



FastTrack

FEBRUARY 25, 2019

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

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Atlanta's Top Three



**Keselowski Beats
the Flu**

**Kyle Busch Sets
Truck Win Record**

**Bell Dominates
XFINITY Race**



New Rules: Good or Bad; Only Time Will Tell

If NASCAR's new rules package were to get a grade following Sunday's race at the Atlanta Motor Speedway, it would be an "I" – as in incomplete.

It's way too early to call the taller rear spoiler and two-inch front splitter that turns the noses of each Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series cars into a diving board a success or a failure. What's even more, depending on your point of view, alarming or encouraging is the fact the entire project will be a work in progress for weeks, maybe months, to come.

Even race winner Brad Keselowski, who steered through the turbulence and a stomach virus, didn't have a clue of what to expect ahead, especially at this week's race at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway which has a different set of rules.

"So, I wouldn't maybe guarantee that what you saw {Sunday} is what you'll see moving forward, for good or bad," he said. "So, it's hard to give great answers. But all in all, I thought it was – it was about what I expected it to be here for Atlanta.

"But we'll just keep tweaking on the cars, keep learning about them and keep getting better, and the racing will evolve. What direction, I don't know."

There clearly was a little more side-by-side racing during restarts, but it quickly broke down into what the new package was designed to stop – a conga line of single-file cars. After that, the only passing came after some drivers burned their tires to the cords at the end of a run.

Kyle Larson led a race-best 142 laps, but he got ticketed for speeding during a late pit stop and was forced to restart at the tail-end of the lead-lap cars. He got stuck in the dirty air created by traffic and wound up 12th.

"The car handled really well until we got put in traffic there," he said. "Even the No. 18 [Kyle Busch] seemed to struggle trying to get back to the front. Yeah, dirty air was much worse than I thought it was. I

spent most of the day up front, so once I got back there it was pretty crazy. When I had to start in the back, I was just really tight. Yeah, I mean, clean air is even more important now a days than in the past I think, at least at a track like this."

NASCAR will add an aero duct this week at Las Vegas, so team will have as much trepidation as they did when the arrives – and departed – Atlanta. The ducts are supposed to make the cars more dependent on driver skill than aerodynamics.

Until everyone gets a handle on it – and if NASCAR doesn't make any changes – it will create a lot of overtime hours for crew chiefs and engineers.

"You have to check the boxes off. I was talking about the balance of this thing and the ability to work on balance with the drag versus downforce," Clint Bowyer said. "You know it is going to be different at this race track [Atlanta] than it will be at Vegas or any other race track."

There were 25 lead changes among nine drivers, which shows a lot of promise for future races. The only accident came on pit road when Ryan Preece rear-ended B.J. McLeod's slow car.

"I saw a fairly entertaining race," NASCAR Executive Vice President and Chief Racing Officer Steve O'Donnell said. "I think like we said going into this race, we didn't know what to expect either. We thought that this package would showcase



DON COBLE

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ON THE COVER:

DAVID GRIFFIN

itself more as we got to the West Coast, but with some really long green-flag runs, I think you saw the ability to get back up to the leader and make a pass, which was encouraging. So all in all, we're satisfied with the outcome. A lot of work to do to go back and review it, though.

"Ultimately, we wanted cars to run closer together, we wanted a battle to play out for the lead at times, which we saw during the race. Some things certainly to work on, but ultimately I think it was the direction where we wanted to go."

Team owner Roger Penske also liked what he saw, especially after

Keselowski won for the 60th time to become his all-time winningest driver.

"I'd have to say a solid B. No one gets an A on their first exam I don't think," Penske said. "But I'd say it's a solid B for NASCAR today because there were drivers, Brad included, and Joey [Logano] twice could come from the back and come up so they could pass cars. The cars seemed to be more in control. You didn't see any accidents, which maybe the fans like that. But I thought overall, the package showed well.

"To me, it's going to be interesting to see what happens at Las



Restarts gave the field the change to race two and three-wide, but the field would dwindle down to single file racing quickly. (DAVID GRIFFIN photo)

Brad Keselowski Holds Off Martin Truex Jr. for Razor-Thin Atlanta Win

HAMPTON, GA - Too sick to start practice on Saturday, Brad Keselowski found the cure to what ailed him in Sunday's Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Still suffering from the effects of stomach flu, Keselowski held

off a charging—and frustrated—Martin Truex Jr. in the closing circuits of the 325-lap Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race and powered his No. 2 Team Penske Ford across the finish line .218 seconds ahead of Truex's No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.

The victory was Keselowski's first of the season and the first for the new Ford Mustang in the Cup series. The 2012 champion won for the second time at Atlanta and for the 60th in Roger Penske equipment (all series combined), breaking a tie with the late Mark Donohue.

Despite his illness, Keselowski reveled in the accomplishment.

"I think any win means a lot, but that's a big number," Keselowski

said. "Now I get to wear that yellow Mark Donohue helmet, so here we go--we're going to wear it next week."

"But what a tremendous honor. This day is... Wow, I don't even know how to put it in words. I'm just excited for this team, first race with the new rules or whatever they're called now, and to be able to win it, that's really special."

After he pulled out to a substantial lead after the final restart on Lap 283—following a caution for a pit road accident involving Ryan Preece and B.J. McLeod—Keselowski had two concerns: an overheating engine and tire issues that had forced teammates Joey Logano and Ryan Blaney to pit road for late race stops.

As Keselowski was nursing his car toward the finish in the final 10 laps, Truex closed dramatically, cutting Keselowski's advantage to .181 seconds with two circuits left. On Lap 324 Keselowski blocked Truex's line off Turn 4 and hammered it to the finish line a lap later.

"We ran over a piece of debris with, I don't know, probably 50 laps to go and overheated really bad,

and I thought there was no way this engine would make it to the end," Keselowski said. "But (engine builder) Doug Yates and his team, they do a great job."

"I'm pretty sure it's all used up, Doug, but it's in Victory Lane, so that's okay, right?"

As he chased Keselowski, Truex grew frustrated with lapped traffic, particularly with outside front-row starter Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who was running in the "lucky dog" position, hugging the bottom lane of the race track.

Because the fifth and final caution had interrupted a cycle of pit stops after all the lead-lap drivers save Logano and eventual third-place finisher Kurt Busch had come to pit road, Truex restarted behind lapped cars on Lap 283 after he and the majority of the field took wave-arounds.

"It was a shame we got put in that position on that last restart, but that's the way the caution fell," Truex said. "Man, I could taste that one. I really wanted that first Atlanta win. Just the 17 (Stenhouse) rode there in front of us forever and ever running the bottom, and I kept telling him I needed the bottom (through spotters), and these cars are just so bad in dirty air that he was holding me up really bad."

"Once I got around him, I got to the 2 car (Keselowski) in two laps. I just needed one more. Unfortunate we had a great car, and like I said,

the guys did a great job. Just a little upset. We had the best car. We probably should have won that one."

Stenhouse Jr. got a strong start from the top lane at the initial green flag and charged past pole winner Aric Almirola off Turn 4 to lead the first lap. Almirola got the spot back on Lap 2, but two lead changes in the first two laps was nevertheless a promising omen for the new higher-downforce, lower-horsepower competition package NASCAR introduced this year.

The second stage of the race produced a compelling battle for the lead between defending race winner Kevin Harvick and first stage winner Kyle Larson. Those two drivers swapped the top spot nine times between Laps 88 and 162, with Harvick prevailing in the second stage.

But the handling of Harvick's Ford tightened up in the late going as shadows shrouded Turns 1 and 2, and the 2014 series champion rolled home in fourth place. Zapped with a pit road speeding penalty and sent to the back of the field for a restart on Lap 228—after Kyle Busch cut a right rear tire to cause the fourth caution—Larson struggled in traffic and finished 12th.

Clint Bowyer ran fifth, with Kyle Busch recovering to finish sixth. Erik Jones, Almirola, Chris Buescher and Daniel Suarez completed the top 10.



Race winner Brad Keselowski shares the trophy honors with members of the Armed Forces after the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. (DAVID GRIFFIN photo)

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Christopher Bell Crushes the Field in Atlanta Xfinity Victory

HAMPTON, GA - To hear Christopher Bell describe his race in Victory Lane, you'd never know that he had just won it.

"I felt pretty sloppy there as a driver sometimes," Bell said after leading 143 of 163 laps in winning Saturday's Rinnai 250

NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Atlanta Motor Speedway. "Running the yellow line (at the bottom of the track) is so hard.

"I don't know, I would just struggle on the longer runs there."

Struggling, of course, is a relative thing. After the only caution for a racing incident slowed the field on Lap 156, Bell held off Cole Custer by .191 seconds in a three-lap dash for the finish. The victory—including a sweep of all three stages—was Bell's first at Atlanta and the ninth of his career.

Bell also baptized the new Toy-

ota Supra with its first win in NASCAR competition, as Toyota picked up its 150th victory in the Xfinity Series.

