



NOVEMBER 2, 2015

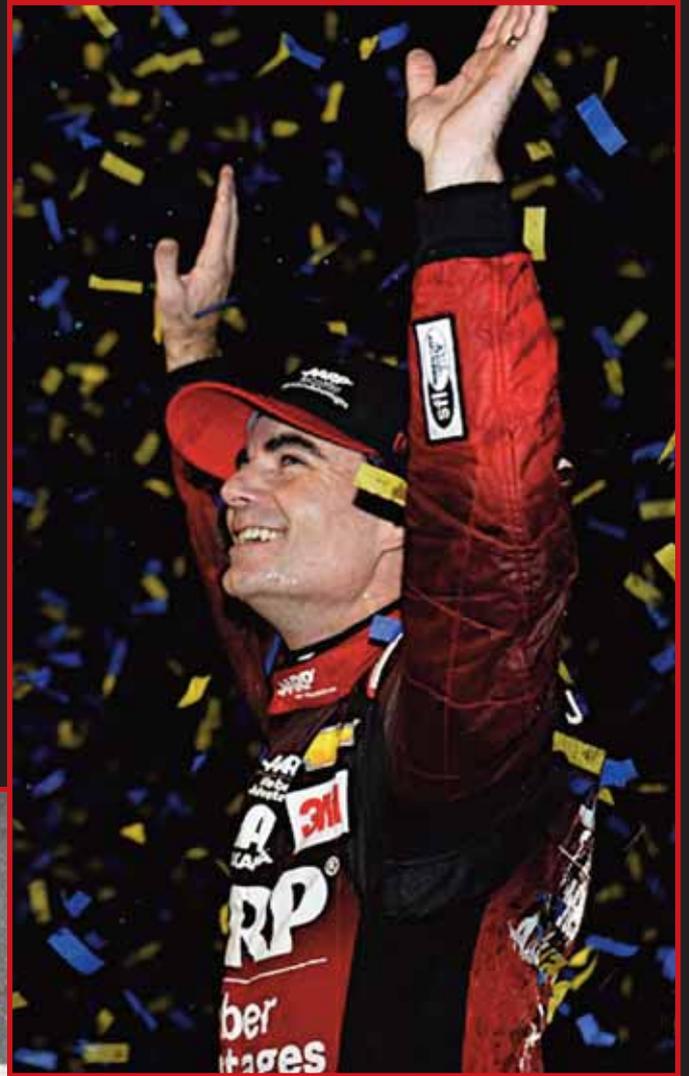
FastTrack

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Gordon Wins His Last Martinsville Race and Makes the Final Chase

Kenseth Takes Out Logano Ending His Winning Streak



Competing Sponsors... Which Has the Right of Way?

There were questions surrounding possible competing sponsors from the moment Stewart-Haas Racing and driver Kurt Busch announced a multi-year agreement last month with Monster Energy drink.

However, unlike others in NASCAR, there won't be any such competition within the race team.

When Tony Stewart announced he would retire at the end of the 2016 season and be replaced by Clint Bowyer, the immediate assumption was he'd bring his current sponsor, 5-hour ENERGY with him.

Turns out, that won't happen.

The race team decided to stay with the certainty of a long-term deal with Monster than the prospect of 5-hour staying with Bowyer.

Stewart-Haas decided to remain loyal to its financial partners. In fact, the most difficult part of the sale was convincing co-owner Gene Haas to give up sponsorship space on Busch's car.

For others, the only thing that mattered is the check clearing.

The primary sponsor for Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s No. 88 Chevrolet is Nationwide Insurance. The primary for Kasey Kahne's No. 5 Chevrolet is Farmers Insurance.

Both drive at Hendrick Motorsports. Conflicting sponsorships don't always apply to race teams. Tracks and the sanctioning body have no problem accepting dollars from rivals.

For example, the official soft drink of NASCAR is Coca-Cola, but Victory Lane at more than half the tracks are sponsored by Pepsi-owned Gatorade.

What makes those conflicts interesting is the fact NASCAR is controlled by the family of NASCAR founder Bill France, and the tracks that advertise Gatorade after a win are owned and operated by the same family.

The highpoint of the war between Coke and Pepsi came in 2004 when Coke's PowerAde was the official sports drink of NASCAR.

When drivers won at a France-owned International Speedway Corp. facility, the sanctioning body placed an oversized bottle of PowerAde on top of the winning car – in Gatorade Victory Lane.

Jimmie Johnson had a deal with Pepsi, so he often knocked the PowerAde bottle off the car as he climbed from the driver's seat. He also parked on the track after winning at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to start his televised celebration before NASCAR could put the PowerAde bottle on his car.



DON COBLE

When he placed a sign in front of the PowerAde bottle after a victory at the Pocono Raceway, NASCAR fined him \$10,000 for "actions detrimental to the sport."

"It ended up being an expensive move on my part," Johnson said then. "The bottom line is I'm just trying to defend my options as a driver."

Sunoco is the official gasoline supplier of NASCAR. While no team is allowed to be sponsored by a competing gasoline brand, teams get around that rule by saying their deal is with the motor oil division of a gas company.

That gets murky every time Joey Logano wins. While his sponsor, Shell, supposedly is only promoting its oil, the company offers 22 cents off a gallon of gas on the Wednesday – a promotion called "Winsday" – after each victory.

Race tracks also have to juggle conflicting sponsorships. In the mid-1980s, the 24-hour sports car race at the Daytona International Speedway was called the SunBank 24 at Daytona.

South Florida flea market mogul Preston Henn won with a team that also included A.J. Foyt and Bob Wollek in 1983 and 1985. His car had sponsorship from Barnett Bank.

A speedway official went to Victory Lane after the race. He sat on the Barnett Bank logo during the celebration and became part of most post-race photos.

The reason Stewart-Haas won't allow any sponsorships that work against each other could be seen 11 years ago when Tony Stewart



Kurt Busch poses with reps from his new sponsor, Monster Energy Drink before the race at Martinsville Speedway. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)

voiced his concern with the conflicts between Coke and Pepsi.

"I think it's a bad position corporate NASCAR has put us in to," he said in 2004.

"We have sponsors that we're responsible to and we have obliga-

tion to, and I don't think it's fair for anybody to put anything on top of our race cars after we won the race."

Eleven years later, Stewart remains loyal to the people who write him checks.

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ON THE COVER:

JEFF GORDON - JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP
KENSETH/LOGANO WRECK -JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

The Future is Bright

For those motor-sports fans who may be concerned over the future of our sport, my advice would be “rest easy”. I don’t mean the direction or the immediate future of the three major divisions of NASCAR – Sprint Cup, XFINITY, or Camping World Truck Series. I’m talking about the local and regional short track series.

Last weekend, the CARS Late Model Stock Cars and the Super Late Model Divisions held their final race of the 2015 season at Hickory Motor Speedway. The Liberty University 300 presented by Southern National Motorsports Park consisted of 150 laps of competition to decide champions in both divisions. Plus, the CARS Tour had lots and lots of money available for drivers, teams, and fans.

The first thing that impressed me entering the track was the car count for both divisions. A total of 26 Late Models and 29 Super Late Models gathered in the infield in search of the season-ending prizes. Not only was the car count quantity impressive, but the quality of drivers was even more noticeable. Some of the top late model drivers, not only in the Southeast, but in the country traveled to historic Hickory Motor Speedway.

Not only were the inaugural two series championship titles on the line, but a large sum of money as well. The CARS Tour presented the MTP Tire Double Duty Dare for the season finale. Any driver who signs up to compete in both 150-lap races was eligible to win \$40,000. All a driver had to do was WIN both races against, arguable, one of the best field of late models anywhere this season. Certainly not an easy task. Plus, one lucky fan could win \$10,000 too. Each of the eight drivers who elected to race in both events was paired by random draw with a lucky fan. The fan who is paired with the driver who wins both events would win. A great marketing and promotional idea, but the odds of actually cashing in on the big prize were large at best. Or, so they thought.

Going into the Late Model por-

tion of the doubleheader, Myatt Snider led McCaskill and Brayton Haws by three points. When you factor points from poles and race wins, the lead was two. And, when Haws won the pole with a time of 15.145 seconds, the gap was one.

Veteran Clay Rogers worked his way to the lead in the early laps with Josh Berry in hot pursuit. Once Berry was able to pass Rogers for the lead around the 90 lap mark, it was “game over”. The 24-year old competitor drove the JR Motorsports #88 to a decisive victory.

Brayton Haws finished fifth to capture the coveted CARS Late Model Stock Cars Division championship. McCaskill finished ninth and Snider tenth in the 150-lap race.

