



APRIL 8, 2019

FastTrack

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Who Can Stop the Busch Train?



Busch Brothers Make It 1-2 at Bristol

Ross Bailes Shows Up the Competition at 411 Motor Speedway



Waltrip Announces Retirement, Again

Darrell Waltrip second retirement tour started last Sunday at the Bristol Motor Speedway.

And just like his first retirement tour 19 years ago, the loquacious three-time champion isn't going quietly.

After quitting as a driver at the end of the 2000 season, the man nick-

named "Jaws" said the road-course race at Sonoma, Calif., will be his last as a commentator for Fox Sports.

No more "Boogity! Boogity! Boogity! Let's go racing boys!"

At 72, Waltrip said it's time to finally slow down. And he made it official at his favorite track, a place where he won 12 times, including a run of seven in-a-row.

"I walked in the garage in 1972, and I've been there ever since," he said. "I've been to every track, every race. But I took to this race. People say, 'Why did you pick today, why did you pick Bristol?' Someone must have twisted your arm, said this is when you got to do it. That's not true.

"I'm never going to run from this sport. I'm never going to turn my back on this sport. I love it too much. It meant too much to me. But I do have to let it rest. That's what today is all about. I wanted to do it today because I don't want people hounding me about when am I going to retire, if I'm going to retire, is somebody making you retire, what's going on. If you want to know those kind of things, you can come and ask me, I can tell you straightforward what's going on.

"But it's time for me to step aside. It's time to make room for somebody else. They can't make plans for their future if I don't tell them what mine are. That's why I wanted to clear the air today. Retiring at the end of this year, not done yet, got a few races to go. At the end of this year I'll retire. Somebody else will get to get up here and work with Jeff Gordon and Mike Joy and have as much fun as I had. I could tell you a million reasons why I think today is the right time. But the biggest reason is because I think it's time to make room for someone else, let somebody

else do what I've done all these years."

There have been growing concerns about turning everything upside-down in the sport, including a rulebook that seems to change weekly (and fixes nothing), a schedule that's become too stagnant and even a broadcast that's become too focused on distractions instead of what's happening on the track. For some, there was reason to deflect from the racing because it was too dependent on aerodynamics and engineering, not drivers.



DON COBLE

But the racing has been better. Sunday's race had a lot of side-by-side racing – sometimes side-by-side-by-side racing.

Race winner Kyle Busch crashed on the first lap. Although he had no rear bumper, he left with his eighth Bristol trophy, but not before paying tribute to Waltrip.

"It ain't 12, that's for sure," he said. "So, I got more to go. We're getting there and it's fun. But, you know, there's a lot more years left hopefully."

Nobody appreciates what Busch brings to NASCAR more than Waltrip. They both were elite drivers who didn't mind trading cheers for checkers. And too often, the line between passion and self-importance got a little blurry for both.

"Nobody shook me and said, 'Man, it's time of to give it up. It's just that time.' [I'm] 72 years old. I could do this till I'm 90. I do everything I do with passion. I do everything I do to have fun.

"This is what I know: this is what I do best. I've loved every minute of it. I think I'm pretty [darn] good at it, to tell you the truth."

They used to boo Waltrip relentlessly. They do the same thing now for Busch. At least they moved the needle.

"So, a lot of times I got called on the carpet, and I needed it, whether it was Bill Jr., Mike, whomever it was. But it made me a better person. When I stand up there on Sunday and do this race, I am in one of those cars. I don't know which one I'll be in yet. Most people think I'd be in Kyle Busch's car. I love Kyle Busch, I think he's fun to watch. Am I biased? You're darn right I am. Everybody in this room is.

"Kyle Busch is the most exciting



After announcing his retirement from the booth, Darrell Waltrip starts the Food City 500 at Bristol. (CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES photo)

driver I've ever seen drive a stock-car. The things I've seen him do ... The man puts on a show. Look, like I told you, I used to say, 'Are you with the show?' No, I am the show. Well, he can say, when he's in the race, he is the show. We keep a camera on him. We keep an eye on him because he knows he's going to do something that's going to be exciting and fun to watch.

"I think Kyle has grown up a lot. I think he's changed a lot. But his driving has not, he hasn't let up. He's got a lot of wins ahead of him, a lot of wins. I'm a Kyle Busch fan."

Retiring as a driver was as much a relief as it was overdue. He won 84 races and three championships in an 18-year span. But he was winless in his final eight seasons.

Leaving the television booth, however, is more difficult because there aren't any other backup plans. Other than making personal appearances, Waltrip knows the sport will speed along without him.

"You know, I thought when I retired from driving, I always thought that was my identity, those cars, those uniforms, being at the racetrack, being on the racetrack. I

always thought that was my identity," he said. "That was just my platform. This is the hardest thing. I'm older so it's harder. This is the hardest thing I've ever had to do. Race team, people come, people go.

"But a lot of us have been together the whole time I've been here. Familiar faces, familiar voices coming to you and telling you, I don't think you should have said that. I think you might want to think about what you said or say it in a different way.

"This has been the greatest experience of my life."

And for the last 48 years – 29 as a driver, 19 in the television booth – Darrell Waltrip took us along for the ride.

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Kyle Busch Holds Off Brother to Win at Bristol

BRISTOL, TN - Kyle Busch wasn't the only driver to overcome adversity during Sunday's running of the Food City 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

But he was the only one to end up in victory lane.

The race winner was involved in a multi-car crash on the second lap of the 500-lap affair, sustaining damage to the rear of his car. But he patiently worked his way back through the field. He took his first lead at lap 384.

The key to the win came late – Busch collected his third win of the season in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series and his eight overall at Bristol Motor Speedway when he chose track position over fresh tires during the 11th and final caution of the race.

"I don't know, we're crazy; we just do what we do (to) try to win," the driver of the No. 18 Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing said after climbing from his entry on the frontstretch.

The final run to the checkered flag was set up after Kyle Larson got into the wall with less than 25 laps remaining to bring out the yellow flag. Joey Logano and Team Penske teammate Brad Keselowski, running 1-2, hit pit road, as did several others in the lead pack.

But Busch, along with older brother Kurt, opted to stay out, along with Daniel Suarez and Paul Menard to restart first through fourth when the field went back to green with just 14 laps remaining.

"It's pretty awesome to be able to snooker those guys, get our win today here at Bristol," the younger Busch said. "I love this place."

"It was fun to battle out the brother there at the end. I know we didn't quite get the side-by-side racing it out; I saw him looking at the top. I'm like, 'I better go.' I got up there, was able to make some ground."

"It was a no-brainer for us," crew chief Adam Stevens said afterward when asked about the call not to bring his driver to pit road.

Busch also paid tribute to three-time series champion and FOX NASCAR analyst Darrell Waltrip,

who won 12 times at the Tennessee venue.

"It ain't 12, that's for sure," Busch said of his win total at BMS. "So I've got more to go."

There were issues on the final restart, Keselowski was penalized for failing to follow a NASCAR directive, but none for the front two.

Logano, Ryan Blaney and Denny Hamlin completed the top five.

Menard, Clint Bowyer, Suarez, Ryan Newman and Jimmie Johnson were sixth through 10th respectively.

"I really wanted to beat him," Kurt Busch said of the battle with his brother. "I was going to wreck him. ... He already won (this year). I figure he could give a little love to his brother. I wanted that one bad. ..."

"I'm happy that we were in position to do it. This group of guys, we're not quite ready to win yet, but that was close."

The win was Busch's 54th overall in the series. His previous wins this season came at ISM (Phoenix) Raceway and Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, California

He led 71 laps, including the final 19. He also overcame an early spin that saw his Toyota swept up in a five-car incident on just the second lap of the 500-lap race.

The race was the eighth of the season; all eight have been won by drivers from either the JGR or Team Penske camps.

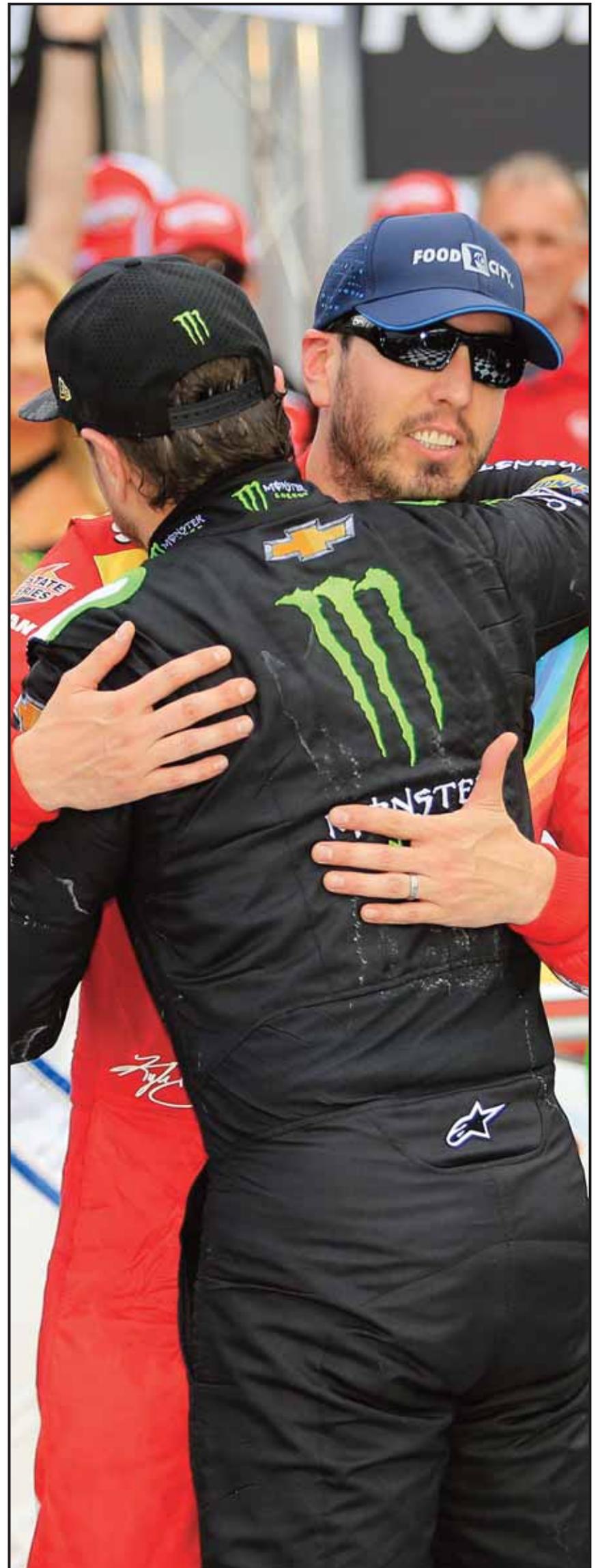
It was a battle reminiscent of past contests held at Bristol, with plenty of contact as well as lead changes. Blaney was the lap leader at 158 while Logano paced the field for 146.

Ty Dillon was a surprising winner of the opening stage, edging Bowyer with a last-lap pass. Logano won the second stage.

Several teams, including those of Keselowski, Kevin Harvick and Martin Truex, battled loose wheel issues.

Others were merely forced to deal with damage typically associated with the close-quarters racing that has been the norm at BMS.

Race winner Kyle Busch gets a congratulatory hug from brother and race runner-up Kurt Busch. (DAVID GRIFFIN photo)



Bell Rings Up Bristol Win, Banks Xfinity Dash 4 Cash Bonus

BRISTOL, TN - Christopher Bell overtook Brandon Jones with less than 20 laps remaining to capture Saturday's AlSCO 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race and pocketed a \$100,000 bonus for his efforts.

Bell, driver of the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, was one of four drivers competing for the series' Dash 4 Cash bonus. Other eligible drivers didn't finish far behind – Tyler Reddick finished second, Chase Briscoe finished fourth and Michael Annett wound up eighth.

"That's pretty cool to get my first win here with the Dash 4 Cash bonus," Bell said in victory lane. "Joe Gibbs Racing has a really, really good package at Bristol. For whatever reason, we struggled to find that. I didn't feel good basically all practice and didn't qualify good."

"As soon as they dropped the green flag for the race, I was really, really loose. But the longer the runs went the better I got."

Third place went to Cole Custer while John Hunter Nemechek rounded out the top five.

Reddick, piloting the No. 2 Chevrolet out of the Richard Childress Racing shops, was second in both the first and second stages en route to his runner-up finish.

After leading 61 laps, he mistakenly thought the first stage had ended, and the hesitation while still under green allowed Justin Allgaier to shoot past for the stage win.

Reddick shadowed Allgaier for the entire second stage, only to finish second, then lost five spots on pit road due to an issue in the pits. Late contact with the wall wasn't an issue, he said, as he tried to chase down Bell.

"Not necessarily getting into the wall," he said. "These composite bodies are just as durable as can be. I just needed a little bit more there to get past Christopher."

"The unfortunate part is when I got behind him it is hard to make the pass."

Allgaier (JR Motorsports No. 7 Chevrolet) won two stages and led 138 of the race's 300 laps. But during a heated battle up front among himself, Bell, Reddick and Custer, Allgaier's entry began to slow. Moments later he was pulling his blue and white entry behind pit wall, the victim of an apparent engine issue.

Custer rallied from an early setback that saw him pit twice under yellow to repair damage to his Ford after the opening stage. By the start of the final stage, he was back among the race leaders.

"We just didn't really have the fire off speed or the perfect scenarios to pass people when we got up in the top five to really get track po-



Christopher Bell shows off his Dash 4 Cash Bonus check after winning the AlSCO 300 at Bristol Saturday. (DAVID GRIFFIN photo)

sition," Custer said. "It was impossible to pass, really. I don't know. I'm pretty mad because I think we

had the best car there at the end, we just didn't have the best fire off (speed). I know we've got to get a little bit better."

The top four finishers will be eligible for the \$100,000 bonus next week at Richmond (Va.) Raceway. The program will continue in subsequent races at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway and Dover (Del.) International Speedway.

Jones inherited the lead when he did not pit after Harrison Burton brought out the caution flag at lap 261. With nearly 80-lap old tires, Jones still managed to hold Bell and the others at bay for nearly 20 laps.

"He (Jones) did a great job," Bell said of his JGR teammate. "He really did."

"This place, for whatever reason, suits his driving style. He should have won this race last year. ... He just couldn't quite hang on on those older tires. ..."

"I knew I was going to have to do the slide job and hopefully take the top away, which I was able to do."



Christopher Bell (20) dives below Brandon Jones (19) to take the lead and go on to win the NASCAR XFINITY Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway. (DAVID GRIFFIN photo)

Short Tracks Return to NASCAR Xfinity Series, NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series Slates as Part of 2020 Schedule Announcement

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - NASCAR today announced the 2020 schedules for both the NASCAR Xfinity Series™ and NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series™, and both include a return to race tracks that were part of the original schedule for each series – venues that have been absent from the respective slates for more than a decade.

For the first time since 2006 – and only the second time in the last 25 years – the Xfinity Series will race at Martinsville Speedway, and the stakes have never been higher. Expect tempers to flare, and emotions to boil over. With a final chance to lock up a spot in the

Championship 4, Martinsville will serve as the final Playoff cutoff race in all three national series. The Gander Trucks will race at The Paperclip on Oct. 30 under the lights, with the Xfinity Series making its return on Oct. 31.

Likewise, Richmond Raceway plays a prominent role in both schedules. The Gander Trucks will return to Richmond for the first time since 2005, while the newly-renovated raceway will play host to the regular season finale in the Xfinity Series to set the field for the 12-driver Playoff field.

“The NASCAR Xfinity Series and NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series were both built on

short track racing, and it is important that short tracks remain a prominent part of our series schedules,” said Ben Kennedy, NASCAR managing director of racing operations and international development. “We returned to our roots in many ways with today’s announcement. Martinsville and Richmond were part of the original Xfinity and Gander Trucks schedules, and we’re excited for their return as part of a strong overall slate.”

