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FastTrack

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Truex Dominates Martinsville in Style



Todd Gilliland Wins His First Truck Race

Just Another Day at Martinsville Speedway

Joey Logano poked Denny Hamlin in the chest Sunday and the two wrestled on pit road before their crews and NASCAR officials broke them up.

Aric Almirola vowed to be Kyle Busch's biggest obstacle in the final three races of the season.

And Ryan Blaney suggested their will be pay-back for the way one of his Penske Racing teammates raced against him.

In short, it was just another day at the office at the Martinsville Speedway.

How can a place so small create such a headache for drivers in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series? Easy. It's what short-track racing the way it was intended – a high-speed game of King of the Hill, where punches generally are delivered with bumpers.

Add the fact it's the first race of the third round in the playoffs, and tempers grow shorter and knuckles turn white.

All of the side stories made it easier to overlook the overwhelming, and thoroughly mind-numbing dominance of Martin Truex Jr. He led 464 of 500 laps, which made it easier, if not necessary, to turn the attention elsewhere. There were a lot of dented fenders and feelings well behind Truex's rear bumper.

The first big crash came when Almirola and Busch tangled. Jimmie Johnson was an innocent victim in the melee, but a last-place finish did little to ease the agony of a season that's gone horribly awry.

"We just got together. I got inside of him (Kyle Busch) getting down in turn three and he chopped me, and I got in his left-rear and moved him up a little bit and got inside of him, and then we hooked and got tangled up off of [Turn] 4," Almirola said. "It's disappointing. I had a really good Smithfield Ford Mustang and felt like we were maybe one adjustment away from being maybe a second or third-place car, so I'm proud of my guys, proud of the effort and we've got three more weeks.

"He chopped me getting down into [Turn] 3. We've got three more

weeks and I'm going to make it hell for him."

Busch laughed when he said: "Sounds good."

Blaney's toughest competition came from his teammates, Logano and Brad Keselowski. He was knocked out of the way a couple times, which should make this year's Christmas party very interesting.



DON COBLE

"The one with the 2 [Keselowski], he kind of dove in there late. He gave me the spot back, actually, so that was nice of him," Blaney said. "The 22 [Logano] just hit me five times as soon as he got to me. He tried to pass me for five laps and then he just started running me over, so I didn't appreciate

that. But all of that stuff comes around. It's just part of Martinsville racing."

Exactly.

Logano and Hamlin took their disagreement all the way into the garage area. Hamlin squeezed Logano into the wall in the closing laps, and the contact sent Logano to pit road with a flat tire. After the race Logano found Hamlin on pit road and demanded an explanation. He ended the terse conversation with a hard poke in Hamlin's chest.

Game on.

"I got close off of Turn 4. It looks like we got together, and it looks like collateral damage," Hamlin said. "He blew a tire. I mean, he would probably say, 'Oh, short track racing.' We were having a discussion, everything was civil, and then like Joey does, he does a little push and then runs away. So that's Joey. Scared. He said, 'Do you want to go?' I said, 'Yes, I'm here.' But then he runs away."

Not before Hamlin is knocked to the ground by crewmen.

"I honestly just wanted to see what he was going to say, and he really wasn't apologetic at all," Logano said. "That's more frustrating when someone is like that, isn't it? When someone wrecks you and he's like, that's not really what I was going for there. I just wanted to see what his thoughts were, and it wasn't quite the answer I was looking for.

"Just the playoffs. It just happens. It's part of it. Emotions run high."



What will come next? Denny Hamlin (left) and Joey Logano (right) had a confrontation after the Martinsville race. Things went too far, so what is to come in Texas? (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY)

Much like he did all day Sunday, Truex easily drove away from any controversy.

"Without being on that track, it's hard to feel what guys are putting on the line and how hard they're driving their cars and all those type of things," he said. "I mean, I just feel like every year I've been in this playoff format it's gotten more difficult. It's gotten – it just seems like every year somehow people turn up the intensity even more, and I don't know how that's possible. I think this year some of it's the rules

package, and especially on some of the bigger tracks with the four and five wide restarts and things like that that play into what we're doing. Just feel like there's a lot more intensity. There's a lot more on the line anymore, I guess."

And it's only going to get worse.

***NASCAR ruled that Joey Logano's crewman Dave Nichols Jr., has been suspended for the next MENCs race at Texas for "Member to member contact with physical violence".**

As the Season Winds Down, Let's Go Racing

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The changes that FasTrack Racing Journal made in 2015 have been successful. FasTrack is now available online only. We are covering all the racing series, off track news and other features that you have grown to love. We now bring you all the news in a weekly format throughout the racing season.

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 TODD GILLILAND - MATT SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Short Track + Playoffs = Emotions

The timing was perfect. The Fall NASCAR weekend at Martinsville Speedway came at just the right time. And, the final short track race on the 2019 schedule for the top divisions of NASCAR certainly didn't disappoint.

The NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series always packs a lot of drama, excitement, and controversy when they compete on the .5-mile Virginia short track. Adding the pressure of the first race in the final three-race playoff bracket to determine the final four for Homestead was "icing on the cake" for the fans.

Martinsville Speedway has always provided race fans an exciting battle for the coveted grandfather clock that goes to the victor of each race. This year, the clock was beautiful as ever, but the first guaranteed spot in the "final four" at Homestead was the "real prize". Winning at Martinsville is on every driver's "Bucket List". A victory at the "paperclip" is one thing, just surviving is another!

To survive Martinsville means a lot of luck and being in the right place at the right time. Much like superspeedway race at Daytona and Talladega, a competitor can see his season or a championship go up in smoke for being caught up in a multi-car accident that was no fault of their own.

Or, Martinsville is often the track where "payback" is felt by competitors. In my many years of racing, I am certain of one thing – a racer has an excellent memory. Now, I'm not talking about remembering the proper setup for your car or a preferred line around the track. I'm referring to "on-track incidents" that may have occurred earlier in the season. Oftentimes, one or more of drivers involved in incidents choose to "payback" their unfortunate mishap at the final short track race of the season – Martinsville.

How many of you recall the incident between Joey Logano and Matt Kenseth several years ago? An incident in an earlier race at Kansas with Logano eliminated

Kenseth from championship contention. When Martinsville rolled around, Kenseth took his frustration out on Logano entering turn one. Kenseth literally drove the #22 of Logano into the first turn wall and continued to push him until both cars suffered race-ending damage.

Last lap finishes are historic at Martinsville too. Who remembers Chase Elliott and Denny Hamlin battling for the win? How about Joey Logano and Martin Truex Jr. last fall beating and banging on the last turn for the win? And, the action is not confined to the last lap either.

Sunday's race was just another example why race fans flock to the Martinsville track twice a year for the NASCAR races. The on-track incidents are often very competitive and entertaining, but

not as much as the driver's comments after the race.

An incident racing for position between Kyle Busch and Aric Almirola in the final stage brought an interesting comment from the driver of the #10 car. Almirola said, "We've got three more weeks, and I'm going to make it hell for him (Kyle Busch)."

Then, another incident caused a major disagreement after the race. Joey Logano and Denny Hamlin got together exiting turn four near the end of the race. Logano scraped the wall with the right side

of his car. Actually, both cars received damage, but rallied to finish in the top ten.

After the checkered flag, Hamlin and Logano met on pit lane to discuss the incident. What appeared to be a somewhat civil conversation certainly didn't end that way. As they were concluding their chat, Logano pushed Hamlin on the shoulder and walked away. Hamlin, not amused by Logano's actions, chased after him and the pushing, shoving, and swinging began. Crew members were quickly involved separating the driver's while expressing their feelings to other crewmembers. Officials were able to restore order, but not before more feelings were pushed to the limit.

Joey Logano commented on the incident, "It ruined our day (the on-track incident), our shot to win for sure. It's frustrating and there's a lot of passion out there."

Denny Hamlin had a thought as well, "Like Joey does, he does a little push and runs away."

Keep in mind these are two of the eight remaining title contenders for the MECS title. Both Hamlin and Logano are above the cut line and make the final four if Homestead was next week. But, Texas and Phoenix remain before that title race. Did I mention earlier that drivers have great memory power?

I also found the comments of the television broadcasting team about the race and the aftermath entertaining.

"The action on the racetrack has always been heated, but now it seems to carry over – the frustration of the year, the pressure of the playoffs, what's on the line. You heard the fans. These fans at Mar-

tinsville come here and expect chaos-type atmosphere, and it delivers time after time," Steve Letarte commented.

Kyle Petty put the Logano-Hamlin pit road altercation in proper context, "I'm going to call it a shoving match. I'm not going to call it a fight. Don't put your hands on me." Petty added that putting your hands on a fellow competitor is a "no-no" and will lead to more aggressive action.

Rick Allen added, "We know that when you come to Martinsville, it's close quarters, tempers are high, but then you take the tempers and escalate it because of the playoffs. We know that a spot in the Championship Four is on the line."

Perhaps Dale Earnhardt Jr. had the best statement on the Martinsville action, "I expected what we saw. There's so much pressure at the short track along with aggression. I wish we could bottle it up and sell it."

Playoff pressure and short fuses are not confined to the Monster Energy Cup Series either. One week ago, Xfinity drivers Tyler Reddick and Cole Custer had a heated altercation on pit road after the Kansas race. Both are championship contenders and, along with Christopher Bell, the favorites for the Xfinity title.

