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Hamlin Wins Despite Penalties



Busch Doubles Up

Racing Texas Style

Big Changes; A Good Start

NASCAR did the unthinkable last week with sweeping changes to the 2020 Cup Series schedule.

Nobody has argued that changes weren't needed throughout the sport, but NASCAR doesn't always have a track record for responding quickly to obvious problems.

For too long, NASCAR has insisted the racing is good and the cars are equal. If that's true, then why has only two racing teams – Joe Gibbs Racing and Penske Racing – won every race this year?

Denny Hamlin's win last Sunday at Texas was another win for JGR, and it proves leveling the playing field remains a work in progress.

Too reluctant for too long, NASCAR clearly reshaped the field by shaking up the schedule, including the Playoff lineup.

"I've got to say I was pleasantly surprised somewhat, kind of ecstatic and shocked that there were as many changes as there were," Brad Keselowski said. "I didn't see that one coming. I think that was a good shot in the arm for the entire sport and I think that's an example of changes you can make that don't compromise competition for entertainment.

"I don't always believe that you have to trade is I guess what maybe I'm trying to say and the schedule change is a direct reflection of that. I think it's important to keep the schedule fresh and to have new ideas and to keep up with some of the challenges in the marketplace, whether it be the Olympics or whether it be markets that have made significant investments, so I was pretty excited to see that personally."

The traditional July 4 weekend race at the Daytona International Speedway now is the regular season finale on Aug. 29.

The Brickyard 400 was bumped up to July 5. The two Pocono Raceway weekends were consolidated into a Saturday-Sunday doubleheader on June 27-28. The season finale changed from Homestead-Miami Speedway to ISC Raceway near Phoenix. Homestead now has

a springtime slot on March 22.

Darlington, Las Vegas, Talladega, Charlotte Roval, Kansas, Texas, Martinsville and ISC all remain in the playoffs, while Richmond and Bristol were promoted to the playoffs at the expense of Dover and Indy.

Texas' second race traditionally falls on the first weekend of November, which coincides with the opening of hunting season. The new date is a week earlier.



DON COBLE

What has drivers excited is two intermediate-track races were replaced by short tracks.

"As far as the schedule, in my opinion for the 2020 schedule is a huge step in the right direction and I think those round ends and putting

Bristol in there and having Daytona be the last race of the regular season, I think there's a tremendous amount of really good things that are put in there and I think that will continue to get better as you go into '21 and you see those track agreements come to an end at the end of '20," Kevin Harvick said.

Drivers seemed equally surprised by the schedule overall as NASCAR's sudden willingness to change the way it does business.

Another challenge for NASCAR is the ever-changing rules package that, so far, as only benefited a couple teams. But if the sanctioning body is willing to make such radical changes to the schedule, it seems more likely it will come up with a solution that will make the competition on the track more compelling.

"I think you can make the competition and entertainment better without always having to sacrifice one or the other and the notion that you can't has always been very frustrating to me," Keselowski said. "Those ideas are the ones that I think you should always throw out the window right away, Anyone who tells you [that] you have to trade and has an idea that requires a trade, so as far as where the balancing mark is, when I put my race car driver hat on I'll be honest, I put a concerted effort to say I don't care as long as I have the fastest car of the group then everything else will figure its way out. It's a tough line for the sport to walk.

"Obviously, the entertainment factor is important and integrity is important with the competition side.



I'm not sure I'm the right person to always give an answer. I think at the end of the day the fans are pretty smart and they'll give you their answer and they'll answer you with ratings and attendance."

A lot of the credit for the revamped schedule went to Ben Kennedy, the son of Lesa France Kennedy.

After making 17 Xfinity and 73 Gander Outdoors Truck series starts, the great-grandson of NASCAR founder Bill France, hung up his helmet following the 2017 season to join the family business.

"I just made the leap of faith," the 27-year-old said. "I've always been passionate about the business side of motorsports, specifically NASCAR."

In the process, he brought a fresh look at a routine that became stale.

"There are a lot of changes and I think sometimes in our sport we've been reluctant to change," David Ragan said. "I think we have

been scared to make big decisions sometimes and those can be hard and certainly in the big business of motorsports, but I think change was inevitable that we had to get there and I think it's great."

Said Ricky Stenhouse Jr.: "We've kind of been stuck in the same rut for a while, so I do think a change-up of the schedule will be fun. A couple off weekends in the summer will be fun to have and a doubleheader weekend, it'll be cool to kind of see how everything plays out and then obviously what the schedule looks like going forward from there."

Bill France and his son, Bill France Jr., built the sport on a simple premise: good racing is good business. Pumping new life into a schedule that had become too routine is one thing. Fixing the cars to enhance competition clearly will be a greater challenge.

But NASCAR now is showing a willingness to think outside the box. And that's a good start.

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New Locales for Championship Race, Regular Season Finale Among Highlights of NASCAR Cup Series 2020 Schedule Announcement

D A Y T O N A
BEACH, FL - A champion crowned in the desert. The Last Great Colosseum becomes a postseason factor. A tricky doubleheader. The birthplace of NASCAR bookends

the regular season.

NASCAR today announced significant, dynamic changes to the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series schedule, with intriguing shifts during both the regular season and the Playoffs.

Most notably next season, NASCAR's championship will transition from the beaches of Miami to the desert near Phoenix, Arizona, following the renovation and reconfiguration of ISM Raceway. These recent changes delivered a new and exciting form of racing just a few weeks ago, reinforcing it as the perfect stage for the 2020 championship finale. As part of the new schedule, a champion will be crowned on Sunday, Nov. 8 – a week earlier than in previous sea-

sons.

Fans have expressed their desire for more short tracks in the Playoffs, and as a result, the iconic Bristol Night Race will become a part of the 10-week title battle as the first cut-off race on Saturday, Sept. 19. Bristol will join the Charlotte Roval (Sunday, Oct. 11) and Martinsville (Sunday, Nov. 1) as cut-off races, creating some of the most intense and pressure-packed "win-or-go-home" cut-off race scenarios in NASCAR Playoffs history.

Another race rich with history will also join the post-season fold, as the "Lady in Black," Darlington Raceway, will be the first race of the NASCAR Playoffs on Sunday, Sept. 6 with Las Vegas becoming the first race of the second round on Sunday, Sept. 27.

"The fans and the industry as a whole have been vocal about the desire for sweeping changes to the schedule, and the 2020 slate is a reflection of our efforts to execute against that feedback," said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR executive vice president and chief racing develop-

ment officer. "These changes are a result of unprecedented consensus-building with our race tracks and broadcast partners; something we look to continue."

The Great American Race, the Daytona 500, will once again open the NASCAR season during President's Day weekend on Sunday, Feb. 16, but NASCAR's second visit to Daytona will come with much more on the line than in previous seasons. Under the lights on Saturday, Aug. 29, the superspeedway will set the Playoffs field as the last regular season race of the year.

"Quite fittingly, the birthplace of NASCAR will host the bookend races to the 2020 regular season," O'Donnell said. "Racing in Daytona – particularly in the summer under the lights – never fails in delivering intense and unpredictable action. There's no question this venue will create some incredible drama as drivers make one last push for a playoff spot."

Following the Daytona 500, NASCAR's trip to the West Coast

will commence immediately with stops in Las Vegas (Sunday, Feb. 23), Auto Club (Sunday, March 1) and ISM Raceway (Sunday, March 8). Atlanta will move to Sunday, March 15 followed by Miami on Sunday, March 22.

Martinsville will move back in the schedule to take the spotlight – quite literally – on Mother's Day Weekend when cars hit the track under the lights for primetime racing on Saturday, May 9.

Pocono Raceway will make history when it helps kick off NASCAR's summer portion of the schedule. On Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28, the Tricky Triangle will host back-to-back premier series events, creating a bucket-list, can't miss destination weekend for NASCAR fans.

Finally, a tradition continues, with a passing of the baton from one iconic race track to another during the July 4th Weekend. Indianapolis Motor Speedway moves to a cornerstone weekend on the NASCAR calendar with a race at the Brickyard on July 5, a spot previously occupied by Daytona International Speedway.

The entire 2020 NASCAR Cup Series schedule is listed below, and once again all races will air on either the FOX or NBC family of networks, MRN, PRN, IMS Radio, and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio. Specific times and networks will be released at a later date.

MONSTER ENERGY NASCAR CUP SERIES 2020 SCHEDULE

DATE	RACE/TRACK	DATE	RACE/TRACK
Sunday, Feb. 9	The Clash	Saturday, June 27	Pocono Raceway
Thursday, Feb. 13	Duel at Daytona	Sunday, June 28	Pocono Raceway
Sunday, Feb. 16	Daytona 500	Sunday, July 5	Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Sunday, Feb. 23	Las Vegas Motor Speedway	Saturday, July 11	Kentucky Speedway
Sunday, March 1	Auto Club Speedway	Sunday, July 19	New Hampshire Motor Speedway
Sunday, March 8	ISM Raceway	Sunday, Aug. 9	Michigan International Speedway
Sunday, March 15	Atlanta Motor Speedway	Sunday, Aug. 16	Watkins Glen International
Sunday, March 22	Homestead-Miami Speedway	Sunday, Aug. 23	Dover International Speedway
Sunday, March 29	Texas Motor Speedway	Saturday, Aug. 29	Daytona International Speedway
Sunday, April 5	Bristol Motor Speedway	PLAYOFFS BEGIN	
Sunday, April 19	Richmond Raceway	Sunday, Sept. 6	Darlington Raceway
Sunday, April 26	Talladega Superspeedway	Saturday, Sept. 12	Richmond Raceway
Sunday, May 3	Dover International Speedway	Saturday, Sept. 19	Bristol Motor Speedway
Saturday, May 9	Martinsville Speedway	Sunday, Sept. 27	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Saturday, May 16	All-Star Race, Charlotte	Sunday, Oct. 4	Talladega Superspeedway
Sunday, May 24	Charlotte Motor Speedway	Sunday, Oct. 11	Charlotte Motor Speedway Roval
Sunday, May 31	Kansas Speedway	Sunday, Oct. 18	Kansas Speedway
Sunday, June 7	Michigan International Speedway	Sunday, Oct. 25	Texas Motor Speedway
Sunday, June 14	Sonoma Raceway	Sunday, Nov. 1	Martinsville Speedway
Sunday, June 21	Chicagoland Speedway	Sunday, Nov. 8	ISM Raceway

Denny Hamlin Secures Second Win of 2019 at Texas

FORT WORTH, TX - A fast car can cure a lot of mistakes. Just ask Joe Gibbs Racing's Denny Hamlin.

The reigning Daytona 500 winner overcame a slew of penalties—some self-inflicted—to win the

O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 at Texas Motor Speedway.

Although the driver of the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota Camry got down, he was never out of contention. Hamlin led three times for

45 laps en route to his third win at Texas, his second win of the season and the fourth Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series victory for Joe Gibbs Racing in the first seven races of 2019.

"I missed pit road under green, that cost us three or four seconds, as well," Hamlin said. "I don't know. We tried every way we could to give it away, and we found a way to do it with this FedEx Camry."

With a splash-and-go fuel stop on Lap 319, Hamlin cycled back to the lead four laps later and extended his advantage over Clint Bowyer by 2.743-seconds at the

finish.

"Our car was really, really fast," Hamlin said. "We obviously saw that. Once we got out front, we were able to pull away from the pack a little bit. Got a little bit loose when we were racing our teammates in the 18 (Kyle Busch) and the 20 (Erik Jones). So wasn't able to be as aggressive as I was earlier in the race. We had a super-fast car. That's why we won."

Daniel Suarez, Erik Jones and polesitter Jimmie Johnson rounded out the top five. Suarez was proud of the No. 41 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford Mustang team's solid performance.

"We've been working very hard to make our race cars better and definitely, we're heading in the right direction," Suarez said. "This is the second week in a row where all the Stewart-Haas Racing cars are in the top-10 and that's something very, very good. Overall, very proud of the 41 crew because we've been working hard to slowly get better and better. We're showing that."

Joey Logano won the first stage,

Denny Hamlin (11) pulls away from the field on his way to the win. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)

but had experienced issues with his hood flapping, pitted before pit road was open for service, and ultimately dropped to 22nd, one lap down.

William Byron, Aric Almirola, Kevin Harvick, Kurt Busch and Kyle Busch completed the top 10.

The fifth and final caution occurred on Lap 255 when Daniel Hemric spun in Turn 2. Over the next 55 laps, the lead changed between Kyle Busch, Johnson, Suarez, Almirola and Jones as different pit strategies played out. Although the race appeared to be leaning in Kyle Busch's direction, his car became loose in Turn 1 allowing Jones to pass him for the lead on Lap 276. After dropping to fourth, Busch hit the wall in Turn 2 on Lap 282 and was forced to pit.

"We were in a good position there to get the win today with our Interstate Batteries Toyota, but it just wasn't meant to be," said Busch, who led a race-high 66 laps. "We will go on to next week and get back on it at Bristol."

Kyle Busch continues to lead the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup standings. He has an eight point advantage over Denny Hamlin as the series heads to Bristol Motor Speedway next weekend.



Denny Hamlin makes his way back to his #11 FedEx Toyota, winning flag in hand, to complete his celebratory burnout after winning the O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 at Texas Motor Speedway Sunday afternoon. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

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Kyle Busch Grabs the Xfinity Win at Texas

FORT WORTH, TX - Kyle Busch moved one win closer to a Lone Star sweep with his victory this afternoon in the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Texas Motor Speedway, the My Bariatric Solutions 300.

While his car wasn't the class of the field on Saturday, Busch executed a perfect launch on the final restart to take the lead. Over the final eight laps, Busch held off Tyler Reddick to secure his ninth NASCAR Xfinity Series win at Texas Motor Speedway and the 95th of his series career.

"This Toyota Supra was awesome today," Busch said. "It was really fast on the long run I could just never get people away from me on the front side of the run to get settled into my rhythm and be able to go. Every time I got to the outside, people would just drive by me on the bottom. Then when I'd get to the inside, somebody would bust it on the outside on me and make me loose."

"We were just all over the place today. Certainly a fast race car once I could get rolling. Christopher Bell ran a great race, he should have won this thing today."

Bell, who finished third, led a race-high 128 laps. But the "fuel only" decision by crew chief Ben Beshore on the final pit stop afforded the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota Supra to the lead for the

last run. Busch extended his advantage over Reddick by .861-seconds at the finish line.

"Not taking any tires was certainly a help," Busch said. "We jumped the field there and I was worried about the restart because I didn't think there was going to be enough grip, but the car certainly had enough grip in it."

Chase Briscoe, Jeb Burton, Michael Annett, Justin Haley, Jeffrey Earnhardt, John Hunter Nemechek and Ryan Sieg rounded out the top 10.

Bell ran flag-to-flag in the first stage to score his fourth stage win of 2019. However, he was busted for speeding on pit road during his pit stop. Bell wasn't the only JGR driver with a penalty. Brandon Jones left his pits with a jack still underneath the No. 19 Toyota Supra. Both drivers dropped to the rear of the field for the Lap 54 restart.

