



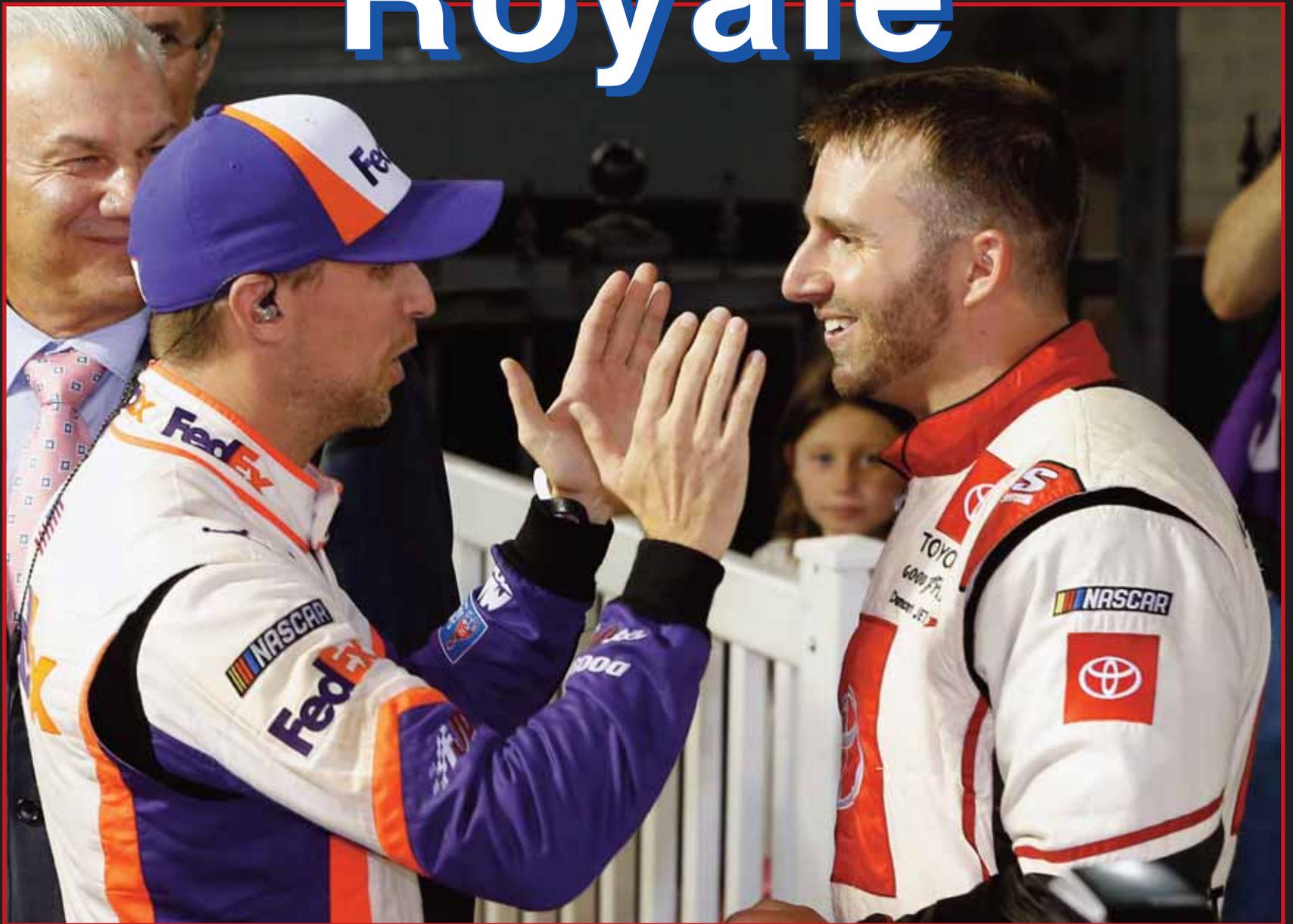
AUGUST 19, 2019

FastTrack

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

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Bristol Battle Royale



Denny Hamlin Wins and Matt DiBenedetto Shows His Racing Chops

Matt DiBenedetto; Man on a Mission

Matt DiBenedetto entered The Last Great Colosseum Saturday wearing a boxer's robe and boxing gloves. And while he didn't land the decisive haymaker he needed – and the rest of the sport desperately wanted – he left the Bristol Motor Speedway as a conquering

hero. for FedEx and my whole team. Just sorry.”

DiBenedetto's voice quivered after the race. He fought tears as everyone watched his anguish on the track's big screen and on television.

“I don't even know what to say. I'm so sad we didn't win, but proud, proud of the effort,” he said. “I got tight there from the damage from trying to get by Newman, and that immediately flipped a switch and got tight.



DON COBLE

hero.

Although DiBenedetto didn't win the Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race, he won the hearts and respect from everyone, including race winner Denny Hamlin.

“My first reaction was I was sorry to Matt,” Hamlin said after passing the winless driver from nondescript Leavine Family Racing with 12 laps remaining. “I know those guys really wanted to win and Matt deserves a win. I get emotional for him. Just hate it that I had to take it from him.”

Soon-to-be-unemployed DiBenedetto started seventh and he stayed in the top 10 most of the night. Then his year-old Toyota came to life under the lights. All of a sudden, stock-car racing was set up for another historic finish at the high-banked short track.

DiBenedetto passed Erik Jones on Lap 388 for the lead and he stayed there for 93 laps. You could see Hamlin methodically drawing closer with each lap. Any chance DiBenedetto had then was snuffed when he bumped into Ryan Newman, who was fighting from going a lap down.

The damage to the left-front fender suddenly made his car more difficult to turn. Suddenly, Hamlin's work got even easier.

“I had plenty of time,” Hamlin said. “I just worked him over, worked him over.”

Hamlin knew his pass wouldn't be appreciated by the masses. Neither was Dale Earnhardt's when he crashed Terry Labonte on the final lap of the 1995 and 1999 Bristol races.

Since car owner Joe Gibbs paid Hamlin to win, Hamlin never flinched.

“I hate it. I mean, I know a win would mean a lot to that team,” Hamlin said. “I have to give it 110%

race door-to-door with Denny Hamlin, someone who I've been a fan of since I was a kid. It's amazing. Great day, but this one is going to hurt for sure.”

It would have been easy to feel pity for DiBenedetto. He found four days ahead of the night race LFR was dropping him next season. Leavine has a technical alliance with Joe Gibbs Racing – similar to what JGR had with Furniture Row Racing during its 2017 championship season – and Gibbs needed to find a place to push Xfinity Series driver Christopher Bell into his lineup and already includes Hamlin, Jones, Martin Truex Jr. and Kyle Busch.

To make it even tougher, DiBenedetto's car was a hand-me-down from JGR's 2018 fleet.

The energetic driver from Grass Valley, California was trying to join a select list of drivers who turned terminations into trips to Victory Lane.

Joe Nemechek won the race at Kansas in 2004 after being told he wouldn't return to Ginn Racing the following year. It happened twice to Matt Kenseth – he won races at Talladega and Kansas after announced he wasn't returning to Roush Fenway Racing and again at Phoenix in 2017 after being dumped by Gibbs. And three weeks after being told he wasn't going to drive at Hendrick Motorsports, Kasey Kahne bounced back to win the 2017 race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

DiBenedetto showed a lot of class earlier in the week by not crit-



Matt DeBenedetto came to drivers' introductions as the “Italian Stallion” to put a positive spin on his search for a ride next season. After a tremendous effort, he finished second to Denny Hamlin in the race. (SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES photo)

icizing Gibbs and Bob Leavine to push him out of the car. He instead thanked everyone for the opportunity.

That same attitude, along with his proven ability to race at the highest level, will be important as he mulls through several likely opportunities for 2020.

“Congrats to Denny. He raced hard. I've been a fan of his since I was a kid,” DiBenedetto said. “It's been a tough week.

“I just want to stick around and

keep doing this for a long time to come. I love it. I love the opportunity. I'm not done yet. Something will come open. It's going to happen. I'm here to win. Something's going to come open. I'm proud of these guys. Thankful for my wife and fans for sticking with me. It's been a tough journey, a hard week.”

Nobody expects DiBenedetto to be unemployed for long. And wherever he winds up, it's clear most of us will follow.

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ON THE COVER:

BRIAN LAWDERMILK/GETTY IMAGES

Denny Hamlin Wins at Bristol, Denies Matt DiBenedetto a Statement Victory

BRISTOL, TN - The first thing Denny Hamlin did after winning Saturday's Bass Pro Shops NRA Night race at Bristol Motor Speedway was apologize to the man he beat to the finish line in the 24th Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race of the season.

With 11 laps left in the grueling 500-lap event, Hamlin drove to the inside of Matt DiBenedetto and cleared him from the lead. Roughly three minutes later, Hamlin crossed the stripe .502 seconds ahead of the No. 95 Leavine Family Racing Toyota and handed DiBenedetto his second major heartache of a difficult week.

"I just want to say sorry to Matt DiBenedetto and (his crew chief) Mike Wheeler," said Hamlin, who won for the fourth time this season, the second time at Bristol and the

35th time in his career. "I hate it. I know a win would mean a lot to that team, but I've got to give 110 percent to my whole team. Just sorry."

The regret was heartfelt. On Tuesday, DiBenedetto learned he would not be returning to the LFR Camry next year, possibly to make room for the unquestioned talent of Christopher Bell. But on Saturday night, he put the distraction behind him and drove with the purpose and tenacity of a driver with something to prove.

Eight laps after a restart on Lap 388, DiBenedetto passed Erik Jones for the lead and held it for 93 laps. But with 28 laps left, after Hamlin passed Brad Keselowski and Chase Elliott to move into second place, DiBenedetto lost half his lead battling to put Ryan Newman a lap down. Contact between their cars tightened the handling of DiBenedetto's Toyota.

"I wanted to win so bad for these guys, for this team, for them giving



Race winner Denny Hamlin gets a kiss from the most important beauty queen, daughter Molly, in Bristol's victory lane Saturday night. (JARED TILTON/GETTY IMAGES photo)

me this opportunity," DiBenedetto said on pit road, his voice choking with emotion. "I'm just thankful that they gave me this opportunity. But, man, I'm sad. We got tight after the deal with Newman, when he came up into us. All of a sudden it got really tight after that.

"Congrats to Denny. He raced hard. I've been a fan of his since I was a kid. To be racing door to door with him at Bristol, in front of a great group of fans... I'll try not to get emotional, but it's been a tough week. I just want to stick around and keep doing this for a long time to come. I love it. I love the opportunity. I'm not done yet.

"Something will come open. It's going to happen. I'm here to win. Something's going to come open. I'm proud of these guys. Thankful for my wife and fans for sticking with me. It's been a tough journey, a hard week. Cool for this team."

DiBenedetto ran consistently in the top 10 and his 93 laps led were a race high. Hamlin, on the other hand, had a roller-coaster race in which he started from the pole, damaged his No. 11 Toyota after contact with Jimmie Johnson's Chevrolet, lost a lap for an unscheduled pit stop on lap 189 for a loose wheel, regained the lead lap as the beneficiary under caution on Lap 248 and charged forward from 13th place after a Lap 260 restart to win the race.

After DiBenedetto's difficulty in passing Newman, Hamlin tracked him down relentlessly, running the top of the track before moving the bottom to make the winning pass.

"Between my spotter (Chris Lambert) and crew chief (Chris Gabehart), they just stayed on me to not get anxious, just kind of take my time," Hamlin said. "I had plenty of time. I just worked him over, worked him over. I knew I didn't want to show him the bottom until I knew I could make the pass. I ran the top, ran the top, ran the top, got the position on the bottom and finished it.

"We had a great car that could move around. Came back from a couple laps down, and here we are."

Brad Keselowski ran third, followed by Kyle Busch, who started 31st and benefited from an opportune caution, shortly before he would have had to make a green-flag pit stop. Chase Elliott came home fifth, with Kyle Larson sixth.

In the battle for the final Playoff spots, Daniel Suarez scored nine points in the first stage and moved past Stewart-Haas Racing teammate Clint Bowyer for the final Playoff-eligible position. Suarez leads Bowyer by two points with two races left.

Bowyer and Suarez finished seventh and eighth, respectively, but the stage points made the difference.

Jimmie Johnson's troubles continued on Saturday night. The seven-time champion started 30th and fell two laps down after contact with Austin Dillon and Hamlin. Johnson fought hard to finish 19th, four laps down, but he fell 26 points behind Suarez for the last Playoff spot.



