



DECEMBER 7, 2016

FastTrack

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H—S—O—R—C

Johnson, Hendrick and
Knaus Celebrate
Seventh Championship



GOODBYE

Tony Stewart Ends His
NASCAR Driving Career



CONGRATS

Christian Eckes
Edges Out Nemechek
for Snowball Derby Win



Leaving Las Vegas

The NASCAR community gathered at Las Vegas last Friday to hand out millions of dollars and a lot of awards, including a record-tying eighth Sprint Cup Series championship for Jimmie Johnson.

It also will be a time to reflect on the just-completed season that started a week after Valentine's Day and ended less than a

week before Thanksgiving.

There were several twists and turns, including:

Johnson's seventh championship ties

Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt

For most of the season, Jimmie Johnson was a non-contender for a championship. His Hendrick Motorsports team was mired in a company-wide slump all summer. But once the Chase for the Championship started, Johnson found a higher gear.

Johnson snapped a 24-race drought with a victory Oct. 9 at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, and that became the catalyst for victories at the Martinsville Speedway and Homestead-Miami Speedway later in the playoffs that led to a seventh championship which tied him with legendary drivers Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt.

"This summer, no chance," Johnson said. "Chase started to build some hope."

Johnson, crew chief Chad Knaus, car owner Rick Hendrick and sponsor Lowe's have all been together since 2002, and that steadiness helped the team keep its focus during its struggles.

In all, Johnson won five races, and three of them came in the playoffs.

At 41, Johnson said he now wants an eighth title.

"I don't know what the chances are, but let's go," he said. "The fire still burns."

Tony Stewart shifts to new life away from NASCAR driver's seat

Tony Stewart isn't going away, but he won't be back as a driver.

After struggling with physical, legal and emotional problems in the past four years, Stewart drove his final laps two weeks ago at the

Homestead-Miami Speedway. He now will focus on his role as a co-owner at Stewart-Haas Racing and returning to his dirt-track roots.

He leaves behind a legacy of success and disappointment, happiness and tears and perplexing and playful demeanors.

"I think there are always points in everybody's life you wish you had done something a little bit different," Stewart said. "I've had a lot of those moments for sure that if I could go back and redo it I would love to do it over again. I think how everything shook out at the end I'm pretty proud of that and happy about it."

Stewart won three championships and 49 races, including the road-course race at Sonoma, Calif., this year.

He also was ordered to seek anger management counseling by a sponsor, as well as receiving several fines for

comments against NASCAR. In fact, He won one of his championships while on probation.

Young guns on target to keep sport on track

The latest wave of young drivers is the assurance NASCAR needed to attract its next generation of drivers.

Rookie Chase Elliott, 21, made the Chase for the Championship. So did 24-year-old Kyle Larson and 26-year-old Austin Dillon.

Also, 24-year-old Chris Buescher won a race and 22-year-old Ryan Blaney marked the full-time return of Wood Brothers Racing to a top-20 finish in the standings.

Elliott, the son of 1988 champion Bill Elliott, finished 10th in the standings with 10 top-10 finishes.

"Good news is I don't have to go to any more rookie meetings, which is nice," young Elliott said. "I think you just kind of learn from experiences and things you encounter along the way, not so much whether it's your first year or first race or whatever it is. I think it's more of an experience-based kind of feel, whether you have that comfort moving forward."

Daniel Suárez gana el Campeonato de Xfinity

If you understood that headline, you probably understand the significance of Mexican-born driver Daniel Suarez's Xfinity Series



DON COBLE



NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion Jimmie Johnson poses with the 2016 NASCAR Championship trophy at the House of Blues Foundation Room inside Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Jonathan Ferrey/Getty Images photo)

championship.

Suarez, of Monterrey, Mexico, won the sport's second-tier title by winning the pole position and race at the season-finale at the Homestead-Miami Speedway.

And in the process, he became the first foreign-born driver to win a NASCAR national championship.

Minutes after the race, Mexico president Enrique Pena Nieto, Tweeted: "Pride for Mexico and Latin America in the success of Daniel Suarez in NASCAR. Con-

gratulations!"

Suarez, who learned to speak English by watching cartoons, also won three races this year for Joe Gibbs Racing.

"The very first time that I was going to move to the States, a lot of people told me it was going to be difficult because I was a Mexican driver, and nobody else made it happen in the past," Suarez said. "Right now, honestly, I can tell that to be a Mexican driver, Latin American driver, is something positive."

Happy Holidays!

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“Guy from California” Honors Legends in Title Speech

By **KENNY BRUCE**
NASCAR.com

LAS VEGAS, NV - Jimmie Johnson, the sport's newest seven-time champion, leaned on another multi-time champion when wrapping up his acceptance speech at the Wynn Las Vegas Fri-

day night.

Just 12 days after matching the championship record previously shared only by Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt, Johnson paid homage to both legends.

"In closing, I spent time trying to study up for this night, and fortunately could find Dale Earnhardt's acceptance speech," Johnson told the crowd inside the Lafite Ballroom. "I took a quote from his speech, from the person bringing him to the stage in 1994 after he won his seventh."

That person was Jim Johnston, then Chairman and CEO of series sponsor RJ Reynolds Tobacco Co.,

referencing the humility of Earnhardt as the champion equaled the seven championships won by Petty. Johnston recalled Earnhardt stating that, "I might have won as many Winston Cup titles but Richard Petty will always be 'The King.'"

Friday evening, the Hendrick Motorsports driver said he totally understood the sentiment.

"I completely agree, and must say, I might have won as many championships as Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt, but I will never be 'The King' or 'The Intimidator,'" Johnson said. "I am just a guy from California who always wanted to race."

Petty won his seventh and final title with a fifth-place finish in the season-ending race at Ontario Motor Speedway in November of 1979, overcoming a two-point deficit to Darrell Waltrip.

The driver who wrapped up the rookie of the year title at that race? Earnhardt.

Fifteen years later, and with two

aces remaining to be run, Earnhardt tied the King, sealing the title with a victory at Rockingham, North Carolina.

NASCAR's postseason Chase format has erased the possibility of a driver wrapping up the title before the season has been completed. The latest version, which includes an elimination element, had been particularly perplexing to Johnson, but he and crew chief Chad Knaus proved up to the task in 2016.

One of four drivers vying for the title in the season-ending race at Homestead, Johnson won the championship by winning the race.

Less than two weeks later, the driver of the blue and white No. 48 Lowe's Chevrolet stood on stage and admitted "this is insane."

Tribute was paid to Tony Stewart, the departing three-time champion who will return in 2017 strictly in an ownership role. Sprint was lauded for its 13-year run as the premier series' entitlement sponsor.

But the night clearly belonged to Johnson. Fittingly.

His first win of the 2016 season at Atlanta drew him even with Earnhardt in career wins with 76. Less than one month later, win No. 77 was in the bag. Then 78, 79 and, with history on the line at Homestead, No. 80.

Johnson's comments referencing icons of the sport didn't take team owner Rick Hendrick by surprise.

"I thought that was just so Jimmie," Hendrick said after Friday's celebration began to wind down. "It's hard to explain."

"I asked him one time about winning and trying to set a goal. He respects those guys so much. As good as he is and what he's accomplished, he doesn't see himself in that light. Those exact words -- Richard will always be 'The King' and Dale will always be 'The Intimidator.'"

"I just think it's so refreshing to see someone that humble, that good that doesn't have to be cocky. He doesn't have to prove anything, just goes out and does his job."

Maybe eight is out there, hiding somewhere in the tire smoke and bent sheet metal and confetti and Victory Lane celebrations.

But Friday night wasn't about eight. Eight will be a problem for tomorrow.

Friday night was about seven. Seven championships. One driver. One crew chief. One owner. One team. One sponsor.

"To be here on stage with our seventh championship is still sinking in," Johnson admitted. "It's mind blowing."



NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion Jimmie Johnson(center), team owner Rick Hendrick(left), and his crew chief Chad Knaus pose for a portrait prior to the 2016 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Awards. One driver, one car owner and one crew chief for seven championships. (Jonathan Ferrey/Getty Images photo)

Myers Brothers Awards Recognize NASCAR's Best

By **HOLLY CAIN**
NASCAR.com

LAS VEGAS, NV - On what turned into a remarkable day on all accords, NASCAR introduced Monster Energy as the new premier series entitlement sponsor, celebrated Jimmie

Johnson's historic seventh championship and honored the late Betty Jane France with the prestigious NASCAR NMPA Myers Brothers Award for her decades of philanthropic work Thursday afternoon.

Approximately 500 people attended the traditional Myers Brothers Awards Luncheon at the Wynn Las Vegas resort -- an afternoon later capped off with the big entitlement announcement before the industry's drivers, teams and corporate stalwarts.

Fittingly one of NASCAR's ascending stars, Chase Elliott started the day off accepting the Sunoco Rookie of the Year award. The Hendrick Motorsports driver, who celebrated his 21st birthday on Monday, thanked his parents -- including father NASCAR Hall of Famer Bill Elliott -- his team and many people important in his high-accelerating career and life.

He also made a point to recognize Jeff Gordon's six-year old son Leo for an important high-five just before the season-opening Daytona 500 -- a race Elliott started from the pole position.

"That was a neat moment and it

put everything in perspective," Elliott said, smiling. "I can say I truthfully feel at home now, and I think that says a lot."

As is typically the case, the luncheon was a true "Who's Who" event for the sport.

Longtime team owner Jack Roush was honored with the prestigious Buddy Shuman Award, which recognizes individuals who have helped the sport grow. Roush has fielded a Cup team for nearly 30 years.

"Normally, I don't like surprises but for this, I will make an exception," said a grateful Roush.

Carl Edwards was awarded the Coors Light Pole Award for his six pole positions and Comcast XFINITY was given the Marketing Achievement Award. Kevin Harvick won his third consecutive "American Ethanol Green Flag Restart Award" and his engine builder Scott Vester was awarded the "Mahle Clevite Engine Builder of the Year" trophy.

The 2015 Sprint Cup champion Kyle Busch was awarded the Duralast Brakes "Break of the Race" award, the "Sherwin-Williams Fastest Lap" trophy and the "Mobil 1 Driver of the Year" trophies, joking afterward that he hadn't prepared a speech.

"How do you get the fastest lap and the biggest brake award?" he asked the crowd, laughing. "Guess I'm just a talented driver."

Chevrolet feted retiring three-time Sprint Cup champion Tony Stewart inviting the owner-driver on

stage.

"He is a racer, a winner, a champion, a partner, and most important to us, a friend to Chevrolet," Chevrolet executive Terry Dolan said.

Johnson and his team were recognized for numerous achievements -- from Chad Knaus as the series' top crew chief to the entire over-the-wall group for their series best pit crew efforts. The team's longtime sponsor, Lowe's earned the "Champion Sponsor Award."

Goodyear presented Johnson with his seventh version of one of the NASCAR's most amazing trophies, a solid gold-plated 1/12th scale of his No. 48 Lowe's Chevrolet.

"I'm definitely living the dream," Johnson said, smiling. "I may have dreamed big, but I've definitely overshot those expectations."

The afternoon wrapped up with the prestigious National Motorsports Press Association's (NMPA) Myers Brothers Award, which was given to France for her decades of impactful, charitable work. The wife of former NASCAR Chairman Bill France Jr. and mother of current NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France and International Speedway Corporation's CEO Lesa France Kennedy, France passed away August 29 of this year.

Her charitable legacy has been far-reaching and significant to countless people across the country.

She helped establish the "Speediatrics" children's units in both Daytona Beach and Homestead, Florida hospitals. Her work has raised more than \$25 million and improved the lives of more than 1 million children.

Additionally, her namesake award, the Betty Jane France Hu-

manitarian Award presented by Nationwide, recognizes people across the country, who have made a difference in helping others.

This year's winner was Andy Hoffman, whose Team Jack Foundation, raises money for pediatric brain cancer research. The award comes with a \$100,000 donation to the Team Jack organization.

France's daughter, Lesa France Kennedy, accepted the Myers Brothers Award on her mom's behalf. And a standing ovation in France's honor, greeted Kennedy as she left the stage.

"I just have to say my mom would be so honored by this award," Kennedy said.

"She was an amazing woman. It touches my heart to look back and see she left such a legacy. This would have meant the absolute world to her."

Here is the complete list of Thursday's award winners from the NASCAR NMPA Myers Brothers Awards Luncheon:

- NMPA Myers Brothers Award: Betty Jane France
- Buddy Shuman Award: Jack Roush
- NASCAR Marketing Achievement Award: Comcast XFINITY
- Chevrolet Cross Flags Award: Tony Stewart
- American Ethanol Green Flag Restart Award: Kevin Harvick
- Coors Light Pole Award: Carl Edwards
- Duralast Brakes "Brake in the Race" Award: Kyle Busch
- Goodyear NASCAR Series Champion Award: Jimmie Johnson
- Ingersoll Rand Power Move Award: Dave Rogers, Joe Gibbs Racing No. 19 Crew Chief
- MAHLE Clevite Engine Builder of the Year Award: Scott Vester, Hendrick Engines No. 4 team
- Mechanix Wear Most Valuable Pit Crew Award: Hendrick Motorsports No. 48 team
- Mobil 1 Driver of the Year Award: Kyle Busch
- MOOG Steering & Suspension Problem Solver of the Year Award: Alan Gustafson, crew chief No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports team
- Sherwin-Williams Fastest Lap Award: Kyle Busch
- Sunoco Diamond Performance Award: Jimmie Johnson
- Sunoco Rookie of the Year Award: Chase Elliott
- Champion Sponsor Award: Lowe's
- Champion Crew Chief Award: Chad Knaus
- Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award Presented by Nationwide: Andy Hoffman



Chase Elliott speaks after receiving the Sunoco Rookie of the Year Award during the NASCAR NMPA Myers Brothers Awards Luncheon. (David Becker/Getty Images photo)

NASCAR Announces Multi-Year Partnership with Monster Energy for Premier Series Entitlement

Brand Becomes Official Energy Drink of NASCAR, NASCAR All-Star Race Title Sponsor

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - NASCAR and Monster Energy announced today a multi-year agreement for the premier series entitlement as well as the prestigious annual NASCAR All-Star Race. Monster Energy, which will begin

its tenure as naming rights partner on Jan. 1, 2017, will become only the third company to serve as the entitlement sponsor in NASCAR premier series history, following RJ Reynolds and Sprint/Nextel.