As announced as part of the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series schedule unveil, ISM Raceway near Phoenix will host the Championship Race for all three national series. ISM Raceway underwent a significant renovation, transforming the gem in the desert into one of the premier facilities in all of sports.

Xfinity Series drivers will hit the ‘road’ a little earlier in 2020, as Mid-Ohio moves up in the schedule to May 30. Two new cutoff races will face the Xfinity Series drivers during the Playoffs, with the Charlotte Roval (Oct. 10) and Martinsville set to pare the field from 12 to 8 to 4. Gateway Motorsports Park will

host the Playoff opener for the Gander Trucks on Aug. 21, part of a postseason reshuffle that will feature two new cutoff races. The Round of 8 will culminate with a race at Bristol Motor Speedway (Sept. 17), and the Round of 6 will end with Martinsville.

Once again, both series will open at the ‘World Center of Racing,’ Daytona International Speedway. The Gander Trucks kick off their season on Feb. 14, with the Xfinity Series following on Feb. 15. Both series will then immediately head west to Las Vegas Motor Speedway, joining the Cup Series in that marquee market.

Both series will also take part in the historic Cup Series double-header at Pocono Raceway, for what will be a must-see national series quadruple header. The Gander Trucks will race on Saturday, June 27, with the Xfinity Series on June 28.

For fans worried about missing NASCAR racing during the two-week Cup Series break for the Olympics, fret not. The Gander Trucks will have their annual fan-favorite event at Eldora Speedway dirt track on Thursday, July 30. The Xfinity Series will fill the void during the second weekend with short-track action at Iowa Speedway (Aug. 1).

Broadcast times and networks for all three series will be announced at a later date.

2020 NASCAR XFINITY SERIES SCHEDULE

Race Date	Track
Saturday, Feb. 15	Daytona International Speedway
Saturday, Feb. 22	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Saturday, Feb. 29	Auto Club Speedway
Saturday, March 7	ISM Raceway
Saturday, March 14	Atlanta Motor Speedway
Saturday, March 21	Homestead-Miami Speedway
Saturday, March 28	Texas Motor Speedway
Saturday, April 4	Bristol Motor Speedway
Saturday, April 25	Talladega Superspeedway
Saturday, May 2	Dover International Speedway
Saturday, May 23	Charlotte Motor Speedway
Saturday, May 30	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course
Saturday, June 6	Michigan International Speedway
Saturday, June 13	Iowa Speedway
Saturday, June 20	Chicagoland Speedway
Sunday, June 28	Pocono Raceway
Saturday, July 4	Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Friday, July 10	Kentucky Speedway
Saturday, July 18	New Hampshire Motor Speedway
Saturday, Aug. 1	Iowa Speedway
Saturday, Aug. 8	Road America
Saturday, Aug. 15	Watkins Glen International
Saturday, Aug. 22	Dover International Speedway
Friday, Aug. 28	Daytona International Speedway
Saturday, Sept. 5	Darlington Raceway
Friday, Sept. 11	Richmond Raceway
Friday, Sept. 18	Bristol Motor Speedway
Saturday, Sept. 26	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Saturday, Oct. 10	Charlotte Motor Speedway Roval
Saturday, Oct. 17	Kansas Speedway
Saturday, Oct. 24	Texas Motor Speedway
Saturday, Oct. 31	Martinsville Speedway
Saturday, Nov. 7	ISM Raceway

2020 NASCAR GANDER OUTDOORS TRUCK SERIES SCHEDULE

Race Date	Track
Friday, Feb. 14	Daytona Int'l. Speedway
Friday, Feb. 21	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Saturday, March 14	Atlanta Motor Speedway
Friday, March 20	Homestead-Miami Speedway
Friday, March 27	Texas Motor Speedway
Saturday, April 18	Richmond Raceway
Friday, May 1	Dover International Speedway
Friday, May 15	Charlotte Motor Speedway
Saturday, May 30	Kansas Speedway
Friday, June 5	Texas Motor Speedway
Friday, June 12	Iowa Speedway
Friday, June 19	Chicagoland Speedway
Saturday, June 27	Pocono Raceway
Thursday, July 9	Kentucky Speedway
Thursday, July 30	Eldora Speedway
Saturday, Aug. 8	Michigan Int'l. Speedway
Friday, Aug. 21	Gateway Motorsports Park
Sunday, Sept. 6	Canadian Tire Motorsport Park
Thursday, Sept. 17	Bristol Motor Speedway
Friday, Sept. 25	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Saturday, Oct. 3	Talladega Superspeedway
Friday, Oct. 30	Martinsville Speedway
Friday, Nov. 6	ISM Raceway

Justin Bonsignore Continues Dominance at Thompson

THOMPSON, CT - Justin Bonsignore has become the modern day master of Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park.

The Holtsville, New York, driver scored his fifth straight NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win at Thompson on Sunday afternoon in the Icebreaker 150. The victory allowed Bonsignore to become the first driver in the history of Whelen Modified Tour action at the historic Connecticut oval to win five straight.

It was the 10th career Thompson win for the defending series champion, and his 21st overall.

"We've had speed at every race so far," Bonsignore said. "I just said that we had to put together a full race and execute. You have to have a little bit of luck to go your way, and we finally got some this year."

After Doug Coby won his second Mayhew Tools Dominator Pole Award and led the first 107 laps, the race took a turn for Bonsignore when the field slowed for a caution at lap 99. Bonsignore followed Coby down pit road for fresh tires, and although Coby did beat him off pit road, a penalty for running over his air hose sent Coby to the rear of the field.

While Coby fought back to finish fifth, Bonsignore took the advantage for the restart, and held off South Boston Speedway winner Ron Silk during a green-white-checked finish to continue his Thompson dominance.

Coby and Bonsignore paced the entire weekend, running first and second, in that order, for both practice sessions and qualifying.

"It would have been a good race, neither one of us would have given an inch, I know that," Bonsignore said of what would have been with Coby. "We were so close all weekend. I've won a bunch here and some of them are just on luck. You have to put yourself in position, and my team always does."

Silk, who qualified ninth, got back to the track in third following the pit stop, and when Coby was sent to the tail, the former series champion was in position for his second place effort.

"Things are going good," Silk

said. "It's nice to get a win and back that up with a second today. It's good for the guys on the team. They are all pumped up."

Eric Goodale was third, while Patrick Emerling and Coby, who was able to work his way back up through the field, completed the top five. After three races, Coby holds a slim seven point lead in the Whelen Modified Tour championship standings.

Burt Myers was sixth, followed by Matt Swanson, Woody Pitkat, Chris Pasteryak and Jimmy Blewett.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns to the track as part of the NAPA Spring Sizzler at Stafford Motor Speedway on April 28.

Sam Mayer Dominates Bristol For First K&N Pro Series Victory

BRISTOL, TN - Round No. 2 of the K&N Pro Series East season belonged to Sam Mayer in every sense of the word.

The 15-year-old was quickest in both practice sessions, set the new track record by qualifying on the pole and won the Zombie Auto 150, leading all 150 laps en route to his first career K&N Pro Series victory.

"The race played out completely different than the way I thought," Mayer said. "I thought it was going to be pretty solid on the top. But the top wasn't there at all, it was pretty



Justin Bonsignore celebrates winning the Icebreaker 150 at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. (Adam Glanzman/NASCAR photo)

much all on the bottom. It was really good on the bottom, but once you got out of the groove to pass lapped cars you really had to feather the throttle and be easy into the corner."

K&N Pro Series East regulars Chase Cabre and Brandon McReynolds came home second and third. Cabre finished 3.634 seconds behind Mayer's No. 21 GMS Racing Chevrolet and McReynolds scored his second straight third-place finish.

Drew Dollar and Spencer Davis rounded out the top five finishers with Colin Garrett, Mason Diaz, Raphael Lessard (first series start) and Tanner Gray completing the top 10.

On the first lap, multiple drivers were involved in a crash on the frontstretch including Ruben Garcia Jr., Natalie Decker, Riley Herbst and Gray. Garcia, Herbst and

Decker were forced behind the wall and finished 17th, 18th and 19th, respectively.

It was the eighth career start for the 15-year-old from Franklin, Wisc. He's collected four top fives, with his previous best finish of fourth coming in the season finale last year at Dover International Speedway and then matched in this year's opener at Florida's New Smyrna Speedway.

Mayer leads Kraus by three points and McReynolds by six in the driver standings. The first K&N Pro Series East regular after Mayer is Garrett in fourth, 11 points back.

The Zombie Auto 150 is scheduled to be broadcasted on NBCSN Thursday, April 11 at 4 p.m.

The next K&N Pro Series East events will take place on Saturday, May 4, at South Boston Speedway with twin 100-lap championship points races.



Sam Mayer led flag to flag in the Zombie Auto 150 on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Bristol Motor Speedway. (John Harrelson/Nigel Kinrade Photography photo)

Lee Pulliam Cashes in During Old North State Nationals at Orange County

ROUGEMONT, NC - Adding to his legendary status once again, Lee Pulliam penned another chapter in the history books on Sunday afternoon after winning the \$30,000 CARS Tour Old North State Nationals at Orange County Speedway, the richest race in the history of late model stock racing.

Pulliam's journey to greatness was no easy feat as dozens of challengers lined up for their chance at glory, beginning during Saturday's qualification process at the .375-mile high-banked oval. Five drivers locked themselves into the field through time trials including polesitter Taylor Gray, Brandon Pierce, Josh Berry, Pulliam and Corey Heim.

The remaining competitors were forced to run a heat race to determine their starting positions, and each heat, while entertaining, was relatively clean with no major incidents. Layne Riggs ran away with heat one to claim the sixth starting position while Jacob Heafner surprised many by laying claim to heat two. OCS veteran Timothy Peters dominated his heat, winning the third qualifying race of the evening. Nine additional drivers transferred through the last chance race, also an event with minimal incidents which was won by Myatt Snider.

After claiming the Hedgecock Racing Pole Position, Taylor Gray led the 29-car field to green on Sunday afternoon in front of a packed house. The DGR-Crosley racer, and most recent winner on the tour, led the opening half of the race until Josh Berry rocketed around the outside of Gray 94 laps into the event and took the lead for the first time in the race.

A caution flag on lap 151 slowed the field with Berry ahead and almost all teams chose to take their two change tires during the stoppage. Utilizing a controlled caution format, teams re-entered the race in the same order they came down pit road behind those who elected not to stop for service.

Trevor Ward led the field to the green flag with Adam Lemke alongside. Lemke failed to fire when everyone else mashed the throttle, creating a bottleneck and damag-

ing the cars of Bobby McCarty and Corey Heim badly enough where Heim soon retired. Soon after the next restart, however, Timothy Peters found his way around Ward for the race lead on lap 153 and galloped away from the pack.

A caution for Jacob Heafner and Carson Kvapil's accident on lap 119 set the stage for a legendary race to the finish. Josh Berry, Timothy Peters and Lee Pulliam diced it up for several laps before contact by Pulliam and Peters opened the door for the No. 5 Chevrolet to take the lead for the first time on lap 122. Josh Berry quickly disposed of Peters and began to chase down Pulliam for the lead.

Peters' race ended on lap 137 when a cut right front tire sent his car careening straight into the turn one wall. With 13 laps remaining, Berry and Pulliam restarted side by side on the front row and nearly everyone was on their feet for the final 13 lap shootout to the finish.

Pulliam chose the outside lane on the restart and quickly felt Josh Berry underneath of him and leaning on his car in an attempt to take the lead. The two swapped the lead back and forth multiple times in a five lap span before Pulliam ultimately moved Berry up the hill in turn four and ran away from the pack. Behind him, Berry, Taylor Gray, Brandon Pierce and Adam Lemke fought for second, allowing



Lee Pulliam celebrates in victory lane after winning the Old North Nationals at Orange County Speedway. (John A Miller Photography photo)

Pulliam to extend his lead and ultimately claim the checkered flag by 1.418 seconds. Gray won the battle for second with Lemke, Berry and Pierce rounding out the top five.

"His messed up when he pissed me off and nearly ran me in the wall two or three times," Pulliam said emphatically in Edelbrock Victory Lane as he began to fight back tears. "It was a hell of a show, hard racing right there. I figured once he cleared me, I was going to give it right back to him. You know, you ain't going to push this 5 car around or it's going to push back. It was an awesome effort by all the guys, really a home track for me. I went to school 15 miles down the road, so a lot of family and friends and this is big for me. To put it in victory lane here at Orange County, words just can't describe it.

"Man, we're getting close to 200 wins in this stuff, and it's pretty special," he continued. "The Lord's

blessed me with a great business and I've got great drivers. Me, Corey and Brandon all ran in the top five the whole race. We've got a good thing going with LPP, and I'm proud of everyone's effort at the shop. This is a big statement we've made here today."

The CARS Late Model Stock Tour is in action again May 3 at Ace Speedway in Altamahaw, NC, for the Race At Ace 125 featuring the same drivers who packed the facility's grandstands at Orange County in addition to other local divisions.

For more information on the CARS Tour, visit their website at CARSRacingTour.com, or follow them on Facebook (@CARSTour), Twitter (@CARSTour), Instagram (@cars_tour), and Snapchat (@carstour). The series also has its own YouTube channel, Roku channel (available through its TV website), and a new Amazon FireTV app coming soon.

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NEW UNITS FOR 2019

Shaw Outduels Griffith in PASS North Opener at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park

THOMPSON, CT - Reigning Pro All Stars Series North Super Late Model Champion DJ Shaw of Center Conway, New Hampshire outdueled fellow Granite State racer Derek Griffith of Hudson to kick off his title defense in winning

fashion, prevailing in a thrilling 75-lapper Sunday afternoon (April 7) at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park.

Shaw, seeking a fourth series title this year in the Precision JLM / Dale Shaw Race Cars 60, used the outside groove to reclaim the lead from Griffith, the defending PASS Super Late Model National Championship Series kingpin. It was a reversal of fortunes for the top two finishers, as Griffith bested Shaw in last year's opener at New England's fastest short track.

Shaw started from ninth position on the starting grid while third-starting Griffith quickly moved into contention, chasing early race leader Gabe Brown of Center Conway, NH. Multi-time PASS North and National Champion Ben Rowe of Turner, Maine was an early factor up front, as was six-time PASS

North champ Johnny Clark of Farmingdale, Maine.

Griffith and Shaw looked like they were going to settle the race amongst themselves, but 11th starter Ray Christian III had other ideas, and drove into contention while making good use of restarts to move as high as second in the running order late in the event.

Shaw beat Griffith to the checkered flag by just over a half-second after racing several laps side-by-side with runner-up Griffith, who moved up to second spot, unofficially the National Championship Series points lead with his performance. Christian claimed the final podium finishing position, ahead of Johnny Clark.

Jake Johnson of Rehoboth, Massachusetts followed up a runner-up finish in the PASS National Championship race in Richmond, Virginia with a fifth-place run at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park to unofficially claim the top spot in the PASS Super Late Model National Championship standings.

Former PASS TSMP winner Garrett Hall of Scarborough, Maine was the sixth-place finisher, with Gabe Brown, who led several laps early on and turned in the fastest lap of the race, crossing the finish



DJ Shaw outraced Derek Griffith to bring home the victory in the PASS North season opener at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. (Norm Marx photo)

line in seventh spot. Former PASS North champ and 2018 runner-up Travis Benjamin was eighth, followed by Nick Sweet of Barre, Vermont and Devin O'Connell of Madison, Connecticut.

Brown and Rowe won Saturday afternoon heat races to set the grid for Sunday's main event.

