



NOVEMBER 12, 2018

FastTrack

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

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Who Will Win?



**LOGANO
BUSCH**

**TRUEX
HARVICK**

Finally!

A season that started a few days from Valentine's Day and ends a couple days from Thanksgiving is down to one race and four drivers.

Finally.

A football and baseball season has come and gone. Basketball and hockey have crowned a champion, spent months on vacation and now are deep into a new season.

But there are 400 miles still to go in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. And it couldn't be any more interesting.

The Big Three – Kevin Harvick, Martin Truex Jr. and Kyle Busch – all advanced as expected to the winner-take-all finale set for Sunday afternoon at the Homestead-Miami Speedway. So did Joey Logano.

With the possible exception of Chase Elliott, was there any other way it wouldn't end up this way?

Harvick rebounded from having his automatic berth in the Championship Four erased by an illegally mounted rear spoiler at Texas and a flat tire last Sunday at Phoenix to make the final cut on points.

While Truex hasn't won in the playoffs, he remained consistent throughout to earn his spot.

Logano (Martinsville) and Busch (Phoenix) advanced with victories.

As if the one-and-only chance at this year's championship wasn't enough of an incentive, add in the fact Logano has had run-ins with all three of Championship Four finalists. Also, Busch has had his problems with Harvick.

So who has the edge? All four think they have the mechanical and emotional edge to win it all.

"We've had an awesome year and the way that we've been able to perform and how we've been able to do things in this playoff, it hasn't quite been pretty all the time, but we did what we needed to do in key moments," Busch said. "Last week [at Texas] was a tough week for us, but we've got this week now and if momentum is anything, obviously we're ready to go. We'll rock and roll into Homestead and it feels pretty good."

Logano is the only one of the four who hasn't won a Cup championship. But he delivered a warning at Phoenix for all to hear: he's the man to beat.

"Honestly, it's funny I was talking with Todd [Gordon, crew chief] on the way out here and I told him I said, when the playoffs started I kind of felt like we were an underdog of making it and honestly the last six or seven weeks we've led a lot more laps, we've won a lot of stages, won a race, was fast at Kansas, was fast at Texas.



DON COBLE

"You know what, I think we're the favorite now to win now. And I think it's so crazy to think that it can change that quick, but we are the one team that has been able to say we're locked in the last couple of weeks. I can promise you, I haven't watched any Phoenix tape when I flew out here. I was focused on one race [Homestead]."

For Truex, the defending series champion, it's a chance to celebrate one last time before his Furniture Row Racing closes its doors. Regardless of Sunday's outcome, car owner Barney Visser decided to shut down the operation after not finding sponsorship for 2019.

While it would have been easy for the team to give up, Truex said his group rallied around their disappointment.

"Well, it's exciting for us, I think, to be in this position again," he said. "This is our third trip to Homestead in four years, which I think is something we're all really proud of as a group, and obviously going to be our last race together as a complete group, it's definitely going to be a special weekend.

"I think it's just really still kind of sinking in, I think, for most of us. When you're doing this job and you're so focused on what you're doing, you kind of really just block out everything in the outside world. You just get so focused in. We understand it's here, next week is our last week, but it's cool that we're going to Homestead with a chance to win it in his [Visser] last race."

Truex and crew chief Cole Pearn won't leave Homestead with any doubt about their futures. Both have agreed to drive the No. 19 Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing next year.

Until then, there's still a little work – 400 miles – remaining at Furniture Row.

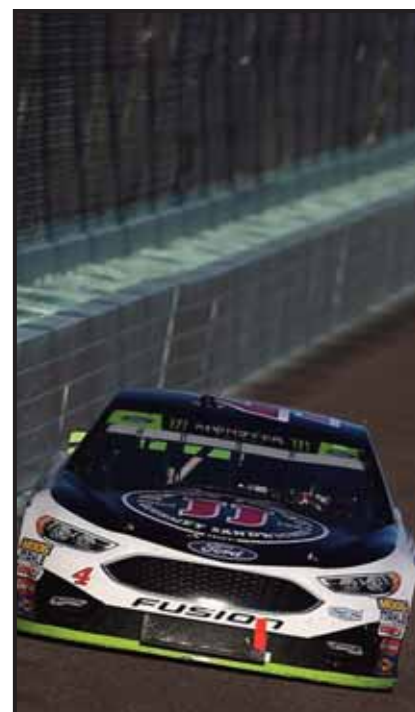
"All we can do is prepare the best we can and do the same thing that we've done down there before and just try our best," Truex said. "That's all you can do at the end of the day. We've got a great team. It's been an amazing, amazing ride together."

Most, however, would make Harvick the considerable favorite at Homestead. He and Busch each have a series-best eight wins, but Harvick has shown the most consistent speed – especially on the 1.5-mile tracks. Four of Harvick's victories came at 1.5-mile tracks, and Homestead, by the way, is a 1.5-mile track.

"Here is my reality check: Jimmie Johnson hasn't won a race this year, and he isn't king of the mountain," Harvick said. "When that type of stuff happens, you see scenarios like that, you have to be real with yourself to say that these are scenarios that you better enjoy because they probably won't last forever."

"Right now, we've been fortunate to have been in this position for the last five years. We've capitalized on a lot of race wins, a championship, put ourselves in position to win a few other championships. Just didn't all work out.

"You need to capitalize on every moment, on every fast car, on every chance you have to win a championship because at some point there's going to be some tougher times in there."



In 2017 Kevin Harvick(4) leads at Homestead during the championship race. (SARAH CRABILL/GETTY IMAGES photo)

The highest-finishing driver of the Championship Four at Homestead will be the champion. Stage points and laps led won't matter.

In the past four years, however, it took a race victory to win the championship. Harvick did it in 2014, followed by Busch in 2015, Johnson in 2016 and Truex in 2017.

The Championship Four combined to win 22 of 35 races, but all of that only got them to the starting line for a final 400-mile sprint with a championship waiting at the finish line.

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ON THE COVER:

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One for the Money

It all started at Daytona International Speedway in February. Now, ten months later, the three premiere divisions of NASCAR – Camping World Truck Series (CWTS), Xfinity Series, Monster Energy Cup Series (MECS) – will compete at the Homestead-Miami Speedway this week to determine their 2018 Champions.

The long regular season and playoff races have dwindled each division down to four competitors who will battle it out on the 1.5-mile Homestead, Florida track. However, the game changes for each division at Homestead. Instead of win and advance or gain as many points as possible in hopes of making the next playoff round, it's best finish among the four championship contenders in each division leaves with the crown. Pretty simple! Highest finisher among the four drivers who qualified for the championship final playoff race is the 2018 champion for each series.

The first title to be decided will be the Camping World Truck Series on Friday. The four championship contenders are Johnny Sauter, Justin Haley, Brett Moffitt, and Noah Gragson. Sauter won at Martinsville, Haley at Texas, and Moffitt at Phoenix to reach the title round. Gragson was the highest finisher in points to earn the fourth contender position.

When you look at the record of these four drivers at Homestead, a clear favorite develops. Friday will be Brett Moffitt's first ever CWTS race at Homestead. Justin Haley has one start at HMS, finished ninth last year. Gragson has two starts at HMS with a 15th in '16 and a 18th last year. The veteran of the foursome, Johnny Sauter, is no stranger to the Florida 1.5-mile facility.

Sauter has eleven career CWTS starts at Homestead. He has one win (2011), four top-five, and eight top-ten finishes at HMS. Sauter won the 2016 CWTS Championship at Homestead and is looking for a second title this week. However, he'll have to beat three very talented and hungry young competitors to win it.

To say that the Xfinity Series championship battle is wide open would be a huge understatement.

The four title contenders have a total of five races experience at HMS. The "veteran" of the group is Cole Custer. Custer has two career Xfinity starts at Homestead including a win last season. Christopher Bell, the Phoenix winner, has one start at HMS and finished 36th last year. Daniel Hemric finished 34th last year in his only start at Homestead. Tyler Reddick won the pole and finished fourth last year in his only Homestead start.

Four "young guns" each racing for their first-ever NASCAR Xfinity Series title this Saturday. Hard to handicap this battle, but Custer with a win at Homestead and Bell with seven wins this year rate as the favorites.

The four title contenders in the Monster Energy Cup Series were not

decided until the final laps at ISM Raceway last Sunday. Joey Logano, with his victory at Martinsville, had punched his ticket to the Homestead championship battle, but the three remaining positions were still up for grabs at Phoenix. While many fans have had Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick, and Martin Truex Jr. penciled into the Homestead championship race for many months, nothing was certain until the final laps at ISM. As it turned out, Kyle Busch won to gain the automatic berth in the championship round, and Harvick and Truex earned their shot at the 2018 title on points. So, the final four is set for the MECS title race next Sunday.

When you examine the final four vying for the Cup title and their records at Homestead, it's easy to see just how competitive the championship event will be.

Three of the final four have won in Cup competition at Homestead. Harvick won in '14, Busch in '15, and Truex Jr. last year. Ironically, each victory by these three resulted in a championship!

Joey Logano won at Martinsville to earn his title shot at Homestead and finished second to Jimmie Johnson in 2016 in search of his first MECS crown.

Harvick has been close at Homestead three other times. He finished second in '15 and third in

both '13 and '17. Busch finished second last year, third in '16, and fourth in '13. In addition to his title clinching win last year, Truex finished fourth in 2015. Picking a championship winner among this group will be extremely difficult.

One note to keep in mind while watching these three championship races at Homestead. The Series champ in each division doesn't have to win the race to win the title. As previously stated, he only has to

finish higher than his three other title challengers. But, if history has taught us anything about Championship Weekend at Homestead-Miami Speedway, a win is the only "sure" way to capture the crown.

It's been a long ride this season that ends with three champions crowned in Florida this weekend. Best of luck to all of the title-eligible drivers and teams. I'm sure you'll give each of us a memorable weekend and championship battle.



**KYLE
BUSCH**



**KEVIN
HARVICK**



**MARTIN
TRUEX JR.**

2018 Championship Contenders



**JOEY
LOGANO**



**COLE
CUSTER**



**CHRISTOPHER
BELL**



**DANIEL
HEMRIC**



**TYLER
REDDICK**



**JOHNNY
SAUTER**



**BRETT
MOFFITT**



**JUSTIN
HALEY**



**NOAH
GRAGSON**

NASCAR Legend David Pearson Passes Away at Age 83

*The "Silver Fox" was a
NASCAR Hall of Fame
inductee, three-time champion*

DAYTONA BEACH, FL – David Pearson, winner of three NASCAR premier series championships despite never

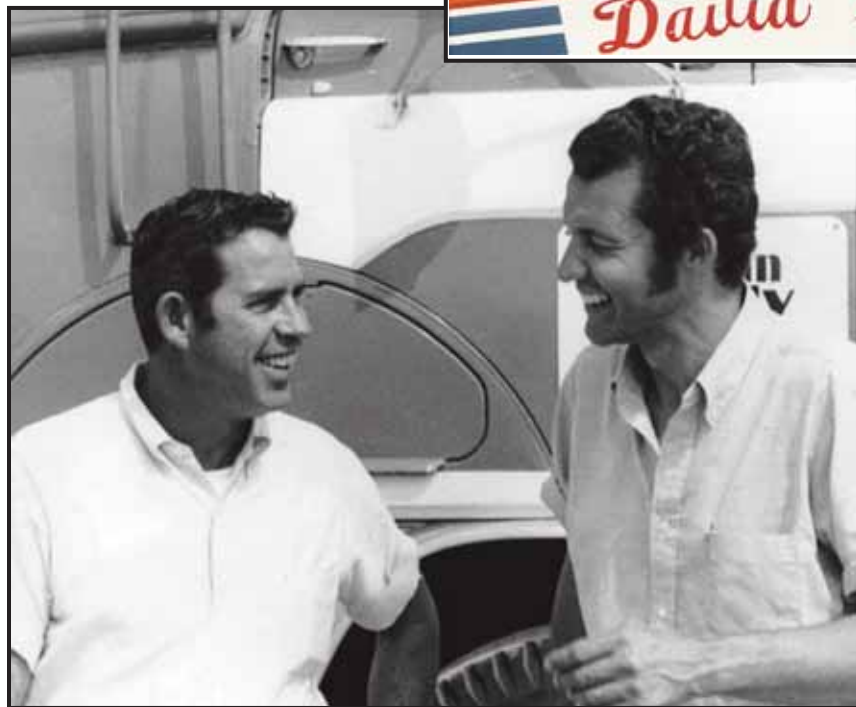
running a complete schedule, has died at the age of 83 (b. 12/22/34).

Winner of 105 races in just 574 starts – second most to fellow NASCAR Hall of Famer Richard Petty – the Whitney, S.C.-born Pearson won titles in 1966 and 1968-69.

David Pearson, winner of three NASCAR premier series championships despite never running a complete schedule, has died at the age of 83 (b. 12/22/34).

Winner of 105 races in just 574 starts – second most to fellow NASCAR Hall of Famer Richard Petty – the Whitney, S.C.-born

fans. Petty called him the greatest driver he ever raced against. We were lucky to be able to call him one of our champions.



Pearson won titles in 1966 and 1968-69.

"David Pearson's 105 NASCAR premier series victories and his classic rivalry in the 1960s and '70s with Richard Petty helped set the stage for NASCAR's transformation into a mainstream sport with national appeal," said NASCAR Chairman and CEO Jim France. "When he retired, he had three championships – and millions of

"The man they called the 'Silver Fox' was the gold standard for NASCAR excellence.

