



NOVEMBER 9, 2020

# FastTrack

RACING JOURNAL ONLINE

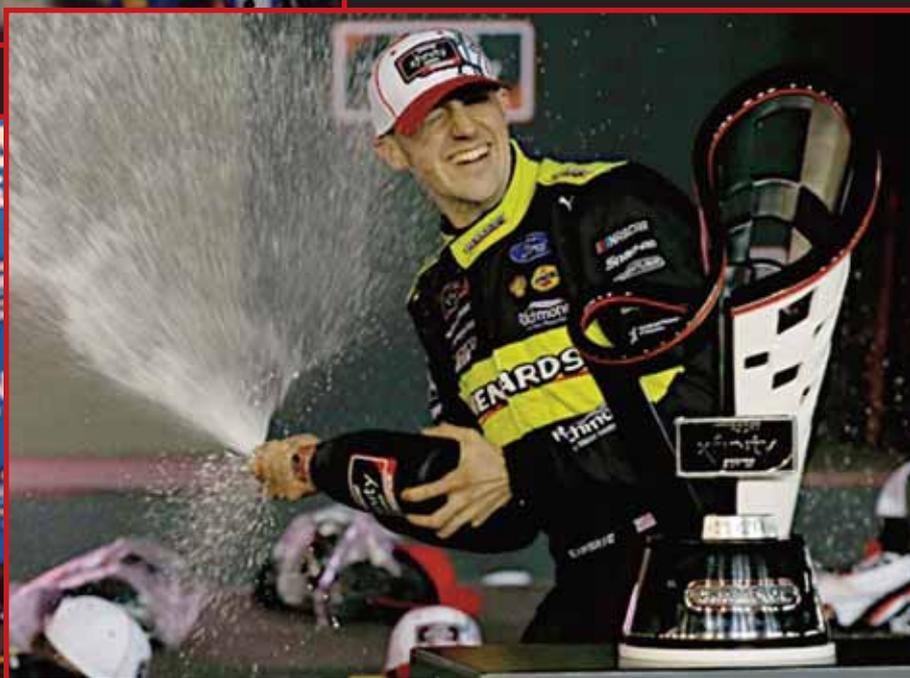
Straight to your phone, tablet or computer...



First  
Time  
Champs  
Chase  
Elliott



Sheldon Creed



Austin Cindric

# The Torch is Passed...

Chase Elliott was stopped one lap after winning the NASCAR Cup Series championship by a car going the wrong way at the Phoenix Raceway.

It was impossible to know what Jimmie Johnson was telling the 24-year-old driver. Their engines still humming at ear-shattering levels and their full-face helmets muffled every word.

But the sentiment was never clearer. One racing dynasty was ending; another one was just getting started.

Just like the season-finale in 1992 when Richard Petty made his final NASCAR start and a young gun named Jeff Gordon was just starting his path to racing immortality, Johnson made a dignified exit from a sport that he once ruled like

no other. At the same time, Elliott was making claim to his first championship after leading the final 43 laps to beat Brad Keselowski in second, Joey Logano in third and Denny Hamlin in fourth – all Final Four drivers – to trigger a celebration from the Arizona desert to the Georgia Appalachia.

The siren blasted into the night at the Dawsonville Pool Room as fans celebrated in the streets. The tiny hamlet on the foothills of the Smoky Mountains threw a parade from the Pool Room to the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame on Monday, just a few short hours after Chase joined his father, Bill, as the third father-son duo to win the championship.

“I don’t know if it’s right or wrong, but I feel like the town of Dawsonville should just exempt all work and school [on Monday] I feel like would be really cool,” Chase Elliott said. “As I was driving to the airport, I passed the pool room on the way. And on the way they have where I’m starting on the sign.

“What a cool tradition they’ve carried on for a long time. Grateful for the [Gordon] Pirkle family and great that all those great people can experience this with me. If I had to go to school [Monday], it ain’t happening. There is no doubt about that.”

Although the Dawson County Schools was one of the first to congratulate Chase on social media for

his championship, schools were open for all 3,036 Dawson County students.

While the next generation celebrates what many believe will be a successful, if not storied, career, another one left the racetrack without a lot of fanfare. Johnson finished fifth at Phoenix and will leave NASCAR as a full-time driver.

Young Elliott didn’t need to hear the words immediately after the race to appreciate what Johnson meant to the sport – and his career.

“Yeah, in that moment actually there was a photo that had sat around my parents’ office for years.



**DON COBLE**

I think it was [2003]; dad won the race at Homestead and Matt Kenseth won the championship. OK, so dad won the race and Matt won the championship. There was a photo that sat around of them high-fiving in their cars as they were driving by.

“I saw Jimmie kind of taking his victory lap up there and that picture flashed in my head. And I was like, that would be super, super cool to recreate that moment. Yeah, we did. I really hope somebody took that picture because that was really cool. I hope somebody got it.”

Johnson left the Southern California stadium truck circuit as a prodigy for Chevrolet. He made his stock car debut on July 31, 1998, in Tad Geschickter’s No. 59 Chevrolet in the Xfinity Series race at the Indianapolis Raceway Park. He started 37th and finished 25th.

More than 33 years later, including one truck, 93 Xfinity and 686 Cup series starts, Johnson walked away with far more than 83 Cup wins and seven championship. He left with a sport’s appreciation and respect.

“I think your personality and the way you treat people and handle things, not only impacts your live specifically, but it also attracts like-minded people to be around you and the teams that you drive for and the sponsors that you have,” Johnson said.

“When I look at the big picture you see all these other variables where like-minded people have assembled together and we’re able to do what we do. So, it’s a saying and I think I understand why; because competition is fierce and you have to be cutthroat at times, but I think I’m one of quite a few exam-



**New champion Chase Elliott (right), exiting 7-time champion Jimmie Johnson (left) and car owner Rick Hendrick take a moment to celebrate. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)**

ples that if you just be yourself, and do your thing, you can be respectful and kind to others and still succeed in a competitive sport.”

Just as important, Johnson left the sport on his own terms.

“I have friends that have been NASCAR drivers, friends of mine that have played professional football, professional baseball,” Johnson said. “Very few have had the opportunity to call their shot and say when they’re done. Some have had injury, some were forced out, some sponsorship or opportunity passed them by. And either way,

watching them, there’s a big void that I’ve noticed.”

Car owner Rick Hendrick owned the cars for both Johnson and Elliott. Hendrick now has 13 Cup Series championships, but he said Sunday’s race will be one of his most memorable.

“Jimmie’s last race is Chase’s first championship, and to see those two guys embrace, that was really cool,” Hendrick said. “I think it means a lot to our whole organization.”

And even more to the entire sport.

## The Champions

FasTrack is available online only. We are covering all the racing series, off track news and other features that you have grown to love.

2020 racing season is over and champions have been crowned. FasTrack will have another issue in December and be back in 2021.

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### ON THE COVER:

**CHASE ELLIOTT - CHRIS GRANTHEN/GETTY IMAGES**  
**AUSTIN CINDRIC - MATT THACKER/NKP**  
**SHELDON CREED - MATT THACKER/NKP**

# Chase Elliott Wins at Phoenix, Takes 2020 Cup Championship and Adds to Family Legacy

Chase Elliott won the biggest race of his life – rallying from a last place starting position to cross the Phoenix Raceway finish line first in the Series Finale 500 - earning his first career NASCAR Cup Series championship at the age of 24 – the youngest champion in NASCAR’s premier series in 25 years.

Ultimately Elliott won by 2.74-seconds over former fellow title contenders, Team Penske teammates Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano. The fourth championship-eligible driver, Joe Gibbs Racing’s

torsports Chevrolet team’s preparedness for this race. He only earned his place in the four-driver championship field with a clutch victory last week at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway and made the most of that work on Sunday.

Ultimately Elliott wrestled the lead away from Logano for good with 42 laps of the 312-lap race remaining. It was the result of a determined driver and team after the car failed pre-race inspection Sunday morning and had to start last in the 39-car field.

His focus was evident, however, from the drop of the green flag. Elliott’s Chevrolet was 15th by Lap



After Chase Elliott exited his racer, the win was an emotional realization. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)

Denny Hamlin, finished fourth.

Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson, 45, was fifth in his final race as a fulltime driver, congratulating his young Hendrick Motorsports teammate Elliott on-track and later on pit lane – a fitting symbol of the sport’s ‘passing of the guard’.

“Awesome, awesome, awesome,” Elliott screamed into his team radio after taking the checkered flag. “We are the champions!”

Three of the four title contenders led laps on the day at the famed one-mile desert oval. Logano was out front 125 laps and Keselowski led 16 laps, but Elliott’s 154 laps led were indicative of his motivation, talent and the No. 9 Hendrick Mo-

15. He took the lead for the first time at Lap 79 and led seven different times on the afternoon.

Once Elliott rallied to the front, the four title contenders were predominantly the top four drivers on track the remainder of the race – truly settling the championship among themselves.

“Obviously when you don’t win it hurts, it definitely stings,” Logano said. “I told the guys before the race, you can’t lose. You either win or you get stronger. Unfortunately, we got stronger today.”

With this championship, Elliott and his father Bill (the 1988 series champion) now become only the third father-son NASCAR Cup Series championship combination in



Newly crowned 2020 NASCAR Cup Series Champion Chase Elliott (left) poses with his parents Cindy and Bill Elliott (1988 Cup Champion) after the trophy presentation. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY)

the sport’s history joining Lee and Richard Petty and Ned and Dale Jarrett. Elliott’s father stood track-side for the race and joked afterward that he had given his son some simple advice for the big day. Advice Chase readily admits went through his head as he challenged for the life-changing trophy.

“He told me, ‘all you have to do is beat three people,’” a smiling Elliott said of father’s pre-race advice. “He said all week he felt confident that we could come out here and do this. And he was right.”

“This is a moment I’ve dreamed about. This is all I’ve wanted to do is be a race car driver and race in NASCAR. To be honest, I’m hum-

who is returning to retirement, finished 14th and 25th, respectively in their final race. Crew chief Chad Knaus, at the helm for Johnson’s seven titles, led Hendrick driver Byron to that ninth-place showing.

And Stewart-Haas Racing’s Cole Custer, who qualified for the Playoffs with a victory at Kentucky Speedway this summer, finished 28th officially wrapping up the 2020 Sunoco Rookie of the Year honors.

“I’m at a loss for words, this is unbelievable,” Elliott said. “Oh, my gosh. We did it. I mean, we did it. That’s all I’ve got to tell you. Unreal.”

“Crew chief, Alan Gustafson, is now a NASCAR Cup Series champion, and very deserving. I just



Chase Elliott (9) leads Joey Logano (22) and Denny Hamlin (11) all the way to the win. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

bled.”

Elliott’s good friend Ryan Blaney finished sixth followed by regular season champion Kevin Harvick, Matt DiBenedetto, William Byron and Martin Truex Jr.

