



MAY 6, 2019

# FastTrack

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**Martin Truex Jr. Makes It Two on the Monster Mile**



**Christopher Bell and Johnny Sauter Score Wins on the Monster**

## MONSTERS BEWARE



# How Fast is Too Fast? Ask the Drivers

Race fans wanted drivers to play a greater role in a car's success. We wanted more speed and less engineering. We wanted fearless passes, not track position gained and lost during the final pit stop to be a determining factor.

We got that Monday at the Dover International Speedway. And it was too much.

Cars certainly were fast on the one-mile oval. Clint Bowyer said corner speeds were up by 14 mph since the rules package of the week led to greater downforce with the same horsepower from last year's race.

Instead of cars getting washed out by a wake of dirty air, they essentially stayed in line because they were too fast.

Imagine that. Too fast.

"It was definitely really hard to pass," said race winner Martin Truex Jr. "There's no question about that. I got stuck behind lap cars multiple times. If you're running the bottom, they're running a lane up, you're good. If they decide to just cut to the bottom in front of you, shut your air off, you're about driving the fence off in the corner. It's tough."

While everyone else was barely hanging on, Truex was able to fail pre-race inspection twice, start at the back of the field and spend much of the first 200 miles methodically working his way into contention.

Once he got there, he put his Toyota out front and ran away for an easy-looking victory. So easy, second-place Alex Bowman was just coming into the fourth turn as Truex already was waving to the crowd after crossing the finish line.

NASCAR has a variety of rules packages that are supposed to fit the nuances of each racetrack. Instead of leveling the playing field, it's separated the truly elite from the rest of the pack.

Joe Gibbs Racing is a truly elite race team. Truex's victory was his second of the year. Teammates Kyle Busch (three wins) and Denny Hamlin (two) have combined to give the Hall of Fame football

coach seven of the series' 11 wins this year.

"Coach [Gibbs] has put together a good bunch and Cole [Pearn, crew chief] and everybody," Truex said. "I am really, really proud to drive these Toyotas. They are awesome and I am a lucky guy."

He's certainly lucky to be with a race team that has the resources to work around anything NASCAR throws at them. No other organization could have twice presented an illegal car for inspection before the race and wind up celebrating a victory several hours later.



**DON COBLE**

"I'm not going to lie to you, it was hard as hell," Truex said. "The 1 car [Kurt Busch] came out in front of me on new tires, two-lap fresher tires than I

have after the last green flag stop. I had to follow him for 25 laps. I was just stuck. I was faster than him, but I wasn't fast enough to pass him. It's difficult, for sure.

"But with that said, at the end of the day it's all about the fans and what do they think. Was the race good? I don't know. I thought it looked pretty good. What do the fans think, NASCAR, the owners. They're the three people that make all the decisions. We just drive 'em. We'll see where it goes from here."

Hopefully, it goes back for some tweaking. NASCAR should be lauded for trying new things, but somewhere between last year's Dover package and this year's race could be a sweet spot that puts racing back into the race.

"As you look at the cars behind each other, especially there at the end, there was hardly anybody who could pass anybody," Kevin Harvick said. "You lose so much downforce behind each other every week that, from a driver's standpoint, it becomes frustrating. It's difficult to maneuver your car to make up positions because they become so aero-bad behind each other."

Clint Bowyer spent the final 350 miles stuck in traffic with a car that was too fast and jittery in traffic.

"We lost track position on the first pit stop and never really regained any of it," he said. "It was just really tough to pass today."

Kyle Busch wasn't a fan, either. He saw what the sparse crowd saw – in fairness, it was on Monday after steady rain postponed Sunday's start.



**Cars tended to stay in line with one another because the speeds were so high that they couldn't get out of line to pass in fear of losing track position. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)**

"There is no question you feel that going around here," he said. "It is really fast. Probably, I don't know, probably too fast for here. The faster we tend to go in the middle of the corner doesn't always produce the best racing.

"I am not overly excited about it." Busch labored to a 10th-place finish to extend his streak of consecutive top-10s at the start of a season to 11, which tied Morgan Shepherd's record set in 1990.

So, what's too fast? Were cars in the danger zone on Monday?

"No question," Kyle Busch said. While many were concerned

with the speeds, there weren't any major crashes during the main event. Looking back, it's probably the result of not being able to race side-by-side to make passes.

"It was just tough to make moves and it was tough to be aggressive and find a way to pass," Erik Jones said. "Just tough all day."

At least NASCAR listened and tried. We wanted faster cars and we got them. We wanted drivers to hold on for dear life and we got it. But maybe we wanted too much. Faster and edgier than last year, slower and racier than Monday.

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### In This Issue:

Fast Forum	2-3	World of Outlaws	10
Monster Energy Cup	4	Midwest Sprints	10
XFINITY	5	Lucas Oil LM Dirt	11
Gander Outdoors Trucks	5	Circle of Champions	11
NASCAR Touring	6	ASCS	12
CARS Tour	7	Drive for Diversity	12
ARCA Racing	8	OnTrack	13-15
		ShorTrack	16-20

### ON THE COVER:

MENCS - JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP  
NASCAR XFINITY - SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES  
GANDER OUTDOOR TRUCKS - RUSTY JARRETT/NKP

# Rainy Days and Mondays

When NASCAR decided that Mother Nature was going to win Sunday and postponed the 400-mile Monster Energy Cup Series race to Monday, the thoughts of the many ramifications of a postponed race came to mind.

To the passive fan, thoughts of each race team just pushing their car to the garage, covering it up, and wait

under early Monday morning to uncover it and race at noon. But, the effects of weather and changing a race date as much more far reaching. Being in the sport and traveling the circuit for many years, I can attest to the potential chaos created when races are postponed.

While many MECS teams have their pit crew fly in the track location on the day of the race and fly back home at the conclusion of the event. A postponement to the next day creates an issue of lodging for these crew members. Not to mention, there's rooms needed for the crew who have been with the team since the day the track opened. Most teams will check out of their motel on race morning, knowing that they will travel home after the race. And, with race fans who also need motel/hotel rooms for an extra night, sometimes the supply does not meet the demand.

As mentioned earlier, most teams have charter flights or use of private planes to travel to races. However, there are still many teams who rely on regular flights for their transportation to and from races. Postponed races caused a flurry of calls to airlines, changing flights, or rebooking their travel plans. Many teams utilize rental cars on race weekends. Making those arrangements and extending their rental days can oftentimes pose a problem.

All of these potential weather-created race postponement issues cost money. I have heard several team management officials say that, just for normal conditions, it could cost \$15 – 17,000 just to cover the basics for team members. And, for teams with less than

maximum funding for their operation, a race postponed could seriously damage their already tight budget.

But, what about the fans? Many race fans have planned and scheduled their trip to a particular race for months. They have taken vacation days from the work, saved their money, and looked forward to a wonderful weekend of NASCAR racing. Now what? I can imagine many will take the extra day off work, bite the bullet for an extra night lodging, and hope to see their favorite driver win a race postponed one day. However, there are others who simply can't make the arrangements to stay an extra day.



**DENNIS PUNCH**

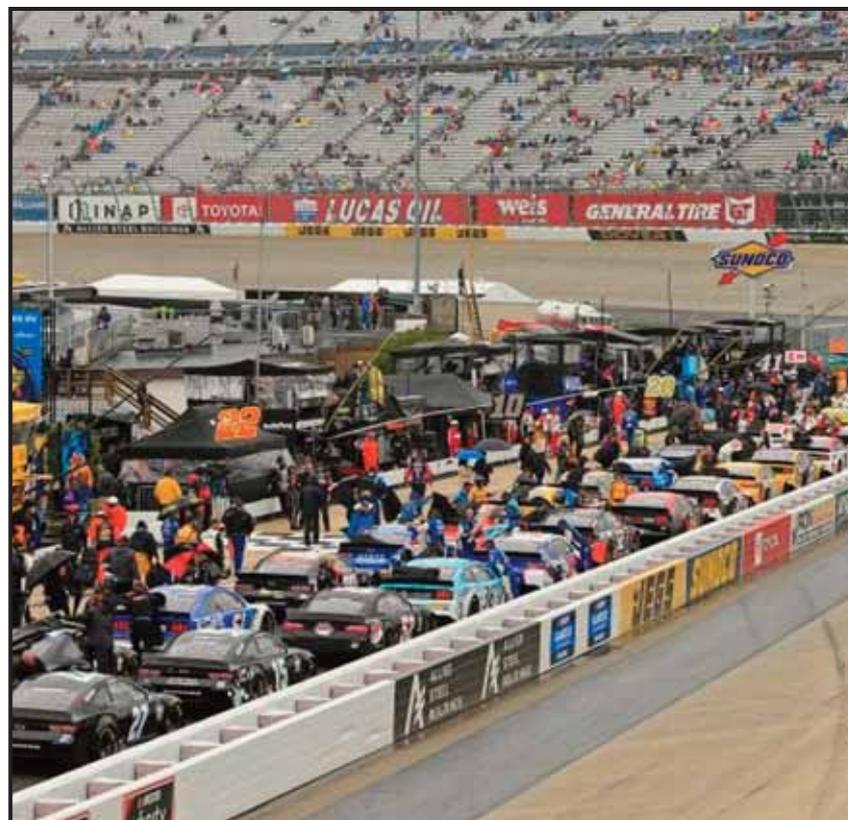
Unfortunately, all the planning and preparation, not to mention the money invested, will not return the enjoyable weekend they had hoped for.

Then, there's the track and all the workers needed to conduct a race at a NASCAR facility. Many of these

workers have regular jobs and take vacation days to work race weekends. Food supplies for the facility concession stands needed to be restocked in a short period of time as well. While most tracks have a full staff of employees in various departments to manage a weekend, many depend on local groups such as scouts, youth organizations, school and civic clubs, and volunteers to provide useful services during a normal race weekend. A postponement can create manpower issues in some cases.

One additional consideration that is often overlooked is event parking. If the rain was significant to postpone the race a day or more, you can bet that parking lots will be an issue. While a few tracks have paved parking areas in and around the track, most do not. Parking lots and access roads can be very difficult to navigate for race fans after a couple inches of rain in a short period of time. Therefore, the track must have additional service vehicles to assist fans with their potential parking issues.

The more that I thought about having to race on a Monday (or later) caused by weather-related issues, I remembered when the unfortunate experience happened to me several times. Once at Dover for a Busch Series race "back in the day", rain forced a postponement to



**Rains came at Dover this past weekend just as the cars were starting their parade lap. (CHRIS TROTMAN/GETTY IMAGES)**

Monday for that race. So, with no motel/hotel rooms available in the local Dover area, several members of the teams I was working with had the brilliant idea to go to Atlantic City for the night. After all, Atlantic City wasn't that far away, and rooms were readily available at a very reasonable cost. So, a couple of rental cars and a team van headed to New Jersey. It seemed like a great idea at the time, but a tired and broke pit crew arriving back at Dover turned out not to be so wise. Everyone was able to do their respective jobs and no one got hurt, but, let's just say that little side trip was not the best idea for lots of reasons.

Another Busch Series race was postponed at Darlington several years ago, so more than one team decided to make the short trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. And, I mean more than one team made that journey to the beach. In fact, it looked more like meeting in the Busch garage at several of the local clubs and restaurants at the beach. Even rain and nasty weather didn't damper the spirit of those who decided to make the one-hour trip to the beach.

I began to check the ol' history book for races run on Monday in the MECS. The records that I found only went back to 2008, but I was amazed at how many races were run on Monday (or later) due to weather issues. And, I was also surprised to see that many of the drivers racing at Dover on Monday actually won a postponed race on

Monday.

Granted, there were many more races postponed and run on Monday prior to 2008. But, for discussion sake, my study is 2008-present.

A total of thirteen different drivers have won Monday races in the MECS. Denny Hamlin leads the way with three victories on Monday – '09 Pocono and '10 at Texas and Martinsville. Tony Stewart is the only other driver to win more than once on Monday. Stewart won at Watkins Glen in '09 and Chicagoland in '11.

Starting in '08 and more currently, Carl Edwards won in '08 at Fontana, CA; David Reutimann in '09 at Charlotte; Marcos Ambrose in '11 at Watkins Glen; Matt Kenseth '12 at Daytona; Joey Logano '14 at Texas; Kurt Busch '16 Pocono; Chris Buescher '16 Pocono; Jimmie Johnson '17 Bristol; Clint Bowyer '18 Martinsville; Kyle Busch '18 Bristol; and Brad Keselowski '18 at Indianapolis. Eight of these drivers will have the opportunity to add the "Monday Win" to their resume at Dover.

So, the next time that a NASCAR race is postponed for a day or two, think about all the issues that come to play besides the actual racing on the track. Then, think about all the logistics involved and the related expenses. But, until sometime in the future when all tracks are indoor stadiums where weather will not be a problem, Mother Nature still holds the key.

# Martin Truex Jr. Charges to Dominant Victory at Dover

DOVER, DE – If anyone loves a rainy day, it's Martin Truex Jr.

The Mayetta, New Jersey driver won his first Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race at Dover International Speedway after a rain delay pushed the event to Monday, June 4, 2007.

On Monday at the Monster Mile, Truex won for the 21st time in the rain-delayed Gander RV 400, beating runner-up Alex Bowman to the finish line by 9.501 seconds, topping the 7.355-second margin he achieved in his inaugural win 12 years ago.

The size of Truex's second victory of the season—and third at Dover overall—was all the more impressive because the No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota had to start at the rear of the field after two pre-race inspection failures.

"Man, it feels incredible," said Truex, who led the last 53 laps and 132 overall, second only to pole winner and fifth-place finisher Chase Elliott's 146. "I'm so thankful for this team. What a race car we had today.

"We have one hell of a team. We came here with a new set-up this time because we kind of had an older set-up that we won with in 2016, and we'd been good, but not good enough.

