



FEBRUARY 13, 2017

FastTrack

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

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Florida Racing Begins at Bubba Raceway Park

Madsen and Schatz Shine in Arctic Cat
All Star Circuit of Champions Races...

Shaffer Takes the Runner-Up Spot

Ford Taking NASCAR Seriously

DAYTONA BEACH, FL – The Ford Performance camp doesn't need to be reminded it's been 12 years since it celebrated a championship in the Monster Energy Series, and it's something that fuels their determination to be relevant again as an elite manufacturer.



DON COBLE

In fact, it's become personal.

The company is coming off one of its worst years – just eight victories in 36 races. And seven of those wins came from the two-car operation at Penske Racing.

Ford not only regrouped for a new season, it flexed its muscles by adding all four cars from Stewart-Haas Racing away from Chevrolet with hopes that team's experience, added with Penske, will elevate the entire program.

"To continue the progression that you've seen hopefully within Ford Performance over the years and prove that we're taking NASCAR very seriously," Dave Pericak, Ford's global director, said of company's immediate goals. "It is a priority for us.

"It's going to be exciting this year to include Stewart-Haas in the lineup of Fords on the track and to level the playing field a bit – have more bullets in the gun and go out there and use everything we've learned from aerodynamics, our engine technology and some of the other things we've done with the teams – some of the tools that we've created and our simulator and everything else and bring it all together so that you can see more Fords running up front."

Getting SHR, which includes Busch, Kevin Harvick, Clint Bowyer and Danica Patrick as drivers, comes as other Ford stalwarts, Roush Fenway Racing and Richard Petty Racing, were forced to downsize. Roush Fenway, which once had four cars – including Busch's 2004 championship team – on the track is down to two teams. Petty dropped one team and only will have Aric Almirola as a driver.

The rest of the Ford racing family includes single-car efforts at Wood Brothers Racing, TriStar Motorsports and Go Fas Racing and

two cars at Front Row Motorsports. Ford already has enjoyed success with its Ford GT sports car in IMSA. In less than seven months, that car won the two most-prestigious endurance races for the GT Le Mans class in the world – the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona and the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Now Ford wants to spread that confidence and excitement to a different platform.

"I think we've done a really good job over the last couple of years of getting that mentality, working to the teams of helping each other and leveraging each other

where it makes sense," Pericak said.

To better accomplish that, Pericak has created One Ford – a philosophy that all Ford teams will work as one.

Busch, the last driver to win a championship for the Blue Oval, will be back in a Ford for the first time since 2005. He is happy to be back and he sees a change in attitude.

"The whole gang is ready and willing to help in all areas and directions and the best thing that I've seen already come out of things is that the engineering staff at Stewart-Haas," he said. "It's like they just opened up a whole new book of things to look at and to advance our program further from where we were with GM."

Another big prize for Ford is Harvick. Arguably one of the top drivers in the sport, he's expected to bring a unique level of talent and determination. And in the process, Ford hopes that drives other company drivers like Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski at Penske.

"We may never miss a beat on the track and that is our goal," Harvick said. "Our goal is to not miss a beat and contend to win races and progress through the year and get better. Our goals haven't changed. We want to come out of the box strong, compete for race wins and try to run for another championship as we get to the end of the year."

Teams generally struggle to adjust to a new manufacturer. A lot of that skepticism was erased a year ago when Martin Truex Jr. had a breakout season after Furniture Row Racing switched from Chevrolet to Toyota.

Pericak said Ford will make every resource available to get

Stewart-Haas up to speed in the same manner – all while expanding its technical alliances with all of its teams.

"Our role as Ford Performance is to bring all of our resources to bear for Stewart-Haas as they make the transition and make sure we're giving them every opportunity to be successful," Pericak said. "Whether it's the engineers that I have within my team, whether it's the facilities that we have at Ford. Of the tools that we use, it's our duty to make sure that we are servicing them in every way possible, so that they can hit that track and

be successful, and I feel very confident that you will see that.

"Of course, we're making a big transition here, so I'm sure we are going to have a few minor bumps along the way, but I don't see anything that's going to stop us from being competitive right out of the gate."

The first step will be the Advance Auto Parts Clash exhibition race Saturday night at the Daytona International Speedway, followed eight days later with the season-opening Daytona 500.

"A One Ford approach to racing is what's going to pay off at the end of the day to having more Fords get across the finish line," Pericak said.



Tony Stewart answers questions during the Stewart-Haas Racing announcement with Ford Performance on their participation with Ford in the 2017 racing season. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

Welcome 2017 Race Fans!

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ON THE COVER:

ARTIC CAT ALL STARS - PAUL ARCH

What's Next?

One week. That's right NASCAR fans, one week and counting until the stars and cars of NASCAR hit the track at Daytona International Speedway. The first practice sessions for the Advance Auto Parts Clash and Daytona 500 qualifying are

less than a week away, and race fans throughout the world are ready for the first green flag of the 2017 season.

As we look with anticipating to the beginning of a new NASCAR season, I think we need to take a look back at the tremendous 2016 year that all sports fans enjoyed. When I began to make notes on the 2016 sports champions, I realized what a tremendous and historic year it really was.

The NCAA basketball tournament was won by Villanova over North Carolina on a last-second shot. The Cleveland Cavaliers came back from a 3-1 deficit to defeat the Golden State Warriors in the seventh game to win the NBA championship. Coastal Carolina won the NCAA College World Series over Arizona by winning the third and deciding game of the title series. It was the first national championship for the South Carolina school. In Major League Baseball, the Chicago Cubs also came back from a 3-1 deficit to defeat the Cleveland Indians in seven games. By winning the 2016 World Series, the Cubs broke one of the longest non-championship streaks in major sports. The Clemson Tigers won the NCAA football championship on the last play of the game over Alabama. Ironically, the New England Patriots won the NFL Super Bowl on the last play of the game over the Atlanta Falcons. Now, do you begin to get the picture what a great sports year we just experienced?

When I looked back at last season in NASCAR, I realized just how "special" it was as well. Jimmie Johnson won his record-tying eighth Cup title with an historic performance at Homestead, the final race of the season. Johnny Sauter in the Camping World Truck Series and Daniel Suarez in the XFINITY

Series won their first-ever national championship in the first year for the Chase playoff format for their respective series. And, just think that the Cup season began with Denny Hamlin edging Martin Truex Jr. by inches to win the Daytona 500. However, all of those exciting moments are in the past, and we now look forward to that first "official" competition for all three major NASCAR series at Daytona.

If you go to Daytona or relax in front of your television next week thinking that you're going to watch the "same ol' NASCAR" for another season,

you're very, very wrong. First of all, you better get a list of drivers and teams for the Camping World Truck, XFINITY, and Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. And, that leads to my first of many major stories that will, no doubt, change the face of NASCAR racing as we knew it.

NASCAR announced during the 2016 Awards Banquet Week in Las Vegas in December that Monster Energy would become the new title sponsor of the Cup Series. The new name of the series will be the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. Obviously, with a new series sponsor comes change. It will be interesting to see what the millions of race fans actually call the series. It will also be interesting to note what marketing and promotional strategy will be used by Monster Energy to bring "energy" (pun intended) back to the Cup Series. What presence will Monster Energy have on the circuit at tracks and in the market place to leverage their investment in the sport. Monster Energy has been involved as a NASCAR team sponsor for several years as well as the sponsor of other motorsports series. Will their appeal to the "younger generation" have an effect on NASCAR? We'll start to see this week.

