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# FastTrack

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# Truex Continues Winning Season



# Stenhouse Still in Chase

Ricky Stenhouse Jr. finished 13th Sunday at the Charlotte Motor Speedway to push his streak of non-top 10 finishes to 13 consecutive races. But with the Talladega Superspeedway up next on the schedule, he knows his championship hopes are very much alive.



**DON COBLE**

Both of Stenhouse's wins this year came in May at Talladega and its sister track, the Daytona International Speedway, in July.

Both of those raceways require the use of a speed-choking restrictor plate that reduces speeds by nearly 30 mph for safety reasons.

He has no wins and just a pair of top-fives in the other 26 races this year.

Stenhouse is the newest driver to figure out the nuances of plate racing. Dale Earnhardt and Dale Earnhardt Jr. had their runs. So did Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart and Brad Keselowski.

The key is shaping a car that cuts through the wind and gets past NASCAR's rigorous inspection process. After that, the only way to get up front – and stay there – is making passes in the tunnels of calmer air that trails other lead cars.

For Stenhouse, restrictor plate races were the only way he got into the playoffs. And he knows it will be the only way he stays in it. Just getting to the second round was the real challenge that few expected.

"Yeah, I love proving people wrong," he said. "I enjoy doing that."

Now that he got the No. 17 Ford past the first cutoff, his team can change its strategy by targeting the 188-lap main event.

"It's good to be in the second round," after Stenhouse survived the first playoff cut. "That was our goal when we started the playoffs, and we accomplished it and now obviously we focus on our efforts to continue to the third round of eight."

Roush Fenway Racing has concentrated on the Alabama 500 for months. They assigned former championship crew chief Jimmy Fennig to focus solely on the Talladega car, perhaps sensing it was their only hope to stay alive in the

championship picture.

"I'm definitely looking forward to going back to Talladega. I think, for us, we're focused right now on Charlotte. Jimmy Fennig has been working for some time now on our Talladega car and been massaging it and getting it ready to go," Stenhouse said. "He kind of takes over the whole speedway program until the week of and then our team gets it and works on it some more. We want to go in and win Talladega. That would be nice and solidify and make sure that we get to that next round with a win. But, if not, I think it's a race track

that we could still gain a lot of points."

Since nobody has an abundance of power to break away in a restrictor-plate race, traffic on the 2.66-mile tri-oval often is 10-deep and three-wide where the smallest mistake generally morphs into a multi-car pileup.

While just about every other driver in Sunday's race has finished on the end of a wrecker's hook, Stenhouse has been able to escape all the calamity. In fact, the 30-year-old driver has finished on the lead lap in all eight of his career starts there.

By simply finishing at Talladega, Stenhouse knows he probably will separate himself from others who wind up in crashes.

"Man, I don't know. I'd love to do it by winning Talladega, but I think, realistically, you've got to plan on points," he said. "That's our mindset for now," he said. "That's going to take a lot of effort. We're not there right now."

Neither is his Roush Fenway Racing organization. After winning championships with Matt Kenseth in 2003 and Kurt Busch in 2004. But with a combined four victories, the team has struggled in the last three seasons. Once considered the stalwart of the Ford Performance effort, the team has been in a perpetual rebuilding stage for years.

Stenhouse finally is in position to revive some of the team's faded glory.

"No, I don't feel pressure," Stenhouse said. "I feel a lot of support. I think a lot of our employees are working really hard and they came in early, leaving late, making sure that everything is getting done that



**Ricky Stenhouse celebrates winning at Talladega Superspeedway this past May. He is hoping that the same luck holds out as he heads to Talladega this week. (DAVID GRIFFIN photo)**

we're asking of them."

While the season-long body of work certainly isn't at a premier level, the quirky nature of the play-offs – just be better than four other

drivers in each of three rounds of eliminations – and the prospects of racing at Talladega are the loopholes that gives Stenhouse a chance.

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## Jordan Has Unique View of the Playoffs

I remember the day very well. A group of media friends were sitting in the Media Center at Bristol Motor Speedway last August waiting for the annual NASCAR



**DENNIS PUNCH**

night races to begin. The discussion topics ranged from the Chase, the expected crowd, upcoming rule changes, the always-exciting silly season rumors, and what might be on the menu for dinner. Then, Jerry Jordan brought an idea into the group.

Jordan had the idea of traveling in a camper to each of the upcoming NASCAR Chase to the Championship races. His initial plan was to camp at each track in the campground, meet and greet race fans, and enjoy our beautiful country as he drove from race to race.

Jerry Jordan has been involved covering NASCAR since 2001. His primary vocation was an investigative reporter specializing in educational and business coverage. His work earned him state and national honors. The Lumberton, Texas resident also traveled the world as an accomplished pool player as was an active member of the Camel Pro Tour, the National 9-Ball Tour, and the Billiard Congress of America (BCA). Motorsports was the farthest thing from his mind until the local Beaumont, Texas newspaper asked him to cover several races at Texas Motor Speedway.

Covering those NASCAR events at TMS led Jordan to establish a motorsports blog and radio show that lasted for over four years. Jordan also created Kickin' the Tires, an award-winning web site that covers all forms of motorsports. He received his first NASCAR media hard card in 2007, and has been covering the sport full time since then. In 2012, the newspaper he worked for discontinued their racing coverage, but Jordan was "hooked" and a new career began.

I must admit that most of the group at Bristol who listened to Jordan's initial idea thought that he had not taken all of his medication. However, the more he explained

his plans, the better the idea sounded. We finally agreed that it was a plan that Jordan should put into action. So, Jordan went to work on all the specifics.

"I had a '04 F150 truck that I knew could pull a camper," Jordan said. "So, I bought a 20' Forest River camper called 'The Bunk House' and hitched it to my truck. The camper had everything I needed, plus room for any of my media friends who wanted to join me along the way."

"I pitched the idea to several sponsors in the motorsports industry, but only Shell stepped up with support," Jordan continued. While many companies were very supportive, the actual financial assistance didn't materialize."

The lack of funds didn't deter Jordan and his plan. He began arranging camping space at each track and planning all the logistics traveling from race to race. Thus, "Chasin' the Chase 2016" began.

The 15,872-mile journey gave Jordan a multitude of stories and several lasting memories. It should be noted that Jordan drove each and every mile of Chasin' the Chase 2016 himself. While he had a couple of media friends travel with him to several events, Jordan was the driver. When asked about several of his experiences, Jordan was quick to answer.

"The first experience that comes to me is running out of gas in West Texas," Jordan said. "With sponsorship from Shell, I had been given Shell gas cards to use on my trip, plus a supply to give to race fans along the way. I knew where all the Shell stations were located and planned my stops accordingly. When I was traveling through West Texas, I felt like I was going to run out of gas before I could reach the next available Shell station. I passed several other gas stations along my route, but I refused to stop at anything other than Shell. Well, sure enough my thought came true and I ran out of gas about five miles from my next scheduled stop. I had a five gallon can of fuel that I carried with me, so I just used it and drove to that next Shell station. Yes, I know I was

lucky to be that close, but, like many racers have done, I tried to stretch my gas until the next scheduled stop. When you get about nine mile a gallon pulling that camper, planning your stops is very important."

"Another experience came on my way from Phoenix to Homestead (FL) for the final race," Jordan stated. "I left Phoenix on Sunday night and drove to Las Crusus, New Mexico. The next day, I picked up a hitchhiker and took him to El Paso, Texas. The hitchhiker was a retired military fellow who didn't believe in automobiles. I know it sounds crazy, but this guy traveled around the Southwest



**Jerry Jordan**

hitchhiking. I got his name and quickly used my investigating skills researching him. Once I was comfortable with him, we had an enjoyable trip to his destination of El Paso. I continued on my 2,500+ mile journey to Homestead and pulled into the track on Wednesday evening of race week. It was a long, tough two plus days, but I made it to the final Chase race."

"There is one moment along my trip that I will never forget," Jordan added. "When I went to Kansas last year for the Chase race, I stopped at a Shell station on the outskirts of town. I saw a lady at the gas station who was counting her money at the gas pump.

"I asked her if I could help her. She said she needed gas and was counting her money to see how much she could get and still have money left to go buy groceries for her kids. There was just something about this lady that I knew I wanted to help her. I asked her if I could give her a \$10 Shell gas card. I explained to her my story of going to the NASCAR races and Shell was supporting my trip. Well, this lady broke down on the spot. I had no idea how much a \$10 gas card meant to this lady. Once she regained her composure, she thanked me for my kindness. Yes, I did give her more than one gas card before I left that station. It was probably the most emotional stop on my journey last year."

Of course, a trip of this magnitude would have its challenges as well. Jerry's wife, Rita, was scheduled to have surgery during his trip. Jordan never missed a doctor appointment or the surgery as he flew several times back to Texas. He would store his camper at a track

or the airport and return to continue his Chasin' the Chase.

So, how successful was Chasin' the Chase 2016 and would Jordan do it again?

"Last year, we had over one million impressions for Shell during my trip," Jordan answered. "So, with more time to plan, 2017 was definitely in the works."

"Shell came back on board and Roush-Yates Engines joined us as well. Our tour this year is called 'Playoff Pursuit Powered by Roush-Yates Engines and Fueled by Shell'. Most refer to it as the 'Playoff Pursuit'.

"This year, thanks to more support, I've been able to do more for the race fans," Jordan commented. "It's very expensive to commit to a journey like this, but I wanted to make it the very best that I could. Basic things like fresh water, sewer services, propane, camping spaces, groceries, and tolls can mount up over ten races. Tolls can be very high too. I'm using the same camper and I have toll tags for New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Florida, and Texas on it. Plus, I've bought wristbands and t-shirts to give to fans too."

"I've had driver support too," Jordan noted. "Garrett Smithley, Jordan Anderson, and JJ Yeley have taken the time to stop by the campsite and visit with fans at several tracks. Plus, they use their social media to help promote my location at tracks. In fact, we just had over a hundred folks at Dover come to a Smithley autograph session. Then, after the Dover race, Smithley traveled with me back to Charlotte. He actually drove for a couple hours to be the first person, other than myself, to drive in my one plus years of Chasin' the Chase and Playoff Pursuit."

With Charlotte now in the record books, it's off to Alabama for Jordan and the Talladega Superspeedway. Four playoff races down, six to go. Jordan had a message to relay to fans along his remaining playoff races.

"If you see me, stop and say 'hi,'" Jordan added. "You might even get a free Shell gas card and be on one of my social media platforms. Plus, there's a 100% chance that you'll leave with some type of 'swag'. I want to make the race fans happy and thank them for supporting the sport that I love."

Jerry, I can't wait till I can sit down with you and hear of your memorable moments from the "Playoff Pursuit 2017". Safe travels my friend.

# Perfect Execution Propels Martin Truex Jr. to Charlotte Victory

By REID SPENCER  
CONCORD, NC -  
The only thing typical  
about Martin Truex  
Jr.'s performance at  
Charlotte Motor  
Speedway was the  
win.

The No. 78 Furniture Row Racing team screwed up in qualifying on Friday—a rare occurrence in a remarkable season for the series leader.

Truex failed to score points in the first stage of Sunday's Bank of America 500, the first race in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Playoff's Round of 12. That marked the first time since Daytona in July that Truex had finished outside the top 10 in Stage 1 of a race. But with the event winding down, the series leader was back in his usual spot, at the front of the field. Truex survived two late restarts, the last in overtime, to win for a series-best six times this season, the second time at Charlotte and the 13th time in his career.

"We qualified horribly, and I was mad about it," said Truex, who started 17th instead of his customary position on or near the front row. (Crew chief) Cole (Pearn) was mad about it and in 20 minutes we're like 'All right, I think this is where we went wrong.' And he's like 'Yeah, that's where we went wrong. We screwed up, we'll get

them Sunday."

That's exactly what Truex did, with substantial help from his pit crew, which picked up positions on every stop and finally got Truex the lead on Lap 234 during an exchange of green-flag pit stops where he leap-frogged past Kevin Harvick into the top spot.

"Unbelievable win," Truex said. "Just a total team effort. Every single guy — every guy on this team just did a perfect job today, and I can't be more proud of them—and this time of the year is just when you want it to happen.

"You dream about days like today. I don't know if we had the best car, but we damn sure got it in Victory Lane."

At the end of the two-lap shootout that sent the race three laps past its scheduled distance of 334 laps, Truex took the checkered flag 0.911 seconds ahead of runner-up Chase Elliott, who finished second for the second consecutive week and third time in the last four.

"We needed to be a little better I think in the middle stage and not lose so much track position," said Elliott, who was ninth in both the first and second stages. "That was where Martin came on and got his track position, and we lost ours, and it was just hard to get all of it back there toward the end.

"It was a hard-fought day and really, from where we were in those middle stages, I was proud of the



Amidst the falling confetti, Martin Truex Jr. makes it another win in the 2017 season and qualifies him into the next stage of the Chase. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

way we fought back and were able to get back to the front. It's frustrating to run like this. We're definitely tired of running second. But, if we keep running like we are, hopefully the opportunities will be there."

Still looking for his first Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series victory, Elliott has finished second four times this season and six times in his fledgling career.

Harvick ran third after leading a race-high 149 laps and hounding Truex from a restart on Lap 284 until NASCAR called a caution for debris on Lap 325. Harvick lost four spots on pit road under yellow on Lap 327 and never recovered.