The second stage was slowed by two cautions in the early laps. Tyler Hill and David Starr collided on Lap 57. Before the drivers were up to full speed, Justin Haley's car became loose and he slid into Brad Keselowski.

"Frustrating day," Keselowski said after he was released from the infield care center. The 2010 Xfinity Series champion finished 35th.

Gragson took the lead from Busch on the Lap 71 restart. Ray Black Jr., went for a wild ride when he spun backward into the Turn 2 wall on Lap 79. Five laps later, the leaders pitted with just six laps remaining in the stage.



Kyle Busch starts the celebrations in Texas' victory lane. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

Ryan Sieg remained on the track and assumed the lead. Ross Chastain and Haley lined up second and third. Busch, the first car off of pit road, restarted fourth on Lap 87. Sieg held on for the first stage win of his career followed by Chastain, Reddick, Busch and Bell.

Reddick restarted on the point, but the Joe Gibbs Racing tandem of Bell and Busch teamed up on the No. 2 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet Camaro. Bell returned to the lead on Lap 99. He held the position for 28 laps until Allgaier, who was battling the lapped vehicle of Gray Gaulding and Cole Custer for sixth, entered the spin cycle. The No. 7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet Camaro went for a ride through the front stretch grass before a trip to pit road.

Reddick exited the pits with the lead. Bell, Busch, Jones and Custer lined up for the Lap 131 restart. As the field completed the first lap and rolled into Turn 2, Jones and Custer collided to trigger Caution 8. Entering Texas, Custer and Jones were second and fourth,

respectively in the standings. They were scored 32nd and 33rd.

Bell and Reddick battled for the next 15 laps until the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota Supra finally checked out. The final 20 laps became an exercise in fuel management before Jeremy Clements ran out of fuel on pit road to bring out the ninth and final caution.

Bell led the field onto pit lane but when the No. 20 team opted for tires, Busch exited the pit with the lead.

"I was starting to struggle on that long run," Bell said. "It was frustrating to be beat by guys with no tires, but that's just how it goes at Texas."

Busch nailed the restart and sailed off to a .824-second lead after taking the white flag. He easily held off Reddick for his third Xfinity win of the season and his ninth victory across NASCAR's top three series this season.

While Busch has swept the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck, Xfinity and Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races before at Bristol Motor Speedway in 2010 and 2017, he's never pulled off the feat at Texas.

"Excited for my group to bring home a win for Joe Gibbs Racing," Busch said.

"I look forward to hopefully getting another one tomorrow."

Reddick retained the lead in the Xfinity Series standings by 12 points over Bell.

"He wasn't better anywhere, he just had track position," Reddick said of Busch. "I want to beat him one of these days. We're getting there. Every time I race against Kyle, it makes me a better driver."

Tyler Reddick, Christopher Bell, Chase Briscoe and Michael Annett are qualified for the Dash 4 Cash program starting next weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway. All four drivers will have a chance to compete for the \$100,000 bonus.



Race winner Kyle Busch (18) pulls away from second place Tyler Reddick (2) to complete takeover of first place. (RUSSELL LABOUNTY/NKP photo)

Kyle Busch Outduels Friesen for Fourth-Straight Gander Truck Win

FORT WORTH, TX - Kyle Busch continued his winning ways out west.

Busch held off Stewart Friesen by 1.269-seconds for his fourth-consecutive NASCAR Gander

Outdoors Truck Series victory of the season and his fourth-career win at Texas Motor Speedway.

Busch led a race-high 97 laps in the Vankor 350 en route to his 55th career series win and his 202nd among NASCAR's top three national series.

"Those guys were able to keep up with us just way too much throughout the night," Busch said. "You know, it's a better race that way when they're able to keep up. That means we need to go to work and work harder in order to get ourselves faster."

Johnny Sauter, Grant Enfinger, Matt Crafton, Tyler Ankrum, Ross Chastain, Tyler Dippel, Brennan Poole and Ben Rhodes rounded out the top 10 finishers. The race

was slowed by 10 cautions—tying the series track record.

Enfinger led the field to green. Stage 1 was slowed by four cautions the first involving Todd Gilliland, Chastain and Brennan Poole coming out of Turn 4 on Lap 3. Gilliland slid through the front stretch grass but continued on.

Harrison Burton, who started 10th, spun into the Turn 1 wall on Lap 11.

"I got loose on corner entry and just lost it," said Burton, who finished 31st. "Happy I'm ok. Happy I've got a good team behind me."

Angela Ruch and Gus Dean triggered the third caution in Turn 2 on Lap 18. Dean's damage was too much to overcome. He wrecked again on Lap 26 and called it a night.

Enfinger won his first stage of the season. He beat ThorSport Racing teammate Ben Rhodes to the line by .034-seconds. However, a pit road penalty mired Enfinger in the back of the pack and he spent the next two stages working his way forward.

"This was our first normal race of the season," Enfinger told the No. 98 ThorSport team following his third top-five finish of the season. "Let's keep doing this and the wins will come."

Busch inherited the lead to start Stage 2 on Lap 42. Six laps later, Anthony Alfredo, who restarted sixth, lost control of his truck following contact with Stewart Friesen entering Turn 1. The No. 54 truck hit the wall and erupted into flames. NASCAR red-flagged the race for 15:51. Busch remained on the point with Crafton, Chastain, Bubba Wallace and Brett Moffitt in tow for the Lap 57 restart. Busch held on for his sixth stage win in 2019.

With a fuel-only pit stop, Sauter took the lead out of the pits on Lap 75. He quickly faded allowing Busch to regain the lead followed by Moffitt. Moffitt barreled past Busch on the outside exiting Turn 2 on Lap 99 with Rhodes, Friesen and Enfinger in pursuit. Four laps later, Korbin Forrister spun in Turn 2 to ignite the ninth caution.

Busch held the lead through the 10th and final caution on Lap 116. Friesen, who started from the rear after an engine change, battled Busch on the final restart. Although it took Friesen 10 laps to lead one circuit, his time at the point was short-lived. He would settle for second—the fifth runner-up result of his career.

"The last couple of laps were just

mad," Friesen said after his best finish of the year. "We were just tight. I just got loose underneath him. He gave me some room. Originally, I thought he was right there on my quarter. But he was doing what he had to do. After that, I was just tight. Proud of my guys. Proud of Halmar. Man, just a bummer. I thought we could have got him if we had got cleared."

With 21 laps to go, Moffitt made contact with Rhodes battling for fourth, causing his left rear tire to go flat. Although Moffitt kept the No. 24 Chevrolet off the wall, he was forced to pit for tires and dropped to 19th, two laps off the pace.

"The No. 24 (Moffitt) was who I was really worried about and then something happened to him and then (Friesen) was really fast and on our tailgate the whole finish of that race until about the last five laps," Busch said.

"I don't know if he just got heated up or what back there. He put up a good fight and about got to me a couple times there and fortunately I was able to hold out and keep this truck up front. We just lacked a little bit of overall speed tonight and we didn't have exactly what we wanted."

Busch returned to the lead with 20 laps to go and held the point to the finish. Friesen leads the Gander Outdoors Truck Series standings by six points over Grant Enfinger.



Kyle Busch (51) battles to keep Stewart Friesen (52) behind him on his way to his 55th win in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)



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Late Restart Gets Ron Silk Back To Victory Lane at South Boston

S O U T H BOSTON, VA - One last restart was all Ron Silk needed.

The Norwalk, Connecticut, driver lined up to the inside of Burt Myers with 18 laps to go in the South Boston 150 at South Boston Speedway, and the veteran took advantage of his opportunity to get back to the top.

Silk captured his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win since May of 2016 by taking down the checkered flag in the second race of the season. It was the 11th career win for the 2011 series champion, and his first in his first start at the Virginia oval.

"It's always good to win," Silk said. "Last year, we had some good finishes, and the guys have been working hard and building towards this. Hopefully we can keep being competitive going forward."

Silk started third, and although he ran at the front of the pack for much of the early stint, pitting for tires put him back in traffic, forcing him to slice his way back to the front.

He passed Kyle Bonsignore for second, and was starting to run down Myers for the lead, but a caution with 24 laps to go set him up in perfect position to make a move on Myers, who hadn't pitted for tires. He drove the No. 85 Stuart's Automotive Chevrolet to the point and never looked back.

"I got a good launch and tried to the hook the bottom through turns one and two to keep up the speed," Silk said. "I was really loose on the first run, but I knew once we pitted and changed tires we would be in pretty good shape."

Chase Dowling, who made his first start of the season driving for veteran Jamie Tomaino, moved around Myers on the late restart, but couldn't chase down Silk. The second place effort for the Roxbury, Connecticut, driver was his fifth career runner up finish.

"We spent time this winter putting the car together, and obviously we are really happy with it," Dowling said. "We unloaded fast and just tweaked throughout the day."

Jimmy Blewett finished third, scoring his second podium in two races, and positioning himself sec-

ond, just one point off Doug Coby in the series points standings. Kyle Bonsignore was fourth and Myers finished fifth.

Chris Pasteryak was sixth, followed by Patrick Emerling, Doug Coby, Timmy Solomito and Craig Lutz.

The South Boston 150 will air on NBCSN on Wednesday, April 3, at 4 p.m.

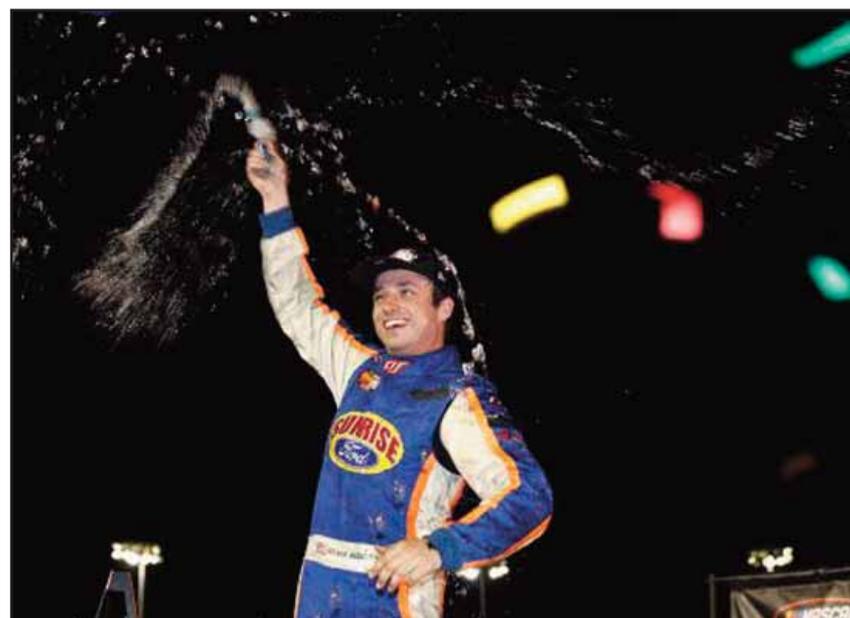
The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns to the track on April 7 as part of the 45th annual Ice-breaker weekend at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park.

Trevor Huddleston Earns First Victory at Home Track in Photo Finish

IRWINDALE, CA - Trevor Huddleston couldn't have picked a more dramatic way to score his first NASCAR K&N Pro Series West win.

Trevor Huddleston has been knocking on the door of his first career victory for some time, and he earned it, barely, at his home track of Irwindale Speedway in a photo finish over Tanner Gray in the ENEOS NAPA Auto 150.

"I'm still in shock," Huddleston said. "That was absolutely insane. Me and him were bouncing off each other, we were bouncing off the wall, I mean I didn't know if we won. I hit the wall and got the freakin' wind knocked out of me and I was like 'did we win?' and we won. Unbelievable."



Trevor Huddleston celebrates his first career K&N Pro Series victory in the ENEOS NAPA Auto 150 on March 30, 2019 at Irwindale Speedway. (Meg Oliphant/NASCAR photo)



Ron Silk celebrates winning the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour South Boston 150 at South Boston Speedway. (Logan Whitton/NASCAR photo)

Huddleston battled a hit-or-miss transmission for the final 100 laps, forcing him to drive for most of the race with one hand on the steering wheel and one hand on the shifter.

Huddleston and Gray banged doors off Turn 4 to the start/finish line and the Augora Hills, California native was able to inch his No. 9 Sunrise Ford ahead of Gray's No. 15 DGR Crosley Toyota. After claiming the checkered flag, Huddleston hit the wall and was unable to drive his machine back to Victory Lane.

Huddleston's three track championships at Irwindale Speedway gave him a "one up on the field" leading into the 150-lapper. This event has been circled on his calendar for some time and to win his first race at the facility his father, Tim, operates made it that much sweeter.

"We've been preparing for this moment for a long time. I know this track hopefully better than anybody," Trevor Huddleston said. "I've been raised here. To get this win means so much. To win in the K&N Pro Series is unbelievable. It's got a stacked field. And to win like that, even better."

In only his second career series start, Gray almost put it in Victory Lane. Coming from a drag racing background, he knew immediately he didn't beat the No. 9 to the line but did all he could leading up to that.

"It was just really good racing between me, the No. 9 and the No. 16 (Derek Kraus)," Gray said. "This racetrack produces really good racing, them putting PJ1 down on the bottom really helped. That was a lot of run. I feel like I was the only one who was really able to get down there and be as fast as I was. The deal we had coming to the line was unfortunate, but it was just both drivers coming using up all the race track trying to get there first. It wasn't intentional [...] it's racing."

Kraus came home third after leading a handful of laps, but he lost brakes with around 30 laps to go, allowing Huddleston and Gray to get by. Jagger Jones and pole-sitter Hailie Deegan rounded out the top five finishers.

Cole Cabrera, Matt Levin, Britney Zamora, Dylan Garner and Jack Wood completed the top 10.

The ENEOS NAPA Auto 150 is scheduled to be broadcasted on NBCSN Wednesday, April 3 at 6 p.m.

The next K&N Pro Series West will take place on Saturday, May 11 at Tucson Speedway.

Reed, Hopkins Take PASS Commonwealth Classic Wins at Richmond

RICHMOND, VA - Austin Reed and Mike Hopkins split Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Super Late Model wins in the Inaugural PASS Commonwealth Classic Saturday afternoon at Richmond Raceway.

"The crew made some awesome adjustments at the halfway break and then the car was on rails," said Reed after the biggest win of his career. "To win at Richmond is just amazing. I can't believe we won yet, but I can't wait for it to sink in."

In qualifying, both PASS Crate pole sitter Ray Christian, III and Heim, the PASS Open fast qualifier, were quicker than Kevin Harvick's pole time at Richmond last fall, with Heim posting a lap of 126.152 miles per hour.

Heim jumped to the lead at the start for the PASS Open Super Late Model race, while Tate Fogleman settled into second. The car on the move early was Matt Craig, who started sixth, but moved past Fogleman for second on lap 30. The two made slight contact at the exit of turn two causing damage to the right rear of Craig's Camaro. Craig was able to repair the damage during the competition caution on lap 40.