"Thanks to all these fans that came out today, on a Monday. It's just awesome."

Truex had remarked before the race that coming through the field wouldn't be easy. Even though he made it look that way, Truex had to put in a hard day's work at one of NASCAR's most physically demanding tracks.

"I promise it wasn't easy," Truex said. "It was a lot of work. It was tough. This race car, man, it was just incredible."

Kyle Larson ran third, scoring his first top five of the season, and Kevin Harvick finished fourth. Erik Jones, Joey Logano, William Byron, Clint Bowyer and Kyle Busch completed the top 10.

For Busch, the top 10 was his 11th straight to start the season, matching the record set by Morgan Shepherd in 1990. Busch will attempt to break the tie next Sunday at Kansas, where he has finished in the top 10 in his last eight starts.

Elliott dominated the race from



Victory lane is a special place for Martin Truex Jr. as he celebrates his second win at the Monster Mile with the 50th anniversary gold Monster trophy. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

the green flag, leading the first 107 laps, but a caution for Ricky Stenhouse Jr.'s hard contact with the Turn 1 wall put strategy into play. Logano and Byron each took two tires under the yellow and led the field to a Lap 111 restart.

Logano was able to hold the top spot through the Lap 120 end of Stage 1, collecting his fifth stage win of the season in a one-lap shootout after Quin Houff's accident between Turns 1 and 2. In need of fresh left-side tires, how-

ever, both Logano and Byron were forced to pit during the stage break, and they restarted 24th and 25th, respectively, on Lap 130.

It took Logano most of Stage 2 to break into the top 15, as the second 120 laps of the race evolved into a battle between Elliott, Bowman, Harvick and Truex. Elliott held the top spot after a cycle of green-flag pit stops ended on Lap 191, but he surrendered the lead to Bowman on Lap 224, when Bowman sustained a huge run through Turns 3 and 4 and crossed over on the frontstretch to take the point.

Bowman stayed out front until the final lap of the stage, when Truex shot past and took the green/checkered flag for his first stage win of the season. Coincidentally, both Truex and Bowman had started the race from the rear of the field after each of their cars failed pre-race inspection twice.

After pit stops, Truex and Bowman restarted 1-2 on Lap 250 and maintained those positions until Denny Hamlin cut a tire after scraping the wall and spun in Turn 2 on Lap 265. On the subsequent restart, Harvick charged from fourth to second, leaving Bowman and Larson in his wake.

In an exchange of green-flag pit stops with 50 laps left, however, Bowman regained the second position, and Larson overtook Harvick for third. Truex extended his advantage to more than four seconds with 44 laps left, and there was no change in the running order of the top four over the balance of the event.



Martin Truex Jr. (19) leads Alex Bowman (88) through the turns on his way to his second Monday Dover victory. (CHRIS TROTMAN/GETTY IMAGES photo)

## Quick Pit Stop Launches Christopher Bell to \$100,000 Win at Dover

DOVER, DE - Christopher Bell won the battle that counted by a few feet—and that small victory launched him to his third NASCAR Xfinity Series triumph of the season in the Allied

Steel Buildings 200 at Dover International Speedway.

Bell's No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota was first off pit road after a Lap 155 stop under caution, narrowly beating Cole Custer, who had led the first 155 laps of Saturday's race. The work of Bell's pit crew proved decisive, as the 24-year-old from Norman, Okla., controlled the race through two more restarts and beat Justin Allgaier to the finish line by 1.745 seconds.

Bell had already crossed the stripe before Zane Smith and John Hunter Nemechek wrecked coming to the checkered flag.

In addition to a gold Miles the Monster trophy, Bell collected a check for \$100,000 as the final Dash 4 Cash winner of the season.

"Over the last couple of races, we've had great cars, but we haven't been able to capitalize on it," said Bell, who won for the second straight time at Dover and the 11th time in his career. "This one is really thanks to my pit crew, man. They did a great job, getting me out front where I could control the restarts.

"I knew if I could get out front, we'd be tough to beat. This place,

you can pass on long green-flag runs, and it's one of my favorite race tracks because you can move around and try to find different lines and get going. But over the short run, it's pretty difficult to make something happen because there is so much grip on the bottom."

After losing the lead on pit road, Custer was shuffled back on three successive restarts, drawing the bottom lane each time. He finished fourth behind Bell, Allgaier and series leader Tyler Reddick and expressed his disappointment after the race.

"It's really frustrating when you lead that many laps," Custer said. "You just can't give up your track position here. Everybody wants to win at Dover. It's about the hardest track to pass that we go to... It's just so frustrating. We were so good, and we couldn't take advantage of a great car today."

For Allgaier, who suffered late contact with the outside wall and with Reddick's Chevrolet, the runner-up finish was a welcome result in an inconsistent season that has produced an average finish of 14.7.

"The car took a beating and kept going," Allgaier said. "Our Camaro was good today, but it wasn't great. I wanted to be able to battle there with Christopher at the end, but we were just off a little bit all day."

Chase Briscoe ran fifth as the highest-finishing Sunoco Rookie of the Year contender, followed by Austin Cindric, Brandon Jones, Nemechek, Smith and Michael Annett.

## Johnny Sauter Wins Third Straight Dover Truck Race

DOVER, DE - You can call him the Dover Dominator.

With a No. 13 ThorSport Racing Ford that was strongest at the end of Saturday's Jegs 200 at Dover International Speedway, Johnny Sauter beat pole winner Brett Moffitt to the

finish line after a late restart to win his first NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series race of the season and his third straight the Monster

not to get complacent. I knew after Atlanta (where Sauter finished second on Feb. 23) we'd have a shot to win races. I felt like we gave one away at Martinsville but got it today."

Moffitt won the first 45-lap stage wire-to-wire and held the lead with nine laps left in Stage 2. But Sauter charged from third to first in two laps, passing Moffitt for the lead—and ultimately the stage win on Lap 82.

Saving fuel during the final run, however, Sauter was turning his ignition off and on under caution, but



Johnny Sauter proves he is #1 after winning the Jegs 200 at the Monster Mile. (RUSTY JARRETT/NKP photo)

Mile.

The former series champion, who returned to ThorSport this season after a less-than-amicable split with GMS Racing, could hardly contain himself after taking the checkered flag .603 seconds ahead of Moffitt, the reigning series champion, who signed with GMS during the offseason.

"When you get kicked to the curb, you feel like you have a lot to prove," Sauter said in Victory Lane. "I have to thank (owners) Duke and Rhonda Thorson most importantly—a couple months ago I didn't know if I'd be racing.

"To get three in a row here is extra special. I have to thank these guys. I was highly motivated. I shut the motor off earlier today in the race and it wouldn't re-fire and I was like, 'Oh well.' Track position was so important, but experience paid off.

"It's so special. This ranks up there as one of the biggest wins of my career. We've got to keep it going—that's the main goal here,

the engine wouldn't re-fire. Eventually he let the clutch out and the truck started, but Sauter fell to eighth for a restart on Lap 160.

Systematically, he worked his way back through the field, aided by a subsequent caution. He restarted sixth on Lap 166 after an accident that KO'd the No. 2 truck of Sheldon Creed. On Lap 170 Sauter navigated around both Moffitt and third-place finisher Harrison Burton to take the lead.

From that point on, Moffitt pursued Sauter to the finish line.

"It's all about track position, really," Moffitt said. "When we were out front, we could lead and won the first stage, but it was just a lot of traffic cost us track position that we never got back."

ThorSport teammates Grant Enfinger, Matt Crafton and Ben Rhodes finished fourth, fifth and sixth, followed by Austin Hill, Derek Kraus,

Tyler Ankrum and Ross Chastain, who recorded his sixth top 10 in six races this season.



Race winner Christopher Bell's pit crew makes their pit stop count to get Bell out on the track ahead of the competition. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

## Tanner Gray Breaks Through for First Win at South Boston

**SOUTH BOSTON, VA** - Tanner Gray wasn't leaving South Boston without a trophy.

He made sure of it in race No. 1 of the WhosYourDriver.org Twin 100s, as he nudged Bristol winner Sam Mayer out of the way in overtime to win

his first career K&N Pro Series race.

In race No. 2 on the date of his first career series start, Nick Sanchez led the field to green by virtue of his quick lap in race No. 1. He led the first 18 laps after Gray was black flagged for jumping the initial start. Then, unfortunately, the rain came.

And it stayed, forcing the postponement of the remainder of the second WhosYourDriver.org Twin 100 to Sunday.

For Gray, though, getting that initial checkered flag in NASCAR was the thing. The 2018 NHRA Pro Stock Champion has already shown to be a quick study to stock cars and oval tracks.

"It feels really good to get that first win," Gray said, exhausted after the first twin 100. "I tried to screw it up throughout the race the whole time. I just kept getting loose, chasing it up the race track and made some adjustments there under caution before the green/white/checkered."

The overtime finish didn't disappoint, as Gray and eventual second-place finisher Sam Mayer were beating and banging around the entire track.

"We took off and I was hoping I could get a little better jump, hold him tight down there to the bottom," the DGR-Crosley driver said. "But I missed it a little bit. Tried to follow behind him and got into him, and in (Turn) 3 just moved him, got underneath him, side-by-side going on the frontstretch. After that I'm not too sure what happened to him."

Gray had come up just .030 seconds short on March 30 at California's Irwindale Speedway, losing out on a drag race off Turn 4 to Trevor Huddleston. This time, it was Gray who was .32 seconds faster than the runner-up.

Following Gray and Mayer



**Tanner Gray was elated following his WhosYourDriver.org Twin 100 Race No. 1 victory. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)**

across the finish line was another rookie, Max McLaughlin, in third. Spencer Davis and Ruben Garcia Jr. were fourth and fifth, respectively.

Colin Garrett, Travis Milburn, Chase Cabre, Derek Kraus and Hailie Deegan rounded out the top 10.

The field for the second twin 100 was set by fastest lap time per driver in the first 100. That allowed Sanchez, who was 14th in his series' debut, to assume the point alongside — albeit temporarily — Gray.

Twin No. 1 will be broadcast Wednesday, May 8 at 6 p.m. ET on NBCSN. Twin No. 2 will be streamed live on FansChoice.TV on Sunday and air on NBCSN on Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m.

## Patient Derek Kraus Earns Second Rain-Delayed Victory with South Boston Win

**SOUTH BOSTON, VA** - The extra day was worth the wait for Derek Kraus.

After being postponed to Sunday due to rain at South Boston Speedway, the second WhosYourDriver.org Twin 100 belonged to the 17-year-old from Wisconsin.

Kraus took the lead from Max McLaughlin at the halfway juncture and didn't look back, claiming his seventh overall K&N Pro Series checkered flag.

"It was a really good day overall," he said. "Today was. Yesterday

we were pretty good, too, but we ran out of brakes early and kind of had to ride around and manage your day, which we did for those first 100 laps. But these second 100 laps, we got the first 20 laps in and I knew we were pretty good. Really happy with my Bill McAnally crew."

The win was Kraus' second overall in the K&N Pro Series East this season.

His first came in the season opener at Florida's New Smyrna Speedway, a race that was also postponed due to rain.

Chase Cabre came home in second-place for the second time in

the last three races — sandwiching an eighth-place run in the first twin 100 Saturday night. The Rev Racing driver was catching Kraus' No. 16 in the closing stages Sunday, but wound up running out of time.

"Just came up a little bit short" he said. "I think if we had a caution we might have had something. Really drove as hard as I could go there. It was a guessing game when it rains out like that and goes to the next day; not bad, but not what we wanted."

Hattori Racing Enterprises' Max McLaughlin scored his second third-place finish in a row after battling flu-like symptoms the night prior and led a handful of laps. Tanner Gray, winner of Saturday's 100-lapper, finished fourth and Spencer Davis rounded out the top five.

Drew Dollar was sixth, followed by Rev Racing teammates Ruben Garcia Jr. and Nick Sanchez. Garcia's car was piloted by Colin Garrett Sunday after Garcia had to depart for a race commitment in the NASCAR PEAK Mexico Series. Garrett had wrecked out in the first 20 laps Saturday night, leaving him available to fill in for Garcia. Sanchez was on the pole for the second race by virtue of his fast lap Saturday, and was making his series' debut. Travis Milburn and Justin Carroll rounded out the top 10.

Race No. 2 of the WhosYourDriver.org Twin 100s is scheduled to be broadcast on NBCSN Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m.

The next K&N Pro Series East events will take place on Saturday, June 1, at Memphis International Raceway.



**Derek Kraus earned his second victory of the 2019 K&N Pro Series East season on Sunday, May 5 at South Boston Speedway. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)**

# Josh Berry Claims CARS Tour Win After Holding Highest Hand at Ace Speedway

ALTAMAHAW, NC - Despite his involvement in two separate incidents during the night, Josh Berry executed one of the best performances of his career on Friday night at Ace Speedway, win-

ning The Race At Ace 125 for the CARS Late Model Stock Tour. It was Berry's 15th career victory in the series and an emotional one after his car owner, Dale Earnhardt, Jr., lost his mother just over a week prior.

In Hedgecock Pole Qualifying, Ryan Millington rocketed to the fast time award, the first of his CARS Late Model Stock Tour career. The youngster led the opening handful of circuits, but was challenged early on restarts.

Three laps into the race, caution flew for Trevor Ward's smoking car, but at the exact moment the caution was called, Justin Carroll and Layne Riggs made contact, leading to a five-car pileup involving Berry, Tommy Lemons, Taylor Gray, Sammy Smith and Jason York. Although damaged, all drivers except York were able to eventually continue. Carroll brought out the next caution six laps later when a loose wheel eventually separated itself from the car, causing him to spin in turn two.

Bobby McCarty took the lead from Ryan Millington on lap nine and appeared to be in the same form he was one year prior at Ace where he led nearly every lap en route to victory.