After rain washed out qualifying, Bell started third in the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota according to 2018 owner points, grabbed the lead on the first lap and held it for the entire first stage. That set the tone for the entire race. The 24-year-old Oklahoma driver surrendered the top spot only under caution on pit road or during the one cycle of green-flag pit stops late in the race.

Custer surged from fifth to second after the final restart on Lap 161, but Bell managed to keep the No. 00 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford behind him.

"He took the air away from us (on the final lap)," Custer said. "I thought I was going to have a run going down the backstretch. We just have to build on that—we'll be a threat all year."

In fact, with Justin Allgaier fin-



Christopher Bell is all smiles as he exits his #20 Toyota in Atlanta's victory lane. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

ishing third, the Xfinity Series returned to form after a scramble at Daytona that saw Michael Annett pick up his first victory. Bell, Custer and Allgaier are three drivers expected to contend for the series championship.

Starting third in the preferred bottom lane, Allgaier thought he had a chance for the win, but Custer slipped past him on the

restart lap.

"We were just a little tight today," Allgaier said. "All day long we didn't get the balance exactly where we wanted it, but the guys did a fantastic job. We had great pit stops. That last run, we got the inside, and I thought we were going to be OK.

"I chose to go to the middle, thinking I could get the run on the back and let Cole by me, but still, a great race. Hats off to C. Bell. He had the best car all day."

Brandon Jones overcame a pit road penalty to finish fourth, with reigning series champion Tyler Reddick coming home fifth and Jeffrey Earnhardt sixth, a career best.

Earnhardt restarted next to Bell on Lap 161, but the slick top lane was at a clear disadvantage.

"It was really hard on the outside lane," Earnhardt said. "But the Toyota Supra was super-fast today. They (JGR) put me in a heck of a car. We came up short on the win. We showed we belong here, and we're going to run up front the rest of the races."

Reddick had cut Bell's two-second lead to less than .300 seconds before the final caution.

"It made for a good finish, that's for sure," Bell said. "Man, the 2 (Reddick) and the 00 (Custer) really both of them were pretty good on the long runs. Our Supra was really good.

"I feel like the last five or 10 laps, I died. Very thankful there to get the yellow and put some tires on it, but it would have been fun to race it out with Tyler there."

The finish, like the rest of the race was in Christopher Bell's hands all the way. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)



Kyle Busch Gets Record 52nd NASCAR Truck Series Victory at Atlanta

HAMPTON, GA - As darkness enveloped Atlanta Motor Speedway, and rain pelted the windshield of his No. 51 Toyota, Kyle Busch patiently waited for word he had sole possession of the all-time victory

lead in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series.

The record-setting win wouldn't be quite that easy. After the red flag for rain, NASCAR restarted the race, rather than calling it. Five laps later, after parrying a determined charge from former series champion Johnny Sauter, Busch took the checkered Saturday's Ultimate Tailgating 200, earning his 52nd victory and breaking a tie for most all-time with NASCAR Hall of Famer Ron Hornaday Jr.

"It means a lot," Busch said. "It's a big deal for me and a big deal for this team."

The win was Busch's fifth in the Truck Series at Atlanta but the first since 2009.

Of his 52 triumphs, 16 came in trucks fielded by Billy Ballew before Busch founded his own Kyle Busch Motorsports team and added 36 races to his total (and counting) as an owner/driver.

With Ballew in attendance at Atlanta, Busch's Tundra carried the former owner's name on board.

"I had Billy Ballew on board with us here today," Busch said after climbing from his truck, with mist putting a wet sheen on Victory Lane.

"And Billy's right over here as well. It took putting Billy Ballew back on my truck to get me a win here, so we might have to make that an annual reoccurrence.

"I slipped getting out (of the truck). It's a little wet out here, in case y'all didn't notice."

Busch, however rued the fact that the race was called as he sat on pit road under the red flag on Lap 121. His teammate and protégé, Harrison Burton, held the second position at the time, but when the race restarted, Burton had the slippery outside lane to deal with and fell to eighth at the finish.

"I wish we could have ended it (then)," Busch said. "I would have

rather had Harrison finish second. I'm not sure how far he fell, but he ran a great race today. It was cool to see the No. 18 right up there as well."

The victory Busch's 195 over all three of NASCAR's national touring

series combined, leaving him just five short of his stated goal of 200. With 92 NASCAR Xfinity victories, Busch also holds the career record in that series.

Sauter got to Busch's rear bumper right after the final restart on Lap 128 but didn't feel he could make a winning move.

"I just didn't think I could get it there," said Sauter, who returned to ThorSport Racing for the 2019 season. "I'm bummed, because I thought I timed it right, and I was pushing him, and he was doing a good job of blocking, and I just did-

n't think I could get there.

"It's a good start, though. I'm happy with the effort. We just need a little bit more. When I go back and watch the replay, I hope I'm not kicking myself in the butt for not making that move to the top, but honestly, at that point I didn't feel like I could get it done."

Grant Enfinger, Sauter's ThorSport teammate, ran third, followed by reigning series champion Brett Moffitt and Ben Rhodes. Ross Chastain and last week's Daytona winner, Austin Hill, came home sixth and seventh, respectively.

Race winner Kyle Busch is congratulated by his son Brexton in victory lane after his 52nd victory in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series. (CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES photo)



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Las Vegas Dirt Track Preparations On Schedule

As the K&N Pro Series West gets set to begin their 2019 season at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway Dirt Track, preparation is in full swing.

Tim Richter, Las Vegas Motor Speedway short track operations manager, is the man in charge of track prep out in the desert. He and his team have been up and at 'em each and every day for the better part of the last month, making sure the half-mile oval will be in tip-top shape for the opener.

"Preparations are going really well," Richter said. "We started on Friday and had a really good rainstorm on Thursday. It really helped get a lot of moisture in the track. We've actually kind of opened it up, let the thing get some oxygen into it and do its thing. But it's coming along well. Prepping on it everyday until the 27th."

The Star Nursery 100 will take place the next day, February 28. Richter will be on site with his team throughout the day to make sure the track is in shape. But the operation isn't an easy one.

"The first thing you gotta do is get some water in it," he explained. "We are in the desert, so it takes quite a bit to get water in it. But Mother Nature helping out like she did, it made it a lot easier on us. Get the water in there. Get the tiller, we have a 14-foot tiller that hooks up behind the tractor. That turns the dirt. It's like a rotor tiller, but different it's an agricultural piece of equipment. It just turns the dirt so you can work it, kneading the clay is what the tiller does. We'll till it, we'll blade it, take stuff from the top to the bottom, till it again, pack it in, and then take it from the bottom to the top. Roll in the water trucks, add water as we're doing it."

For the non-dirt racing fan, the terminology may be daunting and get you lost. But Richter compared it to essentially rapid, shallow, incision-like digging along the surface.

"It's a process," he said. "We've already bladed the track about a month ago or so, so it's already smooth. Once we started putting water around, it already had its contour. We're layering in moist clay so we can have a hard packed track."

Last year, the hype surrounding

the first dirt track race for the series in nearly half a century was through the roof. But due to the conditions, track prep was beyond difficult, resulting in less than ideal conditions.

"When we raced in September, everyday was 100-plus degrees and we had wind," Richter said. "Wind just takes the moisture right out of the ground. 100-plus degrees doesn't help keep moisture in the ground. We were fighting basically summer conditions. Then the way the schedule was laid out starting practice at 2 p.m. and having all that down time in between wasn't very cohesive for a decent track. The track was smooth, hard packed but with the dust as it was, it was inevitable it was going to happen."

Now that the conditions will be more winter/spring like in the Las Vegas area, Richter anticipates a different result once cars hit the track later this month.

The key, though, is keeping the track busy.

"Once you get cars on track, you have to keep them there," he said. "When you let the track sit, it starts to dry out even more and that's when the powder and dust comes. With the schedule the way it is, working with the World of Outlaws and K&N together, World of Outlaws have those big, wide tires that help roll in the track and pack it in good. I don't see that being a problem at all."

The Star Nursery 100 will take

place on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway Dirt Track. Sheldon Creed is the defending winner of the event.

FansChoice.TV To Live Stream Entire Regional Series Schedule

FansChoice.TV has quickly become the place for NASCAR fans to watch regional series and local NASCAR Whelen All-American Series action each weekend.

That will increase exponentially this year.

FansChoice.TV announced Friday that the streaming digital platform will air the entire NASCAR regional series schedule live in 2019.

They will air the complete NASCAR K&N Pro Series East and West schedules – including the two summer combination races – as well as the 17-race schedule for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour.

FansChoice.TV aired the season-opener for the K&N Pro Series East on Sunday, February 10 at New Smyrna Speedway.

Fans will be able to watch K&N Pro Series West drivers open their season on Thursday, February 28 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway Dirt Track, before watching Whelen Modified Tour teams kick-off 2019 at South Carolina's Myrtle Beach Speedway on March 16. The next time the K&N Pro Series East hits the track is at Bristol Motor Speedway on April 6.

