



OCTOBER 16, 2017

# FastTrack

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

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## Keselowski Battles His Way to Talladega Victory



**Parker Klingerman Triumphant at Talladega**



**Ryan Smith Sweeps "Double Down at Mansfield"**

# Points or Wins; What is Most Important

Although Denny Hamlin said Sunday he wasn't interested in collecting points in the NASCAR playoffs, there were 10 other drivers in the championship hunt who would have loved to trade places with him following

Kenseth, Ricky Stenhouse and Jamie McMurray – currently below the cutline all were involved in big crashes on Sunday.

What appeared two weeks ago to be an easy ride to the championship round now has Busch in trouble to advance to the Elite Eight.



**DON COBLE**

Crashes and mechanical issues in the past two races have erased Busch's cushion in the standings that came with two of three races in the first round.

an afternoon of carnage at the Talladega Superspeedway.

Hamlin finished fifth on a day when only 14 cars finished the race. And in the process, he built a 21-point cushion over the first cutoff spot ahead of next Sunday's race at the Kansas Speedway.

"You always want to win. I don't care about the points," he said. "Our team really did a good job all weekend. The three big wrecks that happened, they all started in front of us, and somehow we got through every time so it was quite amazing.

"Still a good day overall, but wish we had a little more."

Four drivers will be eliminated after the Kansas race. The four drivers – Kyle Busch, Matt

Now he's forced to make up a seven-point deficit at Kansas. For now, he's not thinking about points, either.

"I have no clue. I don't know what's going on around us," he said after finishing 27th. "I don't know who all was in it with us. Obviously the 48 [Jimmie Johnson], the 78 [Martin Truex Jr.], the 17 [Stenhouse], the 1 [McMurray] have been out for a while [from earlier crashes], so we should probably be the last guy through."

Actually, he's the first guy out. Johnson, the defending series champion, currently has the eighth, and final, qualifying spot.

The biggest winner at Talladega



Teammates Kyle Busch (18) and Denny Hamlin (11) battle for position before Busch was eliminated in a multiple car crash. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

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MENCS - NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY  
NCWTS - DAVID GRIFFIN  
ARTIC CAT ALL STARS - PAUL ARCH

was Brad Keselowski. He passed Ryan Newman on the final lap to win the race and lock up a spot in the third round. In the process he gave Ford a sweep of all four restrictor-plate races – and avoid the challenges of beating Toyota next Sunday on a 1.5- and 2-mile tracks. Toyotas have combined to win four of the last five races on intermediate raceways.

With a 1.5- and 1-mile track in the next round, Keselowski now has the pressure of a make-or-break race in two weeks at the half-mile Martinsville Speedway.

"We've looked at it. You've got to be realistic about where you're at right now, where our cars are at speed-wise, what our strengths and weaknesses are, and you've got to do your best to capitalize when you can, crew chief Paul Wolfe said. "Absolutely I look at Martinsville as we need to go there and win, and if we can do that, we'll race for a championship."

At least Keselowski will be around to put up a fight. Four other drivers will be on the championship sidelines.

Stenhouse and McMurray es-

entially need a win at Kansas to stay alive. Busch and Kenseth need top-10 finishes – along with some troubles from drivers higher in the rankings.

"We know you can come out of [Talladega] with a lot of points and be a winner or you can be in the position we are right now," McMurray said after finishing 37th. "We'll go to Kansas and do our best."

Stenhouse will take a different approach.

"We're going to go out and have some fun," he said.

While Busch has four victories this year, including two in the playoffs, he's still three spots in the standings – and 20 points – from Chase Elliott, who's still looking for his first career Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series win.

Like everyone else in the playoffs, he was disappointed he couldn't cash in on everyone else's problems.

"There's not really a silver lining in having an opportunity to finish one off and not," Elliott said. "I'm more disappointed about that."

But try telling that to Denny Hamlin.

# Last-Lap Pass Gives Brad Keselowski Victory in Wild Talladega Race

By REID SPENCER  
TALLADEGA, AL -  
On the Longest Day at  
Talladega—in a war of  
attrition that required  
three red flags and left  
14 cars running at the  
finish—Brad Keselowski powered his

No. 2 Team Penske Ford past the No. 31 Chevrolet of Ryan Newman on the final lap to win Sunday's Alabama 500 at Talladega Superspeedway.

Two laps after the final restart on Lap 186 of 188, Keselowski and teammate Joey Logano ganged up on Newman, who held the runner-up position after Keselowski shot past him. Trevor Bayne ran third in a damaged No. 6 Ford, with Logano and Aric Almirola finishing fourth and fifth, respectively.

Denny Hamlin came home sixth, the only Playoff driver other than Keselowski whose car wasn't heavily damaged in one of the myriad wrecks that punctuated an event that consumed 3 hours, 53 minutes, 17 seconds—not including the three stoppages that totaled 35 minutes, 29 seconds.

But in winning for the fifth time at Talladega, the third time this season and the 24th time in his career, Keselowski claimed the important prize—a ticket into the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series' Round of 8.

In his final run at Talladega in the No. 88 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, pole winner Dale Earnhardt Jr. restarted third after the 11th and final caution, tried unsuccessfully to push Keselowski to the lead through the first two corners and fell back to seventh at the finish.

"I feel like only eight cars finished the race," said Keselowski, who gave Ford its seventh straight victory in restrictor-plate races, despite running much of the final stage with a broken radio antenna and intermittent communication with his spotter and crew chief. "It was one of those crazy days. I think we've seen that at the plate tracks this year—a lot of attrition..."

"This is still sinking in. It's a special place to get to race and a special place when you win here. It

was really a collaborative effort with the team and getting a real fast car and making the right moves as a driver and a lot of help from up above with staying out of those wrecks. It really takes all three and we had them all today."

Though Newman surged to the front after the final restart, he assumed his stint at the point would be short-lived.

"We held them off longer than I expected," Newman said. "I couldn't tell how much nose damage I had and I hadn't led all day, so I didn't know what to expect. I saw the No. 2 car in the mirror backing up and then he lost his draft and then he backed up again and he caught the No. 22 (Logano). That was all it took for him to get a good run.

"I would have maybe played it differently and backed it up in hindsight, backed up to them in hindsight, but I don't think it would have made a difference. They were double-teaming me, and it was still a good race to finish second with the Caterpillar Chevrolet."

Any of the 10 Playoff contenders whose cars were heavily damaged in wrecks throughout the race would have gladly settled for second.

Jamie McMurray was out of the race after 25 laps, his car destroyed in a six-car collision off Turn 4. That was a harbinger of the intense action to come. Playoff drivers Jimmie Johnson, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Kyle Busch, Matt Kenseth and Kevin Harvick all suffered varying degrees of damage in a 16-car accident triggered by series leader Martin Truex Jr. on Lap 172.

"Well, I tried to get into a hole that was closing up at the wrong time," said Truex, who already had earned a berth in the Round of 8 by winning last Sunday at Charlotte. "By the time that I got in the brakes trying to get out of there I got into the 38 (David Ragan) a little bit on the right rear and he got squirrely out there and all hell broke loose. Just was trying to get to the end and get some track position and try to get towards the front and have a good day and ended up causing a wreck.



**Brad Keselowski is not only ok with his win of the Alabama 500 but he is more than ok with the ticket into the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Round of 8 toward the Chase that this win earned him and his team. (DAVID GRIFFIN photo)**

"So I hate it for everybody. We definitely had nothing to lose today, but at the same time, you don't want to be the person that causes others problems. Even though I feel like I've never been that guy here before, it looks like today I was, so I hate it for all of those guys and all of their teams. I wish I didn't make that mistake. Just 18 (laps) to go at Talladega, trying to get going and trying to fill a hole. Bad judgement and should have been more patient."

That wreck caused the first red flag. The second came after a Lap 178 accident that ended Harvick's day and that of Playoff contender Ryan Blaney, who had led 27 laps,

second only to Logano's 59.

The final caution on Lap 183—followed by the third red flag—wiped out the Chevrolets of Chase Elliott and Kyle Larson, who were fighting for position at the front of the field when contact from Daniel Suarez's Toyota ignited a six-car melee that raised the crash toll of Playoff drivers to 10.

The enormous attrition set up a scramble for the final six Playoff positions entering next Sunday's elimination race at Kansas Speedway. Kyle Busch, Kenseth, Stenhouse and McMurray are below the current cut line, but only 29 points separate Harvick in fourth place from Busch in ninth.

# Parker Kligerman Triumphs at Talladega, as Nemechek Makes Round of 6

By REID SPENCER  
TALLADEGA, AL -  
The massive wreck in Turn 1 that gobbled up a pack of trucks in overtime at Talladega Superspeedway spared a part-time driver with one win on

his career resume and a lower-budget team fighting for the final spot in the Round of 6 of the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series' Playoff.

The part-timer, Parker Kligerman, charged to the front past pole winner, series leader and race runner-up Christopher Bell after the final restart and had the lead in Saturday's Fred's 250 when trucks started bouncing off each other in Turn 1 on the final lap. That wreck caused a caution that froze the running order and gave Kligerman his first victory since he won at Talladega in 2012.

The real suspense, however, involved John Hunter Nemechek, who steered his already-wrecked truck through two major crashes in the final 25 laps to finish sixth. Nemechek grabbed the final spot in the Round of 6 over Chase Briscoe, who finished 22nd, nine laps down after his team dealt with a valve cover issue early in the

race.

"We had a long team meeting last night in the lobby of our hotel, and we sat down and said a prayer that we would make it to the next round," Nemechek said.

Shortly after the restart of the final stage, it appeared the prayer would not be answered. Nemechek's No. 8 Chevrolet was damaged heavily in a crash that started when Ben Rhodes turned Clay Greenfield's Chevrolet in Turn 4 on Lap 54.

Nemechek's team worked feverishly to repair the damage to the extent possible and kept the No. 8 on the lead lap. With Briscoe locked into a 22nd-place finish, Nemechek had to finish 13th or better after Austin Wayne Self's spin in Turn 4 caused the sixth caution on Lap 90 and sent the event to overtime. When trucks in the lead pack started wrecking in front of Nemechek after the field took the white flag, spotter Jason Jarrett guided his driver through the melee and gained enough spots to advance comfortably.

For Kligerman, it was a case of right choices at the right time.

"It's all a blur," he said. "Each corner you're making six decisions, and they happened to work. It was just crazy. Every move worked. It's



Parker Kligerman celebrates his win in the big one at Talladega Superspeedway after surviving the massive wreck in overtime. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

just sometimes they click. Those last 10 laps, if I went high and separated the back, or if I tried to get the bump and the run, every move just worked. Sometimes they go your way."

For the first 40 laps, Talladega looked like Johnny Sauter's personal playground. The defending series champion powered into the lead after the start, pulling GMS Racing teammate Justin Haley with him. Sauter and Haley dropped to the inside lane in front of Bell and ran in lock-step for 20 laps, with Sauter winning the first stage wire-to-wire.

Sauter may have sailed through Stage 1, but calamity struck two

other championship contenders. On Lap 8, Briscoe took his No. 29 Brad Keselowski Racing Ford to the garage to repair a fluid leak and lost 10 laps in the process. Briscoe's issues, however, couldn't compare with those of Kaz Grala, who started the race from the rear because of a last-minute engine change. After working his way Grala was the victim of a chain-reaction wreck of Turn 4 on Lap 19, also involving the trucks of Cody Coughlin, Chris Fontaine, Rhodes and Ryan Truex.

Grala's No. 33 Chevy nosed into the outside wall and spun into the infield grass, where the heavily damaged Silverado sat until a wrecker towed it to the garage. Grala retired in 29th place, his Playoff over.

"I'm not quite sure what happened," Grala said after a mandatory visit to the infield care center. "Everything checked up in front of me. I slowed down. I think I was going to miss it, but the truck behind me (Truex's Toyota) didn't get slowed down fast enough and turned us up into the wall and ended our day.

"I think that's the end of our championship hopes, unfortunately. It's tough to take, because I think we really came alive this latter part of the season. I think we could have been a contender."

Notes: Myatt Snider sustained damage in a Lap 70 wreck but rallied to finish a career-best third... Austin Cindric ran fifth behind Grant Enfinger and secured a spot in the Round of 6, joining Bell, Sauter, Nemechek, Rhodes and Matt Crafton.



John Hunter Nemechek (8) gets caught up in a wreck in the turn at Talladega Superspeedway but still muscled through to grab the final spot in the Round of 6 toward the championship. (RONDA GREER photo)

## Self Rolls to Second Straight K&N Pro West Victory

ROSEVILLE, CA - While Todd Gilliland and Chris Eggleston are taking the NASCAR K&N Pro Series West championship battle down to the last race, Michael Self is doing his part to steal some of the spotlight.

Self wheeled his No. 9 Sunrise Ford/Eibach Springs/Lucas Oil Ford to the Toyota/NAPA Auto Parts 150 presented by TriCo Welding Supply victory at All American Speedway on Saturday night, and he did so in dominating fashion.

Fastest in practice and the Coors Light Pole Award winner, Self led 137 laps en route to his second straight win. After losing the lead on the initial start, he reclaimed it on Lap 13 and never looked back, as he crossed the finish line 2.946 seconds ahead of eventual second-place finisher Gilliland.

The win was the Park City, Utah, native's first at the northern California bullring, second of the season and eighth of his NASCAR K&N Pro Series West career.

"I'm on top of the world right now," Self said, drenched in Victory Lane after his team doused him in celebratory fashion. "This is unbelievable, a great feeling to come and dominate the way we did tonight. In Bob Bruncati's car, with the Sunrise Ford colors on there, after we got our win (at Meridian) with the Sinclair colors on there. It's just capping it off, man. I think we had the momentum going at Merid-

ian, and it carried over tonight. Just feels so good for these (No. 9) guys."

The result at the third-mile short-track was Self's sixth top five and 12th top 10 of the season. He's now one top 10 shy of tying his career high, which he earned back in 2013 -- his last full-time season in the NKNPSW.

"That's the best short track car I've ever run right there," Self said. "When you come to these places, you gotta have a car that turns in the center really good, but also has drive off the corners and doesn't get loose on you. That's the ultimate challenge on a short track, and we had both here tonight. That's so, so rare. The car was so good, and never had any fall off, and that's what you look for. Keeping the balance in the car every lap was the most important thing, and we were able to stretch it out."