Truex surged ahead from the restart on Lap 329, but Kurt Busch's spin off Turn 2 on Lap 332 caused the 10th caution and forced the overtime. Again Truex pulled away, and Elliott passed polesitter Denny Hamlin for the second spot. Ultimately, Hamlin came home fourth behind Harvick, with Jamie

McMurray trailing in fifth.

Truex leaves Charlotte with a guaranteed spot in the Playoff's Round of 8 and a 34-point lead in the standings over second-place Kyle Larson, who ran 10th on Sunday in one of the race's fastest cars after two pit road glitches and contact from Kurt Busch's car during the Lap 325 spin.

Kyle Busch squandered his advantage in playoff points when he smacked the outside wall in Turn 4 and brought out the fifth caution on Lap 136. With a resulting 29th-place finish, Busch fell from second to sixth in the standings, only 12 points clear of ninth-place Matt Kenseth, with treacherous and unpredictable Talladega on the schedule for next Sunday.

Only 25 points separate Elliott in fourth place from Ricky Stenhouse Jr. in 12th, with Talladega all but certain to scramble the standings before the Round of 12 elimination race at Kansas Speedway.



Martin Truex Jr. (78) put his Toyota out front for the restart and kept it there for the win of the Bank of America 500 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

# Alex Bowman Stuns at Charlotte, as Ryan Reed Stays Alive in XFINITY Playoff

By REID SPENCER  
CONCORD, NC - Behind the wheel of a car on something other than a virtual race track for the first time in nearly a year, Alex Bowman warmed up for the No. 88 Hendrick Motorsports ride he'll inherit next season with a stunning victory in Saturday night's rain-delayed Drive for the Cure 300 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Behind Bowman, who won for the first time in the NASCAR XFINITY Series, Ryan Reed soldiered home in 12th place, one position behind Brendan Gaughan. But Reed moved on to the XFINITY Playoff's Round of 8 by one point over Gaughan, who was eliminated along with Jeremy Clements (20th on Saturday), Blake Koch (25th) and Michael Annett (27th).

Reed joins Justin Allgaier, Elliott Sadler, Brennan Poole, Cole Custer, Daniel Hemric, William Byron and Matt Tifft in the Round of 8, with the series set to resume competition Oct. 21 at Kansas Speedway.

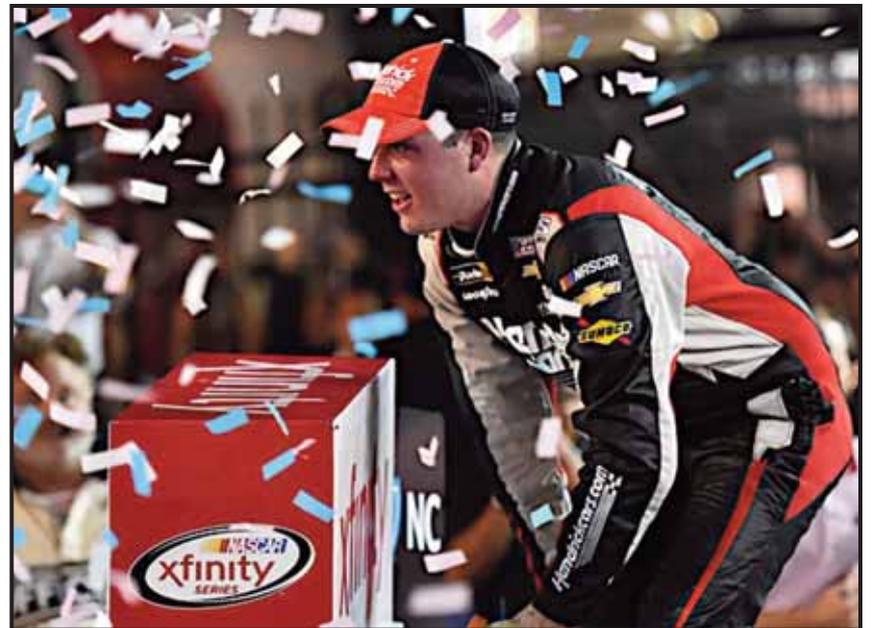
Bowman, who hadn't raced since his Monster Energy NASCAR

Cup / XFINITY Series double-header last November at Homestead-Miami Speedway, finished 1.390 seconds ahead of part-timer Sam Hornish Jr., who passed Team Penske teammate Ryan Blaney in the closing laps for the second position. The start was Hornish's fifth of the season.

The car Bowman drove to victory in a race that started five hours late because of persistent rain was the No. 42 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet, under an agreement with Hendrick Motorsports. Since his last races at Homestead, Bowman has spent the bulk of his time driving simulators for HMS.

"I can't thank Mr. (Rick) Hendrick and Chip Ganassi enough for letting me drive this car," said Bowman, who will succeed Dale Earnhardt Jr. in the No. 88 Chevy in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series next year. "To get my first win here at my second home in Charlotte means so much.

"Thank you so much to all the fans for sticking out this rain delay. It's been a long time since I've raced. My pit stops were terrible. I didn't do a good job on pit road, but I felt like my restarts were really good. It feels amazing to finally get



Alex Bowman hopes that finding his way to victory lane will become a habit next year in the #88 Hendrick Motorsports Monster Cup entry. But he is beyond happy for this win at Charlotte Motor Speedway in the NASCAR XFINITY Series. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

us one."

With Bowman pulling out to a sizable lead after the final restart on Lap 167, the real suspense involved Gaughan and Reed, who were locked in an intense battle for the final playoff position.

Gaughan passed Reed for 12th on Lap 181 of 200, but needed one more position to stay alive in the Playoff.

Gaughan passed Byron for 11th, but Reed followed. As Gaughan chased Sadler for 10th, Reed had to ward off a challenge from Brandon Jones, Gaughan's teammate at Richard Childress Racing. Gaughan ran out of time in his pur-

suit of Sadler, who was on older tires, and the last playoff spot belonged to Reed.

"We were getting the 1 (Sadler), but we need Brandon to get in front of (Reed), but a good run," Gaughan said. "We had a decent season, but I wouldn't say great. We're going to go on and try to see if we can win a couple of races..."

"Nothing ever comes easy around me and (crew chief) Shane Wilson, but we wouldn't want it any other way."

Though he qualified for the Round of 8, Tifft had his share of nervous moments. On Lap 99, he came to pit road complaining of a vibration, incurred a penalty for a runaway tire and lost a lap. But Tifft regained the lead circuit under caution for Erik Jones' spin on Lap 121 and salvaged a ninth-place result.

"We've been fighting back from a lot of difficult situations," Tifft said. "We were able to put our MotoRad Camry back in the top 10 today, and we had so much stuff going on today.

"Really excited about our chances in the second round, and we're riding the right wave right now, and I feel like we're getting things clicking between the team and I right now. So it's a good time for us right now, and it was a good fight today for sure."

Note: Justin Allgaier, who entered the race as the series leader, hit a battery that fell from Angela Ruch's car when Ruch spun in Turn 2 for the second time. Allgaier's engine overheated and finally expired, relegating the JR Motorsports driver to a 33rd-place finish.



Ryan Reed, driver of the #16 Lilly Diabetes Ford, leads a pack of cars during the NASCAR XFINITY Series Drive for the Cure 300 presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina at Charlotte Motor Speedway. (BRIAN LAUDERMILK/GETTY IMAGES photo)

## Coby Makes Daring Pass To Get Past Bohn

CONCORD, NC - Sometimes when you don't have the best car a driver must rely on instincts and experience to get the win.

Defending NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby used both and it paid big dividends for the veteran at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

The 38-year-old used lapped traffic in Turn 4 with 11 laps remaining in the 150-lap feature to get by Danny Bohn and win the Southern Slam 150.

The Milford, Connecticut, native started from the front after winning the Coors Light Pole earlier in the day and jumped out to an early lead. The four-time Tour champion held back a charging Ryan Preece, the defending race winner, and Corey LaJoie on many occasions within the first half of the race.

Bohn was able to pass Coby on a restart on Lap 81 on the outside and stayed out front until Coby made his bold move to get back in front and hold on for his 24th career win.

Bohn ended up second while rookie Calvin Carroll finished third. Jamie Tomaino rebounded after being involved in the first caution of the race on the green flag lap to finish fourth and Bobby Measmer Jr. completed the top five.

NASCAR K&N Pro Series West rookie Derek Kraus finished sixth with CJ Lehmann, Lauren Edgerton, LaJoie and Preece rounding out the top 10.

The race was slowed three times by caution for 13 laps. Preece and LaJoie both fell out of the race due to mechanical issues ending their pursuit for a win.

The victory was the second of the season for Coby, who will head back to Connecticut for the Sunoco World Series 150 at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park with a shot at the tour championship.

### NASCAR Drive For Diversity Combine Set For New Smyrna & Bethune-Cookman

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - A dozen drivers from across the United States and Mexico will converge on northeast Florida to vie for an opportunity to follow in the

tracks of Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series drivers Daniel Suarez and Kyle Larson.

The 2017 NASCAR Drive for Diversity Combine presented by Honda Generators will be held at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona and New Smyrna Speedway on Oct. 16-18, and will serve as a key element in the selection process for setting the driver lineup for Rev Racing in 2018. Both the combine and the team will feature an enhanced focus on seat time to increase competition at the combine and on the track next season.

The drivers invited at the combine includes several record-setting rising stars and a trio of NASCAR Next drivers. They'll be competing for four seats with Rev Racing.

"We've taken an in-depth look at how the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Combine and we've worked hard to continue to take the program to the next level," said Jim Cassidy, NASCAR senior vice president of racing operations. "We've had a number of successes - from the graduation of Suarez, Larson and Darrell Wallace Jr. to the national series, to winning races and championships on the touring and weekly series level. As we continue to evolve the program, the format of the combine and the 2018 schedule will provide a greater emphasis on driver development on and off the race track."

Among the drivers invited are Brittany Zamora and Ryan Vargas. Zamora, 18, became the first female to win the championship in the Northwest Super Late Model Series this season, while Vargas, 16, is the youngest race winner at California's Irwindale Speedway and finished 16th in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series national standings.

They'll be joined by current NASCAR Next driver Chase Cabre, as well as NASCAR Next alumni Collin Cabre and Ruben Garcia Jr. Garcia set the mark as the youngest champion in NASCAR PEAK Mexico Series history in 2015.

Other invitees include Macy Causey, Madeline Crane, Ernie Frances Jr., McKenna Haase, Nicholas Sanchez, Fabian Welter and Armani Williams.

Earlier this year, Causey became the first female to win a Division I Late Model feature at South Boston Speedway; Welter has four wins and leads the NASCAR PEAK



Doug Coby celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the Southern Slam 150 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. (Hunter Thomas/NASCAR photo)

Mexico Challenge Series points; and Francis is a three-time Trans-Am Series presented by Pirelli champion and leads the series' TA standings with three events remaining. Sanchez finished fifth in the Bojangles Summer Shootout in Charlotte, driving for Rev Racing's Legends car program.

"The roster of talent coming to the 2017 NASCAR Drive for Diversity Combine is one of the deepest we've ever had," said Max Siegel, CEO of Rev Racing. "We've seen the program really grow over the last 10 years and make a substantial impact in NASCAR. We are excited to continue to work within the sport to make significant inroads and provide an opportunity for truly talented race car drivers."

The drivers will take part in media and physical assessments on Monday at Bethune-Cookman. They will undergo driving evaluations at New Smyrna on Tuesday in a Late Model Stock Car and Wednesday in a NASCAR K&N Pro Series car. In addition to being sponsored by Honda Generators, the Combine received sponsorship support from partners Bethune-

Cookman, Perry's Ocean Edge Resort in Daytona Beach, M2 Promotions and Sunoco.

From the 12 combine participants, four will be selected for the 2018 season. Three of those drivers will race full-time in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East, while also running full-time in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series in a Late Model - totaling more than 30 races next season. In addition, the fourth driver will compete full-time in the Late Model program and serve as an alternate for the K&N Pro Series program.

In an expanded role for next year, Rev Racing will also select an additional four youth drivers at a future combine. Those drivers will participate in the organization's expanded Legends and Bandelaros program next season. This past season, Rev Racing had two Legends cars in the Bojangles Summer Shootout. The team will also provide several driver development test sessions in its Late Model at Langley Speedway in Virginia and New Smyrna during the 2018 race season for prospective multicultural and female drivers.

# PASS MegaMeltdown at Hickory Expands To Include Must See Racing Sprint Cars

CHARLOTTE, NC - Pro All Stars Series (PASS) President Tom Mayberry is pleased to announce that the 12th Annual Mason-Dixon MegaMeltdown 300 weekend at Hickory Motor Speedway will expand to include the Must See Racing Sprint Cars. The MegaMeltdown will be

the final PASS National Championship Series race of the year and will feature the best Super Late Model racers from across North America as they compete for over \$15,000 to win. And, for the first

time ever, the MAV TV cameras will be rolling as the MegaMeltdown will be televised, flag-to-flag for a nationwide audience. For the Must See Racing Sprints, the event is shaping up to be a showdown, pitting the best winged Sprint Car racers from the Midwest against some of the South's top asphalt racers.

"The MegaMeltdown is already getting a great response from racers and fans across the country and looks like it will be one of the biggest races of the year," said PASS President Tom Mayberry. "The addition of the Must See Racing Sprint Cars only adds to this great event. It will give our stock car fans the chance to not only see

Winged Sprint Cars race on asphalt, but it will also give them a glimpse of some of the fastest cars to race on short tracks period. These guys have been setting track records everywhere they go and I wouldn't be surprised at all to see them do the same at Hickory again."