Since Berry was also competing in the Super Late Model race, and had sign up for the Double Duty Dare, he was the only driver eligible to collect the

\$40,000 bonus.

History was made during qualifying for the Super Late Models as Brandon Setzer set the all-time qualifying mark for a late model at 14.571 seconds. The previous record was 14.577 seconds set by Ron Barfield Jr. twenty years ago.

Setzer would set a torrid pace as he jumped to the lead from the out-set. However, it took less than 25 for Christopher Bell to work his way pass Setzer for the top spot. Once in the lead, Bell was never seriously challenged. Strong challengers Setzer, William Byron, and Steven Wallace were involved in an accident on lap 43 with Setzer and Wallace unable to continue. The 20-year old competitor from Norman, Oklahoma finished several car lengths ahead of Kyle Grissom to capture the 150-lap Super Late Model event. However, the story in the final twenty laps was Josh Berry.

Starting mid-pack, Berry worked his way through traffic and around several on-track wrecks to race in the top four in the closing laps. His valiant effort would come up short as he finished third, Byron, who was sent to the rear of the field as a result of the Setzer/Wallace incident, raced his way back to finish fourth. Zane Smith was fifth.

The Super Late Model Championship was won by Cole Timm. The soon to be 17-year old driver finished seventh in the 150-lap finale

to capture the crown with Grissom finishing second. However, the real winners last Saturday night were the fans.

The CARS Tour finale was truly a fan friendly event. At driver introductions, each driver was given a Frisbee with his name on it to throw to the fans. The fan who caught the Frisbee of the winning driver would receive \$100 in victory lane. Plus, prior to the races, an on-track autograph, photo, and “trick or treat” party was held. Fans could come down on the track, meet their favorite driver, and enjoy some candy placed in bowls on each car in the starting grid. I must admit, it was one of the most fan-friendly pre-race celebrations I have attended. Very creative and well done by the CARS Tour.

And, speaking of the CARS Tour, what a tremendous group of

talented drivers in these two very competitive divisions. Drivers such as Christopher Bell, Brandon Setzer, Kyle Grissom, William Byron, Josh Berry, Tyler Ankrum, Cole Timm, Jake Crum, Preston Peltier, Kaz Grala, Brayton Haws, Clay Rogers, and numerous others provided great racing on short tracks throughout the Southeast. The races were well run and the competition level mixing several veterans with talented young drivers provided an exciting and enjoyable evening for the fans.

I left Hickory Motor Speedway last Saturday feeling good about the future of local and regional late model racing in our area. The talented drivers, combined with well-managed series, should give race fans many more years of enjoyment. Yes, the future of our sport is definitely bright.



DENNIS PUNCH



Pole winner Brandon Setzer greets fans during the track autograph session before the races began. Setzer broke an all-time qualifying record that has stood for 20 years. (DENNIS PUNCH photo)

Gordon Celebrates Martinsville Win after Kenseth Wipes Out Logano

By REID SPENCER

Yes, Jeff Gordon celebrated his 93rd career victory in the Goody's Headache Relief Shot 500 at Martinsville Speedway.

Yes, Gordon will compete for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship in the season finale at Homestead-Miami

Speedway.

Yes, there were tears of joy in Victory Lane for Gordon, who's at the tail end of his final season in the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet.

But Sunday's race at Martinsville had so much more -- most notably, "Matt Kenseth's Revenge."

Long before Gordon held off Jamie McMurray in a two-lap run to the finish as darkness consumed the .526-mile short track, Kenseth ended polesitter Joey Logano's remarkable run in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup by pile-driving Logano's No. 22 Team Penske Ford, which was leading the race at the time, into the Turn 1 wall on Lap 454 of 500.

Kenseth's car was crippled at that point, the victim of a Lap 435 wreck that also involved the No. 2 Ford of Logano's teammate, Brad Keselowski.

But when Kenseth clipped the left rear quarter panel of Logano's Ford and slammed him into the

SAFER barrier, it was retaliation for Kansas two weeks earlier, when Logano knocked Kenseth out of the way—and effectively out of the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup—in the closing laps of the second race of the Contender Round.

Kenseth failed to advance to the Eliminator Round, which started at Martinsville on Sunday. And now Logano likewise is in dire jeopardy of seeing his dream season end before the Championship Round.

"I think what happened at Kansas is a completely different deal," Logano said after a visit to the infield care center. "We were racing for the win, and he blocks you a few times, and then we raced hard and he blocked me the last time and we spun out. That's what happened there.

"Here it was just a complete coward move, especially for a championship race car driver and race team.

"Just a complete coward. I don't have anything else to say. It's a chicken-you-know-what move to completely take out the leader when your race is over."

Logano, who was bidding for his fourth straight victory, finished 37th and is eighth in the Chase standings, 28 points behind Kevin Harvick in fourth, the last transfer position into the Championship Round.

It was clear from Kenseth's post-accident comments that the driver of the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota felt it was important to as-

sert himself.

"You never like to be in these situations," Kenseth said. "They really stink, to be honest with you, but sometimes you get put in these spots, and you've got to try to keep respect in the garage area. You can't get yourself ran over.

"You can't get in the Chase next year and get ran over for the same reason. Like I said, hate the way it ended.

"Wish we were out there celebrating or having a shot for the win like we did before we got wrecked, so a disappointing day."

NASCAR called Kenseth, crew chief Jason Ratcliff and team owner Joe Gibbs to the sanctioning body's transporter after the race. Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR executive vice president and chief racing development officer, said the incident will be reviewed and subsequent action, if any, will be announced later this week.

None of the Kenseth-Logano drama, however, could mute the elation of Gordon, the first driver to clinch a spot in the Championship Round at Homestead.

"Yeah, baby, yeah—we go to Homestead!" Gordon screamed after crossing the finish line .335 seconds ahead of McMurray. "That was huge! That was huge! Boys, I love you guys.

"That's what I was talking about. We just keep digging and fighting..."

A few minutes later, in Victory Lane, Gordon couldn't resist a joke.

"It was a joke. I'm coming back next year!" Gordon quipped about his impending retirement. "This is the sweetest, most amazing feeling.

"I am so proud of this team. You want to talk about holding back emotions; right now man, wow, we're going to Homestead! I can't believe it."

Kyle Busch had a fight on his hands, too, after spinning in Turn 2 on Lap 171 and damaging the front suspension of his No. 18 Toyota during contact with the No. 3 Chevrolet of Austin Dillon. But Busch rallied to come home fifth and is tied with sixth-place finisher Martin Truex Jr. for second in the Chase standings.

Denny Hamlin recovered from two pit road speeding penalties to run third on Sunday, followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr. Ryan Newman and Harvick and were seventh and eighth, respectively.

Keselowski and Kurt Busch, victims of the same wreck that ended Kenseth's strong run, finished 32nd and 34th, respectively, and are approaching must-win status at the next two races in the Eliminator Round, at Texas and Phoenix.

Notes: Before the wrecks that ruined their chances, the Team Penske cars were dominant. Logano led a race-high 207 laps. Keselowski led 143 laps, and at one juncture had built a lead of 8.9 seconds before Kyle Fowler smacked the Turn 3 wall to cause the 12th of 18 cautions. ... The victory was Gordon's first of the season and his ninth at Martinsville, breaking a tie with teammate Jimmie Johnson for most among active drivers.



A victorious Jeff Gordon races to celebrate with his crew after picking up his checkered flag for winning the Goody's Headache Relief Shot 500 at Martinsville Speedway. (JEFF ZELEYANSKY/GETTY IMAGES photo)

Martinsville Victory Revives Matt Crafton's Truck Series Title Hopes

REID SPENCER

Those who were delivering a post-mortem to Matt Crafton's hopes for a third straight NASCAR Camping World Truck Series title after last weekend's race at Talladega learned on Saturday that the lid on the coffin is far from nailed shut.

Crafton survived five restarts in the final 50 laps of Saturday's Kroger 200 at Martinsville Speedway and won the race by .396 seconds over John Hunter Nemechek, who shoved third-place finisher Cameron Hayley out of the way after a restart with two laps left to secure the runner-up position.

With his fifth victory of the season, his second at the .526-mile short track and the 10th of his career, Crafton chopped 13 points off the series lead of Erik Jones, who struggled throughout the afternoon and came home 10th.

Crafton moved into second place in the standings, 10 points behind Jones with three races left in the season. Fifth-place finisher Tyler Reddick is third in points, 13

behind Jones.

Crafton grabbed the lead from Nemechek after a restart on Lap 137 of 200 and held it the rest of the way. Polesitter Cole Custer, who ran fourth, led a race-high 96 laps but wasn't able to regain the top spot after suffering a pit road speeding penalty under caution on Lap 124.