While a new marketing partner for the Cup Series is certainly a major story entering 2017, that probably takes a back seat to the recently-announced race format change for the top three divisions of NASCAR. I have been told that the system used to determine a champion in Cup, XFINITY, and Camping World Trucks is not The Chase, but the "playoffs". Plus, the individual race format will be a sig-



DENNIS PUNCH



Dale Earnhardt Jr. is eagerly looking forward to 2017 NASCAR racing to begin.

nificant change. Basically, each race will be broken down into three stages with bonus points awarded at the end of each stage. The top ten drivers in each stage receive points with the stage winner receiving one playoff point to carry into the postseason (should they qualify). The final (third) stage winner will be declared the race winner with the entire field receiving points based on finishing position – same as in the past. Each race will have different stage lengths determined by NASCAR based on the number of laps in each event.

At the end of the "regular season", the driver with the most points is Regular Season Champ and will be awarded 15 playoff points. The top ten drivers in the regular season also receive playoff points. In the playoffs, points reset to 2,000 plus each driver's bonus points. Playoff points carry over round by round, and drivers can continue to add them. At Homestead, the final four drivers competing for the title will start with the same points, no bonus points given, and the first to cross the finish line claims the crown.

If I have confused any of you, don't fret. There will be thousands of other race fans using a calculator to figure points during the season. And, don't be too hasty with your thoughts about the new race format. Why not give it a chance? We may find that the strategy used by crew chiefs and teams during each stage of a race very entertaining, especially with playoff bonus points at stake. I should mention that the new race format and playoff will be used in all three top divisions, not just the Cup Series.

Another interesting storyline for the 2017 Cup season will be the re-

turn of Dale Earnhardt Jr., NASCAR's Most Popular Driver. Hopefully, Dale Jr. will return to competition with the same intensity and drive that has made him the "face" of our sport.

Race fans will also have to deal with the loss of Tony Stewart and Carl Edwards from active status. Along with the "return to retirement" of Jeff Gordon, the sport will have to charge on without three of its marquee names. I know that there are several "young guns" who will capture the attention of race fans, but losing three stars in a year will have to effect the series.

Two recent announcements will also play a huge role in NASCAR racing in the top three divisions.

NASCAR announced last week that they have joined forces with American Medical Response (AMR), the nation's largest response medical transport company, to provide an enhanced at-track response team. Paramedics and doctors will work very closely with NASCAR safety crews at each track to provide a uniform traveling medical and response team. A long-overdue decision that will, no doubt, pay great dividends during the season.

A significant change was also announced to the damaged vehicle policy during races. If a car is involved in an accident that required the car to be taken behind pit wall or the garage area, the car will not be allowed to make necessary repairs and return on track. A damaged car may be repaired (within limits) in their respective pit stall and will be given five minutes to repair and return to action. If the repair takes longer than five minutes, you're finished for the day. No more damage repair and returning to the race twenty laps down with new body panels and tape bandages. This rule may have a huge effect on the point race as the season progresses.

These are only a few of the major stories that will create tremendous interest for race fans entering the 2017 season. Obviously, there are more. New drivers, new teams, new sponsors – program sales should be booming early in the year. As a race fan, I'm looking forward to the beginning of the season with anticipation that the rule changes, format adjustments, and new marketing partners will make 2017 a season to remember. What will be the next big story that NASCAR fans will talk about? One thing for sure, the wait is over. Daytona is less than a week away!

Kerry Madsen Stops the Sweep at Bubba Raceway Park; Wins Arctic Cat All Star Winter Nationals Finale

OCALA, FL - In front of a near-standing room only turnout, "The Madman" Kerry Madsen ended all possibility for a "Schatz Sweep" during the Sixth Annual Winter Nationals at Bubba Raceway Park; driving around the

Fargo, North Dakota, native with just six laps remaining to solidify his place on top of the feature podium. The Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions victory, his first podium finish of the Winter Nationals triple-header at Bubba Raceway Park, was the seventh of Madsen's career, earning \$5,000 in the process.

"This thing has been a rocket ship right from the drop of the gate," Kerry Madsen explained, pilot of the GoMuddy.com/Big Game Treestands/No. 2M. "My guys, Guy and Nate, did a great job all winter prepping these race cars and getting everything set for Florida. It feels awesome to be this fast right from the start. We were so close on Thursday, so this definitely makes up for that. I can't thank Todd and Luke enough for this opportunity. Hopefully they were tuned-in back in Minnesota and got to see this."

Madsen never raced outside of the top-three the entire 30-lap distance, starting third initially and racing in that same position until just beyond the halfway signal. The St. Mary's, New South Wales, Australia, native worked around the CJB Motorsports entry of David Gravel for second on lap 16, resetting his sights on back-to-back Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions main event winner Donny Schatz.

By lap 20, traffic started to intensify, allowing Madsen to cut away at Schatz's one second advantage at the front of the field. The pair raced nearly nose-to-tail until Madsen made the winning move at the entrance of turn one on lap 24, taking command for the first time during the main event. Madsen would race ahead untouched the remaining distance, holding off a late charge by Donny Schatz and Tim Shaffer at the final checkers, each celebrating a third consecutive podium finish.

"We ended up cutting a tire

somewhere around four or five laps to go in that race" Donny Schatz explained, pilot of the Tony Stewart Racing/Arctic Cat/No. 15. "My late model experience actually helped me get through those last five laps. I was able to keep the car straight and hang on to that position. It is a tough deal, but we'll move on and try again at Volusia."

The Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions will enjoy three days in the Florida sun before returning to competition on Wednesday evening, February 15, at the Volusia Speedway Park near Barberville, Florida.

Those seeking additional news and information regarding the DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park should visit www.dirtcarnationals.com.

Donny Schatz Doubles up in Ocala Against Arctic Cat All Stars

OCALA, FL - For the second time in as many days, Donny Schatz is an Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions main event winner in Ocala, Florida; scoring night two of the Sixth Annual Winter Nationals at Bubba Raceway Park. Schatz, pilot of the Tony Stewart Racing/Arctic Cat/Ford Performance/No. 15, took command of the



Kerry Madsen takes the checkered flag at Bubba Raceway Park during the Winternationals, snapping Donny Schatz's winning streak. (Paul Arch photo)

30-lap feature program on lap 25, overtaking the "Steel City Outlaw" Tim Shaffer with an aggressive slide job nearing the exit of turn four. The Fargo, North Dakota, native scored \$5,000 for his efforts, now increasing his career total to 15 against "America's Series."

"This is really cool," Schatz said. "Every team in this pit area worked hard all winter long, but I have a group of guys that I thoroughly love racing with. They are like brothers that I never had, and to be able to get to victory lane is something we all want to do. It feels extra special to do that with Arctic Cat on board with our program."

After a pair of cautions during the first two circuits, one of which during the initial start which resulted in a complete restart, the Winter Nationals main event offi-

cially commenced with Tim Shaffer taking control at the front of the field from the outside-pole position. Despite Shaffer's attempt to drive away from fourth starting Donny Schatz, the eight-time and defending World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series champion kept pace, never allowing Shaffer to escape on the open track, and eventually in traffic.

By lap 20, Schatz was on the back bumper of the Demyan-Rudzik Racing/No.49X, continuing his pursuit through traffic while repeatedly attempting to drive under Shaffer at the exit of turn four. A negated slide job attempt on lap 24 was followed by a successful slide job attempt on lap 25, allowing Schatz to officially take command for the first time.

(Continued Next Page)

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Schatz drove on to score the four-digit payday, navigating through traffic along the bottom groove of the speedway for the remaining five circuits. Tim Shaffer followed in second, a second consecutive runner-up performance for the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, native, followed by David Gravel, Kerry Madsen and Joey Saldana.

"Great race," Schatz explained. "The track kinda threw me for a loop there at the start of that race. I kept trying to make the topside work in one and two. I'm not sure if it was wet, or my fuel load kept me too loose, but I couldn't make it work. Eventually the track changed to work in our advantage. That race was fun, though; the whole race was fun."

