



SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

FastTrack

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

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On to the Chase...



What's Ahead...

It took 26 regular season races for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series to finally settle on the 16 drivers who will race in the Chase for the Championship. And like any other playoff, there are a handful of contenders and a lot of pretenders.

The field will be trimmed by four drivers every three races, starting with Sunday's 400-miler at the Chicagoland Speedway. The final four will have one race to settle it all at the season-finale at the Homestead-Miami Speedway – Hurricane Irma willing – on Nov. 19.

A victory in the Chase automatically moves a driver to the next round. Everyone else will be trying to win as many points at each race to survive to the next round.

What's clear is the field has four solid contenders, four better than average contenders, four longshots and four who will enjoy their time in the limelight for three short weeks.

Let's examine all four levels:

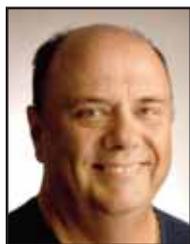
SOLID CONTENDERS

Martin Truex Jr.

Nobody has been more dominant this year. He won 19 stages

this year and four wins. Based on his stage success and race wins, he goes into the playoffs with a 20-point cushion. Since each finishing position is worth a single point, that's a nice cushion.

Nonetheless, Truex says there's room for improvement.



DON COBLE

"We've got a few little things we've got to work on, but all in all, I feel like we're definitely one of the strongest teams, and hopefully we can just continue to perform at the level we're capable of," he said. "Hopefully we don't need those bonus points, but it's going to be nice to have them, that's for sure."

Kyle Busch.

No championship conversation would be complete without Busch. Few have the raw talent as the temperamental driver from Las Vegas, and he's learned to harness his unpredictable attitude into one of the most-complete drivers the sport's seen for years.

Busch already got the playoff mind games rolling when he said Truex's Denver-based team is the odds-on favorite.

"I'm going to Denver this week," Busch said. "Maybe watching a Broncos game will fix everything."

Kyle Larson.

A victory Saturday at the Rich-

mond International Raceway solidified Larson's spot in the upper echelon of contenders. While he still needs more consistency – he has six finishes of 23rd or worse – he's clearly quick enough to win a couple races in the playoffs to easily advance to the final round.

After winning just one race in his first 111 starts, Larson attributed his breakout season to five top-two finishes in the first seven races.

"I knew if we could start off a season as good as what we'd ended, we'd have a shot at wins," he said. "We were able to do that and actually be better I feel like than where we ended last year to start this year."

Kevin Harvick.

Don't be fooled by the fact the 2014 champion only has one victory this year. His 16 top-10 runs, and the fact he knows how to get the most out of his car, makes him a threat to win it all.

His biggest drawback is a pit crew that has made several mistakes.

"In order to get the most out of our car every week, we have to perform at the best level that it can perform," he said. "So, we got to get that straight and see what happens when we get to Chicago."

BETTER THAN AVERAGE CONTENDERS

Denny Hamlin.

Although one of his two wins this year was encumbered after his car flunked post-race inspection, Hamlin remains a threat for one simple

reason – Joe Gibbs Racing.

It took JGR most of the year to figure out the new Toyota body, but once it did the team helped push the manufacturer to the top of the speed charts.

As long as Hamlin avoids the speed traps on pit road, he should be able to piggyback Toyota's success deep into the playoffs.

"Luck has kept us from championships in the past, and mistakes have kept us from championships in the past," he said. "Not many times has it been performance. I think you've just got to put those two things together and prepare for anything that can get thrown to you."

Matt Kenseth.

Kenseth not only has 10 races remaining in his career at JGR, he's got 10 races to impress another team if he wants to drive next year.

And the best way to do it is by winning the championship.

Kenseth's approach in the playoffs will be the same he used during the regular season – piling up points and surviving.

"I think it's always a little bit of a moving target," he said. "I think that first [stage], to get three solid runs, typically you're OK. Then after that, the way the points work, you carry them over and everything. Certainly, you're probably going to need wins to get to Homestead."

Brad Keselowski.

With two victories in the first six

(Continued on next page...)



The Chase 16 will go to the payoffs starting at Chicagoland Speedway next weekend. The will compete until it is the final four going for the Championship at Homestead Miami Speedway on November 19th. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

(Continued...)

aces, Keselowski would have been a top-shelf pick to advance to the final round. With five consecutive finishes of 11th or worse, his Penske Racing Ford hasn't been as up to speed lately.

If Keselowski wants to repeat his 2012 championship run, he knows it will take a dramatic turnaround.

"I don't think we're anywhere close to where we need to be for the mile-and-a-halfs, where the aero kicks in," he said. "But the short tracks we've got Martinsville, which has been a real strong track for us, and then Talladega is a real strong track for us. Hopefully, we can just get solid finishes on the mile-and-a-halfs and advance and find something to get on an equal playing field with the other manufacturer [Toyota]."

Ryan Newman.

Newman punched his ticket into the playoffs back on March 19 at Phoenix. Since then, Richard Childress Racing worked overtime to make their Chevrolets even better.

Newman heads into the playoffs with four consecutive top-seven finishes, which gives him confidence he can advance.

"Well, we are not where we need to be, but we are in a spot where we've got a chance," he said. "We continue to work on it and make the cars better, get out pit stops better. I've got to improve, qualify better and everything else. We've got to put ourselves in a position to win to get that guarantee buy to the next round."

LONGSHOTS

Chase Elliott.

Like Keselowski, Elliott seemed destined early in the season to play a leading role in the playoffs. When Hendrick Motorsports fell behind at midseason, it affected Elliott the most.

The son of 1988 champion Bill Elliott has slowly turned things around, but not to the level – his last top-five finish came on July 8 at Kentucky – he needs to keep his spot in the Chase.

"We're going to have to be on our game better than we've been all year," Elliott said. "Things don't just happen overnight. We got to work hard to bring everything we have these next 10 weeks. Like I said, once this deal starts, anything

can happen. The guys who have been running good all year, a couple bad races, they could be out of it. The guys who haven't been running good, a possibility to work your way a long way in this deal, possibly all the way to Homestead."

Jimmie Johnson.

The defending series champion always takes a lot of confidence into the Chase, but he's another driver who's struggled with Hendrick equipment.

All three of his wins came before June 5. Since then, his best finish is an eighth-place effort last Saturday at Richmond.

"We have much higher expectations for ourselves. Definitely putting a lot of pressure on ourselves to be better than this," he said. "We're working really hard. It's not easy. It's not fun. But this is pro sports. It's not easy to go out there and win. It's not easy to stay on top. I know we're very capable of it again."

Ryan Blaney.

Blaney became one of the sport's feel-good stories after he drove the legendary Wood Brothers Racing back to victory lane at the Pocono Raceway.

And while he's one of the sentimental favorites, it's hard to ignore the fact he's only posted three top-five finishes in 26 races this year.

However, the 24-year-old driver still likes his chances.

"I think the playoffs is going to be really good for us," he said. "I think there's some really good tracks in there. Just about minimizing mistakes is the biggest thing."

Jamie McMurray.

Along with Kenseth and Elliott, McMurray got into the playoffs on points. While his teammate, Larson, gets most of the attention at Chip Ganassi Racing, McMurray's had a solid season. In fact, he finished the regular season ranked eighth in points – higher than seven other winners in the Chase.

"Glad that we're in. We've run so well all year long," McMurray said. "I think we were eighth in the overall points up to this point. We've run better than most of those cars behind us every single week."

THREE AND OUT

Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

Stenhouse won twice – both on restrictor-plate tracks. While there's one plate race in the playoffs, he has to prove he's not a one-trick pony to advance out of the first round to see if he can make it to Round 3 with another win Oct. 15 race at Talladega.

"It's cool to be in our first playoffs," he said. "We got to take that

and make sure that we do that come Chicago, Loudon and Dover, then see if we can't find a little bit more speed in our cars. We've been searching for that all summer long."

Kasey Kahne.

After being told he was going to be laid off at Hendrick Motorsports, the Chase is a perfect way for Kahne to shop his skills for a new job in 2018.

Kahne was a surprise winner at Indianapolis. Before that he didn't finish in the top 10 for nine consecutive races. Since then, he's gone six races without a top 10.

"I've been here [with Hendrick Motorsports] for six years," Kahne said. "So to finish as high as I possibly can, with these guys. Doing it all together, putting in the best effort we can each week, when it's all said and done, we'll be happy about our effort and finish out what's next."

Austin Dillon.

Dillon, the grandson of hall of

fame car owner Richard Childress, used fuel mileage strategy to win at Charlotte on Memorial Day weekend – and that was one of only three top-five finishes of the year.

He plans to approach the playoffs like a gambler.

"I mean we've got nothing to lose," he said. "I feel like we are on house money this year. We fought and scratched and clawed for everything we've got. We will be aggressive on plays and strategy and see what we can do with that."

Kurt Busch.

Busch started the year by winning the Daytona 500. He hasn't been much of a threat since.

Stewart-Haas Racing already told the 2004 champion he doesn't have a spot on their roster for next year, so Busch wants to go out in style.

"We're doing everything right on the [No.] 41 car and we can do better in some categories," he said. "Those are some good signs heading into the playoffs."

Welcome 2017 Race Fans!

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ON THE COVER:

SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES

And Then There Were Sixteen

Sixteen drivers. Ten races. Four rounds. That's the script to determine the 2017 NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series Champion.

When the dust settled at Richmond last Saturday night, sixteen drivers qualified to compete for the Monster Energy Cup Series (MECS) title. Thirteen drivers qualified by winning at least

one race during the 26-race "pre-playoff" round. Three drivers qualified for the playoffs by accumulating the most points among those who did not win. One driver, Joey Logano, won at Richmond in the Spring, but his win was encumbered and; therefore, did not count as a victory qualifying him for the playoffs.

By now, race fans know who the sixteen drivers in the MECS playoffs are. So, let's examine the ten races in the playoffs and the history of each driver in those races. Of course, all sixteen drivers will not be competing in all ten races eligible for the title. After the first three races, the title contenders will number twelve. Three more races, the number drops to eight battling for the championship. Another three races and the final four will be determined to compete at Homestead on November 19th to crown the 2017 Champion.

The first three playoff races are Chicagoland, New Hampshire, and Dover. Eight drivers – Martin Truex Jr., Kyle Busch, Brad Keselowski, Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Ryan Newman, Kasey Kahne, and Matt Kenseth – have won Cup races at Chicagoland. Truex won last year and leads the playoff standings heading into the first race. Keselowski, Harvick, and Kahne have each won twice at Chicago.

The second race in the first segment of the playoffs is New Hampshire. Nine drivers – Jimmie Johnson, Kyle Busch, Keselowski, Hamlin, Harvick, Kurt Busch, Newman, Kahne, and Kenseth – have visited Victory Lane at New Hampshire. Johnson, Hamlin (won earlier this year at NH), Kurt Busch, Newman, and Kenseth have each won three times at the Magic Mile. Harvick won this race last year and has two wins.

The third race in the first segment will be Dover, the "Monster

Mile". Jimmie Johnson leads the way with eleven career wins at Dover. Kenseth and Newman have each won three times at Dover. In total, eight playoff drivers have won at least once at Dover. Truex won this race last year and Johnson (shocker) won this Spring.

After Dover, the four drivers with the fewest points among the original sixteen will be eliminated from playoff competition.

Charlotte Motor Speedway will host the first race in the second three-race segment of the 2017 MECS playoffs. To the surprise of no one, Jimmie Johnson leads playoff drivers with eight wins at CMS. He also won this race last Fall on the way to his record-tying seventh title. Kasey Kahne has four Charlotte wins, with Harvick three and Kenseth and Jamie McMurray two each. Austin Dillon won at CMS this Spring for his first-ever MECS victory and secured his place in the '17 playoffs. Nine playoff drivers have won at Charlotte.

From Charlotte, the MECS playoffs head to Talladega, Alabama. Ricky Stenhouse won at the 2.66-mile track earlier this season to guarantee the Roush driver a playoff position. Brad Keselowski leads all playoff drivers with four 'Dega wins, with Johnson and McMurray two each. Eight playoff drivers have won at Talladega, but 2017 non-playoff competitor Joey Logano won last year.

The final race in the second segment of the playoffs will be held at Kansas Speedway. Truex won here earlier this year and Harvick captured the win last year. Eight playoff drivers have won at Kansas led by Johnson with three and Harvick and Kenseth two each.

The playoff field will be trimmed to eight after Kansas with the four drivers with the fewest points eliminated.

Martinsville Speedway will host the first race in the third segment of the '17 playoffs. Jimmie Johnson won at the historic short track last year and leads all playoff drivers with nine victories at the half-mile. Hamlin has five wins and Kurt Busch two to lead the other six playoff drivers who have won at Martinsville. Brad Keselowski scored his first and only win at Martinsville earlier this year.

The playoffs shift to Texas Motor Speedway for the eighth of ten races to determine a champion. Once again, Jimmie Johnson leads all playoff drivers with seven wins at Texas. He won earlier this year at the fast 1.5-mile Texas track. Kyle Busch, Hamlin, and Kenseth have each won twice at TMS. Only six playoff drivers have ever won a MECS race at Texas.

The final race to determine the four finalists to battle for the coveted MECS title will be at Phoenix. Ryan Newman won an excited race earlier this season at PIR to lock him into the playoffs. However, Kevin Harvick has been the "Master of Phoenix" in recent events scoring eight career victories in the desert. Johnson has four Phoenix wins with Newman two. A total of eight playoff drivers have won at Phoenix.

The 2017 MECS title will be settled at Homestead-Miami Speedway on November 19th. The four remaining drivers with the most points will battled it out with the highest finishing driver among those four declared the champion.

Six different playoff drivers have won at Homestead with Denny Hamlin leading the way with two.

Of course, Jimmie Johnson won this race last year to claim his seventh MECS crown. Kenseth, Harvick, plus Kurt and Kyle Busch join Hamlin and Johnson as playoff drivers who have won at Homestead. Well, that's the ten playoff races and a little background on how the drivers have competed at each. And, if you're not confused enough yet, let me throw a few more statistics your way before you make your selection as the '17 champ.

Jimmie Johnson has won at least one Cup race at every playoff

track except Chicago. Kyle Busch is nine for ten, only failing to win at Charlotte. Matt Kenseth, who qualified for the playoffs on points, also has won at nine of the ten tracks. Martinsville is the only exception for Kenseth. A fourth driver, Kevin Harvick, has won at nine of these ten tracks, with Texas Motor Speedway his exception. So, you think these playoffs will be competitive? Four drivers have each won at nine of the ten playoff tracks.