Now, it's on to Texas Motor Speedway for the Cup and Xfinity teams to continue their battles to make the Championship Four in Homestead. The Gander Outdoor Truck Series has next week off before joining their Cup and Xfinity friends at Phoenix in two weeks. And, don't be surprised if the intensity level peaks again the next two weeks.



DENNIS PUNCH



Kyle Busch (18) leads Aric Almirola (10) race through the turn. Later there was an incident between the two while racing for position that left at least one of them with some bad feelings. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

Martin Truex Jr. Advances to Championship 4 with Dominant Martinsville Win

MARTINSVILLE, VA - It took a post-race fracas on pit road to distract from the dominance of Martin Truex Jr., who led a career-best 464 laps in winning Sunday's First Data 500 at Martinsville Speedway and punched his ticket for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Championship 4 race.

The 2017 Cup Series champion took the lead from pole winner Denny Hamlin off pit road on Lap 30 under the first of 11 cautions and held it the rest of the way, save for a six-lap stint where Kyle Larson stayed out on old tires near the end of the second 130-lap stage.

Denied victory by Joey Logano's bump-and-run in last year's Playoff race at the .526-mile track, Truex won for the first time at the venerable short track, for the seventh time this season and the 26th time in this career.

Byron chased Truex all the way to the checkered flag but couldn't get close enough to make a move in the final laps.

"I can't believe we just won Martinsville, man," said Truex, who finished .489 seconds ahead of William Byron after a restart with 24 laps left. "Miami (site of the season finale) is awesome, but we've wanted to win here for a long time."

As strong as his No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota was, Truex

didn't expect the level of domination he showed on Sunday.

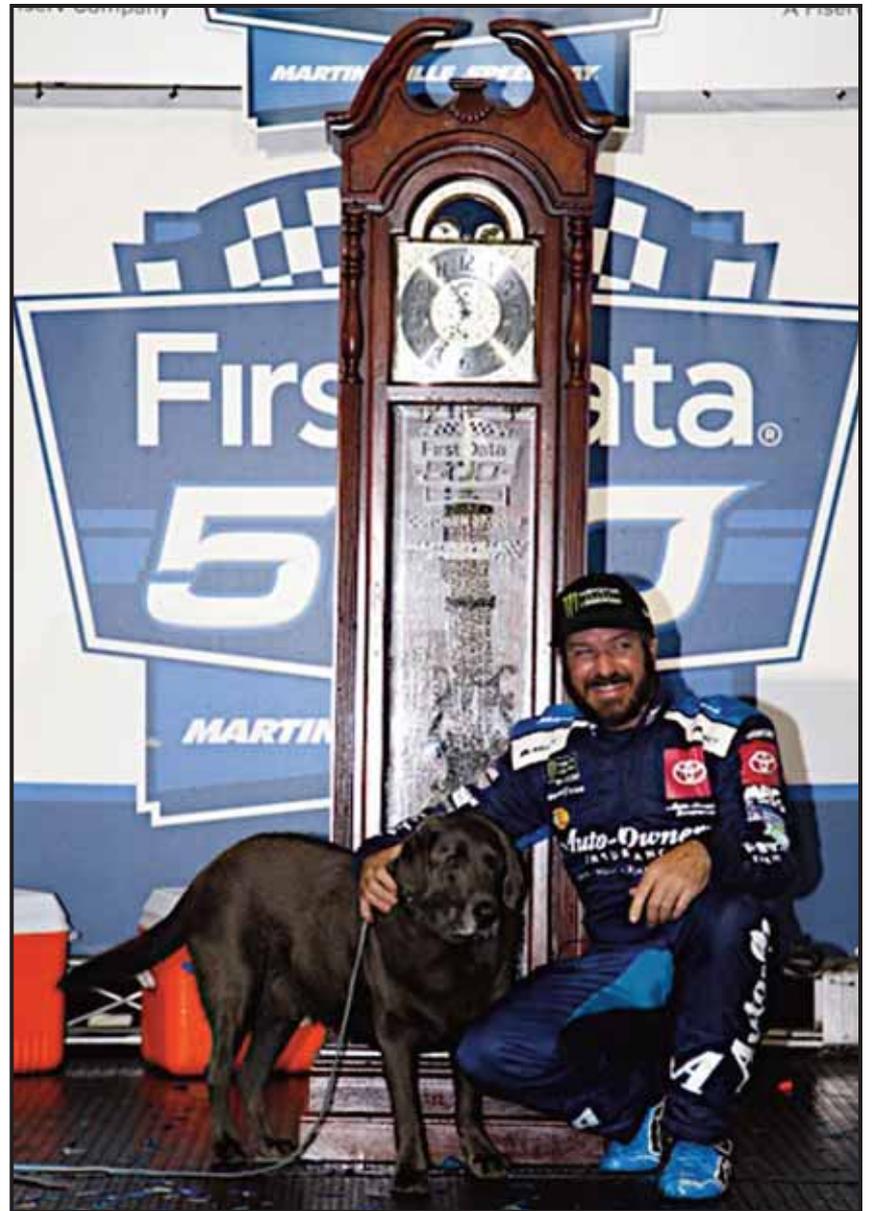
"I don't think anyone expected that," said Truex, who opened a 20-point lead over second-place Hamlin in the Playoff standings. "This racetrack, in general, you don't see that. Hats off to my guys. Pit crew was stellar today, and we didn't make many adjustments. We adjusted on early and it came to life, and that was a lot of fun."

"I don't know, maybe now I've got this place figured out. Who knows? But just really proud of everybody, and after last year, we talked earlier, everybody wants to keep talking about last year, and I'm like, 'We've got work to do.' I'm just proud of everybody for giving me a race car like that and being able to put it all together today when it counted."

A post-race discussion between Hamlin and Logano started with civility and ended in a wrestling match between the drivers and their crews. The point of contention was an incident on Lap 458 when Hamlin's Toyota and Logano's Ford made side-to-side contact off Turn 4 and Logano car's banged into the outside wall.

Logano spun in Turn 1 to bring out the 10th caution, and he recovered to finish seventh, but he wanted answers from Hamlin after the race.

"We were having a discussion,"



Race winner Martin Truex Jr. shares his victory lane celebration with a very special friend. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)

Hamlin said. "Everything was civil, and then, like Joey does, he does a little push and then runs away. So that's Joey. Scared. He said, 'Do you want to go?' I said, 'Yes, I'm here.' But then he runs away."

"I just wanted to see what his thoughts were, and it wasn't quite the answer I was looking for," said Logano, who initiated the physicality with a light push to Hamlin's right shoulder.

Seeking his first win in NASCAR's top series, Byron ran consistently in the top 10 all afternoon but was no match for Truex.

"He was really strong," said Byron, who had not finished on the lead lap in three previous starts at Martinsville.

"I could work my brake bias a little bit in the car and gain a little bit, and then I'd get to him and I'd heat up a lot and then kind of fall back. I don't really know. He was super strong. Our car bounced a little bit on the short run, which was tough to kind of get around. But overall, it was a really good day."

"This isn't a place that I've loved coming to, and it just clicked this

weekend, the things we did with the car going into qualifying and then obviously our race. Super excited, but second is not super fun, either. We'll try to get one spot better next time."

Brad Keselowski ran third, followed by Hamlin, Ryan Blaney and Kurt Busch. Kevin Harvick, Logano, Kyle Larson and Ryan Newman completed the top 10.

With Truex locked into the Championship 4—winning a Round of 8 race for the first time—Hamlin, 14th-place finisher Kyle Busch and Logano remain above the cut line for the season finale, with the Playoff field to be cut from eight drivers to four, two races hence at ISM Raceway in Phoenix.

Harvick is fifth in the standings, 1 point behind Logano in fourth. Blaney is one point behind Harvick with Larson another nine back. Chase Elliott finished 36th on Sunday, 55 laps down after his rear axle broke on Lap 180, and is 44 points below the cut line—likely needing a victory in one of the next two races to make the Championship 4.



Martin Truex Jr. (19) pulls ahead of Chase Elliott (9) and continued to dominate the First Data 500 at Martinsville Speedway. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)

Dramatic Pass in Wild Race Gives Todd Gilliland First NGOTS Win

MARTINSVILLE, VA - In an extraordinarily wild NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series race that saw four of six Playoff drivers have major issues, 19-year-old Todd Gilliland mus-

uled distance of 200 laps.

Before reveling in the win, Gilliland had a bittersweet moment because the expected victory in KBM equipment had been such a long time coming.

"I wish we had won two years ago, just like everyone else thought

we would," Gilliland said. "I thought we would, too. We went through some growing pains. (Marcus) Richmond was my crew chief, and we got rid of him, and then he came back and was helping us again. He's really great here at Martinsville.

"I'm just so proud of these guys. Man, this is a long time coming. Hopefully, this will get some momentum rolling and open up some doors for next year."

In his post-race press conference, Gilliland acknowledged he had no plans set for the 2020 season.

Chastain, who trailed Gilliland at

the finish by .879 seconds, leaves the .526-mile short track third in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series standings, 20 points ahead of fifth-place Matt Crafton, who ran 23rd after stalling out and having to change a battery and computer system 81 laps into the race.

On the final two restart, Chastain had to deal with both Gilliland and his KBM teammate Harrison Burton, who spun on the final lap and finished 18th.