"We are getting close. Definitely feels good to be this competitive," Tim Shaffer said. "Those Tony Stewart Racing guys are fast right now, no denying that. I guess anytime you can finish second behind Schatz is pretty good."

Donny Schatz Wins Wild Arctic Cat All Star Season Opener at Bubba Raceway Park

OCALA, FL. - Fargo, North Dakota's Donny Schatz survived a wild ending on Thursday evening at Bubba Raceway Park; advancing two positions during the last two circuits, each while battling nearly nose-to-tail in heavy lapped traffic,



Donny Schatz swept the first two nights of the Winternationals at Bubba Raceway Park in Ocala, Florida, with a wild finish on Thursday and a last minute pass to win on Friday. (Paul Arch photo)

to clinch the season's first Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions victory. Schatz, the eight-time and defending World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series champion, advanced six positions during 30 non-stop laps to capture his 14th career Arctic Cat All Star victory. Tim Shaffer held on to finish just behind the pilot of the Tony Stewart Racing/Arctic Cat/Ford Performance/No. 15, followed by Kraig Kinser, Ian Madsen and Caleb Armstrong.

"Oh man, that was crazy," said Donny Schatz. "I started to notice Kerry's [Madsen] tire was really beginning to get low; almost down to the chords. I knew that I didn't want to be above him at that point because when the right rear tire goes flat, the car tends to drift up the race track. When it blew, we just went to work on Shaffer. I didn't

have a lot of time, but he was racing a little too protective and I was able to set him up and get around him. I never give up and I never count us out, no matter where we are at on the race track."

Donny Schatz commenced his campaign to the front of the field right from the drop of the initial green, eventually working forward from the inside of row four to a podium position by lap 15. By the time Schatz solidified himself third in the running order, Kerry Madsen was already in control, tailed closely by the "Steel City Outlaw" Tim Shaffer. All three drivers navigated traffic nose-to-nail for nearly ten circuits, each utilizing the bottom

groove of the racing surface. Shaffer was strong enough to periodically make a bid for the top spot, but each time it was negated.

Unfortunately for Kerry Madsen, who took command officially on lap 13 aboard his GoMuddy.com/Big Game Treestands/No. 2M, disaster would strike in the form of a flat right rear tire with just two circuits remaining, caused by the rubbered-up racing surface that started to build along the bottom edge of Bubba Raceway Park. Without bringing out a caution, Madsen exited the speedway, surrendering his top spot to Tim Shaffer. Despite Shaffer's attempt to race conservatively and protect the rubbered-up racing groove, Schatz continued to apply pressure, ultimately working around the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, native on the final circuit to clinch the \$5,000 payday.

"It feels really good to get it done here tonight, especially with Arctic Cat playing such a big role in our program now," Schatz explained. "They are big supporters of the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions, and obviously big supporters of Tony Stewart Racing, so to win right out of the gate with this new deal is very special. Hopefully we can do this a few more times this weekend."



MAVTV Motorsports Network to Film 15 Lucas Oil ASCS Events in 2017

TULSA, OK - The Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network will see another year of stellar coverage on the MAVTV Motorsports Network as 15 nights are slated to be taped for broadcast throughout the 2017 season.

"MAVTV is perfect for anyone who's a race-fan and ASCS has seen a lot of benefit from being fea-

tured on MAVTV all these years," said ASCS owner and founder, Emmett Hahn. "I can't thank Forrest Lucas and Bob Patison enough for their support, and providing these teams with a way to be seen all over the world."

First on the list of feature event is April 7 and 8 as Tony Stewart presents the Texas Sprint Car Nationals at the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track.

Following the series to the Northwest, Skagit Speedway's Jim Raper Memorial Dirt Cup on June 22-24 as well as the Fred Brown-

field Classic at Grays Harbor Raceway on June 30 and July 1 will be taped.

Back into the Midwest, the Arnold Motor Supply ASCS 360 Knoxville Nationals, August 3, 4, and 5 will again be featured as well as the Hockett/McMillin Memorial at Lucas Oil Speedway on September 21-23.

The final event slated to be shows on MAVTV is the 2017 season finale at the Cocopah Speedway on November 10 and 11.

With each race shows roughly one month after being taped, the original airdate, along with multiple re-airings throughout the year offers fans 100 plus hours of Lucas Oil ASCS competition. Coupled with coverage on www.LucasOil-RacingTV.com, fans will be able to

watch events as far back as 2011.

All air-dates will be posted at www.mavtv.com. With over 30 Million viewers, MAVTV Motorsports Network is your home for everything Motorsports. If you don't have MAVTV Motorsports Network, call your cable or satellite provider and request the MAVTV Motorsports Network.

The 2017 season marks the 26th year of competition for the American Sprint Car Series, which is comprised of the Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network, as well as seven Regional Tours that make up over 150 nights of racing across 23 states.

For complete coverage, news, and updates of all ASCS events, log onto www.ascsracing.com.

Richards Grabs Rhino Ag Super Bowl of Racing Finale

WAYNESVILLE, GA - In his first career-season competing full-time on the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, Josh Richards won Saturday Night's Rhino Ag Super Bowl of Racing presented by General Tire finale at Golden Isles Speedway. Richards took the lead on lap

three and never looked back. The victory marks his 13th career LOLMDS victory, and his first win after having joined the Best Performance Motorsports Team last November.

Richards led defending series champion Scott Bloomquist's Reece Monument Company, Crop Production Services, Sweet-Bloomquist Chassis and Brandon Overton's Chip Stone, Longhorn to the finish line by several car lengths. Bloomquist and Overton had a spirited race for most of the 60-lap main event as Overton tried several times to get by Bloomquist. Brian Shirley finished in fourth, followed by the 2015 LOLMDS National Champion, Jonathan Davenport.

"I don't know what to say right now. Thanks to all of fans for their support. It [switching race teams] was one of the toughest decisions I have ever made. I have always wanted to work with Randall [Edwards]. I can't thank these guys enough for this opportunity. It's great to win the second night out in this car. Everything is new on this ride and we are just trying to get acclimated to it," said the 28-year-old in Lucas Oil Victory Lane.

Rebounding from the previous night - where Richards had started on the front row, but faded to sixth at the finish - he was elated for a better outcome. "I made an adjustment that I didn't realize I had made last night and it definitely cost us. I was kicking myself afterward because I had done it by accident. We've really had a good car all weekend, I'm glad that I didn't make the same mistake tonight. I can't thank these guys enough for having faith in me!"

The Eric and Kelly Brock owned team is sponsored by Peoples National Bank, Corey Frazier-State Farm Insurance, Valvoline, Keyser, Riggs Motorsports, Integra, and

Sunoco Race Fuels. The Rocket XR1 Chassis is powered by a Dargie Racing Engine.

Bloomquist held off Overton at end after making some contact during the race. "We weren't too bad tonight. We needed a little more time for practice. We should have been here Thursday for practice. We just need to get here sooner. We got close tonight, but there's a few things I would have loved to have changed."

Overton was pleased with his weekend at Golden Isles Speedway - notching a third-place finish after his victory on Friday night. "To run how we did against these guys says a lot about our team. We would have liked to have won tonight as well. To race with Bloomquist for most of the race was fun and we tried plenty of times to get around him but he did what he needed to do out there."

Completing the top ten were Doug Drown, Kenny Pettyjohn, Don O'Neal, Tyler Erb, and Tim McCreadie.

In preliminary action, Brandon Overton set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time (Group A) amongst the 52 entrants, with a lap of 15.768 seconds. Brian Shirley set the fastest time in Group B with a time of 15.806 seconds. Brandon Overton, Scott Bloomquist, Josh Richards, Billy Moyer Jr, and Doug Drown won their respective heat races. Austin Hubbard and Brent Larson won their respective B-Mains.