Denny Hamlin and Kurt Busch have each won at eight of the ten playoff tracks. Hamlin has no wins at Dover or Charlotte, and Busch lists Talladega and Kansas as his exceptions.

To add to your difficult choice for champion, notice that I haven't mentioned the two drivers who won the most "regular season" races this year. Martin Truex Jr. and Kyle Larson have dominated many races and have four wins each heading into the playoffs. Truex has accumulated 53 playoff points and Larson 33 to top the playoff point standings heading to Chicago. I've got to believe that all the playoff bonus points earned during the season with benefit drivers greatly. These points earned with remain with each driver until the final race at Homestead. Then, it's "dog eat dog, best man wins".

One factor that may have a direct influence on the MECS playoffs is the weather issues in Florida. Hopefully, Homestead, as well as other areas affected by the terrible weather issues, will not suffer significant damage that may alter the location of the championship weekend for NASCAR. If there are issues that prevent the final race to be held at Homestead, what's your best guess of the track where the Camping World Truck, XFINITY, and Monster Energy Cup Series titles will be decided? That would be a tough decision.

Best of luck to all the competitors in the playoffs. I'm certain that the eventual 2017 MECS Champion will earn his crown!



DENNIS PUNCH



Kyle Larson Out Runs Chaos to Win at Richmond Raceway

Martin Truex Jr. Crowned 2017 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Regular Season Champion

Kyle Larson drove his No. 42 for Chip Ganassi Racing through the chaos to capture the checkered flag from Martin Truex Jr. in overtime in the Federated Auto Parts 400 at Richmond Raceway. It was Larson's first Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series victory at Richmond and second at the track. Larson's first Richmond win came at the ToyotaCare 250 NASCAR XFINITY Series race in April.

400. The top five was completed by Ryan Newman, Kurt Busch, and Daniel Suarez.

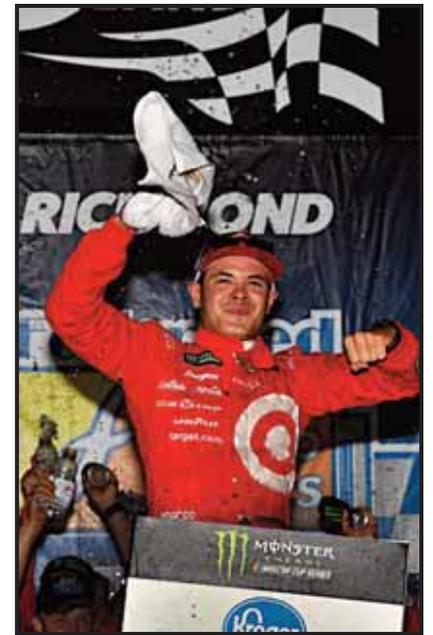
Truex was moments away from crowning his 2017 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Regular Season championship in Gatorade Victory Lane at Richmond, but a late caution flag for Derrike Cope's collision with the wall led to a final restart in the regular season finale at Richmond. On the restart, Virginia native Denny Hamlin's No. 11 of Joe Gibbs Racing made contact with Truex on the final lap to give the Federated Auto Parts 400 vic-

tory to Larson.

"Tonight, throughout the race, we just kept getting it a little bit better each pit stop," said Truex. "The last 150, 200 laps, it was lights out. Nobody could touch us after 10 laps in a run.

"A little bit disappointed obviously that the caution came out at the end. Nothing we can do about those things."

Truex was crowned the 2017 Monster Energy Series Regular Season champion in an exclusive presentation on pit road at Richmond. .



Kyle Larson celebrates winning the Federated Auto Parts 400 in Richmond's victory lane. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)



Larson led three times for 53 of 404 laps around the 3/4-mile D-shaped oval at Richmond. The Chip Ganassi Racing No. 42 pit crew was the difference in the race as their final pit stop allowed Larson to take the front for the overtime restart.

"To get a win right before the playoffs start, I really hope it helps our momentum and confidence," said Larson. "We've just got to keep working hard throughout the playoffs, at the race shop and at the racetrack to make sure we're improving our cars, which we have been all season long."

Joey Logano's bid to make the Monster Energy Series Playoffs came up short as he finished second, just .951 seconds behind Larson, in the Federated Auto Parts



Martin Truex Jr. (78) goes into the wall after a close racing with Denny Hamlin (11) on the final restart. Truex was leading for the win before this mishap, (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

Brad Keselowski Pulls Away from the Field for the Virginia529 250 Victory

After a pass with 16 laps to go, Brad Keselowski drove away from the field to take the checkered flag in the Virginia529 College Savings 250 NASCAR XFINITY Series (NXS) race at

Richmond Raceway. The win was Keselowski's 36th of his career, and fourth NXS victory at Richmond.

"There are a lot of other places we could be in the world and a lot of other stuff going on," said Brad Keselowski on Richmond fans. "I am glad I get to be here and glad they are here with us and I appreciate their support. Thank you everybody."

Keselowski's No. 22 for Team

Penske led four times for 34 of the 250 laps.

Kyle Busch finished second in the No. 18 Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing leading a race high 182 laps.

The pivotal moment in the race was the Keselowski pass of Busch with 16 laps remaining.

"I knew Kyle (Busch) wasn't going to just let me have it so I had to force something there," said Keselowski. "Whenever you make a pass for the lead and the win by going three-wide it is really damn cool. It is good to be back in victory lane."

The top five rounded out with Ty Dillon, Daniel Hemric, and Virginia native Elliott Sadler.

With his fifth-place finish, Sadler's No. 1 of JR Motorsports



Brad Keselowski (22) passes Kyle Busch (22) for the win in the Virginia529 250 NASCAR XFINITY Series race Friday night at Richmond International Raceway. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

clinched his second consecutive NXS regular season title in front of his hometown at Richmond. With the regular season championship, Sadler will earn a bonus of 15 playoff points.

"It feels very good to do it here at Richmond of all places with my friends and family here," said Sadler.

Sadler's JR Motorsports teammate William Byron finished seventh and sits second in the NXS standing 95 points behind. The NXS regular season will conclude on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Chicagoland Speedway.

"We're getting ourselves in playoff form," said Sadler. "We're fired up and ready to go."

Elliott Sadler Wraps Up NASCAR XFINITY Series 2017 Regular Season Championship

RICHMOND, VA - Elliott Sadler clinched the NASCAR XFINITY Series Regular Season Championship with his fifth-place finish in the Virginia529 College Savings 250 at Richmond Raceway.

Sadler entered the night with a 91-point edge over JR Motorsports teammate William Byron and

needed to come out of the race ahead by at least 61 points in the standings. Sadler's lead in the standings sits at 95 points after the Richmond race.

The regular-season crown gives Sadler 15 playoff points to add to the five he has already banked during the season. Those 20 points will

be added to Sadler's total at the start of the Round of 12 and the Round of 8 (should Sadler advance) in the XFINITY Series playoffs.

"Thank you for the 15 (playoff) points," Sadler said. "... Something we had on our mind and wanted to work hard for this season. My team's been very consistent and very fast. We've done very well with stage racing and to get 15 points that takes us not only to the first round and through multiple rounds (if advancing) getting to Homestead means a lot for our team."

"That means we can go to Chicago (site of the regular-season finale) and be aggressive and take some chances. We are going to use it as a preseason game to use the NFL analogy to kind of warm us up for Kentucky (where the playoff opener will take place). Feels very good to do it at Richmond of all places with my family and friends here," the Emporia, Virginia native said.

The carry-over of playoff points from round to round provides a nice added cushion for Sadler. That was not lost on JR Motorsports co-owner Dale Earnhardt Jr., who himself finished ninth in Friday's race.

"The playoff points are really im-

portant," Earnhardt said. "Anything can happen in these rounds. Those may come in real handy if he gets into trouble somewhere. That's good for Elliott. They worked hard all year and been strong all year."

Sadler has three runner-up finishes in the XFINITY Series standings in the last six seasons, and the series championship has remained elusive for the 42-year-old — something Sadler would very much like to change in 2017.

"Last year, I let my emotions get too high probably sometimes and too low sometimes during the season and during the playoffs," Sadler said of a postseason run in 2016 that saw him reach the Championship 4 at Homestead-Miami Speedway. "I learned the hard way that it's all about one race for me. It's all about Homestead. It's all about winning the championship. I want to get back to that position again."

Three drivers locked up their playoff spots after the Richmond race: Jeremy Clements, Cole Custer and Matt Tifft. That trio will join Sadler, Byron, Justin Allgaier, Ryan Reed, Brennan Poole and Daniel Hemric in the postseason field. Three more spots are still to be decided in the regular-season finale at Chicagoland Speedway (3:30 p.m. ET on NBCSN, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) next Saturday.



Elliott Sadler (right) talks with his car owner Dale Earnhardt Jr. (left) and teammate William Byron (center) before the Virginia529 250 starts. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

With a Throwback Salute to the Late Jack Bowsher, Theriault Wins at Salem

SALEM, IN - If you squinted just right, it almost looked like 3-time ARCA national champion Jack Bowsher leading the pack Saturday night under the lights at Salem Speedway. But of course it wasn't...it was Fort Kent, Maine's Austin Theriault who's become very good at leading the charge among the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards ranks.

Theriault, driving a special blue and white Bowsher Throwback scheme, hunted down Zane Smith in the closing laps, passed him with four laps to go, then drove away to win the 102nd running of the Eddie Gilstrap Motors Fall Classic. It was Theriault's sixth win of the season and third consecutive in the No. 52 Ken Schrader Racing Ford.

Theriault looked a lot like Bowsher in the lap-leader column too, leading 140 of 200 laps en route to Salem's coveted winner's circle. Some race fans of course remember when Bowsher won seven straight ARCA races at Salem from 1963 through 1965.

"What an honor to win here...this seems like everybody's favorite track," said Theriault. "This place will beat you up. I didn't know Jack (Bowsher) obviously but to be mentioned in the same sentence with him is an honor. A lot of his family was here tonight and with me in Victory Lane...pretty special to be a part of that. Maybe he was riding with us tonight."

Theriault, with the first pit cycle wedged in, led the first 136 laps before Tom Hessert beat Theriault off pit road on the second and final stop. Hessert led from lap 137 through 141 before Smith, who had already passed Theriault for second, wiggled Hessert out of the way to lead the 142nd lap. Then Smith pulled away by 10 lengths as Hessert fought hard to hold off Theriault. But once Theriault finally cleared Hessert, he tracked down the leader, got underneath him in turns one and two on lap 196 and set sail.

Smith, in the No. 28 KMC Wheels Toyota for MDM Motorsports, held on for second.

"This is the first time I've really been able to go for a win," said

Smith. "I learned a lot out there. Everything was going great there at the end. I thought I was saving a lot for the end...I should have saved more. It was a great learning experience...I just need to save a little more for the end."

Smith had an eventful night, winning his career-first General Tire Pole after he smacked the turn three wall hard in practice. To get the car fixed in time, the crew had to forego their 'in line qualifying time', which means they had to start at the tail-end of the field. After nearly getting lapped on the first long green flag run, Smith pitted, made the necessary adjustments and drove to the front.

Dalton Sargeant finished third in the No. 77 Big Tine Ford with a Throwback scheme to the late Alan Kulwicki's 1992 NASCAR Cup championship season.

"That was definitely a fun race for sure," said Sargeant. "Those last 50 laps were crazy. Hope it was good for the fans...I sure enjoyed it. Thanks to my Cunningham Motorsports crew for all their hard work."

Josh Williams, making his first ARCA start since Kansas 2016, stormed through the field in the late going to finish fourth. Williams, running a Throwback scheme to family friend/racer Bob Fields who recently passed away, charged from outside the 10th position inside of 30 laps to go and was the fastest car on the track in the end. However, the car was way off in the beginning and it took him most of the race to get there.

"We changed a lot of stuff on the car throughout the run," said Williams. "Major swings...six rounds down on the track bar and four rounds of wedge in the left rear. We were so fast in the end...track position was all we needed and just a few more laps."

Gus Dean finished fifth in the No. 32 GREE Cooling Products Toyota, the last car on the lead lap.

Theriault credited the win to his hard-working crew, led by Cometic Crew Chief leader Donnie Richeson.

"This Ken Schrader Racing team has just been working so hard," Theriault said. "We were able to get ourselves in a position with the points where we had some cushion...give us some room to try some things. It took a few laps for



Austin Theriault celebrates in victory lane at Salem Speedway in a throwback car honoring Jack Bowsher. (arcaracing.com photo)

our tires to fire off with the tire pressure we needed, but in the long runs, we were exceptional. The General Tires worked very well. But we haven't lucked into any of these wins...it's all just hard work.

"We need to focus on the mile-and-a-halves now...that's where we need the most work. These last three speedway races will be a real

test for this team."

Just three cautions for 20 laps slowed the pace during the 200-lap race while the majority of the laps were under green flag conditions.

Theriault clinched the Sioux Chief Short Track Challenge championship and currently leads the General Tire Superspeedway Challenge title fight.

Brown and Myers Score Southern Modified Racing Series Wins at Caraway

SOPHIA, NC - Two of the top Modified drivers in the country showed their skills Saturday night in the Southern Modified Racing Series (SMRS) Twin-50s at Caraway Speedway as Tim Brown, of Tobaccoville, and Burt Myers, of Walnut

Cove, scored the victories.

The field for the first 50-lap feature was set based on Precision Spindle qualifying during the afternoon with Brown grabbing the pole position. While Brown led the entire distance, he had a strong early challenge from Jeremy Gerstner, of Wesley Chapel, Fla., who started fourth.

Brown rolled to his second victory of the season with Gerstner



Tim Brown celebrates in victory lane at Caraway Speedway after winning one of the Twin-50s event with the Southern Modified Racing Series. (SMRS photo)

settling for second. Brandon Ward, of Winston-Salem, was third with Burt Myers and Concord's Bobby Measmer Jr. completing the top five.

The win for Brown was his second of the season and second-career SMRS triumph.

An inversion of eight from the first feature results put Jason Myers, also of Walnut Cove, on the pole for the second feature. Jason led early, but ended up in a battle with his brother Burt, who started fifth, for the win. Late in the race, on a restart, Burt got the best of his brother and rolled to the lead and victory.

Jason Myers was second with Brown completing a solid night in third. Gary Putnam of Concord was fourth with Ward rounding out the top five.