With events airing live, fans will have the opportunity to stay up-to-date with all of the action from the track, while also following behind the scenes content via NASCAR Home Tracks on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Fans can also get complete FansChoice.tv updates on their social channels: Twitter and Facebook. In addition to NASCAR, FansChoice.tv streams select IMSA content as well as American Flat Track.

With the entirety of each schedule airing, fans can watch champions be crowned in all three divisions. The K&N Pro Series East season ends at Dover International Speedway on October 4, while the Whelen Modified Tour crowns their champion at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on October 13. The K&N Pro Series West returns to Arizona and ISM Raceway on Saturday, November 9 to crown their new title holder.

NBCSN's coverage will remain unchanged. They will cover a total of 37 races between the NASCAR K&N Pro Series and Whelen Modified Tour via a tape-delayed broadcast. NBCSN already aired the East opener at New Smyrna, and will air the opener for the West and the Whelen Modified Tour just days after the races conclude.

The West opener at Las Vegas will air on NBCSN on Tuesday, March 5, at 6 p.m., while the Whelen Modified Tour opener airs on Thursday, March 21, at 6 p.m.

Following the NBCSN airings, the regional races will be archived and available on FansChoice.tv.

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VDL Fuel Systems to Continue Support of CRA

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials have announced that VDL Fuel Systems has agreed to continue its support of CRA and its ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS and its JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance for the 2019 race season. VDL Fuel

Systems will continue to be the Official Carburetor of the ARCA/CRA Super Series and its JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour and continue to support two awards with each series.

VDL Fuel Systems will continue its support of each series Rookie Award Programs. VDL Fuel Systems will award the highest finishing Registered Rookie at each series event during the 2019 season with a \$50 Product Certificate. VDL Fuel Systems will award each series 2019 Rookie of the Year with a race ready VDL Fuel Systems Carburetor.

VDL Fuel Systems will award the 10th place finisher at both series events with a \$100 Product Certificate for the VDL Fuel Systems Top 10 Award again in 2019.

"We greatly appreciate VDL Fuel Systems continuing their support of CRA for the 2019 race season," remarked Glenn Luckett, Managing Partner of CRA. "VDL Fuel Systems offers a great product that can help racers achieve their desired results while racing with CRA. We encourage our racers to support VDL Fuel Systems and all the great companies that will be supporting all our series!"

VDL Fuel Systems produces the finest carburetors one at a time. Air and fuel flow are maximized within tech parameters to create consistent dyno performance and optimal drivability on the racetrack. From booster dimensions to booster location to throttle shaft width to venturi height, each part of every carburetor is custom-fit to be on the edge of tech tolerances for any series application.

VDL Fuel Systems is a custom carburetor business specifically focused on their specialties. They only build what they are the best at and will happily refer a customer to another company if the customer's application doesn't meet their skills. You can be assured that if you pur-

chase a VDL Fuel Systems carburetor it is the best available on the market.

VDL Fuel Systems is located in Theodore, Alabama, a suburb of Mobile. Dan VanderLey founded the company in 1998 after working for most of his life in the engine building business and other attendant positions. VDL (its initials come from the name VanderLey) came about from Dan's long association in the business. VDL Fuel System CRA customers include 2018 ARCA/CRA Super Series Champion Josh Brock, 2018 JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Champion Jack Dossey III, CRA 2018 winners Brian Campbell, Johnny VanDoorn, Austin Kunert, Carson Hocerar, Mason Keller and Wes Griffith Jr.

More information is available on VDL Fuel Systems at www.vdlfuel-systems.com or by calling 251-443-5990.

More information on all the CRA Series is available at www.cra-racing.com.

KRJ Race Products Becomes New Marketing Partner with CRA for 2019

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials and KRJ Race Products representatives have announced that KRJ Race Products has agreed to become a marketing partner with CRA for the upcoming 2019 racing season. KRJ Race Products will be a Contingency Award Sponsor with the Vore's Welding CRA Late Model Sportsman and Van Hoy Oil CRA Street Stocks in 2019.

"KRJ Race Products looks forward to this new partnership with Championship Racing Association and supporting the drivers with the Vore's Welding CRA Late Model Sportsman, and the Van Hoy Oil CRA Street Stocks," remarked Ken Joyce with KRJ Race Products. "With nearly 20 years of experience in the motorsport safety field, we will be available to help consult with the series and drivers in areas such as seating, head surrounds, seatbelt systems and mountings, head and neck restraints etc. We look forward to continuing to build our relationship with CRA and its drivers."

KRJ Race Products will award a \$50 Product Certificate at each Vore's Welding CRA Late Model

Sportsman and the Van Hoy Oil CRA Street Stocks event for the KRJ Race Products Sweet Move of the Race Award. CRA officials will award the KRJ Race Products Sweet Move of the Race Award to the driver who makes the sweetest move at each of those series events. In addition, KRJ Race Products will award each series 2019 Champion, Rookie of the Year and the driver who advanced the most positions throughout the season in the final top ten in series points with a \$100 Product Certificate at the 2019 CRA Awards Banquet.

"We are very happy that KRJ Race Products has come on board to support CRA for the upcoming 2019 season," remarked Glenn Luckett, Managing Partner of CRA. "It's always great to have new companies partner with CRA to support our racers. We encourage our CRA Late Model Sportsman and the CRA Street Stocks teams to support KRJ Race Products and all the sponsors that will support them during the 2019 season!"

Located in Brownsburg, Indiana, KRJ Race Products was founded in 2007, and from then on, have been dedicated to providing only the best quality parts and services to a wide range of motorsports competitors. Their main goal is to insure, you receive the best possible customer service from a staff you know and can trust.

Whether you are racing at your local oval track, a club road race event, or are a professional race team, KRJ Race Products will go that extra mile to be sure you have what you need, when you need it. Some of the products and services that KRJ Race Products includes: Hans Devices, Bell Racing Products, Schroth Racing Belts, Stilo Helmets and Accessories, Butler Built Race Seats, Hans Device Inspection and Refurbish, Hans Device SFI Recertification, Hans Device Anchor Installation, Schroth Racing Belt Support, Hybrid Head and Neck Devices, Schroth Flex Head and Neck Restraint, Simpson Helmets & Products.

More information on KRJ Race Products is available at www.krjraceproducts.com or by calling 317-496-6767.

Hyperco Renews Support of CRA

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials announced today that Hyperco has renewed their support of CRA for the 2019 race season with

the ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS and the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance. Hyperco Suspension Springs has been a proud supporter of CRA for many seasons.

Hyperco will award one new Hypercoil spring to the highest finishing team using Hyperco's Hypercoil springs and displaying Hypercoil decals, at every ARCA/CRA Super Series and JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour event in 2019. In addition, Hyperco will award a complete set of four new Hypercoil springs to the highest finishing team using Hypercoil springs in the ARCA/CRA Super Series and the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour final 2019 points.

Hyperco customers involved with CRA include: 2017 and 2018 JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Champion Jack Dossey III, 2018 CRA event winners Johnny VanDoorn, Cole Williams, and Mason Keller.

"We are excited to be partnering with CRA for another season and look forward to supporting our racers," says Kelly Falls, vice president of motorsports and performance aftermarket with Hyperco. "Part of what makes our suspension spring designs so effective, is the input we receive from championship winning chassis builders, suspension tuners and race teams like those involved with CRA. In fact, feedback like that was used to add new designs for our Dual Rate UHT Coil-Over Springs and Precision Bump Spring product lines for the 2019 catalog."

Hyperco, an MW Industries company, is a manufacturer of custom and stock high-performance suspension coil springs and related components that improve total performance, aesthetics and durability of a vehicle. The suspension spring designs and technology that dominated the motor racing industry and originated from Jim Fielder at Rockwell International in the early 1960s, evolved into what is today, known as Hypercoils and the Hyperco brand. In 1996, Hyperco joined MW Industries Inc. to become one of the top spring and specialty fastener manufacturers in the nation.

Hyperco springs are proudly designed and manufactured in the USA, recognized worldwide throughout the racing industry to be the best suspension coils available, and are relied upon consistently by CRA race winners and champions!

More information is available at www.hypercoils.com or by calling 800-365-2645.

PASS Opener at Dillon Postponed Due To Rainy Weather

NAPLES, ME - After closely monitoring the weather for the last several days and with an extremely poor forecast for the rest of the week, officials with

the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) and Dillon Motor Speedway felt it best to postpone this weekend's Winter Meltdown 200. It has rained non-stop in the Dillon area for several days, and with more rain coming and possible weepers in turn four

at the speedway, everyone felt postponing this weekend's event was in the best interest of all involved. And, with several teams traveling from New England and Canada, and states such as Florida, Georgia, and others, and with more rain being forecasted for the Pee Dee region of South Carolina, the decision was made to postpone today in the hopes of saving money for all the teams and fans. Several dates later this year

are currently being looked at by PASS and Dillon Motor Speedway officials to try and reschedule the Winter Meltdown 200. A final decision will be announced in the coming weeks. The PASS opener will now move to Saturday, March 30 and the inaugural PASS Commonwealth Classic at Richmond Raceway in Virginia.