"If I can go head-to-head with that team, I can fight them one at a time, but I can't take two of them," Chastain said. "They took turns beating my back bumper off, which

led his way past Ross Chastain on Lap 191 and held on to win for the first time in 46 career starts.

Just as extraordinarily, a series of wild wrecks that produced 12 cautions for 80 laps did little to affect the Playoff standings, with the Championship 4 drivers still to be settled two weekends hence at ISM Raceway in Phoenix.

After the 11th caution, Gilliland drove underneath Chastain on the restart lap, with Gilliland's No. 4 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota clearing Chastain's No. 45 Chevrolet for the top spot. Gilliland led the final 11 laps, though the final caution and into an overtime that took the race one circuit past its sched-



Todd Gilliland (4) battles to pass race leader Ross Chastain (45) to hold on to win his first NGOTS race at Martinsville Speedway. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)



Race winner Todd Gilliland (left) gets a congratulatory hand shake from his truck owner, Kyle Busch in Martinsville Speedway's victory lane. (BRIAN LAWKERMILK/GETTY IMAGES photo)

is fine. I'm good with it."

Johnny Sauter ran third, followed by Grant Enfinger and Timmy Hill, who scored his first top five in any of NASCAR's top three series. Playoff driver Stewart Friesen ran sixth after recovering from a spin off Sauter's nose on Lap 148.

Series leader and defending champion Brett Moffitt wasn't as fortunate. His No. 24 GMS Racing Chevrolet suffered damage in a four-car incident on Lap 115 and retired from the race in 29th place after completing 122 laps.

"We'll just go on and try to win at Phoenix and Homestead," said Moffitt, who retained the series lead and holds a 445-point margin over Crafton, with the Playoff field to be trimmed to four drivers at Phoenix.

A nine-truck wreck on Lap 123 KO'd Playoff drivers Tyler Ankrum and Austin Hill, who finished 25th and 26th, respectively. Ankrum goes to Phoenix in sixth place, 15 points below the current cut line for the Championship 4. Hill is fourth in the standings, nine points ahead of Crafton, a two-time series champion.

Derek Kraus Wins Fourth Straight Race at Kern in Dominant Fashion

BAKERSFIELD, CA - He came, he saw, he conquered.

Again.

Derek Kraus was the overwhelming favorite coming into Kern County Raceway Park, winning the last three events at the California half-mile in successive fashion.

He added to his impressive KCRP resume and then some in Saturday's NAPA/ENEOS 150, leading every lap from the pole and surviving an overtime restart.

"I really like this place," he said. "It's fast, you gotta stay right on the bottom of the race track and I kind of like places like that. It's got a lot of grip. It's a really great race track. I really enjoy coming here in a late model of K&N car."

The win was the 99th overall for Bill McAnally Racing. Kraus also had to nail a handful of restarts in the second half of the race, but none more important than the green/white/checkered in overtime.

"There were definitely a lot more nerves going into that last one for sure," he said. "I feel like whenever I'm leading a race, there's a yellow within the last five laps, and I just had a stinky feeling something was gonna happen [...] feel like I executed that restart really well. Was able to get the lead back, pull away by two car lengths and bring it home with a victory."

The win is Kraus' fifth this season in the K&N Pro Series West and seventh overall (two K&N East wins). It's also his 10th career K&N West win and fourth in a row at KCRP, setting a new K&N Pro Series record.

Only two drivers in the 66-year history of the series have won four consecutive races at the same track. Six-time K&N West champion 1986 Ray Elder accomplished the feat at Gardena (Ascot Park) in 1967, 1968 (both races) and 1970 (no race in 1969) and 1986 champion Hershel McGriff won five consecutive times at Portland Speedway (1971, twice in 1972, twice times in 1973).

Following Kraus across the finish line as the runner-up was Roseville winner Jagger Jones, who rebounded from a flat tire on Lap 55 to earn his second-best finish of

the season.

Kraus' Bill McAnally Racing teammates Hailie Deegan and Britney Zamora, as well as Todd Souza, completed the top five. Travis Milburn, Dylan Garner, Trevor Huddleston, Brad Kossow and Zach Telford rounded out the top 10.

Huddleston also experienced a flat right front tire and earned two free passes to rebound for a top 10 finish.

With the win, Kraus all but clinched the 2019 championship. All he has to do at ISM Raceway is start the race, as Sam Mayer did for the K&N East season finale, and the title will officially be his.

With his second-place result, Jones now sits second in the standings (-47). Deegan sits third (-51) and Huddleston fourth (-52) with one race remaining.

The NAPA/ENEOS 150 is scheduled to be broadcast on NBCSN on October 31 at 6 p.m.

The next K&N Pro Series West event, the 2019 season finale, will take place at ISM Raceway in Avondale, Arizona on November 9.

NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Hits the Track for Hoosier Racing Tire Test

NEWTON, IA - The buildup to the 2020 racing season got underway today at Iowa Speedway. Doug Coby officially ushered in the modified era when the newly crowned NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion took his first laps at The Fastest Short Track on the Planet. Coby was on hand to gather data in preparation for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Iowa 150 slated for July 31, 2020.

Next year will mark 15 years of racing at Iowa Speedway and for the first time ever, NASCAR's oldest running division and only open-wheel class will venture this far west. Central Iowa race fans got their first glimpse of a NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour car in action at Iowa Speedway.

"Luckily, I got the call to be the first driver in a NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour car here at Iowa Speedway," said Coby. "It's a great honor, number one, and it's definitely going to be something that's going to be exciting for not only our teams but the loyal modified fans



Derek Kraus put himself in the history books with his fourth straight win at Kern County. (Meg Oliphant/NASCAR photo)

from the Northeast."

Coby recently won his sixth NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour title in the past eight years breaking a tie with Tony Hirschman for second on the all-time championships list, trailing only NASCAR icon Mike Stefanik for series crowns in the modern era.

The modern era of the Whelen Modified Tour started in 1985. However, the first recorded NASCAR Modified race was held in 1948 on the sands of Daytona Beach and won by Red Byron, who eventually was crowned NASCAR's first champion.

NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour cars have a higher power-to-weight ratio than that of Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series cars. A NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour car is 11-inches shorter, 23-inches wider and almost 700 pounds lighter than a Cup car. A modified car is powered by a small block V8 engine generating 600+ horsepower. Light in weight and fitted with wider tires, a modified is much faster around a short oval paved track – like Iowa Speedway – than a NASCAR Xfinity Series car.

"I think the fans in Iowa are in for a treat to see the style of racing we

put on at some of the great tracks in the Northeast," said Coby. This racetrack is so wide and has so many grooves. I think it's going to be a great show and I'm excited to come back."

While season tickets went on sale in July, Iowa Speedway offers ticket packages for every race fan and every budget. Single event tickets are on sale today waving the green flag on summertime at Iowa Speedway.

For the fifth consecutive year, Wide Opening Weekend will feature both the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series and the NASCAR Xfinity Series on June 12-13, 2020. As part of the ARCA Menard Series Showdown, the Iowa 150 will run on Saturday, July 17. The NTT IndyCar Series will again hit the Fastest Short Track on the Planet for the Iowa 300 on July 18, giving race fans a full complement of stock car and open wheel racing during INDYCAR weekend.

The 2020 Iowa Speedway racing season concludes July 31-August 1 with another world-class NASCAR doubleheader featuring the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Iowa 150 and the NASCAR Xfinity Series U.S. Cellular 250.



eNASCAR Heat Pro League Takes Giant Step with First Championship

CHARLOTTE, NC - Yes, NASCAR Heat 4 is a game, but the eyes of the championship competitors were an unmistakable affirmation of the seriousness of the competition.

In the center of the concrete floor of Arena 43 in NASCAR

Plaza were four consoles featuring racing seats, large monitors and the racing apparatus of the competitors vying for the first eNASCAR Heat Pro League championship.

Two 70-lap races at virtual ISM Raceway in Phoenix—the first featuring PlayStation 4 drivers, the second contested on Xbox One—determined which two-player team would take home the inaugural trophy.

The serious business, however, wasn't confined to the players themselves. The eNASCAR Heat Pro League is a collaboration between NASCAR, the Race Team Alliance and 704Games, all of whom are committed to building on a successful first season.

All 14 teams in the league are owned and supported by respective race teams that compete on the track in NASCAR's national touring series. Among the spectators packed into Arena 43 on Wednesday night were Tim Cindric, president of Team Penske, and Marshall Carlson, president of Hendrick Motorsports, both there to support their drivers.

The Team Penske duo of Corey Rothgeb and Brian Tedeschi was top-seeded among four teams eligible for the title, but it was the mysterious helmeted Stewart-Haas Gaming team, known publicly as "Hotrod" and "Slick," who won the first championship on a tiebreaker over the Leavine Family Gaming entry of Josh Harbin and Nick Vroman.

After a Victory Lane celebration complete with confetti and trophy photos, the winners were just as elated as any victor on a real asphalt track.

"I don't think it's settled in yet," said Slick (Josh Schumaker). "I think we're just feeling that high at the moment."

Hotrod (Brandyn Gritton) dominated the first race on PlayStation

4, leading 58 of the 70 laps. The Xbox One race was a different story. Schumaker charged into second place behind Vroman on the final lap of a caution-filled affair, and the Stewart-Haas Gaming team claimed the championship based on most laps led in the championship finals.