Bill McAnally Racing teammates Gilliland and Eggleston finished second and third, respectively. The two had combined to win nine of the season's first 10 races before Self interrupted their dominance of Victory Lane.

With his second straight runner-up finish, Gilliland pushed his points lead to 11 over Eggleston heading into the season finale at Kern County Raceway Park in Bakersfield, California, on Nov. 4.

"We're looking at the big picture," Gilliland said. "But for me, I really don't enjoy racing on these tiny tracks, just because you have to have so much discipline, and it's just really hard for me, I guess is the bottom line. These guys gave me a really fast NAPA Auto Parts Toyota Camry like always. But we



**Michael Self dominated the Toyota/NAPA Auto Parts 150 presented by TriCo Welding Supply Saturday en route to earning his second consecutive NASCAR K&N Pro Series West victory. (Austin Ginn/Getty Images photo)**

just barely missed it in the race, so we're going to move on to my favorite track at Kern County Raceway Park."

Eggleston's result was the 11th top five and 13th top 10 finish of this season. This was also the third time he has finished third in 2017.

"The good news is we didn't lose any points. The bad news is we didn't gain any points," Eggleston said. "Me and Todd (Gilliland) were pretty evenly matched there navigating through lapped traffic. Nevertheless, I had a lot of fun out there. The No. 9 car was in his own zip code, but I had a lot of fun racing Todd right there. We obviously have to beat him to gain points, but overall it's a decent night."

Sunoco Rookie of the Year contenders Derek Kraus and Will Rodgers rounded out the top five. Nicole Behar was sixth, followed by Cole Moore and Blaine Perkins as the final two cars to finish on the lead lap in seventh and eighth. Kody Vanderwal and Max Tullman completed the top 10, each finishing one lap down.

Behind Gilliland and Eggleston, Kraus maintained his third-place spot in the standings. While he's 81 back of Gilliland, Kraus holds a two-point edge on Rodgers and a four-point lead on Self for the final points podium spot.

The Toyota/NAPA Auto Parts 150 presented by TriCo Welding Supply is scheduled to air on NBCSN on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 3:30 p.m. ET.

### **Coby Edges Thompson Winner Solomito For Whelen Modified Crown**

THOMPSON, CT - Back in April, Doug Coby walked away from a

wrecked race car without even completing one lap in the Ice-breaker 150 at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. Six months later, Coby capped the season at Thompson by completing an unthinkable comeback to win his fifth NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour championship.

Sunday's fifth-place finish in the Sunoco World Series 150 was enough to completely erase his disastrous start to the season and wrap up his fourth straight title.

The Milford, Conn. driver becomes the first driver since the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour began in 1984 to accomplish the feat and only the third in the history of NASCAR modifieds, joining NASCAR Hall of Famers Richie Evans and Jerry Cook.

"We just kind of tugged away this year," Coby said. "We won one race in 2014 when we won the championship and we only won once this year. We were just so consistent."

Timmy Solomito, who entered the race third in the championship standings and one of six drivers still in contention for the crown, used a pass with just two laps remaining to capture the victory the race that was pushed to 155 laps because of a late caution.

The victory was the fifth of the season for the Islip, New York, driver but it wasn't enough to get him the title.

Coby finished with 604 points, six ahead of Solomito. Justin Bon-signore finished third, 10 points back of Solomito, while Rowan Pennink and Eric Goodale rounded out the top five in the championship standings.

Coby was determined to control his own destiny. The points leader  
**(Continued Next Page)**



**Doug Coby secured his fourth straight NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour championship on Sunday at Thompson (Conn.) Speedway Motorsports Park. (Adam Glanzman/NASCAR photo)**

# 2018 NASCAR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Tickets On Sale Now

CHARLOTTE, NC - Tickets to the 2018 NASCAR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony are now on sale to the public. Red Byron, Ray Evernham, Ron Hornaday Jr., Ken Squier and Robert Yates will be honored during this year's ceremony set for Friday, Jan. 19,

2018. Induction ticket prices range from \$45 for general seats to \$350 for the Exclusive Driver Dinner Package (plus tax and applicable service fees).

Drivers, celebrities and legends of the sport will take the stage during this premier celebration that will honor the ninth class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame. This historic class is filled with a mix of legends including championship-winning drivers, crew chiefs and engine builders to a legendary voice of NASCAR who brought the sport to the world through broadcasting.

- Red Byron won NASCAR's first race in 1948 on the Daytona Beach-Road Course. He went on in 1948 to win NASCAR's first season championship—in the NASCAR Modified Division. The following year, he won NASCAR's first Strictly Stock Division title—the precursor to today's Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series—driving for NASCAR Hall of Fame car owner Raymond Parks.

- Ray Evernham guided Jeff Gordon and the No. 24 team to three championships in four seasons (1995, 1997, 1998) and a series-leading 47 wins in the 1990s. Among their triumphs were two Daytona 500s (1997, 1999) and two Brickyard 400s (1994, 1998).

- Ron Hornaday Jr. boasts a record four championships and 51 wins in what is today the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. Hornaday also holds the Truck Series all-time record for top fives (158) and top 10s (234).

- Ken Squier co-founded the Motor Racing Network (MRN) in 1970. He called the 1979 Daytona 500 on CBS, a milestone moment for the entire sport, as his voice welcomed millions to the first live flag-to-flag coverage of "The Great American Race"—a moniker he coined. He is the inaugural win-

ner/namesake of the Squier-Hall Award for NASCAR Media Excellence.

- Robert Yates won NASCAR premier series championships as both an engine builder and an owner. He provided the power behind NASCAR Hall of Famers Bobby Allison and Cale Yarborough, later leading Allison to a series championship in 1983 with DiGard Racing. In the late 1980s, Yates tried his hand at ownership, and success quickly followed to the tune of three Daytona 500s and the 1999 NASCAR premier series championship.

Prior to the ceremony, a special Induction Dinner at the Charlotte Convention Center, which is connected to the NASCAR Hall of Fame, will include a jacket presentation for the living inductees and an award presentation honoring Norma "Dusty" Brandel, the recipient of the seventh Squier-Hall Award for NASCAR Media Excellence. Returning this year, fans also have the exclusive opportunity to purchase a seat for the dinner that puts them at a table with a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series driver (a limited quantity is available).

After dinner, the Induction Ceremony will take place in the Crown Ballroom at the Charlotte Convention Center and will honor the five Class of 2018 inductees as well as Jim France, the fourth recipient of the Landmark Award for Outstanding Contributions to NASCAR.

A special NASCAR Fan Appreciation Day will take place at the NASCAR Hall of Fame on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018.

See below for ticket and package options.

- 2018 NASCAR Hall of Fame Exclusive Driver Dinner Package (\$350 per person plus tax and applicable service fees; limited quantity available)

- 2018 NASCAR Hall of Fame VIP Induction Package (\$299 per person plus tax and applicable service fees; limited quantity available)

- 2018 NASCAR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Premium Seat (\$80 per person plus tax and applicable service fees)

- 2018 NASCAR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony General Seat (\$45 plus tax and applicable service fees)

Individual ticket and ticket packages are available at ticketmaster.com or by calling 800-745-3000. For accessible seating, please call 704-654-4400. There is a ticket limit of 6 for this event. The 2018 NASCAR Hall of Fame Exclusive Driver Dinner Package and 2018 NASCAR Hall of Fame VIP Induction Package will only be available for pickup at Will Call the day of the event.

All other tickets will be mailed by Ticketmaster. For more information about Induction weekend, visit [nascarhall.com/inductees/induction-ceremony](http://nascarhall.com/inductees/induction-ceremony).

## Jimmie Johnson Foundation Golf Tournament Tops \$753,000

CHARLOTTE, NC - The Jimmie Johnson Foundation announced today that its annual Jimmie Johnson Foundation Golf Tournament and Dinner raised more than \$753,000 to fund grants to K-12 public schools.

"Chani (wife) and I are so proud that we could bring this awesome event to Charlotte," Johnson said. "For the past 10 years, we have held the event on the west coast. It was really nice to see a lot of our Charlotte friends on the course and at dinner, supporting the Foundation and ultimately K-12 public schools. The Mitchell Family Foundation has been a generous supporter of the JJF for several years

and we continue to be grateful for their friendship."

The tournament, which in eleven years has raised more than \$7 million, benefits the Champions Grant program. The grants range from \$20,000-\$75,000 and are distributed to K-12 public schools in Chandra and Jimmie Johnson's hometowns in California and Oklahoma, and where they currently reside in North Carolina.

Johnson, the seven-time NASCAR Cup Series Champion, hosted 120 golfers and 250 dinner guests at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina for Monday's event. During the event, the Johnsons announced the schools that are recipients of the 2017 Champions Grant, which totals \$508,339 this year.

North Carolina Recipients: Al-lenbrook Elementary School, Beverly Hills STEM Elementary School, Jay M. Robinson High School, Metro School, Sedgefield Middle School, W.R. Odell Primary School, West Charlotte High School, Westerly Hills Academy

In addition, the following schools in the Johnson's hometowns will receive Champions Grants this year:

California Recipients: Albert Einstein Academy Charter School, El Capitan High School, Valhalla High School, Wegeforth Elementary School

Oklahoma: Muskogee High School

For more information, visit [www.jimmiejohnsonfoundation.org](http://www.jimmiejohnsonfoundation.org).

## NASCAR Touring

### Continued...

entering the finale, he started on the front row with polesitter Chase Dowling and immediately jumped to the front to lead the first 82 laps to clinch the bonus points for most laps led.

After his first pit stop, he restarted outside the top 10 and wasn't able to get all the way back to the front. But it didn't matter. A late charge was enough to hand him the championship behind the wheel of his No. 2 Mayhew Tools Chevrolet.

"We were good all year and we were kind of under the radar. This was a different championship because we to crawl all summer because we had to get back in it," Coby said.

"We had to chip away this year.

The common denominator in all of these titles was a team that never quit."

Dowling finished second -- crossing the finish line .043 seconds behind Solomito -- while Ron Silk was third and Pennink fourth.

Andrew Krause finished sixth, followed by Woody Pitkat, Dave Sapienza, Jamie Tomaino and Bonsignore.

Ryan Preece finished 26th in the race and fell to sixth in points. However, he was able to wrap up the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour owner's championship for Ed Partridge. Preece missed two races -- one for his wedding and one to run the NASCAR XFINITY Series race at Kentucky Speedway -- and combined with George Brunnhoelzl III and Jon McKennedy to win the title for Partridge's No. 6 TS Hauler Chevrolet team.

Coby and Partridge will be honored as champion of the unified Whelen Modified Tour as part of the champions celebration in Charlotte, North Carolina in December.

# Gerry Wins PASS Super Late Model Race at Oxford Plains Speedway, Travis Benjamin Earns Second PASS North Championship

OXFORD, ME - Curtis Gerry of Waterboro nailed down his second PASS Super Late Model win this season at Oxford Plains Speedway Saturday afternoon, while his closest on-track rival, Travis Benjamin of Belfast, riding a runner-up finish to nail down his second career PASS North championship.

Gerry, who added his name to the lists of Legends by winning the 44th Annual Oxford 250 back in August, had the best season of his career hot on the heels of what was previously his best year ever in 2016.

The Saco House of Pizza 7 and Gerry methodically cruised into contention from 12th starting position as Ben Rowe, Tracy Gordon, Dave Farrington and Joey Doiron took turns setting the race pace, with Brandon Barker also a notable early factor.

Benjamin is now a two-time winner of both the PASS North title and the annual Oxford 250 Classic. He lined up one spot behind race winner Gerry, finishing 1.58-seconds behind him under the checkered flag.

2016 PASS North champion DJ Shaw filled out the podium. Reid Lanpher and Berwick's Doiron filled out the top five rundown.

Sixth through tenth in the finishing order were Hudson, Derek Griffith, Glen Luce, Scott Robbins, early frontrunner Gordon, and 2016 Oxford 250 champion Wayne Helliwell, Jr.

Doiron, Ben Rowe, Gerry and Benjamin won 15-lap PASS Super Late Model heat races. John Peters and Maine Hall of Famer Mie Roweaced the 15-lap last chance qualifiers.

Mark Lundblad, Jr. raced to a career-first victory in the 40-lap PASS Mods main event, a rare, non-stop affair for the increasingly-popular open-wheel class. Lundblad started fourth and took command from Matty Sanborn, who led a healthy chunk of the main event before Lundblad took over.

Jimmy Emerson made an impressive, three-wide move to claim runner-up honors ahead of Sanborn, wrapping up his finest campaign with a little help from his many friends. Bruce Helmuth raced hard en route to a fourth-place finish.

Ben Tinker rounded out the top-



Champion Travis Benjamin celebrates his second PASS North Championship with his family at Oxford Plains Speedway. (Norm Marx/PASS photo)

five, preserving his perfect record this season in that department on his way to the 2017 PASS Mods championship. In thirteen starts, Tinker won seven times.

Tyler King coasted to victory lane once in front of the field after chasing Turner's Matt Dufault for the first half of the 50-lap finale to the Street Stock Quad Series. King could not seem to find a way by Dufault under green-flag racing conditions early on, then powered away on a mid-race restart to leave no doubt on this afternoon.

Billy Childs, Jr., was the best of the rest, wrapping up a track championship season almost as well as possible. Andrew Breton wrapped up his best season with a late charge good enough to earn third-place hardware in victory lane.

Bryce Mains kicked up some dust with a fourth-place finish, and the Bridgton driver knew that was enough to nail down the 2017 Street Stock Quad Series crown, putting an exclamation point in his best-ever campaign. Teammate Dufault filled out the top five.

Casey Call is building a good collection of trophies on his visits to Oxford Plains Speedway, and on Saturday it was the big one as the 14-year-old outran fellow teen racer Trenton Goodrow by a comfortable margin in the 25-lap Legends Cars main event.

Parker Varney, Kevin Oliver and Colby Meserve rounded out the top five. Defending track champion Austin Teras was in Las Vegas for Legends Cars National Championship action. Teras and the Jay Cushman team had built a sufficient margin in the championship standing to earn this year's title despite, understandably, skipping the final race.