After lap-after-lap of battling, Denny Hamlin (11) passes Matt DiBenedetto (95) for the lead. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

Tyler Reddick Rallies for Dramatic NASCAR Xfinity Victory at Bristol

BRISTOL, TN - Tyler Reddick's No. 2 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet had the word "BEAST" in big block letters on its hood Friday night.

The car was aptly named.

Even though Reddick had to come from the rear of the field twice in his Tame the Beast Camaro—once the result of a stiff penalty and once after a spin—he still needed a bit of luck to win the Food City 300 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

A bit of luck—and large measure of heartache for snake-bitten Justin Allgaier

On older tires than Reddick had, Allgaier shot forward after a restart on Lap 287 of 300 and had a comfortable advantage until a flat tire sent him into the outside wall on Lap 289 and handed the top spot to Reddick, who had battled Brandon Jones and eventual runner-up Chase Briscoe for the second position behind Allgaier.

"I don't know (how we did this)," said the reigning NASCAR Xfinity Series champion, who picked up his fourth victory of the season, his first at Bristol and the seventh of his career. "I thought we made the wrong adjustment on the last (pit

stop, but we had a really fast Chevrolet. We had fresher tires than Justin Allgaier there. We came down pit road and we were just too tight and I thought we were done for.

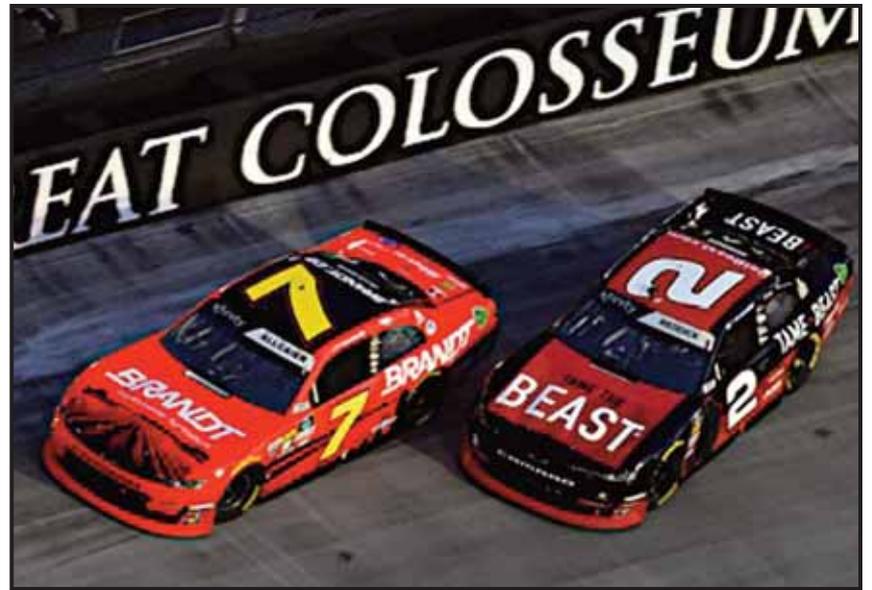
"I don't know what happened. Everything just happened at the right spot. I fell back to fourth, and Jones hit the fence and then (Allgaier) had some sort of issue. As you can see, I'm speechless. I couldn't believe what was happening."

Minutes after limping home in eighth place, two laps down, a crestfallen Allgaier was still struggling to process what had just happened.

"I'll be honest with you, this is the story of the year," said Allgaier, who led 131 laps, second only to the 137 of Kyle Busch, who fell out because of engine failure after winning the second stage. "We had a great car tonight. I don't know if we could have beaten the 18 (Busch) apples to apples, but when he fell out, I thought—especially at the end—we had the best car.

"I don't know what else to do, man. It's just so frustrating. These guys deserve a win. It's just a tire went down, and there's nothing you can do about it."

John Hunter Nemechek ran third, followed by Jeremy Clements, pole winner Austin Cin-



Holding on to the "Beast" Tyler Reddick (2) battles around Justin Allgaier (7) to win the Food City 300 at Bristol. (NIGEL KIN-RADE/NKP photo)

dric and Gray Gaulding, the last driver on the lead lap.

Reddick's adventurous evening started with the first 85-lap stage. After his No. 2 Chevrolet failed pre-qualifying inspection four times, Reddick was not allowed to post a lap in time trials, started from the rear of the field and immediately served a pass-through penalty that put him a lap down.

But Reddick earned a free pass as the highest-scored lapped car when NASCAR called the first caution on Lap 7 for Mason Diaz's crash on the backstretch. Back on the lead lap, Reddick hustled his car through the field, and on Lap 81 he was fighting Allgaier for the lead.

But Reddick spun in Turn 4 underneath Allgaier's Chevrolet, knocking the right rear of Allgaier's car into the outside wall. Brandon Jones sped past and scored the

stage victory under caution.

Stage 2 was even more bizarre. Reddick worked his way back to second, passing Allgaier for the position with eight laps left in the stage. Kyle Busch was first to the green/checkered flag on Lap 170, but his engine had begun to fail with five laps left and gave up the ghost as he crossed the start/finish line.

That came long after championship contenders Christopher Bell and Cole Custer and Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series regulars Erik Jones and Joey Logano all sustained serious damage to their cars in a multicar pileup on Lap 37.

Custer went three-wide on the top to pass the lapped car of Matt Mills, who moved up the track, pinching Custer's No. 00 Ford into the outside wall. Custer's car bounced off the wall and slammed into Bell's Toyota, sending both cars sliding sideways. With no clear lane, Jones plowed into Custer's car, and Logano's Ford slid into Jones' Toyota.

Both Logano and Jones retired from the race. Bell and Custer lost three laps and four laps, respectively, while their teams hustled to repair their cars.

"Typical Bristol crash," Logano said. "You see them wrecking in front of you, and you're on the brakes as hard as you can, and they just keep piling in, and you can't stop quick enough. Some of that comes from a poor qualifying effort and from that you get caught up in things.

"I thought we were OK. Even saying that, we were still up to seventh or eighth. We weren't that far back from starting 19th. We were picking our way through there, but it just happens."



Crew, family and friends celebrate with Tyler Reddick in Bristol's victory lane Friday night. (DREW HIERWARTER photo)

Brett Moffitt Wins at Bristol as Tempers Flare in Action-Filled Race

BRISTOL, TN - Top-seeded Brett Moffitt held off determined 17-year-old Chandler Smith after a restart with three laps left and took home the trophy in Thursday night's UNOH 200 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

With the victory in the first event of the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series Playoffs, Moffitt, the defending series champion, gained an automatic berth in the Round of 6, as other Playoff contenders either overcame adversity or succumbed to it.

"It was tough," Moffitt said in Victory Lane. "Our (No. 24) Silverado was strong on long runs, but it was hard to get fired off. So it was really tough just getting the first couple of laps under our belt after a restart.

"There's no more important win than right now for the season, getting into the Round of 6, so we'll take this and move on with it. We're

playing with house money now. We still want to go get points and ultimately win races and get Playoff points to set ourselves up with a little safety net for the next round. But now we'll just go and race to win, and the pressure's off."

In his third start in the Truck Series, Smith held his own to the inside of Moffitt for one lap after the final restart, but Moffitt cleared Smith's No. 51 Toyota on lap 199 and pulled away to win by .743 seconds. Playoff driver Ross Chastain overcame a violation for an uncontrolled tire to run third, muscling his way through the field and drawing ire from competitors along the way.

Stewart Friesen recovered from a spin off the nose of Matt Crafton's Toyota, as the two Playoff drivers raced in close quarters around the truck of Tyler Dippel. Regular-season champion Grant Enfinger, the only driver other than Moffitt and Chastain to lead laps, ran fifth.

Sheldon Creed, Crafton, Ben Rhodes, Todd Gilliland and Playoff

driver Austin Hill completed the top 10, though the latter two lost considerable ground to the Playoff leaders.

After an action-filled race that produced 12 cautions for 73 laps, Chastain was unapologetic for the aggressive style that carried him to a third-place finish.

"We put ourselves in a hole there with that one pit stop," Chastain said. "Yeah, I hate that, but the fastest truck didn't win tonight. Congrats to Brett... But it's one lane—it's the old Bristol. They took the top (of the concrete track) and ground it without telling us, or they didn't tell me.

"So it was one lane around the bottom. That's what built this place. You come through this tunnel, and there's talk about rattling cages, there's helmets thrown. If we're going to fill these places up, the CarShield Chevy's going to be the one that adds to the excitement."

After the race, several crew chiefs approached Chastain to express their displeasure.

"I think the crew chiefs come down here and puff their chests out—they're old washed-up race car drivers," Chastain said. "I love Marcus (Richmond) and Rudy (Fugle), but, my goodness, let your drivers come handle it. And one at a time, line 'em up, and let's race. And let's handle it after, outside the

race car.

"Obviously, I'm no stranger to this."

Bad luck continued to follow Playoff driver Johnny Sauter who suffered hard contact from John Hunter Nemechek's truck on Lap 75—after Sauter turned Nemechek. After a litany of subsequent incidents, Sauter drove his battered No. 13 Ford to an 11th-place finish and is clinging to the sixth spot in the standings by three points over Hill.

Sunoco Rookie of the Year contender Tyler Ankrum fared worst of all. His No. 17 Toyota developed electric problems, relegating the 18-year-old to a 20th-place result, six laps down. Ankrum heads to the Aug. 25 race at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park last in the Playoff standings and 13 points behind Sauter.

If the race had plenty of contact in the heat of battle, it also had a moment of comic relief. After a wreck on Lap 182 caused the 11th caution, a wrecker attempting to push Natalie Decker's No. 54 Toyota spun the truck instead. Decker retired from the race in 25th place.

But Moffitt finished where he started—from the pole and in the Playoff lead. He now holds a 16-point lead over Chastain in second and a free pass to the next round of the Playoffs.



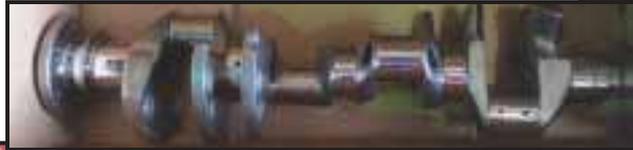
UNOH 200 Gander Outdoors Truck Series winner Brett Moffitt wields his Colliseum sword in victory lane Thursday night after a tough race finish. (JARED TILTON/GETTY IMAGES photo)

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Doug Coby Uses Timely Move To Break Justin Bonsignore's Streak at Thompson

THOMPSON, CT - One of the most historic streaks in NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour history was broken by one of the drivers who will go down as one of the best ever.

Doug Coby earned his fourth victory of the season in the Bud 'King of Beers' 150 at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, breaking Justin Bonsignore's streak of six consecutive wins at the Connecticut oval.

It was Coby's 28th career Whelen Modified Tour victory, his sixth career at Thompson — and it increased the points lead with just five races remaining in the championship points schedule.

"We just go race to race," Coby said. "We ran three different cars at New Hampshire, Stafford and Thompson, and I'm really proud of that for my team. He (Justin) would probably have anyone but me snap that streak. It's really impressive what his team did. They had a great run."

Coby dominated the early laps after earning his seventh Mayhew Tools Dominator Pole Award of the season in qualifying. When the caution flag flew on lap 84, Coby was leading the charge over Bonsignore, and both of them led the field down pit road. Coby elected to take his fresh tires on the pit stop, and exited the pits second, behind Bonsignore.

Coby restarted third, after Jon McKennedy used some strategy to earn the lead. He wouldn't get back to the top spot until the final laps. After former series champion Bobby Santos III took the lead on lap 129, a caution with just 11 laps to go left Santos, Craig Lutz, Bonsignore and Coby at the front. All four of them had led laps, but only three of them would finish.

At the green, Santos stumbled with a transmission issue, Lutz spun his tires, and Coby hung a hard left to clear all of them, into the lead. He never looked back.

"When someone messes up in front of you, you hope you have enough room, you crank it to the left, and hope no one is going to spin you," Coby said of the restart

dash.

Bonsignore would come up one spot short of his seventh straight Thompson win, while Lutz settled for third. McKennedy and Timmy Solomito completed the top five.

"The restart got a little bit wild, and Doug was just in a better spot," Bonsignore said. "You're not going to win every game (race). We were prepared for this to happen. We lost to the best car this year."

Jimmy Blewett was sixth, followed by Andrew Krause, Patrick Emerling, Matt Swanson and Woody Pitkat.

Coby leads by 47 in the point standings over Bonsignore and Silk, who are tied for second. The three former series champions have won all but one race this season.

The 30th annual Bud 'King of Beers' 150 will air on NBCSN on Wednesday, August 21, at 6 p.m.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns to the track on Saturday, August 31, at Oswego Speedway in New York, as part of the track's 63rd annual Classic Weekend.

