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FastTrack

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**It's
(Rain-Soaked)
Bristol
Baby!**



**Kyle Busch Battles and Holds on
for Win #2 of 2018**

Chevy Improves Its Performance

For most of the season, it seemed like it would be a cold day in purgatory before the new Chevrolet ZL1 would show some speed.

That day came Monday in the rain/snow/sleet/hail-delayed Food City 500 at the Bristol Motor Speedway.

No, a Chevrolet didn't win. Kyle Busch made sure of that by dropkicking Kyle Larson from the lead with six laps remaining. Larson led a race-best 200 laps, and the Bowtie Brigade finished second, third (Jimmie Johnson) and fifth (Alex Bowman).

Even more important for the Chevy camp was the fact Hendrick Motorsports had two top-five cars for the first time all season – and the first time since last Oct. 1 at the Dover International Speedway.

"We've been talking about our cars performing better and driving better and creating speed the last three weeks or so, but to finally back it up with a solid finish is exactly what we needed," Johnson said. "And to see my teammates with positive comments about their cars the last few weeks and some good results yielding from all of that, we definitely have it rolling in the right direction."

Make no mistake. Chevrolet, particularly Hendrick Motorsports, remains a work in progress.

Johnson, a seven-time series champion, has a single top-five effort, and he still hasn't led a single lap this season. Bowman's led 13 laps and Monday's finish was his first top-five of the year. Chase Elliott has one top-five and eight laps led, while William Byron has been out front for 17 laps, he's still looking for his first top-five.

In the first eight races, the only win for Chevrolet came at the season-opening Daytona 500, and that required Austin Dillon to intentionally wreck Aric Almirola on the final lap.

But there is growing hope.

"Just thankful for driving for Hendrick Motorsports," Bowman said. "It's been a lot of fun finally getting some good runs going our way. It's been cool. To run fifth, it's not a

great day, but it's better than what we started the year doing. We are making progress, making steps in the right direction and just got to keep doing that."

Johnson has laughed off any suggestion his career has taken the white flag. He's been down before, but he's always been able to prove he's never out.

"I think most situations momentum does carry you up or down," he said. "If things seem to be going wrong, they continue for a while. Sometime it'll turn around, you just don't know when. And I think in most cases, you're right."

"I have experienced it in my career where we have had different dry spells, and we'll get the car going well, and I'll make a mistake, or the car going well and we have a bad pit stop, or just unlucky, and it takes a little while. I can't explain why or how, but it takes a little while to get the momentum rolling in the right direction."

The switch from the Chevy SS to the Camaro was a significant undertaking, especially since early development came on a computer screen. The manufacturer knew it would have to make real adjust-



DON COBLE

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ON THE COVER:

CARS - DREW HIERWARTER
KYLE BUSCH - JOHN HARRELLTON/NKP

ments once the car hit the track.

Added with NASCAR's new inspection process that eliminates a lot of the gray areas that gave the top-tiered teams a decided advantage, it took Chevrolet a little longer than expected to gain traction.

But Monday's finish was a small step toward the big picture.

"Yeah, it really is a great boost," Johnson said as a new wave of post-race flurries dusted the half-mile track. "I've said for weeks now

that we're getting better and it's great to finally have a result to back that up.

"We've had decent Fridays and really good Saturdays and then some bad luck in the races. Although we had plenty of bad luck over the course of the four or five days that we've been here, we were able to pull through and get a great third place finish."

And prove it can snow in purgatory.



Jimmie Johnson (48) and Alex Bowman (88) race hard to hold off a charging race winner Kyle Busch (18) to end the race in third and fifth place respectively. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

Kyle Busch Uses Bump-and-Run to Perfection in Bristol Win

By REID SPENCER

BRISTOL, TN — Everyone knows Kyle Busch as “Rowdy,” but you could also call him “The Postman,” given that neither rain, snow, sleet nor hail could keep him from completing his appointed rounds at Bristol Motor

Speedway.

Executing a textbook bump-and-run against runner-up Kyle Larson on Lap 495 of 500, Kyle Busch pulled away to win Monday’s weather-delayed Food City 500, claiming his second straight victory of 2018 and his seventh win at Thunder Valley, most among active drivers.

In a race delayed by rain after 204 laps on Sunday—then prefaced by sleet on Monday—Busch, the pole winner, claimed the 45th Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series victory of his career, breaking a tie with NASCAR Hall of Famer Bill Elliott for 16th on the all-time win list.

Larson, who led a race-high 200 laps, held the top spot after a restart on Lap 479, following the 13th caution of the race for Brad Keselowski’s contact with the outside wall off Turn 2. Busch charged past eventual fourth-place finisher Ricky Stenhouse Jr. on Lap 485 and took off in pursuit of Larson.

As the drivers worked traffic, Busch got to Larson’s bumper and

nudged the No. 42 Chevrolet in Turns 1 and 2. The coup de grace came in Turns 3 and 4, where Busch’s No. 18 Toyota pushed Larson’s Chevy up the track, with Busch diving underneath for the lead.

The final caution was a godsend for Busch, who thought he had a tire going flat and was preparing to pit.

“We weren’t quite as good as the 42 (Larson) on that long run before that last caution came out,” said Busch, who led 117 laps in the two-day affair. “I actually thought I had a tire going down, but we were able to get some tires on it and go give it everything we had.”

“We had a 20-lap shootout, and that was everything it was about right there, just chasing down that 42 and being able to get there.”

The final pit stop proved critical, because Busch had the superior car after the final restart.

“It was the best right at the end,” said Busch, who won his second straight Cup race at Bristol. “I know Larson was a little bit loose right there. It seemed like he was overdriving and trying to hold the bottom, but he was slipping out of the bottom, and I got a huge run on him and got to him and it was just on.”

“I knew I might as well just take the opportunity that I got right now. I knew it was a little early ‘cause you tend to try to want to think about saving that bump-and-run deal for the last lap, but I just took



Kyle Busch gets some refreshment after winning the Food City 500 on rain-delay Monday at Bristol Motor Speedway. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

my chance with it, and if he got back to my rear bumper, then so be it. I think that’s fair game, being able to race that way. Fortunately, I was able to run away from him and he couldn’t get back to me.”

Finishing second to Busch at Bristol has become an annoying habit for Larson, who crossed the finish line .628 seconds behind the No. 18 on Monday. On three previous occasions in the NASCAR Xfinity Series, 2013 through 2015, Larson ran second to Busch at Thunder Valley.

“I’ve been beat by Kyle about every time I race here, too, so that gets frustrating after a while,” Larson said. “As soon as we restarted there, I was extremely loose. The No. 17 (Stenhouse) got to my inside. I just really didn’t have any grip.”

“I thought it would tighten up for me and I could get going, but it

never really did, and I was just really loose. I hate that I didn’t win. It’s another one at Bristol. I feel like every time I race here I almost get a win.”

Seven-time series champion Jimmie Johnson ran third, posting his first top five of the season after starting from the rear because of a tire change after qualifying. Alex Bowman, Johnson’s Hendrick Motorsports teammate, finished a career-best fifth.

Aric Almirola, Kevin Harvick, Clint Bowyer, Joey Logano and Ryan Newman completed the top 10.

Busch expanded his series lead to 59 points over second-place Logano. Monday marked the first time a series leader had won at Bristol since Dale Earnhardt accomplished the feat in 1987, when he swept both Bristol races as the points leader.



Race winner Kyle Busch (18) battles to pass Kyle Larson (42) in the closing laps of the Food City 500 Monday afternoon. (SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES photo)

Ryan Preece Wins NASCAR Xfinity Race at Bristol—and \$100,000 Bonus

BRISTOL, TN - Ryan Preece is doing everything he can to find a permanent home in a stock car.

At the top of his to-do list is winning, which he did for the second time in seven

NASCAR Xfinity Series starts on Saturday when he outran Justin Allgaier to win the Fitzgerald Glider Kits 300 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

With the victory came a \$100,000 bonus, courtesy of the Xfinity Dash 4 Cash program. In Victory Lane, Preece was already spending it.

"You know what? I'll probably do something for my parents; do something for my brothers; do something for my wife and my team," Preece said. "We're going to get something to drink later."

Preece is the fourth different driver to win a Bristol race for team owner Joe Gibbs, who now has 12 wins at the track. In his seven starts for Gibbs, Preece now has two victories, a runner-up result and an average finish of 3.86.

Had the 11th caution flag of the race not waved on Lap 282 of 300—when Shane Lee hit the outside wall in Turn 2, Preece's teammate Brandon Jones likely would have gotten his first victory in the series. Jones had a lead of nearly two seconds when Lee hit the wall, but when all seven lead-lap cars came to pit road under the yellow, Jones got two tires to four for the rest of the contenders.

That gave Preece the chance to pull ahead of his teammate on the restart with 10 laps left. Ultimately, Preece crossed the finish line .286 seconds ahead of Allgaier, as Jones faded to sixth.

"If that caution didn't come out, (Jones) had it in the bag," Preece said. "He's going to get there soon enough."

Allgaier earned eligibility for next week's Dash 4 Cash bonus at Richmond, as did Daniel Hemric, Elliott Sadler and Spencer Gallagher, who finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively. Preece, who is running a limited schedule, is not entered at Richmond.

But Hemric's No. 21 Chevrolet

subsequently failed post-race inspection, costing him the Dash 4 Cash eligibility, which fell to Jones in sixth place.

"I'm just going to prepare for my next race, which is in two months at Daytona," said Preece, who risked his own money last year to secure two races with Gibbs and finished second and first in his first two starts. "That's my next one."

Preece's success earned three more starts last year, and he has made the most of every opportunity in Gibbs equipment.

"I've got to thank everybody last year for helping me make this all possible," Preece said. "Without last year, I wouldn't be sitting here right now. I wouldn't be sitting in Bristol Victory Lane in an Xfinity Series car with Joe Gibbs Racing. I'm kind of at a loss for words..."

"I'm 27 years old and I'm not getting any younger. I'm looking for opportunities. We did it last year at Iowa, and now we did it here at Bristol. I hope I don't get labeled as a short track racer. I want to win on mile-and-a-halfes soon. Nothing beats winning."