"I knew he had it," Gritton said of his teammate. "He's one of the best racers in the world, and I didn't lose faith in him for a second."

For the most part, these racers are gamers who have no desire to compete on a real race track. Before the competition, the players worked together to make their racing seats, wheels and pedals as comfortable as they are at home.

"They gave us 20 minutes to get the wheel right, the pedals right, but it feels good now," Jason Keffer of the JR Motorsports entry said before the competition. "It takes some time. It's not like being at home, but it's as close as we can get it to be as comfortable as possible."

Arena 43 is as close to a real race track as Keffer, the oldest of the championship-eligible drivers at 34, would like to get.

"It's not for me," Keffer said. "I'm old, anyway. I'm too old to be racing. I went with some friends to the GoPro Motorplex (go-kart track), and now my arms are sore."

Each championship race featured not only the four title com-

petitors, but also 10 other players who weren't eligible for the championship. The finals were streamed on eNASCAR.com, Twitch via 704Games and Facebook.

As the eNASCAR Heat Pro League grows, NASCAR senior vice president and chief digital officer Tim Clark expects to increase penetration into a non-traditional racing audience.

"I think there was common interest across NASCAR and the teams and the RTA and our partners at 704Games to create a platform that we could reach an audience and at the same time amplify the sport and amplify the NASCAR Heat video game," Clark said of the origin of the league.

"So I think it was kind of an obvious choice, based on the interest and excitement around the esports categories. I think all those parties came to the table with an open mind and an open approach, and here we are."

Jonathan Marshall, executive director of the RTA, said plans for expansion already are in the works.

"We do want to mix it up. We do want to add a lot more variety to next year, do some things that you may not necessarily be able to do in the real world—keep it fun, keep it exciting," said Marshall. "That's what I think we're looking forward to most for Season Two on the schedule side."

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Rollercoaster Saturday at Seekonk Decides PASS North Champion

A day full of ups and downs for a pair of championship contenders decided the 2019 Pro All Stars Series (PASS) North champion Saturday afternoon at Seekonk Speedway (MA).

Derek Griffith entered the season-ending race with an eight-point advantage over defending champion DJ Shaw. Ultimately, Shaw overcame that deficit to claim his fourth PASS North championship; however, the rollercoaster ride was anything but easy.

"This was about the worst day we could have possibly had and still pulled this off," Shaw said after the race. "I don't even know what to say. I can't believe it, really. It was a bad day. We missed it on the setup and Griffith got caught up in wrecks all day. We were just fortunate to survive."

The whirlwind day began at the start of the day during qualifying heats when Shaw started second and won his heat race. A few minutes later, Griffith pulled out for his heat race and made an early bid for the lead after starting third. As Griffith attempted to make a pass on Travis Benjamin, the two made contact and Griffith spun towards the infield. After restarting fourth, trouble continued when he was involved in another accident that forced him to retire from his heat race early.

At that point, Griffith's eight-point advantage was trimmed to just three points entering the 150-lap feature. Shaw started the race in 11th, while Griffith started 24th. When the green flag waved, Shaw took over the points lead.

The next turn on the rollercoaster ride occurred before lap 24 when Shaw decided to bring his No. 60 to pit road for adjustments. That decision gave Griffith, who had raced up to 15th at the time, the lead in the championship battle.

"He got to the front so fast," Shaw said of Griffith. "I came into this weekend content that I was second and that it was a long shot. After the heat, it became a reality and you had to go back into that mentality that you just had to beat one guy. On lap 20, after he starts 30th and I start 11th, if he's already

there I'm not going to beat him in a 150-lap race. We had to take a swing at it."

A pair of incidents in the second half of the race collected Griffith, forcing him to pit road on two separate occasions.

From there, the deficit was too large to make up. Shaw survived the chaos to finish seventh, while Griffith was credited with a 21st-place finish, unofficially.

"It all started with that heat race. We just got no respect from the people that we race with," Griffith said. "He runs us like that all the time, I have no idea. It's kind of mind boggling that we're running for a championship and just have no respect at all.

"After that, it was just an incident," he continued. "A guy got loose and cleaned us out, put us right into the frontstretch wall. He didn't mean anything by that. Then we just kind of picked our way up throughout the field. We had a restart on the outside and I got clear to the bottom and someone just ran right through me. Then we got caught up in another wreck after that."

For Griffith, a five-time PASS winner this season, his performance Saturday was not indicative of the season his LCM Motorsports



Mike Hopkins celebrates his first PASS win of the season in victory lane at Seekonk Speedway. (Norm Marx photo)

team had. After escaping major carnage for much of the season, a full dose of bad luck and misfortune was handed to them in the season finale.

"We haven't had body panels off this thing all year," Griffith said. "Now we have a whole door tore off, fender, quarter panel is half gone. Just no respect at all. It's a huge bummer because we had a good run this year. We were really close. It is what it is. Congrats to DJ and those guys, they did a good job this year.

"We've tried our hardest, had an

awesome year and won a lot of races. We have to take second in points as what it is and move forward. We were real close. We beat everyone one in wins this year with PASS. Had a good year all year, just had one more bad day than he did."

While the championship race took turn after turn, Maine native Mike Hopkins collected his first PASS North victory of the season in his first career start at Seekonk Speedway. Hopkins passed local racer Ryan Kuhn with less than 30 laps remaining to claim the win.



DJ Shaw celebrates his fourth PASS North championship with his family in crew at Seekonk Speedway. (Norm Marx photo)

Wimmer Motorsports Wins 2019 Outerwears Crew Chief of the Year Award

SALEM, IN - Wimmer Motorsports has won the Outerwears Crew Chief of the Year Award with the ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS for the 2019 season. Wimmer Motorsports, with founder Chris Wimmer and Travis Sauter, were the Crew Chief tandem for 2018 ARCA/CRA Super Series Champion Josh Brock, who finished runner-up in the ARCA/CRA Super Series 2019 Chase for the Championship and claimed a win in the May North/South Super Late Model Shootout at Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville and won the series July event at Baer Field Motorsports Park. This is the Wisconsin natives second straight season to win the award.

The award was based upon the Chase for the Championship format that CRA was used to determine its Champions again in 2019. The final four scheduled races were utilized to determine the Outerwears Crew Chief of the Year Award based upon a points system for the Chase teams finish in those four events.

Wimmer Motorsports accumulated 17 points over those four races. Brock was the second highest Chase finisher at the Chase opener at Berlin Raceway, the top Chase finisher with his third-place finish at the second Chase race at Winchester, he was the second highest Chase finisher at the Toledo third Chase event and was the second highest Chase finisher at the Season Championship Winchester 400 event.

Van Alst Motorsports, a team effort to Crew Chief 2019 ARCA/CRA Super Series Champion Greg Van Alst, finished in second in the Outerwears Crew Chief of the Year Award points with 12 points. Butch Van Doorn, Crew Chief for three-time series Champion Johnny Van Doorn finished in third with 11 points. Jack Dossey III, his own Crew Chief in 2019, finished in fourth place with nine points.

Wimmer Motorsports will be officially presented the 2019 Outerwears Crew Chief of the Year Award at the 2019 CRA Awards Banquet, which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Down-

town on Friday, January 3rd, 2020. The award will include a \$1000 cash bonus and a trophy.

Based in Schoolcraft, Michigan, Outerwears has been on the track improving performance and creating champions since 1979. Designed using Terra-Flo technology Outerwears radiator screens provide the perfect balance between airflow and debris deflection, allowing peak airflow and longer radiator life. Ask your local dealer for your Outerwears or visit www.outerwears.com.

More information on all the CRA Series is available at www.cra-racing.com.

Dossey III Wins 2019 Senneker Performance Rookie of the Year Award

SALEM, IN - The ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS concluded its 23rd season of competition on Sunday, October 13th in the running of the 48th Annual Winchester 400 Presented by CB Fabricating on the famous High Banks of Winchester Speedway. In that event, Jack Dossey III concluded his 2019 ARCA/CRA Super Series season with another good performance, which helped him earn the 2019 Senneker Performance Rookie of the Year Award and a third-place finish in the 2019 ARCA/CRA Super Series Chase for the Championship.

The Indianapolis native had already clinched the Senneker Performance Rookie of the Year Award after the second race of the Chase for the Championship, with a season full of good runs and some unfortunate bad luck that resulted in some DNF's. After back to back seasons of winning the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance Championship, Dossey III did some major revamping of his team and decided to move up and compete full-time with the ARCA/CRA Super Series.

Part of the new look for his team was a switch to Senneker Performance race cars and Dossey III becoming his own crew chief with help from Terry Senneker and shock packages from Earnest Performance. The new package came out of the gate with a bang by winning the ARCA/CRA Super Series points season opener at Anderson

Speedway.

Dossey III was involved in a huge battle for the win at the Redbud 400 at Anderson on July 15th with three time series Champion Johnny Van Doorn, the event was eventually won by Van Doorn with Dossey III right on his tail in second. Dossey III also got a fourth-place finish at Winchester Speedway on Labor Day Weekend.