Overton Grabs First Career Lucas Oil Victory at Golden Isles

WAYNESVILLE, GA - The Rhino Ag Super Bowl of Racing - Presented by General Tire kicked off the 2017 Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series season on Friday night at Golden Isles Speedway.

When race leader Billy Moyer Jr. left the main event with 13 laps to go, Brandon Overton inherited the top spot and went on to win his first career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series event.

Overton held off fellow Longhorn Chassis driver Tim McCreadie in the Sweeteners Plus entry at the finish. Jimmy Owens ran third in the E3 Spark Plugs, R&W Motorsports, Rocket Chassis. Completing the top five were Brandon Sheppard



Josh Richards celebrates in victory lane after winning the Rhino Ag Super Bowl of Racing at Golden Isles Speedway in his first full time season with the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series. (LOLMDS photo)

and Jonathan Davenport.

"I hate it for little Billy, but sometimes that stuff happens. We will take it any way we can get it. You never know what's going to happen at the end of a race at this place. I want to thank Chip Stone, Randy Weaver, and all my sponsors for making this possible. This is a great way to start our season," said Overton.

"It's great to win here in my home-state. There was a really good crowd here tonight - the most I think I have ever seen here on a Friday Night. We look forward to coming back tomorrow night and getting our team another win. Thanks to Longhorn Chassis, Cornett Racing Engines, Mission Transport, CrossFit by Overton, Outlaw Racing Southeast, and A.F. Stone Professional Medical Services."



Brandon Overton emerged from the car in victory lane after winning his first career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series race. (LOLMDS photo)

McCreadie was beginning to gain on Overton when the final caution of the race flew with six laps to go. On the restart, Overton pulled away to get the win.

McCreadie was happy with his second-place run. "I have no tread left on the right rear tire. There wasn't any use in pushing it at the end. He [Overton] pulled away, but I am sure he probably didn't have any tires left as well. This is a good start for the points. We have been working hard and it paid off here tonight. Let's just hope we can keep doing this and be more consistent this year."

Owens also got his season off to a good start with his third-place finish. "We are really happy with the car, we switched Durham Racing Engines this year and it was good tonight. I know the track crew worked hard on the track. I hope that after tonight, this momentum continues for the rest of the season."

Completing the top ten were Josh Richards, Darrell Lanigan, Boom Briggs, Devin Moran, and Jason Fitzgerald.

In preliminary action, Billy Moyer Jr. set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time (Group A) amongst the 51 entrants, with a lap of 15.423 seconds. Donald McIntosh set the fastest time in Group B with a time of 15.560 seconds. Billy Moyer Jr., Brandon Overton, Jimmy Owens, Josh Richards, Darrell Lanigan and Tim McCreadie won their respective heat races. Rick Eckert and Frank Heckenast Jr. won their respective B-Mains.

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Outlaws Headed West

The Annual Kick-off Tour Features 15 Nights of Racing in a Two-Month Stretch

CONCORD, NC - The World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car Series will continue its annual tradition of heading westward for several nights of racing. The 2017 Kick-off Tour features 11 stops across four states - Arizona, California, Nevada and Texas.

Two of the three tracks making debuts on the national tour this season are in the west coast swing (Gator Motorplex and Cocopah Speedway). Gator (Tex.) Motorplex features a quarter-mile bullring; Cocopah (Ariz.) Speedway is a semi-banked, 3/8-mile oval. Arizona Speedway will be making its second appearance on the schedule.

"We always look forward to this stretch in our schedule," said Series Director Carlton Reimers. "The opportunity to extend our series

coast to coast makes it easier for fans nationwide to enjoy 'The Greatest Show on Dirt.'"

Of the 16 races in last-year's west coast swing, seven different drivers took the checkered flag - all of them series regulars. Defending Series Champion Donny Schatz won most frequently, earning four trips down Victory Lane. Kasey Kahne Racing's duo, Daryn Pittman and Brad Sweet, were runner-up to Schatz's mark by tripling on their successes. Joey Saldana and Shane Stewart both doubled-up, each winning two events.

The Outlaws will return to the East after making a stop at one of the series' most historic tracks. Devil's Bowl (Tex.) Speedway has hosted the series for 26 years since 1978. Of those 26 years, the high-banked half-mile has successfully held multi-day events in 22 of them. This season will be the Outlaws' fourth consecutive appearance, and the series' regulars have swept the show since 2014.

The Stockton Dirt Track will make its fifth consecutive appearance on the tour. Schatz has won three of the last four shows since 2015 and owns the track record, clocking-in at 12.566 seconds around the semi-banked, 3/8-mile oval two years ago. Three current Outlaws (Schatz, Saldana and Sweet) hold track records at one of the stops.

Following the Outlaws' tour through the Southwest region, the series is only scheduled to make abbreviated stops to nearby tracks in September.

For more information like how to purchase tickets for the 2017 Kick-off Tour, visit woosprint.com/kick-off-tour.

Badlands Motor Speedway Returns in 2017

CONCORD, NC - The World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car series will take flight July 1-2 for the Outlaw FanFest at Badlands (S.D.) Motor Speedway. Several of the nation's best winged sprints will leave their tracks at the speedway for the series' 30th year there, as

the speedway confirmed Tuesday that the Outlaws will own two of the six nights of racing on its schedule so far.

Badlands has been a staple track on the tour since 1983. Since then, the Outlaws have raced there 41 times.

A dozen of those events were multi-day shows, and the Outlaws are set to add one more weekend show to the tally in 2017. This will be the series' eighth consecutive year at the fast-action bullring.

Last season, series regulars Donny Schatz and Brad Sweet split the weekend, besting a 40-car field. After a wreck on opening night, Jason Johnson rebounded to take the quick time in the second qualifying flight in the finale.

Fans will witness a fleet of 900-horsepower power plants shaking the ground beneath a nearly-packed grandstand. While the cars light up faces of all ages in the stands, this year's event will also light up the night sky. The Outlaw FanFest will feature back-to-back nights of fireworks to celebrate the Fourth of July, a total fan experience for all who walk through the gates.

Winter Freeze VII Will Set Stage for 2017

CONCORD, NC - The World of Outlaw Craftsman® Late Model Series off-season will officially come to a close on February 17-18 as a new season unfolds in Sylvania, Ga. at Screven Motor Speedway for Winter Freeze VII.

For the past three months drivers and crews have been preparing for the moment when the green flag drops in Georgia. The off-season allows for change and a chance to regroup and recharge before hitting the road again on one of the most gruesome touring schedules out there. The first race of the season sets the stage for the ultimate unveiling of three months of hard work and a chance to get a head start on racking up major points towards the overall Series standings.

For the third year in a row the Series will lift the curtains on the season at the high-banked 3/8-mile red clay oval. The short track has hosted 10 World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series events with the tour's first visit being in 2008.

The Series trip to Screven started as a late-summer affair in 2008 and 2009 before moving to a springtime date in 2010. After experiencing a rainout in 2011, it sparked the idea to formulate an annual event to take place in February. After seeing the initial success of the event, it was split into two days of back-to-back Outlaw action in 2013. Taking a break from the event in 2014, the series re-joined the action at Winter Freeze in 2015 and the season opener has remained on the schedule ever since.

Of the Series 10 times at Screven, all 10 victories have been claimed by full-time Series drivers. This season there will be 17 Outlaws gunning to keep the podium from the grasps of the local drivers. For the past three Outlaw show-downs at Screven, Georgia native Shane Clanton has appeared in Victory Lane for at least one of the two nights during the event. He is the only driver to win multiple times at the event.