For further updates please go to ProAllStarsSeries.com or monitor our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Martin Truex Jr.: With New Rules, We've Seen the Last of a "Big Three"

HAMPTON, GA - As the 2019 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series gets into full swing, the concept of a "Big Three" might be dead on arrival.

At least that's what Martin Truex Jr. thinks.

Last season, Kyle Busch and Kevin Harvick won eight races each, and Truex

added four as the so-called Big Three grabbed the trophies in 20 of the 36 points races in NASCAR's premier series.

All three drivers qualified for the Championship 4 race at Homestead-Miami Speedway, only to

lose the title to late bloomer Joey Logano.

With a new higher-downforce, lower-horsepower competition package in place for the 2019 season, however, Truex doubts that any three drivers will combine to win more than half the races.

"Unfortunately, yeah, I believe that's correct," Truex said with a wry smile during a media session on Friday at Atlanta Motor Speedway, host venue for Sunday's Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500.

"Again, it's all speculation. I don't know until we get going. You're still going to have teams figure it out better than others. Whether we're one of those, we'll have to wait and see."

Not only are the new rules designed to keep the cars closer together, but Truex expects the package to accentuate the unique characteristics that distinguish one track from the next.

Consequently, what works at one intermediate speedway—Las Vegas, for example—may not be an optimal solution at Texas or Chicagoland.

"Oh, yeah, it'll be different everywhere," predicted Truex, who won eight races during his 2017 championship season. "The package is going to look a little different depending on the track we're at and what we're able to do with it.

"Here (at Atlanta) it's so worn out and so rough and bumpy, it's hard to... in order to get through the corners, you kind have to have some air on your car. Next week (at Las Vegas), we'll definitely be drafting—at least that's what everyone is kind of thinking."

The first test of the new package comes on Sunday, and to Truex, it's still a vast unknown.

"Nobody has any idea about anything," he said. "I think pretty much all teams had more questions going into practice (Friday) than any time I can remember in the sport, maybe back to when we first ran the Car of Tomorrow (in 2007).

"It was just there were so many questions and so many different ways you can do this. There's so many different options to set the car up aero-wise and different things. A lot of questions and only an hour and 20 minutes of practice, so still a lot to learn.

"We go to Phoenix, and it's going to be totally different again with more horsepower, so, yeah, we're going to learn a lot through the first five races with the different race tracks and then try to figure it out and go from there."

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 **NASCAR**

Historic FVP Platinum Battery Showdown Stands Out Among Las Vegas Events

CONCORD, NC - The FVP Platinum Battery Showdown presented by Star Nursery will see the World of Outlaws NOS® Energy Drink Sprint Car Series bring its high-speed thrill show to The Dirt Track at Las Vegas Motor Speedway Wednesday, Feb. 27, and Thursday, Feb. 28.

It will also mark the first time in history the World of Outlaws and NASCAR K&N Series are competing on the same night at the same track, bringing two of racing's biggest powerhouses together.

"We have built such history with the FVP Platinum Battery brand and the World of Outlaws at The Dirt Track at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, and we can't wait to see it all come together again this year," said FVP Senior Brand Manager Amber Misunas. "In a city known for its big shows, none will be as big as this one, and the FVP team is excited to continue its association with the event."

The history-making FVP Platinum Battery Showdown pairs the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series with the NASCAR K&N Pro Series West for the first time. The Star Nursery 100 K&N Pro Series West will have practice sessions on Wednesday night (Feb. 27) and run their main event Thursday, Feb. 28, as part of a double-feature with the second night of World of Outlaws racing.

LVMS has hosted World of Outlaws events at its half-mile Dirt Track dating back to 1996.

"We're excited our traditional two-day event in Las Vegas is continuing to grow with the addition of the NASCAR K&N Pro Series West," World of Outlaws COO Tom Deery said. "We're also looking forward to showcasing this historically popular event with our style of high-horsepower, high-speed, winged Outlaw dirt racing to a whole new audience. We like making history with our World of Outlaws events and combining with NASCAR on the same night at the same track will certainly be a first that no one will want to miss."

FVP-sponsored driver Brian Brown will return to compete in the

showdown along with last year's showdown winners Sheldon Haudenschild and Donny Schatz – the 10-time and defending World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series champion.

On Wednesday, grandstands will open at 3 p.m., followed shortly after by World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series hot laps and qualifying at 4:30 p.m. The NASCAR K&N Pro Series West practice session will be an hour later. Opening ceremonies are slated to commence at 6:15 p.m., with racing to follow immediately. The Sprint Car Feature will be the first Feature of the night.

Thursday's schedule of events follows the same times as Wednesday. The Sprint Cars will again be the first Feature of the night, and the NASCAR K&N Pro Series West Star Nursery 100 will be the final race of the night.

Following the World of Outlaws visit to the Sin City, the Series heads to California, commencing a month-long tour through the Golden State at Thunderbowl Speedway in Tulare, CA, on Friday March 8, and Saturday, March 9.

Champion Racing Oil to Host 2019 WoO Summer Nationals

CLINTON, MO - Champion Oil, a recognized leader in racing and performance lubricants, will be the title sponsor of the Williams Grove Summer Nationals Open sanctioned by the World of Outlaws Sprint Car Series on July 26-27 in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

The Champion Racing Oil Summer Nationals is an event with more than 50 years of history that includes the biggest names in motorsports competing at half-mile Williams Grove Speedway, one of dirt racing's legendary venues.

The World of Outlaws, an international racing tour with superstar drivers, features incredibly powerful and fast 410ci winged sprint cars. The Champion Racing Oil National Open is a key part of the series championship that includes 94 race nights at 50 different tracks across 22 states and 3 Canadian provinces.

Champion Racing Oils are built specifically to meet the lubrication

demands of race car engines, especially those using flat tappet and roller cams operating at high RPMs and that require high-pressure valve springs.

To meet these demands, Champion utilizes its premium ZDDP anti-wear protection package, which contains a unique balance of chemistry that includes high levels of zinc and phosphorus. In addition, all Champion Racing motor oils contain our exclusive TVS® (Thermal Viscosity Stabilizer) technology.

This proprietary technology delivers unmatched film strength at high temperature, better piston ring seal for maximum compression, and increases the foot-pounds of torque in most engines.

Champion Brands, LLC, is a globally recognized industry leader in specialty lubricants for over 60 years. Champion Brands, LLC also produces and blends over 350 products including fuel, oil, engine additives, and lubricants for the racing, automotive, heavy truck, agricultural, industrial, and specialty markets. For more information about Champion Racing Motor Oils contact your nearest Champion distributor or call Champion at 800-821-5693 or 660-890-6231. Champion Brands, LLC; 1001 Golden Drive, Clinton, MO, or go to <http://www.championbrands.com>.

World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Cars Joined By Elk Grove Ford Midgets March 23 at Placerville

PLACERVILLE, CA - The World of Outlaws NOS® Energy Drink Sprint Car Series is gearing up to return Saturday, March 23, to Placerville Speedway for the fifth consecutive year of high-speed, winged sprint car action.

California natives Brad Sweet and Rico Abreu, along with 2017 Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year Sheldon Haudenschild showed fans why the World of Outlaws is The Greatest Show on Dirt during last year's Placerville race, dueling for the lead throughout the entire 50-lap 49er Gold Rush Classic presented by Riebes NAPA AUTO PARTS. Sweet, last year's runner-up in Series points, was the victor, claiming his first Outlaw win at the quarter-mile oval.

Joining the event

this season will be the Elk Grove Ford Midgets in a \$2,000-to-win Feature, giving Golden State sprint car and midget fans twice the reason to check out Placerville.

"Combining the World of Outlaws and Midgets on the same night at Placerville is going to make for an unbelievable show," said Brad Sweet, a Grass Valley native who drives the #49 NAPA AUTO PARTS Sprint Car for Kasey Kahne Racing. "When we were able to move the race to Saturday night we were afraid we weren't going to be able to include Midgets as part of the program, but Matt Wood at Elk Grove Ford stepped up to help make it possible. It's going to be a big night, for sure."

Sweet himself is coming off two top-five finishes at the season-opening races DIRTcar Nationals in Florida, leaving him tied for third in points with 10-time Series champion Donny Schatz.

Leading everybody is Daryn Pittman, the 2019 DIRTcar Nationals champion who has been hooked up in his new Roth Motorsports ride. Pittman started the year by winning the two season-opening races, but he's never won an Outlaw race at Placerville and will no doubt be amped up to repeat his early success for California car owners Dennis and Teresa Roth.

Schatz found victory once at Placerville in 2015, taking the lead with just eight laps to go. He is poised to be a threat, yet again, also starting off the season strong with two top-five finishes.

Carson Macedo, a native of Lemoore, Calif., is looking for his first Outlaw victory since winning at Silver Dollar Speedway in 2014. Macedo joins forces with Kyle Larson Racing this season to make a run at the Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year title. Macedo has had an impressive start to the season with two top-10 finishes and two Heat wins.

