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FastTrack

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JGR Enjoys a Winning Weekend at Richmond
Kyle Busch Makes It 3-in-a Row

and

Christopher Bell Battles Teammate for XFINITY Victory

Here Comes the Mustangs

As soon as Chevrolet announced it would make its popular Camaro the flagship car for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, it was only a matter of time before Ford countered with its equally-popular Mustang.

That time came last week.

Gone will be the Fusion, a tried and true family sedan. It will be replaced with a muscle car that, like the Camaro, brings out the youthful enthusiasm in most of us.

When people hear Mustang they automatically think of Ford," said Mark Rushbrook, the global director of Ford Performance. "It's a big nameplate for us, especially with how that car is performing around the world with global sales, but it's something that we think, even with the success of Fusion so far this year, we think we can make an even better body as well for 2019 with the Mustang and we're really looking forward to getting the car on track in 2019."

While the Mustang should prove to be wildly popular with fans, it should present the same kind of challenges Toyota had with its revamped Camry last year and Chevrolet currently has with the Camaro.

Toyota eventually got a handle on its new car at midseason last year. After winning just two of the first 17 races, Toyota not only made it to Victory Lane in 14 of the final 19 races and it took Martin Truex Jr. to a driver championship.

With one victory in the first nine races this season, Chevrolet currently is working through its problems with the Camaro. But with the combined efforts of Hendrick Motorsports and Richard Childress Racing, Chevrolet won't be down for long.

Everyone associated with Ford's Blue Oval believes learning curve is worth the effort. And it revives one of the greatest rivalries – Mustang vs. Camaro – in automotive history.

"The tradition of the Mustang in Ford's heritage it is their race car and one they've been winning with for many, many years and I think it

will be cool to get it into the Cup Series with the Camaro," driver Ricky Stenhouse said. "I think that will be a cool thing for Ford and Chevy to have both of their iconic cars to be in our top-level series. I know Ford has been working hard. They've worked hard with our teams to get feedback and input, so I think we're all excited to get it on track and kind of see how it handles and performs next year."



DON COBLE

Stenhouse won a pair of Xfinity Series championships in a Mustang with Roush Fenway Racing. Ford moved to the Mustang in the support series in 2011, and it's won the manufacturer championship in six of the last seven years.

The plan is to carry over the strengths of the Fusion while making changes to the areas that were problematic, Rushbrook said.

"It's really understanding the car that we have today, the Fusion that we've been racing, and really understanding what its strengths are and what are its weaknesses and what would we want to improve on for the rules as we know them for 2019," he said.

"So we sat down again with all of our teams and got that input. We know where the current Fusion is strong and we're going to maintain those strengths. We know where its weak and we want to address those weaknesses, so it's really having the trust in our people and in our tools that we can do that. It's always a moving target.

"There are potential rule changes, but we think we understand what we're gonna have for 2019, so we're designing to that and really optimizing and using our tools to do an even better car."

Ford's decision to promote the Mustang is another step for a sport that's trying to rebrand itself. Older drivers and cars are being pushed aside with hopes of attracting a new generation of fans.

"This sport is tough," Stenhouse said. "It's not the sport that it used to be, where you just kind of raced forever and keep digging. We've had a huge movement of younger drivers coming in and I think obviously some of those guys got their seat kind of filled. I think any sport there comes a point where it seems like all of a sudden a group or a



The Mustang from Ford Motor Company will be competing in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series in 20189. (FORD PERFORMANCE photo)

class, if you want to call it, kind of transitions out and I think we're just in that time frame of drivers transitioning out."

In less than three years, Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Greg Biffle, Carl Edwards and Matt Kenseth all either retired or were pushed out. All were at least 40, and all were replaced by younger drivers – many who were half their age.

The Mustang was introduced in

1964, but it continues to be a car that inspires a youth movement.

"When you think of the Mustang, you think of a fast, sporty car, so it's pretty cool that Ford is bringing it to the Cup series," driver Michael McDowell said. "Ford drivers have already won a ton of races in the Mustang in the Xfinity Series, and now we'll be racing it in stock car racing's highest series. It's going to be an exciting change for 2019."

And one that was long overdue.

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ROBERT LABERGE/GETTY IMAGES - NXS

Steps in the Right Direction

You could ask one hundred race fans and get one hundred different answers on the state of motorsports in our country. If the discussion centers on the local short tracks, chances are you will get more positive reaction and answers. However, when the questions turn to NASCAR and its three major divisions – Monster Energy Cup, Xfinity, and Camping World Truck Series – many negative factors will probably be mentioned. And, those answers may actually be part of the problem.

Many race fans will talk about the attendance at NASCAR races and how empty the grandstands look when they watch the events on television. Others will discuss the rule changes, actual on-track racing, sponsorship issues, or other somewhat negative responses. In fact, so many fans quickly jump to negative answers without considering the factors that influence the so-called decline of our sport.

While it may be true that attendance numbers have not reached the sold-out level that many tracks enjoyed years ago, the primary reason thus far in 2018 may very well be Mother Nature. Rain and inclement weather has plagued several races during the early stages, and fans have not traveled when weather is an issue. And, when you look at the rules and racing, NASCAR has had the best interest of the sport in general by taking steps to “level the playing field”. Have there been issues with the new pit gun policy, yes. But has NASCAR continued to work with these issues to create a safe, fair, and equal equipment for all teams, yes. Same holds true for limiting the number of crew members over the wall during pit stops and the new “Hawkeye” inspection process. Change, and the results from change, take time.

While many of the fans I have talked with continue to dwell on the negatives, I want to address a couple of positive steps that I see happening in NASCAR.

For the last two weeks, Bristol and Richmond, I have watched NASCAR Xfinity races without any Monster Energy Cup Series

(MECS) drivers competing. Both of these races were designated as part of the Xfinity Dash for Cash four-race program which MECS drivers are not eligible to win anyway. But, that’s not my point.

I have been very vocal in recent seasons over the MECS drivers competing in Xfinity and Camping World Truck Series races.

NASCAR, to their credit, took measures to limit the number of races MECS drivers can race in each series, plus

reviewed the eligibility requirements for those drivers. Each of the past several years, the rules have been “tweaked” to ensure that a “true” champion is crowned in Xfinity and Camping World Trucks. Restricting these drivers in the playoffs was a definite move in the right direction.

My point is that the Bristol and Richmond Xfinity race were two of the best, competitive, and entertaining races I have watched this year. And, there is another reason that I enjoyed watching these, as well as other Xfinity and Camping World Truck races recently.

While the influx of young, talented drivers in the Monster Energy Cup Series has been documented, I suggest that you take a long, hard look at the crop of young drivers on the horizon as well. The Xfinity Series has a wealth of young drivers who have been given the opportunity to “show their skills” in quality equipment. Organizations like Joe Gibbs Racing, Richard Childress Racing, Roush-Fenway, Jr. Motorsports, Ganassi, and others have given their overall groups the potential to grow through the opportunities given to “up-and-coming” drivers.

The Toyota camp in the Xfinity Series has shown that their group of young drivers can, not only compete with, but defeat the veterans in the Series. Ryan Preece won last year at Iowa and this year at Bristol. Noah Gragson finished second to Christopher Bell, another Toyota driver, at Richmond in his Xfinity debut. Brandon Jones and Kyle Benjamin are two more future



DENNIS PUNCH

stars in the Toyota stable.

The Ford cupboard is certainly loaded as well with Austin Cindric, Cole Custer, Chase Briscoe leading the charge. Chevrolet teams have Matt Tifft, Daytona Xfinity winner Tyler Reddick, Daniel Hemric, John Hunter Nemechek, as well as Jeb Burton and Shane Lee getting selected starts for their brand.

The Camping World Truck Series also has a talented group of young drivers competing on a regular basis. Myatt Snider, Justin Haley, Ben Rhodes, and Dalton Sargeant are just four leading this group. Harrison Burton and Todd Gilliland will make limited starts in trucks while they continue to race in other divisions.

And, not sure you’ve noticed yet, but the Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA) has a group of young drivers certain to quickly progress in the racing career. Zane Smith, Christian Eckes, Natalie Decker, Sheldon Creed, Riley Herbst, and 15-year old Chandler Smith will win the majority of races this season and look for their next opportunity at a higher level. The potential with this group is limitless.

Last year, FOX Sports began utilizing Monster Energy Cup Series drivers as analysts on their Xfinity telecasts. The “experiment” reached the level of having an entire telecast team of drivers broadcast the Xfinity race at Pocono last season. From lead announcer and analysts in the booth to pit road reporters, the telecast was a huge success.

“The fan response last year to us blending this unlikely cast of characters and their unique personalities, coupled with the drivers’ feedback, made reuniting this group a no-brainer,” Pam Miller, FOX Sports NASCAR Xfinity Series producer said. “We started talking about the next ‘Drivers Only’ broadcast as soon as the checkered flag waved in Pocono, and we’re thrilled the majority of our motley crew is back.”

Next weekend, the Drivers Only team will broadcast the Xfinity race from Talladega. Kevin Harvick will again be the lead announcer in the booth. Clint Bowyer and Joey Logano will join him as analysts. Ryan Blaney and Erik Jones, Pocono pit reporters, will welcome MECS Rookie Darrell “Bubba” Wallace Jr. to pit road. Brad Keselowski will host the race coverage from the Hollywood Hotel for the first time alongside Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who worked pit road at Pocono last year.

“When FOX approached me last

year about the Drivers Only broadcast for Pocono, I figured it either was going to be really awesome or really bad, but there was no way that I was going to miss being a part of it,” Logano commented. “I think we were all pleasantly surprised with how well it went, but that’s thanks to everyone at FOX doing a lot of work to make it as seamless as possible.”

“I think we’ve all got confidence going into this year’s broadcast but we know the type of racing that restrictor plates create,” Logano added. “We’ll all be on the edge of our seats with everyone at home, trying to keep up with the three and four-wide racing. It’s one of the most exciting races of the year for me as a driver, and I can’t wait to call the action from the booth with Kevin and Clint. Plus, it’s awesome to have Brad joining the group in the Hollywood Hotel.”

It’s the addition of MECS drivers as analysts each Xfinity race on FOX this season that has brought those telecasts to a new level. I must admit that one of the most enjoyable reasons to watch the Xfinity races this year is to hear the commentary from the Cup Series analyst in the booth. Chase Elliott began the analyst role at Atlanta, followed by Keselowski at Las Vegas and Fontana, Blaney at Phoenix, Bowyer at Texas, Logano at Bristol, and Harvick at Richmond.

The insight brought to the telecast by these drivers, who in most cases have been on the track prior to the Xfinity race practicing their Cup cars, gives the seasoned, as well as the novice fan an inside look at the race. From what the driver is thinking and saying to the strategy planned by the crew chief, each Cup analyst has given fans a truly different perspective of the race. While it’s a talent to describe the action of each race, the unique personality of each Cup analyst as they blend in with regular FOX Xfinity announcers Adam Alexander and Michael Waltrip make each race an experience.

FOX will continue to have Cup analyst throughout their Xfinity races. Austin Dillon will join the duo at Dover, Erik Jones at Charlotte, Jamie McMurray at Pocono, Logano at Michigan, and Regan Smith at Iowa Speedway.

A very talented group of young drivers given the opportunity to compete with quality teams and the addition of Monster Energy Cup Series drivers as analysts on FOX Xfinity telecasts are two of the bright spot of the current season.

Kyle Busch Wins Third Straight Race with Late Charge

RICHMOND, VA - Take a bow, Kyle Busch.

The driver of the No. 18 Toyota got what he needed late in Saturday night's Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond Raceway—cautions and short runs in the final 40

laps—to win his third straight Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race, matching Kevin Harvick's feat from earlier in the season.

Busch streaked away from the rest of the field on a series of late restarts, ultimately beating Chase Elliott to the checkered flag in overtime to record his fifth victory at the .75-mile short track and the 46th of his career, tying him with NASCAR Hall of Famer Buck Baker for 15th on the all-time list.

Pit stops were a crucial aspect of Busch's victory. Under caution on Lap 370 for a chain-reaction accident involving Jamie McMurray and Ryan Newman, Busch's crew got the No. 18 Toyota Camry off pit road first and repeated the feat on Lap 391 after David Ragan's spin in Turn 3 slowed the action for the fifth-time.

"I think the difference for us tonight was just the adjustments (to the car)," Busch said. "Trying to

stay with the race track all night long. (Crew chief) Adam Stevens and my guys did a phenomenal job. I think one of the other keys to the night was just my guys – my pit crew. They got us out front when it mattered the most those last two pit stops. They were awesome tonight on pit road."

