everything we could to fix it for the last hour or so, but it is just not something you can fix."

NOTES: In his first drive in the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, Jeffrey Earnhardt led the first 29 laps, finished fourth in Stage 1, fifth in Stage 2 and 15th at the checkered flag. ...Ross Chastain won Stage 2 in his first trip in the No. 10 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet before finishing 13th. His teammate, Justin Haley, won the first stage and came home 17th. ...2000 series champion Jeff Green ran seventh, followed by John Hunter Nemechek, pole winner Tyler Reddick (who started from the rear because of a pre-race tire change) and Chase Elliott. ... Noah Gragson finished 11th in his first run in the No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet.



Michael Annett (1) runs out front of his teammate Justin Allgaier (7) and Brandon Jones (19) to win the race. (RUSTY JARRETT/NKP photo)

Austin Hill Wins Wild NASCAR Truck Series Season Opener in Overtime

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - You could call Friday night's NextEra Energy Resources 250 a battle of attrition, but that wouldn't do justice to the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series season

opener.

It was more like a long, full-blown war.

In a race at Daytona International Speedway that saw a record 11 cautions, a record 55 caution laps and just nine of 32 trucks running at the finish, Austin Hill took the checkered flag on the 11th lap of NASCAR overtime to win for the first time in the series—in the Hattori Racing Enterprises Toyota that carried Brett Moffitt to the championship last year.

"That whole last lap, my heart was pounding," Hill said of the run to the finish on Lap 111. "I thought there were going to get to the outside and we were going to have a drag race. But I was able to protect it.

"I can't believe my first win came at Daytona. It's surreal. I can't wait to party with these guys."

Grant Enfinger ran second, 0.278 seconds behind Hill, after surviving a 12-car pileup in Turn 4 on Lap 54. Enfinger rallied from two laps down and tried to manufacture a run on Hill through the final two corners, but Hill blocked him effectively off Turn 4 and cruised to the finish line.

"I didn't have anybody lined up behind me coming out of Turn 4," Enfinger said. "I wonder if it's a full

Timothy Peters, Angela Ruch and Austin Wayne Self, who's battered No. 22 Chevrolet was the last car running at the finish.

Racing in the Truck Series for the first time since 2010, and for only the second time in her career, Ruch posted her best finish in a national series event. Her eighth-place result was the second highest by a female driver in NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series history, with the record be-

tempt, Self and Bobby Gerhart crashed on the backstretch to necessitate the second attempt.

Moffitt, the reigning series champion, was a victim of the Lap 54 melee and retired in 26th place in his first event with GMS Racing.

Before the race was three laps old, second-place qualifier David Gilliland brought his No. 17 Toyota to pit road with a cut tire. On the same circuit, Gilliland's DGR-Crosley teammate, Natalie Decker,



With the Gatorade flying, Austin Hill and crew celebrate finally making it to victory lane after a long-hard battle in Friday night's NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series at Daytona. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

moon tonight—carnage everywhere."

Ross Chastain ran third in his first run for Niece Motorsports. Spencer Boyd was fourth, followed by Matt Crafton, Josh Reaume,

longing to Jennifer Jo Cobb (sixth at Daytona in 2011).

Ben Rhodes was leading on Lap 99, before a 10-car crash knocked him out of the race. That wreck forced overtime, and on the first at-

tempt, Self and Bobby Gerhart crashed on the backstretch to necessitate the second attempt.

Decker's car burst into flames, with the fire shooting from the left wheel well, and her crew pulled her from the car, ending her first start in the Truck Series.

"The tire went down, and it caught on fire when I brought it to pit road," Decker said. "I really wanted to have a good finish, but it is what it is."

Under caution for Decker's issue, Bryan Dauzat pitted after having hit the Turn 1 wall in an earlier incident under green. Unable to bring his No. 28 Chevrolet to a stop, Dauzat hit jackman Billy Rock and knocked him to the pavement.

Rock was alert and awake, according to NASCAR officials, but was transported to a local hospital for further evaluation.

The early incidents, however, were merely a precursor for the wild action that followed.



Austin Hill (16) battles to block Grant Enfinger (98) to keep him in second place. (JARED TITLTON/GETTY IMAGES photo)

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Derek Kraus Uses Patience to Win at New Smyrna

NEW SMYRNA, FL - It was worth the wait for Derek Kraus in more ways than one.

After being postponed to Monday night due to rain, Kraus emerged victorious in the New Smyrna 175 at New Smyrna Speedway, using tire conservation en route to his second career NASCAR K&N Pro Series East victory.

tory.

The Stratford, Wisconsin, native made his move with about 40 laps to go as the leaders, Colin Garrett and Ty Gibbs, made contact while battling for the top spot.

"They were racing each other pretty hard," Kraus said in Victory Lane following his season-opening win. "I had to stay on my toes for them to make contact and that's exactly what they did. They drifted up in (Turns) 3 and 4 and I saw an opening so that's when I took it. I might've gotten in the grass, but I got it done."

He was able to hold off a hard-charging Ty Gibbs and Brandon McReynolds, who finished second and third respectively. Sam Mayer and Anthony Sergi rounded out the top five.

For most of the 175-lap event, Kraus' No. 16 Bill McAnally Racing Toyota was mired in the middle of the field. But it was all part of the plan: They were playing the waiting game.

Tires were of the utmost importance, as teams only used the one set they qualified on for the entirety of the race. Kraus started 16th and slowly made his way inside the top 10. Then the top five, and when the opportunity presented itself, he pounced.

"What really helped me (save tires) was running with Todd (Gilliland) for three years," he said. "He was really good at saving tires. I just tried to remember back then and that's what I felt like I did. I probably didn't save the right front as well as I needed to because I was driving it in pretty deep, but I felt like I saved as well as I could. Brandon (McReynolds) and Hailie (Deegan) I know dropped way back, I didn't feel comfortable dropping that far back, because track position is huge here."

Although Kraus was the one celebrating in Victory Lane, Gibbs,

making his first career K&N Pro Series start, was satisfied with his runner-up result for DGR Crosley.

"That was just me getting all I could get," Gibbs said of his contact while racing for the lead. "I'm sorry to the No. 18 (Garrett). I hit him down there one time. He was crowding me so that didn't help much but it was a blast and a lot of fun. I gained a lot of experience and we're going to come back and win the next one."

Spencer Davis, Ruben Garcia Jr., Drew Dollar and Connor Hall completed the top 10. After starting from the pole, Hailie Deegan finished 16th and was forced to retire early due to electrical issues for the second year in a row at New Smyrna.

The next event for the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East will be the Zombie Auto 150 on Saturday, April 6 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

K&N Pro Series, Saugus Reunion AND Night of Destruction

IRWINDALE, CA - The K&N Pro Series, West division will make its return to the famed Irwindale Speedway on March 30, 2019 for the NAPA Auto Parts 150.

Joining the night will be a few extra activities that will help bring a full evening of entertainment to the automotive entertainment venue. Irwindale Speedway has become famous for the Night of Destruction presented by LKQ Pick Your Part and we hope to introduce that to NASCAR fan and vice versa.

The evening will kick off with 150 laps of high horsepower K&N Pro Series cars.

The series will see some shake ups with drivers and with Irwindale being the first asphalt stop on the schedule it's sure to be a great night.

Two Irwindale Speedway veterans will contest a K&N Series car at Irwindale for the first time.

Hailie Deegan, the first female driver to win a K&N Pro Series Race will return to Bill Macanally

Racing in 2019. Hailie contested in several late model races at the half-mile during her rookie season in 2018. Her best finish was a fourth.