Clint Bowyer, who is moving to the FOX television booth, and former series champion Matt Kenseth,

can’t say enough about our group. I felt like we took some really big strides this year, and last week was a huge one.

“To come out of that with a win and a shot to come here and have a chance to race is unbelievable. Heck, I don’t know. I don’t even know. This is unreal.”

# Austin Cindric Wins 2020 Xfinity Championship in Overtime at Phoenix

After establishing the pace most of the afternoon, 22-year old Austin Cindric ultimately relied on raw determination to claim the 2020 NASCAR Xfinity Series championship. The Team

Penske driver pulled off the most clutch lap-pass of his young career to take the race victory in Saturday's Desert Diamond Casino West Valley 200 and earn his first NASCAR title.

After pitting for tires just before a final overtime restart, Cindric was able to work his way forward at the final green flag and got around Noah Gragson on the last lap - driving away to a .162-second victory for his sixth win of the season, easily the most celebrated of his career.

After celebratory donuts in his car, Cindric pulled himself out of the driver's window, climbed on top of his bright yellow No. 22 Team Penske Ford and flashed No. 1 victory signs on both hands before waving a giant champion's flag.

"There was a lot of work put into this race car," a grinning Cindric said, carefully taking the time to thank everyone from his team owner, NASCAR Hall of Famer Roger Penske, to his sponsors, his team, pit crew, spotter and ultimately his mom and dad.

"I'm speechless, I can't believe



Race winner and newly crowned Xfinity Champion, Austin Cindric takes time out of celebrating to be interviewed for the TV audience. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

it. You know the equipment you're in is the best of the best and the people you're working with are the best of the best," he added.

Certainly as exuberant as Cindric understandably was, the other three members of the Championship 4 felt disappointment and dismay. Veteran Justin Allgaier, who led a race high 77 laps - five more laps out front than Cindric - was in position to try and secure his first NASCAR title.

The 34-year old driver of the No.

7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet kept the field honest consistently throughout the evening but ultimately on that last restart Allgaier was unable to hold off Cindric who had fresher tires and was able to muscle around Allgaier and Allgaier's JR Motorsports teammate Gragson.

and the loss of track position was a setback he ultimately couldn't overcome.

"Just a frustrating day, this is by far not my best race track," said Briscoe, who will move into the SHR team's No. 14 NASCAR Cup Series ride next year.

"At the start of the race for me,

Allgaier finished fifth and the other Championship 4 drivers: Justin Haley and Chase Briscoe finished eighth and ninth, respectively.

Gragson (second), Brandon Jones (third) and Michael Annett (fifth) were the non-Playoff drivers to finish in the top-five. Harrison Burton, Ross Chastain, Haley, Briscoe and Jeremy Clements round out the top-10.

"So close but so far away," Allgaier said. "First of all, hats off to Austin and the entire Team Penske group, they've been strong competitors all year. To have the race they did tonight, they were obviously the best car and they deserved to win. I'm proud of my guys, proud of everybody at JR Motorsports.

"We had a shot at it at the end and when it's all said and done, that's all you can really ask for."

For most of the race the title contending quartet ran up front. In addition to Cindric and Allgaier, the Stewart-Haas Racing driver Chase Briscoe showed the speed that had made him the winningest driver in the series this year. He won a career-high and season-best nine races and led 41 laps on this championship night, but a struggle to get his car comfortable, a late race spin

just to lead laps here, I was like 'wow this is different.' I was just so loose at the beginning of the race and as the night came I was freer and freer and I don't know how many times I about wrecked into one. I ended up hitting the wall. I've got to do a whole lot better job. There's just something about this place that I really struggle at. We have a lot of homework to do.

"Definitely frustrating to finish fourth in the championship after the year we had, but overall to win nine races, it's been a phenomenal year."

Haley, a three-race winner in 2020, didn't lead any laps in his No. 11 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet, but he rallied from a slow start and kept his car competitively among the top 10.

"It's been awesome," Haley said of his Playoff berth. "Just the growth of this Kaulig Racing team from when I stepped into it last year and were out in the first round of the Playoffs.

"Just the courage and the faith and everyone at Kaulig Racing, we bet on each other. I love it. I love everyone there. Super excited and super blessed to have another year. Doesn't sting as much because I know next year I get another chance at it."



A wild finish has Austin Cindric (22) leading the pack to the checkered flag. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

# Sheldon Creed Makes Daring Move to Win 2020 Gander Trucks Championship at Phoenix

Championship finalist Sheldon Creed had already apologized to his race team as his No. 2 GMS Racing Chevrolet Silverado began to fall

back in the closing laps of Friday night's Lucas Oil 150 NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series championship race at Phoenix Raceway.

And then a yellow flag came out – with three laps remaining. Creed gambled on a pit stop for fresh tires even as the race leaders – fellow championship contenders Brett Moffitt and Grant Enfinger stayed on track. Creed restarted eighth but made an amazing four-wide move on the bottom of the track to pull back into the lead with a lap to go and held off rookie teammate Zane Smith by a mere .617-seconds to earn his first NASCAR national series championship trophy in a dramatic season finale at the one-mile track.

"I can't believe it, thank you so much," the 23-year old Californian, Creed screamed into his team radio as he crossed the finish line.

"The caution came out and we were like, 'we've got nothing to lose'," Creed said of the decision to pit for tires. "I pride myself on my restarts week-in and week-out and just nailed the restart right there.

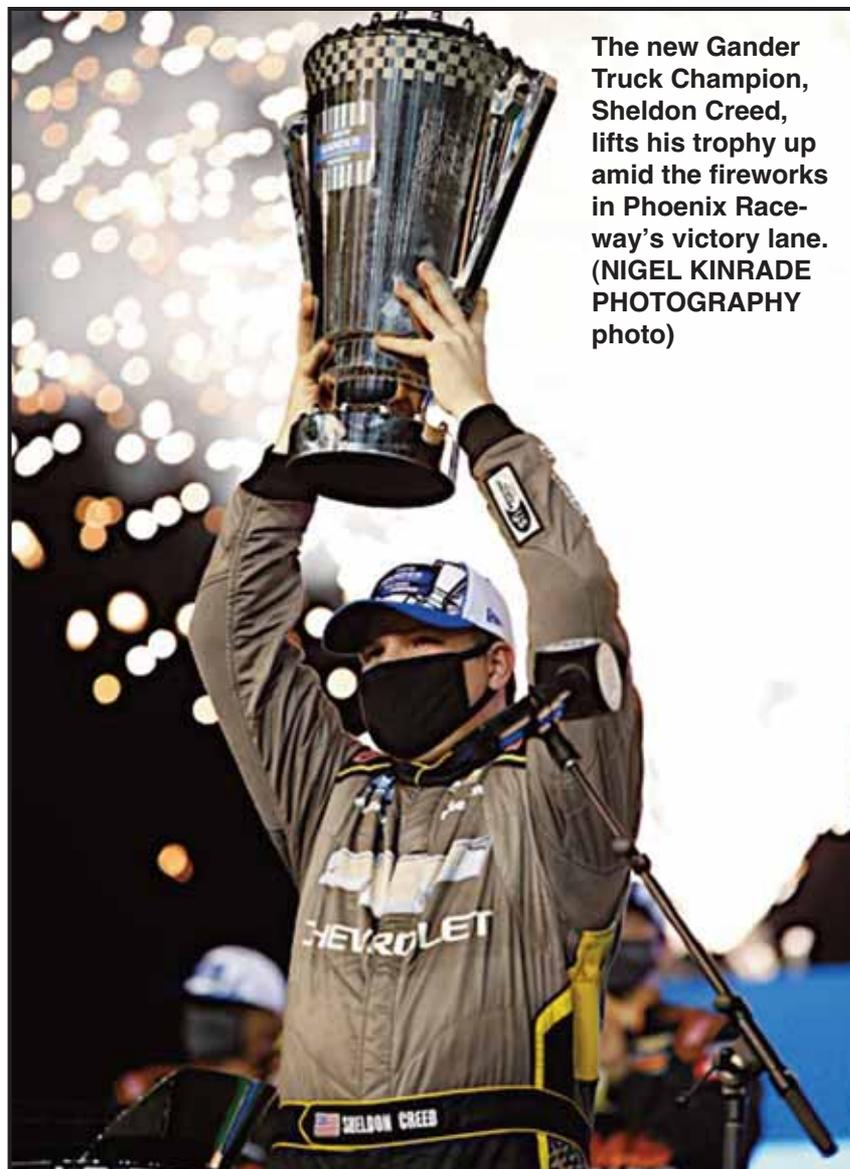
"I was just driving as hard as I can, I wanted this thing so bad."

It was particularly heart-wrenching for Creed's teammate Brett Moffitt, who led a race best 78 of the 155 laps and had held the front position for 59 laps when that final caution came out for Dawson Cram's spinning No. 41 Chevrolet. The 2018 series champion, Moffitt, was essentially left helpless on the restart as all the trucks with fresh tires – plus a pair of title contenders – came at him in a five-wide title-on-the-line run for the checkered.

"It's frustrating losing like that," Moffitt said. "It would have been an honor to win with this paint scheme in honor of [NASCAR Cup Series champion] Jimmie Johnson," said Moffitt, adding, "I guess if broken legs isn't enough of a handicap, race strategy is."

Moffitt, driver of the No. 23 GMS Racing Chevrolet, was referring to an accident he had prior to the COVID-19 NASCAR pause in competition, that broke both his legs. He recovered and valiantly made a run for the title despite the physical setback.

Smith, the third GMS Racing team driver, was similarly frustrated on pit road after the race. He earned two wins on the season and the series Sunoco Rookie of the Year Honors, but the disappointment in Friday night's outcome was



The new Gander Truck Champion, Sheldon Creed, lifts his trophy up amid the fireworks in Phoenix Raceway's victory lane. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

obvious post-race.

"Honestly, I'm happy for Sheldon, he had an amazing year along with us," said the 21-year old Californian. "Man, nothing hurts more than to be the first loser."

Non-championship contenders Chandler Smith finished third, Christian Eckes and Raphael Lessard rounded out the top five. Last year's Phoenix winner Stewart Friesen, Ben Rhodes, Tyler Ankrum, Todd Gilliland and Moffitt

rounded out the top-10.

The fourth member of the Championship 4, Grant Enfinger certainly turned in an impressive rally on the night. After earning his championship chance last week in a wild finish at Martinsville, Va. Enfinger was chasing Moffitt down in the closing laps before the yellow flag.

Like Moffitt, he stayed out during the caution and was also passed on the frantic ensuing restart by trucks with fresher tires. He finished 13th in the No. 98 ThorSport Racing Ford.

"We just couldn't go on a short run," Enfinger said. "We had good speed on a long run, but just couldn't pass after that. So we got off sequence.

"That worked. [Crew chief Jeff] Hensley was leaning towards tires at the end. I was leaning against it just to do something different, and we ended up staying out. That cost us.