Trevor Huddleston Dominates Evergreen For Second Career Victory

MONROE, WA - Nobody had anything for Trevor Huddleston.

The Agoura Hills, California native cruised to his second K&N Pro Series West win of this season and his career at Evergreen Speedway in the NAPA Auto Parts 150 on Sat-



Trevor Huddleston celebrates with his Sunrise Ford team following the NAPA Auto Parts 150 at Evergreen Speedway. (Meg Oliphant/NASCAR photo)



Doug Coby earned his fourth NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory of the season at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. (Adam Glanzman/NASCAR photo)

urday night, leading the most laps (85) en route to the victory.

"The car unloaded pretty quick, the guys at the shop were on top of it, and the guys at the track were on top of it even more because we just kept making the thing better and it showed out there," Huddleston said.

The win is also Sunrise Ford's second of the season. Thus far, only two events in the series (Sonoma, JPR and Iowa, GMS) have been won by teams other than Bill McAnally Racing (5) and Sunrise (2).

Derek Kraus led 20 laps, but struggled with a tight condition and wound up coming home second, his sixth top five and first runner-up finish this season. His BMR teammate and polesitter Brittney Zamora led 45 laps from the pole and wound up third, tying her career-best finish.

Monroe native, 2017 track and Washington state champion Trenton Moriarity, making his K&N Pro Series debut for newly formed JP Racing, finished fourth, with Jagger Jones rounding out the top five.

Todd Souza, Hailie Deegan,

Devin Dodson, Jack Wood and Travis Milburn completed the top 10.

With his second-place effort, Kraus extends his championship points lead to 18 over Huddleston, who jumped Deegan and now sits second.

The NAPA Auto Parts 150 presented by ENEOS is scheduled to be broadcast on NBCSN on Thursday, August 22 at 6 p.m.

The next K&N Pro Series West event will take place next weekend at Worldwide Technology Raceway at Gateway, the second of two combination events with the K&N Pro Series East.

Sam Mayer Wins Second In A Row at Bristol In Comeback Effort

BRISTOL, TN - The end result was the same, but the race itself couldn't have been more different.

Sam Mayer wound up in Victory Lane in Thursday's Bush's Beans 150 at Bristol Motor Speedway, sweeping the season at "The World's Fastest Half-Mile" and earning his third win of his career.

The race began with a bang, as Mayer made contact after starting on the outside of polesitter Chase Cabre in Turn 3 on the opening lap, sending Cabre into the wall.

NASCAR sent Mayer to the rear of the field following the incident, and he quickly made his way back through the field. By the Lap 50 scheduled break, he was already back inside the top five.

For the next 80-plus laps, Mayer followed Spencer Davis and company around Thunder Valley, waiting to pounce when the time was right.

With 13 laps to go, Mayer used the bump-and-run on Davis, who

(Continued Next Page)

Continued...

led the most laps for Rette Jones Racing, and didn't look back, cruising to the victory by almost two seconds.

"There's always that little bit in your mind that has doubt, but I felt pretty confident in the race car," Mayer said of coming from the rear. "(Crew chief) Mardy (Lindley) put together a really good one, everyone at GMS [...] with the aero

and and all that, I couldn't get by the No. 30 (Spencer Davis) to save my life until he made a mistake. It did pay off that we were there to get an opportunity to pass him. There was a little doubt in my mind, but I was pretty confident as well that

we'd get it done."

Ty Gibbs came home second for the fourth time this season, leading the DGR-Crosley brigade, with Ruben Garcia Jr. third, Mason Diaz fourth and Davis fifth.

Max McLaughlin, Cabre, Hailie Deegan and Joe Graf Jr. rounded out the top 10.

Following the Lap 1 accident, Cabre began experiencing lower back pain. He was assisted climbing out of his car post-race and has been transferred to a local hospital for further evaluation.

When asked about the Lap 1 contact, Mayer said Cabre "kind of deserves it" due to the way he'd been racing Cabre all season long.

"I did flat out dump him," he said. "I didn't mean it at all, but I did get in there way too hard and get into him."

With the win, Mayer extends his championship points lead over Cabre to 22, the biggest margin of

the season. McLaughlin and Gray now sit third and fourth with Derek Kraus' absence at Bristol.

The Bush's Beans 150 is scheduled to be broadcast on NBCSN on Wednesday, August 21 at 7 p.m.

The next K&N Pro Series East event will take place next weekend at Worldwide Technology Raceway at Gateway, the second of two combination events with the K&N Pro Series West.



Sam Mayer is getting pretty comfortable in Victory Lane at Bristol Motor Speedway. (Rusty Jarrett, NKP/NASCAR photo)

Michael Self Scores Fourth ARCA Menards Series Win of 2019 and First Career Dirt Win in Allen Crowe 100 at Springfield

Although he dominated the second half of the ARCA Menards Series Allen Crowe 100 presented by Lucas Oil, Michael Self (No. 25 Sinclair Lubricants Toyota)

held off his Venturini Motorsports teammate Christian Eckes (No. 15 JBL Audio/Illinois Truck & Equipment Toyota) on a two-lap dash to the checkered to earn his fourth series victory of the season.

Self, the current series championship leader, took the lead from another Venturini Motorsports teammate and General Tire Pole Award winner Logan Seavey (No. 20 Craftsman Toyota) shortly after halfway. From there, Self build a nearly four-second advantage over the field until an incident in turn four involving Ty Gibbs (No. 18 Monster Energy/ORCA Coolers/Terrible Herbst/Advance Auto Parts Toyota) and Joe Graf, Jr. (No. 77 EAT SLEEP RACE Ford) with less than ten laps to go. The race would get restarted at the scheduled conclusion, lap 100, for a green-white-checked dash to the checkered.

Self got the break on the restart and battled side-by-side with up-

start rookie Corey Heim (No. 22 Speedway Children's Charities Ford), but the two made contact in turns three and four. Self dashed to the lead while Heim dropped through the field allowing Eckes to move into second.

"I did not want to see that last yellow," Self said. "I was really nervous about it. I knew we had to get a great restart. It was pretty wild going off into turns one and two."

For his part, Heim was disappointed but he knew what to expect going into the final couple of laps.

"We just got pushed up into the loose dirt in turns three and four," Heim said. "If I was in that position that's what I would have done too. It sucks we lost all those positions. We stayed patient all day and worked the bottom groove and did what we needed to do."

Eckes was happy to come across the line in second knowing he could have given up a lot more ground to Self in the ARCA Menards Series championship battle.

"We're happy with second but we needed more than that today," Eckes said. "We were fourth before that last restart so it could have been worse than that. It's just a shame we gave up everything we

picked up at Pocono."

Bret Holmes (No. 23 Holmes II Excavation Chevrolet) was third, Seavey fourth, and Will Kimmel (No. 69 Kimmel Racing Ford) was fifth.

Self continues to lead the ARCA Menards Series championship standings with an unofficial 105-point lead over Eckes headed into the Southern Illinois 100 at DuQuoin on August 31.

The race was slowed just four times by cautions. The first was for a crash involving Eric Caudell (No. 7 Honoring America's Warriors Dodge) on the opening lap. The second yellow of the day was on lap 10 for rain, which forced a 12-minute delay while the track crew worked the dirt surface of the track.

The third yellow of the afternoon waved on lap 27 for a spin involving Tim Richmond (No. 06 GreatRailing.com Dodge), and the final yellow for the spin involving Gibbs and Graf waved on lap 94.

Self's winning average speed was 76.917 miles per hour. His margin of victory over Eckes was 0.363 seconds.

The next race for the ARCA Menards Series is the Southern Illinois 100 on Saturday night August 31. Practice starts at 2:30 pm CT, General Tire Pole Qualifying is set for 5:30 pm CT, and the race is set for 8 pm CT. The race will be televised live on MAVTV; ARCARacing.com will have live timing & scoring, live chat, and live track updates for registered users.



Michael Self raced his way to his first career dirt win at the Allen Crowe 100 at Springfield. This win was Self's fourth win of the 2019 season. (arcaracing.com photo)

Hudson Edges Kirby for Van Hoy Oil CRA Street Stocks Four Crown win at Anderson Speedway

SALEM, IN - After watching a comfortable lead eliminated by late caution periods, Owensboro, Kentucky driver Brett Hudson held on to win the Murat Temple 200 Presented by Star Financial and AERCO Heating and Cooling, Van Hoy Oil CRA Street Stocks Powered by JEGS Four Crown event number three at Anderson Speedway Saturday night.

Hudson posted the second quickest time Saturday and started seventh in the field as a result of the eight car inversion drawn by All-star Performance Fast Qualifier Chuck Barnes Jr., who just beat Hudson for the Fast Qualifier Award. The top 28 qualifiers for the event were separated by less than a second.

Andrew Teepe grabbed the early lead at the drop of the green flag. James Kirby III challenged Teepe on a lap 40 restart to lead one lap on the outside before Teepe went back out front. Meanwhile Hudson and Barnes Jr. were working their way to the front but being patient to take care of their tires.

Former series Triple Crown Champion Jason Atkinson moved to challenge Teepe for the lead, making the pass on lap 52. Atkinson would continue to lead and take the field to the halfway break at lap 100.

Atkinson kept his lead at the drop of the green flag after the break, but Hudson was ready to take control as he moved past Atkinson for the lead on lap 108. Hudson started to pull away from the rest of the field while Atkinson, Barnes Jr., James Kirby III and 2018 Five Crown Champion Jake McElfresh fought for the second position.

The third caution flag of the event waved on lap 182 when Cory Adams and Dallas Frueh spun on the front straight, bunching up the lead lap cars. Hudson was able to maintain the lead over Atkinson on the restart but the race was red-flagged on lap 197 when McElfresh's car erupted in flames while the Elwood driver was running fifth setting up a three lap shootout.

Hudson grabbed the lead at the

drop of the first green flag after the late caution, but a quick yellow came out after Atkinson spun on the front stretch. That put Kirby III in second on the outside of Hudson for the next restart.

Everyone expected Hudson to just pull away to grab the lead, but Kirby III would have no part of just giving up. The pair raced side by side for two- and three-quarter laps before Hudson was able to pull away coming out of turn four coming to the checkers to grab his first series win of the 2019 season. For holding off Kirby, Hudson was awarded the KRJ Race Products Sweet Move of the Race Award

"I was saving the car for the end," Hudson said in the Star Financial Winner's Circle. "I knew there could be some late race cautions. I appreciate that James (Kirby) raced me clean at the end, I've won this race before when the final 100 laps went all green."

Kirby III would finish in second and picked up the AR Bodies Cool Move of the Race Award for his late race charge after running in the top five through out the event.

Atkinson would finish in third place and take the lead in the Four Crown point standings heading into that series Four Crown Championship event. Josh Poore would make a late rally to get a fourth-place finish. Barnes Jr. would nurse his car to a fifth-place finish with an engine that was starting to lay down towards the end of the race. Jason Thompson would finish in sixth place. Scotty Tomasik was seventh, Brian Hopkins eighth, Jordan Hahn ninth and Danny Smith in tenth.

The next Van Hoy Oil CRA Street Stocks Powered by JEGS event will be Saturday, August 24th at Shadybowl Speedway, the 200 lap Championship event for the Four Crown Series. More information on all the CRA Series is available at www.cra-racing.com.

Dates Announced for CRA SpeedFest 2020 at Crisp Motorsports Park

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials and the management at Crisp Motorsports Park - Home of

Watermelon Capital Speedway have released the dates for CRA SpeedFest 2020. The prestigious pre-season event featuring Super Late Models and Pro Late Models will be held on Friday, January 24th and Saturday, January 25th, with Sunday January 26th as the events rain date. As is tradition, this event is held the weekend prior to the Super Bowl every year. This will be the 9th straight year that SpeedFest has been held at Crisp Motorsports Park - Home of the Watermelon Capital Speedway, which is located in Cordele, Georgia.

The events schedule was changed in 2018 to a Friday and Saturday format leading up to the event when rain was forecast for Sunday. The racers, fans and officials liked the new format so much, the same format was used for CRA SpeedFest 2019 and will be used again for CRA SpeedFest 2020.

"We are very excited to have CRA SpeedFest once again at Crisp Motorsports Park - Home of the Watermelon Capital Speedway and to work with Promoter Wayne Lyle," remarked R.J. Scott, managing Partner with CRA. "Wayne and his crew do a great job and we are very pleased to go back to Cordele and interact with all the great staff, racers and fans."

This will be the sixth year for Speedway owner Wayne Lyle to host the CRA SpeedFest event at his facility. Each year he has made significant improvements to the facility to improve the experience for both the fans and the racers attending the event. Mr. Lyle has also made some positive changes for the upcoming 2020 event in order to keep it as one of the premier late model events in the country.