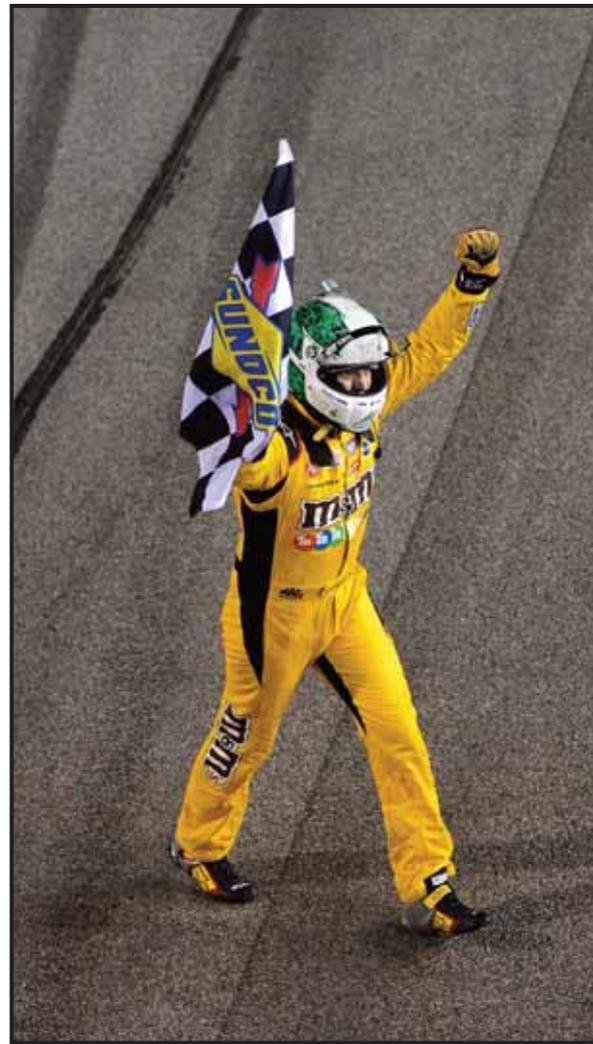
Busch started 32nd after a conservative qualifying strategy backfired. That was the deepest in the field a winner had ever started at Richmond. Clint Bowyer held the previous mark, winning from 31st in 2008.

But can Busch win four straight, when the series moves to Talladega next weekend? That's a tall order, given the vagaries of restrictor-plate racing.

"It's definitely cool we've won three in a row," Busch said. "We did it a couple years ago, and now I don't know if you can shoot for four in a row. It's hard to go to Talladega with that much of a winning streak and think that you can go to Victory Lane, but we're going to go there anyway and give it a shot.

"We'll see what we can do... I think it's easier to win the Power Ball than to win at Talladega."

The last driver to win four straight Monster Energy Series races was Jimmie Johnson, who secured his second series title in



Kyle Busch, driver of the #18 M&M's Flavor Vote Toyota, celebrates with the checkered flag after winning at Richmond. (ROBERT LABERGE/GETTY IMAGES photo)

2007 with consecutive Playoff victories at Martinsville, Atlanta, Texas and Phoenix.

Elliott finished second for the eighth-time in his career, improving from seventh to second over a succession of restarts, passing Denny

Hamlin for the runner-up spot after a Lap 401 restart in the NASCAR Over-time.

"Yeah, just very fortunate circumstances there at the end for us, with the way the restarts went," Elliott said. "Having a short run there at the end was definitely in our favor. So it was nice to be on the good end of things for the first time in a while.

"Looking forward, we have to be realistic about how we ran tonight. I think the result shouldn't weigh into how hard we worked this week because we have some work to do. I think that we have to keep that in mind."

Hamlin held third, followed by Joey Logano, who won both the first and second stages before the handle on his No. 22 Team Penske Ford Fusion deteriorated slightly after the

sun set. Kevin Harvick ran fifth, overcoming a penalty when one of his crewmen threw pit equipment across his No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford Fusion during a stop under caution at the end of Stage 1.

Johnson came from oblivion to run sixth after brushing the outside wall early in the race, losing a lap on the track and suffering through a lengthy pit stop that sent him to the back of the field. Kyle Larson, Brad Keselowski, Clint Bowyer and Daniel Suarez completed the top 10.

Notes: Winning three straight Cup races isn't a novel experience for Kyle Busch, who scored back-to-back-to-back victories at Kentucky, New Hampshire and Indianapolis after missing the first 11 races of the 2015 season because of injury. Busch went on to win the series championship that year... Fords dominated the action early, taking the first three positions in Stage 1 and the top four in Stage 2... Pole winner Martin Truex Jr. battled Busch for the lead late in the race, but a problem with the jack on the left side of his car on the final pit stop cost him nine positions. He finished 14th.



Race winner Kyle Busch (18) battles Chase Elliott (9) and Martin Truex Jr. (78) for the lead in the Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond Raceway. (SARAH CRABILL/GETTY IMAGES photo)

Christopher Bell Holds Off Noah Gragson for Xfinity Win at Richmond

RICHMOND, VA - In a long green-flag run fraught with spell-binding tension, Christopher Bell held off Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Noah Gragson to win Friday night's ToyotaCare

250 at Richmond Raceway.

Bell spoiled Gragson's prospects for a victory in his NASCAR Xfinity Series debut, passing his teammate for the lead on Lap 172 of 250 and staying in front—if only just barely—the rest of the way.

Bell crossed the finish line .423 seconds ahead of Gragson, after the driver of the No. 18 Toyota got to the bumper of Bell's No. 20 in the closing laps.

Virginia native Elliott Sadler ran third and claimed a \$100,000 Xfinity Dash 4 Cash bonus, though he remained winless and frustrated at his home track. It was Sadler's fourth career win under the Dash 4 Cash program.

"I had to work for it," Bell said of his second career victory, his first of the season and his first at Rich-

mond. "My teammate was really good. I knew throughout both practices that both of our cars were going to be really strong.

"Joe Gibbs Racing has been producing really, really fast Camrys for the last couple weeks, and it's really shown... All in all, it was enough to stay in front of him at the end."

During the final 79-lap run, Gragson fell behind by as much as 1.5 seconds, but when Bell hit traffic, Gragson closed in trimming his deficit to a half-second with 20 laps left. At the 18-to-go mark, Gragson turned up the pressure and closed up to Bell's rear bumper in the final laps but couldn't get in position to make a clean winning move.

"It's tough," Gragson said of his first Xfinity start. "I found a little something in the track, a little speed there at the end of the second stage on old tires, and I kept it in my memory banks till the end, and I told my team, 'I've got something when it's time to go—just tell me when.'

"And about 18 to go, I told them, 'I can't wait any longer; I don't have any more patience.' And I ran



Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 Rheem Toyota, poses with the winners sticker in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series ToyotaCare 250. (ROBERT LABERGE/GETTY IMAGES photo)

Christopher down about two or three car lengths."

Matt Tifft ran fourth in the No. 2 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet, followed by Austin Cindric with a career-best fifth. Bell, Sadler, Tifft and Cindric earned eligibility for the Dash 4 Cash bonus next Saturday at Talladega.

Sadler won the second stage, got the bonus and retained the series lead by 29 points over Bell but said he would trade the cash for a win at Richmond.

"I had a real strong run in that

second stage," Sadler said. "I was just a little bit tighter (handling) than I wanted to be at the end of the race.

"We can't hang our heads. We won the Dash 4 Cash, and we're part of the Dash 4 Cash going to Talladega next week, too.

"But we always want to win at this race track, and it's a shame to come up short tonight."

Pole winner Cole Custer ran sixth, followed by Ryan Truex, Jeremy Clements, Ryan Reed and Brandon Jones.



Christopher Bell (20) battles his teammate Noah Gragson (18) to win the ToyotaCare 250 at Richmond Raceway. (RUSSELL LABOUNTY/NKP photo)



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Thriller at Salem... Eckes Holds Off Smith for First ARCA Win

SALEM, IN - It was one for the ages, especially for Middletown, N.Y.'s Christian Eckes who held off a hungry pack over the final 50 laps to earn his career-first ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards victory Sunday afternoon at Salem Speedway.

Eckes, in the No. 15 Toyota for Venturini Motorsports, first fought off Zane Smith, then held back the nonstop hard charge from Chandler Smith to win the 103rd running of the Kentuckiana Ford Dealers 200.

"I can't believe this...I really can't," said Eckes. "This is the biggest win of my life. This is Salem. It's so hard to win here. I have no words to describe how relieved I am right now and how much this means to me."

Eckes's Venturini crew got him out first during the final stop during which the leaders took four General Tires for the thrilling run to checkers.

"This Venturini pit crew won this race...they got us out first. As a whole, we executed perfectly today. There have been so many...so many seconds. To finally get this victory...it's the biggest one

of my career."

It also turned out to be a duel for the record books when General Tire polesitter Chandler Smith finally cleared Zane Smith with 30 laps to go and tracked down the eventual winner for the nail-biting battle to the checkers. Despite being inside of Eckes at least a half-dozen times or working over the leader's left rear corner, Eckes somehow maintained his composure and kept the lead as the two front-runners danced in and out of lapped cars to the end.

"It's hard...so hard to look up in the mirror and see that black car charging the way he did," Eckes said. "I have no idea how we held him off for so long...what a day. This is a genuinely tough track to get around...it's just a great day."

With the white flag in the air, Smith followed in the immediate tire tracks of Eckes as both charged into turn one inches apart. Then, in an instant, Smith cut down a right-front tire as his No. 20 Smith General Contacting Toyota slid up the banking and smashed into the wall while Eckes sailed off toward the checkered flag.

Zane Smith, in the No. 41 Toyota, held off his MDM Motorsports teammate Sheldon Creed to finish second.

"We just managed tires all day," said Zane Smith. "We put on four at



Christian Eckes raced his way to victory lane at Salem Speedway for his first career ARCA Racing Series win. (arcaraacing.com photo)

the end, and it was time to go. We were riding behind the 15 (Eckes) and got a little tight late, center. Really good points day...it was a lot of fun."

Creed, in the No. 28 Toyota, came home third.

"We were just coasting all day," said Creed. "A lot of guys were trying to win it in the first 50 laps...crazy. We were just letting them go by. We just let them burn their stuff up. We got in position at the end, put four tires on it. We were really coming...just ran out of time."

JR Motorsports development driver Josh Berry looked sharp in his first ARCA start, finishing fourth.

"This place is definitely a challenge," said Berry. "You really have to manage tires...you wear 'em out so fast. Feel like you gotta run this place a couple times before you really get on to it. We got a little too tight when we put tires on it. It

came down to who was the best in the end. Hope I get the opportunity to come back and try again."

Chase Purdy finished fifth in the No. 8 Toyota. Riley Herbst was sixth, followed by Gus Dean seventh, Colby Howard eighth and Brandon Grosso ninth. Chandler Smith was credited with the 10th finishing position, one lap down. Smith, after making contact with the wall, was taken to a local area hospital where he was examined and released.

Thirteen lead changes among four drivers kept things busy up front while Chandler Smith led the most with 117 laps led of 200. Eckes was second on the lap leader chart with 72. Five cautions slowed the pace for 40 laps.

The next event for the ARCA Racing Series is the General Tire 200 at Talladega Superspeedway Friday afternoon, April 27, live on FS1.

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PASS North Super Late Model Win is Third Straight at Oxford Plains Speedway for Curtis Gerry

OXFORD, ME - Curtis Gerry of Waterboro continued to shine when the money is on the line, claiming victory in the Honey Badger 150 Pro All Stars Series Super Late Model race Sunday afternoon at Oxford Plains Speedway.

It was the third straight PASS Super Late Model win for Gerry at Oxford Plains Speedway, a streak that began at the 44th Annual Oxford 250 last August.

Gerry needed to mount an impressive, late-race charge in the race, which ended with a green flag stretch well in excess of 100 laps, to get by Cassius Clark of Farmington. Clark led more than 100 laps aboard the Nova Scotia-based King Racing 13 before yielding to Gerry with just four laps remaining in the 150-lap test.

Clark, who won the 50-lap Budweiser Championship Series season opener on the previous night at Oxford Plains Speedway, easily held on to claim runner-up honors. Reigning PASS North Super Late Model champion Travis Benjamin of Belfast was an early leader in the race, earning a third-place finish at the checkered flag.

DJ Shaw of Center Conway, New Hampshire and Strong's Tracy Gordon were the final two racers able to complete all 150 laps, finishing fourth and fifth, respectively. One lap off the pace and rounding out the top ten were Joey Polewarczyk, Jr., Garrett Hall, Scott McDaniel, Derek Griffith and Jeff White. Nick Sweet of Barre, Vermont also led the race, and turned in the fastest lap of the race.