On a lap 30 restart, Zack St. Onge apparently missed a shift, a mistake which led the field to fan out and subsequently multiple competitors made contact in the first turn, leading to a multi-car incident where Brandon Pierce impacted the outside wall. Leland Honeyman, Jr., was also involved, ramping his machine over the entire right rear quarterpanel of Josh Berry before also making contact with the concrete which ultimately ended his night.

A slew of additional minor cautions occurred through the middle stages of the race (laps 38, 55, 57, and 89) but Bobby McCarty contin-

ued to set the pace over his closest pursuer, Deac McCaskill, who shadowed the No. 22 for most of the event. Despite his issues early, Josh Berry worked his way up to third and passed McCaskill on lap 76 before chasing down leader McCarty under green.

The caution for Taylor Gray and Mini Tyrrell's encounter on lap 89 set up a pivotal restart for McCarty and Berry within sight of the finish. As the field raced into turn three, Berry eased into McCarty's rear bumper, moved him up the race-track and stole the preferred line as the field raced into turn one. Following additional contact, Berry emerged as the leader and quickly opened up a sizeable advantage of Deac McCaskill who also bypassed McCarty during the same sequence.

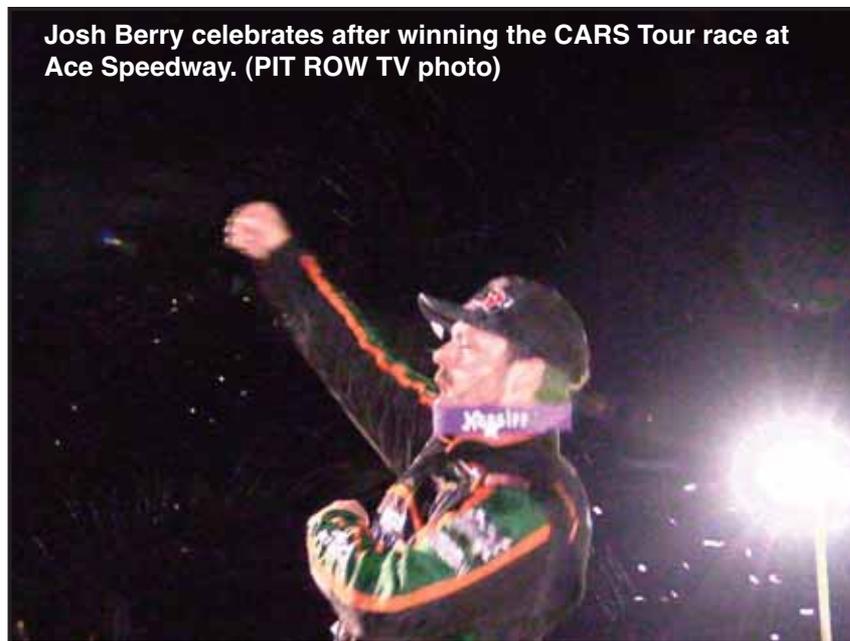
Even a late-race caution for a single-car spin on lap 103 could not slow down Berry. He extended his lead to 2.421 seconds in the final 22 laps and handily beat Ryan Millington, McCaskill, McCarty and his JR Motorsports teammate Adam Lemke to the stripe.

"At the beginning, when we got turned around, that wasn't good," Berry said in Edelbrock Victory Lane. "But, man, I felt calm. I could tell early on we had a good car, we just didn't get a good qualifying lap."

Before climbing out of the car, Berry pointed to the roof of the car where a memorial decal was placed in remembrance of his car owner's late mother, Brenda Jackson, who passed away just over a week prior. He then shared how important she was in his racing career.

"It's obviously been a long week for everyone at JR Motorsports with the passing of Brenda," he said while visibly holding back some emotion. "Willie and Brenda are a large part of why I'm here. Ten years ago when I moved here to drive late models, they let me live at their house for like two months. Without them, and their hospitality doing that, I might not be here today. It's just been a long week for everyone this week. Dale, Kelley, L.W., I know they've been going through a lot so this one's for them.

Josh Berry celebrates after winning the CARS Tour race at Ace Speedway. (PIT ROW TV photo)



"This has been a place we've struggled a little bit, but I don't know, I guess we just figured it out tonight," he continued. "There were a couple little things we were able to work on and make our car better. I think, for me, it had such a feel like Martinsville [last year] where I could get it turned and point it straight to come right off the bottom. It was just a matter of time until we kept picking them off and picking them off. I wanna thank the good Lord above that we didn't get caught up in a lot of trouble when we were back there in the back. We were able to sneak through it, there, and miss the big one on the front stretch because it was a bad situation and I didn't know which way to go."

The win, coupled with misfortune of his closest two point pursuers Taylor Gray and Brandon Pierce, extended Berry's point lead entering race five of the tour at Motor Mile Speedway on May 18. The CARS Super Late Model Tour will also be in action in yet another twin-bill race format, and the tour's first visit to southwestern Virginia since its inaugural season in 2015.

For more information on the CARS Tour, visit their website at [CARSRacingTour.com](http://CARSRacingTour.com), or follow them on Facebook (@CARSTour), Twitter (@CARSTour), Instagram (@cars\_tour), and Snapchat (@carstour). The series also has its own YouTube channel, Roku channel (available through its TV website), and a new Amazon FireTV app released this week.

## Chargers Added to CARS Tour Race Weekend at Carteret County

PELETIER, NC - The Charger division is one of the most popular

in the Eastern North Carolina racing scene, and they will race in primetime alongside the CARS Tour at Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway on Saturday, July 13th.

The Charger division is taking the place of the Legends on the July 13th schedule, the second time the division has run at Carteret County. The race features a unique opportunity for the division as it will be televised live as part of the CARS Tour TV broadcast – increasing the exposure for a division that often produces classic racing.

"These Charger guys have been calling and messaging us all year about racing with us and the Crystal Coast 125 is a perfect weekend to showcase the division," Carteret County Speedway track owner Bob Lowery said. "Neither Southern National or East Carolina is running that night and there is a lot of interest from competitors. This will be a great opportunity for the Chargers and for Carteret County Speedway."

The Charger division will pay \$800-to-win and \$100-to-start and will run on four scuff tires. Additional details about purse and rules will be announced in the upcoming days. The Chargers last raced at Carteret County on July 4, 2018. The race was won by Goldsboro's Jonathan Kornegay.

The Solid Rock Carriers Crystal Coast 125 will be headlined by the CARS Late Model Stock Tour. The Carolina Mini-Stock Challenge will also be in action on Saturday, July 13th.

For more information about Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway, visit the track's official website at [www.carteretspeedway.com](http://www.carteretspeedway.com), "like" Carteret County Speedway on Facebook or follow @carteretcoswy on Twitter.

# Christian Eckes Rebounds with ARCA Win at Nashville

Christian Eckes (No. 15 JBL Audio Toyota) rebounded from two disastrous weeks to win Sunday's rain-delayed ARCA Menards Series General Tire Music City 200 presented by In-spectra Thermal Solutions at Fairgrounds

Speedway Nashville. Eckes took the lead on a restart at lap 81 and led the final 120 laps to earn his first series victory of the season and the fourth of his career.

Eckes led the ARCA Menards Series standings entering the third event of the season at Salem Speedway but was forced to the sidelines with food poisoning on race day. After missing that race, Eckes returned to action at Talladega Superspeedway but was swept into a crash at the race's midway point and he finished last in the 26-car field.

Eckes was visibly relieved in victory lane.

"It's been a really rough couple of weeks," Eckes said. "That was about the longest 80 laps of my life. We pitted early and I figured there would be a caution and there would be one guy with four tires in the pits. But that never happened. We still need to be a little better but we took some strides in the right direction for when we go to Toledo for our next short track race.

"I had a feeling in my stomach that we had a car that could win. I knew it was going to be a good day. We weren't really happy with it yesterday. We were okay with it. We got it closer but it wasn't where we wanted it completely. We got it close enough but we have room to get better."

Ty Gibbs (No. 18 Monster Energy/ORCA Coolers/Terrible Herbst/Advance Auto Parts Toyota) finished second for the second time in his career. He also finished in the runner-up position in his debut at Five Flags Speedway in March. Gibbs had a close call at lap 73 when he and Tommy Vigh, Jr. (No. 10 Extreme Kleaner Ford) came together on the frontstretch. Vigh eventually lost control going into turn one and collected series championship leader Michael Self (No. 25 Sinclair Lubricants Toyota).

"My car was pretty good, we just a little drive off," Gibbs said. "We just needed a little drive off. We had good pit stops and good execution. The lapped cars are supposed to stay on the bottom and he just pulled up in front of me. I tried to get away from him but he was just a slower than I was so it just sucks for him and it sucks for the 25."

Self finished 15th, and dropped to second in the series standings behind eighth-place finisher Travis Braden (No. 27 MatrixCare/Consonus Health Care/Liberty Village Ford).

Chandler Smith (No. 20 Craftsman/828 Logistics Toyota) was third after starting from the General Tire Pole. Smith was fastest in practice and started from the pole when qualifying was washed out by rain.

"He just had better turnability than I did," Smith said.

"We overloaded the right front tire today. They rolled the center better than we did and that's where they got us. We learned some things today that should help us at Toledo."

Carson Hocevar (No. 28 KBR Development/Scott's/GM Parts Now Chevrolet) finished fourth and Bret Holmes (No. 23 Holmes II Excavation/Southern States Bank Chevrolet) rounded out the top five.



**Christian Eckes does his victory burnout after winning the Music City 200 at Nashville's Fairgrounds Speedway. (ARCA photo)**

Smith led the first 47 laps before he lost the top spot on an exchange of pit stops. Corey Heim stayed out and led four laps, the first time he has led an ARCA Menards Series race in his career. Smith retook the lead for the next 29 circuits before Eckes took over at lap 81 to lead the rest of the way.

The race was slowed three times by caution, first at lap 45 for possible fluid on the track, the second at lap 73 for the Vigh/Self incident, and the final time for debris at

lap 122. The average speed was 95.893 miles per hour.

The ARCA Menards Series returns to action Sunday, May 19 in the Sioux Chief PowerPEX 200 at Toledo Speedway. The race will be televised live on MAVTV starting at 2 pm ET and ARCA for Me members can access live timing & scoring, live track updates, and live chat at ARCARacing.com. New users may register for free with a valid email address at ARCARacing.com/login.

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## Lavonia Rescheduled Due to Rain

LAVONIA, GA - Track and Series officials have postponed the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series event at Lavonia Speedway tonight due to a storm system developing over the area with heavy rain and hail expected throughout most of the day and into the evening. The event will now be run on Thursday, Oct. 3.

The Series continues its tour through the Southeast next weekend at the Fayetteville Motor Speedway in Fayetteville, NC on Friday and Saturday, May 10-11 for the First in Flight 100.

## Bailes Beats the Outlaws at Cherokee

GAFFNEY, SC - Eleven races into 2019 and the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series has their first first-time winner of the season. Ross Bailes picked up the win and beat the Outlaws in front of his home-state crowd on Friday night at the Cherokee Speedway.

Brandon Sheppard yet again scored another second-place finish, after starting fifth and chasing Bailes throughout the latter part of the race. Don O'Neal had a solid showing as well, coming from ninth and climbing to third after battling with Chris Madden and Brandon Overton.

It was almost a perfect night for the Clover, SC-native, as he picked up the PFC Brakes Fast Time Award, won his Drydene heat race, redrew the outside pole and led all 50 laps of the Morton Buildings Feature. But it certainly was no cakewalk, as Bailes had the Rocket1 Racing ride of Sheppard knocking on his door for over half of the race.

Sheppard started out steady, passing a car for position here and there before finally making the move around Madden for second on lap 17. It was at that moment Sheppard began to track down the Bailes Construction #87. Several restarts presented opportunities for Sheppard to make the move, but to no avail. Until the final 10 laps...

Bailes said he initially didn't see

the #1 of Sheppard stick his nose underneath. A late restart put Sheppard right on the Barry Wright house car's rear bumper, and despite "The Rocket Shepp's" best efforts, Bailes was able to ride the high line and hold off Sheppard's heavy pressure.

"I had a guy spotting for me and he's the one who told me to move up top," Bailes said. "I thought when he told me to move up, Sheppard was five or six car lengths back, but I guess he was underneath me. I didn't know exactly where he was, but I knew he was closing in on me and I knew just had to hit my marks."

Lapped traffic is usually always something the leaders run into over the course of 50 laps, and tonight was no exception. Early on in the longest wave of traffic the leaders faced, Bailes was moving through swiftly. Sheppard then began to close the gap rapidly, actually trimming Bailes' lead to under one second before the caution came back out. But the real story behind his triumph may have been a collective decision made by the driver and crew before they even hit the race-track.

"We went with a softer tire, I thought it was the right call, my team thought it was the right call," Bailes said. "We got [the harder compound] ready but I never once thought I was going to need it. And I'm glad we did go with the softer tire because it allowed me to get that jump and get out front."

Look back on the season Bailes has had so far through the first three months of the racing season,

and it's not hard to see the giant wave of success Bailes is now riding. Since becoming the face of the Barry Wright Race Cars house ride over the winter, Bailes scored a big win at the 411 Motor Speedway in Seymour, TN back in early April and picked up another win exactly one week ago at the Laurens County Speedway in South Carolina.

It means a lot to Bailes to be able to perform so well so early in the season for his new team, and he feels there should have been even more success at this point with the way things are clicking.

"This is the most confident and comfortable I've felt in a car this early in the year," Bailes said. "We've won three races, but we started up front almost every single race, so I feel like I let a few go that we should have won. But we've just been fast all year."

Don O'Neal bagged another third-place finish with the Outlaws, his fourth top-five of the year. It was a solid, steady run for "The Real Deal," but O'Neal said he was definitely a third-place car tonight, despite the heavy pressure he put on Sheppard and Bailes.