"As for my team and I, we conquered all of our goals that we set out for this year," commented Dossey III. "With the transition in being my own crew chief and some changes to our crew, we adapted and learned so much. Clenching the Senneker Performance Rookie of the Year Award is so special to us, this was my first season running Senneker race cars full time and Terry has really taken me under his wing all season long, I'm beyond grateful for all his guidance during this transition. Not only are we thankful for his support but also those of Munns Construction, Hart's Auto Center, Earnest Performance, Norton Transport, EDCO Welding, Hinchman Racewear, Nova Motorsports and Auto Value Parts Stores. Although we don't have a plan set in stone for 2020, I'm excited for what's to come!"

Dossey III won the Senneker Performance Rookie of the Race Award a series leading 10 times during the 2019 season.

At the 2019 CRA Awards Banquet on January 3rd, Dossey III will receive a \$500 cash bonus and a \$500 Product Certificate from Senneker Performance. Dossey III will also receive a race ready carburetor from VDL Fuel Systems and several contingency product awards from several series sponsors.

Team Chick Racing Wins JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour PitBoxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award

SALEM, IN - Mandy Chick just wrapped up her second full-time season of competition with the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance, finishing second in the Chase for the Championship after the series Season Championship event at Winchester Speedway on Saturday, October 12th. Chick had a good

season with the series, she was tied with 2019 series Champion Dan Leeck with the most top ten finishes in the series with seven and was second to Leeck in most completed laps.

The team had some events where they struggled and had some on track issues, but the team never gave up, whether it was making adjustments before a race or having to make adjustments or repairs during an event, with Chick making improvements at nearly every event. For their hard work and never give up attitude, the Team Chick Racing team has been named the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour 2019 Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Year Award winners. The team led by owner Steve Chick gave 100% each week and more, to keep Chick competitive at each series event and went way above to win the Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award twice during the 2019 season, the most of any team in the series.

The team got its first Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award at the Birch Run Speedway season opening event on May 18th, were the team pulled their car out of impound after qualifying 19th to make adjustments and get the car better for Chick to drive. Mandy than drove from the tail of the field for pulling out of impound, to a ninth-place finish.

The team got its second Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award at the Season Championship event at Winchester. Chick was involved in an incident on the opening lap of the event when a car bounced off the wall and got into the rear end of Chicks car. Chick's car had body damage to the rear. The team came down pit road and made hasty repairs before the next restart, as well as making a couple more pit stops during a couple other yellow flags to keep her on the track and racing for a Championship. Chick would finish in seventh, one position behind Leeck, thanks to the efforts of her team.

"I am so proud of all the hard work my crew guys put in this

(Continued Next Page)



Continued...

season and for them to get recognized with this award," remarked Chick. "It really is a team effort, and I am so thankful that my Dad, my Mom, my Grandpa, Josh Nelms, Bill Rud, Mike Huffman, Brian Brown, Garrett Dies, and Roy Dies work so hard at the track to get us where we want to be. Besides their crucial help at the race track,

we have several crew members who work in our race shop to help us prepare the race cars for each race, and we also appreciate the behind-the-scenes help from VanDoorn Racing Development and RW Race Engines to make sure our equipment is in tip-top shape! Thank you to PitBoxes.com for supporting the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour with this great award."

For earning the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour 2019 Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Year, Team Racing will receive a \$1,000 Product Certificate from Pitboxes.com at the 2019 CRA Awards Banquet, which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis at Union Station on Friday, January 3rd.

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

Lockett added, "The Team Chick Racing team worked hard to get their cars to the track and prepared for each race, but they also had a never give up attitude, no matter what happened to their cars in a race, they would work their butts off to get their cars better or to just get them back on the track to complete laps. We appreciate all their efforts this season!"

The drivers whose crews earned a Pitboxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award during the 2019 JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour season included Chick, Mason Keller, Sammy Smith, Anthony Danta, Bubba Pollard, Dan Leeck and Jake Garcia. Each of those teams

received a \$200 Product Certificate from Pitboxes.com.

With the popularity of the internet, Pitboxes.com was launched in 1999 with a goal to specialize in fabricating a high quality line of standard and custom pit boxes. Since that time the boxes have gained such popularity that they have become standard equipment for almost any racer from Go Karters to Motorcycles to Upper levels of motorsports and everything in between.

The products offered by Pitboxes.com has also changed quite a bit over the years having started with a stick built steel frame with a store bought toolbox to a much more modern process of CAD drawn, Laser Cut, Computer formed, all aluminum construction, with an in house built drawer system that is built to with stand not only the use by the race teams but also the many miles on the highway that a race team has to do going from race to race.

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

Additional information on all the CRA Series is available at www.cra-racing.com.

Runyon Wins 2019 Cometic Gasket Hardcharger Award

SALEM, IN - 2017 ARCA/CRA Super Series Champion Logan Runyon has won the 2019 Cometic Gasket Hardcharger Award after 12 ARCA/CRA Super Series point events during the 2019 race season. Runyon gained a total of 35 positions in the 10 series point events he participated in. Runyon gained his most positions at the August 7th event at Kalamazoo Speedway, where he had problems during his qualifying run that resulted in a 20th place starting position. Runyon was able to drive through the field that day and get a fifth-place finish, gaining 15 positions and earning that event's Pro-

gressive Racing Engines Hardcharger Award, as well as a Hoosier Racing Tire Performance Award.

2019 ARCA/CRA Super Series Champion Greg Van Alst finished in second in the 2019 Cometic Gasket Hardcharger standings with 19 gained positions. Van Alst gained 13 of those positions in the series last two events of the season. He gained nine positions in the Glass City 200 event at Toledo Speedway on September 21st and then gained four positions in the series Season Championship Winchester 400 event on October 13th.

Kyle Crump finished in third with seven gained positions. Eddie Van Meter was fourth with six gained positions. 2018 series Champion Josh Brock was fifth with four gained positions.

Cometic Gasket, the Official Gasket of the ARCA/CRA Super Series, will award an \$800 cash bonus to 2019 Cometic Gasket Hardcharger Award winner Runyon at the 2019 Champion Racing Association Awards Banquet. A driver must be in the top 15 in series points to be eligible for this award.

Cometic Gasket, Inc. is a leading worldwide supplier of gaskets and engine sealing solutions for the Automotive Performance, Powersports, Original Equipment and Remanufactured Engine Industries.

All Cometic products are made in the United States with materials manufactured on American soil.

Launched by four partners including current Founder and CEO Bob Gorman in 1989, Cometic was originally dedicated exclusively to the powersports industry. Operating from a tiny 1,500 square foot manufacturing facility, the company produced a mere 900 SKUs in its first year.

Fast-forward to Cometic's 25th Anniversary in 2014. The company is now wholly owned by the Gorman family - and has grown into a global leader and innovator in the highly competitive engine supplier marketplace.

Housed in a 70,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art R&D and manufacturing center in Concord, Ohio, Cometic Gasket has maintained its deep roots in the powersports industry while expanding to service the Domestic Automotive, Sport

Compact, V-twin, Marine, Diesel, Agricultural, Industrial and Stationary Power markets.

Today, Cometic Gasket offers over 85,000 SKUs, shipping gaskets and engine sealing solutions across the globe.

Cometic is dedicated to customer satisfaction and provides quality products, delivered on time at a competitive price, designed for each customer's specific application. Cometic is an industry leader in manufacturing processes and committed to pairing the highest possible quality materials with knowledgeable personnel. Cometic is also dedicated to continually improving all areas of its operations through employee development and involvement, as well as continual and comprehensive reviews of customer feedback.

To ensure superior performance across a wide variety of engine types and sizes, Cometic manufactures gaskets from a comprehensive range of materials. Whether the situation calls for the latest in advanced technology like the MLS (Multi-Layer Steel) Gasket, or a synthetic blend such as Aramid Fiber, Cometic finds a solution. Cometic stays on the forefront of gasket design technology by utilizing in-house dynamometers and engine assembly rooms to bring its distributors, retailers and ultimately the end-user, the most reliable gaskets available today.

Cometic combines advanced materials with the most current manufacturing processes to provide custom-tailored solutions to meet the needs of each individual customer. Engineers analyze the environment in which the gasket will perform, select the proper material, and apply the appropriate technology to offer the best-performing gaskets available in today's ever-changing marketplace. Cometic gaskets are the industry standard for championship-winning teams across multiple disciplines of both professional and amateur motorsports.

For more information about Cometic, visit www.cometic.com.

Additional information on the ARCA/CRA Super Series Powered by JEGS is available at www.cra-racing.com.

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Donny Schatz Cuts Points Deficit Down to 8 Points with Port Royal Win

PORT ROYAL, PA - Donny Schatz has spoken modestly about this year's dramatic points battle with Brad Sweet. However, his on-track performance shouts anecdotes about it every race night.

Friday night at Port Royal Speedway it shouted loud enough to capture everyone's attention.

Schatz won his 11th World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series victory of the year, his third consecutive Series win at Port Royal Speedway and decimated Sweet's points lead over him by 24 points due to Sweet finishing 12th — now Schatz is only eight points behind Sweet with three races to go.

"We just got to focus on what we do," a modest Schatz said in Victory Lane. "There isn't anything I can do to effect what he does. We never won a championship worrying about who we're racing against or what they were doing. Obviously, what these (Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing) guys are doing is working. They made all of the right changes to the car."

The Fargo, N.D. driver has been the king of the "Speed Palace" ever since the World of Outlaws returned to the half-mile track in 2014. Since then Schatz has yet to finish worse than third.