As part of the agreement, the brand also becomes the Official Energy Drink of NASCAR. "Monster Energy is a brand built on excitement and enthusiasm, qualities that align with NASCAR," said Brian France, NASCAR Chair-

man and CEO. "This sponsorship position is the most unique in all of sports and entertainment, and we are thrilled to have a partner that will help us further elevate the series. Today's announcement is the culmination of a thorough search, one that resulted in the right partner at this important time in our sport's history."

NASCAR premier series races long have been a bucket-list destination for sports fans throughout the country, and starting next season, Monster Energy will elevate the event experience to an even higher level.

As part of the agreement, Monster Energy will engage with fans in creative, innovative ways at all race tracks where the premier series will race.

"Monster Energy has an established and versatile history in motorsports, and we're thrilled to take



Steve Phelps, Brian France, Mark Hall and Mitch Covington toast during a press conference as NASCAR and Monster Energy announce premier series entitlement partnership. (Jonathan Ferrey/Getty Images photo)

this historic next step," said Rodney Sacks, Monster Beverage Chairman and CEO. "We feel strongly that our brand is a perfect fit for this

sport and its star athletes. We look forward to interacting with the millions of passionate NASCAR fans week-in, week out."



NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. speaks on stage after receiving the NMPA Sprint most popular driver award during the 2016 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Awards. (Ethan Miller/Getty Images photo)



J. Foyt speaks during NASCAR After The Lap at The Pearl concert theater at Palms Casino Resort on December 1, 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Brian Lawdermilk/Getty Images photo)



Brad Barnett(left), Associate Vice President, National Media and Sports Marketing for Nationwide, speaks as Andy Hoffman looks on prior to receiving the Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award Presented by Nationwide. (Jonathan Ferrey/Getty Images photo)

Motorsports Industry Honors Tony Stewart with Sizeable Charitable Donation on His Behalf to EB Research Partnership

LAS VEGAS, NV - To honor three-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion Tony Stewart as he retires from his 20-year NASCAR driving career, the motorsports

industry came together in unprecedented fashion at the season-ending NASCAR Awards Banquet by making a \$1.8 million contribution on Stewart's behalf to the EB Research Partnership, the largest global non-profit dedicating to curing EB.

EB, or Epidermolysis Bullosa, is a devastating skin disorder. Those with EB lack critical proteins that bind the layers of skin together. Without these proteins, the skin can tear apart, blister and sheer off, leading to severe pain, disfigurement and wounds that never heal. EB can also affect the body internally, causing blisters in the eyes, mouth, esophagus and the fusing together of fingers and toes. EB affects one in every 50,000 births and is not specific to any ethnicity or gender, but because it only affects an estimated 25-30,000 people in the United States, advancing research to combat this disease relies on the generosity of individuals and corporations.

The industry initially targeted a \$1.4 million donation to the EB Research Partnership as a subtle nod to Stewart's No. 14 car number, which he drove to his third Sprint Cup title in 2011 and chose in honor of his hero and friend, the iconic A.J. Foyt who raced the No. 14 throughout his versatile career. However, widespread support for this initiative quickly gained momentum and the original \$1.4 million target was easily surpassed.

"Tony wanted to have a very low-key sendoff during his final NASCAR season and he was pretty emphatic about it. He certainly earned a lot of recognition for all that he accomplished, and as an industry we felt it was important to honor him," said Mike Helton, vice chairman, NASCAR. "People know how passionate he is about motorsports, but he's equally passionate about helping others. On behalf of the entire motorsports industry, we

felt this collective donation in Tony's name was a fitting tribute to all that he's accomplished during his NASCAR career."

Well known for his accolades on the racetrack, which includes 12 driving championships and victories in nearly every American-based racing series, Stewart is also known for his philanthropy.

In 2003, he formed his own charitable foundation. Known simply as the Tony Stewart Foundation, the 501(c)(3) organization's goal is to raise funds primarily distributed to serving three specific groups – chronically ill and physically disabled children, animals that are endangered or at-risk, and drivers injured in the sport of motor racing. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than \$6.5 million to assist charitable initiatives for more than 150 well-qualified organizations throughout the United States.

Stewart's work on behalf of the foundation crossed paths with his love for music earlier this year when he met Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder. The two discussed their work in racing and in music, respectively, before the conversation dovetailed into their mutual commitment to charity. It was here where Stewart learned about EB from an impassioned Vedder, who co-founded the EB Research Partnership.

"When I first heard about it, it was quite hard to grasp the intensity of the condition," Vedder said. "It's about the most insane skin disorder you could imagine. And when you realize it also affects the internal organs, you see it as diabolical. It's very hard to describe until you meet the young folks with it, and they make you realize how much you take for granted. You also realize that these are some of the strongest, coolest, most admirable people on the face of the Earth."

The tenacious and sometimes cantankerous demeanor Stewart carries at the racetrack vanishes when he is off the track and in the presence of children, especially those who face physical and mental challenges. Children fighting EB have a perseverance and strength that is unworldly, and it has resonated with Stewart.

"The pain these kids face is constant, and yet they still find ways to stay upbeat," Stewart said. "You quickly realize that your idea of a bad day is nothing. It puts your life and the things you take for granted in perspective. But it also makes you mad, because this is a devastating disorder that no one should have to endure. Yet it exists, and after seeing it, you want to do anything you can to make it go away."

Stewart's \$1.8 million donation to the EB Research Partnership will accelerate life-changing research and reduce the timeframe of getting results for children with EB, while ensuring treatments go to those in need as swiftly as possible.

This donation on Stewart's behalf is an embodiment of all the philanthropic work Stewart has performed as a NASCAR driver. He never sought accolades for his work, but his charitable efforts have been noticed nonetheless.

Stewart was named "Most Caring Athlete" by USA Weekend in 2004 and in that same year was selected by The Sporting News as "NASCAR's 'Good Guy'" and received the NASCAR USG Person of the Year award. In 2008, NASCAR Illustrated bestowed

upon Stewart its Person of the Year award, as Stewart's Prelude To The Dream all-star dirt Late Model race at Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, Ohio, raised more than \$4 million for charity during its eight-year run. In 2009, Stewart was nominated for the National Motorsports Press Association's (NMPA) Humanitarian and Spirit awards, each of which recognizes philanthropy. In 2010, Stewart again was a finalist for the NMPA Humanitarian award, becoming the only person to ever be nominated in back-to-back years. Making the 2010 selection even more noteworthy was that Stewart won and earned \$100,000 for his Foundation. And in 2013, Stewart earned the prestigious NMPA Myers Brothers award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the sport of stock car racing.

"Tony's legacy on the track is known and respected, but his efforts off the track should be known as well, even though he'll never be the one talking about them," Helton said. "Tony Stewart is a true humanitarian, and this sport is better off thanks to him and all of his contributions. It's only appropriate that we, as an industry, can contribute to Tony's philanthropic endeavors."

To learn more about the EB Research Partnership, please visit www.EBResearch.org or www.facebook.com/EBResearch. And to learn more about the Tony Stewart Foundation, please visit www.TonyStewartFoundation.org or www.facebook.com/14TSF.



Pearl Jam's frontman Eddie Vedder and Tony Stewart react to the announcement that NASCAR would donate \$1.8 million to EB Research Partnership. (Brian Lawdermilk/Getty Images photo)

Eckes Prevails Over Nemechek in Snowball Derby Thriller

PENSACOLA, FL - The 49th Annual Snowball Derby was worth waiting two days for. Christian Eckes and John Hunter Nemechek put on a show during the final laps that fans won't forget for a long time. The teenage drivers swapped the inside lane and the lead four times during the final two laps before 16-year-old Eckes nipped 19-year-old Nemechek at the line by 0.017 seconds.

"I can't even believe I'm standing here right now," Eckes said in Victory Lane. "I thought our day was over when we had that incident down the backstretch. Man, I just can't believe this. This is the Snowball Derby and this is just crazy."

Nemechek stayed quiet most of the day after starting in the back half of the field. He took the lead from Ty Majeski on lap 287 and seemed to be on his way to his second Snowball Derby victory.

That was until Eckes closed in on Nemechek and started poking a nose to his inside with three laps to go.

Eckes finally found a path to the inside of Nemechek coming to the flagstand with two laps to go. He made the pass but his lead was short lived, as Nemechek pulled a crossover off of turn two. Eckes returned the favor once again coming to the white flag. Having the inside lane turned out to be the difference as they drag raced to the checkered flag.

"I can't even believe it right now," Eckes said. "To be honest with you, I came here hoping for a top 10 and to get the win is just ridiculous. I can't, I can't, I can't even believe this."

While Nemechek was disappointed with the second-place effort, he was proud to be a part of the dramatic finish in front of the great crowd that patiently waited two days to see the race.

"He made the crossover move pretty much one corner earlier than I did," Nemechek said. "I should have backed off and held him to the outside and he wouldn't have got to me. But heck of a race. I can't thank all the fans enough for coming out on a Tuesday. This is awe-

some to be able to put on such a close finish for you guys. That's how you win a race right there. He showed what he could do and rubbin is racing."

For much of the race it seemed as though Chad Finley would be the driver celebrating an underdog victory. He led more laps than any other driver before suffering a problem under the hood with 18 laps remaining.

Pre-race favorite Ty Majeski led the first 42 laps of the race, but faded late to finish third. 2016 Southern Super Series champion Donnie Wilson and 14-year-old Chandler Smith completed the top five.

Post-race technical inspection went quickly with the top-three drivers making their way across the scales after the race. Chief Technical Inspector Ricky Brooks told Speed51.com it was a quick process because of the vast amount of pre-race tech they did throughout the week.

Grill Notches Emotional Allen Turner Snowflake 100 Victory

PENSACOLA, FL - Augie Grill had his hands full.

He was struggling to cradle a shiny new, but bulky winner's trophy and a coveted checkered flag while he posed for photos in Victory



Christian Eckes kisses his snowball trophy after winning the 49th Snowball Derby over John Hunter Nemechek by a mere 0.017 seconds. (Speed51.com photo)

Lane.

"You act like you hadn't done this before," someone said in Grill's entourage.

Truth be told, it had been more than two years since Grill had celebrated a win at Five Flags Speedway.

That long drought ended in a major way Saturday night at the famed half-mile asphalt oval, as Grill thrilled a packed house with a victory that seemingly came out of nowhere.

Grill was his vintage self in capturing the Allen Turner Snowflake 100 for Pro Late Models on Saturday, making a mad dash from his 21st starting position and then wrestling the lead away from defending Snowflake champion and NASCAR Camping World Trucks Series multiple-winner John Hunter Nemechek.

"It has been a rough last couple

of years," an uncharacteristically gushing Grill said. "Sometimes we've had good cars, but then they've gone kaput."

"This is a big race. It may not be the Snowball (Derby), but it's still the best Pro cars in the country. Outrunning John Hunter is special, but to go from 21st to first, that's what is really special."

Grill's efforts for almost three years now has been primarily focused on building late models for his Grand American Race Cars customers, who are among short-track racing's elite.

A year after winning the Snowflake, Nemechek finished a bitter runner-up and 14-year-old Chandler Smith rounded out the podium in third.

Grill, now 40, was overcome with emotions in Victory Lane, letting out multiple fist pumps,

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screams of adulation and sharing long embraces with his team, family members and friends.

It was his third-career Snowflake 100 win, tying him with Sprint Cup Rookie of the Year Chase Elliott for the most all-time victories in the most prestigious race for Pro Late Models.

Grill, the grizzled veteran, will look to pull of the unprecedented weekend sweep at the 49th annual Snowball Derby today when the opening green flag drops at 2 p.m.

With three Snowflakes under his belt, Grill hopes he can become just the second driver to win three or more Snowball Derby races, the 300 lapper for Super Late Models. Rich Bickle with five Derby victories is atop the record books.

No matter what Grill's end result is today, his weekend at Pensacola's high banks won't be one he soon forgets thanks to outdueling a field of 36 cars, including Nemechek.

The son of longtime NASCAR fan favorite Joe Nemechek, John Hunter earned two wins on the NASCAR Trucks Series this year and had come to Pensacola the last two seasons walking away with Snowball Derby (2014) and Snowflake 100 (2015) victories.

"Honestly, I thought this was possible," Grill said. "It feels better to me being a 40-year-old man and getting to outdrive these kids."

The legend of Augie Grill, some thought just a myth over the last few years, continues.

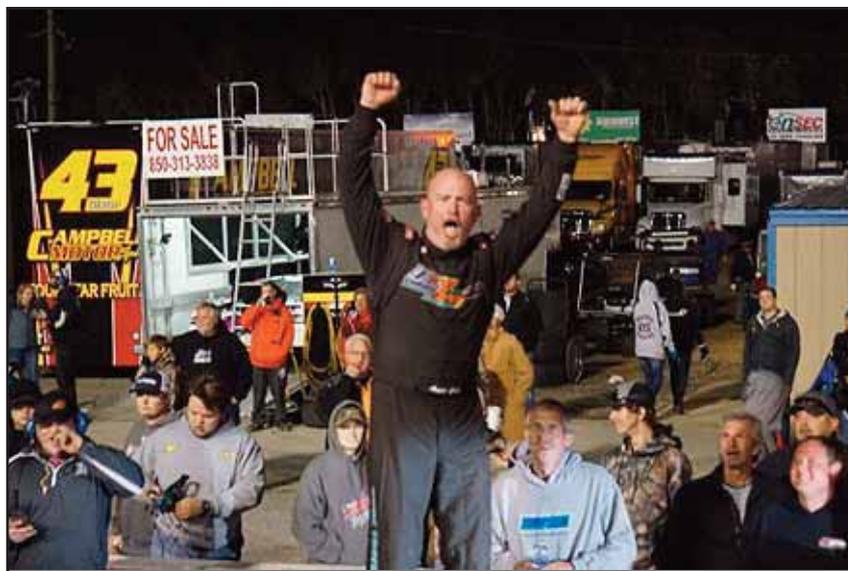
He wasted no time moving forward from his starting position in the middle of the 36-car pack, and set his eyes on the top-five where Nemechek and Casey Roderick were swapping leads in the early going.

Nemechek won the pole thanks to a blistering 16.671-second lap and shot off early until Roderick took the P1 spot 17 laps into the race.