"At first, I thought we were pretty free, and then it got where we weren't bad the longer we ran," O'Neal said. "But we got to third and just sort-of stalled out."

The next race on tap for the Outlaws will take place at the Fayetteville Motor Speedway - a two-day, 100-lap, \$25,000-to-win finale event on May 10-11 that you won't want to miss! Catch all the action live on DIRTVision.



Ross Bailes shows off his \$10,000 winner's check to the hometown crowd at Cherokee Speedway. (BLAKE HARRIS photo)

## Brandeis MSCS Sprints Race into May

HAUBSTADT, IN - It is May! In Indiana that has become a month that race fans have great expectations of watching motor sports. Officials of the Brandeis Midwest Sprint Car Series have been patiently waiting for this season to start.

April's solo MSCS outing was spoiled by wet weather, as was a lot of planned activity at the various tracks racing sprint cars in Indiana. Race teams across the Midwest will be anxious to start or resume the 2019 season.

The Brandeis MSCS Sprints will provide five opportunities to race this month beginning on Saturday May 18th. Then the Brandeis MSCS Sprints will open the season with an appearance at Tri-State Speedway for the MIDWEST MADNESS event. The MOWA Wing Sprints will also be on that racing card along with the UMP Modifieds.

The next weekend is Memorial Day Weekend. The Brandeis MSCS Sprints will be in action three nights in a row. The JOSH BURTON MEMORIAL RACE will be held on Friday May the 24th at the Bloomington Speedway. Saturday May 25th, MSCS will be appearing at the Lincoln Park Speedway in Putnamville, IN. The MEMORIAL WEEKEND CLASSIC will follow on Sunday the 26th with the series returning to Tri-State Speedway. A Friday night appearance at Paragon Speedway on May 31st will wrap up the action for the series in the month of May.

The 2019 Brandeis MSCS race schedule still offers 20 big events. The April 13th rained-out race at Tri-State Speedway was rescheduled and will now be held on June 30th. This rescheduled race is co-sanctioned with USAC. It follows an MSCS appearance at Brownstown Speedway the night before.

The first MSCS race in which the feature pays \$5,000 to win is set for June 8th. That will be the SUMMER SHOWDOWN at Tri-State Speedway. Fans will have a lot of action to take in during the forthcoming weeks. The first four races on the schedule will all pay \$2,500 to win.

# Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series

## Tazewell and Florence Lucas LM Events Postponed to June 28-29

BATAVIA, OH - Due to the likelihood of rain and thunderstorms this weekend, the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series events at Tazewell (TN) Speedway and Florence (KY) Speedway have been postponed.

The Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series will return to Tazewell Speedway on Friday, June 28 for the Toyota Knoxville/Secret City Dodge Jeep/Ted Russell Ford 50. The 33rd Annual Ralph Latham Memorial at Florence Speedway will follow on Saturday, June 29. Both events will remain a complete program of: Miller Welders Time Trials, Heat Races, B-Mains, and a 50-lap, \$12,000-to-win main event.

"We have a lot of competitors and fans who travel and enormous amount of highway miles to attend our events," said Series Director, Rick Schwallie. "We don't want anyone to have the burden of making a long trip for nothing. This gives everyone involved enough notice to change plans and get ready for the rescheduled dates."

Fans who currently have tickets for either event may use them for the rescheduled events on Friday, June 28 at Tazewell Speedway and Satur-

day, June 29 at Florence Speedway. No refunds will be given. For more information, visit: [www.Tazewell-Speedway.com](http://www.Tazewell-Speedway.com) or [www.FlorenceSpeedway.com](http://www.FlorenceSpeedway.com).

For the latest breaking news concerning the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, including the latest series standings, 2019 tour schedule, driver information, and more visit the official website at: [www.lucasdirt.com](http://www.lucasdirt.com).

## Crown Jewel Cup Dates Announced

BATAVIA, OH - The Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series has revealed the dates for the Arizona Sport Shirts Crown Jewel Cup - Presented by DirtonDirt.com for 2019.

The Arizona Sport Shirts Crown Jewel Cup - Presented by DirtonDirt.com offers drivers the opportunity to chase a mini-series within the full Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series schedule.

The Crown Jewel Cup is comprised of events that pay a minimum of \$15,000 to the winner. The driver that maintains perfect attendance throughout the season and earns the most points, within these events, will receive a \$10,000 bonus at the championship awards banquet. The drivers who finish second through fifth in the Crown Jewel Cup will earn \$5,000, \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 in cash, respectively.

Arizona Sport Shirts Crown Jewel Cup - Presented by DirtonDirt.com:

- May 25 - 27th Annual Lucas Oil

- Show-Me 100 - Lucas Oil Speedway
- June 1 - Clash at the Mag - Magnolia Motor Speedway
- June 15 - Big Daddy 60 - Smoky Mountain Speedway
- July 20 - 9th Annual Silver Dollar Nationals - I-80 Speedway
- Aug. 10 - 37th Annual Sunoco North South 100 - Florence Speedway
- Aug. 17 - 27th Annual COMP Cams Topless 100 - Batesville Motor Speedway
- Aug. 24 - 2nd Annual Dirt Million

- Mansfield Motor Speedway
- Sept. 1 - 51st Annual Hillbilly Hundred - Tyler County Speedway
- Sept. 14 - 16th Annual Lucas Oil Late Model Nationals - Knoxville Raceway
- Sept. 21 - 40th Annual Jackson 100 - Brownstown Speedway
- Oct. 5 - 31st Annual Pittsburgher 100 - Pittsburgh's PA Motor Speedway
- Oct. 19 - 39th Annual Rhino Ag Dirt Track World Championship - Portsmouth Raceway Park

# All Star Circuit of Champions

## Persistent Rain Forces Sharon Speedway Cancellation

HARTFORD, OH - Unfortunately, poor weather struck again, this time in Hartford, Ohio.

With 45 Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 sprint cars signed in for competition at Sharon Speedway on Saturday, May 4, Mother Nature made an appearance just after 5 p.m. and never disappeared, ultimately saturating speedway grounds beyond any point of quick recovery; track and Series officials were forced to cancel the evening program.

Tony Stewart's All Star Circuit of Champions will return to Sharon Speedway for Ohio Sprint Speedweek on Tuesday, June 18.

The All Star Circuit of Champi-

ons will have a weekend off before returning to competition on Friday through Sunday, May 17-19, with a three-day sweep through the Badger State, first visiting Wilmot Raceway in Wilmot, Wis., on Friday night, May 17.

Action will resume on Saturday at Plymouth Dirt Track, followed by a stop at Angell Park Speedway.

## All Star Visit to Lernerville Rescheduled for Friday, July 5

SARVER, PA - Despite a desperate attempt to withstand incoming weather, Lernerville Speedway and Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 officials were left with no choice but to cancel action set for Friday, May 3.

A persistent drizzle that eventually turned into a steady downpour just after 7 p.m. left the racing surface heavily saturated.

The event has been rescheduled for Friday, July 5; the night before Sharon Speedway's Lou Blaney Memorial.

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## Brandon Hanks Triumphant in Impact Signs Open Wheel Showdown

WHEATLAND, MO - Making the trip from Burlington, Tennessee to Wheatland, Mo. Brandon Hanks made the miles worthwhile with a late race pass on Seth Bergman to win the 8th annual Impact Signs Open Wheel Showdown with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products and Racinboys.com ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps at Lucas Oil Speedway.

Taking the lead on Lap 3 from Randy Martin, the Corridor Electric No. 23 of Seth Bergman set the pace on the field through Lap 19. Making a small mistake off the second turn that caused Seth to slide up the track, Brandon Hanks, who had moved up from fourth at the drop of the green, capitalized and was able to take over the point.

Able to hold off any challenges through a late race caution, Hanks was able to open his advantage to 2.377 seconds at the drop of the checkered flag. Seth Bergman held onto second with Alex Sewell moving up from eighth to the final podium step. Sean McClelland in fourth was chased to the line by 12th starting, Miles Paulus.

Advancing out of a B-Feature, Austin Alumbaugh made good use of the 30-lap A-Feature to pick up 10 positions. Making an equally impressive run, Kyle Bellm from 17th came up to seventh, but Jonathan Cornell was able to pass the most cars, coming from 19th to eighth. Fred Mattox and Mitchell Moore completed the top ten.

The Racinboys.com ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps races again on Friday, May 10 at U.S. 36 Raceway with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products going green again as well on Friday, May 10 at Creek County Speedway.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the Regional Tours that make up ASCS Nation, log

onto [www.ascsracing.com](http://www.ascsracing.com), follow on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter (@LucasOilASCS).

## ASCS Sooner at Red Dirt Raceway Falls to Rain

MEEKER, OK - With the grounds already saturated and more rain on the way, the call has been made to postpone events for Friday, May 3, 2019, with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products at Red Dirt Raceway.

Terry Mattox Promotions and Red Dirt Raceway management are currently looking for a date to reschedule.

## Rain Claims Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series A-Feature at Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGROVE, PA - With the A-Feature ready to hit the track, Mother Nature threw a slide job on the field at Selinsgrove Speedway, forcing the cancellation of the night's events with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by MAVTV.

All drivers in attendance received 88 show-up points for Saturday night. The next event on the schedule for the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network is I-30 Speedway in Little Rock, Ark. on Saturday, May 11.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the Regional Tours that make up ASCS Nation, log onto [www.ascsracing.com](http://www.ascsracing.com), follow on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter (@LucasOilASCS).

## Rain Wins The Day with Lucas Oil ASCS at Williams Grove Speedway

MECHANICSBURG, PA - Giving every opportunity possible to get the second annual Eleven Oaks Farms Battle of the Groves rolling, the decision has been made to cancel events slated for Friday, May 3 at Williams Grove Speedway with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network.

Watching the weather throughout the day, the forecast has started calling for severe weather conditions, closing any possible window of opportunity to race.

## Four Drivers Selected for NASCAR Drive for Diversity Youth Driver Development Program

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Four talented youth drivers have been selected to hone their racing skills as participants in the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Youth Driver Development Program after a national talent search in March.

NASCAR and Rev Racing hosted a youth driver combine at GoPro Motorplex in Mooresville, N.C., where drivers ages 12 to 16 were evaluated during practice sessions and heat races.

Four drivers were selected to the 2019 class, including Rajah Caruth, 16, an iRacing competitor from Washington D.C., with aspirations of a traditional racing career. Among the new participants are Lacy Kuehl, 12, of Sarasota, Fla., who has experience racing dirt oval flat karts, and Blake Lothian, 16, a World Formula Kart driver from Wellesley, Mass.

Fourteen-year-old U.S. Legends car driver Isabella Robusto of Fort Mill, S.C., returns to Rev Racing having trained with the youth driver development program in 2017 and 2018.

"We were very impressed with what we saw from these drivers at the combine in March," said Jusan Hamilton, NASCAR director, racing operations and event management. "Each driver demonstrated strong potential and we believe will be successful in racing. The four selected stood out based on their abilities both on and off the track, have great experience and left quite the positive impression on our evaluators."

NASCAR Drive for Diversity and Rev Racing seek the highest quality candidates from diverse backgrounds and develop them into successful NASCAR drivers. During the summer, the youth program provides selected drivers with equipment, mentoring and competition experience.

Rev Racing, the competition arm of the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Youth Driver Development Program, will put the four drivers in INEX Legend Cars in 2019. Each driver will compete in the Bojangles' Summer Shootout at Charlotte Motor Speedway in June and July, and several other events throughout the summer.

"We have really taken an in-depth look at how we develop and train our drivers at the youth level," said Max Siegel, CEO of Rev Racing. "We've seen the program grow over the last 10 years

and make a substantial impact in NASCAR. The level of talent and enthusiasm we are already seeing in these young individuals is both promising and exciting. Connecting with drivers as early as possible allows us to have a greater impact on driver development on and off the race track. Our goal is to see these drivers move into the national series."

The youth development program serves as a stepping stone for drivers to eventually move to NASCAR Whelen All-American Series and NASCAR K&N Pro Series race cars with the goal of one day competing for a NASCAR national series team.

The 2019 class features the following drivers:

- Rajah Caruth: In 2018, Caruth raced the Legends '34 Coupe in the inaugural season of the eNASCAR Ignite Series, NASCAR and iRacing's youth series created specifically to identify and attract young and diverse talent. He made 18 starts in the eight-week regular season, where he finished second seven times, made the playoffs and advanced to the championship round. Caruth has raced in more than 230 races on iRacing thus far in 2019 with 21 wins and more than 1,600 laps led.

- Lacy Kuehl: Kuehl has raced in a dirt oval flat kart 32 times with one first-place finish. Notable accomplishments include winning at the Inverness Grand Prix and racing for Diabetic Ketoacidosis survivors. Kuehl would eventually like to earn an invitation to the Maxxis Nationals.

- Blake Lothian: Lothian raced nine of 10 races in a World Formula Kart in the 2018 New Hampshire Karting Association (NHKA) Outdoor Series in New Hampshire. His highest finish was third place and he finished the season seventh out of more than 20 drivers. In 2017, he was the NHKA Briggs and Stratton LO206 Senior Champion with seven first-place finishes and three second-place finishes.

- Isabella Robusto: A current youth development driver, Robusto competed in the 2018 Bojangles Summer Shootout 10-race series where she finished sixth in the overall points standings. She won Battle at the Big Top at Texas Motor Speedway, a U.S. Legends National Qualifier.

## Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - Many Atlanta Motor Speedway fans will be greeted by roomier, more accommodating seating when NASCAR returns to Georgia in 2020.

The Speedway is installing drink rails to selected seats within its Upper Champions Grandstand; adding a convenient surface for fans to place snacks and beverages without

obstructing their view of the action on the Speedway.

Attendees seated in areas with a drink rail will also benefit from increased leg room and storage space for coolers and bags beneath the drink rail.