The win for Burt Myers was his fourth of the season and sixth overall SMRS victory, moving him into sole possession as the driver with the most wins in the 21 events the series has hosted since starting last year.

The teams get little rest as action continued with round 10 of the 12-race season Saturday night at Concord Speedway. Earlier this season (April 1) at Concord it was Brandon Ward scoring the win.



Burt Myers is all smiles in victory lane after winning one of the Twin-50s at Caraway Speedway with the Southern Modified Racing Series. (SMRS photo)

An advertisement for Five Star RaceCar Bodies UltraGlass. The top part features the text "DESIGNED TO WIN!" in large yellow letters. Below that, it says "BODY PANELS THAT DEFLECT 300% FURTHER BEFORE BREAKING=LESS DEBRIS ON THE TRACK!". The bottom part shows a white race car with the number 7 and the word "PHOENIX" on the side. The car has various sponsor logos like "HUSLER", "FIVE STAR", "PERKINS", "SWIFT", and "PFS". At the bottom right, it says "THE DIFFERENCE IS QUALITY!" and "www.FIVESTARBODIES.com | 262.877.2171". There is also an ISO 9001:2015 logo.

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Shane Stewart Claims Desired Gold Cup Race of Champions Victory

CHICO, CA - Shane Stewart passed local driver Justin Sanders to win his eighth World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series Feature of the season, but his first Gold Cup Race of Champions. Sanders finished a career-best second with Friday's winner Kyle

Hirst completing the podium.

Before the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Feature pushed off, Stewart already knew that team owner Kyle Larson picked up the NASCAR victory. Stewart, who is no stranger to Victory Lane at Silver Dollar Speedway, can finally cross off the Gold Cup Race of Champions off of his bucket list.

"When you retire, you are only remembered for the big races you win and this was one that I've always wanted to win. We've been close the last few years and to finally get it means so much to me," Stewart said.

Sanders, in search of his first career World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series victory, was strong all weekend. Sanders led the first 11 laps before Stewart got grip on the bottom of turn four to take the lead. Stewart never looked back.

As lapped traffic became heavier Sanders closed back in on Stewart looking to make a move but a caution on lap 28 gave Stewart a clear track sealing the victory for the Larson/Marks Racing No.2

"Before this weekend, if you would have told me that I was going to run second and fifth with the Outlaws, I would have been ecstatic," Sanders said. "I made one mistake in traffic, it's heartbreaking. We are happy no doubt, but we're bummed at the same time.

Kyle Hirst was all smiles after finishing on the podium and thanked the California faithful multiple times for packing the stands all weekend at the Gold Cup Race of Champions.

Australian Jamie Veal finished fourth with 11th starting Willie Croft completing the top five. Brad Sweet was strong coming from 13th to sixth with Carson Macedo coming home seventh. 14th starting Mitchell Faccinto, Jac Hauden-

schild and 18th starting Logan Schuchart completed the top ten. Donny Schatz, who was forced to use a provisional for the second consecutive night, scored KSE Hard Charger honors coming from 25th to 11th.

The World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series returns to the Calistoga Speedway for the running of the Wine Country Outlaw Showdown Friday and Saturday September 15 and 16.

Kyle Hirst Thrills Hometown Crowd with First World of Outlaws Win at Silver Dollar

CHICO, CA - Kyle Hirst is no stranger to Victory Lane, especially in California. Hirst outdueled Shane Stewart in a thrilling finish Friday at the Silver Dollar Speedway on the opening night of the Gold Cup Race of Champions. It was Hirst's first career World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series Feature Win. Dominic Scelzi came home third, a career-best for him as well.

Hirst was victorious in Heat 4 after leader Kalib Henry lost power steering and that was crucial as the Craftsman Club Dash Inversion was four, lining Hirst up on the front row of the event. Hirst would walk away with the aforementioned Dash with Shane Stewart coming



Kyle Hirst celebrates his first career win with the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series in victory lane at Silver Dollar speedway. (www.twitter.com/WorldofOutlaws photo)

from fifth to second.

Hirst took command from the drop of the green and led the first six laps before Stewart closed in as traffic thickened. Stewart and Hirst made contact the following lap with the Larson/Marks Racing No.2 leading lap seven. As Stewart navigated traffic, Hirst and Scelzi remained within striking distance.

Coming off of turn four on the 11th circuit, Stewart bobbled on the cushion and allowed Hirst to retake the lead on lap 12. A caution for Sheldon Haudenschild the following lap allowed everyone to catch their breath.

The lone Red Flag for the evening came on lap 16 when Bud Kaeding got sideways and collected Daryn Pittman and Paul McMahan. All drivers were uninjured in the accident. On the ensu-

ing restart, Jac Haudenschild got contact from another competitor ending his night. Jac was running 5th at the time.

The final 14 laps went non-stop with Hirst and Stewart exchanging slide jobs for the lead multiple times. On two occasions, Stewart cleared Hirst off of turn four for the lead but Hirst turned it under and re-gained command into turn one.

Hirst's win was a popular one among the California faithful and led to an emotion-filled Victory Lane with his Roth Motorsports No. 83 team. "I've been racing for 15 years and I've finally snagged one of these World of Outlaw wins. That's for Chico, California," an exuberant Hirst said in Victory Lane.

Stewart and Scelzi completed the podium. "Coming home second

(Continued Next Page)

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Continued...

is nothing to shake your head at. We continue to have fast a car and that's a testament to my guys. I feel like we have a shot to win every time we roll out," a content Stewart said.

Cory Eliason and Justin Sanders completed the top five. California drivers took six of the top seven positions as Jonathan Allard, in the second Roth Motorsports entry, and 14th starting Shane Golobic crossed the line next.

David Gravel picked up KSE Hard Charger Honors with an impressive 24th to eighth run. Donny Schatz used a provisional to start 25th and made it up to ninth. Sheldon Haudenschild recovered from a spin mid-race to complete the top ten.

Johnson Scores Willamette Victory in Lapped Traffic

LEBANON, OR - Jason Johnson took the lead from Daryn Pittman on lap 15 in heavy traffic and never looked back. Just two laps earlier Pittman snuck under race-long leader Shane Stewart, who succumbed to a flat tire later in the race. Pittman settled for second with his Kasey Kahne Racing teammate, Brad Sweet coming home third to complete the podium at Willamette Speedway.

Heading into tonight's action, Shane Stewart and Daryn Pittman had collectively won the last five World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Features and it looked early on as if though one of them would claim the victory again. Stewart won the Craftsman Club Dash and led the first 12 laps in search for his second consecutive victory. Stewart navigated the top of the 3/10th mile oval masterfully and looked strong. Pittman began making the bottom work in second and closed in as lapped traffic thickened.

Pittman got underneath Stewart in turn three and led for two laps before getting hung up behind lapped traffic allowing both Stewart and Jason Johnson to close in. The three drivers waged war for the top spot with Johnson taking the position coming to the line on the 15th circuit.

Johnson took the lead and extended it quickly. He survived a trio

of cautions in the final six laps, including one for early race leader Stewart, in route to his fourth win of the 2017 Season.

"That was a lot of fun. I thought the track was great. I know it was a little wet early on but come Feature time it had two lanes," an elated Johnson said in Victory Lane while holding his son, Jaxx. Johnson was, as always, thankful for his entire crew's effort and sponsors that allow him to get up and down the road with the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series.

Pittman settled for second with Brad Sweet coming on late to finish on the podium once again. Kraig Kinser, who set fast time in Qualifying, and Donny Schatz completed the top five.

Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year contenders Sheldon Haudenschild and Brent Marks had strong runs finishing sixth and seventh, respectively. Logan Schuchart finished eighth with 19th-starting David Gravel and 20th-starting Jamie Veal completing the top ten. Gravel picked up KSE Hard Charger honors.

Shane Stewart Survives Late Charge from Sweet for 7th Win of Season at Grays Harbor

ELMA, WA - Shane Stewart led all 30 laps at Grays Harbor Raceway, but it wasn't easy. With five lapped cars battling for position directly in front of the leaders in the closing laps, Brad Sweet stalked the Larson/Marks Racing No. 2 before pitching his No. 49 to the bottom off of turn four coming to checkered. Sweet led momentarily, but Stewart's momentum on the cushion was enough to cross the line .205 seconds in front of Sweet. David Gravel charged late to land on the podium for the second consecutive race.

Stewart started third and won a hectic Craftsman Club Dash that saw the front row starters end up finishing at the rear and Sweet come from fifth to second.

The lone caution flag of the Feature came on lap 15 when Jacob Allen suffered front end damage, spinning his No. 1A to safety on the bottom of the track. The caution erased Stewart's sizeable lead, but also gave him a clear track with no lapped cars in sight.

By lap 20 Stewart had once again stretched his lead to over two seconds. However, it was inevitable that he would reach the

back of the field before the conclusion of the Feature. He did, in a big way.

"I was trapped. I could not get a good enough run to split the two lapped cars in front of me," Stewart said in Victory Lane about the stressful final laps.

Stewart's boldest move was on the final circuit where he was forced to come off his preferred line, the cushion, entering turn one. The aforementioned allowed Sweet to get a run down the backstretch to make his challenge for the lead, to no avail.

"I wish I could redo that last corner. I might have done something different," Sweet said following yet another runner-up finish. "Overall, it was a good night. We like to be on the front stretch at the end of the night, but we have a lot of second places this year. This West Coast

swing is usually pretty for good us, I'm back at my hometown tracks so hopefully we can get this Ollie's Bargain Outlet where it belongs," the Grass Valley, California native said.

While all eyes focused on Sweet chasing down Stewart, David Gravel might have had the fastest car on the track in the closing laps. "We were really good there at the end. We just need to do a better job in the heat races and put ourselves up front in the Feature. We've been really strong the last two nights," Gravel said after coming from his eighth starting position tonight.

Jason Johnson and Daryn Pittman, who established a new Grays Harbor Track Record in Qualifying, completed the top five. Dominic Scelzi picked up KSE Hard Charger Honors coming forward to 11th.

33rd Speedway Motors Tulsa Shootout Pre-Entry Opens September 26

Speedway Motors
Tulsa Shootout

TULSA, OK - Calls are already starting to roll in as teams make their plans for Tulsa and the 33rd annual Speedway Motors Tulsa Shootout, happening Thursday, December 28, 2017 through Sunday, December 31, 2017.

While the first loads of clay won't hit the floor of the River Spirit Expo Center for nearly three months, early entries for the Mecca of Micros will open on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 and runs through Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at \$100 per entry. Following that, the entry price goes to \$120 and closes on Tuesday, December 19. Following that, any new entries must be turned in on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 during move-in.

Teams can enter by phone at (918) 838-3777, by Fax to (918) 836-5517, by mail to 1140 S. 83rd East Ave. Tulsa, OK 74112, or online at <http://www.tulsashootout.com> via the MyRacePass.com portal.

At the same time early entries open, the list for early parking will also open.

Teams who were on the list for the 2017 Shootout will have first option to renew their spots and must do so by November 30, 2017. After that, remaining spots will be made available. Early parking does

not guarantee that a team can bring their trailer into the River Spirit Expo Center.

For trailers that are brought in, there must be two cars per every 10 feet of trailer.

The opening day of racing on Thursday, December 28 will start at 9:00 A.M. with Practice for classes, followed by Heat Races that evening. Start time is tentative for 5:00 P.M. and can change depending on how long it takes to run all teams through their hot lap sessions.

The 33rd edition of the Speedway Motors Tulsa Shootout will see an adjustment to the class lineup with the 1,200cc Non-Wing Mini Sprints removed from the lineup. Winged Mini Sprints will remain. Other classes of competition include A-Class (Wing, Non-Wing, and Restricted), Outlaw (Wing and Non-Wing) ECOtec Midgets, and Junior Sprints for a total of eight divisions.

Official class rules are posted at <http://www.tulsashootout.com>. Any questions regarding the rules must be directed to Matt Ward, who is the director of competition for the Speedway Motors Tulsa Shootout. Contact for Matt include Cell Phone at (918) 995-1650 or the office at (918) 838-3777.

More information on the event will be released as the event draws closer. All official rules, event information, and dates are online at <http://www.tulsashootout.com>.

Jonathan Davenport Controls Lead for 100 Laps

ROSSBURG, OH - Jonathan Davenport led flag-to-flag to claim his second career World 100 victory at Eldora Speedway. His No. 49 machine pulled out of the Ohio dirt track and headed back to Blairsville, GA with a \$50,000 check and a prestigious globe trophy tucked away inside.

Although six cautions fell among the 100-lap race, Davenport was never seriously challenged for his lead position. Davenport started third in the feature quickly securing the front spot and never looking back. Gregg Satterlee finished where he started the crown jewel event in second and Mike Marlar rounded out the podium.

In just 17 laps, Brandon Overton charged to fifth from his 17th starting position. He continued to wheel his way through the field and found himself with a solid second place run until lap 90 when we got into the wall and quickly fell back to seventh. By the time the checkers had fallen, Overton had fallen back to 11th. An additional hard charger was Dale McDowell who started 25th in the feature and finished an impressive fourth.

Bowyer Racing Teammates Take Twin 25 Features

ROSSBURG, OH - A record setting crowd congregated at Eldora Speedway on Thursday and Friday night for the 47th annual World 100. Only one day remains of the three-day crown jewel event but more fans are sure to flood to the

Rosburg, Ohio dirt track to witness history in the making.

Friday's program mirrored the schedule of one night prior with a full show complete with twin 25-lap features paying \$10,000-to-win. Clint Bowyer Racing teammates, Don O'Neal and Darrell Lanigan, swept the night each winning their feature event.

O'Neal won the Odd Feature after a dominating performance of leading flag-to-flag over Tim McCreadie. Both drivers had a relatively easy stroll to the podium after starting on the front line of the feature event, never truly being challenged for their positions. On the other hand, Gregg Satterlee started seventh and fought his way to the podium battling against Mike Marlar and Shane Clanton in the process.

During the Even Feature, Lanigan made the pass for the lead by race long leader, Josh Richards on lap 18. Jimmy Owens was next to find his way past Richards on lap 21 but he was unsuccessful in his efforts to reel in Lanigan.

Richards settled for a third-place finish. Lanigan has been unstoppable during the back-to-back nights of preliminary action, winning two out of two 25-lap features. He now has his eyes set on the larger prize, the World 100 on Saturday.

After the feature event, the big Eldora wheel was spun to set the inversion for the 100-main event. The wheel landed on zero which means O'Neal and Lanigan will start side-by-side for the finale.