Roderick would lead the next 32 laps until Nemechek overtook him and reclaimed the lead as the race approached the halfway point.

"I saw Casey up there after a caution when I was in sixth, and I thought that maybe he'd get by (Nemechek)," Grill said.

But that battle gave way to a Ne-



Augie Grill climbs from the car victoriously after winning the Snowflake 100 at Five Flags Speedway, the night before the Snowball Derby. (Speed51.com photo)

mechek beginning when Grill passed Roderick for second on Lap 70.

Grill quickly began pulling in Nemechek like his No. 112 had a gravitational force echoing from it.

It set the scene for two of short-track racing's most aggressive drivers to slug it out down the stretch. Grill has never been one to shy away from giving the bumper to slower cars. Nemechek made an infamous name for himself with some aggressive driving during a NASCAR Trucks race in Canada earlier this summer.

Following a restart on Lap 87, Grill powered around Nemechek on the outside and pulled away.

The 19-year-old Nemechek, though, accused Grill of jumping the restart, which didn't sit kindly with the standing-room only crowd at Five Flags.

"I thought the leader was supposed to start the race," a visibly frustrated Nemechek said, as fans showered him with a chorus of boos. "But I guess that's the race director call. But I think we learned something for Sunday."

For his part, Grill was adamant he didn't use any competitive advantage to take the lead.

"I took off when (Nemechek) did and beat him to the flag," he said.

Simply put, Augie Grill was faster than everybody on the race-track Saturday.

A familiar, if not long overdue, refrain for Grill at Five Flags.

Parker Takes Late Lead, Pro Trucks Snowball Derby Crown from Jorgensen's Grasp: In the now five years Five Flags Speedway has staged the race, the Beef "O" Brady's Pro Trucks 50-lap championship typically closes the show on the third night of Snowball Derby.

Saturday night followed the same script at the 49th annual running of short-track racing's most prestigious weekend of racing.

Another tradition that mercilessly continued Saturday was an aggressive brand of driving that led to a long night.

Big pileups and tangled crashes around Pensacola's high banks, along with multiple spins, led to more than a dozen cautions. The race's average net speed, with those yellows included, was a paltry 16.667 mph. Not a lick of that matters now to Jarrett Parker, though.

The 21-year-old Molino driver capped a breakout Beef "O" Brady's Pro Trucks rookie campaign the best way possible. Parker won the 50-lap Pro Trucks Snowball Derby, his third victory at Five Flags this season.

"I'm unbelievably happy right now," he said. "I gave it my all. It feels amazing."

Parker started third and was in the top-five all night in the caution-marred race. He made his push for the lead on Lap 47 while running second.

Reigning Pro Trucks track champion Taylor Jorgensen, whose three regular season wins helped sew up the title in September, was in front of Parker when the pair approached lapped traffic.

After not making many mistakes all night and looking as smooth as silk as she made her passes, Jorgensen struggled mightily in the stretch run to navigate cars trying not to go a lap down.

With Parker on her bumper, Jorgensen picked the wrong lane and Parker made a professional pass. His patience had been rewarded.

Jorgensen of Stockbridge, Ga., finished runner-up and Cody Hask-

ins of Dawsonville, Ga., finished third.

"There was a lapped car coming outta Turn No. 4 and I messed up," Jorgensen said. "I'm disappointed we didn't get the win, but to finish second in the Snowball Derby, that's a huge accomplishment for me."

"Although, I would've liked to win. My family has sacrificed a ton. I'm really thankful for them. I'm still happy because that's an awesome finish."

Parker's No. 46 marked the second straight year that the truck ended up as the Pro Trucks Snowball Derby champion.

Last year, Steven Davis won in it before Parker took it off his hands. This year, Davis had the fast time in qualifying (18.621 seconds) and was a top contender early before being a part of one of the many accidents in the Pro Trucks race Saturday.

"This was an amazing truck to begin with, but we made it my own," Parker said.

Ruble, Gorham Etch Names into Derby Lore, Score First Career Titles When Opportunity Knocked

PENSACOLA, FL - Korey Ruble proved on Day 2 of the 49th Annual Snowball Derby what many short-track drivers across the southeast already knew.

He's as good a wheelman as there is.

The 31 year old from Headland, AL, bided his time for most of the 50-lap Modifieds Snowball Derby before turning on the afterburners late to capture his first career Derby crown.

"We had a pretty good car the whole race," Ruble said. "I kept saving tires, saving tires because I knew a caution would come out. We had a little extra there at the end. Everybody on this team came through tonight."

Ruble, who started seventh in the 34-car field, finished second last year and was determined to not let anything or anyone stand in his way of a championship Friday night.

With 36 laps complete, the field was forced to restart after the third caution of the night came out. When then-leader Joe Aramendia spun his tires as the field came to the green, it opened the door for Jeff Choquette and Ruble running second and third, respectively.

(Continued Next Page)

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While Choquette initially took the lead from Aramendia, Ruble was shot out of a cannon and refused to wilt away. He snatched the lead from Choquette by blowing by him on the outside going into Turn No. 4 on Lap 37, avenging last year's near miss at the Modifieds Derby.

"It always means a lot to me to win, but, c'mon, this is the

Derby," said an overjoyed Ruble, whose career has been highlighted by high-profile late model wins at short-tracks across Alabama and started on the pole for the Snowflake 100 in 2006.

Aramendia, who won the Modifieds season finale earlier this year at Five Flags, passed Choquette late to claim runner-up honors. Choquette, who will also compete in both the Snowflake 100 for Pro Late Models and Sunday's Derby for Super Late Models, took home third.

"We just needed more time with it," Choquette said. "We've, obviously, been focusing on the Snowball and Snowflake, so this was just an excuse to have fun. I'm glad to come out of here and keep it all in one piece."

Faith Chapel Super Stocks: Central Florida invaded Five Flags Speedway on Friday, and had little trouble flexing their muscles on the Upside of Florida.

A slew of Faith Chapel Super Stocks drivers from around the Orlando area were a part of a deep 25-car field at Pensacola's high banks or the Super Stocks Snowball Derby.

Winter Haven driver George Gorham Jr. led most of the race, but needed a late-race miscue by Panama City's Corbitt Moseley to reclaim the lead with just two laps left in the 50 lapper.

Gorham took advantage and never looked back to win his first career Super Stocks Derby title.

"Wooo! This is awesome," a thrilled Gorham said. "This is easily the biggest win of my career. I came here with my wife, kid and two other guys. And it has been all hands on deck to get it done tonight."

Bruce Bennett Jr. of Belle Isle finished as the runner-up and Mosley rounded out the podium.

From the drop of the opening

green flag, Gorham showed a desire to get to the front from his starting spot in fourth.

He was second after a few laps and hot in pursuit of polesitter Jason Vail from Clermont. Gorham finally took the lead on Lap 16 and was in firm control until the night's plete.

Moseley, who began the race in sixth, climbed up to second with 16 laps remaining and began to stalk Gorham for the lead in the subsequent laps.

Following a poor restart by Gorham, Moseley assumed the lead on Lap 35. But on Lap 45, Moseley spun by his lonesome coming down the front stretch and slammed into the inside wall.

It breathed new life into Gorham, who drove back into clean air and never looked back down the stretch.

"We were a little loose on the tail end, but hats off to (Gorham)," Moseley said. "He ran a heckuva race."

After Dominant Regular Seasons, Buttrick and Leytham Back up Track Titles with Derby Crowns

PENSACOLA, FL - Steve Buttrick finally got one for his thumb.

The Cantonment driver has been a force to be reckoned with in The Dock on Pensacola Beach Sportsmen division at Five Flags Speedway for six years now.

A three-time track champion, including this season, Buttrick came into Thursday's opening night of the 49th annual Snowball Derby looking for history.

After winning four consecutive Sportsmen Derby crowns from 2010-2013, Buttrick hoisted his fifth crown Thursday, outlasting a 26-car field in the 50 lapper.

"It feels real good," said the always-understated Buttrick. "We've had some bad luck the last couple of years. It was good tonight. I've gotta thank my wife; she still lets me have fun."

Buttrick took the lead from eventual runner-up Mark Barnhill with 19 laps complete and withstood some heart-racing cautions in the waning laps to secure another memorable trip to Victory Lane.

Barnhill, who outqualified Buttrick, drove expertly early as he kept Buttrick at bay.

But when Barnhill's tires hit the apron in Turn No. 4 midway through the 50-lap race, and created the smallest of openings, But-

trick made him pay for it.

"I got underneath Mark one time, and got into him a little bit, and decided to back off," Buttrick said. "I tried again and was able to get by him."

Jason Huffmaster finished third to round out the podium.

The race was marred by seven cautions, including a horrific crash that saw Gulf Breeze driver Shawn Laws barrel roll five times between Turn Nos. 3 and 4 when a car got into the back of him.

Running in the top-10, Laws slammed into the back of Tony Crosby, who was trying to check up as he went into Turn No. 3. As Laws tried to navigate around Crosby, he dove down toward the apron where he was hit near his back left tire and went airborne.

Laws and Johnny McNair, the other driver involved in the gruesome wreck, almost immediately notified track officials that they were OK.

Shockingly, Laws was up and out of the car and surveyed his destroyed No. 77 Sportsmen less than a minute later.

"I'm fine. I really don't know what happened," he said. "The car's pretty much destroyed. It probably did in my racing chances for 2017, 2018 and 2019."

The other breathtaking wreck happened after Buttrick crossed the start-finish line with the checkered flag waving wildly.

Lewis Anderson, a driver who came 1,600 miles from Hollis, Maine, came to Pensacola to compete in the Sportsmen Derby for a second straight year.

But his night ended disastrously, as he endured a hard crash on the inside wall as he and Pensacola's Dayton Sidner battled for top-10 positioning down the front stretch.

"He just ran me over," Anderson said. "He couldn't get by me. We're fine. We'll fix another."

Butler U-Pull-It Bombers: B.J. Leytham put one final exclamation point on an historic season.

The Mobile-area driver won a record nine Butler U-Pull-It Bombers feature wins during the regular season at Five Flags Speedway en route to a closely-contested track championship.

Leytham went one better Thursday night as festivities for the 49th annual Snowball Derby officially got underway.

Leytham cracked double digits in victories with his 10th and captured the 30-lap Bombers Snowball Derby. It his third career Derby crown after winning back-to-back titles in 2013 and '14.

"I've gotta thank my family," a humbled and overwhelmed Leytham said in Victory Lane. "For the last three months they haven't seen me. To be able to do this, it's just amazing."

After setting the fast time (21.586 seconds) during qualifying, Leytham led wire-to-wire despite heavy pressure from a pair of fellow Alabama drivers.

Tommie Blocker and Robert Loper finished runner-up and third, respectively, but they harassed Leytham for the lead in the second half of the 30 lapper.

"This has been a wonderful experience," said Blocker, who was making his first career Derby start. "Hopefully, we made for a good show."

The Alabama podium sweep spoiled the efforts of Pensacola driver Robert Balkum, who finished second to Leytham during the regular season after posting nine runner-up results.

Balkum ran in the top-five all night and finished fourth.

Loper, who came into Thursday's race as the defending Bombers Derby champion, was the closest threat to steal the lead away from Leytham. He pulled up on Leytham's bumper several times, but never got the run he needed to find clean air.

"We were stuck on the outside of the track most of the night, so it is what it is," Loper said. "Hats off to (Leytham). We managed to do what we could."

Not surprisingly, with a 27-car field, the race was plagued by 10 cautions, as the drivers fought tooth and nail to find Snowball Derby immortality.

Leytham's win capped a magical season. One in which saw him feud with Balkum on and off the race-track. Leytham had to endure another rival driver, Jay Whalen, claiming his motor midway through the season.

It was a minor hiccup, though, as Leytham and his team led by car owner Darrell Jackson built a new motor and the No. 8 white-and-orange car never relinquished his grip on the points title.

Winning a third Bombers Snowball Derby was a sweet swan song for Leytham, who will move onto the Beef "O" Brady's Pro Trucks division next season.

He'll begin that stretch Saturday with the Pro Trucks Snowball Derby.

"I wasn't even supposed to drive this (Bombers) car because it's been sold, so this is unbelievably special," Leytham said.

Six Drivers Earn NASCAR Touring Series Most Popular Driver Awards

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - The fans have spoken.

More than 47,000 votes were cast worldwide for the 2016 NASCAR touring series' Most Popular Driver Awards and six drivers have earned the honor of fan favorite.

The 2016 Most Popular Driver Award

winners are:

- Austin Theriault (Fort Kent, Maine), NASCAR K&N Pro Series

East

- Salvatore Iovino (Los Angeles), NASCAR K&N Pro Series West

- Melissa Fifield (Wakefield, N.H.), NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour

- Trey Hutchens (Lexington, N.C.), NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour

- Jason Hathaway (St. Thomas, Ont.), NASCAR Pinty's Series

- Alon Day (Ashdod, Israel), NASCAR Whelen Euro Series

The list includes four repeat winners – Melissa Fifield, Trey Hutchens, Jason Hathaway and Alon Day.

There was also nearly an historic first: Hutchens, who competed in both the K&N Pro Series East and Whelen Southern Modified Tour this year, finished a close second to Theriault in the K&N Pro Series East voting while taking the top honors in the Whelen Southern Modified Tour for the second straight year.

Fifield won the award for the third straight season in the Whelen Modified Tour.

Iovino emerged in front in a close three-way battle in the K&N Pro Series West with Jesse Iwuji and series champion Todd Gilliland.

Hathaway, who announced he was retiring from full-time competition after racing in all 121 events in series history, ran away with the award in the Pinty's Series.

Day, who was selected to the

NASCAR Next program as one of the sport's rising stars, won the award for the second consecutive season.

The award was open to any driver who competed in at least half of the races in their respective series.

Monday, Elliott Sadler (NASCAR XFINITY Series) and Tyler Reddick (NASCAR Camping World Truck Series) received the Most Popular Driver Award for their respective series in their awards gala at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel.

The NASCAR touring series Most Popular Drivers will be recognized on stage as part of the NASCAR Touring Series Night of Champions on Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Charlotte (North Carolina) Convention Center at the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

2017 ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS Schedule Released

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS has officially released the 2017 Schedule for the ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS.