The seating upgrades are the third improvement to come from Atlanta Motor Speedway's "20 in 20" initiative. All told the Speedway will be announcing 20 individual enhancements to increase fan value and the overall enjoyment of the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 NASCAR weekend on March 13-15, 2020.

Tickets and camping locations for the 2020 Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 weekend at Atlanta Motor Speedway are available now. Call 877-9-AMS-TIX or visit [www.atlantamotorspeedway.com](http://www.atlantamotorspeedway.com) to buy at the best price today.

## Bristol Dragway

BRISTOL, TN - A new and innovative concert venue designed to bring some of music's biggest names to the Tri-Cities is coming to tradition-rich Bristol Dragway.

The legendary dragstrip, which has showcased the world's fastest race cars and iconic drag racers, will now add a new chapter to its legacy when it moonlights as a premier outdoor concert venue known as the Thunder Valley Amphitheatre presented by Ballard Health.

"Legendary Bristol Dragway has long been known for hosting a wide array of events that each bring their own unique audience and flair to the facility," said Jerry Caldwell, executive vice president and general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway & Dragway. "The Thunder Valley Amphitheatre presented by Ballard Health allows us to create a new and one-of-a-kind experience for both guests and artists alike with one of the most beautiful and unique settings in the country.

We're looking forward to welcoming some great performers to the region and showing them true Tri-Cities hospitality."

Tucked between two mountains, the Thunder Valley Amphitheatre presented by Ballard Health will allow both guests and performers to revel under the stars while enjoying one of the most picturesque panoramas in music.

"Ballad Health is honored to have this opportunity to partner with Bristol Motor Speedway & Dragway to bring this exciting new venue to our region," said Alan Levine, executive chairman and chief executive officer of Ballard Health. "There are very few things more famous and more closely identified with this region than Bristol Motor Speedway, and Ballard Health is proud to serve the speedway and dragway, its fans and the thousands of people who visit and experience Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia because of it. We're a growing area, and we have a great future ahead of us – one Ballard Health is proud to support alongside the speedway and dragway."

Concerts at the Thunder Valley Amphitheatre presented by Ballard Health will join a long list of unique and entertainment options this year at Bristol Dragway. In addition to playing host to the NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals on Father's Day weekend, June 14-16, Thunder Valley is home to the Bristol Chevy Show, Beef 'O' Brady's Thunder Valley Mayhem, weekly Street Fights and DER Bracket Racing Series as well as the NHRA Junior Drag Racing League Eastern Conference Finals, among other events.

The Thunder Valley Amphitheatre presented by Ballard Health will officially debut with its first show on Saturday, July 27. The headliner and supporting act for the show will be announced later today, May 6, at a 3 p.m. press conference at Bristol Dragway.

Tickets to shows at the venue will be sold through the Bristol Motor Speedway & Dragway ticket office or online at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

## Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Prior to the historic 60th running of the venerable Coca-Cola 600 on May 26 at Charlotte Motor Speedway, five prominent drivers who are part of the Coca-Cola Racing Family made interactive, educational visits

to regional military bases representing all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The visits – which covered land, sea and air – were part of Mission 600, a collaboration between the speedway and the Department of Defense to give drivers a first-hand look into life in the military to preview the speedway's patriotic pre-race Salute to the Troops.

With Wednesday marking the first day of Military Appreciation Month, below are recaps and quotes as well as photo and video links for each Mission 600 visit. Media are encouraged to use this content as a lead-up to the Coca-Cola 600.

DENNY HAMLIN – Naval Station Norfolk on April 11: Hamlin, the driver of the No. 11 FedEx Toyota Camry, took an interactive tour of the USS San Jacinto, a 567-foot-long guided-missile cruiser – which fired the opening shots of Operation Desert Storm and, more recently, provided support to Hurricane Irma relief efforts last year.

Hamlin also participated in a ship handling trainer simulation, which gave the veteran driver an in-depth education in maneuvering a warship at sea. Additionally, Hamlin took part in a weapon-firing training scenario and launched a simulated Tomahawk cruise missile from the USS San Jacinto's combat information center (CIC), which serves as the tactical command center for long-range strike capability in battle.

"It's amazing how fast things happen here and how well everyone is trained," Hamlin said. "I can't say enough about representing the military at the race track. Seeing the sailors out here who are protecting our country is amazing to see. I got to take the helm and shoot a couple of missiles, which was awesome, but really for me it's about honoring these guys and seeing the work they put in to continue to defend our freedom. This is the ultimate display of teamwork if there ever is one. You see everyone working in sync and they're trained in all sorts of things in case chaos breaks loose. It's great to see the teamwork they put in and it's something the race teams look at and say, 'How can we make ourselves better?' based on what they do here."

The Coca-Cola 600 also serves as the opening for the NASCAR Salutes initiative. In a 600 Miles of Remembrance tribute, every race car's windshield will carry the name of a fallen serviceman or service-

woman. Hamlin's windshield will carry the name of U.S. Navy Ensign Sarah Mitchell, a native of Feasterville-Trevoze, Pennsylvania, and Virginia Tech graduate who was stationed aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) which is also stationed at Naval Station Norfolk. Mitchell passed away in July of 2018.

"It'd mean a lot to me (to win with her name on the car)," Hamlin said. "Obviously, this is a special area for me since I grew up racing in this area. Nothing would make me prouder to represent (Mitchell) and her family than being in Victory Lane at the Coca-Cola 600. That's a big one on my list I'd love to check off. I've finished second there a few times. Getting a win is certainly high on the priority list, but the most important thing is we're out there paying tribute to our military."

RYAN NEWMAN – Fort Bragg on April 17: As a patriotic preview of Charlotte Motor Speedway's Memorial Day weekend Salute to the Troops, Newman visited soldiers at Fort Bragg – the nation's largest military installation featuring more than 50,000 active duty personnel of the U.S. Army.

Additionally, Newman joined Rachel and Jamie Nolen, a Gold Star Family, in unveiling the No. 6 Ford Mustang that Newman will drive in the Coca-Cola 600. As part of NASCAR's 600 Miles of Remembrance program, Newman's car will feature the name of the late Sgt. James Nolen, who passed away in 2009 in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his trip on Wednesday, Newman – outfitted in full infantry gear – took a ride in a RAZOR military vehicle and participated in a parachute packing demonstration before his race car's paint scheme was revealed in a special presentation.

"It's an honor for me to drive a race car that has a fallen soldier's name on it," Newman said. "To have their family at the race track and what Coca-Cola, Charlotte Motor Speedway and NASCAR does, it's such a family-oriented sport to give back in a special way on Memorial Day weekend. To have Sgt. Nolen's name on the windshield is just a small part of what I'll have in the form of an angel riding inside my car on race day.

"The class of soldiers, I've always said, is second to none," Newman said of the Army soldiers

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he met. “The personalities, the character, all the good parts of being a human show up in U.S. Army soldiers. Today showed me that even more. It’s important that we all embrace that and no family does it better than NASCAR.”

**BUBBA WALLACE** – Seymour Johnson Air Force Base on April 23: Coca-Cola Racing Family driver Bubba

Wallace, the driver of the No. 43 Air Force Chevrolet for Richard Petty Motorsports, visited Seymour Johnson Air Force Base to meet with airmen and take an orientation flight code-named “Joust 43” aboard an F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jet.

“It was an awesome day,” Wallace said. “I enjoy coming to Seymour Johnson and just being a part of the organization, obviously Richard Petty Motorsports with its partnership with the Air Force is great. Being able to go up in the fighter jet, whenever they ask me if I want to keep going up I’m going to say ‘Yes,’ because there’s no cooler thing to do. We were going 500 miles per hour – just a little bit faster than what we do. You get to take in the world that we live in from a different perspective. Having the freedoms that we do, it ties back in to why our military is so important and why our sport supports the military.”

Hosted by the 4th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, the Air Force-sponsored Richard Petty Motorsports driver received emergency egress and parachute training as well as cockpit familiarization before he arrived at the 333rd Fighter Squadron – whose pilots are known as the “Lancers” – for pre-flight briefing. Following his training, Wallace took to the air with fighter pilot Capt. John “Wraith” Tilton for a 90-minute flight spanning from the Appalachian Mountains to the Outer Banks.

“This flight kicked my butt,” Wallace added. “Just to be here and take everything in, you always heard people getting deployed when we were growing up and there’s so much more to it than that. I can’t think these airmen enough and the brave men and women who fight for our country.”

**KYLE LARSON** – Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island on

April 29: Kyle Larson and members of his No. 42 Chip Ganassi Racing pit crew joined FOX NASCAR studio host Shannon Spake for a comprehensive look at life as a Marine recruit at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island – which has trained Marines since 1915. Larson’s experience included descending a five-story rappel tower, taking on an assault course and standing at attention at the iconic yellow footsteps amid orders from a drill instructor.

“Everything was very new to me and a really cool experience,” Larson said. “A good friend of mine from high school is a drill instructor in California, so it was neat to see what he gets to do every day. Going down the (rappel) wall was awesome. I tried to do it as quick as I could before I got nervous. The whole experience was cool. Seeing the respect everyone has here for one another – they’re a whole big team, similar to us. I can’t say thanks enough for what they do for Americans as well as for showing us such great hospitality.”

Larson also learned the story of Marine Sgt. Jeanette Winters, who attended Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island for recruit training in 1997. Sgt. Winters perished on Jan. 9, 2002, in a plane crash in Pakistan. She became the first female member of the U.S. military to be killed in the War on Terror. As part of the 600 Miles of Remembrance program, Larson’s car will carry Sgt. Winters’ name on its windshield during the Coca-Cola 600.

“The Coca-Cola 600 is an event that we all look forward to in part because we get to honor our military,” Larson said. “Being able to honor Sgt. Jeanette Winters is going to be really special. After coming here and getting to see what she went through in becoming a Marine, having her name on our car in the 600 will be very special.”

**AUSTIN DILLON** – Coast Guard Station Wrightsville Beach on April 30: Coast Guard members hosted Austin Dillon and members of the No. 3 Richard Childress Racing crew for a search-and-rescue training scenario aboard a 45-foot RBM (Response Boat – Medium), answering a distress call and learning the intricacies of rescue rope exercises.

“It was awesome,” Dillon said of his first Coast Guard visit. “Those boats are unbelievable machines. It’s like driving a big jet ski. We had a blast just seeing how smooth they are and listening to how the guys go through everything, they’re

very good at what they do.

“I’m jealous that they get to whip around out there on those boats to save lives. It’s a very cool experience to see all the hard work they put into taking over these jobs. I really thank them for their service.”

Dillon has sampled life in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Coast Guard in his first two Mission 600 visits, both of which gave the Welcome, North Carolina, native a new perspective in his appreciation for the military. As part of the 600 Miles of Remembrance program, Dillon will carry the name of a fallen member of the U.S. Armed Forces on his race car’s windshield during the Coca-Cola 600.

“It’s very special,” Dillon said. “I feel like our fallen soldiers ride along with us. Their families become a part of our racing family. The Coca-Cola 600 and Memorial Day weekend is probably my favorite weekend of the year. When we have the flyovers and everything that goes into that race, the preview of it is fun for us to watch and see the military represented so well.”

Through the speedway’s “Patriot Partners” program, race fans or corporate customers can buy a ticket for a member of the U.S. Armed Forces for just \$25. Tickets will be distributed to active-duty personnel and their families through the USO.

Prior to the green flag, ticketholders to the Coca-Cola 600 can also enjoy a FREE pre-race concert featuring Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees Cheap Trick.

As part of the salute to the military, race fans are encouraged to use the hashtag #KnowYourMil.

**TICKETS:** Coca-Cola 600 tickets for adults start at just \$49 while kids 13 and under get in for \$10. Tickets, camping and upgrades for every event are available at the gates, by visiting [charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets](http://charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets) or calling 1-800-455-FANS (3267).

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

## Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Charlotte Motor Speedway is set to host its two biggest races of the year... and they’re going to do it with “Flair!” Eight-time WWE Women’s Cham-

pion Charlotte Flair – a native of Charlotte, North Carolina – will assume honorary pace car driver duties for the Coca-Cola 600 on May 26.

The WWE royalty will lead a field of NASCAR stars including Kyle Busch, Chase Elliott, Joey Logano and more before the green flag drops on the iconic event.

Flair has won more women’s titles than any superstar in WWE history and is the daughter of 16-time world champion Ric Flair. Flair also became the first female superstar in WWE history to main event a singles match on Raw, SmackDown LIVE and a pay-per-view.

FOX will carry the Coca-Cola 600. Additionally, FOX will become the new broadcast home for WWE SmackDown LIVE starting Friday, Oct. 4. Fox Sports 1 will also be the new home of a Tuesday-night WWE studio show which will cover all the happenings in the WWE universe.

Prior to the green flag, Coca-Cola 600 ticketholders can also enjoy a FREE pre-race concert featuring Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees Cheap Trick.

## Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Race fans hoping to drive in the tire tracks of Kyle Busch, Chase Elliott and more of NASCAR’s biggest stars will get their chance May 23-25 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Prior to the 60th running of the Coca Cola 600 on May 26, NASCAR Racing Experience will offer ride-alongs and driving opportunities in the same stock cars that tear up the pavement every Sunday – providing fans with a thrill ride like no other heading into a spectacular weekend of action at America’s Home for Racing.

“What better way to immerse the fans in the sport than to offer them the chance to drive a real NASCAR race car before they watch the NASCAR race?” said Kurt Weinhart, the chief revenue officer of NASCAR Racing Experience.

NASCAR Racing Experience Race Day Rides are on sale for \$135.99 on May 23-25. Fans can drive a NASCAR race car starting at \$299.99. Limited space is available for Race Day Rides and Drives during the race weekend. Reservations are recommended and can be made at [www.NASCARRacingExperience.com/CMS](http://www.NASCARRacingExperience.com/CMS) or by calling 704-886-2400.