"On behalf of the France Family and everyone at NASCAR, I want to offer sincere condolences to the family and friends of David Pearson, a true giant of our sport."

Pearson was most identified with the legendary Wood Brothers despite never winning a championship in their Ford and Mercury



egg-shaped track that ushered in NASCAR's paved, superspeedway era in 1950. He won three Southern 500s, run during the heat and humidity of Labor Day week that ranked as the sport's greatest test of endurance for both driver and car.

A statement from Richard Petty:

"I have always been asked who my toughest competitor in my career was. The answer has always been David Pearson. David and I raced together throughout our careers and battled each other for wins- most of the time finishing first or second to each other.

"It wasn't a rivalry, but more mutual respect. David is a Hall of Fame driver who made me better. He pushed me just as much as I pushed him on the track. We both became better for it.

"We have always been close to the Pearson family because they were in the racing business, just like us. We stayed close, and I enjoyed visits to see David when going through South Carolina. We will miss those trips.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Pearson family and friends."

A statement from Kerry Tharp, President Darlington Raceway

"Darlington Raceway expresses its deepest condolences and sympathies to the family and friends of David Pearson. His record 10 wins at Darlington Raceway put him in a league of his own. His fierce competitiveness and passion for the sport endeared him to the NASCAR faithful. His Hall of Fame career will go down as one of the most prolific in the history of the sport. A native South Carolinian, he was a wonderful ambassador for our sport and for the Palmetto State. He will be missed and will always be remembered."

ISC & GETTY IMAGES photos

cars. Between 1972 and 1979, Pearson and the Virginia-based Woods – led by NASCAR Hall of Famers Glen and Leonard – won 43 times including the 1976 Daytona 500, a race that saw Pearson limp to the finish after colliding with rival Petty coming down to take the checkered flag.

Pearson was a ferocious qualifier, once fashioning 11 consecutive pole positions at Charlotte Motor Speedway, a NASCAR premier series record that still stands. Yet, he was willing to run long – 500 and 600 mile – races at a pace fast enough to maintain track position while saving speed for the finish.

It earned him the nickname as "The Fox" – as in sly – that later, as his hair began to grey, became "The Silver Fox."

Perhaps the greatest measure of Pearson's talents was his mastery of Darlington Raceway in South Carolina, not far from where the driver grew up in Spartanburg – once the hub of NASCAR stock car racing.

Pearson, inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2011, won 10 times at the track dubbed "Too Tough To Tame," a 1.366-mile,

With Win in Phoenix, Kyle Busch Leads Big Three into Title Race

AVONDALE, AZ - Holding off Brad Keselowski after a restart with 12 laps left in Sunday's Can-Am 500 at ISM Raceway, Kyle Busch claimed his eighth Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series victory of the season and led NASCAR's Big Three into the Championship 4 race at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

After a wreck on Lap 269 of 312 ended the championship hopes of Kurt Busch and Chase Elliott—both of whom had been in the mix throughout the day—Busch grabbed the lead from Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Erik Jones on Lap 277 and held it the rest of the way, through two subsequent cautions and restarts.

Busch's victory, the 51st of his career and his second at the one-mile track—coming 13 years after his first one—tied him for the series lead with Kevin Harvick, who had to overcome an early flat tire to join Busch, Martinsville winner Joey Logano and Martin Truex Jr. (14th on Sunday) in the Championship 4 Round.

The 51st win broke a tie with NASCAR Hall of Famers Junior Johnson and Ned Jarrett, leaving Busch alone in 11th place on the

all-time list.

By the time he took the checkered flag .501 seconds ahead of Keselowski, Busch had already clinched a spot in the title race on points.

"What a day! What a race!" Busch said. "It's an awesome team and awesome group of guys. Can't say enough about everybody at Joe Gibbs Racing—all the men and women there that work so hard to prepare such great race cars that I get to drive."

Busch, who won the 2015 championship after missing the first 11 events of the season because of injuries sustained in an accident at Daytona, now carries significant momentum into the championship race.

"I'd like to think it gives us a lot, but I don't know—talk is cheap. We've got to be able to go out there and perform and just do what we need to do. Being able to do what we did here today was certainly beneficial."

"I didn't think we were the best car, but we survived, and we did what we needed to do today. It's just about getting to next week, and once we were locked in, it was 'All bets are off, and it's time to go.'"

Truex didn't have a contending car, but the reigning series champion did an admirable job avoiding the sort of trouble that dashed the



Race winner Kyle Busch makes his signature salute to the fans after holding on to the lead to make it eight wins in 2018 and taking him solidly into the final race of the season for the championship. (RUSSELL LABOUNTY/NKP photo)

hopes of other championship contenders.

Clint Bowyer exited early, thanks to a flat left rear tire that sent him hard into the Turn 3 wall on Lap 133. Kurt Busch led 52 laps and overcame a one-lap penalty for passing the pace car at the entrance to pit road under caution on Lap 135.

After regaining the lost lap, however, Busch was fighting for the lead after a restart on Lap 269 when the No. 11 Toyota of Denny Hamlin ran him into the outside wall. Busch's No. 41 Ford bounced off the barrier and collected the No. 9 Chevrolet of Chase Elliott, who had led 16 laps and won the first stage.

Unable to continue, Busch finished 32nd. Elliott lost three laps under repairs and came home 23rd.

With Kurt Busch and Elliott out of contention, Harvick was assured of a Championship 4 berth unless Stewart-Haas Racing teammate Aric Almirola won the race. Almirola lined up second to Kyle Busch for the final restart on Lap 301 but faded to fourth at the finish, and Harvick was in.

"That flat tire, just leading the stage there, coming to the white, and the tire goes flat," Harvick said of his early issue.

"That just put us behind and that was really the turning point in our day, to not have everything go right."

"I mean, we got ourselves back in contention there, and we're going in the right direction and wound up just finding a spot at the end to just survive there and get to the finish."

Harvick finished fifth behind Almirola. Jamie McMurray, Matt Kenseth, Austin Dillon, William Byron, and Bubba Wallace completed the top 10.

Byron clinched Sunoco Rookie of the Year honors for the series.

"We haven't had very good runs, to be honest, the whole year, but this run we kind of went a completely different direction with what we were doing and it seemed to pay off, and just kind of had a solid weekend other than qualifying," Byron said.

"Got some damage there, but we were able to come back, I guess, and finish ninth, so I guess that's decent, and going to Homestead next week."



Pole-sitter and race leader Kevin Harvick pits to replace a blown tire just before the end of stage one of the race. Harvick battled back throughout the race to remain in the championship hunt. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

Christopher Bell Wins All-Or-Nothing Race to Clinch Xfinity Championship Berth

AVONDALE, AZ - In a Playoff round that has been feast or famine for Christopher Bell, the driver of the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota Camry gorged to his heart's content on Saturday at

ISM Raceway.

Starting from 38th, Bell roared through the field to win the Whelen Trusted To Perform 200 NASCAR Xfinity Series race and advance to the Nov. 17 season championship finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Faced with a must-win situation entering the Round of 8 elimination race, Bell did exactly that. By the end of Stage 1, he had cracked the top 10. At the end of Stage 2, he was fourth. And on Lap 108 of 200, he took the lead under green for the first time, forcing his way past

pole winner John Hunter Nemechek for the top spot.

The Sunoco Rookie of the Year contender never trailed after that, winning for the seventh time this season, the first time at Phoenix and the eighth time in his career. In a Playoff format in which victory provides redemption for a multitude of ills, Bell rallied from first-lap crashes at both Kansas and Texas to earn his spot in the final four.

"I'll be honest, after Kansas and Texas, I just kind of accepted that we weren't going to be able to get there," Bell said. "I just came over here with a 'Let's have fun attitude.' To start in the back, we didn't really make our way up front that fast. I kind of got stalled out once I got into the top 15.

"I knew this thing was really fast, because (on Friday) in practice, it was really good... I'm just thankful for my team. They brought proba-



Christopher Bell gives the thumbs-up as he heads to Phoenix's victory lane after winning the Whelen Trusted to perform 200 locking in his place in the final race at Homestead. (RUSSELL LABOUNTY/NKP photo)

Chevrolet Clinches 19th Bill France Performance Cup

AVONDALE, AZ - With the waving of the green flag over the Whelen 200 at ISM Raceway, Chevrolet clinched the Bill France Performance Cup in the NASCAR Xfinity Series (NXS). The 2018 achievement marks the 19th time the Bowtie Brand has captured this prestigious honor, more than any other manufacturer.

The triumph marks the fourth time Camaro SS has earned the award since becoming Chevrolet's flagship in the Xfinity Series in 2013. The Camaro has earned 67 NXS victories since its debut.

"Chevrolet is honored to win the 2018 Bill France Performance Cup in the NASCAR Xfinity Series for the 19th time," said Jim Campbell, Chevrolet U.S. Vice President of Performance Vehicles and Motorsports. "Every point matters during the season and this achievement is the result of a lot of dedication, hard work and persistence exhibited by all of the Chevy team owners, drivers, crew chiefs, engineers and team members."

En route to securing the Bill France Performance Cup, Chevrolet drivers have won 14 races thus far in 2018 in Xfinity Series competition.

Capping off the regular season, Chevrolet driver, Justin Allgaier earned the regular season championship and the Bowtie Brand placed more drivers in the Playoffs than any other manufacturer with seven drivers and teams in contention for this year's title.

Team Chevy had a bevy of different drivers and teams contributing to this special award with victories: Justin Allgaier (5 wins), Kyle Larson (4 wins), Austin Dillon (1 Win), Tyler Reddick (1 Win), as well as, Spencer Gallagher, Ross Chastain and John Hunter Nemechek all claiming their first career wins adding valuable points to the manufacturer championship race. Daniel Hemric, Elliott Sadler, Ty Dillon, Chase Elliott, AJ Allmendinger and Justin Marks also contributed to the manufacturer championship triumph during the 2018 season with points-paying finishes.

bly the best car we've had all year here this weekend. It's a pleasure to drive 'em, and a race car driver is only as good as his race car. This thing was unbelievably fast."

Bell joined Texas winner Cole Custer in the Championship 4 Round, along with Saturday's runner-up Daniel Hemric and sixth-place finisher Tyler Reddick, both of whom advanced on points.

Matt Tifft ran third but fell short in the Playoffs, as did regular-season champion Justin Allgaier, who won the first and second stages but sustained heavy damage to the right front of the No. 7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet when Nemechek slid sideways across the track on Lap 145 and clobbered Allgaier's car.

Allgaier later lost his brakes before finishing 24th.

"It's extremely disappointing," said Allgaier, who lost seven spots on pit road after sliding into his stall under caution on Lap 139. "But we did everything we could in the first two stages. We had a really fast Brandt Camaro. We had a lot of trouble today, seeing our pit stall. It was really difficult to see where we were at and navigate that. I lost us some spots on pit road.

"Ultimately, that put ourselves in a bad position. Got some damage, and we lost the brakes there at the

end. At that point it was just about survival, finishing the race and getting as many points as we could gain."

Likewise, veteran Elliott Sadler left Phoenix disappointed after early contact with the No. 40 Toyota of Chad Finchum cost him track position he could never regain. Sadler finished 11th and failed to advance to Homestead in his final year as a full-time NASCAR driver.

"I made too many mistakes today to give my guys an opportunity," Sadler said.

"It's all on me. My guys work too hard and deserve to be a part of this Championship 4 at Homestead, but I just didn't pull my part through.

"It's going to be an emotional week. I have one race left, and my wife and kids are coming to Homestead, and we'll make the most of it, but it's definitely going to be hard to look my guys in the eye, knowing we're not part of the championship."

Austin Cindric, whose only path to the Championship 4 was to win at ISM, finished fourth. Ryan Preece and Brandon Jones were fifth and seventh, respectively, with Custer finishing eighth. Nemechek and Spencer Gallagher completed the top 10.

Brett Moffitt Clinches Championship 4 Berth with Dramatic Win at Phoenix

AVONDALE, AZ - Charging from third to first with a strong inside move after a restart with three laps left, Brett Moffitt clinched his spot in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Championship 4 with a dramatic victory in Friday night's Lucas Oil 150 at ISM Raceway.

While Noah Gragson and Grant Enfinger battled for the lead and swapped side-to-side shots on Lap 148 of 150, Moffitt powered his No. 16 Hattori Racing Enterprises Toyota down to the frontstretch apron and cleared Gragson and Enfinger off the second corner.