Dash 4 Cash driver Christopher Bell had a rollercoaster day that ended in a brutal crash on Lap 141. Much earlier, on the fifth lap of the race, Bell scraped the outside wall exiting Turn 4 and dropped to 28th for a restart on Lap 18.

By Lap 55 he was running fourth, and on Lap 66, Bell assumed the lead with a two-tire pit stop and held the top spot through the end of the first 85-lap stage.

He was running third on Lap 141 when the No. 01 Chevrolet of Vinnie Miller slid up into the No. 74 Dodge of Cody Ware. With the track block ahead of him, Bell stood on the brakes, slid sideways and plowed into the wreck with the right-side door of his No. 20 Toyota. All three cars were eliminated.

"I don't know, that's the second time this weekend that I've crashed from guys going seconds off the pace," Bell said after leaving the infield care center. "Can't slow down whenever they spin out, and it's frustrating."

"We had a really fast GameStop Camry and, I don't know, just trying to get the top (lane worked) in



Fitzgerald Glider Kits 300 race winner Ryan Preece shows off his \$100,000 bonus check for scoring the Dash 4 Cash money with his victory. (DREW HIERWARTER photo)

pretty much all race long. That was our worst run of the day, handling wise, and we were still up there. Unfortunate."

Todd Gilliland Conquers Bristol for 20th Win

BRISTOL, TN - When it comes to the K&N Pro Series East in 2018, Todd Gilliland is batting 1.000.

The Sherrills Ford, North Carolina, native won the Zombie Auto 150 at Bristol Motor Speedway on Saturday afternoon, holding off Harrison Burton on the final 10-lap sprint to the finish. Gilliland crossed the finish line

1.494 seconds ahead of Burton, the defending race winner.

The victory is Gilliland's second in a row in the K&N Pro East, as he took the season-opening New Smyrna 175 at New Smyrna Speedway one month ago. The win is also Gilliland's 20th in 50 starts across both the K&N Pro East and West series.

"It means so much," said Gilliland, who is running a partial schedule in the K&N Pro Series and Camping World Truck Series after winning the last two K&N Pro West titles.

"I think once you get that first one out of the way, you kind of get that winning feeling and you just know what it's like.

"I've just driven for really great teams, they've brought me really fast cars every weekend."

In two previous K&N Pro East starts at Thunder Valley, Gilliland started 21st and finished eighth in 2016 and started eighth and finished ninth last season. But on Saturday, the third time was the charm.

It didn't come easy, though, as three red flags for a combined 22

minutes and one second, coupled with 10 cautions slowed the race and continually erased the leader's advantage.

"It's really nerve-wracking for sure," Gilliland said. "Especially during red flags, it gets really hot and you just have a lot of time to think about it. Overall, you just have to have a really good spotter and crew chief. My dad was on the radio. It's all about staying focused.

"Noah (Gragson) was laying back really far on the restarts, and it was kind of getting in my head. I felt like our car was the best after we'd get going for a few laps, but for two laps everyone is so close because the stuff is down on the bottom. Overall, a really fast car just kept me that much more focused."

Gilliland, Burton and third-place place finisher Noah Gragson are Camping World Truck Series teammates for Kyle Busch Motorsports. Gilliland is racing in the K&N Pro Series this year for his father's DGR-CROSLEY team.

Burton finished third in the opener at New Smyrna after battling Gilliland for the lead over the final laps. This time, however, Gilliland was able to get away on the final restart.

"I just wanted to get a shot at him," Burton said. "And I think we had a good long run car, just struggled on the short runs. I was too loose. After about four or five laps we really came on and I thought we were probably the strongest car out there. But there just wasn't enough time and I'm disappointed but happy that I am disappointed with second."



Todd Gilliland won his 20th K&N Pro Series event and second East race in a row on Saturday at Bristol Motor Speedway in the Zombie Auto 150. (Drew Hierwarther photo)

Tyler Ankrum and Brandon McReynolds were fourth and fifth, respectively. Tyler Dippel, Spencer Davis, Ronnie Bassett Jr., Eddie MacDonald and Ruben Garcia Jr. completed the top 10. Gragson had won the pole in Friday's qualifying.

The Zombie Auto 150 will air on Friday, April 20 at 1 a.m. ET on NBCSN.

The K&N Pro Series East returns to the track in two weeks at Larry King Law's Langley Speedway for the Visit Hampton VA 150.

CRA, Toledo Speedway Officials Postpone April 14 Races

TOLEDO, OH - Officials from ARCA, Toledo Speedway and the ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS have postponed this weekend's scheduled racing events at Toledo Speedway due to a weather front containing high winds and lightning and thunder

with precipitation forecasts of 100% for both the scheduled race date of Saturday April 14 and the weather

date of Sunday April 15.

The Cometic Gasket 200 presented by PNC Bank, featuring the ARCA/CRA Super Series and the ARCA Outlaw Late Model Gold Cup Series has been rescheduled for Friday June 29. Racing on that date will now feature the April 14 rescheduled program plus the Miller Lite 50 for ARCA Aramark Sportsman cars and the ARCA Figure-8 division. The ARCA Factory Stock race for June 29 will be rescheduled.

Other major outdoor sporting

events scheduled for the weekend, including spring college football games at the University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin and Iowa State postponed or cancelled due to the incoming weather front. Series and track officials balanced delaying their decision until the forecast was inevitable with providing as much advance notice as possible to traveling race teams and fans.

The next scheduled activities for the respective groups are a 125-lap event Saturday May 5 at Anderson Speedway in Indiana for the ARCA/CRA Super Series, the Joy Fair 100 Saturday May 26 at Flat Rock Speedway in Michigan for the ARCA Outlaw Late Model Gold Cup Series and Toledo Speed-

way's Hemelgarn Racing/SuperFitness Rollie Beale Classic USAC Silver Crown Series race Friday May 4, which will also feature the ARCA Aramark Sportsman and ARCA Factory Stock divisions.

Toledo Speedway tickets purchased for April 14 may be refunded or transferred to another event on the 2018 Toledo schedule by contacting the track. Those fans who already purchased advanced tickets for the April 14 race will now receive a free ticket to the USAC Silver Crown race May 4, courtesy of the Sunny Media "Good Weather Guarantee." Those May 4 tickets will be at the Toledo Speedway ticket office Will Call unless fans contact the track to make other arrangements.

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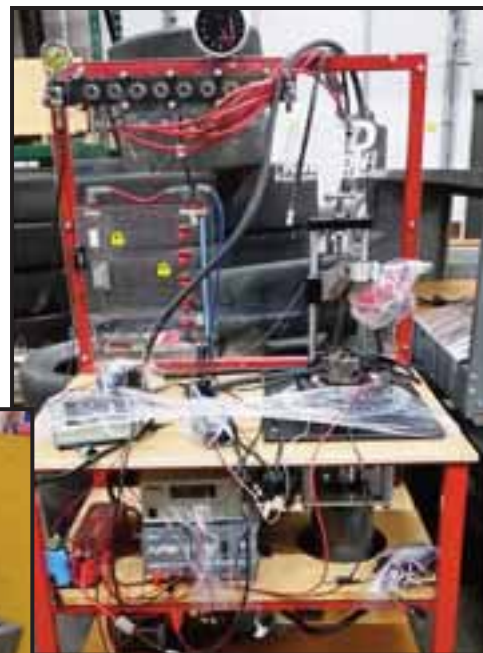
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Red storage cabinet with diamond plate top, suspension rack, gray material storage rack, alum box, 5 shelf storage rack, jig fixture, 3 wheel engine cart, carded item display rack, engine stand, Bowman bolt bin, , wireless scales, tire rack on wheels, Tektronix 2213A oscilloscope, pallet jacks, grinder on stand, 2 wheel dollies, floor fan, portable air compressor, Power Twin 5500 paint sprayer, pallet forks, Ballymore warehouse ladder, Longacre scale brain, metal halide lights, MSD Professional Distributor Spin Fixture, Hammer Drill, Drill Doctor



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Bloomquist Bags First Victory of 2018

CHILLICOTHE, OH - Scott Bloomquist lead flag-to-flag to win the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series-sanctioned, Buckeye Spring 50 at Atomic Speedway. The 54-year-old, Hall-of-Famer became the seventh different winner this season on the LOLMDS tour.

Don O'Neal and Tim McCreadie tracked down Bloomquist late in the race as the leader was negotiating lapped traffic, but Bloomquist pulled away in the last few laps for the victory. O'Neal had his best LOLMDS finish of the season with tonight's second-place showing for the Clint Bowyer Dirt Motorsports, Peak Antifreeze and Coolant, Club 29. McCreadie finished third in the Sweeteners Plus, Pro Power, Longhorn. Completing the top five were Brandon Sheppard and Jonathan Davenport. Davenport was also the Optima Batteries Hard Charger of the Race, after starting 23rd.

Don O'Neal and Bloomquist started on the front row together. Bloomquist stormed to the lead at the start. The race for second-place lasted all 50-laps as O'Neal and McCreadie swapped the position several times during the race.

McCreadie was taking a run at Bloomquist until a caution came out on the 20th circuit. After each caution flag, Bloomquist managed to pull away from the field. No one got close to him until the final six laps when O'Neal and McCreadie were gaining on him in lapped traffic. Neither could get close enough to challenge Bloomquist for the win in the waning laps.

"We had a good night. We started out good in qualifying and the rest of the night the car was just awesome. The track got pretty slick and blacked off. At the end I just decided to set it high and let it sail. The car got through traffic pretty good. All-in-all I can't say enough about the car and engine combination. Everything was great. This Sweet-Bloomquist car was sweet tonight and the Andy Durham Engine ran perfect. It was another good points night."

"It was a good solid run, but definitely not what we wanted," said O'Neal who has now garnered two podium finishes in the last two events. "The zero car was just better than us. He was better through traffic. My team's been working hard. We are making progress no doubt. McCreadie and I had a lot of good restarts. You didn't know whether to pick the inside or the out on the restart. We all were pretty equal it was just the case whoever got out in front was going to win."