Jamie Heath led all the way to win both the 25-lap Bandits division race and the 2017 Bandits Triple Crown Series title. Tyler Green claimed the runner-up honors as the checkered flag waved. Hinkley joined Heath and Green on the podium, with the top-five rundown completed by Kyle Hewins of Leeds and the Tornado, Travis Ver-rill of South Paris.



Oxford Plains winner Curtis Gerry takes the checkered flag for his second win of the 2017 PASS season. (Norm Marx/PASS photo)

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## McCaskill & Nasse Victorious at South Boston; Berry & Rouse Crowned Champions

**S O U T H**  
BOSTON, VA - Defending CARS Late Model Stock Tour Champion Deac McCaskill and perennial super late model contender Stephen Nasse claimed victories on Saturday night in the Autos By Nelson

SoBo 250 at South Boston Speedway. Josh Berry and Cole Rouse were crowned series champions of the late model stock and super late model tours, respectively, after each caught fortunate breaks during the night.

**LATE MODEL STOCK CAR RECAP:** To no one's surprise, "King Philip" Morris won the Hedgecock Pole Award in qualifying, earning him the right to lead the field to green for the 125-lap main event. It was Morris' first pole in his first series attempt.

Championship leader Layne Riggs started alongside Morris and led the opening handful of circuits, securing one bonus point in the title fight against rivals Josh Berry and Anthony Alfredo. Riggs soon gave way to Morris who reclaimed the top spot on lap 5, a position he held until lap 56.

Soon after a lap 30 restart, the championship picture changed dramatically when second-place Riggs slowed and came to pit road with mechanical gremlins the crew was unable to repair. The misfortune relegated him to a 21st place finish in a race where he entered with single-digit cushion over Berry and Alfredo.

A handful of minor, early incidents slowed the field, but Morris was able to stay in command of the race until Deac McCaskill took command of the race on lap 57. Soon thereafter, Morris' car slowed and headed toward the pits with a blown motor, eliminating him from contention.

McCaskill was forced to race one of the hottest drivers in late model stock car racing at the moment, Stacy Puryear, on a plethora of mid and late-race restarts. Despite multiple attempts by Puryear to wrestle the lead away from McCaskill, the defending series champion relinquished his crown in style, visiting Edelbrock Victory Lane for

the second time this season.

"They call him 'The King' for a reason, I wanted to beat him bad and I was able to pass him before he had a failure," McCaskill said in reference to Philip Morris. "I tell you one thing, me and him were going to put on one heck of a show. Unfortunately he had a mishap, then Stacy gave me a hard run. We had a little trouble getting clear of him on the restarts, but once we did, this Hedgecock racecar would just turn so good in the middle of the corner.

"WP Racing Shocks helped us hit on a really good package here, and this is what I'm going to call the first race on this car," he continued. "It's black, and it might stay black even though I've been blue forever, but what a racecar. Congrats to Josh on the championship, but what about that high groove! It came in, and I've been known for it back in the day, but that's the only way to get around here."

McCaskill was followed across the line by Stacy Puryear who finished a career best second with the tour, Timothy Peters, Bobby McCarty and Craig Moore.

Championship contender Josh Berry, needing only to beat Layne Riggs and stay within sight of Anthony Alfredo, finished an uncharacteristic tenth, enough to give him the championship over his JR Motorsports teammate.

"It's a privilege to drive for JR Motorsports and The Decal Source and all of our partners on this deal," Berry stated after the race. "Last year we came up short by winning the owner's championship but we didn't get the driver's points and I really wanted to check that one off. This is what we set our goal to be early in the season and we had a lot of bad luck. We've had engine and parts failures that kind of kept us out of it, but we were able to get back in it.

"I'm not going to lie, tonight we got lucky," the driver of the No. 88 Chevrolet admitted as he continued. "We ran poorly and had no chance at it unless Layne had a problem, but it just wasn't his night. That's racing, and there's not much else you can say to that. I think he definitely had the better car and was going to win it, but we have had the same type of breaks hap-

pen to us and that's part of racing."

**SUPER LATE MODEL RECAP:** Brandon Setzer entered Saturday night's race needing to dominate the night in order to claim his first series championship. He began the quest in good form, winning the Mahle Pistons Pole Award, a feat worth one championship point. With his third pole of the season, he led the series in fast time awards, also worth a year-end bonus point, closing the gap to merely six markers prior to the green flag.

As expected, Setzer shot out to the early lead on the green flag, closing the margin to five points after the one-point bonus for pacing the field at least once during the night. Christian Eckes bypassed Setzer on lap 5 to set the pace through lap 84, a 79-lap stretch which took the bonus point for most laps led out of the championship fight.

The bonus point math became a moot point on lap 84 when Setzer, as the leaders encountered traffic, lost control of his No. 6 Ford in turn three, slamming the outside wall and eliminating the North Carolina driver from the race, handing the championship to rival Cole Rouse in the Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota.

The action was far from over at that point, as eight cautions plagued the final 41 laps of the event including a spectacular crash by Rouse on lap 100 where he and former leader Eckes tangled exiting turn four and the No. 51 KBM Toyota ended up on its side on top of Eckes' No. 15 machine. Both drivers walked away from the incident.

On lap 119, Jake Crum and Stephen Nasse tangled while wrestling for the lead in turn three, an incident which prompted series officials to send Crum to the back of attrition-decimated field for rough driving.

Within sight of the finish, Jared Fryar found himself on the point and in position to become the first driver to ever win in both the late model stock and super late model tours of the CARS sanction. Zane Smith, however, had different ideas on lap 122 and shoved Jared Fryar up the track in turn three, causing Fryar's night to end backed into the outside wall.

With Smith sent to the tail for rough driving, Stephen Nasse, Matt Craig and Jake Crum were the three contenders who raced it out in the final three laps. Crum, attempting to rebound from his earlier incident, went into the final set of corners harder than Craig, mak-

ing contact which sent both cars up the track and broke their momentum. Nasse, who was immediately behind, turned underneath both drivers and won the drag race to the finish line for his second career CARS Super Late Model Tour win.

"It got real hectic there at the end!," Nasse exclaimed in Edelbrock Victory Lane. "There was a lot of hard racing and, like I say, rubbing is racing. Coming into the last corner, I knew it was going to get dicey so I entered a little easy. Luckily, they shot up and I was able to come off underneath of them and get this win. I can't say enough for Robert and Robby Hamke giving me a shot to run their car, it's just been an amazing experience."

Cole Rouse, still reeling from his spectacular crash, took championship photos without his racecar on the frontstretch after the race, but claimed his first super late model title on the strength of two wins and 10 top-ten finishes.

"We hadn't wrecked all year, so I would've thought you were crazy [to say it would be won upside down]. We've run clean pretty much all year, but I guess he had to run us in the wall, or maybe he ran out of talent, I don't know, he didn't come over and say anything to me. But it's still really cool to win this and I have to thank all the guys at Toyota Racing, JBL, Kyle Busch Motorsports. This is a cool deal.

"These guys have taught me a lot all season," he continued. "From the beginning of this season until now, I'm a completely different driver. We've had some things break this year that we couldn't help, but we probably should've won at least three more this year and that would have been a really good season. But it's still cool to win this in the way we have."

The CARS Tour announced their 2018 schedule on Friday, revealing the season-opening event on March 10, 2018, will take place at Tri-County Motor Speedway and pay \$10,000 for late model stock cars in a 150-lap feature contest. The event will be the first race in series history which is not a twin-bill with super late models, featuring the late model stock cars in a showcase event of their own. Two weeks later, the supers will return in the popular twin-bill format with their own \$10,000-to-win race at Myrtle Beach Speedway on March 24, 2018.

For more information on the CARS Tour, visit [www.carsracing-tour.com](http://www.carsracing-tour.com). The series Roku app is also available for installation to see live and on-demand events.



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## Donny Schatz Downs 'The Posse' and Claims 19th Win of Season at Port Royal

PORT ROYAL, PA - Donny Schatz passed Port Royal Speedway Track Champion, Brock Zearfoss on lap 18 and survived a late charge from Lance Dewease to extend his points lead atop the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series Point Standings and score his 19th win of the season. Dewease and 10th starting Daryn Pittman completed the podium at Port Royal.

The Craftsman Club Dash Inversion was eight, putting Zearfoss on the pole. Zearfoss, who scored his first career World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series victory back in July at Williams Grove, led all six laps of the Dash to earn the pole of the 30-lap Feature.

Zearfoss edged fellow front row starter, Jason Sides to lead lap one. As Zearfoss extended his lead, Schatz worked by Sides for the runner-up position on lap three. It didn't take long for the leaders to catch traffic as Zearfoss did so on lap six. The Jonestown, Pennsylvania native was strong in traffic, utilizing the top of the Speedway to clear the first five or so lapped cars. Just as Schatz began cutting into

Zearfoss' lead, last year's event winner, Logan Schuchart came to a stop with 14 laps complete.

On the ensuing double-file restart, Zearfoss choose the bottom but quickly made his way back to the top of the racing surface. Schatz attempted a pair of sliders in turn one, but Zearfoss never lifted and maintained the lead. On lap 18, Zearfoss went a couple car lengths lower in turns one and two allowing Schatz to get enough momentum down the backstretch and take command going into turn three.

A lap later, Tim Shaffer brought out the yellow with 11 laps remaining with Schatz as your leader. Schatz, who chose the inside for the double-file restart, got a good restart, allowing Lance Dewease to work by Zearfoss for second. As Dewease and Schatz put distance between themselves and the rest of the field, Zearfoss began to fade, eventually bringing out the caution with two to go, out of fuel.

The restart gave Pennsylvania Posse member Lance Dewease one last chance to steal the victory for the hometown crowd. Dewease stayed right on the back bumper of the Tony Stewart Racing No.15 on the restart and brought the crowd to their feet with a slide job into turn one. Schatz stayed on the hammer

and powered back in front down the backstretch and went to win by .792 seconds.

When asked about the restart with two go Schatz said, "I knew [Lance] was going to try something. We weren't the greatest on the start, but once we got up to speed I could move around the racetrack. He races clean. He gave me just enough room to get by. We come here for excitement and that got me excited so I hope it got the crowd into it too."

Schatz, who is en route to his ninth Series Championship, was pleased to get his first win since the West Coast swing, "We need to get these wins. It seems like it's been a while. With the season coming to an end, we've got to get these wins. It's good to get one in PA."

Dewease, who has 106 career Port Royal Speedway victories, was happy with second. "That's all we had," he said in regard to the late race restart slider. "[Donny] was really good all night. We're happy to end the year with a ninth to second run against these guys," Dewease added.

Before Daryn Pittman could comment on his 10th to third run, he applauded the Port Royal Speedway. "Our guys work really hard on our racecars, so it's fun to go to tracks that you can see the effort they put into the track. For a driver that only gets here once a year, you see the huge differences and improvements," Pittman, who spent a handful of years racing as a local in Central Pennsylvania, said.

"With the way we started, we'll take third," Pittman, who fell as far back as 11th, said. "Late restarts went our way and some holes opened up. The track was nice and wide for the Feature, the best cars ended up winning and running up front. As a racer, that's all you can ask for," the Oklahoma native added.

Schatz echoed the positive statements about the improvements. "This place is incredible. The improvements, the lighting, everything. It's crazy the amount of work and financial effort Port Royal is putting in. When you come here, you know the parking lot will be full; the pits will be full and you'll see a race," the eight-time series Champion said to a nice applause from the Pennsylvania fans.

### Rain Wins Again at Weedsport Speedway

WEEDSPORT, NY - Due to nearly 100% chance of heavy rainfall throughout the afternoon and evening, World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series officials have been forced to cancel Sunday's Empire State Challenge at the Weedsport Speedway.

Please mail any ticket stubs or wristbands within 14 days to Weedsport Speedway PO Box 415 Weedsport, New York 13166 to receive a refund.

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## Madden Dominates the First Night of the Inaugural Chi-Town Showdown

JOLIET, IL - Chris Madden had a dominating performance during the first night of the inaugural Chi-Town Showdown at the Dirt Oval @ Route 66 Raceway. Madden started the evening by setting quick time, then winning his heat, and topping it off by leading all 50-laps of

the World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series Craftsman Club Feature.

Madden, who started on the pole for the main event, was never seriously challenged for the lead position. During the first 18 laps of the feature, the Gray Court, SC native was able to expand his lead to more than 5-seconds over the field before a caution fell which wiped it all away. Although, two additional cautions occurred during the 50-lap event, the last occurring with only nine laps remaining, Madden was able to finish 3.151-seconds ahead of the 25-car field to claim his sixth Outlaw win of the season.

"The competition is really strong out here and we've had some ups and downs out here towards the end of the year with help quitting and people not being able to hang in there to get the job done. We've picked up Colin [Pasi], A.j. [Allen], and Wil [Crowder]. Those guys are probably the hardest working guys that I've ever had," said Madden. "We broke this car out last week and we had some odds and ends that needed to be fixed on it but we got it fixed this week and it was extremely awesome tonight."

Not only did Madden bring out a new Longhorn Chassis, he also sported a new red and black paint scheme which he will be running through the remainder of the 2017 season as he closes the book on his first season with the World of Outlaws.

"It's been a great [year] for us," added Madden. "I've really enjoyed racing with all these guys. It's been an experience and it has been one that I won't forget. It's been really fun and really professional with some of these guys."

Rick Eckert, who started seventh in the feature, also seemed to effortlessly find his way around the 3/8-mile dirt oval. By lap 26, the driver from York, PA had steadily

marched forward five positions as he claimed the second spot from Frank Heckenast Jr. Eckert's second place finish totaled him with two podium finishes in the last three races.

"Once I got to second I couldn't really hem in the bottom [of the track]. I moved up to the middle and kept a little better pace but [Madden] was definitely the class of the field," said Eckert. "I really couldn't race with him but I could race with everyone else and that's a plus. That's better than we've been, for sure."

Despite Eckert's look of ease around the racetrack, the No. 7 was experiencing a little engine trouble.