"It just is what it is. We didn't have quite the short run speed to legitimately contend tonight, but, man, a great season by these guys. I'm gonna try not to be too sad leaving here because it's been a great year. It's just unfortunate the way it turned out tonight."



Sheldon Creed (2) dives down to the inside of the track to pass the field for the win. (BRIAN LAW-DELMILK/GETTY IMAGES photo)

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Sway Bar Arms	Alum Radiators	Roller Lifters
ARP Engine Bolts	Retainers	Manifold Spacers
Motorplates	MAC Ball Joint Super Set	MAC Solder Kit
Milwaukee 3/4" Drill	Hose Reels	Valve Guides
Air Canister Shocks	Alcon Master Cylinders	Carb Spacers
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# NASCAR President Steve Phelps Says Sport Stronger Than Ever Amid Historic Year

In the most challenging year in a history that has spanned more than seven decades, NASCAR racing has emerged stronger in the face of a coronavirus pandemic that interrupted the 2020 season, according to NASCAR president Steve Phelps.

“What I would say is that, on March 8th, we were a sport that was coming back, right?” Phelps said on Friday during a Zoom video conference with reporters. “Our ratings had stabilized last year. Our attendance was going in the correct direction.

“If you think about where we are as a sport today, I believe we're stronger as a sport today than we were pre-COVID. I believe that. I think that the momentum that we've been able to gain has been nothing short of incredible.”

On March 13, as coronavirus outbreaks multiplied the spread of the virus, NASCAR joined other major sports in shutting down. Ten weeks later, with a gerrymandered schedule and a cogent plan for competing safely, racing resumed at Darlington.

With imagination, creativity and careful execution, NASCAR managed to stage a full-36-race schedule in the Cup Series. The 2020 season was one of discovery, as NASCAR ran races without practice and qualifying, doubled up at certain tracks and held primetime events midweek.

“(On Sunday), when we crown a champion in our Cup Series, we will have run all our races,” Phelps said. “We did it through ways that, frankly, probably we didn't think we could do, right?”

“A bunch of midweek races. Three doubleheaders. No practice and qualifying. Things that were kind of significant in bedrock that we do, right? You come to the race-track, you're here for three days, you practice, you qualify, you're on your way, right?”

“For us to be the first sport back without fans initially on May 17th in Darlington, to the first sport back

with fans, I think it's an extraordinary achievement.”

After champions in the top three national series are crowned this weekend at Phoenix Raceway, NASCAR faces considerable uncertainty as the 2021 season approaches, as do all sports. The Daytona 500 is scheduled for Feb. 14, 2021, but how the landscape will look at that point is still a major unknown.

“I think I would say, not just for the 500 but for our entire schedule. It is an incredible schedule that has been put together leading off with the Daytona 500 on February 14th,” Phelps said. “Do I believe we're going to have fans in the stands? I do. What percentage of fans in the stands? I'm not sure. Will we have folks in the garage, fans in the garage? I don't know. I can't wait till we do have fans back in the garage.

“The hallmark of our sport is about accessibility to the garage, accessibility to the drivers, the crews. We don't have that. We don't have that because we need to keep people safe. That's the only way we're going to run a race is if we're going to keep people safe.”

To achieve that objective with respect to the competitors, NASCAR adopted one-day shows for each series to minimize the possibility of exposure to the virus. Next year, 28 of the 36 NASCAR Cup points races will be one-day shows. That will change to some degree in 2022 when the new NextGen race car hits the track.

“I would say whatever mad scientist would come up with a one day show would have been shot down pretty quickly,” Phelps said. “Really, it was from the pandemic. Really, it was from the industry coming together and saying, ‘Can you do it at race tracks, from an officiating standpoint?’ The resounding answer was yes, obviously.

“The great news is that the racing, again, arguably is as good as it's ever been. We have 28 one day shows next year, eight that we do not, (where) we're going to have practice and qualifying. What does that look like in '22 as we unveil a



**NASCAR president Steve Phelps addresses the state of the sport during the Championship weekend. (HAROLD HINSON/HHP photo)**

new car? Probably a lot more practice and qualifying. How much, and what does it look like? Really, it will be determined when we get a little closer to that particular season.”

Phelps said the urgency of dealing with schedule restructuring and devising protocols to keep competitors and other essential personnel safe within the garage forced the pausing of discussions with potential new manufacturers.

“We haven't had a ton of conversations with other OEMs during the COVID situation,” Phelps acknowledged. “They've kind of had their own issues with supply chains, making sure they're getting vehicles out.

“When the season ends, we'll start to kind of restart those conversations. Only a certain number of hours in a day. Those have taken a little bit of a step back—at least a pause, not a step back—but a pause. I think we'll ramp those discussions back up.

“Again, I'll go back to it. I think

we are actually a more attractive sport today to a new OEM than we were back in March. I believe that to be true. It's not that we were not an attractive sport for them to make investments in our sport, but I think now more than ever.”

The 2020 season also was one of heightened social consciousness within the sport. With the activism of Black driver Bubba Wallace as a catalyst, NASCAR banned the Confederate flag on race track premises and reaffirmed its commitment to make the sport as inclusive as possible.

“What we do from a social justice standpoint moving forward really to me is about human decency,” Phelps said. “We want to make sure that people want to come to our facilities. We want to make sure they want to participate in this sport on television, radio, digitally and socially.

“We want them to feel part of this community. It's a fantastic community—it really is.”

## Daytona Beach NASCAR Fan Charlene Greer Wins 10th Annual Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Today, The NASCAR Foundation announced that Charlene Greer, a lifelong NASCAR fan and 9-year volunteer with Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia / Flagler Counties, is the winner of The NASCAR Foundation's 10th annual Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award. Greer received the award – along with a \$100,000 donation to Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia / Flagler Counties – during a celebration livestreamed on NASCAR.com from the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America at Daytona Interna-

tional Speedway.

Greer, from Daytona Beach, Fla., is one of four finalists who are all longtime NASCAR fans. Greer grew up spending weekends at the track with her father, a motorsports mechanic.

Some of her fondest memories are witnessing Bill Elliott go from being known as “Awesome Bill from Dawsonville” to “Million Dollar Bill” with his win at Darlington in 1985 over Labor Day weekend and her first time attending the DAYTONA 500, now her home track.

## Jesse Love Clinches West Championship As David Gilliland Steals Phoenix Victory

AVONDALE, AZ - David Gilliland might not have sought to steal the show Saturday in the ARCA Menards Series West season finale at Phoenix Raceway. The Arizona Lottery 100 was supposed to be all about Jesse

Love vs. Blaine Perkins for the championship.

Yet it was the 44-year-old's pass of Ty Gibbs at the white flag that put an exclamation point on a race that saw engine failure for Perkins prematurely end his hunt for the 2020 title.

Love, who finished a lap down in 14th while Perkins finished 25th, is the youngest West Series champion at 15 years, 9 months and 24 days old. David's son, Todd Gilliland, previously held the record after winning the West title in 2016 at 16 years, 5 months old.

Love said his goal for the race was to stay out of trouble and preserve what was a 14-point lead over Perkins in the standings. Despite his running in the middle of the pack, he was doing more than enough to clinch the championship when Perkins left the track with engine trouble after 67 laps.

"I just knew when the race

started I had to control everything I could control," said Love.

"Kind of put my pride aside and just try to race the nine car and not put myself in any situations. If I could find a gap, I would drive forward to get to that gap, or I would just back off to get to that gap so I could just be by myself and not have to get in any dog fights or anything like that.

"Had to be smart about it. It was killing me. I wish I could have been more aggressive, been able to race really hard. But one of those deals, but obviously it's cool. Paid off in a championship."

Perkins needed to finish 12th or better to have a chance to jump Love for the championship, so the DNF for the No. 9 Sunrise Ford/Four Star Fruit/Lucas Oil Ford clinched the title for the No. 19 NAPA Power Premium Plus Toyota.

Love's championship marks the fifth in the last six West Series seasons for Bill McAnally Racing.

"I feel like at the beginning of the year my intro would have been, 'This is Jesse Love, and he's driving Hailie Deegan's car from last year,'" said Love of his rookie season. "I think now it's, 'This is Jesse Love, and he's driving the 19 car.'"

Gilliland, who co-owns DGR-Crosley, was making his only West start of the season. He took the



Jesse Love, driver of the No. 19 celebrates his championship after the Arizona Lottery 100 for the ARCA Menards Series West at Phoenix Raceway. (Dominic Valente/ARCA Racing photo)

General Tire Pole award prior to Saturday's race and battled back from a black flag for jumping a late restart. The victory marked his first under the ARCA Menards banner.

Gilliland prior to the Phoenix race said he was hoping to give DGR-Crosley ARCA Menards regular Taylor Gray and his son David a run for their money. He did more than that, though his teammates were contenders, too. Gray finished third and David Gilliland finished fourth.

"As we're coaching these kids and coming up through our driver development program, it's nice to come out and run good," David Gilliland said with a laugh. "They listen a little bit better."

Gilliland admitted it felt good to go to victory lane as a driver rather than as a car owner for the first time in the West Series since 2012. But he said the victory was not the best part of his experience at Phoenix.

"It's always fun racing with Todd, and to be able to race with your son is actually a dream come true for me," said Gilliland. "[It] tops anything. Tops sitting here in victory lane and winning, winning as an owner or a championship — it tops everything, racing with him.

"And to be able to do that today was very special."

Gibbs led the most laps Saturday before settling for a second-place finish. Drew Dollar rounded out the top five.

Keith Rocco finished 10th in his ARCA Menards debut. The Connecticut driver won the SK Modified Division title at Connecticut's Stafford Motor Speedway in this year, his record 18th NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series Division I track championships,

He finished behind 2009 ARCA Menards Series champion Justin Lofton (sixth), Trevor Huddleston (seventh), Corey Heim (eighth) and Gracie Trotter (ninth).

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## Van Alst Motorsports Wins the ARCA/CRA Super Series PitBoxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award

SALEM, IN - Greg Van Alst and the Van Alst Motorsports Team were the 2019 ARCA/CRA Super Series Champions and came into the 2020 season with high expectations and a lot of pressure to perform.

The Van Alst Motorsports Team, like everyone else, had to endure a tough season because of the COVID 19 Pandemic, but they overcame several obstacles to put together another great season, including runner up in the 2020 ARCA/CRA Super Series Chase for the Championship.

For their hard work and never give up attitude, the Van Alst Motorsports team has been named the ARCA/CRA Super Series 2020 Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award winners. The team led by first time Crew Chief Kevin Shannon, gave 100% each week and more, to keep themselves competitive at each series event and went way above to win the Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award one time and had his best finish ever with the ARCA/CRA Super Series.

The team received their the Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award in the series second points event of the season at Anderson Speedway on June 20th, where the team came back from a disappointing 20th place finish in the season opener because of overheating to get a sixth place finish. In the event, Van Alst qualified in second, but then had to pull his car out of impound because of brake issues. The team got the car ready and Van Alst would come from the tail of the field to get his first top ten finish of the season.