In 2015, Must See Racing joined PASS for their first ever event at the legendary Hickory Motor Speedway. This year's MegaMeltdown weekend will close out the 2017 season for the Midwest's best asphalt Winged Sprint Car drivers as they get set to compete against some of the South's best "Winged Warriors." The MegaMeltdown will pit the top Southern and Northern winged pavement sprint car drivers head-to-head for the final time this year. This event could prove to be one of the biggest pavement sprint car events ever held in the South.

In addition, the event is expected to draw the top pavement sprint cars drivers from across the nation.

"We are delighted to be back at Hickory Motor Speedway again and excited to be able to work with Tom Mayberry and the staff with PASS to bring 'The Fastest Short Track Cars In The World' to one of the biggest weekends of short track racing in the southeast," said Must See Racing founder and president Jim Hanks. "Hickory has always been a favorite venue of our drivers and teams and we look forward to a fantastic show as we close out our season and crown our two division champions for the year in one action packed weekend of racing."

Entry forms and the complete weekend schedule for upcoming events at Oxford Plains Speedway, Orange County Speedway, and Hickory Motor Speedway are now posted at ProAllStarsSeries.com.

# Finalists Announced for The Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - The NASCAR Foundation announced on Thursday the four finalists for its seventh annual Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award Presented by Nationwide, which honors NASCAR fans who are also accomplished volunteers working for

children's causes in their communities throughout the United States.

The award winner will be determined via an online vote now underway and running through Nov. 29 at NASCAR.com/Award. The award will be presented on Nov. 30 during the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Awards at Wynn Las Vegas. The NASCAR Foundation will donate \$100,000 to the charity represented by the award winner and \$25,000 to each

of the other three finalists' charities. The award honors the memory and the philanthropic legacy of the foundation's late founder, Betty Jane France.

This year's finalists hail from three areas that host NASCAR races (Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Talladega, Alabama). Those finalists include:

- Shannon Goldwater of Scottsdale, Arizona, the founder of Feeding Matters, which furthers advances in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric feed disorders.
- Julian Maha of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, the founder of KultureCity, an organization seeking to

improve – and save – the lives of children with autism, while also educating society about inclusion of children with autism.

• Tammy Richardson of Las Vegas, representing the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation that provides 25 pediatric programs and services to more than 450 children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

• Chante Gonzalez Vido of Jamul, California, a two-time cancer survivor and head counselor at a camp for young cancer patients that is operated by The Seany Foundation, which strives to bring relief and happiness to children and their families battling cancer.

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Lucas Oil Products, dash panels, dry brakes, pedals, steel wheels, triple disc clutches, trans gears, shifter boots, alum air boxes, steel roller lifters, regulator, rocker stands, hubs, pro lights, tie rod ends, Autometer shift light chips, sway bars, alum radiators, r/e housings, coil springs, fuel-cell cans, caliper brackets, fuel jugs, decals, distributors, grease bucket w/pump, water pump impellers, jack stand pcs, drain pans, Pankl rods, MSD coils, gauges, used valves, sanding belts, motor plates, oil pump, Q.C. gears, piston squirter set, Moroso caps, adjustable a-arm, dampener, lockers, retainers, clutch kit, c/f front cover, main caps, Monroe shocks, plastic caps, dual pinion mount, spark plugs, hydraulic oil, ratchet straps, Morel keyway lifters, Draco Springs, Armor All car wash soap, Goodyear "Support Our Troops Tires", driveshafts, SB2 block, SB2 heads, caliper crossover lines, helix, shims



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## Super Sheppard Steals Billy Whittaker Cars 200 Victory from Batman Britten in Last-Lap Pass

OSWEGO, NY - The Billy Whittaker Cars 200 certainly lived up to the hype. In just over two hours' time and 200 laps, everyone in attendance at Oswego Speedway for NAPA Auto Parts Super DIRT Week was

treated to everything they could have wanted with drama, frustration, heartbreak and celebration. A classic superhero battle between Super Matt Sheppard and Batman Peter Britten brought the crowd to their feet as Sheppard made a bold move on Britten in the last lap to pick up his second NAPA Super DIRT Week victory.

Sheppard started his quest for the NAPA Super DIRT Week sweep after securing the pole on Thursday. Sheppard then visited Victory Lane in one of the Big-Block Modified Triple 30s during Camping World Friday Night Lights. On Saturday, Sheppard added one more piece to the puzzle with a 358 Modified victory in the Great Outdoors RV 150.

Finally, under a warm, sunny day, the 41-car field of Big-Block Modifieds took the Green at Oswego Speedway. The Waterloo, NY driver jumped out to an early lead and showed the way. As the race hit the quarter mark, the 5/8th-mile started to take rubber and teams began adjusting their strategies to adapt to the track conditions.

As the afternoon started to tick away, however, the weather changed, effectively changing the conditions of the racetrack and the dynamic of the Billy Whittaker Cars 200.

"The track did a 180 — all of a sudden a fresh-tire race instead of a track-position race," said Sheppard.

Shortly after the halfway mark of the 200-lapper, the drama started to kick up a notch in the Billy Whittaker Cars 200. The harder tire compounds started to peel away the rubber embedded into the clay racing surface, and drivers were able to maneuver around Oswego Speedway.

"Around the lap 100 mark, many guys came in and put on 400 compound tires," said Larry Wight. "You

used to see it at Rolling Wheels Speedway where the hard tires peels the rubber off the track. Then you have to come back in and put the soft tire back on, and then you can run around again."

The Bat signal went out and Peter Britten, who was the first to venture to the outside groove, made his way to the lead from the 25th starting spot on lap 105.

As Britten was making his way to the front, Sheppard slipped as far back as tenth.

"At that point we were kind of fading back through the field and decided our only option to try to win this thing was to wait until lap 150 to 160 to try and put fresh rubber and try to charge to the front," said Sheppard.

And that's just what he did. Sheppard returned to the track with fresh rubber on lap 161 in the 20th position. From there, the charge was on. Ten laps later, Sheppard was up to ninth. A lap 171 Red Flag for Carey Terrance bunched the field together, a blessing for Sheppard.

As the race for the lead between Wight and Britten heated up, Sheppard worked his way into the top five.

A turning point in the entire Super DIRT Car Series Point Standings occurred when Billy Decker brought out the caution flag with 20 to go. Decker's dreadful afternoon continued while simultaneously allowing Sheppard to be on the back bumper of the leaders.

On the ensuing restart, Sheppard continued his charge forward and waged war with 5-time and defending Billy Whittaker Cars 200 Winner, Stewart Friesen for third.

Sheppard took over third and closed in on Wight and Britten as lapped traffic became hectic. Britten was held up significantly by the lapped car of Adam Roberts allowing Wight and Sheppard to close in.

The capacity crowd at Oswego Speedway came to their feet as Wight took the lead momentarily before Britten muscled back ahead. Britten tried to maneuver around the lapped car of Kenny Tremont, and Sheppard went where Sheppard wasn't, the outside.

"I could get around the bottom and Peter's spotter must have been telling [Britten] and [Britten] decided



**Matt Sheppard celebrates in victory lane after winning the Billy Whittaker Cars 200 for NAPA Auto Parts Super DIRT Week. (Super DIRTcar Series photo)**

he was going to protect the bottom," added Sheppard. "I knew I probably couldn't drive around him in Turns 3 and 4 and my only shot would be in Turns 1 and 2 and I got a pretty clean run in there and the car stuck. I got enough momentum to drive around the outside of him and cleared him on the backstretch."

Exiting Turn 2 with the lead, Sheppard needed to hit his marks for the final two corners.

With nothing but daylight in front of him, Sheppard soared across the finish line getting the best of Batman, capturing his second NAPA Super DIRT Week title.

"There's really no way to describe it but heartbreaking," said Britten. "Congrats to Matt Sheppard. He's an amazing driver and an amazing talent. Their whole team is fantastic obviously a deserving effort but I feel our team really would have been deserving efforts too. Ray Graham gave us everything that we needed to win. Troyer Racecars and Enders Motors; hell of a combination."

With his 11th victory on the Super DIRTcar Series, Matt Sheppard recaptured the points lead over Billy Decker and is knocking on the door of setting a new record for most wins in a season that he previously set during the 2016 season.

The Super DIRTcar Series is back in action at Brockville Ontario Speedway on Friday, Oct. 15 before closing out the season as all dirt roads lead to Charlotte and the World of Outlaws World Finals at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Thursday, Nov. 2-4, 2017.

### **Sears Jr. Rides the High Side to Dirt TrackDigest.com Win**

FULTON, NY - On the final opportunity to lock into the grand finale of NAPA Auto Parts Super DIRT Week, Fulton Speedway regular, Tom Sears Jr. rode the high-line from the 11th-starting spot to take the victory in the DirtTrackDigest.com Win and You're In to lock-in as the 41st start in the Billy Whittaker Cars 200 at Oswego Speedway on Sunday, Oct. 8.

A field of 25 Big-Block Modifieds entered in the DirtTrackDigest.com Win and You're In for their shot to earn the final starting spot in the Billy Whittaker Cars 200.

In the early going of 25-lap event, it was looking like it was all Tim Sears as he jumped out to a commanding lead in front of Matt Hulsizer and the rest of the field but on lap five Tim Sears broken effectively ending his bid for to start in the Billy Whittaker Cars 200.

With Hulsizer seizing the lead, it was on lap 15 that Tom Sears Jr. went to the top side and drove around Hulsizer for the lead.

As weekly regular at Fulton felt he knew how the track would play out and went to the top-side as he went around Hulsizer for the lead.

"Running here weekly definitely has its advantage, knowing how the track changes throughout the night," said Tom Sears Jr. "We weren't very good through the heat race but we made a couple changes like we normal do and it worked out really good."

With under five laps to go the  
**(Continued Next Page)**

Continued...

field was slowed by a yellow setting up a late-race restart. On the ensuing restart Hulsizer showed Sears Jr. a wheel but Sears Jr. proved to be too strong en route to picking up the Dirt-TrackDigest.com Win and You're In at Fulton Speedway.

"Anytime you win a race at [Fulton] you got to work for it, nothing is ever easy here," said Tom Sears Jr. "I

had to go by everybody starting 11th; I probably just found the line before anybody else did. Starting in the front you may not know where the fast lane is."

## Hurricane Brachmann and Marcuccilli Move Through Brewerton Speedway

DIRTcar Racing 358 Modified: Brewerton Speedway and the Hurricane 100 took center stage Thursday night during NAPA Super DIRT Week satellite show. It was Chad Brachmann that worked his way up from the eighth starting spot to hold off Pat Ward on a late-race restart en route to picking up the win in the Hurricane 100.

During the first half of the race, it was the polesitter Mario Clair that jumped out to an early lead, however, the yellow flag was displayed on lap one quickly slowing the field. On the ensuing restart Alan Johnson beat Clair back to the line to take the lead. Clair was just too strong as he regained the lead from A. Johnson.

Chad Brachmann who started in the eighth position worked his way to the front and would battle side-by-side with Clair for 10 laps before checking out with a five-car length lead.

"We've been here so many times and have had nothing but bad luck," said Chad Brachmann. "I told my guys that we're going back to Brewerton [Speedway] this year cause we're going to tame it, so for us to come here tonight was awesome!"

Just after the halfway point of the Hurricane 100, Danny Johnson and Pat Ward wanted their shot at Brachmann and the lead but neither could make it work.

With it would be the fifth-place starter Pat Ward and Brachmann that would square up and do battle

neck to for the top spot. The two would enter lap traffic with 32 laps remaining, that that is where Brachmann would excel. Masterfully picking his way through lap traffic, Brachmann opened up a solid lead over Pat Ward and Danny Johnson.

The battle for second place started to heat up between Ward and D. Johnson, however, with seven laps remaining, D. Johnson pulled to the infield, effectively ending his night.

With four laps to go, the No. 54 of Steve Bernard who was directly in front of the leader did a 360 spin, bringing out the yellow flag setting up a late-race single-file restart.

"The I kept telling myself, stick to my plan but this car was awesome, I owe a lot to everyone that helps me and all my guys," added Bachmann.

Pat Ward made a bid to the outside of Brachmann but at the end, it was Brachmann who took home the Hurricane 100 at Brewerton Speedway and the \$5,000 dollar payday.

Marcuccilli Runs Away With Hurricane 50: The Hurricane 50 drew a stellar field of 69 Sportsman DIRTcar Modifieds Thursday night at the Brewerton Speedway.

Tyler Trump and Rocky Warner shared the front row for the 50-lap Feature with Warner taking command from the outset. Trump battled hard with Martin Pelletier and Rick Yelle for the runner-up spot, allowing Warner to extend his advantage.

By lap 13, 7th-starting Dave Marcuccilli had worked his way into the third position behind Warner and Trump.

A yellow on the following lap erased Warner's lead and put Trump and Marcuccilli on his tail. Marcuccilli quickly disposed of Trump and set his sights on Warner.

Marcuccilli was closing in ever so slightly on Warner and by the halfway point, the two were separated by no more than two car-lengths. The duo stayed that distance for upwards of ten laps before a lap 35 yellow lined Warner and Marcuccilli side by side.

Marcuccilli, who was strong on restarts on all evening, pounced on Warner setting up a big slide job in turn two on the 37th circuit. Marcuccilli slid across the track halting the momentum of Warner, allowing 11th-starting Glenn Forward to move by Warner as well.