For Crafton, though, the race was a dramatic turnaround after a late wreck a week earlier at Talladega dropped him to 24th at the finish, third in the standings and seemingly out of touch with Jones. But the misfortune at NASCAR's longest oval turned on a dime at one of the sport's shortest.

"We've had a very trying last two months, but to get back to Victory Lane is awesome," Crafton said. "These guys (his No. 88 ThorSport Toyota team) just never give up. We weren't that great on the short run, but like I said, I never give up on these guys. They keep fine-tuning and fine-tuning."

"The second-to-last run, we just got really tight, for whatever reason, but (crew chief) Junior (Joiner) called an audible, made a little change there, and the thing was good. I just had to pace myself and



Matt Crafton poses beside his Martinsville Speedway grandfather clock after winning the Kroger 200. (RONDA GREER photo)



Matt Crafton (88) heads to victory in front of Cameron Hayley (13). (RONDA GREER photo)

save enough tires for the end of the race."

Jones felt his Kyle Busch Motorsports team simply missed the setup for the race.

"It was just a fight all day," said Jones, whose handling issues were compounded by a soft brake pedal. "We missed it a little bit as an organization. I think it showed we were off most of the day for the three trucks (including the Toyotas of 16th-place Daniel Suarez and 21st-place Gray Gaulding).

"We'll work on it and get it better."

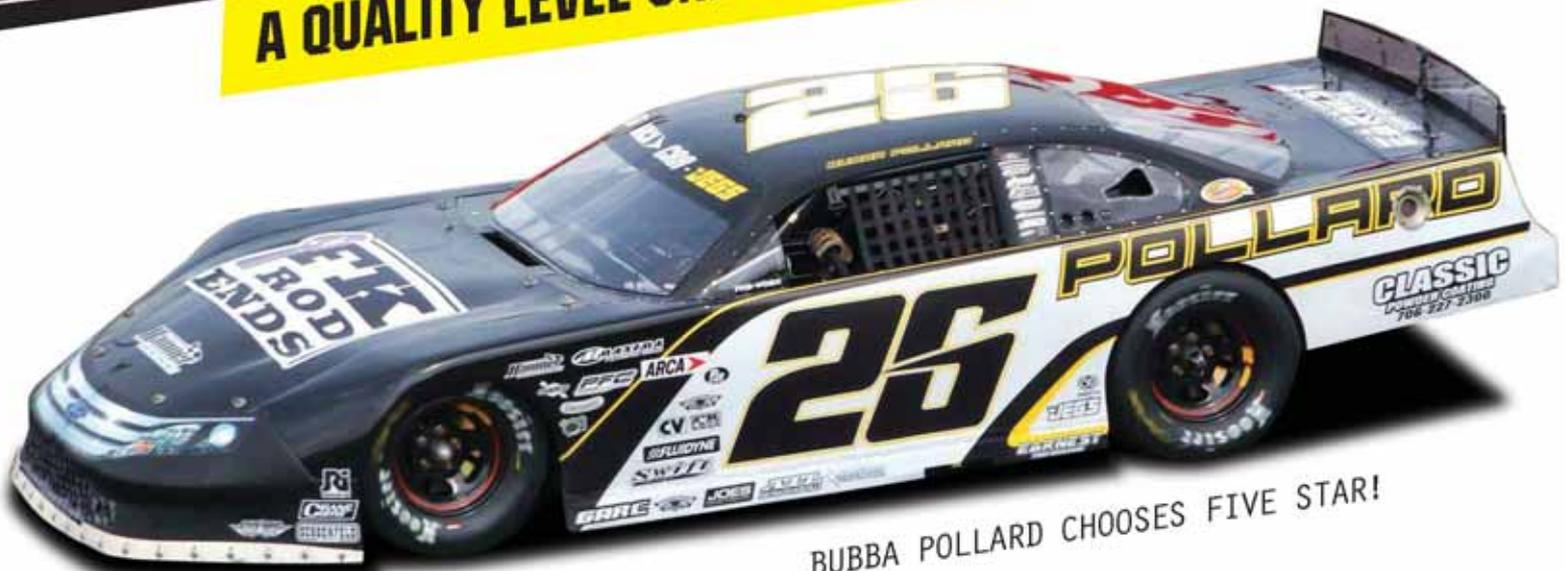
Ross Kenseth, son of 2003 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion Matt Kenseth, finished 17th in his Truck Series debut. Austin Cindric, son of Team Penske president Tim Cindric, had a strong top-10 run going in his maiden race in the series before running afoul of a three-wide wreck on the backstretch with eight laps left.

After the crash, Cindric came home 25th, the last driver on the lead lap.

The race featured 12 cautions, four short of the event record.

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Josh Berry and Christopher Bell Cap Off Inaugural CARS Tour Season with Dramatic Wins

HICKORY, NC - The inaugural season for the CARS Racing Tour came to a dramatic conclusion Saturday night at Hickory Motor Speedway as eight drivers chased the \$40,000 MTP Tire Double Duty Dare bonus while five other

drivers were after the first series championship. In the end, the Liberty University 300 presented by Southern National Motorsports Park saw Josh Berry take home his third Late Model Stock Car win of the season while coming up just two spots short of the double in the Super Late Model race that was won by Christopher Bell.

Brayton Haws (Late Model Stock) and Cole Timm (Super Late Model) held off their competition and claimed their first career championships in the CARS Racing Tour.

Late Model Stock Recap:

Championship contender Brayton Haws and Josh Berry led a full field of late model stock cars to the green flag for 150 laps. Haws took the lead early while needing to outrun championship rival Myatt Snider who led by three points coming into the event.

Clay Rogers, another competitor trying to win the double duty bonus, took the lead from Haws on lap 10. Unchallenged for the first half of the event, Rogers led until lap 94 when Josh Berry overtook him for the top spot.

After taking the lead, Josh Berry cruised to his third win of the 2015 season despite the best efforts from Tommy Lemons, Jr., who finished second. Californian Tyler Ankrum quietly finished third, followed by Rogers and 2015 series champion and three-time race winner Brayton Haws in fifth.

An excited Berry in victory lane was very thankful to his crew when asked about the event, saying, "I believe in these guys. We had a great car. I told you last week we had a great car and these guys really worked hard the last couple weeks and we haven't won in a long time, but tonight's a good one to win. We're going to have our work cut out for us in the second race [tonight]. It has been an un-



Josh Berry celebrates his Late Model Stock victory in the CARS Racing Tour season finale at Hickory Motor Speedway. (Stearns Photography/CARS photo)

real year and a lot of great things are happening and I hope to keep it going."

Following the late model stock car portion, Berry climbed into a super late model prepared by Lee Faulk Racing in an effort to pull off the MTP Tire Double Duty Dare and win himself \$40,000, plus an additional \$10,000 for a fan paired with him, Dennis Wilson.

"It's not going to be easy. We're probably just going to try to keep the rear tires on it and stay out of trouble because there will be some attrition throughout that race," Berry

said when asked about the super late model event. "Hopefully I can get it done. We've won half of it and that's more than -- right now there's only person that's got a shot at it and to get to this point, that's still something. Now we just have to do the best we can. We've got a good car and I can't thank those guys enough to give me an opportunity to race for them and to have a shot at it tonight. I hope I can cash that check and win that man over there ten thousand dollars."

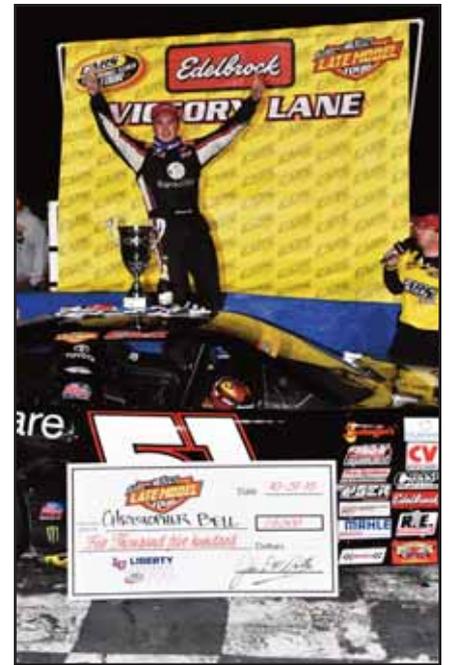
2015 CARS Late Model Stock Tour Champion Brayton Haws was overjoyed on the front stretch as he celebrated the title fight, saying, "Before Motor Mile I thought we were good and we were leading when we blew a right front. After that we ran like 13th and then went to Orange County and blew another right front, but still got a top five there. After that, we just worked our butts off and it came down to a close battle, but we came out with a championship."