The ARCA/CRA Super Series 2017 season will consist of 15 total

races, with 14 of those being point events. 2017 will be the 21st season of competition for the Template Super Late Model touring series that first raced in 1997.

"We are really excited about the 2017 schedule with the ARCA/CRA Super Series," remarked R.J. Scott, Managing Partner of CRA. "Our 21st season will provide our drivers with a great variety of challenging races on some of the best race tracks in the nation, with some of the most prestigious late model events in the country!"

A new format to determine a series champion will be used in all CRA divisions in 2017. Similar to the top levels of racing now and all major sports, CRA will utilize a regular season of events to determine those who are eligible to compete in the post season for a championship. The final four scheduled races will be utilized as the playoffs or Chase. Prior to the start of the final four races, the top 8 teams in Wins (then Points) that have attended 75% of the events are eligible for the Chase. Prior to the

season's LAST event, the top 4 CHASE TEAMS in Wins (then points) during the CHASE and were at all CHASE events, will race for the season's championship, with the highest finishing team in that event declared the season's champion.

"Our new championship format brings more value to winning during the regular season," noted CRA co-owner and Series Director Glenn Luckett, "and it will create great excitement down the stretch. The new championship format will also provide more opportunities to win a championship to more teams."

The 2017 racing season kicks off with the traditional non-points opener for both the ARCA/CRA Super Series and the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour with CRA SpeedFest 2017 at Watermelon Capital Speedway in Cordele, Georgia on Saturday-Sunday, January 28th & 29th. The ARCA/CRA Super Series race will be a 200 lap event, counting yellow flag laps up to lap 175. This event has traditionally attracted the best Super Late Model drivers from both the North and the South in this early season battle.

The ARCA/CRA Super Series will then kick off its 2017 point season on Friday-Saturday, April 7th & 8th at the famous Fairgrounds Speedway in Nashville. The event will be a co-sanctioned event with the Southern Super Series and the race program will include the ARCA Racing Series Presented by

Menards.

The series will then head north to Toledo Speedway, located in Toledo, on Saturday, April 22nd for a 100 lap event with the outlawbodied ARCA Late Models also having a 100 lap feature. From there the series will travel to Anderson Speedway, located in Anderson, Indiana, on Saturday, May 6th, the first of two events on the fast quarter mile oval.

The series will then head to Bristol Motor Speedway as part of the huge U.S. Nationals of Short Track Racing, an event that will be co-sanctioned by the Southern Super Series and the CARS Tour on Saturday-Sunday May 20th & 21st. That will be CRA's first ever events at the famed "last coliseum".

The series will then head to Baer Field Motorsports Park in Fort Wayne, IN on Saturday, June 10th, that track returned to the series schedule in 2015 after several seasons.

On Saturday, June 24th the series returns to Anderson Speedway for the famed Redbud 400. The event is being increased to 400 laps for the 2017 addition.

The series will then be part of an ARCA Doubleheader event on Friday, July 21st at the famed Lucas Oil Raceway, located just outside of Indianapolis, Indiana. The ARCA Racing Series Presented by Menards will also be in action in that event. That will be the only event for the series at Lucas Oil Raceway in 2017.

The series will then return to KilKare Speedway in Xenia, Ohio on Sunday, July 30th. That track will reopen for the 2017 season after being closed for the last two seasons. The series last race there in

2014 when Brandon Oakley scored his first ever series victory.

The series will then head to Kalamazoo Speedway located just outside of Kalamazoo, Michigan to be part of the famous Kalamazoo Klash event on Wednesday, August 9th. The series stays in Michigan for its next event three days later at Flat Rock Speedway on Saturday, August 12th.

The series will then go to Berlin Raceway located in Marne, Michigan on Saturday, August 25th for the Battle at Berlin 251 event with its huge purse and the racer friendly format that was used for last year's 251. This event will return as a series points race and is scheduled to mark the start of the Championship Chase.

The series will then make its first of two visits to the famous High Banks of Winchester Speedway located in Winchester, Indiana for the traditional World Stock Car Festival over Labor Day Weekend, with the feature event on Monday, September 4th.

As previously announced the series will return to Toledo Speedway on Saturday, September 16th for a 100 lap event as part of the famed Glass City 200.

The ARCA/CRA Super Series will crown their 2017 Tour Champion with the 46th Running of the prestigious Winchester 400 on Sunday, October 8th, in its second visit of the season to Winchester Speedway.

For more information visit www.cra-racing.com. You can also follow CRA on Facebook at: www.facebook.com and search for "Champion Racing Association" as well as Twitter at: www.twitter.com/CRAracing.

PASS Sets 2017 Dates to Crown Super Late Model's National Champion

NAPLES, ME - Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials have released the six dates and locations that will make up the 10th Annual PASS National Championship Series. The schedule is comprised of six premier Super Late Model events in both PASS North and

and Canada, we felt the time was right to crown Super Late Model racing's true National champion," said PASS President Tom Mayberry. "We're very happy to be able to announce the PASS National Championship schedule for 2017 at such an early date. These events exemplify what's great about short track racing and we feel each of them will attract the best Super Late Model drivers from across the continent. We're also very happy to crown the 2017 PASS National Champion at the 44th Annual Oxford 250 for the first time in history. It's just another layer added to make this great race even better."

The PASS National Championship Series, along with the 2017 PASS South championship season, gets underway in just over two months with the Winter Meltdown at the South Carolina Clash at Dillon Motor Speedway in South Carolina on February 4. Fittingly on Super Bowl weekend, fans will get to see drivers from across the spectrum of short track racing as the PASS Super Late Models will race for 200 laps and \$6,000 to win, plus a major event for the Dillon Motor Speedway Late Models as part of the Winter Meltdown at the South Carolina Clash.

From Dillon Motor Speedway in February, it is back to one of the most traditional stops in the south

as PASS returns to Orange County Speedway in Rougemont, NC for the first time since 2014. The 10th Running of the Orange Blossom Special on March 25 will see the PASS tour tackle the high banks for 150 laps. Orange County Speedway has been made famous for featuring three wide racing on its ultra-high banks.

Race three of the 2017 PASS National Championship Series will be the first of the year in New England and will be contested at one of the fastest tracks in the country. The PASS Super Late Models will compete for 75 laps at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in Connecticut as part of the annual Icebreaker weekend April 1-2, along with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. PASS made a success return to Thompson Speedway last year in an event won by Garrett Hall. The Icebreaker will also once again double as the PASS North Super Late Model championship season opener.

The PASS National Championship Series will then head back south to the legendary Hickory Motor Speedway in North Carolina on April 15. The 12th Annual Easter Bunny 150 will continue in 2017 as one of short track racing's biggest events of the Spring.

Since veteran Mike Rowe won the first Easter Bunny 150 back in 2006 to Ben Rowe winning the most recent edition last year, Hickory Motor Speedway's hallowed victory lane has been cherished by every Super Late Model driver that has followed in his their tire tracks.

Next up, the PASS National Championship Series will conclude a busy month of April at the Beech Ridge Motor Speedway in Scarborough, ME. The Beech Ridge 300 on April 29 is always a favorite for both fans and competitors and this year's contest will be no different.

The final race on the 2017 PASS National Championship Series will be at perhaps the most legendary of all short track races. The 44th Annual Oxford 250 at Maine's Oxford Plains Speedway on August 27 will continue a tradition that started in 1974 and has seen such winners as Butch Lindley, Geoff Bodine, Junior Hanley, Ricky Craven, Kevin Harvick, and Kyle Busch.

And, with one of the richest purses in all of Super Late Model racing, the Oxford 250 should once again attract North America's best drivers, all competing for the \$25,000 winner's share. This year winner, Pelham, NH's Wayne Helliwell, Jr., bested over 60 other drivers to claim nearly \$30,000 for his first win in the prestigious race.

The 2017 PASS North Super Late Model schedule will be announced in the next 7-10 days awaiting the confirmation of dates from two tracks. The final date for the PASS South Super Late Model schedule will also be announced in the coming days.

Please visit ProAllStarsSeries.com for more information and don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

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Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - In 2016, Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS) & Dragway waved the green flag on its "Biggest Year Ever" and the Speedway has finally crossed the finish line with a true team victory. Today, BMS was named as Speedway Motorsports Inc.'s (SMI) "Track of the Year" and Executive Vice President and General Manager, Jerry Caldwell

of BMS was honored as "Promoter of the Year." This is the first time that a SMI facility has swept the top awards.

"This is such an honor for all of us at Bristol Motor Speedway & Dragway," said Caldwell. "There is no other group of dedicated and talented individuals that I would rather work with, and I know that the best is yet to come for this storied venue."

Bristol Motor Speedway was chosen as "Track of the Year" from among the eight SMI facilities. The award is presented annually for best overall performance in numerous aspects including fan friendliness, attendance, financial performance, sponsor relations and creativity.

Caldwell, who has led the track since 2011, was named SMI's "Promoter of the Year" for the second consecutive season. The award, presented by SMI President and CEO Marcus Smith, is given to the general manager who best displayed the creativity, innovation, leadership, planning and execution that are fundamental to the company's success. Caldwell is only the second honoree to have won the award multiple times since it began in 2012.

2016 was a milestone year for the multi-use facility in Northeast Tennessee. The season kicked off with the introduction of Colossus TV - an engineering marvel that became the world's largest, outdoor, center hung, 4-side video display. From there, Bristol Motor Speedway & Dragway hosted an array of action-packed racing events including two NASCAR race weekends, an NHRA drag race weekend, a fan favorite monster truck show and the largest Super Chevy Show in the country.

The game changers for this year were the additions of two college football games, which both set at-

tendance records, and the Honda Ridgeline Presents Bristol's Tailgate Party concert which celebrated Kenny Chesney's homecoming to his native east Tennessee.

The Pilot Flying J Battle at Bristol, a primetime national matchup held on Sept. 10 between the Tennessee Volunteers and Virginia Tech Hokies, smashed the NCAA attendance record with a crowd of 156,990. The Food City Bucs at Bristol was held the following weekend, hosting regional player East Tennessee State in its return to Southern Conference football. The game, which ETSU won over Western Carolina, broke the single game ETSU record.

The Bristol branch of Speedway Children's Charities also played a major role in the year's success, raising a record-breaking \$1,002,380 through events such as The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights.

The 2016 season was a smashing success but BMS is not about to rest on its laurels. The Speedway will continue to build on the positive momentum generated from this season.

"While we look back fondly at 2016, we are ready to go for 2017 and beyond," Caldwell said. "With all we have accomplished, the possibilities are endless. The future is very bright at Bristol Motor Speedway."

Daytona Int'l Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Multi-platinum recording artist, actress and DAV Ambassador Jordin Sparks, whose faith-based film God Bless The Broken Road will be in theaters early 2017, will perform the National Anthem for the 59th annual DAYTONA 500 NASCAR premier series race at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday, Feb. 26 (TV - FOX, FOX Deportes; Radio - MRN Radio, SiriusXM).

"We're thrilled to have Jordin Sparks be a part of the pre-race ceremonies and sing the National Anthem prior to the DAYTONA 500," Daytona International Speedway President Chip Wile said. "Jordin is an incredible talent and we look forward to her rendition of the National Anthem before the start of the 59th 'Great American Race.'"

God Bless The Broken Road tells the story of Amber (Lindsay Pulsipher), a young mother whose husband makes the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Afghanistan and she struggles to raise their young daughter (Makenzie Moss) in his absence. Sparks plays

Amber's close friend, Bridgette. The film combines elements of faith, country music and stock car racing while paying tribute to those who serve in the United States military and their families.

A portion of the film's profits will go to DAV (Disabled American Veterans). <http://godblessthebrokenroad.com/>

Sparks was the season 6 winner of American Idol. In addition to a successful recording career, she has branched out to pursue an acting and Broadway career, starring in films such as the music film Sparkle, The Grace of Jakes, Left Behind and The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete.

Tickets for the 59th annual DAYTONA 500 and other Speedweeks events can be purchased online at www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP. Fans can stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and Snapchat (username: DISupdates), and by downloading Daytona International Speedway's mobile app, for the latest Speedway news throughout the season.

Gateway Motorsports Park

MADISON, IL - Gateway Motorsports Park will launch a weeklong Toys for Tots toy drive on Monday, December 5. Race fans who come to the GMP ticket office to purchase tickets for the 2017 Verizon IndyCar Series, NASCAR Camping World Truck Series or NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series events and donate a new, unwrapped toy will receive a complimentary pair of tickets to GMP's PSCA Hot Rod Hootenanny on April 21-22 or the annual St. Louis Nostalgia Rendezvous on May 13.

The toy drive will conclude at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 9.

The GMP ticket office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 700 Raceway Boulevard in Madison, Illinois.

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is con-

ducted.

To obtain additional information, please call GMP at (618) 215-8888 or visit www.gatewaymsp.com. Follow GMP on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram.

The vision for the new Gateway Motorsports Park is to create a racing lifestyle that attracts enthusiasts, professionals, amateurs and car lovers by harnessing the energy and passion of the thousands of racing fans in the heart of the Midwest.

Located just five minutes from downtown St. Louis and covering nearly 200 acres, Gateway is the largest outdoor entertainment facility in the region, encompassing a ¼-mile NHRA-sanctioned drag strip, 1.25-mile superspeedway, 1.6-mile road course, a state-of-the-art Karting facility and a new 14-acre, multi-purpose dirt off-road venue.

Martinsville Speedway

MARTINSVILLE, VA - Fans will once again have the opportunity to drive their personal cars around Martinsville Speedway while spreading Christmas cheer as the track will hold its 22nd Annual Christmas Toy Drive on Saturday, December 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Any fan who brings a new, unwrapped toy or makes a \$10 donation will be able to drive five laps around the historic half-mile oval. Proceeds from the event will go to benefit the Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County.

"Christmas is such a special time for everyone but especially for kids," Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell said. "We want to make sure every kid experiences the joy of opening a present on Christmas morning, and the Grace Network helps to make that happen."

The Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County is a network of more than 200 area churches that help families in need throughout the year.

"There are many in our commu
(Continued Next Page)



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nity that live in such financial disparity that they cannot see past the bills, eviction and cutoff notices and heartache that come with not being able to provide for their families, much less check off all the items on their children's Christmas list," Tracy Hinchcliff, executive director of the Grace Network said. "To have a toy or a special present to open at Christmas

might seem like a small thing, but for a family at risk, it can be huge. Your generous gifts to the toy drive will not only bring a smile to a child's face, it will bring hope to a family in need."