The team's high point of the season was at the Pinty's U.S. Short Track Nationals at Bristol Motor Speedway where Van Alst had probably his best ever ARCA/CRA Super Series outing.

Van Alst qualified in third quick and was in the top three battling for the win through out the event, including leading 12 laps of the event. Trevor Noles would get by on a late restart to get the win, Van Alst got his best all-time series finish of second at that event, of which he credited his hard working

team for helping prepare a great car for the event!

"This award is all about the crew, and that's what it takes to race at this level," remarked Van Alst. "It is an honor for my guys. It rewards them for the dedication and hard work that it takes to compete within the ARCA/CRA Super Series. I have to thank my Crew Chief Kevin Shannon and everyone who helped us this year including Brandon Grant, Jason Garrett, Matt Van Alst, Chris Garrett, Bruce Van Alst, Teri Van Alst, Daniel Anderson, Dustin Anderson and Chris Barkdull, who is also our sponsor with CB Fabricating. I want to really thank Pitboxes.com and CRA for recognizing our team this season."

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

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

For earning the ARCA/CRA Super Series 2020 Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award, the Van Alst Motorsports team will receive a \$1,000 Product Certificate from Pitboxes.com.

Teams earning a Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award during the 2020 ARCA/CRA Super Series season besides Van Alst Motorsports include the teams for drivers Jake Garcia, Carson Hocesvar, Logan Runyon, Michael Simko, Hunter Jack, Trevor Noles and Kyle Crump. Each of those teams received a \$200 Product Certificate from Pitboxes.com.

With the popularity of the internet, Pitboxes.com was launched in 1999 with a goal to specialize in

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

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

Additional CRA information on all the CRA Series is available at [www.cra-racing.com](http://www.cra-racing.com).

### Nasse Wins Rowdy Manufacturing ARCA/CRA Super Series Fast Qualifier Season Award

SALEM, IN - Pinellas Park, Florida native Stephen Nasse got an extra bonus this past All American 400 Weekend at Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway, thanks to Rowdy Manufacturing. Nasse was the name drawn by Rowdy Manufacturing's Justin Oertel in Sunday mornings drivers meeting, prior to the running of Sunday's All American 400, of all the Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier Award winners through out the 2020 ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS 2020 season.

As the drawn winner, Nasse will receive the cost of a bare Rowdy Manufacturing Chassis off a Rowdy Manufacturing Rolling Chassis.

"That's pretty cool to win that drawing," remarked Nasse. "I really wasn't expecting to hear my name, but that's awesome. I appreciate Rowdy Manufacturing for supporting Super Late Model racing and for them supporting this award!"

Rowdy Manufacturing sponsored the Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier Award at each ARCA/CRA Super Series event throughout the 2020 season.

Nasse was the Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier Award winner at the series season points opener on May 30th at Lebanon I-44 Speedway. Other Rowdy Manufacturing Fast Qualifier Award winners during the season included Casey Johnson at Anderson Speedway on June 20th and the Redbud 400 on July 13th, Cayden Lapcevich at Toledo Speedway on September 19th and the Winchester 400 on October 11th, Josh Brock at Jennerstown Speedway on July 4th, Travis Braden at Lebanon I-44 Speedway on September 6th, Trevor Noles at Bristol Motor Speedway on September 26th and Kodie Connor at this past week-ends All American 400 event.

Rowdy Manufacturing, founded by 2015 and 2019 NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch and co-owned by Justin Oertel, is a racecar manufacturer based in Mooresville, North Carolina. In 2018, Busch combined forces with Oertel, who purchased Hamke Racecars & Parts the same year, bringing two of the most successful manufacturers in the country together as one.

Hamke Racecars & Parts, which was originally founded by Robert Hamke in 1981, has been trusted for the last 37 years by many notable drivers that have competed, and racked up many race victories and championships across the country using Hamke chassis. More information is available on Rowdy Manufacturing at [www.rowdymfg.com](http://www.rowdymfg.com).



## Brad Sweet Crowned Champion; Logan Schuchart Wins Season Finale at Charlotte

Brad Sweet and Logan Schuchart closed out the 2020 World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series season the same way they opened it.

Schuchart won the DIRTcar Nationals finale in February, while

Sweet claimed the event's title. Saturday night, during the World of Outlaws Last Call season finale at The Dirt Track at Charlotte, Schuchart won the race, while Sweet was officially crowned the 2020 champion.

"We overcame a lot of adversity to have four DNFs and to still win the points," said Sweet, of Grass Valley, CA, about his 2020 season. "I thought we showed our resilience this week and we came here and executed, I thought, perfectly.

"We did everything we needed to do to win the points and get Kasey Kahne Racing the team championship. Hats off to our competitors. Logan (Schuchart) gave me a good run for my money all season long and the 41 (Jason Johnson Racing) bunch... nothing but respect from all of us here. Obviously, we want to win and stay on top of the mountain."

Schuchart and his Shark Racing team kept the pressure on Sweet for the championship all year long. The two swapped the points lead twice during the season, but Schuchart's effort came up short Friday night at The Dirt Track. By Sweet finishing ahead of him, the reigning champion secured enough points to clinch his second consecutive title.

However, that did little to diminish Schuchart's hunger for another win. His last trip to Victory Lane was in September. So, with a championship mentality no longer needed, Schuchart went full king shark Saturday night.

He set Quick Time in his Qualifying flight; finished second in his Drydene Heat Race; finished second in the DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash; and dusted Sweet in the 30-lap Feature to earn his seventh win of the season and third win at The Dirt Track.

"We came into this weekend saying we just wanted to end

strong," said Schuchart, of Hanover, PA. "We knew certain things were out of our control. Last night was a challenge, but we made up for it a little bit. To end the World of Outlaws season with a win is awesome.

"We weren't able to get the champion. But fifth last year and second this year (in points). This Shark Racing team is coming. We're going to continue to try and get better and move forward."

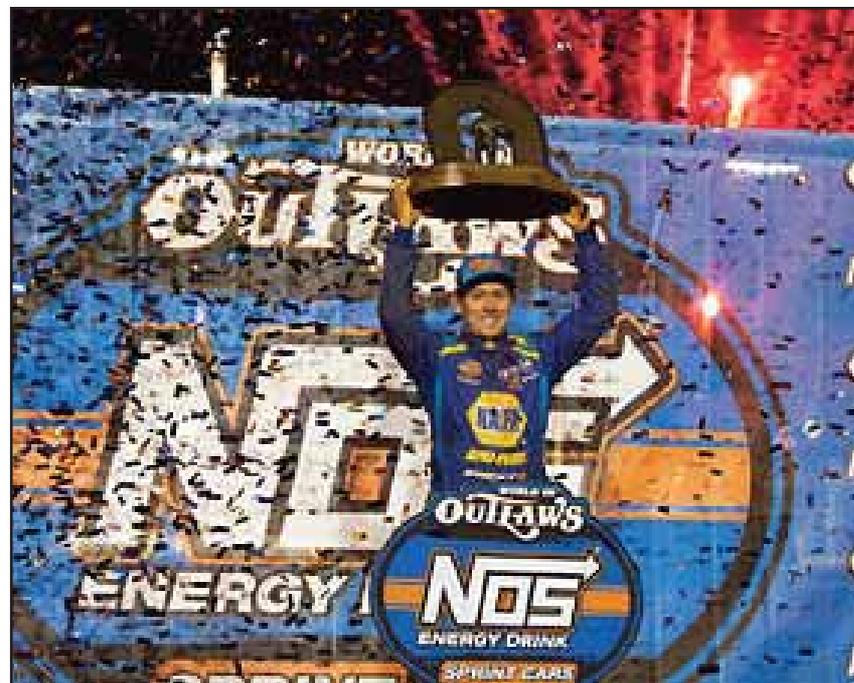
Sweet was the early contender for the win, claiming the pole for the Feature and led the three opening laps. But Schuchart had the NAPA Auto Parts #49 in sight the entire time, waiting for the perfect moment to strike. With a run down the front stretch, Schuchart pulled the trigger and shot a slide job underneath Sweet into Turn 1 and cleared him for the lead by Turn 2.

From then on, the Drydene #1S held command out front. Sweet closed on him in traffic but could never get close enough to attempt a pass.

"I wish I wouldn't have lost the lead to Logan because I felt like the way the race played out I never really got another great opportunity to get by him," Sweet said. "Just started out the race just a little off. But it came to me. I felt like we were just as good as Logan in open air. And that says a lot, because he's usually really good at this place."



Logan Schuchart celebrates his Last Call win in victory lane at The Dirt Track at Charlotte. (Trent Gower photo)



Brad Sweet celebrates his second consecutive championship. (Trent Gower photo)

Aside from trying to run down Schuchart for the win, Sweet still had a championship to worry about, other than his own. His Kasey Kahne Racing team entered the night 22 points ahead of Jason Johnson Racing. And JJR's driver David Gravel didn't help ease the pressure off Sweet throughout the night.

Gravel set overall Quick Time for the second night in a row and beat Sweet for the win in their Drydene Heat Race. By the luck of the draw, Sweet started on the pole for the DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash and won, claiming the Feature's pole position. Gravel finished fourth.

In the Feature, Gravel stole third on the first lap and kept Sweet in sight throughout the entire event. Gravel could close on him after a restart, but Sweet pulled away over time in clean air. To have any shot

at bringing JJR the team title, he needed to beat Sweet and hope that "The Big Cat" fell at least 11 positions behind him.

He came up short on that goal and ended the season with a third-place finish.

"I knew we had a chance (at beating Sweet)," said Gravel, of Watertown, CT. "Just lacked a little bit there. We were pretty good, but Brad and Logan were really really good there. We could hang with them on the restart and I had some good runs and Brad made a move and blocked my lane. That was kind of my only chance."

The race was also Gravel's final drive behind the wheel of the JJR #41 car. He'll join Big Game Motorsports in 2021 for a championship run.

Ten-time Series champion Donny Schatz ended the night with a sixth-place finish and ended the year third in the championship standings. That breaks his 14-year streak of finishing first or second in points.

Sheldon Haudenschild had a career best season, finishing fourth in points with a career-high seven wins in a single season. Carson Macedo also had a new career achievement by finishing fifth in points with Kyle Larson Racing. Macedo will join Jason Johnson Racing in 2021 as KLR closes this year.

The Last Call was 2013 World of Outlaws champion Daryn Pittman's final race as a full-time Series driver. He capped off his career with a ninth-place run at The Dirt Track and finished seventh in the championship standings.

Now, with the 2020 season  
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completed, the World of Outlaws will look to 2021 and, again, open the season in February at Volusia Speedway Park for the DIRTcar Nationals. A new beginning to Sweet and Schuchart's budding competitive tale.

UP NEXT: The World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series will kick off the 2021 season Feb. 5-7 at Volusia Speed-

way Park for the DIRTcar Nationals.

## David Gravel Scores Third Consecutive Charlotte Win

David Gravel and Brad Sweet each claimed glory Friday night at The Dirt Track at Charlotte before they go to war on Saturday.