Haws, when asked about the accomplishment, replied, "Most definitely the biggest one yet. I've dreamed about this since the inaugural CARS Tour race at Southern National. It's just a dream come true right now for me, my family, Hawk-McCall and everyone. It's just a dream come true."

Myatt Snider, the point leader entering the evening, had a sub-par night and struggled throughout the race and finished tenth, while the other championship contender, Deac McCaskill, had a similar performance and came up short in seventh.

Super Late Model Recap:

Brandon Setzer led the field to green with Christopher Bell alongside to start the final 150-lap super late model race of the 2015 CARS season. Setzer, who set an all-time



Christopher Bell took home the CARS Racing Tour Super Late Model season finale at Hickory Motor Speedway. (Stearns Photography/CARS photo)

fastest lap for super late models at Hickory in qualifying, jumped out to an early lead in pursuit of his third career CARS Tour win.

Josh Berry, the only driver still eligible to win the MTP Tire Double Duty Dare started his first career SLM race in 13th.

The race took a huge turn on lap 43 when Setzer and William Byron tangled in turn while battling for the lead. Setzer got collected by Steve Wallace and both drivers were done for the night. Bell inherited the lead after Byron was sent to the back for overaggressive driving by CARS officials.

The drama of the championship took center stage in the second half of the race as Kyle Grissom and Bell dueled for the win, and for Grissom, his only shot at the title.

Cole Timm, the incoming championship leader, was in a fight to stay in the top ten throughout most of the race, a position that may have seen him lose the championship battle.

With 50 laps to go Bell and Grissom were faced with a new challenger, double duty driver Josh Berry who quietly moved his way towards the front in pursuit of the \$40,000 bonus.

Bell appeared to have control of the race until a caution came out with 11 laps to go for an incident in turn one.

Bell and Grissom restarted on the front row, with Berry immediately behind. Bell got an exceptional restart to take the lead while deeper in the field, Cole Timm ascended to seventh, which

(Continued Next Page)



Brayton Haws celebrates being crowned the 2015 CARS Late Model Stock Tour Champion. (Stearns Photography/CARS photo)

CARS TOUR

Continued...

ultimately would be good enough to claim the championship.

Bell quickly pulled away from the field and, for the third time this season, held off all challengers to take his Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota to victory lane. Grissom duplicated his season-best second place and Josh Berry came up just two positions short of completing the MTP Tire Double Duty Dare in third. William Byron

recovered to finish fourth while Zane Smith rounded out the top five.

"I was saving pretty good at the beginning, but I was hustling it pretty good at the end," said Bell in Edelbrock Victory Lane following the race. "That's pretty much all we had, but thankfully it was enough. I just can't thank these guys enough, they work harder than anyone else in the pits and it really shows.

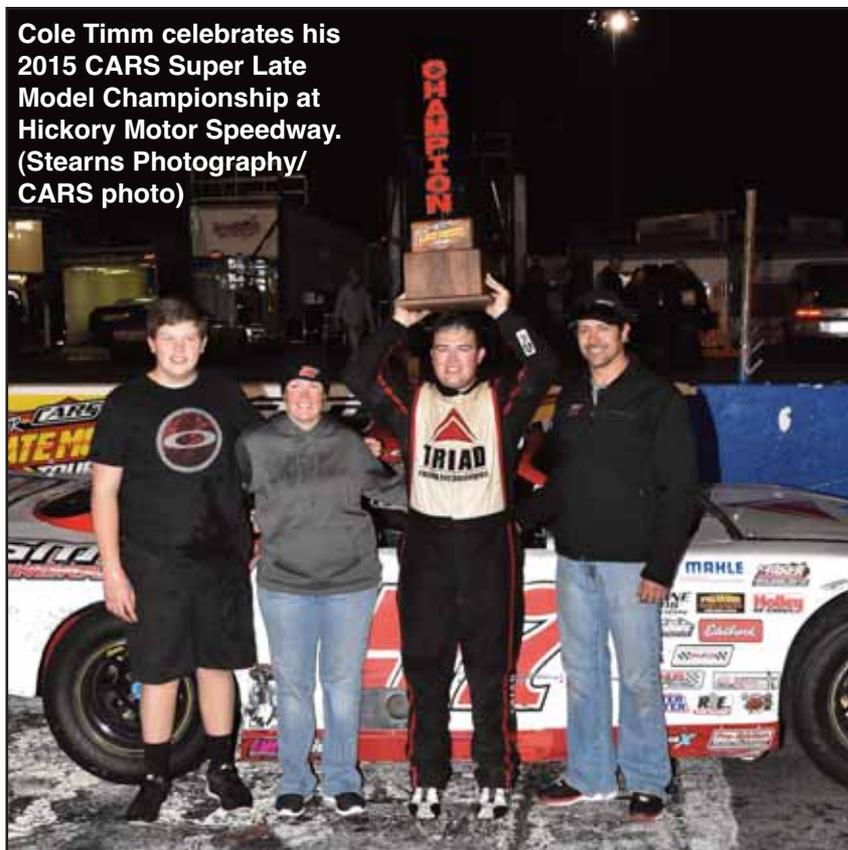
"I'm new to the pavement scene

so every race I do I'm learning every time," he continued. "So it's always good to get out here and get laps."

2015 CARS Super Late Model Champion Cole Timm was very emotional in his victory lane celebration. Timm was asked about his stress level in the race, saying, "I've never been that stressed in my life before. We were doing what we could. We didn't have the best car and this was probably one of our worst finishes all year. We just rode it out as long as we could. I thought we had a pretty decent shot of at least a top five or something somewhere around halfway but things didn't go our way and the tires burned off real quick. We were definitely lucky and definitely sweating it there at the end of the race."

"It means the world to me, and not just me but everyone who's been here to help me along the way, my sponsors and everything," he continued. "This is just awesome. I definitely thought we more than lost it (in the midstages of the race). I thought there wasn't even a shot anymore, but we pulled ourselves together and rallied back."

Cole Timm celebrates his 2015 CARS Super Late Model Championship at Hickory Motor Speedway. (Stearns Photography/CARS photo)



The CARS Tour will kick off its second year in 2016 at Southern National Motorsports Park on Saturday, April 2. For more information on the CARS Tour, visit their web-

site at www.carsracingtour.com and be sure to follow the tour on Facebook ("CARS Tour"), Twitter (@CARSTour) and Instagram (@CARS_Tour).

PASS

PASS Releases 2016 PASS South Super Late Model Schedule

CHARLOTTE, NC - Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials announced today the release of the 2016 schedule for the PASS South Super Late Models. The South's longest running and most competitive Super Late Model series will be highlighted in 2016 by three events each at two of the most storied speedway's in the region, Greenville-Pickens Speedway in South Carolina and Concord Speedway in North Carolina. With 10 dates confirmed and an additional four dates to be added, the PASS South Super Late Models will compete on at least six different venues over the course of the 2016 season.

"As we always try to do for our fans and competitors, we are very glad to have the 2016 PASS South schedule completed at such an early date," said PASS President Tom Mayberry. "We're excited to get the season started off early in February at Greenville-Pickens Speedway. We believe this is one of the best schedules we have put forth for our racers. We're also

very appreciative for all of our enthusiastic track owners and operators for their cooperation to help make this happen. All in all, we've got a great group of tracks returning to the schedule next year and are excited for the possibilities."

As announced last weekend, the season will start on Super Bowl weekend, February 5-6, at Greenville-Pickens Speedway with the return of the Winter Meltdown, which was previously held at tracks in Florida. The PASS South Super Late Models will be joined by a "non-winners" Limited Late Model race and the Truck division. The Winter Meltdown will also be the first event of the 2016 PASS National Championship Series. PASS will return for two more events at Greenville-Pickens Speedway on Saturday, May 14 and on Saturday, July 16.

The PASS South Super Late Models will stay in the Palmetto State for race number two of the 2016 season when they travel towards the coast to Dillon Motor Speedway. The 11th Annual South Carolina Clash will take place on Saturday, March 5. The tricky, egg-shaped oval has been on the PASS

South schedule since 2009 and has seen drivers such as Ryan Blaney, Daniel Hemric, and Austin Theriault take the checkered flag in years past.

Just two weeks later, PASS will return to the Tarheel State for the first time in 2016 when it hits Concord Speedway on Saturday, March 19th. PASS will also be back at Caraway Speedway on Saturday, April 16. Additional details will be released on both of these major events in the coming weeks.

Following a successful revival of the triangular speedway this year, PASS will expand its relationship with Concord Speedway by again hosting the Old Glory 125 on Friday, May 27th as part of the big Memorial Day festivities in the Charlotte area. The famed half-mile, known for its legendary Big 10 Series, will crown the 2016 PASS South Super Late Model champion with the running of the 14th Annual North-South Shootout at Concord, on November 4-5, along with the Tour-type Modifieds and several additional divisions in action.