Don't miss a second of the action at Placerville Speedway, reserve your seats by going to www.WorldofOutlaws.com/tix or call 844-DIRT-TIX.



Southern All Star Dirt Racing Series

Southern All Stars Start 36th Year at Cherokee Speedway

FAYETTEVILLE, TN - The Southern All Star Dirt Racing Series presented by MaxFab will start the 2019 season with a traditional opener as the series will sanction the 19th Annual March Madness 60 paying \$12,000 to win and \$600 to start for the Southern All Star

Super Late Models Sunday afternoon March 3rd.

March Madness has always been one of the highlight races of the year for the series as it kicks off the battle for the point's championship. In 2018 Fayetteville, TN., driver Jay Scott who was also a rookie was on his first time ever to travel with a series and it paid off as he captured the series title as well at the Cruise with the Champions/Dirtondirt.com Rookie of the Year.

Mark Dodson of Caledonia, MS., also made his first run with series and came home in the second

spot, third place went to Ray McElhiney of Pulaski, TN., fourth to Eric Hickerson of Linden, TN., and fifth to Joseph Faulkner of Flintville, TN., all of who are expected to be in action.

Drivers that have expressed an interest in running for the series title this year include Austin Arnold, Leon Henderson out of Mississippi, JT Seawright, Billy Franklin out of Alabama, and Christian Hanger out of Tennessee just to name a few.

Last year's March Madness winner and three time Southern All Star Champion Chris Madden is expected to be in attendance as well as Ross Bailes of Clover, Zack Mitchell Chris Ferguson, Dennis Franklin plus many more.

Pit gates will open at 10 am with drivers meeting at 12:30 noon and hot laps to follow.

For more information Cherokee Speedway www.cherokeespeedwaysc.com or 864-489-1969.

For more information concerning the Southern All Stars contact Lynn Acklin - General Manager: 256-924-4546 www.sasdirt.com.

2019 SOUTHERN ALL STAR DIRT RACING SERIES SCHEDULE—WORKING SCHEDULE

Date	Track	City	To Win
Mar. 3	Cherokee Speedway	Gaffney, SC	\$12,000
Mar. 15	Southern Raceway	Milton, FL	\$3,000
Mar. 16	Southern Raceway	Milton, FL	\$7,000
April 20	Thunderhill Raceway	Summertown, TN	\$4,000
April 26	Smoky Mt Speedway	Maryville, TN	\$5,000
April 27	Talladega Short Track	Eastaboga, AL	\$4,000
May 4	Duck River Rwy Park	Wheel, TN	\$4,000
May 18	Senoia Raceway	Senoia, GA	\$4,000
June 1	Richmond Speedway	Richmond, KY	\$6,000
June 7	Oglethorpe Speedway	Pooler, GA	\$4,000
June 8	Screven Mtrs Complex	Sylvania, GA	\$10,000
June 22	Senoia Raceway	Senoia, GA	\$5,454
June 29	Duck River Rwy Park	Wheel, TN	\$4,000
July 6	Thunderhill Raceway	Summertown, TN	\$4,000
July 13	Magnolia Speedway	Columbus, MS	\$4,000
Aug. 10	Talladega Short Track	Eastaboga, AL	\$10,000
Aug. 31	Southern Raceway	Milton, FL	\$4,000
Sept. 1	Southern Raceway	Milton, FL	\$5,000
Sept. 6	Oglethorpe Speedway	Pooler, GA	\$4,000
Sept. 7	Screven Motor Spdwy	Sylvania, GA	\$5,000
Sept. 21	I-75 Raceway	Sweetwater, TN	\$4,000
Sept. 28	Smoky Mt Speedway	Maryville, TN	\$7,500
Oct. 12	Talladega Short Track	Eastaboga, AL	\$4,000

Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions

The All Star Circuit of Champions are Returning to Fremont Speedway

BROWNSBURG, IN - After a near-three and half year hiatus, Tony Stewart's Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 will make their return to northwest Ohio's Fremont Speedway, resuming an historic and competitive tradition that includes 122

appearances across nearly four and a half decades.

Padding an already action-packed holiday weekend in the Buckeye State, the traveling All Stars will invade Fremont Speedway on Sunday, May 26, capping off a three-race, Memorial Day weekend swing that also includes visits to Attica Raceway Park (May 24) and Wayne County Speedway (May 25). All three events will award \$5,000 top prizes.

"On behalf of the entire management group, we are thrilled to have the All Star Circuit of Champi-

ons return to Fremont Speedway in 2019," Ryan Schiets explained, member of Fremont Speedway management. "We were a little late to the table, so we weren't even sure an All Star show was possible in 2019, but we continued to stay in touch with Tony [Stewart] and Ross Paulson. We appreciate their willingness to help make this happen. This is a big stepping stone for us at Fremont. We are working to make this event a major success so the potential for more than one show in 2020 is a real possibility."

The All Star Circuit of Champions last visited the semi-banked, 1/3-mile clay oval on Saturday, September 19, 2015, for the coveted Jim Ford Classic. Ryan Smith was the victor.

Those seeking additional news and notes regarding Fremont Speedway can do so by visiting the facility live on the Web at www.fremontohspeedway.com. Other bits including gate times and ticket prices will be released at a later date.

Tulsa Shootout

Dates and Class Information For The 35th Lucas Oil Tulsa Shootout

TULSA, OK - Never too early to plan a trip to Tulsa, dates and class information for the 35th Lucas Oil Tulsa Shootout have been finalized with the 2020 event taking place Wednesday, January 1 through Saturday, January 4 under the giant roof of the River Spirit Expo

Center.

Leading up to the opening day of morning practice and evening Heat Races, early parking will take place on Monday, December 30, 2019, with all teams moving in on Tuesday, December 31, 2019. Details regarding early parking will be released as the event nears.

Entry for the "Mecca of Micros" will begin Tuesday, September 24, 2019, with the discounted \$100 entry fee per class going through Friday, December 6, 2019. Starting Saturday, December 7, 2019, the fee per class goes to \$125 with all

early entry cut off on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. After that, teams will be able to enter at the event during move-in on Tuesday, December 31, 2019, with all entries coming to a stop at Noon on Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

The 35th edition of the Lucas Oil Tulsa Shootout will see no change to the class lineup with A-Class (Wing, Non-Wing, and Restricted), Outlaw (Wing and Non-Wing), and Junior Sprints as well as the new Oklahoma 600cc Modifieds in action. For all classes, RaceCeivers are mandatory. Frequency will be 454.000.

Rules for each class are under review and will be posted in the coming months.

Every lap of action will be shown live on www.racinboys.com.

The Lucas Oil Tulsa Shootout takes place at the Tulsa Expo Raceway, located inside the River Spirit Expo Center.

All official rules, event information, and dates are online at www.tulsashootout.com.

Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - Dale Earnhardt Jr. has announced that he will compete in Darlington Raceway's NASCAR XFINITY Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 race, scheduled for Saturday, August 31 (4 p.m. live on NBC and MRN), at the track Too Tough To Tame.

"There are many things I love about Darlington that contributed to my decision to run there this year,

but the main reason is the track surface," Earnhardt Jr. said. "I love races where you have to be smart and manage your tires. Darlington is slick, and it wears out tires. It's one of the few stops on the circuit that provides that challenge."

Earnhardt Jr., who retired from full-time competition in 2017, will race in just his second NASCAR-sanctioned event since his retirement after competing at Richmond Raceway in their XFINITY Series race in Sept. of 2018 (he finished fourth).

"It will mean a lot to me in the same way it meant a lot to me at Richmond last year," Earnhardt Jr. continued. "The only expectation I bring into the weekend is to give the fans their money's worth. Otherwise it's no pressure, maximum fun. It's not about the results anymore; it's about the experience. Make no mistake though - I'm going to try to win."

Earnhardt Jr. will drive the No. 8 Chevrolet for JR Motorsports in the Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 with support from his longtime sponsor Hellmann's. As for what his special throwback paint scheme will be for the race? Earnhardt Jr. knows, and his fans will know soon enough.

"Hellmann's is once again the primary sponsor, and I will drive the No. 8. I had an idea for a throwback scheme, but with this being my only race I knew it would've been justified for Hellmann's to prefer a current scheme. They supported my idea, and I am thankful. Together with Hellmann's we will unveil the car in the next month or so. I will say this - it's not going to be a throwback to anything I've ever driven myself," he said.

Earnhardt Jr. has never been shy about his love and support of Darlington's throwback weekend, having competed with a special retro-style throwback paint scheme in all three years he raced in Mon-

ster Energy NASCAR Cup Series competition from 2015-17 (he did not compete in the 2016 event due to a concussion. Jeff Gordon raced his special scheme for him).

The track introduced its throwback campaign, which celebrates the history and heritage of the sport, the same year it returned to its beloved Labor Day weekend date in 2015.