Defending PASS Mods champion Ben Tinker of New Gloucester prevailed in the first race of the season for the Northeast's only Pro All Stars Series-sanctioned open wheel racing class. Tinker's competition has stepped it up a bit after his dominant 2017 campaign, as runner-up Gary Shackford of Center Conway, New Hampshire was in contention for the victory.

Perhaps the biggest test for the winner was provided by third-place finisher Bruce Helmuth of Wales, who led almost half of the 40-lap race before Tinker took command. Freeport's Jarriet Harrison ended up in fourth position after racing with the leaders throughout the event. Second-year PASS Mod racer Patrick Sullivan rounded out the top-five rundown.

Tyler King of Livermore Falls dominated the 40-lap special event



Curtis Gerry celebrates in victory lane at Oxford Plains Speedway, his third straight PASS North win at the track. (Norm Marx/PASS photo)

for the Allen's Coffee Flavored Brandy Street Stock division. King won his heat race and started from the pole position in the main event and led every lap. It was his second straight win in the class.

Matt Dufault of Turner was the best of the rest, outgunning Lyman's Gary Babinueau in the battle for runner-up honors. Cole Watson of Naples rebounded from a first-lap spin to finish in fourth po-

sition, followed by Green's Andrew Breton.

The next Pro All Stars Series North Super Late Model race is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 at Beech Ridge Motor Speedway in Scarborough, Maine. PASS Mods and a Street Stock open race will also be contested. Post time is 3:00 p.m. For more information visit proallstarsseries.com or call (207) 539-8865.

Hudson Sweeps the Bowl in Winning First Five Crown Series Event

SALEM, IN - Owensboro, Kentucky native Brett Hudson rolled a fast car out of his hauler at Friday's open practice and never looked backed in sweeping the Lawrence Towing CRA Street Stocks Powered by JEGS Spring Fever 200 at Shadybowl Speedway

Saturday night. The event was the first race in the series Five Crown Series for the 2018 season with Hudson collecting the \$3,000 first place prize money.

"We had a great car from the time we unloaded," remarked Hudson. "We were fast in practice,

qualifying and once we got out front, nobody was going to pass us. I have to thank my mom and dad and my whole crew for all their hard work they put into this race car every time we go race. It was a long race, had hold off guys on those restarts, but we got it done!"

Hudson was fastest in both series practices on Saturday afternoon. Hudson then set fast time in Allstar Performance qualifying, besting the 31 cars on hand for the event on Saturday. Hudson drew a nine for the events inverted start, but it didn't take Hudson long to grab the lead on a restart right before the halfway break.

Hudson then held off all challengers in the second half during several restarts including 2017

event winner Chuck Barnes Jr., and 2016 event winner Josh Poore, who look to have the fastest car to challenge Hudson, but mechanical issues cost him several laps in the pits.

For his dominating weekend performance, Hudson was awarded the Racers Parts Wholesale Sweet Move of the Race Award as well as the AR Bodies Cool Move of the Race for his pass to get the lead.

Jacob McElfresh came from his 11th place starting position to finish second. Early leader Evan Burch would finish in third. Local racer Rodney Roush came from his 13th place starting position to finish in fourth place. Brian Hopkins came from 17th to finish in fifth place after pitting late in the race with damage. Barnes Jr., would finish in sixth after being involved in a late race caution while battling for second. Larry Greene came from his 25th place starting position to finish

in seventh. Lee Schwartz, Jacob Muncy and Buck Purtee rounded out the top ten.

With the win and second place finish, Hudson and McElfresh received Road to Bristol guaranteed starting positions for the series event with the upcoming Short Track U. S. Nationals at Bristol Motor Speedway. There is one more Road to Bristol series event coming up at Mt. Lawn Speedway on May 6th. To receive any of the Road to Bristol guaranteed starting positions, a driver must compete in all both Road to Bristol events.

The next Lawrence Towing CRA Street Stocks event will be the Bob Fields Memorial 200 at Mt. Lawn Speedway located in New Castle, Indiana on Sunday, May 6th. That event will be the second event of the season for the series and the second event of the CRA Street Stock Five Crown Series. More information on all the CRA Series is available at www.cra-racing.com.

Pittman Goes Back-to-Back with Second Consecutive Win at Pevely

PEVELY, MO - Daryn Pittman got underneath Sheldon Haudenschild to lead Lap 31 en route to his second consecutive World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series win of the weekend and second in a row at Federated Auto Parts Raceway at I-55 in Pevely, MO.

Donny Schatz finished second and long-time race leader Sheldon Haudenschild completed the podium.

Donny Schatz won the Craftsman Club Dash and earned the pole of the 40-lap Feature alongside Ian Madsen. But it was Madsen who powered around Schatz to lead the opening circuit of the Feature.

Sheldon Haudenschild used every bit of the racing surface to quickly take second from Schatz and begin chasing down Madsen for the lead. Just as Haudenschild was ready to make a move on Ian Madsen for the lead on the sixth circuit, the caution flew Ian's older brother, Kerry, who was facing traffic on the backstretch.

Ian Madsen was able to turn under a pair of Sheldon sliders, before Haudenschild took command to lead Lap 8. As Haudenschild navigated heavy traffic, both Madsen and Pittman were able to erase Sheldon's lead. Daryn Pittman made an eye-catching three-wide pass for the lead down the backstretch on Lap 13, only for it to be negated by a yellow for Cory Eliaison.

As the rubber became more prominent on the racing surface, experience became a factor. Pittman and Schatz quickly closed in on Haudenschild for the lead. Haudenschild had a minor hiccup in turn one and missed the rubber by no more than a car length, but that was all Pittman needed as the 2013 Series Champion stuffed his Kasey Kahne Racing No.9 car underneath Haudenschild to take command down the backstretch. A couple laps later Haudenschild hiccupped in turn one again and Schatz was able to sneak by for second.

Ian Madsen's top-five run came to an end with five laps remaining, due to a flat tire. A clear track

ahead of Pittman allowed the veteran driver to hit his marks en route to his 74th career Outlaw victory.

"Man, this is starting to be fun again. It's been a frustrating start to the season, but this car has been a blast to drive the past two nights," Pittman said upon exiting his Ionomy sponsored KKR No.9 machine.

"This is the way we envisioned we would start the year. We are really happy with where we are at right now, this is why you never give up," an enthusiastic Pittman added.

Pittman eluded to the harder tire compound his team elected to go with before thanking his car owner, Kasey Kahne, and all of his sponsorship partners. When asked about the negated three-wide pass for the lead, Pittman said, "I thought that was the end of our chance to win it. This really was a great team win."

Donny Schatz also went with a harder tire compound. "I was way too loose in the beginning and we had to pay the price, but we made it back it up. All in all, it was a great night," Schatz said in good spirits.

After leading 22 laps, Sheldon Haudenschild had all the reason to be dejected, but that was not the case. "We definitely want to win these races, but we want to finish them too. I'm happy with a podium. The guys worked really hard after tearing a car up last night. I missed the rubber twice and I got passed twice," Sheldon, who continues to sit second in the Series Point Standings, said.

David Gravel and Brad Sweet completed the all-Outlaw top five. Nine of the top ten were World of Outlaws regulars, including Brent Marks who came from 22nd to 10th, earning KSE Hard Charger honors.

Indiana youngster Cale Thomas was the lone non-Outlaw regular in the top-ten, finishing eighth. Jason Sides set fast-time over the 44-car field for the first time this season.

Pittman Shrugs Off Slow Start to Year with Riverside Victory

WEST MEMPHIS, AR - Daryn Pittman has had a slow start to the 2018 season. That all changed Friday night at Riverside International Speedway, when the Owasso, OK

native picked up his 73rd career World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series victory, moving him into 10th all-time on the Series win list. Pittman's Kasey Kahne Racing teammate Brad Sweet came from ninth to finish second, with Paul McMahan completing the podium.

"I'm not done yet," Pittman said after emerging from his Ionomy sponsored No.9 machine in Victory Lane. "As a driver, when you start off the season like that, you can't help but question yourself and your ability," Pittman, who had yet to score a top-five finish before tonight's win, added.

Sheldon Haudenschild continued his blazing start to the 2018 season, setting fast time over the 32-car field and storming from fifth to take the Craftsman Club Dash. But it was Daryn Pittman leading the opening lap, coming from third to take command of the field down the backstretch.

As Pittman quickly approached traffic on the bullring, Haudenschild was able to rimride his way to the lead on the eighth circuit. Pittman, the 2007 Outlaw winner at Riverside, committed to the bottom and took the lead back a lap later. A caution for 1981 Riverside Outlaw winner, Sammy Swindell, who was running in the top-five, halted the intense action.

Haudenschild wasn't done yet as the young Wooster, OH native was banging down the wall trying to close in on Pittman. Unfortunately for Sheldon, he ended up on his lid in turn two on Lap 19. Sheldon would return to action with a damaged race car and limp his way to a 19th place finish.

An ((Open Red)) allowed teams to make minor adjustments and discuss their plan of action with 21 laps remaining.

"I was questioning what to do, the bottom was getting really slow in turns three and four, but my guys told me that Sheldon was banging down the wall and still couldn't quite get by. I figured I would stick to what we were doing, until someone showed me different," Pittman said.

And that was the case as Pittman held off charges from McMahan and Sweet to win by .518 seconds. Brad Sweet was able to close in on the top off of turn four but was unable to make any ground up in one and two and ultimately settled for the runner-up position.

"The top was a little better in turn four, but I didn't want to

show Daryn my nose. We've had a couple of bad runs in a row, so it's nice to get a good finish. This team deserves to be on the front stretch," Sweet said after exiting his NAPA Auto Parts No.49 machine.

Paul McMahan threatened for the lead multiple times in lapped traffic but came home third. "Everyone had me washed up two years ago, so to be up front and on the podium with these guys is a lot of fun," McMahan said.

Rico Abreu was strong all night and finished fourth, his best finish of the season. David Gravel earned KSE Hard Charger honors coming from 21st to complete the top-five.

In no discounting fashion to the Feature, which saw action all over the track, it was the Heat Races that brought the capacity crowd to their feet. Specifically Heat 2 that saw Arkansas native Derek Hagar charge from fifth to grab a Dash spot after spending nearly three laps three-wide with Kerry Madsen and Cale Thomas. The Dash also saw multiple laps of three-wide action. Highlights of both aforementioned qualifying events are posted on the World of Outlaws Twitter.

World of Outlaws Rained Out at Haubstadt Once Again

HAUBSTADT, IN - The World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series has lost another event to Mother Nature. Constant moisture throughout the afternoon forced Tri-State track officials and the World of Outlaws to postpone Sunday, April 22nd's event.

Tri-State Speedway is looking for a viable date to make up the event. Stay tuned to Tri-State Speedway and the World of Outlaws social media channels and websites for an official announced date. Tri-State Speedway handled all ticketing for this event and all questions will be answered by track personnel.

The World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series returns to action Wednesday, April 25 in Paige, TX at the Cotton Bowl Speedway before heading to Mesquite, TX April 27 and 28 with a big 40th Anniversary Celebration at Devil's Bowl Speedway! Tickets for both events are available on the World of Outlaws website at woosprint.com.



Billy Moyer Jr. Wins at Whynot Motorsports Park

MERIDIAN, MS - The "House of Hook" at Whynot Motorsports Park lived up to its name on Saturday evening for the finale of the Queen City Shootout. The World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series' 50 lap feature event saw multiple lanes of hooked-up racing. When the checkered flag waved

for the final time of the evening, it was Billy Moyer Jr. who was the best of the field claiming his first World of Outlaws win of the 2018 season and third all-time Series win.

Moyer Jr. was overwhelmed with emotion as he climbed out of his car in Victory Lane. He explained to the crowd that at 5 p.m. he received a call saying that his daughter Hallie Rae Moyer (born on March 8, 2018) is not doing well. Receiving the call just one hour before the World of Outlaws were scheduled to hit the track for hot laps, Moyer Jr. explained he felt committed to finishing the night.

"This racing doesn't mean anything. Right now, I'm thinking about my daughter," said Moyer Jr. "I'm scatterbrained right now. I got a call at 5 o'clock and my mind is so far in left field I don't really care about this race right now. I just want to get home to her. Man, they were with me here tonight. I want to make a living and to win, but I need to get back to Arkansas as quick as I can."

The Batesville, AR driver placed second in Group A Qualifying, won his heat race, and drew the outside pole position for the Craftsman Club Feature. Moyer Jr. commanded the lead on the first lap, only to hand over the top spot once on lap 18 to Mississippi driver Brian Rickman.