Sweet clinched his second consecutive World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series title, while Gravel led from green to checkers to claim his third consecutive win at the Charlotte track.

However, at the end of the night, the two shared a common desire: They're both focused on winning the team championship for their teams. Sweet's Kasey Kahne Racing team leads Gravel's Jason Johnson Racing team by 22 points, heading into the final race of the 2020 season on Saturday.

"I just don't feel like the job is fully completed," said Sweet, of Grass Valley, CA. "I think the team championship is just as important to our guys, to me, to (team owner) Kasey (Kahne). The job is half done right now.

"Obviously, for me, personally, I know my name is going to be in those record books. Being a two-time champion is something that is really special to me. It puts me up there with some really great guys. I'm excited, but we still have to get that team championship for Kasey and the guys. If we're able to do that, I think it will show that we were able to overcome a lot of adversity this year."

During Gravel's victory speech, the team title was the first thing on his mind, even as he plans to leave Jason Johnson Racing for Big Game Motorsports next year.

"What did he (Sweet) run fourth or something like that?" Gravel asked in Victory Lane. "So, we



David Gravel celebrates his win on Friday night in Charlotte's victory lane. (Trent Gower photo)

gained [eight] points on him. So, we're [22] points back. Got to beat him by 10 positions tomorrow. That's going to be hard to do. All we can do is win these races and see where we end up."

If Gravel wins the final night of the Last Call, he'll need Sweet to finish 11th in order to secure the team champion. The two teams would tie in points, but Jason Johnson Racing would then have nine wins versus Kasey Kahne Racing's eight. With positions second and on paying two points between them, versus the four-point difference from first to second, Gravel would need to beat Sweet by 11 spots if he doesn't win.

The Watertown, CT driver proved that he and JJR came to Charlotte with the intent of leaving with a title. He dominated the night by setting Quick Time, winning his Drydene Heat Race, finishing second in the DIRTvision Fast Pass Dash and then cleaning house in the Feature.

He and polesitter Carson Macedo raced side by side for the first lap, Gravel high and Macedo low, but the high line prevailed for

Gravel, helping him to rocketed ahead of the Kyle Larson Racing #2 car.

Five cautions slowed Gravel's quest for the trophy throughout the night. However, Macedo, and eventually Sheldon Haudenschild, had nothing for Gravel on the restarts from the runner-up spot. They'd close on Gravel in traffic, but he put time behind them once he got into a rhythm.

Gravel piloted the Mesilla Valley Transportation #41 car through tough track conditions and lap traffic to win by more than three seconds over Haudenschild.

"You couldn't see the cushion going into (turn) three," Gravel said. "It was really, really tough. So, I was kind of a little bit conservative. I'm sure whoever ran second got close there at one point. I went to the top and probably put on a little bit of a gap.

"Happy to get another win here. That's three in a row here at this racetrack for us. Hopefully we can sweep it again. It would be a really good accomplishment and we can end this year off with a bang."

Entering the night, Sweet had a

46-point lead over Logan Schuchart. To clinch his second consecutive World of Outlaws title, he had to finish one spot ahead of Schuchart. Sweet finished fourth and Schuchart finished sixth. As long as Sweet shows up to race on Saturday, the driver championship is officially his.

"I really wanted to lock the driver title up tonight," Sweet said. "I knew that was our best shot to do it tonight, to beat Logan, and just come into it with a clear slate tomorrow and go after that team championship."

Schuchart put on a valiant effort to try and keep his championship hopes alive with a charge from 16th to sixth, which earned him the KSE Hard Charger Award. And while he missed out on his first championship, he didn't hang his head after the race.

"I would just like to end this year with a win," said Schuchart, of Hanover, PA. "You know, finish out on top. You know, whatever happens other than that, some of it is not controllable for us but either way this Drydene team has worked really hard this year and has gained a lot from what we've been in years past. If we can continue to get better, we'll be where we want to be in years to come."

## McCreadie Closes Curtain on 2020 with Elusive Charlotte Win, Sheppard Crowned Champion

CONCORD, NC - On a night where Brandon Sheppard earned his third World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series championship in four years, Tim McCreadie recorded his own noteworthy accomplishment.

Racing a dirt late model at The Dirt Track on Charlotte in 35 previous events, T-Mac had fallen short in all 35 attempts. On Thursday night, he finally changed that with a Last Call triumph that was 17 years in the making.

Driving by Ricky Weiss with a pitch-perfect slide job on lap 31, McCreadie of Watertown, N.Y. survived a late bid from Brandon Overton to win his first-career late model feature at the Concord, N.C. 4/10th-mile.

The 46-year old, with a resume worthy of eventual National Dirt Late Model Hall of Fame induction, has won on four occasions at Charlotte with the Super DIRTcar Series Big Block Modifieds, but

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Brandon Sheppard celebrates the 2020 World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Championship. (Jacy Norgaard photo)

Continued...

Thursday's triumph marked his first at America's Home for Racing behind the wheel of a late model.

"Hats off to Paylor Motorsports, this is our home race for Donald and Gina [Bradsher]," McCreddie said on delivering a win for his car owners.

Falling as far back as seventh on the on the seventh circuit, McCreddie quickly recovered from his opening lap mistake and worked his Longhorn Chassis No. 39 back to third on lap 16 and into second on lap 20. Attacking Weiss, who commanded the opening 30 laps from the outside pole, McCreddie capitalized on several restarts to build his momentum and finally clear a turn one slider on the 31st lap.

After leading the first 30 circuits, Ricky Weiss brought his Drydene Performance Products No. 7 home with a second-place finish to close out the year. It matched his career-best result at The Dirt Track at Charlotte to go along with his career-best finish in World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series points, which officially wrapped up on Thursday with Weiss as the runner-up.

Brandon Overton, who topped Wednesday's Last Call feature, finished third. Rounding out the top five on Thursday was Chris Madden in fourth and Mac Daddy Dale McDowell in fifth.

Closing out the top ten in the season finale was Steven Roberts running sixth-from-15th, High Side Tickler Kyle Strickler putting his No. 8 in seventh, Kyle Larson earning a career-best finish of eighth with World of Outlaws Late Models, Jonathan Davenport placing his No. 49 in ninth, and Chad Finley in the tenth spot from 18th.

While McCreddie celebrated his win, Brandon Sheppard celebrated his championship.

With 14 wins, 31 top fives and 36 top tens in 40 features this season, Sheppard came out on top by 282 points to win his third World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series championship in the last four years.

The potent Rocket1 Racing crew - including crew chief Danny White, tire guru Austin Hargrove, and floater Joel Rogers - has been a steady five-man unit throughout

this entire dynasty-like run. For car owner Mark Richards this is his seventh career owners championship; extending his reign as the most dominant car owner in World of Outlaws Late Model Series history.

For their efforts, Sheppard and Rocket1 Racing collect a cool \$100,000 in points fund money to go along with the iconic championship trophy. Following Sheppard in the standings is Weiss (-282), Cade Dillard (-414), Dennis Erb Jr. (-508), Chase Junghans (-520), Darrell Lanigan (-524), Rookie of the Year Ashton Winger (-616), Scott Bloomquist (-776), Boom Briggs (-994), and Brent Larson (-1,138).

With an uncertain 2020 season now in the rear view mirror, attention turns to 2021 where the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series is set to run the biggest campaign in the 20-year history of the series. It all kicks in just over two months with the Sunshine Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park on January 14-16.

## Overton Chooses Wisely & Collects Loot in Charlotte Opener

CONCORD, NC - If Brandon Overton could have it his way, the 2020 racing season would never end.

Delivering his latest milestone moment in a year chalked full of unforgettable memories, the opening act of the Last Call was sort of like a dream come true for the 29-year old. For as long as he can remember, the Evans, Ga. native has been striving for a big time W at The Dirt Track at Charlotte, and on Wednesday, he finally got it done.

Rolling the dice and selecting the Hoosier D70 option on the right rear, the Wells Motorsports crew went with a harder tire compound and it paid off big. Leading the final 33 laps after passing Kyle Strickler, Big Sexy drove away on every ensuing restart and squashed any potential challenges for the lead with a dominating bid aboard his No. 76 Longhorn Chassis.

The win extended Overton's mark to six series victories on the year and 13 career triumphs with the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series. Overall, he recorded his stunning 25th Dirt Late Model win in his (magic number) 76th start of the season.

Taking the green flag from eighth, Overton quickly went to fifth off the start as Kyle Strickler outran

fellow front row starter, Tim McCreddie, into turn one to grab the early lead. While Strickler built a steady lead over T-Mac and Josh Richards, it appeared as if the High Side Tickler was sitting pretty, and he was until Overton turned up the heat.

Rocketing from fourth-to-second in two laps, Overton disposed of Richards and McCreddie with ease and reeled in Strickler even faster than that. Setting him up for a lap traffic pick, Overton squeezed underneath Strickler's No. 8 and edged him by .006 seconds to command the 18th lap of the 50-lapper.

While Overton immediately checked out, the direction of the race soon changed when second-running Strickler suffered a flat right rear tire to bring out the caution on lap 22. A plethora of mid-race cautions followed with notables Ross Bailes (lap 16), Kyle Larson (lap 19), Jimmy Owens (lap 22), Strickler (lap 25), Richards (lap 34), Ashton Winger (lap 36), Chris Ferguson (lap 36) and Chase Junghans (lap 44) all retiring from the race.

As others fell through the cracks, Overton rose to the occasion with an untouchable race car at his power. His car excelled at the midpoint of the 50-lapper, recorded his three fastest times on laps 23-24-26 and leaving no room for any potential challenges. In the end, Overton's No. 76 crossed the line ahead by 2.736-seconds to claim the \$12,000 prize and his sixth World of Outlaws win this year.

"I've got the best car owners, and they believe in me," Overton spoke on his confidence level. "This is a great car, we've got great sponsors, I've got an amazing family, my fiancé, everyone that keeps me digging. My little brother plus everyone here Steve, Kent, Mitch,

Big Dave, Eric... What an amazing year, man."

Chasing Overton to the line - as he did exactly two months ago on Sept. 4 at Lavonia - was Dennis Erb Jr. of Carpentersville, Ill. in second-place. Coming to P2 from ninth, Wednesday's run was a pivotal point in the swing of championship standings as The One Man Band catapulted from sixth-to-fourth with one more night to accrue more points.

Finishing third in the first of two Last Call features, Tim McCreddie extended an impressive, yet hard to believe streak. T-Mac is now up to 13 top five finishes at The Dirt Track at Charlotte, but owns zero wins to his credit with The Most Powerful Late Models on the Planet at the 4/10th-mile oval.

Two of the biggest storylines of the night came in the form of Sprint Car aces, Donny Schatz and Kyle Larson. Both are pulling double duty this week with four consecutive nights of World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Models and World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Cars at Last Call.