"Each year we look to continue to make this event one of the top late model events in the country," remarked Mr. Lyle. The South Georgia businessman noted that

CRA SpeedFest 2020 we will continue with the increase purses introduced in 2018, with the Supers paying \$10,000 to win and the Pro's \$5,000 to win. The reduced 2-day official schedule of events with a built-in rain date on Sunday has appealed to most teams. For those that desire, practice through track rental is still available leading up to the event, including the Thursday prior.

CRA SpeedFest 2020 will once again consist of an ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS special non-points 200 lap Super Late Model event and a JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance special non-points 125 lap Pro Late Model event. Additional information about CRA SpeedFest 2020 will be released at a later date.

2020 will be the 16th SpeedFest event for ARCA/CRA Super Series Super Late Models, past winners include: 2005 Charlie Menard, 2006 Mike Fritts, 2007 Eddie Hoffman, 2008 and 2013 Jeff Choquette, 2009, 2010 and 2012 Kyle Busch, 2011, 2014 and 2015 Chase Elliott, 2016 Bubba Pollard, 2017 Harrison Burton, 2018 Chandler Smith and CRA SpeedFest 2019 winner Connor Okrzesik who fought off Kyle Busch on a late restart to get that win.

2020 will be the eighth SpeedFest event for the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Pro Late Models, past winners include: 2012 and 2013 Chase Elliott, 2014, 2015 and 2016 John Hunter Nemechek, 2017 and 2019 Casey Roderick and 2018 Bubba Pollard.

Additional track and event information can be found at www.crispmotorsportspark.com. For track rental prior to the event, interested parties can contact Ben at 229-938-8814.

Additional information on all the CRA Series can be found at www.cra-racing.com.



Schatz Claims Championship Advantage with River Cities Victory

GRAND FORKS, ND - Unreal. That's how North Dakota-native Donny Schatz described his World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series home state win Friday night at River Cities Speedway in Grand Forks, N.D.

"It feels good," said Schatz with a heavy exhale of air.

He claimed first home state win of the year with the World of Outlaws - eighth of the season and 291st overall. He swept the night winning in his Sprint Car and NLRA Late Model. And he reclaimed the points lead over Brad Sweet - now leading by 24 points.

Schatz's second-place finish in his Drydene Heat race put him into the DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash, which didn't go as planned. He started fifth and finished in sixth-place - last.

He and his Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing team tried something different for the Dash, he said. It didn't work. They tried something else for the Feature, and it did.

Once the Feature went green, polesitter David Gravel, coming off his recent Knoxville Nationals victory, shot to the lead over second-place Brad Sweet. Schatz immediately went to fifth on the first

lap.

Before the leaders could make their way around turn three the red flag was thrown and the race went into an Open Red. Nick Omdahl hit the wall coming off turn four, which bounced his car inches off the ground, and with help from another car, put his front end into the fence near the flag stand. It took 26 minutes to get his car untangled from the fence and repair the spot he hit.

Once the race went back green, Gravel again bolted to the lead. Schatz lost fifth-place to Sheldon Haudenschild and Mark Dobmeier looked underneath him in turn three to take sixth. But with a power move around the high side Schatz made a three-wide pass around Haudenschild and Dobmeier to reclaim fifth-place.

Gravel's quick pace around the 3/10-mile track put him in lap traffic by Lap six. Behind him, Sweet and Logan Schuchart - who won at River Cities Speedway in June - battled for second. The two traded slide jobs, arguing over who would be second. Sweet lost the fight coming off turn two, hitting the cushion, bicycling, and allowing Schuchart to charge by.

Schatz also took advantage of Sweet's fumble. Continuing to make ground on the high side, Schatz rocketed his Toco Warranty No. 15 around Daryn Pittman for fourth-place and then Sweet for



Donny Schatz celebrates in victory lane after winning at River Cities Speedway. (DB3Inc. photo)

third in turns three and four. Sweet didn't let him get away, though.

On the exit of the next corner, Schatz and a lapped car almost collided, drastically slowing his pace and allowing Sweet to move back to third. While the top two in points tried to navigate lapped traffic, Haudenschild maneuvered around the slower cars like he placed them there to begin with. The Stenhouse Jr.-Marshall Racing driver raced his way by Schatz and Sweet in one turn on Lap 12.

After bicycling off the cushion on the exit of turn two a few more times, Schatz eventually made his way back by Sweet for fourth-place.

Then, the second Open Red of the night on Lap 16. Contact with another car launched Brendan Mullen's car off turn two and onto the top of the fence outside the turn. With Mullen OK and the car secure where it was - several feet away from the track - the race resumed.

When it did, Schatz made his "unreal" move. He went from fourth-place to second on the exit of the first corner, throttling around the top groove. He continued his power lust run down the back stretch, closing in on Gravel and diving underneath him in turn three, not knowing if the move would stick.

Once his right foot eased back on the throttle the answer quickly became "yes." The traction was there. He went side by side with Gravel through turn four and drag raced him down the front stretch.

The reigning champion had the better grip, though. He outpowered the Jason Johnson Racing car to the flag stand and took the lead on Lap 17.

Schatz found his rhythm and ran a blistering pace for the remaining 23 laps. He weaved through traffic with ease, pulled away to a six second lead and lapped up to ninth-place - including Sweet, who finished 13th.

An advertisement for Five Star RaceCar Bodies Ultra Glass. The background is a photograph of a white and red Phoenix race car with the number 7 on its side, driving on a track. The car has various sponsor logos including FFE, Swift, Penske, and Gate. Overlaid on the image is the text "ULTRAGLASS" in large, stylized white letters with a red outline, and "DESIGNED TO WIN!" in yellow. Below this, a yellow banner reads "BODY PANELS THAT DEFLECT 300% FURTHER BEFORE BREAKING=LESS DEBRIS ON THE TRACK!". At the bottom, it says "THE DIFFERENCE IS QUALITY!" and provides the website "www.FIVESTARBODIES.com" and phone number "262.877.2171". There is also an ISO 9001:2008 Quality Certified logo.

Zeigler Wins After Intense Battle with Weiss

PORT ROYAL, PA - With less than five laps to go, Mason Zeigler was running second and burning to make a move for the lead.

He and Rookie of the Year frontrunner Ricky Weiss battled it out for over 25 laps around the Port Royal Speedway on Saturday night. Their back-and-forth fight for the

lead culminated with a side-by-side drive into turn one with three laps remaining of the 40 scheduled. One of them was going to win their very first World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series Feature.

In the end, the home-state advantage worked like a charm in the final laps. Zeigler made the winning move with just three laps remaining around the outside of Weiss to seal the deal and win his very first Morton Buildings Feature over Weiss and Brandon Sheppard.

"I'm so stoked for all of my crew," Zeigler, of Chalk Hill, Pennsylvania said. "This was an awesome one, a really hard-fought one. It wasn't just given to us."

How right he was.

Zeigler and Weiss both won their Drydene Heat races earlier in the evening and redrew the front row. Zeigler pulled out to a sizable lead at the drop of the green with Weiss giving chase. The lead changed hands for the first time when Zeigler came up on a lapped car on the top side of turn one and jumped the cushion, opening the door for Weiss down low on lap 17.

Weiss sat in command for the next seven laps before Zeigler regained momentum and blasted by Weiss on the high side. The race's only caution flew just a few laps later, setting the stage for the boiling point of this heated battle.

Racing past the flag stand to complete lap 37, Zeigler took a deep dive down low into the first turn while Ricky Weiss laid his right-rear tire on the cushion. Weiss had thrown a textbook slidejob on Zeigler on the restart to take the lead, so Zeigler returned the favor with a slidejob of his own to regain the lead out of turn two.

Down the backstretch they raced, Weiss regaining the lead slightly into turn three after crossing back under Zeigler's slidejob.

Zeigler switched back to the line that had kept him up front all night long, right on the high side, while Weiss kept it rolling through the middle groove. Zeigler mashed the throttle on the top and powered around the outside of the J&C Properties #7.

"My only option was just to get up there and murder the cushion," Zeigler said. "I was so tight through the center and down low, where up top I could really wheelspin it and get sideways and not lose any ground. It was my only option and we were able to make it work, thank goodness."

From that point on, the "Chalk Hill Express" held command and took the checkered flag, worth \$10,000 – his second overall victory at Port Royal in 2019.

Pacing the field under caution with 12 laps to go and a hungry Weiss right on his bumper, some drivers would crack under the pressure. But not Zeigler. He's got enough confidence in his car and crew to come through in high-stakes situations like these.

"It puts a little bit more pressure on me, starting up front. But I've known we've had a good enough car to win one of these things," Zeigler said.

Another solid podium finish for Weiss helped to maintain his runner-up spot in the Series points standings. A perfectly prepared racetrack made for three grooves



Mason Zeigler celebrates in victory lane after winning at Port Royal Speedway in an intense battle with Ricky Weiss. (Rick Neff photo)

of racing, which "Slick Rick" took full advantage of in his efforts to hold off Zeigler.

"On that restart, I knew we could run the middle, or the bottom or the top, and I was able to get in front of Mason with [my crew chief] calming me down a bit," Weiss said. "Mason just ran one heck of a race. He was do-or-die up there and he made it work."

Brandon Sheppard redrew the fourth starting spot, made a pass for third on the opening lap and managed to stay in the final podium position for all 40 laps. His 29th top-five finish of the year in 31 starts certainly looks great atop the points standings.

"We had a good, balanced race-car again and this thing's just been awesome, night-in and night-out.

We're definitely not going to hang our heads over third," Sheppard said.

Sheppard Dominates in Homecoming Visit to Willams Grove

MECHANICSBURG, PA - A sweet song of redemption rang through the Rocket 1 Racing pit area on Friday night at Williams Grove Speedway.

Brandon Sheppard and the Rocket1 warriors have dominated the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series this season, but the tour's last race on a half-mile track went to two-time DIRTcar Nationals champion Shane Clanton at Shawano Speedway. Flash

(Continued Next Page)



Brandon Sheppard stands atop his car in victory lane after winning Friday night at Williams Grove Speedway. (Gary Shrey photo)

Continued...

forward to Friday night and Sheppard got his revenge in the Series' historic homecoming to half-mile Williams Grove, where the Series' inaugural race was run in 1988. This time, Sheppard charged to the lead and collected his 16th Morton Buildings Feature win of the year, moving him closer to the all-time single-season win record.

Sheppard has had plenty of dominating performances in the past, but on Friday night, he was downright perfect. Setting PFC Brakes fast time, winning his Drydene Heat Race and redrawing the pole position, "The Rocket Shepp" grabbed the lead on lap one and never relinquished it, leading all 40 laps en route to his 53rd career World of Outlaws Feature win.

"It was phenomenal, the guys had this thing dialed-in from the word 'go,'" Sheppard said. "We were just fine-tuning on it all night long and it kept getting better and better."

Before Friday night, Sheppard

had never even seen the track from behind the wheel. But as he's done so many other times this season, "The Rocket Shepp" adapted perfectly to the track's size and shape, using a bit of pre-race planning before even the drivers meeting was called.

"I walked the track a lot during the day today," he said. "So I kind-of had an idea of what I was going to do, as far as what lines I was going to run."

Using the low-middle groove, Sheppard was able to smoothly sort through the waves of lapped traffic and build a sizable cushion between he and those behind him early on before a few cautions re-stacked the field on him. But they were no match for the current point-leader, as the Rocket Chassis house car's ability to take off on restarts was unparalleled.

To the younger generation, and Sprint Car diehards everywhere, Williams Grove Speedway was a track also featured in a certain respected World of Outlaws Sprint Cars videogame produced in the early 2000s. Sheppard joked earlier on in the evening that "it drives just like the videogame." But after making several circuits around that same facility in real life, he recalls how realistic it was to him in his

childhood and how neat it is to finally visit and race on such a place all these years later.

Behind Sheppard for most of the race was a close chase for the runner-up spot between Clanton and leading Rookie of the Year contender Ricky Weiss. Weiss held the spot and chased Sheppard for the first 25 laps until a restart on lap 26, where Clanton made a brilliant move around the outside to take the spot away at the start/finish line.

"After that second caution, I got beside Ricky going down the straightaway and had him in turn one," Clanton said. "I just needed to get in front of him. If I could have gotten in front of the #1 car, maybe I could have stayed in the lead."

From Weiss' point of view, it seemed to be a difference in tire compound.

"Clanton and Sheppard both had the same tire on and we just had a little bit softer one," he said. "It fired off early and did its job, but we took a gamble and theirs obviously proved to be better."