"We've been fighting a gremlin in the motor," added Eckert. "It missed all last week and we keep changing stuff and we're about out of stuff to change. I'm not sure where we'll go next. It missed all feature again but it got slippery enough that it didn't hinder us too bad."

Series leader, Brandon Sheppard rounded out the podium at the Dirt Oval @ Route 66 Raceway on Friday evening. In the final five laps of the feature, Sheppard battled alongside Devin Moran and Bobby Pierce. On the last lap, Sheppard stole third from Moran to secure the final position on the podium.

"I got behind Shane [Clanton] there early in the race, and then I got into someone and knocked the nose a little loose, and then a clump of dirt came and caved it the rest of the way in," explained Sheppard.

"It made it hard to keep the front end on the ground, which made it a little hard to get through the middle corner, but we hung on and didn't give up. That track was a little bit treacherous but it was really racy. There were guys running the bottom and guys running the top. It was a heck of a racetrack so a big thanks Sherri [Heckenast] and everyone who worked on the track."

### Rain Forces Outlaws to Cancel Chi-Town Showdown Finale

JOLIET, IL - Heavy overnight rain at the Dirt Oval @ Route 66 that has continued Saturday morning with severe weather expected



Chris Madden raced his way to victory lane during the opening night of the Chi-Town Showdown at the Dirt Oval @ Route 66 Raceway. (Paul Arch photo)

to continue throughout the night has forced World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series officials together with track officials to cancel the final night of the Chi-Town Showdown.

For Chi-Town Showdown ticket information, visit [www.dirtoval66.com](http://www.dirtoval66.com).

Next up will be the World of Outlaws World Finals at the Dirt Track

at Charlotte Motor Speedway Nov. 2-4. One night of preliminary action and two nights of racing set the stage for the season finale, which ultimately means the final two chances for drivers to sneak forward in the 2017 Championship Standings.

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## Joey Saldana Dominates #LastCallForMethanol at Eldora Speedway

ROSSBURG, OH - Brownsburg, Indiana's Joey Saldana dominated everything on Saturday night at Eldora Speedway, conquering the entire #LastCallForMethanol program at the World's Greatest Dirt Track for a \$5,000 top prize against the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of

Champions.

Saldana, pilot of the familiar Indy Race Parts, No. 71 sprint car, kicked off the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions finale by earning the fastest time during qualifying time trials, followed by a victory during his respective heat race, as well as a win during the second of two dashes. The "Brownsburg Bullet" capped off his evening by leading all 30 circuits around the legendary half-mile, ultimately crossing under the final checkers 7.23 seconds ahead of Hunter Schuereberg and Travis Philo.

"That, tonight, is why I love Eldora Speedway," Saldana stated in Eldora Speedway victory lane. "Man, this place was a lot of fun. It's just always so much fun to race here; so much history. I'm not just a racer, but I am also a huge fan. When I came here with my dad in 1984 for the Four Crown, I was instantly hooked."

The Arctic Cat All Star triumph was the 74th of Saldana's storied career; his 12th at Eldora Speedway during Arctic Cat All Star competition. All but nine cars were lapped during the non-stop, 30-lap finale.

"I was given a really good race car tonight and it shows. When you are given good equipment, it just makes life so much easier," Saldana said. "We definitely had a top-three car last night and I just gave it away all night, but tonight we made up for it. The guys kept tuning this car as the night went on and it ended up being a really great race car. I can't thank Bernie [Stuebgen] enough for what he's done for me to get here. I didn't have a ride and he gave me a shot. Hopefully we can run this car a little more next year."

Making it official on Saturday night at the World's Greatest Dirt Track, Chad Kemenah is the 2017 Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Cham-

pions champion, solidifying his title with a sixth place performance during the #LastCallForMethanol main event. Now even with Dale Blaney as a six-time Arctic Cat All Star champion, the most in Series history, Kemenah captured three victories during his 2017 Arctic Cat All Star campaign, earning 37 top-ten feature finishes in 48 main event starts.

"Rob Hunter gives us the equipment necessary to be successful. Our goal this year was to be consistent and we certainly accomplished that," Chad Kemenah explained during the All Star championship celebration. "It's pretty cool to go out and be competitive



Ryan Smith swept the action at Mansfield Motor Speedway Friday night. (Paul Arch photo)



Joey Saldana celebrates his #LastCallForMethanol win in victory lane at Eldora Speedway. (Vince Vellella/ASCOC photo)

every time you hit the race track. I think the only thing that could have made this season even better is a few more wins. Regardless, we're

thrilled. We'll celebrate this one and begin to prepare for next year."

## Smith Sweeps Double Down at Mansfield Motor Speedway

MANSFIELD, OH - The "Kunkletown Kid" Ryan Smith cashed in for a grand total of \$10,000 on Friday night at Mansfield Motor Speedway, sweeping the entire "Double Down at Mansfield" program that included two main events, one of which a make-up feature that was originally scheduled for Sunday, May 28. Joining a short list of competitors who have accomplished two Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions main event victories in one day including Dave Blaney, Sammy Swindell, Bobby Allen and Fred Rahmer, Smith's Friday night

(Continued Next Page)

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sweep raised his season win total to three with "America's Series," now with six over the course of his young career.

"This is a night to remember, for sure," Ryan Smith said following his second main event victory at Mansfield Motor Speedway. "There are a lot of great people who helped put this deal together at the beginning of the year.

Those same people have been working hard all season long. To close out our All Star schedule with a win was big, but to get two in the same night is a whole different story. I'm excited to get to Eldora tomorrow. There's no reason why we can't keep this momentum going."

Double Down at Mansfield Feature Finale report: Waterville, Ohio's Travis Philo and Lemoore, California's Carson Macedo led the 26 starters to green on Friday night during the "Double Down at Mansfield Motor Speedway" feature finale.

Philo worked to the front early,

chased to the flag stand for the first time by Macedo and Ryan Smith. Philo led the first 21 circuits of the 30-lap finale, withstanding two restarts after a pair of cautions on laps four and eleven, as well as periods of traffic.

While Philo set the pace, the battle for second was hot with Smith and Macedo exchanging positions on several occasions, twice during the first four circuits. By the midpoint of the 30-lapper, Philo's command all but diminished as Macedo and Smith made their way to the back bumper of the Control Design Solutions/Banshee Graphics/No. 5T.

On lap 20, Smith worked around Macedo to take second, soon followed by a bid for the top spot on lap 22. The pilot of the Tom and Sherry Leidig/Warko Group/Specialty Rigging/Slade Shocks/Rick's Auto Body/Auto Electric of Jupiter, FL./No. 59 used the bottom edge of the speedway to slingshot underneath Philo at the exit of turn two, ultimately making the winning move stick as the pair raced through turns three and four.

From that point forward, Smith raced on top of the field unchallenged, surviving a pair of cautions on laps 24 and 25 to earn the main event victory. Despite a late attempt to work back around Smith

using the very topside of the speedway, Macedo would cross under the final checkers second, followed to the finish by Travis Philo, Chad Kemenah and Joey Saldana.

May 28 make-up A-main report: Brad Haudenschild and Tim Shaffer led the make-up feature to green to kick-off the evening at Mansfield Motor Speedway. Shaffer earned the early advantage, leading Brad Haudenschild, Jac Haudenschild and Ryan Smith by the flag stand for the first time. Despite a caution on lap three involving T.J. Michael and Jordan Mackison, Shaffer's command at the front of the field was uninterrupted for the first ten circuits.

Meanwhile, the "Kunkletown Kid" Ryan Smith was in hot pursuit of the "Steel City Outlaw," moving into second by lap two, eventually allowing traffic to slow Shaffer's momentum at the front of the field. By lap 10, traffic intensified enough to give Smith his first bid for the top spot; a slidejob between turns three and four.

Shaffer's momentum was enough to allow him to cut back under Smith, leading the pair in a drag race back to the flag stand. Unfortunately, red flag conditions took over the speedway, this time for Brad Haudenschild who was

racing inside the top-five. Haudenschild walked away unharmed.

Green flag conditions returned on lap 11 with Shaffer still in command. Despite Shaffer's ability to pull away during the restart, Smith was back on his bumper by lap 19, simultaneously navigating through traffic while tracking down the Aliquippa native. On lap 26, Smith made another huge bid for the top spot, but this time he succeeded; pulling even with Tim Shaffer as the pair raced down the backstretch, ultimately holding the position through turns three and four.

From that point forward, it was all Ryan Smith, withstanding a final caution on lap 27 to pull away by nearly two seconds at the final checkers. Tim Shaffer held on to finish second, followed by Lee Jacobs, Jac Haudenschild and Chad Kemenah.

"I can't say enough about this team and how hard they work," Ryan Smith explained following his first main event victory on Friday night. "It feels great to park this car back in victory lane. We've been hungry for another one of these since we got it done in New York a few months back. We have a new set of Slade Shocks on this car tonight that Eric Slade allowed us to use. It has made a world of a difference so far."

## **Harvest Cup to Close Out Season on October 21st Opportunity Times Three at Tri-State Speedway**

HAUBSTADT, IN - Saturday October 21st the Tri-State Speedway will be presenting its final racing event for this season. The Harvest Cup that evening will pay \$5,000 to win the MSCS sprint car feature! This will be the

third attempt in October to hold this particular race. It was rescheduled after rain intervened both days during the original weekend that it was to be held. This special event has served to conclude each racing season since 2011.

It will be the Championship and Honors Night for the Hoosier Tire Midwest Sprint Car Series. In addition to the Midwest Sprint Car Series, the speedway will be presenting UMP Open Wheel Modified racing with \$1,500 going to the winner. The winged Midwest Mini

Sprint Association will also compete in the triple header.

When the MSCS Sprint Cars are competing at Tri-State Speedway fans have come to expect the unexpected. Superb late race efforts, last lap challenges, and runs from deep in the pack have prevailed in 2017. Winning is difficult yet some drivers have accomplished the task and then repeated it. Kevin Thomas Jr., Kyle Cummins, and Chase Stockon have two MSCS Tri-State feature wins each. With MSCS starting 21 cars for the feature, 18 other drivers will have an opportunity to take up the challenge.

Brady Short already has a lock on the 2017 MCSC Points title. The accomplishment produced his fourth MSCS title. However eight of those prestigious and preferred top ten spots in the points are undecided. Chase Stockon of Fort Branch, IN, is currently 10th in

points. There are another 8 drivers outside the top ten with a mathematical shot at gaining a top ten finish. Kent Schmidt is currently fifth in points. Competitors Robert Ballou and Kendall Ruble still have a chance to finish in the top five. Ruble leads in Rookie Points but the outcome remains undecided. Ben Knight trails by 37 points. At the end of the season there is always the race for feature money with an underlying race for points money!

Modified drivers from across the region have been frequenting Tri-State Speedway all season. The track continues to serve race drivers and race fans with that compelling need for speed. They arrive to test and survey the Class Track from across Indiana as well as Kentucky and Illinois. Dave Beck's pair of victories leads the five Hoosier drivers that have visited victory lane. Kentucky's Trent Young has won three features to lead all competitors. Mark Lamont and Everett Bradham have both visited the podium in

posting top three finishes. Nine features have produced 6 different winners.

Rod Henning has truly mastered Tri-State Speedway. The Ohio based driver has won all 3 MMSA Haubstadt features held this season. Those giving chase and collecting repeat top 5 finishes include Andy Bradley, Jesse Vermillion, and Scott Bradley.

Gate times and racing action will begin earlier than usual for this event. Racing will follow opening ceremonies at 6:30 P.M. The MSCS Champion will be crowned. The MSCS Rookie of the Year will also be honored. Warm-ups and group qualifying begin at 5 o'clock. The pit gate will swing open at 2:30. The Grandstands will open to admit fans at 3:30 in the afternoon.



## Billy Decker Charges to Win at the Fall Nationals in Brockville

BROCKVILLE, ONT - One driver was on a mission as the Super DIRTcar Series kicked off the 9th annual Falls Nationals at Brockville. Losing the lead in the early portion, Billy Decker never let off Jimmy Phelps and made a late race pass en route to win #4 on the

Series this season.

"It has been a long time coming!" said Decker getting a first win since Eldora back in July. "The car was really good even though we struggled on the bottom groove, again the track changed as we were hammering pretty hard, it was a lot of fun!" added Decker as the

top part of the track was good for the majority of driver throughout the race.

Coming into Brockville with a 46-point deficit over Matt Sheppard, Decker is looking forward to the World Finals at Charlotte: "Every night we go out and swing at it, we want to win every race and Charlotte will be no different!" said Decker who reduced the margin by a few points as Sheppard came in third.

Leading the way for a great part of the feature, Jimmy Phelps was happy to bring his potent 98H into second: "The car was tight up, Billy was pretty good at the end, we were good but not good enough tonight" mentioned Phelps who reminded the different scenario that occurred last year: "This is the car

we tore up here last year, we rebuild it over the winter and here we are!"

After a magical NAPA Auto Parts Super DIRT Week at Oswego, Matt Sheppard was satisfied with his third-place finish: "We got up there, we were everywhere behind the leader, it was a matter of Billy or myself to pass Phelps first to take the lead, hats off to Billy for his good race"

With the season ending in a few weeks at Charlotte; Sheppard will be the man to watch having a slight lead over Decker in the point standing: "Charlotte is a wild card, you never know what will happen there" said Sheppard.

Billy Decker charged to the lead in the 1000 Island RV Falls Nationals 1000, as Jimmy Phelps and Matt Sheppard quickly making their way into the top 3 within the first few laps as Ryan Arbutnot and Steve Bernard where also in the mix.

Lap traffic became a factor with

a quarter of the race done and this enabled Phelps to grab the lead coming off turn 4 on lap 30. Phelps led the way in front as Decker and Sheppard stayed within tight distance of the 98H.

As the race was able to pick up some momentum, the front 3 drivers stayed together as both Decker and Phelps were waiting for an error from the leader.

In the late portion of the race, traffic was again an influence as Decker was able to regain the lead, the driver of the #91 never looked back and went on to capture his fourth win of the season in front of Phelps and Sheppard. Ryan Arbutnot and Danny Johnson completed the podium.

The Super DIRTcar Series will take a few weeks pause before heading in the season finale at the Dirt track in Charlotte as all roads leads to the World Finals. An epic battle is shaping up between Sheppard and Decker to crown the 2017 Series champion!