Chris Madden and Shane Clanton also challenged Moyer Jr. for the lead position but were unable to complete the pass. When the checkers fell, it was a photo finish with only 0.0645 separating Moyer Jr. from Clanton.

"Chris was doing all he could to win the race," said Clanton. "That's what we were just saying, 'we're here to win the race not to get second' and he did all he could to get by him. Moyer went to block him and it gave me the opportunity to

get in the bottom and I hit Chris a little bit but it's alright, we were going for the win."

"I guess it don't look like we can do no better than third. You know we just keep going for the win there," said Madden. "We come to win the races, not to run second. We took a shot at him there and if he didn't move up on me there maybe I could've finished the pass. It just kind of killed my momentum and let the hole open for Shane to get back into second.

"Overall, we had a great car all weekend. We started 12th tonight and made it all the way up there to battle for the lead, at least for a little while. I think we can take this momentum here in our new ride and build on it and maybe it will play out good for us at the end of the year."

The World of Outlaws Craftsman Late Model Series returns to action next Thursday at Smoky Mountain Speedway for a night of practice followed by the doubleheader weekend, The Tennessee Tipoff on Friday and Saturday, April 27-28.

Sheppard Charges from 12th to Win at Whynot Motorsports Park

MERIDIAN, MS - The World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series returned to action on Friday evening at Whynot Motorsports Park for the first of two nights for the inaugural Queen City Shootout. This was the Series first race in 62 days due to several cancellations for weather, but Mother Nature finally showed some mercy and the 50-lap feature was worth the wait.



Brandon Sheppard charged from 12th to collect his second win of the 2018 season. (Paul Arch photo)



Billy Moyer Jr. raced his way to victory lane at Whynot Motorsports Park for the Queen City Shootout. (Paul Arch photo)

The 2017 World of Outlaws Champion Brandon Sheppard charged from 12th to collect his second win of the 2018 season.

"That was definitely not an easy one there. [Chris] Madden and Big Billy [Moyer] did a great job," said Sheppard. "The track was really tricky tonight. The line kept changing all over the place. I could roll the middle there pretty good for a little bit, and then I could go to the bottom, and then I could move up, and then the middle got dirty there. We had a good car early, I think we just ran the wrong line in qualifying."

The dominant New Berlin, IL driver qualified 21st overall earlier in the day which placed him fifth in his heat race. Sheppard was able to finish third in his heat which secured his transfer spot into the \$10,000-to-win feature event. In the first lap of the race, Sheppard had remarkably gained four positions. By lap 13, Sheppard had bypassed Moyer for second and began chasing down pole-sitter and race-long leader, Madden. Known for his patient approach to take over the lead position, Sheppard made the pass for the top spot on lap 41 when the perfect time

arose.

"Well, I'm pretty sure it was hard to lead that race in the first half since like I said, the line was moving around all over the place," continued Sheppard. "You know I could see where [Madden] was messing up a little bit. I found a little bit of a line there coming off of [turn] two, to where I could get up underneath him if he moved up again, and that's what happened. Everything just worked out for us. We were really fortunate to be in a position to take the lead there."

At the time, Madden was running around the bottom of the race-track and slightly shifted his line up on the backstretch opening the door for Sheppard to charge through to command the lead. Madden continued to chase down Sheppard throughout the remaining laps in the feature. With five laps to go, the driver of Gray Court, SC headed to the top of the race track hoping to find the extra momentum he needed to reclaim the lead but while doing so, he opened the door for Moyer to steal second and was forced to settle for third.

"We just got too tight right there from about the middle of the race on and when I caught those lapped cars, and I couldn't use the whole racetrack, I got in some trouble there," said Madden.

"I couldn't stay down off of two over there and use the moisture like I could. I left the door open and Brandon was there to fill the spot. He was better than we were at the end of the race to steer around the bottom. We tried to go up top to get by Sheppard so we gave up second for third and that's OK. We were trying to get the win instead of running second."

"You just had to hit your marks perfect," said Moyer. "We are happy to get a second here for sure. We had fun. We had a good racetrack. You know, we could move around on there, I thought it was a pretty neat deal."

Bloomquist Banks First Port Royal Victory

PORT ROYAL, PA - Scott Bloomquist continued his hot-streak on the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, winning Sunday night's Rumble by the River at Port Royal Speedway. Bloomquist took the lead on lap two and never looked back en route to his 88th career series victory.

Josh Richards fought back to finish in second with Earl Pearson Jr. taking third. Tim McCreddie and Darrell Lanigan completed the top five drivers.

Jimmy Owens led the first lap until Bloomquist, who started fourth on the grid, wrestled the lead away from him on the second circuit. Owens maintained the second spot until a coil spring broke on lap 17, ending his night. McCreddie picked up the second spot as he and Richards then dueled it out for the runner-up position.

The final caution of the race bunched the field up with 2 laps remaining. Richards tried valiantly in the green-white-checker finish, but Bloomquist was just too strong as he held on for his first career win at Port Royal Speedway.

"We have run really well since Florida. Last weekend, we had a win and a second-place finish, and this weekend a second and a win. The car, the engine, the shocks, everything is working well," said the 54-year-old Bloomquist in Lucas Oil Victory Lane.

"We had good rotation, it carried around the high-line tonight. The car could work low, the middle, or high. I tried to run up high in three and four because my momentum would be really good off the turn-4 corner. When we had to go to the bottom to pass lapped cars we could. Thanks to Randy Sweet and everybody at Sweet Manufacturing."

"This really is a great race track. We hadn't had a victory here, but I really enjoyed running on it. There were some crumbs on the track early. It has a lot of character, and you really have to be up on the wheel to drive this place. I think I figured out the high-line pretty good tonight."

Richards maintains second-place in the points with his runner-up finish.

"We had a great car tonight;

those restarts weren't very good for us, but we recovered and gave the Best Performance Team a good finish tonight. Last night at Hagerstown we had a rough night. We worked on some things today. If it could have gone caution free it might have been a different story. This place is so fun to drive on. Thanks to all the fans for coming out tonight. I wish we could race here tomorrow."

It was a hard-fought third-place finish for Pearson. "Josh and I had a good race for second there at the end. McCreddie and him ran side-by-side there for a long-time. Thanks to everybody here at Port Royal and thanks to all the fans who came out on a Sunday night to watch us race. This is a heck of a race track, wish we could do a two-day show here."

Completing the top ten were 18th starting Jonathan Davenport, Bobby Pierce, Hudson O'Neal, Alex Ferree, and Mason Zeigler.

Dominant Davenport Rules Hagerstown

HAGERSTOWN, MD - Jonathan Davenport drove-away from the field on Saturday night at to win the 37th Annual Stanley Schetrompf Classic. The current championship points leader became the eleventh different victor in eleven appearances by the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series at Hagerstown Speedway.

Davenport withstood the challenges of defending track champion Kyle Lee, and Scott Bloomquist early on en route to his fourth series win of the year. Bloomquist held off numerous



Scott Bloomquist celebrates in victory lane after winning the Rumble by the River at Port Royal Speedway. (LOLMDS photo)

charges by young Tyler Bare, who was competing in only the third Super Late Model race of his career. Bare ultimately settled for third in his first career LOLMDS start. McCreddie was fourth with Rookie of the Year hopeful, Mason Zeigler completing the top five.

"Man, all the credit goes to my crew. They are awesome. Jason and Tyler do a great job, and Kevin [Rumley] is back there working all the time. This was a new car last week, so we've got two wins in three races now. It's definitely a good piece," said the 34-year-old in Lucas Oil Victory Lane.

"Thanks to Lance Landers and Steve Martin of Crop Production Services for giving me this opportunity. I was definitely getting tighter and tighter at the end. The track was taking a little bit of rubber especially through three and four. Thanks to all the fans for coming out tonight. This one's for Big C [Carlton Lamm]. Everybody is still thinking about his family. It's great to win here."

Bloomquist survived a battle at

the end with Bare and McCreddie to bring home another good points night. "Our car was good all night, Jonathan was really good as well. I didn't know who was driving the 43A car, but we had a good battle there. Another podium finish isn't bad, we will take it and head to Port Royal tomorrow night."

Bare held his own against the nation's top drivers. "These guys in front of me, they are the best of the best. We had a great run. I got into Scott [Bloomquist] once there and he just took off from there. This is only my third super race that I have run. We have run a bunch of crate races. Thanks to Brian Klinedinst for giving me an opportunity to drive his car. We'll try it again at Port Royal tomorrow night."

Completing the top ten were Earl Pearson Jr., Gregg Satterlee, Darrell Lanigan, Kyle Lee, and Don O'Neal.

Friday's Event at Sharon Speedway Postponed

BURGHILL, OH - The forecasted unseasonably cold temperatures along with a heavily saturated facility has forced the postponement of Friday night's Steel Valley 50 at Sharon Speedway until Monday, July 2.

Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series Director, Rick Schwallie said: "We've worked closely with the management at Sharon Speedway all week. We believe postponing the event is the best-case scenario for all involved. It's not in anyone's best interest to fight the weather. We look forward to an exciting weekend in July."

Advanced tickets to the Steel Valley 50 will be honored on July 2. For more information, visit www.sharonspeedway.com.



Jonathan Davenport celebrates with his crew in victory lane after racing his way to a win at Hagerstown Speedway. (LOLMDS photo)

Hardy Charges To Victory With ASCS Southwest at Arizona Speedway

QUEEN CREEK, AZ - Picking up his third win in four events to start the 2018 season with the ASCS Southwest Region, Colton Hardy charged from eighth to snag Saturday's victory at the Arizona Speedway.

Hardy's eighth career win with the ASCS Southwest Region, the Bandit Racing No. 74 worked from eighth to second in the first 11 laps. Clearing Rick Ziehl for the position, Hardy trailed by just over two seconds as Billy Chester held the point from the drop of the green flag.

Steadily chipping away at the advantage of the No. 2b, Hardy's chance came as the white flag flew, only to have the caution bring the field back to the last fully completed lap. Taking advantage of the restart, Hardy again bolted to the lead on the final revolution to win by 0.983 seconds.

Billy Chester held on for second with Rick Ziehl posting his best finish of the season in third. J.T. Imperial fourth was followed by Josh Shipley to complete the top-five. Lorne Wofford was sixth with Josh Hodges seventh. Jesse Baker, Jarrett Martin, and Alex Pettas made up the top-ten.

The ASCS Southwest Region is

back at Arizona Speedway on Saturday, May 5.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the Regional Tours that make up the over 150 across the ASCS Nation in 2018, log onto <http://www.ascsracing.com>, follow on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter (@LucasOilASCS).

Wayne Johnson Masters ASCS Red River at Creek County Speedway

SAPULPA, OK - Picking up Friday's \$2,000 top prize, Oklahoma City's Wayne Johnson was superb in slower traffic at Creek County Speedway with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Red River Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products.

Johnson's fifth career victory with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Red River Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products, the Outlaw Wings No. 2c took the green from the fifth starting spot. Rolling runner-up on Lap 14 after a multi-lap battle with Sean McClelland, traffic brought race-long leader, Matt Covington, into view.

Maneuvering through the low line into turn-one on Lap 17, Johnson pulled even with Covington but was denied the position. Swinging



Colton Hardy raced his way from eighth to victory lane at Arizona Speedway. (Jessica Ward/ASCS photo)

momentum through turns three and four, Wayne stuck to the top through the first and second turns to take the top spot away from the A-Rock Materials No. 95.

Slowed working Lap 19, the restart rolled to the last fully completed lap with Johnson pulling away in clean air for the win. Matt Covington held on for second with Sean McClelland holding off the ferocious charge of Kyle Bell and Joe Wood, Jr.

Seth Bergman crossed sixth with Kyle Clark moving to seventh from 14th. Following from 15th, Blake Hahn took eighth with Andrew Deal ninth from 18th. Making his first start behind the wheel of an ASCS machine, Cannon McIntosh came through the B-Feature to finish 10th.

The American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Red River Region presented by Smiley's Racing

Products rolls again on May 4 at Heartland Park Topeka and May 5 at Lucas Oil Speedway with the Speedway Motors ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Wraps.

ASCS Red River at Caney Valley Speedway Postponed

TULSA, OK - The weekend lineup for the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Red River Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products has been updated. Officials at Caney Valley Speedway have made the call to postpone their event on Saturday, April 21.

The race has been rescheduled to Thursday, July 12 to coinciding with Humboldt Speedway (Humboldt, Kan.) on Friday, July 13 and 81-Speedway (Park City, Kan.) on Saturday, July 14.