Scott Bloomquist lead flag-to-flag to win the Buckeye Spring 50 at Atomic Speedway, his first Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series of the season. (Paul Arch photo)

"It was nice to be near the front tonight," said McCreadie afterwards. "This run is a credit to all the guys back at the shop and all the hard work they do. We've been looking for some things since they massaged the rules a little bit. We had to change our stuff around. Hopefully that's all over with it and now we can show what we can do the rest of the season."

Indiana Icebreaker Falls to Heavy Rain

BROWNSTOWN, IN - With the forecast for heavy rainfall and storms throughout the day at Brownstown Speedway, officials have canceled Saturday night's John Jones Auto Group 21st Annual Indiana Icebreaker.

"Jim Price and the staff at Brownstown Speedway are always a pleasure to work with, they put their heart into every event," Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series Director Rick Schwallie said. "We held out as long as possible in hopes the forecast may improve, unfortunately Mother Nature is not in our favor today."

Fans who purchased advanced tickets to the John Jones Auto Group 21st Annual Indiana Icebreaker will receive an email notification with instructions on how to process their refund.

The Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series will return to Brownstown Speedway, September 21-22 for the 39th Annual Jackson 100. For more information, visit www.brownstownspeedway.com.

World of Outlaws Postpone Tri-State Speedway Event to April 22

HAUBSTADT, IN - The World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series continues to fight a losing battle against Mother Nature. After a constant overnight rain, Tri-State Speedway and World of Outlaws officials have made the decision to postpone tonight's event to Sunday, April 22 due to overly saturated grounds. Tickets for tonight's event will be honored in full for the event on April 22nd.

All ticketing questions should be directed to Tri-State Speedway at 812-768-6025. The rain date at the Tri-State Speedway sets up a three-race weekend, in three differ-

ent states for the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series next weekend starting Friday, April 20 at the Riverside International Speedway in West Memphis, AR. Saturday, the Series returns to Federated Auto Parts Raceway at I-55 in Pevely, MO, before concluding the weekend back in Haubstadt, IN. More information for all of these events can be found at woosprint.com. If you can't make it to the track, be sure to watch all the action LIVE on DIRTVision.com.

World of Outlaws Postpone Jacksonville Speedway Event to June 27

The World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series has canceled tonight's event at the Jacksonville Speedway at Jacksonville, IL due

to saturated grounds from the heavy rainfall and snowfall received this morning and throughout the week.

With more rain in the forecast throughout the evening, World of Outlaws officials have canceled tonight's event. The event will be

rescheduled for Wednesday, June 27.

All tickets for tonight's event will be honored at the June 27 event. All ticketing questions should be answered by Jacksonville Speedway staff, stay tuned to their website at jacksonvillespeedway.com.

World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series' Illini 100 Cancelled

FARMER CITY, IL - The World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series' Illini 100 weekend has been cancelled due to heavy thunderstorms sweeping across central Illinois. The Illini 100 will not be rescheduled due to the World of Outlaws busy 2018 schedule of

events. The World of Outlaws next event will be at Whynot Motorsports Park on April 19-20-21 for the inaugural Queen City Shootout.

Ticket holders for the Illini 100 will have 90 days to request a refund. You can call 844-DIRT-TIX if you have will call or you can mail your tickets back to the address on the back of the ticket. If you had camping through Farmer City Raceway please contact them by emailing farmercityfair@gmail.com.

Lance Dewease Outruns Aaron Reutzel During Keith Kauffman Classic

PORT ROYAL, PA - For the second time in as many nights, and for the 37th time during his illustrious career, Fayetteville, Pennsylvania's Lance Dewease earned himself a trip to Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 victory lane, this time during

the third annual Keith Kauffman Classic at Port Royal Speedway on Saturday, April 14. It was a second consecutive Keith Kauffman Classic title for the recent National Sprint Car Hall of Fame inductee, now even with Steve Kinser, Doug Wolfgang, and Danny Lasoski on the all-time All Star Circuit of Champions win list.

By no surprise, Dewease's victory, a fifth consecutive against the All Star Circuit of Champions at the Port Royal Speedway "Speed Palace," was attained in impressive fashion, managing to outrun Greg Hodnett, Steve Buckwalter, Anthony Macri, and race leader, Aaron Reutzel, from the fifth starting position to secure the \$5,000 payday. Dewease took command for the first time on lap 21, ultimately pulling ahead and crossing under the final checkers 2.149 seconds ahead of second place finisher, Aaron Reutzel.

Anthony Macri, who led the first 11 circuits before surrendering the top spot to Aaron Reutzel, stayed strong to finish third, followed by Steve Buckwalter and Greg Hodnett.

"It was far from autopilot for us tonight," Lance Dewease said in Port Royal Speedway victory lane. "It feels great to get this one in honor of Keith Kauffman. He is a true racing legend in this area and an even better person. It's really special that he gets to be around and witness a race that is a tribute to him. I also want to thank the fans for coming out and supporting this race tonight. Hopefully this nice weather sticks around for the rest of the summer."

Although impressive, Dewease's march to the front did not go unchallenged. In fact, up until the midpoint of the 30-lapper, it was Clute, Texas, native Aaron Reutzel who was in charge, taking the top spot away from Anthony Macri on lap 12

with a textbook slider through turns three and four. The pair drag raced to the start/finish line, but it was Reutzel credited with the lap by a margin of .2 seconds.

In the meantime, Dewease already battled his way to third, now setting his aim on Macri and Reutzel. With caution flags appearing on lap 16, the field was forced to stop for an open red giving teams an opportunity to refuel to assure they would make the remaining distance. The open red proved to be a turning point for Lance Dewease, giving the Don Kreitz, Jr.-owed, Schannauer Plumbing and Heating-backed, No. 69K entry an opportunity to undergo some set-up changes.

The changes made under the open red proved successful as Dewease was able to track down Reutzel by lap 21, soon driving underneath the Texan at the exit of turn four to officially take command. Dewease then drove away to win by over two seconds.

"If it wasn't for the red, Aaron [Reutzel] was going to win this race," Dewease explained. "He had the best race car of that stage of the race. Actually, I thought I was going to run third because Anthony Macri was running very well. He's turning into a talented young driver who is going to win a lot of races."

"I don't know if it was a heart-break, or if I should be pumped up to be able to run with Lance Dewease like that," Aaron Reutzel explained, driver of the Baughman



Lance Dewease celebrates in victory lane with Keith Kauffman after racing his way to the win in the Keith Kauffman Classic at Port Royal Speedway. (Paul Arch photo)

Reutzel Motorsports/No. 87 entry who will contend for an All Star Rookie of the Year title in 2018. "Lance is a guy I really look up to. He's a very humble guy and races everyone really clean. By far one of the smoothest drivers I have ever seen in my life. Just to be able to accomplish this much, especially against a guy like Lance Dewease, I'm beyond proud. That open red gave his guys an opportunity to make him better. I was already really good, so we didn't have much to modify. Regardless, I am beyond proud right now. This just goes to show what this team is capable of accomplishing."

The Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 will conclude their first sweep through the Keystone State with a

visit to Bedford Speedway in Bedford, Pa., later today - Sunday, April 15. The first and only appearance by America's Series in 2018, the annual Roy Morral Classic will headline competition at the Bedford Fairgrounds half-mile on Sunday evening awarding a \$5,000 top prize.

In six prior Bedford Speedway appearances, the All Stars have crowned six different winners including Bill Rose, Lance Dewease, Trey Starks, Chad Kemenah, Greg Hodnett, and most recently, "Blackjack" Brian Brown.

Lance Dewease Wins Tommy Hinnershitz Memorial From Row Seven

MECHANICSBURG, PA - Fayetteville, Pennsylvania's Lance Dewease made it look easy on Friday night during the annual Tommy Hinnershitz Memorial, charging forward from the inside of row seven to move the Pennsylvania Posse to a perfect 33-0 against the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 at Williams Grove Speedway.

Dewease, pilot of the Don Kreitz, Jr.-owed/Schannauer Plumbing and Heating/Jimi's Thing/No. 69K sprint car, earned \$5,000 for his efforts at the world-famous, paper-clip-shaped half-mile, taking the lead officially on lap 24 to snag a second consecutive Tommy Hinnershitz Memorial title against the traveling All Stars. Impressive enough, the victory raised Dewease's overall Series win count



Lance Dewease raced his way to a win at Williams Grove Speedway Friday night. (Paul Arch photo)

(Continued Next Page)

Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions

Continued...

to 36, seven of which at Williams Grove Speedway.

Brock Zearfoss, who led the first 23 circuits before surrendering the top spot to the National Sprint Car Hall of Famer, finished second, followed by Danny Dietrich, Chad Trout, and six-time and defending All Star champion, Chad Kemenah.

"Don, Davey; these guys just keep plugging away," Lance Dewease said in victory lane. "I'm just so fortunate to be a part of this deal. We are having a lot of fun. Even when we aren't winning, we are still having a lot of fun. That's what this is all about. My guys work a lot harder than what people realize. That's why we run the schedule that we run. We just kinda keep things within our budget and do what we do."

Dewease started his march toward the front right from the drop of the green flag, solidifying a position inside the top-five with just ten laps in the books. By lap 12, Dewease moved by Chad Trout for fourth, eventually working around Alvada,

Ohio's Chad Kemenah to secure the third spot at the midpoint of the 30-lap program.

By lap 18, Dewease was all over Danny Dietrich for second, racing to the back bumper of the familiar Gary Kauffman Racing entry while the duo battled through traffic. Soon enough, Dewease drove around Dietrich to secure the runner-up spot, officially setting his aim on race leader, Brock Zearfoss.

Although Zearfoss had the clear advantage, maintaining a quick pace around the very topside of the speedway, Dewease closed the gap in a hurry, moving within striking distance at the exit of turn four on lap 23. Despite losing a drag race to the start/finish line, Dewease made his winning move at the entrance of turn one on lap 24, squeezing underneath the "Jonestown Jet" as the pair battled through turn two.