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NASCAR Racing Experience is the leading experiential racing company in North America, offering the most realistic racing programs available to motorsports fans nationwide. There's no lead car to follow and drivers race without an instructor alongside. The drivers compete in real NASCAR race cars driven by NASCAR drivers including Jeff Gordon,

Jimmie Johnson, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Tony Stewart and Michael Waltrip, among others.

Reservations can be made at [www.NASCARRacingExperience.com](http://www.NASCARRacingExperience.com). Gift Cards are available for any amount and never expire. The customer service department is available seven days a week. NASCAR Racing Experience programs are conducted at 16 race tracks across the United States, and offer a vast array of corporate outings and motorsports-themed events. For more information call 704-886-2400 or visit [www.NASCARRacingExperience.com](http://www.NASCARRacingExperience.com).

## Daytona International Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Warner Music Nashville recording artist Michael Ray, who was born in nearby Eustis, is coming home to Daytona International Speedway for the Independence Day holiday weekend to entertain NASCAR fans with a pre-race concert on Saturday, July 6 prior to the 61st annual Coke Zero Sugar 400, a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series event.

Michael Ray was a hit right out of the box, scoring both with critics and on the charts. His live shows have been lauded by USA Today and have led to performances on Good Morning America, ELLEN, Live with Kelly and Ryan, Jimmy Kimmel Live! and more since his 2015 self-titled debut album debuted with two No. 1 hits out of the box, "Kiss You in the Morning" and "Think a Little Less." His sophomore album, Amos, debuted in the Top 3 on the Billboard Country Charts upon release and has already spawned the hit "Get to You" and third No. 1 smash single "One That Got Away."

"Our annual July 4th holiday celebration just got even bigger with the addition of a pre-race performance by Michael Ray – one of the rising stars of country music and a Central Florida native," Daytona International Speedway President Chip Wile said. "We're proud to welcome him back home. It's going to be a great concert and a perfect complement to the always-thrilling Coke Zero Sugar 400."

A limited quantity of VIP ticket packages are available, providing fans with special access to Ray's pre-race concert that will be staged along pit road as well as a special question and answer session. VIP Pit packages start at \$139 and include:

- A reserved ticket for the Coke Zero Sugar 400
- Question and answer session with Ray in a Midway suite
- Pre-Race/UNOH Fanzone access
- Admission to the VIP viewing area in front of the stage for the pre-race concert

Fans who have already purchased Coke Zero Sugar 400 tickets can upgrade their experience to the VIP Pit package for \$85.

Tickets for the Coke Zero Sugar 400, Friday night's Circle K Firecracker 250 Powered by Coca-Cola NASCAR Xfinity Series race and all Daytona International Speedway events can be purchased online at [www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com](http://www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com) or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP. Fans can stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and Snapchat, and by downloading Daytona International Speedway's mobile app, for the latest Speedway news.

## Sonoma Raceway

SONOMA, CA - Race fans are invited to join a celebration of Sonoma Raceway's 50th anniversary with three NASCAR legends during the Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Sonoma Raceway on Sunday, June 23.

Ernie Irvan, Richard Childress and Hershel McGriff will be the featured guests during the pre-race Legends Chat, which will serve as the centerpiece of the Pre-Race Show Powered by Friedman's Home Improvement just hours before the green flag falls on the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series main event in Sonoma.

Irvan, Childress and McGriff have each left indelible legacies in NASCAR and at Sonoma Race-

way:

• Ernie Irvan: A two-time Daytona winner, Irvan earned two Sonoma victories, including one of the road course's most memorable. In 1992, he won the Save Mart Supermarkets 300 after being black-flagged for crossing the starting line ahead of pole winner Ricky Rudd. He came back to pass 41 cars to take the checkered flag. Just two years later, Irvan became the first two-time winner of a NASCAR Cup event in Sonoma. Irvan was inducted into the raceway's Wall of Fame in 2016.

• Richard Childress: Richard Childress Racing (RCR) also celebrates its golden anniversary in 2019. RCR has accumulated 15 championships and more than 200 victories across NASCAR's top three series, including three Daytona 500 wins. The NASCAR Hall of Famer has two Sonoma victories, including Dale Earnhardt's only Cup Series road-course win in 1995.

• Hershel McGriff: McGriff competed in the 1969 Sta-Power 150 Pacific Coast Late Model Division race during Sonoma's inaugural season. He'd go on to make 31 starts in Sonoma in the Cup Series (5), Southwest Tour (6) and West Series (20); garnering three wins. In 2018, McGriff became the oldest racer to compete in a NASCAR-sanctioned event when he drove in the K&N Pro Series West event at Tucson Speedway at the age of 90.

The best way to secure stage-front access for this special celebration is to purchase the raceway's NASCAR Total Access pass. This package includes the Q&A session with NASCAR legends, as well as a Sunday reserved seat, NASCAR Drivers' Meeting access, Pre-Race Pass for driver introductions and festivities, plus a FanVision unit for as little as \$149; a savings of 20%. For fans who have already purchased their NASCAR tickets, the Pre-Race Pass can be added for \$75 each.

As an additional element of its 50th anniversary celebration, Sonoma Raceway will return to its historic 12-turn, 2.52-mile road-course layout for the Toyota/Save Mart 350 NASCAR weekend. The full track layout, which was originally unveiled when the raceway opened in 1968, incorporates the raceway's signature sweeping downhill corner known as

"The Carousel."

The Pre-Race Show Powered by Friedman's Home Improvement will also feature the popular Patriots Jet Team six-jet air show, an aerial stunt performance by Brad Wursten, skydivers, driver introductions and a dynamic anthem fly-over by F-15s from the Oregon National Guard. The Total Access pass also includes exclusive access to the NASCAR Drivers' Meeting, which will be held on Turn 11 of the road course prior to the Legends Chat.

For more information or to purchase your tickets today, call 800-870-7223 or visit [www.sonoma-raceway.com/nascar](http://www.sonoma-raceway.com/nascar).

## Sonoma Raceway

SONOMA, CA - Sonoma Raceway and The Save Mart Companies have teamed up once again to offer Northern California race fans the lowest-price adult tickets and free kids tickets for the Toyota/Save Mart 350 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, June 23.

For the ninth consecutive year, Sonoma Raceway and the family-owned supermarket chain will offer fans a Sunday reserved-seat ticket at one of the most exciting races on the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series schedule for just \$45. In addition, tickets for kids' 12 and under are free with the purchase of an adult ticket only at Save Mart, Lucky California and Lucky Supermarkets. The reserved seats are located in the Turn 9 Terrace, known for providing some of the best views of racing on the road course.

NASCAR fans won't want to miss the return to Sonoma's original 12-turn road course as part of the raceway's 50th anniversary celebration. This marks the first time NASCAR will tackle the original 2.52-mile road course in over 20 years, and none of the current NASCAR drivers have ever driven this layout in a Cup car.

The Save Mart Companies continues its commitment to NASCAR fans by offering the lowest price Toyota/Save Mart 350 race tickets.



### 411 Motor Speedway

SEYMOUR, TN - There's one thing for certain, none of us can control the weather. However, sometimes you can outrun Mother Nature and that's exactly what occurred Saturday at 411 Motor Speedway.

With rain falling all around the East Tennessee region, track owner Mitch McCarter and officials knew if they expedited running of the racing program, there was a brief window (opening) that should allow time to complete the show before rain was forecast to move back in around 9 p.m. Consider it D-O-N-E, with the officials keeping activities quickly moving and the final checkered flag waving at 8:34 p.m.

Ryan King of Seymour captured the \$1,200 Steel Head Late Model "Spring Shootout" victory, while Clyde Stanton of Knoxville recorded the Sportsman Late Model win.

Ryan Watson of Sevierville captured the Modified Street victory, while Lee Merritt of Knoxville recorded the Classic win. Josh Henry of Newport got the Street Stock victory, and Christopher Lewis of Lenoir City won the Front Wheel Drive feature.

Jordan Rodabaugh set fast-time in Steel Head Late Model qualifying at 14.540 seconds. Rodabaugh grabbed the lead on the start over Mack McCarter, Ryan King, Chase King and Matt Henderson, with David Crabtree and Layne Clifton closely following.

Ryan King, the 2014 Crate Late Model champion at 411 Motor Speedway is now competing full-time touring the country with the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, and he was quickest in LOLMDS qualifying back the first weekend in April when the series made it's first-ever visit to Tennessee's Action Track.

Ryan King got up on the wheel to get around both McCarter and Radabaugh to take the lead. Halfway in the race on lap 15, Radabaugh and McCarter tangled to bring out the caution.

Back under green to the finish, Ryan King showed the way out front in winning over McCarter, Crabtree, Chase King and Rodabaugh.

The "Mule Hollow Missile" Clyde



**Ryan King is all smiles after winning the Steel Head Late Model "Spring Shootout" race at 411 Motor Speedway. (TODD REINERIO photo)**

Stanton was fastest in Sportsman Late Model qualifying and he backed his speed up during the feature. Stanton grabbed the lead at the start and never looked back en route to capturing his third win of the season over Adam Mitchell, David Miley, Jed Emert and Jake Whitehead.

Lee Merritt, Mac Lockhart and Adam Engel paced the field throughout the 20-lap Classic feature. Lockhart gave it his best effort trying to pass Merritt on the final lap racing off the fourth turn, but he spun as Merritt went on to record his fifth win of the season. Merritt was chased to the checkered flag by Engel, Richie Overholser, Michael Millsap and Eli Keck.

Josh Henry, Josh Driskill and Steve Owens battled up front throughout the Street Stock feature before Driskill dropped out a lap from the finish. Henry captured his second win of the season over Owens, Brandon Johnson, Driskill and Caleb Byrd.

Ryan Watson recorded the Modified Street victory, while Christopher Lewis won the Front Wheel Drive

### Carteret County Speedway

PELETIER, NC - Penalties have been levied by Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway to members of two race teams following an on-track altercation at the conclusion of the Legends feature in Saturday's Clash at the Coast.

On the final lap of the race, Brian Sullivan and Emily Day ended up in an accident while battling for the win. After the incident, and while the track was still hot, parties affiliated with both teams entered the

racing surface and were involved in a confrontation.

As a result of the on-track confrontation, the following penalties have been issued:

No. 18 Team:

- Caleb Day has been suspended for the next two (2) Carteret County Speedway races for disorderly conduct. He is barred from entering the pits and from working as a member for any race team during these two races. Caleb Day has also been fined \$250 and placed on probation through December 31st.

- Jesse Day has been placed on probation through December 31st for entering a hot track.

- Emily Day has been placed on probation through December 31st for failure to control team.

No. 1 Team:

- Brian Sullivan has been fined \$250 and placed on probation

through December 31st for disorderly conduct.

Carteret County Speedway has notified both teams of their penalties.

"It is unfortunate that we have to issue penalties, but we're sending a message that we are not going to tolerate fighting or disorderly conduct," track owner Bob Lowery said. "We will also have a zero-tolerance policy about participants entering the track while it is deemed hot by our officials moving forward. We have talked with both parties and they understand and accept responsibility for their actions. Carteret County Speedway is family-friendly venue and we expect our competitors to act as role models for younger fans to look up to."

Drivers Emily Day and Brian Sullivan will be eligible to compete in the Short Track Shootout at Carteret County Speedway on Saturday, May 11th. The race will pay \$2,500-to-win in the Legends division.

For more information about Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway, visit the track's official website at [www.carteretspeedway.com](http://www.carteretspeedway.com), "like" Carteret County Speedway on Facebook or follow @carteretcoswy on Twitter..

### Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - Saturday night's Stock Car Shootout presented by Winner's Circle Feedyards and Factory Direct Fireworks atop the 3/8-mile Dodge City Raceway Park clay oval lived up to its moniker with Hill City's Kyle Pfeifer battling past Jason Rogers in the closing rounds of the 25-lapper to pocket the \$1,000 winner's share for IMCA Stock Cars.

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**Kyle Pfeifer and friends pose in Dodge City Raceway Park's victory lane after winning the 25-lap IMCA Stock Car race. (DCRP photo)**

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topped the Stock Car Shootout, other Saturday night winners included Steve Richardson in Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars, Clay Money in IMCA Modifieds, Travis Burger in IMCA Sport Modifieds and Tathan Burkhart in IMCA Hobby Stocks.

Pfeifer had his work cut out for him the in the 25-lap Stock Car Shootout, gridding

the feature field 12th Tyler Walker and Mark Zorn led the way to the green flag.

Walker gunned into the early lead and paced the initial eight circuits before surrendering the point to eighth-starter Jason Rogers.

Rogers was busy fending off Angel Munoz over the ensuing circuits while Pfeifer making his into the top five by the midway point.

Working the top side of the track, Pfeifer made his way to second by the 17th round and then began pressuring Rogers for the lead. After battling side-by-side for several circuits, Pfeifer surged ahead on the 23rd lap and paced the final three circuits to secure the win.

After leading more than half the race, Rogers settled for second with Munoz filling out the podium in third. Mike Petersilie crossed the stripe fourth after starting tenth with Will Bauer rounding out the top five.

In the Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars, defending track champion Steven Richardson led all but the first round in the 20-lapper to become the third different winner of the season in as many rounds.

Starting from the front row outside, the Liberal racer chased opening night winner Steven Richardson for the first lap before racing by on the top side of the track.

Richardson rode the rim flawlessly the rest of the way to secure the win aboard the Poor Boy Kustomz No. 0 Sprint Car. Cranston tried to reel Richardson back in just past the midway point but was unable to fully eliminate the gap.

Cranston settled for second with Ty Williams in third. Kris Moore cracked the top five on the eighth round and took command of fourth for keeps on the 11th lap. Koby Walters outlasted Alexander Ort to round out the top five.

The feature was marred by a

wild opening lap crash exiting turn two that eliminated a handful of cars. Colorado's Buddy Tubbs was transported to a local hospital with undisclosed injuries.