The next PASS North event is

set for this Sunday afternoon (April 14) at Oxford Plains Speedway in Oxford, Maine. The ACT Late Model Tour, PASS Mods, the North East Mini Stock Tour and a special 50-lap Street Stock race also highlight this special racing card.

For more information visit oxfordplains.com or call (207) 539-8865.

An advertisement for Five Star RaceCar Bodies UltraGlass. The top half features the 'ULTRAGLASS' logo in large, stylized red and white letters, with 'DESIGNED TO WIN!' in yellow text to the right. Below the logo is a yellow banner that reads 'BODY PANELS THAT DEFLECT 300% FURTHER BEFORE BREAKING=LESS DEBRIS ON THE TRACK!'. The bottom half of the ad shows a white and red Phoenix race car with the number 7 on its side, driving on a track. The car has 'PHOENIX' and '7' written on it, along with various sponsor logos like 'FIVE STAR', 'FFC', 'SWIFT', 'FENSK', 'SARGENT', and 'CUMMINS'. In the bottom right corner, there is text that says 'CASEY RODERICK CHOOSES FIVE STAR!' and 'THE DIFFERENCE IS QUALITY!' with the website 'www.FIVESTARBODIES.com' and phone number '262.877.2171'. An ISO 9001:2015 certification logo is also present.

Dossey III Wins ARCA/CRA Super Series Season Opener at Anderson

SALEM, IN - Jack Dossey III's team made big changes prior to the 2019 season, and it all paid off with his first ever CRA win in Saturday night's Mitch Smith Auto Service 125 Presented by Perfecto Tool at Anderson Speedway, the 2019 season points opener

for the series.

"I am just so happy to get this win," remarked a jubilant Dossey III in victory lane. "This is my home track, this is the perfect place to get this win. I knew I had a great car, and if things played out right, we would be able to battle for the win, and that's exactly what happened. It was a tough race against a bunch of good drivers, it feels really good standing here in victory lane tonight!"

Brett Robinson started on the pole for the event after Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier and two-time ARCA/CRA Super Series Champion Travis Braden drew a five for the events invert. 2016 series Champion Cody Coughlin was scheduled to start on the pole after the invert, but his team elected to pull their car out of impound to make it better for the race, regulating Coughlin to the tail of the field to start the event.

Robinson took full advantage of his pole starting position to grab the early lead with Braden and Dossey in hot pursuit. The event went yellow on lap 10 when Hunter Jack's car erupted in flames after a broken fuel line. Jack was able to get out of the car safely, the team made hasty repairs and were able to get back in the race losing only three laps.

Robinson kept the lead on the lap 11 restart with Braden in tow. Braden made contact with Robinson at the end of the backstretch running Robinson up the track on lap 35, but Robinson dived back under Braden when Braden washed up the track in turn four, Braden led that lap, but Robinson completed the pass to retake the lead.

Dossey III then started his run to the front, first getting buy Braden for second, then chased down Robinson to close on his bumper. Dossey III tried to make the pass

on the inside before making contact with Robinson's back bumper, sending him up the track, opening the bottom for Dossey III to make the pass and grab the lead on lap 95.

The race was slowed for the second time when Ryan Issacs went around in turn two by himself. Dossey would keep the lead on the restart and go ahead and get the win by a little over three seconds.

"That's not normally not the way I race," Dossey added. "I really got into him more than I intended to. I meant it as kind of to let him know, hey I'm here, and I ended up going in a little too hot and slipping the brake pedal. Luckily, he gathered it back up and the yellow didn't come out. Brett and I have raced together for many years and we've ran pretty good with each other. It's just another racing thing; a little short track, it's what the fans like. It feels good to get this win in my first race as my own crew chief and is a great way to start off our rookie season in the series!"

Dossey III's team picked up the PitBoxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award for all their hard work in helping get their car ready to compete on Saturday night and getting the victory. Dossey was the Seneker Performance Rookie of the Race Award winner. With the win Dossey III becomes the first driver locked into the ARCA/CRA Super Series Chase for the Championship as long as he runs in 70% of the races.

Braden would finish in second and picked up the FLUIDYNE High Performance Cool Under Pressure Award. Robinson finished in third and picked up the AR Bodies Cool Move of the Race Award for his crossover move on Braden. Scott Tomasik finished in fourth place after starting eighth. 2018 series Champion Josh Brock came from his 10th starting position to finish in fifth place picking up a Hoosier Racing Tire Performance Award and the Progressive Racing Engines Hardcharger Award.

Austin Kunert would survive some heavy front-end damage to get a sixth-place finish. Coughlin would come back from a lap down to finish in seventh place. 2017 series Champion Logan Runyon finished in eighth after starting 12th, he picked up a Hoosier Racing Tire Performance Award. Greg Van Last

finished in ninth, Hunter Jack would finish in 10th place.

The next event for the ARCA/CRA Super Series is the Ross Mortgage 200 Presented PNC Bank at Toledo Speedway on Saturday, April 20th.

More information on the ARCA/CRA Super Series can be found at www.cra-racing.com.

Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing to Sponsor Fast Qualifier Award

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials have announced that Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing has agreed to become the sponsor of the Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier Award with the ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS for every event on the 2019 schedule, the 23rd season of competition for the ARCA/CRA Super Series.

"We are very excited to become a sponsor with the ARCA/CRA Super Series for the 2019 season," remarked Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing General Manager Cody Glick. "This is a great program that will award the Fast Qualifier of every event and offers a great year end award for one lucky driver!"

The Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier at the Redbud 400 and the Winchester 400 will receive a \$400 cash bonus and a \$200 Product Certificate from Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing. The Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier at the Money in the Bank 150 and the Battle at Berlin 251 will receive a \$200 cash bonus and a \$100 Product Certificate from Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing. The Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier at the regular 100 and 125 lap events will receive a \$100 cash bonus and a \$100 Product Certificate from Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing.

Each time a driver is a Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier Award winner during the 2019 season, their name will go into a drawing that will be held at the Winchester 400, the driver's name that is draw at the Winchester 400 Drivers Meeting will receive a bare Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing Chassis.

Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing is a full-service race car builder from a bare chassis to a

complete race car. Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing stocks a complete line of race car parts and supplies. More information is available by calling Hamke Race Cars/Rowdy Manufacturing at 704-660-0202.

Progressive Racing Engines to Sponsor Hardcharger Award

SALEM, IN - Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS officials have announced that Progressive Racing Engines has agreed to be a marketing partner with CRA and its ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS for the 2019 racing season. The series 2019 points season will begin this Saturday at Anderson Speedway. 2019 will be the 23rd season of competition for the ARCA/CRA Super Series that ran its first race on April 26, 1997.

Progressive Racing Engines will sponsor the Progressive Racing Engines Hardcharger Award at each series event in 2019, which will be awarded to the driver advancing the most positions from his original scheduled starting position at each series event. The award will consist of a \$100 cash bonus from Progressive Racing Engines at all the regular 100 and 125 lap series events. The award will be \$200 at the Money in the Bank 150, the Battle at Berlin 251, the Redbud 400 and the Winchester 400.

"We are excited to become a sponsor with the ARCA/CRA Super Series this season," remarked Steve McInnis, of Progressive Racing Engines. "Our engines have had a lot of success in this series and I felt like this award was a great opportunity for us to give back to the racers in this series!"

Progressive Racing Engines is operated in Miami Gardens, Florida, by partners Steve McInnis and Brian Hintz. It was founded in late 1988 with the intent of producing power plants for off-shore motorsports such as power boat racing. While McInnis and Hintz enjoyed working in the marine Motorsports world, they eventually began to do some projects for circle track competitors as well. Circle track racing has now become the main focus of Progressive Racing Engines, building motors for racers all over the United States, including its Sealed Super Late Model Spec Engine, approved for use in the ARCA/CRA Super Series.

More information on Progressive Racing Engines can be found at www.progressiveracingengines.com.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Tuesday, April 16 and Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Doors Open at 8:00 AM each day - Sale Starts at 9:30 AM each day

SALE LOCATION:: 206 Overhill Dr, Mooresville, NC, 28117; From I-77 North of Charlotte to Exit 36, go East to Corporate Center Drive, turn left (Zaxby's will be on the corner); go to second stop sign, turn left onto Overhill Drive. 206 will be on the right; watch for Auction Signs

PARTIAL SALE LISTING - PARTS

Brake blowers, insulation, spring rubbers, roller rockers, trans gears, mstr cyls, Cobra axle caps, diesel fuel filters, coil over springs, oil coolers, Pankl rods, brake pads, filter elements, Wix filters, naca duct, spark plug wires, helix, pistons, MSD coils, brake hats, seatbelts, braided line, brackets, a-arms, valve covers, SB2 heads, drive plates, fan blades, wheel spacers, alum radiators, tires & wheels, brake line, new valves, Ford M-6010 351 cu in block - Siamese bore, Ford M-6010 351 cu in block, SB2 block, Ramsey 5000 lb winch, fuel cell bladders, steering boxes, shims, alum tank, caliper brackets, AP calipers, water pumps, air hose, weather pac connectors, rocker bars, starters, oil remotes, where and pump, go kart tires, rear sway bars, oil pump parts, lug nuts, aeroquip axles, barrel dolly, Jesel front drive parts, shifter handles, yokes, D/S oil pans, c/f pcs, Dewalt tools, lockers, fan belts, sway bar arms, sway bars, Carrillo rods, exhaust pcs, kevlar line, plastic caps, Snap-on impact, pie boxes, battery quick disconnects, saw blades, sanding roles, bushings, shocks, seat padding, ring & pinions, oil pump, casters, crankshafts, carburetor, windshields, drive-shafts, r/e housings, p/s pump, triple disc clutches, pitman arms, shifter boots, pulleys, alum intakes, MSD distributor, coil springs, valve springs w/retainers, axle caps, window nets, oilers, alternators, go-kart seats, hubs, carb spacers

PARTIAL SALE LISTING - EQUIPMENT

Bowman cabinet, pit fan, Troy-bilt pressure washer, floor Jack, Hoover carpet shampooer, floor fan, Gatorade cooler, fuel can cart, rolling work tables, exercise equipment, axle straightener, Inter-comp sway bar rater (needs Intercomp rater), Motorola P110 radios, Jobsmart parts washer, Mac tool cart, small shop vac, Lawson drill storage cabinet, Bowman trays, weedeater, oscilloscopes, power supply, wooden ladder, metal workbench, Sunnen Hone Machine Ch-100k

TERMS OF SALE: Terms of sale is cash, cashier checks, money orders, traveler's checks, Visa or Mastercard. Business or Personal Checks must be accompanied by a Bank Letter of Credit submitted to cashier on Sale Days. There will be a 15% buyer's premium charged on each lot number sold, with a 5% discount given for cash. Driver's license or picture identification is required to register. All items sold "As Is, Where Is" with no guarantees or warranty expressed or implied. Buyers must settle and remove all items at the end of each sale day. Announcements sale day take precedence over any printed matter

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David Gravel Claims 41st World of Outlaws Victory in Jason Johnson Racing's #41 Car

QUEEN CREEK, AZ - David Gravel's first win of the season last month with his new Jason Johnson Racing team was sentimental for several reasons. His second win, Saturday night at Arizona Speedway, was no different.

Not only did he win on his sister Victoria's birthday, he claimed his 41st career World of Outlaws NOS® Energy Drink Sprint Car Series win in the #41 car – the number chosen by the late Jason Johnson to run.

"I've kind of forgot about it, because if you try too hard to win a race, you know, it's not going to come," Gravel said about looking for win number 41. "I knew the next one was going to be 41, but it didn't really all click. I'm glad to win on my sister's birthday and it's cool to be my 41st win. All of those things coming together, I guess it was meant to be."

Win 41 was no easier than win 40, though.

Starting fourth in the 30-Lap Arizona Desert Shootout Feature, Gravel had his work cut out for him. He made his way by third-place Jacob Allen in a lap, but then had to contend with 2017 Rookie of the Year, Sheldon Haudenschild, and Friday night's Feature winner Brad Sweet – the two fastest cars of the night.

Sweet was a tenth of a second off setting a new track record in Qualifying, and then went on to win his Drydene Heat race. He took the early lead in the DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash, but Haudenschild showed his muscle in the closing laps, powering by Sweet on the high side for the win.

Haudenschild then continued where he left off in the Dash, cruising to the lead in the Feature and pulling away from the field. His blistering pace put him in lap traffic a third of the way through the caution-free Feature, allowing Sweet and Gravel to get close enough to taste the lead.

Sweet used lap traffic to his advantage the night prior, besting Ian Madsen in the game of maneuverability through slower cars. That looked to be his fortune once

again, until Gravel continued to make ground on him. While Sweet reeled in Haudenschild, Gravel had Sweet locked in his visor.

The two battled side by side for about four laps, swapping lanes every corner. By Lap 13, Gravel mastered the bottom of the tacky track through turns three and four, clearing Sweet down the front stretch and maintaining the position with a run on the high side of turns one and two.

That run not only cleared him of the blue Kasey Kahne Racing car, it put him in striking distance of Haudenschild's car. While Haudenschild tried to maneuver around a lap car in turns three and four, Gravel pulled the same move on him that he pulled on Sweet, claiming the lead on Lap 14 and never relinquishing it.

"He (Haudenschild) didn't hit his exit, and that just opened the door for me," Gravel said. "Luckily, it all worked out. Whatever lane I went, I seemed to be faster."

Haudenschild concurred with Gravel's assessment of the race, acknowledging he made a mistake.

"I figured if I could just rip the cushion and make consistent laps, I'd be alright," said Haudenschild, who ended up third. "Once I got to lappers and the guy was running the top, I really didn't make a good move. Like David said, I lost my run off the exit."

On a more consistent run is second-place finisher, Sweet. He's finished in the top-five in six of his last seven races – four of which have been podium finishes, and one a victory. That's placed him as the current Series points leader – four points ahead of reigning champion Donny Schatz.

Gravel, became only the second driver this year to claim more than one victory – Daryn Pittman was the first winning both races at Volusia Speedway Park.

With win number two out of the way, Gravel looks for more consistency with his Jason Johnson Racing team.

The Greatest Show on Dirt will make its next stop Friday, April 12, and Saturday, April 13, at the historic Devil's Bowl Speedway in Mesquite, Texas.

As always, you can catch all World of Outlaws NOS Energy



David Gravel raced his way to victory lane for the second time this season, this time at Arizona Speedway on Saturday night. (Paul Arch photo)

Drink Sprint Car Series action on DIRTVision.com.

For tickets and more information, go to www.WorldofOutlaws.com.

'Brad Sweet claims Wildcat Shootout at USA Raceway

TUCSON, AZ - With five laps to go in the World of Outlaws NOS® Energy Drink Sprint Car Series Wildcat Shootout at USA Raceway Friday night, Brad Sweet's victory was far from certain.

Sweet had command of the race, having stolen the lead from Ian Madsen just before a Lap 19 caution. However, Madsen did not let the blue Kasey Kahne Racing car of Sweet out of his sight.

With lap traffic in Sweet's windshield, Madsen used it to his advantage turning a car length distance between them into half a car length. Then a quarter. The laps were winding down in a hurry, but the race was far from over.

That is until the lap traffic that was helping Madsen catch Sweet, ended up killing his momentum with a lap to go, putting more than a car length back between he and Sweet, who went on to claim his first win of the 2019 season – his 35th career win overall.

"I was just kind of lucky to get through a few of those guys, just mistakes in lap traffic and we were in the right spot to capitalize," said Grass Valley, Calif. native Sweet. "The car was superfast and made the opportunities for us to take advantage of those opportunities."

His night didn't start off looking like he would claim his second win at the raceway – his first coming in 2014. He broke down at the start of Hot Laps, but his KKR team got him back on track in time for Qualifying, ending up fifth. Sweet then went on to finish second in his Heat

race – to winner Madsen. However, he then struggled in the DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash, finishing last.