On the restart, Craig appeared to get the advantage on Heim entering turn one, but Heim would rocket back by him down the backstretch. The battle for second between Craig and Fogleman would heat up again, literally. As Fogleman looked ready to take the position, a fire would erupt from under the hood of his car to bring out the second caution of the night on lap 48.

Following the restart, Craig continued to struggle a bit as Ben Rowe looked to try and take second. But, after the two made contact in turn three, Jared Irvan was able to jump up to the outside and pass both of them for second. The fastest car on the racetrack, though, was Austin Reed as he was making his way up from the rear of the field. Reed would take second from Irvan with three laps to go, but would run out of time as Heim led flag-to-flag to apparently take his first career PASS Super

Late Model win. But, in post-race inspection, Heim's car was disqualified, handing the win to Reed. Irvan would finish second, followed by Craig, Rowe, and Augie Grill. Rounding out the top ten were Eddie MacDonald, Derek Griffith, Eddie Van Meter, Mike Wallace, and Kyle Reed.

At the drop of the green flag for the PASS Crate Late Models, Christian jumped out to the lead from the pole. After a caution for debris from Garrett Hall's machine on lap 10, Martin Latulippe was able to grab the lead from Christian on the restart. It would be short-lived though as Christian re-assumed the top spot three laps later. The caution would wave again on lap 24 when Hall slammed the turn four wall after spinning in fluid from the car of Reid Lanpher.

Prior to the competition caution on lap 40, Hopkins would snag the lead from Christian. But just two laps after the restart, Christian would move back by to take the lead. Christian looked to be driving away for the win, but would fall off the pace with just 12 laps to go with mechanical issues.

Hopkins moved back up front and led the rest of the way for his second career PASS win over Jake Johnson, Matt Craig, Latulippe, and Gabe Brown. Rounding out the top ten were Ben Rowe, Kyle Reed, Devin O'Connell, Dan McK-



Mike Hopkins takes the checkered flag at Richmond Raceway for the PASS Crate Late Model event. (Speed51 photo)

age, and Derek Ramstrom.

"I can't believe that we just won at Richmond," said Hopkins in victory lane. "We really struggled with the car yesterday in traffic, but we put our heads together and worked on the car and it handled flawlessly today. I'm honestly a little emotional, this is just awesome!"

Joey Polewarczyk, Jr. was the ACT Late Model winner and Matt Hirschman was the Tour-Type Modified victor, while Jason Mc-

Dowell took the MASS Street Stock win and Daniel Bentley claimed the NEMST Mini Stock win.

The PASS National Championship Super Late Models will be in action next up on Sunday, April 7 for The Icebreaker at Thompson Speedway in Connecticut. Entry forms are currently available at ProAllStarsSeries.com. Be sure to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @PASSSLM14.

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Weather Forces Cancellation of CRA Cabin Fever Championships at Lucas Oil Raceway

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials announced today that the inclement forecast for this weekend has forced the cancellation of the events for this weekend's CRA Cabin Fever Championships

event at Lucas Oil Raceway. The amount of rain expected leading up to and part of the weekend and the near freezing wind chill temperatures expected on Sunday led officials to the decision. There will not be a reschedule date for this event

"It's really unfortunate," noted CRA Series Director Glenn Luckett. "We were getting great feedback from fans and racers going into this season opening event....until the forecast came out. The weather conditions won't make it possible for this to be a successful event for everyone involved. We wanted to give the traveling teams advance notice so they could cancel their rooms at no charge and allow everyone to make alternate plans for the weekend."

The season opener for the Vore's Welding CRA Late Model Sportsman and Van Hoy Oil CRA Street Stocks will now be on Saturday, April 13th at Anderson Speedway.

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

CRA Releases Entry Form for JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour 2019 Opener at Flat Rock Speedway

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials have released the entry form for the Motor City 200, the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance 100 lap 2019 season points opener, which will take place at Flat Rock Speedway on Sunday, April 28th. This will be the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour first ever appearance at the historic quarter mile, located in southeast, Michigan. The Motor City 200 will be promoted by Motor City Racing Promotions.

2019 will be the ninth season of competition for the Crate Late Model Series, whose last eight point champions include Erik Jones in 2011, Daniel Hemric in 2012, Cody Coughlin in 2013 and in 2016, Dan Leeck in 2014, Car Owner Champion Bill Burba and Driver Champion Dalton Armstrong in 2015 and 2017 and 2018 Champion Jack Dossey III.

The Motor City 200 will be part of a full weekend of on track action at Flat Rock Speedway.

There will be an open practice on Saturday, April 27th for all the Flat Rock regular divisions, plus the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour, ICAR Allstar Modified Tour and Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Models, who will have 200 laps of feature action on Sunday. Pits open at 9am with rotating practice for all divisions going from 11am until 5pm.

On Sunday, pits will open at 8am. Practice for all three divisions is set to begin at 10:30am. Qualifying for the ICAR Allstar Modified Tour and JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour will begin at 12:30pm. Racing action will begin at 2pm with the Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Models 8 lap heat races, followed by any last chance races needed for the ICAR Allstar Modified Tour or JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour. The 200 laps of feature action will start with the 25 lap inaugural feature for the Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Models, followed by the 75 lap ICAR Allstar Modified Tour feature and then the 100 lap JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour feature, which will cap the afternoon of great racing action.

"We are very excited to host the season opener for the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour as well as the inaugural event for the Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Model Series," remarked Scott Menlen, President of Motor City Racing Promotions.

"Add in the exciting ICAR Allstar Modified Tour and you have an afternoon of non-stop racing action that people are going to want to come out to Flat Rock Speedway and watch!

To learn more about Flat Rock Speedway, log onto flatrockspeedway.com and lookup Flat Rock and Toledo Speedways on Facebook.

For more on Motor City Racing Promotions, log on to motorcityracing.co and find them on Facebook and Twitter.

Senneker Performance Continues Sponsorship of ARCA/CRA Super Series Rookie Award Program

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials are pleased to announce that Senneker Performance has agreed to continue its sponsorship with CRA and its ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS and JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance for the upcoming 2019 race season. 2019 will be the sixth year that Senneker Performance has chosen to partner with CRA to market their products with its many racers and fans.

Senneker Performance will once again support the ARCA/CRA Super Series Rookie Award Program, during the series upcoming 23rd season of competition. The Senneker Performance Rookie of the Race award will provide a \$100 cash award to the highest finishing registered rookie driver at every point's event during the 2019 season, starting with this Saturday's season opening event at Anderson Speedway.

Additionally, the highest finishing, registered rookie driver at the end of the season in Senneker Performance Rookie of the Year points will be awarded the Senneker Performance Rookie of the Year award. That racer will receive a \$500 cash award and a \$500 Product Certificate from Senneker Performance.

Senneker Performance will also provide a \$200 Product Certificate to the runner up in Rookie of the Year points and a \$100 Product Certificate to the third-place finisher in final Rookie of the Year points. The drivers in the Senneker Performance Rookie of the Year points get to drop their worse two finishes during the 2019 season for the final point's total.

"Growing up in a racing family with my Uncle Bob and Dad Terry, who helped me build my dream, I feel honored to be able to give back to racers that are trying to make their way through the ranks and build their dream," said Terry Senneker, owner of Senneker Performance. "I know what it takes to have a successful program, so it means

a lot to me to be able to offer these awards to the rookie drivers."

Senneker added, "The ARCA/CRA Super Series has a tremendous reputation as the proving grounds for many of racing's stars and Senneker Performance is excited to be a part of fueling these young rookies' careers. What better way for Senneker Performance to support the next wave of racers than to support the Rookie of the Year Award!"

Austin Kunert was the 2018 Senneker Performance Rookie of the Year Award winner with the ARCA/CRA Super Series. To date the series has three drivers registered to compete in the Senneker Performance Rookie Program in 2019, including Jack Dossey III from Indianapolis, Indiana, Jaren Crabtree from Muncie, Indiana and Josh Smith from Quincy, OH.

Senneker Performance will also partner again with CRA as a Contingency Sponsor with the JEGS/CRA All-Star Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance. Senneker Performance will award a \$100 Product Certificate to the 3rd and 9th place finishers at each event and will award a \$400 Product Certificate to the 3rd and 9th place finishers in final series points.

Senneker Performance is a family business, one owner, one location. They focus on one customer at a time, you! Their services include performance parts sales, chassis and suspension component fabrication, chassis and suspension rework, Roehrig shock dyno and analysis, JRi Shock service, ABC and Outlaw Body work and much more. They promise to provide the best service at competitive prices, and they warranty all their work.

Winning races is their main objective. They continuously push themselves to develop new and better performing products; things that make cars go faster or easier to work on. They specialize in building Late Models, both Template and Outlaw.

Not only do they manufacture their own line of race car products, but they serve as an authorized distributor for Allstar Performance, AR Bodies, Five Star Racecar Bodies, AP Racing, Pyroprotect, as well as other established brands. Senneker Performance is headquartered in Wayland, Michigan.

You can contact Senneker Performance at 616-877-3735 or visit their web site at www.sennekerperformance.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sennekerperformance.

Texan Reutzel Dominates Every Phase of Perris SoCal Showdown

PERRIS, CA - Aaron Reutzel wrote an eloquent ending to the eventful and riveting story of the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series' California swing, ending it Saturday night in similar fashion to how it began.

Last year's Rookie of the Year Ian Madsen opened the swing in early March at Thunderbowl Raceway — where Reutzel won his first ever World of Outlaws race last year during the swing — winning everything he could: fastest in practice, Quick Time, Heat win, drew the pole for the DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash, won the Dash, lead every lap in the Feature and won it.

Reutzel did exactly the same at the half-mile Perris Auto Speedway. He was fastest in practice. Quick Time. Won his Heat race. Drew the pole for the Dash. Won the Dash. Lead every lap in the 30-lap Feature and claimed his second World of Outlaws win at the SoCal Showdown.

"Unbelievable," the Clute, Texas native said, having to pause afterward, as if to try and grasp the dominance himself.

Coming into the Perris race, Reutzel had a top-five and two top-10 finishes in the California swing and sat seventh in Series points, ahead of full-time World of Outlaws drivers such as Shane Stewart and Madsen. But to Reutzel, he was having a terrible year and it was time for a change.

He and his Baughman-Reutzel Motorsports team made one the morning of the race. It worked.

"We just went back to everything we were doing last year," Reutzel said. "We just made one little change and it made the difference."

That little change; ditching a newly built car to put an old car back together.

"There's nothing different between them," Reutzel said. "Sometimes you just get a car that doesn't work, and that might have been one that doesn't work. Everything else exactly them same. It just worked out for us."

With the car he's been running, Reutzel said it felt like he and his team were always playing catch up

when it came to the Feature and could never qualify well anymore.

"That's something you can't do with these (World of Outlaws) guys," Reutzel said.

Now, his confidence is back. It showed on track, holding off two California natives who grew up racing on the California swing tracks — rookie Carson Macedo and Rico Abreu.

In the early stage of the Feature, Macedo presented himself as a possible threat to Reutzel, inching in on him lap after lap. After an early red flag, for a flip involving Brent Marks, Reutzel had his biggest challenge yet with Macedo starting next to him and Abreu behind them. But when the green flag dropped, Macedo and Abreu were left trading slide jobs to determine who would finish second while Reutzel sailed away. It was the same story with on another restart a couple of laps later.

"I felt like I had a couple of runs at him on a couple of restarts, and it just seemed like... It's just the way it went," said Macedo, who finished second. "Aaron did a good job all night. I felt like we had a good race car. I felt like we had a good package all night."

Macedo has had one of the best California swings out of all full-time World of Outlaws drivers, having finished in the top-10 in all five races and got his first win of the season at Silver Dollar Speedway.



Aaron Reutzel raced his way to a win at Perris Auto Speedway Saturday night. (Paul Arch photo)

"We're having a lot of fun right now," Macedo said. "We're putting good runs up on the board and that's what it's all about with the Outlaws."

In line with Macedo and Madsen, Reutzel is the eighth different winner this year in the past nine races. And even though it's his second ever Series win, it's still as special as the first.

"Whether you have 100 (wins) or your Donny Schatz getting another one or me getting my second one, just winning an Outlaw race is huge in general," Reutzel said. "It feels really good to get it."

Reutzel's win closes the story of the 2019 World of Outlaws Spring Break California swing, but the Series continues next weekend on Friday, April 5, for the Wildcat Shootout at USA Raceway in Tucson, Ariz. and on Saturday, April 6, for the Arizona Desert Shootout at Arizona Speedway in Queen

Creek, Ariz.

The Texan's next chapter with the World of Outlaws will begin in May at Eldora Speedway.

As always, you can catch all the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series action on DIRTVision.com. For tickets and more info, go to www.WorldofOutlaws.com.

Gravel Rides Low Groove to Victory for Jason Johnson Racing's First Win Since Johnson's Death

HANFORD, CA - Nothing was going to stop David Gravel from jumping out of his car.

Out of breath with a wide grin on his face, he high-fived and hugged his crew members while en route to a bath of confetti when he stood on the back of his car and pointed to the sky.

Not only was he celebrating his first win of the season at Keller Auto Speedway, his 40th World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series win and his first win with his new Jason Johnson Racing team, he honored the man whose car he drives.

This is the first World of Outlaws win for the Jason Johnson Racing team since co-owner and driver Jason Johnson died in a crash last June at Beaver Dam Raceway in Wisconsin.

"It's definitely special," said Gravel, almost lost for words.

The start of his night did not signal a potential victory, with the luck of the draw sending him out last for qualifying. He managed a 15th-place qualifying effort on a track several drivers called "tricky" due to its slick condition.

(Continued Next Page)



David Gravel raced his way to an emotional victory at Keller Auto Speedway, driving for Jason Johnson Racing. (Paul Arch photo)

Continued...

It didn't take long for Gravel to figure out the trick, winning his Heat race.

"It really set us up for the rest of the night," Gravel said. "I knew the bottom was going to be a factor."

Gravel's crew chief, Philip Dietz, said Gravel called his shot before the Feature. He was going to stick to the bottom until he figured it out. And he did.

Starting from the pole, Sheldon Haudenschild shot to the early lead of the Feature, riding the high side of the slick track. While he led, the hoard of drivers behind him were rarely in the same lane or position lap after lap. They tried high. They tried low. Wherever there was grip, they made sure to use up every inch of it.

Closing in on halfway through the 35-lap Feature, the bottom

proved to be the preferred line of choice. Shane Stewart, who faced heart-break last race at the Stockton Dirt Track after blowing a tire while leading with five laps to go, looked to have his sight set on redemption, reeling in the 2017 Rookie of the Year.

Stewart took the lead on lap 20, but his hope for redemption was short lived as Gravel had been working the bottom of the track to perfection and was not far behind. He took the lead from Stewart – driving for Gravel's former team, CJB Motorsports – two laps later.