Also, moving up to the K&N Pro Series, West division in a Sunrise Ford Motorsports car will be the number 6 of Jagger Jones. Jagger has raced late models at Irwindale

From the Rookies to the Veterans, those who hold a place in their hearts for the now-closed Saugus Speedway are invited to join together in a reunion. Food and Beverages will be made available in a special hospitality area. A pre-sale ticket is all you need to enter the gates 2 hours early on Saturday at



Derek Kraus celebrates with his No. 16 Bill McAnally Racing team following his victory in the New Smyrna 175 at New Smyrna Speedway. (Rusty Jarrett/Nigel Kinrade Photography for NASCAR)

Speedway for the past two years. Jagger finished the 2019 points Championship at Irwindale Speedway in the 5th spot and earned his first Late Model victory in September of 2019. It was announced in January He will be driving the #6 car with sponsorship from XYO Network and Sunrise Ford.

Three time track Champion at Irwindale Speedway, Trevor Huddleston, won't be making his first run in a K&N Series car this go around, but he will be moving into a new car for the race. After spending the 2018 season behind the wheel of the #22 Sunrise Ford Motorsports car, Trevor will move into the #9 car to make a run at the Championship.

Another notable driver will be that of Brittany Zamora. Zamora competed in a combine held by Toyota at Irwindale Speedway during the summer of 2018. Her impressive skills behind the wheel of a Late Model and her ability to adapt to the track in her first outing there impressed the director of team and support services for Toyota, Jack Irving.

Zamora was announced to driver for BMR in the #99 car in January.

2PM to join fellow racers, fans and NASCAR Hall of Famer, Ron Hornaday Jr for a fun filled time of bench racing.

Ron Hornaday Jr will also serve as the Grand Marshall for the NAPA Auto Parts 150.

All this and we haven't even mentioned the good times of the Night of Destruction presented by LKQ Pick Your Part which will see Skid Plate Cars, Enduro cars, Figure 8's and a Trailer Destruction Derby. We'll wrap it all up with a great FIREWORKS show before.

Pre Sale tickets are available now at www.etix.com/ticket/p/7527140/kn-pro-series-west-night-of-destruction-irwindale-irwindale-speedway?utm_source=March+30+K%26N+Saugus+and+Night+of+Destruction&utm_campaign=3-30+K%26N&utm_medium=email, for just \$15.00. General Admission.

Suites and Group rates are also available by calling 626-358-1100.



New Year Brings New Cars & New Opportunities For PASS Racers at Dillon

CHARLOTTE, NC - Racers from across the country are busy counting down the days as the 2019 Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Super Late Model season opener at Dillon Motor Speedway draws closer. The 14th Annual Winter Meltdown 200 at Dillon on Saturday afternoon, February 23 will not only mark the beginning of the PASS National Championship Series, but the introduction of a new body to the Super Late Model racing landscape.

Wisconsin-based Five Star Race Car Bodies, a longtime supporter of PASS, has just introduced the new "Gen 6" body, which more closely resembles the production Ford Mustangs, Chevrolet Ca-

maros, and Toyota Camrys. PASS and Oxford Plains Speedway led the way in approving the new bodies for competition, which will compete alongside the existing bodies that are based on a 20-year-old design.

The new bodies, which are set to make their East Coast debut at Dillon for the Winter Meltdown, have racers and fans excited for the new season. One of those drivers is Turner, ME's, Ben Rowe, who will be driving a "Gen 6" Toyota for the 2019 campaign. Like many fellow racers around the country, the former 5-Time PASS National Champion agrees the time is right to spice things up a little on the grassroots level.

"I can't wait to try it out, it's a much needed change for us as a group to keep up with the times and it definitely looks pretty cool," says Rowe. "This year with the new

body, nobody knows the balance on the car that we are going to need just yet."

Along with Rowe, a stellar list of drivers have gone to victory lane at Dillon, including two-time Winter Meltdown winner, Ryan Blaney, as well as Justin Wakefield, Preston Peltier, Austin Theriault, Daniel Hemric, Tyler Church, and Jared Irvan. In last year's race, New Hampshire's Derek Griffith started off his national championship season with a win at Dillon by holding off Ray Christian, III and Rowe. Rowe hopes he can be just a little bit better this year and can join Blaney atop the Dillon Motor Speedway win column.

"Dillon has kinda grown into that big 200 lap race at the beginning of the year that we look forward to going to," says Rowe. "Plus, for us New Englanders, it gives us a chance to get out of the cold and snow and get a jumpstart on racing."

Rowe will be joined by several of his New England counterparts, including Griffith, Christian, Travis Benjamin, and Mike Hopkins. For-

mer PASS South champion Tate Fogleman has also filed an entry, along with Wyatt Alexander, Kodie Conner, Jody Measamer, and Canadian, JP Josiasse.

All the action gets under way on Friday afternoon, February 22 at Dillon Motor Speedway with open practice for all competing divisions from 2 - 5 PM. On Saturday, February 23, practice will begin at 10 AM with qualifying starting at 12:30 PM for the PASS Super Late Models, Challenger AR, and Mini Stocks, followed by main events starting at approximately 2 PM. While the Challengers will be racing for \$1000 to win, the Mini Stocks will go for \$500 to win and a guaranteed starting position at Richmond Raceway in March.

PASS Super Late Model entry forms for the events at Dillon, Richmond, Thompson Speedway, Oxford Plains Speedway, Hickory Motor Speedway and the 46th Annual Oxford 250 can be found at ProAllStarsSeries.com.

Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @PASSSLM14.

Mintex Continues Official Product Sponsorship Program with CRA for 2019

SALEM, IN - Officials of Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS and Essex Parts Services have announced that Mintex will continue its Official Product Sponsor program with CRA for the upcoming 2019 racing

season. Mintex will continue to be the Official Brake Pads of CRA and its ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS, JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance, Vore's Welding CRA Late Model Sportsman and the Van Hoy Oil CRA Street Stocks. 2019 will be the third straight season Mintex, has supported the all four CRA series.

Mintex, through its exclusive U.S. Stock Car Distributor Essex Parts Services, will award a pair of Mintex Brake Pads to the 5th place finisher at each CRA series event during the 2019 season. In addition, Mintex will award a pair Mintex Brake Pads to the 5th place finisher in each series final points and to each series Champion. Mintex Brake Pads will also continue to be a major point's fund sponsor of all

four CRA series again in 2019.

"We are very excited to continue the marketing partnership between Mintex and CRA for the 2019 season," remarked Brian Hoppe, Product Manager for Essex Parts Services Inc. "The Official Brake

Pad program worked really well the past two seasons. We look forward to working with all four CRA Divisions again in 2019!"

"I am extremely happy to have the support of Mintex again in 2019," remarked Glenn Lockett, Managing Partner of CRA. "Their program worked very well in the last two seasons and we look forward to continuing that relationship for the 2019 season. It's great to have a company like Mintex sup-

porting CRA and its racers!"