Lanigan and Overton Take Twin 25's

ROSSBURG, OH - Thursday night kicked off the 47th Annual



Jonathan Davenport led flag-to-flag to claim victory at Eldora Speedway. (Paul Arch photo)

World 100 at Eldora Speedway. 104 drivers flooded the famed Ohio half-mile. Thursday's show consisted of a full schedule complete with hot laps, qualifying, heat races, last chance showdowns and two twin \$10,000-to-win 25 lap feature races.

Darrell Lanigan fled to Victory Lane after a late race pass by Jonathan Davenport in the odd feature race. Davenport defended his race long lead until lap 18 when Lanigan was able to make his

move. Behind the battle for the lead was another battle between Jimmy Mars, Mike Marlar and Bobby Pierce all vying for the final podium position. Mars was able to secure third by only 0.011 seconds.

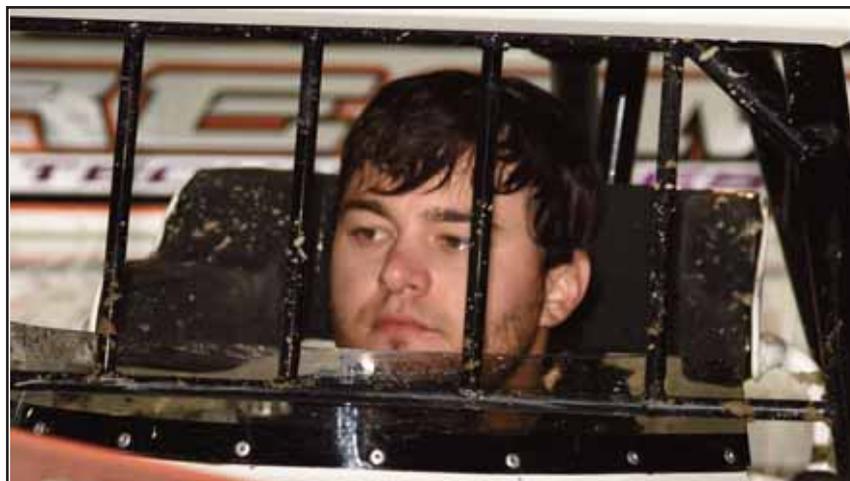
During the even feature event, Brandon Overton held off multiple charges from Chris Madden to secure the preliminary feature win and the \$10,000 check. Although a late race caution fell over the 24-car field, the lead position wasn't surrendered.



Darrell Lanigan won a Twin 25 event on both Thursday and Friday



Don O'Neal celebrates a Twin 25 win in victory lane at Eldora Speedway. (Paul Arch photo)



Brandon Overton raced his way to victory lane at Eldora Speedway, winning one of the Twin 25s on Thursday. (Paul Arch photo)

Twice the Excitement at Tri-State for Cummins

HAUBSTADT, IN - Kyle Cummins of Princeton, IN, captured Sunday night's 30 lap feature event for the Hoosier Tire Midwest Sprint Car Series. It was not an easy task and his effort produced twice the excitement. Cummins lined up thirteenth in the 20 car field. He became involved in a first lap incident involving three cars that were exiting turn three. All three restarted at the tail. All three would fight their way back to post top ten finishes. But Cummins did not stop in his progression past cars until he took the lead with 2 laps to go.

The completed "Labor Day Weekend Challenge" more than lived up to its promise. Kyle Cummins delivered on that promise of excitement with an all out effort and collected the \$3,000 check for the Rock Steady Racing team and owner Hank Byram. The run also earned Cummins the contingency award as the Keizer Aluminum Wheels Hard Charger of the Race.

Briscoe Motorsports driver Thomas Meseraull started on the pole for the feature and would lead throughout. Lap after lap Max McGhee took up the challenge. The two sped away as Donny Brackett worked on a possible third place finish. McGhee had to give up the chase after losing his brakes. Brackett's car ran out of fuel with 2 laps to go. The top five changed.

Meseraull would finish second by a .6 of a second having proved that he was the one you had to beat in order to win. MSCS Points leader Brady Short moved up to third. Carson Short was fourth in his return to MSCS competition after being injured on August 5th. Jarett Andretti completed the race in fifth despite a mid race stop in the work area.

Chase Stockon was sixth and was the last car scored on the lead lap. Brian Karraker, Aric Gentry, Chet Williams, and Brandon Mattox rounded out the top ten. Jadon Rogers collected the Wilwood Tuff Brakes Award with an 11th place finish.

Heat Race Winners included Carson Short, James Lyerla, and Max McGhee. Chase Stockon won the B Main. There were some un-

fortunate moments. Brian Wallace flipped his sprint against the wall on the backstretch during the B. Ben Knight flipped his car in turn two halfway through the A Main.

Stan Beadles set the fastest time in group qualifying with a lap of 15.926 seconds. Matt Lane and Dave Beck took the second and third heats. Roger Jackson led the B Main competitors in posting the win. Twenty of the twenty six drivers present transferred to and started the feature.

The 10th Annual "Haubstadt Hustler" is Biggest Show of the Season

HAUBSTADT, IN - The Hoosier Tire Midwest Sprint Car Series will be competing in the largest paying event of the season which is to be held at Tri-State Speedway. The 10th annual "Haubstadt Hustler" on Saturday night September 16th will pay \$10,000 to the feature winner. Unique Breedz Inc. will be adding \$2,500 of additional money to the winner's portion making the top prize a whopping \$12,500.

The sprint car feature event will be for a 40 lap distance. This event has been co-sanctioned with the United States Auto Club since 2011. Fans can expect to see the very best non-wing sprint drivers from across the country battle for top honors. Tri-State Speedway, in its 60th year, beckons as one well prepared ¼ mile oval.

This co-sanctioned race is the second time in the 2017 season that MSCS & USAC have competed together in the same program. The other feature at Tri-State Speedway in April was won by Chris Windom. Windom currently trails points leader Justin Grant in the USAC Standings. The MSCS points leader is Brady Short. He was fourth in the April feature. Brady Short won the Haubstadt Hustler in 2015.

The USAC series also made a mid season stop at Tri-State Speedway during Indiana Sprint Week. Kyle Cummins picked up the win that night. Cummins also has two MSCS feature wins at Haubstadt so far this season. The Midwest Sprint Car Series schedule is set to play out with two final events at Tri-State Speedway. The "Haubstadt Hustler" and the "Harvest Cup" on October 7th are the only events remaining on the track's

schedule. Both have rain dates set for the next day on a Sunday if needed!

Jeff Bland Jr. holds the distinction of winning the inaugural "Haubstadt Hustler" in 2008. The list of other former winners include the late Bryan Clauson, Jon Stanbrough, Casey Riggs, Daron Clayton, Kevin Thomas Jr., Brady Short, and Kyle Cummins. Clayton is the only repeat winner so far. Eighteen different sprint car drivers have visited the podium with top three finishes. Ten of those drivers transferred into the starting field last year. Twenty two cars will transfer as starters. Provisional spots may apply also.

The combination of USAC and MSCS drivers expected to compete adds to anyone's projection of potential winners. This will be a competitive event. Drivers have honed their skills all season. The talent and ability to pilot these 410 sprints will be substantial! Eleven different drivers have won USAC sprint car features during 2017. Nine different drivers have won MSCS features in

2017. That almost equals a starting field in itself and others will be competing that are not only hopeful but capable of collecting a win.

The UMP Open Wheel Modified cars will also be racing on this program. The regular \$600 to win feature purse will be increased with another \$2,500 Bonus Award from Unique Breedz Inc. Drivers will be competing for the biggest modified purse of the 2017 season at Haubstadt. The winner will take home \$3,100.

This should be one amazing, exciting double header with full fields of cars expected to compete in both divisions. The pit gate at Haubstadt opens at 3:00 P.M. Warm-ups will be at 6 P.M. to be followed by hot laps including group qualifying according to the MSCS format. Unique Breedz will provide a bonus of \$500 to the fastest qualifier in the sprints. Heat races will begin at 7:30 P.M. Tri-State Speedway operates on Central time. For early arrivals the grandstands will open for your convenience at 4 P.M.

Knoxville Nationals One Week Away

BATAVIA, OH - The nation's top dirt late model drivers will soon converge on Knoxville, IA to tackle one of the most highly anticipated events of the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series season. The 14th Annual Lucas Oil Late Model Knoxville Nationals - Presented by Casey's General Store will take place at Knoxville Raceway, Thursday-Saturday, September 14th-16th.

The activities on Thursday and Friday, September 14th-15th will feature a complete program of: Hot Laps, Miller Welders Time Trials, Heat Races, D, C, B-Mains, and a 25-lap, \$7,000-to-win main event. Drivers will earn points in each of the two preliminary nights that will determine the line-ups for Saturday night's finale. Saturday night's program will include: Hot Laps, D-Main, C-Main, B-Main, and the 100-lap, \$40,000-to-win Knoxville Nationals main event.

In 2016, Mike Marlar claimed his first career Late Model Knoxville Nationals Championship - capturing the biggest win of his career over Scott Bloomquist, Bobby Pierce, Shane Clanton, and Billy

Moyer. Numerous off-track activities will take place surrounding this three-day event. The exposition opens at 1:00pm each day with exhibits on the Midway, behind the main grandstand.

The Hall of Fame Auction will take place at the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame & Museum, behind turn two, on Saturday at 12:00pm (NOON). A driver meet and greet session will be held on Saturday at 3:00pm in the Dyer-Hudson Hall, off the Midway. Fans are encouraged to bring their favorite apparel and photos for the drivers to autograph!

This 1/2-mile speed-plant is located within the Marion County Fairgrounds in the heart of Knoxville, IA, just a short drive from Des Moines. Knoxville Raceway provides some of the best racing in the country.

A grandstand seating capacity of over 24,000, suites, paved pit area, Jumbo Tron screen, huge vendor area, camping and numerous other amenities make Knoxville Raceway a must-see for both races and fans alike.

For tickets and more information on the 14th Annual Lucas Oil Late Model Knoxville Nationals - Presented by Casey's General Store, visit: www.knoxvillraceway.com.

Blake Hahn Captures Diamond Park Victory With ASCS Mid-South

MURFREESBORO, AR - Picking up his fourth win of the 2017 season, Oklahoma's Blake Hahn ran a flawless race on Sunday night, picking up \$2,000 at Diamond Park Speedway with the ASCS Mid-South Region.

Drawing the pole of the 25 lap affair, Hahn jumped the lead twice as the first start ended in a red flag for Brian Bell, who was uninjured in the turn-two crash. Pacing ahead of Seth Bergman, the Griffith Truck and Equipment No. 52 was challenged several times by the Corridor Electric No. 23. Pulling alongside Hahn through the third and fourth turns on the hub of the track, Seth was able to come even but never clear for the lead.

Caution on Lap 8 for Justin Webb and Zach Pringle, the restart again saw Bergman work the bottom line, but was denied.

Pulling away steadily throughout the remainder of the A-Feature, Hahn would finish nearly a straightaway ahead of Seth Bergman, who had his hands full in the closing laps with Tim Crawley as the pair dashed through traffic. Crawley would ultimately finish third.

Coming up from eighth, Johnny Herrera crossed fourth with Andy McElhannon making up the top-five. Ernie Ainsworth edged Matt Covington on the line for sixth. Wally Henson, Adam Miller, and Kevin Hinkle rounded out the top-ten.

The ASCS Mid-South Region hits the track again on September 30 at I-30 Speedway in Little Rock, Ark. 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>.

Event Cancellation: Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour at Duck River Raceway Park

TULSA, OK - Events slated for Saturday, September 16, 2017 at Duck River Raceway Park in Lewisburg, Tenn. have been removed from the Lucas Oil ASCS

National Tour presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network lineup.

A change in management has spurred the cancellation. The event will remain as a Regional event with the ASCS Southern Outlaw Sprints.

"We were looking forward to going to a new facility, but we understand that things happen and plans change. Hopefully, we can get something together for the 2018 season," stated ASCS National Director, Matt Ward.

As of now, the next event for the Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network will be the \$10,000 to win Hockett/McMillin Memorial at Lucas Oil Speedway in Wheatland, Mo. happening September 21-23, 2017.

Howard Moore Prevails In ASCS Regional Showdown At I-30 Speedway

LITTLE ROCK, AR - Chasing the lead for the first 19 laps, Howard Moore would end up leading the final six revolutions at I-30 Speedway on Saturday night to top the ASCS regional showdown between the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Red River Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products and the ASCS Mid-South Region.

Taking the green from the third starting spot, Moore looked on as Alex Sewell and Charlie Loudon battled for the point with the 'X' machine of Loudon getting the advantage. Fighting the car after the nose wing fell flat on the No. 8, the damaged airfoil allowed Moore to hunt down the runner-up spot on Lap 10.

Making up ground on the 'X' as the leader weaved through traffic, Charlie was able to keep Howard about a half straightaway behind, but as Lap 20 began, the 'X' rolled to a stop off the exit of the second turn.

Green with six laps to go, Howard Moore had the advantage of a slower car between himself and Seth Bergman. Unable to clear the No. 31 of Justin Webb, one final caution with three laps to go was still not enough as Howard Moore picked up the win. Crossing up slide jobs throughout the final three



Blake Hahn celebrates in victory lane after winning at Diamond Park Speedway, his fourth victory of the 2017 season. (ASCS photo)

laps, Andy McElhannon edged Seth Bergman for the runner-up spot.

Charging from 15th, Derek Hagar raced to fourth with Alex Sewell salvaging a fifth place finish.

Johnny Herrera was sixth from the 11th starting spot with Kade Morgan seventh. Matt Covington from 16th finished eighth with Marshall Skinner following from the 28th starting spot. Jeremy Middle-

ton made up the top-ten.

Morgan Holds Off Herrera For ASCS Red River Score At Flint Creek Speedway

COLDORD, OK - Watching Wayne Johnson run away with a nearly six second lead on Friday night, a flat right rear on the No. 2c
(Continued Next Page)

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Continued...

changed everything with three laps to go for Dustin Morgan who held off the hard charging No. 45x of Johnny Herrera at Flint Creek Speedway for his first career triumph with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Red River Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products.

"Second sucks. To be standing here with the win feels great,"

commented Morgan. Talking about the closing laps and his race with the No. 45x, Dustin paid compliment to Johnny, "I have to give props to Johnny. He had the chance to serve me up and punt me and he didn't. He raced me clean."

Two attempts at the start as three cars tangled on the first attempt, the restart saw Wayne Johnson shoot to the lead from the right of the front row.