"Honestly, I just didn't have the patients to run the bottom in turns 1 and 2," said Stewart, who ended up third.

"Driver instincts, you just don't know what to do at times. Once David went by me, I tried to run the bottom again, and missed it a couple of times. I thought I should get back up to the top and then (Daryn) Pittman got me."

Pittman, who extended his points lead over second-place Donny Schatz to 12 points by fin-

ishing second, was still all smiles after his third runner-up finish of the year.

"I would have never guessed from the beginning of that race that we would be just putting around the bottom," Pittman said.

"We were not set up for that at all. I honestly thought the top would stay dominate. It never crossed my mind that we would be running the bottom."

Like he planned it himself, Gravel said he knew other drivers would burn off the top of the track and the bottom would be the dominate line. He just had to stay patient enough to remain there throughout the race.

Although he did go to the top one lap, but he said that was only because the bottom was crowded. He ran his race.

"I was just trying to run my line," Gravel said. "I knew if I missed up one corner and was still in the lead, I knew I wouldn't have gotten passed if I just hit my marks after that. Luckily we were able to hang on and win."

It was a special win to him and his crew.

"It's definitely different," said Tyler Elliott, the car chief for the Jason Johnson Racing team. "It's not the same. But it's exciting. Overwhelming."

After three races in-a-row without a top-10 finish, Elliot said the win is well needed.

Dietz added its "definitely an emotional night" for the team.

"This is one track we've struggled at over the years," he said. "We knew we had to up our game when we came in tonight. To go out and pick up a win for JJR and all of our sponsors, you know, we couldn't ask for a better night."

Nothing was going to stop Dietz and the Jason Johnson team from celebrating in Victory Lane with an out of breath and wide grinning Gravel.

As always, you can catch all the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series action on DIRTVision.com. For tickets and more information, go to www.WorldofOutlaws.com.

Illinois Racers Aiming to Strike at Illini 100, April 5-6 at Farmer City Raceway

FARMER CITY, IL - After a thrilling double-header showdown in Tennessee, the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series makes a quick turnaround for one of the biggest races on its schedule – the 12th annual Illini 100 presented by Douglas Dodge at

Farmer City Raceway.

Brian Shirley and Brandon Sheppard were the last two drivers to taste victory with the World of Outlaws at the famed quarter-mile, marking the first time in event history where both races were claimed by Illinois natives.

The Illini 100 features one of the most unique formats in Dirt Late Model racing. Things will kick off with a night of practice on Thursday, April 4, preceding the 25-lap, \$6,000-to-win Morton Buildings Feature on Friday, April 5. This will set the stage for the 75-lap, \$15,000-to-win finale on Saturday night, April 6.

Sheppard has won the Illini's big show on Saturday night twice, making him the only driver from Illinois in event history to repeat. Billy

Moyer is the race's richest winner with three victories (2008, 2010, 2013). Joining the Outlaws in the race program will be the DIRTcar UMP Modifieds, DIRTcar Pro Late Models and the DIRTcar Stock Cars.

A solid group of local Super Late Model talent is expected to join the Outlaws as well, including (but not limited to) Bobby Pierce, Frank Heckenast Jr., Kevin Weaver, Jason Feger, Shannon Babb, Ryan Unzicker, Scott Schmitt, Russ Adams, Matt Shannon, Bob Gardner, Jose Parga, Myles Moos and Allen Weisser. No local weekly racer has ever claimed victory in the event's 11 previous runnings.

On the strength of his four wins, Sheppard currently sits atop the championship standings in his quest for a second Series crown. Three-time Series Champion Darrell Lanigan, who had a solid weekend in Tennessee with finishes of sixth and fourth, is chasing Sheppard, with Chase Junghans of Kansas, Shane Clanton of Georgia and Chris Madden of South Carolina rounding out the top five in points coming out of Duck River Raceway Park and Smoky Mountain Speedway.

Sheppard's five-race win streak

may have been broken on Saturday night at Smoky Mountain, but his momentum is still flying just as high. Going into Farmer City, he and the Rocket1 Racing team are more ready than ever to get back to work.

"We've got a really fast racecar right now, so that makes going to my home track even more exciting," said Sheppard, of New Berlin, IL. "Every time we go there, we're fast. With as good as this thing is right now, I'm really excited to get to Farmer City."

Shirley has managed to bag two top-fives over the first eight races on the schedule, and will be looking to add to that total at Farmer City. He said he has a lot of confidence in his Bob Cullen Racing team, and looks forward to backing up his win in part one of the Illini two seasons ago.

"We get to come home and regroup a little," Shirley said. "We've been racing and been pretty competitive, so I think we're ready to step it up and hopefully chalk-up a win here or there when we race against the Outlaws."

Even though "Squirrel" and his team made

the trip down south for the DIRTcar Nationals in February and Tennessee last weekend, he knows what a good feeling it is to come home and race against that same competition.

"You want to make sure that you perform well to show everybody that even though you're not out on the road, you're still capable of being out there," said Shirley, of Chatham, IL. "We just choose to stay closer to home and race and not be out on the road as much the Outlaws. It's kind of a ranking, so you know where you are and where you need to improve."

Open practice for all divisions will go from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 4. Pit gates on Friday will open at noon, spectator gates at 1 p.m., hot laps at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday, pit gates will open at noon with spectator gates at 12:30 p.m., hot laps at 5 p.m.



Colton Hardy Charges To San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Victory at Canyon Speedway Park

PEORIA, AZ - Runner up one night ago, Colton Hardy found the missing pass and more as the Phoenix, Ariz. racer charged from eighth to win Saturday night with the San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Car Series.

Adding to an already impressive weekend, which included a pair of wins in Micro competition, Hardy made the race-winning pass on the closing lap; edging out Joshua Shipley by 0.026 seconds to claim his first victory of the season with the San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Car Series.

Shipley, who led from laps 15-24, ended with weekend with a pair of podium appearances. Friday night winner, Dennis Gile, crossed the line third with Kyle Shipley fourth and Matt Lundy fifth.

Leading the opening 14 laps, Joe Scheopner slipped to sixth with Bruce St. James seventh. Tanner Grau, Rick Shuman, and Asa Kesterson completed the top-ten. The San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Car Series are in action again on Saturday, April 6 at Arizona Speedway in Queen Creek, Ariz.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the nine Regional Tours that make up ASCS Nation in 2019, log onto www.ascsracing.com, follow on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter (@LucasOilASCS).

Dennis Gile Victorious With San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprints at Canyon Speedway Park

PEORIA, AZ - The fourth winner in as many nights of action on the 2019 season with the San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Car Series, Glendale's Dennis Gile was top dog on night one of the Sunset Showdown at Canyon Speedway Park.

Trading the lead with Bruce St. James through the opening 10 laps, Gile began pulling away as St. James slipped to third on Lap

13 when Colton Hardy advanced to the runner-up spot. Riding just over three seconds back from Gile, the caution lights blinked on with six laps to run to bring the field nose to tail.

Able to pressure Gile on the restart, it wasn't enough for Hardy to steal away the win with Gile crossing 0.675 seconds to the good. Hardy in second was trailed by Josh Shipley who worked to third on the white flag lap. Bruce St. James ended up fourth with Joey Scheopner in fifth.

Rick Shuman made up four spots to finish sixth with Ron Webster following from 11th to seventh. Asa Kesterson, Tanner Grau, and Kyle Shipley made up the top ten.

Harli White Holds Off Hafertepe at I-30 Speedway For First Career ASCS Victory

LITTLE ROCK, AR - A long Winter paid off more than many can imagine on Friday night in Little Rock, Ark. as a wild series of passes over the course of the closing lap at I-30 Speedway saw Oklahoma's Harli White pick up her first career ASCS sanctioned victory in a multi-regional showdown between the ASCS Lone Star, Mid-South, and Sooner Regions.

Going green from the fourth starting spot, in a car prepared by Johnny Herrera, the No. 17w rode in the show position for several laps before taking advantage of an early restart to grab second. Building momentum, the No. 17w raced past Joseph Miller on Lap 9 to take over the top spot.

Brought to a stop for the flipped No. 26m of Fred Mattox a couple of laps after taking the lead, White wasted little time in building a comfortable buffer over the field, but as the No. 17w worked the backmarkers with less than five laps to go, a pair of ASCS veterans were stalking with Sam Hafertepe, Jr., from 13th, and seventh starting Wayne Johnson working to Harli's back bumper.

Down to the final two circuits, Hafertepe rode the cushion with Johnson patiently around the hub of the Arkansas quarter-mile. With momentum on the top shelf, Hafer-



Colton Hardy celebrates in victory lane with his family at Canyon Speedway Park. (Ben Thrasher photo)

tepe rolled off the fourth turn with a clear path to the lead as the white flag flew. Taking the No. 15h back to the top of turns one and two, however, Sam biked to the right-side tires, allowing Harli to retake the lead.

Point straight off the second turn, Hafertepe railed the cushion of turns three and four, but the run was not enough as White let her Life of Hope Ministries No. 17w drift to the wall off the fourth turn to block the high side charge.

While not able to clear for the lead, Hafertepe as able to retake the runner-up spot on the final lap with Wayne Johnson holding onto third. Gaining 11 spots, Howard Moore finished fourth with Dakota Gains in fifth. Charlie Loudon advanced six spots with Seth Bergman crossing seventh. Canada's Dylan Westbrook was

eighth with Ernie Ainsworth and Jordon Mallett making up the top-ten.

With a field of 33 on hand, the showdown between the ASCS Lone Star, Mid-South, and Sooner Regions continues Saturday, March 30 with races getting underway at 7:00 P.M. (CT). Admission is \$20 for the grandstands with kids 6-12 getting in for \$1 with paid adult. Kids five and younger get in free. More information on "Hammer Hill" can be found at www.i-30speedway.com or by calling (501) 455-4567.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the nine Regional Tours that make up ASCS Nation in 2019, log onto www.ascsracing.com, follow on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter (@LucasOilASCS).



Harli White celebrates her first ASCS win Friday night at I-30 Speedway. (Jimmy Jones/ Jones Sports Media photo)

Davenport March Madness Southern All Stars Cherokee Winner

GAFFNEY, SC - The Southern All Star Dirt Racing Series presented by Max Fab sanctioned the 17th Annual Ginger Owens Memorial March Madness and Jonathan Davenport of Blairsville, GA., scored

his ninth career Southern All Star win Sunday afternoon at the Cherokee Speedway. Davenport set fast time in SUNOCO Race Fuels/Knowles Race Parts qualifying, led all 10 laps in his Hoosier Race Tires heat race and then led all 60 laps to take home the \$12,000 first place prize. Ross Bailes of Clover, SC.,

came home in the second spot as he challenged Davenport a few times on restarts but could never make it stick. Jimmy Owens of Newport, TN., swapped the second and third spots with Bailes several times and finally had to settle for third, fourth to Michael Page of Douglasville, GA., who was making his first appearance at the South Carolina track and brought home a fourth place finish and David Breazeale, finished in the fifth spot as he was making his first visit to the South Carolina track.

Dustin Mitchell finished in the sixth spot Chris Madden seventh,

Brandon Overton eighth, Riley Hickman ninth and Zach Leonhardi tenth.

RACE TIDBITS: Riley Hickman has taken over the points over David Breazeale after Cherokee, Zack Leonhardi is third and also leads the Cruise with the Champions/Dirtondirt.com rookie of the year standings, defending Southern All Stars Champion Jay Scott made it all the way to fifth till a flat time with less than five laps remaining relegated him to a 15th place finish. 19 cars finished the race with 16 finishing on the lead lap.

ASCoC Will Be Represented by 15 Full-Timers in 2019

BROWNSBURG, IN - Although the 2019 Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 season officially commenced during the early weeks of February, championship points were not accumulated, thus giving teams ample time to make a decision regarding their travel commitments for the

2019 season.

With that said, Tony Stewart's All Star Circuit of Champions will be represented by 15 full-time drivers on the 2019 touring roster, each bringing a long list of accolades that will push the upcoming All Star

season to become one of the most competitive, if not one of the most talented, in Series history; arguably, the most competitive roster of Tony Stewart's five-year tenure.

Seeking a second consecutive All Star title, Clute, Texas' Aaron Reutzel will lead the charge into the 2019 championship season. The Baughman-Reutzel Motorsports ace earned nine victories during his most recent campaign, also accumulating 20 top-five finishes in 40 main event starts. Reutzel will be joined by a strong contingent of returning All Stars including Paul McMahan, former late model hot-shot John Garvin, Tyler Esh, and Cale Conley.

Although away from full-time All Star competition for a pair of seasons, Dale Blaney will make his re-

turn to full-time competition in 2019. The six-time Series champion, who will hit the road with Sam McGhee Motorsports, will hunt for an unprecedented seventh Series title during the coming months, only adding to an illustrious All Star resume that already includes the most main event victories in Series history.

Greg Wilson will also return to the All Star trail in 2019 after several years away from full-time competition. Like Blaney, Wilson is a former Series champion who will attempt to add another title to his racing resume, a third overall.

Although far from inexperienced, the 2019 All Star Circuit of Champions rookie class will be represented by a talented group who derive from an array of racing disciplines. First-time travelers with America's Series includes Spencer Bayston, Brock Zearfoss, Cory Eliason, Skylar Gee, Gerard McIn-

tyre, George Hobough, and the father-son duo of Jim and Mallie Shuster.

"This is going to be a very competitive season for the All Star Circuit of Champions. I think everyone is excited, especially the fans, to see how this is going to unfold," Tony Stewart explained, All Star Circuit of Champions owner.

"This is a very talented group of full-time drivers and teams. We are very proud to have these guys represent our series and travel with us up and down the highway. The fans are in for something very special in 2019."

The Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 will kick-off the 2019 championship points season with a four-race sweep through the Mid-Atlantic, first visiting the state-of-the-art Virginia Motor Speedway in Jamaica, Va., on Thursday, April 11.

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Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - As the crowds descend upon East Tennessee for the Food City 500 weekend, the Bristol Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities is in full force helping to raise money for children in need.

SCC-Bristol will hold numerous fundraisers throughout race week to benefit thousands of children in the region. Some of

SCC's opportunities include Track Laps, The "Strength Behind the Stars" Luncheon, the Charity Cornhole Tournament presented by State Water Heaters and the Red Bucket Brigade presented by Food City and Drake's.

"The race fans have always been such a major part of our efforts to raise money to assist children in our community," said Claudia Byrd, executive director of Speedway Children's Charities Bristol chapter. "We could not do what we do without their generosity or support and look forward to another tremendous race weekend."

On Thursday, April 4, Track Laps will begin at 6:30 p.m., allowing guests the opportunity to drive their own vehicle around The Last Great Colosseum. A 10-lap package is available for \$35 while a 20-lap package is \$50. Guests are asked to arrive and stage at the South Entrance of Bristol Motor Speedway off Highway 11 E/Volunteer Parkway.