That resulted in Sweet starting sixth for the 30-lap Feature, while Madsen, who fared better in the Dash, started on the outside pole.

When the green flag flew, Madsen, last year's Rookie of the Year, shot by polesitter Donny Schatz and ran away with the lead.

"Everyone's always better in clean air," said Madsen, who ended up second. "It just kind of got pretty tricky there in the middle of the race. We got stuck behind some lap cars and we just weren't as good as Brad."

Madsen's blistering pace at the start of the race put him in lap traffic by Lap five. While the Australian hustled his way around the slower cars, Sweet – with a little bit of luck on his side – methodically moved his way to the front, lap by lap.

Luck wasn't the only factor that helped him to the front. A little bit of skill, knowing where to put his car helped, too.

While Sweet and Madsen stole the show, Brent Marks raced his way to his best finish so far this year – sixth. Prior to that his best finish this year had been 11th in Las Vegas. After that he missed two races and had finished no better than 12th.

"I know my results through California don't really show, but we've been getting our car really good," said Marks after his first race at USA Raceway. "We'll just keep plugging away and fine tuning this race car and try to have a little bit better luck on our side. Excited we got a good run tonight."

Sweet is the ninth different winner this season in 10 races. Both Madsen and third-place finisher David Gravel, claimed a victory during the Series' March California swing.

Rocket 1 Racing Scores Again, Marking Their 4th-Straight Illini 100 Title

FARMER CITY, IL - They say home-field advantage really does make a difference. Rocket1 Racing pilot Brandon Sheppard made quite a backing to that statement on Saturday night, as he played his cards perfectly through the 75-lap Morton Buildings Feature to win the 12th annual Illini 100 presented by Douglas Dodge.

Jimmy Mars had a very strong run inside the top-10 all night, fending off Scott James and Bobby Pierce in the closing stages to grab the runner-up spot. Meanwhile, Pierce had a stellar run on the top-side, right where he's so frequently found, coming all the way from his 16th starting spot to complete the podium.

As for Sheppard, he has now collected the \$15,000 top prize in three out of the last five years. His predecessor in the Rocket Chassis house car, Josh Richards, swept the weekend in 2016, adding to the Rocket1 Racing team's dominance at Farmer City in World of Outlaws competition. The Mark Richards-owned No. 1 has now won the last four completed editions of the Illini 100.

This weekend, Sheppard's presence at the 1/4-mile was nothing short of impressive. A new track record established, breaking one set by Billy Moyer that stood for over nine years, two heat race wins and two top-two finishes in Morton Buildings Feature action. All with his big family on hand, cheering him on and very proud to see him in Victory Lane by the end of 75 laps.

The "Rocket Shepp" redrew the fourth spot and took his time getting to the head of the field, taking the lead on lap 32. Lane choice at any point in the race was crucial, Sheppard pointed out.

"It was just kind of hard to tell where you needed to be on the racetrack at the beginning of the race," Sheppard said. "The bottom was really rough and treacherous, and I was just kind of moving around, trying to figure out what line I needed to be in."

But once he made the passes around Rookie contender Ricky Weiss and Tanner English for the

lead, it was game over for the rest of the field.

"Tanner was doing a good job there and then Weiss got rolling on the top and I got rolling on the top," Sheppard said. "For about ten laps there, we were all dicing it up pretty good, and it was a really fun race."

Sheppard's work certainly was not done once he grabbed the lead, however. The race was littered with a total of 11 cautions and even a red-flag period with 11 laps to go, ultimately forcing the 2017 Series champ to make good restart after good restart. But he came prepared.

"I didn't mind seeing the cautions," Sheppard said. "I had a little bit different tire than some of the guys. It allowed my tires to cool off a little bit, and then my car would come back to me. In the long runs, I was pushing a little bit."

Overall, it's been nothing but success for the Rocket1 Racing gang in the last eight Series races, with six wins and two runner-up finishes. Including his sixth and fourth places at Screven back in February, Sheppard's average finish so far this season is 2.0. Needless to say, it's all clicking right now.

Jimmy Mars had a solid night, making the most of his fifth-place starting spot to claim runner-up. "The Iceman" never sat worse than eighth at any point during the Morton Buildings Feature, cracking into the top five for good on lap 22.

From there, the 2012 Illini 100 winner battled with Chris Madden, James and Pierce to stay inside the podium through the last half of the race.

"The track was definitely smoother," Mars said. "I don't go through the ruts and stuff like I used to. I used to lick my chops when it was like that last night, but I guess [I'm] getting older and stuff hurts a little more than it used to. But the track was better tonight, so we could race a bit more on it. Can't complain."

If there were ever a weekend for team-Illinois to be on their game, this was it. Bobby Pierce made quite the turnaround statement alongside fellow Illinoisan Frank Heckenast Jr., as they both placed outside of the top 10 on Friday night but came back with strong finishes on Saturday of third and sixth, respectively.

The "Smooth Operator" came



Brandon Sheppard raced his way to victory lane for his third Illini 100 win in five years. (Paul Arch photo)

from deep, charging all the way from outside row eight on the top side to post his best finish with the Outlaws so far this season.

Unlike Sheppard, the frequent caution flags started to bother Pierce. Momentum seemed to play quite a big factor at Farmer City this weekend, and Pierce would echo that notion.

The three-time DIRTcar Summer Nationals champion stood right on the top of the track, picking cars off one-by-one for much of the race. But the multi-lane racetrack made for other opportunities to make passes – something Pierce said he could have also utilized.

Next on the Outlaws' schedule is Cherokee Speedway on Friday, May 3 and Lavonia Speedway on May 4. Nearly a month off from Series competition will give each of the teams some time to recuperate before a busier month of May – six races in four states.

Pt. 1 of the 2019 Illini 100 Goes to Shirley

FARMER CITY, IL - Team Illinois was firing on all cylinders on Friday night at Farmer City Raceway, as Chatham-native Brian Shirley bested the man from New Berlin, Brandon Sheppard, in an exciting 25-lap battle for \$6,000. This marked Shirley's sixth career win with the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series, as part of the 12th annual Illini 100 presented by Douglas Dodge.

Chris Madden earned his hard-fought third-place finish, starting on the outside pole and battling through heavy pressure from those behind him to collect his fourth top-five of the season.

He said wasn't as clean as he would have liked, but Shirley persevered through one intense battle in the closing stages with Series points leader Sheppard on a lightning-fast, yet technical racetrack.

Shirley grabbed the lead on the

opening lap and held it until Madden pulled the trigger to Shirley's inside on a lap seven restart. Madden held that lead only for a few laps before hitting a few ruts in turn one and jumping the cushion, handing the lead back over to "Squirrel," which he held the rest of the way.

However, the battle with Sheppard had only begun once he regained the lead. Every corner of each of the last 10 circuits, "The Rocket Shepp" was nipping at Shirley's heels, making forceful challenges to the inside several times. The Rocket Chassis house car driver's efforts went unrewarded, but what a show both drivers put on in front of a packed grandstands.

"That guy's an animal, he's the best driver in the country," Shirley said of fellow Illinoisan Sheppard. "To be able to compete with him is second-to-none. I'm just glad I was able to beat him this time."

Sheppard also had himself quite a run in Qualifying, picking up the PFC Brakes Fast Time Award and smashing the Farmer City Raceway track record of 11.973, set by Billy Moyer in 2008, with a lap of 11.750.

Chris Madden had a great night up front, aboard his Skyline Motorsports, Capital Race Cars No. 44. He held his runner-up starting spot through the first six laps before catching a better line than Shirley on a lap seven restart, shooting to the bottom and snatching the lead away. His efforts to defend the lead went sour, however, when he hit a rough patch in turns one and two and found himself over the cushion, allowing Shirley and Sheppard to sneak back by.

"Smokey" was unable to make up the ground and reclaim the top spots but held off a bit of late-race pressure from Dennis Erb Jr. and Darrell Lanigan to bag the last podium spot.

Jonathan Davenport Rules North Georgia

CHATSWORTH, GA - The Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series returned to North Georgia Speedway for the first time since 2009 on Saturday night. Jonathan Davenport conquered the red clay oval for his fourth victory of the season.

Davenport took control on lap 20 by darting under race leader David Payne. Davenport then led the rest of the way for a convincing victory in front of his home-state crowd. With the win, Davenport maintains his championship point lead.

Payne set the Miller Welders Overall Fast Time and went on to win the third heat, putting him on the front-row outside of Josh Richards for the 50-lap main event. Payne led the first 19 laps of the race until Davenport slid under him heading into turn three on lap 20. Payne then ran second to Davenport before he suffered a flat left rear tire on lap 25 forcing him to pit. Devin Moran picked up the chase for the lead and challenged Davenport several times before fading.

Tyler Erb, who entered the event second in points to Davenport; then moved into the runner-up position. Erb was attempting to track down Davenport but on lap 37 he hooked the cushion and spun to a stop, forcing a caution flag.

The final caution of the race came on lap 42. In the closing laps, Davenport pulled away from the Clint Bowyer teammates, Don O'Neal and Josh Richards to score the win. O'Neal had his best finish of the year by taking second with Richards finishing third. Moran and Earl Pearson Jr. completed the top five.

Davenport was jubilant in victory lane before an appreciative crowd. "I was kind of glad to see a few of those cautions. I was needing a water break," Davenport said jokingly. "I have never won a late model race here. This is so fun to come back to almost my hometown crowd and get this win. I grew up just an hour-and-a-half from here. My crew chief is Jason Durham, this is a big win for him as well. This is basically his home track."

"I didn't think we could get it done," Davenport added. It was cool to race with David [Payne]. I grew up racing against him and us

battling for the lead was pretty great. He had a good car until he had that flat. I drove a line I had never really driven here before. I have seen so many guys passed coming off turn four here. I moved around enough to where I could get comfortable out there."

O'Neal, who moved into second on lap 39, was happy with his podium finish. "Man, we need a win bad. After last night it feels good to run up front like that. It was a good night for the Bowyer cars running second and third. The track slowed down after a while. Josh slid under me once and I got back around him. We needed to build some momentum heading into next weekend."

Richards started on the pole but fell back significantly as he nearly spun in turn four on the opening circuit. "I was trying to get the lead. I drove it into three and it nearly got away from me. Jonathan and Don did a great job. Like Don said, it was a good night for Clint Bowyer Racing."

Completing the top ten were Hudson O'Neal, Billy Moyer Jr., Tim McCreadie, Tyler Erb, and Will Roland.

Bailes Rolls to First Lucas Oil Victory

SEYMOUR, TN - Ross Bailes rolled to his first-career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series victory on Friday night at 411 Motor Speedway.

The 29-year-old, South Carolina

native led all 50 laps of "Tennessee's Action Track 50" en route to one of the biggest wins of his career.

Bailes took the lead at the start of the race, withstood several cautions, and managed to hold off a late race charge from three other drivers to become the sixth different winner of the 2019 season. Donald McIntosh took second over Jimmy Owens. Current Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series point leader, Jonathan Davenport finished in fourth followed by Dale McDowell.

"This seems unbelievable," said Bailes. "We have tried for so long to win one of these and we just couldn't get it done. To come to a new place like this and to get it done here is just unimaginable. I felt good on the bottom and then when I got to lapped traffic I was slowing down. I knew I needed to search around and do something different. My crew guys told me to move up and when I did the car felt really good up there."

Bailes added: "This place is awesome. I think if we would have run another 50 laps it would have been even better. I was happy with it. There was grip on the bottom. I didn't have to worry about the top for the first half of the race and then it got racy all over. This win is now at the top of my list for sure. Maybe we can get another one tomorrow night at North Georgia. I want to thank Barry and Lance Wright, Ronnie McCarter and all of my crew it was a great team win that's for sure."

McIntosh, also looking for his first career Lucas Oil win, settled for second at the line. "Our car was pretty good. I had it prepared to run

the top. I was just biding my time out there. I thought I could get up to him [Bailes] and make a run for the win. I am blessed to be back at Blount Motorsports and maybe we can get that first Lucas Oil win tomorrow night at North Georgia."

"I don't think he [Bailes] knew the top was there. "We had a great race for second with Jimmy [Owens]. I think I showed him [Bailes] the top one time and he moved up there in traffic. Racing with these guys and from where we started that's a pretty awesome run," said McIntosh who started sixth.

Owens finished third after a late-race charge. "We have been pretty good in East Tennessee so far this year. We have had good race cars all year long. It feels good to finally finish a Lucas Oil race. Last year we had such terrible misfortune. This year seemed like it was going to start off the same way but we just aren't going to let that happen. McIntosh had a good car, and he was up on the wheel. I felt like we could have gotten second, but we are just happy to finish on the podium."

The winner's Barry Wright Race Cars ICON Chassis is powered by a Clements Racing Engine and sponsored by: Felony Farms, Service Transport Inc., Bailes Construction, Big A's Custom Graphics, C&H Paving, Bobby Taylor Oil, Nichols Plumbing, Penske Shocks, Hoosier Tire South, Fred Caldwell Chevrolet, and Viper Risk Management Group.

Completing the top ten were Kyle Bronson, Ryan King, Josh Richards, Tyler Erb, and Earl Pearson Jr.



Ross Bailes celebrates his first career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series win in victory lane at 411 Motor Speedway. (Michael Moats photo)

Caleb Martin Tops ASCS Gulf South Opener at Golden Triangle Raceway Park

BEAUMONT, TX - Marking off a trip to Victory Lane to open the 2019 season, Caleb Martin collected career win No. 3 with the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region on Saturday night at Golden Triangle Raceway

Park.

Holding off Channin Tankersley, who raced from sixth to second, the pair were chased to the finish by Cody Stacy who advanced from 10th to third. Cody Karl was fourth with Eric Baldaccini fifth. The field rounded out with Cody Tankersley, Scott Smith, Chris Sweeney, Dustin Gates, and Brandon Blendon.

Up next, the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region will venture to Texana Raceway Park in Edna, Texas on Saturday, April 13.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the nine Regional Tours that make up ASCS Nation in 2019, log onto www.ascsracing.com, follow on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter (@LucasOilASCS).

Dustin Cormany Leads It All With San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Cars

QUEEN CREEK, AZ - Keeping the theme alive of no repeat winners in 2019, Dustin Cormany lead start to finish for this first career score with the San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Cars this past Saturday night at Queen Creek's Arizona Speedway.

Winning over a field of 21 competitors, Cormany is the 13th different winner with the Arizona based Non-Wing series.

Following the No. 29x to the stripe, Kyle Shipley was joined on the podium by Joshua Shipley. Joe Scheopner, who started on the pole, slipped to a fourth-place finish with Colton Hardy making up two positions to complete the top five.

Advancing seven positions, Ronald Webster finished sixth with Daylin Perreira running through the field from 16th to finish seventh.

Rocky Silva, Tyler Most, and 17th starting Ryan Cully made up the top ten.

Up next for the San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Cars is the series return to USA Raceway in Tucson, Ariz. on Saturday, April 27.

Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series Returns to Williams Grove and Selinsgrove Speedways for "Battle of the Groves II"

MECHANICSBURG/SELINGROVE, PA - One of the most anticipated sprint car racing weekends of the year in central Pennsylvania is just one month away on May 3 and 4 at Williams Grove and Selinsgrove Speedways!

The Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series (ASCS) National Tour presented by Sawblade.com will return to Williams Grove Speedway Friday, May 3, and Selinsgrove Speedway Saturday, May 4, in the "Battle of the Groves II" sponsored by Eleven Oaks Farm.

The MAVTV Motorsports Network announced it will include both races as part of its 2019 broadcast lineup of high-profile dirt track racing events!



Caleb Martin celebrates in victory lane after winning the ASCS Gulf South season opener at Golden Triangle Raceway Park. (Manvel Motorsports photo)

Williams Grove Speedway, located in Mechanicsburg, Pa. will host the ASCS National Tour event in conjunction with the United Racing Club (URC) plus a complete program of 410 sprint car racing on Friday, May 3.