Steadily moving away from the field as the race stayed under green flag conditions, Johnson looked to be on his way to a \$2,500 payday. Coming around to two laps to run, the Outlaw Wings No. 2c suddenly took flight as the right rear tire cut down and shredded, sending Johnson flipping over the wall in turn-three. Wayne was unharmed.

Advancing to the lead, Morgan had his hands full as Johnny Herrera raced every inch of the high-banked oval for a run on the Ark Wrecking No. 93. Racing under the white flag, Herrera rolled off the second turn with a full head of steam on the high line. Blocked by Morgan into three, Johnny turned the car down the track but would not be able to steal away the win

from Dustin Morgan with the No. 93 winning by just 0.097 seconds.

Second, from the seventh starting spot, Herrera was joined on the podium by Blake Hahn with Alex Sewell fourth. Seth Bergman moved to fifth after starting ninth with Matt Covington moving forward six spots. Kade Morton seventh was trailed by Kyle Chady, Jared Sewell, and Wayne Johnson to complete the top-ten.

Friday's A-Feature was 27 laps in honor of Terry Walker, the grandfather of Mickey Walker who is a regular competitor in ASCS competition. Terry lost his battle with cancer earlier in the week.

Jonathan Cornell Victorious At ASCS Warrior at Lake Ozark Speedway

ELDON, MO - Using traffic to his advantage in Saturday's non-stop A-Feature at Lake Ozark Speedway with the Speedway Motors ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps, Jonathan Cornell earned his sixth victory of the season.

While Cornell gridded the field fifth, the early lead was in the hands of Ayrton Gennetten. Finding traffic inside the first five laps, Cornell had worked into second and used traffic to advance to the race lead on Lap 7. From there, Cornell was unchallenged.

Moving up from seventh, Miles Paulus crossed second with Austin Alumbaugh third. Ayrton Gennetten ended up fourth with Kyle Bellm racing from ninth to fifth. Dustin Barks was sixth with Randy Martin seventh. Zach Davis from 15th finished eighth with Evan Martin and Dustin Homan making up the top-ten.

The Speedway Motors ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps hits Lake Ozark Speedway once



Jonathan Cornell celebrates in victory lane after winning at Ozark Speedway. (ASCS photo)

more on Saturday, September 16.

Trevor Kirkland Runs To Victory With ASCS Frontier At Gallatin Speedway

BELGRADE, MT - The final point's race of the 2017 season for the Brodix ASCS Frontier Region is in the books, and Montana's Trevor Kirkland picked up his third career win with the Montana based region to kick off the Big Sky Super Nationals at Gallatin Speedway.

Kirkland's lone win on the season, the No. 37 paced the field from the pole position. Moving from fourth to second was South Dakota's Clint Anderson with Bryan Brown making moves from 10th to

complete Friday's podium.

Piloting the No. 23n, Washington's J.J. Hickie tore through the field from 19th to fourth with Jeremy McCune fifth after gridding the field 12th.

Mindy McCord crossed sixth with Roger Cummings advancing from 14th to seventh. Shad Peterson followed from 13th with Damon McCune in tow from 18th.

David Hoiness completed the top-ten and ended his night as the 2017 Brodix ASCS Frontier Region Champion.

The Brodix ASCS Frontier Region has two non-point special events left on the 2017 season at Billings Motorsports Park on Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16.

Off Track Hendrick Motorsports Drivers Launch Disaster Relief Fund

CONCORD, NC - Hendrick Motorsports drivers Kasey Kahne, Chase Elliott, Jimmie Johnson and Dale Earnhardt Jr. have launched a disaster relief fund with the goal of raising \$500,000 in two weeks to support hurricane victims.

The four NASCAR Cup Series drivers and the Hendrick Motorsports organization have committed a combined \$200,000 to establish the fund and are now encouraging the public to join the effort by making a donation before midnight ET on Wednesday, Sept. 20. Tax-deductible contributions can be made by visiting Hendrick-Relief.org.

All donations to the campaign

will benefit qualified charitable organizations supporting disaster relief efforts, including the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund, which is housed at the Greater Houston Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity.

"The devastation caused by Harvey is incomprehensible," said seven-time Cup Series champion Johnson, driver of the No. 48 Lowe's Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports. "NASCAR fans are some of the most generous and giving people on earth. With another hurricane (Irma) potentially on the way, we encourage everyone to consider joining us (with a contribution).."

The disaster relief fund is hosted by the Jimmie Johnson Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Trevor Kirkland picked up his third win of the season with his victory at Gallatin Speedway. (ASCS photo)

Lance Dewease Scores Richest Payday in Port Royal Speedway History

PORT ROYAL, PA - Ending a perfect weekend for the Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, native, Lance Dewease scored the richest payday in the history of Port Royal Speedway on Saturday evening, dominating 44 of 50 circuits around the Juniata County Fairgrounds "Speed Palace" to claim the 50th running of the Tuscarora 50 worth \$50,000.

Dewease, now with an unprecedented six Tuscarora 50 titles, started sixth on the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions main event grid, taking command officially on lap seven over Kunkletown's Ryan Smith and Central Pennsylvania hotshot, Danny Dietrich. Despite a competition yellow during the midpoint of the 50-lapper, Dewease remained flawless during his campaign at the top of the running order, crossing under the final checkers nearly four seconds ahead of Smith, Brock Zearfoss, a hard-charging Lucas Wolfe, and the "Madman" Kerry Madsen.

"I know how to run this place for 50 laps," Lance Dewease said on the Port Royal Speedway victory lane stage. "We didn't push it real hard at the beginning just because I didn't want to overheat my left rear. I probably could have ran a little faster, but I didn't want to yet. This is all about this team right now. We have a 16-race-old motor in here. It's the 'little engine that can.' My team works their butts off every time we show up to race. It's definitely hard work that gets us here."

The "Kunkletown Kid" Ryan Smith and Western Pennsylvania's own Carl Bowser led the 27 starters to green for the 50th running of the Tuscarora 50. Smith earned the early advantage, racing back to the flagstand for the first time with Danny Dietrich, Lance Dewease and Carl Bowser in tow. Utilizing the very topside of the speedway, Ryan Smith kept command for the first six circuits.

By lap three, Lance Dewease had worked his way underneath Dietrich for second. Four circuits later, Dewease was battling for the top spot, ultimately working underneath Ryan Smith with a textbook slide job at the entrance of turn

one. Dietrich followed Dewease's tracks and also worked by Smith, keeping pace with the familiar No. 69K until traffic spoiled Dietrich's momentum on lap 10.

Working as an advantage for the race leader, traffic eventually intensified which allowed Dewease to escape from the rest of the field. By the time the race was stopped for a competition yellow on lap 25, Dewease's command was built to nearly four seconds. During the closing laps before the yellow, Ryan Smith battled back to regain second over Dietrich on lap 17. Brock Zearfoss, who started ninth on the main event grid, also raced around Dietrich to claim third on lap 19.

When green flag conditions resumed on lap 26, Dewease was able to pick up right where he left off and return to the bottom of the speedway. By lap 29, Dewease regrew his lead to 2.5 seconds, still flanked by Ryan Smith and Brock Zearfoss. Even when the trio raced into traffic once again, Dewease maintained all momentum, ultimately crossing under the final checkers 3.948 seconds ahead of Smith and Zearfoss.

"We were fortunate enough to win our heat race which put us in a good starting position," said Dewease, pilot of the No. 69K. "We had to free ourselves up a little bit during that break. When I got into lapped cars, I started to get really tight. This car loves the clean air. This win is really special to all of us."

In total, Lance Dewease earned \$56,350 during his weekend visit to the Port Royal Speedway "Speed Palace." The pair of Arctic Cat All Star victories increases his career win total to 35 with "America's Series."

Returning to Central Pennsylvania for one final time in 2017, the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions will continue the month of September with trips to Selinsgrove Speedway and Bedford Fairgrounds Speedway on Saturday and Sunday, September 16-17, respectively. The 35th Annual Jim Nace Memorial/National Open at Selinsgrove Speedway will highlight the weekend venture to the Keystone State, awarding an \$8,000 top prize; the final event of the 2017 season at the Penn Township half-mile.



Lance Dewease celebrates his Tuscarora title at Port Royal Speedway. Dewease won the night before as well. (Vince Vellella photo)

Those seeking additional news and notes pertaining to the events at Selinsgrove Speedway and Bedford Fairgrounds Speedway should visit each facility live on the Web at www.selinsgrovespeedway.com and www.bedfordsspeedway.com.

Dewease Edges Brown for Night Before The Tuscarora 50 Win

PORT ROYAL, PA - A name certainly synonymous with victory lane in Central Pennsylvania, Lance Dewease made his return to the Port Royal Speedway "Speed Palace" on Friday evening and left as a winner, earning the Night Before The Tuscarora 50 victory over a field of 65 Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions entries for a \$5,000 top prize.

The victory lane visit, the result of a battle with Midwest invader, Brian Brown, after starting third on the main event grid, bumps Dewease to 34 total wins with the Arctic Cat All Stars throughout the course of his storied career, now with seven at the Juniata County Fairgrounds.

"We were pretty good here tonight for 30 laps, but I think we still need to get a little bit better for the 50-lap race tomorrow," Lance Dewease explained, pilot of the Don Kreitz-owned/Schannauer Plumbing & Heating/Henry Sherman Builders/No. 69K. "We just had to keep our tires under us. This place was so fast here tonight."

After withstanding a series of cautions during the first three circuits, once of which resulting in open red flag conditions while track crews cleaned up oil, Fayetteville's Lance Dewease was able to capitalize on a solid start and maintain third in the running order, eventually taking second from Mike Wag-

ner just as the lead pack was entering traffic for the first time near the completion of lap eight.

Lapped traffic proved to be a benefactor for Dewease during large segments the 30-lap program. By lap nine, Dewease powered his way to second beyond Mike Wagner, now chasing Grain Valley, Missouri's Brian Brown for the top spot. Despite "Blackjack's" ability to ring the topside of the speedway through the slower cars, Dewease continued to find ways to keep up with Brown using the very bottom of the half-mile oval, eventually erasing all of Brown's advantage.

Brown's lead of nearly two seconds at the midpoint of the main event was cut down to less than a second by lap 23. Dewease ultimately worked his way to the back bumper of the former Knoxville (IA) Raceway track champion on lap 24 which set up his first major bid for the top spot. A successful slide job at the entrance of turn one on the following circuit allowed Dewease to take command of the running order.

On lap 28, Brown set himself up for one last opportunity to regain the top spot back from Dewease, a desperate slide job at the entrance of turn one, but the attempt proved unsuccessful. Dewease kept control to secure his place on top of the Port Royal Speedway victory lane stage. Brian Brown held on to finish second, followed by T.J. Stutts, Greg Hodnett, and the "Madman" Kerry Madsen.

"To finish second to Lance Dewease while racing against a field of 65 cars is nothing to hang our heads about," Brian Brown stated. "We have some positive notes to review, so we'll come back tomorrow and try to get one position better."

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - Dover International Speedway and Dover Downs Hotel & Casino received donations from more than 100 individuals and community groups during their recent collection of supplies bound for areas in Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Among the materials collected were baby items, pet supplies, canned goods and cleaning materials.

One mini-bus and one utility van were loaded with supplies on Wednesday and taken to Harbor Transport in Federalsburg, Md., where they will be placed on a tractor trailer bound for the Gulf Coast at the end of the week.

"This is a generous community and the outpouring of support for the people of Texas has been wonderful," said Dover International Speedway Business Development Representative Karen Ptak, who organized the donations. "The pictures we're seeing every day from that area are devastating, so it feels good to provide a little help and relief."

Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, the largest hotel facility in Delaware, donated boxes of gently used items to the cause, including washcloths, hand towels, bath towels, toiletries and bottled water.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 6, Hurricane Harvey has been blamed for more than 60 deaths and displaced more than 30,000 residents in Texas. Recovery costs are expected to exceed \$50 billion.

zMAX Dragway

CONCORD, NC - Before drivers battle in the afternoon sun during the Oct. 8 Bank of America 500 at Charlotte Motor Speedway, stars will shine the night before at zMAX Dragway when award-winning country music singer, songwriter, guitarist and entertainer Brad Paisley lights up zMAX Dragway with a spectacular pre-race concert.

Paisley revs up his involvement in America's most high-octane sport with a rocking salute to race fans with hometown hero Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s JR Nation Appreci88ion Tour.

While Paisley and Earnhardt are prominent models of success in their chosen fields, fans who attend this year's Bank of America 500 will

win big as well.

Paisley's concert is open exclusively to Bank of America 500 ticketholders. As an added incentive, fans who buy two adult tickets to this year's Bank of America 500 - Earnhardt's final Charlotte Motor Speedway start as a full-time driver - will receive concert admission and a commemorative Earnhardt bobblehead while supplies last. Tickets are available as a two-pack for \$88.

TICKETS: Kids 13 and under can get into the Bank of America 500 for just \$10. As a salute to Earnhardt's final race, adult tickets are available as a two-pack for \$88. For tickets, camping and upgrades, fans can call the ticket office at 1-800-455-FANS (3267) or shop online at www.charlottemotorspeedway.com.

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

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Only days remain for race fans to save \$10 on tickets for Talladega Superspeedway's highly anticipated doubleheader, fall "Wildcard" playoff race weekend (Oct. 13-15), featuring the Alabama 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series (MENCS) race - Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s final Talladega start - and the exciting Fred's 250 Powered by Coca-Cola NASCAR Camping World Truck Series (NCWTS) event.

Next Friday, Sept. 15, is the final day to purchase Advance-Priced tickets to the thrilling weekend at the Biggest and Baddest track on the planet - Talladega Superspeedway. Advance-priced options include:

- \$10 off regular pricing for the Alabama 500, the "Wildcard" race in the Round of 12 for the MENCS playoffs, scheduled for 1 p.m. (CDT) on Sunday, Oct. 15.

- \$5 off regular pricing for Saturday's on-track action, featuring the Fred's 250 Powered by Coca-Cola NCWTS event at 12 Noon (CDT) where the field of eligible playoff drivers will be trimmed from eight to six at the checkered flag, along with Food Land/Food Giant Qualifying for the MENCS, as well as NCWTS time trials.

- Two-day ticket packages for both Saturday and Sunday start at only \$50. (Availability is limited)

"Our playoff events at Talladega

produce a one-of-a-kind experience with NASCAR's Most Competitive races on the schedule," said Talladega Superspeedway Chairman Grant Lynch. "Race fans looking for incredible, heart-pounding three and-four-wide racing have picked the right track, and we are pleased to be able to offer them special, affordable ticket prices in advance so that they can make their plans now to attend our play-off weekend, Oct. 13-15."