Chili Bowl Ride Up for Grabs in Keith Kunz Give Back Classic at Millbridge

SALISBURY, NC - Keith Kunz Motorsports and Millbridge Speedway (NC) will be giving one aspiring race car driver the chance of a lifetime. The Keith Kunz Motorsports Give Back Classic on Wednesday, October 31 will provide Outlaw Kart racers with an opportunity to win a free ride for the prestigious Chili Bowl Nationals in Tulsa, OK in 2019.

The way the race will work is quite simple: show up to Millbridge Speedway with an Outlaw Kart on October 31, win the race and earn

a Keith Kunz Motorsports ride in the 33rd Annual Chili Bowl Nationals.

"We are really excited to be teamed up with Keith Kunz Motorsports to be able to potentially further someone's career by giving them a once in a lifetime shot at driving a top-notch car at the next level," said Millbridge Speedway owner Jeremy Burnett.

"We want to give back to the Outlaw Kart racers; it's been a great training ground for those guys," said Kunz, who owns the team that has won the last four Chili Bowl races.

"It's their dream to be able to run a Midget sometime, so we came up with an idea that we're going to

have a race. The winner of the race, if they're 16 at the beginning of the Chili Bowl (January 14, 2019), will get a ride for the Chili Bowl. If they're not, they'll get a race somewhere else (with KKM). It's a chance for us to give back to the Outlaw Kart guys. It's a race where you come run it, and if you win it, you're in.

"It's a great opportunity for some young kid out there that hasn't had the chance and has the dream of being able to go do it. We're going to try to provide that to them."

Keith Kunz Motorsports and Millbridge Speedway will be accepting entries from drivers all over North America. The goal is to provide a unique opportunity to a driver who might otherwise not have the funding to compete in a Dirt Midget event. Drivers with experience in NASCAR's national series, Dirt Midgets or Sprint Cars will not be eligible to win the free ride.

"We want kids from all over the United States to come run this," Kunz stated.

"For somebody who doesn't have a Chili Bowl ride and isn't a regular Sprint Car driver or Midget driver, this is truly for somebody who has a dream of getting in a Midget to go race. We don't want these other guys coming in that already have a ride, there's no use for that. We're going to take the applications, look through them and select a lot of drivers. It's open to everybody, but it's more for the drivers that haven't driven anything."

Since becoming a team owner, Kunz has built an empire within the Dirt Midget ranks. For many of his drivers, the Outlaw Kart ranks provided them with an opportunity to hone their skills before moving up to the next level.

For more information on Millbridge Speedway, visit www.millbridgespeedway.com.

Tim Shaffer Hard Charges to a \$5,000 Payday at Wayne County Speedway

ORRVILLE, OH - For the first time during his illustrious career, the "Steel City Outlaw" Tim Shaffer is an Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 main event winner at Wayne County Speedway. The Aliquippa, Pa., native, who bumped his career win total to 62 during All Star competition, earned his \$5,000 payday in fantastic fashion, battling forward from the outside of row four to track down race-long leader, Chad Kemenah, with just nine circuits remaining. Shaffer's performance, his second All Star victory of the 2018 season, also earned him the MSD Performance Hard Charger Award for advancing the most positions.

All Star main event pole-sitter, Carson Macedo, who also worked around Kemenah during the later laps of the 30-lap program, finished second at "Orrville's Historic Oval," followed by Chad Kemenah, Parker Price-Miller, and Spencer Bayston.

"That was a blast tonight. What a car we had," Tim Shaffer said in Wayne County Speedway victory lane. "Cody Jacobs gave me a great car here tonight. We wanted this one bad. We always seemed to struggle when we came here, but tonight was different. We started eighth, but just kept on going."

Shaffer's march to the front started immediately, advancing into a top-five position early and knocking on the door for a podium spot just before the main event's first and only caution appeared on lap 11. The single-file restart was just the ticket for the driver of the No. 49X sprint car, moving around Parker Price-Miller for third by the completion of lap 11, then overtaking Carson Macedo for second on lap 12.

In the meantime, Hunter Racing's Chad Kemenah, who led from the drop of the green flag, was beginning to gain a slight advantage over Shaffer. The six-time and defending All Star champion found himself in heavy traffic by lap 17 which gave Shaffer the opportunity he needed to close the gap. By lap 20, Shaffer was within striking distance, making his first official bid for the top spot on lap 22 with a text-

book slider through turns three and four. The bid for the lead worked, solidifying Shaffer's position at the top of the running order.

Just two circuits later, Macedo was also able to work by Chad Kemenah, now setting his aim for the "Steel City Outlaw." Although closing the gap to just over one second, Macedo's hourglass ran empty, crossing under the final checkers 1.28 seconds behind the Demyan-Rudzik Racing entry.

"On that restart, I tried to go to the top and that is when [Tim Shaffer] got by us," Macedo said, driver of the No. 3G sprint car. "I thought I was maybe going to have something for him at the end, but hats off to those guys. They did a really good job here tonight."

The Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 will have one weekend off before returning to competition on Friday and Saturday, May 4-5, with a pair of programs in Western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. Tony Stewart's All Stars will invade the historic Lernerville Speedway in Sarver, Pa., on Friday, May 4, followed by a visit to the state-of-the-art Sharon Speedway in Hartford, Ohio, on Saturday, May 5. Each program will award a \$5,000 top prize.

Additional news and information regarding the upcoming visits to Lernerville Speedway and Sharon Speedway will be posted in the near future. For now, fans are encouraged to visit Lernerville Speedway and Sharon Speedway on the Web at www.lernerville.com and



Tim Shaffer raced his way to his 62nd win of his All Star career with a win at Wayne County Speedway. (Paul Arch photo)

www.sharonspeedway.com.

The Wild Child Wins All Star Thriller at Attica Raceway Park

ATTICA, OH - The "Wild Child" Jac Haudenschild certainly lived up to his nickname on Friday night at Attica Raceway Park, and at 60 years of age, the Wooster, Ohio, native is still padding a racing resume that now includes 31 Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 victories.

Despite starting from the pole position, Haudenschild's path to Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 victory lane during the Core & Main Spring Nationals presented by Fisher Performance did not come effortless, ultimately surviving multiple challenges during a mid-race battle with Carson Macedo, and a late-race surge by second generation racer, Lee Jacobs, to claim his first victory of the season.

"This feels really good. The car was great all night," Haudenschild explained, pilot of the No. 3. "That

was a lot of fun. I had an opportunity to watch Carson (Macedo) race when he was younger out in California. He is a talented racer and he is going to win a lot of races."

By the time the final checkers flew, Haudenschild gained the top spot, or lost the top spot, on five occasions, most of which occurring during a near-20 lap battle with Macedo. Interestingly enough, it was not the famous "haud line" around the outer edge of the speedway that gave Haudenschild the winning edge, it was the bottom.

Right from the drop of the green flag, Haudenschild was strong, eventually leading the first 16 circuits undisrupted. It was not long before Macedo came into the picture, utilizing his second row starting position to keep a close eye on Haudenschild. Macedo drove around Haudenschild on lap 17, but just two circuits later, Haudenschild propelled himself back to the lead, squeezing underneath Macedo at the exit of turn four on lap 19.

Despite Haudenschild's attempt to run away from his fellow front-runners in lapped traffic, Macedo stayed glued to the Hall of Famer's back bumper, soon joined by Lee Jacobs. Macedo regained the lead from Haudenschild to officially control lap 23, but the lead swapping did not stop there. Haudenschild reeled Macedo back in, eventually executing a perfect slider between turns one and two to lead lap 32.

Unfortunately for Macedo, his battle with Haudenschild would come to an end on lap 35, coasting to a stop on the edge of the speedway due to a flat rear tire.

Forced to survive a last-ditch effort by Lee Jacobs, the "Wild Child" held strong, winning a drag race to the finish by .144 seconds over Jacobs, Craig Mintz, Max Stambaugh, and defending All Star champion, Chad Kemenah.



Jac Haudenschild celebrates in victory lane with his wife Patty after winning at Attica Raceway Park. (Paul Arch photo)

Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - While the April 28-29 Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama will feature well over 1,000 flashy classic, collector and show cars at the massive motoring festival at Atlanta Motor Speedway, the exclusive Million Dollar Salon will serve as the weekend home to some of the rarest and priciest vehicles money can buy.

Headlining the massive two-day auto show dubbed "Georgia's Motoring Festival," the Million Dollar Salon will once again bring the "wow" factor for fans attending the show. Living up to its name (and then some), this impressive display located inside the Marcy Scott Media Center will feature a collection of cars valued well into the seven-digit range. From high-dollar Lamborghinis and Ferraris to barely-street-legal McLarens and other rocket-like sports cars, it will be hard to comprehend the enormous concentration of near price-less automobiles in a single location.

One of the featured Million Dollar Salon vehicles, a 2017 Ferrari 488 owned by Griffin resident Ronnie Powers, boasts a paint job worth more than most entire vehicles themselves.

Named for its gem-like shine and pearl-tinted finish, Powers couldn't pass up an opportunity to own one of the few vehicles in the entire world with a Bianco Fuji paint job when he ordered his pride and joy on four wheels from the Italian manufacturer two years ago.

"It's one of the few that were ever painted that color, which is like a crushed-pearl paint job," said Powers. "It was \$27,000 extra to get that paint. It's expensive, and not many people will do it, but it was worth it for us."

Of course, you can't just order up a Bianco Fuji paint job from your local automotive dealer, so Powers was willing to wait a little longer to have his Ferrari done up just how he liked before it finally arrived on a ship to the U.S.

"The guy at Ferrari told me the dealership couldn't order it in that color and that it had to go somewhere else first," Powers said. "Basically, I had to wait an extra two months to get it, because Ferrari didn't do that paint there at the



Ronnie Powers' 2017 Ferrari 488 will be on display at Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama.

manufacturer in Italy. I had to go somewhere else.

"It's really pretty. I know Maserati has used that color or something similar too to it. It's a really pretty car, and it's got a lot of carbon fiber, which makes the white pop."

And despite a total price tag well into six figures, Powers isn't afraid to put the rubber to the road and enjoy the hot rod of his dreams.

"I think I've got 5,000 miles on it," said Powers. "We ordered it from Ferrari of Las Vegas, and it was shipped from Italy straight over to them. And then, we picked it up, and my wife and I drove to California in it and drove the Pacific Coast Highway. We've really had a chance to enjoy it."

"We've put a bunch of miles on it, which is unusual. Most people that have those cars don't drive them, and I don't know why. What's the point of having it if you don't drive it?"

In addition to the Million Dollar Salon, the Show Car Garage will transform the track's NASCAR Cup Series garage into a vast auto exhibit with dozens of highly valued cars representing nearly an entire century of automotive history.

Featured vehicles in 2018 will include six of the Great 8s from this year's prestigious Detroit AutoRama. The Great 8s are the eight final vehicles judged to be eligible for the coveted best-in-show "Ridler Award" at the annual auto show in Detroit. Each vehicle is widely considered to be among the most unique and well-built custom vehicles in the U.S. today.

Great 8s coming to the Atlanta Motorama include a 1934 Ford pick-up, a 1936 Pontiac sedan, a 1940 Ford Coupe and a 1956 Lincoln Continental Mark II, among others.

While rare and classic vehicles

are one of the most popular attractions at the Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama, they're just one of many motoring attractions and entertainment opportunities at the massive two-day festival. Autocross competitions, BIGFOOT® car-crushing demonstrations, a massive vendor midway, the Pull-A-Part swap meet, big rig displays, vintage trailers, Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Competitions and a dedicated kids zone are just a handful of attractions that make the Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama one of the country's largest motoring festivals of its kind.

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

Awards will be presented to hundreds of participants, and all participant entries will be eligible to win a portion of the nearly \$20,000 in cash and prizes handed out at the show. Registration is available online by visiting www.atlantamotorama.com.

Admission to Summit Racing Equipment Atlanta Motorama is \$12 per day. Kids ages 6 to 11 will be admitted for \$5, and kids ages 5 and under will be admitted for free. Camping at the speedway is available during the event, and full hook-up or dry camping can be reserved for the weekend. For more event information and to purchase tickets, contact the Atlanta Motor Speedway ticket office at (770) 946-4211, (877) 9-AMS-TIX or visit www.atlantamotorama.com.

Charlotte Motor Speedway
CONCORD, NC - Charlotte Motor Speedway will incorporate all

five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces in an unprecedented, spectacular pre-race Salute to the Troops before the 59th running of the Coca-Cola 600 on May 27.