The "Strength Behind the Stars" luncheon will be held on the third floor of the O. Bruton Smith Admin Building on Friday, April 5 at 11:30 a.m. Stevie Waltrip, wife of NASCAR Hall of Fame driver and FOX Sports analyst Darrell Waltrip, and Ashley Allgaier, wife of current NASCAR Xfinity Series star Justin Allgaier, will headline the event. Current FOX Sports personality Kaitlyn Vincie will serve as emcee. To learn more and reserve a seat, please contact Betsy Holleman at (423) 989-6975.

The Charity Cornhole Tournament presented by State Water Heaters takes place April 5-7 in the Fan Zone. The cost per team to enter is \$40. Guests will receive a commemorative gift and a shot at \$1,000 prize. To register, visit www.speedwaycharities.org/bristol. Qualifying rounds will take place Friday, April 5, at 2 and 5 p.m. and

Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The grand championship round will be held on Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m.

On race day for the Alsco 300/Zombie Auto 150 (Saturday, April 6) and the Food City 500 (Sunday, April 7), guests are encouraged to participate in the Red Bucket Brigade presented by Food City on Saturday and Drake's on Sunday. During the first caution or at the end of the first stage, whichever comes first, volunteers will be passing around red buckets in the grandstands. Fans are encouraged to donate their loose change into the buckets.

For more information, visit www.speedwaycharities.org/bristol.

ISM Raceway

PHOENIX, AZ - The Valley of the Sun will play host to a new championship sporting event as NASCAR announced today that the NASCAR Championship Weekend will be held at ISM Raceway, November 6-8, 2020, for the first time in the sport's history. Featuring the deciding races for each of the three NASCAR national touring series, this exciting development was announced in a press conference today from ISM Raceway's Gatorade Victory Lane, which included track president Julie Giese, NASCAR Vice Chairman Mike Helton and Governor of Arizona Doug Ducey.

"Hosting the NASCAR Championship Weekend in 2020 is an incredible opportunity for ISM Raceway, the West Valley and the entire Phoenix metropolitan area," said Julie Giese, president of ISM Raceway. "This market has established itself as a sports and entertainment destination, hosting championship events across professional and amateur sports for years, and we are thrilled to add the NASCAR Championship to this long list of sporting events here in Arizona."

The arrival of the NASCAR Championship in Arizona comes following the completion of the \$178 million modernization project in 2018, which positioned ISM Raceway as one of the premier facilities on the NASCAR circuit, providing an unparalleled fan experience. ISM Raceway has been home to the penultimate race weekend on the NASCAR schedule since 2005.

"We are ecstatic to welcome NASCAR's Championship Weekend to Arizona," said Governor Doug Ducey. "As our state continues to welcome new residents and

businesses, Arizona has proven to be the premier destination for the biggest events in all of sports, and today's announcement adds to that reputation. We are grateful to NASCAR for choosing Arizona and ISM Raceway as the new home for their ultimate weekend and we look forward to welcoming more NASCAR fans from around the world to our state."

In addition to the NASCAR Championship Weekend, November 6-8, 2020, ISM Raceway will also continue to host its annual Spring NASCAR TicketGuardian 500 Weekend, March 6-8, as the fourth race on the NASCAR schedule.

Tickets for the 2020 NASCAR Championship Weekend at ISM Raceway will go on sale at a later date. Fans that purchase tickets to the 2019 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Semifinal Race Weekend at ISM Raceway November 8-10 will receive the first opportunity for tickets to the 2020 NASCAR Championship Weekend. Tickets and infield access are available at ISMRaceway.com, by phone at 1-866-408-RACE (7223), or in person at the ISM Raceway ticket office.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - With only 60 days remaining before the 60th running of the May 26 Coca-Cola 600, Charlotte Motor Speedway revved up for its historic event with the #CountdownTo600, turning the speedway's social media channels into a collection of entertaining content, exciting merchandise giveaways and exclusive news on Wednesday.

The #CountdownTo600 began at 8 a.m. and featured content from the speedway's Coca-Cola 600-branded Toyota Camry pace car touring sites including the NASCAR Hall of Fame, Bank of America Stadium, Spectrum Center and Joe Gibbs Racing. A comprehensive look at the #CountdownTo600 initiative included:

- A special "2 for \$60" ticket offer for the Coca-Cola 600
- An exclusive video featuring Charlotte Motor Speedway Executive Vice President and General Manager Greg Walter presenting long-time fan and Concord, North Carolina, native Rick Peterson with his race tickets and offering Peterson a chance to participate in the pre-race drivers meeting prior to the Coca-Cola 600
- Fan giveaways

on Twitter including two hats autographed by NASCAR star Ryan Blaney, a copy of the NASCAR Heat 3 video game, a commemorative 60th Coca-Cola 600 coffee mug and a Coca-Cola 600 hat autographed by 2016 race winner Martin Truex Jr.

- The first in a series of Memorable Moments presented by Coca Cola, featuring a look back at Joe Lee Johnson's historic win in the first Coca-Cola 600 in 1960

- Revealing world-class Chef Robert Irvine, NASCAR Vice-Chairman Mike Helton and platinum-selling country music superstar Justin Moore as headliners for the 39th annual Speedway Children's Charities Gala presented by Sonic Automotive on May 22 at The Ritz-Carlton in Uptown Charlotte

- Information on Coca-Cola's special vintage vending machine sweepstakes prior to the Coca-Cola 600

- Thank-you videos to Coca-Cola from the Coca-Cola Racing Family for sponsoring the Coca-Cola 600 for 35 years

Fans can check out everything related to Charlotte Motor Speedway's #CountdownTo600 initiative by using the #CountdownTo600 hashtag, following on Twitter and Instagram and becoming a Facebook fan.

TICKETS: Weekend passes to the Coca-Cola 600 start at just \$79 for adults. Kids 13 and under get in for just \$10 with a paying adult. For tickets to all of Charlotte Motor Speedway's events, visit www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets.

Michigan Int'l Speedway

BROOKLYN, MI - Michigan International Speedway is partnering with Henry Ford Health System to bring kids even closer to the drivers and all the action leading up to the start of the race with a FREE Pit and Driver Introduction Pass. Fans will also have the opportunity to utilize the new state-of-the-art Henry Ford Health System Infield Care Center.

With the new free Pit and Driver Introduction Pass, any guest who purchases a kids 12 and under ticket to the FireKeepers Casino 400 on June 9 or the Consumers Energy 400 on Aug. 11 will

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automatically receive a Pit and Driver Introduction Pass added to their order courtesy of our branding sponsor Henry Ford Health System.

Henry Ford Health System will also be providing urgent care in the new infield care center. The care center, located in turn 4, will be open 24 hours a day on race weekend. Any fan can use the care center for a

medical condition during their stay at the track on race week.

"We are proud to partner with Michigan International Speedway. Not only is MIS considered one of the premier racing facilities in the United States, it is a positive presence in our community," said Georgia Fojtasek, President and CEO, Henry Ford Allegiance Health. "We appreciate the family-friendly opportunities MIS offers. Our sponsorship of Kids Pit Passes will give young race fans an up-close experience with the cars and the drivers. Henry Ford Health System's on-site presence at MIS, along with our nearby Level II Trauma Center, assures drivers, race fans and families that excellent care is readily available to everyone."

Michigan International Speedway continues to showcase the benefits of partnering with local companies to enhance the experience for the guests.

"We are excited to partner with Henry Ford Health System to provide our young guests with experiences of a lifetime with Pit and Driver Introduction Passes," MIS President Rick Brenner said. "Accessibility of the NASCAR drivers to the fans is unmatched to any other sport and now children will get even closer to their favorite driver and stand right on the track on Sunday morning."

What comes with a Pit and Driver Introduction Pass? Fans can experience pit road up close, sign the start/finish line, take their photo with the trophy on race morning, view the cars and race teams up close during pre-race preparations and have access to pre-race ceremonies, including driver introductions on Sunday. A Pit and Driver Introduction Pass is the best opportunity to try to get a favorite driver's autograph!

The 3,854 square foot Henry Ford Health System Infield Care

Center will be open 24 hours a day during both race weekends for any guest who needs medical attention. It will house 10 beds and a waiting room for the patient's friends or families. In addition, there will be a covered ambulance bay and new helipad.

Henry Ford Health System is committed to improving the health and well-being of the diverse Michigan community. Founded in 1915 by auto pioneer Henry Ford and now one of the nation's leading health care providers, Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) is a not-for-profit corporation managed by President and Chief Executive Officer Wright L. Lassiter III, governed by a 17-member Board of Trustees, with volunteer-led advisory and affiliate boards providing additional leadership.

HFHS is comprised of six hospitals, 60 clinical locations and one of the nation's largest group practices, Henry Ford Medical Group, which includes more than 1,200 physicians practicing in over 40 specialties. The System's flagship, Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, is a Level 1 Trauma Center recognized for clinical excellence in cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, sports medicine, multi-organ transplants and cancer treatment.

Henry Ford Health System is a six-hospital system headquartered in Detroit, Michigan. It is one of the nation's leading comprehensive, integrated health systems, recognized for clinical excellence and innovation. Henry Ford provides both health insurance and health care delivery, including acute, specialty, primary and preventive care services backed by excellence in research and education. Henry Ford Health System is led by President & CEO Wright Lassiter III. Visit HenryFord.com to learn more.

Tickets and campsites for two great weekends of racing at Michigan International Speedway are on sale. Don't miss the chance to purchase tickets and reserve a campsite for all the non-stop racing action and the week-long entertainment at NASCAR's Most Entertaining Track in 2019.

It has never been easier to purchase tickets and reserve a campsite at Michigan International Speedway in 2019. Fans can visit www.mispeedway.com or call 888-905-7223 to get the best deals. Grandstand tickets start at \$39 and week-long camping starts at \$160.

Michigan International Speedway will continue to be a premier racing facility in 2019 when it hosts

a pair of Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races. NASCAR's Most Entertaining Track will host the Monster Energy Series on June 9 and Aug. 11.

The Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series FireKeepers Casino 400 is on June 9. The series will return on Aug. 11 for the Consumers Energy 400.

The XFINITY Series LTi Printing 250 is June 8 while the Gander Outdoors Truck Series Corrigan Oil 200 is scheduled for Aug. 10.

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

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Country music chart-topper Granger Smith is set to headline Talladega Superspeedway's traditional Saturday Night Infield Concert on April 27, during the track's spring tripleheader weekend.

Admission to the Saturday Night Infield Concert, located at the intersection of Eastaboga and Talladega Blvds., is FREE to all infield guests and anyone who purchases a ticket to the GEICO 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, April 28.

Smith has amassed a massive and rabid audience known as the "Yee Yee Nation" over the course of his ground-breaking career. Flagship artist on BBR Music Group's Wheelhouse Records, the born and raised Texan broke onto the national scene with debut album Remington. The album skyrocketed to No. 1 on the iTunes country albums chart, with lead single "Backroad Song" hitting the No. 1 spot on the Billboard charts. He was awarded a BMI Country Award for writing, producing, publishing and performing the hit song and was nominated as Best New Country Artist for the 2017 iHeartRadio Awards.

Smith released his current album When the Good guys Win, in 2017 and it soared to No. 2 on the Billboard chart. The album spawned the Top 12 hit "Happens Like That" and newly-released single "You're In It." He is currently headlining his nationwide "Don't Tread On Me" tour and has toured and performed with top-country artists such as Luke Bryan, Florida Georgia Line, Garth Brooks and more.

The Saturday Night Infield Concert festivities start at 7 p.m. CDT,

which kicks off just hours after the conclusion of the MoneyLion 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series event (noon CDT) and qualifying for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series' GEICO 500. The GEICO 500 is set to get the green flag on Sunday, April 28, at 1 p.m. CDT.

For more information about the Saturday Night Infield Concert, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call 855-518-RACE (7223).

The action-packed weekend kicks off on Friday, April 26, with the General Tire 200 ARCA Menards Series event. The historic 2.66-mile venue is also celebrating its 50th anniversary this year along with Transformation – The Talladega Superspeedway Infield Project presented by Graybar. The new Turn 3 Oversized Vehicle Tunnel, as well as the new Finish Line Premium RV area (includes full hookups) and new Infield Shower Trailers, are scheduled for completion in time for the tripleheader weekend. The culmination of the project will occur in October with a one-of-a-kind Talladega Garage Experience, which will feature "up-close" access, interactive attractions and enhanced amenities. For more information, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/transformation.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - The Big Machine Vodka 400 at the Brickyard Powered by Florida Georgia Line will move to Fourth of July weekend starting in 2020, creating a new marquee summer event in Indianapolis and on the national sporting calendar.

The 27th annual NASCAR event weekend at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway will take place July 3-5, 2020 on the 2.5-mile oval, with the Big Machine Vodka 400 at the Brickyard Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race taking place Sunday, July 5.

NASCAR officials announced the new date Tuesday, March 26 as part of the revamped 2020 schedule for its Cup Series. While this is a new date for IMS, the Brickyard weekend took place in late July or early August for its first 24 years, moving to early September in 2018.

"There's no better venue to throw a massive party for our nation's birthday than the Racing Capital of the World," IMS President J. Douglas Boles said. "Fourth of July weekend is a celebration of patriotism and getting outside in the summer with family and friends, and a Big Machine concert and NASCAR racing at the Speedway

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combine those two traditions, making for a special Independence Weekend celebration!

"A record 47 million Americans were estimated to have traveled on Fourth of July weekend in 2018, and we're confident that this new date and a host of fun activities on and off the track at IMS will help draw more fans to our venue and build on the buzz surrounding last year's enhanced schedule. We're looking forward to a can't-miss holiday extravaganza for Hoosiers and sports fans everywhere."

Said Visit Indy Senior Vice President Chris Gahl: "With a regular spike in travel to Indy over the Fourth of July holiday, hosting this nationally televised race will create a monumental weekend for the city. From a tourism standpoint, marrying July 4 and an event at the iconic track will dramatically boost visitor spending and amplify the national media buzz coming out of Indy."

A strong, generation-spanning connection between IMS and honoring America will be enhanced through this new event date. Starting in 2020, IMS will host major event weekends on two holidays that celebrate American values, patriotism and sacrifice - the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge on Memorial Day weekend and the Big Machine Vodka 400 at the Brickyard Powered by Florida Georgia Line on Independence Day weekend.

Along with FGL Fest, the Driven2SaveLives BC39 powered by NOS Energy Drink United States Auto Club (USAC) National Midget Championship event also will move to the new NASCAR event week in July 2020. The Speedway will also look to add special events and activations to the weekend schedule as part of its embrace of the holiday weekend.

The 26th annual Big Machine Vodka 400 at the Brickyard Powered by Florida Georgia Line event weekend is scheduled for Sept. 6-8, 2019 at IMS. Visit IMS.com to buy tickets or for more information.

Daytona Int'l Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Beginning in 2020, the Coke Zero Sugar 400 NASCAR Cup Series race will shift from its July 4th weekend date to Saturday night, Aug. 29 and will serve as the final race of the

NASCAR regular season, Daytona International Speedway President Chip Wile said.