With Clanton's win at Shawano's half-mile track last month, the former Series Champion has always had a positive attitude about the bigger facilities and the challenges they present the drivers. In his

words, it takes "a good car and a good motor" to have success on configurations like half-miles.

"Clements does a phenomenal job on our motors," Clanton said. "I like big, fast, half-mile racetracks and it shows in the last two races."

Normally, "Slick Rick" Weiss sees his helpings of success on dryer, slicker surfaces with longer distances. But with the rain the track received in the hours before the event, a very tacky surface emerged and made for a great place to flex the engine's muscles. Luckily for Weiss, he and the crew have been improving on just such places.

Rainout at Eriez Speedway

ERIE, PA - Due to persistent rain over the last 24 hours around the Eriez Speedway area and a chance of more precipitation, track and World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series officials have been forced to cancel Sunday's events.

The World of Outlaws action resumes Thursday, Aug. 29 at I-96 Speedway, before the brand-new, two-day "Battle at the Border" event at Sharon Speedway on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 30-31.

Tickets Now Available for 2019 BLF Charity Cocktail Party and Silent Auction

HIGH POINT, NC - The Bobby Labonte Foundation, founded by NASCAR Champion and Hall of Fame race car driver and High Point businessman Bobby Labonte, will host a cocktail party and silent auction on Friday, September 6 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at Markor Art

Center's Terrace on the Fifth and Sky Bar in High Point, N.C. A limited number of tickets are now available for purchase through the Bobby Labonte Foundation's website at bobbylabontefoundation.org.

Guests will join Bobby and Kristin Labonte at High Point's newest iconic landmark while enjoying drinks, delectable dinner fare and merriment on the eve of the 2019 Bobby Labonte Foundation Charity Bike Ride. An exciting, eclectic list of silent auction items will be available, including dinner with Bobby at his favorite restau-

rant, a long weekend at a six bedroom oceanfront house in Garden City, S.C., a custom fishing rod, a built-in wine cooler, a power lunch with Kristin and a week-long African photo safari.

Bobby and Kristin Labonte prepare to welcome guests for the 2019 Bobby Labonte Foundation Cocktail Party and Silent Auction, hosted by High Point, N.C.'s new Markor Art Center

"The cocktail party and silent auction has become a very popular component of my annual Charity Bike Ride and we thank Markor Art Center for so graciously hosting us this year," said Labonte. "Tickets sold out quickly last year, and we're so excited to have an amazing evening planned again this year. The best part is that many children and families in the Triad area will benefit, since the party makes a big impact on the amount we are able to donate to our selected charities. I hope everyone will consider purchasing a ticket and joining us."

Tickets are \$100 each, with

50/50 raffle tickets also available for purchase. This year, all proceeds will support three non-profit organizations that align with the Bobby Labonte Foundation's mission to help build stronger foundations for children and families: High Point LEAP, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Piedmont, Inc. and High Point Swim Club.

"We are delighted to host this event. We appreciate the significant charitable work associated with the Bobby Labonte Foundation here in High Point," said Howard Pan, corporate vice president, Vivet Inc./Markor International. "We view community involvement highly and it is our pleasure to play a positive role in all the efforts to make our community thrive."

The Charity Bike Ride starts at 8:30 am Saturday, September 7. At 9:30 am, High Point Mayor Jay Wagner will lead the Mayor's Ride - a free and fun bike ride open to everyone ages 12 and up. Participants only need a bike and helmet to take a ride with the mayor through the streets of downtown High Point. At 10:00 am, Business High Point-Chamber of Commerce will cut

the ribbon and officially open FamFest. FamFest is a free family event that will include a NASCAR race car simulator, bounce houses, dunk tank, games, food, face painting, mascots and the annual kids' bike race. Parents can browse local vendors for jewelry, crafts and art, and take part in a DIY activity with Home Depot. Free hot dogs from Cook Out will also be served while they last!

This year's events also include three training rides during the month of August, an art gallery exhibit, "The Bicycle: Art Meets Form," at Theatre Art Galleries on Thursday, September 5. Tickets for the cocktail party and silent auction are available on the Bobby Labonte Foundation website. All of the proceeds from the charity bike ride and the cocktail party and silent auction will fund the 2019 grants.

To find out more about the 2019 Bobby Labonte Foundation Charity Bike Ride, to register visit bobbylabontefoundation.org.



Madden Stays Hot with Topless 100 Triumph

LOCUST GROVE, AR - Chris Madden is undoubtedly the hottest driver in dirt late model racing after winning his third consecutive crown jewel event in as many weeks on Saturday night.

The 44-year-old South Carolina native stormed to his first career COMP Cams Topless 100 - Presented by Nutrien Ag Solutions at Batesville Motor Speedway. Madden earned \$40,000 for his effort and became the fifteenth different driver to win the annual crown jewel event sanctioned by the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series and the COMP Cams Super Dirt Series.

Madden led the first 33 laps of the race until his Team Zero teammate Scott Bloomquist took over the top spot. Bloomquist, who was seeking his sixth career victory in the August race, led until Madden regained the point on lap 76. From there, Madden held off both Brandon Overton and Bloomquist for the win. Josh Richards finished in fourth, followed by a hard-charging Shannon Babb who took fifth after starting in sixteenth.

Madden and Bloomquist went back-and-forth for the lead several times early in the race after starting on the front row together. Overton would later make his presence known in the fight for the top spot.

Overton, who started tenth on the grid, charged to second just two laps shy of the halfway mark. At halfway, it was Bloomquist, Overton and Madden running in tight quarters. Bloomquist slipped in turn four on lap 76 and allowed Madden to take over the lead for good. Overton never gave up, challenging Madden for the remainder of the race but ultimately settling for a runner-up finish.

The Topless 100 marked Madden's thirteenth-career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series victory. "We got to heavy traffic with 15 laps to go. I tried to back up off of the traffic. I got by a couple of guys I thought I could and there were ones I didn't think I could get around so easily. I got off of that bottom there one lap and I could see Brandon was there, so I quickly got back down there."

"I got back on the bottom just in

time," Madden added. "I tried not to get loose going into the corner and I wanted to set a pace to finish it off. I had no intention of pitting for tires. I took it easy for a long time. Brandon just slipped up enough to give us the advantage. What an awesome race car I have here with Cody Sommer and Scott. I just see big things happening with this team."

Overton, in the Rum Runner Racing entry, earned \$20,000 for his second-place finish. "Chris showed me the top down there and I got beside Scott. Then I slipped a little and Chris got around both of us. Hats off to those guys they have been running really well. Stuff is falling their way. That was a heck of a race out there. Thanks to Joey Coulter for giving me the chance to drive his car. Thanks to my crew chief Harold Holly, and all of my crew as well."

Bloomquist who was looking to make it back-to-back wins took the third finishing position and took home \$10,000 for his efforts. "We were running the bottom and that was the place to be. We had dropped back to fourth and then we got back by Richards there. If you were outside you were hung out to dry. I felt pretty good tonight. I was a little sore at the end. I had a tough time getting out of the car. We are getting stronger race-by-race."

The winner's Scott Bloomquist Racing, Bloomquist Race Cars Chassis is powered by a Custom



Chris Madden celebrates in victory lane after winning his first career COMP Cams Topless 100 at Batesville Motor Speedway. (lucasdirt.com photo)

Race Engine and is sponsored by: Great America Steak Company, STEEL-IT, Lucas Oil Products, Sorbera Chiropractic, Crossfit by Overton, Petroff Towing, Millwood Plumbing, Henderson Amusement, Sweet Manufacturing, VP Fuels and Penske Racing Shocks.

Completing the top ten were Jonathan Davenport, Timothy Culp, Devin Moran, Mike Marlar and Hudson O'Neal.

Bloomquist Back in Lucas Oil Victory Lane

LOCUST GROVE, AR - On a historic night for the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, the tour's all-time winningest driver Scott Bloomquist won his first series event since July 2018.

The 55-year-old Hall-of-Fame driver captured the 30-lap feature on the eve of the 27th Annual

COMP Cams Topless 100 - Presented by Nutrien Ag Solutions on Friday night.

The 600th event in the series history saw a battle for the lead between Bloomquist and his Team Zero teammate Chris Madden go down to the finish as Bloomquist held off Madden. Madden entered the race with a three-race LOLMDS win streak. With their 1-2 finish on Friday night, Madden and Bloomquist will make up the front row for the \$40,000-to-win crown jewel event on Saturday night.

Bloomquist; who missed over three months of racing earlier this season due to injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident back; won for his all-time series leading 94th time. Claim the victory over Madden, Jonathan Davenport, Shanon Buckingham, and Mike Marlar.

Bloomquist started on the pole
(Continued Next Page)

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LOWER LAP TIMES

Continued...

alongside Madden and held the lead from the start, but he and Madden raced side-by-side for a several of laps after a lap 8 caution flag for Josh Richards' flat tire. Bloomquist never relinquished his lead from then on. After a caution with nine laps to go, he sprinted to a healthy lead for the rest of the event.

Bloomquist is the only driver to win the Topless 100 five times and will be gunning for his sixth victory in the event. Madden; who has won two straight crown jewel events over the last two weeks; will be seeking his first Topless 100 win on Saturday Night. His best finish in the annual August race was a 4th place finish in 2013.

It was an emotional victory for Bloomquist who earned the 604th victory of his career, which began in 1980. "There was a whole lot that went through my mind after the accident happened," said Bloomquist. "The doctors don't want to tell you anything positive to give you false hope. They told me you better just focus on getting better and not racing anymore this year or anytime soon. Finally, they told me it would

be 12 weeks to stay off of my leg and then they told me the bones were healed and I asked them, what can keep me from racing? They said they didn't think I could handle the pain and I said, well then I am going to race."

"The car got bent in June and we didn't know it," Bloomquist added. "We took it to get it jigged. We put a new clip on it this week. I said well hopefully I can give Chris some competition. We ran pretty good tonight and we are looking forward to tomorrow. I was struggling there for a while when I came back. I thought it was the car and now we have the car fixed. It was never a cake-walk out there," said Bloomquist who has now won a race every year since the series inception.

Madden now has three wins and two runner-up finishes in the last five LOLMDS events. He joined Bloomquist on the podium for the second night in a row. "We had a good race car tonight. I was trying to set a healthy pace and not overwork myself. I thought I might have something at the end for him [Bloomquist], we went door-to-door for a while. We had a right-rear tire going down at the end and we were just trying to hang on for second."

Davenport will also be seeking his first career Topless 100 on Saturday night. His best career finish in the event is a third-place finish in 2014.

Completing the top ten were Michael Norris, Stormy Scott, Earl Pearson Jr., Jimmy Owens, and Shannon Babb.

Madden Continues Hot Streak with Batesville Victory

LOCUST GROVE, AR - Chris Madden continued his recent hot streak by winning Thursday night's opener at Batesville Motor Speedway.

The win marks his third consecutive trip to Victory Lane in Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series competition. Madden survived a battle with Brandon Overton to score the victory on night one of the COMP Cams Topless 100 - Presented by Nutrien Ag Solutions.

Madden was unchallenged other than when he slid up the track after a lap 19 restart and Overton forged ahead on lap 21. Overton slid up the track a lap later which allowed Madden to get back by him and go on for the victory, his 11th career Lucas Oil Late Model Late Model Dirt Series win.

Madden; the 44-year-old South Carolina native; started alongside polesitter Mike Marlar on the front row for the 30-lap main event. Madden bolted to the lead at the drop of the green with Marlar going to the second position. Those two were joined by Overton and Davenport in lapped traffic as a four-car

battle for the race lead was developing until a caution for fifth-place running Tyler Erb slowed the field.

After losing the lead for just one lap, Madden managed to regain his momentum and powered his way to the victory. Overton crossed the finish line in second with Madden's teammate, Scott Bloomquist finishing in third. Jimmy Owens and Jonathan Davenport completed the top five.

Overton, who was seeking his fifth career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series victory was in the hunt the entire race. "As soon as he [Madden] pushed up the race track we were able to get by him. Then I went down there and did the same thing. I just got a little choppy and if you let it roll in there it would sit down for a little bit. Chris has the best car in the country right now so congratulations to him."

Bloomquist ended up on the podium after starting in fifth. "Definitely this car is on track now. We can race now. I felt like we were holding our own out there. We might have to tweak it little bit more. We have got a different car under me now. It is great to see Chris winning. It's great to know our cars are good right now. We just have to keep working hard and we will be fine."

Completing the top ten were Josh Richards, Hudson O'Neal, Mike Marlar, Earl Pearson Jr., and Tony Jackson Jr.