Hickory Motor Speedway, the longest tenured facility on the PASS South circuit dating back to 2006, will once again hold the biggest Super Late Model race of the Spring. The 11th Annual Easter Bunny 150 will bring some of the best racers in North America to-

gether again on Saturday, March 26. The Easter Bunny 150 will also be the second race that will make up the 2016 PASS National Championship Series. As an added bonus, the 2016 winner of the Easter Bunny 150 will get an automatic starting spot in the 2016 Oxford 250 as part of the newly announced "Road To The Oxford 250" program. The first race of the "Road To The Oxford 250" will be next weekend's North-South Shootout at Concord Speedway.

South Boston Speedway will again host two popular weekends of racing that will see the PASS South Late Models make their only trips of the season to the commonwealth of Virginia. The PASS South Super Late Models will compete on a stout racing card of 150 lappers, coupled with Twin 75s for the NASCAR Late Model Stocks on Saturday, June 4 and on Saturday, August 13.

And, don't forget, the biggest short track race on asphalt, the 43rd Annual Oxford 250 at Oxford Plains Speedway in Maine will take place August 26-28, 2016, paying \$25,000 to the winner plus additional lap leader bonus money.

Visit ProAllStarsSeries.com for more information. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

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Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - Texas Motor Speedway and Levy Restaurants have once again captured their fans love of bacon with a unique combination of 'Fire and Ice' food items for the AAA Texas 500 NASCAR tripleheader weekend set for Nov. 5-8.

The next generation of the highly successful Hawg Heaven line ignites the "fire"

with the Hawg Heaven Double Barrel Dawg and then cools things down with an icy treat - the Final Rocky Road-ice cream sundae in tribute to retiring NASCAR icon Jeff Gordon. Both items will make their debut at during the AAA Texas 500 race week at Texas Motor Speedway.

The tradition of bacon-themed concession items continues with the Hawg Heaven Double Barrel Dawg. Following in the footsteps of the widely popular Hawg Heaven Queso Wing, Hawg Heaven Bacon Nachos, Hawg Heaven Bacon Cotton Candy and Shake 'N Bacon Brew, this sandwich is all about bacon. The massive sandwich features two foot-long Texas Hot Links, custom made for Levy Restaurants by locally owned Syracuse Sausage in nearby Ponder, Texas, a jalapeno bacon and caramelized onion mix, bacon queso and topped with crunchy spicy pork rinds. (Click here for video highlighting Texas Motor Speedway's 'Fire and Ice' combination.)

The bacon theme continues with a special tribute to Jeff Gordon's final race at Texas Motor Speedway with the Final Rocky Road-ice cream Sundae. It is well known that the four-time Sprint Cup Series champion's favorite ice cream is Rocky Road and its combination with bacon is sure to excite the tastebuds. The sundae features a Krispy Kreme maple bacon donut, two scoops of rocky road ice cream, hot fudge sauce infused with bacon, bacon whipped cream, honey roasted peanuts, chocolate chips, marshmallows and candied bacon. The two scoops of ice cream and four kinds of bacon are the perfect way to celebrate Gordon's final race at Texas Motor Speedway.

"These two items take our Hawg Heaven brand to the next level and will be the perfect complement to

each other on race weekend," Levy Restaurants Executive Chef Lincoln Engstrom said. "There is nothing better than a little spice to start a meal and then finish it off with a cool treat. No one will be disappointed with either of these great items as the oversized sandwich is a meal in itself and the sundae is the perfect way to finish the meal off."

The sandwich will sell for \$11 while the sundae costs \$10. Both will be available at the concession stand inside Gate 4 of the speedway.

Texas Motor Speedway's tripleheader weekend features the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series WinStar World Casino and Resort 350 on Friday, Nov. 6 (7:30 p.m. CT), XFINITY Series O'Reilly Auto Parts Challenge on Saturday, Nov. 7 (2:30 p.m.) and culminates with the Sprint Cup Series AAA Texas 500 on Sunday, Nov. 8 (1 p.m.). For tickets or additional information, please visit www.texasmotorspeedway.com or call the Texas Motor Speedway ticket office at (817) 215-8500.

Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - Darlington Raceway will serve as the host for quality barbeque, classic cars and great live music when the Speed & Feed BBQ Cook-off and Car Show presented by Sam Carbis Solutions Group returns to the track November 13-14, 2015.

The event will be FREE and open to the public from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. on Friday, November 13 and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 14. Unlimited tastings will be available for \$5 per person per day while supplies last.

"This is one of our favorite events of the year," track President Chip Wile said. "The Speed and Feed BBQ Cook-Off and Car Show presented by Sam Carbis Solutions Group is a great community festival that will host the region's top BBQ teams and hundreds of classic cars. We're proud to be hosting this event for the third consecutive year."

The BBQ cook-off will again be sanctioned by the South Carolina BBQ Association, one of the premier BBQ organizations in the country, and feature some of the top cook teams in the region. The teams will be vying to win the coveted \$2,500 first-place prize, while also earning a spot in the World Food Championships.

A chicken wing cook-off will take place on Friday night and will be judged by a local celebrity panel,

featuring WBTW 13 weekday morning news anchor Libba Holland, president of Raceway Ford & Chevrolet John Isgett, and city of Hartsville Mayor Mel Pennington.

Additionally, the two day car show will feature an open show of cars and trucks on display for enthusiasts, along with a swap meet. Participants will have the opportunity to make a lap around the famous 1.366-mile raceway on Friday night under the lights.

Pre-registration for the car show is \$20. Day of show registration will be \$25. A commemorative dash plaque will be given to the first 500 car and truck registrations. Car corral registration is \$30 in advance or \$35 day of show. Trophies will be given to the top 50 cars and trucks, plus other special awards.

The car show and swap meet are once again being organized by longtime enthusiasts, Fred and Nancy Turner, of Florence, S.C.

"We had nearly 500 cars and trucks participate in last year's event and we're hoping to have even more this year," commented Nancy Turner. "It's always a pleasure to work with Darlington Raceway and give participants the opportunity to drive on the famous race track."

A free movie night featuring the motion picture "Grease" will take place in the famed Sprint Cup Series garage on Friday night at 7 p.m. On Saturday the track will have a concert by Dillon, South Carolina's own Terry Powers and BAD ALIBI from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The Tradition Continues on Labor Day weekend as the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500® is set for Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016. The NASCAR XFINITY Series VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero 200 will race on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016. You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Raceway at DarlingtonRaceway.com, on Facebook at Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway and on Twitter at Twitter.com/TooToughToTame.

Martinsville Speedway

MARTINSVILLE, VA - Goody's and spokesperson Dale Earnhardt Jr. launched "Ride with Dale Jr." today, a new contest that offers fans the chance to win a special ride along with Dale in the Goody's No. 88 car along with VIP tickets to watch him drive the Goody's car in 2016.

The contest was announced at the Goody's® Headache Relief Shot 500 at Martinsville Speedway.

"We feel so lucky to continue to have Dale Jr. as a partner on the Goody's team," said Joseph Juliano, brand director for Goody's. "His continued success on the track and his dedication to his fans is an inspiration to all of us. It has been so exciting to be able to team up with him and offer memorable experiences to his fans and show support for the Goody's® brand and products, which offer fast pain relief when his fans need it most."

"Ride with Dale Jr." was announced in a new video that captured the experience of four fans receiving a surprise of a lifetime—a ride around the racetrack with Earnhardt, Jr.

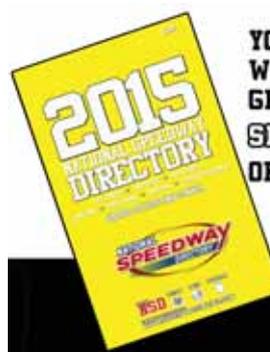
Now, even more fans will have the chance to win this same experience by watching the video and then visiting ridewithdalejr.com to answer a question about the video for entry.

In addition to the grand prize winner, five runners-ups will receive signed Dale Earnhardt Jr. memorabilia and all entrants will receive a \$1.00 off Goody's coupon. All winners will be selected at random and will be announced in January 2016 on Goody's social media channels. Entrants can visit ridewithdalejr.com to view official rules and entry information.

"Working with Goody's the past few years has been an enjoyable experience for me and everyone at JR Motorsports," Earnhardt Jr. said. "They're a longstanding supporter of our sport, and they continue to be innovators in creating new fast pain relief products and thinking up creative ways to reach our fans. I'm excited about 'Ride with Dale Jr.' we're launching where a fan is going to get to experience what it's like to get in a race car with me."