The 160-lap, 400-mile race, which features the stars of the NASCAR Cup Series in their second visit of the year to Daytona International Speedway, will provide one last opportunity for drivers to qualify for the NASCAR playoffs. Every competitor who has not previously secured a playoff spot can clinch with a victory in the Coke Zero Sugar 400. In addition, every finishing position could impact whether or not a driver will earn a coveted spot in the NASCAR playoffs.

"The Coke Zero Sugar 400 will continue to be one of the cornerstone events on the NASCAR schedule and will now serve as the final race of the regular season," Wile said. "Daytona International Speedway strives to deliver the most exciting racing for our fans and this date change adds another layer of drama and excitement with a potential walk-off home run moment for a driver to solidify a playoff berth."

The NASCAR Cup Series will once again open the 2020 season with the prestigious DAYTONA 500 on Sunday, Feb. 16.

The final Coke Zero Sugar 400 on Independence Day holiday weekend is scheduled for Saturday, July 6, 2019 along with the Coca-Cola Firecracker 250 on Friday, July 5.

Tickets for the 2019 Coke Zero Sugar 400 and all 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.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - Bristol Motor Speedway will once again host two Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races next season -- including one for the first time ever as a NASCAR Playoff race -- it was announced today by NASCAR officials as the stock car sanctioning body released its much-anticipated 2020 season schedule.

The Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race, one of the most popular races on the Cup Series schedule and a bucket list destination for many, will move to Saturday night, September 19, and become the

first cut off race during the 2020 NASCAR Playoffs.

The Food City 500, a springtime tradition where those in the industry and fans from around the world come home to Bristol, will once again be held on its usual spot on the calendar, Sunday, April 5.

"I am really excited about the 2020 season schedule, which promises to be a memorable one with the Food City 500 returning to the schedule on a beautiful Sunday, April 5 spring afternoon and the Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race moving to Saturday, Sept. 19, as a key race in the NASCAR Playoffs," said Jerry Caldwell, executive vice president and general manager for Bristol Motor Speedway.

"If NASCAR fans thought they've seen tempers flare and sparks fly under the lights at the Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race, just wait until they experience a real pressure-packed NASCAR playoff elimination race at Bristol Motor Speedway. We're thankful to the fans that voiced their opinions and rooted for more short-track racing in the Playoffs, and appreciative of NASCAR collaborating with its many stakeholders to deliver a schedule with many positive adjustments."

To purchase tickets to NASCAR events at Bristol Motor Speedway, please call 423-BRISTOL or buy them online at www.BRIS-TOLTIX.com. Tickets can also be purchased directly from any neighborhood Food City store.

Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - NASCAR returns to Atlanta Motor Speedway with a new date for the 2020 season. The Cup series race at AMS will be held on March 15, 2020.

With the change Georgia's NASCAR weekend is now the fifth race on the NASCAR schedule and three weeks later than recent years.

"This is a big win for our Speedway and its fans," said AMS Executive Vice President and General Manager Brandon Hutchison. "Our fans have been asking for a warmer race day, so taking the opportunity to move our race weekend into spring was a no-brainer."

"When March 15, 2020, rolls around the flowers and plants around our facility will be blooming and our fans will be enjoying warmer, more inviting weather as we celebrate our 60th year. It's going to be great!"

According to archived weather data, the average temperature on March 15 in Hampton, GA, is 64

degrees, five degrees higher than the historic average for late February.

Tickets and camping locations for the 2020 NASCAR weekend at Atlanta Motor Speedway are available now.

Call 877-9-AMS-TIX or visit www.atlantamotorspeedway.com to buy at the best price today.

Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - Darlington Raceway will kick off the NASCAR Playoffs in 2020 with the NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500 scheduled for Sunday, September 6. It will be Darlington Raceway's first-ever appearance in NASCAR's current postseason format.

The track will host its throwback festivities on Labor Day weekend for the sixth consecutive year after returning to its traditional race date in 2015.

"To be able to host our Labor Day throwback weekend as the first race of the NASCAR Playoffs will create tremendous excitement and enthusiasm for our fans," said track President Kerry Tharp. "Darlington Raceway, considered one of the toughest tracks on the circuit, will definitely challenge the drivers right from the start of the postseason. To combine our throwback weekend, which celebrates the sport's past, present and future, with the initial start to the championship run, should provide plenty of additional excitement, and energy to the entire weekend."

To see the full 2020 NASCAR Cup Series schedule, visit www.NASCAR.com.

You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Raceway at DarlingtonRaceway.com, on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway) and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TooToughToTame](https://twitter.com/TooToughToTame). Fans are encouraged to post their Bojangles' Southern 500 stories and memories at, #BojanglesSo500 and #SportClips200.

Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, PA - Pocono Raceway will host a double-header race weekend in 2020, featuring two NASCAR Cup races on back-to-back days, on Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28. Camping and Cup race ticket prices will not increase for the 2020 NASCAR race weekend.

While tickets for the 2020 NASCAR race weekend will not be available for sale until later this year, there are no plans to increase

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any NASCAR Cup race ticket in 2020. Fans will be able to purchase June 27 and/or June 28 tickets at the same price currently being offered for the Raceway's Pocono 400 (June) and Gander RV 400 (July) Cup events this summer. Additionally, there will be no changes to camping prices next year. The Raceway's Kids Free Initiative and Worry-

Free Weather Guarantee Presented by AccuWeather will be offered in 2020.

Fans are encouraged to visit www.poconoraceway.com/2020 for additional details.

"Pocono Raceway will be a marquee, bucket-list event next year," said Pocono Raceway CEO, Nick Igdalsky. "We will be the first track to host two, points-paying Cup races in consecutive dates in NASCAR's modern era (1972-present.) Our family and staff remain committed to ensuring fans see the same value for their tickets as they have in years past. Kids, ages 12 and under, will still receive free gate admission to both of these races next summer. Fans can still purchase every ticket in advance with confidence because of our Worry Free Weather Guarantee. We guarantee that if a Cup race is postponed due to weather, we will offer you an automatic refund on unused tickets! The best way for a fan to ensure they can attend our 2020 race weekend is to have a 2019 ticket."

Fans can purchase their 2019 tickets by visiting www.poconoraceway.com/tickets. All 2019 Camping and Sunday ticket holders will have priority to purchase 2020 tickets before they go on sale the public. As part of the Raceway's annual renewal program, these 2019 ticket holders will also have the opportunity to save up to 20% on select 2020 tickets. More information regarding the 2020 ticket renewal, as well as the public on-sale date, will be announced later this summer.

"Nowhere else will fans be able to enjoy this volume of quality NASCAR racing in one weekend," said Pocono Raceway President, Ben May. "Our commitment to our guests, partners and community will remain second to none as we consolidate into one marquee,

bucket-list weekend. The Pocono Mountains are a beautiful place to vacation and this date perfectly aligns with our mission to create lifelong memories and provide a magical weekend of racing and the value to match."

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - Dover International Speedway will host two NASCAR weekends featuring Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races on May 1-3 and Aug. 21-23 in 2020, track officials announced today following NASCAR's release of the full Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series 2020 schedule.

The Monster Mile has hosted two NASCAR Cup Series events every year since 1971 and has been Delaware's only major professional sports venue since it hosted its first race on July 6, 1969.

Dover International Speedway's two 2020 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races are scheduled for Sunday, May 3 and Sunday, Aug. 23.

2020 will be the first year that Dover hosts a NASCAR race weekend in August. All other second weekends at the Monster Mile have come in September or October.

"With all of the stakeholders that are involved in assembling the NASCAR schedule – it is a difficult task to meet everyone's needs. However, it is always with a 'fan-first' mentality that the schedule is produced," said Mike Tatoian, Dover International Speedway president and CEO. "Moving our second weekend into the end of the summer should allow more families with young NASCAR fans to visit us before the school year begins, and we are for the most part removed from the crowded professional and collegiate sports landscape in the fall."

In 2019, the Monster Mile is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2019 with two NASCAR tripleheader weekends on May 3-5 and Oct. 4-6.

The May 3-5 weekend includes the "JEGS 200" NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series race on Friday, May 3, the "Allied Steel Buildings 200" NASCAR Xfinity Series race on Saturday, May 4 and the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, May 5.

This Spring, in addition to the special gold Monster trophies given to the race winners and free 1:64-scale Dover diecast cars to the first 15,000 guests on May 5, fans can also enjoy multiple free perform-

ances by the famous Harlem Globetrotters in the 8-acre FanZone, a free Charlie Daniels Band concert on the Xfinity Stage in Victory Plaza, free appearances from country music superstar John Rich, as well as Micro Wrestling Federation matches, Del Rods Car Club car shows, a Winston Cup Mobile Museum display, on-site NASCAR and sports betting and much more.

The Monster Mile's Oct. 4-6 NASCAR tripleheader weekend features the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East race on Friday, Oct. 4, the NASCAR Xfinity Series playoff race on Saturday, Oct. 5 and the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoff race on Sunday, Oct. 6. The Oct. 6, 2019 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoff race will be the 100th NASCAR Cup Series race in track history. Dover International Speedway will be the 10th track in the nation to host 100 NASCAR Cup Series races.

Keep up to date on all 50th Anniversary announcements and schedules by visiting DoverSpeedway.com or calling (800) 441-RACE. You can also follow all track activities at [Facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway](https://www.facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway), or on Twitter and Instagram at [@MonsterMile](https://twitter.com/MonsterMile).

New Hampshire Motor Speedway

LOUDON, NH - New Hampshire Motor Speedway is in full swing preparing for this year's Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 on Sunday, July 21, 2019, however New England race fans can already start making plans for next season. NASCAR released its 2020 Cup Series schedule today, including its annual July 19, 2020 visit to "The Magic Mile," which will serve as the last race prior to NASCAR's mid-summer break.

"Many of our fans use the July NASCAR race weekend as a highlight of their summer family vacation in New Hampshire," said David McGrath, executive vice president and general manager of New Hampshire Motor Speedway. "As our fans start counting down the days to this year's Foxwoods Resort Casino 301, they can mark their calendar for this same weekend next year."

While New Hampshire's date stays the same, NASCAR announced some significant changes to a new dynamic schedule. There was unprecedented collaboration between NASCAR, the race tracks and broadcast partners allowing the schedule to be built with the

fans in mind. Fans and drivers alike will be thrilled to see the variety of new tracks involved in the year-end playoffs while some other tracks have completely new dates. This will produce a new level of excitement and competition that will provide more key moments throughout the season that fans will enjoy.

The NASCAR Cup Series has raced at New Hampshire Motor Speedway since 1993, making July 19, 2020 the 49th visit to the track and the only visit in the six-state New England region.

For ticket information for events at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, including the June 8-16 Motorcycle Week at NHMS, the July 19-21 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 race weekend and the September 20-21 Full Throttle Fall Weekend, visit the speedway website at NHMS.com or call Fan Relations at (603) 783-4931.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Fans can take their race day experience to the next level during Talladega Superspeedway's 50th anniversary celebration with premium seating upgrade options such as the Paddock Club and Premium Boxes during the track's much-anticipated weekend, April 27-28, featuring the GEICO 500 and MoneyLion 300.

Located just behind pit road, the Paddock Club offers fans a unique, up-close view of their favorite drivers and teams as they go to work in their pit stalls. The covered Paddock Club also gives fans a front-row view of the cars battling three- and four-wide through the Tri-Oval at speeds of 200 mph. Guests will be treated with food and drinks throughout the day, along with other amenities like built-in flat-screen TVs and one infield Paddock Club parking pass per two seats. Available options for the Paddock Club include 2-Day (\$400) packages, Sunday only (\$275) and Saturday only (\$150).

A Pre-Race Pit Pass Upgrade for Sunday's GEICO 500 is included in the 2-Day and Sunday only packages (includes access to pit road, the Pre-Race Fan Question & Answer session and Driver Introductions). Included in the 2-Day package and Saturday only option is a guided garage tour on Saturday prior to the MoneyLion 300.

The exclusive, private-fenced Premium Boxes are great for small groups of 12 or 24 that want a big-time experience. Located atop the

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lower grandstands (Gadsden, Lincoln, Anniston, O.V. Hill North, O.V. Hill South and Birmingham), the covered open-air seating boxes start at \$2,700 for the 2-Day package (Saturday and Sunday) for 12 guests. Fans will be treated to comfortable 23" chair-back stadium seats (some equipped with drink holders), a Pre-Race Pit Pass for the GEICO 500 and an official souvenir program. In addition, guests receive \$360 (12-person box) or \$720 (24-person box) worth of food and beverage vouchers for the weekend. Individual seat opportunities are available.

For more information on all of Talladega Superspeedway's upgrade opportunities, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/upgrades or call 855-518-RACE (7223).

Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - Atlanta Motor Speedway is launching another "Fans First" initiative promising to enhance guest experience when NASCAR returns for its annual stop in Georgia next year.

The initiative, dubbed "20 in 20", will see 20 individual improvements to Georgia's NASCAR weekend in 2020; each enhancement will be made to increase fan value and overall enjoyment of the Speedway's NASCAR events.

"To me and our entire team here at Atlanta Motor Speedway the fans are our top priority," said Executive Vice President and General Manager Brandon Hutchison. "Their support enables us to have a fantastic weekend of racing each year, so we aim to make their experience the best it can be every year.

"With our '20 in 20' initiative, our focus has been to do more than ever to make that happen. We have a lot of fun and exciting fan initiatives in store and we're looking forward to sharing them."

Each of the "20 in 20" improvements will be revealed between now and the 2020 NASCAR weekend.

The first big step in our "20 in 20" initiative was announced Tuesday. Atlanta Motor Speedway's race date has moved out of Winter and the month of February to a Spring date of March 15, 2020.

"The date change is something

our fans have been asking for and we're thrilled to be able to answer," Hutchison said.

Tickets and camping locations for the 2020 NASCAR weekend at Atlanta Motor Speedway are available now.

Call 877-9-AMS-TIX or visit www.atlantamotorspeedway.com to buy at the best price today.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - Bristol Motor Speedway officials, along with assistance from JR Motorsports driver Noah Gragson, surprised Tennessee High senior Jayce Ketron on Tuesday morning during a student assembly at the school when they notified the senior automotive student that he was the 2019 winner of the Dale Earnhardt Jr. Scholarship.

The Dale Jr. Scholarship, created in 2017 in honor of the retired NASCAR driver who famously declared "It's Bristol, baby!" after winning the 2004 Night Race at BMS, is an annual award of \$2,088 that is given by BMS to an eligible student in Sullivan County to continue his or her education in an automotive field of study.

"I'm totally in shock," Ketron said. "I've been thinking about this and talking with my friends about it ever since I applied for it. It's unreal. I can't believe I won."

Ketron is the second consecutive winner from Tennessee High. Jaicee Weaver won the inaugural Dale Jr. Scholarship in 2018 and she was also surprised when presented the award by Dale Jr. at his shop in Mooresville, N.C.