Forward, who won Tuesday's satellite show at Utica-Rome, stayed pace with Marcuccilli mo-

mentarily but was unable to mount a threatening challenge as the latter went on to capture the Hurricane 50 in convincing fashion over the final 15 laps.

Marcuccilli, who was celebrating his 41st birthday, thrilled his fans with a burnout in turn four before parking his No. M1 in Victory Lane.

"Going into that Feature, I didn't think we were going to be as good as we were in the slick stuff," a relieved Marcuccilli said.

When asked about his pass for the lead on Warner, Marcuccilli cited, "I could get a run on him and get on his back bumper, but getting by him was a different story. That caution helped us. I was able to get good drive off the middle."

"This is pretty awesome. A great way to start DIRT week. Hopefully, we can carry this speed into Oswego tomorrow," Marcuccilli added.

Forward settled for second and was strong in short bursts. "Those late cautions really helped us. The longer the race went Green, the looser we got," Forward said.

"Coming from 11th, I can't complain," Forward said with a smile. "We finally got this thing going."

Trump settled for third and mentioned his weakness on the night was the restarts that the other podium finishers cited as a strong suit.

## Williamson and Forward Take Utica Rome Speedway

DIRTcar Sportsman: Glenn Forward led all 25 laps on his way to his first victory of the season at Utica-Rome Speedway Tuesday night. As easy it that sounds, it was far from it for Forward, who was making just his third start of the season at Utica-Rome. Forward actually relinquished the lead to Rocky Warner on the backstretch during lap 17 but a caution for Cedric Gauvreau reverted competition back a lap, giving Forward the lead once again.

Warner pounded the back bumper of Forward looking desperately for a way by on the restart, to no avail.

Forward was able to extend his lead after Warner hiccupped on the cushion off of turn two. Forward took the white flag with a sizeable advantage only to see a caution flag set up a one-lap dash to the finish, giving second and third place running Warner and Matt Janczuk one last chance to steal the victory.

"You never want to see a caution while leading. Especially with the

1J and 33x behind you," Forward said.

On the restart, Warner slowed significantly and appeared to have a problem on the right side of his 1J machine. The slowing Warner also held up Janczuk as the duo both limped to the finish in a lackluster fashion. Warner was officially scored 12th, while Janczuk managed to hang on for sixth.

Subsequently, Brent Joy and Kyle Inman moved forward on the final lap and completed the podium.

When asked about the last lap restart Forward said, "I figured if it was meant to be, it's meant to be. I love racing with Rocky."

Forward, who also won his Heat Race from 7th, was quick to applaud the Utica-Rome track crew, "The track was awesome. It held the moisture all night and the surface was extremely racey all night."

10th starting Rocco Leone and AJ Filbeck completed the top five. Forward, Joy, Mark Effner and Warner won the Heat Races over the 36 Sportsman signed in. Kyle Kiehn and Daryl Nutting won the two Consolation events.

DIRTcar 358-Modifieds: The DIRTcar 358-Modifieds hit the track at Utica-Rome for a pregame shootout leading into NAPA Super DIRT Week XLVI festivities. Mat Williamson meticulously wove his way through the field from his 13th starting position to claim an impressive win at Utica-Rome Speedway after 100 laps.

"20 laps into this I was ready to pull into the pits and call 'er a night," said Williamson. "We were running with 15th, 16th, 17th place cars. We were terrible the first 50 laps and then it was almost like we had a jet button in this thing and turned it on."

On lap 60 of the 100-lap event, Williamson was not even a contender for the lead as he hadn't yet appeared in the top-10. He began working through the traffic on the low side of the dirt oval quickly making up time and passing cars along the way. He passed Stewart Friesen to claim the lead on lap 89.

Friesen is the record holder of Utica-Rome's All-Time Modified Wins, All-Time Dirt Modified Wins, and Big Block Dirt Modified Wins. Williamson also passed by the 2017 Utica-Rome track champion, Matt Sheppard who was running second at the time before he was sidelined to mechanical failures on lap 87.

Erick Rudolph joined Friesen and Williamson to complete the podium at Utica-Rome Speedway on Tuesday evening.

## Don O'Neal Paces Pittsburger Field for \$20,000 Victory

IMPERIAL, PA - Don O'Neal completed a weekend sweep, winning the 29th Annual Pittsburger 100 on Saturday night at Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway. O'Neal led from start to finish to collect \$20,000 for his first career win in the annual event. It was O'Neal's second Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series win of the season as he led his Clint Bowyer teammate Darrell Lanigan in a one-two sweep for the NASCAR team owner. Josh Richards, the defending race winner came home in third.

Richards' third-place finish moved him into second-place in the championship point standings with one race to go. Richards is now 40 points behind the leader, Tim McCreadie, who finished sixth in the race. Scott Bloomquist finished 18th and is now third in championship standings at 75 points behind McCreadie.

O'Neal waited through several caution flags during the race to score the win. O'Neal was untouchable after the restarts as nobody was within striking distance of him at any point during the race. O'Neal had a scare with a lapped car with two laps to go as he nearly got into the turn one wall. He escaped the mayhem unscathed and went on for a dominating victory.

In Lucas Oil Victory Lane, O'Neal commented on the roll his team is currently on. "Another podium finish sounds good, and this time we got the win," said O'Neal. "Last week, we had two runner-up finishes and tonight the car was just fantastic, in fact all weekend long it was just perfect." O'Neal completed the weekend sweep at Pittsburgh by setting a new track record and scoring a convincing win in his heat race in Friday night's preliminaries.

"I would like to thank Clint and Casey Bowyer and everybody back at the shop, as well as Anthony Burroughs and Keir Hoover, they deserve all the credit. I wish we could go back to Speedweeks and start the season over."

O'Neal's Club 29 Race Car is powered by Cornett Racing Engine and is sponsored by Peak Antifreeze and Coolant, Crawford Outdoor, Cometic Gasket, Clint Bowyer Autoplex, Traeger Wood Fire Grills, Penske Shocks, Sunoco, and I-Racing.com

Lanigan and his I-Racing.com Club 29 followed his teammate to the line. "We have been really solid here recently, and it's a great way to end the season. Congrats to Don on the win. Thanks to Clint and Casey Bowyer and all my crew."

Richards and his Best Performance Motorsports, Rocket was looking for his third win in the famed event and ran as high as second, but eventually claimed the third finishing spot. "We had a good car tonight. There was quite a race among the top five after Don [O'Neal]. He [O'Neal] was unbeatable here tonight. This was a good points finish for us. We'll head to Portsmouth with at least a decent shot at the title."

Completing the top ten were Tim McCreadie, Hudson O'Neal, Boom Briggs, Mason Zeigler, and Rick Eckert.

### Don O'Neal and Mike Marlar on Front Row for Pittsburger 100

IMPERIAL, PA - Don O'Neal and Mike Marlar will make-up the front row for the 29th Annual Pittsburger 100 on Saturday night at Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway. The \$20,000-to-win event will be preceded by two 12 lap B-Mains. The other two Friday night heat race winners were Michael Norris and Josh Richards, who will start alongside each other in row number two of the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series-sanctioned event.

Don O'Neal set a new track record in time trials with a lap of 16.919 seconds and zoomed to the lead in heat number one. He led all ten laps to earn the pole position for Saturday's finale. O'Neal pilots the Clint Bowyer Dirt Motorsports, Peak Antifreeze and Coolant, Club 29 and is looking for his first win in the annual event. Steve Francis and Mason Ziegler had a spirited race for second with Francis pulling away from a side-by-side battle with Zeigler in the end. Zeigler was third, and former track champion Alex Ferree claimed the fourth and final transfer spot.

Michael Norris grabbed the top



Don O'Neal celebrates his first career Pittsburger 100 win in victory lane at Pennsylvania Motor Speedway, (Paul Arch photo)

honor in heat number two. Norris earned a hard-fought win over current LOLMDS point leader, Tim McCreadie, who finished in second. Norris and McCreadie dueled the entire 10-lap distance as Norris took the win in his D&D Auto Salvage, Henry Racing Engines, Rocket. Mike Pegher Jr. and Rick Eckert earned starting spots into the Pittsburger 100 by finishing third and fourth, respectively.

In the third heat, Mike Marlar overtook race lead Brandon Sheppard on the final lap to win in his Ronnie Delk-owned, Delk Equip-

ment Sales, Rocket. Sheppard finished in second followed by Jason Covert and Darrell Lanigan.

The fourth and final heat saw defending Pittsburger 100 winner Josh Richards take the win in the Best Performance Motorsports, Rocket and earns the fourth starting spot for tomorrow's event. Hudson O'Neal; the current LOLMDS Rookie-of-the-Year point leader; held off 5-time Pittsburger winner Scott Bloomquist at the line to take second. Bloomquist was third with Jared Miley transferring from his fourth finishing spot.

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## Swindell Unstoppable With Lucas Oil ASCS At El Paso County Raceway

CALHAN, CO - Returning to Colorado after a nearly 20 year absence, Sammy Swindell made his return worthwhile at the El Paso County Raceway as the driver of the A.G Rains Motorsports No. 3 parked in Victory lane for the third time in 2017 with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network.

Drawing the pole in Saturday's 25-lap feature event, Swindell outran Colorado's Jake Bubak into the first two turns to hold the race lead on a track that was slick but still had some rough spots in the corners that proved challenging for several teams.

Slowed with one lap complete for the spun No. 99 of Skylar Gee, Swindell held off any attempt at the lead. Working to traffic by the seventh lap, Swindell had to move carefully as all lanes of the quarter-mile were occupied. Finally held up behind a pair of slower cars, Bubak closed from over a half straightaway to the back bumper of the Rossie Feed and Grain No. 3.

"Sometimes you just run up on a couple cars at a time. With it being a little bumpy, those slower guys would hit the ruts and really upset their cars, and sometimes you just have to be in the right place at the right time so it was a challenge, but it was fun. I'm very blessed to be able to do this. The Lord's been with me," commented Swindell of the race through traffic.

Unable to clear the slower cars, the pair began using lapped cars as picks with each looking to pin the other. Rushing the inside line off the fourth turn several times as the race approached the halfway point, Bubak pulled all but even, but the lapped traffic chess match would swing the way of Swindell.

Under caution for the final time with seven laps to run, Swindell was unchallenged the rest of the way, winning by 2.508 seconds. Jake Bubak held on to the runner-up spot with Aaron Reutzel coming up to take the final podium step. Taking advantage of restarts, Sam Hafertepe, Jr. came from seventh to fourth with Matt Covington fifth.

Seth Bergman was sixth with Johnny Herrera seventh. Jason Martin crossed eighth followed by Blake Hahn. Despite engine issues, Wayne Johnson rounded out the top-ten. Three Heat Races on the night were topped by Sam Hafertepe, Jr., Jake Bubak, and Matt Covington. The CP-Carrillo Hard Charger was Sam Hafertepe, Jr. No provisionals were used.

The Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network returns to competition at the 44th Devil's Bowl Winter Nationals on Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21. Tickets are on sale at [www.devils-bowl.com](http://www.devils-bowl.com).

For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the seven regional tours, log onto [www.ascsracing.com](http://www.ascsracing.com). Make sure to like the American Sprint Car Series on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LucasOilASCs](http://www.facebook.com/LucasOilASCs), follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/LucasOilASCs](http://www.twitter.com/LucasOilASCs), and check out our Instagram @LucasOilASCs.

**Jesse Baker Prevails In McSpadden Classic With ASCS Southwest**

QUEEN CREEK, AZ - Saturday was a Roller Coaster of a day for Jesse Baker, whose rig arrived at the Arizona Speedway via Tow

### Truck after breaking down in Heber, Ariz. Despite the sour start, 25 laps of racing ended with sweet victory for the New Mexico shoe with the ASCS Southwest Region in the second annual McSpadden Classic.

Drawing third on the grid, Baker advanced to the runner-up spot with the lead not far behind as early race leader, Billy Chester, clipped an infield tire on Lap 10. Putting the No. 22 at the front of the field, Baker would go on to lead the remainder of the feature event for his second career ASCS Southwest triumph.

Winning by 0.543 seconds, Rick Ziehl crossed second with ninth starting J.T. Imperial coming up too grab third. Lance Norick and Matt



Joined on the podium by Jake Bubak and Aaron Reutzel, Tennessee's Sammy Swindell was the class of the field at El Paso County Raceway (ASCs/Don Holbrook photo)

Rossi made up the top-five. ASCS Southwest point's leader, Colton Hardy, crossed sixth with Jeff Lowery, Derrik Ortega, Royal Joes, and Michael Curtis completing the top-ten.

Put together by the McSpadden family, lap money was awarded. Billy Chester earned an extra \$250 with Baker pocketing \$525, as well as the Hard Luck Award. Other drivers earning lap money includes Rick Ziehl (\$325) and J.T. Imperial (\$150). Imperial also pocketed \$200 as the Hard Charger. The \$200 longest tow went to Rick Ziehl.

The ASCS Southwest Region races again on Saturday, October 14 at Canyon Raceway Park in Peoria, Ariz.