Penokee's Clay Money became the first repeat winner in the IMCA Modified ranks by making a late move into the lead and then holding off a charging Daniel Gottschalk and Clay Sellard to top the 20-lapper.

While Money worked his way forward from the eighth starting position, Brandon Conkwright paced the initial 14 rounds from the pole position.

Money needed just seven laps to climb to third and then took second away from Jake Schroeder on the tenth. And when Conkwright ran afoul of a pair of lapped cars on the 16th round, Money was there to cash in on the opportunity by racing into the lead.

A caution with just four laps to go put Conkwright and Sellard on Money's rear bumper. Sellard slipped around Conkwright while Gottschalk worked the high side to race past both of them only to fall just short of Money at the line. Gottschalk's charge was a rebound from an early race incident that sent him to the tail of the field.

Sellard settled for third with Conkwright and Schroeder rounding out the top five.

Manhattan's Travis Burger left little doubt about his first career IMCA Sport Modified feature win, gunning into the lead on the opening lap and leading all 20 rounds in convincing fashion.

While Burger streaked away from the pack, defending track champion Jeff Kaup made his way past Brian May for second on the eighth lap. By that time though, Burger had opened up nearly straightaway worth of real estate between himself and Kaup.

Kaup closed to within eight car length but ran out of laps to chase down the fleet Burger. Kaup and May rounded out the podium in second and third, respectively, with Dakota Sproul in fourth after winning the first two rounds of championship chase action. Luke Stallbaumer rounded out the top five.

Hays' Tathan Burkhart reeled off his second IMCA Hobby Stock feature win in as many 2019 tries by leading the final 13 rounds of the 15-lapper.

Burkhart battled past Devon Ghumm for the point on the third round and cruised the rest of the way to the checkered flag with Ghumm holding off Cody Ghumm for runner-up honors. B.J. Rogers

was fourth with Sheri Berger rounding out the top five.

The 1/7-mile Little DCRP clay oval will be unveiled on Sunday, May 5, with a full slate of Micro Sprint Cars and Karts while the 3/8-mile Dodge City Raceway Park resumes action on Saturday, May 18, with URSS vs. DCRP Sprint Cars along with IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars and IMCA Hobby Stocks.

## Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - With the first set of Little DCRP heat races in the books, the balance of Sunday's inaugural event atop the newly-constructed 1/7-mile clay oval was cut short by threatening weather.

With track prep under way for the qualifying races for the 56 Micro Sprints and Karts on hand, tornadic activity to the west of the track and approaching severe thunderstorms forced the cancellation of the balance of the card.

Pit passes will be good for the next Little DCRP event on Sunday, May 19, or any ensuing Little DCRP event.

The complete slate of 2019 events at DCRP is available at <https://www.dodgecityraceway.com/schedule/>.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dodge City located at 201 4th Avenue is the official lodging partner of Dodge City Raceway Park. Race fans staying at the Holiday Inn & Suites Dodge City will want to request the special DCRP rate for their visit when making reservations. Contact the Holiday Inn Express at 620-225-1000.

Dodge City Raceway Park is located on the south edge of Dodge City, KS, on US 283, then 0.9 miles west on US 56, then 0.1 miles south. For more information, con-

tact the track at 620-225-3277 or check [www.dodgecityraceway.com](http://www.dodgecityraceway.com).

## Hickory Motor Speedway

NEWTON, NC - Beautiful weather returned to the Catawba Valley on Saturday to welcome back the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series to America's Most Famous Short Track, Hickory Motor Speedway for the running the Law Offices of Lyndon R. Helton Night at the Races.

Leading of the night's festivities would be the exciting Hickory Vintage Racers for 25 laps of nostalgic action. First race winner Tim Gilbert in the #95 would grab the pole position in qualifying with the elder statesman of the series, 83 year old Bill Webb in the #16 starting to his outside. Tim Gilbert and Bill Webb would enter turn one side by side on lap one but Tim Gilbert would nose ahead down the backstretch. Eddie Gilbert in the #00 would start shotgun on the field but work his way up to the top three by lap ten. The front three would set a torrid pace as they counted down the laps. Tim Gilbert would cross the finish line first and take home the win with Bill Webb finishing 2nd. Eddie Gilbert would finish 3rd, Dennis Hinkle in the #90 would finish 4th, and Bill Powell in the #71 would finish 5th.

The Carolina Custom Golf Cart Super Trucks would hit the track next for 35 laps of door to door racing excitement. 2018 HMS Champion Allen Huffman in the #51 would grab the pole position with Joey Shuryan in the #30 taking the green flag to his outside. Points leader Charlie Neill in the #26 would roll off third with former champion Clint Fields in the #16 to

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Kevin Leicht (25) outbattles Travis Swaim (21) to the checkered flag at Hickory Motor Speedway. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)

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his outside starting fourth. Huffman and Shuryan would battle side by side on the first lap with Neill pressuring the pair from the rear. Contact would send Shuryan spinning and restart the race. Huffman and Neill would make up the front row for the restart and have a furious side by side battle for the first five laps or so. Huffman would nose ahead with Neill

all over his bumper pressuring for the lead. Lap 18 would see Neill's engine let go and the #70 of Travis Baitty would spin as a result. The restart would have Huffman and Fields making up the front row. The front pair would battle side by side until Huffman would encounter speedy dry from the track cleanup and spin in turn 4 bringing out the caution once again on lap 19. Fields would move to the point side by side with Shuryan on the front row for the restart. Fields would nose ahead with Shuryan close behind. Huffman would move around Shuryan for second and give chase for the lead. Debris on the track would bring out the caution on lap 29. Fields and Huffman would make up the front row for the final restart. Fields would nose ahead with Huffman tucking in close behind. Fields would hold on for the final 6 laps and bring home the win. Huffman would finish 2nd and Shuryan bouncing back to come home 3rd. Joe Simpson in the #86 would finish 4th and Dennis Trivette would take home 5th.

Next up would be the Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models for 50 laps in round 3 of the Paramount Kia 'Big 10' Challenge. Gage Painter in the #12 would pace qualifying and take the top starting spot with Mitch Walker in the #43 on the outside of row one. Josh Kossek in the #44 and Cody DeMarmels in the #18 would make up row two. Painter would jump out to the early lead while the battle for second would be a furious three car affair with Walker, Kossek, and DeMarmels. Walker would finally win that battle and nose ahead of the battle for third with Kossek and DeMarmels side by side. DeMarmels would squeak by and settle into Walker's tire tracks as they would both give chase to the leader. Painter would set a furious pace out front and hope for no cau-

tions. Painter would hang on for another HMS win. Walker would finish 2nd and DeMarmels would finish 3rd. Akinori Ogata in the #14 would finish 4th and Kossek would finish 5th.

20 laps would be in store for the Renegades as they would hit the track next. Rookie competitor Spencer Dickinson in the #6 would grab the top spot in qualifying and start from the pole position with the #7 of Brian Larkin starting to his outside. Dickinson would battle Larkin side by side through turns one and two until Dickinson would nose ahead going into turn three. As Dickinson would stretch the lead the battle would rage behind him. The #40 of Justin Austin would start from the rear but make his way to second around midpoint of the race. Dickinson's lead would prove insurmountable as he would take the checkers and visit victory lane for the first time in his rookie season. Austin would have to settle for 2nd with the #97 of Danny Crump Jr. finishing 3rd. Robbie Hollifield in the #51 would finish 4th and the #95 of Rodney Elkins would come home in 5th.

The Late Models would thunder to life next for their 80 lap slugfest. Mike Darne in the #6 would dip into the 14 second range during qualifying to grab the top spot as would the #21 of Travis Swaim who would start outside of row one. Brody Pope in the #1 and Kevin Leicht in the #25 would make up row two for the initial start. The green flag would see Darne and Swaim battle door to door for the first couple laps until Swaim would push the high groove just enough and nose into the lead. Lap 9 would see Darne move back around Swaim to retake the lead. Charlie Watson in the #9 would move from his eighth starting position all the way to third at lap 20. Leicht would move up to second and give Darne a handful as he would look to challenge for the lead. Lap 41 would see Leicht make the pass and move around Darne for the lead. The lead duo would battle furiously and once again swap the lead on lap 53 with Darne nosing back ahead. As the front pair battled Swaim would quietly move back onto their bumpers making it a three car battle for the lead. Lap 68 would see Leicht move under Darne for the lead and Swaim following to take second. Leicht, Swaim, and Darne would spend the final five laps sideways off every corner trying to get a grip with the worn out tires but they would never get into each other. Coming off turn four on the final lap

would see a sideways Swaim look under the leader but not have enough grip to make the pass as Leicht would take the checkered flag for the win. Swaim would finish 2nd and Darne would take 3rd. Watson would finish 4th and Pope would round out the top five in 5th.

Closing out the evening of racing would be the Street Stocks and their 30 lap feature. Mark Whitten in the #77 would take pole position in qualifying with Jonathon Smith in the #16 starting to his outside. Whitten would take the early lead. Smith would come roaring back to take the lead away from Whitten on lap two. Drew Cox in the #21 would start sixth but move to second on lap seven and start working his way towards the leader, Smith. Whitten, Kevin Eby in the #03, and Jesse Clark in the #5 would have a spirited battle for third. Eby would take spot with Whitten moving to fourth. Cox would move to within a couple of car lengths with three laps to go when Smith would suddenly slow and pull to the pits. Cox would drive on to the win. Eby would finish 2nd and Whitten would take 3rd. Clark would get 4th and Derek Fowler in the #31 would finish 5th.

The NASCAR Whelen All-American Series returns to action in two weeks with the running of the 321 Lawnmower Night at the Races.

For more information check us out at [www.hickorymotorspeedway.com](http://www.hickorymotorspeedway.com), Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Or you can give us a call at 828-464-3655.

## Mountain Creek Speedway

CATAWBA, NC - As part of NASCAR Speedweeks in Charlotte for the second consecutive year, Mountain Creek Speedway is promoting the Clash at the Creek for mini-outlaw karts. The Clash at the Creek is a major, big-money event at the facility just outside of Mooresville from May 18-19. The event features a \$2000-to-win purse for open cars, a guaranteed \$150 to feature starters, with \$500 on the line to win the intermediate feature and a live TV broadcast for viewers across the globe.

Mountain Creek Speedway recently completed its first full season hosting outlaw karts with improved car counts and competition each week. Promoter Adam Stewart is optimistic for this year's Clash after a packed house turned out for last year's event.

"We were blown away at the response last year," Stewart said. "People from all across the industry and the region came to see who would claim the trophy and the

check for the Inaugural Clash at the Creek. This year, we've worked on speeding up the show and have even made some adjustments to the track based off of input from racers, specifically outlaw kart enthusiast and NASCAR star Kyle Larson who raced with us last year."

The Clash at the Creek will feature preliminary events for beginners and box stock teams on Saturday morning with the opportunity to practice for intermediate and open drivers. Sunday's schedule is feature-contest oriented with practice and qualifications for opens and intermediates along with heats, consolation races and features also on the docket. The race's format will use traditional time trials and heats with the top racers from each qualifying heat advancing to Monday night's feature. Beginner and Box Stock features will also be contested on Sunday.

"With all the racers in town for other events, we are working to continue to build this week up for racers from all disciplines, outlaw kart racing included," Stewart commented. "For outlaw kart racers, they have the opportunity to win nearly eight grand in the course of a week in this region. That's almost unheard of. Most likely, racers questioning the adventure will be making the trek to Charlotte to compete for a week, making this a must-see and must-do week for fans of this style of racing."

To showcase the event for the second consecutive year, Pit Row TV will be broadcasting Sunday's racing in a live, multi-camera production available through their website at [www.pitrow.tv](http://www.pitrow.tv). Pit Row TV is the production group behind popular events such as the CARS Tour late model series, LegendNation TV and their Legend Car productions, plus karting events like King of the Concrete and Thanksgiving Thunder.

Online entries are now being taken for the event where racers can register and pay for their entry fees with a credit card, or traditionally-mailed entries will also be accepted. A discount is offered to open division racers who pre-enter on or before May 12, a savings over the regular \$75 entry fee. Additionally, pre-entered drivers will be permitted to practice on the Saturday prior to the event with no additional cost.

Every ticket to the Clash at the Creek doubles as a pit pass for fans to see karts and drivers up close and personal, and a two-day

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admission ticket is only \$20 with single-day options available starting at only \$10.

Mountain Creek Speedway was originally designed after the neighboring Hickory Motor Speedway and now features a bowed frontstretch layout with ample racing room for drivers who like to search the track for the most grip. Routinely, racers spread

across the track's surface and find grip in various places which creates breathtaking racing for fans. The nearby creek keeps moisture in the surface on even the driest of days to maximize the quality of racing.

The rain date for the 2nd Annual Clash at the Creek will be on Monday, May 20.

For more information on the Clash at the Creek and Mountain Creek Speedway, including complete payout and rules, visit their website at [MountainCreekSpeedway.com](http://MountainCreekSpeedway.com).

## Stafford Speedway

Stafford Speedway opened its 2019 racing season with a special Saturday Opening Day program featuring the SK Modifieds®, Late Models, SK Lights, Limited Late Models, Street Stocks, and Vintage All-Stars. Opening Day winners were Keith Rocco in an SK Modified® photo finish, Michael Wray was declared the Late Model winner after Kevin Gambacorta was disqualified, Bryan Narducci in the SK Light feature, Jeremy Lavoie in the Limited Late Model feature, Michael Hopkins in the 30-lap RM-SPCO.com Street Stock Triple Crown #1 feature, and Mike Teague in the Vintage All-Stars feature.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Keith Rocco took the early lead with Todd Owen and Michael Gervais, Jr. side by side for second. Before the first lap could be completed, there was a wreck mid-pack with Tom Bolles sustaining damage to his car with several others involved that brought the caution out.