This year's edition of the Memorial Day weekend celebration will highlight the Department of Defense's "This is Your Military" initiative by paying tribute to each of the military branches, featuring special guests and showcasing vehicles and awe-inspiring displays of military prowess from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Coast Guard. Fans and drivers will also get to #KnowYourMil through interactions with service members.

On race day, fans will be treated to aerial thrills and ground-shaking firepower as F-15 fighter jets and Blackhawk helicopters with a rappel team join Howitzers and Humvees in touring the iconic 1.5-mile superspeedway before NASCAR's biggest stars take the green flag.

"Charlotte Motor Speedway has a proud history of saluting our great nation's armed forces, but this year's pre-race show will be the biggest, most incredible one we've ever had," said Greg Walter, the executive vice president of Charlotte Motor Speedway. "We're thankful that so many of our local service members join us each year at America's Home for Racing to witness the awesome display of patriotism and racing excitement. Like the giant American flag we'll have at the race, I can't wait to see it unfold."

In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense, Charlotte Motor Speedway is executing "Mission 600," a series of visits by NASCAR drivers to regional military bases as a prelude to the Memorial Day weekend Salute to the Troops at the Coca-Cola 600. Among the drivers tentatively scheduled to appear are Brad Keselowski, the driver of the No. 2 Miller Lite Ford Fusion, at Naval Station Norfolk on April 19. Austin Dillon and the No. 3 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 pit crew will visit Fort Bragg on April 26, and Alex Bowman and the No. 88 Nationwide Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 pit crew will visit U.S. Coast Guard Station Wrightsville Beach on May 3. Darrell "Bubba" Wallace, the driver of the No. 43 U.S. Air Force Chevrolet Camaro ZL1, will head to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base on May 9. An additional visit to Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune is in the

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planning stages.

Drivers will learn about the inner workings of daily life in the U.S. Armed Forces through military training, exercises, facility tours and meetings with the men and women who bravely serve.

In addition to thousands of troops joining fans in the race-day festivities, ticketholders to the Coca-Cola 600 can enjoy a FREE

pre-race concert featuring the Grammy-nominated country music superstars Eli Young Band.

Through the speedway's "Patriot Partners" program, race fans or corporate customers can buy a Coca-Cola 600 race ticket for a member of the U.S. Armed Forces for just \$25.

TICKETS: Coca-Cola 600 tickets for adults start at just \$49 while kids 13 and under get in for \$10. Tickets, camping and upgrades for every 10 Days of NASCAR Thunder event are available at the gates, by visiting charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets or calling 1-800-455-FANS (3267).

KEEP TRACK: Fans can connect with Charlotte Motor Speedway by following on Twitter and Instagram or becoming a Facebook fan. Keep up with all the latest news and information with the Charlotte Motor Speedway mobile app.

KNOW YOUR MILITARY: Salute your military by sharing your connections and stories on social media using hashtag #KnowYourMil.

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - There are plenty of ways to support autism awareness during Dover International Speedway's upcoming May 4-6 NASCAR tripleheader weekend, which includes the "AAA 400 Drive for Autism" Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, May 6.

• Autism Delaware Track Walk; Saturday, May 5: The walk provides a rare opportunity to walk the Monster Mile with NASCAR drivers and personalities. The event begins with a kickoff at the Monster Monument at Victory Plaza, presented by Smithfield, after the "OneMain Financial 200" NASCAR Xfinity Series Dash 4 Cash race, which takes the green flag at 1:30

p.m.

Clint Bowyer, driver of the No. 14 Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing and Kenny Wallace, former Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series driver and Fox Sports personality, will be walking in the event.

Dover Mayor Robin R. Christiansen and Artie Kempner, a director with Fox Sports and the founding president of Autism Delaware, will also join the event, which will begin at the Monster Monument in Victory Plaza, presented by Smithfield. Riki Rachtman, the host of the nationally syndicated radio show "Racing Rocks" and a former MTV VJ, will emcee the kickoff.

To register for the Autism Delaware Track Walk, visit www.AAAdriveforautism.com.

• Autism Awareness Day at the Races; Sunday, May 6: For the seventh straight year, the Autism Awareness Day at the Races program provides families with a sensory-friendly environment to enjoy 400 laps at Dover during the "AAA 400 Drive for Autism" Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race.

Kevin Harvick, the driver of the No. 4 Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing and Joey Logano, driver of the No. 22 Ford for Team Penske, will be among the NASCAR drivers and personalities greeting guests during the event, which is a joint effort between Dover International Speedway and Autism Delaware. A portion of the proceeds support Autism Delaware.

Autism Awareness Day at the Races includes information booths with items of interest to families af-

ected by autism, a hot lunch buffet, non-alcoholic beverages and much more. As in years past, a reserved area near the grandstand seats will provide a quiet zone, with muted lighting and sound, allowing attendees to take a break from the race and crowds when necessary.

For more information on the Autism Awareness Day at the Races, or to order tickets, visit DoverSpeedway.com or call 800-441-RACE.

The May 4-6 NASCAR tripleheader weekend at Dover International Speedway also includes the "JEGS 200" NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race on Friday, May 4.

Keep up with the Monster Mile at Facebook.com/DoverInternationalSpeedway, or on Twitter and Instagram at @MonsterMile.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - A staple at Talladega Superspeedway, the patriotic Freedom Trophy will be presented to the winner of the April 29 GEICO 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race by United States Navy Commanding Officer at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Captain Christopher T. Martin.

This distinctive piece of hardware, introduced in the spring of 2014, features five-sided silver aluminum panels centered around a waterjet cut star. Each panel is engraved with a military member and logo from one of our nation's five military branches. It has been presented to Talladega Superspeedway winners in NASCAR's premier

series by members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Captain Martin enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1984, where he served as an Aviation Electronics Technician, Air Warfare qualified. He then attended Auburn University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Management. Upon graduation, he commenced his flight training, earning his "Wings of Gold" in July 1995.

Upon completion of further training, Captain Martin reported to the "Bluetails" of VAW-121 in 1996, where he deployed onboard the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) for her maiden voyage around the world. After successful tours with VAW-120 and VAW-124, he reported to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, completing Joint Professional Military Education Phase Two and earning a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in 2008.

After serving as an interagency representative for U.S. Southern Command in Washington, D.C., Captain Martin reported to the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL to serve as a military faculty member in the Leadership and Warfighting Department in 2014. His decorations include a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Strike/Flight Air Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and various units,

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through its Military & First Responders Appreciation ticket programs. For more information or questions about Military & First Responders Appreciation tickets, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/military.

For more information on the highly-anticipated weekend, featuring the General Tire 200 for the ARCA Racing Series, the

Sparks Energy 300 for the NASCAR Xfinity Series and GEICO 500, visit www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call 855-518-RACE (7223).

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - Delaware's most famous landmark was made whole again on Tuesday as the No. 10 Smithfield Ford Fusion was placed in the right hand of the Monster Monument at Victory Plaza, presented by Smithfield, during an event at Dover International Speedway.

About 150 NASCAR fans and media looked on as the team from First State Crane and Kent Construction lifted the No. 10 Smithfield Ford off the ground and secured it in the Monster Monument, the 46-foot statue that overlooks the fun and excitement during NASCAR events at Dover International Speedway.

Fans in attendance received Smithfield hats and coupons for their high-quality products. Smithfield is the presenting sponsor of the Monster Monument at Victory Plaza.

"It's good to see the Smithfield car back in the Monster Monument," said Mike Tatoian, Dover International Speedway's president and CEO. "The precision that First State Crane and Kent Construction use to put it in place - it's almost like watching a surgeon at work. This is really like a kickoff to our racing season, with a car back in the Monster Monument at Victory Plaza, presented by Smithfield."

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



The No. 10 Smithfield Ford Fusion was placed in the Monster Monument at Dover International Speedway. (DIS photo)

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 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.

The Monster Monument at Victory Plaza, presented by Smithfield, will also host a special event on Saturday, May 5 at 10:15 a.m., when a marquee plaque honoring Jeff Gordon is unveiled at the Monster Monument. Gordon will join Richard Petty, Bobby Allison and David Pearson as the only drivers with marquee plaques on the Monster Monument.

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.

Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, PA - Pocono Raceway will host a 'Selfie Session' with Alex Bowman, driver of the No. 88 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 for Hendrick Motorsports, on Saturday, June 2. Fans are invited to pre-register for this driver appearance, which replaces a traditional autograph session, and will be the first fan engagement event of its kind held at a track during a NASCAR race weekend.

For more information and to pre-register for the 'Selfie Session' with Alex Bowman, please visit

www.poconoraceway.com/selfiesesh.

"The 'Selfie Session' with Alex Bowman will be welcomed addition to our Pocono 400 race weekend activities," said Ben May, Pocono Raceway President. "Over the last several years, we have seen more and more fans stopping drivers for selfies instead of autographs. We are excited to have the commitment from Alex, as we test this new at-track, fan-driven experience together."

The 'Selfie Session' with Bowman will be open to the first 50 people to pre-register and will be held inside the Pocono Raceway Paddock area. Each pre-registered fan, along with up to three of their guests, will have the chance to take a group or solo selfie with Bowman. There is no cost for the session itself, but all pre-registered fans and their guests are required to have a Saturday Gate Admission Ticket and Pit/Paddock Pass due to the soon-to-be-announce event location. Each group will have the opportunity for one selfie and no autographs will be allowed, due to timing constraints.

The on-track events for Saturday, June 2 will include Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series practices, NASCAR Xfinity Series qualifying and the Pocono Green 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series race. Saturday Grandstand tickets start at \$25 and kids, ages 12 and under, are free. Tickets can be purchased by calling 1-80-722-3929 or by visiting www.poconoraceway.com/tickets.

Pocono Raceway will host seven motorsports events in 2018, including two Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races and the Verizon IndyCar Series. One NASCAR Xfinity Series, one Camping World Truck Series and

two ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards races are also on the schedule for 2018.

Toledo Speedway

TOLEDO, OH - On Armed Forces Day (Saturday, May 19), Toledo Speedway will honor all active and retired military personnel with free admission in conjunction with Brad Keselowski's Checkered Flag Foundation, which was created to honor and assist veterans who have sacrificed for our country.

The May 19 on-track activities include practice and General Tire Pole Award qualifying for the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards, along with practice, qualifying and racing for the Toledo Speedway ARCA Aramark Sportsman racecars. The Menards 200 for the ARCA Racing Series runs at 2:00 p.m. EDT on Sunday, May 20.

Armed Forces Day is a federal holiday observed annually on the third Saturday of May. It is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces. Those who are honored on this day include people serving in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve. Armed Forces Day was first celebrated in 1950, at the direction of then-U.S. Secretary of Defense, Louis Johnson.

"I'm really glad ARCA is dedicating this event to our nation's military members and I'm honored the Checkered Flag Foundation is involved," said Keselowski. "A few of my family members have served, and giving back to those who make great sacrifices for our county is something that's very important to me. Toledo Speedway is one of my favorite racetracks in the whole world, so it's great that we can support the community together on this special day."

Toledo Speedway will honor United States Armed Forces personnel with recognition during Saturday's pre-race ceremonies, which will include a live performance of the National Anthem by US Navy veteran, and ARCA Racing Series team member, Jimmy Fallon. The Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard will have recruiters on site to help answer questions about service.

In addition to free admission on May 19, military personnel who purchase a \$25 race-day ticket for Sunday, May 20 will receive a \$10 discount if the ticket is purchased on Saturday at the speedway. Finally, United States Armed Forces

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men and women in attendance will be exclusively eligible for merchandise courtesy of Brad Keselowski's Checkered Flag Foundation.

For more information on racing at Toledo Speedway, please visit www.toledospeedway.com or call (419) 727-1100.

For more information on Brad Keselowski's Checkered Flag Foundation, visit www.checkeredflagfoundation.org and follow on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Like Huey Lewis and the News, Speedway Motorsports, Inc. officials have decided it's hip to be Square, by implementing a new point of sale system at concessions stands. Teaming up with Square continues Speedway Motorsports' "FANS FIRST" commitment by saving race fans valuable time and making their trips for food and beverages during race weekends much more efficient.

Cash-only stands are giving way to newer innovations at Speedway Motorsports' eight world-class facilities. Thanks to Square's innovative technology, simple design, and fast payments processing, race fans can use their credit cards at concession stands in a process that on average takes five seconds or less – saving fans the need to dig cash out in a hurry to get back to watching the race.

In addition to accepting major credit cards, concessions stands will also accept Apple Pay and Google Pay. The system debuted to positive reviews from fans as well as concessionaires. Square will also be in place for other major events at Speedway Motorsports-owned tracks.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Fans looking to "gear-up" to showcase the support of their favorite driver and track can do so by visiting the more than a dozen Fanatics mobile trailers that will be in Talladega Superspeedway's Fan Zone during the track's upcoming April 27-29 race weekend.