To enter the contest and view and share the "Ride with Dale Jr." video, please visit ridewithdalejr.com.

For more information about Goody's fast pain relief products, visit www.goodyspowder.com.



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Scott Bloomquist Claims Crown Jewel Cup Title

WAYCROSS, GA - By virtue of his OPTIMA Batteries Dirt Track World Championship - Presented by NAPA Auto Parts victory, Scott Bloomquist clinched the ASI Racewear Crown Jewel Cup Presented by DirtonDirt.com title. Bloomquist outdueled Jonathan Davenport by 60-points, following a season-long battle

Crown Jewel Cup, will also receive cash awards.

For more information on ASI Racewear, visit their website at: www.asiwear.com.

DirtonDirt.com is dirt late model racing's true home on the Internet, as a comprehensive multimedia resource that features broadcast news quality video reports, amazing action photography and informative stories. For additional information, visit their website at: www.dirtondirt.com.

Davenport Earns TV Race Challenge Bonus

WAYCROSS, GA - Jonathan Davenport recently clinched his first Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series National Championship. In addition to his national title, Davenport also earned the most points in the Bad Boy Mowers TV Race Challenge - Presented by E3 Spark Plugs.

"It's been an amazing year with the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series. I'd like to say thanks to Bad Boy Mowers and E3 Spark Plugs for their support of racing. The added bonus of the TV Race Challenge is a great opportunity for a driver to bank some extra cash," stated Davenport.

between the two for the Crown Jewel Cup.

"It's great to have progressive companies like ASI Racewear and DirtonDirt.com giving back to our sport. Their support of the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, with the added cash bonus, simply adds to the excitement for drivers and fans alike that follow the series," stated Bloomquist.

The Crown Jewel Cup program awarded points to drivers at the ten crown jewel events, within the series schedule, that pay \$20,000 or more to the winner. Bloomquist will receive a \$10,000 bonus at the championship awards banquet. Davenport and Jared Landers, who completed the top three in the



Scott Bloomquist was awarded the ASI Crown Jewel Cup, beating out Jonathan Davenport by 60 points. (Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series photo)

The TV Race Challenge awarded points to drivers at the twelve televised events, within the series schedule. Davenport will receive a \$10,000 bonus at the championship awards banquet. Scott Bloomquist and Jared Landers, who finished second and third

in the TV Race Challenge standings, will also receive cash awards.

To learn more about Bad Boy Mowers visit their website at: www.badboymowers.com.

To learn more about E3 Spark Plugs, visit their website at: www.e3sparkplugs.com.

Martinsville Speedway

MARTINSVILLE, VA - Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell presented Jeff Gordon with the H. Clay Earles Award.

The award, given for "Outstanding Dedication to Auto Racing", was established in 2000 and is named for Martinsville Speedway Founder H. Clay Earles.

"It's really special, especially knowing they don't give that out every year," he said. "I'm honored. I love this place. The family has been so good to this sport, so good to me."

"This place is special; more than just the race track. It's what they've done to the track to keep it authentic, to keep the fans engaged. I'm really honored by it."

Former NASCAR President Bill France Jr. was the first recipient of the award.

H. Clay Earles Award Recipients:

- 2000: Bill France Jr.
- 2001: Chris Economaki
- 2002: Junie Donlavey
- 2003: Bill Joyner
- 2004: Darrell Waltrip
- 2005: Dick Thompson
- 2006: Richard & Kyle Petty
- 2007: Phil Homer (Goodyear)
- 2008: T. Taylor Warren
- 2009: Rick Hendrick
- 2010: Barney Hall
- 2011: Huggins Tire
- 2012: No Award Given
- 2013: Maurice Petty
- 2014: No Award Given
- 2015: Jeff Gordon

les.

"Jeff Gordon is one of the greatest drivers NASCAR has ever seen," Campbell said. "However, if you look at what he has meant to the sport - the commitment he has made to it and the role he played in helping grow it to a popularity never seen before - that's what I'll think of when I look back on his career and that's what the H. Clay Earles Award is all about."

Gordon, an eight-time Martinsville winner, said receiving the award means a lot, for a variety of reasons.

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Kirkpatrick Get First Career Southern All Star Win At Talladega Short Track

EASTABOGA, AL - The Southern All Star Dirt Racing Series ended the 2015 season with a bang as one of the largest fields of cars in years showed up at the Talladega Short Track for the annual NASCAR Weekend stop of the tour and Austin Kirkpatrick of Ocala, FL.,

scored his first Southern All Star win as well as his first super late model win.

Kirkpatrick started the night off right as he qualified on the pole in White Performance qualifying as well as William Thomas of Phenix City, AL., sitting on the outside pole over the 40 car field. In four PPM Racing Products B Main #1 Ryan Gifford took the win over Mark Bangs and Tim Busha, B main two was won by Brad Berry over Bo Shirley and Todd Morrow, B main three saw Ronnie Johnson take the win over Tim Roszell and Oliver

Gentry and B main four saw Dillon Tidmore take the win over Dylan Ames and Terry Smith.

In the 40 lap Southern All Star main Kirkpatrick moved into the lead at the drop of the green flag off turn two ahead of Thomas, Riley Hickman and Randy Weaver. Kirkpatrick was in control from the start as he built a huge lead early in the race until the first caution came out on lap 28 as Dillon Tidmore slowed in turns three & four. This allowed Kirkpatrick to cool his tires down for the final run as before the caution flag Weaver had worked his way around Hickman to take over the third spot and Thomas had caught Kirkpatrick and tried to get under him a couple of time until the caution came. When the green flag came back out, Weaver made a strong move to the outside of Thomas to take over the second spot and Jason Hiatt moved into the fourth spot ahead of Hickman. Another caution would come out on lap 38 for a Bo Shirley spin but it would have no effect on Kirkpatrick



Austin Kirkpatrick celebrates his first Southern All Star win in victory lane at the Talladega Short Track. (www.sasdirt.com photo)

as he was the man to beat as he controlled the final restart and at the end got his first series win, with Weaver taking home the second spot, third to Thomas, fourth to Hiatt and fifth to 2015 Southern All Star Series champion Riley Hickman.

Jake Knowles of Rome, GA., finished in the sixth spot, Michael Page of Douglasville, GA., seventh, T J Reaid of Acworth, GA., eighth, Dylan Ames of Harvest, AL., made a strong run to get a ninth place finish from his 18th starting spot and Cody King of McDonough, GA.,

rounded out the top ten.

Dillon Tidmore of Glencoe, AL. was also named the 2015 Southern All Star Cruise with the Champions/Dirtndirt.com rookie of the year.

The 2016 season opener for the Southern All Star Dirt Racing Series will be on Friday & Saturday night February 26th & 27th at the Cochran Motor Speedway in Cochran, GA., a pair of \$5,000 to win events each night.

For more information visit www.sasdirt.com or www.talladega-shorttrack.com.

Lorne Wofford Snatches Up ASCS Southwest Victory at Cocopah Speedway

SOMERTON, AZ - Leading from the drop of the green, Washington's Jake Helsel looked to be on his way to collecting his first ASCS Southwest Regional triumph, but New Mexico's Lorne Wofford proved to be Halloween's proverbial "Bag Snatcher"; taking the top spot off

the final turn of the night's 25 lap A-Feature at the Cocopah Speedway.

Making the redraw only to pull the eighth starting spot, Wofford was masterful around the three-eighths mile oval for his sixth career ASCS Southwest triumph. Jake Helsel crossed second with California's Kenny Allen taking the final podium step.

Rick Ziehl mounted a charge from 13th to fourth. Originally planning to take over the No. 27 following Hot Laps, mechanical gremlins were subdued to allow Ziehl his normal No. 20z. While Ziehl's advance of nine positions was im-

pressive, the night's Hard Charger was Arizona's Lance Norick, who

came from 17th to complete the top-five.

Sixth went to Billy Chester with Bob Ream, Jr. seventh from 11th. Chris Masters, Michael Kofoid, and Ryan Linder made up the top-ten.

The ASCS Southwest Region wraps up their 2015 season on Sat-

urday, November 7 at the Arizona Speedway in Queen Creek, Ariz. with Ziehl carrying a 45 point advantage into the final round over Bob Ream, Jr.

For continued updates on the ASCS Southwest Region, log onto www.ascsracing.com.

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Reutzel Rallies to Win STN Sprint Screamer at I-30

LITTLE ROCK, AR - Aaron Reutzel picked a dramatic way to celebrate his championship.

With the \$60,000 Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour championship firmly secured in his hip pocket, the Clute, TX, driver rallied from the 13th starting position to win

Thursday night's 25-lap Sprint Screamer feature event at I-30 Speedway's 28th Annual COMP Cams Short Track Nationals presented by Hoosier Tire.