Earnhardt Jr. hasn't competed in XFINITY Series competition at Darlington Raceway since 1999. He has competed in four total NXS races at the Lady in Black, two in both 1998 and 1999, when the track hosted two NXS races per season. His career-best XFINITY Series finish at Darlington came in September of 1998, when he placed second.

"We are thrilled to have Dale Earnhardt Jr. race in our NASCAR XFINITY Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 event at Darlington Raceway," Kerry Tharp, track president said. "Dale has a tremendous amount of passion for Darlington and we are all excited to see what kind of special throwback paint scheme he will run at the track Too Tough To Tame. Fans don't get many opportunities to see him race, so it will be something special to see on August 31."

Tickets for the Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 race are available now for purchase by calling 866-459-7223 or visiting www.DarlingtonRaceway.com.

You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Raceway at DarlingtonRaceway.com, on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway) and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TooToughToTame](https://twitter.com/TooToughToTame). Fans are encouraged to post their Bojangles' Southern 500 stories and memories at, #BojanglesSo500 and #SportClips200.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - With the growth of the kids and college ticket pricing programs at Bristol Motor Speedway, track officials are adding another option to provide more flexibility and help reduce costs for families with the addition of its new teen pricing program.

In the new program, teenagers ages 13-19 are now eligible for half price tickets with the purchase of an adult ticket to Bristol's NASCAR events, including both the April and August race weekends. For all races, each teen must have a physical ticket in hand to enter the gates. The Bristol Motor Speedway ticket office and Ticketmaster are the only two authorized locations

that can produce the teen-priced tickets.

"The addition of our teen pricing program provides yet another affordable option for families to maximize their entertainment dollar," said Jerry Caldwell, executive vice president and general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway. "We fully believe that when a new fan is exposed to the incredible action on the high banks, they will become a fan for life."

In addition to teen pricing, Bristol Motor Speedway will continue its popular kids and college ticket programs, which provide significantly reduced pricing for those two age groups.

Kids 12-and-under are \$10 to the Food City 500 (April 7) and Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race (Aug. 17) and are free to Bush's Beans Pole Day (April 5), Alsco 300/Zombie Auto 150 (April 6), UNOH 200/Bush's Beans 150 (Aug. 15) and Food City 300/Pinty's Qualifying (Aug. 16) events. On property, kids will want to check out the BMS Kids Zone, complete with a zip line, rock wall, euro bungee, face painting and more. The BMS Kids Zone is located in the Fan Zone off Volunteer Parkway near the famed Bristol elevator tower.

College students who have a valid student ID or student .edu email address can also experience NASCAR racing at its finest. Tickets begin at just \$35 for the Food City 500 and \$45 for the Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race. All tickets are reserved in a special section just for college students. Each student may purchase two discounted tickets. For more information on the college ticketing program, visit <https://www.bristolmotorspeedway.com/tickets/college-students/>.

For more information, call 423-BRISTOL or visit www.BristolTix.com.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Talladega Superspeedway is turning the BIG Five-O this year and the "Big One on the Blvd." is going to be BIGGER and better than ever! Along with a new lineup of fan competitions, NASCAR's Party Capital is taking it back old school for the can't-miss event on Friday, April 26.

Scheduled for a 7 p.m. CDT start, the "Big One on the Blvd." will showcase a host of NASCAR's biggest stars atop a Mardi-Gras style float, parading down Talladega Blvd. in the legendary infield. When the float reaches the Miller Lite Pavilion, the fans become the stars and participate in

four outlandish, original "fan challenges" - overseen by NASCAR drivers and personalities. The games include:

- Weenie in the Hole: Do you have good aim? Well hot diggity dog! Weenie in the Hole is just for you! Three contestants will face off to get as many jumbo hotdog weenies in the hole of their buckets before the clock runs out - using only their mouths! The contestant with the most successful weenie drops will receive \$100!

- Cake Stand: CAKE STAND, CAKE STAND, DO SOMETHING CRAZY!!! Three teams of three will attempt to devour a delicious Talladega Superspeedway 50th Anniversary cake while in keg stand position! Knees weak, arms are heavy? No problem, you can alternate with teammates! The first team to consume the entire cake will receive \$300 and bragging rights!

- Straight Arm'd and Delicious: Pour some sugar on me! In this straight arm relay challenge, three contestants will pour smoothies over their heads and try to catch as much liquid in their mouths as possible! Don't swallow, because the contestant to fill up his or her designated bucket first will receive \$250! You must be SMOOTH to win this competition!

- BBQ Sauce Wrestling: BBQ Sauce Wrestling is back and better than ever! Four ladies will battle it out in a 500-gallon pit of BBQ sauce in order to capture their opponent's flag! After two elimination rounds of best 2 out of 3, then an ultimate championship round, the BBQ Sauce Wrestling Queen will win a grand prize of \$1,000! Are you saucy enough to take the challenge?

Fans can sign up here at www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/bigone for a chance to participate in one of the competitions and claim bragging rights!

Some of the biggest names in NASCAR are expected to partake in this year's festivities. Noted personalities who have participated in the past include Clint Bowyer, Austin Dillon, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ryan Blaney, Ty Dillon, Brad Keselowski, Erik Jones, Kyle Larson, Denny Hamlin, Bubba Wallace, Daniel Suarez, Daniel Hemric and Jeffrey Earnhardt, along with media types Jeff Gordon, Michael Waltrip and Kim Coon.

All Renewal Guest ticket holders, infield camping guests and fans who purchased an infield wristband can join in on the

(Continued Next Page)

Continued...

festivities. Be sure to bring your ticket for access. For information on the "Big One on the Blvd." or general ticket information for all three days of racing, call 855-518-RACE (7223) or visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com.

*Signing up for a competition does not guarantee a spot as a competitor. Talladega Superspeedway staff will select the final list

of game participants.

The wild evening of fun is a part of the spring tripleheader weekend that features the General Tire 200 for the ARCA Menards Series (set for a 5 p.m. CDT start earlier on Friday), the MoneyLion 300 for the NASCAR Xfinity Series on Saturday at noon CDT, and the GEICO 500 for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series on Sunday, April 28, set for a 1 p.m. CDT start.

Talladega Superspeedway – which will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year – is the most competitive race track on the NASCAR schedule (record 88 lead changes in 188 laps), the highest-banked (33 degrees) and the longest (2.66 miles) as well as the most fun and fan-friendly. Talladega offers something for everyone, including hundreds of acres of free camping, amazing kids tickets and college student prices, along with special offers for military members, first responders, teachers and educators. The historic venue, which opened in 1969, is deemed NASCAR's "Party Capital" thanks to the track's infamous infield, the traditional Saturday Night Infield Concert on event weekends and renowned Talladega Blvd., home of the "Big One on the Blvd." party. It's the site of the most comfortable seats in motorsports, large ISM Vision HD video boards lining the frontstretch and numerous pre-race activities for fans on race day, including special Kids VIP opportunities. For ticket information, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call 855-518-RACE (7223).

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - In an effort to provide family fun under the sun, Charlotte Motor Speedway's first Cars and Coffee Concord event will look to kick off under clear March skies. Cars and Coffee's inaugural

event will now kick off on Saturday, March 16, with the FREE cruise-in event taking place from 7-10 a.m. in the speedway's Fan Zone – giving gearheads and coffee connoisseurs a chance to talk shop in a relaxed setting.

Following its March 16 rollout, Cars and Coffee Concord will take place on the third Saturday of each month, save for May and October. The new event will see the Fan Zone transformed as car owners and enthusiasts gather to celebrate their shared passion for cars and showcase their prized classics, customs and hot rods amid the backdrop of America's Home for Racing. There is no charge for car owners or spectators to participate. Click here for a Cars and Coffee map.

TICKETS: For tickets to all of Charlotte Motor Speedway's 2019 events, including the 60th running of the Coca-Cola 600 on May 26, visit www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets.

FOLLOW US: Keep track of all of Charlotte Motor Speedway's attractions and events by following on Twitter and Instagram or become a Facebook fan. Keep up with all the latest news and information with the Charlotte Motor Speedway mobile app.

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - The Harlem Globetrotters, the legendary basketball team that wows fans of all ages with its ball skills, trick shots, comedy and more, will perform free shows in Dover International Speedway's FanZone on Sunday, May 5 as part of the Monster Mile's 50th anniversary celebrations, track officials announced today.

The Globetrotters will hold multiple performances on Sunday, May 5 in the Monster Mile's 8-acre FanZone before that day's Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race (2 p.m. EDT, FS1). The May 3-5 NASCAR tripleheader weekend includes the NASCAR Xfinity Series Dash 4 Cash race on Saturday, May 4 and the "JEGS 200" NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series race on Friday, May 3.

The Globetrotters, first organized in the 1926, perform more than 400 shows around the world each year with their distinctive red, white and blue uniforms. The exhibition team is known for its colorful personalities, audience interaction and supreme basketball skills.

"The Harlem Globetrotters have been providing family entertainment for fans of all ages for decades," said Dover International

Speedway president and CEO Mike Tatoian. "What better way for a legendary track to celebrate an important milestone than to bring in a national sporting treasure that is close to its own 100th anniversary season. We look forward to seeing all the dunks, ball tricks, smiling faces and hearing the sound of 'Sweet Georgia Brown' blaring in the FanZone this spring."