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## Christopher Bell Charges From Row Six to Win at Wayne County Speedway

ORRVILLE, OH - Becoming the fifth different Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions winner in five starts at "Orrville's Historic Oval," Norman, Oklahoma's Christopher Bell hard charged from the inside of row six to score \$5,000 on Saturday night at Wayne

County Speedway. Bell took command for the first time on lap 22, surviving a battle with rising star, Spencer Bayston, the circuit prior. Knoxville (IA) Raceway track champion, Ian Madsen, chased Bell to the final checkers, followed by Broc Martin, Cole Duncan and Rob Chaney.

For Bell, the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions triumph was the second of his 2017 season and the third of his career, last visiting victory lane during an appearance at Sharon (OH) Speedway on July 8.

"I'm just really thankful for the opportunity to drive this car for Ed Neumeister and the Linders," said Christopher Bell, pilot of the Dough-Si-Dough/Linder's Speed Equipment/DML/Fisher Racing Engines/No. 11N. "It's a true privilege to drive this thing."

Findlay, Ohio's Caleb Helms and the KCP Racing entry of Ian Madsen led the 26 starters to green on

Saturday night at Wayne County Speedway. Madsen earned the early advantage, leading Caleb Helms and Brad Haudenschild by the flag stand to complete lap one.

A red flag on lap two slowed action for the first time. When green flag conditions resumed, it was Madsen returning to the top spot, now with the Swindell Speedlab entry of Spencer Bayston, who started eighth, and Wooster, Ohio's Broc Martin in tow. The top three raced nose-to-tail for the next six circuits until caution flags returned to the speedway on lap nine, ultimately resulting in an open red flag stop.

After a short pause while medics tended to a fan, Madsen led the field back to green, still in charge over Bayston and Martin. On lap 13, Christopher Bell, who charged ahead from the 11th position, drove around Martin to take third, now setting aim on Bayston and Ian Madsen.

By the midpoint of the 30-lapper, the three front-runners found themselves in a bumper-to-bumper battle for the lead. Soon enough, utilizing a textbook slider through turns three and four, Bayston made a bold move and drove under Madsen to take command on lap 17. One circuit later, Bell also found room and cruised by Madsen with a perfect slide job, this time through turns one and two.

Within two laps, Bell started to



Christopher Bell raced his way to victory lane at Wayne County Speedway for the second win of the season. (Paul Arch photo)

apply pressure on Bayston for the top spot, chasing the Lebanon, Indiana, native into traffic on lap 21. As the pair drag raced toward the flag stand to complete lap 22, Bell and Bayston made incidental contact causing the No. 39 of Bayston to flip wildly down the front straightaway. Bayston would walk away unharmed, but would not return to the speedway.

With little damage after the incidental contact with Bayston, a broken right rear shock, Christopher Bell drove on to score the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions victory unchallenged, leading laps 22 to 30 with Madsen and Martin in tow at the finish.

"I'm really disappointed that Spencer (Bayston) and I didn't get a chance to race that out," Bell said in victory lane. "It was going to be a really good race. He's a talented guy."

"The car wasn't the funnest to drive after that, but I had clean air,"

Bell said in regards to his car after the incident. "That's really big at a place like this, especially here because the corners are so tight. Being out front made it a lot easier even with the damage."

The Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions will conclude their 2017 season with a full weekend of competition on Friday and Saturday, October 13-14. Ending the year in the Buckeye State, the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions will launch their final weekend of action with a visit to Mansfield Motor Speedway in Mansfield on October 13, followed by a stop at the World's Greatest Dirt Track; the Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, Ohio, on Saturday, October 14.

The Friday night visit to Mansfield Motor Speedway will feature double main events, as the Series' first visit in May was halted early due to Mother Nature. More news and information will be posted in the coming days.

## David Gravel Score 17th Win of Season at Fulton

FULTON, NY - David Gravel inherited the lead on lap nine after race leader Daryn Pittman got into the back of a slower car and spun to a stop. Gravel survived a multitude of restarts and held off Jason Johnson and Donny Schatz to score his career-best 17th win of the season for CJB Motorsports at the Ful-

ton Speedway Saturday night in conjunction with NAPA Auto Parts Super DIRT Week.

Daryn Pittman muscled his way from fourth to second in his heat race, setting him up perfectly for

the Craftsman Club Dash inversion of four. Pittman outdueled Jac Haudenschild in an entertaining Dash to earn the pole of the 25-lap Feature.

At the drop of the Green, Pittman and fellow front row starter Jason Johnson preferred the bottom line, while David Gravel was banging down the cushion.

Pittman had a healthy lead when he reached lapped traffic before disaster struck. Clyde Knipp was trying to pull off the racing surface, got on the brakes and Pittman hit the back of the Knipp and spun to a stop in front of the field off of turn four with eight laps complete.

Pittman went to the work area and re-joined the field while Knipp called it a night.

Gravel assumed the lead and battled hard with Johnson on the ensuing restart as Donny Schatz maneuvered his way from his eighth-starting position to third. Another caution flag flew on lap 11 with Scott Kreutter, Parker Price-Miller and Paige Polyak, who qualified for her first ever Craftsman Club Dash earlier in the night, stopped in turn four.

Gravel continued to show the way on restarts and utilized the entire racing surface searching for the fastest way around.

A pair of yellows on lap 21 and 24 gave Johnson and the rest of the field chances to steal the win, to no avail as Gravel took the checkered flag nearly a second in front of Johnson and Schatz.

"The track got so technical. The top was good, then the bottom was good, then I thought the bottom was too slow," Gravel explained in

Victory Lane.

Greg Wilson charged from 14th to fourth with 'The Wild Child' Jac Haudenschild completing the top five. World of Outlaws Rookie Brent Marks had a strong night coming home sixth with 13th-starting Kraig Kinser finishing seventh.

Brad Sweet, Mike Mahaney and Sheldon Haudenschild completed the top ten. Mahaney, who is qualified for Sunday's Billy Whittaker Cars and Trux 200 at the Oswego Speedway, picked up the KSE Hard Charger award..

The World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series returns to action next Saturday at the Port Royal Speedway for one final date with the Pennsylvania Posse before returning to New York for a pair of rain date events at the Weedsport Speedway and Ransomville Speedway Sunday and Monday October 15 and 16, respectively.

## World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series 2018 Season Takes Shape

CONCORD, NC - As the 2017 World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series season heads down the home stretch this fall with the Chi-Town Showdown Oct. 13-14 at the Dirt Oval @ Route 66 in Joliet, Ill., and the World of Outlaws World Finals Nov. 2-3-4 at The Dirt Track at Charlotte in Concord, N.C., the series is already looking ahead to the 2018 season and several new and traditional multi-day events.

The 2018 tour will launch Feb. 9-10 at Screven Motor Speedway's Winter Freeze event in Sylvania, Ga., and then head south to the DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park for four consecutive \$10,000-to-win races Feb. 14-15-16-17 in Barberville, Fla.

"We are ready and excited for the World of Outlaws in February," said Screven's James "Redd" Griffin. "Screven has become the traditional kickoff venue for the World of Outlaws season and we're very proud of that distinction."

The February DIRTcar Nationals will mark the first time the series has raced on four consecutive nights at Volusia, with more than \$150,000 up for grabs over the four nights in addition to two nights of DIRTcar Late Model racing at the beginning of the week.

An early season tradition remains the 11th annual Illini 100 on March 23-24 at Farmer City (Ill.) Raceway. The two-day show on one of Illinois' premier dirt tracks will consist of an always-exciting, pedal-mashing 25-lap shootout followed one night later by the \$15,000-to-win, 75-lap finale. If weather should become a factor, the event will shift to April 13-14.

A huge new event at Fayetteville Motor Speedway highlights the month of May and helps to celebrate the track's 50th anniversary season. The First in Flight 100 will be a multi-day event May 11-12 that pays \$25,000 to the winner and \$2,000 to start. It will also include action on May 10 for regional late model series to race their way into the big finale.

"The World of Outlaws teams always put on a great show for our

fans at Fayetteville, and we are very excited they'll help us celebrate our 50th anniversary with this major event for the entire Southeast," said Fayetteville's Jim Long Jr. "We wanted to come up with an event that would turn heads and a purse that rewards drivers from top to bottom. I can't wait for this weekend. It's going to be epic."

Summer kicks into high gear with the fan-favorite 12th annual Firecracker weekend June 21-22-23 featuring the \$30,000-to-win Firecracker 100 at Lernerville Speedway in Sarver, Pa. Three complete races with the biggest names in the sport make up this event so the action is always as intense on the track as the party is in the campground.

For another fan-favorite event, the Outlaws will once again invade Fairbury (Ill.) American Legion Speedway July 27-28 for the 29th annual \$30,000-to-win Prairie Dirt Classic. The PDC nearly triples the size of the all-American city as fans travel from all over to watch more than 60 of the best Dirt Late Model drivers chase a huge payday.

"Every year it seems as if the Prairie Dirt Classic gets bigger and we absolutely love it," FALS director Matt Curl said. "From the incredible number of racers who compete to all of the people who camp out, the PDC weekend continues to grow year after year and there's nothing more exciting than that."

Outside of the championship chase itself, the biggest prize on the tour is the \$50,000 that goes to the winner of the USA Nationals Aug. 2-3-4 at Cedar Lake Speedway in New Richmond, Wis. Some of the biggest names in the sport have won this historic annual event, and fans from across the Midwest flock to Wisconsin to see it happen.

As is tradition, the 2018 championship battle will conclude Nov. 1-2-3 at the annual World of Outlaws World Finals at The Dirt Track at Charlotte, a can't miss event that also features the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Cars and the Super DIRTcar Big-Block Modifieds.

The complete 2018 schedule is coming together quickly, stay tuned to the World of Outlaws Craftsman

Late Model Series website as more events are announced for the exciting 2018 season.

### ***Inaugural Chi-Town Showdown Features Two Complete \$10,000-To-Win Shows***

CONCORD, NC - The World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series invades the greater Chicago area and the Dirt Oval @ Route 66 on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 13-14, in Joliet, Ill., for the inaugural two-day Chi-Town Showdown.

The Chi-Town Showdown will feature back-to-back nights of complete \$10,000-to-win events. The two separate shows at the Dirt Oval @ Route 66 will showcase the top Dirt Late Model racers from around the country battling the stars of the Midwest.

To fully focus all efforts toward the originally scheduled Chi-Town Showdown, June's postponed Outlaw Clay Classic has been canceled. Fans with tickets from the canceled June event can reuse their tickets at Friday night's race, and drivers who had qualified for the June event are guaranteed starting positions in Friday night's 50-lap A-main.

Series leader Brandon Sheppard of New Berlin, Ill., is riding a

three-win hot streak from the Outlaws' recent run through the Great Plains. Sheppard has powered to 17 victories this season, which ties him with Darrell Lanigan for second on the all-time single-season win list as he tries to break the record of 18 set by Josh Richards in 2016. With two opportunities at the Chi-Town Showdown, Sheppard could either tie or break the record in front of his home state fans.

"We are excited for this inaugural event at the Dirt Oval @ Route 66," World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series director Chris Dolack said. "Sherri Heckenast and her team have worked hard to revitalize the dirt track there, and we're hoping the fans from around the Midwest come out and support these shows."

"I'm looking forward to having a huge event with two complete races over two days at the Dirt Oval @ Route 66," Sherri Heckenast said. "The challenges with mixing in the postponed race from June were varied and ultimately it's best to give the fans and competitors two complete full exciting race nights."

DIRTcar UMP Modifieds and Sportsman classes will join the field on Friday night while DIRTcar Sportsman and Street Stocks will compete on Saturday night.

## Lucas Oil Signs On As Title Sponsor Of The Tulsa Shootout

TULSA, OK - The 33rd running of the Tulsa Shootout will welcome a new title sponsor as Lucas Oil Products has come on board to support the "Indoor Mecca of Micros", while also continuing their support of the Chili Bowl Nationals and American Sprint Car Series.

For the 33rd edition, the event will again be filmed for broadcast on the MAVTV Motorsports Network as well as being shown live on <http://www.racinboys.com>.

The 33rd annual Lucas Oil Tulsa Shootout takes place December 28, 2017 through December 31, 2017 at the Tulsa Expo Raceway, located inside the River Spirit Expo Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Entries are being taken online at <http://www.tulsashootout.com>, by phone at (918) 838-3777, or by fax at (918) 836-5517.

Discounted early entry will take place until Wednesday, December 6, 2017 with the cost per entry at \$100. Entry fees rise to \$120 per class the following day and will close on Tuesday, December 19, 2017.

After that, any new entries will be taken on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 during parking.

Classes for the 33rd annual Lucas Oil Tulsa Shootout include A-Class (Wing, Non-Wing, and Restricted), Outlaw (Wing and Non-Wing) ECOtec Midgets, 1200cc Winged Mini-Sprints, and Junior Sprints for a total of eight divisions. Opening day of racing on Thursday, December 28 will start at 9:00 A.M. with Practice for classes, followed by Heat Races that evening.

Official class rules are posted at <http://www.tulsashootout.com>. Any questions regarding the rules must be directed to Matt Ward.

All official rules, event information, and dates are online at <http://www.tulsashootout.com>.

# Thanksgiving Weekend Racer's Auction, Trade Show & Car Corral

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Karts - Mini-Sprints - Silver Crown  
Indy Motorsports Memorabilia

**GENERAL ADMISSION: \$10**

Children Under 12: Free



For More Information:

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**Charlotte  
Motor Speedway**

CONCORD, NC - Jennifer Anderson sped to a hotly contested victory in Friday's seventh annual Better Half Dash Bandolero race during Bojangles' Pole Night at Charlotte Motor Speedway. The 25-lap Bandolero battle among the better halves of NASCAR personalities saw Anderson prevail thanks to an impressive late-race restart over

Tammy Rice and Kate Tomaino. Anderson got by Rice and race leader Paige Keselowski on Lap 17 of the popular event, which raises money for Motor Racing Outreach and driver-chosen charities.