Winter Freeze VII will host a practice session on Thursday, Feb 16, tickets for practice will be \$20. Racing will kick off on Friday with \$8,000 on the line for the Outlaw

event and Saturday with a \$10,000-to-win event. All tickets are accompanied by pit pass access for only \$40. Tickets are available

at Screven Motor Speedway on the day of the event. Gates will open at 10am on Friday and 9am on Saturday.

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Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - Darlington Raceway will host its first Spring Fling presented by Genesis Health Care event on Saturday, April 1.

The Spring Fling will be a community event featuring a 5K run, Easter egg hunt and free community dinner courtesy of Genesis Health Care.

"We're proud to be able to host this Spring Fling event for the community at Dar-

lington Raceway," track President Kerry Tharp said. "To host a 5K, Easter egg hunt and free dinner on the same day makes it a unique event for all families and all ages. We encourage the entire community to come out that day and enjoy themselves with the most historic NASCAR track on the circuit as the backdrop."

The day begins at 8 a.m. with a 5K run on a certified course around the track property, starting and ending at the start-finish line of the racetrack (the vehicle tunnel will be closed from 7:45 a.m. - 9 a.m. for the race). The 5K registration is as follows: \$25 until March 15, \$32 from March 16-31, \$35 day of the event.

The Easter egg hunt will be held from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and open to all kids 12 and under who are members of Darlington Raceway's Raceway Rascals presented by Future Scholar kids club. Membership cards will need to be shown at the infield check-in point to participate in the hunt. Over 1,000 eggs will be hidden around the track's infield with special golden eggs offering race tickets and other great prizes.

If your 12 and under child is not a member of the Raceway Rascals presented by Future Scholar kids club, simply sign up the day of the event at the infield registration tent.

The day will conclude with a free community dinner in the Cale Yarborough Garage area courtesy of Genesis Health. The community dinner, which will take place following the egg hunt, is a great opportunity for families to enjoy a day at the track and partake in free food and beverages that will be provided.

The Spring Fling will also have a charitable component to it, as all guests are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to support The Lord Cares food bank of

Darlington and Harvest Hope food bank in Florence.

"Genesis Health Care is pleased to partner with Darlington Raceway to sponsor The Spring Fling on April 1, 2017 at the track," Tony Megna, CEO of Genesis Health Care said. "The day will be filled with fun events for the family and end with a picnic-style dinner which will be free to the community. The sponsors are asking for donations of non-perishable food items, if capable, to help replenish the food banks in the surrounding communities."

All guests will need to enter the event through the track's Gate 39A infield tunnel entrance (will be closed from 7:45 a.m. - 9 a.m. for 5K). The 5K will take place on the start-finish line/pit road. Easter egg hunt registration will take place by the tall scoring pylon in the middle of the infield.

To be a Spring Fling sponsor, contact Darlington Raceway Account Executive Michael Smith at 843-395-8892 or email mwsmith@darlingtonraceway.com.

Darlington Raceway's award-winning throwback campaign is now The Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR featuring the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500® on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017. The NASCAR XFINITY Series VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero 200 will race on Saturday, Sept. 2, 2017. Tickets are on sale now by calling 866-459-7223 or visiting DarlingtonRaceway.com.

You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Raceway at DarlingtonRaceway.com, on Facebook at Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway and on Twitter at Twitter.com/TooToughToTame. Fans are encouraged to post their Bojangles' Southern 500 stories and memories at #TraditionContinues, #BojanglesSo500 and #SportClips200.

Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - The Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama will add a tasty new addition to its 2017 lineup that will have motoring enthusiasts' mouths watering as they celebrate Atlanta Motor Speedway's gigantic annual two-day celebration of anything with an engine.

The first-ever Atlanta Barbeque Classic, a barbeque contest officially sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, will debut during this year's event on April 22-23, and is the newest signature event benefiting the Atlanta chapter of Speedway Children's Char-

ties.

Heralding competition among many of the most notable barbeque connoisseurs in the South, the two-day contest is open to any and all barbeque competitors ready to put their secret recipe to the test and will include challenges preparing brisket, chicken, ribs and pork. Contest entries will be judged by an official panel, with a total purse prize of \$10,000.

Additionally, People's Choice awards will be handed out on both Saturday and Sunday of the event. There are no limitations on the type of dish entered, and it can be prepared prior to the weekend event.

Spectators can visit and explore the barbeque competition area free with a \$12 admission to the Atlanta Motorama, while wrist bands will be available to purchase for \$5 and will provide five one-ounce samples of competing teams' barbeque as well as a ticket to vote in that day's People's Choice Award.

Competitor entry into the Atlanta Barbeque Classic is \$350 and includes a 20' x 20' space, 20-amp electrical power and up to five Atlanta Motorama entry passes. Larger spaces are available for a nominal fee. Entries will be accepted on a first-paid basis for up to 48 teams, and competitors can register now by accessing an official entry form at <http://atlanta.speedwaycharities.org/events/>.

For more information about the Atlanta Barbeque Classic, call 770-886-6290 or email BBQcup@hotmail.com.

The 4th Annual Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama returns to Atlanta Motor Speedway April 22-23, 2017, and registration is available now. Participant entry is open to anything with an engine, ranging from classic cars, muscle cars and custom cars, to imports, rat rods, hot rods, trucks, big rigs, motorcycles and even boats and RVs.

For more information or to register your vehicle today, visit www.atlantamotorama.com or contact the Atlanta Motor Speedway ticket office at (770) 946-4211 or (877) 9-AMS-TIX.

Auto Club Speedway

FONTANA, CA - Richard Petty is giving Southern California race fans a birthday present! To celebrate the NASCAR Hall of Fame driver and owner's upcoming 80th Birthday, race fans can purchase a

Richard Petty Ticket Package that includes a Q&A at the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Auto Club 400 race weekend - March 25-26, 2017. The first 80 ticket packages purchased will receive an exclusive autograph session with "The King."

"We are both celebrating major milestones and this is a definitely a one-of-a-kind experience for fans," said Dave Allen, President of Auto Club Speedway. "This is our first time offering a ticket package with 'The King'. We know it will be very popular."

Richard Petty's 80th Birthday Ticket Package is \$99.00 and must be purchased before March 10.

- Reserved ticket to the Auto Club 400 - Sunday
- GA ticket to the NXS 300 - Saturday
- Pre-Race Pit Pass
- Q&A on race weekend for ticket purchases. The first 80 purchased also receive an autograph session.

• \$10 donation to the Petty Family Foundation/Victory Junction

To purchase the Richard Petty 80th Birthday ticket package and tickets to NASCAR's Auto Club 400 Weekend at Auto Club Speedway, call 1-800-944-RACE (7223), shop online at www.autoclubspeedway.com, or stop by the Auto Club Speedway ticket office at 9300 Cherry Ave. in Fontana. Ticket office hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Located 50 miles east of Los Angeles in Fontana, Auto Club Speedway is California's premier motorsports facility, hosting over 320 days of track activity each year including the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Auto Club 400 weekend, March 24-26, 2017. The two-mile D-shaped oval is one of the fastest tracks on the circuit. The Speedway is also home to numerous movies, television and commercial productions, photo shoots, new car testing, club racing and a variety of racing schools. For more information on events at Auto Club Speedway call 1-800-944-RACE (7223) or visit www.autoclubspeedway.com.

A performance and marketing driven company, Richard Petty Motorsports, co-owned by NASCAR Hall of Famer Richard Petty and

(Continued Next Page)



Continued...

successful business entrepreneur Andrew Murstein, is one of the most recognized brands in all of motorsports. With a history of over 200 wins and business partnerships with national and global leaders, today the race operation fields one team in competition in the NASCAR premier series with driver Aric Almirola. Almirola will return to the iconic No.

43 Ford with partners Smithfield Foods, STP, United States Air Force, AlSCO and Fresh From Florida. The team is headquartered in Mooresville, N.C.