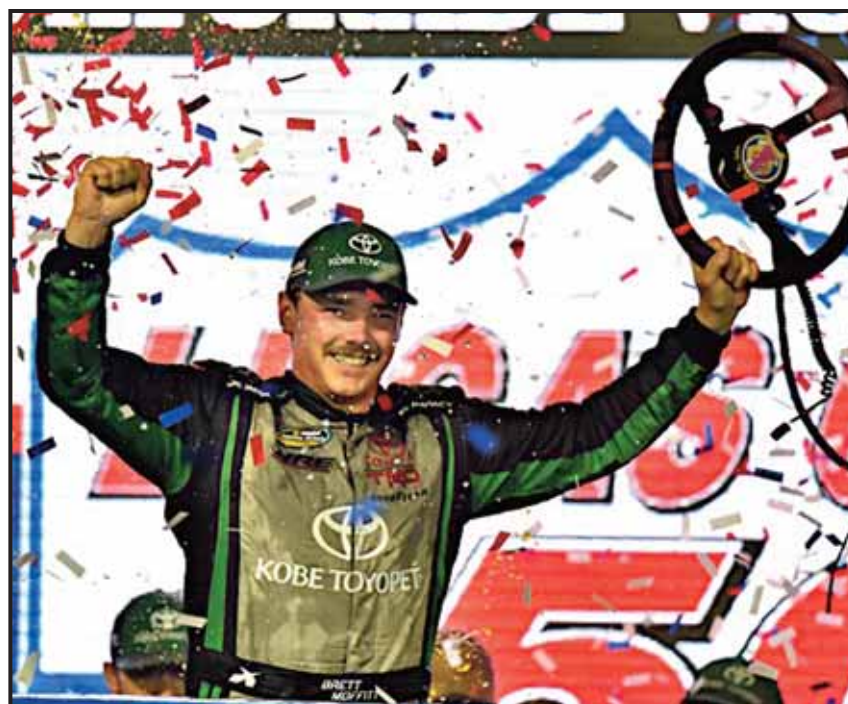
Moffitt pulled away to win his fifth race of the season by .456 seconds over Gragson, who qualified for the Championship 4 on points, as Enfinger faded to fourth and out of the Playoff picture. He took the checkered flag in his first start at ISM Raceway and claimed the sixth victory of his career.

Gragson was leading with seven laps left when Riley Herbst's spin

brought out the fourth and final caution of the evening. The subsequent restart gave Moffitt the opportunity he needed to win the race. Adding to the urgency, Enfinger could have qualified for the Championship by winning, leaving Moffitt and Gragson to fight a close battle for the final spot on points.

"I wasn't sure if I wanted a caution to come out or not, but in hindsight I did," Moffitt said. "Where we were sitting we were locked into Homestead mathematically. When that caution came out, I was kind of nervous. I didn't know what was going to happen. Then when the 18 (Gragson) took the top (lane for the restart), I really didn't know what the hell was going to happen.

"I was just hoping the 98 (Enfinger) got rolling to where he didn't stack up the inside, and fortunately he got a good restart, and I dove down to the apron. Our truck was really good running the actual apron through (turns) 1 and 2 all night long. I made a lot of passes there. I stuck it down there and went for it and was able to clear off (Turn) 2 and drive away."



Brett Moffitt is all smiles as he celebrates winning the Lucas Oil 150 and clinching his place in the final race of the season for the championship. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

After running the spec Ilmor NT-1 engine at Texas last Friday, Moffitt returned to the Mark Cronquist-built Toyota engine at Phoenix, despite a NASCAR gear rule change designed to even out the performance of the two types of power plants.

"It's Joe Gibbs 299th engine win with Mark Cronquist," Moffitt said. "They put our backs against the wall (with the rule change), but the s.o.b. won again."

Toyota drivers Moffitt and Gragson joined GMS Racing team-

mates Johnny Sauter and Justin Haley in the Championship 4. Sauter had qualified with a win at Martinsville, and Haley earned his spot with a victory at Texas.

Two-time series champion Matt Crafton was eliminated from the Playoffs after an 11th-place finish. Crafton lost his chance for victory when his crew had trouble with the right front tire on the No. 88 Ford's final pit stop.

Harrison Burton matched his career-best finish with a third-place run.



Brett Moffitt (16) takes the checkered flag in front of the field after making a stunning pass with three laps to go to secure his win and his place in the last race at Homestead. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

Racing Rewind: 2018 Whelen Modified Tour Season

D A Y T O N A BEACH, FL - After eight months of racing across seven different states, a look back at the 2018 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season is a measure of the domination Justin Bonsignore displayed on the track.

Bonsignore rolled to his first championship in his ninth full-time season of competition, winning eight of 16 events and finishing inside the top-10 in all but one race. Bonsignore clinched the championship with one race remaining on the schedule, but celebrated his first trophy by completing a sweep of the four events at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in the season-finale.

Bonsignore becomes the first champion not named Ryan Preece (2013) or Doug Coby (2012, 2014-17) to win the championship in the last seven years.

"It's a never give up attitude from Justin and that team at Ken Massa Motorsports," Jimmy Wilson, the director of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, said. "Ken has been making various changes to the team every year to get the best combination, and racing is a team sport. You have to have the total package, and they have to jell. Ken continued to believe in Justin and it more than showed itself on the race track this year. You have to be able to hit your marks at all of these tracks, and Justin — and Doug Coby for the last several years — have figured out how to have the total package."

Bonsignore's path to the championship may have seemed easy if you look at the statistics he put together, but with competition on the Whelen Modified Tour at an all-time high, it certainly wasn't an easy task. Over the course of 16 races, at nine different tracks, a total of 61 different drivers took the green flag. Of them, eight different drivers visited Victory Lane, and the average car count per race was just under 30, the best the Whelen Modified Tour has seen since 2015.

"The Whelen Modified Tour is in a good position. Car counts have been trending up this year, as well as the average from year-to-year," Wilson said. "The racing was outstanding this year in the modified

community. Even though Justin won eight races, he had to come through a very stout field to do it."

With 14 different Sunoco Rookie of the Year contenders hitting the track, the battle went right to the wire, with Tommy Catalano and Blake Barney battling it out at the season finale. It was Catalano who sealed that crown, after only anticipating running just a few select races.

"The group of Rookie of the Year competitors that came into the series this year, and the number of them, I think that also speaks loudly to the state of the series. You have a lot of young Rookie's who have come in and excelled, and you have Ryan Preece, who is a former champion of the Whelen Modified Tour, who has the opportunity to get an opportunity to get a full-time Monster Energy Cup Series ride," Wilson said. "All of it together, it just puts the icing on the cake. It was a really good season competition wise."

Arguably the best race of the season was the one that put the series on the ultimate stage. As part of the inaugural Full Throttle Weekend at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in September, the Whelen Modified Tour drivers competed in the longest race in history — a 250-lap, \$25,000 to win event on the 1.058-mile oval. In a battle to the final turn, where the two leaders wrecked, 20-year-old Chase Dowling escaped the chaos to

score his first career win.

"It was very important to get that event there and make the Whelen Modified Tour the marquee race for that weekend. To me, that race is kinda what the CocaCola 600 meant to the Cup Series when that event started, because it tests drivers and machines," Wilson said.

"It was a great race because the teams came in there well prepared. With \$100 per lap, it made drivers work for it and try to lead as many laps as possible. There was a lot of strategy because the teams were in a lot of unknowns with green flag pit stops and fuel mileage. They had to step out of their comfort zones, and you hate to see a wreck at the end of it, but you had four cars you could have thrown a blanket over going into Turn 3 on the last lap. All going for \$25,000."

Without the support of Whelen, NASCAR Modified ranks wouldn't be where they are today. Last year, the company announced an extension of the primary sponsorship of the series through 2024.

"Whelen's support is huge, they showed that commitment at the end of last year when they signed the contract extension through 2024 of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour," Wilson said. "They are family, and without them, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. We are very appreciative of their support."

With all of the anticipation already growing for next year, Wilson is ready to see what the new season will look like for fans, and he is optimistic.

For now, the Whelen Modified

Tour will begin looking forward to the 2019 campaign, and the season-opener, which will be back at a familiar place.

"I think when the schedule comes out everyone is going to be really pleased with what they see."

South Boston Added To 2019 Whelen Mod Tour Schedule

NASCAR isn't wasting any time preparing for the 2019 Whelen Modified Tour season.

The first of the 2019 racing plans for NASCAR's oldest touring series were announced Wednesday morning.

Brandon Thompson, Managing Director of NASCAR Touring Series, confirmed to NASCAR.com that the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will return to South Boston Speedway in Virginia on Saturday, March 30, 2019.

It will be the first time in history that the unified Whelen Modified Tour heads to the famed Virginia oval.

Previously, the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour competed at South Boston in 2001, a race won by Jerry Marquis.

After eight years away, NASCAR's modified division returned in 2009 with the NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour. The Southern Tour ran 11 races at the .4-mile oval, with Andy Seuss winning three of them.

South Boston Speedway also runs weekly as part of the NASCAR Whelen All American Series.

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Ramstrom Takes MegaMeltdown Win; Griffith, Craig Claim Titles at Hickory

HICKORY, NC - Derek Ramstrom took the lead for the final time with just over 30 laps to go and led the rest of the way to claim his first career Pro All Stars Series (PASS) South Super Late Model win Saturday afternoon at Hickory Motor Speedway in the Mason-Dixon MegaMeltdown 200. While Ramstrom took the win, Derek Griffith finished second to capture the PASS National Championship Super Late Model title and third place finisher Matt Craig took his third straight PASS South championship.

"This is just awesome for us, we've been coming down here ever since 2006 and we've finally gotten us a win down south," said Ramstrom. "Hickory is a great place to come to and reminds us of a lot of the tracks back home in New England. We came with a totally different package this time and I just can't say enough for all the guys and the work they put in to give us such a great car."

In qualifying, Kodie Conner claimed his second straight MegaMeltdown pole by edging out Craig. After the top 10 qualifiers redraw, Jody Measamer drew the pole, while Conner pulled pit two to start alongside.

Conner quickly moved to the front and would lead the first 28

laps before Jake Crum moved by and assumed the lead. The first caution of the day did not wave until lap 33 when Lucas Jones spun in turn two following contact from Brandon Barker. On the restart, Ramstrom would get the advantage over Crum to take the lead for the first time of the day. While battling for sixth, former Hickory winners Brandon Setzer and Preston Peltier made contact on lap 60, ripping the left front fender from Peltier's car and ending his day.

Ramstrom and Griffith would swap the lead a couple of times before the caution waved again on lap 96 when Gabe Brown spun in turn three while running eighth. Conner would reassume the top spot on the restart and led until the competition caution on lap 125.

Following the pit stops, Ramstrom powered his way back into the lead and would continue to lead through a couple of quick cautions due to incidents for Brandon Johnson and TJ Brackett. Conner would retake the lead from Ramstrom with 52 laps to go, but both Ramstrom and Setzer would move by to knock Conner back to third on lap 168.

Ramstrom and Setzer then separated themselves from the rest of the field as they attempted to settle the 200-lapper amongst one another. But, with 10 laps to go, Setzer would make contact with Gracie Trotter while lapping her,



Derek Ramstrom takes the checkered flag for the win in the MegaMeltdown at Hickory Motor Speedway. (lwpictures.com photo)

sending her for a spin in turn one, which collected Conner in the process. Setzer was placed at the rear of the field by PASS officials for avoidable contact with Trotter. From there, Ramstrom would lead the rest of the way to take the win over Griffith, Craig, Cory Casagrande, and Measamer. Rounding out the top 10 were Austin Theriault, Crum, Tyler Church, Wyatt Alexander, and Brandon Lynn.

Griffith's championship season culminated on a day that saw it nearly slip away in morning practice. He avoided the wall after breaking a trailing arm bracket, which allowed his team to make the necessary welding repairs at Setzer's nearby shop prior to qualifying.

"This is just amazing, the guys did a great job to get the car re-

paired," said Griffith. "I can't thank Brandon and Dennis [Setzer] for letting us use their shop. Ray Christian, my nearest competitor for the championship, he offered to let me use their backup car. I mean, what can you say about that? This has just been a great year and I'm so proud of what we've been able to accomplish."

The Mason-Dixon MegaMeltdown 200 from Hickory will air on MAVTV on Wednesday night, January 23, 2019 at 7 PM Eastern as part of Speed51's Short Track America.

The 2018 PASS Super Late Model is complete, but continue to monitor ProAllStarsSeries.com over the coming weeks for more information on the upcoming season. Be sure to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @PASSSLM14.



Derek Griffith finished second and was crowned the 2018 PASS National Champion. (lwpictures.com photo)



Matt Craig was third and earned his third straight PASS South Championship. (lwpictures.com photo)

Chandler Smith Dominates Valvoline Lap Leader Award

Despite running a very limited schedule in 2018, sixteen-year-old Chandler Smith (No. 20 Craftsman/Smith General Contractors Toyota) dominated the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards Valvoline Lap Leader Award standings.

Smith, from Talking Rock, Georgia, joined the Venturini Motorsports team after a successful run in super late models across the southeast and Midwest. Due to his youth, he is not yet eligible to compete on tracks larger than one mile. He entered nine ARCA Racing Series events - all of the paved short track races - and quickly proved to be one of the drivers to beat on the tracks under one mile.

Smith was fast for one lap right away. He set a modern era ARCA record by starting from the pole in each of his first four series starts at Nashville, Salem, Toledo, and Madison. But more importantly, he backed up those starting positions with impressive performances in the races.

He finished fifth in his debut at Nashville, leading 51 laps along the way. He challenged teammate and eventual Salem winner Christian Eckes throughout the day, leading 117 laps before a tire failure on the final lap sent him into the turn one wall while fighting for the win on the final lap. He led 97 laps on his way to a fourth-place finish at Toledo before dominating at Madison, leading 102 laps from the pole and picking up his first series win in just his fourth start.

He also dominated at Elko, leading 160 of the race's 250 laps before finishing sixth. He led 37 laps at Berlin before he was bounced out of the lead coming to complete lap 199, eventually finishing seventh. He again had the dominant car at Salem, leading 199 of the race's 200 laps en route to his second win of the season.

All told, he led 763 laps in his nine starts, 299 laps more than 2018 ARCA Racing Series champion Sheldon Creed led throughout the entirety of the season. Smith's laps led margin was so dominant that he mathematically locked up the award after three laps of the event at Lucas Oil Raceway, when there were only 298 laps yet to be

run throughout the remainder of the season.