"It was hard (to win) but it was a lot of fun," said Anderson, the girlfriend of NASCAR Camping World Truck Series driver Austin Wayne Self. "It was awesome to have the Hermie and Elliott Sadler Foundation on our car. This is for them. The race was tough. It didn't come easy. It has been really fun getting to know all these ladies throughout the past month and a half. It means a lot to win at the same place my brother (NASCAR Camping World Truck Series driver) Jordan (Anderson) has won."

Tomaino – the wife of NASCAR mechanic Trey Tomaino – rallied from the tail of the field to score a podium result. Rounding out the top five were Chelsea Fetzer (wife of Chip Ganassi racing tire carrier Ben Fetzer) and Marisa Erspamer (wife of Hendrick Motorsports tire carrier Jared Erspamer).

Pole winner Paige Keselowski, the wife of Team Penske driver Brad Keselowski, finished sixth after leading the most laps but suffering a flat tire two-thirds of the way into the race.

The Better Half Dash events have now raised more than \$300,000 for charities.

**Talladega Superspeedway**

TALLADEGA, AL - Kids 12-and-under will have a chance to make unforgettable memories at Talladega Superspeedway during NASCAR's Playoff weekend, Oct. 13-15, thanks to two family-friendly opportunities: Kids Movie Night and the Kids VIP Experience.

New this fall is the Kids Movie Night on Saturday, Oct. 14, which will take place after the Fred's 250 Powered by Coca-Cola NASCAR



**Better Half Dash winner Jennifer Anderson, middle, joins runner-up Tammy Rice, left, and third-place finisher Kate Tomaino, right, in celebrating after Friday's event during Bojangles' Pole Night at Charlotte Motor Speedway. (CMS/HHP photo)**

Camping World Truck Series race. The featured movie will be Disney Pixar's Cars, which will be shown on a giant screen at 6 p.m. (All times CDT) in the Fox Sports 1 Dome (located behind the International Motorsports Hall of Fame). Doors will open at 5:30 pm. Select concessions will be available for purchase, and families are encouraged to bring their own blankets and pillows for the ultimate lounging experience. A (free) Saturday or Sunday (as low as \$10 for the Alabama 500) kids race ticket is required for admission to the movie night.

The Kids VIP Experience, introduced a year ago for families to get even more access on race-day morning, includes:

- Reserved VIP Area at the Red-Carpet Entrance prior to the mandatory Drivers Meeting
- Hot Lap Rides around the 2.66-mile, 33-degree banking in a Grand Marshal vehicle
- A chance to high-five the biggest stars of the sports in an up-close reserved area during Driver Introductions, prior to the green flag of the Alabama 500
- Special guided tour of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series garage (seven different scheduled tour times to choose from)
- Gatorade Victory Lane photo opportunity where the winner of NASCAR's "Wildcard" playoff race will celebrate just hours later

A Sunday grandstand ticket and a Pre-Race Pit Pass Upgrade is required for the Kids VIP Experience. Families are asked to stop by the Kids VIP tent (located behind pit road near the Goodyear building) beginning at 8 a.m. to sign up for the above opportunities. For more information, log onto [www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/kids](http://www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/kids) or call 855-518-7223 (RACE).

"Today's kids are

tomorrow's stars of NASCAR – our fans - and we're excited to offer amazing opportunities for youngsters 12-and-under," said Talladega Superspeedway Chairman Grant Lynch. "We take great pride in turning a child into a lifelong racing fan. Our Kids Movie Night and the one-of-a-kind Kids VIP Experience are sure to give youngsters the memories of a lifetime at the biggest and baddest track on the planet."

Kids are admitted FREE in all grandstand and tower seats to Friday and Saturday's on-track activities (ticket required) and can watch Sunday's race for as low as \$10. For more information or to purchase tickets visit [www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/kids](http://www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/kids) or call 855-518-RACE (7223).

**Charlotte Motor Speedway**

CONCORD, NC - In honor of local hero Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s considerable contributions to the NASCAR community throughout his iconic career, Charlotte Motor Speedway and Speedway Children's Charities have established the Dale Earnhardt Jr. Concussion Research Fund at Carolinas Healthcare System's Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The \$100,000 gift underwrites IMPACT baseline concussion testing for more than 10,000 student athletes at 62 middle schools, high schools and athletic associations across eight area counties as well as Johnson C. Smith University and Gardner-Webb University.

Mooresville High School – which Earnhardt attended – will also be added to the comprehensive program, which will also fund cutting-edge "blink reflexometry" research – which

uses a person's blinking reflexes to diagnose concussions. Additionally, the gift will support local concussion seminars for parents, students, coaches and pediatricians.

"Charlotte Motor Speedway is NASCAR's home track and Dale Jr.'s home track, so we wanted to present him with a gift will have an impact here at 'home'," said Marcus Smith, the president and chief executive officer of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. "In addition to everything he's accomplished as a competitor, Dale Jr. has been passionate about raising concussion awareness through his own experiences and helping children through The Dale Jr. Foundation. We want the Dale Earnhardt Jr. Concussion Research Fund to do both with a significantly positive influence throughout the Charlotte region."

"Sports-induced concussions are on the rise for our young athletes, but thanks to Charlotte Motor Speedway and Speedway Children's Charities, local schools and athletic associations will have access to the most advanced concussion management tools available in the greater Charlotte area," said Mark Griffith, assistant vice president of major gifts at Carolinas HealthCare Foundation.

Earnhardt's numerous accomplishments – including becoming the first rookie to win the NASCAR All-Star Race as well as claiming 26 NASCAR Cup Series victories, two XFINITY Series championships and 14 Most Popular Driver awards – have endeared the Kannapolis, North Carolina, native to millions of race fans across the country.

"This is a great gift that will impact a lot of lives in the area and make a real difference," Earnhardt said. "This track has always been really special to me. I really appreciate it. That's a gesture that's going to have such a long-lasting impact."

Following in his famous father's footsteps, Dale Earnhardt Jr. made his historic NASCAR Cup Series debut in the "Countdown to E Day" in May of 1999 at the Coca Cola

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600. The younger Earnhardt's first career Cup Series pole was for the 2000 Coca-Cola 600. Earnhardt's JR Nation Appreciation Tour continues with Sunday's Bank of America 500 – Earnhardt's final start at his home track in his last season as a full-time driver.

"Dale Jr. has made an indelible mark on NASCAR as a driver, team owner and advocate of safety," said Greg Walter, Charlotte Motor Speedway's executive vice president. "Off the track, he's made his mark as a philanthropist, and we're proud to help establish a program that will have educational benefits for young people and their parents in the realm of concussion awareness and treatment protocols."

### Phoenix Raceway

PHOENIX, AZ - This March, Tough Mudder, Inc. will bring a different kind of race to Phoenix Raceway, dropping obstacles and mud where race cars normally reign supreme.

The world's leading obstacle course racing organization announced today that they will bring Tough Mudder Arizona to Phoenix Raceway on March 24-25, 2018, featuring 10 of the toughest miles on the planet with more than 20 world-class obstacles spread across the all-terrain Raceway property to test both the physical and mental strength of competitors.

"Having a prestigious athletic event like Tough Mudder at our venue showcases the fact that the new Phoenix Raceway is a versatile facility that can host a wide range of events," said Phoenix Raceway President Bryan R. Sperber. "I look forward to seeing Tough Mudder transform our facility into an obstacle course that's as challenging and exhilarating as our auto races."

In addition to experiencing Tough Mudder Arizona at Phoenix Raceway, participants and spectators will have an opportunity to preview progress of the Phoenix Raceway Project Powered by DC Solar, which will create a world-class facility.

"Phoenix Raceway provides us the perfect opportunity to create a unique course that will challenge

our Mudders to take their training and teamwork to the next level," said Will Dean, Co-Founder and CEO of Tough Mudder, Inc. "We're excited to partner with Phoenix to bring one epic, creative experience to Arizona."

With challenging obstacles in a brand-new location, Mudders are sure to encounter their fair share of trials, but through teamwork and dedication competitors will prove their strength and resiliency. Participants have the option to compete in either a Tough Mudder Half consisting of five muddy miles and 13 obstacles, or try their hand at the Tough Mudder Full.

The event will be held on March 24-25, 2018.

To register a team for a full or half Tough Mudder please visit: <https://toughmudder.com/events/2018-arizona-half> or <https://toughmudder.com/events/2018-arizona>.

### Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Texas Motor Speedway will forever be synonymous as the NASCAR superstar captured milestone victories in two national series at the world-renowned motorsports facility.

That connection from his first career wins in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series and XFINITY Series coming at Texas Motor Speedway will be further strengthened by Monday's announcement of his induction into the Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame during November's AAA Texas 500 NASCAR tripleheader playoff weekend.

Earnhardt Jr. will become the 19th member inducted into the Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame when he is honored during a special ceremony held in The Grand Ballroom of The Speedway Club on Saturday, Nov. 4, beginning at 11:30 a.m. CT. Other honorees during the Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame event include Vice Chairman of NASCAR Mike Helton, Texas Motor Speedway's winningest NASCAR driver Kyle Busch and Verizon IndyCar Series driver James Hinchcliffe.

The Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame ceremony serves as a major fundraiser for Speedway Children's Charities-Texas. Tickets are appropriately priced at \$88 to reflect Earnhardt Jr.'s iconic No. 88 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet and admission also includes a barbeque lunch buffet.

Earnhardt Jr. took an immediate liking to Texas Motor Speedway, earning his first career XFINITY Series win on April 4, 1998 at the

1.5-mile speedway. He earned the victory with a thrilling last-lap pass of Joe Nemechek and then held off Elliott Sadler to capture the Coca-Cola 300.

Nearly two years later to the day Earnhardt Jr. would strike again, winning his first Cup Series race on April 2, 2000 in the DIRECTV 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. Earnhardt Jr. proved to be the class of the field, leading 106 of 334 laps to become the first Cup rookie driver to win at Texas Motor Speedway. The celebration that ensued in Victory Lane on that day with he and his father, Dale Earnhardt Sr., provided moments that are embedded in NASCAR history.

"This place definitely has always been one of my preferred stops because of the success we've had in the XFINITY and Cup Series in our first races here," Earnhardt Jr. said. "You never forget where you won your first race and neither do your fans. I always look forward to coming here."

Helton will receive the Bruton Smith Legend Award for his leadership in his role as NASCAR President and shaping the legacy of the sport. Helton was instrumental in expanding NASCAR to new markets, both nationally and internationally. New tracks in Chicago and Kansas City were added to NASCAR's schedule in 2001. Later, NASCAR's presence grew with the addition of series in Mexico and Canada in 2007. He also was a key figure in the formation of the NASCAR Research & Development Center in Concord, N.C. Dedicated to strengthening NASCAR's competition and safety initiatives, it is the first R&D center owned and operated by a sanctioning body of a major motorsports series.

Busch will be honored with the 2016 Racer of the Year award following yet another impressive overall performance at Texas Motor Speedway last season. For the second time in his career, Busch swept both the Cup and XFINITY Series races at Texas in the same weekend after winning April's Duck Commander 500 and O'Reilly Auto Parts 300. The wins were his 12th and 13th at Texas Motor Speedway among NASCAR's three national series, the most among any driver.

Hinchcliffe's handling of a heart-breaking defeat in the 2016 Firestone 600 earned him the Texas Motor Speedway Sportsmanship Award. Graham Rahal made a dramatic last-lap pass of Hinchcliffe to win by 0.0080 of a second, the closest finish in Texas Motor

Speedway history. Hinchcliffe exemplified the ideals of sportsmanship following the race, handling the loss with class and dignity following a difficult defeat.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Speedway Children's Charities at (817) 215-8421 or visit [www.sctexas.org](http://www.sctexas.org).

The Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame event, traditionally held during Texas Motor Speedway's April NASCAR weekend, will now become part of November's NASCAR playoff tripleheader weekend. The race weekend features the Camping World Truck Series JAG Metals 350 Driving Hurricane Harvey Relief on Friday, Nov. 3; XFINITY Series O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 on Saturday, Nov. 4; and the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series AAA Texas 500 on Sunday, Nov. 5.

For more race information or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.texasmotorspeedway.com](http://www.texasmotorspeedway.com) or call the speedway ticket office at (817) 215-8500.

### Talladega Superspeedway

LOS ANGELES, CA - The Monster Energy Bellator MMA Fight Series heads to the legendary Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala. for its third event on Friday, Oct. 13. For the first time, fighters will step into the cage after the sun has set on Friday evening, kicking off an exciting weekend for fans that culminates with the fifth race of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs.

Ahead of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Alabama 500 on Sunday, Oct. 15, the Monster Energy Bellator MMA Fight Series will feature MMA action on Friday evening beginning at 8:30 p.m. CT at the Monster Energy Fan Zone in the Talladega Infield, immediately following the track's "Big One on the Blvd" parade and party. Talladega Infield access is required for admission.

Additionally, on Friday, October 13 from 3-4 p.m. CT, fans will have the opportunity to meet former Bellator lightweight champion and Monster Energy athlete "Iron" Michael Chandler, as well as heavyweight fan-favorite Roy "Big Country" Nelson, at the Monster Energy Fan Zone in the Talladega Fan Zone, directly outside admission gates behind the north end of the frontstretch grandstands.