BMS executive vice president and general manager Jerry Caldwell along with Gragson, who drives the No. 9 Chevy Camaro for Earnhardt's three-car NASCAR Xfinity Series team, presented Ketron with an oversize check in front of a large group of students gathered in Tennessee High's Frank Winston auditorium. When Ketron's name was announced the students cheered loudly. Ketron's parents, Chris and Mary, also were in attendance as was last year's winner, Weaver.

"We are thrilled to honor Dale Jr.'s legacy in East Tennessee by awarding this scholarship to a deserving local high school student," Caldwell said. "We had a number of worthy applicants, but Jayce's essay rose to the top. We think his passion and determination is what this award is all about."

Ketron plans to attend the Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Elizabethton and hopes to

one day open his own automotive service shop. He said it was a thrill to have a NASCAR driver present the check to him.

"It's absolutely insane to have Noah present this check to me," Ketron said. "I am looking forward to putting this scholarship money to good use and pursue a career in the automotive industry."

Gragson, who was hired by Earnhardt's team during the off-season after he had a strong 2018 season in the NASCAR Gander Outdoor Truck Series driving the No. 18 truck for Kyle Busch Motorsports, says he was honored and humbled to be able to stand in for his boss at the presentation.

"To be here on behalf of Dale and help give Jayce an opportunity to get on the career path he wants to pursue is great," said Gragson, who will drive in the Alsco 300 on Saturday, April 6 at BMS and hopes to be one of the four drivers in the race who are eligible to win the \$100,000 Xfinity Dash 4 Cash bonus that will be up for grabs. "It's special because I know what it means to have someone help you get going in your career and give you a shot like JR Motorsports has done with me."

This weekend, NASCAR fans will have their first chance to witness short track racing at its best and watch stars vying to take home the Gladiator sword from The Last Great Colosseum during the April 5-7 Food City 500 weekend.

In addition to Sunday's Food City 500, the event also will showcase a Saturday doubleheader with the Alsco 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race and the Zombie Auto 150 NASCAR K&N Pro Series race. On Friday, the Cup Series stars will try to break the BMS track record of 131.668 mph (Denny Hamlin, Aug. 2016) as they qualify during Bush's Beans Pole Day. Friday afternoon's Food City Family Race Night, held at the track, is one of the longest running fan events on the NASCAR circuit.

And for families who want to bring the entire clan, Bristol Motor Speedway officials are making it easier than ever for kids to have an awesome experience. Kids' tickets (12 and under) are free and adult tickets are \$10 for Friday's (April 5) Bush's Beans Pole Day. On Saturday (April 6), kids' tickets are free and adult tickets start at \$35 for the Alsco 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race and the Zombie Auto 150 NASCAR K&N Series event. On Sunday (April 7) adult tickets start at \$55 for the Food City 500 and kids' tickets are \$10. For all races,

each child must have a physical ticket in hand to enter the gates.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Charlotte Motor Speedway will have a slice of Graceland when the Pennzoil AutoFair, the world's largest collector car extravaganza, rolls into America's Home for Racing April 4-7. A red 1960 MG MGA 1600 MKI owned by Elvis Presley, the best-selling solo artist in the history of recorded music, will make its first appearance in North Carolina at the Pennzoil AutoFair.

The storied car was prominently displayed in "Blue Hawaii," a 1961 movie starring Elvis. The world-renowned singer, songwriter and cultural icon enjoyed driving the car so much that he bought it and kept it at his Graceland residence in Memphis, Tennessee. The car is the only machine owned by the legendary musician to also appear in one of his films.

Its previous public displays came in London for an Elvis exhibit at the O2. The car was also on display in Los Angeles as part of a 2002 exhibition saluting Elvis, one of the original 10 inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986. Albums recorded by the man known as "The King of Rock 'n' Roll" have sold more than 146.5 million copies.

During all four days of the Pennzoil AutoFair, Elvis' MG will share space with a motorized Rocket Ship Car carnival ride, a Ghostbusters tribute car, a 60th anniversary display of Chevrolet's El Caminos, an exhibit of Bonneville Salt Flats racers and a handful of Ridler Award-winning custom machines.

MORE INFO: The Pennzoil Auto Fair features more than 50 car club displays and more than 10,000 vendor spaces offering an array of automotive parts and memorabilia. More than 1,500 collectible vehicles of all makes and models will be available for sale in the car corral that rings the 1.5-mile superspeedway. Hours for the April 4-7 Pennzoil AutoFair are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

TICKETS: Single-day tickets are \$13 each day for adults. Admission is FREE for children 13 and under with an adult. A 4-Day Weekend Pass is available for just \$32.

To buy tickets, AutoFair attendees can call the speedway ticket office at 1-800-455-FANS (3267), shop online at www.charlottemotorspeedway.com, or buy them at the gate.

Carteret County Speedway

PELETIER, NC – Chris Burns picked up the biggest win of his career on Saturday afternoon, coming from the back to the front to pick up the victory in an instant classic at Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway on Saturday afternoon.

Burns closed in on Stacy Puryear during the mid-stages of the Solid Rock Carriers 100 and, when the two battled for the lead, Puryear went around off Burns' front bumper – resulting in both drivers going to the rear. Burns quickly battled back and, with four laps to go, made the pass on Jason York to score the victory.

"I feel like we were just a little better on entry than Stacy," Burns said in victory lane after the race. "Definitely not intentional. He's a class act racer. I try not to race that way. Using the bumper's okay but I definitely didn't mean to spin him out. This is huge for our little team. Last year, we struggled with this car ever since we put it together. Man, to get this win is awesome."

Burns' car came to life during long green flag runs as he, on two separate occasions, raced his way into contention for the lead – ultimately making the winning pass with four laps to go. For Burns, it's the biggest victory of his career as he raced against heavyweights and took home the \$5,000 payout.

"It started out shoving the nose in the center," Burns explained. "I came over the radio and said, 'it's still early, I think we might have a chance.' After that red flag over there, it was like a different racecar. I'm tickled. I couldn't ask for more. York and Puryear are no slouches, that's for sure. They're some of the best in the business, been doing it a long time. Having my little girl with me, that's a life-changing deal. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Burns' win came in a wild race which saw multiple incidents. On a lap 43 restart, contenders Rusty Daniels, Tyler Horne, Brandon Clements, and Joshua Yeoman were all involved in a pileup in turn one. Later, on lap 65, Clements and Daniels were again involved in an accident which also collected Thad Moffitt and Gerald Benton.

Jason York inherited the lead when Burns and Puryear got to-



Ronnie McCarty celebrates winning the Late Model portion of Kingsport Speedway's racing program Friday. (DREW HIERWARTER photo)

gether and led for most of the second half, until Burns came roaring past. York settled for a runner-up finish.

"We were real good," York said. "We were pleased with the car. Just a little free in the center. We'll fix it, get it back over here and get some wins here. Congratulations to Chris though. He done a hell of a job winning the race."

Stacy Puryear, who felt the mid-race contact from Burns was just a racing incident, was able to rebound for a third-place finish.

"We just had gotten loose up off and, you know, we had a good racecar," Puryear said. "If it had been a little tighter, [Burns] wouldn't have known which way we went. This is the first time we've ever been here. This racecar's been sitting since Martinsville 2016 and we're very proud of it."

Rusty Daniels and Tyler Horne finished fourth and fifth respectively while Thad Moffitt, Lexi Gay, Eric Winslow, Brandon Clements, and Gerald Benton rounded out the top-10.

The win for Chris Burns was his first since April 28, 2018.

Brenton Irving continued his dominance in the INEX Legends division, picking up the win in a thrilling INEX at the 4/10-mile track which will play host to the INEX Legends Asphalt Nationals later this year.

Irving raced his way past Brian Sullivan on lap 16 in the 35 lap feature and then survived challenges from Zack Brown, Brian Sullivan and Emily Day. On the final turn of the last lap, Brown got loose which resulted in both cars getting together and spinning across the line to a second and third place finish respectively.

Irving, who won the track championship at Carteret in 2016 and

2017, was ecstatic after scoring the victory.

"I'm going to tell you, this win was for all of you fans who come out to watch a good race," Irving said in victory lane. "That's why we came here, baby. Jesus Christ loves every single one of you guys. I was just playing [with Emily]. When I see someone in my mirror, we would have stepped it up."

Brown took his second-place finish in stride after an eventful race – first when his windshield was covered with oil when Kevin Nowak blew an engine directly in front of him, then the finish with Sullivan.

"I was loose, just really loose," Brown said. "Hate that I did that right in front of pretty much the field, but you've got to dig when you've got a green-white-checkered. The first half of the race was crazy. I guess Herbie the Love Bug (Kevin Nowak) gave me some love as far as fluid goes all over the car. Just a reallooseose racecar. Appreciate all the fans coming out."

Sullivan once again had one of the fastest cars but was unable to come away with the win. This time, however, he was able to finish without any mechanical issues and is looking ahead to the next race.

"We didn't blow up, that's one way to look at it," Sullivan remarked. "Last year, we blew two motors, so we're just happy to finish a race and not blow the thing up. I didn't know if [Day] got back by on the outside or not. Zack got sideways, I checked up. I thought he was going to save it. He almost saved it then, last minute, I think he was trying to get to the line as well and he got back in the gas or something and just came across. Luckily we didn't do too much damage."

Emily Day finished fourth while Jim Smith rounded out the top-five in the 16 car field.

Kris Hetu made a late race pass on Michael Rouse to pick up the victory in the Sportsman's Wholesale Mini Stock Division. Rouse dominated for much of the event but a late race caution tightened the field and Hetu was able to make the pass on the outside.

"Before that last caution, I noticed [Rouse] started smoking a little bit off his right side so I don't know if it was getting on his tires or what but I think I used it to my advantage," Hetu stated. "I had to drive the piss out of this thing. It's been almost a year since I won."

Rouse's engine expired late. Reigning division champion Stephen Sanders finished second over Travis Provost, Jason Adams and Andrew Deal.

Robert Arch picked up the win in an equally entertaining U-CAR feature. Arch took the lead early and never looked back while Neil Mason, Steve Sullivan and Andrew Jackson engaged in a fierce battle for second behind him. Arch went on to win and Mason prevailed in the battle while Sullivan, Joe Lanier and Jackson rounded out the top-five.

"It really came to life there," Arch remarked. "The longer we ran, the better it got. I thought we were going to be okay, then at the end, the exhaust fell off the car and it lost a bunch of power. I thought the Carteret Curse came back. I've tried so many times to win here. That's the main reason we're coming down here. We were coming to race until we won. I guess we knocked that checklist off early in the year."

Mike Cooper scored the victory in the Street Stock feature while Gary Rochelle rebounded from a mid-race incident to finish second. Sean Wales picked up the win in a wild Champ Kart feature, defending a late race charge from Justin Mitchell which included an attempted pass in the grass from the eventual runner-up. Justin Hall was victorious in the Mini Cup feature. In the Jr. Mini Cup feature, Scotty Benford, in his first race, collected the victory over Caleb Braswell.

The 2019 season at Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway will resume on Saturday, April 13th with the Spring Thaw. The Spring Thaw will feature racing for the INEX Legends, Sportsman's Wholesale Mini-Stocks, Street Stocks, Mini Cups, Champ Karts
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Flathead Fords. Green flag will fly at 7pm.

For more information about Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway, visit the track's official website at www.carteret-speedway.com, "like" Carteret County Speedway on Facebook or follow @carteretcoswy on Twitter.

South Boston Speedway

SOUTH BOSTON, VA - Two drivers familiar to South Boston Speedway fans and one new driver scored victories Saturday afternoon at "America's Hometown Track."

NASCAR Whelen All American Series national champions Philip Morris and Peyton Sellers split the twin 75-lap NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Model Stock Car races.

Track officials noted the results are unofficial.

Ron Silk of Norwalk, Ct. won the South Boston 150 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race, a race that marked the first visit of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at South Boston Speedway in 18 years.

Morris won the first of the day's pair of 75-lap Late Model Stock Car Division races, taking the lead from Trey Crews on the 12th lap and holding on the rest of the way. Sellers finished second, 1.407-seconds back, with Crews finishing third, former NASCAR national champion Lee Pulliam finishing fourth and Mike Looney of Catawba, Virginia rounding out the top five finishers.

The win was Morris' second win of the season at the .4-mile oval and his 76th career win at the track.

Sellers won the nightcap, edging Austin Thaxton of Clarksville, Virginia by 1.090-second in a six-lap dash to the finish that followed the race's third caution period. Crews finished third with Thomas Scott of Efland, North Carolina finishing fourth and Mike Jones of South Boston, Virginia completing the top five finishers.

Silk won the South Boston 150 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race in his first-ever start at the track. He was lined up inside of Burt Myers for the final restart with 18 laps to go, bolted into the lead and never relinquished it, driving

away to a 1.407-second win over Chase Dowling of Roxbury, CT.

The win was Silk's first victory on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour since May of 2016.

Jimmy Blewett of Howell, NJ finished third with Kyle Bonsignore of Bay Shore, NY and Myers of Walnut Cove, NC rounding out the top five finishers.

There were two lead changes among three drivers, with Myers leading the most laps. Myers led 73 laps after the race leaders pitted for fresh tires, taking the lead from

open at 5:30 p.m. and qualifying starts at 6 p.m. The first race gets the green flag at 7 p.m.

Admission is \$10 for adults. Kids ages 12 and under are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult.

For additional information about the NASCAR Late Model 100 racing program or any other events at South Boston Speedway, please visit the speedway's website at www.southbostonspeedway.com or telephone the speedway at 434-572-4947 or 1-877-440-1540.



Peyton Sellers (26) leads as Austin Thaxton (12) and Trey Crews (9) battle for second place and Thomas Scott (8) gives chase from fourth place during the closing laps of the second race of Saturday's pair of 75-lap NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Model Stock Car Division races at South Boston Speedway. (SOUTH BOSTON SPEEDWAY photo)

pole winner Tommy Catalano of Ontario, NY, who led the first 59 circuits.

Silk averaged 67.395 mph in winning the race that was slowed by five cautions that consumed 27 laps.

Next Race At South Boston Speedway: NASCAR racing returns to South Boston Speedway on Saturday, April 20 for the track's first night race of the season, the NASCAR Late Model 100.

Getting the green flag at 7 p.m., the five-race NASCAR Late Model 100 racing program will be highlighted by a 100-lap race for the competitors in the NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Model Stock Car Division. Twin 25-lap races are on tap for the Limited Sportsman Division. A 30-lap race for the Budweiser Pure Stock Division and a 15-lap race for the Budweiser Hornets Division will round out the night's action.

Registration and pit gates open at 2 p.m., practice runs from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. Grandstand gates will

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - For the 6th consecutive season, discount tickets for the NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler®, slated for April 26-28, are available at local NAPA Auto Parts stores throughout New England and New York. Along with admission good for both Saturday and Sunday, tickets purchased at participating NAPA stores include a luncheon buffet on Spring Sizzler® Sunday prior to racing action. NAPA tickets are on sale now at over 70 NAPA stores for just \$38 for adults and \$15 for ages 14 and under.