Christian Eckes, Smith's Venturini Motorsports teammate, was third in the final standings with 421 laps led, series runner-up Zane Smith was fourth with 391 laps at the front of the field, and Michael Self rounded out the top five with 164 laps led.

Smith will be honored for winning the 2018 Valvoline Lap Leader Award at the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards Awards Banquet on Saturday night, December 8, held in conjunction with the Performance Racing Industry Trade Show, at the Indiana State Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis.

MDM Motorsports Owner Matthew Miller Wins RE Lightning Challenge in 2018

ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards champion car owner Matthew Miller is the winner of the R.E. Lightning Challenge Award for the 2018 season.

The R.E. Lightning Challenge Award is presented to the car owner whose car tabulates the most points from a race (not including laps led or pole award points) for all 20 races on the ARCA Racing Series schedule, provided that the entry has carried the Racing Electronics decal on the team car.

Miller, owner of the No. 28 MDM Motorsports Toyota entry driven all season by ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards champion Sheldon Creed, compiled a 4215 total for in-race points for the 2018 20 race schedule to clinch the R.E. Lightning Challenge Award. The team was second in R.E. Lightning Challenge points through seven races, and took the points lead for good when the Jeff Stankiewicz (crew chief) prepared car won the Michigan International Speedway ZOMONGO 200 in June.

"Winning the R.E. Lightning Challenge is just a testament to being consistent week in and week out. Jeff, Sheldon, and the whole group showed that all year long and it's something to be proud of," said team owner Matthew Miller.

"Racing Electronics has made a large investment into stock car racing, having a trailer at most events in case there are any problems. On behalf of MDM Motorsports, I thank

them for their commitment to our sport," added Miller.

"The R.E. Lightning Challenge is a pretty cool award," said ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards champion Sheldon Creed. "Looking back at it, our goal was to be the most consistent team all year and that's what this award represents. It just shows how prepared this group was to go the race track every week and compete at a high level. It's something to be proud of for sure."

Second in the R.E. Lightning Challenge points went to car owner of the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota Coy Gibbs. Riley Herbst, driver of the JGR entry, secured the second-place (3770 points) finish for the team with a fourth-place race finish at the Kansas Speedway series finale.

Rounding out the top five for the R.E. Lightning Challenge was Doug Fuller, third place car owner for the No. 41 MDM Motorsports Toyota driven by Zane Smith, followed by fourth place MDM Motorsports owner Mark McFarland (Chase Purdy No. 8 Toyota entry), and RFMS Racing car owner Don Fike finished fifth, with driver Travis Braden behind the wheel of the No. 27 Ford.

Racing Electronics, and the R.E. Lightning Challenge Award have been a fixture in ARCA competition since 1996. From the ubiquitous "RE Red" headsets worn by thousands of race fans to the Racing Electronics equipment used on pit road, in the car, and on the spotter stand, Racing Electronics produces and sells the most popular motorsports communication equipment available today.

Racing Electronics ARCA representative Joe Piercy is base out of the Concord, North Carolina, headquarters for Racing Electronics, and is available to service your team and driver needs either at the track, or in Concord.

Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville to Host ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards

Fairgrounds Speedway in Nashville, Tennessee, will host the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards for the Music City 200 on May 4, 2019. The date is roughly a month later than previous seasons at Nashville.

As has been the case in past years, the ARCA Racing Series race will run in conjunction with the

ARCA/CRA Super Series, the Southern Super Series, and the CARS Tour which will combine to run a 100-lap super late model event on the 0.596-mile high-banked oval prior to the ARCA headliner on Saturday night.

"We have had some really good races at Nashville over the last four years and with the move to May, we should have some warmer weather as well," said event promoter Bob Sargent of Track Enterprises. "It's one of the best doubleheader races in the country, as the best in ARCA and the top Super Late Model series all come together."

The ARCA Racing Series has raced at Fairgrounds Speedway 27 previous times dating back to 1959 when three-time ARCA champion Nelson Stacy won. Other notable winners at the historic Fairgrounds venue include former series champions Jack Bowsher and Ramo Stott, the Alabama Gang's Red Farmer, Nashville area legend Coo Coo Marlin, and former NASCAR XFINITY Series champion David Green, who won in 1992.

The series returned to Fairgrounds Speedway for the first time since that 1992 race in 2015 when Grant Enfinger won en route to the series championship. Other ARCA winners since the series returned include Josh Williams, Chad Finley, and last year's winner Zane Smith.

ARCA's history in the Nashville area also includes 15 races at the now-defunct Nashville Super-speedway, a 1.3-mile concrete tri-oval that hosted races from 2001 through 2008.

Notable winners at Nashville Superspeedway included two-time ARCA car owner champion Ken Schrader, ten-time series champion Frank Kimmel, former NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch, and former Formula 1 driver Scott Speed.

The 2019 ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards schedule to date (dates will be added as they are confirmed):

- February 9: Daytona International Speedway
- March 9: Five Flags Speedway
- April 14: Salem Speedway
- May 4: Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville
- May 19: Toledo Speedway
- May 31: Pocono Raceway
- June 7: Michigan International Speedway
- July 19: Iowa Speedway
- July 26: Pocono Raceway
- August 18: Illinois State Fair
- September 14: Salem Speedway

Josh Brock Racing Wins the ARCA/CRA Super Series PitBoxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award

SALEM, IN - Josh Brock finished his first full season with the ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS, a season that had big goals and expectations from a very driven driver and a team comprised of Josh Brock's family, friends and Crew Chief help by Wimmer Motorsports with Chris Wimmer and Travis Sauter. The team had to quit racing in 2017 with Josh leading the series Championship and Rookie of the Year points because of Brock's illness, but Brock and the entire team came back focused with one goal, win the 2018 series Championship, which they did at the October 14th Winchester 400.

For their hard work and never give up attitude, the Josh Brock Racing team has been named the ARCA/CRA Super Series 2018 Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award winners. The team led by Wimmer Motorsports, gave 100% each week and more, to keep Brock competitive at each series event and went way above to win the Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award three times during the 2018 season, the most of any team in the series.

The team received their first Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award in the series season opener at Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville on April 7th, were Brock got a fifth place finish, second highest of the CRA regulars, against an outstanding field of Super Late Model drivers and the team's first series points event since the middle of the 2017 season.

The team's second Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award came at Anderson Speedway on May 5th, the series second event of the season. In that event the team helped Brock win his first ever CRA event, holding off rookie Austin Kunert to get the win as well as being the EDCO Welding Fast Qualifier and claiming the Team Construction Clean Sweep Award.

The team's third Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award came during the Chase for the Championship at the Glass City 200 event at Toledo Speedway on September

15th. Brock ran up front throughout the event until being part of a three wide move by another racer on a restart that resulted in Brock getting spun out in turn three. Brock took his car to pit road where his pit crew made hasty repairs to get Brock back out. Brock then worked his way back through the field to get a fifth place finish, highest of the Chase for the Championship drivers, helping to secure their 2018 Championship.

"I'm very proud of our team for what we accomplished this season," remarked Josh Brock. "My crew has been fighting right by my side all year, both on and off the track. Besides Chris and Travis, my crew includes Adam Angel, Anthony Creech, Brian Nantz, Richie Alexander, Josh Grubb, Whitley Spencer and Paula Vest. They all deserve the award for everything they have done this Championship season, everything from preparing the cars to getting the racecar back on track if something goes wrong. I'm so proud of my team and friends. I want to really thank Pitboxes.com and CRA for recognizing our team for that."

"We really appreciate Ricky Sanders at PitBoxes.com coming up with this great award," remarked Glenn Lockett, Managing Partner with CRA. "Ricky wanted to create an award that recognized the people behind the drivers in our series. The drivers get recognition at each race, but with the Pitboxes.com Pit Crew Awards for each series event and the season, a lot of the hard working crew members for the ARCA/CRA Super Series teams get recognized also."

Lockett added, "The Josh Brock Racing team worked hard to get their car to the track and prepared for each race, but they also had a never give up attitude, no matter what happened to their cars in a race, they would work to get their car better and help Josh get a good finish. We appreciate all their efforts this season!"

For earning the ARCA/CRA Super Series 2018 Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award, the Josh Brock Racing race team will receive a \$1,000 Product Certificate from Pitboxes.com at the 2018 CRA Awards Banquet at the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis at

Union Station on Friday, January 11th.

Teams earning a Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award during the 2018 ARCA/CRA Super Series season besides Brock include the teams for drivers Brian Campbell, Kyle Crump, Mason Mingus, Drew Charlson, Carson Hovevar, Johnny VanDoorn, Tyler Hufford, Jon Beach and Jeff Choquette. Each of those teams received a \$200 Product Certificate from Pitboxes.com.

With the popularity of the internet, Pitboxes.com was launched in 1999 with a goal to specialize in fabricating a high quality line of standard and custom pit boxes. Since that time the boxes have gained such popularity that they have become standard equipment for almost any racer from Go Karters to Motorcycles to Upper levels of motorsports and everything in between. The products offered by Pitboxes.com has also changed quite a bit over the years having started with a stick built steel frame with a store bought toolbox to a much more modern process of CAD drawn, Laser Cut, Computer formed, all aluminum construction, with an in house built drawer system that is built to withstand not only the use by the race teams but also the many miles on the highway that a race team has to do going from race to race.

If you are a pro, amateur or even new to the racing profession we are very proud to offer you a world class pit box or pit cart! We manufacture a complete line of standard pit boxes, custom pit boxes, and pit carts to fit your particular needs and requirements. We are located in Stockbridge GA and our boxes are manufactured right here in the USA. Pit boxes have been shipped all over the world and we can custom create anything you have in mind for your own pit box. Give us a call and let us create your dream PITBOX! More Information on PitBoxes.com is available at www.pitboxes.com.

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

Mason Keller Racing Wins JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour PitBoxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award

SALEM, IN - Mason Keller just wrapped up his rookie season of competition with the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance, finishing second in

the final season standings after the Championship Chase event at Winchester Speedway on Friday, October 12th and claimed the DGR-CROSLEY Rookie of the Year Award. Keller had a good first season with the series with several top 10 finishes and a win in the series event on Labor Day Weekend at Winchester Speedway. He was the only driver in the Chase for the Championship with a win in 2018.

The team had several events they struggled in, but never gave up, many events Keller would make multiple pit stops for adjustments, with Keller making improvements at nearly every event. For their hard work and never give up attitude, the Mason Keller Racing team has been named the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour 2018 Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award winners. The team led by Gordon Guffey and Josh Ebbert gave 100% each week and more, to keep Keller competitive at each series event and went way above to win the Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award twice during the 2018 season, the most of any team in the series.

The team got its first Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award at the Auto City Speedway event on August 3rd, where the team took advantage of several early cautions to work on the car, making adjustments to help Keller. Keller then drove through the field for a sixth place finish and the DGR-CROSLEY Rookie of the Race Award for that event.

The team got its second Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award on September 9th in the Fall Brawl event at Lucas Oil Raceway. Keller's team elected to pull their car out of impound after qualifying to make several adjustments to the suspension. The adjustments worked as Keller came from the tail to get a ninth place finish and another DGR-CROSLEY Rookie of the Race Award.

"We really appreciate the recognition for our team in receiving the 2018 Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Year," remarked Keller. "Thanks to all my crew for all their hard work at the shop preparing for each race and at the track, our team never gave up. Thanks to Gordon and Josh, James McConnell, Derrick Layne, Corbin Balke, Aaron Gordon, Larry Keller and David Jenkins. A special thank you to my dad Steve Keller, obviously without his support none of this would have happened. Thank you to PitBoxes.com for supporting the

(Continued Next Page)

Continued...

JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour with this great award."

For earning the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour 2018 Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Year, Mason Keller Racing will receive a \$1,000 Product Certificate from Pitboxes.com at the 2018 CRA Awards Banquet, which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis at Union Station on Friday, January 11th.

"We really appreciate Ricky Sanders at PitBoxes.com for coming up with this great award," remarked Glenn Luckett, Managing Partner with CRA. "Ricky wanted to create an award that recognized the people behind the drivers in our series. The drivers get recognition at each race, but with the Pitboxes.com Pit Crew Awards for each series event and the season, a lot of the hard working crew members for the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour teams get recognized also."

Luckett added, "The Mason Keller Racing team worked hard to get their cars to the track and prepared for each race, but they also had a never give up attitude, no matter what happened to their cars in a race, they would work their butts off to get their cars better or to just get them back on the track to complete laps. We appreciate all their efforts this season!"

The drivers who's crew's earned a Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award during the 2018 JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour season included Keller, Jack Dossey III, Nathan Bertino, Matt Maurer, Trey Craig, Colby Lane, Jordan Dahlke, Robbie Pyle and Wes Griffith Jr. Each of those teams received a \$200 Product Certificate from Pitboxes.com.

With the popularity of the internet, Pitboxes.com was launched in 1999 with a goal to specialize in fabricating a high quality line of standard and custom pit boxes. Since that time the boxes have gained such popularity that they have become standard equipment for almost any racer from Go Karters to Motorcycles to Upper levels of motorsports and everything in between. The products offered by Pitboxes.com has also changed quite a bit over the years having started with a stick built

steel frame with a store bought toolbox to a much more modern process of CAD drawn, Laser Cut, Computer formed, all aluminum construction, with an in house built drawer system that is built to with stand not only the use by the race teams but also the many miles on the highway that a race team has to do going from race to race.