"The Monster Energy Bellator MMA Fight Series has been a great way for us to share MMA, as well as the Bellator brand, with an entirely new fan base this year," said

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Bellator President Scott Coker. "With the support of Monster Energy, we've already seen the crossover appeal these events offer. I'm excited to head to one of the most iconic tracks in motorsports with Hans Molenkamp, Aaron Quesada, Austin Hodges and the entire Monster Energy team to bring Bellator MMA action to the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs at Talladega."

Through Bellator MMA, alongside longstanding partner Monster Energy, mixed martial arts will be included as a pre-race activation exclusively for fans in attendance. The lineup on Friday will consist of four MMA bouts featuring some of the best regional up-and-coming talent, with the main event prospects in consideration to be signed to a multi-fight Bellator MMA contract.

The Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Alabama 500 – the final scheduled start for six-time Talladega winner Dale Earnhardt, Jr. - takes place Sunday, October 15 at 1 p.m. CT. Tickets to the race are available at [www.talladegasuperspeedway.com](http://www.talladegasuperspeedway.com) or by calling Talladega Superspeedway at 1-855-518-RACE (7223).

Updated Monster Energy Bellator MMA Fight Series at Talladega Superspeedway Fight Card:

- Lightweight Main Event: Omar Johnson (8-1, Birmingham, Ala.) vs. Jonathan Pearce (5-3, Johnson City, Tenn.)
- Heavyweight Bout: Frank Tate (4-4, Birmingham, Ala.) vs. Kem Oti (2-1, Decatur, Ala.)
- Middleweight Bout: Marcel Stamps (1-0, Birmingham, Ala.) vs. Derek Wilson (Pro Debut, Atlanta, Ga.)
- Heavyweight Amateur Bout: Christian Echols (2-0, Cullman, Ala.) vs. Billy Swanson (7-1, Cleveland, Tenn.)

Please visit [Bellator.com](http://Bellator.com) for details. \*Event schedule subject to change.

### Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Charlotte Motor Speedway presented legendary crew chief Tony Eury Sr. with the speedway's prestigious Smokey Yunick Award on Sunday prior to the Bank of America 500.

Eury – a longtime crew chief of



**Legendary crew chief Tony Eury Sr., left, receives the Smokey Yunick Award on Sunday from Marcus Smith, the president and CEO of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. (HHP/Harold Hinson photo)**

Dale Earnhardt Jr. – guided Earnhardt to two NASCAR XFINITY Series championships and 15 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series victories. Eury's considerable history in the sport led to 25 XFINITY Series wins with drivers including Dale Earnhardt and Dale Earnhardt Jr., who makes his final Charlotte start as a full-time driver on Sunday.

Presented annually since 1997 to honor famed mechanic Henry "Smokey" Yunick, the award recognizes an individual who rose from humble beginnings to make a major impact on the motorsports industry.

A native of nearby Kannapolis, North Carolina, Eury was the crew chief when Earnhardt Jr. became the first rookie to win the Monster Energy All-Star Race in 2000 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Eury joins a star-studded list of recipients including the Wood brothers, Ken Squier, Junior Johnson, Cotton Owens and Ray Evernham.

"Coming from a mill town, I never really realized what I was getting myself into when I started," Eury said. "The list of names to have won this is pretty incredible. Being in a class with Leonard Wood, Junior Johnson and Ray Evernham and those guys is an honor. It's a real honor."

### Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, PA - Tickets to the 2018 NASCAR and INDYCAR events at Pocono Raceway are now on sale.

Pocono Raceway tickets for children, ages 12 and under, will remain free for Friday and Saturday support races and half price for Sunday events in the 100 and 200 Level Grandstand next summer. Additionally, 2018 Sunday NASCAR and INDYCAR tickets will

come with Pocono Raceway's Worry-Free Weather Guarantee. Visit [www.poconoraceway.com](http://www.poconoraceway.com) for more details.

"The 2017 racing season at Pocono was one to remember with a first-time Monster Energy Cup Series winner in Ryan Blaney, Kyle Busch capturing his first win of the season and Will Power repeating in the Verizon IndyCar Series," said Pocono Raceway President Ben May. "A huge thank you goes out to our fans who made us a part of their summer entertainment calendar. We will be bringing back the Worry-Free Weather Guarantee and continue our promise to better your event experience."

Select tickets can be purchased at [www.poconoraceway.com](http://www.poconoraceway.com), by calling 1-800-RACEWAY or in person at the Pocono Raceway Ticket Office on Long Pond Road. Fans who were 2017 Pocono Raceway ticket holders can renew their tickets by visiting [www.poconoraceway.com/renewal](http://www.poconoraceway.com/renewal).

In addition to Grandstand and Camping tickets, Pit/Paddock Passes, Tricky Triangle Club tickets (NASCAR only) and Pocono Raceway Gift Cards are also now available for purchase.

### Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - The past, present and future stars of NASCAR will be out in full force for Talladega Superspeedway's Pre-Race Fan Question & Answer Session, set for Sunday, Oct. 15, prior to the start of the Alabama 500. Joining already announced drivers Brad Keselowski and Chase Elliott will be this year's Daytona 500 Champ Kurt Busch, along with original Alabama Gang member Donnie Allison, Rookie of the Year candidate

Ty Dillon and Len & Eddie Wood of the iconic Wood Brothers Racing team.

Fans that purchase Talladega's Pre-Race Pit Pass Upgrade for just \$75 receive access to the Q&A, scheduled for 9:15 – 10:45 am. (CDT) on the start-finish line of NASCAR's Most Competitive Track. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to ask one of the seven individuals a question, but that's not the only benefit of the upgrade.

Fans can also take a stroll down pit road, stand at the red-carpet entrance at the drivers meeting and even experience driver introductions stage side – all before the engines are fired for the exciting Alabama 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Playoff event.

Visit [www.talladegasuperspeedway.com](http://www.talladegasuperspeedway.com) or call 855-518-RACE (7223) to purchase the Pre-Race Pit Pass Upgrade now to ensure you don't miss out on this incredible race day opportunity.

Below are details on each of the five personalities added to the Pre-Race Fan Q&A Session.

- Kurt Busch, No. 41 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford: This years Daytona 500 winner, he has four third-place finishes at Talladega Superspeedway (TSS).

- Ty Dillon, No. 13 Germain Racing Chevrolet: Dillon who will make his second TSS start in the MENCs. He has one TSS victory to his credit – winning the 2011 ARCA event.

- Donnie Allison, International Motorsports Hall of Famer: The Hueytown, Alabama native made over 200 MENCs starts during his 21-year career, winning 10 races, including two Talladega victories.

- Len and Eddie Wood, Co-owners of Wood Brothers Racing: The Wood Brothers have been involved in racing for decades and have five Talladega victories to their credit. Together, Len and Eddie lead NASCAR's longest continuous running race team. Their playoff team will be gunning for career win No. 100 with Ryan Blaney behind the wheel.

These five individuals will join playoff contenders' Keselowski, a four-time TSS winner and Elliott, the son of two-time Talladega victor Bill Elliott, and the pole winner for the 2016 GEICO 500.



## Volunteer Speedway

**BULLS GAP, TN -** The inaugural Fall Classic was held Saturday at Volunteer Speedway, and fans were treated to an exciting night of racing on the high banks at "The Gap."

Jason Trammell of Knoxville captured the Steel Head Late Model victory, while Logan Roberson of Waynesboro, Virginia, recorded the Crate Late Model win.

Zach Sise of Knoxville captured the Sportsman Late Model win, with Kurt Owens of Newport getting the Modified Street victory, while Josh Chesney of Knoxville recorded the Classic win.

Pierce McCarter set fast-time in Steel Head Late Model qualifying at 13.021 seconds to earn the pole position, with Jason Trammell close behind in second at 13.036 to set the front row for the \$1,500-to-win, 40 lap feature.

Trammell rocketed out into the lead at the start over McCarter, Ryan King, Chase King and Trevor Sise. Behind them Eddie King Jr., John Tweed, Jason Cardwell, Bobby Mays, Layne Clifton, John Llewellyn and Greg Estes were battling for position.

Tweed's night ended prematurely on lap 12 when he spun between turns one and two to bring out the caution and was towed into the pits, with Llewellyn also slowly entering the pits ending his race.

Back under green and Trammell wasted no time in putting some distance between himself and closest challengers. But the action was fast and furious from those in pursuit, with two- and three-wide racing back through the field.

Cardwell and Chase King entered the Fall Classic separated by only three points in battle for Steel Head Late Model track championship. While Trammell was in command out front with the cruise control engaged, the racing was good involving McCarter, Ryan King, Chase King, Eddie King Jr., and others.

Tough break for Mays on lap 24 when he suddenly slowed racing up off the fourth turn when his engine went up in smoke and dumped oil along the front straightaway to bring out the caution.

Off the double-file restart, Trammell once again set sail out front and quickly began to stretch his ad-

vantage. With the race running clean-and-green, Trammell easily picked up his second straight Steel Head Late Model win over Eddie King Jr., Chase King, McCarter and Cardwell. Ryan King's apparent second-place finish was taken away post-race with a disqualification, when it was determined a race procedure violation regarding use of two-way communication during the event had occurred.

Tim Byrd was quickest in Crate Late Model qualifying at 13.555 seconds, with Ross White right behind in second at 13.572 to make up the front row for the \$1,500-to-win, 40-lap feature.

White jumped out to the lead on the start over Byrd, Tim Maupin, Jensen Ford and Mack McCarter. Just outside of the top five it was a good battle for position involving Vic Hill, Logan Roberson, Gary Crittenden and Josh Henry.

Lap 10 proved to be troublesome getting in the scoring books as first a three-car incident involving Anthony Arnwine, Jason Melton and Eli Beets in the fourth turn initially brought out the caution flag followed by the red flag. Arnwine's car almost flipped, getting up on its side and laying on top of both Beets and Melton.

After cleanup by the track safety crew and the field back under green, before one lap could be completed another multi-car incident in the fourth turn brought out the caution flag and then the red flag. Cameron Skinner, Keith Helton, Chris Long, Jordan Graves and Tristan Clawson tangled, with Clawson getting upside down.

With the field back up to speed, racing action was intense between White, Ford and Byrd battling for the lead. While trying to get around White, Ford spun on lap 16 to bring the caution out.

Off the ensuing double-file restart, White was riding out front followed by Byrd and McCarter. McCarter quickly got past Byrd and set his sights ahead on White. Racing between turns three and four on lap 18, McCarter took the lead.

But coming and coming furiously was Roberson, after starting from the seventh spot, with Henry also on the move behind Roberson toward the front. With McCarter in the lead over White, Byrd and Hill, both Roberson and Henry worked their way around them to settle into second and third, respectively, in the running order.

With Roberson leading the way and opening the door, Henry followed him as they passed Hill and Byrd. A late race caution on lap 35



**Jason Trammell of Knoxville, Tennessee, led flag-to-flag en route to capturing his second straight Steel Head Late Model feature win Saturday at Volunteer Speedway. (TODD REINERIO)**

for a spin in the fourth turn set the stage for an exciting finish.

Back under green McCarter and Roberson were racing side-by-side battling for the lead, while behind them Henry got around White to take over the third spot. The 19-year-old Roberson, who had captured a win the night before at 311 Speedway in Madison, North Carolina, powered his way past McCarter racing off the fourth turn on lap 38 and went on to capture the Crate Late Model victory over McCarter, Henry, White and Hill.

Zach Sise grabbed the lead at drop of the green flag in the \$1,000-to-win, 25-lap Sportsman Late Model feature. The action proved to be worth the price of admission itself in the early laps as Sise, Heath Alvey (pole winner at 13.601), Jed Emert, Brad Seagle, Warren McMahan, Matt Tharp, Chris Coffey, Brandon Miller, Tyler Smith and Preston Whitehead jockeyed for real estate.

Sise looked strong out front, while on consecutive laps behind him Alvey and Emert were exchanging slide-jobs in the corners with precise execution. But out front there would be no catching the 17-year-old Sise as he captured his third victory on the season over Emert, Alvey, Tharp and Coffey.

Brad Davis set fast-time at 14.334 seconds to earn the pole position for the \$1,000-to-win, 25-lap Modified Street feature. Davis and Kurt Owens started alongside each other on the front row, with Owens taking the lead on the opening lap over Davis and Austin Atkins. Just behind the lead trio Shannon Emery, Michael Woods and Chris Rickett were battling for position.

Davis looked underneath Owens lap-after-lap in the corners trying to

overtake him, but Owens continually slammed the door shut and maintained his advantage out front. Rickett first worked his way around Woods and then picked off Emery, and with under five laps to go he passed Atkins for the third spot.

With Davis pressuring Owens for the lead and the laps winding down, Owens never missed a beat and held on to take his first win of the season. Chasing Owens to the checkers were Davis, Rickett, Emery and Woods.

Josh Chesney and Tim Stevens battled up front for the lead in the Classic feature in the early going before Stevens eventually had issues and headed into the pits. Enter Eli Keck into the picture as he began to pressure Chesney for the lead.

On occasion it appeared Keck might be able to overtake Chesney through the corners, but Chesney would not be denied his first Classic victory of the season over Keck, Richie Overholser, Chris Worsham and Tony Trent.