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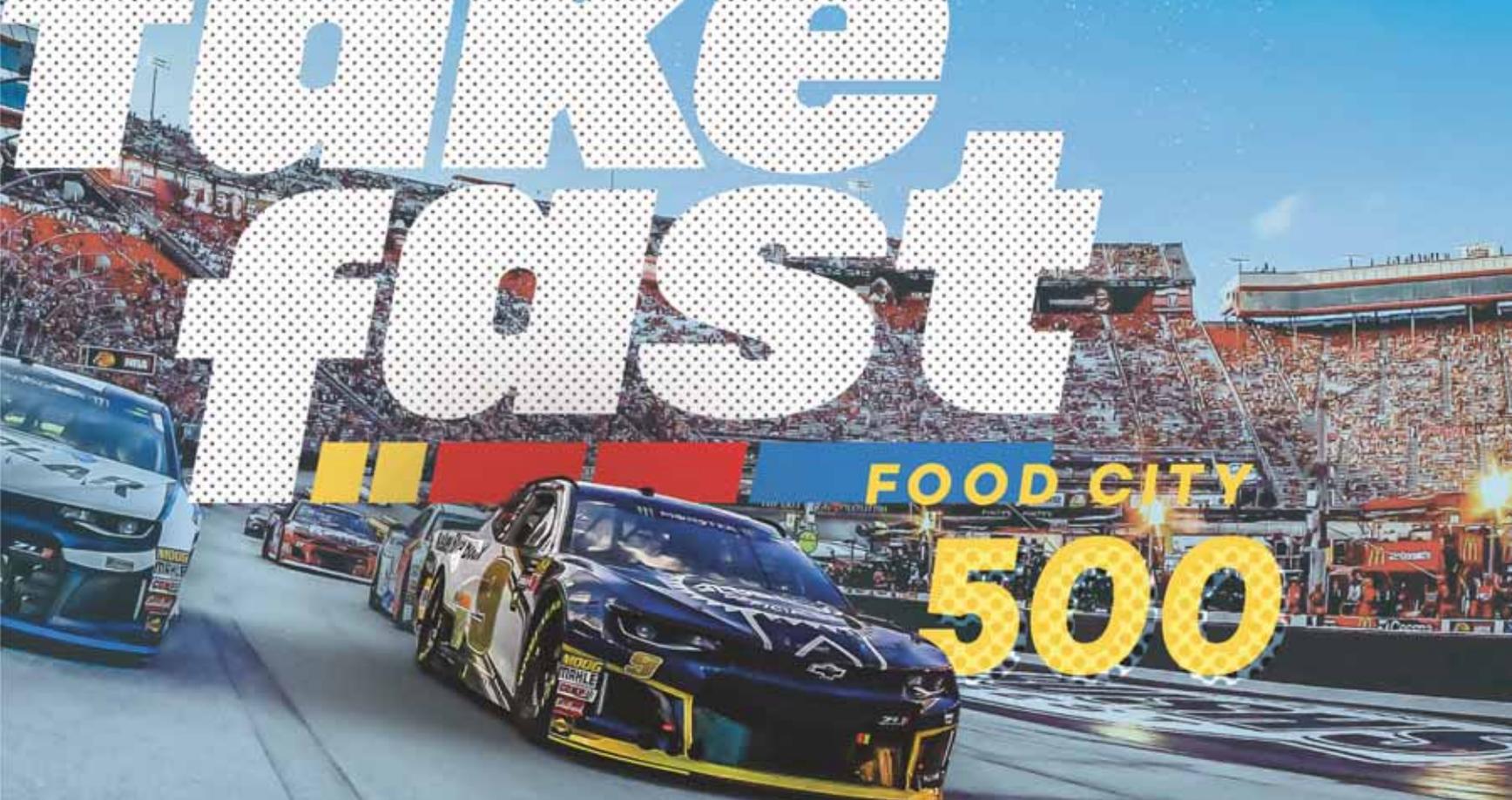
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World of Outlaws NOS Energy Sprint Cars Shift Placerville Event to Saturday, March 23

CONCORD, NC - The World of Outlaws NOS® Energy Drink Sprint Car Series will make California its home in March, competing on eight nights at seven different Golden State tracks throughout the month.

Among those is the 49er Gold Rush Classic presented by Riebes NAPA at Placerville Speedway, which will now be on Saturday, March 23.

The Series will commence its

West Coast tour – featuring some of the toughest local competition the Outlaws see all season – March 8 at Thunderbowl Raceway in Tulare, Calif., and will cap the run off on March 30 at Perris Auto Speedway in Perris, Calif.

Brad Sweet, a native of Grass Valley, Calif., will aim to hold off the competition in his home state to add to his win list. However, Series points leader Daryn Pittman and 10-time Series champion Donny Schatz won't make it easy, with strong runs to open the season in Florida.

Last year, Sweet won at Placerville Speedway after a tight race-long battle with Rico Abreu. The Series will return to the high-octane quarter-mile oval this year on the new date.

"We have had great crowds and support at Placerville and we want to keep it growing," Sweet said. "Our goal is to keep making this event bigger and bigger as time goes on."

The World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Cars are also returning to the Mini Gold Cup at Silver Dollar Speedway in Chico, and Keller Auto Speedway at Kings Fairgrounds in Hanford. The Series last visited the Hanford track in 2017.

Last March in California was a success for first-time winners.

Thunderbowl Raceway in Tulare saw a fierce battle between the No.

87 of Aaron Reutzel and the No. 83 of Cory Eliason, as the two traded the lead for several laps with both in search of their first Series win. With four laps to go, Reutzel was able to overpower Eliason and make his first trip to victory lane.

Eliason had his day in the sun just a couple of weeks later, commanding the Stockton Dirt Track race from start to finish. No one had anything for the California-native as he become the second driver that month to earn his first Series win.

Tickets are now on sale for all West Coast swing races at WorldofOutlaws.com/tix or by calling 844-DIRT-TIX. For the races at Thunderbowl Raceway call 559-688-0909. A portion of proceeds from tickets and a special t-shirt will benefit the California Fire Foundation.

2020 Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Ticket Information Now Available

TULSA, OK - The time to set your reminder is now. Reserved Seat ticket renewals and new ticket orders for the 34th annual Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire begin on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, and run through Thursday, April 11,

Slated for January 13-18, 2020, tickets for the 34th annual Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire will again be sold in six, five, and four-day packages for grandstand reserve seating. Prices for the 2020 affair will be broken down with four-day tickets at \$277, five-day tickets at \$282, and tickets for the full event at \$337, plus tax and shipping.

The offices of the Chili Bowl Nationals are open Monday-Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (CT).

Tickets can be renewed starting Wednesday, March 6, 2019, by phone at (918) 838-3777. Again, all new orders, as well as renewals, begin at the same time.

Current ticket holders will be sent a renewal form. If ordering with the renewal form, those can be returned by mail to 1140 S. 83rd East Ave. Tulsa, OK 74112 or by fax to (918) 836-5517. Tickets can be purchased with Visa, MasterCard, Cash, Check, or Money Order.

Orders will not be taken via email or social media.

If a Reserved Seat ticket cannot be procured, Pit Passes will be on sale at the event and never sell out. The Pit Pass double as a General

Admission pass and allows fans access to the back straightaway on a first come, first served basis. Pit Passes are \$45 per weekday and \$60 on Saturday. Passes can be purchased for multiple consecutive days. Pit Passes are not sold in advance.

All orders are processed by hand throughout the month of May. All renewals are processed first, then changes to those accounts, then new orders will be done in the order they were received until all tickets are sold.

For continued updates on the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire, fans can follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with @CBNationals.

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"The Rocket Shepp" Wins His First Big Gator, Sweeps Outlaws Competition in The Sunshine State

BARBERVILLE, FL - A Big Gator trophy and its family of four are heading back to Rocket Chassis in West Virginia as Brandon Sheppard pulled off the unthinkable on Saturday night, winning the 2019 DIRTcar Nationals Late Model championship by completing the four-race sweep of all World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series events at Volusia Speedway Park.

With these victories, Sheppard now holds a DIRTcar Nationals Late Model record as the only driver to win four races in a row in the event's history. He's also the first to win four World of Outlaws races in a row since Tim Fuller accomplished the feat in 2009.

Last year's DIRTcar Nationals Champion, Chris Madden, wrapped up his week with a runner-up finish, bouncing back from what he said should have been another top-five run on Friday night. His teammate, two-time DIRTcar Nationals champ Shane Clanton, made it a two-three finish for Capital Race Cars.

Over the past four races at Volusia, Sheppard led a total of 174 laps out of a possible 200 – all 50 on Wednesday, 39 on Thursday, 41 on Friday and 44 on Saturday. He has now won the last five World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series races at Volusia, going back to the final DIRTcar Nationals race of 2018, which he won on Feb. 17.

The Mark Richards Racing team has quite a long list of accomplishments already, and Sheppard agreed that this whole week was an all-around team effort.

"It's another accomplishment that we've added to the list as a team," said Sheppard, a third-generation racer from New Berlin, IL. "Our team is phenomenal, and they deserve every bit of the success that we have."

Speaking about his new DIRTcar Nationals record, Sheppard continued, "To be the first driver in history to do that, it means the world to me, especially. And I know it means the world to my guys because they work their tails off, and they expect

nothing less than a win."

Just like the previous three nights, "The Rocket Shepp" grabbed the lead early and never once relinquished it. A big challenge came from Madden behind him, as he gave chase throughout the entire race, but was never able to make the move. It seemed as though the Rocket House Car was on rails the whole night, rarely upsetting the car even the slightest bit on both the high and low lines.