For the second year in a row, the ASCS National Tour will then head 60 miles north to Selinsgrove Speedway in Selinsgrove, Pa., for another full-points show with URC on Saturday, May 4. The limited late models will also be on the Selinsgrove racing card. Selinsgrove will tentatively use Sunday, May 5, as a rain date, if needed.

In the inaugural ASCS appearances at Williams Grove and

Selinsgrove Speedways in 2018, the late Greg Hodnett of Spring Grove and Blane Heimbach of Selinsgrove took the historic victories, respectively.

For additional information on the participating speedways, please visit williams Grove.com and selinsgrovespeedway.com.

For continued updates on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the ASCS Regional tours, log onto ascsracing.com. Make sure to like the American Sprint Car Series on Facebook at facebook.com/LucasOilASCS, follow Twitter at twitter.com/LucasOilASCS, and check out Instagram @LucasOilASCS.

Wheel Cover Rule Implemented For 2020 Chili Bowl Nationals

TULSA, OK - Regarding the use of wheel covers at the 2020 Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire, event officials have announced that all cars competing must be equipped with a minimum of three bolts holding the wheel covers to the beadlock.

The change comes after reviewing numerous occurrences that have happened over the past three years where loose wheel covers have come very close to clearing the fences that surround the Tulsa Expo Raceway, as well incidents

where wheel covers have shot up the entry/exit ramp.

"The Chili Bowl is so unique in how confined and close everything is, we've just seen too many times where wheel covers either were not installed correctly, or there is contact that causes the dzus to break or back off and lets the cover come off," commented Chili Bowl Director, Matt Ward.

"Safety is always our biggest priority, and this is a small change to try and minimize someone getting severely injured,"

For the wheel covers, much like rules set by the American Sprint Car Series, IRA Sprints, All-Stars, and World of Outlaws, a minimum 5/16" flanged steel bolt and an ap-

proved fastening (nut assembly) system must be used. Approved fastening (nut assembly) systems are as follows:

- Keyser Manufacturing, part #100 7-101
- Wehrs Manufacturing Part # (WM377S-312 Steel 5/16)
- Triple X Chassis Part # SC-WH-7810 (for a 1" spring) / SC-WH-7820 (for a 1 3/8" spring)
- Smith Precision Products Part # MC-516-18
- Speedway Motors part # 910-07119

Questions regarding the new rule can be directed to Matt Ward by calling the Chili Bowl office at (918) 838-3777.

For continued updates on the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire, fans can follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with @CBNationals. All official press, updates, and results can at www.chilibowl.com.

Dale McDowell Gets 'Spring Thaw' Win at Volunteer Speedway

BULLS GAP, TN - Volunteer Speedway opened the 2019 racing season Thursday night with running of the ULTIMATE Super Late Model Series \$10,000 to win Spring Thaw and when the checkered flag waved Dale McDowell of Chickamauga, GA was parked in victory

lane winning over Jimmy Owens and Brandon Overton.

McDowell led the way in qualifying after he turned a lap of 12.276 seconds around the 4/10 mile clay oval. That time beat out the efforts

of Michael Chilton, Shanon Buckingham, Owens and Robby Moses.

Owens earned the pole position for the feature when he won the first heat race of the night ahead of McDowell, Ross Bailes and Donald McIntosh while Chilton would start the main event from outside the front row due to his win in the night's second preliminary over Overton, Moses and Cla Knight.

Buckingham took the third and final heat of the evening ahead of Ryan King, Zack Mitchell and Vic Hill.

At the start of the 50-lap feature it would be Chilton jumping to the early lead with Owens, Buckingham and McDowell trailing. Over-

ton improved his position on the second circuit when he passed by McDowell to take fourth. Both of those drivers then closed in on the third running Buckingham as they fought over the third position in the running order.

Owens closed in on Chilton and challenged the early front runner multiple times before finally taking the lead on lap 13. That began a downward slide for Chilton as Overton moved around the No. 97 for second on lap 14 and McDowell slide passed on lap 16 to gain third.

The top-3 of Owens, Overton and McDowell ran in tight formation as they worked through some heavy traffic in a race that had not seen a caution up to its halfway point. On lap 24, McDowell took the runner-up spot away from Overton and began stalking the race leading car of Owens.

The move that would decide the

outcome of the race came on lap 31 when Owens was briefly held up by a slower car. McDowell seized the opportunity and made a three-wide move going into turn one that would put him in front of both Owens and the slower machine.

The race's only caution flag waved on lap 34 when Daulton Wilson's car came to a stop in turn two.

Following the ensuing restart, McDowell pulled away from the pack driving his Sweet-Bloomquist Race Car, powered by a Clements Racing Engine and sponsored by E-Z-Go, New Era Industrial, Quality Natural Gas, Kinzer Drilling, C&S Transportation, Cometic Gasket & Klotz Lubricants to the checkered flag and \$10,000 win over Owens, Overton, Buckingham and Bailes. Rounding out the top 10 finishers were McIntosh, Mitchell, Hill, Moses and Chilton.

MSCS and USAC Prepare For a Spring Showdown at Tri-State

HAUBSTADT, IN - The 2019 racing season at Tri-State Speedway will open with the annual SPRING SHOWDOWN on Saturday April 13. The racing program that evening will feature the AM-SOIL National United States Auto Club Sprints and the Brandeis Midwest Sprint Car Series.

This will be the first of two co-sanctioned events at Haubstadt this season with both 410 non-wing sprint car series competing together. The SPRING SHOW-

DOWN will be conducted using the USAC race format.

The Showdown is the first event on the season schedule for MSCS. USAC has already held 3 races in Florida and is also scheduled to race Friday night April 12 at Bloomington Speedway before appearing at Haubstadt on Saturday. The USAC-MSCS feature at Haubstadt will pay \$5,000 to win!

Brandeis Midwest Sprint Car Series licensed drivers do receive full points when competing in co-sanctioned events. Annual licenses will be available for purchase in the pit area at the speedway for any drivers needing to obtain or renew licenses. The pit gate will open at

3:30 P.M. C.D.T.

The reigning Brandeis MSCS Champion is Carson Short of Marion, IL. Short captured his first MSCS title in 2018. He is also currently tenth in USAC points! The SPRING SHOWDOWN is the first of 20 races that MSCS has scheduled. Each one will impact the driver points standings and eventually determine a season champion.

Kevin Thomas Jr. won the SPRING SHOWDOWN last year.

The three USAC races previously held at Ocala, Florida, produced three different winners. C.J. Leary, Chris Windom, and Justin Grant captured those feature races. The top five drivers in USAC points heading into the two Midwest track openers are C.J. Leary, Kevin Thomas Jr., Chase Stockon, Justin Grant, and Chris Windom. The top two drivers are separated in the standings by just

two points. The 2018 USAC National Champion Tyler Courtney is currently sixth in series points.

The SPRING SHOWDOWN is just that - one great opportunity for race fans to see the very best sprint car drivers and enjoy the thrills dirt track racing produces. Warm-ups on Saturday the 13th begin at 6:30 P.M. Heat races begin at 7:30 P.M. Tri-State Speedway is located in the Central Time zone.

The UMP Open Wheel Modified Cars will also be racing. Their feature will pay \$600 to win. The double bill creates another brand of impending action waiting to take a turn on the track. Mod feature winners last season included Zach Fair, Trent Young, Dustin Beck, Brandon McDowell, and Stan Beaudles.

Adult tickets are \$25, student tickets are \$20, and children 12 and under are admitted free.

All Star Circuit of Champions Welcomes 2019 Series Partners

BROWNSBURG, IN - Celebrating its fifth season under the command of three-time NASCAR Cup Series champion, Tony Stewart, the 2019 Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 season is officially underway.

Five events of the 57-race campaign have already been com-

pleted. Fifteen drivers and teams have signed on for full-time membership in 2019.

Ollie's Bargain Outlet, one of America's largest retailers of close-out merchandise and excess inventory, begins its inaugural season as the official title sponsor of the All Star Circuit of Champions in 2019.

Mobil 1, the world's leading synthetic motor oil brand, will continue to be the exclusive and official motor oil supplier of Tony Stewart's

Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions, rejoining the Series as the presenting sponsor for the 2019 season.

The All Star Circuit of Champions welcomes Fatheadz Eyewear and the Rayce Rudeen Foundation as new partners to the Series in 2019. Fatheadz Eyewear will join JE Pistons as an official Dash Sponsor and the Rayce Rudeen Foundation will connect with our teams through a contingency partnership.

The All Stars will continue their television partnership with MAVTV Motorsports Network in 2019. The 2019 broadcast schedule includes ten events.

For the first time in Series his-

tory, sprint car fans from around the world will have the opportunity to witness nearly every lap of Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 competition live on the internet.

Speed Shift TV, an industry leader in motorsports marketing, production and live streaming with services extending to nearly 300 events in 2018, will follow the All Star Circuit of Champions on a near-full-time basis in 2019.

The 2019 Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 points season will begin on Thursday, April 11, at Virginia Motor Speedway. The weekend will continue with a three-pack in Pennsylvania.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Springtime NASCAR premier series races in the 1980s at Talladega Superspeedway, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, were known for what it was built for - trademark finishes and "official" speed records, along with the greatest comeback in NASCAR history, the Alabama Gang's protection of their home turf and Hall of

Famers ruling the way.

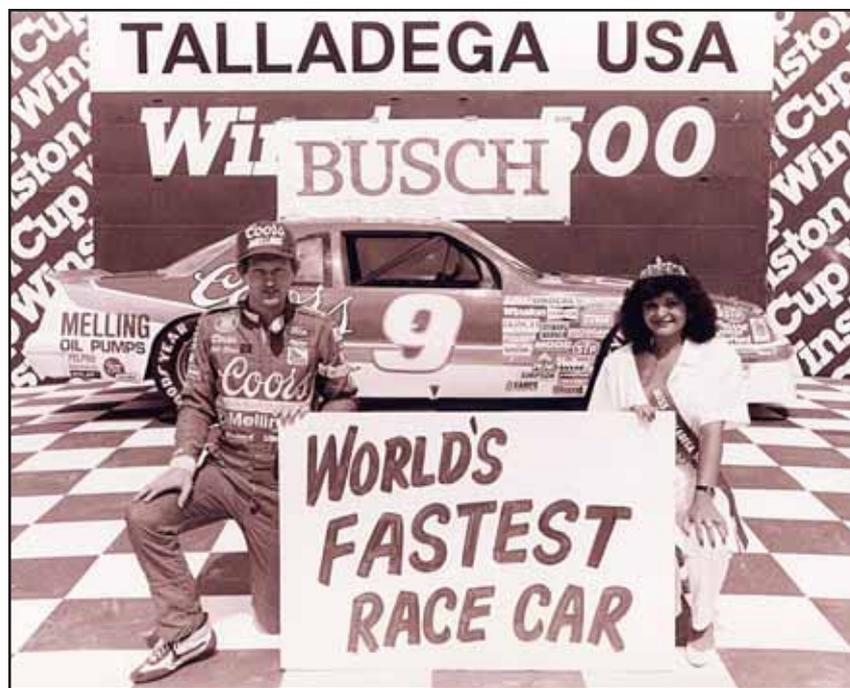
The world's largest and greatest superspeedway, which will host its tripleheader weekend featuring the GEICO 500 on April 26-28, was the creation of Big Bill France in 1969. It is the site where Benny Parsons made history in spring of 1982, becoming the first driver to break the 200-mph mark in "official" qualifying for a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race at a speed of 200.176 mph. Twelve years earlier, Buddy Baker, in a winged, aerodynamic Dodge Daytona that was banned after the 1970 season, eclipsed 200 mph during a testing session on the 2.66-mile, 33-degree banked venue, but it wasn't during qualifying for an official race.

And, just four years later in '86, the mammoth track hosted the first "all-200 mph" qualifying field in stock car history, led by Bill Elliott at better than 212 mph. Twelve months later, Elliott, in his famous No. 9 Ford, would rewrite the history books yet again, this time turning a hot lap of 212.809 mph, a NASCAR record that still stands today. Elliott would show his dominance of speed, capturing six straight pole positions, sweeping both Talladega races from 1985-87.

While the speeds increased during the decade, the fantastic finishes became the norm. All but one race was won by a nail-biting car length or less while Elliott's 1.72-second triumph in 1985 will go down in history as the greatest comeback in NASCAR lore.

There were eight different winners of the 10 spring races at Talladega Superspeedway in the '80s and two - Bobby Allison and his son Davey Allison from the famed Alabama Gang - reeled off two each.

Below are quick recaps of each springtime race at Talladega in the '80s which captured memorable moments that will last forever.



Bill Elliott set NASCAR's official qualifying speed record of 212.809 mph in the spring of 1987 in what was the fastest field in NASCAR history. The tradition continues with the GEICO 500 on Sunday, April 28 as NASCAR's biggest track celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. (TSS photo)

- 1980: With just a little more than 30 laps to go, Baker, who had pitted for four fresh tires, was 18 seconds behind leader Dale Earnhardt, who had taken on only two tires during his final stop. Handling better in the turns, Baker cut more than a half-second off the lead and eventually passed Earnhardt with three to go. Earnhardt made a last-ditch effort for the win coming to the checkered flag but fell three feet short.

- 1981: Bobby holds off the trio of Baker, Darrell Waltrip and Ricky Rudd in a dazzling show that featured six lead changes over the final seven laps between Baker and Allison.

- 1982: Waltrip betters Terry Labonte, Parsons and Kyle Petty as the quartet was only inches apart at the finish line. Waltrip would come back later in the year for a 'Dega sweep.

- 1983: Richard Petty claims his second and final Talladega win by holding off Parsons, Lake Speed and Harry Gant.

- 1984: Talladega establishes itself as the most competitive track in NASCAR, setting the all-time NASCAR record for lead changes with 75 that stands until 2011 when the track breaks its own record in the spring event. Cale Yarborough makes a last-lap pass and wins over Gant by a car length, with Baker third and Allison fourth.

- 1985: In the most dramatic comeback in history, Elliott comes from nearly two laps down (more than five miles) under green flag conditions to win. Giving up the lead on lap 37 after a lengthy pit

stop to repair a loose oil line, Elliott spectacularly retakes the lead with the assistance of a caution period on lap 145. He wins at an average speed of 186.288 mph while blowing past the likes of Kyle, Yarborough and Allison.

- 1986: In a 42-car field that saw all drivers qualify at better than 200 mph, Allison negates Earnhardt's turn 4 effort to pass for the lead. Baker was a close third. It would be Allison's fourth and final triumph at Talladega.

- 1987: In what was the fastest field in NASCAR history (average speed of starters was 207.049 mph), Davey celebrates his first Cup victory in front of his hometown fans over Labonte and Kyle. Davey's father, Bobby, was involved in a crash that later resulted (1988) in NASCAR's implementation of restrictor plates at Talladega and Daytona.

- 1988: Phil Parsons, younger brother of Benny, captures his first and only victory in NASCAR's premier series by edging Bobby.

- 1989: Davey records his second spring victory with a stellar effort over Labonte, who secured his third runner-up finish in eight spring events. Mark Martin was just a few feet behind in third.

The competitors who visited Talladega's Gatorade Victory Lane in the spring races of the '80s would win a total of 23 times at the track before their retirement: Baker - 4,

Bobby - 4, Waltrip - 4, Richard - 2, Yarborough - 3, Elliott - 2, Davey - 3, and Phil - 1. All but Phil are members of the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, while six are in the NASCAR Hall of Fame (exception is Phil and Baker, who incidentally is a 2020 nominee).