In addition to driving their personal cars around the track, fans who pay \$50 can ride with Campbell in a two-seater NASCAR race car for five laps.

For more information about the annual Martinsville Speedway Christmas Toy Drive call 276-956-7229.

Daytona Int'l Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Recently crowned seven-time NASCAR premier series champion Jimmie Johnson will join a star-studded elite field as NASCAR kicks off its 2017 season with The Clash at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017.

The annual season-opening event will be broadcast live on FS1, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio at 8 p.m. ET. The 75-lap race again will be split into two segments with a competition caution at lap 25 separating the segments.

"What better way to kick off the 2017 season than the sport's brightest stars under the lights at Daytona International Speedway" said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR executive vice president and chief racing development officer. "Coming off a thrilling season finale at Homestead-Miami, we're looking forward to continuing that momentum into Daytona. With bragging rights and no points on the line, the Clash will set the tone for what should be a season full of great racing and tough competition."

"We're bringing back The Clash at Daytona," said Chip Wile, Daytona International Speedway president. "The Clash was a race name that has always been popular

among both the competitors and race fans. We're looking forward to bringing it back and building on the rich history of this thrilling and always unpredictable event that kicks off the NASCAR season."

Unlike previous years, the starting field for the 2017 Clash at Daytona will not be a predetermined number of cars; rather, the field is limited to drivers who meet more exclusive criteria. Only drivers who were 2016 Pole Award winners, former Clash race winners, former Daytona 500 pole winners who competed full-time in 2016, and drivers who qualified for the 2016 Chase are eligible.

Eligible drivers are:

- 2016 Pole Awards winners (14): Greg Biffle, Alex Bowman, Kurt Busch, Kyle Busch, Austin Dillon, Carl Edwards, Chase Elliott, Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Jimmie Johnson, Matt Kenseth, Brad Keselowski, Joey Logano, Martin Truex Jr.
- Former Clash Race Winners (2): Dale Earnhardt Jr., Tony Stewart
- Former DAYTONA 500 Pole Award winners (1): Danica Patrick
- 2016 Chase drivers (3): Chris Buescher, Kyle Larson, Jamie McMurray

Tickets for The Clash at Daytona are available online at DaytonaInternationalSpeedway.com or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP.

Fans can stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and Snapchat (username: DISupdates), and by downloading the new version of Daytona International Speedway's mobile app, for the latest Speedway news throughout the season.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Speedway Children's Charities officials announced today that the far-reaching nonprofit will distribute more than \$3.1 million in grants to a record 448 charitable organizations across the country this year, bringing the total allocation amount since 1982 to nearly \$49 million.

Funds distributed by Speedway Children's Charities chapters at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Bristol Motor Speedway, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Kentucky Speedway, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Sonoma Raceway and Texas Motor Speedway totaled \$3,101,207.63 in 2016 – an increase of more than \$200,000 from last year's high mark. Speedway Children's Charities raises grant

money through fundraisers, including clay shoots, track events, holiday light displays, auctions for unique race experiences like driver ride-alongs and more.

Each chapter provides grants to programs which specifically help children in their respective region. Chapter support comes from providing winter coats and backpack meals to low-income families as well as facilitating clubs that provide healthy after-school activities and aiding hospital cancer research.

"Our impact is felt throughout the nation and none of it would be possible without the invaluable support of race fans and the tireless work from our volunteers who have helped make Speedway Children's Charities into what it is today," said Maj. Gen. Chuck Swannack, executive director of Speedway Children's Charities.

"On behalf of everyone at Speedway Children's Charities, I give sincere thanks to our many sponsors, donors and volunteers. Through everyone's gracious assistance, Speedway Children's Charities will help make the holiday season and beyond brighter for children in need."

For more information on Speedway Children's Charities or to learn how to volunteer or make a donation, visit www.speedwaycharities.org.

The mission of Speedway Children's Charities remains true to the ideals it was founded upon in 1982: To care for children in educational, financial, social and medical need in order to help them lead productive lives. SCC provides funding for hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout the nation that meet the direct needs of children. Our vision is that every child has the same opportunities no matter what obstacle they are facing.

KEEP TRACK: Fans can connect with Speedway Children's Charities by following on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

Daytona Int'l Speedway

BROWNSBURG, IN - Four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Jeff Gordon, who was part of the driver lineup when Wayne Taylor Racing (WTR) competed in its very first race in 2007, returns to join full-time co-drivers of the all-new No. 10 Konica Minolta Cadillac DPi-V.R Ricky and Jordan Taylor and veteran Italian Max "The Ax" Angelelli for next month's 55th Rolex 24 at Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway, the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship 2017

season opener.

Gordon, who has 805 career Sprint Cup starts with 93 victories and championships in 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2001, retired from full-time competition in 2015. He co-drove to a solid podium finish in his only career sportscar event – the 2007 Rolex 24 At Daytona – alongside Angelelli, Jan Magnussen and team owner and three-time sportscar racing champion Wayne Taylor in the No. 10 WTR prototype.

"I really enjoyed racing in the 24 Hours of Daytona in 2007 with Max, Wayne and Jan," said Gordon, now an analyst during NASCAR on FOX broadcasts. "When I announced I would no longer be competing full-time in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, my hope was that I would get an opportunity like this to compete again in such a prestigious event – with Konica Minolta and Wayne Taylor Racing – with the hopes of winning it this time. I know that Ricky and Jordan are super-fast, and I believe it will be a very strong combination."

The No. 10 Konica Minolta Cadillac DPi-V.R team has been a fixture on the Rolex 24 podium in recent years, finishing second in 2013, 2014 and this season and crossing the finish line third in 2015 before being penalized for a drive-time violation one week later. This year's runner-up finish included Formula 1 veteran Rubens Barrichello in the driver lineup and the 2013 runner-up effort included then-reigning IndyCar champion Ryan Hunter-Reay.

Team owner Wayne Taylor, who co-drove in his final career Rolex 24 during the team's runner-up finish in 2014, won the prestigious event alongside Angelelli and Frenchman Emmanuel Collard in 2005 en route to that season's GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series championship.

Ricky and Jordan Taylor, who each have 14 major North American sportscar victories, co-drove to three wins this season – at Long Beach, California, Detroit, and Austin, Texas. They finished third in the WeatherTech Championship standings with the final two events at Circuit of the Americas. In addition to their runner-up finish at the season-opening Rolex 24 this year, they added podium finishes at Bowmanville, Ontario and Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, and Road Atlanta.

The 55th Rolex 24 is set for Jan. 28 to 29, 2017, with the annual three days of Roar Before the 24 testing set for three weeks prior.

2017 Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals At 183 Entries And Climbing

TULSA, OK - The chill in the air may signal the coming of Christmas for some, but for the world of dirt track racing, that means the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire is right around the corner.

Happening January 10-14, 2017 inside the River Spirit Expo Center in Tulsa, Okla. the 31st edition of the world's largest Midget racing event is on track to set another record as the entry list debuts 39 ahead of the 2016 first look at 183 strong.

Comprised of some of racing's greatest talent, the count includes three past champions to go along with 25 A-Feature starters and 38 Chili Bowl Rookies.

For the champions, Damion Gardner, Tracy Hines, and John Heydenreich are the earliest to put their name in for another Golden Driller.

Hines, who last won the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals in 2005, will again pilot his familiar Bob Parker/Spike with a Toyota No. 24. In A-Feature power rankings, Hines is second overall to Sammy Swindell with 14 A-Feature starts, a pair of podiums, three top-fives, and eight top-ten runs to go along with his win.

Making the cut on eight occasions, "The Demon" last saw Victory Lane in 2008 while driving for the late, Jason Leffler. Add two podiums, just as many top-fives, and three top-tens' and Gardner is 25th overall in Chili Bowl A-Feature performances. Taking a Golden Driller home in 1990, John Heydenreich is the only driver in the field thus far who can say he raced the very first Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals. In all, John has made three A-Features with his podium, top-five, and top-ten count all at a pair.

While Tracey Hines has the best average record of drivers currently entered, none have more feature starts so far than Dave Darland. "The People's Champ" has made the cut 15 times since 1998. Missing the show in 2016, Darland will again pilot the Gray Auto / Toyota No. 11AG. The record of course belong to Sammy Swindell with 23 to his credit.

Looking over the list of Chili Bowl Rookies, one name that stands out is Donny Schatz. The North Dakota shoe has landed the World Of Outlaws Sprint Car title seven times, and will grace the clay of the Tulsa Expo Raceway in the Clauson-Marshall Racing with additional support from Matt Wood Racing No. 15.

The 31st annual Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire takes place January 10-14, 2017 inside the River Spirit Expo Center. For continued updates on the 31st annual Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire, log onto <http://www.chilibowl.com>.

A long standing tradition at the Chili Bowl, the Trade Show, which is open to the public each day (Tuesday through Saturday), is free of charge. All variety of racing products, apparel and more is available with well over 100 vendors. The Trade Show still has space available. Anyone looking to be a part of the Trade Show can contact the Chili Bowl office at 918-838-3777. The Trade Show covers approximately 20,000 square feet.

Lucas Oil Products is the title sponsor of the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals. More information about the products available from Lucas Oil can be found at www.lucasoil.com. General Tire is the presenting sponsor of the Chili Bowl. A complete inventory of tires offered by General Tire can be found at www.generaltire.com.

DIRTcar Northeast Champions Crowned

SYRACUSE, NY - The 2016 season came to an end with the completion of the 2016 DIRTcar Northeast awards ceremony Saturday night. This year's banquet was full of familiar faces as drivers, sponsors and promoters were recognized and champions were crowned.

The Night of Champions kicked off with the recognition of the Mr. DIRTcar champions. Throughout the year, DIRTcar Racing distributed nearly \$300,000 in point fund awards, thanks to contributions from Hoosier, VP Racing Fuels and all of the marketing partners. For the sixth year, the Mr. DIRTcar Home Track Points Championship pitted racers throughout the Northeast against one another based on

their best 16 finishes in their respective division at any DIRTcar sanctioned track. Saturday night the 2016 champions were honored and recognized for their efforts and success.

Montreal, Quebec's Stephane Lemire clinched the 2016 Mr. DIRTcar Pro Stock Championship with eight wins, 22 top-five finishes and 26 starts towards the Mr.DIRTcar title. Lemire received \$1,000 from the point fund and a \$500 fuel certificate from VP Racing Fuels.

Brad Rouse captured the 2016 Mr. DIRTcar Sportsman Championship. With 13 feature wins coming from Merrittville and Humberstone Speedway, Rouse pocketed \$1,000 from the point fund as well as a \$750 in fuel certificate from VP Racing Fuels.

David Hebert picked up his fourth, third in a row, Mr. DIRTcar 358-Modified Championship this season. Hebert collected 10 wins on the season, which included triumphs at RPM Speedway, Autodrome Drummond and Autodrome Granby. Hebert received \$3,000 from the point fund and a \$1,000 fuel certificate from VP Racing Fuels.

The Mr. DIRTcar Big-Block Modified Championship went to Matt Sheppard as he took home his fifth

win. Waterloo, New York's own collected 16 wins, 34 top-fives and 38 top-ten finishes in 45 starts towards the Mr.DIRTcar title. Sheppard also clinched the Canandaigua Speedway Track Championship. Sheppard received \$7,500 from the point fund and a \$2,500 fuel certificate from VP Racing Fuels.

"This one obviously feels good. It's very sweet for so, so many reasons," said Matt Sheppard. "[Shane Andrews was] talking a little bit about visionaries earlier, and last year I had a little vision of my own. That vision included crew guys, sponsors, manufacturers and people that want to win races, and have won races before. Those are the type of people we put together this year. We couldn't do it without those people. It just really was a storybook season from start to finish."

Following the Mr. DIRTcar champion recognitions, winners were chosen for the Motorsports Safety Systems / Number One Speed /G-Force Rookie of the Year Awards. These drivers are the next great stars in DIRTcar racing and were recognized for their talent this season.

The 2016 Pro Stock Rookie of the Year went to Justin Desrosiers

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as he competed in twelve events, finishing in the top ten five times.

Zach Sobotka, from Mexico, N.Y., finished 23rd in the Sportsman series points and captured five top fives at his home tracks of Brewerton and Fulton Speedways. Sobotka is this year's Sportsman Rookie of the Year.

Gary Lindberg competed in 21 DIRTcar 358-Modified starts, recording two 358-Modified feature wins. Lindberg was crowned the 2016 358-Modified Rookie of the Year.

The 2016 Super DIRTcar Series Big-Block Modified Rookie of the Year went to Max McLaughlin. McLaughlin, from Mooresville, N.C., took home five top-five's in 42 starts in the Mr. DIRT Modified point race this season. McLaughlin also finished 13th in the Series points, using Brewerton as his hometrack.

"I really learned a lot this year," said Max McLaughlin. "I can't thank HBR enough. This is one of the toughest series, competition-wise, you'll see. I'm just glad to be a part of it."

Jocelyn Roy, from St. Helene, Quebec, accepted his second DIRTcar Pro Stock Series title Saturday night. Roy may not have made it to Victory Lane in the series this season, but consistency was key as he picked up the championship not only with DIRTcar but also at his home tracks Autodrome Granby, LeRPM Speedway and Autodrome Drummond.

Accepting his first ever DIRTcar Sportsman Modified title, Shane Pecore, from St. Andrews, West Ontario, was all smiles in front of a packed house. Pecore was not only able to capture two DIRTcar Series wins this season towards the 2016 title, but he also picked up the Brockville Speedway and Cornwall Motor Speedway Championship.

Former DIRTcar Sportsman Series champion in 2008 and 2009, Chris Raabe made his way back on stage to be recognized for his accomplishments, but this time it was for the 2016 DIRTcar 358-Modified Series Championship. The driver out of Napanee, Ontario, who won six 358-Modified features throughout the season, was unable to park

it in Victory Lane during any series event this season. He was persistent with two top-fives and four top-ten's. Raabe also picked up the 358-Modified Track Championship at Cornwall Motor Speedway.