"I always tell our race fans to stop by their local NAPA Auto Parts store to pick-up their Spring Sizzler® tickets," explained Stafford General Manager Mark Arute. "The NAPA tickets are one of the best deals of the season, \$38 for a full weekend of racing and a full lunch buffet Sunday afternoon. It's shaping to be another great Spring Sizzler® weekend with strong fields across all divisions in attendance.

Stop by your local NAPA pick up your Sizzler tickets and checkout all that NAPA has to offer."

The 48th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler®, "The Greatest Race In The History of Spring," is set to kick off the 61st consecutive season of NASCAR Whelen All-American Series racing action at Stafford Speedway on April 26-28. The 2019 edition of the NAPA Spring Sizzler® will see 7 divisions of racing in action, headlined by the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour in a 200-lap feature event. The NWMT cars will be joined by Stafford's SK Modifieds®, Late Models, SK Lights, Limited Late Models, and Street Stocks along with the Vintage All-Stars.

The lunch buffet for NAPA ticket holders will be held prior to feature racing on Sunday, April 28th in the Stafford Speedway Fairgrounds Banquet Hall. Full list of participating NAPA Auto Parts Stores available here

The last two NAPA Spring Sizzlers® have been dominated by Ryan Preece and the #6 T.S. Haulers team. Preece won the 2017 and 2018 Sizzlers® but has since moved on to compete in the NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series and will not be in attendance at this season's Sizzler®. With Preece not returning to seek his 3rd consecutive Spring Sizzler®, the door is open for other drivers to etch their name in Spring Sizzler® history. Two favorites entering Sizzler® weekend are Kyle Bonsignore, who won the 2018 NAPA Fall Final 150, and Doug Coby, who won last summer's Stafford 150. Both will be a factor come April 28th.

The NAPA Spring Sizzler® is the longest continuously run event on the Stafford event calendar and it has seen 25 different winners over the 47 year history. Of those 25 winners, 12 have gone on to win a NWMT Championship and 6 drivers have won the race and the NWMT championship in the same season: Mike Stefanik (1989, 1997, 1998), Doug Coby (2012, 2016), Richie Evans (1985), Tony Hirschman (2005), Donny Lia (2007) and Ted Christopher (2008). Ted Christopher leads all drivers with 6 career Sizzler wins, followed by Mike Stefanik with 4, Rick Fuller, Richie Evans, Maynard Troyer, Bobby Santos, III, and Doug Coby with 3 each.

The NAPA Spring Sizzler® spans 3 days kicking off April 27th with a full afternoon of practice for Stafford's weekly divisions. The

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weekend continues Saturday with qualifying for all divisions including group qualifying for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour as well as feature racing for the Vintage All-Stars, Limited Late Models and Street Stocks. New for 2019 the Saturday Street Stock feature will be a 30 lap special event as part of the RMSPCO.com Street Stock Triple

Crown. Sizzler® weekend is capped off Sunday with the NAPA Auto Parts Pit Party and feature racing for the SK Modifieds®, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, and finally the Spring Sizzler® 200 for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour.

Tickets for the “Greatest Race in the History of Spring” are on sale now by calling the Speedway Box Office 860-684-2783 or online at www.staffordspeedway.com. Discount NAPA Spring Sizzler® tickets that include access to the NAPA lunch buffet are available at participating NAPA Auto Parts Stores. For a full list of participating locations throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, please call the speedway office or point your web browser to www.staffordmotorspeedway.com/participating-napa-auto-parts-stores

Hickory Motor Speedway

After an exciting week of CARS Tour racing at Hickory Motor Speedway last week the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series roared back to life with a full slate of racing action on Saturday night.

Leading off the evening's events would be the first of two 40 lap NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Model features. Landon Huffman driving Danny Johnson's #2 would make a memorable return to Hickory Motor Speedway by grabbing the top spot in qualifying with the #6 of Mike Darne starting to his outside. Mitch Walker in the #2W and Thomas Beane in the #31 would make up row two for the start. Huffman would win the battle for the top spot after several laps side by side with Darne. Huffman and Darne would set a torrid pace while the field would battle for third on back. Beane would break away from the pack and give chase to the leaders. Beane move around



Landon Huffman celebrates with family and friends after winning the first 40-lap Late Model feature at Hickory Motor Speedway/ (SHERRI STEARNS photo)



Chris Hudspeth takes the checkered at the finish of the second 40-lap Late Model feature at HMS. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)

Darne and for second and give chase for the lead. Huffman would prove too strong and drive on to grab the win in his Hickory Motor Speedway return. Beane would finish second and Brody Pope in the #1 would move up to finish 3rd. Darne would finish 4th and Chris Hudspeth in the #28 would finish 5th.

Next up would see the Renegades hit the track for 20 laps of sliding sideways action. Danny Crump Jr in the #97 would grab the pole for the second week in a row with last week's winner Robbie Hollifield in the #51 to his outside. Crump would get the early jump,

but the caution would fly when contact between Hollifield and the #40 of Justin Austin would send Hollifield spinning. Both drivers would restart from the rear. The restart would see Crump move back to the lead until the caution would fly once again on lap 5 for a spin involving the #72 of Zachary Mullins. Crump would take the lead once again, but soon be joined by Hollifield and Austin. A spin by Mullins on lap 8 would bring out the caution once more. After a wild restart Hollifield would take over the top spot. A spin on lap 9 by Rodney Elkin in the #95 would bring out the caution once again. On the restart Hollifield

would move back to the front while Austin and Crump would battle for second. Hollifield would drive on to the win with Austin finishing 2nd. Crump would finish 3rd, Spencer Dickinson in the #6 would finish 4th, and Mullins would round out the top five in 5th.

The Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models would hit the track next for 50 laps in Round 2 of the Paramount Kia 'Big 10' Racing Challenge. Gage Painter in the #12 would set the fast time in qualifying and start from the pole with Cody DeMarmels in the #18 to his outside. Kyle Mansch in the #99 and Akinori Ogata in the #14 would make up row two. Several attempts would be needed to start the race and the third time would prove to be the charm as Painter would look for the lead and nose ahead of DeMarmels for the top spot. Mansch and Ogata would have a spirited battle for third. Lap 13 would see Ogata move around and into the third spot. DeMarmels would give chase for the lead, but Painter would prove too tough and drive on to his second win in a row. DeMarmels would hold on for 2nd and Ogata would finish 3rd. Josh Kossek in the #44 would finish 4th and the #32 of Josh Stark would overcome a spin on one of the initial starts and bounce back for 5th.

Rolling off next would be the Carolina Custom Golf Cart Super Trucks for 35 laps of side by side action. Charlie Neill in the #26 would start from the point after leading time trials with Allen Huffman in the #51 starting to his outside. Spencer Boyd in the #4 would start third after making the long track from Texas where he ran in the Gander Outdoor Truck Series the night before. Dennis Trivette in the #28 would start fourth on the outside of row two. Neill and Huffman would battle side by side for several laps until Neill would jump to the point with Huffman close behind. Neill would start to pull further ahead while Boyd would move closer to the front pair. Boyd would get around Huffman and the pair would tangle with traffic bringing out the caution with ten to go as they attempted to run down Neill. The restart would see Neill once again pull to the lead and Huffman would use the opportunity to move around Boyd for second. Neill would drive on to his second straight win of the season. Huffman would finish second with Boyd close behind finishing 3rd. Terry Absher in the #17 would finish 4th and Dennis Trivette in the #28

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would round out the top five in 5th.

The Street Stocks would be the next to hit the track for their 30 lap feature. Jeff Sparks in the #7 would start from the top spot with Drew Cox in the #21 to his outside. Sparks and Cox would duel it out at the front for several laps until Cox would nose ahead for the lead. The caution would fly at lap 14 for a spin by the #9 of Trey Buff. The restart would see Sparks move around Cox for the lead. Cox and the #16 of Jonathon Smith would battle side by side for second until Cox would take the spot. Cox would pull back into the battle for the lead with Sparks when the caution would fly on lap 19 after contact between the #5 of Jesse Clark and the #2 of Ethan Johnston. The restart would see Cox move to the outside of Sparks and a furious battle for the top spot would begin. Cox would pull ahead after several laps and Sparks would face another furious challenge from Smith. Smith would move around for second and give challenge for the top spot. Cox, facing a serious battle from Smith, would hang on driving it hard off the final corner to take the checkered flag for the win. Smith would finish second and Marshall Sutton in the #64 would drive up to finish 3rd. Todd Bradbury in the #00 would finish 4th and Kevin Eby in the #03 would finish 5th.

The NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Models would close out the night with the second of their two 40 lap features. After the invert from the first race Mitch Walker in the 2W and Connor Mosack in the #18 would make up the front row. Zach Bruenger in the #55 and Pat Rachels in the #34 would make up row two. Walker would pull to the early lead with Bruenger getting by Mosack and giving chase for the top spot. Lap 4 would see Bruenger make his way around Walker for the lead. The caution would fly on lap 10 for a multi-car incident, but all involved would be able to continue with the exception of 2018 Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Model Hickory Motor Speedway Track Champion Pat Rachels in the #34 who would be sidelined for the rest of the race. The restart would see Bruenger back to the point but the caution

would quickly fly on lap 12 with debris on the track. Bruenger would move back to the top spot and the caution would fly again on lap 14 after contact with Landon Huffman in the #2 and the #2W of Mitch Walker would send both cars to the back of the field. The restart would see a furious battle for the top spot that would end with a caution at lap 15, Bruenger would land in the pits with a damaged race car, and the #98 of Nicholas Sanchez would be sent to the rear of the field for the restart. Mike Darne in the #6 and Chris Hudspeth in the #28 would make up the front row for the restart. The duo would battle door to door for the next four laps until Hudspeth would use the high line to take the top spot. Battles would continue to rage through the field for the next 20 laps, but Hudspeth would pull away and be the first to the checkered flag and another Hickory Motor Speedway victory. Brody Pope in the #1 would move up to finish 2nd and his Lee Faulk Racing teammate Ryan Vargas in the #25 would finish 3rd. Nicholas Sanchez in the #98 would finish 4th and Mike Darne in the #6 would round out the top five with a 5th.

The NASCAR Whelen All-American Series will be back in action for the next two weeks at the Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars, Hickory Motor Speedway.

In three weeks the PASS Series makes the show with the running of the annual Easter Bunny 150.

For more info check us out at www.hickorymotorspeedway.com, on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. You can also reach us at the track by calling 828-464-3655.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - After celebrating 20 years as a contingency sponsor last season, New England Racing Fuel, Sunoco Brand with John Holland and Mike Joy will once again supply contingency bonuses to each of Stafford's five NASCAR Whelen All-American Series divisions this season. N.E. Racing Fuel signed on a charter member of the Stafford contingency program back when it was first instituted in 1999 and in the 20 seasons since then, they have distributed over \$135,000 in gasoline bonuses to Stafford drivers and teams.

"Each year we've been in the contingency program, we've received a great deal of thank you's from drivers both written and personal with guys coming up to you in the pits, and that's very telling to us," said John Holland of New Eng-

land Racing Fuel. "The Stafford contingency program is a great program for us to be involved with and it allows us to be able to give something back to everyone rather than focusing on a specific division. It seems like every year we talk with Mark Arute about how we could maybe do things differently but what we have works and that's what keeps us coming back every year. We've changed the program here and there over the years but we're very happy with what we have at Stafford."

When N.E. Racing Fuel first joined the contingency program for the 1999 season, they supported the SK Modified®, ProStock, and Late Model divisions. As the weekly lineup has evolved over the years, N.E. Racing Fuel has continued their support and today they offer contingency bonuses to the SK Light, Limited Late Model, and Street Stock divisions as well as the SK Modified® and Late Model divisions. New England Racing Fuel, Sunoco Brand will provide the top-3 finishers from all five divisions along with the top finishing rookie driver in each feature event with a \$25 gas certificate. With 22 races on the schedule, New England Racing Fuel, Sunoco Brand will offer competitors over \$10,000 in gas certificates during the 2019 season.

"If something is good and it works, let's keep on doing it," said Holland. "Sunoco puts out a great high quality product and not only do we get positive feedback from drivers, we also hear from engine builders all over New England that Sunoco Race Fuel works in just about any engine whether it's drag racing, tractor pulls, or oval track racing. We're looking forward to another great season of excitement at Stafford."

"We're happy to have John Holland and Mike Joy back with us for another season in our contingency program," said Stafford Motor Speedway General Manager Mark Arute. "John and Mike have been longtime supporters of Stafford through both the contingency program and other sponsorships that they were involved with prior to the creation of the contingency program. We've certainly enjoyed having them on board with us for the last 20 years in the contingency program as have the drivers and teams."

Sunoco is the Official Fuel of NASCAR and Stafford Speedway. Sunoco 112 Supreme and Sunoco GTX 260 can be purchased at the Sunoco Fuel truck found in

Stafford's paddock area every Friday night. New England Race Fuels is the largest supplier of racing gasoline in New England and they are located at 271 Spielman Highway in Burlington, CT. For all your racing fuel needs, give them a call at 860-673-9555 or visit them online www.neracingfuel.com.

The first New England Racing Fuel, Sunoco contingency bonuses of the 2019 season will be up for grabs during Stafford Speedway's 48th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler® Weekend on April 26-28. The NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler® Weekend gets started with a practice session for Stafford's five NASCAR Whelen All-American Series divisions and the Vintage All-Stars on Friday, April 26 from 1pm-6pm. The main grandstands will be open to the public at no charge for the Friday practice session.

The NAPA Spring Sizzler continues on Saturday, April 27 with spectator gates opening at 10am. Practice sessions for all 7 divisions will run from 10am-2:20pm before the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour cars take to the track for group qualifying at 2:30pm. Following NWMT group qualifying will be heat and consolation races for Stafford's weekly divisions and the Vintage All-Stars. Wrapping up the Saturday racing action will be feature events for Stafford's Limited Late Model and Street Stock divisions along with the Vintage All-Stars cars. Stafford's Street Stock feature will be a special 30-lap feature that will be the first of three Street Stock Triple Crown events to be run in 2019.

The NAPA Spring Sizzler will conclude on Sunday, April 28 with a flurry of racing activity. Spectator gates will open at 10am with the famous NAPA Auto Parts Pit Party taking place on the track from 11am-12pm where fans can meet and greet their favorite drivers. Stafford's SK Modifieds® will take the green flag at 1pm followed the Late Model and SK Light divisions before the NWMT cars go 200-laps in the 48th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler.

Tickets for the "Greatest Race in the History of Spring" are on sale now by calling the Speedway Box Office 860-684-2783 or online at www.staffordspeedway.com. Discount NAPA Spring Sizzler tickets that include access to the NAPA lunch buffet are available at participating NAPA Auto Parts Stores. For a full list of participating locations call the speedway office or at the speedway's web site to