For more information on saving with Advance-Priced tickets, as well as the other incredible upgrades available, which include opportunities like the Pre-Race Pit Pass Upgrade, Premium Seating and VIP options, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call the Talladega Ticket Office at 855-518-RACE (7223). Starting Saturday, Sept. 16, Talladega Superspeedway's on-site ticket office will be open on weekends from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (CDT) to better service our loyal race fans across the country.

A ticket to Sunday's Alabama 500 will also gain admission to the Colt Ford Concert Powered by American Ethanol starting at 7:30 p.m. (CDT) Saturday.

Phoenix Raceway

PHOENIX, AZ - As part of the Phoenix Raceway Project Powered by DC Solar, Phoenix Raceway President Bryan R. Sperber announced today that the new, luxury suite experience Curve will be unveiled during the Can-Am 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series semifinal race weekend on Nov. 10-12. Curve is the first element of the modernization project that will be available to fans.

The unique fan hospitality club sits six stories above the track and features modern amenities, such as designer interior with lounge-style, plush seating that enhances socialization, chef-inspired food and beverage creations and a nearly 200-foot long panoramic view of the entire one-mile oval and the beautiful Estrella Mountains.

"Curve will set a whole new standard of luxury for sports venues," Sperber said. "Our guests will be treated to an incredible atmosphere, an unparalleled view and a delicious array of enticing food and beverage selections."

For this one-of-a-kind race day experience, Phoenix Raceway will be partnering with world-renowned leader in

sporting cuisine, Levy Restaurants. In Curve, fans will have access to an exclusive menu, featuring items inspired by unique flavors from the Southwest region.

Fans can expect a variety of offerings including standout signature cocktails created by renowned mixologists. Curve will also tantalize the taste buds with complementary options like a Chef's Table including Agave Glazed Chicken, Carnitas Street Tacos, as well as Potato, Poblano and Corn Gratin.

Multi-day packages to Curve for the Can-Am 500, which are available for individual ticket-buyers and small groups, are available now on PhoenixRaceway.com. Curve is also on sale for the March 2018 NASCAR weekend, as well as the April 2018 INDYCAR event.

Since 1964, Phoenix Raceway has been the premier motorsports venue in the Southwest. Founded as an open-wheel racing mecca, Phoenix Raceway was proud to host the Phoenix Grand Prix Verizon IndyCar Series race under the lights in April. Phoenix is the only track in the West to feature two Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series weekends a year, beginning with the Camping World 500 race weekend in March 17-19. The schedule is anchored by the Can-Am 500 race weekend on Nov. 10-12, the semifinal race in NASCAR's Playoffs after which the field is reduced to the final four championship contenders.

For more information, visit www.PhoenixRaceway.com.

Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - The 2017 Winter Flurry Legends and Bandolero racing series began Saturday afternoon at Atlanta Motor Speedway with doubleheaders in all eight racing divisions, as drivers returned to the quarter-mile Thunder Ring for off-season racing following the 20th Anniversary season of Thursday Thunder earlier this summer.

Three drivers picked up two wins on the afternoon by sweeping their respective divisions, while one driver made two trips to Victory

(Continued Next Page)



Continued...

Lane by way of one win in both the Pro and Outlaws Divisions.

Chargers Division: Newcomer Josh Parham put together a solid 20-lap effort to claim victory in the first Chargers Division feature, while Chris McKeehan notched the win in the second race, each picking up their first Thunder Ring victories.

Rookie Bandoleros Division: In the Rookie Bandoleros Division, Lee Brown of Acworth drove to a victory ahead of Matthew Kade of Hampton and Bailey North of McDonough, before Kade and North went one-two in the second feature, with Cole McKeehan, Wyatt Hodges and Brown rounding out the field.

Young Lions Division: Bowersville's Clay Thompson dominated both Young Lions Division features Saturday afternoon, nearly sweeping all 40 laps in front of the field. Meanwhile, Ryan Rackley of Valdosta, Gauntt Hudgins of Savannah and Cale Hall of Griffin each picked up two top-five finishes.

Bandits Division: Likewise, Grant Thompson of Mobile, Alabama handled the competition in the Bandits Division features with nary a lap left un-led to sweep both races. Behind Thompson, Lucas Ruark of Suwanee and Kenneth Henderson of Alto finished second and third respectively in both races for two identical podiums.

Semi-Pro Division: In the Semi-Pro Division features, it was Cody Hall of Griffin snagging the checkered flag on the final lap the first time around and Rafe Slate of Eatonton leading all 20 laps for victory in Round 2. Slate improved by one place after finishing as the runner-up in the early race. Meanwhile, Connor Younginer of Stockbridge and Chris Clanton of Brooks each picked up two top-five finishes.

Outlaws Division: Josh Hicks of Senoia picked up his first win of the day in the second Outlaws Division feature by leading flag-to-flag, while Canton's Michael Gannon notched an offseason victory in the early race. Blaise Maddox of Locust Grove, Blaze Crawford of Fayetteville and Ashton Whitener of Monticello finished second-through-fourth in both

races to each score double top-five finishes on the day.

Pro Division: Though the Pro Division features presented a small field of just five cars, both races were among the most entertaining in recent memory.

Corey Heim of Marietta, the Pro Division champ for the 2017 Thursday Thunder season, and Stockbridge's Jensen Jorgensen swapped leads a number of times at the front of the pack while going at it in a fierce door-to-door battle in the division's first race of the afternoon, but it was Heim who prevailed and returned to Victory Lane after hoisting the 2017 Thursday Thunder trophy mere weeks ago. Dylan Murray of Cumming, Jorgensen, Dawson Fletcher of Canton and Josh Hicks of Senoia rounded out the field.

The second Pro Division feature can only be described as chaotic. Heim started from the pole position and led the first lap, but again, Jorgensen was up to the challenge, and the pair bumped and rubbed while swapping the lead several times through the first half of the race.

Heim finally got a grip on the lead and put together a run of 10 laps out front, but Jorgensen again made a move for the top spot and claimed the lead ahead of Heim on Lap 14. But that didn't last long. As soon as Jorgensen nosed ahead, the pair made contact once again, sending both for a spin, bringing out the caution flag and banishing both to the rear of the field.

Restarting in front, Fletcher led Lap 15, but Murry – who wouldn't be left out – became the fourth of the five drivers to lead a lap in the race, when he passed Fletcher the very next lap and stayed ahead for one more before another caution bunched the field.

This time, Hicks had the top spot as the field returned to racing, but no sooner had the green flag been waved than Hicks and Heim, who restarted on the outside of the front row, got together, again bringing out the caution flag and ending Heim's day.

With just Murry, Jorgensen and Hicks remaining in the race with three laps to go, Murry took the white flag in the lead, but Jorgensen wasn't about to go quietly into the night.

On the final corner of the race – and with Jorgensen out of time – Jorgensen got into the back of Murry just a little too hard, sending Murry spinning, the caution flag waving, both to the rear of what was left of the field, and Hicks –

who had been well behind in third place – to Victory Lane as the winner, following the caution on the race's final lap.

Due to the depleted field of drivers, the rulebook and exceedingly rare circumstances Hicks was awarded the race victory despite being the only driver not to lead a lap.

Masters Division: Finishing off the day, it was McDonough's Robbie Woodall dominating both Masters Division races for the third and final sweep of the afternoon. Hampton's Wade Brewer, Charles Hampton of Stockbridge and Duluth's Don Maness each picked up double top-five finishes.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - The 54th Governor of Alabama, Kay Ivey (R), is set to give the command to fire the engines prior to the running of Talladega Superspeedway's Alabama 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoff race on Sunday, Oct. 15.

Governor Ivey, who has held several different roles in Alabama politics, officially took the oath of office on April 10, 2017, becoming only the second female to serve as Alabama's governor and the first in 50 years.

A 1967 graduate of Auburn University, Gov. Ivey spent time as a high school teacher and bank officer, as well as the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (1985-88) and the Assistant Director of the Alabama Development Office (1982-85). Additionally, from 1980-1982, she was a Reading Clerk of the House of Representatives under Speaker Joseph C. McCorquodale.

Prior to serving as Governor of Alabama, Ivey was the State Treasurer from 2002-2010. She was elected as Lieutenant Governor in 2010, making her the first Republican woman elected to that role in Alabama's history.

Four years later, Gov. Ivey again cemented her place in history by becoming the first Republican Lieutenant Governor re-elected to the position. During her time as Lieutenant Governor, she also served as the President of the Senate.

Gov. Ivey has received numerous honors and awards for her service to the State of Alabama, including the 2015 ALFA Service to Agriculture Award, Newmax's 50 Most Influential Female Republican in

the country and, most recently, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) 2016 Public Service Award.

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - Wyclef Jean, the three-time Grammy-Award winning musician, producer and actor, will be the grand marshal of the "Apache Warrior 400 presented by Lucas Oil" Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoff race at Dover International Speedway on Sunday, Oct. 1, track officials announced today.

Jean will give the command for 40 of NASCAR's top drivers to start their engines before the first elimination race of the 2017 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoffs.

Four drivers will be eliminated from championship contention following 400 grueling laps around the Monster Mile.

Jean, a native of Haiti, first hit the mainstream with The Fugees after the release of their album "The Score," which has been certified platinum six times. Jean then went on to a prolific and hugely successful solo career, selling over 100 million records worldwide. He has also performed and created some of the most popular songs of the 21st century, such as "Hips Don't Lie" by Shakira, "My Love is Your Love" by Whitney Houston and Carlos Santana's "Maria, Maria."

Jean's latest studio album, "Carnival III: Fall and Rise of a Refugee," his first in eight years, will be released on Sept. 15. The album was recently named one of the "25 Most Anticipated Albums" of the fall by Billboard. Listeners can hear the lead single off of the album, "What Happened to Love," here.

"The music I'm making, it's sounding like the '90s meets 2017," Jean said. "It's very authentic and all about the vocality, making people feel and reminisce off of that sound they love but combining it with new sonics."

"Every day when I wake up, I go into the studio and record. There's always a guitar and a piano nearby. I'm always writing -- that's my survival. I don't go to a therapist. My therapy is when I pick up my guitar and sing."



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Hickory Motor Speedway

As the regular season continues to wind down, Sheetz Night at the Races presented by Gaston Rentals, Inc roared to life at Hickory Motor Speedway on an absolutely beautiful Saturday night for racing.

The NASCAR Whelen All American Series Bojangle's Late Models would start off the night with the first of their 40 lap features seeing Ty Gibbs in the

#18 and Ryan Millington in the #76 roll off from the front row. Gibbs would get the better start and drive to the top spot early. Millington would have his hands full with the #5 of Cole Glasson challenging for position. Glasson would move around for second and Millington would tuck in behind him. Gibbs would hold on for the win in the caution free event, taking his second win on the year at the Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars. Glasson would equal his best Hickory Motor Speedway effort finishing in 2nd. Millington would finish 3rd with Charlie Watson in the #9 hanging on for 4th. Austin McDaniel in the #12 would bring home a top 5 on his return to the scene of his 2012 & 2013 NASCAR Whelen All American Series Bojangle's Late Model Track Championships.

Next up would see the Renegades hit the famed 3/8 mile oval with the #6 of Darren Dickinson leading them to the green flag. Dickinson would lead early but be challenged by Kyle DiVanna in the #71. Dickinson would unfortunately suffer a parts failure and retire from the event early. Justin Austin in the #1 would work his way to the front and hold on for the win with Kyle DiVanna in 2nd and Robert DiVanna in the #71d finishing 3rd. Casey Meyer in the #18 and David Hasson in the #83 would round out the top 5.

The Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models would fire up next for their 35 lap feature with Monty Cox in the #21 leading the way and the #29 of Mitch Walker to his outside. Cox would take the early lead with Walker tucking in behind. The pair would continue to pull away for the entire caution free event with Cox breaking his streak of bad luck and returning to Victory Lane. Walker would finish off a good run with a 2nd place finish. Pat Rachels in the #34 would come on strong



Ty Gibbs along with family and friends finds that Hickory Motor Speedway's victory lane is better the second time around. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)



Ryan Millington wins the second twin 40-lap Bojangle's Late Model race at Hickory Motor Speedway Saturday night. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)

but have to settle for 3rd. Alex Reece in the #18 and Jeremy Pelfrey in the #51 would round out the top 5.

Rolling off next would see the Cosmo Motors Street Stocks for their 30 lap feature with Mark Whitten in the #77 guiding the way and Kevin Eby in the #03 to his outside. Whitten and Eby would battle side by side for several laps until Whitten would finally pull ahead and Cody DeMarmels in the #18 would pressure for 2nd. DeMarmels would get by Eby and set sail for Whitten, who had built a nice lead. On the white flag lap DeMarmels would get to the inside of Whitten as they came through turns 3 & 4. Contact would be made with both cars out of control, but Whitten would hang on and be the first to take the checkered flag with DeMarmels close behind in 2nd. Eby would hold on for 3rd, Marshall Sutton in the #64 would take 4th, and Eric Evans in the #07 would take home 5th.

With a tight points battle up for grabs the One Design Super Trucks would pound the pavement next for 35 laps. Charlie Neill in the

#26 would turn the hot lap in qualifying and start from the front with Allen Huffman in the #51 to his outside. Neill would take an early lead, but the front duo would battle side by side for several laps till Huffman would nose ahead. Huffman would stay at the point while Neill would battle with the #15 of Sheflon Clay and the #36 of Tyler Dayton for the position. Huffman would drive on to the win with Clay getting around Neill to finish 2nd. Dayton and Neill would battle side by side to the checkers with Dayton nosing ahead for 3rd and Neill grabbing 4th. The #14 of Brandin Wrisley would make the most out of his visit to America's Most Famous Short Track to finish 5th.

The NASCAR Whelen All American Series Bojangle's Late Models would cap off their night with the second of their Twin 40 lap features. With an inversion from the finishing order of race #1 Charlie Watson in the #9 and Jake Ruggles in the #29 would start from the front row. Watson would take the early lead until he would get pressure from, and a furious side by side battle with, the #5 of Cole Glasson.