From that point forward, it was all Dewease at the front of the field, ultimately surviving two consecutive cautions on lap 28, the only cautions of the main event, as well as a green-white-checker finish.

"I didn't even know I was leading," Dewease explained. "Starting as far back as we did, I was just trying to move around cars as quickly as I could. When we got by [Danny Dietrich] and [Brock Zearfoss], I knew I had to be getting close.

Then, when I got to the five-to-go signal, I was like 'oh shit I'm leading this thing.' At that point, I knew I had to slow down. I needed to conserve my equipment and make sure I made it to the end."

"I didn't know [Lance Dewease] was coming," Brock Zearfoss said. "I was getting a little higher and higher in turns three and four, so I was able to see most of the race-track. I kept looking down to see if anyone was there. When [Dewease] got down there below me, I knew I didn't want to give it up without a fight. I raced him clean, but I wanted him to earn it, which he did. Hats off to those guys. They deserve this one. We'll try again tomorrow at Port Royal Speedway."

"We were really good in our heat race, but we really couldn't show it," Lance Dewease continued. "Hats off to this track crew. They did a lot of work tonight to help us get a second lane. That helped out this race track a lot. If not, it would have been locked-down around the bottom."

All Star Visit to Bedford Speedway Cancelled Due to Impending Weather

BEDFORD, PA - With forecasts predicting nearly two inches of rainfall, Bedford Speedway and Arctic

Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 officials have been forced to cancel the Roy Morral Classic scheduled for Sunday evening, April 15. At this time, a make-up date has not been determined.

Up next on the schedule, the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 will invade the Buckeye State, first visiting the highbanks of Attica Raceway Park on Friday, April 20, where the traveling All Stars will take part in the rescheduled Core & Main Spring Nationals presented by Fisher Performance.

Originally scheduled for Friday, April 6, the Spring Nationals program will welcome the All Stars to Attica Raceway Park for the first of five visits in 2018, two of which during Labor Day weekend.

Wayne County Speedway will welcome the All Star Circuit of Champions on Saturday, April 21. Like Attica Raceway Park, Wayne County Speedway will host the All Stars on multiple occasions in 2018.

More news and information pertaining to the upcoming Ohio doubleheader will be posted in the near future.

Fans are encouraged to stay tuned at www.allstarsprint.com, as well as on all of the available social media platforms.

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Charlotte Motor Speedway

D A Y T O N A BEACH, FL - NASCAR and Charlotte Motor Speedway today announced the format and competition package for the May 19 Monster Energy NASCAR All-Star Race, both tailored to achieve one goal – the best possible race for the fans.

For the first time, Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series cars will implement the competition package used in last season's successful NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, which saw record numbers in leaders, lead changes and green flag passes for the lead.

Each car will be fitted with aero ducts, a six-inch-high spoiler with two 12-inch ears, a restrictor plate and the 2014 style splitter. Working in concert, these additions create a unique aerodynamic effect, the results of which received high praise from fans and competitors following last year's Xfinity race at Indianapolis.

"NASCAR is committed to innovation and will always work to improve the racing product for every series and venue," said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR executive vice president and chief racing development officer. "The yearly Monster Energy NASCAR All-Star Race is an opportunity to see your favorite drivers compete under a unique and exciting format and rules package. The positive feedback following last year's Xfinity Series race at Indianapolis gave us the foundation to implement this dynamic package for the All-Star Race. We believe the hard work of the entire industry will provide the best race for our passionate fans."

The format for the annual non-points event will include four stages – 30 laps, 20 laps, 20 laps and 10 laps. Only green flag laps will be counted in the Final Stage. Normal stage break procedures will be in effect, with one exciting addition: NASCAR Overtime will be in play for all stages. Of note, there will be no mandatory pit strategy as in some of the previous editions of the event.

The Monster Energy Open will be three stages set at 20, 20 and 10 laps respectively. Each stage winner will advance to the evening's main event.

"The All-Star Race has a long

history of edginess and innovation. We want to challenge drivers, spark on-track action and create the best show for the fans," said Marcus Smith, president and CEO of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. "This race has always been a proving ground for some of the best innovations in our sport, from running under the lights to stage racing and double-file restarts. It's the perfect opportunity to try something different, and with a 10-lap shootout for a million dollars, expect the unexpected on May 19."

The field for the 2018 Monster Energy NASCAR All-Star Race will include Monster Energy Series race winners in 2017 and 2018; former all-star race winners who are competing fulltime; Monster Energy Series champions who are competing fulltime; the winner of each of the three stages of the Monster Energy Open; and the winner of the 2018 Fan Vote.

Currently, the following drivers are eligible to compete: Ryan Blaney, Clint Bowyer, Kurt Busch, Kyle Busch, Austin Dillon, Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Jimmie Johnson, Kasey Kahne, Matt Kenseth, Brad Keselowski, Kyle Larson, Joey Logano, Jamie McMurray, Ryan Newman, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Martin Truex Jr.

Weekend passes for the Monster Energy All-Star Race start at just \$79 and include admission to the May 18 N.C. Education Lottery 200 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race, May 19 Cole Swindell Monster Energy All-Star Race Concert Presented by Rayovac Batteries, Kwikset, George Foreman and National Hardware, and to the Monster Energy Open. Kids 13 and under get in free on Friday and for just \$10 on Saturday with a paying adult. Tickets, camping and race-day upgrades are available by visiting www.CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com/tickets or calling 800-455-FANS (3267).

Tune-in to the Monster Energy NASCAR All-Star race at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Saturday, May 19, starting at 6 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

Dover Int'l Speedway

DOVER, DE - A new car will soon be hoisted into the hand of Delaware's most famous landmark.

For the 2018 NASCAR season, Smithfield will continue to be the presenting sponsor of the Monster Monument at Victory Plaza. The new No. 10 Smithfield Ford Fusion will be placed in the right hand of the famous 46-foot statue on Tues-

day, April 17. Fans are encouraged to attend the event to witness the placement of the car into the Monster Monument's hand.

Aric Almirola, the Stewart-Haas Racing driver of the No. 10 Smithfield Ford, will be one of the top contenders in the upcoming "AAA 400 Drive for Autism" Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, May 6 at Dover International Speedway. The race is the centerpiece of the Monster Mile's NASCAR tripleheader weekend from May 4-6.

Almirola has two top-5 and three top-10 finishes in 11 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series starts at Dover and won his first NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race at the Monster Mile in 2010.

The timeline for the April 17 event is below. Times are approximate, weather permitting.

- 11 a.m. – No. 10 Smithfield Ford begins to be hoisted into place by workers from Active Crane, a Kent County, Del., contracting firm.

- 11:15 a.m. – Dover International Speedway President and CEO Mike Tatroian addresses the assembled crowd and is available for media interviews and photos.

- Noon – Car placement is complete.

The May 4-6 NASCAR tripleheader weekend also includes the "JEGS 200" NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race on Friday, May 4 and the "OneMain Financial 200" NASCAR XFINITY Series Dash 4 Cash race on Saturday, May 5.

For tickets or more information on Monster Mile events, call (800) 441-RACE or visit DoverSpeedway.com. You can also keep up with track activities at [Facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway](https://www.facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway), or on Twitter and Instagram at @MonsterMile.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - While the greatest drivers in the world will be competing on Talladega Superspeedway on April 27-29 during an incredible tripleheader weekend (GEICO 500, Sparks Energy 300, General Tire 200), fans will have the opportunity to hit the pavement first and drive their personal car around NASCAR's biggest and most competitive track earlier in the week during "Drive Days."

On Tuesday (April 24) and Thursday (April 26), "Drive Days" will offer participants to take their

street legal vehicles for three thrilling laps at highway speed behind a Talladega Safety/Pace truck on Talladega's 2.66-mile, 33-degree high banks for just \$50. Times are:

- Tuesday, April 24: 12 Noon-4 pm CDT (Staging begins outside Gate 9 at 11:30 am CDT)

- Thursday, April 26: 10 am-2 pm CDT (Staging begins outside Gate 9 at 8:30 am CDT)

Those interested in participating will need to stage at the outside entrance to Gate 9 which is located at the Turn 3 crossover entrance. Look for directional signage upon arriving on the property.

Other guidelines for the two days include:

- TSS Emergency Services will determine the number of vehicles that will be on track at one time

- Participants that do not abide by TSS rules and regulations will be removed from the race track surface and property

- Participants/Vehicles observed by TSS Emergency Services or staff dropping back or lagging behind and exceeding the paced highway speed will be removed from the race track surface and property

- No Passing allowed

- No vehicles allowed in/on top groove/lane of the race track

- Participants/Vehicles determined by TSS Emergency Services or Staff unsafe or unfit will not be allowed onto the race track surface

- Participants must remain in vehicle at all times once they enter the race track surface

Participants behind the wheel must be 19 years of age or older, and once on the track, remain in vehicle at all times. Each vehicle must be equipped with enough seatbelts for all passengers. No motorcycles, RV's or tractor trailers will be allowed on the track. Cash or credit card will be acceptable upon arrival. For more information on this event, call 855-518-RACE (7223).

Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - Darlington Raceway is bringing back its family-fun Turn 3 Theater Presented by Raceway Ford Chevrolet.

This year's free movie will take place on Friday, May 4 in the

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Continued...

track's hospitality village outside of turn 3, and feature Disney/Pixars Cars 3.

Movie fans will need to enter the facility at the Gate 39A tunnel entrance off of Highway 151, where they will be directed to the parking area just west of the hospitality village. The gates will open at 6 p.m. with the movie starting at dusk.

"We decided to bring back the popular

Turn 3 Theater for a one-time showing of Cars 3," Darlington Raceway President Kerry Tharp said. "We encourage all families to attend this free event at our historic track. We appreciate Raceway Ford Chevrolet for partnering with us again to make these movie nights available for our community."

Turn 3 Theater Presented by Raceway Ford Chevrolet will offer kids activities, bean bag toss games, and a variety of other family fun events. Pace car rides for a \$10 per person donation and concessions will be available with all proceeds benefiting Darlington Shares, a donor advised fund of the NASCAR Foundation.