Larson, in his World of Outlaws Late Model debut, set social media on fire when he clocked a 14.305 in qualifying to give him and his K&L Rumley No. 6 a NEW TRACK RECORD at The Dirt Track at Charlotte.

Schatz kept the momentum rolling when he hustled from tenth-to-fourth in the 50-lap feature, marking just his second top five finish with the series in 22 career starts.

Closing out the top five in Wednesday's feature was Brandon Sheppard.

Rounding out the top ten was Jonathan Davenport in sixth, Dale McDowell in seventh, Cade Dillard in eighth, Rick Eckert in ninth, and Ricky Weiss in tenth.



Brandon Overton celebrates in victory lane after getting a win at the Dirt Track at Charlotte for the World of Outlaws Last Call season finale. (Jacy Norgaard photo)

## Bergman Holds On For ASCS Sooner Triumph at Creek County Speedway

SAPULPA, OK - Coming down to the final turn on Friday night, Washington's Seth Bergman held off the charges of Blake Hahn and Tyler Thomas for the win in the Creek County Speedway Fall Fling with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region

presented by Smiley's Racing Products.

Jumping out to a commanding lead, Bergman kept a nearly two-second gap on the field through the first half of the 30 lap feature. Losing little time through traffic, Seth's tempo changed drastically as the caution lights came on with seven laps to run.

Restarting with a trio of slower cars between himself and Blake Hahn, who had rolled the hub from eighth to second, the Oil Fire Whiskey No. 52 made quick work of the lapped cars.

Going under caution again with six laps left, Hahn set his sights on the lead. Working under the No. 23, Hahn had the lead nearly in hand before the caution lights came on again on Lap 27 when championship contender, Jeremy Campbell, rolled to a stop with a shredded right rear. Only trailing by two markers going into the night, the flat marked the end of his championship run.

Back to green for the final three laps, the assaults on the lead came from all directions as Blake Hahn and Tyler Thomas went after the point. Hahn low, Thomas high, the pair tore at each other with two to go. Advantage to Thomas, the BT Machine No. 91t pulled wide for the lead off at one end of the Creek County Speedway, dove low at the other, with both attempts coming up just shy of the pass.

To the white flag, Bergman made his Stag Insurance No. 23 as wide as possible. With no room for error through the final two turns, Seth was barely able to pull away



Seth Bergman celebrates with family and crew in victory lane after winning the Fall Fling at Creek County Soeedway. (Lonnie Wheatley photo)

off the final turn for his 11th career ASCS Sooner Region win. Getting the run off the bottom, Blake Hahn went back to second at the line with Tyler Thomas holding on for third. After spinning on the opening laps, Brandon Anderson fought back to finish fourth with Andrew Deal in fifth.

Alex Sewell was sixth with Noah Gass in seventh. Chase Randall came back from a spin to finish eight with Ryan Timms ninth. Rounding out the top ten, Sean McClelland secured his fourth career ASCS Sooner Region Champi-

onship by 12 points over Jeremy Campbell, who ended up 15th on the field after the DNF.

The 2021 lineup for the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products is in the works and will be released in the coming months.

Event updates will be posted to [www.ascsracing.com](http://www.ascsracing.com) as well as our Social Media Outlets on Facebook and Twitter. We will also issue emails to our E-News Letter, which anyone can sign up for at <https://bit.ly/3cTRbCq>.

## Tim McCreadie Captures Arizona Sport Shirts Crown Jewel Cup

BATAVIA, OH - The 2020 Arizona Sport Shirts Crown Jewel Cup - Presented by DirtonDirt.com goes to Tim McCreadie, after it slipped from him in 2019 by way of a tie breaker. The mini-series within the full Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series schedule

consisted of events that paid a minimum of \$15,000 to the winner.

The Crown Jewel Cup program awarded points to drivers with perfect attendance throughout the season, at the eleven crown jewel events within the series schedule. With three wins in Crown Jewel Cup events; the 38th Annual Sunoco North South 100 at Florence Speedway, Al Belt Custom Homes I-80 Nationals at I-80 Speedway, and the 41st Annual Jackson 100 at Brownstown Speedway, McCreadie will receive a bonus check for \$10,000 from Arizona Sport Shirts and

DirtonDirt.com. McCreadie also had seven top five finishes and eight top ten finishes in crown jewel

events.

Last year's Crown Jewel Cup Winner, Jimmy Owens, finished out the year with five top five finishes and seven top ten finishes. Owens finished second in the Crown Jewel Cup standings and will take home \$5,000. Third through fifth, also receiving cash prizes - Josh

Richards \$3,000, Earl Pearson Jr \$2,000, and Tyler Erb \$1,000.

For the latest breaking news concerning the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, including the latest series standings, 2020 tour schedule, driver information, and more visit the official website at: [www.lucasdirt.com](http://www.lucasdirt.com).

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## **Bristol Motor Speedway**

BRISTOL, TN - The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights powered by TVA, a holiday light spectacular that serves as one of the primary annual fundraisers for the Bristol Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, returns for a 24th season on Friday, Nov. 13.

Long hailed as the premier holiday display in the Appalachian Highlands

Region, The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights powered by TVA spreads across a four-mile route illuminated by more than 2 million lights among 250 displays. A trip through the light show sends guests down historic Bristol Dragway and all throughout the property, culminating with a lap around the iconic Bristol Motor Speedway half-mile oval.

"What began as a simple signature fundraising event has evolved into a tradition-rich holiday treat for thousands of visitors each year," said Claudia Byrd, executive director of the Bristol chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, which raises money for child focused agencies in the surrounding 18-county region.

"The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights provides an opportunity to get together with loved ones for an evening of amplifying the holiday spirit," Byrd continued. "While enjoying a tour of the amazing lights, our guests are simultaneously providing significant help for kids in need throughout the 18 counties in the Appalachian Highlands Region."

The Pinnacle Speedway In Lights route offers many popular displays, including the fan-favorite Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies Sea of Illumination, the festive Ballard Health Hospital display, Mycroft Signs Race to Space, Santa Vision, The Dueling Dragsters, Symphony in Lights, NASCAR Pit Stop, The Twelve Days of Christmas, Dinosaur Village and Ripley's Penguin Playhouse.

At the end of the route, guests can visit the popular Christmas Village. Located in the infield of the legendary oval, the Christmas Village allows guests to take advantage of photo opportunities in front of several special holiday displays, roast marshmallows over an open fire, shop with many local vendors and check out some great arts and

crafts. This area will have a slightly different feel this year, with specific in and out routing for guests to encourage a socially-distanced experience. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 protocols, the carnival rides and visits with Santa will not be available in the village this year. All guests in the Christmas Village will be required to wear masks.

After touring the Pinnacle Speedway in Lights route, guests are encouraged to go ice skating at BMS in the Tri-Cities Airport Ice Rink presented by HVAC. The Ice Rink, available by advance registration, will have a reduced capacity of skaters each night due to social distancing protocols. Admission is \$12 per skater Monday-Thursday, and \$15 per skater Friday-Sunday. The Ice Rink is open from Thursday, Nov. 12 until Sunday, Jan. 10. The Ice Rink will be closed on Mondays from Nov. 16-Dec. 14. Hours of operation vary from day to day, so guests should review the schedule in advance by visiting the BMS website.

The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights runs through Saturday, Jan. 2. The event costs \$20 for cars from Sunday through Thursday and \$25 on Friday and Saturday nights. For larger groups, vans are \$50 and buses are \$125. Visitors can take advantage of the Jingle Bell Lane presented by Citi (fast pass), a speedy \$50 option which provides a shorter wait time on select nights when traffic lines get long.

For more information about the Pinnacle Speedway In Lights powered by TVA, please visit the BMS website.

**FAST FACTS:** The Pinnacle Speedway In Lights powered by TVA

- The Pinnacle Speedway In Lights powered by TVA is a brilliantly illuminated four-mile wonderland carved throughout Bristol Motor Speedway's property, showcasing more than two million holiday lights and more than 250 festive displays.

- It takes BMS employees and volunteers approximately eight weeks to set-up The Pinnacle Speedway In Lights. All of the light displays feature energy-efficient, LED lighting. More than 150 miles of wiring is used for The Pinnacle Speedway In Lights, which could stretch from Bristol Motor Speedway well past Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

- Pinnacle Speedway In Lights have the opportunity to drive their personal vehicles alongside the famed Bristol Dragway and on the historic half-mile oval of Bristol Motor Speedway.

- The Pinnacle Speedway In Lights route offers many popular displays, including the Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies Sea of Illumination, festive Ballard Health Hospital display, Mycroft Signs Race to Space, Santa Vision, The Dueling Dragsters, NASCAR Pit Stop, The Twelve Days of Christmas, Dinosaur Village and Ripley's Penguin Playhouse.

- The Pinnacle Speedway In Lights costs \$20 per car Sundays-Thursdays and \$25 per car on Friday and Saturday nights. Visitors can take advantage of the Jingle Bell Lane presented by Citi (fast pass), a speedy \$50 option which provides a shorter wait time on select nights when traffic lines get long. Reservations are recommended via the online system. Dates for the Jingle Bell Lane presented by Citi (fast pass) are November 27 and 28 and December 5, 12, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 26.

- The Pinnacle Speedway In Lights accepts large group vehicles. Vans are admitted for \$50 and large buses can tour the light show for \$125.

- If you are unable to attend the Pinnacle Speedway in Lights this year, please consider donating to SCC-Bristol to help kids in our region by texting "KIDSWIN" to 44-321 with any amount.

- The Bristol Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to distribute the funds raised each year to many local children's-based organizations. Since its inception in 1997, the Bristol Chapter of SCC has distributed nearly \$17 million to regional children's agencies.

## **Charlotte Motor Speedway**

CONCORD, NC - For the last 10 years, Charlotte Motor Speedway has been synonymous with holiday cheer each winter, welcoming fans from across the country to a Christmas wonderland featuring millions of twinkling lights strung throughout a miles-long drive-thru course as part of its annual Speedway Christmas spectacular. As officials prepare for the 11th edition of the wildly popular event, America's Home for Racing has announced that Visit North Carolina will serve as the entitlement sponsor of this year's show.

"We are thrilled to be involved with this signature holiday event," said Wit Tuttell, director of Visit NC, a member of the public-private partnership behind the Count On Me NC initiative to reduce the spread of COVID-19. "As a Count

On Me NC participant, Charlotte Motor Speedway has demonstrated its commitment to safe experiences all year, and with Speedway Christmas, they've worked wonders to extend the holiday magic while addressing health concerns. We especially revel in the opportunity to drive through the light displays on the track where NASCAR champions race, even if we slow things down."

Speedway Christmas, presented by Count on Me NC, opens Saturday, Nov. 21, featuring more than 4 million sparkling LED lights along an new, four-mile course that takes guest around the legendary track, through the infield and under the concourse. Many of the lights will be synchronized to lively Christmas music that guests can listen to on their car radio as they wind through the show.