## Big Changes For Trenton; New Arena Name, New Dates, New Surface

TRENTON, NJ - The Indoor Auto Racing Series will return to Trenton, N.J. this year for the fifth straight year. While the building hasn't changed, its name has as well as the racing surface the race cars will be competing on.

Wingless 600cc Micro Sprints will be headlining this year's two-day program racing on a clay surface on Friday and Saturday December 1st and 2nd.

It was announced this week that the Sun National Bank had lost the naming rights of the Center to Cure Auto Insurance. Thanks to a new multi-year agreement Mercer County's 10,000 seat center will immediately be renamed the CURE Insurance Arena. Terms of the deal were not announced.

The arena's website domain changed immediately to reflect the arena's new name ([www.cureinsurancearena.com](http://www.cureinsurancearena.com)).

The venue's new naming rights deal will coincide with exciting new entertainment coming to the arena including the first East Coast Indoor Dirt Nationals. Over 60 600cc Micro Sprint teams from eight states have already entered the event.

Fans wishing to purchase tickets

on line will now need to go to the new web-site, [www.cureinsurancearena.com](http://www.cureinsurancearena.com). Tickets can also be purchased by calling 1-800-298-4200.

The race, a first of its kind in New Jersey is being produced by Len Sammons Motorsports Productions as one of four Indoor Auto Racing Series Fueled By VP Racing Fuels events. It will be the only event on the series held on clay surface and it will not count towards the overall series point championship.

The schedule of events calls for heat races awarding passing points and four A-qualifier feature races on Friday night. On Saturday 'Alphabet mains' will determine the starting lineups with racers having the opportunity to advance from F, E, D, C, and B to the 40 lap A-Main.

Saturday's A-Main will pay its winner \$5,000 to win (for enrollees in the Gamblers program). Fifth place pays \$1,000. Twenty four starters will take the green flag in the A-Main with \$200 offered up to start the event.

Event number two is the Ironton Telephone Indoor Auto Racing Championship Series races on Friday and Saturday, January 5-6, 2018 inside the PPL Center in downtown Allentown, Pa.

The two days of racing consist of

a complete program of racing for Three Quarter (TQ) Midgets both nights. Slingshots and Champ Karts will also be in competition.

Tickets for premium seats are expected to go quickly.

Race number three is the NAPA Auto Parts Indoor Auto Racing two day racing weekend on Friday and Saturday, January 26-27, 2018 inside historic Boardwalk Hall on the ocean at Atlantic City, N.J.

The finale of the crowded, energized 2017-2018 slate is the first Indoor Auto Racing event in New York State, on February 9-10, 2018

in the Times Union Center in downtown Albany, N.Y.

Race fans in New York State will experience the thrill of high-speed auto racing in the dead of winter for the First Annual Albany Indoor Race a brand new event for New York State.

The Albany race is the finale of the Len Sammons Motorsports Productions Indoor Auto Racing season and will be the scene of the crowning of the 2017-2018 Series champion.

Sponsorships are available for all events.

## Hardy Hustles With ASCS Southwest at Canyon Speedway Park

PEORIA, AZ - It didn't take long for Colton Hardy to find the front of the line at Canyon Speedway Park, as the Phoenix, Ariz. shoe hustled to his third ASCS Southwest Regional score of the 2017 season in the Bandit Racing No. 74.

Taking the green from eighth, Hardy took over the top spot from James Aragon with five laps complete.

Leading the remainder of Saturday feature event, Hardy was followed to the line by Rick Ziehl with Josh Shipley third.

Aragon slipped back to fourth with Nick Parker making the top-five. Lance Norick sixth was trailed by Mason Keefer, Derrik Ortega, Steve Cushman, and Darrell Sickles to round out the top-ten.

Up next for the ASCS Southwest Region will be a three-night showdown with the Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network at the Cocopah Speedway on November 9, 10, and 11.

For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the seven regional tours that make up the over 150 races across the ASCS Nation in 2017, log onto <http://www.ascsracing.com>.

# PUBLIC AUCTION

## Mooresville, NC

### October 24 & 25, 2017

2-Day Sale Starting at 9:30 AM Each Day \* Doors Open at 8:30 AM

**SALE LOCATION:** 8955 W NC Hwy. 152, Mooresville, NC, 28115; From I-77 North of Charlotte to Exit 36, go East on 150 approx. 6 miles to Junction 152, hang a right and go approx. 2 miles to Sale Site; Watch for Auction Signs

#### PARTIAL SALE LISTING

Alum ducts, kevlar line, Wix filters, oil coolers, Pistons – new & used, Carrillo rods, Oilers, cup holders, lower & upper a-arms, ball joints, valve springs, valve springs w/retainers, sway bar arms, Tilton bellhousings, clutch discs, Carrillo rod bolts, rocker bar bolts, alum tanks, c/f tanks, ring & pinions, elec fans, R07 heads, NACA duct, alum intakes, roller lifters, firebottles, exhaust pcs, AP Racing brake calipers, c/f air boxes, front drive pcs, J-bar, zeus clips, cam locks, drive plates, c/f pcs, wheel studs, D/S tanks, buckets of bolts, hats & rotors, headers, fuel cell bladders, caps & wires, roller rockers, memorabilia, wire brushes, pitman arms, seatbelt hdw, battery cables & solenoids, truck arm bushings, braided line, D/S tank clamps, steering wheel pads, heims, center links, mstr cylinders, swedge tubes, MSD hot box, shock pistons, tach, water pumps, r/e power steering pump mount line kit, fuel-cell top pcs, fuel pump parts,

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



#### PARTIAL SALE LISTING – EQUIPMENT/MISC.

Brakes stool, Hans device, battery jump start, shelving, alum floor jack, Dirt Devil sweeper, hand truck, work tables, Hitachi 8" slide compound mitre saw, dart board, rag buckets, two shelf wooden stand, dump can, large metal storage rack on wheels, trash cans, file cabinet, Foreman's desk, 12' shop lights, Napa floor jack, Rangette hot plate



#### SALE LISTING - CHASSIS

(2) Joe Gibbs Chassis; (1) Ronnie Hopkins Rolling Chassis – 110" wheel base

**TERMS OF SALE:** Terms of sale is cash, cashier checks, money orders, traveler's checks, Visa or Mastercard. Business or Personal Checks must be accompanied by a Bank Letter of Credit submitted to cashier on Sale Days. There will be a 15% buyer's premium charged on each lot number sold, with a 5% discount given for cash. Driver's license or picture identification is required to register. All items sold "As Is, Where Is" with no guarantees or warranty expressed or implied. Buyers must settle and remove all items at the end of each sale day. Announcements sale day take precedence over any printed matter.



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## Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL -

Before six-time Talladega Superspeedway winner Dale Earnhardt Jr. takes his final laps at the track he considers his "second home" in Sunday's Alabama 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series (MENCs) race, the track surprised him Friday afternoon by presenting him – on permanent loan – with the No. 2 Chevrolet

Monte Carlo driven by his father Dale Earnhardt Sr. to the 1980 NASCAR Championship title. The presentation was made by Grant Lynch, Charmain of Talladega Superspeedway, and Alabama Senator Gerald Dial, Chairman of the Board of the International Motorsports Hall of Fame (IMHOF), located outside of the 2.66-mile track.

"There's no better place for this iconic No. 2 car than in the hands of Dale Earnhardt Jr.," said Lynch of the car that has been housed at the IMHOF for a number of years. "The Earnhardt family means more to Talladega Superspeedway than we can express, so it is our honor to present the race car his father drove to his first championship to him. We know he will cherish the car like no other. It is in good hands."

The blue and yellow, white numeral No. 2 was driven by Dale Sr. during the 1979 and 1980 MENCs seasons. In 1979, he drove the Rod Osterlund-owned machine to the NASCAR Rookie of the Year Award, winning once at Bristol. During the 1980 campaign, he led the points standings from the season's second race through the remainder of the season, en route to winning the first of his record seven championships in NASCAR's top-tier series.

"It is with great honor that the International Motorsports Hall of Fame presents this car to Dale Jr.," said Sen. Dial. "He has left an incredible legacy not only on Talladega, but also on motorsports as a whole. There is truly no better way to honor all he has done for racing than to present him the very car that his father drove."

The track also presented Dale Jr. with two original, historical celebratory champagne bottles used in Gatorade Victory Lane from memorable, iconic races at Talladega –



**International Motorsports Hall of Fame (IMHOF) Board members, along with Talladega Superspeedway Chairman Grant Lynch (third from left) and Chairman of the Board for the IMHOF Senator Gerald Dial (fourth from right), surround Dale Earnhardt Jr. (center) Friday at NASCAR's Most Competitive track. The iconic No. 2 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, driven by Dale Earnhardt Sr. to the 1979 Rookie of the Year Award and the 1980 NASCAR premier series title, was presented to Dale Jr., who will make his final start at Talladega in Sunday's Alabama 500. (TSS photo)**

one from Dale Sr.'s final Talladega victory in the fall of 2000 and another from Dale Jr.'s first 'Dega triumph the following fall in 2001.

The fall 2000 event is one of the most memorable races in motorsports history as Earnhardt Sr. vaulted from 18th place with five laps remaining to claim the lead with just over a lap to go. The win was his record 10th Talladega triumph, and 76th and final win of his career. The following fall, Earnhardt Jr. added to the family legacy at TSS, winning his first race at the fabled facility. That victory set off an unprecedented stretch for Dale Jr. at Talladega as he went on to win a record four straight 'Dega races, a mark that still stands today. Dale Jr., who notably has said how much he loves Talladega and its fans, was named an honorary member of the famed Alabama Gang – legends Bobby & Donnie Allison, along with Red Farmer – a year ago.

"I am so surprised. I didn't think I was going to take home a race car with me from this weekend," said an excited Dale Jr., who fired the engine, then took the classic machine around Talladega's 33-degree banking for a couple of laps. "Just got to thank Talladega Superspeedway and the state of Alabama. They've been really good to me. Hopefully, we can get a win for them this weekend."

"I got to take it for a couple laps. That was fun. I drove it through the garage, so all the guys could see it. It was pretty neat just to trying to imagine what it would be like running that thing around it 180, 190

miles an hour." I've never driven anything old like this with some real history. I love to be able to just sit in the car and see the perspective of what the view was like. It is pretty different than our cars today."

### Auto Club Speedway

FONTANA, CA - How can you make your friends 'green' with envy? How about by going to the NASCAR Auto Club 400 race on St. Patrick's Day Weekend when the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Auto Club 400 race weekend returns to Auto Club Speedway - March 16-18, 2018. Tickets are on sale now and start as low as \$42.00 which includes parking.

Fans can also save 50% off a Pre-Race Pit Pass and \$10.00 off of general admission tickets to the NASCAR XFINITY 300 race on March 17. Special offer valid Oct. 9-13, 2017.

"Attending the NASCAR Auto Club 400 is more than the race, it's an experience. The festival atmosphere brings race fans and non-race fans together to enjoy concerts, stunt shows, and motorsport programming," said Dave Allen, President of Auto Club Speedway. "The NASCAR Auto Club 400 is one of the largest sporting events in Southern California and it only happens once a year."

In addition, a variety of ticket packages are available for race fans to see their favorite driver, access pit road and other cool race day experiences including:

- Save up to 50% off Auto Club 400 tickets with AAA Discounts and Rewards

- Attend a Q&A with six-time Auto Club 400 winner Jimmie Johnson

- Party at the Busch Block Party including a Q&A with 2011 Auto Club 400 winner, Kevin Harvick

- Go behind the scenes with exclusive access to NASCAR garages with a Garage Tour Package

With a race ticket, fans will receive access to the O'Reilly Auto Parts Fan Zone including live entertainment, NASCAR driver appearances, autograph sessions, motocross exhibits, celebrity appearances and other family fun.

Auto Club Speedway continues to offer family activities and youth programming throughout the Auto Club 400 race weekend. A designated area called Lefty's Fun Zone features autograph sessions, driver appearances and other kid motorsport activities. Kids 12 and under with a Lefty's Kids Club membership get a free general admission ticket to the 5.11 Tactical Pole Day and the NASCAR XFINITY Series 300 race.

To purchase tickets to NASCAR's Auto Club 400 Weekend at Auto Club Speedway, call 1-800-944-RACE (7223), shop online at [www.autoclubspeedway.com](http://www.autoclubspeedway.com).

### Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - Texas Motor Speedway is set to go green even before the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series hits the track for the AAA Texas 500 on Sunday, Nov. 5. Country music artist Pat Green returns to Texas Motor Speedway as he headlines the Loud & Proud Pre-Race Show Fueled by American Ethanol.

Green and his legendary Texas country sound hit the stage at 11 a.m. CT for an hour-long concert on the frontstretch. A Texas country legend that hails from San Antonio, he earned himself major-label support in Nashville and became the poster child of Texas music for a whole generation of fans. Green's chart-topping singles include "Wave on Wave" and "Let Me."

In 2015, Green released his latest album Home that brought him back to his Texas roots. The album features 13 songs and includes Green's collaboration with notable names in country music including Scooter Carusoe, Liz Rose and Chris Stapleton.

Green is no stranger to playing in front of Texas Motor Speedway's NASCAR fan base. He has performed at the 1.5-mile speedway on two separate occasions, the first

**(Continued Next Page)**



Continued...

coming before the November 2005 Dickies 500 and later he returned to perform before the April 2009 Samsung 500.

The Loud & Proud Pre-Race Show Fueled by American Ethanol is free to all AAA Texas 500 ticketholders, but fans looking to get a stage-side view can purchase a pre-race mosh pit pass for \$79.

The pass includes access to the infield for the concert as well as for Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series driver introductions. A ticket to the AAA Texas 500 must accompany all pre-race passes.

The AAA Texas 500 is part of a NASCAR Playoffs tripleheader weekend at Texas Motor Speedway that also features the Camping World Truck Series JAG Metals 350 Driving Hurricane Relief on Friday, Nov. 3, and the XFINITY Series O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Tickets for the AAA Texas 500 start as low as \$49 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Mosh pit passes and tickets are available by calling the Texas Motor Speedway ticket office at (817) 215-8500 or by visiting [www.texasmotorspeedway.com](http://www.texasmotorspeedway.com).