Five-time Super DIRTcar Series Big-Block Modified Champion Matt Sheppard accepted his hardware Saturday for his second straight year. Not only did he pick up the Big-Block Modified Super DIRTcar Series Championship this year, the Mr. DIRTcar Big-Block Modified title and the Canandaigua Speedway Track Championship, but he also re-wrote the history for the most series wins in a season.

Sheppard, out of Waterloo, N.Y., had what many would call a dream season. His new self-owned team combination proved that they were as he competed in twelve events, finishing in the top ten five times.

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Sheppard, out of Waterloo, N.Y., had what many would call a dream season. His new self-owned team combination proved that they were a force to be reckoned with by winning 12 races with 21 top-fives and 22 top-ten finishes out of 26 starts. The No. 9s team also won 17-heat races, recorded fast time seven times, and had a total of 18 podium finishes.

The 2016 Promoter of the Year Award went to Weedsport Speedway for their hard work and extraordinary dedication this season. Al Heinke, Jimmy Phelps, Shannon Phelps and Andy Phelps were honored.

"This is a shock to us. We didn't expect this," said Jimmy Phelps. "We're all fortunate to be a part of this."

For the second year in a row there was a drawing for a 602 Chevrolet motor, the winner was Brianna Ladouceur, a competitor in the Sportsman Modified division. Ladouceur made history at the 45th Annual NAPA Auto Part Super DIRT Week when she became the first woman to win an event at Super DIRT Week, taking home a triple 15 qualifying event.

The Big-Block Modified Super DIRTcar Series will resume action in 2017 in February in Florida at the DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park with four non-point races. Tickets can be purchased now by visiting dirtcar.ticketforce.com.

Carolina Clash & ULTIMATE Series Announce First-Ever Co-Sanctioned Events

CARNESVILLE, GA - For the first time in history two of the South-east's most recognized Dirt Late Model Series will co-sanction a pair of events in 2017. Carolina Speedway in Gastonia, North Carolina will host both series on Friday night, May 19th for a \$4000 to win / 40 lap feature event. The doubleheader will conclude on Saturday night, May 20th with another \$4000 to win / 40 lap event at Lavonia Speedway in Lavonia, Georgia. Details of the possible bonuses and other incentives are still being considered.

The Carolina Clash and the ULTIMATE Super Late Model Series have long been thought of as rivals in the region but today's announcement ushers in a new era of cooperation between the groups. "It's just the right thing to do. We all need to work together rather than against each other to continue to be successful in this region. I was thrilled when Kelley (Carlton ULTIMATE Series Director) and I sat down and talked about working together. I think this is a great thing for racing and for our racers, promoters and race fans. It's a true win-win situation." commented Carolina Clash Co-Owner Bruce Arants.

Carlton echoed the same sentiment. "The entire 5 years that I have been with the ULTIMATE Series one of the constant questions or suggestions I received was to do a co-sanctioned race with the Carolina Clash. Without fail I have gotten that at least once or twice a year. So when a promoter mentioned it to me this year I thought 'why not?'. So I called up Bruce and we got together and hashed out the details. I have always thought it was a best practice to try to work with instead of against your competition in this business. So we also shared schedules and compared dates to try and give all of customers the best season we can have in the region. There are some dates that we are racing at the same time but there is enough distance between us that it shouldn't have any effect on each other." Carlton said.

Carolina Clash PR Director Mark Huey says it was time. "With all of the new rules that are coming out to improve safety we want to make sure we can do everything we can to maximize our fields for our promoters. The idea of working to

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gether is the right one. At the end of the day in addition to the entertainment that we provide, we are a business. And we need to do smart things to improve our business for everyone involved. I am excited about what this kind of cooperation can lead to."

At these events drivers will earn points with both series each night. Both events will utilize a Hoosier 1350

& 1600 or American Racer 48 & 56 tire rule. Both series use a similar format for setting the field which will also be used at these events. The only difference will be the starting field of 24 will allow for 2 point provisional starts for each series. Otherwise event rules will be governed by the respective lead series. The Carolina event will be led by Clash Officials and rules while the Lavinia event will be under the auspices of ULTIMATE.

For additional information visit the series' websites at www.carolinaclash.com or www.ultimatesupers.com.

Saldana to Drive the No. 17 for Matt Wood and Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

CONCORD, NC - Joey Saldana is not only carrying on his family legacy into the 2017 racing season, but also living out the legacy left by the late Bryan Clauson. Saldana teamed up with Matt Wood and NASCAR star Ricky Stenhouse Jr. to pilot the Elk Grove Ford/ Roth Investments No. 17 racecar in the World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car Series tour next season - an aspiration of Clauson's since he first hopped into a 410 Sprint Car.

Saldana finished the 2016 season with Dennis Roth and Roth Motorsports amassing five wins, 31 top-five and 62 top-ten performances with 10 quick times in 81 points races. Saldana is nearing the 100-win milestone heading into his 18th consecutive season with the series; he stands at 99 wins, a mark that has taken the 1996 Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year 19 seasons to build.

Saldana has finished within the top five in series championship point standings three of his last four seasons full-time. Roth Motor-

sports, which began its first World of Outlaw season in 1995, expected to carry its team's momentum into the following season. However, a series of unfortunate events prompted Roth to take a step back and not field the No. 83 car in 2017. Saldana, 43, said he still has plenty of gas left in the tank but worried that this may have been "it."

"If you're going to compete and be a racecar driver, if you don't do it 100 percent then why do it?" Saldana said. "I'm past the point of just racing. I want to race the best, or I really don't want to do it. This is what you dream about when you're 15 [years-old], and what you still dream about when you're 43. It was unsettling because I don't want to just step back. If I can't race at this level - the ultimate level - then I'm not going to do it. If you're going to put the effort into it you might as well race the best."

While Roth is taking a more reserved role - still helping to fund the new team - Saldana's racing career took an emotional turn and came full-circle. Saldana will not only represent Wood and Stenhouse on the track, but also keep the spirit of Clauson alive in the racing community. Saldana will have the chance to "Park it" for Clauson, his team and those who have supported him throughout the difficult transition. Clauson intended to join the Outlaws full-time in 2017, and Saldana said he knows he will be there to enjoy the ride.

"You want to 'Park It,'" Saldana said. "[Clauson] made that phrase popular so when you did park it, it meant you did your job that night and won the race. We need to do that as many times as possible for him so we can be competitive. Just making that No. 17 car competitive every night would make Bryan proud because his whole goal was to run with the World of Outlaws."

Not only were Saldana and Clauson connected through the racing family tree, but their friendship is also rooted by their own families. Clauson was there for Saldana's sons, Reece and Ragan. To Saldana, the ride is "Bryan helping me take care of my kids." It was not just his family. Clauson also kept Saldana's wide-eyed love for racing strong. Clauson had a watchful eye on Saldana and vice-versa - for a different reason.

Through Saldana's career, his goal was to always be the proven-dirt driver in the INDY 500 field. It was uncanny that while Saldana envied Clauson's career, he was doing the same. It was Clauson's

goal to run full-time with the Outlaws but before he made the plans, he watched Saldana. The two admired each other's paths in motorsports, no matter how different they were. It just so happened that they were both living each other's dreams.

"It's weird, Bryan was doing everything that I always wanted to do, and here he was wanting to do what I was doing," Saldana said. "He did what all racecar drivers aspired to do and that was run the INDY 500, but still be a dirt track guy. That doesn't happen anymore. You don't see that. But Bryan Clauson did that. He was ready for that next challenge [The Outlaws]. In a weird way, it's all come full circle."

In 2017, Saldana will complete the circle when he barrels down the front stretch in the No. 17 car. Saldana has not taken his road for granted. He simply wants to do right by everyone, and make the season one to remember. Both parties are in it to create a championship contending team, enough to even move the once Missouri-based team to Brownsburg, Ind., the "Brownsburg Bullet's" hometown. Tyler Swank will remain the crew chief.

"Hopefully, we're going to be a first-class team that will compete with the Tony Stewart Racing, Kasey Kahne Racing and Larson-Marks Racing," Saldana said. "Hopefully I can make Bryan proud, make the Wood/Stenhouse team proud and just be competitive. I want to make them proud that they made the right choice with the driver, and that I do the right things by them and everyone that's involved with this team. I hope we can be the thorn in other teams' sides."

Lucas Oil Racing TV Adds Programming

Lucas Oil Racing TV is the first 24/7 On Demand motorsports network - 2000 plus hours of US, national and international racing, car shows, behind the scenes action and live-streaming events online without commercial breaks.

Recently added to the library:

- Winged Sprints at Wheatland, MO - November 19, 2016: The 6th Annual General Tire Jesse Hockett / Daniel McMillin Memorial Presented by E3 Spark Plugs. Night 3 of 3. \$10,000 to win.

- OPTIMA at SEMA - November 18, 2016: The competitors of OPTIMA's Search for the Ultimate Street Car se-

ries have made it to SEMA and we take a look back at the highlights of the season.

- Lucas Oil Late Models at Madera Speedway - November 17, 2016: Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series - Portsmouth, OH - Late Models race their way to the checkered flag as they take on the Dirt Track World Championship

- Round 3: Drag Racing - Santa Pod - England - November 16, 2016: Round 3 of the FIA Drag Racing championship heads to Santa Pod Raceway in Podington, Bedfordshire, England for the 2016 European Finals where the FIA car divisions will crown champions. AVAILABLE FOR USA ONLY

- World Rally Championship - Round 11: Spain - November 15, 2016: The 2016 World Rally Championship heads to Spain for round 11 of the tour. There are 3 rounds left in the season and home country hero Dani Sordo looks to score a victory on home soil while Sebastian Ogier looks to lock up his 4th straight series title.

- British Rallycross - Round 8: Croft - November 15, 2016: Round 8 of the British Rallycross Championship comes from the Croft Circuit in Northeast, England. Newly crowned champion Dan Rooke looks to kick off his title reign in style but Ollie O'Donovan is looking to make it 2 wins in a row at the tour's penultimate round.

- AMA Supermoto - Round 5: Denver, Colorado. (Race 2) - November 15, 2016: Dustin Hoffman was able to break the winning streak that was enjoyed by reigning AMA Supermoto Champion Gage McCallister at the tight layout in Colorado National Speedway. As the series closes it's double header weekend, can another rider take a surprise win? Race 2 from Denver, Colorado is next.

If you are unable to watch a race live, all live races will be available for replay after an event... usually within 24 hours. Please check back regularly for schedule updates. We are always adding new content and will also be adding to our live event offering throughout the season.

Lucas Oil Racing TV is currently available through Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Xbox One, Xbox 360, and LucasOilRacing.TV for computers, tablets and smartphones.



D.J. Netto Scoops Up ASCS Southwest Copper Classic Victory

QUEEN CREEK, AZ - There is Gold in California, but it just picked up a little bit of Copper with Saturday's \$5,000 winner's share of the Carlyle Tools ASCS Southwest Region Copper Classic at Arizona Speedway going to Hanford, California's D.J. Netto.

Netto's first ASCS sanctioned triumph, the win makes the pilot of the No. 3c the 44th different winner in ASCS Southwest competition since 2008.

Coming from the fifth starting spot, Netto continually moved forward during Saturday's 25 lap championship event. Taking second on Lap 16, the chase was on to catch race long leader, Christopher Bell, in the Buffalo Wild Wings No. 82.

Hoping to dig up a win, slower traffic had other plans for Bell who fell out of the race on Lap 19 after contact with a slower machine. Handing the top spot to Netto, the restart would find El Paso's John Carney II on the back bumper of the No. 3c, but would not be challenged as D.J. opened up his advantage to 1.637 seconds at the drop of the checkered flag.

Carney would cross second with Washington's Reece Goetz finding his way to the final podium step. Aaron Reutzel was fourth with Chase Goetz making up the top-five. Having to come from the B-Main, Arizona's Bob Ream, Jr. clawed his way from 18th to sixth with Lance Norick seventh. Michael Kofoid from 15th was eighth, fol-

lowed by Garen Linder and Rick Ziehl to complete the top-ten.

The final night of the 2016 season for the Carlyle Tools ASCS Southwest Region, New Mexico's Rick Ziehl yet again managed to hold off all challengers to bring his record of championships to a perfect nine in a row with the ASCS Southwest Region.

In the final standings, Ziehl beat out 2016 Rookie of the Year, Colton Hardy, by 65 markers with Bob Ream, Jr. ending his season third. Lance Norick and Jesse Baker made up the top-five in series standings.

The Carlyle Tools ASCS Southwest Region would like to thank the teams, tracks, and above all the fans for their continued support and look forward to bringing you another exciting season of racing in 2017.

For continued updates, log onto www.ascsracing.com.

Chester Holds Off Bell in ASCS Southwest Copper Classic Opener

QUEEN CREEK, AZ - A wild night at the races ended with Arizona's Billy Chester III standing atop the podium with the Carlyle Tools ASCS Southwest Region to kick off the Copper Classic at Arizona Speedway in Queen Creek.

Leading the final four laps of Friday's \$2,000 to win preliminary A-Feature, the road to the top was a bumpy one as Chester gridded the field eighth. Giving chase as Oklahoma's Christopher Bell jumped to the lead in the Buffalo Wild Wings No. 82, Bell was challenged on the eighth round by Aaron Reutzel.



Billy Chester III held off Christopher Bell for the win in the Copper Classic Opener for the ASCS Southwest Series. (Serena Dalhamer/ASCS photo)

D.J. Netto celebrates his win in the ASCS Southwest Copper Classic at Arizona Speedway. (Tim Aylwin/ASCS photo)



Taking the top spot, the lead was short lived as Aaron made contact with the wall along the back stretch.

Shredding the right rear of Reutzel's machine, the flying chunks of Hoosier sent Bell pit side as well. Bell was able to continue after the crew reattached a dislodged plugwire.

Handing the lead to Colby Copeland, the No. 18w looked to be en-route to victory before his night ended in spectacular fashion along the front stretch. Colby was unharmed in the crash involving lapped traffic.

Inheriting the lead, Chester found himself stalked by Christopher Bell.

Having fought back from the tail of the field, Bell took several shots at the point, but would be denied the victory as Chester crossed 0.883 seconds to the good for his third career victory with the Carlyle Tools ASCS Southwest Region. Bell would settle for second with Washington's Reece Goetz taking the final podium step.