Petty's Garage brings The King's winning tradition to a variety of high-performance automobiles. From production-based vehicles to custom builds and restorations, Petty's Garage is a high performance speed shop characterized by its focus on spectacular automobiles. If you can dream it, Petty's Garage can build it!

The Petty Museum, founded in 1988, is a glimpse into the life and accomplishments of the great racing family. With over 200 career wins and 10 NASCAR Championships, the museum has an awesome display of racing history as well as many personal collectibles from the entire family. This is where you find out what's behind the sunglasses and where it all started!

The Petty Family Foundation has a strong belief in family values, integrity, and compassion for others. It is these ideals upon which the Foundation was built, providing the means necessary to empower those who help others. By focusing our mission on healthcare and enriching the lives of our country's servicemen, we will continue a legacy of success and a vision of humanity.

Victory Junction is a year-round camping environment for children, ages six to 16, with chronic medical conditions or serious illnesses. Co-founded by Kyle Petty, in honor of his son, Adam Petty, the camp is located in Randleman, N.C. Victory Junction offers programs for a range of disease groups and maintains strong relationships with more than 30 partner hospitals. Victory Junction's mission is to provide life-changing camping experiences that are exciting, fun and empowering, in a safe and medically-

sound environment, always free of charge. As a not-for-profit organization, the camp operates solely through the support of generous individuals, foundations, organizations and corporations to provide this experience at no charge to children and their families. Since the camp's inception, more than 23,000 children and families have received not only a circle of support but experiences thought to only be possible by healthy children. Victory Junction is a member of the SeriousFun Children's Network of Camps founded by Paul Newman, and is accredited by the rigorous guidelines of the American Camping Association. To learn more about visit www.victoryjunction.org.

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - There's so many ways to enjoy camping at the Monster Mile for our NASCAR tripleheader weekends from June 2-4 and Sept. 29-Oct. 1.

Arrive at your Carefree Camping spot and we've done most of the setup for you! Your tent and bed will be ready, allowing you to stay within walking distance of all the action on the track and the free, fun activities in the FanZone. You can also enjoy two Cold Pit Passes and save money compared to rates at area hotels.

Fall options include The Frontstretch – Lot 7, which brings you closer to the track, and includes two Cold Pit Passes and BBQ Bash tickets.

There are also a handful of spots remaining for our new, luxury Champion's Gate setting, which offers concierge services, golf cart transportation, the closest location to the track, and more!

For more information visit www.doverspeedway.com.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - On the heels of back-to-back tours and his chart-topping album "Kinda Don't Care," Justin Moore will electrify fans at the Monster Energy NASCAR All-Star Race on May 20 at Charlotte Motor Speedway, with a FREE All-Star Race Concert presented by Rayovac Batteries and Kwikset.

Moore has tallied six No. 1 hits, including "You Look Like I Need A Drink," "Small Town USA" and "If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away" as well as multiple certifications for his widely acclaimed albums. The Valory Music Co. recording artist will deliver a show-stopping performance for fans at the entrance outside of Turn 1.

No stranger to the Charlotte

area or its deeply rooted history in motorsports, Moore played Speed Street during Coca-Cola 600 week in uptown Charlotte in 2012. The music video for his 2011 hit single "Bait A Hook" featured an appearance by retired NASCAR driver and 2011 Monster Energy NASCAR All-Star Race winner Carl Edwards. Moore said he can't wait to perform in front of a captivated audience before NASCAR's all-star showcase revs into high gear.

"I was excited when I heard we get the chance to play the All-Star Race concert," Moore said. "Being from the South, I've always been a fan of racing, so this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. I look forward to rocking with the best race fans in the world. It's going to be awesome."

MORE INFO: The Justin Moore All-Star Race Concert presented by Rayovac Batteries and Kwikset will kick off pre-race festivities for the Monster Energy NASCAR All-Star Race on a stage located near the Turn 1 entrance. For just \$20, fans can upgrade to a special Golden Ticket for early access to a reserved area directly in front of the stage. Golden Tickets are limited and can be purchased by calling the speedway ticket office at 1-800-455-FANS (3267) or online at www.charlottemotorspeedway.com

TICKETS: To purchase tickets, camping and race-day upgrades, fans can call the speedway ticket office at 1-800-455-FANS (3267) or shop online at www.charlottemotorspeedway.com.

KEEP TRACK: Fans can connect with Charlotte Motor Speedway by following on Twitter and Instagram or become a Facebook fan. Keep up with all the latest news with the Charlotte Motor Speedway mobile app.

Justin Moore's long-awaited fourth studio album "Kinda Don't Care" earned the singer his third consecutive number-one album debut. It features his chart-topping single "You Look Like I Need A Drink" and current single "Somebody Else Will." The project is full of new music with 16 tracks on the deluxe version and immediately shot to No. 1 on the iTunes Country chart upon release. The Arkansas native spent three years putting the project together, which serves as a follow up to his second No. 1 album release, "Off the Beaten Path." Moore holds six No. 1's under his signature white cowboy hat including "Point At You" and "Lettin' The Night Roll" as well as seven top-10 hits. The Valory Music Co. recording artist has earned multiple ACM,

ACA and ACC Awards nominations and sold almost 8 million tracks to date. He will be headlining in 2017 when he hits the road with Lee Brice for their joint American Made Tour. For tour dates and more, visit JustinMooreMusic.com.

Kentucky Speedway

SPARTA, KY - Kentucky Speedway, AlSCO Linen and Uniform Rental Services, and Richard Petty Motorsports (RPM) have collaborated on a multi-layer celebration to begin at approximately 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, July 8.

The King will participate in the celebration at The King's 80th Birthday presented by AlSCO Linen and Uniform Rental Services fan hospitality tent located in the Kentucky Speedway Hospitality Village where he'll be part of a question-and-answer session hosted by his son, former NASCAR driver, Kyle Petty.

Other significant members of the NASCAR community including drivers, team owners, sponsors, and more are also scheduled to make appearances throughout the day to offer their personal birthday wishes, share a favorite story or talk about what The King has meant to the sport.

Kentucky Speedway, AlSCO, and RPM will be unveiling several tiers of activation in the coming weeks as part of the overall celebration.

Fans can join the party by calling (859) 578-2300 or by visiting www.kentuckyspeedway.com/KINGs80th and can join in the conversation at any time through social media using the hashtag #KINGs80th across all Petty, AlSCO and Kentucky Speedway entities.

The 2017 season at Kentucky Speedway begins in July with the return of a NASCAR tripleheader weekend anchored by the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series July 8 Quaker State 400 presented by Advance Auto Parts. The Camping World Truck Series starts the weekend with a 225-mile event Thursday, July 6 and the XFINITY Series AlSCO 300 is Friday, July 7.

The XFINITY Series Visit Myrtle Beach 300 returns to the 1.5-mile tri-oval on Saturday, Sept. 23 along with the ARCA Racing Series Crosley 150 on Friday, Sept. 22 to conclude season's racing.

Fans may purchase season tickets and camping, July weekend packages or individual race tickets now by calling (859) 578-2300 or visiting the Kentucky Speedway ticket office. Ticket office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Bristol Asks Sanctioning Bodies to Look at Limiting Number of Participants

SALEM, IN - Officials from Bristol Motor Speedway have asked the sanctioning bodies for the Short Track U. S. Nationals at Bristol Motor Speedway presented by Vore's Welding to look at the distinct possibility of limiting the number of participants for the events

on May 19-21. Early interest and entries have indicated to officials that many of the projections for numbers of participants may be exceeded. With large numbers and limited hours in the day, track officials want to make sure that their participants are fairly served. The posted schedule of events is very tight, and expanding the numbers of participants even further may not be possible.