### Gateway Motorsports Park

For the first time in its history, Gateway Motorsports Park in Madison, Illinois, will transform into a festive wonderland with the Magic of Lights™ drive-through holiday lights experience. The Magic of Lights™ experience will start on Friday, November 17 and continue through New Year's Day. The family-friendly "one carload, one price" holiday attraction will run from dusk each evening to 10 p.m. The inaugural Magic of Lights™ experience at Gateway Motorsports Park will become a new holiday tradition for the entire family.

The festival of twinkling, magical holiday lights includes a 200-foot-long light tunnel. The 1.5-mile Magic of Lights™ (@MagicOfLights) course will feature more than 40 scenes of holiday lights -- nearly one million sparkling LED lights. The sparkling LEDs will depict the favorite characters of the season, including animated snowmen, elves, poinsettias, candy canes, toy land, a Victorian village,

enchanted forest and Santa Claus. Guests will marvel at the size of the light displays, some as long as 400 feet and standing as tall as buildings.

Special party and VIP functions are available. Tickets will go on sale October 16.

### ONE CARLOAD, ONE PRICE ADMISSION:

- CARS (personal vehicle with 3 rows of seating or less and 2 axles or less, includes motorcycles): \$15 early bird discount, \$20 in advance or \$25 at the gate.

- CARS DASH PASS (skip the line, head straight in): \$40 in advance, \$45 at the gate, \$25 to upgrade at the gate.

- LIMOS (limousine or commercial passenger van with more than 3 rows of seating, or with 3 axles or more): \$35 early bird discount, \$40 in advance, \$50 at the gate.

- LIMOS DASH PASS (skip the line, head straight in): \$60 in advance, \$65 at the gate, \$25 to upgrade at the gate.

Tickets may be purchased at Gateway Motorsports Park, at [www.MagicOfLights.com](http://www.MagicOfLights.com) or by phone at (618) 215-8888 (standard ticket fees may apply).

For more information on Magic of Lights™, please visit [www.magicoflights.com](http://www.magicoflights.com).

### Sonoma Raceway

SONOMA, CA - Like many local sites that have been housing evacuees from the North Bay fires, Sonoma Raceway has been overwhelmed with generous donations from community members.

We now have more donated items than we have the capacity to use or distribute, and are no longer accepting material donations at the raceway.

In lieu of donating new or used items, we suggest you consider a financial contribution to one of these local non-profits doing incredible work in local communities:

- North Bay Fire Relief Fund: [www.redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief](http://www.redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief)

- Petaluma People Services: <http://petalumapeople.org/>

- Redwood Empire Food Bank: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/webLink/WebLink.aspx?name=redempire&id=64>

- Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano: <https://www.foodbankccs.org/>

### Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - Madison McWilliams, a rapidly emerging teenage pop star from Austin,

Texas, will sing the National Anthem prior to the O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 NASCAR XFINITY Series race on Saturday, Nov. 4, at Texas Motor Speedway.

The 16-year-old McWilliams has been a whirlwind of activity with the releases of singles, music videos and her debut EP; live performances at major events; and numerous interviews with various media outlets, including several high-profile teen outlets, that are following her meteoric rise in the music industry.

McWilliams has performed the National Anthem at a number of events previously, but the O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 (7:30 p.m. CT, TV: NBC Sports Network, Radio: PRN, SiriusXM, 95.9 The Ranch) will be her first at a NASCAR event. It will be particularly exciting for McWilliams given that she is an ardent NASCAR fan.

"Performing the National Anthem at Texas Motor Speedway is a dream come true," McWilliams said. "As a native Texan, being at the O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 is already a thrill but having this opportunity with NASCAR is beyond anything I could imagine. I'm really looking forward to it - not to mention I just turned 16 so I can see which car I should ask my Mom for."

McWilliams released her debut EP "Madison" in June that consists of six songs she wrote: "Melodramatic," "Easy," "Burn and Crash," "End of the Tunnel," "We've Got Today," and "Fighter."

Two of the current single releases, "We've Got Today," and "End of the Tunnel" have garnered solid social media traction, with "We've Got Today" being selected at the Musical.ly "NextWave" April video competition. McWilliams was one of only 15 emerging artists invited to participate in the popular music platform.

She has performed at several major events this year, including Austin's ever-popular SXSW in March and Make-A-Wish World Wish Day during April in San Antonio. She serves as an official Make-A-Wish ambassador for Central and South Texas and her song "Fighter" was written as a tribute to the Make-A-Wish children.

McWilliams' popularity continues to grow as she has been recently featured in national teen outlets Tiger-Beat, Dream Teen Magazine (cover), Popstar! Magazine, Sweetie High and Girls' Life .

### Kansas Speedway

KANSAS CITY, KS - Mike Vogel, who can currently be seen on NBC's new drama series, "The Brave," has been named the honorary starter for the Oct. 22 Hollywood Casino 400. In his role on "The Brave," Vogel stars as Captain Adam Dalton, the leader of an elite group of military professionals carrying out dangerous missions to keep the world safe.

"I am very excited to take part in the NASCAR Playoffs at the Hollywood Casino 400 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup race at Kansas Speedway!" said Vogel. "Waving the green flag is going to be a surreal experience. I play a military operator on NBC's "The Brave" and I hope to meet some true American Heroes on race weekend."

Vogel is best known for his starring role on Stephen King's hit series "Under the Dome," as well as arcs in series that include "Bates Motel" and "Childhood's End."

In addition to his television work, he has extensive film credits, including "The Case for Christ," "Cloverfield," "The Help" and "Blue Valentine," co-starring Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams. He can also currently be seen in the film "Battle of the Sexes," opposite Emma Stone and Steve Carell.

Racing returns to Kansas Speedway this October for the Hollywood Casino 400 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, which is an elimination race in the playoffs on Sunday, Oct. 22 airing on NBCSN at 3:00 p.m. ET. The NASCAR XFINITY Series Kansas Lottery 300 will again be a part of the playoffs for the NASCAR XFINITY Series on Saturday, Oct. 21 on NBC at 3 p.m. ET, while the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards will wrap up their season and crown a champion on Friday, Oct. 20. Tickets are currently on sale by calling 866.460.RACE (7223) or online at [www.kansasspeedway.com](http://www.kansasspeedway.com).

General parking is always free at Kansas Speedway and fans can bring in one 14x14x14-inch soft-sided cooler with their favorite food and beverages.

Fans can follow Kansas Speedway on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/kansasspeedway](http://www.facebook.com/kansasspeedway) or follow us on Twitter (@kansasspeedway).



## I-30 Speedway

LITTLE ROCK, AR - Sammy Swindell continues to dole out lessons to the younger generation of racers as he charged to an unprecedented fifth Short Track Nationals victory in Saturday night's 40-lap event finale atop the high-banked, ¼-mile I-30 Speedway clay oval.

The Memphis area racer surged into the lead on the opening lap from his second row starting position and led all the way aboard the Rains Motorsports No. 3s JR1-chassis to capture the \$15,000 winner's take in the 30th edition of the COMP Cams Short Track Nationals presented by Hoosier Tires.

Swindell's second event win in a row was no cakewalk though, as he had to run a flawless race over the latter half of the race to keep Sam Hafertepe, Jr., and Aaron Reutzel at bay less than a handful of car lengths back.

"We had that caution and A.G. (Rains) signaled for me to go up high and we were definitely a lot better up there," Swindell explained.

While Clute, TX shoe Aaron Reutzel earned the pole position in the feature aboard the Dissolvalloy Downhole Revolution No. 87 Triple-X by beating Tim Crawley to the line in the Pack Building Materials Dash for Cash, it was fourth-starting Swindell splitting the front duo down the backstretch on the opening circuit to take command.

With Swindell leading the way, Hafertepe, Jr., snuck by Reutzel for second moments before a caution flew for Wayne Johnson's stalled mount just five laps into the race.

Back under way, Swindell stretched out a half straightaway lead as he sliced through traffic until a final caution flew with just a dozen laps remaining. With Hafertepe, Jr., and Reutzel back on his tailtank, Swindell shifted to the top shelf and was perfect over the final rounds to preserve the win.

In hot pursuit, Hafertepe, Jr., and Reutzel were soon joined by a surging Bill Balog in the battle for second. Reutzel slid Hafertepe, Jr., for second coming to the white flag only to have the current Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour points leader cross back under to maintain the position as Balog slipped by for third.

Hafertepe, Jr., prevailed on the



**Race winner Sammy Swindell (center) is joined in I-30 Speedway's victory lane by second place Sam Hafertepe Jr. (right) and third place Aaron Reutzel left after the finale of the Short Track Nationals. (STN photo)**

final lap to take runner-up honors aboard the Towline Variety/Lonestar Speedway No. 15h Cool-chassis while Reutzel rallied back around Balog to put his Triple-X chassis in third.

"North Pole Nightmare" Balog settled for fourth aboard Ronnie Pitts' No. 1x with Liberal, KS, native Tony Bruce, Jr., rounding out the top five aboard the Smith Racing/Tiger Towing No. 86.

After starting on the front row outside, Tim Crawley crossed the stripe sixth while Derek Hagar climbed a handful of positions to capture seventh. Hailing from Lincoln, NE, by way of Liberal, KS, Jason Martin was eighth while Tennessee's Morgan Turpen became the first female to post a top-ten STN championship feature by crossing the stripe in ninth. An STN rookie along with Balog, Canadian Skylar Gee completed the top ten.

Dale Howard, Kyle Bellm, Jeff Swindell, Seth Bergman, Cody Gardner and Morgan Turpen topped the six STN Saturday Night Showdowns. Brad Bowden and Scott Bogucki earned "C" Main wins with Steven Tiner and Wayne Johnson posting "B" Main wins. Willie Croft held the lead in the first "B" Main until mechanical woes stopped him short while Marshall Skinner made hard contact with the infield tires along the frontstretch while racing in a transfer position as well.

Mississippi's Jan Howard was the winner of the Second Annual "Red Shirt Dash" in honor of Lanny Edwards for C Main non-transfers.

A total of 74 competitors took part in the 30th Annual COMP Cams Short Track Nationals presented by Hoosier Tires at I-30

Speedway with nearly \$108,000 in prize money awarded over the course of the weekend.

## I-30 Speedway

LITTLE ROCK, AR - Sam Hafertepe, Jr., continued his winning ways by racing to victory lane in Friday night's 25-lap preliminary feature at the 30th Annual COMP Cams Short Track Nationals presented by Hoosier Tires atop the high-banked ¼-mile I-30 Speedway clay oval.

After outdueling Aaron Reutzel for the point in the early going, Hafertepe, Jr., slipped away to a near straightaway advantage over the latter half of the race to secure a prime starting position among the front three rows in Saturday night's \$15,000-to-win, \$2,000-to-start STN championship feature.

While the reigning Lucas Oil ASCS National champion from Sunnyvale, TX, posted his second career STN preliminary feature win and first since 2010 aboard the Towline Variety/Lonestar Speedway No. 15h Cool-chassis, Tim Crawley and Aaron Reutzel earned passes to Saturday's finale as well by virtue of finishing second and third, respectively.

Following a rally from 13th to fifth in Thursday night's preliminary feature, Hafertepe, Jr., was on point all Friday evening with heat and qualifying race wins to earn the pole position for the feature event with fellow Lone Star State rep Reutzel alongside.

The duo slid each other a pair of times on the opening circuit before Hafertepe, Jr., edged ahead upon the completion of the opening round.

Following the race's only caution

for a Brandon Hanks off-track excursion beyond the turn one banking with eight rounds in the books, Hafertepe, Jr., slipped away, leaving Reutzel and Crawley to battle it out for second.

Hafertepe, Jr., reached traffic with eight laps remaining yet maintained his rapid pace, crossing the stripe with a handful of lapped cars and most of a straightaway between himself and runner-up Crawley.

"We weren't gonna get too crazy and race each other too hard there early on," Hafertepe, Jr., said after his 19th overall win of the 2017 campaign. "We can save that for tomorrow night with the money on the line."

While Hafertepe, Jr., locked into his fifth career STN championship feature, Crawley and Reutzel diced in side-by-side fashion for several laps before Crawley slipped away to secure runner-up honors aboard Mike Ward's No. 88 Sprint Car. After fading from the pole position to finish sixth in Thursday's feature, Crawley's runner-up showing makes him the first driver in STN history to earn a starting berth in 20 STN championship main events.

After challenging Crawley on the topline earlier, Reutzel dropped to the bottom shelf in the closing rounds to preserve the critical third-place finish aboard the Dissolvalloy Downhole Revolution No. 87 Triple-X. Saturday will mark Reutzel's fourth career STN championship feature start.

"We let third slip away from us last night, there was no way I was going to let that happen again," Reutzel commented after being nipped at the line for the position in Thursday's feature event.

Liberal, KS, native Jason Martin closed the gap on Reutzel in the closing rounds but had to settle for fourth with Cordova, Tennessee's Morgan Turpen posting the top feature finish by a female in STN history by rounding out the top five.

Mississippi's Dale Howard was sixth ahead of Canadian shoe Skylar Gee and local ace Cody Gardner while Jonathan Cornell earned Hard Charger honors by rallying from 17th to ninth. Reigning I-30 Speedway track champion Brian Bell completed the top ten after starting 16th.

Josh Baughman, Wayne Johnson, Seth Bergman, Scott Bogucki, Chance Morton, Terry Gray, Hafertepe, Jr., Ernie Ainsworth and Channin Tankersley topped heat race action for Friday night's field of 70 with Gee, Turpen, Crawley and

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Hafertepe, Jr., winning the qualifying races. Jeff Swindell and Rick Pringle earned "C" Main wins with Wayne Johnson and Bell victorious in "B" Main action.

## I-30 Speedway

LITTLE ROCK, AR - Sammy Swindell kicked off his pursuit of an unprecedented fifth Short Track Nationals crown in strong fashion by wiring the field in Thursday night's 25-lap feature that kicked off I-30 Speedway's 30th Annual COMP Cams Short Track Nationals presented by Hoosier Tires.