Glasson would move to the point and it would look as if he just might break into the win column. A caution would bunch the field at lap 23 and find Ryan Millington in the #76 pressuring Glasson for the win. Millington would eventually get by and go to the top spot. Watson and the #18 of first race winner, Ty Gibbs, would make contact going into turn one and bring out the yellow with Watson spinning and the Gibbs going airborne over the front end of the Watson. Millington would hold on for the win as Austin McDaniel in the #12 was reeling him but would run out of time and have to settle for 2nd. Cole Glasson in the #5 would finish 3rd and Cody Haskins in the #2 would come home in 4th. Brooke Schimmel in the #25 would put together a nice run and bring it home in 5th.

Closing out the evening's action would be the Covington Dental Smash & Crash series. Following up on last week's rousing success of adding a tractor tire to the racing surface, the powers that be determined that if one was good then two would be better, and it was. With obstacles placed strategically at the entrance of turn one and in the middle of turns three and four, the competitors would have to circle each obstacle when they came to them at that point of the track and race to the next one. Ten fast and furious laps would ensue with tires smoking and fenders banging but in the end the #17 of Angie Cook would show all the guys that they really should've asked for directions around the tricky layout, after she took the checkered flag.

Next week the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series finishes off their regular season points with Cargo Transporters Championship Night presented by NAPA Auto Parts with track champions yet to be determined in all six divisions, It will be an action packed night. The NASCAR Whelen All American Series Bojangle's Late Models will race for 80 laps, 50 laps for the Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models and the finale of the Paramount Kia 'Big10' Chase for the Championship, 35 laps for the One Design Super Trucks, 30 laps for the Cosmo Motors Street Stocks, 25 laps for the 4-Cylinders, and 20 laps for the Renegades.

Gates open at 5:00pm, Qualifying at 5:30pm, Autograph Session at 6:30pm, and Racing action at 7:30pm.

For more information check us out at www.hickorymotorspeedway.com, on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Southern National Motorsports Park

LUCAMA, NC Entering Sunday's Championship Night at Southern National Motorsports Park, Jonathan Kornegay was winless at the 4/10-mile oval in its Chargers division on the season. Kornegay erased that blemish emphatically, sweeping twin-30 lap features to win the class' 2017 track championship.

Kornegay won both races to edge out Brian Obiedzinski by five points in the final tally, outdueling Obiedzinski in the second race of the evening to secure the title.

"That was fun right there," Kornegay said in victory lane. "I wish we could have run like that at the beginning of the year, but, hey, we'll take it any way we can get it."

Kornegay dominated the first feature, then charged through the field in the nightcap after an invert. Kornegay took the lead on lap 20 from Obiedzinski, putting the final touch on the title.

"I want to congratulate Obie," said Kornegay. "He's a hell of a guy."

Obiedzinski's title hopes suffered a major setback on the first lap of the day. Following contact with Justin Mitchell, Obiedzinski slammed into the outside wall on the front-stretch, suffering heavy damage to the front of his car. Obiedzinski finished sixth in that race before rebounding with the runner-up finish in race two.

"It was a very long day," Obiedzinski said. "If you take anything away from today, please take away that you never give up. I had people put this thing back together. It was twisted sideways. We never gave up, we gave it our all. Congratulations to Jonathan, but this team never quit."

Findley, Pulliam Split Late Model Stock Twinbill

Lee Pulliam took another step towards his NASCAR Whelen All-American Series National Championship, while Jonathan Findley closed out the 2017 Late Model Stock season at Southern National with a victory.

Pulliam, seeking his fourth NWAAS National Championship, scored the victory in the first of two 40-lap events for the Late Model Stock division.



Jonathan Kornegay celebrates his championship at SNMP. (ZACH EVANS/SPEED51.COM photo)

"The car was on rails," Pulliam said in victory lane. "It definitely got through the corners really, really good today."

While it appeared Pulliam was on cruise control, the victory was not without an interesting moment in the closing laps.

"The last ten laps, the throttle started sticking," Pulliam said. "I was having to pull it up off the floor with my foot. That was kind of interesting. Once we got through that, I had a good lead and I was able to take it easy from there."

Meanwhile, Findley scored the win in the second feature, holding off Andrew Grady for his fourth win of the season.

Findley made a bold decision in the closing laps of the feature, electing to restart on the outside line with ten laps to go. The gamble paid off, as Findley held off Grady for the win.

"I figured he'd help me out, knowing that I had the faster car," Findley said of allowing Grady to pull to his inside on the restart. "He did, thankfully. It gave us a chance to race for the win. We had to make some adjustments from the first race, and they paid off."

With a pair of top-six finishes, Mason Diaz secured the Late Model Stock track championship. Diaz won five races at Southern National during his title run, joining the likes of Scott Riggs, Denny Hamlin, Jamey Caudill, and Deac McCaskill as SNMP Late Model track champions.

"I've got a great group of guys," Diaz said while accepting the track championship. "Mike Darne Racing has given me good cars all year, I can't thank them enough. Everybody here at the track has raced me smoothly all season."

Other Divisions:

A.J. Sanders once again put his excellence on display in a Mini Stock field, sweeping a pair of 20-lap features against one of the largest fields the class as seen at Southern National this season.

"I'm out here chasing a dream," Sanders said. "I've got to thank the good Lord above for giving us a safe race."

Sanders hopes the pair of wins will assist him in chasing a larger prize. He entered the weekend in third place in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Division IV national championship picture, looking to gain ground on the top two contenders.

"The car drove good," Sanders said. "We're chasing the national points, I'd like to win that."

Ronnie "Buckshot" Jones claimed the Southern National Mini Stock championship, a large smile across his face as he celebrated in victory lane following the second race.

"First off, I want to thank my wife," Jones said. "She lets me do this, or I wouldn't be here. Everybody who works on this car is the best crew in the world."

Ethan Johnson collected his sixth win in eight Bandolero races at Southern National in 2017 to secure the track championship in the division. However, this one was not without a surprise.

Johnson had battled fiercely with Emily Day and Parker Frazier – the two other winners in the division this season – throughout the 15-lap feature. With Johnson running third on the final lap of the race, Day and Frazier made contact while battling for the lead.

Day spun into the inside wall, ending her race and bringing out

the caution flag. Frazier was penalized for his involvement in the incident, allowing Johnson to lead the field to a green-white-checked restart. Johnson held off a hungry Cameron Murray on the restart to bring home the victory.

"I don't really know what happened to [Day and Frazier]," Johnson said after the victory. "I was pretty much just riding in line, in case something happened. Something did, and we were able to take the win."

Chris Floars' job was simple in theory entering the 25-lap Legends division feature. If Floars finished ahead of Chris Stancil, trailing him by one point in the standings, he would claim the track championship. Floars finished ahead of Stancil and seven other competitors to take the victory and the title.

"This has been an amazing car," Floars said in victory lane. "Throughout the year, I've been trying to perfect my line around here. It's been a long time coming for today."

While the regular season is over at Southern National, there is still plenty of racing on the schedule for the speedway to finish 2017. Southern National's next event is the Spooktacular on October 7th. The annual October event will feature a 100-lap Limited Late Model race, as well as twin-75 lappers for the Pro Late Model division, as well as races for the Chargers, Legends, and Bandoleros.

Five Flags Speedway

PENSACOLA, FL - One of the traditions of the Snowball Derby at Five Flags Speedway is the Miss Snowball Derby Pageant that takes place each year leading up to the big race. On Friday afternoon, event officials announced details for the 2017 Miss Snowball Derby Pageant.

This year, the pageant will be held on Thursday, November 16 at a brand-new venue of the Seville Quarters in historic downtown Pensacola, FL.

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

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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.

Last year, Raven Hammac was crowned the 2016 Miss Snowball Derby and will return this time around to crown her successor.

"I grew up around the race track so it was really special to win the pageant. I got to meet a lot of great people and got to know the drivers that are the next ones to be in the big time," Hammac said.

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.

"If any girl is thinking about applying, don't talk yourself out of it," Hammac stated. "I almost did, but I am so glad that I didn't. The whole experience has been so much fun."

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. Snowball Derby week kicks off on Wednesday, November 29 and concludes with the running of the 50th Annual Snowball Derby on Sunday, December 3.

More information and details about the 50th Annual Snowball Derby will be made in the coming

Selinsgrove Speedway
SELINGSGROVE, PA - Selinsgrove Speedway will present its crown jewel open wheel event, the Jim Nace Memorial 35th Annual National Open for 410 sprint cars sanctioned by the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.

The Nace Memorial National Open will be a 30-lap tribute race paying \$8,000 to win and \$500 to

start out of the \$30,000 event. The Fast Tees Fast Time Award will pay \$300. Time trials, heat races, and a B-main will be the qualifying format.

Joining the 410 sprint cars on the Sept. 16 racing card will be the 305 sprint cars in a 20-lap main event. Track gates will open at 4 p.m. and qualifying will start at 7 p.m.

For the eighth straight year, the 410 Open will honor the life and racing career of Nace, the track's only five-time sprint car champion who died in November 2009 following a seven-year battle with cancer.

In last year's race, Lucas Wolfe of Mechanicsburg scored his second career victory in the Open and set a new 30-lap track record for 410 sprint cars at the Superspeedway of Dirt Track Racing. Wolfe was also an Open winner in 2005.

Fred Rahmer, of Salfordville, is the track's only five-time winner of the Open with victories in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, and 2000.

In 2014, Greg Hodnett of Spring Grove became the third driver to win the Open four times. Hodnett's other Open victories came in 1998, 2004, and 2007. Todd Shaffer of Millerstown is the other driver on the Open career win list with four championships in 1993, 1994, 2001, and 2008.

In 2013, Pat Cannon of Etters joined the late Maynard Yingst of Linglestown and Rahmer as only the third driver to win three consecutive National Opens. Cannon also won in 2012 and 2011. Yingst's wins in the Open occurred in 1983, 1984, and 1985.

Other past repeat winners include Lance Dewease of Fayetteville (2002, 2009, 2010) and Don Kreitz Jr. of Sinking Spring (1986 and 1992).

Single-time winners of the Open include Dave Blaney of Cortland, Ohio (1987); Keith Kauffman of Mifflintown (1988); Doug Wolfgang of Sioux Falls, S.D. (1989); Sammy Swindell of Bartlett, Tenn. (1990); Johnny Mackison Jr. of York (1991); Stevie Smith of Broken Arrow, Okla. (2003); Chad Layton of Harrisburg (2006); and Danny Dietrich of Gettysburg (2015).

The National Open will mark the third and final appearance of the season by the 410 sprint cars at Selinsgrove Speedway. Wolfe won the Ray Tilley Classic on June 16 and Rico Abreau of California scored the PA Speedweek Finale on July 9.

The All Star sanction of the track's National Open will be a first since 1991 when Mackison Jr. scored the victory over Kenny Ja-

cobs in one of the closest finishes in sprint car racing history at the speedway.

In the 15 All Star-sanctioned sprint car races that have been held at Selinsgrove Speedway, there has never been a repeat winner. Previous All Star winners at the track include Bobbie Adamson (1970), Mike Lloyd (1973), Randy Wolfe (1982), Len Krautheim (1986), Doug Wolfgang (1987), Kenny Jacobs (1990), Frankie Kerr (1991), Cris Eash (1991), Johnny Mackison Jr. (1991), Dale Blaney (1996), Keith Kauffman (1997), Greg Hodnett (1998), Fred Rahmer (1999), Todd Shaffer (2000), and Danny Dietrich (2016).

For the latest news, results, and race status, visit selinsgrovespeedway.com or follow us on Twitter and Facebook. The speedway office can also be reached at 570.374.2266.

Antioch Speedway

MORGANTON, NC - Steve Surniak #1st from Mooresville LED flag-to-flag winning the Carolina Sprint touring series event Saturday night at Antioch Speedway. Greg Smyre #21 from Hickory second, Thomas Radivoy #1Q Circleville, NY overcame an early race spin to cross the line in 3rd, Dan Jones #8 from Concord fourth and T J Greves #4 from Hartly, DE rounded out the top five.

John Reynolds #55 from Connelly Springs won his 11th victory of the season in the Heintz performance Renegade V8 race. David Minton #90 closed on Reynolds at the end but had to settle for second, Junior Blackburn #52 third, Jake Brown #27 fourth

and Buddy Deihl 57 5th.

John Mcelrath #63 from Marion held off a hard charging Duane Cook #17 to win the Sri Thunder bombers/psV8 race. Cook a closed second, Johnny Reynolds #5 third, Joseph Duckworth #13 4th and Mike Brown #11 fifth.

Chris Bulter #B9 from Morganton took his well handling racer to Victory Lane in the RPM graphics Pure Stock 4 event. Patrick Annas #6 2nd, Logan Rictchie #92 third (The top three cars were sent to the tech shed and passed inspection). Phillip Benfield #18d fourth and Riley Dunford #60 fifth.

Timmy Wilson #777 won his first race of the season in the extreme FWD's division Kyle Adams #81 second.

Alexus Motes #12 won her seventh win of the season in the Maddox energy drink Young Guns race. Mathew Wallace #1/2 2nd and Trace Chatham #21 third.

Grandview Speedway

BECHTELSVILLE, PA - Racing action on Saturday night at Grandview Speedway sponsored by WNPV 1440 AM Radio, Lansdale, certainly had its share of varieties in all divisions.

Both Skip and Walt Smith paced the feature fields for all divisions in the Blast From The Past Red No. 2 driven by Dave Smith who lost his life in a freak highway incident while working for the township. Dave was the father of sportsman driver Derrick Smith.

In the rained out T.P. Trailers 358 NASCAR Modified 30-lap feature from August 19 it was Clay Butler, who became a track regular mid-

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Steve Surniak wins his first Carolina Sprint car at Antioch Speedway Saturday night. (ANTIOCH SPEEDWAY photo)

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season crossing the line first to register his first career win at the oval to become the 13th different winner. However due to an official error with the caution light, Brett Kressley, who had taken the lead on the 29th lap also shared the win.

Mike Gular had slowed down and as quick as the yellow went on it was turned off. By that time Kressley had backed off the throttle and Butler along with Jared Umbenhauer shot past him, but the yellow was never officially thrown. Management felt it was only fair to credit both Butler and Kressley with the wins.

Mike Mahaney, who travels from New York to pilot the Rod Breitenstein-owned No. 14 on occasion, had a rather dismal start to the season when he competed, but once the team discovered it was an electrical problem, they were in the hunt. Mahaney went from fourth to first by the second lap and despite yellow flags that fell when he needed them to regroup the pack when he encountered heavy lap traffic, he still pulled into victory lane to be the 14th different winner and chalk up his first career triumph at the track.