Fanatics is the largest retailer of officially licensed sports merchandise and offers an easy trackside

shopping experience for fans, with a large product selection of hundreds of items featuring the majority of NASCAR drivers as well as Talladega Superspeedway specific items.

In addition to the Fanatics mobile trailers, Talladega's Fan Zone will offer families a host of fun, music, dozens of activities and interactive exhibits that showcase a multitude of companies involved in the sport. The Fan Zone will be open all three days, 8:00 a.m. (CDT) until the drop of the green flag, which will consist of the General Tire 200 (Friday, April 27) for the ARCA Racing Series Presented by Menards, the Sparks Energy 300 (Saturday, April 28) for the NASCAR Xfinity Series and the GEICO 500 (Sunday, April 29) for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series.

The Fan Zone is located outside the frontstretch near Turn 4, and includes a wide selection for championship drivers like Jimmie Johnson, Brad Keselowski, Kevin Harvick, Martin Truex, Jr., and Kyle Busch as well as "young guns" like Erik Jones, Ryan Blaney, Chase Elliott, and Alabama native, Darrell "Bubba" Wallace, Jr.

Race fans can take their time and browse comfortably through the area and grab all their race-day needs, including a headset radio from Racing Electronics. The fan-friendly exhibits and activities include racing simulators, show cars, a pit stop challenge, selfie stations, and opportunities to win prizes. More than 25 companies will have displays and will feature a wide array of things for families to do.

Dover International Speedway

DOVER, DE - Combining a traditional concession stand staple with a Delmarva Peninsula foodie favorite, Dover's Delmarva Dog is just one of the many great food offerings NASCAR fans can expect when they visit the track for our May 4-6 tripleheader weekend.

The Delmarva Dog includes a juicy hot dog served in a split top bun, topped with fire roasted corn, cheese sauce and (in a special Delmarva twist) crab meat. Served with tasty Old Bay potato chips, each Delmarva Dog order will cost \$10.

Dover's Delmarva Dog will be found in the following areas around the Monster Mile during the May 4-6 tripleheader weekend:

- Main concessions area in Victory Plaza
- North Grandstand near Gate 15
- South Grandstand near Gate 4

In addition, some popular food trucks and concession stands from throughout the mid-Atlantic region will be offering tasty treats around the grounds. The businesses involved include:

- Smoke, Rattle & Roll Food Truck, The Hangout, May 5-6 only: Offers tacos, nachos, mac and cheese and BBQ sandwiches with topping options of chicken, pork or brisket.

- Sherri's Crab Cakes, Across from Gate 2: More than 1 million crab cakes sold, made with lump and jumbo lump crab meat along with special spices.

- One Big Party BBQ, Across from Gate 2: Offers pulled pork sandwiches, beef brisket, smoked sausage, chicken legs, BBQ beans, cole slaw.

- H&H Concessions, Near Gate 3: Offers chicken pitas, lamb pitas, funnel cakes, ices.

- Buntings Popcorn, Near Gate 3: Offers kettle corn, movie popcorn, pretzel dogs and cotton candy.

Dover International Speedway concession stands will also feature new and traditional dishes, perfect treats for the built-in breaks that come with NASCAR's stage racing format.

The food selections include:

- Loaded Mac & Cheese, Outside Gates 2 & 3: Smoked BBQ pulled pork served over creamy mac and cheese.

- Loaded Fries, Outside Gates 2 & 3: French fries topped with BBQ pulled pork, jalapeno cheese and crispy bacon.

- Loaded Nachos, Outside Gates 2 & 3: Tortilla chips topped with seasoned beef, jalapeno cheese, lettuce, salsa, sliced jalapenos and sour cream.

- The Walking Taco, Outside Gates 2 & 3: Seasoned ground beef, choice of Doritos or Fritos, cheese sauce, lettuce, salsa, sour cream, sliced jalapenos.

"We will always maintain our traditional food menu, but we are constantly exploring innovative choices for our fans to enjoy during their visit to the Monster Mile," said Mike Tatoian, president and CEO of Dover International Speedway. "Everyone should bring their appetite May 4-6 and be ready to try all of these tasty treats!"

Pocono Raceway
LONG POND, PA
- Pocono Raceway has selected 29 indi-

viduals who will make up the 2018-2019 Pocono Raceway Fan Council class. The new class will serve a two-year terms as they assist the Raceway to improve the overall fan experience for race fans both at and away from the track.

"The Fan Council was established in 2013 and all members have played a vital role in our success these last five years," said Ben May, Pocono Raceway President. "The Fan Council assisted us with the creation of our Worry Free Weather Guarantee, as well as other policies and procedures geared at bettering the overall fan experience. This year's class has a solid mix of first-time and returning fan council members. Together, this group will help us in our goal of becoming the most beloved motor-sports facility."

For more details about the Pocono Raceway Fan Council, including additional information about the newest members listed below, please visit www.poconoraceway.com/fancouncil.

2018-2019 Pocono Raceway Fan Council Members: Michael Blount (Stroudsburg, PA), Lisa Chanana (Solon, OH), Matthew Dorniak (West Milford, NJ), William Ferdinandsen (Ossining, NY), Sara Ferguson (Stroudsburg, PA), Dillon Gaudet (Buckhannon, WV), Sharon Gerhart (Kunkletown, PA), John Ginder (Temple, PA), Carleen Henderson (Schenevus, NY), Tracey Jumper (Kingston, PA), Ryan Knox (Gilbertsville, PA), Jason Leistman (Wantagh, NY), Lynn Marks (Honesdale, PA), Andrea Masisak (Morrisville, PA), Scott McIsaac (Perth, Ontario, Canada), Kevin Moser (Lancaster, PA), Daniel Muir (Saylorsburg, PA), Robert Nebinger (Albrightsville, PA), Amanda Palazzo (Hawley, PA), Ron Parry (Toms River, NJ), Stephen Planisky (Pocono Lake, PA), Jim Pokrivsak (Nazareth, PA), Gene Salvatore (Southbury, CT), Edward Sheets (Johnstown, PA), Kevin Stopinski (Milford, NJ), Scott Townsend (Phoenix, MD), Shawn VanWhy (East Stroudsburg, PA), Deb Wentzel (Sinking Spring, PA), Eric Whitman (Groton, PA)



Bowman Gray Stadium

WINSTON SALEM-NC - The opening weekend at Bowman Gray Stadium put defending champion Burt Myers to the test. But over 200 laps later, Myers showed that he was up for the challenge.

The weekend started with qualifying for the Hayes Jewelers 200 on Friday. Myers turned the fastest lap for the Brad's Golf

Cars Modified Series and was set to start on the pole on Saturday. "You want to come out here and make your mark the first race of the year. This is the biggest race," said Myers on Friday. "Hopefully this can set the tone for your season. Last year we were able to win this race and come away with the championship. Hopefully if we can continue that pattern, we'll set the pace this year too."

Starting beside Myers was rival Tim Brown of Tobaccoville, with Brandon Ward of Winston-Salem starting the race in third. Ward leaped up to second place during the first few laps and set his sights on passing Myers for the lead.

For 11 double-file restarts, Ward took to the outside. But he couldn't make the pass stick. "Track position means a lot over here, and Burt - he's been a great car all weekend. I feel like we've had two of the best cars - us and him," said Ward. "We battled door to door there on a couple of them but I just couldn't ever get him cleared."

While Ward and Myers were battling up front, wrecks were creating havoc throughout the rest of the field. Tim Brown collided with Bobby Measmer of Concord as they fought for third. Brown also was caught on the slick outside groove and collided with the guard rail. But turning the night around, Brown was able to steer back up to a third place finish. Chris Fleming of Mount Airy at one point fought up to second place. He bumped into Measmer, sending him spinning. Fleming then later collided with Jonathan Brown of Winston-Salem in a thunderous impact.

Burt Myers went on to take the checkered, while Ward finish behind him in second. "I had to work my butt off man, I'll tell you. Brandon and his car were probably a little bit better than we were, but I was still able to maintain position.



Burt Myers cheering in Winner's Circle after winning the Hayes Jewelers 200. (ERIC HYLTON PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

He never went away. I really thought that I was going to ease away from him, and he just stayed right there," said Myers.

Tim Brown finished in third. Frank Fleming of Mount Airy took fourth. The Texas Steak & Tap House Sportsman Series put on a show. Michael Adams of Yadkinville, Derek Stoltz of Walkertown, and John Holleman of Winston-Salem traded the lead back and forth. But while Holleman and Stoltz battled for the top spot, Dylan Ward slipped inside and stole the lead and the win away.

Billy Gregg of Lexington won in a packed 28-car field for the Law Offices of John Barrow Street Stock Series. And in the Q104.1 Stadium Stock Series, Chase Hunt of Lexington and Wesley Thompson of Advance each brought home a victory.

Caraway Speedway

Starting with next Friday night, April 27th Lowder Construction Night at the Races, "Russell Hackett's Fun Friday's" are back at Caraway Speedway. The program returns for the first time since 2010 and will be named in honor of Russell Hackett, the late promoter of Caraway Speedway who started the program during the 2000's before handing the reigns of the track to his son Darren.

The second generation promoter is looking to give the fans and teams what they've asked for while also helping to rebuild car counts and dwindling fan counts.

"Everyone has been asking for

cheaper admission prices, so as a promoter I think it's time to deliver," said Hackett. "With the current state of racing and almost every track struggling to get cars, teams, and fans in the gates, it's time for a change in the way we do business. What we were doing wasn't working, so we must revamp our program to keep the track open and get people back to the track to enjoy this sport."

General admission tickets will be lowered to \$10 for adults and the pit pass prices will drop to \$25 for NASCAR Licensed members and \$35 for non-members. The on-track program will also be changed to offer the fan and the racer more on track activity. Twin features will headline Fun Friday's with Limited Late Models, Sportsman, Chargers, Mini Stocks and U-Cars all racing twice each night.

"We can all see that since the late 1990's or early 2000's the stock car racing industry and especially short track racing has seen a steady decline in attendance and participation. We've got to adapt to make both of those flourish and we're ready to start doing that now."

Dates for the Fun Friday program will be April 27th, May 11th, May 18th, June 1st, June 15th, June 22nd and July 20th.

Hackett is also trimming and streamlining the show so that fans can be home at a decent hour. Races will start at 8pm on Friday nights and are expected to be over by 10:30pm with all 10 feature races being completed.

"We're going to deliver a product

that fans and teams will be happy with. No spending all night at the track and prices that don't break the bank. Now we need the fans and the teams to do their part and come and support the show or eventually, there won't be a race track for them to enjoy the sport they love."

In addition to the lowered general admission tickets, Hackett is also giving fans two nights that will be just \$5 to get in the gate. Those races will take place on June 1st and July 20th.

"We want the fans and teams to know we appreciate them and without them, there's no need to open the gate. First and foremost we want to be a very driver, team, and fan-friendly facility."

Lowder Construction Night at the Races on April 27th, which is the next race on the schedule, will begin the new program.

For more information on Caraway Speedway, visit their newly redesigned website at www.CarawaySpeedway.com or visit them on Facebook at @caraway.speedway. You can also call the track office at 336.629.5803.2

Dodge City Raceway Park

DODGE CITY, KS - Mother Nature continues her domination of Dodge City Raceway Park in 2018 with Saturday's scheduled event atop the 3/8-mile clay oval in southwest Kansas postponed due to inclement weather.

With forecasts of excessive rain and frigid temperatures, Saturday's Sixth Annual Modified Stampede has been rescheduled for Saturday night, May 19. The event will feature a \$750 winner's share for IMCA Modifieds with Precise Racing Products DCRP Sprint Cars, IMCA Sport Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars and IMCA Hobby Stocks in action as well.

With the opener nixed for a third consecutive time, Dodge City Raceway Park will now kick off the 2018 season on Saturday night, May 5, with a full card of championship chase action.

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.

Kingsport Speedway

KINGSPORT, TN - The calendar shows it's spring in Northeast Tennessee and throughout the day-time Friday the sun was brightly shining with temperature in the low 60s. Once darkness arrived the temperature quickly dropped and was on the chilly side, but the action at Kingsport Speedway for Model City Night at the Races was heated.

Derrick Lancaster of Christiansburg, Va., captured the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Late Model Stock Car victory, while Kevin Wolfe of Abingdon, Va., recorded the Modified Street win,

John Ketron of Kingsport double-dipped in winning twin Pure 4 features, while Brad Ball of Abingdon recorded the Mod 4 victory, with Rob Austin of Castlewood, Va., capturing the Pure Street win.