He started the night in dominant fashion by winning his Drydene Heat race and the first DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash.

When the 30-lap Feature for the first night of the Nittany Showdown went green Schatz was a rocket. He launched ahead of the field from his pole position and held the top spot into turn one. Brian Brown was in hot pursuit behind him, though.

While Schatz ran low for the first lap, Brown ran high. The No. 21 built momentum and speed around the top, charging to Schatz's rear bumper off each corner. Brown eyed an opening to the outside of Schatz off turn four, but the 10-time Series champion slammed the door shut before Brown could sneak his bumper between him and the wall.

Schatz then moved to the middle of the track and began to pull away from Brown. Behind the top-

two Aaron Reutzel had charged from sixth to third on the first lap.

The No. 15 was in lap traffic by Lap eight, but the slower cars did little to slow Schatz down.

The battle for second heated up near the midway point with Reutzel putting pressure on Brown and eventually darting underneath him for second on Lap 12. However, a red flag for Danny Dietrich hitting the wall in turn two came out before the lap was completed and Brown held second.

On the restart Schatz, again, bolted ahead of the field and Anthony Macri charged to third with Reutzel having a bad start.

While Schatz pulled away with the lead, Macri grew faster as the race progressed. He passed Brown for second with five laps to go and reeled in Schatz. Time was not in his favor, though. The Dillsburg, Pa. driver had to settle for second — his first World of Outlaws top-five finish — with Schatz a car length away. Brown rounded out the podium in third.

"The car was pretty solid all night long," Macri said. "About halfway through the Feature I could pretty much put the car wherever I wanted. That's always nice. This thing was operating smooth tonight."

Schatz's win was his 294th career Series victory.

"Thirty laps around this place with the way the conditions are was going to be questionable on fuel," Schatz said. "They said, 'Hey, you might want to conserve a little bit.' I don't know how much fuel we have left, but we made it. That's the important part. Just the nature of the beast. These things pump a lot of fuel through them, a lot of air. We got a little extra air and fuel tonight with the Ford. Hats off to those guys. It's been a fun project."

Sweet was able to race from 18th to 12th on the fast track surface Friday night, but his performance wasn't enough to withstand Schatz's dominating run.

Rain Cancels Port Royal Finale

PORT ROYAL, PA - Persistent rain showers at Port Royal Speedway have forced World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series and track officials to cancel Saturday's event at the speedway.



Donny Schatz celebrates in victory lane after winning at Port Royal Speedway. (DB3Inc. photo)

There is no rain date.

Those who purchased a ticket in advance to Saturday's event at Port Royal Speedway will receive a face value credit to their MyDirtTickets.com account to be used towards any World of Outlaws event available at WorldofOutlaws.com/tix. If a credit to your account does not work for you, then you have until Nov. 25 to request a refund. For more details call 844-DIRT-TIX to speak with a customer service representative. The office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Fans that purchased a ticket at the speedway will need to mail their wristband (and ticket, if available) to Port Royal Speedway in a self-addressed stamped envelope. The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The address is:
308 W Eighth St.
Port Royal, PA 17082

The Greatest Show on Dirt will continue its high-octane show on Nov. 7-9 at The Dirt Track at Charlotte for the World Finals.

For the latest on the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Cars, make sure to follow on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, and at www.WorldofOutlaws.com.

DIRTVision to Broadcast Perth Motorplex Sprintcars

DIRTVision, world leader in dirt track live streaming and home of the World of Outlaws, announced today a partnership with Perth Motorplex to live stream races from the ultra-fast 1/3-mile speedway to fans in both Australia and American, as well as across the globe, for the first time ever. Celebrating its 20th anniversary season, Australia's West Coast Motorplex is known for the many slide jobs delivered on a track where the outside

wall often doubles as the cushion.

While big events dominate the calendar at the Motorplex, American stars will take to the track during the John Day Classic Western Australia Sprintcar and Speedcar Title for the Race Heard around the World. USAC National Midget points leader Tyler Courtney will join PA's Alex Bright and New Zealand's Michael Pickens against the best drivers from Australia in pursuit of the massive AU\$14,000 winner's share of the AU\$50,000 purse... unless of course they have the guts to start from the rear of the field, in which case a win is worth a whopping AU\$39,000!

World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car star Shane Stewart will be joined by Mark Dobmeier and others as they take on Australian stars Jason Kendrick, Ben Ellement, Shaun Bradford, Andrew Priolo and more during two nights of USA Speedweek action, December 26 and 28.

Widely known for having one of the strongest Dirt Late Model programs in Australia, Perth will welcome American standout Tyler Erb this year as one of the first Americans entered to take on Australia's defending Champion Paul Stubber (also a veteran of the U.S. DIRTcar Summer Nationals), along with Brent Vosbergen and others January 8 and 11 for the Australian Late Model Championship, the most prestige Dirt Late Model event in the country.

All 12 events from Perth Motorplex will be available to Australian and American subscribers — and other subscribers across the globe — with either a Late Model or Sprint Car FAST PASS, at a price of just US\$39 per month. Individual events will be available on a pay-per-view basis with prices starting as low as US\$19 per event.

See DIRTVision.com for complete schedule and details.

Leary Lands USAC Southwest Honors at Central Arizona Speedway

CASA GRANDE, AZ - Indiana's C.J. Leary took full advantage of an off weekend for the Amsoil USAC National Sprint Car series by dropping in on the USAC Southwest Sprint Car Series at Central Arizona Speedway.

After kicking off

the night by setting a new track record of 14.948 seconds in qualifying, Leary raced from the sixth starting position in the feature event to take the win aboard the Reinbold/Underwood Motorsports No. 19az Sprint Car.

Leary, who also won the series' season opener at Central Arizona Speedway in March, raced to the checkered flag ahead of 11th-starter Charles Davis, Jr., with Jake

Swanson, current series points leader Brody Roa and R.J. Johnson rounding out the top five.

Before racing to a ninth-place finish in the USAC Sprint Car feature, Zach Madrid scored the victory in IMCA Modified competition from the fourth row inside. Madrid crossed the stripe in the Modified feature ahead of Mark Carrell with Tony Martin on the podium in third. Tyler Mecl's bid for a third consecutive CAS win fell short after rallying from 16th to fourth with Kelsie Foley rounding out the top five.

Bodie Parker bested the Mod Lite ranks, beating the son-father duo of Brendon Priest and John

Priest to the line with Sean Conyers and Steve Bender also among the top five.

In Power 600 Micro Sprint competition, Tuesday Calderwood outlasted fellow front row starter and pole starter Dylan Schaadt to take the Winged win with Aiden Morris in third while Eddie Hamblin took Non-Wing honors ahead of Evan La and Cameron La Rose.

Central Arizona Speedway returns to action on Saturday, November 9, with the ASCS Southwest Sprint Cars along with IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Modifieds, Pure Stocks, Bombers and Mod Lites.

Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series Confirm 2020 Dirt Cup and Brownfield Classic Dates

TULSA, OK - Already looking into the 2020 season for the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network, two marquee events are set with the series returning to Washing-

ton for the Jim Raper Memorial Dirt Cup at Skagit Speedway and Brownfield Classic at Grays Harbor Raceway.

"With the tremendous growth and success, we've seen at both tracks the last few years, I'm really excited for the 2020 tour to come out west," stated Skagit Speedway owner, Steve Beitler.

Taking place June 25, 26, and 27 the Jim Raper Memorial Dirt Cup has been a part of the lineup with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network since 2015 with Jason Solwold topping the series' inaugural visit.

Normally followed by the Fred Brownfield Classic, the events will swap in 2020 with the Grays Harbor Raceway crown jewel going to Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20 to get the date off the Independence Day Weekend.

"These are events that we look forward to all year. As soon as we're done, we're already counting

down to coming back," said ASCS National Director, Matt Ward. "Steve and his staff are among the best to work with anywhere we travel too, the fans are top-notch, and the competition is fantastic."

More information on each event will be released as the dates come into view. Information on the tracks and their events can be found at www.skagitspeedway.com and www.graysharborraceway.com.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series log onto www.ascsracing.com.

Follow on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (@LucasOilASCS).

2020 Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals Entry Opens Nov. 4

TULSA, OK - With the 34th annual Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire nearly in sight, entry for the "Mecca of Midgets" will open on Monday, November 4.

Entry forms will hit the mail in the next week with the entry blank posted to www.chilibowl.com/downloads/get.aspx?i=72453. Entries can be returned via Fax to (918) 836-5517, called in to (918) 838-3777, or mailed to 1140 S. 83rd East Ave. Tulsa, OK 74112. Entry forms must include a current W9 form which can be downloaded at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf.

Early entry is \$150 through December 13, 2019. After that, teams will pay an additional \$50 per entry.

All cars competing in the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals presented by General Tire must run a Muffler. Inserts will not be allowed. All car numbers and letter combinations must be legible from the scorer's

stand. While the races are scored electronically, the races are also hand-scored.

The 34th Lucas Oil Chili Bowl

Nationals presented by General Tire takes place January 13-18, 2020 atop the clay of the Tulsa Expo Raceway, located inside the River Spirit Expo Center in Tulsa, Okla.

For continued updates on the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Nationals pre-

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

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Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights, a holiday light spectacular that serves as the major fundraiser for the Bristol Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, returns for a 23rd season on Friday, Nov. 15.