If you are a pro, amateur or even new to the racing profession we are very proud to offer you a world class pit box or pit cart! We manufacture a complete line of standard pit boxes, custom pit boxes, and pit carts to fit your particular needs and requirements. We are located in Stockbridge GA and our boxes are manufactured right here in the USA. Pit boxes have been shipped all over the world and we can custom create anything you have in mind for your own pit box. Give us a call and let us create your dream PITBOX! More Information on PitBoxes.com is available at www.pitboxes.com.

Lessard Wins 2018 Cometic Gasket Hardcharger Award

SALEM, IN - Canadian teenager Rapheal Lessard claimed the 2018 Cometic Gasket Season Hardcharger Award at the series 2018 Championship event, the Winchester 400 on Sunday, October 14th. The Kyle Busch Motorsports driver was seventh in the Cometic Gasket Season Hardcharger Award standings heading into that event with four gained positions on the season.

A broken suspension part left him with a 24th place starting position for the race after qualifying, Lessard ended up in 10th place in that event, giving him 14 gained positions for the event and 18 total gained positions for the season, the most of the eligible drivers for the award.

Jon Beach had led the 2018 Cometic Gasket Hardcharger Award standings for most of the season and came into the 400 with 27 gained positions. Beach qualified 11th, looking to have a chance at winning the series Championship as well as the 2018 Cometic Gasket Season Hardcharger Award, but bad luck struck when another competitor pushed him into the back stretch retaining wall causing significant damage, ending his chances for the Championship and giving him a 24th place finish, resulting in a loss of 13 positions for the race, dropping him all the way down to third place in the final 2018

Cometic Gasket Season Hardcharger Award standings.

The EDCO Welding racing team of Billy and Eddie Van Meter finished in second with 15 gained positions on the season. Three time series Champion Johnny VanDoorn finished in fourth with nine gained positions. Hunter Jack rounded out the top five with five gained positions.

Cometic Gasket, the Official Gasket of the ARCA/CRA Super Series, will award a \$800 bonus to 2018 Cometic Gasket Hardcharger Award winner Rapheal Lessard at the 2018 Champion Racing Association Awards Banquet. A driver has to be in the top 15 in series points to be eligible for this award.

Cometic Gasket, Inc. is a leading worldwide supplier of gaskets and engine sealing solutions for the Automotive Performance, Powersports, Original Equipment and Remanufactured Engine Industries.

All Cometic products are made in the United States with materials manufactured on American soil.

Launched by four partners including current Founder and CEO Bob Gorman in 1989, Cometic was originally dedicated exclusively to the powersports industry. Operating from a tiny 1,500 square foot manufacturing facility, the company produced a mere 900 SKUs in its first year.

Fast-forward to Cometic's 25th Anniversary in 2014. The company is now wholly owned by the Gorman family - and has grown into a global leader and innovator in the highly competitive engine supplier marketplace.

Housed in a 70,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art R&D and manufacturing center in Concord, Ohio, Cometic Gasket has maintained its deep roots in the powersports industry while expanding to service the Domestic Automotive, Sport Compact, V-twin, Marine, Diesel, Agricultural, Industrial and Stationary Power markets.

Today, Cometic Gasket offers

over 85,000 SKUs, shipping gaskets and engine sealing solutions across the globe.

Cometic is dedicated to customer satisfaction and provides quality products, delivered on time at a competitive price, designed for each customer's specific application. Cometic is an industry leader in manufacturing processes and committed to pairing the highest possible quality materials with knowledgeable personnel. Cometic is also dedicated to continually improving all areas of its operations through employee development and involvement, as well as continual and comprehensive reviews of customer feedback.

To ensure superior performance across a wide variety of engine types and sizes, Cometic manufactures gaskets from a comprehensive range of materials. Whether the situation calls for the latest in advanced technology like the MLS (Multi-Layer Steel) Gasket, or a synthetic blend such as Aramid Fiber, Cometic finds a solution. Cometic stays on the forefront of gasket design technology by utilizing in-house dynamometers and engine assembly rooms to bring its distributors, retailers and ultimately the end-user, the most reliable gaskets available today.

Cometic combines advanced materials with the most current manufacturing processes to provide custom-tailored solutions to meet the needs of each individual customer. Engineers analyze the environment in which the gasket will perform, select the proper material, and apply the appropriate technology to offer the best-performing gaskets available in today's ever-changing marketplace.

Cometic gaskets are the industry standard for championship-winning teams across multiple disciplines of both professional and amateur motorsports.

For more information about Cometic, visit www.cometic.com.



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Donny Schatz and Brad Sweet Championship Battle Will Intensify in 2019

CONCORD, NC - Donny Schatz and Brad Sweet separated themselves from the rest of the competition in the second half of the 2018 World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series season, which has everyone excited to see the 2019 Championship battle that will kick off

in February at Volusia Speedway Park.

As the Outlaws closed out their 40th anniversary season last week, the focus has quickly shifted to the DIRTcar Nationals, where Schatz and his Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing team will begin their quest for an 11th championship as Sweet and his Kasey Kahne Racing crew aim to disrupt that streak.

Even with a handful driver and team changes already announced for the 2019 World of Outlaws season, it's worth noting the top two teams of Schatz and Sweet will remain the same.

"The passion everyone in this room has makes the World of Outlaws what it is and I'm very proud to be a part of it," now 10-time World of Outlaws Champion Donny Schatz said at the banquet on Sunday night. "Tony Stewart, Mike Curb/Curb-Agajanian, what you've assembled with this team, the consistency, is incredible. We dealt with a lot of challenges this year, and there's going to be plenty going forward, because I'm not going anywhere."

Schatz and 2018 Crew Chief of the Year Ricky Warner will headline the Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing No. 15 team once again in 2019. Schatz, Warner and TSR have mastered a balance of triumph and consistency. In a year of parity, where no other driver recorded double-digit victories, Schatz and TSR amassed 22 wins whilst only finishing outside the top-10 five times.

If the 15 team is to be unseeded, it's going to take a special team, and 2018 was a special year for Brad Sweet and the Kasey Kahne Racing No. 49 team. It took Sweet and his new Crew Chief, Eric Prutzman, until May to score their first win together, but from there everything clicked en route to a career-season for Sweet, highlighted by

the 2018 Knoxville Nationals title.

"When we got on the same page, it was a lot of fun, we built a really great friendship," Sweet said. "I admire his work ethic and what he brought to our team and what we accomplished this year. 'I want to congratulate Donny, Ricky, Scuba, Brad, Gary and everyone from TSR. You guys set the bar high, it's something we strive to do and eventually be at that [Championship] table,'" Sweet said with a smile.

Sweet and his team amassed 9 wins and 43 top-five finishes, but perhaps the most impressive statistic of all was they transferred through their Heat Race every night, not running a single Last Chance Showdown all season. Sweet, Prutzman and KKR are chomping at the bit to get going for 2019.

Behind Schatz and Sweet, the World of Outlaws will have a different look in 2019. After 23 wins in the last two years, David Gravel and CJB Motorsports have parted ways and Gravel will pilot the

Jason Johnson Racing No. 41 full-time in 2019. After five years with Kyle Larson Racing, Shane Stewart will take over the reins of the CJB No. 5 in 2019 with Lemoore, CA, native Carson Macedo being tabbed the driver of the KLR No. 2, competing for the Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year award.

These teams, along with the rest of the World of Outlaws stars, will debut at newly-renovated Volusia Speedway Park in Barberville, FL, at the 48th Annual DIRTcar Nationals, which runs Feb. 5-16 and also includes All Star Circuit of Champions Sprint Cars, DIRTcar UMP Modifieds, DIRTcar Late Models, World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Models and Super DIRTcar Series Big-Block Modifieds over the course of two weeks.

2018 World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series Awards:

- VP Racing Fuels – Donny Schatz
- KSE Hard Charger – Brent Marks
- Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year – Ian Madsen
- Jason Johnson Sportsman of the Year – Greg Wilson
- Crew Chief of the Year – Ricky Warner, Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing
- Ted Johnson Memorial/Out-

standing Contribution to Sprint Car Racing – Bobby Allen

- Chassis Builder of the Year – J & J Auto Racing
- Engine Builder of the Year – Shaver Engines

The World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car Series is brought to fans across the country by many important sponsors and partners, including: Craftsman (Official Tool), Hoosier Racing Tire (Official Tire), iRacing (Official Online Racing Game), Morton Buildings (Official Building), NGK Spark Plugs (Official Spark Plug), NOS Energy (Preferred Energy Product), Sears (Official Home Store), Textron Off Road (Official side-by-side vehicle) and VP Racing Fuels (Official Racing Fuel); contingency sponsors include Cometic Gasket, COMP Cams, Edelbrock, JE Pistons, KSE Racing Products and MSD; manufacturer sponsors include Impact Racing Products, Intercomp, Racing Electronics, and TNT Rescue.

Annually, the two series race nearly 140 times at tracks across the United States and Canada. CBS Sports Network is the official broadcast partner of the World of Outlaws. DIRTvision® also broadcasts all World of Outlaws events over the Internet to fans around the world.

Series Director Matt Curl Adds 'Track Owner' to His Titles

CONCORD, NC - World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series Director Matt Curl — former promoter of Fairbury American Legion Speedway (FALS) and longtime Fairbury resident — will soon add Track Owner to his bio as he acquires

a majority share of his beloved quarter-mile oval. Tonight, the American Legion made the official announcement to the Fairbury Fair Board, which will be realigned as a pivotal step toward a new arrangement that will position Curl at the helm.

"This is exciting news for our Series Director," said World of Outlaws President Tom Deery. "It's a testament to his ability — the very reason we chose him to lead our Series. He has already played an important role in making Fairbury one of the top tracks in America,

and now he will lead that anchor track into the next era."

When the Series brought Matt Curl into its fold last November, it was largely due to Curl's impressive success as FALS promoter. But Curl's history with the track runs deep, having served it in countless capacities throughout his career, from official to race director. His loyalty doesn't stop outside the gates.

Curl was born and raised in dirt-loving Fairbury, IL, and continues to call it home.

"I've known Matt Curl for a long time," said longtime FALS supporter and DirtOnDirt.com CEO Michael Rigsby, "and more than anything I know he's not only passionate about our industry, but especially passionate about Fairbury. His love for racing was born there. His love for our sport was nurtured there, and there is no better person to steer Fairbury into its next phase than Matt. He'll knock it out of the park at FALS again."

Out on the southern edge of

Fairbury the legendary 1946 semi-banked DIRTcar-sanctioned oval features Late Model, Street Stock, Sportsman, and Modified racing in a picturesque residential neighborhood with homes and schools, flanked by corn fields and dairy farms. And as the geography suggest, the community embraces its racing with unmatched passion

With this same passion, Curl took the reins of the World of Outlaws Late Model Series last November, leading with a soft-spoken steadiness — calm, collected and smart. And committed. Always committed.

Currently putting the final touches on a well-thought-out, racey, 2019 racing schedule, Curl looks forward to an unprecedented season.

"My number one priority will be the Series this winter," said Curl. "We will continue to develop the 2019 schedule and work with the teams and tracks to lay the groundwork for an outstanding season."

The Series will soon announce the backbone of the 2019 schedule, the marquee events that form the basis of a great season for all — fans, drivers, tracks, promoters, sponsors, the Series, and everyone involved.

Knoxville Raceway and DIRTVision Partner to Offer Live PPV Broadcasting from the Sprint Car Capital of the World

KNOXVILLE, IA - Knoxville Raceway and DIRTVision announced today a broadcast partnership establishing DIRTVision as the exclusive broadcast platform for the Knoxville Nationals presented by Casey's General Store, the Weld Racing Capitani Classic presented by Great Southern Bank, the 360 Knoxville Nationals presented by Great Southern Bank, the inaugural Corn Belt Nationals and the full regular-season schedule of events that comprises the Knoxville Championship Cup Series.

"This season, we set out to offer every World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series race live," said Brian Dunlap, Director of Broadcast for DIRTVision. "Adding the Knoxville Nationals to our lineup for 2019 closes that loop and we're excited to be covering all of the action from the Sprint Car Capital of the World."

After a rigorous selection process to determine a partner best suited to execute, market, and grow the broadcast package, the Marion County Fair Board, which oversees the historic half-mile, selected DIRTVision for the job.

"At Knoxville Raceway, we're always striving to be the best in the

sprint car racing industry. We see the same desire in our partners at DIRTVision and are proud to have them broadcast nearly every event from the Sprint Car Capital of the World to the homes of tens of thousands of race fans throughout the 2019 season," said Knoxville Direct or Marketing Kendra Jacobs. "We were impressed with not only their passion for the sport, but also their forward-thinking in-house studio, their reach in the sport and the reputation they have built in all of auto racing. We're anxious to get the 2019 season started and see what we can build together."

DIRTVision pioneered live dirt track video streaming in 2004 with the ultimate goal of streaming content on a nightly basis. Now, 15 years later, that goal has become a reality and Dunlap has seen it through this full trajectory.

"It's an absolute honor to play a role in the live broadcast of the Knoxville Nationals," said Dunlap. "This a real opportunity to engage new fans with Sprint Car racing across the globe."

DIRTVision will set up dedicated production resources for the weekly Lucas Oil Knoxville Championship Cup Series, and ramp that up with additional cameras and staffing for the marquee events around the Nationals. The agreement includes marketing, promotion and customer service, with all content being fed through the

DIRTVision studio in Concord, NC.

Pricing information will be released at a later date, but the content will be separate from the Sprint Car Fast Pass.