"We are proud of our partnership with Darlington Raceway and are excited to bring back a free movie night to the track on May 4 for the local community," John Isgett, President of Raceway Ford Chevrolet said.

Guests may bring food, however, concessions will also be available with all proceeds benefiting Darlington Shares. Free popcorn will be distributed to families before the feature presentation (one tub per family). Lawn chairs, blankets and coolers are permitted (no glass bottles).

Darlington Raceway's award-winning throwback campaign is The Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR featuring the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500® on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018. The NASCAR XFINITY Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 will race on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018. Tickets can be purchased by calling 866-459-7223 or visiting DarlingtonRaceway.com.

You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Raceway at DarlingtonRaceway.com, on Facebook at Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway and on Twitter at Twitter.com/TooToughToTame.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - With just a few simple clicks, fans can take care of all their hotel needs for Talladega Superspeedway's anticipated tripleheader weekend April 27-29, by booking through DegaRooms.com. But, fans should act fast as the deadline to book is April 11.

DegaRooms.com is the quickest, easiest and most economical way for anyone looking for a quality hotel room at a reasonable price and within close proximity to the track. When it comes to the GEICO 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race, Sparks Energy 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series event and the General Tire 200 for the ARCA Racing Series, it is important to know which hotels will give loyal Talladega fans a fair price and which ones have minimum stay requirements.

The staff at DegaRooms.com have done the hard work by screening hotels with quality service and rates that are guaranteed to be the lowest publicly available. Featured hotels include Hampton Inn, Marriott, Hilton Garden Inn, Westin and more.

Be sure to check out the incredible shuttle service, too. DegaRooms.com offers a shuttle bus to and from the track. The option to purchase transportation for 2-day or Sunday only shuttle service is still available at select hotels.

To make things even more economical for race fans eager to be on their way to NASCAR's Most Competitive track, there are no booking fees and no change fees. The staff at DegaRooms.com will also send fans a hotel confirmation letter and follow-up during race week to give up-to-date schedules and weather information.

To book your hotel, simply visit www.DegaRooms.com and click the "Book April 2018 GEICO 500" button. With a few simple clicks, you'll be on your way to NASCAR's biggest and baddest track.

Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, PA - Pocono Raceway is partnering with the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania and the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania for the inaugural Girl Scout Badge Day at Pocono Raceway on Sunday, April 29. The event is open to all Girl Scouts levels and will include workshops where the scouts will complete tasks to earn a badge.

"The Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania is very excited to partner with Pocono Raceway to

offer girls a variety of different badges and learning opportunities," said Amber Trunzo, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Regional Director. "The younger girls will get to design race cars while the older girls will learn about different aspects of business. We love seeing our girls explore different opportunities."

The workshops are geared to each of the specific Girl Scout level, which are based on grade-school levels. Upon completing the workshops, the scouts will earn either the Model Car Design Challenge Badge (Daisies – grades K-1,) Race Car Design Challenge Badge (Brownies – grades 2-3,) Business Owner Badge (Juniors – grades 4-5,) Marketing Badge (Cadettes – grades 6-8,) Customer Loyalty Badge (Seniors – grades 9-10) and Research & Development Badge (Ambassador – grades 11-12.)

"Providing girls opportunities like the badge day at Pocono Raceway where they can explore the world of STEM and gain confidence learning new skills is what Girl Scouts is all about," said Elizabeth D'Angel, Girls Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania Director of Marketing and Communications. "We're excited for this partnership with Pocono Raceway and can't wait to see what the girls can do!"

The cost to attend is \$5, per Girl Scout. Any adult leader or chaperone is free to attend. Girl Scouts that would like to participate in "Girl Scout Badge Day at Pocono Raceway" can register online before Monday, April 23. Light snacks will be provided, but attendees are asked to bring their own lunch. To register now, please visit www.poconoraceway.com/girlscoutbadgeday.

"Girl Scout Badge Day is a great addition to our existing Girl and Boy Scout initiatives here at the track," said Ben May, Pocono Raceway President. "Our annual Scout Day is always well attended and we are look forward to seeing the girls, their leaders and their chaperones at Girl Scouts Badge Day at Pocono Raceway in a few weeks."

Badge Day compliments Pocono Raceway's annual "Scout Day at Pocono Raceway," which will be held on Saturday, July 28. All Girl, Boy and Cub Scouts are welcome to attend for \$10, each. Each scout will receive Saturday gate admission, a Souvenir Program, a

Souvenir Die-Cast and one-of-a-kind "Scout Day" commemorative patch. For more information, please visit www.poconoraceway.com/scoutday.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Get ready for the Eli Young Band to turn up the excitement prior to the legendary Coca-Cola 600 on Sunday, May 27 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. The platinum-selling, Grammy-nominated country music superstars will amp up the most patriotic Memorial Day weekend event in sports, with the Coca-Cola 600 Pre-Race Concert electrifying a spectacular salute to the troops at America's Home for Racing.

The concert takes place just hours before the stars of NASCAR compete in racing's only 600-mile event and the toughest test of man and machine. Additionally, the Eli Young Band concert is FREE with the purchase of any Coca-Cola 600 race ticket.

"The Coca-Cola 600 has been one of the world's biggest NASCAR races for as long as I can remember," said lead vocalist Mike Eli. "It's a privilege for us to get to bring the party to NASCAR and Charlotte Motor Speedway on Memorial Day Weekend. We're going to say thanks to the troops and party with the race fans for one hell of a show!"

Known worldwide for chart-topping hits including "Crazy Girl" and "Even If It Breaks Your Heart," the Texas-based group will perform a rocking concert in front of a roaring crowd of race fans ready to salute America's freedom one of the year's most patriotic weekends.

In addition to the concert, fans will enjoy Charlotte Motor Speedway's annual patriotic pre-race show which will honor America's troops. This year's spectacle includes monstrous military vehicles, elaborate military demonstrations and aerobatic exhibitions.

To purchase tickets, camping and pre-race track passes call the speedway ticket office at 1-800-455-FANS (3267) or shop online at www.charlottemotorspeedway.com.





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Antioch Speedway

MORGANTON, NC - Brian Carswell #13 from Valdese LED every lap easily winning the [Heintz bros performance] Renegade/Crate Sportsman race Friday night at Antioch speedway. Adam Gragg #21 ran strong but had nothing for Carswell and had to settle for second, Randy Young #21R third and Dale Moore #87 finished fourth.

John Reynolds #55 from Connelly Springs led every lap on his way to easily win the [Tires plus, tires pro of Valdese] pure stock V8/Thunder bombers event. Tim Moretz #1 battled hard for his second place finish, Zach Burgess #00 came from deep in the field to finish third, Rodney Elkins #28 fourth and Benny Peeler #16 rounded out the top five.

Logan Ritchie #92 from Taylorsville won a very competitive (RPM graphics) Pure Stock 4 race. William Myers #17 got the jump at the drop of the green and lead the first 6 laps until he lost control between turns 3 and 4 bringing out of caution, Ritchie took the lead on the restart and went on to take the checkered flag followed closely behind was Myers in second, Trent Chatham #9 third, Caleb Watson #21 fourth and Cory Deal #97 fifth.

Jonathon Butler #3B from Shelby one a highly competitive Extreme FWD's race. Ricky Huffman #78 pressured Butler the entire event but could only muster a second-place finish. Floyd Tate #37 third and Justin Mauney #95 fourth.

Mason Pugh #22 from Connelly Springs led from flag-to-flag holding off a hard charging Colby Burks #73 at the checkered flag to win the [Wagner's welding] Young Guns event. Burks second, Chesnie Chatham #9 third, Emilee Baker #3B fourth and Riley Miller #88 fifth.

Bowman Gray Stadium

WINSTON-SALEM, NC - It all begins on Saturday, April 21. That's when the roaring engines of the NASCAR Modifieds will once again be heard at historic Bowman Gray Stadium for the start of its 70th season.

Never one to start off slowly, the Brad's Golf Cars Modified Series begins their season on April 21 with their longest and most prestigious race of the year – the Hayes Jew-



Brian Carswell visits victory lane at Antioch Speedway last Friday night winning the sportsman race. (ANTIOCH SPEEDWAY photo)

ers 200. The Texas Steak and Tap House Sportsman Series is set for a 40-lapper, with the Law Offices of John Barrow Street Stock Series and the Q104.1 Stadium Stock Series rounding out the night's schedule.

Looking ahead to the rest of the season, fans can expect the same thrills they've come to love. Five 100-lap Modified races throughout the season will put the competitors to the test, with the \$15,000 Fans' Challenge Bonus once again in effect for daring drivers willing to risk it all.

The Texas Steak and Tap House Sportsman Series will have an extra added level of excitement in 2018. The Sportsman 100-lap races have always been intense contests that challenged the focus and endurance of competitors. The double-file restarts and added duration of these 100-lappers bring new heights of strategy into play. The demands were doubled in 2016 when the racing schedule included two 100-lap races for the Sportsman class. And now in 2018, three total 100-lappers are on the schedule.

For many fans, the greatest change of 2017 was the introduction of the Great Clips Crash Fest. In addition to a full schedule of NASCAR racing action, the Crash Fest also featured an OmniSource Demolition Derby, an OmniSource Chain Race, and an OmniSource Skid Race. On May 19, this event will be back again – so get ready for the carnage. And speaking of crunching sheet metal, the annual Night of Destruction will be back again in 2018. An OmniSource Demolition Derby will cap off the night after the always popular Monster Truck Car Crushing exhibition.

Of course, Two Dollar Ladies' Nights will be back this season – so set your calendars to come out when all females are admitted for

only two dollars.

The full schedule of racing for 2018 will feature exciting events brought to you by other great sponsors like Kevin Powell Motorsports, Whelen Engineering, Midway Mobile Storage, the Winston-Salem Journal, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Colors Edge, FOX8 WGHP, and Carolina Farm Credit. But it all starts on April 21 with the longest and most prestigious race for the Modifieds – the Hayes Jewelers 200. Qualifying will take place on Friday, April 20. On Saturday, April 21, ticket gates open at 6:00 for practice, and the first race begins at 8:00 PM. Ticket prices, directions, and more information can be found online at www.bowmangrayracing.com or by calling (336) 723-1819.

Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - After a pair of foiled attempts to get the 2018 racing season under way, Dodge City Raceway Park will kick things off in style with the Sixth Annual Modified Stampede on Saturday night, April 21.

While the IMCA Modifieds battle it out for the \$750 winner's share atop the 3/8-mile clay oval, the Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars and IMCA Hobby Stocks will be in action as well.

The event marks the first leg of championship points chase action with the green flag set to fly at 7:30 p.m.

Woodward, Oklahoma's Cole Traugott is the reigning Modified Stampede champion, racing to his second consecutive event win last year ahead of defending track champion Clay Sellard and Randy Wilson.

While Traugott has a pair of Modified Stampede victories to his credit, other past event winners include David Murray (2015 and both nights in 2013) and Brendon Gem-

mill (2014).

After Traugott won the opening two IMCA Modified features of the season last year, seven different drivers topped the remaining eight events of the year with only Larned's William Nusser able to pick off two wins.

Bucklin's Clay Sellard is one of a handful of drivers looking to kick off their title defense in strong form as Turpin, Oklahoma's Taylor Velasquez vies for a third consecutive Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Car title, Woodward's Jeff Kaup aims for a fifth IMCA Sport Modified crown in six years, Lamar, Colorado's Angel Munoz reigns in the IMCA Stock Car ranks and Bucklin's Reagan Sellard is defending kingpin in IMCA Hobby Stocks.

There will be fun for children eight and under as well with an Easter Egg hunt on the docket during intermission of the Modified Stampede event.

Tickets for the Sixth Annual Modified Stampede on April 21 are just \$15 for adults while children 11 and under are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Pit passes are \$30.

In total, the 2018 season at Dodge City Raceway Park is slated for 17 nights of action, culminating with the return of the World of Outlaws Sprint Cars on Saturday night, October 20.

The complete 2018 schedule of events at Dodge City Raceway Park is available at www.dodgecityraceway.com/schedule/.

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

Eldora Speedway

ROSSBURG, OH – Eldora Speedway officials have announced the 65th Season Opener featuring the National Racing Alliance (NRA) Sprint Invaders, DIRTcar UMP Modifieds and Eldora Stock Cars will be flex-scheduled to 4 p.m. this Saturday.

Eldora officials have expanded the use of flex-scheduling – optimizing event schedules in the interest of fans, competitors and track conditions after consulting a contracted meteorological service – for the 2018 season to include its April events, September's 4-Crown Nationals and October's season finale.

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The schedule for Saturday will see competitor registration begin at 12:30 p.m., Pit and Spectator Gates open at 1 p.m., with Hot Laps for the three divisions taking to the track at 3 p.m. The invocation, the National Anthem and the first green flag of Eldora's 65th consecutive season of racing will wave shortly thereafter.

Tickets are just \$12 and all seating is General Admission for the event. Children (12 years old and younger) are admitted FREE. Parking on Eldora grounds is free, Coca-Cola products in 12 oz. cans are still just \$1 and the Eldora's 'World Famous Pizza Burgers' and chicken wings will be hot and ready.

Ice cold beer is still just \$2 per 12 oz. can.

Ticket and event information is available at (937) 338-3815 and www.EldoraSpeedway.com

Knoxville Raceway

Due to rain and unseasonably cold temperatures, opening weekend at Knoxville Raceway was postponed.

The Pella Motors/Kraig Ford season opener is now scheduled for this Saturday, April 21. Hot Laps Begin at 6:15pm, local time. Admission is \$15 for adults; \$10 for teens and children 12 and under are free.

The annual season Kick-Off Party has been moved to Friday, April 20 in the main show barn located near the Turn 4 crossover gate. The party will start at 5pm and feature Casey's pizza, Bud Light and Pepsi products, as well as games for kids and adults. Jr. Fan Club sign-up will also be available. Reminder: You must have a ticket, suite ticket or pit pass for Saturday's season opener to be admitted into the season kick-off party.

Practice will begin at 7pm Friday. Grandstand admission is free. Pit Passes can be purchased for \$10.

Hickory Motor Speedway

The thunder roared again in the Catawba Valley, not for rain but the engines fired at the Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars, Hickory Motor Speedway, on Saturday for a full slate of NASCAR Whelen All-American Series action.

Leading off the night would be the NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Models for the first of two 40 lap features. Three previous NASCAR Whelen All American Hickory Motor Speedway Track Champions would take their spot in the field. Grabbing the top spot in qualifying would be the 2018 Hickory Motor Speedway Track Champion, Ryan Millington in the #17, with Dexter Canipe in the #5 to his outside. The second row would be made up of Austin McDaniel in the #12 and Kres VanDyke in the #15. Millington would jump to the early lead as Canipe would give close chase until engine problems would cause him to spend a lengthy amount of time in the pits, losing several laps to the leader. McDaniel and VanDyke would give chase but not be able to hold off challengers from behind. The #55 of Zack Bruenger would work his way through the field and grab the second position, giving chase to the leader. Evan Swilling in the #18 would also work his way through the field and settle into third place behind Bruenger. Millington would

go on to take the win with Bruenger coming home in 2nd. Swilling would hold off McDaniel for a podium finish in 3rd with McDaniel settling for 4th. Mitch Walker in the #29 would make a hard charge through the field but would settle for 5th.

Next up would see the Cosmo Motors Street Stocks roar to life for their 30 lap feature. Jeff Sparks in the #7 would take the pole position with multi-time track champion Kevin Eby in the #03 to his outside. Sparks would set a fast pace and the battle would be on behind him to determine who would give chase. Eby would do battle with Marshall Sutton in the #64 and Mark Whitten in the #77. The trio would keep the crowd on their feet with the scuffle but Sutton would eventually separate and give chase to the leader. Sparks would prove too tough and take the win with Sutton taking 2nd. Whitten would grab 3rd with Eby finishing 4th and Ethan Johnson in the #2 finishing 5th.

Round #2 of the Paramount Kia 'Big 10' Challenge series for the

Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models and their 50 lap feature would be next on the schedule. The front row starting spots would be a family affair with cousins Tyler Gregory in the #7 in the top spot and Dylan Wilson in the #4 on the outside. Gregory and Wilson would battle for the top spot and bragging rights at the family reunion with a spirited side by side battle. Gregory would nose ahead with Wilson tucking in close behind. As the laps wore down a car slowing on the front stretch with a flat tire and the leader, Gregory, decelerated to avoid a collision. Wilson would capitalize on the situation and move to the lead with the #12 of Mason Ludwig moving by as well. Ludwig would keep his momentum and put pressure on Wilson for the lead and move to the top spot. Ludwig would go on to grab his first victory at the famed 3/8 mile oval. Wilson would take the runner up spot with Pat Rachels moving up to finish 3rd. Josh Kossek in the #44 would come home in 4th while the #14 of Vince Midas would finish 5th.

The Carolina Custom Golf Carts 4-Cylinders would hit the track next for their 25 lap slugfest. Brian Mundy in the #6 would set the fast time with season opening winner Dennis Ward in the #25 starting in second. Mundy and Ward would battle side by side with Ward finally pulling ahead. Several incidents would slow the race with a serious incident involving Robbie Trivette in the #11 and the #09 of Randy Canipe occurring on the backstretch, but both drivers would be okay and walk away. The #29 of Allison Houston would make her way to the front and take the win. Mundy would finish 2nd with Ward ending up 3rd. Donn Wardo in the #59 and Canipe would finish out the top.

Rolling off next would see the Hickory Vintage Racers doing battle for 25 laps. It would be an all-Bill front row with Bill Webb in the #16 on the pole and Bill Powell in the #71 to his outside. The elder statesman of the series, Bill Webb, would move to the front and stay there for the entire race to grab another victory, after recently celebrating his 83rd birthday. Powell would give close chase and come home in 2nd with Robert Webb in the #6 finishing the race in 3rd.

The NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Models would finish up their double-header with their second 40 lap feature of the night. With a 10 car invert from the finish of race #1 Monty Cox in the #21 would start from the top spot

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Ryan Millington returned to Hickory's victory lane as the 2018 racing season keep going, rain or shine. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)

(Continued...)

while NHRA Pro Stock competitor Tanner Gray in the #15 would take a week to run with his NASCAR motor-sports family and start to Cox's outside. Cox and Gray would pace the field side by side for the first couple laps but Cox would move ahead with Gray close behind. First race winner Ryan Millington in the #17 would make a hard charge towards the front but contact

would send him spinning and he would have to make the long trip all over again. Evan Swilling in the #18 would make the move to the top spot late in the race while Zach Bruenger in the #55 would follow close behind with Dexter Canipe Jr. in the #5 breathing down his neck. Bruenger would get around Swilling and bring Canipe with him. Bruenger would hang on to grab his first NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Model victory and celebrate in furious fashion in victory lane. Canipe would hold on for 2nd while Millington would make the long trek back through the field a second time to finish 3rd. Cox would grab the 4th finishing position and Gray would show the great Hickory Motor Speedway crowd that he was not only fast in a straight line, but he could also turn left, ending his night with a top 5 finish in 5th.

Finishing off the night's events would be the Smash & Crash series with their 10 laps of controlled chaos and motoring mayhem. The much maligned tractor tire would make an appearance at the exit of turn 4 and would lead to several close calls and numerous contact. At the end of the evening the #5 of Joseph Hodges's would end up with his hood in the air and visiting victory lane as the winner.

Next week America's Most Famous Short Track will see the Must See Sprint Cars hit the track along with the USAC Midgets. In two weeks the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series returns to action with Lyndon R. Helton Attorney At Law Night at the races with a full slate of racing action scheduled, including: NWAAS Late Models, Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models, One Design Super Trucks, Cosmo Motors Street Stocks, and the Carolina Custom Golf Cart 4-Cylinders.