Though he led the entire distance aboard the Rains Motorsports No. 3s, it wasn't without some strong mid-race pressure from "North Pole Nightmare" Bill Balog. Swindell ultimately worked through traffic in the latter stages to secure the win ahead of Balog with Tony Bruce, Jr., making a late rally to steal the third and final lock-in position to Saturday night's \$15,000-to-win, \$2,000-to-start STN championship finale.

After accumulating the most points through heat and qualifying race action, it was 1998 STN champion and hometown favorite Tim Crawley leading the feature field to the green flag with four-time and defending race winner Swindell alongside.

Swindell gunned into the lead at the outset and kept Crawley and third-starter Balog at bay in the opening rounds before the red flag flew for Josh Baughman's wild ride through turns three and four. The Odessa, TX, racer walked away unscathed.

Back under way, Swindell set the pace on the low side while Balog worked the top side to dispose of Crawley for second by the seventh circuit.

Soon after the race's second and final interruption for a Cody Gardner spin in turn one with eight laps in the books, Balog turned up the heat and began pressuring for the point. Swindell stayed steady on the low side though and worked through traffic over the final eight circuits to post his sixth career STN preliminary feature win.

A former Alaska resident now calling Wisconsin home, Balog put Ronnie Pitts' No. 1x entry into the big show in his first official STN start after a 2015 effort was eliminated due to inclement weather.

In the lead duo's wake, the battle for the third and final lock-in position was heated with Aaron Reutzel driving the Dissolvalloy Downhole Revolution No. 87 past Crawley for third at the midway point.

But, two-time STN winner Tony Bruce, Jr., was on the move in the Smith Racing No. 86, taking fourth away from Crawley on the 21st lap and then gobbling up more than a half straightaway deficit to nip Reutzel at the line for third by mere inches.

Reutzel settled for fourth with Sam Hafertepe, Jr., climbing from 13th to round out the top five. Crawley crossed the stripe sixth with Ernie Ainsworth, Jonathan Cornell, Seth Bergman and 19th-starter Howard Moore completing the top ten.

Crawley, Morgan Turpen, Ray Allen Kulhanek, Steven Tiner, Reutzel, Kyle Bellm, Skylar Gee, Gardner and Swindell topped heat race action for Thursday night's 71-car field with Bergman, Andy McElhannon, Swindell and Balog winning the qualifying races.

Brian Bell and Willie Croft topped "C" Main action with Alex Sewell and Steven Tiner winning the "B" Mains.

Sean McClelland flipped in turn one in qualifying race action while two-time STN king Paul McMahan flipped in "B" Main competition. There were no injuries.

## Concord Speedway/The Dirt Track at Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Short track racing fans in America have Saturday, November 4 circled on their calendars. Two major events in Cabarrus County give fans the opportunity to see five of the nation's premier short track divisions all in one day within a few miles of each other.

On that afternoon the Super Late Models and Modifieds from the asphalt world will be at Concord Speedway while that evening the Dirt Sprint Cars, Dirt Late Models and Dirt Big-Block Modifieds will be racing at The Dirt Track at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Action starts promptly at 1:00 pm at Concord Speedway with the 15th Annual John Blewett III Memorial North South Shootout, in memory of Charles Kepley.

The Pro All Star Series (PASS) Super Late Models kick things off with a 125-lap feature followed immediately by the \$10,000-to-win 125-lap North South Shootout

Modified race.

Also on the docket at Concord are the Limited Late Models, SK Modifieds, Chargers and Vintage Racers.

That evening at The Dirt Track in Charlotte the curtain falls on the 2017 season for three of the nation's most-popular series of cars at the "World Finals".

The World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car and Late Models are joined by the Super DIRT Car Series Modified in what is always a huge event ending their respective seasons.

Officials with the North South Shootout have accelerated their schedule, moving the starting time forward to 1:00 pm from the traditional 2:00 start. Based on last year's timeline, fan's wishing to take in both will have plenty of time after the headliner modified feature at Concord to get to The Dirt Track.

It's approximately 15 miles – a 25-minute drive – between the two tracks.

Schedule, entry forms, advance ticket sales, and other information for the North South Shootout 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.

## Five Flags Speedway

PENSACOLA, FL - One of NASCAR's biggest stars will be making his way back to Pensacola, Florida's Five Flags Speedway this December. 2015 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch has filed an official entry for the 50th Annual Snowball Derby. The Las Vegas, Nevada driver will pilot the No. 51 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota for 300 laps around the historic half-mile oval on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

"The Snowball Derby is the biggest race in the Late Model industry and with this year being the 50th annual event I feel like it's going to be extra special," Busch said. "Tim Bryant and all of his staff, as well as everyone at Speed 51, they always do such a great job promoting this event and the fans always turnout because the racing is exciting."

Busch has fielded entries as a car owner in recent years for drivers such as 2013 race winner Erik Jones and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series driver Christopher Bell. This year, with the NASCAR banquet in Las Vegas being changed to an earlier date,

the schedule will allow the 2009 Snowball Derby champion to take another serious run at Super Late Model racing's biggest prize.

"I was debating on whether or not to enter the Derby this year even before they moved the Cup Series banquet to Thursday night, so once that changed and it will allow me to get to Five Flags Speedway on Friday to qualify my own car, I was all in.

"Winning the Snowball Derby is challenging because all of the best short-track drivers in the country have it circled on their calendars, so I'm looking forward to seeing where we stack up against the competition," added Busch, who has won four times on the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series this year. "It would make for a heck of a week if I could celebrate being the Cup Series champion in Las Vegas on Thursday night and then collect another Tom Dawson Trophy in Pensacola on Sunday."

The year 2017 has been a year that has seen Busch compete in a handful of Late Model races throughout the country. Already this year, he has competed in the Winter Showdown at Kern County Raceway Park (CA), Easter Bunny 150 at Hickory Motor Speedway (NC), Vermont Governor's Cup at Thunder Road (VT), Kalamazoo Klash at Kalamazoo Speedway (MI) and Dixieland 250 at Wisconsin Int'l Raceway.

Busch's attempt at the 50th Annual Snowball Derby will be his fourth at the prestigious race. In addition to his victory in 2009, he also finished third in 2012.

The NASCAR Cup Series driver is expected to join a stout field of Super Late Model drivers from all over the United States and Canada. A full list of current entries for the 50th Annual Snowball Derby is expected to be released soon.

Fans attending this year's Snowball Derby will have the chance to purchase a VIP pass to a meet and greet with Busch. Tickets for the "Rowdy Roundup," which will take place from 10 - 11 a.m. CT on Sunday in the Fan Zone, can be purchased for \$151 and entitle each fan to getting two items autographed and one picture taken with Busch.

Passes to the "Rowdy Roundup" can be purchased at [Rowdy-Busch.com](http://Rowdy-Busch.com) or at the 5 Flags Speedway ticket office. Passes to the meet and greet with Busch do not include admission to the race. Race tickets are required and need to be purchased separately from 5

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Flags Speedway.

The 50th Annual Snowball Derby will kick off on Wednesday, November 29 with racing for the first time in event history on a Wednesday night. The Pure Stock division will be in action for a 50-lap feature prior to the annual Green Flag Pit Party and all-important qualifying draw for Late Model drivers.

Late Models will hit the track for the first time on Thursday, November 30 prior to 50-lap features for the Sportsman and Outlaw Stock divisions later that night.

Friday, December 1 is the most intense day in all of short track racing. It's qualifying day for the Snowball Derby. Also on Friday night, the Modifieds will get their spotlight as they do battle for 75 laps to crown their Snowball Derby champion.

Saturday, December 2 is Allen Turner Snowflake 100 race day. Qualifying for the Snowflake 100 will begin at 2 p.m. CT. A 50-lap last chance race for the Snowflake 100 will immediately follow qualifying. The 50-lap last chance race for the Snowball Derby will also be held on Saturday evening at the conclusion of the last chance race for the Snowflake 100.

The green flag for the Allen Turner Snowflake 100 will wave at 7 p.m. Also on Saturday night, the Pro Trucks will race for 50 laps to decide who takes their Snowball Derby victory.

Sunday, December 3 is the biggest day of the year in short track racing. It's race day for the 50th Annual Snowball Derby. Pre-race festivities will begin at Noon CT. The class photo for the 50th Annual Snowball Derby will be taken on the frontstretch at 12:30. Driver introductions will follow at 1:15 p.m. The green flag for the 50th Annual Snowball Derby will wave at 2 p.m.

More information on the 50th Annual Snowball Derby can be found by visiting [www.snowballderby.com](http://www.snowballderby.com) and [www.5flagsspeedway.com](http://www.5flagsspeedway.com).

## Florence Motor Speedway

BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN - Minimizer's Bandit Big Rig Series has had some amazing finishes this season, but Saturday's at Florence Motor Speedway might just be the craziest yet.

Points leader Ricky Rude (#14)

extended his series lead by outlasting every other Bandit, including a resurgent Mike Morgan (#88), who finished second and crossed the line sideways.

"I can't believe it," Rude said.

"If you want to see one heck of a race, watch the finish at Florence!" Bandit Director of Operations Brian Madsen said.

Rude started towards the back of the pack due to the inverted field, and had to make his way from 12th all the way to first.

"The whole time – up to five, four, three, two – I just thought, 'There is no way! No way!' Rude said. "I just battled it out and earned this one."

Amazingly enough, Morgan and Allen Boles (#3) were doubtful for the event, due to their huge wreck at Highland Rim Speedway just two weeks ago. Both Bandits succeeded in getting their trucks ready in time, only to see Rude pull out the win by the skin of his teeth.

"Got me by a hair," Morgan said.

Boles had a sizeable lead when the caution flag came out with just five laps to go, causing the trucks to bunch back up and re-start the race.

"You can't tell me there wasn't enough action here tonight for these fans," Morgan said.

"This race had everything – photo finishes, side-by-side racing, and a crazy finish!" Madsen said.

Just two races remain, with the inaugural Bandit championship up for grabs.

Up next is a return trip to Hickory Motor Speedway, where Rude won the season's first event back in March.

## Seekonk Speedway

The racing community simply loves this time of the year with the fanfare of title chases and big year-end races. With Stafford's Fall Finale, Lee's Oktoberfest and Seekonk's D. Anthony Vendetti Memorial in the books, a couple of outstanding events still remain on the schedule including the prestigious Thompson World Series of Speedway Racing. With over three weeks and other season-ending events still set to run, 26 teams have already filed entries for the Tri-Track Open Modified Series (TTOMS) Haunted 100 at Seekonk Speedway.

While children are counting down the days until Halloween, race fans are counting down the days to the Haunted Hundred at Seekonk Speedway. Racers are hoping to be counting the winner's purse of \$6,000.

Matt Hirschman's prowess has been well-documented throughout the season with his domination of the Tri-Track Open Modified Series and Evergreen Raceway Park and his success with the Race of Champions Asphalt Modified Series and other local tracks in the Northeast. While Hirschman has been undefeated in TTOMS competition this season, his fellow competitors have quite impressive accolades themselves during the 2017 season.

Among the stout roster of drivers already entered for the Haunted Hundred are winners from every Modified racing series in the northeast.

The likes of Ryan Preece of Berlin, CT, and Rowan Pennink of Huntingdon Valley, PA, have found victory in the ultra-competitive NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. Pennink also has a Modified Racing Series (MRS) victory to his credit in 2017. Of course, Preece has also racked up a win in the NASCAR XFINITY Series for Joe Gibbs Racing. He has been victorious on the Modified Touring Series (MTS) this season as well.

Other TTOMS regulars with MRS wins include Woody Pitkat of Stafford, CT and Anthony Nocella of Woburn, MA. With four MRS victories so far this season, Nocella has already wrapped up the series championship with one race to go. He is also a past winner at Seekonk Speedway and will be considered one of the favorites in the Haunted Hundred.

Jon McKennedy of Chelmsford, MA, scored a victory during 2017 in MTS competition at Stafford Speedway. The talented young driver is also the International Supermodified Association (ISMA) point leader going into the final race at Thompson next weekend. McKennedy was disappointed with his runner-up finish in the TTOMS Open Wheel Wednesday race at Seekonk in June and will be looking for redemption.

Other notable drivers having filed entries for the Haunted Hundred include Calvin Carroll of Andover, NJ and Andy Jankowiak of Tonawanda, NY. Carroll is the leader in the Sunoco Rookie of the Year Standings for the Whelen Modified Tour. Jankowiak has duked it out with the likes of Hirschman all year in the Race of Champions Asphalt Modified Tour. Back on September 24, Jankowiak bested not only Hirschman but a full-field of strong competitors to capture the series victory in the U.S. Open 125 at Lancaster Na-

tional Speedway. With multiple feature wins with the Race of Champions this season, Jankowiak hopes to ride the wave of success to Seekonk.

The current roster - which will undoubtedly grow over the next few weeks - features drivers representative of eight states and Canada. In fact, from Alberta Canada, Karey Stular of Ardrossan, has got to be the sentimental favorite and a favorite among his fellow competitors.

On Saturday, October 28 when the Tri-Track Open Modified Series takes to the track for the final time in 2017 at the Seekonk Speedway, the roster will include a tremendous amount of talent; not only of the winners from the four modified touring series but many up-and-comers as well.

Pit gates will open at 8am on Saturday, October 28. Grandstands will open at 11am with racing starting at 1pm. Pit admission is \$35. Adult general admission is \$25 and children 12 and under are admitted free. Also on the racing card is a 50-lap main event for Late Models and a 30 lapper for the INEX Legends. Building on a Seekonk Speedway Halloween tradition, prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. Children and adults alike are invited to participate in the costume contest. The rain date for the Haunted Hundred is Sunday, October 29.

Tickets are available online by visiting [SeekonkSpeedway.com](http://SeekonkSpeedway.com) or by calling the Speedway office at 508.336.9959 Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. To learn more about the Tri-Track Modified Series, visit [tritrack-mods.com](http://tritrack-mods.com).

## Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - With the dust settled on the 2017 season at Stafford Motor Speedway, Keith Rocco and the #88 Wheelers Auto team are the SK Modified® track champions. For Rocco, the championship is his third SK Modified® crown at Stafford, putting him alongside Geoff Bodine, Mike Christopher, Bo Gunning, Buggy Stevens, Bob Potter, and Ted Christopher as the only drivers in Stafford's history with three or more modified championships.