Locking the top-four into Saturday's \$5,000 to win finale, New Mexico's Rick Ziehl grabbed the final transfer spot. Chase Goetz completed the top-five from 17th. Colton Hardy crossed sixth with James Aragon, Jeremy McCune, Garen Linder, and Alex Pettas making the top-ten.

ASCS National Tour Returning To Colorado In 2017

TULSA, OK - The lineup for the 2017 season for the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network is continuing to take shape and among the nights that have already been confirmed is the National Tour's return to Colorado and the addition of two new facilities to

the ASCS lineup as Joe Bellm with BST Promotions will bring the series back to Colorado on Memorial Day Weekend.

Starting off on Saturday, May 27 the series will debut at El Paso County Raceway in Calhan, Colo. with Phillips County Raceway in Holyoke, Colo. following on Sunday, May 28.

Last visiting the "Centennial State" in 1998, Oklahoma's Daryn Pittman found Victory Lane at the Rocky Mountain National Speedway in Denver.

"It's been a pretty rocky road around here with dirt track racing, but we have things really rolling well and we're looking forward to having the ASCS back in Colorado," commented event promoter, Joe Bellm.

Answering the fans demands for Sprint Car racing, Bellm has also helped build events around Colorado to where tracks and classes rarely run on top of each other in order to give everyone a fair shake at racing and watching. The Colorado Alliance Tour encompasses four tracks, with Lamar Speedway and I-76 Speedway filling the other two spots.

Tickets for the Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour's 2017 Colorado stops will be on sale soon at <http://www.bstpromotions.com>.

The 2017 season is the 26th year of competition for the Lucas Oil ASCS presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network. The American Sprint Car Series is the largest sanctioning body for Sprint Car racing in the United States with events across both National and Regional platforms.

The preliminary lineup for the 2017 season will be released on December 9, 2016 during PRI Indy. For continued updates on the Lucas Oil ASCS log onto www.ascsracing.com.

Jeff Hammond, Monster Trucks Added to PPB Motorsports 2017 Showcase

OAKS, PA - NASCAR racing personality Jeff Hammond and two wild Monster Trucks have joined an exciting line up for the 31st annual Pioneer Pole Buildings Motorsports Racecar & Trade Show.

The three day show, Fueled by Sunoco Race Fuels and Distributed by Insinger Performance, is set to take place at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA on Friday January 20 thru Sunday January 22nd.

Headlining the show will be the appearance of seven time NASCAR Premier Cup Series champion Richard Petty on Saturday from 1 to 3 PM. Considered "The King" by many Petty will be on hand to visit with fans, do an interview session and sign his famed autograph that represents a piece of artwork. Two of Petty's iconic No. 43 that he drove to victory in NASCAR Cup competition will be on display the entire weekend.

Former NASCAR crew chief Jeff Hammond, a member of the FoxSports TV staff, will return to the show and be signing autographs on Saturday.

Two Monster Trucks, Shockwave and BeAware, which compete on the Monster Jam circuit will also be on display. BeAware will be promoting Breast Cancer Awareness.

More than 200 racing vehicles will be on display during the three day show with many other top racers and motorsports personalities appearing at the show. As usual all autographs will be free during the show.

There will be a large number of displays with speedways offering information on their 2017 seasons. Hardcore racing vendors will be a big part of the show and fans will have the opportunity to gain some bargains from vendors offering collectible items that will fill the huge 250,000 square feet of space.

A number of free industry seminars will be offered.

One of the most popular events during the three day show will be and has been the Ms. Motorsports Pageant that will see one woman walk off with a \$1,500 cash prize along with a poster deal.

A few display spaces remain as the show is on its way to becoming another sold out success.

For more information on display space contact Danny Sammons at 609.888.3618. To stay informed on show progress, new additions to the show lineup and more, check in at www.aarn.com.

Motorhead Media Signs on as a Presenting Sponsor of 2017 Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama

HAMPTON, GA - MotorHead Media, a division of Internet Brands, Inc., has signed on as a presenting sponsor of the 2017 Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama at Atlanta Motor Speedway set for April 22-23.

MotorHead Media owns and operates an interrelated, complementary group of online marketplaces serving motorsports enthusiasts. Its extended family of niche-focused, online classified sites connects millions of buyers and sellers across a wide range of motorsports enthusiast groups, from racing and performance to classic cars, motorcycles and powersports. Among its popular online brands, RacingJunk.com is the largest online motorsports marketplace and a one-stop shop for those looking to buy, sell, trade, entertain or interact with people throughout the automotive and motorcycle racing and performance communities.

RacingJunk.com will be featured throughout the 2017 event and will have prominent display space for new and returning clients interested in utilizing their services.

Originally launched in 1999, RacingJunk.com is now the flagship site of the motorsports-focused classifieds network that also includes HotRodHotLine.com and OldRide.com. Over 2 million buyers and sellers visit RacingJunk.com every month, generating more than 30 million page views. In addition, its 800,000 registered members represent the greatest cross-section of racing enthusiasts and professionals on the internet. RacingJunk.com is free to use for both buyers and sellers.

Visit www.RacingJunk.com for more information or to register as a new buyer or seller.

The 2017 Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama will be highlighted by major milestone anniversaries of some of the most iconic classic American vehicles to roll off the assembly line in the 20th century. They include the 60th anniversary of the "Tri-Five" Chevrolets, the 50th anniversary of the Chevrolet Camaro and the 85th anniversary of the 1932 Ford. Meanwhile, perennial show favorites like BIGFOOT® monster trucks, the Pull-A-Part Swap Meet, the sprawling manufacturers' midway, Panasonic Automotive Autocross, national award-winning show vehicles and live entertainment will re-

turn for what's expected to be the show's largest event yet.

Registration for the 2017 Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama is available now. Participant entry is open to anything with an engine, ranging from classic cars, muscle cars and custom cars, to imports, rat rods, hot rods, trucks, big rigs, motorcycles and even boats and RVs.

For more information about Motorama or to register your vehicle today, visit www.atlantamotorama.com or contact the Atlanta Motor Speedway ticket office at (770) 946-4211 or (877) 9-AMSTIX.

Indoor Racing

Bob Hilbert Sportswear Challenge Offers Big Money Opportunity for Indoor Racers

TRENTON, NJ - With the start of the Indoor Auto Racing Season just a week away at Trenton's Sun National Bank Center, the pressure just got turned up on all Three Quarter (TQ) Midget racers entered.

Bob Hilbert Sportswear of Boyertown, Pa. is sponsoring a unique \$10,000 challenge. If one driver can win all four rounds of the Indoor Auto Racing Series Fueled by VP he'll pocket a \$10,000 check from the official sportswear supplier of the series.

To earn Bob's Bonus, a TQ Midget car driver will have to be perfect! The driver will have to win Saturday's Battle of Trenton A-Main on Saturday, December 10th. The driver will then have to win back-to-back nights in Allentown, Pa.'s PPL Center on Friday and Saturday, December 30th and 31st. To make the sweep complete, the driver will have to win the NAPA Auto Parts Gambler's Classic inside Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall on Saturday night, January 28th.

With over 50 TQ Midget race cars entered for each event, the task isn't easy but it can be done. During the 2015-2016 Indoor Racing Series, Erick Rudolph won two of three events falling one race short of claiming the \$10,000 bonus.

As a consolation prize, if one driver wins three of the four races that driver will receive a contingency sponsorship from Bob Hilbert Sportswear.

Rudolph, the defending Series

champion, is coming to Trenton after an unbelievable outdoor season that saw him win 22 dirt Modified events. Ted Christopher, whose eight Indoor Series victories leads all other drivers, is another top candidate to collect Bob Hilbert's \$10,000 challenge. The former NASCAR Modified Series champion from Plainville, CT enters the Trenton event driving for Trey Hoddick's winning team for the first time.

Other candidates include 2016 Atlantic City winner Anthony Sesely, now driving for Lou Cicconi, Jimmy Blewett, Ryan Flores and over 50 others.

Bob Hilbert Sportswear is located in Boyertown, PA. Look for their display at all three of this year's locations. To learn more about Bob Hilbert Sportswear, visit www.bobhilbert.com, call 610.367.6186, e-mail info@bobhilbert.com, like "Bob Hilbert Sportswear" on Facebook or follow @BobHilbertSW on Twitter.

As a special preview of the 2016-2017 Indoor Racing Series, general admission tickets for Friday's Battle Of Trenton opening night have been priced at just \$10 for adults and \$7 for children.

Top drivers and Ms. Motorsports 2016 Arynne Moody will be making an appearance at Fan Zone offering autographs and photos free of charge.

Trenton Indoor Race tickets are available online at www.sunnationallbankcenter.com or by phone at 1-800-298-4200. Fans can avoid on-line ticketing fees by stopping by the Sun Center box office daily from 9 to 5 and on race days.

More information is available at www.IndoorAutoRacing.com.

Bristol Motor Speedway to Host the U.S. Nationals of Short Track Racing

The world's best late model stock car racers will descend upon the World's Fastest Half-Mile in 2017 when Bristol Motor Speedway, The Last Great Colosseum and one of the most famous short tracks in the world, hosts the Inaugural U.S. Nationals of Short Track Racing, May 19-21.

The signature event will be sanctioned by five different sanctioning bodies and for the first time in stock car racing history, will bring together six top categories of racing to compete on the same track in one spectacular weekend of action. Champion Racing Association powered by JEGS (CRA), who took the lead sanction body role in developing this event, will be co-sanctioning the Super Late Model race with their ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS along with The CARS Super Late Model Tour (CARS) and the Southern Super Series (SSS). CRA will also oversee the action for the crate late model event with their JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour presented by Chevrolet and the Street Stocks, while the CARS officials will oversee the Late Model Stock portion of the event with their CARS Late Model Stock Tour. The compacts will be organized and overseen by the Vore's Compact Touring Series while the Modified portion of the weekend will be sanctioned by International Championship Auto Racing (ICAR) Top Speed Modified Tour. The U. S. Nationals of Short Track Racing is being presented by Vore's Welding & Steel.

"Bristol Motor Speedway is proud to announce today that in 2017 it will host the biggest and what promises to be the most exciting event in short track stock car racing history," said Jerry Caldwell, executive vice president and general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway. "We're looking forward to fans joining us following the NASCAR All-Star race at Charlotte Motor Speedway. It will surely be an event you won't want to miss."

These powerful and exciting cars thundering around the high banks of Bristol Motor Speedway

are guaranteed to produce some thrilling action. At Bristol we have a long history of putting on events that are considered the biggest and the best, and we feel this race weekend has great potential to achieve that status in the world of short track stock car racing."

The premier event at BMS will join the likes of some of short track racing's most revered events, including the prestigious Snowball Derby in Florida, Indiana's famed Winchester 400 and Nashville's All-American 400.

"This event is a dream come true for everyone involved with short track racing," noted CRA Founder/President R. J. Scott. "Immediately, it becomes an historic and nationally significant event, which everyone will want to be a part of. There are a few great trophies that everyone wants to have in racing, and you can add the trophy from the U.S. Nationals of Short Track Racing to that list. Three of the most respected words in racing are...Bristol...Motor...Speedway."

Scott went on to add, "A couple of key people in helping make all this happen are Steve Vore for taking on the role of presenting sponsor and Norm Partin of Nashville for his key role in helping to build this event through his long standing relationship with Bristol Motor Speedway."

"It is thrilling that Vore's Compact Touring Series racers, along with five other great stock car divisions will get the chance to make history with the U.S. Nationals of Short Track Racing presented by Vore's Welding & Steel at Bristol Motor Speedway," commented Steve Vore, owner of the Vore's Welding & Steel and the Vore's Compact Touring Series.

For the modifieds, ICAR/Top Speed Modified Series owner Dave Muzillo noted, "I'm looking forward to bringing these types of modifieds that race all around the country, together at one race track, and watch them battle it out for the title at this historic event...it will be exciting!"

Multiple NASCAR Cup, Xfinity and Camping World Truck series drivers are expected to compete in this major event at BMS. Several

past winners of similar high profile Super Late Model events include Kyle Busch, Chase Elliott, Erik Jones, John Hunter Nemechek and William Byron.

"This is an epic announcement for short track fans, drivers, teams, and sponsors," said Chris Ragle, CARS Tour Series director. "This will be the marquee event of asphalt short track racing next year, period. Obviously races like the Snowball Derby, Winchester 400, and Martinsville 300 for Late Model Stocks are crown jewel events, but nothing can compare to competing and putting on an event at Bristol Motor Speedway."

The six categories of racing to be featured at the U.S. Nationals of Short Track Racing presented by Vore's Welding & Steel are:

Super Late Models - The premier division of asphalt short track racing cars in the United States. These cars typically feature 600-plus horsepower engines under the hood of a custom built chassis weighing around 2,750 pounds.

Pro Late Models - These race cars are similar to those in Super Late Model but they all must utilize a specific factory crate engine. The crate engines are built by the participating auto manufacturers, including General Motors and Ford.

Late Model Stocks - These machines evolved in the Carolinas and are raced primarily at weekly asphalt tracks located throughout the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. These cars weigh approximately 3,100 pounds and their engines pump out about 400 horsepower.

Street Stocks - This entry category is a popular developmental opportunity for those who aspire to gain experience and become future stars of the Late Model Stock scene. The cars in this division must be 1960-2016 models of rear wheel drive street cars that must remain stock appearing and equipped with eight cylinder engines weighing in the neighborhood of 3200 pounds.

ICAR / Florida-Type Modifieds - This open wheel style of racing originated on the short track paved ovals of Indiana and is now featured at race tracks throughout the country. The fender-less machines are powered by V8 engines with a minimum weight of 2,600 pounds.

Compacts - This exciting class showcases four and six-cylinder, front wheel drive compact cars. These smaller wheelbase race cars are popular because the class is predominantly made up of the compact cars seen on the streets today.

The weekend schedule will feature practice sessions for all six classes on Friday, May 19. On Saturday the 20th, practice for all six classes will resume with qualifying for all divisions. Two qualifying races for Super Late Model and main events for Compacts, Modifieds and Street Stocks will be the featured racing on Saturday evening. On Sunday the 21st, the three main classes will get warm up laps starting at 11 a.m. Final qualifying for Super Late Models will be held at 1 p.m. The 100-lap main events for Super Late Models, Pro Late Models and Late Model Stocks will begin at 2 p.m.