"Speedway Christmas has become a can't-miss holiday tradition for families locally and across the country," said Greg Walter, executive vice president and general manager at Charlotte Motor Speedway. "Last year, we sold advanced tickets to visitors from 38 states, including as far away as Oregon and Alaska. While this year's show will be a little different as we continue to navigate restrictions in response to the ongoing pandemic, we can't wait to host thousands of cars once again as folks look for fun, creative and safe ways to enjoy the Christmas season."

In an effort to promote proper social distancing, Speedway Christmas will not include the infield Christmas Village this year. Guests will remain in their vehicles for the duration of the show. Every Thursday through Sunday night, movie nights will return to the speedway's 16,000-square-foot HDTV, with guests enjoying a variety of Christmas classics from the comfort of their cars. A full schedule of movies will be released at a later date.

**TICKETS:** Speedway Christmas presented by Count on Me NC will be open nightly from Nov. 21 through Jan. 17, with the exception of limited private bookings and Christmas Day. Tickets are sold per vehicle, starting at \$20. Ticket prices vary by day.

Tickets are available by calling 1-800-455-FANS (3267), online at [www.charlottemotorspeedway.com](http://www.charlottemotorspeedway.com) or at the gate upon entry.

**FOLLOW ALONG:** Keep track of all of Charlotte Motor Speedway's events by following on Twitter and Instagram or becoming a Facebook fan.

## Volunteer Speedway

BULLS GAP, TN -

The calendar shows it to be fall of the year, but first weekend in November felt more like late spring with temperatures in the upper 70s and bright sunny skies Saturday afternoon at Volunteer Speedway for the Coca-Cola "Fall Brawl."

Jason Welshan of Maryville out-dueled World of Outlaws Late Model Series star

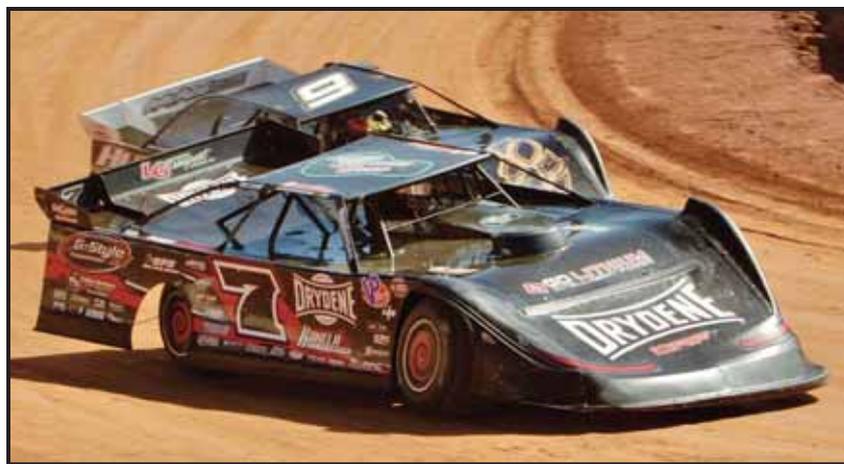
Ricky Weiss to capture the \$1,000 Crate Late Model feature win in one of the overall most exciting crate races ever at the track.

With Volunteer Speedway set to host the \$20,000 Crate Late Model National Championship presented by Grassroots Sports TV and sanctioned by the American Crate All-Star Series coming up Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 12-14, a strong field of 28 competitors were in the pits tuning-up for the big show next weekend.

Defending American Crate All-Star Series national champion Tyler Arrington set fast-time in qualifying at 13.742 seconds to earn pole position, with Welshan second quickest at 13.828 to nail down the outside front-row starting position.

Arrington powered out to the lead on the first lap over Weiss, Welshan, Matt Henderson and Aaron Guinn. Racing into the first turn on lap 4, Weiss executed a slide-job to briefly take the lead away from Arrington. But the pole-sitter battled back on the opposite end of the track to throw a slider of his own to reclaim the lead from Weiss, who also got passed by Welshan. The front-running group of cars quickly caught tail of the field, and tough break for Arrington on lap 6 when Josh Baker spun between turns three and four leaving nowhere for Arrington to go and he also spun to bring out the caution. Instead of going to the rear to restart, Arrington instead chose to pull into the pits and end his hopes of winning.

Back under green and Welshan was showing the way out front over Weiss, Henderson, Guinn and Jensen Ford. Some might say racing during the daytime with sun baking down doesn't produce good racing, but the action back through middle of the field had four-time winner this season Zach Sise, Mack McCarter, Jason Cardwell,



**Race winner Jason Welshan (01) battles for the lead with Ricky Weiss (7) at Volunteer Speedway this past weekend. (photos courtesy of WILL BELLAMY)**

Mike Smith, Anthony White, Bryson Dennis, Shannon Emery, Nathan Martin, Ryan King, Tim Maupin, Raymond Nichols and Chris Chandler jockeying for real estate around the high banks running two- and three-wide on occasions.

With leader Welshan closing in on the rear of the field to start lapping cars, once he entered traffic Weiss made a move to overtake Welshan for the lead between turns three and four. Weiss appeared to be heading to victory, but it's never over until it's over. Caution waved on lap 21 when Chris Raines spun, thus setting the stage for a four-lap sprint to the finish.

Welshan anticipated waving of the green entering the front straightaway out in the fourth turn, with some thinking he possibly jumped the start. Welshan pulled to the inside of Weiss racing past the flag stand into the first corner where he drove in deeper than Weiss, sliding up in front of him to take the lead. Welshan went on to record the win over Weiss, with Henderson and McCarter trading some sheet-metal on the last lap and Henderson finishing third, followed by Ford and McCarter. ... Completing the top 10 finishers were Guinn, Cardwell, Sise, Smith and White.

Addison Cardwell of Knoxville grabbed the lead at start of the Sportsman Late Model race and stayed out front all 25 laps for his fourth win of the season with Austin Atkins, Joe Bray, Brad Seagle and Hayden Cardwell rounding out the top five finishers.

To say that summer 2020 was rough for Gary Blanken is an understatement. He suffered broken lower leg and foot in a racing accident back the first of June and didn't get back behind the wheel of a race car until October. Blanken, from Russellville, and Kurt Owens

have battled it out for victories on many occasions over the years and the duo went at it once again. While Owens was leading with Blanken right behind him, Owens sailed off into the first turn on lap 14 just a little too hard and bounced off the outside guardrail. That allowed Blanken to scoot by for the lead and he went on to capture his first win of the season over Owens, David Clark, Landon Steele and Floyd Self.

Shaun Sise of Knoxville held off a hard-charging Bobby Mays over the closing laps to capture his second straight Classic win. Finishing third through fifth, respectively, were John Stevens, Mark Sise and Jeff Mays.

Zack Walton of Blountville jumped out into the lead on opening lap of the Front Wheel Drive race and cruised to his division-leading eighth win of the season over Eric Partin, Ryan Wyatt, Raymond Fuson and Justin Tate.

Wayne Rader and David Clark raced side-by-side off the fourth turn to the flag stand coming to the checkered flag, with Rader, from Parrottsville, taking his fourth win of the season by about one-foot. Tony Trent was right on their back bumper, followed by Colby Long and Bean Station's Tony Trent.

Brad Amaronson picked up his first Mini Late Model victory over Bryan Funk, Adam Engel, Tyler Keel and Cody Taylor.

## Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGROVE, PA - Selinsgrove Speedway is preparing for the 2021 racing season of 75th anniversary specials and the Snyder County oval has confirmed the return of USAC to the venue again in 2021 for two big shows.

The expanded USAC presence at Selinsgrove in 2021 will feature the wild USAC 410 sprints as they make a triumphant return to the

speedway along with the USAC Silver Crown Series.

For the first timer ever, the USAC Eastern Storm tour featuring the wingless United States Auto Club 410 sprints will blow through Selinsgrove Speedway on Thursday, June 17, 2021.

The 30-lap, \$6,000 to win USAC Eastern Storm event will be the first USAC 410 sprint car race at the track in 50 years!

Mitch Smith won the only other USAC sprint car race ever contested at Selinsgrove Speedway back on July 17, 1971.

And returning to the track in 2021 after a popular and successful outing for the first time ever in 2020 will be the USAC Silver Crown Series for the second annual running of the Bill Holland Classic.

The monster USAC machines will compete in the Bill Holland Classic 75th Anniversary Race on Sunday night, August 8.

The anniversary special will go 75 laps in distance and will pay \$8,075 to the winner.

Shane Cottle won the inaugural Holland Classic this past August.

"After a great Silver Crown event this season, we are very happy to expand our relationship with Selinsgrove Speedway in 2021," said USAC Executive Vice President & National Series Director Levi Jones on Monday.

"All of us at USAC are excited to showcase all the best that USAC has to offer at the historic track next season."

"We already know how exciting Silver Crown is at Selinsgrove and for sure the USAC sprints will really kick it up at that big place too!"

As work continues on the 2021 75th anniversary season of specials schedule at Selinsgrove Speedway, the track has already announced its 2021 season openers.

Selinsgrove Speedway will open the 2021 season with combined competition for modified stock cars on Saturday afternoon, March 20.

And then just one week later the oval will return with an afternoon program featuring the 410 sprints on Saturday, March 27.

Learn more about the United States Auto Club and its 2021 evolving schedule of events by visiting [www.usacracing.com](http://www.usacracing.com).

Keep up to date with all the latest speedway news, results, information and race status by visiting the speedway's official website at [www.selinsgrovespeedway.com](http://www.selinsgrovespeedway.com) or follow the track on Twitter and Facebook.

## South Boston Speedway

**S O U T H BOSTON, VA** - South Boston Speedway has released its tentative 2021 season schedule, a schedule that features 13 events including three special events, two of them touring series events.

The 2021 season is slated to open on Saturday, March 20 with a six-race card headlined by twin 75-lap races for the NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series Late Model Stock Car Division and twin 25-lap races for the Limited Sportsman Division. Races for the Pure Stock Division and Hornets Division are also included on the schedule for opening day.

"America's Hometown Track" will close out the 2021 season on Saturday, October 16 with a doubleheader event for the touring CARS Tour series.

One of the highlights of the 2021 season will be the track's annual pre-Fourth of July showcase event, the Thunder Road Harley Davidson Presented By Grand Atlantic Ocean Resort NASCAR Late Model 200, on Saturday night, July 3. Headlining that event is a 200-lap race for the NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series Late Model Stock Car Division. That race will be the first race in the Virginia Late Model Triple Crown Series.

Also included on the four-race card are races for the Limited Sportsman Division, Pure Stock Division and Hornets Division. A dazzling colorful Fourth of July fireworks display will follow the night's racing action.

Two touring series events are on the track's tentative 2021 season schedule. The first touring series event features a visit by the SMART Modified tour to "America's Hometown Track" on Saturday, April 3. A 99-lap race is on tap for the southern-based touring series that features high-horsepower, lightweight tour-type Modifieds.