Long hailed as the premier holiday display in the Appalachian Highlands region, The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights spreads across a five-mile route illuminated by more than 2 million lights among 250 displays. A trip through the light show sends guests down Bristol Dragway and all throughout the property, culminating with a lap around the famed Bristol Motor Speedway half-mile oval.

"What began as a simple signature fundraising event has turned out to be a holiday treat for thousands of visitors," said Claudia Byrd, executive director of the Bristol chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, which raises money for nearly 100-child focused agencies in the surrounding 18-county region. "The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights provides an opportunity to get together with loved ones for an evening of holiday spirit. While one enjoys the festivities of the lights, they are also greatly helping children in need in this region. There's nothing more special than that."

At the end of the route, guests can visit the Appalachian country-themed Christmas Village. The Christmas Village is filled with holiday vendors, family-friendly midway rides (including a merry-go-round, pirate ship, bumper cars and more), arts and crafts, hot chocolate with marshmallows and as always, the kids will get to visit with Santa Claus. Visitors to the Christmas Village will now have an additional way to enter as a new lighted holiday maze makes its debut this year.

The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights runs through Saturday, Jan. 4. The event costs \$15 for cars from Sunday through Thursday and \$20 on Friday and Saturday nights. For \$45, guests can take advantage of Jingle Bell Lane presented by Citi, the "fast pass" option that offers a shorter wait time to enter the attraction on select nights.

Two other fun options for enjoying Speedway in Lights are



Students from Rosemont Park (FWISD) show off their reading skills. (TMS photos)

"Santa's Speedway Sleigh" sponsored by Tri-Cities Airport, an open-air tram ride on Wednesday nights decked with cozy blankets and a BMS staff member along for the ride who serves as host and tour guide, and "The BMS Express," which transforms a local school bus into the Polar Express on Thursday evenings.

For reservations, guests can call 423-989-6900 or visit www.BristolMotorSpeedway.com.

Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - In its first year in the Texas Motor Speedway Speeding to Read program, Rosemont Park Elementary wasted no time asserting itself as one of this year's frontrunners. The Fort Worth ISD school led the way in Turn One for this year's eight competing schools from across the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

Rosemont Park's Roadrunners started off with 69-percent of its 400 students meeting their reading goals of 500 minutes for 3rd-5th Grades and 300 minutes for K-2nd Grades. The lone returning program from the 2018-19 school year, Sidney H. Poynter (Crowley ISD), came in second with 59-percent, and Brandenburg Intermediate's (Duncanville ISD) fifth grade rounded out the top three with a 51-percent success rate.

In all, 1,112 students from grades K-5 met their goals, and each of them receives two tickets to Sunday, November 3's AAA Texas 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race as well as a motorsports-themed prize.

Other schools participating in Turn One include: Fairmeadows Elementary (Duncanville ISD), George C. Clarke Elementary (Fort Worth ISD), Hyman Elementary (Duncanville ISD), Parkway Elementary (Lewisville ISD), and W.M. Green Elementary (Fort Worth ISD).

Aside from the reading competition, fifth grade students at Sidney H. Poynter Elementary in Crowley ISD enjoyed a special educational treat from Frisco's Sci-Tech Discovery Center to start the competition off with a scientific bang. The students had a day full of activities from Speeding to Read partner Sci-Tech as a welcome back to the only school returning from the 2018-19 school year.

Texas Motor Speedway's Speeding To Read program is supported by the following partners: NASCAR, NTT IndyCar Series, Lionel Racing, Speedway World, Levy Motorsports, The Speedway Club, Food for the Soul, Sci-Tech

Discovery Center, aai Trophies and Awards of Plano, Jostens, Woolley's Frozen Custard, Speedway Children's Charities-Texas Chapter and Team Texas High Performance Driving School.

For more information on Texas Motor Speedway's Speeding To Read program, please visit www.speedingto.read.com.

Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - Darlington Raceway is pleased to announce that longtime partner Sam Carbis Solutions Group will be the presenting sponsor of the Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K on Friday, November 1.

"We're extremely grateful to the Sam Carbis Solutions Group for sponsoring our Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K event," Darlington Raceway President Kerry Sharp said. "Sam Carbis Solutions Group is an outstanding community business located in Florence that has been a terrific longtime partner of the track. Sam Carbis is passionate and supportive of law enforcement and first responders, so it's very meaningful to see their name on this event."

The event will now be titled the Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K presented by Sam Carbis Solutions Group with proceeds from the event benefiting the Terrence F. Carraway Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit, which is raising donations for a new South Carolina Fallen Officers Memorial Park in his honor on Main St. in Darlington.

The goal of the Memorial Park is to honor fallen South Carolina police officers and canines who lost their lives in the line of duty.

A year has now passed since the tragic death of City of Florence Police Sgt. Terrence Carraway. Carraway, a lifelong resident of Darlington, S.C., was killed in the line of duty on October 3, 2018, but his memory continues to live on at his hometown track. Darlington Raceway and Sam Carbis Solutions Group, want to continue to honor him during this year's event.

The Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K presented by Sam Carbis Solutions Group is slated to begin at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 1 and run under the lights at Darlington Raceway for the second consecutive

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year.

Participants may pre-register online for the event for a fee of \$25 per participant by visiting <https://DarlingtonRaceway5K.itsy-ourrace.com/register/>. Day-of registration will be \$30 per person.

Packet pickup for the 5K will be available on Thursday, October 31, at the Darlington Raceway Museum, from 5 p.m.

to 8 p.m. or on event day at the track beginning at 5 p.m.

The 5K course will start and end at the start-finish line of the race track. All participants will receive a t-shirt for running in the event.

Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are still available by contacting Tyler Grube, Director of Corporate Sales, at 843-395-8877 or tgrube@darlingtonraceway.com.

You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Raceway at DarlingtonRaceway.com, on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway) and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TooToughToTame](https://twitter.com/TooToughToTame).

Homestead-Miami Speedway

FORT MYERS, FL - As Ford Championship Weekend approaches at Homestead-Miami Speedway November 15-17, driver Ross Chastain visited Fort Myers, Florida on Tuesday, October 22. Chastain, who grew up in nearby Alva, was welcomed by the local community throughout various stops during the day.

Chastain began his day at South Fort Myers High School, where he checked out their automotive and welding programs. Chastain met with the students and spoke to them about how NASCAR ties in with their studies.

While at the school, Chastain also got a look at the South Fort Myers' farming and agriculture program. Having grown up on a watermelon farm, Chastain discussed with the students his own experiences with different crops and animals.

"They've taken South Fort Myers High School to levels I didn't know were possible with these programs," Chastain said. "They're setting these kids up to succeed. These kids are going to be so far ahead in the real world and I'm jealous to be honest."

Following South Fort Myers High School, Chastain's day culminated

at Golisano Children's Hospital where he visited with children and assisted in animating their day. Chastain went room-to-room in the hospital, where he handed out signed hero cards, hats and teddy bears and took pictures with the patients.

Chastain is currently competing in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series Playoffs (NGOTS), where he is in the Round of 6. This season he has won three NGOTS races and led 487 laps. If Chastain advances to the Championship 4, he will compete for a NGOTS title at Homestead-Miami Speedway in November.

"Now that I've won races, I want to win championships and be successful," said Chastain. "We're only two points out of the cutoff so that can swing in one stage at Martinsville or Phoenix. We just need to go win."

Tickets for 2019 Ford Championship Weekend, which consists of the Ford EcoBoost 200 (NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series championship race), Ford EcoBoost 300 (NASCAR Xfinity Series championship race) and Ford EcoBoost 400 (Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series championship race), are now available and can be purchased by calling (866) 409-RACE (7223) or visiting www.HomesteadMiamiSpeedway.com.

Tickets are also available for fans who want to meet Ross Chastain. Homestead-Miami Speedway is offering a Melon Man Ticket Package, which includes a meet & greet with Chastain, a ticket to the Ford EcoBoost 400 and a Melon Man hat. For more information visit www.HomesteadMiamiSpeedway.com.

Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH, TX - Elite race car drivers have to be as patient as a red-tail hawk when stalking its prey, as strategic as a red wolf moving in to attack and as aggressive as a western lowland silverback gorilla protecting its territory all in the time it takes to turn one 200-mph lap around Texas Motor Speedway.

With all those traits in common, No Limits, Texas, will host an exclusive event at the renowned Fort Worth Zoo for the track's 2020 season-ticket holders only on March 26, 2020. A star-studded lineup of NASCAR drivers, in town for the O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 NASCAR weekend, will be on hand for a very special evening of events throughout the 64-acre facility that is home

to 7,000 native and exotic animals.

"We want to do something for that very special group of Texas Motor Speedway season ticket purchasers to kick off our 2020 major event season," said Eddie Gosage, president of Texas Motor Speedway. "Over the years, we've given them this item or that to say thank you for their year-long support. This year, we're hosting a unique experience of events and activities at an exotic location just for our season ticket holders that we know will create memories for a lifetime."

"We truly appreciate the coordination and cooperation of the Fort Worth Zoo management and staff in developing this special opportunity. We're proud to be part of the Fort Worth community and to work jointly with the zoo, which is currently celebrating its 110th anniversary of operation. This is Texas Motor Speedway's 23rd year of operation, so the Fort Worth Zoo has given us a big goal to shoot for."