John Carney II Prevails In ASCS Sooner/Lone Star Showdown at Lawton

LAWTON, OK - Barely getting the job done before Mother Nature moved in Saturday night, El Paso's John Carney II picked up the evening's \$2,000 winner's check plus \$25 per lap led at Lawton Speedway with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region

presented by Smiley's Racing Products and the ASCS Lone Star Region.

The "Do It For Grady" Sooner/Lone Star Challenge, the 30 A-Feature began with Oklahoma City's Wayne Johnson in the lead.

Caution on the initial start for Harli White who spun off the exit of the second turn, the restart again put the Outlaw Wings No. 2c ahead of the field with sixth starting John

Carney II making his way to the runner-up spot before caution lights came on again on Lap 3 for Lance Norick.

Holding off Carney on the restart, the No. J2 advanced to the point on Lap 5.

Pulling away from Johnson for a couple of laps, the No. 2c began reeling Carney back in. Diving under Carney on Lap 10 through the third and fourth turns, Wayne moved back into the lead and quickly put distance between himself and Carney.

Moving steadily through traffic, the pair went at it again on lap 18 as Johnson got held up behind a backmarker. Giving Carney a shot, Carney retook the top spot with a low line pass off the fourth turn the following lap. Hugging the hub of the Lawton Speedway the remainder of the race, Carney pulled to a 0.822-second advantage at the



John Carney II celebrates in victory lane at Lawton Speedway. (ASCS photo)

drop of the checkered flag. Carney also picked up \$425 in Lap Money.

Wayne Johnson crossed second. Steven Shebester filled out the podium in the No. 22x. Kevin Ramey in fourth was trailed by Jeremy Campbell to complete the top five.

Moving up from 14th, Andrew Deal ended his night sixth with Kyle Clark making moves from 13th to seventh. Morgan Fletcher crossed eighth with Zane Lawrence also making coming in ninth. Recover-

ing from a spin on Lap 3, Lance Norick came back to finish tenth.

The American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region races again on Friday, August 23 at Creek County Speedway before going head-to-head with the ASCS Warrior Region at Heartland Motorsports Park on Saturday, August 24.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series log onto www.ascsracing.com.

Aaron Reutzel Scores Seventh All Star Victory of 2019 with Wire-to-Wire Performance at Plymouth

PLYMOUTH, IN - After a frustrating outing one night prior that ultimately resulted in a 'DNF' finish, Clute, Texas' Aaron Reutzel redeemed himself completely during his Saturday night stay at Plymouth Speedway in Plymouth, Indiana, and secured his seventh Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 victory of the 2019 season; his first since Utica-Rome Speedway in mid-July.

A convincing victory to say the least, Reutzel led every lap of the 30-lap program at the Plymouth short track, utilizing patience to maneuver through periods of heavy lapped traffic all while holding off a fast closing Brock Zearfoss, as well as an eighth starting Greg Wilson. The \$5,000 triumph also allowed Reutzel to chop into Dale Blaney's championship points lead, cutting the advantage down to ten markers. Blaney entered the evening with a 26-point advantage, all of which built from Reutzel's 'DNF' result at I-96 Speedway.

"Top, bottom, middle; we were comfortable all over tonight. That's something we have been working really hard on," Aaron Reutzel said in Plymouth Speedway victory lane, driver of the Baughman-Reutzel Motorsports/Folkens Brothers Trucking/Fischer Body Shop/Dissolvalloy/No. 87 sprint car. "It was one hell of a team effort tonight. I'm just thankful that my group of guys have stuck behind me."

Although the Texan was able to control every circuit of the 30-lap main event, Reutzel was never completely on his own. In fact, a blanket could have been thrown over the top four during the mid-point of the main event, a pattern that continued for nearly five circuits.

Reutzel eventually escaped into traffic, but Zearfoss, who drove into second from fourth with a bold move through turns one and two on lap nine, remained persistent.

The final four circuits saw the battle between Reutzel and Zearfoss intensify yet again. With slower cars bunching up two and

three wide ahead of the leader, Reutzel was forced to check up which allowed Zearfoss to close the gap to a car length by the two-to-go signal.

Solidifying his place on top of the podium, Reutzel perfected a slider through turns one and two to place a slower car between himself and Zearfoss on the final lap. The move worked, allowing Reutzel to cruise home ahead of Zearfoss, Greg Wilson, Gerard McIntyre, and Justin Peck.

"I felt like I was ok through the first set of lapped cars, then I got to a group that I absolutely did not want to have to lap. I was actually praying for a caution so I didn't have to work around them," Aaron Reutzel continued. "I was a little timid in traffic tonight, for sure. I didn't want to get knocked out."

The All Star Circuit of Champions will continue their 2019 campaign with a four-pack in the Keystone State; four events in four days across much of Posse Country. The four-day invasion of Central Pennsylvania will ignite on Thursday evening, August 22, at the always-racey Grandview Speedway in Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania. Action will move to the

historic Williams Grove Speedway in Mechanicsburg on Friday, August 23, followed by a visit to the 'Fabulous' Lincoln Speedway in Abbottstown on Saturday, August 24. The weekend will conclude on Sunday, August 25, at BAPS Motor Speedway near York Haven.

The events at Grandview Speedway, Lincoln Speedway and BAPS Motor Speedway will each award \$5,000 top prizes. The format at Williams Grove Speedway will feature twin main events, each awarding \$4,000 paydays.

In addition, MAVTV Motorsports Network, the official television home of the All Star Circuit of Champions in 2019, will be on hand to capture action from Grandview, Williams Grove and Lincoln. All three programs will be broadcast via tape-delay on October 13, October 20 and October 27, respectively.

Cory Eliason Gets by Dale Blaney to Score All Star Victory at I-96 Speedway

LAKE ODESSA, MI - Utilizing finesse, patience, and other's misfortune, Visalia, California's Cory Eliason earned his second Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 victory of the 2019 season on Friday night at I-96 Speedway in Lake Odessa, Michigan. The \$5,000 triumph, his first since scoring a mon-

ster payday at Virginia Motor Speedway at the beginning of the points schedule, was accomplished from the outside of row three, eventually taking command on lap 19 and holding off a championship contending Dale Blaney, as well as Premier Motorsports' Justin Peck, at the end of 30 circuits.

"We just kept getting better and better as the feature went on," Cory Eliason expressed, driver of the Rudeen Racing No. 26 entry. "Things went our way tonight and we were able to capitalize. It feels great to be standing out here."

Starting from the outside-pole position, Clute, Texas' Aaron Reutzel earned the early jump, blasting off to a near-straightaway lead with just three circuits knocked off the scoreboard. A caution on lap four slowed the pace early, and although the initial caution left little effect on the running order, it was the caution on lap eight that left the front-runners in a tangle.

As race leader Aaron Reutzel was attempting to check-up for spinning car at the exit of turn two, Gio Scelzi, who was battling in the second position, made contact with Reutzel's rear bumper sending the California-native out over the edge of turn two and ultimately upside-down. As a result, Aaron Reutzel was forced to go to the work area; both drivers would not return.

With Reutzel and Gio Scelzi out of the picture, it was Hartford, Ohio's Dale Blaney who inherited the top spot, now with Eliason and Skylar Gee in tow.

Traffic eventually found its way into the picture by lap 14 creating a sudden roadblock for Blaney. As traffic intensified, so did Eliason's pressure on the leader. By lap 17, Blaney's advantage was scraped down to a car length, stuck behind slower cars with Eliason continuing to breath down his neck. The following circuit, Eliason made a big bid for the lead, nearly getting under Blaney as the duo battled off of turn four to complete lap 18. It only took Eliason one more lap to turn his near-takeover attempt into an official lead change, recreating his dive through turns three and four to successfully drive by the six-time All Star champion.

From that point forward, it was all Eliason at the front of the field, leading the final 12 circuits to score his second victory of the 2019 season. A caution with four laps remaining gave Eliason a stir, but Blaney and Justin Peck, who slipped into a podium spot from 11th just beyond halfway, was no match for the Rudeen Racing entry.



Cory Eliason raced his way to his second Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 victory of the 2019 season at I-96 Speedway. (Paul Arch photo)

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Talladega Superspeedway is excited to expand its partnership with Sugarlands Shine, the "Official Moonshine of NASCAR®," with the "Sugarlands Shine Bar," which will debut in the track's 35,000 square-foot Open Air Social Club as part of the all-new Talladega Garage Experience during the Oct. 11-13 NASCAR Playoffs doubleheader

weekend.

The Sugarlands Shine Bar, which stretches a mammoth 74 feet, will be an added attraction for fans who will be attending the Sugarlands Shine 250 NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series™ Playoff race at NASCAR's Most Competitive track on Saturday, Oct. 12 (12:30 p.m. CDT). Just last fall, Sugarlands Distilling Company was named the Official Moonshine of Talladega Superspeedway as well as the entitlement partner for the Sugarlands Shine 250.

High above the Sugarlands Shine Bar will be a huge 41-foot diagonal video screen that will feature action on the track as well as other visuals for fans to see. The Open Air Social Club will offer an array of comfortable seating and will be lined on both sides by two garages that will house the top 22 drivers (11 in each) in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. Fans will be just a few steps away and "up-close" from the fan viewing walkway, which is under the same roof where the race cars will be prepped by the race teams. It's all a part of the Talladega Garage Experience, which will feature unparalleled access, FREE Wi-Fi presented by Xtreme Concepts, Inc., incredible \$4 or less Value-Priced Concessions (except the \$9 Big One Meatball) and much more!

In addition to the Sugarlands Shine Bar in the Social Club, Sugarlands Shine will again have an activation on Talladega's Midway presented by Graybar (outside the frontstretch) to share their award-winning moonshine with fans, and will be expanding its footprint with yet another bar right on the famous infield "Talladega Boulevard," the party capital of NASCAR. All three Sugarlands Shine bars will serve a collection of hand-crafted cocktails in souvenir Mason jars.

Throughout the weekend, Sugarlands will be giving away branded merchandise and fans will have the opportunity to meet moonshine legends from Discovery Channel's television show "Moonshiners."

Sugarlands will also be celebrating America's Heroes at the Sugarlands Shine 250. Hundreds of heroes from across the United States were nominated, and the public voted for six groups of heroes to win this experience of a lifetime: Lt. James and Laura Creed from Taunton, Mass.; Dawn Pletcher, founder of Goodies for our Troops from Wellsboro, Pa.; Msgt. Andrew Hale, US Air Force veteran from Nashville, Tenn.; Frank Griggs, Founder of Veterans Puppy for Life out of Denver, Colo.; The Wall Gang from Michigan City, Ind.; and Danny Shaw Jr. and Bryan Shaw, policer officers from Dallas, Texas. They will enjoy a weekend of VIP experiences at the 2.66-mile venue, courtesy of Sugarlands Distilling Company's MoonShare give-back program. Msgt. Andrew Hale will serve as the Grand Marshal of the Sugarlands Shine 250.

Sugarlands Shine launched a limited-edition Corn Whiskey in April to celebrate 50 years of speed and shine at Talladega Superspeedway, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in October. This moonshine is the first in a series of NASCAR licensed moonshine for Sugarlands, and they will be releasing future 'shines with NASCAR tracks across the country beginning in January of 2020. To lo-

cate retailers that carry Sugarlands Shine visit, www.findmoonshine.com.

For ticket information on the Sugarlands Shine 250, or the 1000Bulbs.com 500 for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series on Sunday, Oct. 13, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call 855-518-RACE (7223). Fans can learn more about the Talladega Garage Experience, the Transformation Infield Project presented by Graybar and view the progress 24/7 via the construction cam by visiting www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/transformation.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Charlotte Motor Speedway's Fall Season of Speed commenced with one of the speedway's most family-friendly events on Wednesday, when NASCAR stars Ryan Newman and Chase Briscoe headlined the Parade of Power from zMAX Dragway, down Bruton Smith Boulevard to pit road.

Race fans from as far as Wisconsin witnessed the parade, which included – for the first time – the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile featuring Newman riding shotgun with race fans. An assortment of powerful machinery joined the Weinermobile in its parade: a Roush Fenway NASCAR car, a Top Fuel dragster, a dirt late model, a 1940 Ford, a Legend Car and a monster truck lining up with numerous classic cars and the speedway's Toyota Camry pace cars.

"Parade of Power is always a

blast," said Greg Walter, the speedway's executive vice president and general manager. "When you add the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile as kind of a non-sequitur, it's so much fun. The cadence we have in the fall between the Monster Truck Bash, the ROVAL™ weekend, NHRA, AutoFair, World of Outlaws and Speedway Christmas, it embodies the fact we have representation of all sorts of motorsports. Parade of Power ties that all together."

Following their stylish entrances, Newman and Briscoe took part in a fan Q&A and an autograph session.