Rocco took the lead with Owen glued to his back bumper in second. Just as the field completed the first lap, several cars spun through the frontstretch infield, including Matt Vassar, Chris Jones, and Darin Renihan that brought the

caution right back out.

Rocco and Owen resumed their fight for the lead on the restart with Gervais, Glen Reen, and David Arute lined up behind them. Dan Avery developed a flat tire on the backstretch and the caution came out with 3 laps complete as he came to a stop in turn 4.

Rocco took the lead back under green with Owen all over his back bumper in second. Gervais was third with Michael Christopher, Jr. up to fourth and Ronnie Williams up to fifth. Reen was back to sixth with Troy Talman, Joey Cipriano, Marcello Rufrano, and Andrew Molleur making up the top-10.

Gervais closed down the gap to Owen in second and on lap-9 he nearly made a pass but Owen was able to hold him off. This brought Christopher into the mix to make a 4-car train for the lead with Williams in fifth. The top-5 remained the same when the caution came back out with 14 laps complete for Bolles and Jeff Malave, who got together in turn 2.

Rocco and Owen resumed the top-2 positions on the restart with Gervais third. Williams got around Christopher to move into fourth on lap-16 while Gervais was looking to the inside of Owen for second. Gervais was able to make the pass stick on lap-17 and move into second. Glen Reen had a flat tire and spun coming out of turn 4 to bring the caution out with 20 laps complete.

Rocco took the lead on the restart while Owen and Gervais were side by side for second. Gervais got clear of Owen on lap after the restart and took second place. Joey Cipriano was now fourth with Christopher in fifth. Williams was back to sixth with Tony Membrino, Jr., Nick Salva, Stephen Kopicik, and Eric Berndt making up the top-10.

With 10 laps to go Rocco was still out front with Gervais right on his back bumper. The lead duo had pulled away some from Owen in third who was now fending off challenges from Williams with Cipriano in fifth. The caution came out with 32 laps complete for a spin on the backstretch by David Arute.

Rocco took the lead on the restart and behind him it was a high speed pace lap with Owen and Gervais side by side for second and Cipriano and Williams side by side for fourth. Owen took second with Gervais falling back to third while Cipriano took fourth and Christopher got by Williams to move into fifth. The caution came back out with 36 laps complete for

a spin in turns 3+4 by Membrino.

Rocco took the lead back under green with Gervais taking second. Christopher got by Owen to take third place on lap-38 with Cipriano in fifth. Arute and Eric Berndt took a spin into the frontstretch infield to bring the caution back out with 38 laps complete.

Rocco held the lead on the restart with Gervais trying his hardest to stay with him in the outside groove. Coming off turn 4 to the checkered flag Gervais and Christopher split Rocco and nearly made a pass for the win but Rocco won the race by a nose. Gervais edged out Christopher for second with Cipriano and Owen rounding out the top-5.

In the 30-lap Late Model feature, Tom Fearn streaked into the lead from pole position at the green flag with Michael Bennett and Cliff Saunders lined up behind him. Kevin Gambacorta settled into fourth place with Michael Wray fifth. Tyler Leary was sixth ahead of Dave Wray, Darrell Keane, and a side by side battle between Paul Arute and Chase Cook. Arute took tenth from Cook on lap-6 while Fearn continued to lead.

Gambacorta made a move inside of Bennett to take over second place on lap-7 and his move opened the door for Michael Wray to slide past Bennett to move into third on lap-8. The caution flag came out with 8 laps complete for Cliff Saunders, who backed into the wall in the middle of turns 1+2.

Fearn took the lead again on the restart but Keane took a head first hit into the turn 3 wall to bring the caution back out before a lap could be completed.

Fearn resumed his place at the front of the pack on the restart while Michael Wray was able to get by Gambacorta to move into second. Leary was up to fourth with Bennett sliding back to fifth. Cook was sixth with Arute, Ed Ricard, Ryan Fearn, and R.J. Surdell making up the top-10.

Gambacorta got back around Wray on lap-12 to move back into second with Fearn in front by just over a second. As the field hit the halfway point, Fearn was still the leader with Gambacorta, Wray, Leary, and Bennett giving chase. Fearn's car began to smoke heavily going down the backstretch and the caution was displayed with 16 laps complete.

Gambacorta spun in turn 4 on the restart to bring the caution back out without a lap being completed. Fearn took the lead on the next restart with Wray hot on his

bumper. Leary was up to third and the field completed one lap before Paul Varricchio, Jr. spun through the infield grass and Ed Ricard bounced off the turn 1 wall and came to a stop in turn 2 to bring the caution back out with 17 laps complete.

Fearn took the lead on the restart with Wray and Leary going side by side for a lap before Wray took second. Bennett was fourth with Arute all over his back bumper looking for a way past. Gambacorta took fifth from Arute on lap-20 and the caution came out with 20 laps complete for Dave Wray, who spun on the backstretch.

Back under green, Fearn took the lead while Wray grazed the wall on the backstretch. Gambacorta dove to the inside of Wray in turn 3 to move into third while Leary touched bumpers with Fearn, sending Fearn up the track and allowing Gambacorta to power his way into the lead. Wray took second with Bennett taking third. Fearn slid back to fourth with Leary right behind him in fifth. Surdell was sixth with Al Saunders, Arute, Varricchio, and Dave Wray making up the top-10 with 5 laps to go.

Gambacorta led Wray to the checkered flag but post race inspection found Gambacorta's car to have an illegal shock and he was disqualified to last place, making Wray the winner. Bennett finished second with Fearn, Leary, and Al Saunders rounding out the top-5.

In the 20-lap SK Light feature event, a multi car incident in turn 3 brought the caution out at the start. Mikey Flynn and Mark Bakaj were dueling for the lead on the restart but one lap later Noah Korner made a 3-wide move to take the lead but just as he made his move, Nathan Pytko spun in turn 4 to bring the caution out and negate the move, putting Bakaj and Flynn back out front for the restart.

Flynn took the lead on the restart with Bakaj right behind him in second. Bakaj powered his way past Flynn on lap-6 to take the lead but his time out front was short as Bryan Narducci took the lead on lap-8. Teddy Hodgdon was third behind Narducci and Bakaj with Alexander Pearl in fourth and Noah Korner in fifth. Wesley Prucker spun in turn 2 to bring the caution back out with 10 laps complete.

Narducci took the lead on the restart with Bakaj in second. Hodgdon was third with Pearl behind him in fourth and Noah Korner rounding out the top-5. Jonathan Puleo spun in the middle of turns 1+2 to

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bring the caution out with 13 laps complete.

Narducci powered back into the lead on the restart while Bakaj and Hodgdon were side by side for second. Glenn Korner spun in the middle of turns 1+2 to bring the caution back out with 14 laps complete.

Narducci again took the lead with Hodgdon in second. Noah Korner and Bakaj were side by side for third with Korner taking the spot on lap-16 and opening the door for Pearl to also get past Bakaj to move into fourth and drop Bakaj back to fifth. Just as Narducci was about to take the white flag, the caution came out for a multi-car wreck on the backstretch coming out of turn 2 involving Cassandra Cole, Pete Lopuch, and Glenn Korner.

Narducci took the lead on the restart with Hodgdon second. Narducci led Hodgdon to the checkered flag to win the first race of the season. Noah Korner edged out Pearl at the line for third with Bakaj rounding out the top-5.

In the 20-lap Limited Late Model feature event, Jeremy Lavoie took the early lead with Matt Clement and Duane Provost right behind him. Gary Patnode was fourth with Alexandra Fearn fifth and Kyle Casagrande in sixth. Clement spun in the middle of turns 3+4 to bring the caution out with 4 laps complete. Provost was sent to the rear of the field for making contact with Clement.

Lavoie took the lead back under green with Fearn taking a look to the inside of Patnode for second but Patnode was able to fend off her challenge. Casagrande went around coming out of turn 4 to bring the caution back out with 5 laps complete.

Lavoie again took the lead with Patnode in second. There was 3-wide action for third between Clement, Provost, and Fearn with Clement coming out in third, Fearn in fourth and Casagrande in fifth after sliding up the track in turn 4. At the halfway point Patnode was

sticking with Lavoie at the front of the field with Clement just behind the lead duo. Fearn was holding Provost off for fourth while Casagrande ran in sixth.

With 2 laps to go, Clement was right behind Lavoie and Patnode to make a 3-way fight for the lead. Lavoie led Patnode and Clement to the checkered flag to pick up his first win of the 2019 season. Provost finished fourth with Fearn and Casagrande rounding out the field.

In the special 30-lap Street Stock feature event, the first race of the 3-race RSMPCO.com Street Stock Triple Crown, Nicole Chambrello took the early lead with Johnny Walker slotting into second. George Bessette, Jr. was third with Jason Lafayette fourth and Mike Hopkins fifth. Walker took a look to the inside of Chambrello on lap-2 but slotted back into line in second. Chris Ciriello came to a stop coming out of turn 4 with damage to the rear of his car to bring the caution out with 3 laps complete.

Chambrello streaked back into the lead on the restart with Bessette taking second. Hopkins and Walker were side by side for third with Jason Lafayette and Meg Fuller side by side for fifth. Nathan Casillas stalled on backstretch to bring the caution out with 7 laps complete.

Bessette was able to hang with Chambrello on the restart in a side by side duel for the lead for a lap and a half before Chambrello got clear to the lead. Walker was still running third with Hopkins fourth and Fuller up to fifth. Lafayette was just behind Fuller in sixth with Travis Hydar, Zack Robinson, Steve Kenneway, and Adrien Paradis making up the top-10. Chris Danielczuk, Vince Gambacorta, and Nick Bendiak all spun in turn 2 to bring the caution back out with 10 laps complete.

Bessette took the lead from Chambrello on the restart with Hopkins taking third. Walker was fourth and Lafayette was fifth. Jake Higginson hit the turn 2 wall to bring the caution out with 12 laps complete.

Bessette took the lead on the restart with Hopkins moving into second. Walker took third with Chambrello sliding back to fourth and Fuller rounded out the top-5 cars. Lafayette was sixth with Robinson taking 7th from Kenneway. Andy Marchese spun in turn 4 to bring the

caution out with 15 laps complete.

Bessette took the lead back under green with Hopkins and Walker behind him when Chambrello got into the backstretch wall and spun and collected the car of Dave Secore to bring the caution out with 17 laps complete.

Hopkins took the lead on the restart with Walker, Bessette, Fuller, and Lafayette lined up behind him. Bessette spun in turn 2 to bring the caution back out with 21 laps complete.

Hopkins powered back into the lead on the restart with Walker hot on his trail in second. Fuller and Lafayette were side by side for third with Hydar and Kenneway right behind them. Fuller went 3-wide on the backstretch to move into second on lap-23 while Lafayette and Walker were side by side for third. Lafayette got out of shape in turn 4 on lap-24 and slid back to 9th place while Hopkins continued to lead Fuller.

Hydar made a move to the inside of Walker on lap-27 and he was able to take third place. Kenneway followed him by Walker to move into fourth and drop Walker back to fifth. Lafayette made a 3-wide move on lap-28 to nearly take sixth but he fell back in line in 9th behind Walker, Paradis, and Chambrello.

Fuller got to Hopkins' bumper coming off turn 4 on the final lap but she couldn't make a move for the lead as Hopkins took the win in the first leg of the RSMPCO.com Triple Crown. Hydar finished third with Robinson and Kenneway rounding out the top-5.

In the 15-lap Vintage All-Stars feature event, Mike Teague took the early lead with Scott Anderson giving chase. Ben Levangie was third with 30 and Gregg Massini making up the top-5. 30 spins to bring caution out with 6 laps complete.

Teague streaked back into the lead on the restart with Anderson holding Levangie off for second. Anderson spun in turn 2 and collected the car of Massini to bring the caution back out with 7 laps complete.

Teague took command again on the restart with Levangie closing in on his back bumper.

Gary Byington was up to third after his earlier spin with Anderson back up to fourth and Glenn Gagner was fifth.

Levangie's great run came to an end with a spin on lap-14. The race stayed green and Teague took the checkered flag to pick up the victory.

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

## Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - Race fans and competitors alike have the opportunity to round out their Fourth of July weekend festivities with the Second Annual Dodge City 200 Enduro at the 3/8-mile Dodge City Raceway Park in southwest Kansas on Saturday, July 6.

The second annual event featuring strictly stock cars goes for 200 laps or two hours.

The green flag will fly on the event at 7:30 p.m.

Entry into the event is \$100. However, those that pre-register by June 28 can enter for just \$50. Entry forms are available at <https://www.dodgecityraceway.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/DCRP-Enduro-2019-Entry-Form.pdf>.

Taloga, Oklahoma's Greg Martin etched his name into the record books by winning last September's Inaugural Dodge City 200 Enduro, pacing the final 52 laps to take the checkered flag ahead of Marietta's Nick Mazouch and Lyons' Joseph Schneider.

Additionally, those that compete in both the Dodge City 200 as well as the Enduro event at Dirtona Raceway in Hugoton on July 27 will be eligible to be in a random drawing for a \$500 bonus.

In total, the 2019 season atop the 3/8-mile Dodge City Raceway Park clay oval is slated for 18 nights of action along with another eight Sunday cards atop the newly-constructed 1/7-mile Little DCRP clay oval.

The complete slate of 2019 events at DCRP is available at <https://www.dodgecityraceway.com/schedule/>.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dodge City located at 201 4th Avenue is the official lodging partner of Dodge City Raceway Park. Race fans staying at the Holiday Inn & Suites Dodge City will want to request the special DCRP rate for their visit when making reservations. Contact the Holiday Inn Express at 620-225-1000.

Dodge City Raceway Park is located on the south edge of Dodge City, KS, on US 283, then 0.9 miles west on US 56, then 0.1 miles south. For more information, contact the track at 620-225-3277 or check [www.dodgecityraceway.com](http://www.dodgecityraceway.com).