Madden had a great race, as well, starting from the outside pole and leading the opening laps. Sheppard dove into turn one on lap seven and slid up to the top side, taking Madden's line and the spot away. But "Smokey" got back on the horse and gave Sheppard all he could handle through the next 44 laps.

His finishes of sixth on Thursday night and now second on Saturday were just the finishes he and the Skyline Motorsports team were looking for this week. It gives Madden and his crew a lot of confidence moving forward in accomplishing the goals they set out at the beginning of 2019.

"Hats off to Marshall Green and Capital Race Cars," Madden said. "We've had a phenomenal week ourselves to come down here and accomplish what we did and do what we've done was a pretty huge goal for us. I'm excited and very happy for everybody that's supported Skyline Motorsports here. It's just a great program, it's going be great for us this year, and hopefully we'll be able to get a bunch of wins."

Madden said he should have had another second-place finish on Friday night to back up Saturday's result, but the damage to his spoiler from an incident late in the race laid those chances for a good finish to rest. However, Madden took pride in the way he raced with the rest of the field throughout the week.

"We had a second-place car last night, for sure," Madden said. "We were tit-for-tat last night for a while. I feel like the 44 and the 1 car were the best two cars here this week."

Clanton had a very consistent week with finishes of fifth, two ninths, an eighth and now a third to cap off his 2019 DIRTcar Nationals venture. He joins Darrell Lanigan



Brandon Sheppard swept the action at Volusia Speedway Park during the DIRTcar Nationals, winning himself a golden gator. (Paul Arch photo)

as the only two drivers to score top-five finishes in each of the five completed nights of Late Model Week at Volusia.

"Top-10s will bring top-fives, top-fives will bring wins," Clanton said. "We need more wins, of course, to keep going. But we're real satisfied with what we've done, to get a win at Screven and then to come here and get a top-five and no worse than ninth, it feels real good."

Starting fifth, "The Georgia Bulldog" made a steady push to third with a car that he said could have been better, but was still pleased to put into the top three.

"I actually thought I had something for [the leaders]," said Clanton, the 2015 World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series champion. "But with them long greens, we had a little softer tire than they did on the right front and it just got to where I couldn't steer. It just got too tight. The cautions were helping a little bit, but once the racetrack cleaned up, they could go ahead and drive away from me."

With the conclusion of Saturday's events, the 48th Annual DIRTcar Nationals is now officially in the books. A big thanks to all of the great race fans who came out to be a part of it!

A trip to Tennessee is up next for the Outlaws, as they visit the Duck River Raceway Park and Smoky Mountain Speedway on March 8 and 9. Watch every lap of both races LIVE on DIRTvision.

Sheppard is Off to a Terrific Start in 2019

BARBERVILLE, FL - Fast fact: the last four World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series races held at the Volusia Speedway Park as part of the DIRTcar Nationals have now been won by the same driver in the same car. "The Rocket Shepp" Brandon

Sheppard put on yet another powerful display of motor and muscle on Friday night, as he led 41 of 50 laps en route to his third victory in three days. Sheppard won the fourth and final World of Outlaws race last year at Volusia, making this four in a row for the Rocket Chassis house car driver at "The World's Fastest Half-Mile."

After winning Monday's DIRTcar Late Model race and two sub-par nights of Outlaw competition Wednesday and Thursday, 2018 Series Champion Mike Marlar put together an incredible rebound race, advancing 21 spots through 50 laps to go from 23rd to second after barely making the race through a Last Chance Showdown.

Two-time DIRTcar Summer Nationals Champion Brian Shirley bagged the final spot in the top three with a solid run, rebounding from his 3rd-to-14th-place finish on Thursday night.

Sheppard began his night with a win in Heat No. 5 and drew the fourth spot on the starting grid. From the outside second row, he seemed to crack the whip at the exact same time as Thursday night, taking the lead away from Tim McCreddie on lap 10 and getting the jump on every restart, avoiding the destructive activity behind him to garner his 15th top-five finish in 17 overall starts this winter.

Track conditions, as they always do, changed throughout the evening, which made for an interesting challenge for the drivers on which line to run and when. Both high and low lanes seemed to be effective, and Sheppard said his car was good enough to work with both.

"I feel like I could have ran the same line most of the race and kept the same speed up, but there were guys coming behind me on the top and they were a little better than me at times, so I had to move up

(Continued Next Page)

Continued...

and compensate," said Sheppard. "I just moved when I had to, and everything just worked out how it worked out – the race-car was really good."

However, little did Sheppard know of Marlar's charge behind him. Lap by lap, Marlar began to pick off traffic in front of him, climbing to the 16th spot before a bad wreck on the front stretch on lap 27

brought out an extended caution, sending several cars to pit road. On that restart, Marlar put the hammer down and picked up a few more spots, placing him inside the top 10, where he continued to make up ground on the leaders. By lap 40, he was battling Brian Shirley for second – a battle he won at the drop of the checkered.

Shirley once again proved his worthiness of running up front again on Friday night with a hard-fought, third-place run. He started eighth and kept his nose clean through 50 laps, holding his own in the top three to stay out of the incidents that were occurring behind him. Steadily, Shirley made the most of his passes on the high side – a familiar place for him this week.

Shirley had some early momentum that proved to be the difference-maker in staying out of each of the five cautions, climbing to second on lap 19, well before the wrecks involving Devin Moran, Tyler Erb, Ricky Weiss, Kyle Bronson, Chris Madden, Gregg Satterlee and Jonathan Davenport led to a lot of mangled racecars in the pits after 50 laps, and Shirley was just glad to be ahead of it all.

Another Mark in the Win Column for the Rocket Chassis House Car, Weiss Shows Signs of Strength

BARBERVILLE, FL - The World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series had a streak going of three different winners in three races after Wednesday night. Brandon Sheppard's back-to-back win on Thursday night over Scott Bloomquist, Don O'Neal and Rookie of the Year contender Ricky Weiss changed all that, as he led 39 laps on his way to victory on Night 4 of Late Model Week at Vo-

lusia Speedway Park as part of the 48th Annual DIRTcar Nationals.

Early on, the gloves were off in the battle for the lead between two former Series Champions, Tim McCreadie and Sheppard himself. McCreadie started outside front row and bolted out to the early lead. Sheppard gave chase for 10 laps before using the shortest line around the track to power by on the inside coming out of turn two. Once he grabbed the lead, Sheppard did everything he could to protect it, growing his lead in traffic to as high as 4.2 seconds at one point.

Despite a number of cautions near the end of the race, Sheppard was able to handle the pressure from numerous drivers applying it from behind him. Seven different cars took a shot at the top three in the second half of the race, and the battle ensued quickly after Sheppard grabbed the lead from McCreadie. Don O'Neal, Chris Madden, Jonathan Davenport, Scott Bloomquist, Brian Shirley and Ricky Weiss were all fighting like dogs to break into the podium in various points over 50 laps, which most everyone was able to claim at least once in that timeframe.

"T-Mac" defended the runner-up spot early before Madden, Shirley, Bloomquist and O'Neal came in hot pursuit. After a restart on lap 17 that bunched the field together, they raced lap-after-lap, inside and outside, swapping positions back-and-forth for about 15 laps before another caution broke the tension. After the restart, Davenport completed his vicious charge to the front with a pass for second but quickly lost it and began to fade, much like Shirley did around the same time.

This left room for one of the best battles for the podium the fans had been treated to all week between Bloomquist, McCreadie, Madden and O'Neal. "Black Sunshine" stayed relatively out of the way, bidding his time in sixth for much of the first 40 laps, but cranked things up with ten-to-go and passed three cars in three laps, leaving him with a solid runner-up finish. This gave Bloomquist his second top-five of the week, and another strong run from Team Zero, rebounding from his superb, yet unfortunate-ending run in Wednesday night's Morton Buildings Feature (2nd to 22nd).