DIRTVision will kick off the 2019

Knoxville Raceway schedule on April 13 with the PellaMotors.com/Kraig Ford season-opening Knoxville Championship Cup Series event with 410, 360 and 305 Sprint Cars.

Off Track

Brad Keselowski's Checkered Flag Foundation Supports Veterans

PHOENIX, AZ - Earlier this year, NASCAR driver Brad Keselowski, announced his Checkered Flag Foundation would support Paralyzed Veterans of America's employment program, PAVE (Paving Access for Veterans Employment). Team Penske partners' Alliance Truck Parts, Snap-On and Würth have also joined these efforts, and today Keselowski presented a check for \$25,000 to Bill Lawson, former president of Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Started in 2007, the PAVE program provides career assistance and vocational support to transitioning service members, veterans, military spouses, and caregivers across the country. Through the PAVE program, clients receive high-touch engagement as they

look for meaningful employment. PAVE staff work with members of the veteran community to provide one-on-one support with resume development, sharpen interviewing and networking skills, and build a strong LinkedIn profile. PAVE operates through eight locations nationwide and in 2018, PAVE staff has placed 319 individuals with meaningful employment opportunities.

"Supporting America's heroes is something that is very important to me, so I'm glad the Checkered Flag Foundation and Paralyzed Veterans of America partnered earlier this year," said Keselowski.

Paralyzed Veterans of America not only supports disabled veterans, but all veterans. The organization advocates for quality health care and governmental benefits on behalf of veterans who have rightfully earned them.

For additional information or to make a donation, please visit www.pva.org.

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Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL -

How things have changed in the two weeks since Talladega Superspeedway kicked off the official groundbreaking on Oct. 23, of its new Turn 3 Oversized Vehicle Tunnel, which was the launch of the Transformation Infield Project. Oxford, AL's Taylor Corporation, which is spearheading the construction effort, is full-speed ahead on

the project, using heavy machinery to dig the pathway of the tunnel going into the infield near the entrance of Turn 3. Part of the track's asphalt has also been broken apart and removed near the current Gate 9 crossover.

The Oversized Vehicle Tunnel, which is scheduled for completion in time for the track's April 26-28, 2019 spring motorsports triple-header weekend featuring the GEICO 500, is a feature of the approximately \$50 million redevelopment endeavor of the Transformation Infield Project that is part of International Speedway Corporation's (Talladega's parent company) long-term capital allocation plan and reinvestment into its major motorsports complexes. The new two-lane tunnel will be capable of allowing vehicles as large as race team haulers, fans' recreational vehicles as well as track tram vehicles (to take fans who have both infield admission and grandstand seating) to enter and exit the track simultaneously with ease. It will be open 24 hours during event weekends. The culmination of Transformation will occur in October 2019 and will allow fans to be immersed into the sport of NASCAR with a one-of-a-kind Garage Fan Zone Experience, which will feature "up-close" access, interactive attractions and enhanced amenities for fans, sponsors, teams and stakeholders in the iconic Talladega infield.

Fans can learn more about the project and view the progress 24/7 via the construction cam by visiting www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/transformation.

Homestead-Miami Speedway

MIAMI, FL - Adding to the aura of Ford Championship Weekend, Homestead-Miami Speedway has named actor Josh Dallas as Grand Marshal for the Ford EcoBoost 400



Work is progressing on the oversized tunnel at Talladega Superspeedway. (TSS photo)

on Sunday, November 18. Dallas will recite the most famous words in all of motorsports, "Drivers, start your engines!" just before the green flag waves for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series championship race.

Dallas, who was born in Louisville, Kentucky, emerged on the scene in 2011 when he played the role of Frandal in the movie "Thor." Following his success as Frandal, Dallas landed a lead role in ABC's hit television series, "Once Upon a Time." Dallas starred in the series from 2011-2017 as Prince Charming/David Nolan and appeared in a guest role during the series' final season in 2018. Currently, Dallas can be seen starring as Ben Stone in NBC's new fall show, "Manifest," which debuted in September to over 10 million viewers.

"I've been going to races since I was a kid and I'm thrilled to be a part of NASCAR's Championship race at Homestead Miami Speedway," said Josh Dallas. "I look forward to witnessing history being made at the Ford EcoBoost 400! 'Ya gotta wanna!'"

"Ford Championship Weekend has always had many entertaining aspects that surround all three of our championship races," said Homestead-Miami Speedway President Matthew Becherer. "Adding Josh to our start-studded list of Ford EcoBoost 400 pre-race dignitaries further enhances our Sunday ceremonies, and helps build even more excitement around the MENCS championship before the green flag ever waves."

Tickets for 2018 Ford Championship Weekend, which consists of the Ford EcoBoost 200 (NASCAR

Camping World Truck series championship race), Ford EcoBoost 300 (NASCAR XFINITY series championship race) and Ford EcoBoost 400 (Monster Energy NASCAR Cup series championship race), are now available and can be purchased by calling (866) 409-RACE (7223) or visiting www.Homestead-MiamiSpeedway.com.

Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, PA - Pocono Raceway CEO Nick Igdalsky, President Ben May and the entire Mattioli family are proud to announce "The Great Pocono Raceway Air Show." The inaugural, family-friendly event will include two show dates taking place on Saturday, August 24 and Sunday, August 25, 2019. Tickets start at \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for ages seven through 12 and free for children ages six and under.

"The Great Pocono Raceway Air Show' is a reimagining of your typical air show," said Ben May, Pocono Raceway's President. "Guests attending will witness amazing aerobatic performances coupled with a unique stadium atmosphere and an enhanced guest experience that no other air show has ever offered before. Several acts will be at eye level to those in the Grandstand. It does not matter if you are young or old, the Air Show will be one of the most memorable experiences of 2019."

Tickets, including the VIP Flight Club with complimentary food and beverages and highest-possible seats, for both Air Show dates are available at

www.poconoairshow.com or by calling Pocono Raceway at 1-800-722-3929.

"The Great Pocono Raceway Air Show" will include approximately four hours of aerobatic entertainment and reenactments on both show dates. There will also be entertainment for all ages with multiple displays and vendors in Fan Fair, kid-friendly activities and play areas, helicopter rides, exotic car rides and more. Additional performers, reenactors, displays and entertainment will be announced leading up to next year's events.

The current list of performers, which will continue to grow, for the "The Great Pocono Raceway Air Show" will include...

- Tora! Tora! Tora! – This historic recreation of the attack on Pearl Harbor will feature 61 pyrotechnic features, including an estimated 2,000 foot wall of fire finale and up to 12 aircraft. The aircraft will include a numerous Mitsubishi A6M "Zeros," Aichi D3A "Vals," a Nakajima B5N "Kates," and a Curtis P-40 "Warhawk."

- GEICO Skytypers Air Show Team – This world-famous flight squadron features six vintage SNJ-2 WWII aircraft performing precision flight maneuvers.

- David Windmiller Air Shows – An aerial ballet featuring a Zivko Edge 540 as it performs tumbles, spins, cartwheels, torque rolls and soaring feats of precision, climbing 3,700 feet in the air per second.

- Lewis & Clark Performance FLS Microjet – dubbed the "World's Smallest Jet," this aircraft will thrill the crowd with an aerial display showing the FLS Microjet's high performance and aerobatic capabilities.

- Greg Koontz Airshows Xtreme Super Decathlon and the Alabama Boys – Two acts. The first will demonstrate the agility of an Xtreme Super Decathlon aircraft with a full set of loops, vertical rolls, snaps and tumbles, invented passes including the down low, in-the-dirt inverted ribbon cut finale. The second performance will include a 'stolen' 1946 Piper J-3 Club as it attempts to land on the back of a moving pickup truck.

- Kevin Russo Airshows – Show includes a T-6, SNJ Harvard, performing multiple loops, barrel rolls,

(Continued Next Page)



Continued...

aileron rolls, eight-point rolls, 16-point rolls and more.

- Dougherty Airshows – Spectators will enjoy watching a 230-horsepower Christen Eagle, based in Eastern Pennsylvania, perform torque rolls, tail slides and tumbles, as well as the thrill of a barnstorming era featuring a 1930 Great Lakes aircraft.

The 2019 event is under the planning and guidance of David Schultz Airshows LLC of Clearfield, Pa. Schultz Airshows has coordinated airshows and provided the Air Traffic Control and Announcing for over 500 events in their 25 year history all over North America and the Caribbean. Many of their events are well known in the region including airshows along the Atlantic City Beachfront, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Dover AFB, Binghamton, NY, and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Pa.

Note: All events, dates and times are subject to change without notice. Certain terms, conditions and fees may apply for ticket purchases.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - As winter arrives in Northeast Tennessee, the Bristol chapter of Speedway Children's Charities is busy preparing to host a pair of fundraisers designed to get everyone into the holiday spirit while benefiting local children in need.

The Cigna Speedway in Lights 5K presented by Fleet Feet will return for its eighth year as the official starter to The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights festivities. Returning with it will be Tastings, Bites and Twinkling Lights, a gourmet food, wine, craft beers and high-end spirits tasting.

"The holiday season is always our favorite time of the year," said Claudia Byrd, executive director of SCC-Bristol. "The season means so much to everyone and for us, it means the time to give back. We are excited to bring back some of our favorite events to help kick off The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights as we continue our mission to help children in need in this region."

The Cigna Speedway in Lights 5K will be held this Sunday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. Participants will be the first to gaze upon the hundreds of displays and millions of lights that make up one of the South's largest

Christmas lights display and will get to finish the run at a holiday party located inside the oval. The route will take runners all over BMS property, including a trek through the dazzling Christmas lights displays, along Bristol Dragway and inside The Last Great Colosseum.

Guests may sign up with advanced registration for \$30, which can be completed at <http://bit.ly/SCCSIL5K>. Kids 12-and-under are only \$15. The final day to register is Nov. 8 at 11:59 p.m.

Returning to The World's Fastest Half-Mile is Tastings, Bites and Twinkling Lights on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 5:30 p.m. Set high atop BMS overlooking the holiday lights show, guests will enjoy tastings and bites from several locally highlighted restaurants, wineries and breweries. Some of these favorites include The Virginian, The Blackthorn Club at the Ridges, Johnson City Catering Group, Buttermilk Sky Pie, Southern Craft, Studio Brew, Yee-Haw Brewery and more. Tickets for the event are \$50 and can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/SCCTBTLL> with all proceeds going to SCC.

For more information please visit www.SpeedwayCharities.org/Bristol.

The Bristol Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to raising funds for distribution to children's-based nonprofit organizations, was established in 1997. Since its inception, the chapter has raised nearly \$14 million, awarding grants to hundreds of qualified organizations in the 18-county area surrounding Bristol Motor Speedway. The board of trustees for the Bristol Chapter consists of 18 members, a diverse group of individuals from across the region with wide-ranging backgrounds. The trustees, two staff members and more than 300 volunteers are responsible for hosting numerous events at Bristol Motor Speedway and throughout the Bristol community. For more information about the Bristol Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, visit speedwaycharities.org/bristol.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - In just over a week, Charlotte Motor Speedway will cut the red ribbon to open one of the nation's largest holiday light shows, bringing new attractions and a record amount of lights to the ninth edition of Speedway Christmas presented by AAA Carolinas' Disconnect & Drive.

New for 2018, visitors can take a ride in the infield on a 50-foot Ferris wheel, listen to joyful sounds from live musicians, bands, carolers and choirs and drive through more light displays than ever before.

The five-story Ferris wheel, located just outside the infield Christmas Village, will boast spectacular views of the infield and track portions of the illuminated 3.75-mile course. The tallest addition to this year's show will tower over the new "Storybook in Lights"-themed displays including classics like "The Three Little Pigs" and "Rapunzel." The Ferris wheel will cost just \$5 per person and is open Thursday – Sunday nights.

Local musicians, bands, choirs and carolers will take the Christmas Village stage on Friday and Saturday nights to entertain show-goers as they sip hot chocolate and roast marshmallows by the fire pits. The entertainment lineup includes appearances by local musicians Cameron Ripley and Thor Mauldin, as well as the Olympic High School, South Iredell High School and Cuthbertson High School choirs. Fans can follow Charlotte Motor Speedway's social media accounts for updates to the entertainment schedule.

More than 1,000 strands of 12-foot lights, new displays in the grandstands and a new light tunnel will boost the overall number of lights at the annual holiday attraction to more than 3.5 million. Operations crews began erecting this year's attractions in mid-October, working more than 4,300 hours, to produce a holiday light spectacular that welcomed more than 33,000 cars in 2017.

The drive-through portion of Speedway Christmas runs nightly from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 18 through Dec. 31. On Thursday through Sunday nights, the Christ-

mas Village is open in the speedway infield. The village includes s'mores making, a festival of trees, photos with Santa, Bethlehem Village with live actors and animals, and a snowfall selfie station for holiday photos.

Car Passes: Fans can buy a car pass to Speedway Christmas, starting at just \$20 for Monday-Wednesday access, by calling 1-800-455-FANS (3267), visiting <http://www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets/> or at the entry gates on event nights. On Tuesday nights, AAA Carolinas members receive \$5 off a regularly priced car pass by showing their AAA Carolinas membership card.

Sonoma Raceway

SONOMA, CA - Tackle the twists and turns of Sonoma Raceway's road course in your personal vehicle during Speedway Children's Charities' 6th annual Laps for Charity on Saturday, Jan. 12.