Talladega Superspeedway's record book will be rewritten in the track's 100th race in the Monster Cup Series during the GEICO 500. The weekend kicks off a motorsports tripleheader with the General Tire 200 for the ARCA Menards Series (which has been a staple of Talladega Superspeedway since October of '69) on Friday, April 26, and the MoneyLion 300 for the NASCAR Xfinity Series on Saturday, April 27. The GEICO 500 gets a 1 p.m. CDT start on Sunday, April 28. For ticket information, log onto www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call 855-518-RACE (7223).

Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - The Xfinity and Gander Outdoors Truck Series return to Georgia for Atlanta Motor Speedway's new spring weekend in 2020.

As anticipated, the two series will run back-to-back on Saturday, March 14, 2020, marking the sixth year of the same day doubleheader that has been a staple of Atlanta's NASCAR weekend since 2015.

As previously announced, Georgia's NASCAR weekend in 2020 will be capped off with the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 Cup series event on Sunday, March 15, 2020.

Tickets and camping locations for the 2020 NASCAR weekend at Atlanta Motor Speedway are available now.

Call 877-9-AMS-TIX or visit www.atlantamotorspeedway.com to buy at the best price today.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - Members of the High Banks & Heels Women's Club at Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS) had the opportunity to gather for their first event of the year during the Food City 500 weekend, April 5-7.

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The club, which is celebrating its inaugural year, invites female race fans from across the nation to share their passion for the sport. With promotional support from Belk, membership in the group offers several benefits.

"High Banks & Heels is a wonderful opportunity for women who love racing to come together for fun and fellowship," said

Belton Caldwell, wife of BMS General Manager Jerry Caldwell and founder of the High Banks & Heels Women's Club. "Women play an essential role in the Bristol Motor Speedway community and the success of NASCAR overall, and we look forward to spending time together as we enjoy the races at The Last Great Colosseum."

High Banks & Heels provides a forum for women to stay connected with NASCAR, Bristol Motor Speedway and one another through a variety of exclusive events throughout the racing season. Membership is \$35 annually. Participants who join during the 2019-2020 racing season receive a high-quality clear backpack containing High Banks & Heels-branded memorabilia, along with exclusive Belk offers, discount vouchers for concessions and souvenir purchases at Speedway World, access to special events throughout the year, and more. In addition, returning members will receive a commemorative renewal gift each year.

For more information, visit www.bristolmotorspeedway.com/fans/womens-club or email womensclub@bristolmotorspeedway.com.

Kansas Speedway

KANSAS CITY, KS - Defending Hollywood Casino 400 winner Chase Elliott and Kyle Larson, who finished in the Top Five in both Kansas Speedway races in 2018, will headline Q&A sessions at Ignition Garage on Saturday, May 11.

"It's great that our fans are going to get to hear from two of the most popular drivers in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series," said Kansas Speedway President Patrick Warren.

The Ignition Garage is located in the support series garage, and includes a hospitality parking pass, pre-race pass for access to the pre-

race concert, driver introductions and FanWalk, a guided tour of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series garage, Q&A sessions with NASCAR drivers and VIPs, exclusive gifts, and an opportunity to watch Stage 1 of the race from a designated area near pit road.

The Ignition Garage will open when the grandstand gates open and closes at the conclusion of Stage 1. Transportation to and from the infield until the end of Stage 1 is available for fans who need assistance.

This one day hospitality option is \$199 per person. To purchase the Ignition Garage hospitality, fans must have a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series grandstand ticket or RV admission.

All Kansas Speedway tickets are currently on sale by calling 866.460.RACE (7223) or by logging onto www.kansasspeedway.com.

Kansas Speedway, a premier motorsports facility in the Midwest, hosts two NASCAR race weekends a year, in addition to hosting approximately 250 event days throughout the year. Kansas Speedway's first race weekend of the season is in May with the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series and Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series under the lights. In the fall, the NASCAR play-offs return in with the NASCAR XFINITY Series and Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. To purchase season or single day tickets, call 866.460.RACE (7223) or log onto www.kansasspeedway.com.

General parking is always free at Kansas Speedway and fans can bring in one 14x14x14-inch soft-sided cooler with their favorite food and beverages.

Fans can follow Kansas Speedway on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kansasspeedway, Twitter (@kansasspeedway), Instagram ([kansasspeedway](https://www.instagram.com/kansasspeedway)) and Snapchat ([kansasspeedway](https://www.snapchat.com/add/kansasspeedway)).

Gateway Motorsports Park

MADISON, IL - Gateway Motorsports Park officials today confirmed that its NTT IndyCar Series 500 and NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series 200 will take place on the same weekend in 2020. NASCAR released the 2020 Truck Series schedule earlier this week and announced the seventh annual Gateway Truck Series event will take place on Friday, August 21, 2020. The fourth annual Bommarito Automotive Group 500 presented by Axalta and Valvoline for the NTT IndyCar Series will be

held on Saturday, August 22, 2020.

"As soon as NASCAR released the Gander Outdoors Truck Series schedule on Wednesday, we were deluged with calls and messages from fans regarding the two events," said Chris Blair, Gateway Motorsports Park's Executive Vice President and General Manager. "With the many changes affecting the overall Monster Energy Cup, Xfinity Series and Gander Outdoors schedules, we appreciate the cooperation between INDYCAR and NASCAR to allow us to produce this great weekend of racing. Our fans will be treated to two action-packed days and we are working to provide entertaining content both on and off the track all weekend long."

While the final schedules have yet to be determined, the single-day NASCAR Truck Series 200 will run in conjunction with INDYCAR practice and qualifying throughout the day on Friday. In addition, GMP officials are working closely with the Indy Lights Series, Indy Pro 2000 Series and Vintage Indy Registry's Icons of Open Wheel program.

"Our event will continue to evolve so that we are never presenting the same show twice," Blair added. "We want to keep things fresh and exciting for our fans and we believe this is a major step forward in our goal of growing our St. Louis Speed Festival. We are working with more racing series and sanctioning bodies than ever before and are fully engaged on a very diverse schedule for the future."

Additional details regarding the 2020 event weekend will be released in mid-September as final series schedules, ticket information and additional show content are confirmed.

For more information on Gateway Motorsports Park, please call (618) 215-8888 or visit www.gatewaymsp.com. Follow GMP on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram.

Eldora Speedway

ROSSBURG, OH - With three weeks remaining before the beginning of the 2019 season, Eldora Speedway officials today confirmed 13 of its marquee event dates for the 2020 calendar of events.

The announcement coincided with the release of the 2020 NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series Schedule.

The 26th running of the Dirt Late Model Dream, the original \$100,000-to-win race, will be contested Thursday-Friday-Saturday,

June 4-5-6, 2020. Full racing programs will be contested on both Thursday and Friday night to seed Saturday's event.

The fastest sprint car racers in the world take center stage in summer's most-fabled event, the Kings Royal Weekend, for the 37th time on Thursday-Friday-Saturday, July 16-17-18, 2020. Three full nights of World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series action kicking off with Thursday's Jokers Wild, followed by Friday's The Knight Before and culminating with Saturday's legendary Kings Royal.

For the eighth year, Eldora will play host to the only NASCAR National Series event contested on dirt and will be held in primetime on Thursday, July 30, 2020. The Eldora Dirt Derby will be the only standalone mid-week event on the 2020 NASCAR schedule.

The 50th World 100 Weekend – The Biggest Dirt Race In The World™ – is held the first Saturday following Labor Day and 2020 continues the tradition. On-track activity for the weekend will begin Thursday, September 10, 2020 and followed by another full racing program on Friday, September 11, 2020. The 50th annual World 100 paying \$53,000-to-win to dirt racing's most coveted prize will be held Saturday, September 12, 2020.

The 4-Crown Nationals Weekend will celebrate its 39th running in 2020. The all open wheel extravaganza showcasing the USAC Silver Crown Championship, USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Cars, USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget Series, World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series and Ollies Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26, 2020.

Tickets for all 2019 events, including the season opener featuring the Sunoco American Late Models, NRA Sprint Invaders, DIRTcar Modifieds and Eldora Stocks on Saturday, April 27 are available now at www.EldoraSpeedway.com and by phone at (937) 338-3815.

Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, PA - Pocono Raceway announced today their 2020 NASCAR race weekend will include four races. Two will take place on Saturday, June 27 and two are scheduled for Sunday, June 28. Day 1 will feature a NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series race and will be followed by

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the first of two NASCAR Cup Series races that weekend. A NASCAR Xfinity Series race will occur before the NASCAR Cup Series race on Day 2. The 2020 NASCAR race weekend at 'The Tricky Triangle' marks the first time in NASCAR's modern era one track will host two, points-paying NASCAR Cup Series races on consecutive days.

The entire race weekend schedule, including race lengths and practice dates have yet to be announced. Tickets for the 2020 races at Pocono Raceway are not currently available. They will be on sale to 2019 ticket purchasers, as part of the Raceway's renewal process, starting in early September. Additional details regarding the 2020 NASCAR race weekend at 'The Tricky Triangle' is currently available at www.poconoraceway.com/2020.

"Now the full scale and grandeur of the 2020 NASCAR weekend at Pocono Raceway should be apparent to all," said Pocono Raceway CEO, Nick Igdalsky. "This marquee, bucket-list race weekend will create a tremendous value for families and camping guests next summer. As we mentioned last week, we are not increasing the price of our Cup event tickets next year, kids (ages 12 and under) will still receive free gate admission all weekend and we will continue our Worry-Free Weather Guarantee Presented by AccuWeather.

The absolute best way to ensure you have a ticket for 2020 is to have a 2019 Pocono 400 or Gander RV 400 Sunday race or weekend camping ticket. The reason for this is because of our annual renewal program. Any 2019 ticket holder will have priority to purchase 2020 tickets and will save up to 20% on those tickets once they renew.

Our lowest-priced adult ticket for NASCAR Cup Series events is \$45. Two adult ticket holders, with each being allowed to bring up to four kids for FREE, can attend a 2019 race for just \$90. If they choose to renew for 2020 tickets, those same two adults and up to eight kids can attend Day 1 or Day 2 of the 2020 double-header weekend for just \$72."

In 2019, Pocono Raceway will

host two Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races, a NTT IndyCar Series race and The Great Pocono Raceway Air Show. One NASCAR Xfinity Series, one NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series and two ARCA Menards Series races are also on the 'The Tricky Triangle's' calendar this summer. For tickets, visit www.poconoraceway.com or call 1-800-RACEWAY (1-800-722-3929).

Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - Darlington Raceway will host its annual NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 race on September 5, 2020, NASCAR announced today.

Time of the race and broadcast information will be announced at a later date.

The Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 has always been a fun and competitive event for fans as several NASCAR Cup Series regulars usually compete against the up-and-coming drivers who are trying to make the NXS playoffs.

Last season, Brad Keselowski took the checkered flag en route to a weekend sweep of the Lady in Black.

Many of the competitors in the Xfinity Series run special throwback paint schemes for the race as the series and its drivers are an avid supporter of Darlington's successful throwback platform on Labor Day weekend.

"It's great to see the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 return to Darlington Raceway in 2020," said track President Kerry Tharp. "The Xfinity Series always puts on a great show for our fans on Labor Day weekend with many of the teams running special throwback paint schemes. With kids 12 and under free for the Xfinity Series races, it is a great opportunity for families to come out and enjoy a day at the track for an affordable price."

To see the full 2020 NXS schedule, visit www.NASCAR.com.

Darlington Raceway's award-winning throwback campaign is The Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR featuring the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500® on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019 at 6 p.m. on NBCSN. The NASCAR XFINITY Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 will race on Saturday, Aug. 31, 2019 at 4 p.m. on NBC. Tickets are on sale now by calling 866-459-7223 or visiting DarlingtonRaceway.com.

You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Race-

way at DarlingtonRaceway.com, on Facebook at Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway and on Twitter at Twitter.com/TooToughToTame. Fans are encouraged to post their Bojangles' Southern 500 stories and memories at, #BojanglesSo500 and #SportClips200.

New Hampshire Motor Speedway

LOUDON, NH - New England race fans can add another race to their plans for the 2020 NASCAR race weekend at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. NASCAR released its 2020 Xfinity Series schedule today, including its annual July 18, 2020 visit to "The Magic Mile."

The Xfinity Series was the first NASCAR sanctioned race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in 1990, making 2019 NASCAR's 30th season at "The Magic Mile." The NASCAR Xfinity Series will run their 33rd race at the speedway as part of the Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 weekend, July 19-21, 2019 in their only visit in the six-state New England region.

This announcement follows last week's release of the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series schedule, which brings the Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 to New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday, July 19, 2020.

For ticket information for events at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, including the June 8-16 Motorcycle Week at NHMS, the July 19-21 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 race weekend and the September 20-21 Full Throttle Fall Weekend, visit the speedway website at NHMS.com or call Fan Relations at (603) 783-4931.

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - Gander RV, the Official RV & Outdoor Company of NASCAR, and Dover International Speedway have reached a partnership agreement for the entitlement of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, May 5, track officials announced today.

The "Gander RV 400" Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race (Fox Sports 1, 2 p.m. ET) is the 11th race in the 2019 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series season and the first of two Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races at the Monster Mile in 2019, Dover International Speedway's 50th Anniversary season. Dover has hosted at least

one NASCAR Cup Series race every year since 1969.

Gander Outdoors, the new sponsor of the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series and a subsidiary of Camping World Holdings, Inc., continues to expand the national footprint of its Gander RV dealer network. The rollout of additional Gander RV dealer network locations across the country will serve outdoor enthusiasts who are passionate about traveling in RVs and experiencing outdoor activities. To find a location near you, visit GanderRV.com.

As part of a larger agreement with Dover, Gander RV, along with sister company Camping World, will have the ability to host RV shows at the Dover facilities in 2019.

The May 3-5 NASCAR triple-header weekend at Dover International Speedway also includes the "JEGS 200" NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series race on Friday, May 3 and the "Allied Steel Buildings 200" NASCAR Xfinity Series Dash 4 Cash race on Saturday, May 4.

"Many of our guests enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities and our partnership with Gander RV is a perfect fit for those outdoor enthusiasts," said Mike Tatoian, Dover International Speedway's president and CEO. "Gander RV is committed to the Monster Mile's fans and the entire NASCAR community. We are excited that they will be a key component of our 50th Anniversary celebration."

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration this spring, special gold Monster trophies will be awarded to the race winners and free 1:64-scale Dover diecast cars will be given to the first 15,000 guests on May 5. Fans can also enjoy multiple free performances by the famous Harlem Globetrotters in the 8-acre FanZone, a free Charlie Daniels Band concert on the Xfinity Stage in Victory Plaza, free appearances from country music superstar John Rich, as well as Micro Wrestling Federation matches, Del Rods Car Club car shows, a Winston Cup Mobile Museum display, on-site NASCAR and sports betting and much more.

The Monster Mile's Oct. 4-6 NASCAR tripleheader weekend

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features the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East race on Friday, Oct. 4, the NASCAR Xfinity Series playoff race on Saturday, Oct. 5 and the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoff race on Sunday, Oct. 6. The Oct. 6, 2019 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series playoff race will be the 100th NASCAR Cup Series race in track history. Dover International Speedway

will be the 10th track in the nation to host 100 NASCAR Cup Series races.

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

Irwindale Dragstrip

IRWINDALE, CA - Irwindale Dragstrip has commenced work on a three-phase plan to improve experience for drag strip competitors and fans. "I feel it is imperative that we continue to improve our facility each year. The new three-phase project will help give racers an outlined plan of what's to come at Irwindale Dragstrip." says Drag Strip Manager Charles Myers.

The first phase has already begun with the recent addition of PJ1 traction compound. "We are excited about bringing the best of the best traction compounds to Irwindale Dragstrip. It is the same compound that the NHRA uses when the 330 mph Top Fuel Dragsters race at national events across the country." says Myers.