McCreadie and Madden held their own battle for the fifth spot near the race's end, with McCreadie in the position as they took the checkered. This gave Madden his fourth top-10 of the season, bringing him up to fifth in Series

point standings.

Don O'Neal had another terrific run aboard the Clint Bowyer Racing ride, fending off numerous challenges from McCreadie, Bloomquist and Madden just to protect his third spot. From lap 13 onward, "The Real Deal" was never worse than fourth, showcasing his integrity on the high-line, right where he was the night prior.

Coming into the 2019 season, there was much speculation around the Late Model community, concerning who the "top rookies" of the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series were going to be. Ricky Weiss was a frequently mentioned name online, being a five-time WISSOTA Late Models champion, especially on social media. Thursday night's race was the first to support his fans' predictions of high-quality finishes throughout the season, as Weiss wrapped up the fourth spot, and it looks as though he'll only be getting better from here.

A few rough finishes at Volusia prior to Thursday night has given Weiss and the rest of his crew a big reason to work hard and get better in all areas. It takes a special team effort to rebound from a 24th-place finish, directly following with a top-five effort. With Scott Bloomquist and his team's knowledge and equipment backing the Headingly, Manitoba, Canada, team this season, Weiss has proven he's got what it takes to hang with the big guns on a national tour.

"It's been huge, just growing our relationship with Scott and I and our team," Weiss said. "We've just been tweaking and building as a team, and it's definitely showing."

Weiss and his team have had experience at Volusia in years past, but never this deep into a points commitment. The key for them will be to just stay out of trouble and focus on consistency, the wins will come soon.

Sheppard Shines as He Rockets to DIRTcar Nationals Victory at Volusia

BARBERVILLE, FL - Brandon Sheppard was the third different winner in three races to start the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series season, and he dominated on Wednesday night at Volusia Speedway Park's 48th Annual DIRTcar Nationals.

While "The Rocket Shepp" was in control, a wild race waged behind him. Don O'Neal had fallen as far as 16th before he hooked up

and charged all the way to second while former DIRTcar Nationals champion Josh Richards hung tough all night in the top five and finished third.

But a perfect setup in the Morton Buildings Feature was exactly what Sheppard needed to hold off Scott Bloomquist and Dale McDowell in the early going, and then be able to move through traffic on the expertly prepared racing surface.

Sheppard started his night off with a hammer-down qualifying effort, clocking in at 16.097 – good enough for fifth overall. He grabbed the early lead in Heat 2 and redrew the pole, never looking back once through multiple restarts toward the end of the race. For he and his crew, Sheppard was just glad to pick up a victory at Volusia, as he was feeling the pressure after going winless in his first 14 starts this year from Arizona to Georgia and Florida.

After scoring 13 wins last season, the Mark Richards Racing, Rocket Chassis house car wound up second in the Series championship after a few unfortunate DNFs, creating a gap he was unable to make up in the end despite a victory in the World Finals at Charlotte. This year, Sheppard put all that behind him and has never been more focused on posting good, consistent finishes. And what start he's gotten off to.

"Truthfully, there's less pressure because we didn't win the championship last year," Sheppard said. "I think we've 100 percent, in my mind, got a championship team."

O'Neal has certainly sprung to a great start at Volusia. After finishing fourth in Heat 1, placing him 13th on the starting grid, "The Real Deal" steadily picked off the traffic in front of him, lap-by-lap, earning him a runner-up finish. And what a charge he had, falling as far back as 16th on lap six.

This second place sat well with the Clint Bowyer Racing pilot and will give him plenty to build off of going forward through the next three nights of action at Volusia.

The field was full of big movers on the racy half-mile surface as Brian Shirley powered from 20th to eighth and Jonathan Davenport motored from 14th to fifth.

While Richards earned his second top-five this week at Volusia, Chase Junghans motored to his third top-five finish in three World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series races this season. Junghans is the only driver who has three top-five finishes in the first three points races.

Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - Atlanta racing fans and NASCAR star Ryan Blaney will be making a Guinness World Record attempt on Sunday, Feb. 24.

Blaney's talents behind the wheel of a stock car are well known, but this record attempt will test his high-speed self-photography skills. That's because the record on the chopping block is the most selfies taken

in three minutes.

If he's to succeed, Blaney will need a lot of help. The current record for most selfies taken in three minutes is 168, set by James Smith in January 2018. That's why NASCAR fans coming to Atlanta Motor Speedway for the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 are being called upon to help the cause.

"To beat the current selfie record, I know I'm going to need to be fast," Blaney said. "The good news is being fast is the name of the game in NASCAR, so I feel like I'm well prepared. Plus, I can't think of a group of people better suited to help me make it happen than NASCAR fans. Let's do this!"

The world record attempt will begin at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, in the Atlanta Motor Speedway Fan Zone.

It'll take speed to break the current selfie record, and it'll take speed to win the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500, which caps off Georgia's NASCAR weekend Feb. 22-24.

The Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 weekend begins Friday with Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series qualifying. Saturday features the only doubleheader on the NASCAR schedule, with the Rinnai 250 XFINITY Series race followed by the Gander Outdoors Truck Series 200-miler. On Sunday, after the world record attempt, the stars of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series battle it out on the high banks of Atlanta Motor Speedway in the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500.

Tickets for the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 can be purchased by contacting Atlanta Motor Speedway at (770) 946-4211, (877) 9-AMSTIX or by visiting www.atlantamotorspeedway.com.

Daytona International Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Denny Hamlin, now a two-time DAYTONA

500 champion after winning Sunday's 61st running of "The Great American Race," was honored on Monday morning during the annual Champion's Breakfast in Daytona International Speedway's Bill France Room.

Hamlin was joined by his car owner Joe Gibbs and his first-year crew chief Chris Gabehart. Gibbs now has three DAYTONA 500 championships as an owner; Hamlin also won in 2016 and in 1993, Dale Jarrett gave Gibbs his first victory in NASCAR's biggest event.

"This is certainly validating, for sure," Hamlin said. "But there's certainly a lot I want to accomplish and I have plenty of time to do it."

The post-race celebration Sunday night was significant – but subdued. The team went to a local Steak 'n Shake, continuing a team tradition that started in 1993 when Jarrett's victory was also the first overall for Joe Gibbs Racing (JGR) in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. And once again, they were noticed and joined by a number of race fans.

"It got crazy," Hamlin joked.

Added straight-man Gibbs, as if on cue: "We were running the streets ... we were just raising Cain."

Monday's levity contrasted with the emotion so prevalent on Sunday. For JGR, this year's DAYTONA 500 was a tribute – win or lose – to the late J.D. Gibbs, Joe Gibbs' son who passed away last month to a neurological disorder. J.D. Gibbs was the individual who brought a young, untested Hamlin into the JGR organization.

In addition to a press conference and a number of one-on-one media interviews on Monday morning, Hamlin also said goodbye to his winning car for a year. His No. 11 FedEx Express Toyota Camry began a one-year, fan-friendly display on Monday – complete with confetti from Sunday night's Gatorade Victory Lane celebration – in the DIS Ticket and Tours Building.

Daytona International Speedway President Chip Wile also made several championship presentations during the breakfast:

- Hamlin received a Rolex Cosmograph Daytona Watch and black leather Champion's Jacket, with jackets also given to Gibbs and Gabehart.
- Gibbs received a third Harley J. Earl Champion Owner Trophy.
- Gabehart received the Cannonball Baker Trophy named for NASCAR's first commissioner and given annually to the champion

crew chief.

Wile and Hamlin also unveiled the new logo for the 2020 DAYTONA 500, scheduled for Feb. 16. And on Sunday night after his victory, Hamlin placed one foot and both hands in cement and signed his name on the square that will be added to the DAYTONA 500 Champions' Walk of Fame outside the Ticket and Tours Building.

Monday's breakfast included interviews with local and national media outlets, but Hamlin's championship visibility was just cranking up. Tuesday, he will head to New York for interviews on FS1, Live! With Kelly and Ryan plus SiriusXM, among others. He will then visit the New York Stock Exchange to ring the closing bell.