As a result of this consideration by track officials, teams that have not already entered are encouraged to do so in the next week. Early entry lists will be posted in the near future, and a final determination of division participant limits may be based on the number of paid entries in each division. Links to entry forms or entry info can be found below.

Super Late Model Entry Form: <https://carstour.wufoo.com/forms/r1jq57kr0e9ybdh/>

Late Model Stock Entry Form: <https://carstour.wufoo.com/forms/s1ulryl91ww8oph/>

Pro Late Model/JEGS Tour Entry Form: <https://carstour.wufoo.com/forms/s1gthq3e1035xd0/>

Street Stock Entry Form: <https://carstour.wufoo.com/forms/s30h5ao0d2ld8g/>

Compact Entry Info: <http://www.voresracing.com/>

Modified Entry Info (Online entry to be available 2-13-17): <http://top-speedmods.com/>

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

NASCAR Bolsters Emergency Response

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - NASCAR announced today it is partnering with American Medical Response (AMR) to expand the capabilities of NASCAR's medical support model and enhance on-track incident response. AMR, a recognized leader in the emergency medical services, will add a doctor and paramedic to the on-track safety team for each Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series weekend.

NASCAR's industry-leading medical standards remain in place; Infield Care Centers will continue to be staffed with experienced local

emergency room physicians, maintaining the valuable connection with local medical facilities at every track.

Combining the experience of local emergency practitioners with the familiarity that the AMR team will develop with drivers will positively impact the process for years to come.

"This partnership further strengthens NASCAR's medical response capability, making our well-established, medical response system even better," said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR executive vice president and chief racing development officer.

"AMR is a leader in the emergency services sector, and its doctors and paramedics add another layer of expertise to the immediate response team."

AMR will position state licensed doctors and paramedics in a chase vehicle along with two NASCAR Track Services team members and immediately respond to an on-track incident. The paramedic and doctor will provide an assessment at the scene.

AMR, which currently delivers EMS support at a number of NASCAR events, will provide a physician to serve as the national medical director of the AMR Safety Team to oversee all services provided by AMR and work with the NASCAR Medical Liaisons and NASCAR Consulting Physicians.

Furthermore, AMR becomes the Official Emergency Medical Services Partner of NASCAR, and AMR will be the presenting partner of the

annual NASCAR (Track Services) Summit.

NASCAR Next Driver Spencer Davis Signs with Venturini Motorsports

CONCORD, NC - Driver Spencer Davis made it official today signing with Venturini Motorsports for seven events in the upcoming 2017 ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards season.

Eighteen year-old Davis, a member of the 2016-17 NASCAR Next Class, will make his ARCA Series debut at Talladega Superspeedway on May 5th driving VMS' No.15 Toyota entry. The Dawsonville, Georgia native will also appear in the No.25 Toyota Camry at Pocono Raceway, Michigan International Speedway, Iowa Speedway, Lucas Oil Raceway, Kentucky Speedway and in the series' finale at Kansas Speedway on October 20.

Davis, driving the No.25 for the first time in last month's ARCA open test at Daytona, was second fastest overall (189.092 mph) among the 63 drivers to post time during the two day event.

In addition to his abbreviated ARCA schedule Davis will compete in 20 Super Late Model events throughout the year. Davis will unveil sponsorship announcements in the coming weeks.

For more information on Spencer Davis visit Spencer Davis Racing on Facebook and follow him at Twitter @SpencerDavis_29.

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Myrtle Beach Speedway

MYRTLE BEACH, SC— Lee Pulliam passed Brian Vause in the closing laps to win the 2nd Annual IceBreaker at Myrtle Beach Speedway on Saturday afternoon.

Pulliam, who had been fast all weekend, kicked off the afternoon by sitting on the pole for the 125-lap race. Once the green flag dropped, Chad McCumbee, who

started second, took the lead away from Pulliam. Early on, Pulliam began to save his tires, and as a result, he fell outside of the top-five.

"You can't run this whole race hard," Pulliam said. "You've got to save tires, and those guys went really hard there at the beginning. I just tried to be smart and make my run at the end. I lost the Myrtle Beach 400 with 15 to go. I run my car too hard, and those guys flew by me right at the end, and that one really hurt to lose, so I really had to think about it and think about planning my move and just timed it right."

Local favorite Brian Vause finished second at his home track. J.D. Smith was third, followed by Justin Johnson and Tommy Lemons Jr.

With the win, Pulliam, a three-time NASCAR Whelen All-American Series national champion, locked in a position in the fall Myrtle Beach 400.

But he had to work for it.

As the laps began to tick away, fans began to get a good indication on who was going to battle for the victory. For a while, it was Johnson and Brian Vause, a Georgetown, South Carolina native, battling hard and exchanging the lead. Each lap, one driver would just barely eke across the line ahead of the other.

"I thought that we had saved enough," Vause said. "I saw that Justin was getting pretty free, so I figured if I could get to his outside and kind of hold him down. I knew it was inevitable that Lee was going to come, so if I could just get side-by-side with Justin to create a blockade maybe for everybody behind us and still saving some while I was beside him."

With just 30 laps to go, the battle for the lead intensified, when Lemons, Pulliam and Chad McCumbee joined Vause and Johnson. On lap 106, Pulliam dove to



Lee Pulliam is all smiles in Victory Lane with his daughter following his Late Model win in the IceBreaker at South Carolina's Myrtle Beach Speedway. (Hunter Thomas/TheFourthTurn.com photo)

the bottom of Johnson and Vause in Turn 1 to challenge for the lead. The drivers continued three-wide down the backstretch and into Turn 3. Vause was in front when the three drivers exited Turn 4, but Pulliam took over the front spot on lap 109 and never looked back to claim his first IceBreaker victory.

"We had a great car all weekend, just tried to ride there at the beginning of the race," Pulliam said. "We weren't perfect in the race by no means. The car was just not quite where it needed to be, but we just saved tires. Those guys checked out by seven or eight seconds there. I made my run there at the end, I was able to catch them, and I had to race hard. I knew Tommy and Justin were trying to team up and win that deal out of the shop and Brian, he was doing all that he could do to win the race, and I had to get a little aggressive and make it three-wide. Actually, we got four-wide I guess the first time."

"It was just a great show for the fans. All of us beat-and-banged and was able to hold onto it and take it home."

Jeremy McDowell finished sixth, followed by BJ Mackey, Luke Sorrow, Chad McCumbee and Brandon Grosso.

The first caution of the afternoon came out on lap 29, when Jerry Miracle and Thad Moffitt got together in the exit of Turn 2. Miracle was able to continue, but Moffitt went hard into the outside wall. On the restart, it was Johnson and Lemons leading the field down to the green flag. McCumbee quickly moved into the second position, and he began to challenge Johnson for the race lead.

On lap 36, the second caution came out, when Colby Howard and

Mackey tangled in Turn 2. Colby sustained minor right front damage, but Mackey backed into the outside wall. With nowhere to go, Robert Powell also got caught up in the accident. All three cars were able to continue following the accident. Johnson and Lemons Jr. were once again on the front row, when the field took the green flag to restart the race. The two drivers raced each other hard for the next 32 laps.

The third and final caution of the race came out on lap 68. Ty Gibbs and Justin Hicks made contact while entering Turn 1. Gibbs continued, and Hicks slammed the outside wall, ending his day. The restart set the field up for a 57-lap stretch to the finish.

Stafford Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Stafford Motor Speedway is proud to welcome Maybury Material Handling back to its family of contingency partners for the 2017 season. For the second consecutive year Maybury will once again present a contingency bonus of \$150 to each SK Modified® feature winner as well as a \$125 bonus for each SK Light feature winner. Maybury's contingency bonus will bring the weekly SK Modified® winner's check up to \$1,700 and the SK Light winner's to \$550.