Zeke Shell was fastest in Late Model Stock Car qualifying at 14.923 seconds, but with an invert of the top four from time trials Mike Looney and Nik Williams led the 19-car field to green from the front row.

Looney got the advantage over Williams on the start and as they raced down the front straightaway into the first turn, Looney got out of shape and slid up the track between turns one and two, stacking the field up behind him and allowing the third-starting Lancaster to take the lead. Lancaster held the

lead back around at the flag stand to complete the opening lap over Looney, Wayne Hale, Ronnie McCarty and Kres VanDyke.

VanDyke drove under McCarty for the fourth spot on lap 12 racing off the second corner and immediately began pressuring Hale for third, while at the same time Shell was working McCarty over trying to wrestle fifth away from him. VanDyke passed Hale on lap 20 racing off the fourth turn and right behind them Shell drove around McCarty.

Second-running Looney unexpectedly slowed with mechanical issues on lap 24 and headed into the pits to end a strong run, thus moving VanDyke right behind Lancaster. The event's first caution waved on lap 29 for debris (right-front fender from Shell's car) on the backstretch.

Lancaster and VanDyke were side-by-side for the double-file restart, with VanDyke taking the lead while opening the door for Shell to pass Lancaster for second place. Behind VanDyke, Shell and Lancaster, battles were taking place for position involving McCarty, Hale, Robbie Ferguson, Williams, Williams, Derek Lane, Bryson Dennis, Trey Bayne, Joey Trent and Darin Silver.

With the race running clean-and-green, VanDyke pulled out to a 10 car-length advantage over Shell and Lancaster at lap 50 and appeared headed to victory lane. However, caution waved on lap 52 for debris to erase his lead.

VanDyke chose the outside for the ensuing double-file restart, placing Shell on the inside. As the duo raced down the front straight-

away, Shell's car failed to turn on the cold concrete surface and he locked the brakes up getting into VanDyke's left-rear quarter panel, with both cars spinning and also McCarty was involved, while the whole field had to take evasive action.

VanDyke, Shell and McCarty dropped to the back for the next restart, which immediately produced waving of the yellow flag as cars back in the field jammed together and the 14-year-old Bayne climbed up the side of Trent and sailed over the left-front fender and hood.

It's said in racing that cautions breed cautions, and indeed that scenario played out at "The Concrete Jungle" as the flagman kept the yellow flag close at hand.

The next attempt to get back under green saw Lancaster take the lead over Hale and Ferguson. VanDyke passed Ferguson for third on lap 53, and the following circuit entering the first turn VanDyke got into Hale's left-rear quarter panel sending the veteran spinning. Both Hale and VanDyke were sent to the rear for the restart.

Only two laps back green flag racing, on lap 56 between turns one and two rookies Dennis and Bayne tangled and spun to bring what would be the final caution out.

The stage was set for a three-lap shootout for the win, and Lancaster came out firing to hold back the hard-charging Ferguson for the victory. However, in post-race technical inspection Ferguson's car failed due to a carburetor infraction. With that decision rounding out the top five finishers behind winner Lancaster were Trent, Shell, Hale

and McCarty.

Completing the top 10 finishers were VanDyke, Terry Smith, Williams, Lane and Silver.

Trey Lane jumped into the lead of the 30-lap Modified Street feature at the start over Chase Dixon and Nick Cole. However, the trio of Cole, Kevin Wolfe and Royce Peters quickly worked their way past the teenage Dixon.

Cole passed Lane for the lead on lap 8 between turns three and four, which also opened the door for Wolfe to overtake Lane for position. Racing up off (turn) two on lap 9, Wolfe flexed his muscle to pass Cole and move to the point. Defending divisional champion Peters was up on the wheel and worked his way into second place on lap 17, with his sights set ahead on leader Wolfe.

Even though Peters stuck the nose of his machine underneath Wolfe on several occasions racing off the corners, each time Wolfe slammed the door shut to maintain his advantage out front. Wolfe captured the win over Peters, Lane, Cole and Dixon.

The Pure 4 division ran twin 15-lap features, with a 24-car field taking the green flag in the first race. John Ketron moved into the lead on lap 9 and remained on the point to the finish in winning over Dylan Bates, Kenny Absher, Brandon Sutherland and Bruce Crumbley.

In the second feature Sutherland paced the field until a late race caution set up a wild scramble to decide the outcome among several drivers. Both John Ketron and Absher powered their way around Sutherland off the double-file restart, and while Absher stayed glued to the elder Ketron's rear bumper he was unable to get around him for the lead. John Ketron won over Absher, Sutherland, Bates and Billy Ketron.

Kevin Canter (Mod 4 champion in 2016 and '17) and Brad Ball battled up front throughout the 30-lap Mod 4 feature before Canter took the lead with 10 laps remaining. Canter went on to record an apparent victory, but his car failed post-race technical inspection due to a carburetor infraction. ... Ball was awarded his second consecutive victory to start the season, followed by David Brown, Carey Brown, Billy Duty and Chris Amburgey.

Rob Austin grabbed the lead from David Strong off a late race restart and once out front Austin cruised to his second straight win. Austin was chased to the checkered flag by Strong, Kevin Darnell, Jay Swecker and Ricky Payne.



Brian Lancaster celebrates in Kingsport Speedway's victory lane Friday night. (RANDALL PERRY photo)

Rockford Speedway

After last week-end's postponement and with no viable option in sight for a reschedule date, the 2018 Spring Classic at Rockford Speedway has officially been cancelled.

The cancellation marks just the third in 41 years that Spring Classic has been shelved, joining the 2014 and 2009 versions of the event, both bagged by subpar weather conditions.

The occasion also marks just the fifth time since 2004 (107 events) that a Big 8 Late Model Series event has been cancelled.

The 2018 Big 8 Late Model Series now becomes a seven race chase, as the season opens Friday night June 1 at Hawkeye Downs in Cedar Rapids Iowa with 'Clash at the Downs IV.'

Rockford Speedway is set to finally open it's gates for a 71st season this Saturday night April 21 with the Mountain Dew Season Opener, featuring the Stanley Steemer NASCAR Late Models.

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

Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINGSGROVE, PA - Mark Smith of Sunbury held off the hard-charging Freddie Rahmer of Salfordville for the victory in Sunday night's suspenseful 30-lap Ray Tilley Classic for 410 sprint cars at Selinsgrove Speedway.

For Smith, driving the Mach 1 Chassis/Optilumen No. 1M, the \$4,088 win was his first of the season in central Pennsylvania and fourth overall. He was the fifth different driver to receive the custom crystal cup trophy presented by the Tilley family for winning the tribute race honoring the memory of the speedway's former four-time sprint car champion.

The win was Smith's first in a 410 sprint car at Selinsgrove since 2003. He holds the distinction as the only driver to have won in four different classes of open wheel cars at the track, including super sportsman, 358 sprint cars, 360 sprint cars, and 410 sprint cars.

Greg Hodnett of York was the night's Fast Tees Fast Qualifier with a lap time of 15.849 (120 MPH av-

erage), nearly eclipsing Daryn Pittman's 2011 track record of 15.810, on the track's new red clay surface.

Kyle Bachman of Selinsgrove inherited the lead from opening night winner Tommy Slanker of York and went on to win the 15-lap pro stock main event.

Keith Bissinger of Orangeville scored his first win of the season in the 12-lap roadrunner feature by holding off last week's winner Ryan Zook of Mifflintown.

Selinsgrove Speedway is back in action at 7 p.m. this Saturday, April 28, with the 360 sprint cars, super late models, pro stocks in the A&A Auto Stores Pro Stock 20, and roadrunners. Pit gates will open at 4 p.m. with grandstand gates at 5 p.m.

Polesitter Gerard McIntyre pulled into the lead at the start of the 410 sprint car feature and was chased by second-place starter TJ Stutts until third-place starter Steve Buckwalter advanced to second entering turn three.

On lap four, Buckwalter's car blew a tire on the frontstretch, causing the Royersford driver to get sideways in turn one. When his car rolled over it was struck by Jason Shultz's sprinter. Both drivers escaped injury.

When the race resumed on lap five, McIntyre held a solid lead over fifth-place starter Mark Smith, Stutts, and fourth-place starter Freddie Rahmer. The race was slowed again on lap 10 when Blane Heimbach's car rolled to a stop on the backstretch with a flat tire. Heimbach rejoined the field.

Smith made the winning pass using the inside lane entering turn one on the lap 11 restart. A lap later Rahmer moved into second after getting by McIntyre in turn 3. On the 14th lap, Heimbach's car stopped on the frontstretch with mechanical issues.

At the halfway point, an intense multi-car battle unfolded for positions in the top five between Stutts, Hodnett, McIntyre, and 12th place starter Brock Zearfoss. When Zearfoss drove to the outside in turns three and four his car got sideways and struck the outside guardrail, ending his drive to the front and chances of a three-win weekend.

The final 10 laps saw Smith set the pace in front of Rahmer, Stutts, Hodnett and ninth-place starter Lucas Wolfe. In the closing laps, the leaders began to encounter slower traffic, allowing Rahmer to reel in Smith. At the checkered flag, Smith was victorious by .51 of a second in a close finish with Rah-

mer. Stutts, Hodnett, and Wolfe rounded out the top five.

In the season's second pro stock feature, polesitter Tommy Slanker powered into the early lead over fourth-place starter AJ Hoffman and second-place starter Brandon Moser. On the foreboding 13th circuit, misfortune struck Slanker's racer and allowed by fourth-place starter AJ Hoffman to lead the next lap.

With two laps remaining, third-place starter Kyle Bachman made an inside pass by Hoffman on the frontstretch to take the lead. Bachman went on to win the race by just .57 of a second over Moser, Slanker, Andrew Shoop, and Shaun Lawton.

Defending co-champion Will Brunson started on the pole in the roadrunner feature and held off co-champion and sixth-place starter Keith Bissinger for the first five laps before Bissinger took command of the field during a three-wide race in turn two on the sixth circuit.

While Bissinger set the pace, third-place starter Ryan Zook and Brunson remained in striking distance. At the checkered flag, Bissinger was victorious by the slimmest of margins over Zook, Brunson, Smith Cope, and Jake Jones.

Wake County Speedway

RALEIGH, NC - Zachary Marks led wire-to-wire in Friday night's Camco Landscaping Season Opener at Wake County Speedway in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The 26-year-old from Angier, North Carolina and 2016 track champion passed pole-sitter Eric Winslow on the first lap of the 60 lap Metal Deports Late Model feature and never looked back. Behind him, a frantic battle for second took place throughout much of the race, but Marks was relieved the action was behind him.

"I'm just glad everything was behind us," Marks said in victory lane. "It seems like every race we've run, something halfway through goes wrong and costs us the race but this time, something finally fell our way. We spent, from the last race last year to now, preparing the car this year and it looks like it paid off."

Eric Winslow, making his first career Wake County Speedway start, fell back to the fourth position at one point in the race but reclaimed the second position with a brave move with around 20 laps to go. As Cory Walker and Thomas Chappell battled for the second position, Winslow drove to the inside and,

with a three-wide pass, took the position and drove away.

"It just kind of fell in my lap there," Winslow said. "I would say this was a pretty good trip for our first time to Wake County. Definitely it's a tough track to get a hold of. It's a fun track to drive. I'm really glad we came. Just didn't have enough there at the end. I kind of used my stuff up trying to get back through the field, but for our first time at Wake County, I'm really happy."

Walker and Chappell were in a perpetual state of battle for position, first for second, then for third, for much of the race. Walker ended up taking the spot while Chappell settled for fourth and Stephen Ford came home fifth.

TJ Dillon scored the victory in the Mini-Stock feature over Don Frantz and Aaron Champion. Dillon survived a late race challenge from Frantz to come away with the victory.

"We had a good car," Dillon said. "It probably wasn't the best in the world. Don had a good car and [Jeremy Ottaway] had a good car. We were just trying to make everything work and me and Don got together. I ain't exactly sure what happened over there in turn one. It escalated from there. Don't poke the old man because the old man pokes back."

Cameron Murray scored the victory in the Bandolero division over Ethan Johnson and Kaleb Bradley, Will Bristle won in Legends over Justin Mitchell and Jason Austin, and Chad Williams scored the victory in Bombers over Steven Best and Brandon Ennis.

The next race at Wake County Speedway will be on Friday, May 11th with Late Models, Mini-Stocks, Legends, Bandoleros, Bombers and Mod-4s.



Zachary Marks celebrates in Wake County Speedway's victory lane. (ANDY MARQUIS photo)