Rocco's 2017 season was a season of consistency paired with clutch performances when he needed them the most. Rocco scored top-9 finishes in each of the first 10 races of the 2017 season and he was the SK Modified®

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points leader from late June through mid August. Despite his run of consistent finishes, Rocco was struggling to find NAPA Victory Lane.

"We just struggled with the car we had," said Rocco. "We never found a sweet spot for it and it didn't have a real good size window for being off a little on the setup."

Two consecutive finishes outside the top-10 in August dropped Rocco out of the points lead and several more finishes towards the bottom end of the top-10 in late August and early September saw him sitting in third place with a deficit of 34 points to make up in the final 2 races of the season. For the final 2 races of the season, Rocco decided to bring his Waterford car to Stafford and he won those final 2 races to win the championship by a 6 point margin over Chase Dowling.

"The toughest weekly racing series competition is right here at Stafford," said Rocco. "I would put the SK's up against anywhere in the country that this is the toughest racing."

While Rocco won the NAPA Fall Final race to claim the championship, it was no easy race as he had to avoid a melee that broke out right at the start of the race and then spent much of the first half of the race bottled up in a 2 by 2 situation. Rocco was able to take the lead right at the midway point of the race and once he was out in front, he never relinquished the lead.

"I didn't really have any expectations, I just knew we had a car that was capable of winning the race," said Rocco. "It was pretty frustrating at the beginning of the race, 2 by 2 and Chase [Dowling] got by us and [Stephen] Kopicik was between us. Never did I want Chase ahead of me so it was pretty frustrating but he got tangled up and we squeaked through and then once things got singled out, I knew we had a car capable of going to the front. We had a couple of close calls and we hit wheels a couple of times, but we didn't knock the toe out or anything. It was a good day for us. To be honest the hardest part of the whole day was getting out of the car and having to make the victory lane speech."

Although he won the championship, it was a bittersweet mo-

ment for Rocco and the #88 team with the loss of his mentor and friend Ted Christopher in a plane crash.

"We were on a mission these last two races," said Rocco. "This is a tough one. This is for the whole Christopher family and the team. Ted's whole team was here and I tried to drag them all into the photo in victory lane. I'm sure they didn't all want to be here today but they came to cheer me on. One thing about me and Ted is there was never any jealousy between us. If I couldn't win I wanted him to win and if he couldn't win it was the other way around. We laughed and joked about it and he told me that if he wasn't close enough that I was going to win the championship. I just wish it was different."

Rocco will officially be recognized as the 2017 SK Modified® champion at the 48th Annual Stafford Speedway Champions Awards Ceremony to be held on Friday, November 17 at Maneeley's in South Windsor.

Tickets to the 48th Annual Stafford Motor Speedway Champions Awards Ceremony are \$48 per person and can be ordered by calling the Stafford Motor Speedway track office at (860) 684-2783, by downloading an order form from [www.staffordspeedway.com](http://www.staffordspeedway.com) and returning the form to the track office, or by paying for tickets online.

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).

## Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Rewind to the 2016 season when Glen Reen teamed up with car owner Rob Russell to drive his #31 LifeCare Family Chiropractic Late Model at Stafford. They had one goal, to win a championship. That goal was quickly snuffed out when a blown engine in only the third race of the season sidelined them for much of the year. The #31 team was able to come back for the final 6 races of the season and scored a late 2016 season win to lay a foundation for the 2017 season.

Fast forward to 2017 where Reen and the #31 team quickly established themselves as championship contenders with podium finishes in three of the first four races of the 2017 season. Reen grabbed his first win of the season on June 23rd and after a second place finish on July 7th, he found himself at the top of the points standings. Once Reen was the

Late Model points leader, he remained the points leader for the remainder of the 2017 season but the title race was tight throughout the season. Reen's biggest lead of the season was 24 points following his third and final victory of the season on Sept. 8th, but that was followed by his only finish outside the top-10, an 11th place finish on Sept. 15th that trimmed his point lead down to 10 points. With the margin still at 10 points heading into the season ending NAPA Fall Final, Reen came home with a 5th place finish to take the title by 8 points over Tom Fearn, who was the 2016 Late Model champion.

"It's extremely special to win a championship, especially after we've been second so many times," said Reen. "It's an honor but it really hasn't sunk in yet that we won the championship. I was folding up the championship flag that they gave me in victory lane and I kind of looked at it and thought holy crap, this thing is really mine. There was a lot of people out there that didn't think I would be able to go from a modified to a full fendered car. I think I adapt to new things pretty quickly and I think we proved that this season. I still have a lot to learn but with Rob Russell and all his guys working on the car and all the terrific sponsors we have on board that allows us to come here every week, we won this championship. I don't come here to make friends like Teddy Christopher always said, I come here to win. A lot of people think I'm too aggressive and we were aggressive this season and a couple of times we were too aggressive and we got black flagged but when everything stopped, we won the championship and I'm extremely happy and proud to be the champion this season."

Reen was aggressive throughout the 2017 season but one race where he might have let up a little was the NAPA Fall Final feature. Reen knew that as long as he had his championship rivals right in front of him if he couldn't be in front of them would be good enough to win the championship. He also had the voices of former Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series driver Carl Edwards and Dan Avery ringing in his head with words of advice.

"At the Fall Final, I think we had a top-3 car but I think I was a little too timid," said Reen. "No one is going to remember if you finished third or fifth, but they'll remember if you won the championship or not so I had Carl Edwards' and Dan

Avery's voice in my head telling me to just finish it out. As long as you can see them in your windshield, you're good. I have a connection to Carl through Steven Leicht and Carl's spotter, Jason Hedlesky, actually spotted for me at New Hampshire once and we met through him. There's not a lot of people you can talk to about how everything works when you're chasing a championship. It was a huge help for me and stress relief talking to him. He told me there's a thousand things that can take you out of the championship and you can't control one of them so just go out and do what you do and that's what we did."

Reen will officially be recognized as the 2017 Late Model champion at the 48th Annual Stafford Speedway Champions Awards Ceremony to be held on Friday, November 17 at Maneeley's in South Windsor.

Tickets to the 48th Annual Stafford Motor Speedway Champions Awards Ceremony are \$48 per person and can be ordered by calling the Stafford Motor Speedway track office at (860) 684-2783, by downloading an order form from [www.staffordspeedway.com](http://www.staffordspeedway.com) and returning the form to the track office, or by paying for tickets online.

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).

## Five Flags Speedway

PENSACOLA, FL - Race teams hoping to gain experience ahead of the 50th Annual Snowball Derby at Five Flags Speedway will have a variety of ways to do exactly that prior to the race on Sunday, December 3 in Pensacola, Florida.

In addition to the practice sessions scheduled during the race weekend and the Snowball Derby Preview on Saturday, November 18, test days are available for teams needing additional testing prior to the prestigious race.

"We're looking forward to the November 18 Snowball Derby Preview. It's a good day to see what the competition will yield for the weekend. For teams who need testing prior to Snowball Derby weekend and can't make that date, there are other days available for private testing," said Snowball Derby Promoter Tim Bryant.

"For teams that can't make any of the potential test dates or the Snowball Derby Preview, if any of the dates don't work for their schedule, we'd certainly like them

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to know that the Snowball Derby has been won numerous times by drivers who did not test."

Only certain dates are currently available for private testing. Teams interested in booking one of those dates are encouraged to contact the Five Flags Speedway office by phone at 850-944-8400.

The Snowball Derby Preview on November 18 will provide racers from all divisions with a chance to gain valuable experience at the historic Pensacola ½-mile oval. Pit admission that day is only \$20 per person and fans will be able to watch the action from the grandstands for free.

The 50th Annual Snowball Derby will kick off on Wednesday, November 29 with racing for the first time in event history on a Wednesday night. The Pure Stock division will be in action for a 50-lap feature prior to the annual Green Flag Pit Party and all-important qualifying draw for Late Model drivers.

Late Models will hit the track for the first time on Thursday, November 30 prior to 50-lap features for the Sportsman and Outlaw Stock divisions later that night.

Friday, December 1 is the most intense day in all of short track racing. It's qualifying day for the Snowball Derby. Also on Friday night, the Modifieds will get their spotlight as they do battle for 75 laps to crown their Snowball Derby champion.

Saturday, December 2 is Allen Turner Snowflake 100 race day. Qualifying for the Snowflake 100 will begin at 2 p.m. CT.

The green flag for the Allen Turner Snowflake 100 will wave at 7 p.m. Also on Saturday night, the Pro Trucks will race for 50 laps to decide who takes their Snowball Derby victory.

Sunday, December 3 is the biggest day of the year in short track racing. It's race day for the 50th Annual Snowball Derby. Pre-race festivities will begin at Noon.

More information on the 50th Annual Snowball Derby can be found by visiting [www.snowballderby.com](http://www.snowballderby.com) and [www.5flagsspeedway.com](http://www.5flagsspeedway.com).

## Five Flags Speedway

PENSACOLA, FL - Before a single race car makes its way onto the

race track during the 50th Annual Snowball Derby weekend at Five Flags Speedway, one lucky lady will become the first Snowball Derby winner of 2017.

On Thursday, November 16, the 4th Annual Miss Snowball Derby Pageant will be held at Seville Quarters in historic downtown Pensacola, Florida.

With just over two months remaining until the pageant, ladies interested in competing for the crown are encouraged to register as soon as possible by clicking here.

This year's pageant holds extra meaning as Five Flags Speedway celebrates the 50th anniversary of the most prestigious Super Late Model race in the country. Coincidentally, Seville Quarters - the location for this year's pageant - is also celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

Ladies 18 years of age or older are eligible to compete in the 2017 Miss Snowball Derby contest and females worldwide are encouraged to compete. The pageant presents a great opportunity for young women to represent their hometown and express their love of racing at the biggest pavement short track race of the season.

The women will compete in evening wear and casual wear to determine who will be awarded the \$500 prize.

Miss Snowball Derby's responsibilities include representing Five Flags Speedway at as many Snowball Derby functions as possible, as well as being present for all victory lane photos, pre-race ceremonies and fan activities throughout the 50th Annual Snowball Derby.

No talent or pageant experience is necessary to enter the Miss Snowball Derby Pageant. Winning contestants will reign for the term of one year by making personal appearances, together and as a group, representing Five Flags Speedway.

To register for the 4th Annual Miss Snowball Derby Pageant, visit [www.5flagsspeedway.com](http://www.5flagsspeedway.com).

## Jerico Performance Heading Back to the Top of Short Track Racing

CONCORD, NC - In the late 1970's, Jerry Hemmingson started Jerico Performance in Concord, North Carolina. Winchester Capital, which owns Jerico Performance products, has brought on Mike Sangermano, a veteran in the transmission and rear end world, to head up research and development at Jerico and spearhead future

growth of the company. The plan, according to Sangermano is to bring Jerico back to the forefront of short track racing as the leading transmission and rear end builder and parts supplier.

Sangermano states that to help with this, Winchester Capital has committed all of the financial resources needed to update machinery and move the company forward. Winchester Capital likes the performance products and racing industry and is looking for other potential acquisitions, according to Sangermano.

To help him with the business, Sangermano has three-time Daytona 500-winning crew chief Waddell Wilson and a dedicated staff. Together they are bringing new life into the Jerico brand by redesigning the company's headquarters, to planning some big changes to the Jerico business model.

"I think our customers are going to see a pretty big change," Sangermano told Speed51.com powered by JEGS. "There's a lot of new technology that's coming out and a lot of new ideas. Part of what I've always wanted to do is be at the race track and talk to the racer and see what their needs are and then go back and improve on that. That's what we're going to do down here. We're not going to so much change the product because we have a very good product, but we're going to tweak it here and there based off of what our customer feedback is."

Sangermano has been intimately involved with Modified racing in the Northeast. At the Jerico headquarters in Concord in February, Sangermano took a look at the current entry list for the Tour-type Modified division at the World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing at New Smyrna Speedway (FL). Sangermano said, "I think half of those cars are our customers."

Now Sangermano is hoping to eventually be able to do the same thing in the Super Late Model world by bringing the Jerico Performance name back to what it once was.

"We're making changes to go towards the Super Late Models," explained Sangermano. "We're going to get it more to the point where we can ship today or at the very latest tomorrow. That's where we really want to concentrate. That's our customer support."

"We want to have parts on the shelf. One thing that Jerico has always struggled with is parts on the shelf. If you called up and needed something it was three to four weeks. We don't want someone

else to have to deal with it. If you call up and order parts we want to be able to ship it to you today.

That's going to take a little bit of time, but we'll get there."

In addition to having product on the shelves ready to be shipped out at a moment's notice, Sangermano said he has plans to have at-track support, similar to what he has done for customers throughout the Northeast in the past.

Sangermano said he believes he was successful up north because of his at-track customer support and the relationships he was able to make. He's hoping to be able to do the same thing in Super Late Model racing in addition to Modified racing.

"Up north when I was there I had relationships with probably 95-percent of my customers. I want to have a relationship with my customers so that when they drop something off they know that it's done right. We're going to use that same mentality in our Jerico line to grow it in our program."

Sangermano credited Wilson as being one of the most important pieces to the puzzle for Jerico's growth and success.

"He's definitely been a help to us and he wants to see Jerico get back to where it was years ago. He's a wealth of knowledge. He knows everybody in the industry."

Sangermano explained that Wilson typically heads from race shop to race shop in the greater Concord area selling product and helping out with the rear end rentals and transmission rentals that Jerico has always done and will continue to do within the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and NASCAR Xfinity Series.

"We're starting to work closer with those people and bring that technology down so that we can use that for our short track programs and that's going to make our guys better," said Sangermano.

While many things have changed for Sangermano and Jerico Performance since 2017 began, one thing remains the same, and that's Sangermano's drive to deliver the best possible transmissions, rear ends and customer service in short track racing.

Racers can expect amazing new products to be unveiled by Jerico Performance Products within the coming months.

For more information on Jerico Performance, visit their website at [www.jericoperformance.com](http://www.jericoperformance.com), Like them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/jericoperformanceproducts](http://www.facebook.com/jericoperformanceproducts).