Reutzel blitzed past Jac Haudenschild on the high side with just a handful of laps to go to snare the \$3,000 triumph, his 12th overall of the season aboard the Shark-powered BC Fundz/Basic One Services No. 87 Triple-X chassis.

With the Wednesday portion of the Short Track Nationals rained out and Saturday already canceled due to inevitable wet weather, Reutzel and runner-up Haudenschild are locked into the STN makeup feature set for Spring of 2016.

And with 67 cars on hand for the first of two \$3,000-to-win cards, Reutzel and Haudenschild worked for it by rallying from 13th and 12th, respectively, to take the top two spots on a surface made choppy from excessive recent rain.

"The track got pretty rough and made it really technical, a lot of guys were making mistakes and we were able to capitalize," Reutzel said afterward. "I usually prefer a track that goes dead slick, so to win on this is pretty cool."

While Reutzel chased Haudenschild through the field, pole starter Wayne Johnson led fellow front row starter Blake Hahn in the early going before the latter took advantage in traffic to take command on the eighth round.

By that time, Haudenschild and Reutzel had already worked up to third and fourth. Within two laps, the duo had moved past Johnson and were putting the pressure on Hahn for the lead.

The lead trio reached traffic and Haudenschild snuck by for the lead when Hahn biked it in turns one and two on the 16th round. Reutzel followed 'Haud' around Hahn and then after a lap 19 caution, rallied by Haudenschild on the high side exiting turn four to take command

with just five laps to go.

"To pass 'Haud' on the outside on a track like this doesn't happen very often, it's a pretty special win," an enthused Reutzel said in victory lane.

Reutzel survived one last red flag stoppage to go for a Derek Hagar flip in turn three with just two laps remaining to beat Haudenschild to the line with Hahn rounding out the podium in third.

Johnson was fourth with Tim Crawley rounding out the top five. Kevin Ramey raced from 16th to sixth with I-30 Speedway track champion Zach Pringle, A.G. Rains, unheralded Okie shoe Fred Mattox and Steven Russell completing the top ten.

Hagar's flip two laps shy of the checkered flag was the 10th tumble of the night on the cowboy-up track.

The initial start to the feature was waved off when Brandon Hanks biked it in the opening pair of corners, with Joe B. Miller making race-ending contact as well. Another pair of cautions flew along the way when Harli White stopped after nine laps and when Steven Russell came to a stop with 19 laps in the books.

Shane Stewart held down the third position only to pull pitside with mechanical problems after the lap nine caution for White.

Heat race victories for the stout field were captured by John Carney



Aaron Reutzel, the 2015 Lucas Oil ASCS National Tour Champion celebrates winning the Sprint Screamer on Thursday night of the Short Track Nationals at I-30 Speedway. (Lonnie Wheatley photo)

II, Shane Stewart, Cody Gardner, Travis Rilat, Hahn, Crawley, Sheldon Haudenschild and W. Johnson.

Kyle Bellm, Hanks, Miller, Reutzel and Pringle topped the Qualifying Races with Hagar, Glenn Styres, Howard Moore and Dustin Gates winning the "B" Main.

Along with Hahn's last corner pass of Bellm to win the fifth heat, Harli White's pass of Carney for the second and final transfer in the final "B" Main ranked among the most dramatic moments in the preliminary events.

The night got off to an inauspicious start with Jack Dover's flip in turn three on the

opening lap of the first heat after climbing Channin Tankersley's left rear tire. Mark Huddleston, Nate Van Haaften and Chance Morton all logged heat race flips with Josh Baughman, Sheldon Haudenschild, Alex Hill and Blake Jenkins getting upside down in Qualifiers before Joe Wood, Jr., flipped in "B" Main action.



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NEW UNITS FOR 2015

Piercy Scores First Track Championship

Second Generation Driver Adds to NASCAR History at Hickory

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Matt Piercy knew at a young age he wanted to follow his dad's footsteps and drive a race car at Hickory Motor Speedway.

The 21 year-old Mechanical Engineering major at the University of North

Carolina at Charlotte can now add 2015 Hickory Motor Speedway Track Champion to his resume.

Piercy battled another second-generation driver in Landon Huffman throughout the season and used consistency to win his first NASCAR Whelen All-American Series track championship in the B-jangles Late Model Division on the .363-mile track.

The achievement still hasn't fully sunk in yet for the Conover, North Carolina native.

"I know it's been several weeks now and I guess the best way to describe it is surreal," Piercy said. "It's such an honor to be able to add your name with drivers like Ned Jarrett, Ralph Earnhardt and so many others who have won track championships at Hickory"

Piercy and Huffman both finished the season with 20 top-10 finishes in as many starts. The difference would up being Piercy's 19 top-fives to Huffman's 16. While Piercy only scored one win, his consistency paid off in scoring the title by 10 points (898-888).

Piercy said felt that his car was at its best over the last handful of races he knew he had to race smart to secure the Championship. While it's not uncommon for a second-generation driver to win a title, what is unique is how the younger Piercy was able to find the time and ability to race for a championship.

Piercy had to juggle finishing up the spring semester and starting the fall semester while competing in a close battle for his first title.

"It was a little tough in the spring finishing up classes, working on the car and racing but we found a way to get it done," he added. "It took a lot of late nights."

Piercy got veteran car owner and former late model racer Greg Marlowe and Roger Johnson of Performancer to build a new car and they helped out for the first part

of the season. While Piercy took the reins from there and began working on the car, Marlowe and Johnson were there for advice if he needed it.

"We really didn't have a crew chief for the car this year," Matt Piercy said. "Greg and Roger created a great baseline, and then I began to fine tune the car and got it ready each week the way I needed it. I was fortunate to have really good cars each week and we only finished out of the top five in one race which says something about how consistent our car was all year long."

Piercy had primary sponsorship for his No. 25 Chevrolet from ZLOOP IT, a computer and electronics recycling facility.

Piercy's dad, Kevin, competed at Hickory in the 1990's in the Late Model division and has been the General Manager at the track since 2009. While the elder Piercy is usually tied up operating the track on race nights, Matt was happy he was able to race in front of his family each week.

"I can remember coming to the track when I was young and playing with cars while dad raced and I knew that I wanted to do this someday," he said. It was a lot of blood, sweat and sacrifice – but I wouldn't want it any other way."

The competition was close all season long and while racing at a track his family promotes can be a challenge, Piercy was just focused on doing the best he could on track each week.

"The field at Hickory is so close each week, if you were off just half of a tenth or so in qualifying it could cost you six or seven spots," Piercy said. "I just tried to be conscious of my surroundings and respectful to my fellow competitors each week."

While Piercy wants to take time to enjoy the title, he's also ready to move on to the next phase in his life.

"I'm definitely looking forward to graduating and I'm excited about what lies ahead in my future," Piercy said. "I feel that I have options. I'm going to keep driving as long as I can and I hope to have an opportunity to move up in to one of the NASCAR touring series."

If Piercy doesn't make it as a driver he knows he'll still be in-



Matt Piercy celebrated winning his first NASCAR Whelen All-American Series track championship at Hickory Motor Speedway this season. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)

involved in motorsports at some level.

"If I'm not driving I'll probably be working on race cars or maybe even be part of the family business," said Piercy. "I'll definitely be involved in racing."

Established in 1982, the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series is NASCAR's national championship program for weekly short track auto racing. In all, 58 paved and dirt tracks throughout the United States and Canada participated in 2015.

Connecticut-based Whelen Engineering is the series' title sponsor. Whelen Engineering is a leading manufacturer of automotive, aviation, industrial and emergency vehicle lighting. NASCAR tracks and pace cars are among the many showcases for Whelen products.

Hickory will hold its 2015 Banquet of Champions and recognize Piercy's accomplishments on December 12th at the Newton Expo in Newton, North Carolina.

Piercy will also be honored for his Hickory Motor Speedway crown along with other track and state/province champions from across North America as part of the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Awards on Dec. 11 at the Charlotte Convention Center and NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"We had a great year and I'm so thankful and blessed to have the opportunity to race at Hickory with my family and I appreciate everything my parents have done for me and I want them to enjoy this championship as well," Piercy said.

Eldora Speedway

ROSSBURG, OH - For competitors, the Eldora Speedway season has taken the final checkered flag but loyal race fans are taking the

green flag to renew their tickets and campsites to the 2016 Dirt Late Model Dream, Kings Royal and World 100 Weekends.

Fans can now login to their online accounts, call (937) 338-3815 or visit the Speedway office in person to meet the November 22 deadline in order to renew their 2015 major event seats and campsites. Renewal forms can also be returned by fax or mail.