On Thursday and Friday – in advance of this weekend's Monster Energy Series event at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hamlin will visit a variety of Atlanta-based media outlets.

Motorsports action resumes at Daytona International Speedway on March 9 with the DAYTONA Supercross. That event opens the 78th annual Bike Week At DAYTONA, which also includes the DAYTONA TT on March 14 and the 78th annual DAYTONA 200 on March 16.

Tickets for Bike Week At DAYTONA events and all other Daytona International Speedway events can be purchased online at www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP. Fans can stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and Snapchat, and by downloading Daytona International Speedway's mobile app, for the latest Speedway news throughout the season.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - Tickets for one of the most anticipated short track races in the world are now on sale at all Food City locations.

Food City 500 tickets for Sunday, April 7 are being sold in-store at \$50 for adults and \$10 for kids (12-and-under). Each ticket purchased awards shoppers 500 additional ValuPoints on their Food City ValuCard. ValuPoints are redeemable to save money on fuel, groceries and more.

"Steve Smith and the Food City team have meant so much to us throughout the years as our longest serving Speedway partner," said Jerry

Caldwell, executive vice president and general manager for Bristol Motor Speedway. "The best part of the in-store program is that you can purchase your race tickets and utilize the additional ValuPoints earned to stock up your cooler for the Food City 500."

All tickets will feature blind-reserved seats selected by knowledgeable members of the BMS ticket office. Tickets will be sold at the customer service area of each Food City location. The tickets will then be emailed within seven days of purchase. The final day to purchase race tickets in-store will be Tuesday, April 2 for the Food City 500.

"Food City is proud to be the longest running sponsor of Bristol Motor Speedway. We're excited to have the opportunity to expand that partnership to include great low prices on tickets to one of NASCAR's premier venues," said Kevin Stafford, vice president of marketing for Food City. "Last season's ticket sales promotion was extremely successful and we're looking to make this year's program even better – so stop by one of our convenient locations to take advantage of these great savings!"

Food City serves as one of the most collaborative partners in the NASCAR industry. In addition to being the second longest Cup entitlement sponsor, Food City has been the innovative visionary behind Food City Family Race Night, which continues to be the longest running and most popular fan fest in NASCAR. The event returns for a 32nd year to BMS Hospitality Village on Friday, April 5.

For more information, see the front office at your neighborhood Food City or visit www.BristolMotorSpeedway.com.

Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - With the NASCAR season kicking off this weekend, fans really had two choices of where to watch the Daytona 500. They could be in Daytona itself to see the Great American Race, or they could take the alternative and watch it at The Great American Speedway. For more than 5,000 race fans, a date with Texas Motor Speedway was the way to go.

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350 RVs packed the infield campground Saturday and Sunday, taking in the action on all 22,698 square feet of "Big Hoss TV." It's serious business too. The first RV arrived at TMS on Thursday night, and by Friday night they were lined up in the outer staging area.

"This just feels like we're part of the action, and we get to see our NASCAR family one more time," Grapevine, Texas, resident Ashley Douglas said. "We come every year. The atmosphere, you're at the track, they've got the pace cars going around, and everyone's got their pizza ovens and cornhole. It's just like you're part of it."

As Douglas mentioned, the allure of camping out in front of the world's largest HDTV wasn't the only thing bringing people out to the track. The free weekend included pace car rides in the 2019 Chevrolet Camaro SS or the 2019 Chevrolet Impala. Radio stations 95.9 The Ranch, 92.1 Hank FM, and 99.5 The Wolf held promotions and live remotes from the track. There was also a special screening of the race and lunch for more than 100 members of The Speedway Club in the Grand Ballroom.

O'Reilly Auto Parts, which features more than 5,000 locations across the country, held a hospitality event Sunday for more than 2,000 of its commercial business partners. The event, staged in the Cup Garage in the Texas Motor Speedway infield, featured outdoor games and an O'Reilly Auto Parts show car, as well as TVs in the garage for those wanting to watch the Daytona 500 inside rather than outside on "Big Hoss TV."

"Seeing so many people representing one of our title sponsors, O'Reilly Auto Parts, is really one of the highlights of the weekend," Texas Motor Speedway President/GM Eddie Gossage said. "When one company brings more than 2,000 people it gives us a chance to entertain those who are already race fans, but it also offers the opportunity to create new fans. Once you see the facility from the infield and really get a taste for the size of it, including Big Hoss, you're hooked."

Slaton, Texas, resident Karen McGwier and her family came to

the watching party for the first time last year, and this year she knew they were coming back in a big way. McGwier's campsite decorations earned her an O'Reilly Auto Parts gift card for best campsite.

"We heard about the competition. We didn't know there was a prize. We just wanted the fun of doing it," McGwier said. "We're at the race so what else could be better than doing our own race set up?"

The campsite featured cutouts of cars driven by Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kevin Harvick, Martin Truex Jr., Daniel Hemric, and Brad Keselowski. It was finished off with a large cutout meant for people to use as a selfie station.

"You come in behind it, take the picture, and now I'm the winner. I'm number one," McGwier said, with her head sticking through the driver's window.

Fans may purchase tickets for the O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 tripleheader, season tickets to Texas Motor Speedway's race events by calling the speedway ticket office at (817) 215-8500 or by visiting www.texasmotorspeedway.com.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - With Saturday's forecast calling for rain, Charlotte Motor Speedway's first Cars and Coffee Concord event will have to percolate one more week. Cars and Coffee's rollout will kick off on Saturday, Feb. 23, with the FREE cruise-in event taking place from 7-10 a.m. in the speedway's Fan Zone – giving gearheads and coffee connoisseurs a chance to talk shop in a relaxed setting.

Following its rollout next week, Cars and Coffee Concord will take place on the third Saturday of each month, save for May and October. The new event will see the Fan Zone transformed as car owners and enthusiasts gather to celebrate their shared passion for cars and showcase their prized classics, customs and hot rods amid the backdrop of America's Home for Racing. There is no charge for car owners or spectators to participate. Click here for a Cars and Coffee map.

Additionally, Speedway Children's Charities will host a Laps for Charity event on July 20, giving fans the unique opportunity to drive their personal cars around Charlotte Motor Speedway's revolutionary ROVAL™ with a \$25 donation to Speedway Children's Charities.

TICKETS: For tickets to all of Charlotte Motor Speedway's 2019 events, including the 60th running

of the Coca-Cola 600 on May 26, visit www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets.

FOLLOW US: Keep track of all of Charlotte Motor Speedway's attractions and events by following on Twitter and Instagram or become a Facebook fan. Keep up with all the latest news and information with the Charlotte Motor Speedway mobile app.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - After yesterday's DAYTONA 500, the NASCAR season is now in full swing – and there are officially 69 days until the GEICO 500 at Talladega Superspeedway. The historic 2.66-mile venue, which opened in 1969, is revving up for its 50th Anniversary celebration, and in honor of 50 Years of Speed, the track announced today a GROOVY "\$69" ticket offer for the GEICO 500 on Sunday, April 28.

The \$69 ticket is for a limited time and gives fans a chance to experience the most competitive track in NASCAR at a fantastic price. To take advantage, fans can visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call 855.518.RACE (7223). The \$69 offer includes the following:

- One (1) Lincoln Grandstand Ticket (between the exit of Turn 4 and the entrance to pit road) for the GEICO 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series event - Anyone holding a Sunday ticket will also have access to the traditional Saturday Night Infield Concert

- One (1) Racing Electronics scanner and one (1) headset, valid for entire spring race weekend which also features the General Tire 200 (April 26) for the ARCA Menards Series and the Money-Lion 300 (April 27) for the NASCAR Xfinity Series

- An incredible \$46 savings off race week pricing

With the Racing Electronics scanner and headset, fans will hear the uncensored chatter from the driver in the cockpit to the crew chief from the pit box, as well as the spotter high above the track while taking in the spectacular 3-and 4-wide racing action at Talladega.