The next event at Volunteer Speedway will be on Saturday, Oct. 21, and it will be the final points-awarding race of the season to decide divisional track champions.

## Concord Speedway

**CONCORD, NC -** The 15th Annual John Blewett III North South Shootout, in Memory of Charles Kopley – one of the nation's premier short track events – will take place at Concord Speedway on Saturday, November 3.

A pair of 125-lap features for the Pro All Star Series (PASS) super late models and the potent Modifieds will headline the action in what promises to be an event not to be missed. The top modified drivers will be competing for

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\$10,000 top prize.

Action begins on Thursday, November 1 with a full day of practice. On Friday a full day of practice leads into a special night of racing featuring qualifying, a mini stock race, vintage racing and two 13-lap shootouts named after late modified legend Ted Christopher.

Saturday is the big day with an on-track autograph session at

11:40 and racing kicking off promptly at 1:00 pm, an hour earlier than previous years. The 125-lap PASS super late models are first with the 125-lap modified feature next. Also on the docket are races for the SK Modifieds, Limited Late Models, Chargers and the Vintage cars.

Schedule, entry forms, advance ticket sales, and other information is available at [www.North-SouthShootout.com](http://www.North-SouthShootout.com). Further updates will also be made on the North South Shootout Facebook Page as well as through the @NSShootout Twitter Account.

## Eldora Speedway

ROSSBURG, OH - It may have been 16 hours later than scheduled, but Jeep Van Wormer (Pinconning, Michigan) and Nick Hoffman ( Mooresville, North Carolina) scored the \$5,000 victories in the rain-delayed championship events in the Allstar Performance Fall Nationals Sunday at Eldora Speedway.

The UMP Late Model feature restarted with 16-laps completed before Saturday night's rain. Van Wormer was immediately challenged by Kent Robinson (Bloomington, Indiana) and they duelled top and bottom around the extremely racy high-banked half-mile oval.

While the lead was exchanged

several times unofficially, Robinson used the low side of the speedway to officially record the lead at the flag stand on lap-18. Van Wormer rallied back on the outside and took the lead back on the following lap. They were soon joined by 2016 World 100 winner Bobby Pierce (Oakwood, Illinois) and three raced three-wide jockeying for the top-three positions.

Following a lap-27 caution flag for Jeff Berwanger's brush with the wall (Murray City), Pierce moved around Robinson into the runner-up position and began pressuring Van Wormer for the lead.

Van Wormer was up to the challenge and held Pierce at bay over the final 12 laps to pick up his first win at Eldora since July 2015.

"It feels good to get back in victory lane here at Eldora, it's been a while," Van Wormer, a two-time Eldora Late Model Season Champion said on the victory stage. "We'll never know what would have happened if it didn't rain last night. They had harder tires on then I did last night but we changed before we started today and my guys gave me a really good car."

Pierce held on for second-place, while Robinson finished in third-place, which secured him his first Eldora track championship.

"It ranks right up there with everything else I have accomplished in my career," Robinson said. "When we sat down to set our goals at the beginning of the season, we made this one of our main goals. It is pretty cool to accomplish a goal you set out to achieve."

Jon Henry (Ada) finished in fourth-place and wrapped up the Sunoco American Late Model Series season championship. Jacob Hawkins (Fairmont, West Virginia) rounded out the top-five bringing St. Henry's Bill Dues-owned machine home in fifth-place.

Rusty Schlenk (McClure, Ohio) finished ninth to secure his second DIRTcar UMP National Championship over Ryan Unzicker (El Paso, Illinois).

Nick Hoffman grew up in

Belleville, Illinois but moved to Mooresville, North Carolina at a young age and worked his way up through quarter-midgets, karts, Bandoleros and Legends Cars before turning his attention to dirt cars.

Hoffman started Friday's show by hitting the wall in qualifying. With no time, he lined up last in his heat race and powered his way to the front taking the win. An invert of six based on qualifying time for the feature race lined him up sixth but he scored one of the four \$2,000-to-win A-Features scoring valuable points towards Saturday's tournament qualifiers.

Seeded by total points based on performance, Hoffman started the first of the four 15-lap qualifying races in 13th position, worked his way to a second-place finish behind winner Kyle Strickler (Mooresville, North Carolina) and into the redraw for the top-12 starting positions.

Drawing the fourth starting spot, Hoffman chased pole sitter Trent Young (Crofton, Kentucky) for the first six laps of the 30-lap UMP Modified Championship feature event before driving under Young in Turns 3 and 4 to take the lead. Young was not done and challenged Hoffman several times, re-taking the lead before Hoffman started to pull away.

From that point forward, Hoffman, was never seriously challenged but did have a scary moment under the race's first caution period when Nathon Loney crashed on lap 16. Hoffman's car rolled to a stop on the frontstretch but was able to get the machine to re-fire on his own re-assumed his position at the front of the field.

It was Hoffman's second win in the event, his first coming in 2012. He also scored his first career Late Model victory at Eldora in the season opener in April.

"It just kept wanting to stall out under those cautions and I really didn't want to see that caution with four to go, so I just held it wide open and tried to clean it out," Hoff-

man said. "My hats off to everyone here at Eldora for putting this thing on and getting us a good track to race on today."

Former NASCAR driver David Stremme (Mooresville, North Carolina) moved from his 12th starting position to second-place at the finish while Young completed the podium finishers coming home in third-place. Kenny Wallace (Imperial, Missouri) and Taylor Cook (Huntersville, North Carolina) completed the top-five.

NASCAR Camping World Truck Series regular Justin Haley (Winamac, Indiana), Josh Rice (Verona, Kentucky), Dylan Woodling (Warsaw, Indiana), Jerry Bowersock (Wapakoneta) and Ryan Sutter (Coldwater) completed the top-10.

Bowersock wrapped up his fourth career Eldora Modified championship, his first since 2013 and his fifth overall track championship.

"We didn't win any races, which was kind of disappointing but we had a lot of top-five and top-three's and that's how you win a championship," said Bowersock, who is now tied for the third most championships in Eldora's 64 year history.

Eldora wraps up the 2017 season next Saturday night, October 14th with the "Last Call For Methanol." The Arctic Car All Star Circuit of Champions highlights the three-division program, which also features a program for the K&L Ready Mix National Racing Alliance 360 Sprint Cars and traditional non-wing sprint cars.

Ticket and event information can be found at [www.EldoraSpeedway.com](http://www.EldoraSpeedway.com) or by calling (937) 338-3815.

## Southern National Motorsports Park

LUCAMA, NC – After being postponed due to rain on Saturday, the fourth running of the Spooktacular at Southern National Motorsports Park has been moved to Sunday, October 22nd.

The Spooktacular will be head-  
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Jeep Van Wormer (55) takes the lead and wins the UMP Late Model feature of the Allstar Performance Fall Nationals at Eldora Speedway. (MIKE CAMPBELL/CAMPBELL PHOTOS photo)

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lined by the previously scheduled 100 lap Limited Late Model feature race and twin 75-lap races for the Fast Five Pro Late Model Series. The Spooktacular will also feature a 65-lap Mini Stock race, 25 laps of racing for Legends, 15 laps for Bandoleros, 15 laps Any Cars and twin 25-lap races for the Virginia Mini Cups.

"We really struggled to come up with a suitable date to make this race up," track owner Michael Diaz said. "This late in the year, we didn't want to step on anyone else's already scheduled races and this date is the only one that works for us."

The Spooktacular was scheduled to be held on Saturday night but persistent rainfall throughout the afternoon and evening forced Southern National Motorsports Park to pull the plug.

"Hopefully, all the drivers and teams will be able to make it work for them," Diaz continued. "Maybe we can even have higher car counts for this special Sunday evening show."

The Spooktacular will go green at 2:30pm on Sunday, October 22nd.

For more information about the Spooktacular, visit the event page at <http://www.snmpark.com/spooktacular>.

## Rockford Speedway

The 'Last Blast' of the racing season happens next weekend at Rockford Speedway, with the 26th installment of the Bahama Bracket Nationals(BBN). BBN is a one-of-a-kind racing extravaganza taking place next Saturday and Sunday October 14 and 15! The event features cars from both asphalt and dirt tracks competing against one another in "Bracket style" racing. Starting Saturday afternoon at 12:30 PM, over 150 drivers will qualify their cars for the event. After qualifying, the field is then split into separate Brackets (four 'Full-size' Brackets and two 'four-cylinder' Brackets) and at 6 PM, the race is on! You'll see Late Models, Sportsman, Modifieds, Trucks, Roadrunners, Hornets and more competing against one another, with every car racing for their chance to earn a spot in Sunday's Championship Features.

Drivers that don't advance through the Qualifying Races and Bermuda Bashes on Saturday night have the chance to 'Dance To Advance' after the races Saturday in the Miller Lite Pavilion OR race their way in during Sunday afternoon's Last Chance Races, which kick things off at Noon. Sunday's Main Events include 50 lap features for the A & AA Bracket, with the winner choosing between their prize money (\$1500 or \$1000) or trip for two to the Bahamas! The AAA & AAAA Brackets will run 40 lap features, while the B & BB Brackets will contest 35 and 25 lap features. If you love racing, you must take in Bahama Bracket Nationals next weekend at Rockford Speedway...and don't forget to bring a friend!

Once again this season, "Overnight Parking for Campers" is permitted on Speedway grounds during the 26th Annual Bahama Bracket Nationals, with the Overnight Lot opening up next Thursday evening October 12 at 5 PM.

Sunday afternoon October 22, the 70th season of racing comes to an end at Rockford Speedway, with the 37th running of the Goblin 250 enduro for 4 cylinder cars. The Goblin 250 features hundreds of cars fighting around the Rockford Speedway for 250 laps, with a 10 minute 'halfway break' at Lap 125. The fun begins at 12:40 PM, with the annual Kids Costume Contest preceding the start of the Enduro race at 1 PM. During the 'halfway break,' a Kids Candy Scramble will be held on the frontstretch. Then, ten minutes after the Goblin 250, the season comes to a 'smashing' conclusion with the running of the 'Big Swarm' Demo Derby! To go along with all of that fun, 'Goblin Sunday' is a 'Miller Lite Dollar Beer Day.' Gates open at 11 AM Sunday morning October 22, so don't miss your last chance for 2017 to have a little fun at Rockford Speedway.

## Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - After a 2-race SK Modified® debut during the 2016 season, Palmer, MA native Josh Wood made the full-time step up in 2017 to compete for NAPA Rookie of the Year honors. Wood started all 17 races during the 2017 season and he recorded 4 top-10 finishes behind the wheel of his #24 R.A.D. Automachine Chevrolet to finish 13th in the final SK Modified® standings. After a strong rookie season Wood not only won NAPA Rookie of the Year honors but was also the

NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Connecticut State Rookie of the Year.

"It feels pretty good to be rookie of the year," said Wood. "This year was a big learning experience jumping from the Late Model up to SK Modified®. It seemed like halfway through the year I started to figure things out. It's a lot different passing in a Late Model versus the SK. I think the competition was the biggest difference between the two. The SK Modified® division is so close, there's about 10 cars that can win on any given night. You really had to be on your toes and the car had to be perfect in order to run up front with those guys."

Wood moved to the SK Modified® division after a high level of success at Stafford. Wood captured 7 DARE Stock feature wins from 2010-2011 and 10 Limited Late Model features from 2012-2013 along with winning rookie of the year honors in 2012 and the championship in 2013. He has also recorded 6 Late Model feature wins from 2014-2017. Despite his 23 feature wins and 2013 Limited Late Model championship, Wood says he knew he was in for a steep learning curve making the full-time move into Stafford Speedway's premier SK Modified® division.

"I had a lot of fun this season, I wasn't expecting by any means to come to the SK Modified® division and be dominant," said Wood. "My goal was to get used to the car and to try to run in the top-10 as much as we could."

Wood struggled through much of the first half of the season, but once he recorded his first top-10 finish on the night of August 11, Wood scored all four of his top-10 finishes in the final 7 races, including two in a row to close out the year.

"At the beginning of the season

we had the misfortune of being involved in a lot of wrecks that weren't necessarily our fault," said Wood. "Since we didn't have a lot of laps under our belt and we had to start in the back as a rookie, it only takes one tire hit to wreck half the field since everyone is so close together and you really have nowhere to go. Halfway through the year we were starting closer to the front so I got some laps and learned how to drive effectively in the SK Modified® division. I have to thank all my sponsors this season, R.A.D. Automachine, Falls Alignment, Chassis Pro, Cooker Construction, and everyone on the crew. Todd, Butch, my Dad, Ernie, Alex Grab for spotting for me, there's so many guys to thank, all the guys that work week in and week out."

For winning the 2017 NAPA Auto Parts Rookie of the Year honors for the SK Modified® division, Wood will take home a \$1,000 store credit bonus from NAPA Auto Parts. Wood will also take home a \$1,000 bonus from NASCAR as the Connecticut State Rookie of the Year and he will receive his awards at the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series banquet in Charlotte.

"That's a pretty nice award," said Wood. "Thanks to NAPA for putting that money up for us and I'm sure that we'll put it to good use on the car."

Wood will officially be crowned as the 2017 NAPA Auto Parts Rookie of the Year at the 48th Annual Stafford Motor Speedway Champions Awards Ceremony on Friday, November 17 at Maneeley's Banquet Facility in South Windsor.

For more information, contact the Stafford Motor Speedway track office at 860-684-2783 or visit us on the web at [www.staffordspeedway.com](http://www.staffordspeedway.com).