"We're happy to once again be part of the race program at Stafford," said John Maybury, President of Maybury Material Handling. "Last year was a great year for us and we're looking forward to seeing some more of the most exciting short track racing around."

Maybury Material Handling will also return as the primary sponsor of Cam McDermott's #5 SK Modified car with a brand new look for

the 2017 season. In addition, Maybury is also working on plans to bring children to the races during throughout 2017 season.

"We're going to be sponsoring Cam McDermott once again, he has an all new paint scheme for the 2017," said Maybury. "Our company colors are still blue and white but Cam has come up with a great looking yellow scheme that should really pop and stand out among the SK Modified® cars under the lights, we can't wait to see just how good the car is going to look. We're also working on a program where we can bring kids who are either in the hospital or in a distressed situation to the track to watch the races, we're excited about this great program."

Since 1976, Maybury Material Handling has been designing, supplying, and servicing a wide variety of material handling equipment throughout New England. Maybury provides customers from a wide range of industries with solutions to move, lift, and store their parts and products. Maybury has become one of the largest and most successful material handling companies in the Northeast with nearly 100 employees operating as a distributor for approximately 1,300 manufacturers. Maybury supplies virtually all types of material handling equipment, including many ergonomic & productivity enhancing products. Customers range from large manufacturers to small, family-owned businesses. A diverse product line, knowledgeable personnel, and an emphasis on safety combine to make Maybury a recognizable leader in the material handling industry.

"We continue to grow our customer base and as that continues to grow, we're also looking for new talent to join our team here at Maybury," said Maybury. "We're in search of service technicians to help cover our ever expanding customer base in both Connecticut and Western Massachusetts."

The first Maybury contingency bonuses of the 2017 season will be up for grabs during Stafford Speedway's 46th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler Weekend on April 28-30. Tickets for the "Greatest Race in the History of Spring" are on sale now at the Speedway Box Office. Tickets are priced at \$40.00 for adult general admission tickets, \$5.00 for children ages 6-14, and children ages 5 and under are admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult. Reserved seating is priced at \$42.00 for all ages. As always, Stafford Motor Speedway offers free park-

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ing with overnight parking available. All tickets are good for both Saturday and Sunday admission. All ticket prices include 10% CT Admission Tax.

For more information on the 46th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler, or to order tickets, contact the Stafford Motor Speedway track office at 860-684-2783 or visit us on the web at www.staffordspeedway.com.

Carteret County Speedway

SWANSBORO, NC - NASCAR racing is coming to the Crystal Coast.

Carteret County Speedway, the 4/10-mile oval located just a few miles from Emerald Isle, will be NASCAR sanctioned in 2017, hosting NASCAR Whelen All-American Series (NWAAS) racing action throughout the season. The opening race, which will now be held on April 16th, will be the first NWAAS race at Carteret County Speedway.

"We're very excited to be NASCAR sanctioned this season," Carteret County Speedway owner Bobby Watson said. "This is going to be great for our fans, our racers and our sponsors. NASCAR brings a lot more than just the name to the table for our drivers and fans. They've been an institution in stock car racing for many decades and we're thrilled to be a part of it."

With the NASCAR sanctioning, drivers competing at Carteret County Speedway will now be able to race for points in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series state and national standings. Carteret County Speedway will not just be able to race for points at Carteret but will also be able to race at East Carolina Motor Speedway and Southern National Motorsports Park, which are both NASCAR sanctioned, for points as well.

"I definitely think, whenever you win at a NACAR track, it's more credible than when you win at an unsanctioned track," Chris Burns, who scored three Late Model wins at Carteret County Speedway in 2016, said. "It will give more people the opportunity to race for points and bring in some stronger competition. The layout of the points championship is nice. It would be nice to be known as a

NASCAR champion and I'm looking forward to getting my first NASCAR win."

The NASCAR title extends beyond the Late Models and to the other divisions that will compete as well at Carteret County Speedway. Racers competing in support divisions, such as Street Stocks and Mini Stocks, will also be racing for points in their respective divisions as well.

"It creates an opportunity for an entry level driver to run for a national championship, especially with having three NASCAR sanctioned tracks in the area," U-CAR driver Travis Miller, who has five career wins at Carteret County Speedway, said. "That will allow us to maximize our NASCAR points and it would be pretty cool to have a local driver from Eastern North Carolina go to the NASCAR national awards banquet in Charlotte. It will be pretty awesome."

/carteretco swy) or follow @carteretcoswy on Twitter (www.twitter.com/carteretco swy).

Grandview Speedway

BECHTELSTVILLE, PA - For the 17th straight season Lehigh Valley, PA's RCN/TV will offer television coverage of six dates of NASCAR sanctioned Saturday night stock car racing at Grandview Speedway.

The coverage, shown on a delayed basis, will be broken up into two programs each week. Qualifying heat racing action will be included in one show and the feature races for the T.P.Trailers NASCAR Whelen 358 Modifieds, Sportsman and Late Models along with any special events will be shown in a second show. Each show will offer approximately two hours of coverage and will be shown on two separate nights during the week following the actual live race event. And there will be a second showing

to benefit from sponsorship in motorsports at Grandview. Details can be had by contacting Ernie Saxton at 215.752.7797 or on his cell-phone at 267.934.7286.

The shows include Victory Lane interviews, current point standings, news from the pit area, highlights video from ace lens man Gary Silverman, and instant replay of key happenings.

Well respected Area Auto Racing News, Reading Eagle and Allentown Call writer Randy Kane will once again team up with veteran broadcaster Mike Feltenberger to provide expert commentary of the events.

Grandview Speedway will kick off their 55th consecutive season of stock car racing on Saturday, March 25th, 12 noon, with a free-to-the-public practice session featuring all types of competition.

The new season, the battle for the lucrative point funds, will offi-



Late Models will be the Division I for Carteret County in 2017 as the .4-mile track joins the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series. (Andy Marquis photo)

NASCAR, which was formed in 1948 by Bill France, Sr., has six other NASCAR sanctioned home tracks tracks in North Carolina – including the nearby tracks at East Carolina Motor Speedway in Robersonville and Southern National Motorsports Park in Lucama.

Carteret County Speedway started out as a kart track in 1982 and ran until 2000 before owner Bobby Watson rebuilt the facility into an asphalt oval.

Carteret County Speedway opened as an asphalt track on September 6, 2015. Since then, Carteret County Speedway has become the action attraction for the Crystal Coast.

For more information about Carteret County Speedway, visit the track's official website at www.carteretspeedway.com, "like" Carteret County Speedway on Facebook (www.facebook.com

of the two night coverage on later dates.

Included in the schedule of events to have coverage are April 8, May 13, June 17, July 22, August 5, which will be the Forrest Rogers Memorial 50-lap Classic, and August 12.

"The television coverage by RCN/TV is a great tool for our racers to use in attracting sponsorship. We are told the programming from Grandview gets very high viewer ratings," said track spokesperson Tina Rogers.

"This also gives viewers that are not fans of the sport a chance to see what dirt track stock car racing is all about and perhaps serve as an incentive for them to come out and see the events live. It is pretty much a win-win situation for all involved."

A few of the televised events are still available to businesses looking

cially get underway with the first NASCAR point events of the season for the T.P.Trailers 358 Modifieds, BRC Late Models and Sportsman racers on Saturday, April 1st, 7 p.m.

Season tickets remain available for \$350 per pass and include a reserved seat at all Saturday night events April through September. When ordering please send a check to all passes being ordered to Grandview Speedway, 87 Wilt Road, Bechtelsville, PA 19505. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope to speed up delivery of the passes ordered.

Grandview Speedway, a one-third-mile, banked clay racing facility, is located on Passmore Road, just off Route 100, 10 miles above Pottstown, PA. Information is available at www.grandviewspeedway.com or telephone 610.754.7688.