The second phase will be one of the bigger capital investments ever made at Irwindale Dragstrip with the addition of a track scrubber. Utilized at premiere drag strips all across the country, the track scrubber will assist in overcoming the challenges associated with rain, oil down, and other fluid spills that represent a safety concern to drag strip competitors. "One of the areas of improvement we are concentrating on is the amount of time it takes to clean up an oil down. With the addition of a track scrubber the downtime will decrease drastically along with providing a cleaner surface to apply the traction com-

pound." says Myers.

The third and final aspect of the project will be the addition of a Tire Dragging Machine. This tire drag will even the rubber across the track and allow for "good rubber" on the surface at the beginning of the day. This, combined with the PJ1 and track scrubber, will provide a surface that will allow the racer to apply as much power to the ground as possible.

In support of this project to enhance the experience at Irwindale Dragstrip, beginning Thursday, April 4th, competitor tech cards will increase from \$20 to \$30 per car. Fan entrance will remain the same at \$10 per person. "We are really excited to make further investments into the drag race program at Irwindale. We are committed to providing a premier racing facility. The additional prep and equipment will help ensure that we have great racing that becomes uninterrupted by unfortunate racing incidents." said General Manager Kevin Stevens.

Questions can be directed to Irwindale Dragstrip Manager Charles Myers. Charles can be contacted by emailing charles@irwindalespeedway.com.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - It takes a village to support the day-to-day operation of Bristol Motor Speedway. From official partners to community support to visitors from all around the globe, The Last Great Colosseum is a truly special place thanks to the backing of many.

A major piece of that success is the great sponsors that support the Speedway. From a new multi-year extension with Food City to the addition of Ohio Logistics, BMS is embarking on an exciting 2019 season. Add in a great partner program like Bush's Beans' free Bush's Beans Pole Day ticket program and you have a recipe for success at Bristol Motor Speedway.

"We are blessed to have so many wonderful partners that share our mission to exceed expectations in everything we do," said Jerry Caldwell, executive vice president and general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway. "Without the support and total commitment from all of our outstanding partners, none of this would be possible so on behalf of everyone at Bristol Motor Speedway we offer a huge thank you to each and every one of them."

The longest running partner in Speedway history, Food City is

continuing on with a new multi-year extension. The regional grocery chain will maintain naming rights to the Food City 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race (Sunday, April 7) as well as the Food City 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race (Friday, Aug. 16). In addition to being the second longest Cup entitlement sponsor in the sport, Food City has been the innovative visionary behind Food City Family Race Night, which continues to be the longest running and most popular fan fest in NASCAR. The event returns for a 32nd year to BMS Hospitality Village on Friday, April 5.

Bush's Beans, who also sponsors the Bush's Beans 150 NASCAR K&N Series race in August, continues its popular Bush's Beans Pole Day ticketing program in 2019. Guests can receive one free ticket to Bush's Beans Pole Day on Friday, April 5 for every two cans of Bush's Beans product purchased. Interested guests can bring a receipt to any ticket booth to claim their ticket to see NASCAR's best practice and attempt to qualify for the best possible starting spot.

Earlier this year, the Speedway proudly announced that AlSCO has joined the fold as sponsor of the Spring NASCAR Xfinity Series race. In addition, Ohio Logistics becomes the official presenting sponsor of the August NASCAR Gander Outdoor Truck Series race.

AlSCO has now achieved a trifecta on the Xfinity Series circuit with three AlSCO 300 races (Bristol Motor Speedway, Charlotte Motor Speedway and Kentucky Speedway). The AlSCO 300 on Saturday, April 6 will serve as a Dash 4 Cash event, where Xfinity Series regulars Tyler Reddick, Christopher Bell, Chase Briscoe and Michael Annett will battle for the chance to win \$100,000.

The UNOH 200 presented by Ohio Logistics on Thursday, Aug. 15 will serve as the opening event of the 2019 playoffs and will be full of action as drivers battle under the lights for a chance to qualify for the next round and chase a championship.

Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - Speedway Children's Charities-Texas Chapter will celebrate with Collin County Adventure Camp the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first-of-its-kind ADA-compliant Alpine Tower at the YMCA facility in Anna, Texas on April 10.

Alpine Tower provides the op-

portunity for children with any disability to enjoy the team-building experience of a ropes course. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served and the climbing wall will be open to all.

Speedway Children's Charities-Texas Chapter named Collin County Adventure Camp the recipient of its Founders Grant in 2017, which provided the funding for Alpine Tower's construction.

"The opening of Alpine Tower continues and expands the exciting opportunity for Dallas/Fort Worth-area children to experience the outdoors in both a fun and educational way," said Marissa Chaney, Executive Director of Speedway Children's Charities-Texas Chapter. "Speedway Children's Charities is proud to play a role in this first-of-its-kind program and look forward to continuing a successful relationship with Collin County Adventure Camp."

Opened in 2006, Collin County Adventure Camp currently offers summer camp for youth ages 5-15, outdoor education for more than 125 schools in the Dallas area and retreats for organizations of all sizes. In addition to Alpine Tower, activities include zip lines, a climbing wall, baseball field, archery and riflery ranges, party pool and amphitheater.

"The YMCA is excited to be able to partner with the Speedway Children's Charities to provide this Alpine Tower to the many children that visit our facility each year. This addition will allow us to offer programs to children of all abilities. During the summer months this new structure provides shade to the participants while climbing to protect them from the effects of the sun."

YMCA Collin County Adventure Camp is a partnership between Collin County and the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas. This partnership was established in 2006 and since then more than 350,000 guests have made use of the facility.

The primary purpose for the facility is to provide Outdoor Education classes to students of Collin County. Other programs offered include Day Camp, Resident Camp and group retreats. www.collincountyadventurecamp.org.

SCC-Texas Chapter has made a lasting impact on children in North Texas since its inception in 1997 by awarding more than \$10.85 million in grants to area children's organizations.

Hickory Motor Speedway

The wonderful sounds of horsepower rang out through the Catawba Valley on Saturday night as the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series roared to life for another eventful evening of racing enjoyment.

Leading off the night's racing would be the NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Models in their first of two 40 lap fea-

tures. Kevin Leicht in the #25 would set the fast time in qualifying to grab the top spot with a 15.02. Vince Midas in the #14, the #1 of Brody Pope and Thomas Beane in the #31 would start 2nd through fourth respectively with all three competitors running a 15.03. The start would see the front pair side by side for several laps until Leicht would nose ahead for the early lead. Battles would rage throughout the field, but the chaos would be controlled as the caution flag would stay in the flagman's holster. Midas would start chipping away at the lead and move under Leicht to battle for the top spot. Both drivers would give each other plenty of room to battle side by side for the top spot. Midas would finally move ahead for the top spot around the mid-point of the forty lap feature. Pope, Beane, and Chris Hudspeth in the #28 would give chase to Leicht for the second spot. Midas would hold on and grab his first Hickory Motor Speedway Late Model Victory. Pope would move up to finish a strong 2nd with Beane finishing 3rd. Hudspeth would move up to finish 4th and Leicht would hold on for 5th.

Next up would see the fan-pleasing Hickory Vintage Racers hit the track for 25 laps and open up their 2019 season. The front row would be a family affair with dad, Tim Gilbert in the #95, grabbing the pole and son, Eddie Gilbert in the #00, starting second. The green flag would see the Gilbert's battling side by side for the top spot. The caution would fly when the younger Gilbert would spin in turn 1 of the second lap. Mechanical problems would cause the spin and side line Eddie Gilbert for the remainder of the event. The restart would see Tim Gilbert at the point with Bob Hapeman in the #8 starting second. Gilbert would move to the lead with Hapeman close in tow. The caution



Vince Midas along with friends and family celebrate winning his first Late Model Series race at Hickory Motor Speedway. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)



Race winner Charlie Watson (9) battles Thomas Beane (31) and Vince Midas (14) for the lead late in the second 40-lap Late Model feature. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)

would fly on lap 15 after contact between the #83 of Tom Fenn and #90 of Dennis Hinkle would send them both spinning. Unfortunately both cars would leave the racing surface on the hook of the wrecker. The restart would see Gilbert move back to the front for the 10 lap dash to the finish. Gilbert would hold on for the remaining laps and return to victory lane with Hapeman finishing 2nd. 83 year old, Bill Webb in the #16 would finish 3rd, 2018 Hickory Motor Speedway Champion, Bill Powell in the #71 would finish 4th, and Mackie Webb in the #16 would finish 5th.

The Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models would roll off next for 35 laps of side by side action. Todd Midas in the #50 would make a big 2019 Hickory Motor Speedway return by grabbing the top qualifying spot while Josh Kossek in the #44 would be close behind in second. Cody DeMarmels in the #18 and Kosma Guznyakov in the #33 would make up row two. The green flag would see the front row battle door to door through turns 1

and 2. Kossek would nose ahead down the backstretch. DeMarmels would see the inside open up and move under Midas for second. Kossek would lead for several laps until he would get pressure from DeMarmels for the top spot. DeMarmels would move around to the point and send Kossek to second. DeMarmels would set sail in the lead with the battle being for second between Kossek and Midas. Midas would finally move around for the position and set his sights on the leader. DeMarmels would prove too tough and drive on to the win, his first in Limited Late Models at Hickory Motor Speedway. Midas would finish 2nd and Kossek would come home in 3rd. Ben Campbell in the #27 would finish 4th and Guznyakov would finish 5th.

Hitting the famed 3/8 mile oval next would be the 4-Cylinders for 25 laps of battle. 2018 Hickory Motor Speedway Champion, Brian Mundy in the #6, would start from the point with the #25 of Dennis Ward to his outside. Ward would move to the early lead as Mundy

would pull in with mechanical issues after a hugely successful 2018 season. Cody Combs in the #9 would move to second and set his sights on the leader but the #29 of Allison Houston in third would also have a plan. Ward would drive on to the win with Combs bringing it home in 2nd. Houston would finish 3rd, Robbie Trivette in the #11 would finish 4th, and Mundy would finish 5th.

Roaring to life next would be the Street Stocks for their 30 lap feature. Drew Cox in the #21 would continue on his hot hand, after winning last week's race, and grab the top spot in qualifying with Mark Whitten in the #77 to his outside. The start would see the front pair side by side with Cox moving to the lead after the first couple of laps. Positions would change hands throughout the field, but stay under green till a spin involving Marshall Sutton in the #64 and Jesse Clark in the #5 would bring out the caution on lap 15. Both drivers would be able to continue. The restart would see Cox at the point with the #16 of Jonathon Smith starting to his outside. As the leaders would come under the green flag they would make contact and see the leader, Cox, spin. The caution would once again fly and see the field bunched for the restart with Cox coming from the rear. The restart would see Smith and Whitten tucking in close behind. Cox would work his way back up to third when contact with the #03 of Kevin Eby on lap 22 would send him spinning and bring out the caution once more. One final restart would set the stage for a furious battle for the win. Smith and Whitten would restart side by side and see Smith once again pull to the front. Smith would hang on for the win, the third different Street Stock winner for the season. Whitten would hold on for 2nd and Cox, who would battle his way from the back a second time, would finish 3rd. Ethan Johnson in the #2 would finish 4th and Eby would take 5th.

Closing out the evening's festivities would be the NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Models for the second of their 40 lap features. After the invert from the finishing order of race one the #34 of Pat Rachels would start from the point with Neil Meredith in the #36 to his outside. Row two would see Charlie Watson in the #9 and Connor Mosack in the #18. The green flag would see Rachels

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and Meredith dueling it out for the lead. Meredith would nose ahead and Watson would look to move around Rachels for second. After several laps Watson would look under Meredith and make his way to the top spot. Watson would set a torrid pace while Thomas Beane in the #31 would quietly work his way into second place and start chipping away at the

leader. The caution would fly on lap 33 when the #25 of Ryan Vargas would spin in turn one. The restart would see Watson, Beane, and the entire field bunched up for a seven lap shootout. Watson and Beane would look to battle it out between themselves until race one winner Vince Midas in the #14 would enter the fray and look to go three wide with the front duo. The action would settle down as Watson would pull ahead. Watson would drive on to a close but hard earned win. Beane would finish 2nd with a good points night and Vince Midas would cap off his night by finishing 3rd. Rachels would hold on for 4th in a photo finish with Brody Pope in the #1 who would finish 5th.

Next week the NASCAR Whelen All American Series will be in action once again with Twin 40s for the Late Models, Round #3 of the Paramount Kia 'Big 10' Racing Challenge with 50 laps for the Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models, 30 laps for the Street Stocks, 25 laps for the 4-Cylinders, and 20 laps for the Renegades.

Gates open at 4:45pm, Qualifying at 5pm, Autograph Session at 6:15 pm, and Racing at 7pm.

Tickets only \$12.50 for Adults, \$10.50 for Teens and Senior Citizens, Children 12 & under are FREE!

In two weeks, on Easter weekend, April 20th, the PASS Series returns for the annual Easter Bunny 150. Don't miss the great Super Late Model action.

For more info check us out at www.hickorymotorspeedway.com, on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or call us at 828-464-3655.

Carteret County Speedway

PELETIER, NC - Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway has moved the start times for the next two races up to 2pm after receiving positive feedback about

Saturday afternoon's season-opening race.

The move came after drivers and fans reacted positively to the first ever daytime race at Carteret County Speedway. Many drivers, including Legends driver Zack Brown and Champ Kart driver Sean Wales, advocated for moving the start time up for upcoming events.

"It's great," Brown, who drives to the track from Raleigh, said. "Afternoon racing is perfect this time of year because it's so nice out. It's also nice to get packed up and home at a decent hour. Glad to see Carteret County Speedway listen to fans and racers."

The next two races, which are run on Saturday, April 13th and Saturday, April 27th, will get underway at 2pm with the grandstands opening at 12pm. The April 13th Spring Thaw will feature racing for the INEX Legends, East Coast Flathead Fords, Street Stocks, Mini-Stocks, U-CARs, Champ Karts and Mini Cups. The April 27th Clash at the Coast will be headlined by Limited Late Model racing.

"We got a lot of positive response about racing in the daytime," track owner Bob Lowery said. "We pride ourselves on listening to our drivers and our fans and decided to make the next two races daytime races. Weather conditions in April are favorable for racing in the afternoon, so we expect both races to be great shows."

The championship races on November 2nd and the Carolina Mini-Stock Nationals on November 16th will also be contested during the afternoon at Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway. The first night race of the 2019 season will be held on Saturday, May 11th which is headlined by a \$2,500-to-win INEX Legends feature race.

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

Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - Luke Cranston opened the 2019 season at Dodge City Raceway Park by racing to victory lane in the 25-lap Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Car vs. United Rebel Sprint Series feature event atop the 3/8-mile clay oval.

While Cranston bested the Sprint Car ranks, other opening night winners included Clay Money in IMCA Modifieds, Dakota Sproul

in IMCA Sport Modifieds, Angel Munoz in IMCA Stock Cars and Tathan Burkhart in IMCA Hobby Stocks as 108 cars filled the pit area.

In the 25-lap DCRP Sprint Car vs. URSS feature, Ness City native Cranston gridded the feature inside the third row as Brian Herbert and Koby Walters led the way to the green flag but it was fourth-starter Ty Williams battling into the early lead.

Vying for his third DCRP opening night win in the last five years, Williams paced the opening eight rounds before looping it in turn three to hand the lead over to Walters with Cranston on his tailtank.

Walters kept Cranston at bay for ten rounds before Cranston finally found the opening he was looking for in traffic and battled into the lead on the 19th circuit. Cranston led the rest of the way, taking the checkered flag ahead of Walters with two-time track champion Taylor Velasquez racing to the third-place podium finish.

Herbert crossed the stripe fourth with Jake Martens rounding out the top five. Andy Shouse was sixth with defending track champion Steven Richardson, Jeremy Huish, Jed Werner and Tyler Knight completing the top ten.