This once-a-year-opportunity invites participants to take their vehicle for a few laps around the 12-turn road course. For just \$150, this unique experience includes a pre-lap classroom safety briefing with professional drivers, three lead-follow laps around the 2.52-mile circuit, a picture of your car on track, plus a "hot lap" in the instructor's car.

All proceeds benefit kids in need through Sonoma County youth organizations.

A limited number of spots are now available between 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12. Participants must be at least 18 years old; passengers are not permitted. All cars must have shoulder strap seat belt restraints, mufflers and pass a basic technical inspection. For more information or to register visit <https://www.speedwaycharities.org/events/sonoma/laps-for-charity/>.



Kingsport Speedway

KINGSPORT, TN - Kingsport Speedway announced tonight at their season-ending awards banquet that Ervin and Keith Stiltner plan to purchase the 0.375-mile concrete oval from current owner Joe Loven.

The father-son businessmen have a deep connection to short track racing. The two leased Lonesome Pine Raceway from 2007 through 2017 and Ervin Stiltner was part owner in the United Auto Racing Association. Since 2014, the Stiltners have leased Kingsport Speedway.

"We couldn't be happier to take the reins at Kingsport," said Ervin Stiltner. "We've seen great support from the competitors, fans, sponsors and local community since we started leasing the track in 2014."

"We appreciate everyone's support and look forward to waving the green flag on 2019 and beyond."

Keith Stiltner, along with his son Ryan and daughter Emma, have been active racers at Kingsport and other tracks throughout the region. Keith was the 1997 and 1998 track champion at Kingsport.

"Our family has been in racing for many years," added Stiltner. "And we don't plan to stop that anytime soon."

Kingsport Speedway opened in 1965 as a high-banked dirt track. The track was converted to asphalt in the spring of 1969, and then in 1984 converted back to asphalt. The track hosted many prestigious events, including NASCAR Grand National events and the likes of Richard Petty, Bobby Allison, Harry Gant, Jimmy Hensley and many others.

Joe Loven – who owned Loven Ready Mix – purchased Kingsport Speedway in the early 1990s. Loven, who had a part in putting down the first concrete surface at Bristol Motor Speedway, is the one who decided to transform Kingsport to its current concrete surface.

Loven has a deep history in racing in the region and also owns Volunteer Speedway, a 0.4-mile high-banked dirt track in Bulls Gap, TN. Loven says he's glad to see Kingsport transforming into a new chapter.

"Kingsport is going to be in great hands," said Loven. "Ervin and Keith love short track racing and



Opening day of the 2018 season at Kingsport Speedway had plenty of fans and plenty of competitors. (KINGSPORT SPEEDWAY photo)

that's what I want to see for the place – people who love racing in control of it. The place has a lot of history and I know it will continue to make more."

"I look forward to seeing Kingsport continue to succeed with the Stiltners," added Loven. "That racetrack will always be near and dear to me."

Kingsport's resurgence came in 2009, when the track hosted a late model stock car touring series event that was sanctioned by the United Auto Racing Association. The track had been dormant since 2002 up to that point, but after the checkered flag waved on that event, the track was back in the spotlight.

In 2011, former NASCAR driver Robert Pressley reopened the track and brought the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series banner to the track. After Pressley went on to pursue other business ventures at the end of 2013, Ervin Stiltner stepped in.

Karen Tunnell, the track's current general manager and promoter, has been at Kingsport since it reopened in 2011. Tunnell will continue to lead the track.

"It's a way to give back to the community and keep grassroots racing alive and well," said Tunnell. "This is the day we've all been waiting for."

"There are many great things to come at Kingsport, and Ervin and Keith purchasing it is the next step."

Tunnell says the Stiltners are already looking into opportunities for the facility.

"There are a lot of possibilities that Ervin and Keith are looking at

now that they own the facility – concerts, derbies, destruction shows and much more," added Tunnell. "They're also looking to reopen the eighth-mile asphalt go kart track that is located at the facility."

Five Flags Speedway

PENSACOLA, FL - Nothing ever replaces the feeling of being at the Snowball Derby, but these days, life happens. So, if you can't make it to Pensacola, Florida for the 51st Snowball Derby, Speed51.com and Five Flags Speedway have once again teamed up to offer you the next best thing. For the fifth consecutive year, the Snowball Derby will be available to a worldwide audience via a television-style, multi-camera, pay-per-view broadcast on Speed51.com.

Beginning on Wednesday, November 28, all five days of racing from Five Flags Speedway will be available for race fans to view worldwide. Five-day video tickets for the entire Snowball Derby week can now be purchased for the discounted price of \$74.99 by clicking here.

"We enjoy seeing everyone each year at Five Flags Speedway, but we know not everyone can make it each year and that's why Speed51 is the perfect platform for race fans worldwide to still enjoy the events," said Tim Bryant, Promoter of Five Flags Speedway and the Snowball Derby. "I know a lot of people have Snowball Derby viewing parties around the country and that is humbling for all of us. We enjoy seeing all those pictures on social media and we hope those people watching on Speed51 join

us here in the panhandle of Florida in coming years."

The live pay-per-view broadcast of the 51st Snowball Derby will resemble what race fans would see during a television-style motorsports broadcast. With more camera angles, an in-house broadcasting team, pit reporters and enhanced graphics, the broadcast will bring viewers closer to the action than ever before.

"We keep advancing with our video streams and we have several things we plan on debuting during the Snowball Derby. Plus, this pay-per-view broadcast will have eight cameras to catch the action" said Mark Keeler, Operations Manager for Speed51. "We want new people to come to the Snowball Derby every year and hopefully our broadcast gives them the nudge they need to come down and join us next year at Five Flags Speedway."

Speed51.com's in-depth coverage of the 51st Snowball Derby will begin on Wednesday, November 28 at 6 p.m. CST with a live broadcast of the CAT Country Green Flag Pit Party and the ever-important Qualifying Draw for the Snowball Derby and the Allen Turner Snowflake 100 Pro Late Model race. After that, it'll be 50 laps of pure adrenaline with the Pure Stock feature on tap that night.

After receiving a positive response in 2017, Speed51.com will once again be live for every Late Model (Pro and Super) practice session during the Snowball Derby week. That includes the opening round of practice on Thursday, November 29 when Late Models hit

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the race track for the first time at 10 a.m.

Following the final round of Late Model practice on Thursday, Speed51.com's live stream will shut down and resume for the 50-lap Sportsman and 50-lap Outlaw Stock features that night.

On Friday, November 30, the intensity will begin to rise as Super Late Model drivers prepare for the all-important time trial session. All Late Model practice rounds will be broadcast that day before the stream shuts down and resumes for Snowball Derby qualifying. The 75-lap Modified feature will also be streamed live following SLM qualifying.

Pro Late Models will take center stage on Speed51.com Saturday night, December 1 during the Allen Turner Snowflake 100. Snowflake 100 qualifying and last chance races, as well as the Snowball Derby last chance race, will also be broadcast live from Five Flags that day. Additionally, race fans will be able to view the final practice sessions for both Late Model divisions that day.

After four nights of racing, the granddaddy of them all will take place on Sunday, November 2: the 51st Annual Snowball Derby. Speed51.com's broadcast is scheduled to begin at 12 p.m., with a two-hour pre-race show to get you pumped up for the big race.

The best Super Late Model racers in the country will take the green flag at 2 p.m. CT for 300 laps of racing. Speed51.com will have race fans covered with flag-to-flag coverage until the Tom Dawson Trophy is delivered to the winner in victory lane.

Individual video tickets are available for each day of racing; however, a five-day video ticket offers a savings of \$35 and gains viewers free access to Wednesday night's broadcast.

If you're unable to watch all five days of racing or chose to purchase video tickets individually, a single-day ticket to watch the 51st Annual Snowball Derby on Sunday is available for \$34.99.

Saturday's broadcast featuring the Snowflake 100 is available for \$29.99.

A video ticket to watch the intense Snowball Derby time trials and more on Friday is \$24.99,

while Thursday's action-packed schedule is available for \$19.99.

Wednesday's racing and Green Flag Pit Party will be included in the five-day video ticket.

For those who choose not to purchase a five-day ticket and want to watch Wednesday's action, it will be available to premium subscribers to the Speed51 Network. This means that race fans can purchase a monthly (\$7.99) or yearly (\$59.99) subscription to the Network and watch Wednesday's broadcast for free.

Additionally, Speed51 Network yearly subscribers receive 10% off the purchase of pay-per-view broadcasts including the Snowball Derby.

Those who purchase a live video ticket will also receive unlimited on-demand access to view the broadcast(s) beginning the day after the completion of the event.

Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGSGROVE, PA - Selinsgrove Speedway & Raceway Park closed out the #WideOpen2018 season Saturday evening, Nov. 10, with the awards banquet at the historic Genetti Hotel in Williamsport for about 250 guests representing the 360 sprint car, super late model, pro stock, roadrunner, and go kart divisions.

This year's top performing drivers received trophies, jackets, commemorative championship rings sponsored by Foss Jewelers, and shared a \$25,000-plus point fund.

Davie Franek of Wantage, N.J., clinched his second straight Mach 1 Chassis 360 sprint car track championship with 12 top five finishes including two feature wins at Selinsgrove. He entered all 15 races and competed in 14 feature events. Franek held off three-time winner and former two-time champion Jason Shultz of Carlisle, who finished runner up for the third consecutive season, for the title.

In the Jeff's Auto Body & Recycling Center super late models, second generation racer Bryan Bernheisel of Lebanon recorded his first career track championship at Selinsgrove with nine top five finishes including four feature wins plus a limited late model victory at the track. He became the division's 23rd different champion in 56 years.

Kyle Bachman of Selinsgrove clinched his second career A&A Auto Stores pro stock title with 15 top five finishes including five feature wins. Bachman's first title occurred 15 years ago in 2003.

Keith Bissinger of Orangeville

scored his sixth career Collier Paving & Construction/A&A Auto Stores roadrunner title with eight top five finishes including two feature wins.

Nyle Berkes of Milton clinched the 358 sprint car challenge series title.

Rookie of the Year awards went to Ryan Linder of Phoenix, Ariz., (sprint cars); Randy Christine of Manchester (late models); and Jake Jones of Hunlock Creek (roadrunners). There were no rookies in the pro stock division this season.

Nathan Long of Selinsgrove received the Joe Whitcomb Memorial Sportsman of the Year award.

The 2018 Selinsgrove Raceway Park go kart champions were Wyatt Chalker (kid karts), Liam Barton (rookies I cage), Garrett Leitzel (rookies II cage), Sophia Peters (rookies I), Brooklynn Peters (rookies II) Pat Romig (adult cage ani-

weekly Friday night go kart racing at Selinsgrove Raceway Park and weekly Saturday night sprint car and stock car competition at Selinsgrove Speedway next season.

Off-season improvements include new guardrail, lighting, and tentative plans for more screened clay for the track, weather permitting.

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

Carteret County Speedway

SWANSBORO, NC - Carteret County Speedway will host its final event of 2018 with the 4-Cylinder Nationals on Saturday, November 17th. The event will honor the military and first responders and feature Carteret County's strongest division in its biggest race.



2018 Selinsgrove Speedway champions; (left to right) Davie Franek, Bryan Bernheisel, Kyle Bachman and Keith Bissinger pose with their hardware after the awards banquet. (SELINGSGROVE SPEEDWAY photo)

mal), Chase Keister (jr. cage), Kobe Benner (clone 375s), Bradyn Auman (jr. restricted), Mariah Romig (adult cage flat), Steve Kerstetter (mediums), Justin Wise (extra heavies), Brandyn Burkholder (flat 350s), Kruz Kepner (senior clone cage), Kobe Benner (clone 340s, clone 375s), Colton Guiher (red clone cage), Tanner Brown (PA wing karts), Mark Longenecker (predator), Joe Slautterback (open karts), and Jade Glass (red clones).

Members of the speedway management team announced all the divisions will be returning for

The 4-Cylinder Nationals are headlined by a 100 lap, \$2,000-to-win Mini-Stock feature race. In addition, Mod-4, Legends, Mini Cups and Champ Karts will all be in action in the Nationals, which goes green at 6pm on November 17th.

Active duty and retired military, as well as first responders (fire, police, EMS) will get \$5 off general admission tickets. Festivities will get underway at 3pm with a live performance by national recording artist Steelshot in the Moonshiner's Z as qualifying and heat races take place on track. At 5pm, the pre-

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race meet and greet will get underway, giving fans the opportunity to meet the drivers. Additionally, the All Veterans Parachute Team will fly into Carteret County Speedway during the pre-race show.

"We are excited about racing one more time this season," Carteret County Speedway track owner Bob Lowery said. "We always love to honor

our military and first responders. At Carteret County Speedway, we continue Bobby Watson's tradition of honoring military. Here, we honor God, country and racing."

Racing will then get underway at 6pm with the Carolina Mini-Stock Challenge's 4-Cylinder Nationals. Mini Cups will race first for 15 laps, then Legends will compete for 30 laps. After that, the Last Chance Qualifier will be run for the Carolina Mini-Stock Challenge. Mod-4 will race for 30 laps after that, then Champ Karts for 15 laps and the final event will be 100 laps for the Carolina Mini-Stocks.

"The Mini-Stock division has been the strongest division in terms of car count this season and it's awesome to see them be the headline race of our season finale," Carteret County Speedway public relations manager Andy Marquis stated. "The Mini-Stock division keeps growing and often times, fans leave the track feeling like they put on the best show of the night. The Legends division has also put on thrilling races all year. Every race should be a good one on November 17th."