"I think with today's announcement it goes to show when you are unified and are willing to work together great things can be accomplished," said Jack McNelly, CARS Tour Series owner. "This event took a lot of work and cooperation from all parties to make this event a reality. I don't know a short track racer who doesn't aspire to race at Bristol one day. It's the most iconic short track in North America, if not the world, and come May racers from across the country are going to get that opportunity."

Southern Super Series and Five Flags Speedway owner Tim Bryant summed up the excitement and thoughts looking forward, "It has truly been exciting to see that all of this is finally going to take place, and it will surely create a buzz in the short track industry. We've still got a lot of work to do and details to finalize, but it was time to let the world know to put May 19th to 21st on their calendars for this MUST SEE short track event. We are thrilled to be a part of it and look forward to working with everyone."

BMS will provide details on tickets, camping and general information at a later date. Be sure to check back regularly at bristolmotorspeedway.com for updates. Racers should follow the websites of the appropriate sanctioning bodies for more news and information when those items are finalized and released this winter.

Kingsport Speedway

KINGSPORT, TN - Kingsport Speedway is giving back to the community this Christmas season.

The 0.375-mile racetrack is hosting its first-ever Christmas charity drive. Blankets, winter clothing, and toys for children up to 12 years of age are all being sought for donation by the speedway.

"We want to give back to this community that we love so dearly,"
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said Karen Tunnell, general manager and promoter. "It's all about helping as many people as possible have a great Christmas."

The charity drive begins today, Nov. 22 and runs through Tuesday, Dec. 20. Donations can be dropped off at the Kingsport Speedway office, Texas Roadhouse of Kingsport, and Sullivan Gardens Parkway (Kingsport)

Pizza Plus.

"We encourage everyone to donate," added Tunnell. "I especially want to urge our fans and race teams to donate."

Once items are collected, Tunnell says the speedway will begin sorting and distributing the items to those in need. For questions about donations, please contact Tunnell directly at (276) 393-9594.

For more information on Kingsport Speedway, visit newkingsportsspeedway.com. Also follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Donation Drop Off Locations

- Kingsport Speedway - 2961 N. John B. Dennis Highway, Kingsport, TN 37660

- Texas Roadhouse of Kingsport - 1221 E Stone Dr, Kingsport, TN 37660

- Pizza Plus-Sullivan Gardens - 2603 Sullivan Gardens Pkwy, Kingsport, TN 37660

Southern National Motorsports Park

LUCAMA, NC – Lee Pulliam looked like he was on his way to a second consecutive Thanksgiving Classic victory at Southern National Motorsports Park on Sunday evening, but a late race caution set up a wild sequence of events which ended with Tommy Lemons, Jr. in victory lane.

Pulliam had dominated the late stages of the event, but was held up behind a lapped car which allowed Justin Johnson to go to his outside for the lead. Johnson spun on the exit of turn four, bringing out a caution. On the first green-white-checked restart, Lemons got a jump on Pulliam, then Pulliam wrecked off the front bumper of Matt McCall. When the dust settled, Lemons held on for the win.

"We definitely had a really good car in the first half," Lemons said.

"Just a little tight in the second half. Stuck around long enough. Luck wasn't on our side last weekend, luck was on our side this weekend. Kind of bittersweet from last week but it's an awesome way to cap the year with a win here.

"Hadn't won the Thanksgiving Classic. Always going after the big wins so awesome to get this one under our belts."

Brenden Queen, who had been involved in an incident earlier in the race, mounted a late race charge to finish second.

"Got lucky there a little bit but we never gave up all day," Queen said. "Put ourselves in position there to challenge them, came up one spot short. Didn't want to spin him for the win. Just tried to move him and hopefully he would have finished second to me."

McCall held on to finish third. The incident with Pulliam, however, brought back memories from the 2011 Late Model Stock Car race when McCall spun off Pulliam's bumper on the last lap of the race – which Pulliam went on to win. McCall insisted the contact with Pulliam was not payback.

"He didn't have the restart he had before," McCall said. "All the other restarts, he cleared everybody and pulled away. He must have spun the tires or something. When we got to the flagstand, he still wasn't going. Well, we had a green-white-checked so we're racing for the win and I don't get to race often, so there was no reason not to go in there and see if I could make it happen."

Pulliam disagreed.

"I don't know what he remembered at Martinsville," Pulliam said.

"I moved him and he wrecked me. That's pretty much the end of the story. You can write whatever you want to write about it but that's how it went."

Fourth place finisher Deac McCaskill also felt the incident was payback from Martinsville.

"I thought all that mess was over with between him and Lee, but that was just wrong," McCaskill stated. "I hate it for Lee that he got caught up in it but that's short track racing."

McCaskill, a four-time track champion at Southern National Motorsports Park, started on the pole and dominated much of the race but made some adjustments during the halftime intermission which sent him backwards.

"I didn't make the right adjustments at halfway," McCaskill said. "We went the wrong way. Lucky we finished fourth because, at one point, we were fifth or sixth. Chaos broke out those last couple laps and we were able to get fourth. We gave it our all on that final restart, just came up short."

2015 Southern National Motorsports Park track champion Jonathan Findley finished fifth while Mark Wertz, Ricky Jones III, Layne Riggs, Tim Allensworth and Tyler Hughes rounded out the top-10.

Christian Eckes, who won the Myrtle Beach 400 at Myrtle Beach Speedway one week ago, scored the victory in the Accent Imaging 125 Super Late Model feature, winning out over Austin Theriault and 2015 Pro All Stars Series (PASS) South champion Tate Fogleman.

"We had a really good car," Eckes said. "We unloaded strong and it stayed about the same. I got

a little worried there when Colt [James] passed me. Sucks for him, he had a really good car to have a mechanical issue like that. I'm just happy for all these guys. We worked hard for this race and it paid off."

James, who won the Scott Farms Pro Late Model Sweet Potato 7 Series championship at Southern National, had challenged Eckes much of the race but fell out on lap 94 when his engine went south.

Ethan Johnson won the Grafix Unlimited Bandolero race and all scored the championship in the Bandolero Fall Brawl championship series. Johnson held off Josh Speas to score the victory while Parker Frazier, who had been involved in an accident in practice, finished third.

Hickory Motor Speedway

NEWTON, NC - Hickory Motor Speedway released their schedule of events for the 2017 season today. The schedule includes all of the great NASCAR Whelen All-American Series events and the popular touring series /shows that make up the season for this historic facility. Special events for the 2017 season will be two events each for the Knights of Destruction, Pro All Star Series (PASS), CARS Racing Tour, Must See Racing Sprint Cars and the Southern Modified Race Series. The Spring Classic, Bobby Isaac Memorial and traditional Fall Brawl will be the tracks signature events again in 2017. Also on tap will be the return of the Sundown Audio Showdown on August 19th and the 3rd Annual Hickory Vintage Swap Meet and Auto Fair. Hickory Motor Speedway still has some available dates open for track rental for your events.

One new addition for 2017 will be multiple twin races for the NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Model Stock Cars. The number of events will be the same as in 2016, however with the twin events it will give more cars the opportunity to visit victory lane this year. This will give the Hickory Motor Speedway fans an opportunity to see two Late Model races for the price of one adding value to their tickets. Another 2017 addition will be all NWAAS events moving to a 7:30 starting time on Saturday Nights.

A new wrinkle for the 2017 race season will be the addition of the Paramount Auto Group taking the division sponsorship for what will now be the Paramount Auto Group
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Tommy Lemons, Jr. celebrates his victory in Sunday's Thanksgiving Classic at Southern National Motorsports Park. (Andy Marquis/Southern National Motorsports Park photo)

(Continued...)

Limited Late Models. Along with this change for the Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models will be the addition of the Paramount Kia "Big 10" Challenge moving to the Limited Late Models for 2017. Over \$12,000 in additional purse and points fund monies has been added to 10 (ten) Limited Late Model Events for a points race within the regular season

points races that will create additional awards for the Limited Late Model season.

"The greatest thing about the way this Paramount Kia "Big 10" Challenge is structured is that no one that runs these races will get eliminated from a chance at the Championship" Hickory Motor Speedway General Manager Kevin Piercy also stated "We are excited with the changes that are being made at Hickory Motor Speedway for 2017, we feel that these changes will present a great opportunity for businesses in the Hickory and surrounding area to get involved again with America's Most Famous Short Track."

With these new additions and the excitement each and every Night, the Historic Hickory Motor Speedway is the place you will want to be on Saturday Nights in 2017.

Hickory Motor Speedway is also welcoming all types of manufacturing and other facilities to give their employees an opportunity to bring their families to the track for one of our employee appreciation nights.

If you would like to market your company or participate in an employee appreciation night please contact Kevin Piercy at (828) – 464-3655 or contact us by e-mail at hickorymotor@bellsouth.net

Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - With another banner season in the books at the picturesque Dodge City Raceway Park in southwest Kansas, all that remains is the annual awards banquet.

The top 2016 competitors in each division will receive their hardware and points fund money on Saturday night, January 28, 2017, at the Western Expo Center that is located adjacent to the track at the intersection of US 56 and US 283 on the south edge of Dodge City,

KS.

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., with dinner served at 7:00 p.m. and the awards ceremony to follow.

Tickets to the event are just \$25 per person and must be ordered by January 21, 2017, to determine an accurate headcount. Tickets may be ordered by calling Gina Wilson at 620-339-9873 or Tommie Estes, Jr., at 405-238-8485.

The top ten in points in all five divisions (Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars and IMCA Hobby Stocks) that competed in at least 80% of the events will receive trophies and point fund money.

The 2016 season at Dodge City Raceway Park consisted of 16 nights of racing action with Taylor Velasquez (Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars), Nick Link (IMCA Modifieds), Kevin Tabor (IMCA Sport Modifieds), Michael Pepper (IMCA Stock Cars) and Matt O'Hair (IMCA Hobby Stocks) each capturing track championships.

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

Grandview Speedway

BECHTELSTVILLE, PA - A season pass for every Saturday night stock car racing event at Grandview Speedway during the 2017 season may be just the gift you need for that race fan on the Christmas list. The Bechtelsville, PA one-third-mile, banked clay oval will be presenting its 55th consecutive season of auto racing under the promotion of the Rogers family.

For just \$350, no increase in cost over last season, a 2017 Grandview Speedway season pass offers a guaranteed seat for each exciting Saturday night of auto racing entertainment.

Again in 2017 the Saturday night shows will feature the highly competitive T.P.Trailers NASCAR 358 Modifieds, the exciting BRC Late Models and the popular Sportsman stock cars in action plus a special attraction from time-to-time.

Included in the season pass is the Forrest Rogers Memorial presented by Pioneer Pole Buildings, the Firecracker 40 Late Model event, the classic Freedom 76 for Modifieds racing for at least \$25,000 to win along with other special Saturday events.

Each season pass holder is entitled to a reserved seat, of his or her choice, for all Saturday night events and avoids having to stand in the ticket line.

A check in the amount of \$350 should be sent for each season pass being ordered. Make the check payable to Grandview Speedway and mail to 87 Wilt Road, Bechtelsville, PA 19505. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for convenience in getting the season pass returned to you.

Again in 2017 Grandview will present the Saturday night NASCAR stock car racing events along with the midweek special Thunder on the Hill events promoted by Bob Miller and Bruce Rogers.

The traditional free-to-the-public practice session will kick off the season on Saturday, March 25th at noon as has been the case for many years.

A complete 2017 season schedule will be released in the near future.

Grandview Speedway is located on Passmore Road, just off Route 100, in Bechtelsville, PA, 10 miles north of Pottstown. Telephone 610.754.7688 or check in at www.grandviewspeedway.com for information on racing at Grandview.

Stafford Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - The 2016 season was a year of absence for 22-year old Waterbury native Joey Cipriano from his home track of Stafford Speedway. Cipriano, who was a regular in the SK Modified® and SK Light divisions since the 2010 season, will make his return to the half-mile for the 2017 season behind the wheel of a Late Model.

"I'm really excited to get back to racing every Friday at Stafford no matter if it's a modified or a late model," explained Cipriano. "I only have one race in a fendered car so it's going to be something new for me and something different."

Cipriano will be behind the wheel of the Chris DuPont owned #33 Late Model campaigned on a part-time basis by Peter Thickett and P.J. Zarella during the last few seasons.

"We're really looking forward to working with Joey and everybody with his team, we're looking to go out and run competitively," explained car owner Chris DuPont. "Cliff Burrell from AVI International is a big part of this and we can't thank him enough for what he's doing for us. We started talking to-

wards the end of the year once I found out what P.J. and Peter's plans were going to be and we weren't going to be able to be full time with them. We want to run for points so we started working on a deal and Joey was right at the top of our list of drivers we wanted to put in the car."

The #33 team is looking to get to NAPA Victory Lane and compete for the 2017 Late Model championship with Cipriano behind the wheel. Joey is familiar with NAPA Victory Lane, scoring 7 victories across 2 seasons in the SK Light division. The 2010 and 2011 seasons saw countless battles between 3 young guns, Cipriano, Matt Galko, and Tommy Barrett. Cipriano is confident his Stafford experience will translate into success in the full fender Late Model division.

"It's still a racecar, I know it's a smaller tire and heavier car so there will definitely be a learning curve," said Cipriano. "I actually drove Chris' car once before in 2012 and I'm just going to take it as it comes. I'll watch some tape and talk to some guys to try to figure out as much as I can before the season gets started. Hopefully I can get things figured out pretty quickly and we can be running up front and challenging for wins."

The 2017 season won't be the first season the young driver has made a transition to a new division. Cipriano campaigned a family owned SK Modified® at Stafford for multiple seasons and came close on several occasions to a win in the ultra competitive division.

Though the season is still months away it appears the Late Model division will have a competitive field of cars in 2017. On top of a strong group of drivers returning after the 2016 season two other drivers have announced their plans to compete in the Late Model division in 2017. The 2015 champion Michael Bennett has announced he will run the entire season and 5-time Limited Late Model winner Paul Arute has also announced his move to the Late Models. Cipriano is excited to run with a strong group of competitors and is confident they can get a win in 2017.

"The goal is to run as well as we can as quickly as we can and hopefully we can win some races," said Cipriano. "If we do our job during the year, the points will fall where they fall."

Cipriano will have longtime local crew member Ted Legendre Jr. as a crew chief with sponsorship from The Simon Foundation Inc., and AVI International Inc.,