2019 is Dover International Speedway's 50th anniversary season, featuring two NASCAR tripleheader weekends on May 3-5 and Oct. 4-6. The Oct. 4-6 NASCAR tripleheader weekend includes the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East race on Friday, Oct. 4, the NASCAR Xfinity Series playoff race on Saturday, Oct. 5 and the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoff race on Sunday, Oct. 6. The Oct. 6, 2019 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoff race will be the 100th NASCAR Cup Series race in track history. Dover International Speedway will be the 10th track in the nation to host 100 NASCAR Cup Series races.

Keep up to date on all 50th anniversary announcements and schedules by visiting DoverSpeedway.com or calling (800) 441-RACE. You can also follow all track activities at [Facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway](https://www.facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway), or on Twitter and Instagram at @MonsterMile.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Race fans flocking to Charlotte Motor Speedway for the 60th running of the iconic Coca-Cola 600 will witness a spectacular party on and off the track. Charlotte's power-packed Pit Party features a concert with Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees Cheap Trick presented by Advance Auto Parts Speed Perks.

The 60-minute concert headlines a fan-friendly spectacle featuring appearances by past and present members of the Coca-Cola Racing Family, including Coca-Cola 600 winners Jeff Burton and Kyle Petty.

"The Coca-Cola 600 is a spectacle unlike anything else in sports and between our patriotic salutes to the military and our exciting entertainment coming to the Pit Party, this year's 60th 600 is one no fan should miss," said Charlotte Motor Speedway Executive Vice President and General Manager Greg Walter. "Adding a timeless band to the mix in Cheap Trick only ramps up

our anticipation for the 600. It's going to be a memory-maker for every fan."

In addition to the Cheap Trick concert, fans attending the Pit Party will get to take part in Q&A sessions with a collection of classic and current Coca-Cola Racing Family drivers.

Every Coca-Cola 600 ticketholder will also witness historic race car displays, static military equipment displays and Charlotte Motor Speedway's annual Salute to the Troops – an awe-inspiring mix of patriotism and military firepower featuring members of all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces coming together on Memorial Day weekend.

Fans can experience everything from the best view with a Track Pass ticket upgrade, which also provides the best access to driver introductions as well as the Cheap Trick performance.

Known for world-renowned hits including "I Want You To Want Me," "Dream Police," "Surrender," and the Billboard chart-topping "The Flame," Cheap Trick will wow the crowd on the frontstretch before the stars of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series will take on the Coca-Cola 600 – NASCAR's toughest test of man and machine – at America's Home for Racing.

Courtesy of Advance Auto Parts and Speed Perks, two lucky fans will win an all-expense paid VIP trip for themselves and a guest to the Coca-Cola 600. Fans can sign up for the Speed Perks newsletter or follow Advance Auto Parts on social media to find out more about the sweepstakes, which kicks off April 1.

TICKETS: Pre-race Track Passes include access to the Pit Party and driver introductions, cost just \$100 for adults and are FREE for kids 13 and under. For tickets to all of Charlotte Motor Speedway's 2019 events, including the 60th running of the Coca-Cola 600 on May 26, visit www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets.

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Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGSGROVE, PA - Selinsgrove Speedway's annual Motorsports Show at the Susquehanna Valley Mall in Selinsgrove started today (Feb. 24) and will run through this Friday, March 1.

Race fans can check out more than 30 full-size race cars plus go karts throughout the week during regular mall hours. The display includes a variety of 410, 360,

and 305 sprint cars, late models, pro stocks, roadrunners, micro sprint cars, and a midget sprint car.

The speedway's defending stock car champions Bryan Bernheisel (super late models), Kyle Bachman (pro stocks), and Keith Bissinger (roadrunners) have their cars in Center Court.

2018 top five 360 sprint car teams with cars on display include Jason Shultz, Chad Layton, and Cody Keller. Former champion and last year's winner of the American Sprint Car Series event Blane Heimbach has a car in the show.

Defending National Opener winner Ryan Smith has the new Heffner Racing No. 72 sprint car on display as well.

Brett Schadel's team is debuting a brand-new late model along with the late models driven by Ken Trevitz, Nathan Long, Dylan Yoder, Andrew Yoder, Nathan Herman, and others.

The tribute cars of the late Kramer Williamson and Jim Nace are also at the mall this week.

Track officials will hold the annual season kick-off ceremony in the mall's center court at 7:30 p.m. Friday featuring announcements and driver interviews.

Reserved seats can be renewed at the show Monday through Thursday 6 p.m. until closing and Friday until the start of the season kickoff ceremony at 7:30 p.m. in the mall's Center Court. 2019 schedules are also available.

All race cars will be removed from the mall at 9 p.m. Friday.

Selinsgrove Speedway's 2019 Season Opener is slated for 6 p.m. Saturday, April 6, featuring the 360 sprint cars, super late models, pro stocks, and roadrunners.

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

570.374.2266.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Glen Reen and the #17 Avery Construction team head into the 2019 SK Modified® season at Stafford Speedway with their eyes set squarely on making a run for the championship. Reen will once again be teammates with Dan Avery but unlike the past several seasons, Reen's sole focus will be with the SK Modified® machine.

"I'm going to be teammates with Dan Avery again this season," said Reen. "Dan is going to run a partial schedule, like last season and I'm going to try to bring a championship home for Danny and myself. Winning the Late Model championship in 2017 showed me what we need to do to win a championship. We just have to go out and execute our game plan. I'm not going to run the Late Model this year. I had some issues with black flags last year so I'm going to stay out of that division so I don't get in any trouble. It's a shame I won't be racing with Rob Russell and his guys again but I can't put another SK season in jeopardy. I love all those RRC guys and I told them I'd race with them anywhere else, but for 2019 at Stafford I have to put all my eggs in one basket. I'd like to thank all our sponsors, Avery Construction, Paganelli Construction, Pioneer Valley Wheel Repair, RAD Auto Machine, Tech Ed Products, Smith Bodywork, GP Fence, B.A. Muzio, Squid Decals, New England Racing Fuel, Sunoco. I also want to thank Paul and David Arute for all their hard work during the off season with the social media exposure and everyone who works at the track. Stafford is hands down the best track in the Northeast, and Mark and Lisa Arute do a great job putting the show on every Friday night."

Reen's #17 car and Avery's #10 car will once again carry a paint scheme tribute to Ted Christopher.

"We're going to run the cars as a tribute to Teddy again this year," said Reen. "Dan helped Teddy get started in the SK's back in the day and then Teddy helped Dan get back into the SK's, so this is a way for Dan to help keep Teddy's legacy alive at Stafford."

After finishing the 2018 season 9th in the SK Modified® points standings for the second consecutive season, Reen has several reasons to be optimistic that the 2019 season will be his best season to date at Stafford.

"I think we're going to be even

better than we were last year," said Reen. "2018 was our first year working with Troyer cars after running CD cars for many years, and it was a learning experience with the Troyer. We found out after the season was over when we sent the car out to get a new clip that the car was bent from a wreck we got into early in the season and that's why we could never get the car to handle like we wanted. Now that we have a year's worth of notes to look back at, I can say on this night, I complained about X,Y, and Z and this is what we need to do to fix that this year. I look at it like this, I fought from 2011-2017 for one SK Modified® win and last year the only thing that changed was the chassis and we ended up getting two wins. Racing against guys like Keith Rocco, who had 6 wins, and Ronnie Williams and Mike Christopher, Jr. who each had 4 wins, for us to get two wins against competition like that was pretty impressive. Last year we missed two races and with two other near last place finishes, it was like missing four races and we still ended the season 9th in points. We're 10 times ahead of where we were at this stage last year. I'm chomping at the bit to get started again and I'm very blessed to be with this team. We have a few more things in the works that we'll be making announcements about."

The high point of the 2018 season for Reen was winning the Ted Christopher SK 13 Shoot-Out on July 13. The TC 13 Shoot-Out win came at just the right time during the season for Reen and the #17 team. Reen was trying to dig out of an early season hole after several finishes outside the top-20 and Reen credits his car owner Avery for the turn around.

"The Shoot-Out win was huge for us," said Reen. "I had been trying extra hard early in the season to get a win for Dan after he bought a new chassis for me, which ended up getting me in trouble. Finally Dan sat me down one night and he told me to just finish all the laps and don't worry about winning. Once he told me that and I settled down a bit, things worked out for us that night. I saw Dan get wrecked in the 40-lap race leading into the Shoot-Out and a feeling came over me that I had to win that race for Dan. The funny part was that I used the car up in the 40-lap race to get up to 7th place to get qualified for the Shoot Out. I told the guys on the radio that there was nothing left in the car and that we weren't going to win but we didn't give up and I

don't know if it was the tires cooling down or what, but the car was a rocketship in that race. We went from 7th to 2nd in the first 2 laps and then we followed Chase [Dowling] around for a few laps before we took the lead. Being able to give Dan that TC 13 trophy and to see the look on his face was priceless because I know how bad he wanted to win that race."