Reigning premier series champion Joey Logano is the defending winner of the GEICO 500, and his victory at the 33-degree, high-banked venue, locked him into last year's playoffs. Talladega Superspeedway opened on September 14, 1969 and Richard Brickhouse took the checkered flag. Richard Childress, Talladega's all-time winning car owner, competed in that initial event as a driver, finishing

23rd.

As part of Transformation – The Talladega Superspeedway Infield Project, the upcoming weekend will also feature the unveiling of the new Turn 3, two-lane Oversized Vehicle Tunnel, as well as the new 69-spot Finish Line Premium RV area (located just past the start-finish line & includes full hookups) plus new Infield Shower Trailers. The culmination of Transformation will occur this October and will allow fans to be immersed into the sport of NASCAR with a one-of-a-kind Talladega Garage Experience, which will feature "up-close" access, interactive attractions and enhanced amenities for fans, sponsors, teams and stakeholders in the iconic Talladega infield.

For more information on Transformation, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/transformation.

Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - The reign of B.B. Owen Elementary continued during Turn 3 of Texas Motor Speedway's Speeding To Read S.T.E.A.M. Powered by Fun 2 Discover competition with another perfect score. The yearlong education program includes 14 participating Dallas/Fort Worth schools.

B.B. Owen, the Lewisville ISD school based in The Colony, held on to its 100 percent score again, having its entire enrollment of 297 meet or exceed the Turn 3 reading goals. It is the only school in the competition to have a perfect score at the third-quarter mark. Homestead Elementary in Carrollton came in second with 86 percent of its 553 students reaching or exceeding their reading goals.

Other schools participating in Turn 3 include: Brent (Little Elm ISD); Carl E. Schluter (Northwest ISD); Carter Park (Fort Worth ISD); Diamond Hill (Fort Worth ISD); Dolores Huerta (Fort Worth ISD); S.M. Seabourn (Mesquite ISD); Sidney Poynter (Crowley ISD); Stewart's Creek (Lewisville ISD); and Tom C. Gooch (Dallas ISD).

Out of the 4,997 students participating, these 14 schools have been able to collectively read 61,857 books at the third quarter of the competition, and there seems to be no sign of slowing down.

During the seven-week scoring period, Diamond Hill read the most with a whopping 14,174 books. Carl E. Schluter also broke the 10,000-book barrier with 11,232.

Stewart's Creek fourth-grader Haylee Baker put the pedal to the metal, reading the greatest number

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of books (678) during Turn 3. Other grade champions include Brent kindergartener, Miracle Thomas (173), Diamond Hill first-grader, Isabella Leal Sanchez (223), Diamond Hill second-grader, Melissa Sanchez (153), Homestead third-grader, Noelle Prowell (325), and Homestead fifth-grader, Sharanya Saripalli (102). Each grade leader will earn

a prize pack from Texas Motor Speedway and Speedway Motorsports, Inc. Properties.

The top classrooms, based off average number of books read per student in the class, were the Diamond Hill first grade class of Mrs. Reyes (123 books/student), Brent kindergarten class of Liz Scaife (96) and the Stewart's Creek fourth grade class of Ms. Kelly (76). For Turn 3, the top-reading classrooms in second grade (Serrano, Brent) and third grade (Abbott, Homestead) will earn special treats for each student compliments of Levy Restaurants, the official concessionaire of Texas Motor Speedway.

Texas Motor Speedway's Speeding To Read S.T.E.A.M. Powered by Fun 2 Discover program is supported by the following partners: Fun 2 Discover, NASCAR, NTT IndyCar Series, Lionel Racing, Speedway World, Levy Restaurants, The Speedway Club, Food for the Soul, aai Trophies and Awards of Plano, Jostens, Woolley's Frozen Custard, Reunion Tower, Speedway Children's Charities-Texas Chapter and Team Texas High Performance Driving School.

For more information on Texas Motor Speedway's Speeding To Read S.T.E.A.M. Powered by Fun 2 Discover program, please visit www.speedingtoread.com.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - Father's Day weekend just got even better as kids 12-and-under are now free to the NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals, June 14-16.

Kids tickets are good for grandstand admission (Sections A through U) to the one-of-a-kind visceral experience that is the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series at historic Thunder Valley, one of the most iconic dragstrips in the country. These tickets are available only

through the Bristol Motor Speedway/Dragway ticket office with the purchase of an adult ticket. Up to two children 12-and-under are free with a single adult ticket purchase.

"Having NHRA's marquee series make a visit each year to Bristol Dragway on Father's Day weekend is truly a treat," said Jerry Caldwell, executive vice president of Bristol Dragway. "From the awesome 320 mile per hour race cars to the unlimited driver access through NHRA's open pits to the Track Walk and Doughnuts for Dad tradition, the event provides a great family-bonding experience. The addition of free tickets for kids 12 and under makes it easier than ever for families to enjoy the weekend."

While the signature drag racing event has always been a great value to fans with affordable pricing, the new kids' ticket program will allow more affordability for families and introduce the spectacle of speed to more new fans. A single day family pack of four tickets (two Adults & two Kids) can be purchased for between \$60 and \$90 (depending on the day) and a full weekend family four-pack is available for \$158.

The 19th annual NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals will showcase the thunderous engines and extreme speeds of the exotic 10,000-horsepower machines in Top Fuel and Funny Car, creating a unique experience for Dad and plenty of high-performance thrills for the entire family. Nitro qualifying will kick off on Friday under the lights and conclude with two rounds on Saturday. Guests are encouraged to arrive early on Sunday for the track walk and Doughnuts for Dad before eliminations begin at Noon.

Best of all, every ticket is a pit pass, providing visitors with unparalleled access to drivers and teams throughout the weekend. Single day tickets start at just \$30.

To purchase, visit www.Bristol-Dragway.com or call 423-BRIS-TOL.

ISM Raceway

PHOENIX, AZ - ISM Raceway is excited to announce that Chevel Shepherd, winner of "The Voice" season 15, will be performing the National Anthem prior to the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series TicketGuardian 500 on Sunday, March 10.

"As a longtime fan of cars and racing, I am absolutely thrilled to honor our country by performing 'The Star Spangled Banner' at ISM Raceway's upcoming TicketGuardian 500," Shepherd said.

"I've heard so much about the new facility and I'm excited to experience it in person."

At just 16 years old, Shepherd consistently impresses listeners with her powerful voice. The New Mexico native was raised on country music and the outdoors – often doing crafts, feeding the animals and fixing cars with her dad. When Shepherd turned eight, she began singing in town whenever she could, always looking for musical opportunities. In 2018, that opportunity came when she propelled herself into the spotlight by winning season 15 of the hit TV show, "The Voice," and earlier this month when she performed on the Meaning of Life Tour with her Voice Coach Kelly Clarkson.

Tickets to the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series TicketGuardian 500 weekend March 8, 9 and 10, are available online at ISM-Raceway.com, by phone at 1-866-408-RACE (7223), or in person at the ISM Raceway ticket office.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - The 2019 NASCAR season is upon us and Talladega Superspeedway fans have already shown their excitement for the track's spring tripleheader weekend, April 26-28, as a limited number of spots remain in the reserved RV camping areas in its iconic infield, the most coveted real estate in motorsports.

Fans are encouraged to call 855-518-RACE (7223) to reserve their space, or they can visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/camping. The on-track lineup for the weekend features the GEICO 500 for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series (Sunday, April 28), the MoneyLion 300 for the NASCAR Xfinity Series (Saturday, April 27) and the General Tire 200 for the traditional ARCA Menards Series (Friday, April 26). In addition to three incredible races, the historic 2.66-mile venue will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary and the kick off to the Transformation Infield Project with the new Turn 3, 2-lane Oversized Vehicle Tunnel which will allow RVers 24-hour, easy access to the infield throughout the weekend.

Below are some of the reserved RV areas with remaining spots available in the infield:

- GECKO Frontrunner's Club I (Rows 3-5) – A prime area inside Turn 4 for fans to catch all the ac-

tion as drivers peel off the 33-degree banking and head toward the Tri-Oval. This reserved area is for motorhomes only.