The 2018 season has been the strongest season to-date at Carteret County Speedway. During the year, the CARS Response Energy Tour visited the track for the first time. Carteret County Speedway also hosted the \$15,000-to-win Solid Rock Carriers 150 as well as a big Legends race during the Labor Day Classic. The strong season was made possible both by Bobby Watson's vision and the support of Kirk Ipock at Solid Rock Carriers, along with numerous other sponsors and the fans and drivers who supported the track all season.

For more information about Carteret County Speedway, visit the track's official website at www.carteretspeedway.com,

"like" Carteret County Speedway on Facebook or follow @carteretcoswy on Twitter.

Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - Another exciting year of racing action is in store for Dodge City Raceway Park in southwest Kansas in 2019 as the slate of events for the state-of-the-art facility in southwest Kansas has been established.

Following an open practice and car show on March 23, the season officially fires off on Saturday, April 6, with a DCRP vs. URSS Sprint Car tilt before ultimately wrapping up with two nights of World of Outlaws Sprint Cars "Boot Hill Showdown" action on September 20-21.

A total of 18 nights of racing action are in store along the way in 2019 with the Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars and IMCA Hobby Stocks once again featured in the weekly championship racing series.

The Lubbock Wrecker Service DCRP 305 Sprint Car Nationals has been expanded to a three-night affair on June 13-15 as the DCRP Sprint Cars square off with the United Rebel Sprint Series and Sprint Series of Oklahoma for bragging rights.

Other returning specials in 2019 include the Seventh Annual Modified Stampede on April 13, the Dodge City 200 Enduro on July 6, the always highly-anticipated Driver and Fan Appreciation Night on July 26, the Sixth Annual Sport Modified Mayhem event on August 24 and the Seventh Annual Jerry Soderberg Memorial Championship finale on September 14.

In addition to the April 6 opener and the DCRP 305 Sprint Car Nationals, the United Rebel Sprint Series takes on the DCRP Sprint Cars as well on May 18 and again during the September 14 championship finale.

Additionally, the Sooner Late Model series will make its first DCRP appearance on Saturday night, July 13.

Dodge City Raceway Park 2019 Schedule:

- March 23 – Car Show & Practice Night
- April 6 – Season Opener with DCRP vs. URSS Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks
- April 13 – Seventh Annual Modified Stampede plus DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby

Stocks

- April 27 – Weekly Racing Series (DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks)

- May 4 – Weekly Racing Series (DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks)

- May 18 – Weekly Racing Series plus URSS Sprints (DCRP vs. URSS Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks)

- June 1 – Weekly Racing Series (DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks)

- June 13 – Lubbock Wrecker Service DCRP 305 Sprint Car Nationals (DCRP/URSS/SSO Sprint Cars) plus IMCA Hobby Stocks and KARS

- June 14 – Lubbock Wrecker Service DCRP 305 Sprint Car Nationals (DCRP/URSS/SSO Sprint Cars) plus IMCA Stock Cars and KARS

- June 15 – Lubbock Wrecker Service DCRP 305 Sprint Car Nationals (DCRP/URSS/SSO Sprint Cars) plus IMCA Sport Modifieds and KARS

- June 29 – Weekly Racing Series (DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks)

July 6 – Dodge City 200 Enduro plus Fireworks show

- July 13 – Sooner Late Model series plus IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks

- July 20 – Weekly Racing Series (DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks)

- July 26 – Driver/Fan Appreciation Night with DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks

- August 24 – Sixth Annual Sport Modified Mayhem plus DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks

- September 14 – Seventh Annual Jerry Soderberg Memorial Championship Night / DCRP vs. URSS Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks

- September 20 – World of Outlaws Sprint Cars "Boot Hill Showdown" plus IMCA Sport Modifieds

- September 21 – World of Outlaws Sprint Cars "Boot Hill Showdown" plus IMCA Modifieds

Dodge City Raceway Park is lo-

cated 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.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - A popular addition to the 2018 NAPA Fall Final was the Inaugural Ladies Challenge, an 8-lap Street Stock shoot-out. Twelve Ladies associated with Stafford race teams were paired with Street Stock teams and raised an amazing \$35,000, all in the interest of charitable giving. Thirteen different charities reaped the benefits of this special event, thanks to the hard work of these amazing ladies and car owners in the Street Stock division.

The starting lineup for the Ladies Challenge was determined by the amount of money each raised for their selected foundation or charity. Maina Rufrano, car owner and proud mom of SK Light champion Marcello Rufrano, led the way with \$5,350 and started the race on the pole. Racing for American Cancer Society in the #2 Meg Fuller Street Stock, Rufrano claimed a podium finish of 3rd.

Stafford Speedway Pit Reporter, Nicole LaRose was leading the fund raising challenge from the onset but was surpassed by Rufrano in the final appeal. LaRose raised a remarkable \$5,220 for the Catherine V. Hubbard Animal Sanctuary located in Sandy Hook, CT, which earned her the outside pole starting position. Racing in the #11 Travis Hydar ride, LaRose posted a 2nd place podium finish.

Lianna Berndt, wife of SK Modified® driver Eric Berndt and mother of Wild Thing Kart drivers, Parker and Summer, must have received some great racing advice from the family as she raced like an experienced, no holds barred driver. Racing in the #89 Samantha Anderson ride, Berndt raised \$4,255 for the Connecticut Humane Society and a 3rd place starting position while she finished in 7th place.

Debbie DeSanctis, drove Johnny Walker's #01 and donated \$4,169 to Honor and Remember. After starting in the 4th position, DeSanctis drove like a champion and held off the efforts of LaRose and Rufrano to take home the checkered flag.

Cassie Rocco, wife of SK Modified driver Keith Rocco, initiated the idea of the ladies race by challeng-

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ing Maina Rufrano at the 2017 Fall Final. The pair accumulated nearly \$6,000 from the racing community for the American Cancer Society last year. Fast forward one year and the event has grown to 12 drivers. Rocco, piloting the champion car of #39 George Bessette, Jr. raised \$2,973 for the Mike Tidbeck Medical Expense Foundation and successfully completed all 8 laps bringing the car home in 5th place.

Racing for the Michael J. Fox Foundation, Megan Surdell started in the 6th position raising \$2,815 in the #16 Nichole Chambrello ride. Surdell is typically found in the pits as the crew chief for her husband, R.J. Surdell, in the Limited Late Model division. The ladies challenge race was her first career start and she adapted with enthusiasm to the change from crew chief to driver. Surdell started the Ladies Challenge in 6th and finished 9th.

Mary Ann Gambacorta, owner of the #23 Street Stock, raced for the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance. Her husband, Vince Gambacorta, typically drives #23 Street Stock and her son Kevin races the #23 Late Model on Friday's at Stafford. Racing is definitely a family affair for the Gambacorta's. Inspired by a close friend and her positive outlook through a life altering challenge, \$2,705 was raised for the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance. Gambacorta started 7th and finished in 6th place.

Gail McClain, owner of the #6 Limited Late Model driven by her nephew, 2018 Champion Jeremy Lavoie and crew chief on the #21 Street Stock driven by nephew, Jason Lafayette, started in the 8th position. Racing for both the Alzheimer's Association and Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation in memory of family members, McClain proudly donated \$2653 and finished in the 4th place.

Shannon DiCostanzo drove lifelong friend Mike Hopkins' #78 Street Stock while raising money for the American Lung Association in memory of friends and loved ones she has lost due to lung disease. DiCostanzo raised \$2,724.95 to start the race in the 9th position and finished the race one spot higher in 8th place.

Elizabeth Vassar, wife of SK

Modified® driver Matt Vassar, was racing to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Vassar raised \$1,185 to claim the 10th starting position, but she was unable to drive in the race due to recent surgery. Vassar's replacement behind the wheel of the #33 car supplied by Rent A Racecar was Courtney Bergeron-Spacht, niece of Ed Flemke, Jr., and she drove the car to a 10th place finish. Vassar was able to take a small part in the race by serving as the honorary starter, waving the green flag to send the field on their way.

Tiffany Spinnato, wife of Rent A Racecar co-owner Gary Spinnato, was racing to raise money for Disabled American Veterans in memory of her grandfather. Spinnato got behind the wheel of the Rent A Racecar supplied #22 car and she raised \$690 for D.A.V. to start 11th but her race was cut short by a mechanical issue and she finished 12th.

Filling out the field was Amber Larsen, daughter of Valenti Modified Series driver Jim Boyle. Larsen was scheduled to drive Greg DeMone's #68 car in the race but she ended up driving the #66 car supplied by Rent A Racecar. Larsen's charity was the Shriner's Hospitals for Children, a cause which is near and dear to the heart of DeMone. Larsen started the race in 12th position and she improved one spot to 11th in the Ladies Challenge feature.

With the overwhelming success of the Ladies Challenge, the race will return to the 2019 schedule as part of the season ending NAPA Fall Final Weekend festivities.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - It's official, the 2018 NASCAR Whelen All-American Series season at Stafford Motor Speedway has entered into the record books. Ronnie Williams, Tom Fearn, Marcello Rufrano, Jeremy Lavoie, and George Bessette, Jr. secured the track championships but the 2018 season offered fans more than just championship battles.

NAPA Auto Parts, in their 5th year of elite partnership with Stafford Speedway, presented the biggest events of the year at the Connecticut half-mile facility, the prestigious 47th Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler in April and season ending NAPA Fall Final in September.

For the second straight year, Ryan Preece drove the No. 6 TS

Haulers Chevrolet to Victory Lane at the NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler. Preece was the first driver to win the Sizzler in back-to-back years since Bobby Santos III in 2013-14. NASCAR Hall of Famer and vintage racing enthusiast, Ray Evernham, served as the Grand Marshal for the 47th running of the NAPA Spring Sizzler. Evernham also brought three fully restored vintage Modifieds for the Vintage All-Star event and competed in the #99 Bodine modified.

In the 46th Annual NAPA Fall Final, Kyle Bonsignore took the lead from Doug Coby with just five laps remaining and went on to capture his first checkered flag in Whelen Modified Tour competition. While Kyle Bonsignore celebrated his first career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win, another member of the Bonsignore family, his cousin Justin, celebrated as he clinched his first championship. The Gagner Family from Wild Thing Kart Series served as Grand Marshals of the NAPA Fall Final.

A popular addition to the Fall Final was the Inaugural Ladies Challenge, an 8 lap Street Stock shoot-out. Women associated with Stafford race teams were paired with Street Stock teams and raised an amazing \$35,000 for various foundations and charities.

The NAPA SK 5K in its 5th year of existence offered a purse of over \$27,000 with the winner guaranteed \$5K. In NAPA Victory Lane the race winner, Ronnie Williams, pulled the winner take all chip in the Dunleavy's Gambler Challenge, boosting his NAPA SK 5K payday total to \$10,625.

The SK Lights took center stage on May 25 for the Dunleavy's Modifiedz Night in a 40-lap feature that paid over \$10,000 in total posted awards.

Thanks to Doug Dunleavy, the winners of the SK Modified® Late Model, Limited Late Model, and Street Stock feature events doubled their winnings. Also providing bonus money was John and Maina Rufrano from Wheelers Auto Service with the second and third place finishers in the SK Modified® and Late Model feature events taking home an extra \$200 while the second, third, fourth, and fifth place finishers in the SK Light, Limited Late Model, and Street Stock features each received a \$100 bonus. The big winners of the night included Marcello Rufrano in the 40-lap SK Light feature, Rowan Pennink in the SK Modified®, Tom Fearn in the Late Model, Jeremy Lavoie in the Limited Late Model, and

Johnny Walker in the Street Stock feature.

For the first time since the late 1970's, non-sanctioned open modified races were included in the 2018 schedule. The two events both followed the traditional "Sizzler" distance of 80 laps, paid \$3,500 to win and \$660 to start. Both events were held in conjunction with Stafford's 5 weekly racing divisions. The Twisted Tea Open Modified 80 on June 8 took center stage for an 80-lap race and Tommy Barrett, Jr. used an early pit stop to gain track position when the majority of the cars came to pit road at the halfway point of the race. He led 38 of the final 40 laps to win the Twisted Tea Open Modified 80. Then on July 13 an enthusiastic Eric Goodale used a great pit stop to climb from seventh to second after a round of pit stops and he led the final 41 laps to win the Bud Light Open Modified 80.

Friday, July 13th was a special night with the Inaugural running of the TC 13 SK Modified® Shootout in honor of the late Ted Christopher. The special shootout event was held directly following the scheduled 40 lap SK Modified® feature with the top-13 finishers earning entry into the shootout. The top-13 were inverted and the 13-lap shootout was run with Glen Reen taking home the first place winnings of \$1,313. The total posted awards for the TC 13 Shootout was \$7,319 thanks to the generosity of sponsorship partners.

The Valenti Modified Racing Series made its final visit to Stafford Speedway on Friday, August 31 for the 9th Annual Lincoln Tech VMRS 80. Richard Savary took the lead on lap-26 and led the rest of the way to score his first career win at Stafford Speedway.

Several racing milestones were reached during the 2018 season. Keith Rocco set a new SK Modified® record for consecutive feature wins with 6 in a row dating to the last 2 races of the 2017 season and the first 4 races of 2018. Tom Fearn set two new records in the Late Model division by winning 6 consecutive races from May 18 to June 15 and he surpassed Ryan Posocco for the most career Late Model wins with 48 wins and counting.

Stay tuned for the release of the highly anticipated 2019 schedule.

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