The 22nd annual Dirt Late Model Dream by Ferris Mowers Weekend (June 9-10-11) will see a significant purse increase on each of its three nights in 2016. Thursday's Twin 25's will now pay \$5,000-to-win while Friday's Twin 25's have been increased to \$10,000-to-win each. Saturday's \$100,000-to-win feature has also been bolstered pushing the weekend's posted purse to a minimum of \$350,000.

The 33rd running of the Kings Royal Weekend (July 14-15-16) has been expanded to three full nights of World of Outlaws action. Thursday's new "Jokers Wild" will precede Friday's "The Knight Before." Patrons with Friday night tickets are being offered their same prime seats to Thursday during the renewal process. Patrons will also be able to add the "Jokers Wild" event during the 'Add and Exchange' days or public sale date. Eldora officials announced a \$100,000 increase to the Kings Royal purse for 2016 earlier this year.

The 46th World 100 Weekend (September 8-9-10) will again receive an additional \$1,000 bump to the winner's purse, a tradition started by Eldora founder, the late Earl Baltes, bringing the champion's take up to \$49,000. Additionally, the Twin 25 Feature events on both Thursday and Friday have

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been increased to \$10,000-to-win with increased paybacks through the field.

Ticket representatives are available to assist with renewals from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) during weekdays by calling (937) 338-3815. All patrons can renew 24 hours a day online using the instructions they have received via email and USPS until the deadline.

Renewals also entitle Eldora patrons to participate in Eldora's exclusive 'Add and Exchange' program November 30th and December 1st and 2nd. Fans that successfully completed their 2015 major event seat and campsite renewals prior to the deadline have the ability to add seats or campsites to their orders or move to another location during this three-day period from any available inventory.

The 'Add and Exchange' program is available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday on November 30th, December 1st and 2nd, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST).

All remaining tickets and campsites for the 22nd Dirt Late Model Dream by Ferris Mowers (June 9-10-11), 33rd Kings Royal Weekend (July 14-15-16) and the World 100 (September 8-9-10) will go on sale to the general public Saturday, December 5. All sales, online (www.EldoraSpeedway.com), phone (937-338-3815) and in person begin at 10 a.m. (EST).

Renewals and new ticket orders received by mid-December for 2016's major events will be mailed for Christmas delivery.

Tickets and camping for the balance of Eldora's exciting 2016 season, which will be announced soon, will go on sale Monday, February 15, 2016.

Susquehanna Speedway Park

NEWBERRYTOWN, PA - In the 11th Annual Candy Bowl at the Susquehanna Speedway Park presented by J&K Salvage of York on Saturday, October 31, Brandon Grossowon the non-stop 20-lap Sportsman Modified feature. Ronnie Peck took the victory in the 20-lap Blast From the Past Vintage Car feature. Daniel Bair was the ACMS 600cc Micro Sprints Candy

Bowl winner by claiming the 15-lap feature event. Shwecksville's Jason Rochelle won the 20-lap Legends Cars feature. Mike Zelionis took the checkers in the first 12-lap Sidewinder Sprint Car feature.

Jason Stahl won the second 12-lap Sidewinder Sprint Car feature.

Jasen Geesaman of Lebanon took the checkers in the Street Stock main event to earn \$1,000.

The Street Stock feature was one of four divisions featured at the Miller's Racing Parts Fall Classic portion of the program presented in part with Insinger Performance Fuels. Bloomsburg's Keith Bissinger took the lead on lap 31 to win the Xtreme Stock Car 40 lapper. Eric Boozel of McVeytown claimed the victory in the 30-lap Road Warrior feature. Red Lion's Thomas Thompson Richard Wolfe won the 15-lap Mini Van feature event.

The non-stop 20-lap Sportsman Modified feature began with the front row starter Brandon Grosso taking the lead on the start. Brad Brightbill fell in behind Grosso as the duo began a torid pace around the track. Brightbill was within striking distance but could not make the pass for the win as Grosso crossed the finish line first. Daryl Dissinger finished third, followed by Ryan Beltz in fourth. Craig Whitmoyer rounded out the top five. Brightbill and Grosso won their respective heat races.

Brian Gagliardo grabbed the early lead in the 20-lap Blast from the Past Vintage Car feature event. On lap 7, Gagliardo retired from the race, giving the lead to Kevin Kuzer. Kuzer set the pace, but lost the top spot to Ronnie Peck with two laps remaining. Peck went on to claim the checkers over Kuzer. Dennis Drain finished third, followed by Tom Orth and Mike Garris in fourth and fifth places respectively.

Daniel Bair led from start-to-finish to win the 15-lap ACMS 600cc Micro Sprint Car feature over John Scarborough and Alan Rhoads in second and third place podium finishes. Jake Frye finished fourth, followed by Gary Kratzer in fifth. Scarborough also won the sole heat race for the division.

In the first of two Sidewinder Sprints features, Mike Zelionis took the lead on the start and never looked back to take the checkers over Lance Yeager. Rohan Beasley finished third, followed by Jason Stahl and Matt Kreider in fourth and fifth places respectively.

In the second 12-lap Sidewinder

Sprints feature, Stahl led from the green-to-checkers but at the end only edged out Beasley at the finish. Yeager claimed third over Zelionis in fourth and Brandon Yarlett in fifth place.

The 50-lap Street Stock feature event began with Jasen Geesaman leading from the start of the race from outside the front row. Jasen Townsend fell into the runner-up spot with Eddie Richards in third. Geesaman set the pace and never faltered to go and lead every lap to win the race. Townsend finished second with Eddie Richards in third. Scott Thunberg and Walt Lemmon finished fourth and fifth respectively. Richards and Lemmon were disqualified from the race following post-race inspection for cheating.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - After collecting a win and a top-10 finish in the points standings in Stafford Speedway's SK Light division, North Haven native Tyler Hines made the move into Stafford's premier SK Modified® division for the 2015 season. Hines was joined from the SK Light ranks by 2014 track champion Jeremy Sorel and Mike Christopher, Jr. for what had all the promise of a great fight for the SPAFCO Rookie of the Year honors in 2015. The three SK Light drivers didn't disappoint with the rookie race going right down to the final race of the year where Hines outlasted Christopher by a 16-point margin, or 8 positions on the race track, to claim the Rookie of the Year title.

"It's a great feeling, we were able to complete our long term goal for the year," said Hines. "It was a tough season but at least we were able to get some success out of it. I think it was a little below expectation for us. We were battling with the car for most of the season more than anything which didn't allow us to compete at the level we were hoping to be at. We were fast, it just seemed like something was always missing each week. We had some brake issues, which was a disaster, but we kept going and towards the end of the year, we started to figure things out and we got some speed again in the car."

For the season, Hines and the #94 DC Rentals team managed to capture a best finish of third place on June 12th. Although that performance was Hines' only top-5 finish during his rookie campaign, it showed

him and the team that they could run up front and that is what they have their eyes set on for the 2016 season at Stafford along with putting the #94 into NAPA Victory Lane.

"There were a few highlights from the year but definitely that night was the best," said Hines. "It was nice to battle up front with those guys and the car was doing what we wanted it to do that night. I think the team and myself both have the ability to run up front it was just we had some issues with the car that didn't enable us to compete the way we needed to each week. The plan is to come back for the full season again next year. Hopefully we'll have all the bugs in the car worked out and we can contend for some wins right away. We'd love to win more than one race but we'd definitely start with getting one win. I have so many sponsors and people to thank for all their support this season, Sponsors - Sunny Side Up Early Learning Center, Wholly Chiropractic, Leslies Jewelers, Acculift Of Berlin, Trimino Protein Infused Water, Roberts Garage, Bruneau's Service Center, Cordone And Son, Dc Rentals, Branford River Marine, Shore Haven Sheet Metal, Organic Tick Free Tick Control, BAM Motorsports, AAA Northeast, Wayne "Muffy" Wildermuth, Lauren Gagner, Chris Dupont, Kevin Pierce, Bill Dillon, Stan Zunda, Sue Weller, Emily Weller, ."

For winning the 2015 SPAFCO SK Modified® Rookie of the Year Award, Hines will take home an \$1,100 bonus from SPAFCO, which will be paid in \$100 increments for the first 11 races of the 2016 season that Hines attends. Hines will officially be crowned as the 2015 SPAFCO Rookie of the Year at the 46th Annual Stafford Motor Speedway Champions Awards Ceremony on Friday, November 20 at Maneeley's in South Windsor.

Tickets to the 46th Annual Stafford Motor Speedway Champions Awards Ceremony are \$47 per person and can be ordered by calling the Stafford Motor Speedway track office at (860) 684-2783, or by downloading an order form from www.staffordspeedway.com and returning the form to the track office.