"That Weinermobile was slow but I think it's because we were being led by a pace car," Newman said. "I love being in it even though they won't let me drive it. I bet I could drive it around the ROVAL™ in two and a half minutes."

The Parade of Power also previewed the second running of the Bank of America ROVAL™ 400 on Sept. 29, the cutoff race in the first round of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs. The race weekend begins with Bojangles' Qualifying on Sept. 27, followed by the NASCAR Xfinity Series Drive for the Cure 250 presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina.

Briscoe enters the Xfinity Series' lone ROVAL™ race as its defending winner.

"It's definitely a bit of a challenge," Briscoe said. "You have to try and study a lot and pick up time in qualifying. The race track is really fun. It's technical and slow in some areas, but in other areas you really have to get up on the wheel. It's a really good balance. I think the new backstretch chicane is going to add a new passing opportunity for us. I'm curious to see how the place changes and how the weather changes it."

Prior to the Bank of America ROVAL™ 400 race weekend in September, Charlotte's action-packed slate of events continues with Saturday's Circle K Back-to-School Monster Truck Bash at The Dirt Track at Charlotte. Race fans can get in at 4 p.m. with opening ceremonies set for 6:45 p.m. Fans who bring in school supplies to the front gate can enter The Dirt Track at 3:30 p.m. and enjoy the Pit Party, which features an autograph session, fun games and monster truck rides.

The Oct. 11-13 NHRA NTK Carolina Nationals – the NHRA's only Countdown to the Championship

(Continued Next Page)



Fans enjoyed Charlotte Motor Speedway's Parade of Power Wednesday afternoon. (CMS photos)

Continued...

event in the Southeast – brings the action to zMAX Dragway before the Pennzoil AutoFair roars into Charlotte Motor Speedway Oct. 17-19.

The Dirt Track at Charlotte cranks up the volume in November, with the Nov. 7-9 Can-Am World Finals bringing the stars of the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Sprint Cars, the World of

Outlaws Morton Builders Late Models and the Super DIRTcar big-block modifieds to America's Home for Racing.

Speedway Christmas' four-million-light holiday spectacular concludes the speedway's 2019 schedule with its unrivaled yuletide entertainment beginning on Nov. 22.

TICKETS: To purchase tickets to upcoming speedway events, fans can call the 1-800-455-FANS (3267) or shop online at www.charlottemotorspeedway.com.

MORE INFO: Fans can connect with Charlotte Motor Speedway and get the latest news by following on Twitter and Instagram, becoming a Facebook fan or downloading the Charlotte Motor Speedway mobile app.

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - Dover International Speedway will partner with the Delaware Office of Highway Safety on Saturday, Oct. 5 for the "Use Your Melon Drive Sober 200" NASCAR Xfinity Series playoff race as part of the track's 50th Anniversary celebration, track officials announced today.

The "Use Your Melon Drive Sober 200" NASCAR Xfinity Series playoff race (3 p.m., NBCSN) is the third and final race of the Round of 12 in the 2019 NASCAR Xfinity Series postseason. Four drivers will see their NASCAR Xfinity Series championship dreams eliminated after 200 miles at the world's fastest one-mile oval.

"We have a longtime relationship with the Delaware Office of Highway Safety and we are proud to extend our partnership with them as part of our 50th Anniversary celebration," said Mike Tatoian, Dover International Speedway's president and CEO. "This agency has important messages to deliver – ones that affect all of our fans and employees – and we're happy to part-

ner with the Delaware Office of Highway Safety to help them promote impaired driving awareness, deter impaired driving and reduce alcohol- and drug-related motor vehicle crashes."

The Delaware Office of Highway Safety, also celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, is dedicated to improving the safety of Delaware's motoring public by focusing on behavioral traffic safety issues such as impaired driving, seat belt use, aggressive driving, child passenger safety, pedestrian and bicycle safety, motorcycle safety and teen driving issues.

The "Use Your Melon Drive Sober 200" NASCAR Xfinity Series playoff race is part of Dover's planned events and celebrations during the Oct. 4-6 NASCAR triple-header weekend, which also includes the "General Tire 125" NASCAR K&N Pro Series East season finale on Friday, Oct. 4, and the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoff race on Sunday, Oct. 6.

In addition to the iconic gold Monster trophies given to the race winners, fans can also enjoy free Harlem Globetrotters performances (Sunday), a free Grand Funk Railroad concert on the Xfinity Stage at Victory Plaza (Sunday), Micro Wrestling Federation matches (Saturday and Sunday), a Winston Cup Mobile Museum display (all weekend) and much more in our Fan-Zone. Additional events will be announced as race weekend approaches.

For tickets or more information on Monster Mile events and 50th Anniversary activities, call (800) 441-RACE or visit DoverSpeedway.com. You can also keep up with track activities at Facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway, or on Twitter and Instagram at @MonsterMile.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - The field is set for the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series, and eight drivers will be gunning for the championship title and the chance to hoist the series' trophy when all is said and done. Among the eight contenders are an Alabama native, seasoned veterans, the reigning champ, and playoff newcomers who all have their eyes set on Talladega Superspeedway's unpredictable Sugarlands Shine 250 on Saturday, Oct. 12 - the first race in the Round of 6.

If one of the eight drivers can take the checkered flag in the Sugarlands Shine 250, he will secure

his spot in the Championship 4 finale where he will race for the championship title. After a reset of points, Grant Enfinger, who was crowned the 2019 regular-season champion last Saturday, heads into the playoffs as the second seed. Although he didn't have a victory, he was consistent, reeling off seven top-five finishes and 13 top-10 results in 16 races.

Two of the playoff drivers have gone to Gatorade Victory Lane at Talladega in the truck series, while three are former series champions and one has never competed at the 2.66-mile venue. The trucks have taken to the high banks of Talladega since 2006.

Below are the eight drivers in the season-ending playoffs and their performances at Talladega Superspeedway (TSS):

- Brett Moffitt, No. 24 GMS Racing Chevrolet: Moffitt already has two wins under his belt in the 2019 season. His first appearance at the most competitive track in NASCAR came in last year's Sugarlands Shine 250, where he placed 17th.

- Grant Enfinger, No. 98 ThorSport Racing Ford: Enfinger claimed his first career Gander Truck Series win in 2016 at 'Dega, his home track. He has also competed at the venue in the ARCA Menards Series, earning three top-10 finishes. While he is still searching for his first victory of 2019, Enfinger will be making his sixth TSS start in the Sugarlands Shine 250, where he has an average finish of 11.6.

- Stewart Friesen, No. 52 Halmar Friesen Racing Chevrolet: Canada native Friesen made his first appearance at Talladega in 2017, and in 2018, he went home with a sixth-place finish. He is in his second season running full time and notched his first career Gander Truck Series win a few weeks back in his 63rd career start at Eldora. This season, he has nine top-five finishes and 10 top-10 results.

- Austin Hill, No. 16 Hattori Racing Enterprises Toyota: Hill book-ended the Gander Truck Series regular-season when he won the first race of the season at Daytona and drove to victory last Saturday at Michigan. He will be making his third TSS appearance in the Sugarlands Shine 250, where he has produced one top-ten that came last year (average 16.0).

- Ross Chastain,

No. 45 Niece Motorsports Chevrolet: Chastain has competed in all of NASCAR's top three series at TSS and will be making his fourth Sugarlands Shine 250 start (average 17.3). Still chasing his first victory at the biggest track in NASCAR, Chastain has scored one top-five finish and one top 10. He declared that he would contend for the Gander championship title in the middle of the season, and weeks later, claimed a victory that would propel him to two more wins and a spot in the post-season.

- Matt Crafton, No. 88 ThorSport Racing Ford: The seasoned veteran is the only playoff driver to compete in all 13 Gander Truck Series events held at Talladega, but has just one top-five result (fourth), along with four top 10s. The two-time Gander Truck Series champion's (2013, 2014) average finish at TSS is 16.8. Uncharacteristically, he has yet to go to victory lane since the 2017 season.

- Johnny Sauter, No. 13 ThorSports Racing Ford: In ten Gander Truck Series starts at 'Dega, Sauter boasts one win (2013), three top-five results, and five finishes in the top 10. The Gander Truck Series veteran has also contended in all three of NASCAR's national series at the track, and holds an average finish at TSS of 11.4 in the Gander Truck Series.

- Tyler Ankrum, No. 17 DGR-Crosley Toyota: Making his Talladega debut, Ankrum hopes to be the first to cross the finish line in the Sugarlands Shine 250. The rookie secured his playoff spot and picked up his first-ever series victory last month.

In addition to the Sugarlands Shine 250 on Saturday, Oct. 12 (12:30 p.m. CDT), the 1000Bulbs.com 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series (MENCS) event on Sunday, Oct. 13 (1 p.m.), will also have playoff implications. It is the second race (of three) in the Round of 12 in the MENCS Playoffs. Aric Almirola is the defending 1000Bulbs.com 500 victor.



Bowman Gray Stadium

WINSTON-SALEM, NC - The fans were on their feet and the air was thick with tension as the championships were decided on Saturday at Bowman Gray Stadium. The legendary quarter mile is called the Madhouse for a reason.

Brandon Ward of Winston-Salem claimed the checkered in the Carolina Farm Credit 150 after a roller coaster ride of a race.

Burt Myers of Walnut Cove walked away with the title in the Brad's Golf Cars Modified Series – his 10th championship.

Lee Jeffreys of Wallburg turned a blazingly fast lap – the quickest of the entire 2019 season. That placed him on the pole, with second-fastest qualifier Brandon Ward starting on the outside front row.

Jeffreys claimed the lead on the initial start, but a caution in the first few laps gave Ward another shot. This time, the outside row seemed superior as Ward smoothly motored into the lead as the two fought side by side for turn after turn.

Ward defended the lead against Tim Brown until Brown was able to get a good run on the outside and move past Ward in a similar manner. But Brown's lead was short-lived – Ward reclaimed the top spot just a few laps later.

Defending champion and points leader Burt Myers made his way up to challenge Ward for the lead. Myers tried time and time again unsuccessfully, until he finally made the pass stick on lap 135.

But while Myers and Ward were battling for the lead, much of the field was opting to pit and put on fresh tires. Points contender James Civali did just that – but with some good usage of the double-file restart, Civali was soon back up in the fight for the lead.

Civali held nothing back as he pressured Burt Myers on his way to the front – but Myers opted to let Civali pass by and instead concentrate on securing the points title. Civali then moved up to hammer the bumper of Ward, slipping by him on lap 155 as the race extended due to caution.

Not to be outdone, Ward banged bumpers with Civali as the white flag waved. Ward slipped under Civali as the two slid across the finish line. Ward was out front, giving



A huge crowd joins in celebration after Burt Myers claimed the 2019 Brad's Golf Cars Modified Series championship – his 10th track title. (ERIC HYLTON PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

him the win.

"These guys got to pit and take on tires. You're kinda vulnerable when you're leading this thing over here in these long races. You can't pit from the lead," said Ward. "Me and Burt were sitting here with older tires than everybody else."

Myers finished in third, taking the championship for the fourth straight year in a row. "When you're in the hunt for the championship, this is the most stressful week of your life – period," said Myers, who was pleased with his decision to avoid any confrontation with Civali "The 79 [of Civali] had new tires. I knew he was going to be too much for us. I banked on that championship."

In the McDowell Heating & Air Sportsman Series, Justin Taylor of Kernersville took his first ever championship. Tommy Neal of Walkertown claimed the checkered in the season-ending 40-lapper.

Billy Gregg of Lexington left with the title for the Law Offices of John Barrow Street Stock Series. Gregg finished three positions ahead of points contender Jeremy Warren of Winston-Salem – had he finished one position further back, Warren would have taken the title. David Creed of Mount Airy took the victory.

And in the Q104.1 Stadium Stock Series, Brandon Brendle of Winston-Salem battled forward to claim the checkered – with Chuck Wall of Lexington winning the championship.

Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGROVE, PA - Mark Smith of Sunbury returned from the NASCAR Truck Series wars to win

his first Selinsgrove Speedway sprint car race of the season Saturday night.

The \$2,000 win in the 25-lap feature was Smith's 27th career in 358-360 sprint car racing at the speedway behind the wheel of the Mach 1 Chassis No. 1M.

Troy Miller of Tower City won his first career limited late model race at Selinsgrove in the division's 20-lap main event after winning 21 pro stock events and one super late model race at the track in the past.

Brandon Moser of Middleburg scored his third straight and sixth of the year in the 12-lap pro stock race, while Brad Mitch of McClure won his second career Roadrunner 20 after a spirited three car battle.