In the BRC 20-lap NASCAR Late Model feature Lou Egrie Sr. inherited the lead when Wayne Pfeil dropped out with mechanical problems and went on to capture his first win of the year to become the seventh different winner. The last time the two-time point champion had won was April 2015.

Mark Kemmerer added his name to the win list in the 25-lap NASCAR Sportsman feature for his first win of the year to become the division's 12th different winner. He dedicated the win to fellow driver Derrick Smith's father Dave.

All feature winners received monetary awards from T.P. Trailers and VP Racing Fuels providing they met the requirements along with the Dan's Deli ½-way hoagie awards.

The night's biggest winners were the newly crowned 2017 point champions.

Modified chauffeur Craig Von Dohren only won two features in the chase, but he still managed to record his 10th championship.

Chuck Schutz, a four-time Late

Model feature winner garnered his ninth point title.

Opening night Sportsman feature winner Brian Hirthler went on to claim his first championship.

In the make-up Modified feature, Mark Kratz led for seven laps before Jeff Strunk hit the first turn yuke tire sending it onto the track bringing out the yellow. On the restart Butler charged to the head of the pack leaving Kratz, Kressley, Steve Swinehart and Umbenhauer battling for positions.

Lap after lap the battle for first ensued between Butler and Kressley with neither one giving up.

The caution was displayed after Kratz and Umbenhauer got hooked on the 17th lap. Umbenhauer broke free and continued, but Kratz stopped in turn two. The red was thrown the next try when a multi-car accident blocked the third turn. Butler and Kressley continued the duel, but now Frank Cozze and Umbenhauer were in the mix.

Kressley just took the lead on lap 29, but quickly slowed when the yellow light came on briefly, but quickly went out as Gular limped around the track. As a result Butler and Umbenhauer got by and Butler continued into the winner's circle. After a turn of events, track management declared Butler and Kressley the winners following the error. Umbenhauer was third followed by Cozze and S. Swinehart.

The second Modified feature saw Mahaney take the lead from Mark Biehn on the second lap in search of a victory trailed by Biehn, Kratz and Kenny Gilmore.

Brett Gilmore brought out the yellow as he stopped in turn two on lap five. On the restart, Kenny Gilmore, who had overtaken second, made contact with Mahaney. Gilmore did a 360 without losing a position, but others in the back weren't as fortunate and a multi-car tangle occurred. The top five behind Mahaney when racing went green again consisted of K. Gilmore, Cozze, Duane Howard and Von Dohren.

In no time Mahaney checked out increasing the distance each time he circled the 1/3-mile oval.

K. Gilmore's fine run ended with four laps to go when he stopped in the second turn. This restart saw Ryan Watt in a challenging position.

On the 29th lap restart needed when Cozze broke with suspension problems, Strunk was once again in the first turn yuke tire. Also involved were Addison Meitzler and Danny Erb. Gular was sent to the pits for the incident. Mahaney left

Watt chase him on the restart and succeeded in keeping all the competition behind.

Mahaney never faltered and was victorious followed by Watt, Von Dohren, Howard and Umbenhauer.

Heats were won by Mahaney, B. Gilmore, Strunk and Meitzler. Ron Seltmann Jr. and Butler won the consolation races.

Saturday, September 16 these same drivers plus a host of others will compete in the 47th running of the Freedom 76 in memory of promoter Bruce Rogers with \$30,000 going to the winner in addition to other awards.

In the Late Model feature Wayne Pfeil's misfortune was Egrie's fortune when Pfeil pulled out of the race on the sixth lap when a red flag was needed as flames shot out of the headers of Schutz's car putting him out of contention.

Pressuring Egrie on the restart were Bryon Sipe, Drew Weisser, Kyle Merkel, who started dead last and was advancing quickly and Steve Todorow.

Even though numerous yellows were needed, Egrie Sr. didn't give up until he saw the checkered unfurled.

Andrew Kreis was the leader of the Sportsman feature for eight laps before Ryan Higgs, while running second hit the second turn tire and spun also collecting Jim Housworth. When racing went green again Kemmerer was the new leader and within no time opened up a comfortable lead.

The action for second through fifth was a heated one, between Kyle Lilick, Loudon Reimert, Brad Arnold and Lex Shive.

Kemmerer never looked back and went on to score his second career win trailed by K. Lilick, Reimert, Arnold and Mike Lisowski.

Heats were won by Kreis, Housworth and Jesse Landis while Brian Hirthler took the consi.

The 47th Annual Freedom 76 Modified Classic in Honor of Bruce Rogers is set for Saturday, September 16th. The will pay \$30,000 to the winner and is expected to attract many of the top names in dirt track Modified stock car racing. Action will get underway at 7 p.m.

The night before the Mid-Atlantic Sprint Series will be in action along with the Sportsman racing in the Freedom 38'er offering \$1500 to the winner. Modifieds entered in the Freedom 76 will be allowed to participate in practice sessions. Adult admission is \$12, youngsters 6 thru 11 pay just \$5 and under 6 are admitted free. Advance tickets, \$35 for adults, for the Freedom 76 will

be available Friday night.

The Freedom 76 has a September 23rd rain date while the Friday night events have no rain date.

Rockford Speedway

On Saturday night September 9, as part of Whelen Engineering's "Night of Champions," Rockford Speedway awarded championships in each of its four premiere divisions as well as the Roadrunner Challenge. Between divisional champions, Dash Series champions and Rookies of the Year, eight different drivers walked away with high honors on Saturday night. Out of the 110 drivers to receive points on Saturday nights this summer at Rockford Speedway, the following drivers in the following divisions were high earners in this year's championship chases...

South Beloit's Michael Bilderback became the first driver since Jerry Gille in 2008 and 2009 to repeat as a Late Model Track Champion at Rockford Speedway, thanks to another solid season behind the wheel. Bilderback, who has won more races than any other Late Model driver at Rockford Speedway over the course of the last three seasons, used his four victories over the summer months to win the championship by 33 points over Matt Berger. Along with a division leading four feature wins, Bilderback also picked up the CoLin Metals Fast Dash Series championship and the NASCAR State Championship.

Berger finished the season with two victories, while Jon Reynolds Jr also captured two wins and a third place finish in the final standings. 14 year old Max Kahler completed one of the most impressive rookie campaigns in recent memory, with a fourth place finish in the final standings aided by his historic feature win during the month of June. Equally impressive were Jake Vanoskey and Dennis Smith Jr. Vanoskey, who made the long trip weekly from Hartford Wisconsin, ended his season fifth in the final standings and locked up the Illinois State NASCAR Rookie of the Year, while Smith finished sixth in points as a rookie, notching his first ever Late Model win in mid-August.

The competition during the 2017 Stanley Steemer NASCAR Late Model season was a tough as ever, with nine different drivers winning features throughout the summer. No other division in 2017 saw that many different winners. Nine different drivers winning a Late Model Feature at Rockford Speedway

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was the highest number of feature winners in one year at the track since the year 2009.

Chad Smith set out on a mission at the beginning of 2017. Mission complete.

No one was more consistent on each race night as Smith and it showed in the year-end standings. Smith scored a 32 point victory over an almost equally consistent Johnny Robinson

II to secure his first-ever Rockford Speedway championship. Smith was a two time feature winner during 2017 and collected more fast times than any other driver in the Bargain Hunter Sportsman division. To go with all of those accolades, Smith was also the winner of the CoLin Metals Dash Championship for the 2017 season.

Robinson won more races than any other driver in the Sportsman division during 2017, collecting four trophies on his way to a runner up points finish. Howie Ware, a one-time feature winner in 2017, came home third place in the standings after an up and down year. Brian White came close to his first ever Sportsman victory and without that breakthrough win, the Belvidere resident still came home fourth in points.

Two-time feature winner Cody Houseweart rounded out the top five in points, polishing off a stellar sophomore season in the division, while Durand's Garrick Fry finished sixth in the final standings and captured the 2017 Sportsman Rookie of the Year award. Fry capped off the year with his first career fast time during qualifying for "Night of Champions."

Seven different drivers were feature winners during the 2017 Bargain Hunter Sportsman season.

For the second time in three years, Rockton native Zach Rodriguez took top honors in the Miller Lite American Short Tracker division, winning the championship by a commanding 67 point margin.

With five wins and a slew of fast times to his credit, Rodriguez stayed strong all year long, taking the point lead in early summer and never looking back. Rodriguez was also crowned the CoLin Metals Dash Series champion for his efforts in 2017.

Two time Short Tracker champion Nick Cina Jr was runner-up in

this year's standings, with three wins to his credit while Cambridge Wisconsin's Aaron Rude came home third in points thanks to a solid second half of the season and five feature wins. Machesney Park's Shannon Stoltz was not only one of just four drivers to win a Short Tracker feature in 2017, but he also was crowned the division's Rookie of the Year. David Russell came close to victory lane more than once and those finishes helped him to a fifth place finish in Short Tracker points.

Josh Thiering had a season to remember in the Kickstart Roadrunner division, winning ten of the 18 total Roadrunner features contested on Wednesday and Saturday nights. Already crowned the Wednesday Night Roadrunner Series champion, Thiering clinched the Saturday night Roadrunner championship a week early and won the title by an incredible 68 points. To add to his terrific year, Thiering also claimed the CoLin Metals Fast Dash championship for 2017.

Richie Schinderling finished second in Roadrunner points, his best ever points finish in a season. Schinderling, along with third place Chad Lounsbury and fourth place Adam Cartwright, collected two Roadrunner wins each during the season, while Kevin Memoli earned his first ever Roadrunner feature victory just two weeks ago and finished the regular season fifth in final point standings.

Stafford Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Stafford Speedway returned to NASCAR Whelen All-American Series racing action with a First Responders Appreciation Night that recognized Fire, Police, EMS, and all First Responder personnel. Taking down weekly feature wins on the night were Ted Christopher in the SK Modified® feature, Glen Reen in the Late Model feature, Marcello Rufrano in the SK Light feature, Alexandra Fearn in the Ltd. Late Model feature, and Johnny Walker in the DARE Stock feature.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Glen Reen made a 3-wide move at the front of the field to take the lead but a crash on the backstretch involving Mike Christopher, Jr., Tyler Hines, and Todd Owen brought the caution out before a lap could be completed.

On the restart, Reen's car didn't come up to speed, which bottlenecked the entire outside line as Stephen Kopicik took the lead with Chase Dowling, Keith Rocco, Eric

Berndt, and Ted Christopher lined up behind him. The caution came back out with 3 laps complete for a spin on the backstretch by Tommy Membrino, Jr. and Payton Henry.

Kopicik took the lead on the restart with Dowling and Berndt right behind him. Rocco was fourth in line with Josh Wood in fifth. Christopher was sixth with Tony Membrino, Jr. in seventh and Rowan Pennink was up to eighth. Dowling powered his way around Kopicik to take the lead on lap-8 and Berndt followed him through as Kopicik fell back to third in line. Christopher was now fourth with Rocco in fifth. Joey Cipriano spun in turn 4 to bring the caution out with 24 laps complete. The order for the restart would be Dowling and Berndt on the front row, Christopher and Kopicik on the second row, and Pennink and Rocco in the third row.

Dowling took the lead on the restart with Christopher in second. Pennink got by Berndt to move into third with Berndt fourth and Kopicik fifth.

Christopher got to the inside of Dowling in turn 4 on lap-30 and he took the lead at the line. Dowling slotted into line in second with Pennink right behind him in third. Dowling was able to get to Christopher's bumper but couldn't get close enough to make an attempt at a pass and with 5 laps to go, he was still right behind Christopher with Pennink right behind him in third.

Dowling looked to have a good run on lap-39 but Christopher blocked the move down the backstretch. Christopher held Dowling off to the checkered flag to pick up his sixth win of the 2017 season. Pennink finished third with Berndt and Kopicik rounding out the top-5.

In the 30-lap Late Model feature event, Rich Hammann spun backwards into the turn 1 wall at the drop of the green to bring the caution and red flags out before a lap could be completed. Kevin Gambacorta was sent to the rear of the field under the caution for making contact with Hammann.

Matt Vassar took the lead on the restart with Glen Reen and Josh Wood going side by side for second. Tom Fearn was right behind Reen and Wood with Paul Arute in fifth.

Reen got clear of Wood for second on lap-3 and Fearn moved into third with Wood slotting into fourth with Arute right on his back bumper in fifth. Fearn got to the inside of Reen on lap-5 to move into second and Reen tried to make a

crossover move on Fearn on lap-6 but he fell into line in third.

With 10 laps complete Vassar was still out front with Reen applying heavy pressure to Fearn for second. Arute was fourth with Darrell Keane up to fifth. Wood was sliding backwards as Michael Bennett took sixth, Gambacorta seventh, and Tyler Leary eighth before Wood got back into line in ninth.

Reen took second from Fearn on lap-15 and slowly began to close down the gap to Vassar out front. With 5 laps to go, Reen had closed the gap down to less than a car length with Fearn, Arute, and Bennett making up the top-5. Reen was able to get alongside Vassar on lap-27 and they were dead even at the line. Reen got clear to the lead on lap-28 and the two cars touched in turn 4 but both drivers kept their foot in the gas and maintained first and second. Reen took the checkered flag for his third win of the 2017 season. Vassar finished a career best second with Fearn, Arute, and Bennett rounding out the top-5.

In the 20-lap SK Light Modified feature, Joey Ferrigno took the early race lead with David Arute quickly moving into second. Brett Gonyaw was on the move early in the race taking third with Marcello Rufrano fourth and Todd Douillard in fifth.

Arute took a look to the outside of Ferrigno on lap-7 and he was able to charge past Ferrigno in the outside lane on lap-8. Gonyaw took second and Rufrano moved into third as Ferrigno fell back to fourth with Dan Wesson now in fifth with 11 laps complete. Douillard spun in turns 3+4 to bring the caution out with 13 laps complete.

A multicar accident in turn 3 on the restart brought the yellow flag right back out. The next restart saw Arute and Rufrano going wheel to wheel for the lead. Rufrano took the lead from Arute with a pass in turn 1 on lap-15 but Arute was glued to the back bumper of Rufrano. Wesson was third with Wesley Prucker fourth and Mark Bakaj up to fifth.

Arute made one last ditch effort to take the lead with a good run through turns 1+2 on the final lap to pull to the inside of Rufrano. The two cars ran side by side through turns 3+4 and Rufrano got the better exit off turn 4 and he beat Arute to the checkered flag by a car length.

Prucker spun in turn 4 on the final lap which moved Bakaj to third with Cory DiMatteo and Glenn Griswold rounding out the top-5.