Reen will kick off his quest for an SK Modified® championship at the 48th Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler® on April 26-28. Tickets for the "Greatest Race in the History of Spring" are on sale now by calling the Speedway Box Office 860-684-2783 or online at www.stafford-speedway.com.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - After recording 5 consecutive top-4 finishes in the Late Model standings at Stafford Motor Speedway, the 2018 season was disappointing for Ellington, CT native Kevin Gambacorta. The driver of the #23 Lavigne Law Dodge began last season with high hopes, but a wreck in the season opening NAPA Spring Sizzler event forced Gambacorta to miss several races as he repaired his car. Another wreck later in the season relegated Gambacorta to the sidelines for several more races. Despite missing 6 races in total, Gambacorta still managed to finish 9th in the standings on the strength of a win and 5 second place finishes. Gambacorta is heading into the 2019 season at Stafford ready to put the misery of 2018 behind him.

"I'm looking forward to the season," said Gambacorta. "When we were at the track last season, we ran really well. We had five second place finishes, a third place run in the 50-lapper, and a win, but we had two bad wrecks and we had to miss some races. The Sizzler was really frustrating. I've never had a wreck that bad before where I had to miss races. I thought we were going to be out for a long time because of what the cost to fix the car was, but I was fortunate to have a few people step up and they gave me enough help to get back pretty quickly. We finished second in our first race back and that was even more frustrating knowing we were that good. I don't know that anyone was going to beat Tommy [Fearn] last year but I feel like we were a second place car."

Helping Gambacorta get his #23 car back to the track so quickly was Gary Lavigne with Lavigne Law, Dr.

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Sean Noel from LifeCare Family Chiropractic, and Dave Miller from Auto Machine. Gambacorta will carry the same sponsorship into the 2019 season and thanks to their support, Gambacorta says he is starting a season off with extra money in his pocket for the first time.

"I have to thank my sponsors Lavigne Law, LifeCare Family Chiropractic, and Auto Machine" said Gambacorta. "Gary Lavigne with Lavigne Law, he introduced himself to me a couple years ago and gave me his card. He ended up helping us out quite a bit last year and then right around Thanksgiving we got something in the mail from him for the 2019 season. I think it's pretty neat that someone is willing to do that for me. His help has made the off-season a lot less stressful. I also have to thank Dr. Sean Noel with LifeCare Family Chiropractic, he was a big part of helping me get the car back together last season, and Dave Miller from Auto Machine. Without his help, I'd be pushing the car around the track rather than driving it. I keep an envelope that I use to pay for racing. We take our weekly race checks and put that into the envelope throughout the season. Thanks to my sponsors, this is the first time I've had money in my envelope to start a season off."

Gambacorta is a three-time Stafford track champion (DARE Stock '04, Limited Late Model '06, '11). With his #23 ready to roll for another season of Late Model competition combined with being in a financially sound situation to start the year off, Gambacorta is looking to add a fourth championship to his resume.

"The plan is to run for the championship this season," said Gambacorta. "We have more financial help this year than we have had in the past and I really want to to run for the championship. One thing that makes me a little uncomfortable is not having a backup car if something were to happen to the car again like last season. During the off-season, I bought all kinds of new parts for the car like brakes, clutches, and things like that where I normally don't buy brand new parts. I think we can be even a little better than we were last year.

We'll need a little luck on our side and we feel like we can compete with anyone and win races."

Although the 2018 season was a disappointment for Gambacorta having to miss races, there was a silver lining. With not having to worry about racing for points, Gambacorta used the 2018 season as a season long test, trying some different things with his chassis setup that he normally wouldn't have tried in the thick of a championship race. Gambacorta says that he found some things that worked well and he is ready to tackle the 2019 season and try to knock Tom Fearn off of the Late Model throne.

"We used last season as kind of a test season since we missed races and weren't contending for the championship," said Gambacorta. "I tried a lot of different things on the car that I might not have normally tried if we were in the championship hunt and we learned a few things about the car that worked out really well. Tommy [Fearn] has been racing for a long time and he knows what he's doing. We were able to get close to him a couple times last season but we didn't have enough to get by him except for the night we won. As frustrating as it was to be that close to him, I guess we could feel pretty good that if he was winning all those races and we were finishing second, we must have been pretty good."

The 2019 Late Model season will kick off at the 48th Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler® on April 26-28. Tickets for the "Greatest Race in the History of Spring" are on sale now by calling the Speedway Box Office 860-684-2783 or online at www.staffordspeedway.com.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - In just two short seasons, George Bessette, Jr. has gone from Wild Thing Kart graduate and Stafford rookie to Street Stock champion. The Danbury, CT native claimed the Street Stock championship at Stafford with a dominant season that saw the then 15-year old finish outside the top-8 only twice as he scored a division leading 5 wins. Bessette will return to the Street Stock division to defend his title while also keeping one eye looking towards the SK Light division with plans to move to open wheel competition full-time in 2020.

"We're going to do another year in the Street Stock and defend our championship," said Bessette. "During the year we'll take our SK Light car out for practice at Waterford

and we're planning on running both the Street Stock and SK Light at the Fall Final. Maybe if I feel comfortable enough in the SK Light, we'll race the Street Stock on Friday night and then take the SK Light down to Waterford on Saturday and see what happens."

In addition to the Street Stock championship, Bessette will also have his eyes on the Royal Screw Machine Products Street Stock Triple Crown, which will pay a total of \$4,500 to the top-10 drivers and \$1,000 to the winner. Each of the RSMPCO.com Triple Crown events will be 30-laps in distance and Bessette won the only 30-lap race on the schedule last season for the Street Stock division.

"I see there's some pretty big money on the line for the Street Stock Triple Crown," said Bessette. "It's a pretty cool deal to be a part of and our goal is to finish in the top-3 every week and we'll try extra hard to be in the top-3 for those triple crown events. We have some pretty good experience from last year with a 30-lap race and we just have to be patient and hopefully things will fall into place for us like they did last year. We know the car is pretty good for 30-lap events. I think these races are going to make everyone drive a little harder than usual and it'll be pretty interesting for the fans to watch. It's great to have sponsors like Royal Screw Machine Products putting up a bonus like this for one of the lower divisions in the weekly program at Stafford. I have to give them a big thank you for doing this program for the Street Stock division."

Bessette is seeking to become the 4th different DARE/Street Stock driver to win back to back track titles and the 22nd different driver to win back to back track championships at Stafford since becoming a NASCAR short track in 1959. Bessette will also be looking to continue a trend in the Street Stock division. Aside from Norm Sears winning three DARE Stock titles in a row from 2006-2008, Bessette would be the third consecutive driver to win back to back titles in the DARE/Street Stock division, following Frank L'Etoile, Jr. in 2014-2015 and Johnny Walker in 2016-2017.

"We'll going to give it our best effort to defend the championship," said Bessette. "It would be pretty cool to be in the record books as a back to back champion. Technically were the first Street Stock champion and to go back at it and be able to do it again, it would be

pretty awesome. There's going to be a lot of drivers looking to beat us and we just have to do the same things that we did this past season. It won't be easy for sure. There's some new guys coming in who will be quick and we'll have to give it 110% every week. It would be a storybook ending for us if we could go back to back. I won't be disappointed if we don't win the championship again, I would just say that we got beat. We have some great support from Lasco Roofing and Sheet Metal, Lee Seward Plumbing & Heating, Bagelman, Goodhill Mechanical, the Joie of Seating, Fine Line Building, F & M Electric, Northeast Carpet, and everyone who helps out on the car, and it would be great to win another championship for all of them. I'm so fortunate to have all these people helping me out. I'm only 16 and it's like having extra fathers and uncles."

As the defending champion of the Street Stock division, Bessette knows his #39 Chevrolet carries a bull's-eye on the back bumper as he will be the car that everyone in the division is looking to dethrone. If Bessette can continue his high level of consistency with his finishes, he shouldn't have too much to worry about. In the 38 Street Stock races held from 2017-2018, Bessette has finished in the top-5 17 times for a 68% ratio and he has 34 top-10 finishes for an 89% ratio to go along with 6 wins.

"I think the biggest challenge for us will be the fact that everyone wants to beat the kid and take us down since we won the championship last year," said Bessette. "We're not going to back down, we're going to be racing just as hard for the championship as we were last year."

"I think the key is to stay smooth and consistent coming up through the field. With the handicapping we usually start around 10th every week so it's a matter of keeping a cool head. Some times I'll catch myself doing something wrong and I'll say to myself just relax and calm down, there's still a long way to go. Like my father always says to me, just take your time and you'll wear them out. I'm going to take whatever the car will give me. If we have a second place car, then I'm going to finish second. If we have a winning car, then I'll try to win the race."

Bessette will begin his quest for back to back Street Stock championship with the 48th Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler® on April 26-28 at www.staffordspeedway.com.