Selinsgrove Speedway will present Foss Jewelers Championship Night at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, featuring the final points races of the season for the 360 sprint cars, super late models in the Grit House Route 35 Challenge Series, pro stocks, and roadrunners. Track gates will open at 5 p.m.

Colby Womer and Mark Smith blasted to the front of the sprint car feature with Smith nosing in front for the lead. The pair was followed by Mike Walter, Jason Shultz, and Derek Locke.

Smith, who just a few weeks ago competed in the nationally televised NASCAR Truck Series race at Eldora Speedway in Ohio, soon opened a huge lead.

Derek Locke, who has been fast all season, showed some speed and drove to the third spot and immediately challenged Womer for the runner up spot.

Smith went on to wire the field and win the 25-lap grind by three

quarters of a lap over Womer, Locke, Kyle Reinhardt and Walter.

"This is an all new car," Smith said. "We just finished up this afternoon. That's why we got here late. It's next year's car, so we are going to park it and go back to the old car."

Sprint car heats were won by Smith and Shultz.

Troy Miller shot to the lead in the limited late model race followed by his son Shaun, Jared Fulkroad, Tim Krape, and Tommy Slanker.

By the halfway mark, T. Miller, who had previously won four pro stock track championships, had built a comfortable lead over S. Miller.

T. Miller ran the rest of the distance unchallenged followed by S. Miller, Fulkroad, Slanker, and Mike Smith.

"The kid said, 'you can't run as good as you've been and not win one,'" Miller said referring to his son who won the last time the limited late models raced at Selinsgrove. "I knew Shaun was behind me, I could see it on the scoreboard but I didn't know how close he was so I kept going."

Limited late model heats went to T. Miller and Smith.

Brandon Moser rocketed to the front of the pro stock feature followed by Kyle Bachman, Corey Long, Shaun Lawton, and John Schoch.

Kruz Kepner slammed the third turn fence bringing out a lap two caution.

Moser ran to the finish winning his third in a row and sixth overall over Bachman, Long, Lawton, and Schoch.

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Moser won the pro stock heat.

Keith Bissinger grabbed the early roadrunner lead followed by Will Brunson, Brad Mitch, Curtis Lawton, and Terry Kramer.

Bissinger was able to maintain a slight lead as Brunson and Mitch battled side by side for second. With Bissinger running high, Brunson ducked underneath coming off the fourth turn on lap six for the lead. The caution flag flew on the following lap for Jim Collier.

Lap nine saw Brunson drift high in the second turn. Bissinger and Mitch got by him but in the third turn Brunson ducked under the pair to regain the lead.

On a restart on the following lap Brunson and Bissinger traded slide jobs. Brunson maintained the lead while Mitch took over second from Bissinger.

Lap 12 saw another yellow as Lawton slowed on the track.

Brunson and Mitch had the fans on the edge of their seats racing side by side and exchanging slide jobs with Bissinger right behind. Lap 17 was disastrous for Brunson who lost a wheel and handed the lead to Mitch.

Brunson's crew work feverishly and replaced the wheel returning Brunson to the race.

Mitch led the final three laps for the win over Bissinger, Dustin Snook, Bob Bussey, and Terry Kramer.

Snook and Mitch were victorious in the roadrunner heats.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Stafford Speedway returned to NASCAR Whelen All-American Series racing action with the Late Model division taking center stage with their extra distance Late Model 50 feature event. Ryan Fearn came away the big winner on the night, capturing his first career Late Model feature win. Fearn's winnings from the night totaled \$3,450 with \$1,200 in purse money, \$1,900 from the Gaston Racing Enterprises High Roller Challenge that saw Fearn roll a 1 in victory lane for the winner takes all option, and \$350 in contingency bonus money from iRacing, New England Racing Fuel, Sunoco, and Bob's Painting and Del's Vinyl Siding. Other win-

ners on the night included Ronnie Williams in the SK Modified® feature, Bryan Narducci in the SK Light feature, Alexandra Fearn in the Limited Late Model feature, and Meghan Fuller in the Street Stock feature.

In the 50-lap Late Model feature, Tyler Leary took the lead at the green with Ryan Fearn lined up behind him in second. Fearn took the lead from Leary on lap-2 as the leaders came back to the line with Darrell Keane third, Kevin Gambacorta fourth and Tom Fearn quickly worked his way into fifth utilizing the outside groove. Al Saunders was applying heavy pressure to Tom Fearn for fifth and he nearly made a pass on lap-5 but fell back in line.

Gambacorta slid back to sixth in line as the order on lap-10 was Ryan Fearn, Leary, Keane, Tom Fearn, Adam Gray, and Gambacorta. The caution came out with 12 laps complete as Andy Marchese, R.J. Surdell, and Paul Varrichio, Jr. came together coming out of turn 4.

Ryan Fearn didn't come up to speed on the restart and he fell from the lead back to third as Leary took the lead and Gray moved into second. Al Saunders was up to fourth behind Ryan Fearn with Michael Wray in fifth. Trace Beyer got around Wray to move into fifth on lap-18 while Leary was starting to stretch out his advantage over Gray and Ryan Fearn.

Ryan Fearn made a move to get

around Gray to move into second right at the halfway point of the race on lap-25. Al Saunders was still fourth with Beyer in fifth. Leary's large lead was erased by the caution flag with 26 laps complete as Keane got into the backstretch wall at the entrance to turn 3.

Ryan Fearn streaked into the lead on the restart, but the caution came out almost immediately as Marchese and Scott Bouley spun in turn 1 to bring the caution back out. Ryan Fearn again took the lead on the restart with Leary in second. Saunders was third with Beyer and Tom Fearn lined up behind him in fifth. The caution came back out with 26 laps complete as Saunders and Beyer spun coming off turn 4 and nearly collected the car of Cliff Saunders, who did a great job to avoid hitting either Saunders or Beyer.

Ryan Fearn and Leary ran a lap side by side for the lead before Fearn got clear. Tom Fearn and Wray were side by side for third but the caution came back out with 27 laps complete for spins by Surdell, Marchese, and Bouley coming out of turn 2.

The restart saw a wreck on the backstretch that collected the cars of Gray, DeMone, Keane, Michael Wray, Tom Fearn, Cliff Saunders, and Richard Ciriello to bring the caution back out. This made the restart order Ryan Fearn and Tyler Leary on the front row, Michael Bennett and Gambacorta in the second row, and Dave Wray and

David Arute in the third row.

Ryan Fearn took the lead back under green with Bennett in second. Dave Wray was third with Gambacorta fourth and Michael Wray charged his way into fifth. Michael Wray took fourth from Gambacorta on lap-32 with Tom Fearn and Leary following him through to move into fifth and sixth and drop Gambacorta back to seventh.

With 10 laps to go, Ryan Fearn had a lead of a second and a half over Bennett in second with Dave Wray, Michael Wray, and Tom Fearn still making up the remainder of the top-5.

Ryan Fearn led the field to the checkered flag to pick up his first career Late Model feature victory. Bennett came home second with Dave Wray, Tom Fearn, and Leary rounding out the top-5.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature, Tony Membrino, Jr. took the early lead with Dan Wesson and Stephen Kopcik lined up behind him. The caution flew with 3 laps complete as a multicar pileup in the middle of turns 3+4 brought the caution out.

Membrino took the lead back under green with Wesson right behind him but the caution came out with 7 laps complete for a spin in turns 3+4 by Marcello Rufrano. Kopcik took the lead from Membrino in the outside lane on the restart with Membrino and Cory DiMatteo side by side for second. Di-

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Ryan Fearn was the big winner in the Late Model 50 feature event at Stafford Motor Speedway. (STAFFORD MOTOR SPEEDWAY photo)

KopciK shows

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Matteo took second going into turn 3 and he took the lead from Kopcik at the line on lap-9. The caution flew with 10 laps complete as Dan Wesson spun coming off turn 4.

Kopcik took the lead on the restart but DiMatteo went 3-wide with Kopcik and Ronnie Williams on lap-12 to take the lead. Kopcik came right back on lap-13 with a push from Williams to retake

the lead. Keith Rocco was now in the mix for the lead as the top-4 cars were side by side two rows deep before the caution came back out with 18 laps complete for a spin by Tyler Jones at the exit of turn 2.

third with Gervais in fifth. Kopcik took third on lap-34 with Gervais pulling alongside DiMatteo for fourth. Up front, Rocco pulled to the outside of Williams on lap-35 and the two leaders were once again side by side. Williams cleared Rocco on lap-37 with Kopcik diving to the inside of Rocco for second. Coming to 2 to go, Rocco was right on Williams' back bumper. Rocco tried a crossover move but Williams was able to fend off his challenge. The two cars touched going into turn 3 but Williams was able to maintain the lead with Rocco still in second. Rocco made one last bid for the lead in turns 3+4 but Williams took the checkered flag to pick up his second consecutive win and fifth of the 2019 season. Rocco finished second with Kopcik, Gervais, and DiMatteo rounding out the top-5.

In the 20-lap SK Light feature,

locked in a four car nose to tail train in the fight for the race lead. Hodgdon made a move to the inside of Puleo on lap-17 but Puleo was able to hold him off. Hodgdon tried the move again on lap-18 and this time he was able to make the pass stick and take over third place.

Narducci led Pearl to the checkered flag to pick up his sixth win of the 2019 season. Hodgdon finished third with Puleo and West rounding out the top-5.

In the 15-lap Limited Late Model feature, the caution came out at the start as Matt Clement got on the brakes to avoid getting into the back of Gary Patnode and spun after contact from Kevin Crosby. Alexandra Fearn took the early lead on the restart with Duane Provost giving chase in second. Patnode was third in line with Jeremy Lavoie fourth and Clement was fifth in line.

ture, Meghan Fuller took the lead at the drop of the green with Zack Robinson working the outside lane to take second. Adrien Paradis, III slotted into third with Travis Hydar fourth and Tyler Trott and Dave Secore side by side for fifth place.

Hydar took third from Paradis on lap-3 while George Bessette, Jr. got around Secore to move into sixth behind Trott. Bessette took fourth from Trott on lap-4 and he then went by Paradis to take third on lap-5 as Fuller was starting to stretch out her advantage over Robinson at the front of the field. Jason Lafayette took fifth from Paradis on lap-7 and the caution flag came out with 8 laps complete for a spin in the middle of turns 1+2 by Trott. Tim Morse was sent to the rear of the field by NASCAR Officials for making contact with Trott.

Fuller took the lead back under green with Hydar taking second.



Ronnie Williams shares Stafford's victory lane with his son after winning the SK Modified portion of Saturday's race. (STAFFORD MOTOR SPEEDWAY photo)

Williams powered his way into the lead back under green with Rocco and Kopcik fighting side by side for second. DiMatteo was fourth in line with Michael Gervais, Jr. up to fifth. Rocco cleared Kopcik for second on lap-26 and he began to set his sights on Williams in the lead. The caution came back out with 30 laps complete for a spin by Eric Berndt in turn 4 and Andrew Molleur came to a stop against the turn 2 wall.

Williams took the lead back under green while Kopcik and Rocco resumed their side by side duel for second. Rocco got clear of Kopcik on lap-33 and DiMatteo was now side by side with Kopcik for

Amanda West took the lead at the drop of the green with Chris Matthews in second. The action was fast and furious behind the two front runners as Teddy Hodgdon, Bryan Narducci, and Robert Bloxson were three-wide for third. Alexander Pearl came through to second with Narducci, Jonathan Puleo, and Hodgdon making up the top-5.

Narducci took the lead from West on lap-9 and with that move West began to slide backwards as Pearl took second, Puleo third and Hodgdon fourth with West finally getting back into line in fifth place.

With 5 laps to go, Narducci, Pearl, Puleo, and Hodgdon were

Lavoie made a move on lap-8 to get by Patnode for third. Lavoie's move opened the door for Clement and David Tefft to follow Lavoie by Patnode and drop Patnode back to sixth in line. Provost was still giving chase to Fearn for the race lead while Tefft nearly made a pass on Clement for fourth on lap-12 but settled back into line in fifth.

With 2 laps to go, Provost was right behind Fearn in the fight for the lead. Provost couldn't get close enough to Fearn to make a move as Fearn took down her third win of the 2019 season. Lavoie finished third with Clement and Tefft rounding out the top-5.

In the 20-lap Street Stock fea-

Bessette and Robinson were side by side for third and Paradis in fifth. Lafayette nearly spun in turn 4 on lap-13 but he was able to gather his car up and remained in sixth. Robinson got clear of Bessette for third and with 2 laps to go, Bessette was glued to the back bumper of Robinson.

Fuller led Hydar to the checkered flag to pick up her second consecutive win of 2019. Robinson finished third with Bessette and Paradis rounding out the top-5.

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