The second touring series event on South Boston Speedway's tentative 2021 season schedule is a CARS Tour series doubleheader on October 16. That event will feature a Late Model Stock Car race and a Super Late Model race and will close out the 2021 season.

South Boston Speedway's ten-

tative 2021 season schedule focuses the spotlight on the speedway's four regular racing divisions while including the three special events.

"We are excited about 2021, and we expect our 2021 season to be a great one for our fans and competitors alike," said South Boston Speedway General Manager Cathy Rice.

"Our four regular racing divisions will be spotlighted, the CARS Tour will be returning for a doubleheader, and the SMART Modified Tour will be making a visit here. We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone return for a great season of exciting racing in 2021."

South Boston Speedway's tentative 2021 season schedule includes four daytime events that include the first three events on the schedule and the season-ending CARS Tour event on October 16.

There are 18 points races for the NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series Late Model Stock Car Division on the tentative 2021 season schedule. The tentative schedule has 15 points races for both the Limited Sportsman and Pure Stock Divisions and the Hornets Division has 12 points races on the schedule.

Speedway officials said additional events may possibly be added to the tentative 2021 schedule over the course of the upcoming months.

### SOUTH BOSTON SPEEDWAY 2021 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE -

*(Subject To Change)*

March 20 NASCAR Late Model T-75/Limited T-25/Pure Stock 30/Hornets 15

April 3 NASCAR Late Model 100/ Pure Stock 15/ Hornets 15/ SMART Modified Tour 99

April 17 NASCAR Late Model T-75/Limited 50/Pure Stock 30/Hornets 15

May 1 NASCAR Late Model 100/Limited T-25/Pure Stock 30/Hornets 15

May 15 NASCAR Late Model T-75/Limited 50/Pure Stock T-15) Hornets 15

May 29 NASCAR Late Model 100/Limited T-25/Pure Stock 30/Hornets 15

June 12 NASCAR Late Model T-75/Limited 50/Pure Stock 30/Hornets 15

July 3 Thunder Road Harley-Davidson Presented By Grand Atlantic Ocean Resort NASCAR Late Model 200/Limited 50/Pure Stock 30/Hornets 20/ FIREWORKS

July 24 NASCAR Late

Model T-75/Limited 50/Pure Stock T-15/Hornets 15

Aug. 7 NASCAR Late Model 100/Limited T-25/Pure Stock 30/Hornets 15

Aug. 21 NASCAR Late Model T-75/Limited 50/Pure Stock T-15/Hornets 15

Sept. 4 NASCAR Late Model 100/Limited 50/Pure Stock 30/Hornets 15

Oct. 16 CARS Tour Series/LMSC/SLM

## Stafford Motor Speedway

**STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT** - After racing for 10 years in Stafford Speedway's Limited Late Model division where he accumulated 2 track championships and 18 feature wins, Duane Provost made the step up to the Late Model division for the 2020 season. Provost drove his #88 Facchini Law Firm Chevrolet to 2 top-5 and 3 top-10 finishes this season in 12 starts to claim NAPA Auto Parts Rookie of

with a 3rd place effort after holding the lead for the first half of the race. Provost spent the rest of his 2020 season tinkering with his #88 car to try to replicate his podium performance but the best he could manage for the remainder of the season was a 5th place drive on August 28.

"I took as many notes that race as I could and I tried to get the car back to where it was that night," said Provost. "I got the car close a few times but it didn't quite work out for me. I definitely felt like I could get back on the podium this season. We finished 6th in the 50-lapper and we finished 5th the race before that so I knew I wasn't that far off. I was trying to chase that 3rd place finish for the rest of the year but I couldn't quite get there. I thought I should have gotten back up there on the podium but overall it wasn't a bad performance this season."

Provost faced several chal-



**Duane Provost (88) fought all year at Stafford Motor Speedway to earn the ROY title in the Late Model division. (SMS photo)**

the Year honors.

"It feels really good to be rookie of the year," said Provost. "My first goal this season was to win rookie of the year and my second goal was to finish in the top-10 in the points. I wasn't able to make the top-10 but it does feel pretty good to check off the rookie of the year box. I have to thank my sponsors Michael Facchini of Facchini Law Firm and Team Link in Ludlow, thanks to my brother Derek for helping me out, Brian Routhier, Tyler Wood, R.J. Surdell, the RRC Crew, R.A.D. Auto Machine, and Buzzy."

Provost's rookie season got off to a slow start with a best finish of 12th over his first 4 races. But the 5th race of the season marked the high point of the season for Provost as he scored his first podium finish

lenges this season in making the move from the Limited Late Model division up to the Late Model division, including the increase of laps and getting used to having a spotter.

"The first couple of races this season was an adjustment going 30 laps instead of 20 but I think by about the 3rd or 4th race I kind of knew what I needed for 30 laps," said Provost. "I think the majority of the races we finished higher than where we started so for the most part it was a forward moving year. Inside the car it was all about getting used to having a spotter. Once I had a few races together with my buddy Tyler, who was spotting for the first time this season, I think having that extra set of eyes really helped me out."

**(Continued on Next Page...)**

(Continued...)

Provost's rookie campaign also served as a season of learning as he went through trials and tribulations in making adjustments to his #88 car in order to be among the fastest cars on the track.

"I took a lot of notes and learned a lot of things that are completely different between the Limited and Late Model cars as far as handling and setup and all the things we can change or adjust," said Provost. "I found out quite a few times what not to do to the car. I remember at the first race I was trying to make wholesale changes to the car and these cars are real sensitive. When you put anything more than 1 round of wedge into the car during a race it completely changes the car and that first race I went with 2 or 3 rounds and the car completely went away so I learned no more making big changes like that. We had a lot of fun this season."

With a season's worth of experience and notes to work off of for the 2021 season, Provost is looking forward to getting back out on track after a crash on Sept. 25 brought a premature end to his 2020 season.

"The last race I ran my practice times were in the top-5 and I was looking forward to that race but my night ended pretty abruptly," said Provost. "I had some miscellaneous things happen during the year like a shock came off one night, so I'll be working on some things to make the car a little more consistent for next season."

For more information, visit [www.staffordspeedway.com](http://www.staffordspeedway.com), checkout Stafford Speedway on Facebook or Twitter, or contact the track office at 860-684-2783.

## Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Following a 5-win season that carried him to the 2019 SK Light championship at Stafford Speedway, Teddy Hodgdon made the move up to the track's premier SK Modified® division for the 2020 season. Hodgdon and the #55 Montanari Fuel team endured a season filled with highs and lows that saw him post 2 top-5 and 5 top-10 finishes in 14 starts to claim NAPA Auto Parts Rookie of the Year honors.

"It's a great feeling to be the Rookie of the Year, especially coming off a championship season last year," said Hodgdon. "Going into the best weekly modified division in the country, there's 15 guys who can win every week, and we had some struggles in the middle of the season with wrecks and a couple of untimely incidents, but we held our own throughout the season and I'm very proud of what we were able to accomplish. I felt like we checked all the boxes for our rookie season. My guys are the best in the business and with all the hardships we went through this year I hope we can be pretty strong next season. I have a lot of people to thank for this season, Montanari Fuels, Pete Matton and Lori Brasher, Business Time Motorsports, A Pappa John Construction, Gator Sport Fishing, Keith Rocco Racing, Ness Auto, State Cutters, Jims Welding, Ultimate Restoration, Critical Signs, Economy Signs, Simpson Race Products, The Joie of Seating, SSR Suspension, Williams Race Gears, Pettit Race Engines, Waddell Communications, Dale and Connie Massey, Roby and Dawn Sadler, Tony Mottola and Family, Robert and Vicki Tod, Trent Markovitz, Brandon Wilkinson, Pixies Pop Shop, Lasco Roofing, Benedict Family, James R Paige Plumbing, Tally-Ho Aviation, Serio's Pizzeria, New York Sports Show, and Fence-line Films."

In only a short period of time, Hodgdon has enjoyed a large amount of success racing at Stafford. He won races in the Legend Cars from 2015-2016 and then in the SK Lights from 2018-2019, including a championship last year. Hodgdon found out first hand just how tough and competitive the world of SK Modified® racing is at Stafford.

"It was a pretty big reality check to see how you stack up against the best guys," said Hodgdon. "I think it was facing a whole new level of competition. All the guys in the SK's have been racing for so much longer than the guys in the Lights and they have a lot more experience and seat time and they know how the cars are going to react and what it's going to do. You have to prepare for that, you have to be ready to face the best every single week and not let up for a second. You can't miss your margin by any amount, you have to be perfect every week and that's what it takes to be able to run with those guys up front in the SK Modified® division."

While Hodgdon and his team



Competition is always tight at Stafford Motor Speedway in the SK Modified division. Tedd Hodgdon (55) had to battle to achieve the Rookie of the Year honors. (SMS photo)

endured the hardships of being a rookie in one of the toughest weekly divisions anywhere in the country, the high point of his rookie campaign came on July 31st when he led for a portion of the 40-lap race and ended up with a season best finish of second place behind Cory DiMatteo.

"That was the first race where we really showed our speed this season," said Hodgdon. "We were able to start up front and we led I think the first quarter of that race. Being out front, there's no rabbit to chase so I wasn't sure where to hit my marks. Once I fell in behind Cory [DiMatteo] I was able to keep pace with him but he had just a little bit better drive off the corner and that's how he was able to stay in front of us. I knew working with Keith Rocco and switching over to Troyer cars for this season that something good was going to happen. We just needed everything to go right for us and it did that night."

One area that Hodgdon was lacking during his rookie season was working short run speed into his #55 car. The car would be good on long runs, but where Hodgdon really felt the sting of not having short run speed was in qualifying heat races and at the start of the feature events.

"This year was tough and I think we really needed to work on our short run speed," said Hodgdon. Heat races killed us, we had to start in the back for probably more than two thirds of the time and that really set us back. Whenever we started up front we had really strong races. We had a second in the fourth race of the year and we got a

fourth place finish battling up through the field and we had a bunch of strong top-10 runs in like 7th or 8th place. The car would always seem to take about 5 laps to come in and we tried everything this year so we're going to start fresh for next season and hopefully we can get that remedied. We'll use the off-season to regroup and get everything back to normal like it was last year. If we could change one thing on the car it would be the short run speed. We'd get long green flag runs of like 15 or 20 laps and we would start picking cars off, it was just starting in the back that was a real killer for us."

At this time Hodgdon is looking forward to returning to the SK Modified® division for the 2021 season and getting his first feature victory while he also has his eyes set on possibly making some open modified starts during the 2021 season.

"We're looking at coming back with the SK next year and I'm always looking for an open modified ride if someone wanted to partner up with me," said Hodgdon. "I think we made a lot of progress this season and if things can go right during a night like they did for us when we finished second, maybe we can capitalize with a year's worth of experience and hopefully we can get it done with a victory."

For more information, visit [www.staffordspeedway.com](http://www.staffordspeedway.com), checkout Stafford Speedway on Facebook or Twitter, or contact the track office at 860-684-2783.