For more information check us



Zach Bruenger shows his first Hickory Motor Speedway NASCAR Whelen All American Series Late Model win Saturday night. (SHERRI STEARNS photo)

out at www.hickorymotorspeedway.com, on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Rockford Speedway

The coldest start to the month of April in recorded history has claimed its fair share of victims as far as outdoor events are concerned in the upper Midwest this year.

Despite the brief tease of warm temperatures over the last couple days, miserable "spring" weather is set to return this weekend. With that in mind, officials at Rockford Speedway have decided to postpone the 41st Annual Spring Classic originally slated for this Sunday afternoon April 15.

Both Rockford Speedway and Big 8 Series officials are working to find a suitable reschedule date for the event.

For more information on Rockford Speedway, please visit rockfordspeedway.com or call 815-633-1500.

Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGROVE, PA - Defending 360 sprint car champion Davie Franek, 31, of Wantage, N.J., drove to a convincing victory in Saturday night's #WideOpen2018 25-lap season opener at Selinsgrove Speedway at the wheel of the family-owned Franek Auto Sales No. 28F.

The \$2,000 win was the 15th of Franek's sprint car racing career at Selinsgrove, where he got his start at the age of 17.

The 360 sprint car main event almost went non-stop on the smooth red-clay surface until a caution flag on the final lap regrouped the field and set up a chase to the checkered flag between Franek and Mark Smith of

Sunbury.

In the 20-lap limited late model race, Jeremy Ohl of Mill Hall bested a strong field of 27 entries and steered clear of a multi-car frontstretch melee for his first career win at Selinsgrove worth \$1,000.

Tommy Slanker of York also began his title defense by capturing the thrilling 15-lap pro stock opener with a pass by Kyle Bachman of Selinsgrove on the final lap.

Fans were treated to another last-lap pass in the 12-lap roadrunner race in which Ryan Zook of Mifflintown slipped by defending champion Keith Bissinger of Orangeville racing off turn four for the checkered flag.

Randy Minich of Newville wrapped up the evening's racing with a win in the 15-lap Penn Mar Vintage Race Club feature.

A strong field of race cars and large crowd were on hand to kick off the historic 56th consecutive season of auto racing at the Snyder County half-mile oval. During the off-season, the pit area was relocated from inside the speedway to outside of Turn 4 to give fans an unobstructed, wide open view of the racing action. The four-acre, \$100,000-plus renovation project is the speedway's biggest and most applauded change since opening in 1946.

Selinsgrove Speedway will present the Ray Tilley Classic for 410 sprint cars at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 22, sponsored by Icon Legacy Custom Modular Homes. The 30-lap tribute race will pay \$4,088 to win and \$400 to start. The pro stocks and roadrunners will round out the three-division racing card. Pit gates will open at 3 p.m. with grandstand gates at 4 p.m. There will be no racing Saturday, April 21.

Outside front row starter Davie "No Panic" Franek powered into the lead at the drop of the green flag in the sprint car main event. Franek was trailed by fourth-place starter Kevin Nagy for the first lap until polesitter Ryan Kissinger moved into second.

By lap four, seventh-place starter Mark Smith was challenging eighth-place starter Derek Locke for the fifth position. Five laps later, Smith drove around third-place starter Troy Betts for fourth and the next lap it was Nagy for third.

At the halfway point, Franek stretched his lead to a straightaway and the leaders began to encounter slower traffic. With five laps remaining, Franek held a commanding lead over Kissinger, Smith, Betts, and Nagy.

On the final lap, the caution flag slowed the field for the first and only time when Nagy spun in turns three and four. Smith took a shot at Franek in the chase to the checkered flag but came up just .28 of a second short at the line. Franek was victorious over Smith, Kissinger, Betts, and ninth-place starter Chad Layton.

At the start of the limited late model feature, a three-wide race for the lead into the first turn unfolded with third-place starter Jeremy Ohl powering into the front spot out of turn two. Ohl was chased by polesitter Jared Fulkroad and fourth-place starter Danny Snyder.

On the second circuit, a car near mid-pack slowed and caused a chain-reaction crash in which Doug Ishler's car barrel rolled at the end of the frontstretch. A total of 10 cars was involved in the melee and all the drivers escaped injury.

When the green flag unfurled, the rest of the race went without incident. Fulkroad reeled in Ohler in the final laps to no avail. At the checkered flag, Ohler posted a two-second margin of victory over Fulkroad, Travis Mease, Danny Snyder, and Kenny Yoder.

Kyle Bachman drove into the lead from his front row starting spot in the pro stock feature. He was closely followed by third-place starter and defending champion Tommy Slanker while sixth-place starter Brandon Moser settled into third.

Despite some early race cautions, Bachman held off Slanker's challenges for the front spot until the final five laps when Slanker moved into striking distance. For three full laps, Bachman and Slanker raced side by side in the

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stock car thriller.

On the final lap, Bachman slipped high in turns one and two and gave Slanker just enough edge to pull ahead in the dash to the finish. Slanker's margin of victory was just .53 of a second over Bachman, Moser, Shaun Lawton, and AJ Hoffman.

Polesitter Will Brunson and third-place starter Keith Bissinger dueling for the early lead in the roadrunner race. Bissinger ran his trademark high line around the big half-mile while Brunson maintained an edge using the inside line.

On the ninth circuit, eighth-place starter Ryan Zook showed a lot of speed and got by Brunson for the runner up spot. Zook set his sites on Bissinger and racing off the fourth turn for the checkered flag made a dive to the bottom of the race track to pass Bissinger for the win by the slimmest of margins. Bissinger settled for second with Brunson, Jake Jones and Smith Cope rounding out the top five.

Second-place starter Randy Minich took the lead away from polesitter Glenn Roberts on the eighth lap to score the victory in the 15-lap Penn Mar Vintage Race Car Club feature.

Southern National Motorsports Park

LUCAMA, NC - Justin Johnson got his redemption at Southern National Motorsports Park in the first of two Late Model Stock Car twins on Saturday night while Bradley McCaskill scored his biggest Southern National victory in the second twin.

Johnson came to Southern National with something to prove after finishing second in the Thanksgiving Classic last fall. Teamed up with Robert Tyler, Johnson was quick out of the gate, setting the fast lap and starting on the pole. Johnson held off multiple challenges on restarts from Bradley McCaskill and pulled away from Deac McCaskill in the closing laps to score the win, his first since returning to the Late Model Stock Car scene a couple years ago and his first ever at Southern National.

"Wins, they don't come easy," Johnson said in victory lane. "To beat Deac [McCaskill] here, in my opinion, as long as I've been rac-

ing, this is his racetrack. We had a super car. That first win after hanging it up there, it was a lot harder to come back and achieve than I ever expected. I'm really happy to be back at Southern National Motorsports Park. Love the facility. Hats off to Mike [Diaz] for all he does. Super win for us and glad to be here."

An invert put Terry Dease on the pole for the second race. Dease would lead the first five laps before Bradley McCaskill roared past. McCaskill took the lead on lap six and drove away for his first win of the year. Bradley McCaskill held off his older cousin, Deac, to score the victory while Justin Johnson finished third.

"I want to thank the Lord man," the younger McCaskill said. "We say prayers for safety. We had a lot of issues with the car but I've got an awesome support group. Very happy here today. I was just hoping nothing was going to break in those final laps. We've been fighting electrical issues and, like I said, Robert [Arch] told me to keep driving it straight. I did what he said and here we are."

Four-time Southern National Motorsports Park track champion Deac McCaskill's first Southern National Motorsports Park appearance in over a year resulted in a pair of runner-up finishes.

"I was really happy with the car," Deac McCaskill said. "Congratulations to Bradley. He drove his butt off. That's probably one of the hardest races I've ever driven. Wide open every lap, slipping and sliding on worn out tires. We've

Boston, but we've hit a wall in these first couple of races. I think we've got the car a lot better so I'm really looking forward to Orange County next weekend."

Reigning Howell Racing Products Charger division champion Jonathan Kornegay picked up his first win of the season in his first start of the season. Kornegay started on the pole and held back challenges from Brian Obiedzinski and Jeremy Bohne to score the win. Behind him, Bohne edged Obiedzinski in a photo-finish for the second position.

"They said they were battling back there," Kornegay said. "Glad I could just stay out front and not have to really mess with it. The car got pretty tight on the long runs but on them restarts, them tires could cool down just enough and, when we took back off, she was on a rail. She'd rotate the corner and she was on a mission."

Chris Hales picked up his first career Southern National Motorsports Park victory with a win in the Any Car division over James Stroud and Mike Parrish. After the race, Hales was jubilant about his triumph, and about scoring the win on his wife's birthday.

"This is awesome," Hales exclaimed. "People have been asking me what it's going to feel like when I win my first race. It feels damn good, I can tell you that. What can I say? You've got to win one to know what it feels like, that's all I've got to say."

Eric Courtney also became a first-time Southern National winner, scoring the victory in the Legends

ney said. "It's a long journey and it definitely shows hard work. No matter how hard you work, one day you'll get here in first place. It was a great night overall. I would love for it to happen again and, hopefully, for the rest of the year. Hopefully, we can carry the momentum into the next couple races."

Emily Day picked up her career-best Legends finish just minutes after her older brother, Caleb, picked up a victory in a Legends race at Carteret County Speedway – two weeks removed from a win at Southern National.

"I'm really proud of my brother racing down there," Day said. "I had a really good car today. I was just short a little bit. I'm hoping to keep improving and get it up to victory lane. I just need a little more seat time, consistency, getting fast and getting to the front."

Ronnie "Buckshot" Jones won in the Mini-Stock feature over James Stroud and Joseph Pittman while Ethan Johnson inherited the Bandolero victory after the top-two finishers, Parker Frazier and Cameron Murray, were disqualified following post-race technical inspection.

Southern National Motorsports Park will be back in action on Saturday, April 28th in a race headlined by twin Limited Late Model features.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - When the 2018 season at Stafford Speedway begins, the paddock area will be different. For the first time in nearly 30 years the winningest driver in Stafford Speedway history, Ted Christopher, will not unload his signature #13 SK Modified®. After tragically losing the racing legend last fall the racing community is coming together to continue the legacy of TC in the only way we know how, through racing.