The feature event was slowed by one red flag when Jordan Knight went for a hard ride on the frontstretch. Knight walked away from the incident.

Tyler Knight, Williams, Huish and Walters topped heat race action for the 28-car Sprint Car field with Richardson winning the "B" Main.

In the 20-lap IMCA Modified feature, Penokee's Clay Money battled past Jesse Richter for the point

on the seventh round and raced on to his first DCRP win in Modified competition to go along with several previous Sport Modified victories.

Richter spun from contention a half lap after surrendering the lead, leaving Money to fend off defending track champion Nick Link and then Clay Sellard over the final rounds to secure the win.

Money took the checkered flag ahead of Sellard, Link and Jesse Smith while Richter raced back through the field to round out the top five.

Hays racer Dakota Sproul kicked off the 2019 season at DCRP the same he finished off in 2018 by racing to victory lane in the 20-lap IMCA Sport Modified feature.

Sproul chased down early pace-setter Luke Stallbaumer and took command in traffic on the 13th round. Sproul worked traffic to perfection over the closing circuits with Stallbaumer setting for runner-up honors. Reigning track champion Jeff Kaup raced from ninth to third with Mike Lunow and Brian May rounding out the top five.

Lamar, Colorado's Angel Munoz kicked off his IMCA Stock Car title pursuit by storming to victory lane in the 20-lap feature.

Munoz needed just seven laps to charge from tenth into the lead and paced the field the rest of the way, crossing the stripe ahead of Jason Rogers, early leader Gregg Schell, Mike Petersilie and Chris Oliver.

After topping three of last year's final six IMCA Hobby Stock features, Hays' Tathan Burkhart battled into the lead on the fourth lap and led the rest of the way to snare

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Clay Money battled through the competition to win the IMCA Modified Feature at Dodge City Raceway Park. (DCRP photo)

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victory honors.

Burkhart held off Brady Bencken over the closing circuits with defending track champion Reagan Sellard, Cody Williams and Duane Wahrman rounding out the top five.

Action resumes at Dodge City Raceway Park next Saturday night, April 13, with the Seventh Annual Modified Stampede that features a \$1,000 winner's share for the IMCA Modifieds along with a full card of Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars and IMCA Hobby Stocks.

Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGROVE, PA - Selinsgrove Speedway opened the 2019 season on Saturday night. Kyle Reinhardt of Neptune City, N.J., driving for John Westbrook, picked up his first career win at the speedway in the 25-lap 360 sprint car event.

Coleby Frye, of Dover, wired the field for the win in the 25-lap model feature. It was Frye's 21st career win at the Snyder County oval.

Reinhardt and Frye both collected \$2,200 for their Opening Day victories.

Brandon Moser, of Middleburg, and Smith Cope, of Danville, also wired the field for their opening night wins in the 15-lap pro stock and 12-lap roadrunner main events, respectively.

Selinsgrove Speedway returns to racing action at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 13, with another four division show featuring the Keller's Auto Body & Towing 360 sprint cars, Jeff's Auto Body & Recycling super late models, and the A&A Auto Stores pro stocks and roadrunners. Track gates open at 4 p.m.

Mallie Schuster and Cody Keller got together in the first turn at the start of the sprint car feature with both cars flipping and bringing out the red flag immediately. Both drivers were uninjured.

Outside front row starter Davie Franek swept around the outside of the track to take the lead from pole-sitter Derek Locke with Mark Smith Jason Schultz and Kyle Reinhardt in hot pursuit.

On the fourth circuit, fourth-place starter Reinhardt made the winning pass by Franek in turn one. Lap

eight brought out the caution flag for a car slowing on the speedway wiping out a 2.6 second lead. Smith used the restart to take third from Locke as Reinhardt again started to build a sizable lead.

At the halfway point, Reinhardt was leading Franek, Smith, Locke, and Shultz. Smith used the low side of turns three and four to take second from Franek who then slowed to a stop with a flat.

Smith pressured Reinhardt at the start but could not keep pace with him. Reinhardt beat Smith to the finish line by 3.4 seconds. Locke, Jason Schultz and Chad Layton rounded out the top five.

Sprint car heats went to Smith and Schultz.

Second-place starter Coleby Frye rocketed into the lead of the start of the late model feature and was followed by polesitter and defending champion Bryan Bernheisel, Justin Weaver, Brett Schadel and Danny Snyder were in close pursuit.

Frye, who is back driving his own F1 number racer, immediately went to the high side of the speedway.

John Myers spun and clipped the first turn fence bringing out the caution flag on lap seven.

Frye again assumed the lead over Bernheisel as the pair drove away from the field. Lap 11 saw the yellow flag unfurl again as Kyle Lee and Meade Hahn spun in the second turn.

Frye led the rest of the distance, despite some additional caution flags winning over Bernheisel by 2.9 seconds. Schadel, Snyder and Jim Bernheisel finished in the top five.

Late model heats were won by Bryan Bernheisel, Frye and Schadel.

Fourth-place starter Brandon Moser took the early lead in the pro stock feature and was followed by Shaun Lawton, Kyle Bachman, Corey Long and Brad Myers. Moser built up a lead but by lap eight Lawton was on his rear bumper looking for the lead.

The caution flew on lap 11 slowing the field. On the restart Moser continued to lead with Lawton stalking him but Moser took the checkered flag, .322 second in front of Lawton, Bachman, Long and Myers.

Pro stock heats were won by, Moser and Lawton.

Polesitter Smith Cope took the lead in the roadrunner feature and was followed by Will Brunson, Jason Zook, Curtis Lawton and Brian Mabus.

A lap five caution was disastrous for Brunson who slowed on the track bringing out the caution on the next lap.

Cope spent the rest of the race holding off the charge of Zook around the high side of the speedway but Cope, despite the fact that he didn't have brakes, slid up to close the door and take the checkered flag over Zook, Lawton, Mabus and Tom Underwood.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRNGS, CT - Since being crowned SK Modified® Rookie of the Year and grabbing his first victory in 2005, Keith Rocco and NAPA Victory Lane at Stafford Speedway have become synonymous. Rocco has won at least one SK Modified® feature at Stafford every year since 2007 and has led the division in wins 6 times during that stretch, including 6 wins last season. With the 2019 season just around the corner, the Berlin, CT native and driver of the #88 Wheelers Auto Chevrolet is ready to continue racking up wins in Stafford's premier SK Modified® division.

"It should be a good year," said Rocco. "We'll go out and do what we do best and see where we end up. The goal is to win as many races as we can. I've always been the type to go for wins and I've always been more excited about winning races than championships even with as many championships as we've won. I think we'll be pretty strong and we'll see how the cards fall for us. You have to have luck on your side but at the end of the day I know we'll be up front contending for wins."

The 2018 season saw Rocco continue a winning streak he began at the end of the 2017 season, winning the first four races of the season bringing him to a record 6 consecutive victories. Rocco was the early favorite for the championship but was eventually overtaken in the standings by Ronnie Williams. Rocco and crew chief Billy "Bear" Calicchio enter their second year working together and have identified where they need to improve in 2019.

"We had a great year last season with a little bit of a dry spell mid-summer," said Rocco. "We've figured out why that was and what we need to change this year to be better during the summer. It's been a busy winter with a lot going on, so we're a bit behind the 8 ball right now but we'll be in good shape come the Sizzler. Last year was a learning curve working together with Bear for a full season and that

definitely improved our program. We won the most races of anybody last year and I think we're only going to get better and better as we keep going."

Rocco has been driving for car owners John and Maina Rufrano since 2009 and for the first time he will have a teammate as Marcello Rufrano will make the move from Stafford's SK Lights up to the SK Modified® division.

"I think it's going to be really good for Marcello to have me as a teammate," said Rocco. "I've been driving for his father since he was a kid and he's grown up watching me and racing with me. He knows how I operate and it's going to be great for the whole team for us to be teammates."

As well as driving his #88 machine, Rocco will also field two additional SK Modified® entries for Michael Gervais, Jr., and Michael Rutkoski. Rocco will also be kept busy throughout the summer lending his set-up knowledge to three SK Light drivers.

"I help Cassandra Cole, Teddy Hodgdon, and Noah Korner with setting up their SK Light cars and we'll have Michael Gervais, Jr. and Michael Rutkoski driving in the SK's," said Rocco. "Over the last year and a half I really like working with Gervais family. Not only do they drive for me, they come down to the shop during the week and we've become great friends and I'm looking forward to working with Michael Rutkoski as well this season. Everybody gets along well and I think we have a really good program."

During his 14-year Stafford career, Rocco has won races in the SK Modified®, Late Model, Valenti Modified Racing Series divisions as well as a win in the 2011 Champions for Charity kart race. In 2019, Rocco will be looking to add a win in one of the three Open Modified 80-lap events that will be held at Stafford this season.

"I think those are one of my favorite races that Stafford puts on," said Rocco. "It's a great program with the amount of laps and they give the drivers a couple of tires. That really makes the races fun for the drivers, fans, and crews because they get to go over the wall and change tires and do something different other than going out for a 40-lap SK race."

In addition to Wheelers Auto, Rocco's #88 SK Modified machine will carry sponsorship from Hocon Industrial Gas, Dunleavy's Truck & Trailer Repair, Arbitell Convenience

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Stores, 811 Call Before You Dig, and Pettit Racing Engines.

The 2019 season gets underway at Stafford with the NAPA Spring Sizzler® spanning 3 days kicking off Friday, April 26th with a full afternoon of practice for Stafford's weekly divisions. The weekend continues Saturday with qualifying for all divisions including group qualifying for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour as well as feature racing for the Vintage All-Stars, Limited Late Models and Street Stocks. New for 2019 the Saturday Street Stock feature will be a 30 lap special event as part of the RMSPCO.com Street Stock Triple Crown. Sizzler® weekend is capped off Sunday with the NAPA Auto Parts Pit Party and feature racing for the SK Modifieds®, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, and finally the NAPA Spring Sizzler® 200 for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour.

Tickets for the "Greatest Race in the History of Spring" are on sale now by calling the Speedway Box Office 860-684-2783 or online at www.staffordspeedway.com. Discount NAPA Spring Sizzler® tickets that include access to the NAPA lunch buffet are available at participating NAPA Auto Parts Stores. For a full list of participating locations throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, please call the speedway office or point your web browser to www.staffordmotorspeedway.com/participating-napa-auto-parts-stores.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRNGS, CT - When it comes to winning races at Stafford Speedway, Chase Dowling certainly knows how to get the job done. The 21 year old, originally from Roxbury, CT, has 13 career wins at the Connecticut half-mile with 7 SK Light wins during his rookie season in 2013 and 6 SK Modified® wins from 2014-2018. Dowling is looking to carry on his winning ways at the NAPA Spring Sizzler® Whelen Modified Tour 200 on April 27-28.

With a third place finish in the 2017 running of the NAPA Spring Sizzler®, and second in 2018, Dowling will be looking to step up one more rung of the ladder in vic-

tory lane and he's hoping his most recent second place finish at the NWMT stop in South Boston will be to his benefit.

"Finishing second was a big relief," said Dowling. "We threw this deal together with Jamie over the winter and it was a good testament to everyone on Jamie's team and the guys on my side of things. We were fast in practice and we qualified outside pole and finished second at South Boston. It was great to see Jamie and his whole team happy again and it brings a lot of confidence when you can run that good the first time out with a new car. We're going to try like hell to win the Sizzler. Stafford is my home track and I've won races in every series I've driven at Stafford from SK Lights to SK Modifieds® and now I really want to get a NASCAR Touring win at Stafford. It's so hard to win a race at Stafford because there's so many good cars and crew chiefs. Winning the Sizzler would be huge for Jamie, the whole crew, and myself."

Dowling and Tomaino have collaborated in the past, teaming up for the 2015 NWMT season where Dowling captured Sunoco Rookie of the Year Honors. Now that the duo has reunited for a partial schedule this season, Dowling will look to use his knowledge of Stafford to his benefit to cancel out any growing pains that are associated with a new car that will have only seen the race track once prior to the Sizzler.

"My experience at Stafford will be huge," said Dowling. "With me being involved with the setup on the car, I knew after South Boston what we could expect out of the car at Stafford and I could compare how the car was at South Boston with how I expect it to be at Stafford. Having a lot of laps at Stafford hopefully we can unload fast off of the truck and we can be quick all weekend."

In 13 career NWMT starts at Stafford, Dowling has recorded 6 top-5 and 9 top-10 finishes, including podium efforts the last 2 years in the NAPA Spring Sizzler®. Dowling has also shown speed in qualifying at Stafford, setting a new track record during qualifying for last year's NAPA Spring Sizzler®. History has shown that a good qualifying effort is a major step towards winning the NAPA Spring Sizzler® as only one driver, Doug Coby in 2006, has won the race after starting outside the top-9. Dowling will look to replicate his qualifying success of last season where he won two pole positions at

Stafford and started second in the NAPA Fall Final race.

"Qualifying is going to be important because that sets the tone for the weekend, especially with qualifying on Saturday," said Dowling. "You can regroup overnight and come back on Sunday and get into race pace strategy. It's crucial to be up front to know what you have in the car for the end of the race."

The other main aspect of winning the NAPA Spring Sizzler® will be to have the correct pit strategy. With the Sizzler® set at 200-laps in distance, everyone in the field will have to make one pit stop for fuel while balancing when to come to pit road for tires as teams can only take fuel or change one tire per pit stop. With Dowling being a part-time team this season and not racing for the championship, he and the Tomaino team can afford to take some risks with their pit strategy that they might not normally make if they were a full-time team.

"There's so many different strategies to go with that you have to see how many cars are on the lead lap and how the cautions are falling during the race," said Dowling. Things can unfold really quickly at Stafford and that's what makes this race so awesome. You can have the fastest car, but if you have the wrong pit strategy, that can really mess your day up. I'm sure the race is going to be a great race and entertaining for all the fans in the grandstands."

Fans can also see Dowling in action in Stafford's three Open Modified events driving the #00 Jimmy Paige owned car. With 2 second place finishes last season, Dowling is looking to go one position better this season in the Open Modified 80 on May 10, the Twisted Tea 80 on June 14, and the Bud Light 80 on July 12.

"I'm really happy to be back with Jimmy Paige this year," said Dowling. "It's a privilege that he called me back after last year to let me drive his car. Working with Steve LeMay and the whole group, we have a lot of fun. We need to get a win this year because last year every start we made we ended up finishing second. It's a great group of guys to be working with and they have great equipment and hopefully this year we can get a win."

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Tour as well as feature racing for the Vintage All-Stars, Limited Late Models and Street Stocks. New for 2019 the Saturday Street Stock feature will be a 30 lap special event as part of the RMSPCO.com Street Stock Triple Crown. Sizzler® weekend is capped off Sunday with the NAPA Auto Parts Pit Party and feature racing for the SK Modifieds®, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, and finally the NAPA Spring Sizzler® 200 for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour.

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Carteret County Speedway

PELETIER, NC - With the next two races at Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway being pushed up to 2pm, the track has made the decision to run all the regular divisions in the two upcoming races.

The decision means Limited Late Models and U-CARs will both be on the schedule on Saturday, April 13th and Street Stocks will be on the schedule on Saturday, April 27th.

"With the races starting in the daytime, we have plenty of time to get the full show in," track owner Bob Lowery said. "We've heard from the drivers who want to race and have decided to let all the divisions be a part of the show for the next two weeks."

The Spring Thaw, which will be held on April 13th, will feature racing for the Limited Late Models, Street Stocks, Sportsman's Wholesale Mini-Stocks, U-CARs, INEX Legends, Mini Cups, Champ Karts and the East Coast Flathead Ford Association. Pit gates will open at 8am, practice will get underway at 10am, grandstands will open at 12pm and racing will go green at 2pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults while kids 10 and under get in free.

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