- GEICO Grounds Yellow RV – This area is in close proximity of Turn 3, near the end of the famed Alabama Gang Superstretch.

- GEICO Grounds Green – Located near Turns 3 and 4, this is a great area for fans to get a glimpse of the drivers coming out of the Alabama Gang Superstretch as they make their way through Turn 4.

In addition, the infamous infield has reserved areas available for cars and tents, which include:

- GEICO Grounds Blue – Located close to Turns 1 and 2, this is the perfect spot for fans to watch the 3-and 4-wide racing action on the high banks.

- GEICO Grounds Yellow – Near Turn 3, this area gives fans a great spot to relax for the weekend.

In addition to the oversized tunnel as part of Transformation this spring, fans will be treated to the new Finish Line Premium RV area (located just past the start-finish line & includes full hookups). New Infield Shower Trailers are also scheduled for completion in time for the anticipated weekend. Infield guests also have the opportunity to witness the always fun and exciting "Big One on the Blvd." Driver/Fan event on Friday night as well as the traditional Saturday Night Infield Concert.

"The fans have definitely made a statement," said Talladega Superspeedway Chairman Grant Lynch. "With our overnight parks and amenities, the infield is a great place for fans to enjoy the nightly entertainment with the 'Big One on the Blvd' on Friday and our traditional Saturday Night Infield Concert. We are excited to welcome back all of our dedicated fans during our 50th Anniversary celebration and can't wait for them to experience the best racing on the planet!"

The culmination of Transformation will occur this October and will allow fans to be immersed into the sport of NASCAR with a one-of-a-kind Talladega Garage Experience, which will feature "up-close" access, interactive attractions and enhanced amenities for fans, sponsors, teams and stakeholders.

Fans can learn more about the project and view the progress 24/7 via the construction cam by visiting www.talladegasuperspeedway.com.

Visit us at www.fastrackracingjournal.com to read our newest issue every week!

All American Speedway

ROSEVILLE, CA - Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series champion Kevin Harvick, who rose through the ranks of the NASCAR Home Tracks program, has partnered with NASCAR's newest sanctioned facility - All American Speedway in Roseville, California - for a contingency awards program known as the "KHI Management 4

Award."

The exciting partnership will be highlighted by cash prizes for competitors in the Division 1 Late Model class.

KHI Management will provide a pair of cash bonuses during each night of Late Model racing, including \$150 for the fourth-place competitor at halfway and \$150 for the fourth-place finisher at the checkered flag. Additionally, full-time drivers in the Jr. Late Model, Limited Modified, and newly created Super Stock division will also be eligible for KHI Management cash awards for fourth-place finishes.

Harvick started his racing career in Bakersfield, California at the famed Mesa Marin Raceway, honing his skills in NASCAR Late Models before transitioning to the NASCAR K&N Pro Series West, and NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series to further his development. Harvick has become a major advocate for the grassroots of NASCAR and has leant his experience, notoriety, and financial backing to assist racing at the local levels.

All American Speedway's racers will benefit from the national attention that a NASCAR grassroots program provides them. The KHI Management contingency is one of many special contingencies being planned in 2019 by race track promoter Bill McAnally, who also started his career in the grassroots of Street Stock and Late Model racing at Roseville's third-mile track.

"Someone like Kevin, who rose up the ladder of NASCAR racing from the weekly track level up to Cup champion, stepping up and helping give back to local grassroots racing - it speaks volumes," McAnally said. "It shows an understanding of the value that the weekly tracks play to make NASCAR what it is."

The 2019 All American Speed-

way powered by Roseville Toyota schedule begins with Open Practices on March 23 and March 30. A tech day rounds out pre-season activities on April 6, before the season opener on April 13. Opening Night promises to be one of the most exciting in many years for the historic facility with eight main events scheduled. Weekly track championship battles will run until Nov. 2, with the Championship Awards Gala rounding out festivities during the winter.

More information can be found on the track's website www.AllAmericanSpeedway.com and by following the track on your favorite social media accounts. Additional details are available by calling the track info line at (916) 786-2025. All American Speedway is located at 800 All America City Blvd in Roseville.

Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - An already action-packed 2019 schedule of events atop the 3/8-mile Dodge City Raceway Park clay oval in southwest is even better now with the addition of the Stock Car Shootout on Saturday night, May 4.

The Stock Car Shootout presented by Winner's Circle Feedyards and Factory Direct Fireworks offers up a \$1,000 winner's share with \$150 to start the feature event.

With a number of invaders from throughout expected to take on the local contingent, a draw-redraw format will be in effect for the evening.

The May 4 Stock Car Shootout will be rounded out by a full card Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds and IMCA Hobby Stocks.

The 2018 IMCA Stock Car title chase at DCRP came down to the wire with Bazine's Dusty Witthuhn edging Chris Oliver by just eight points for the crown with Marlin Hogie, Tyler Walker and Shannon Maughlin also among the final top five.

Seven different drivers reached DCRP victory lane in IMCA Stock Car action last season with Colorado's Angel Munoz topping the charts by parking in on three occasions. Witthuhn, Oliver and Troy Burkhart each posted two wins with single scores posted by Maughlin, Tyler Tipton and Landon Maddox.

Following the track's car show and open practice on March 23, the IMCA Stock Car ranks will have three additional opportunities to get dialed in prior to the Stock Car Shootout with April events on the 6th, 13th and 27th.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dodge City located at 201 4th Avenue is the official lodging partner of Dodge City Raceway Park. The Holiday Inn Express & Suites official internet site is located at www.hiexpress.com/DodgeCity/HI-Express. Race fans staying at the Holiday Inn & Suites Dodge City will want to request the special DCRP rate for their visit when making reservations.

In total, the 2019 season atop the 3/8-mile Dodge City Raceway Park is slated for 18 nights of action while "Little DCRP" presents seven Sunday events of Micro Sprints and Karts. The complete 2019 schedule of events at Dodge City Raceway Park is available at <http://www.dodgecityraceway.com/schedule/>.

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

Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - Dodge City Raceway Park in southwest Kansas is already widely regarded as one of the premier dirt track racing facilities in the country.

Some added excitement is coming now in 2019 with an inner dirt oval constructed that will feature a slate of Micro Sprint Cars and Karts on eight selected Sundays over the course of the year.

The new 1/7-mile clay oval constructed inside the existing 3/8-mile clay oval will be dubbed "Little DCRP".

The Sunday afternoon cards will include a full slate of Winged "A" Class, Non-Wing "A" Class, Restricted "A" Class and Junior Sprints along with Karts.

Each of the eight dates will follow a Saturday night of racing action atop the 3/8-mile Dodge City Raceway Park clay oval. The dates that Little DCRP will be in action are as follows:

- Sunday, May 5
- Sunday, May 19
- Sunday, June 2
- Sunday, June 30
- Sunday, July 7
- Sunday, July 21
- Sunday, August 25
- Sunday, September 15

More information will be available prior to the initial Little DCRP outing on May 5.

The first of 18 Dodge City Raceway Park events will take place on Saturday, April 6, after a March 23

car show and practice. The April 6 opener will include a full card of championship chase action including Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars versus the United Rebel Sprint Series, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars and IMCA Hobby Stocks.

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

Notable NASCAR Artist Sam Bass Dies at 57

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Sam Bass, NASCAR's first officially licensed artist, has died. He was 57.

He suffered from kidney problems. His wife, Denise, announced his death Saturday with a note on his official Twitter account.

Bass helped design paint schemes and programs for some of NASCAR's top stars and marquee events. His NASCAR Cup Series background included paint scheme designs for drivers Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, Tony Stewart and others.

The Virginia-born Bass became interested in racing at Southside Speedway in Richmond. In 1984, he was commissioned to do the race program cover art for the 1985 Coca-Cola 600. He has done every cover for Charlotte Motor Speedway since.

"Though he may have never turned a lap or a wrench, few captured the essence of our sport through his work more than Sam Bass," NASCAR said in a statement.