Former NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour car owner George Bierce has posted \$500 bonuses for each of the three NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour events being held at Stafford Speedway this season. Starting with the NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler® 200 on Sunday, April 29th, competitors will be eligible for the bonus which will be paid throughout the field. The 13th place qualifier, 13th place car on lap 13, and 13th place finisher will each receive a \$100 bonus while the winner will receive \$200 for a total bonus of \$500.

"I wanted to do something to
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Justin Johnson (44) pulls ahead of Bradley McCaskill to score his win in the first of two Late Model Stock car races at Southern National Motorsports Park. (SNMP photo)

been off in the CARS Tour. We had a lot of momentum going into the offseason after that win at South

division over Emily Day.

"First win here, didn't expect it to take this long, to be honest," Court-

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honor Teddy,” explained George Bierce, owner and operator of Major Motion Transport. “I’ve known Ted for a long time. I sponsored his cars when he ran for Billy “Bear” Calicchio and raced against him for a long time. He was a fierce competitor and a friend, we’ll miss him. I’m glad we can put up a bonus in his honor.”

The \$500 bonus will be paid out for each of the three NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour events held at Stafford, including the April 29th NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler®, the August 3rd Starrett 150, and the September 29th NAPA Auto Parts Fall Final. Bierce, a long time supporter of short track racing, has had a long list of modified talent compete in his signature #19 modified. Drivers including Ted Christopher, Jimmy Blewett, Eric Beers, Ron Silk, and 5-time champion Doug Coby have all piloted the Major Motion Transport #19.

“2018 will be a tough season without our friend Teddy at the track,” said Stafford General Manager Mark Arute. “We appreciate the generous bonus that George is posting to honor Ted’s memory and contribution to auto racing at Stafford Speedway.”

The bonus posted by George Bierce adds to the weekly SK Modified® bonus posted by Kevin Harvick and KHI Management in honor of Ted Christopher. In addition, the Stafford management is working on a special SK Modified® event in memory Ted Christopher scheduled for Friday, July 13th in honor of the Stafford legend.

The 47th Annual NAPA Auto Parts Spring Sizzler® takes the green flag April 27-29. Tickets for the “Greatest Race in the History of Spring” are on sale now at the Speedway Box Office. Tickets are priced at \$40.00 for adult general admission tickets, \$5.00 for children ages 6-14, and children ages 5 and under are admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult. Reserved seating is priced at \$42.00 for all ages. As always, Stafford Motor Speedway offers free parking with overnight parking available. Tickets are good for both Saturday and Sunday admission. All ticket prices include 10% CT Admission Tax. Discount Tickets are now available at participating NAPA Auto Parts stores. For a full list of the 72 participating locations throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, please call the speedway office or point your web browser to www.staffordmotorspeedway.com/participating-napa-auto-parts-stores.

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

Volunteer Speedway

BULLS GAP, TN - In racing it’s not where you start that counts, ultimately it’s where you finish that matters. Dale McDowell of Chickamauga, Ga., has driven his way to the front on many occasions over the years

to reach victory lane.

McDowell started from outside of the fifth row in tenth position Saturday at Volunteer Speedway and steadily worked his way to the front, bringing many fans from one of the track’s biggest crowds ever to their feet when he passed race-long leader Donald McIntosh off a restart on lap 44 when McIntosh got a little out of shape. Once out front there would be no denying McDowell a trip to the bank with the winner’s purse of \$10,052 for taking the checkered flag in the Schaeffer’s Oil Spring Nationals Series sixth annual Scott Sexton Memorial presented by Sunoco Race Fuels and Tennessee RV Supercenter.

Mike Marlara of Winfield, Tenn., was fastest qualifier at 12.488 seconds over 26 entrants.

Four heat races each transferred the top four finishers into the main event, with Casey Roberts of Toccoa, Ga., winning the first 10-lap heat, while Vic Hill of Mosheim, Tenn., recorded the win in the second heat. Donald McIntosh of Dawsonville, Ga., took the win in the third heat, and Jimmy Owens of Newport, Tenn., was winner of the fourth heat.

McIntosh shot out into the lead on the start over Roberts, Owens, Hill and Marlara. While behind them the racing action was intense between Jason Jameson, Shanon Buckingham, Eric Wells, McDowell and Dakotah Knuckles.

McIntosh caught the rear of the field on lap 15 to start lapping the slower cars, which allowed Roberts and Owens to close right in on the leader. But McIntosh negotiated the traffic to perfection which allowed him to remain in control out front.

With the race running clean-and-green, McDowell was making his way toward the front as he advanced to the fifth spot on lap 28. McDowell passed Hill for fourth on lap 32 and two circuits later he drove under Owens racing off (turn) two to take over third place. McDowell passed Roberts for second on lap 36 and set his sights ahead on leader McIntosh.

The event’s first caution waved on lap 43 when Chris Barton slowed with a flat tire. With



Dale McDowell waves at the crowd after winning the race at Volunteer Speedway Saturday night. (MICHAEL MOATS photo)

McIntosh all alone out front for the restart, behind him McDowell and Roberts were side-by-side. McDowell drove past McIntosh into the lead on lap 44, but the race wasn’t over at that point as 13-year-old Carder Miller slowed on lap 49 to bring out the caution.

The stage was set for a three-lap shootout for the win, but McDowell was not going to be taken down as he came out firing and wrote his name in the record book as winner of the Scott Sexton Memorial over McIntosh, Owens, Roberts and Cory Hedgecock (started 18th).

Completing the top 10 finishers were Hill, Buckingham, Jameson, Marlara and Wells.

With a stellar field of 33 Crate Late Models signed-in for qualifying, Trevor Sise set fast-time at 13.324 seconds to earn the pole starting position for the \$1,500-to-win feature. Sise powered into the lead on the opening lap over Josh Henry, Jesse Lowe, Rusty Ballenger and Cory Hedgecock.

Sise had a rearview mirror full of the hard-charging Henry, who was feeling pressure from behind by Lowe. Hedgecock quickly got around Ballenger for the fourth spot. Good battles for

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position were taking place just outside of the top five involving Greg Martin, Adam Tolliver, Kyle Courtney, Ruben Mayfield, Taran Hurst, Gary Crittenden, Tim Maupin, John Llewellyn, and several others.

With Sise leading, Henry and Hedgecock were battling for second place and contact between the duo exiting the second corner saw the third generation racer Henry get into the outside wall and damage his car, which sent him into the pits on lap 17.

Back under green Hedgecock began working Sise over before taking the lead on lap 21. Hedgecock went on to capture the victory over Sise, Lowe, Brandon Williams (started 16th) and Crittenden.

Jed Emert of Maryville started eighth in the Sportsman Late Model 25-lap feature and got up on the wheel drive to the front to capture his second victory on the season.

Emert was chased to the checkered flag by Matt Tharp, Brad Seagle, Zach Sise and Chris Coffey.

Gary Blanken looked like he was headed to a fourth straight Modified Street feature win. But Austin Atkins of Morristown pulled off a bonsai move on the final lap between turns three and four to pass Blanken for the lead. Atkins recorded the victory over Blanken, Shannon Emery, David Clark and Brady Lee.

Lee Merritt of Knoxville grabbed the lead at start of the 20-lap Classic feature over John Stevens and throughout the race Stevens rode right on the leader Merritt's rear bumper until a late restart saw Stevens lose positions. Merritt captured his second straight win over Josh Chesney, Quincy Arnwine, Russell Hefti and Chris Worsham.

Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGROVE, PA – Coming off the successful April 14 #WideOpen2018 season opener, Selinsgrove Speedway will swing back into action with a rare Sunday night event at 6 p.m. April 22 featuring the 410 sprint cars in the Ray Tilley Classic sponsored by Icon

Legacy Custom Modular Homes.

The 30-lap tribute race honoring the memory of the track's former four-time sprint car champion will pay \$4,088 to win and \$400 to start out of a total purse of \$18,388. Time trials, heat races, and a B-main will be the qualifying format for the sprint cars.

The pro stocks and roadrunners will round out the special three-division racing card in 15- and 12-lap main events, respectively. Pit gates will open at 3 p.m. with grandstand gates at 4 p.m. Qualifying will begin at 6 p.m.

The late Ray Tilley of Pine Grove clinched four career sprint car titles (1965-66 and 1968-69) at Selinsgrove Speedway at the wheel of the Bud Grimm Special No. 88 and remains on top of the track's all-time sprint car win list with 69 career victories. Tilley passed away on Aug. 9, 2011, from complications of a stroke at the age of 77.

The Tilley Classics in 2012 and 2014 were cancelled due to weather. The 2013 race was won by Brent Marks of Myerstown. Greg Hodnett of Thomasville was the 2015 winner and Danny Dietrich of

Gettysburg scored the victory in the 2016 race. Lucas Wolfe of Mechanicsburg is the defending winner.

Adult general admission for April 22 is set at just \$15 with students (ages 12-17) at \$8. Kids ages 11 and under are always admitted free in general admission. The pit pass fee is \$30.

There will be no racing at the Snyder County oval Saturday, April 21.

The speedway's Saturday night schedule resumes April 28 with the 360 sprint cars, super late models, pro stocks in the A&A Auto Stores Pro Stock 20, and roadrunners.

Purse for 30-Lap 410 Sprint Car Ray Tilley Classic SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018: 1) \$4,088 2) \$1,600 3) \$1,400 4) \$1,200 5) \$1,000 6) \$700 7) \$675 8) \$650 9) \$625 10) \$600 11) \$500 12) \$475 13) \$450 14) \$425 15-24) \$400 TOW: \$100

Also Racing: Pro Stocks & Roadrunners

Pit Gates Open: 3pm • Grandstand Gates Open: 4pm • Race Time: 6pm • Admission for Sunday, April 22, 2018: Adults \$15; Students (12-17) \$8; Kids 11 & Under FREE; Pit Passes \$30



Dale McDowell (17) shows off his winning ways as he battles with Jimmy Owens (20). (MICHAEL MOATS photo)