The nationally acclaimed Fort Worth Zoo has been ranked the No. 4 zoo in North America by USA Today, the Best Zoo in Texas by Yahoo Travel, the No. 5 zoo in the nation by USA Travel Guide, the No. 1 family attraction in the DFW Metroplex by Zagat survey and a Top 10 Zoo or Aquarium by Family-Fun magazine. Home to more than 500 different species of animals, the Zoo is in the second of a four-phase, \$100-million master plan. The first phase, African Savanna, opened in April 2018. The second, Elephant Springs, is currently under construction. The institution's focus on education and conservation is second to none, enhancing the lives of more than one million visitors a year.

"Texas Motor Speedway is a highly significant and extremely exciting part of the attractions available in Fort Worth," said Kelley Allred, senior director of revenue operations. "We are honored to host such an important TMS event and to have the chance to entertain season ticket holders. The evening will be a different kind of wild ride, and we can't wait!"

Further details on the Fort Worth Zoo/Texas Motor Speedway collaboration will be announced in the coming months.

The 2019 AAA Texas 500 NASCAR weekend kicks off with two nights of on the Texas Motor Speedway Dirt Track with the Tony Stewart Presents The Vankor Texas Sprint Car Nationals, Oct. 31-Nov. 1. The Saturday, Nov. 2 NASCAR Xfinity Series O'Reilly

Auto Parts 300 playoff race will take place under the lights on the 1.5-mile asphalt oval as will the eighth race in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs, the AAA Texas 500, Sunday Nov. 3.

For season ticket or race information, please visit texasmotorspeedway.com or call the speedway ticket office at 817.215.8500. With an adult ticket purchase, accompanying tickets for children 12-and-under are \$10 for the AAA Texas 500 and free for the O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 playoff race.

Atlanta Motor Speedway

HAMPTON, GA - NASCAR fans will be able to hear the roar, feel the rush, and see the exciting action like never before at Atlanta Motor Speedway in 2020.

That's because all ticket holders will get access to a brand new "Thrill Zone" located at the exit of turn four in front of the Petty Grandstands. The Thrill Zone puts fans just feet away from the racing surface where NASCAR's best will be sliding off the banking and onto the frontstretch – and it's available free of charge to ticket holders.

"Nothing stimulates the senses like a NASCAR race at Atlanta Motor Speedway and our new Thrill Zone takes that to a whole new level," said AMS Executive Vice President and General Manager Brandon Hutchison. "Standing just a few steps from the track, the raw sights and sounds of the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 weekend will be more visceral than ever for our fans."

The Thrill Zone is the eighth fan enhancement announced as part of the Speedway's 20 in 20 Initiative, which will see 20 individual improvements made to increase the value and fan enjoyment of the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 NASCAR weekend on March 13-15, 2020.

The Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 weekend features three days packed full of NASCAR action.

The Atlanta NASCAR Weekend begins with Cup Series qualifying on Friday, March 13 and continues with the Gander Outdoors Truck Series and NASCAR XFINITY Series doubleheader on Saturday, March 14. All of this leads to the main event: the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 on Sunday, March 15.

Tickets for the 2020 Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 can be purchased by contacting Atlanta Motor Speedway at 770-946-4211, 877-9-AMS-TIX or by visiting www.atlantamotorspeedway.com.

Ten Drivers Compete in NASCAR Drive for Diversity Combine

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL - Nicholas Sanchez walked to the Rev Racing transporters in the New Smyrna Speedway infield looking for a bottle of water and a chance to take a deep breath. A huge smile on his face and maybe

a little swagger in his step, Sanchez said he was just told he was quickest of the NASCAR Drive for Diversity candidates in their first on-track test session Wednesday morning.

"The car felt good and I'm really happy," Sanchez said before joining the others for lunch during a break in action Wednesday afternoon.

The quick start was encouraging for the 18-year old Sanchez, originally from Miami but now living in Cornelius, North Carolina, to be closer to NASCAR's traditional North Carolina hub. His background and his hopes are so typical of the 10 young racers invited to participate in this prestigious NASCAR combine.

There was a distinctive feeling of camaraderie among the competitors walking the track with evaluator and former NASCAR driver Mark Green before climbing in the cars for their first laps. For some of these young drivers, this combine is the first "chance of a lifetime" to show their skills on track and their personalities away from the track – both important to landing an opportunity to compete for Rev Racing in

the NASCAR Late Model Stock, ARCA Menards Series East or Menards Showdown Series in 2020.

And their names are becoming familiar to those scouting the next generation of stock car talent.

Ryan Vargas, 19, a Californian who is now living in Concord, North Carolina, is back at the combine for the third time, only months removed from making his NASCAR Xfinity Series debut this summer.

He started 23rd and finished 17th in his first career national series start at the .875-mile Iowa Speedway in July. Then four weeks later showed his range of talent with an 18th-place finish on the Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, Road America road course after starting 33rd. He is a shining example of opportunity meeting promise and his achievements this year were cited and praised often by his fellow combine drivers.

At only 14-years old, Isabella Robusto, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, is the youngest candidate participating in the combine which

incorporates a day of media and marketing training with a second day of on-track evaluation. For Rubusto the chance to drive in a late model stock car and absorb tips and motivations from her fellow racers was a huge reward in and of itself.

She comes from a Legends car background and – along with Rajah Caruth, 17, of Washington D.C. and Lavar Scott, 16, of Carney's Pointe, New Jersey – was actually part of the Drive for Diversity Youth Driver Development Combine held earlier this year in Concord, North Carolina, for younger talent. She laughs explaining her start in racing – weekends with her father watching racing in the Carolinas and eventually putting together a full go-kart team before sharing the news with her mom that she was going to be competing in the sport.

Rubusto smiles telling the story of her start in the sport and said the family support has been solid and encouraging. Her whole community is beginning to realize how seri-

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ously she takes this pursuit. And that includes her school, where she is a straight-A ninth grader already taking more advanced science and math classes.

"I haven't had a teacher that didn't support me," Rubusto said smiling.

Although she's a "veteran" of sorts in the Drive for Diversity Youth Program, stepping up this weekend

to the higher levels is a significant development for the young teen, who is approaching things with a measured approach.

"This is more of a learning weekend I'd say, to get used to the cars more," Rubusto said. "I've been working on shifting and getting back to the gas. It's so much different than the Legends cars.

"It's crazy how much competition there is between the 10 of us. Most of us have raced with each other before – Gracie [Trotter], Nick [Sanchez], Chase [Cabre], Rajah [Caruth] – we all race against each other but we're friends at the same time."

That's the definitive vibe. All these young drivers feel a mutual support system. But there is still a competitive element driving each of the racers. They are friendly at the track, but the big prize in a high-profile NASCAR series awaits and so performance and focus is key.

Many of his fellow drivers – and evaluators – already knew Caruth's name even before he arrived in Daytona Beach. An eNASCAR Ignite Series standout, Caruth is now putting those virtual skills to use behind a real car. And earning praise.

"iRacing definitely has helped me a lot in terms of it being the first thing I started on and being able to race any race car in the world and learn different techniques, different driving styles, different crafts you wouldn't get anywhere else," Caruth said.

"It's been pivotal and very helpful to me just to teach me the basics and especially some habits and tendencies you can carry over to real life and some you can't - so that's one of the things I was dealing with this summer, figuring out what translates and what doesn't. But definitely wouldn't be here without it."

For the 16-year old Scott, laps at New Smyrna's famous half-mile in

a late model couldn't be more different than what he's used to driving as a competitor in the 600 Micro Sprint Series around the Delaware and Pennsylvania dirt-tracks.

As with all these candidates, he has an intriguing backstory. His family actually comes from a drag racing background and Scott considers his mom to be the star of his racing family. His path to dirt track racing - and now cars - was more of an unintended series of events.

His older brother was too young to start drag racing and so the family let him race on dirt at the age of 5. Scott followed suit a couple years later. They loved the dirt racing so much, neither brother wanted to stick to the original plan of converting to drag racing. And now Scott has the opportunity of a lifetime with NASCAR's Drive for Diversity Program.

In fact, Scott is optimistic that his diverse background will actually help him. As with so many of his fellow Diversity candidates this week, he raised the name of a fellow Diversity graduate as proof - Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series star Kyle Larson, who has advanced to the Round of 8 in the Cup Playoffs.

"It's been very humbling meeting everyone here," Scott said. "Ryan Vargas has already been in an Xfinity race, so it gives me hope there's a chance I could be there too.

"When I was younger, I always looked at Kyle Larson because he came from dirt, sprint cars. He came from exactly where I'm at – now he's in the Cup Series and if he can do it, I can do it and if I can do it, maybe some kid feels he can do it.

"It can open a lot of doors."

And already has.

Seekonk Speedway

SEEKONK, MA - Like any good Halloween haul, there was a mixed bag following the second annual Haunted Hundred for the Tri-Track Open Modified Series (TTOMS) at Seekonk Speedway on Saturday. Chase Dowling of Roxbury, CT, received the biggest treat with the victory in the Modified main event while Ron Silk, Matt Hirschman and Matt Swanson tasted disappointment. Ronnie Williams of Ellington, CT, was the big winner scoring the 2019 Series championship.

In companion races Derek Gluchacki of N. Dartmouth, MA, took down his first career late Model win at Seekonk Speedway in spectacular fashion. Mike Hopkins, of Herman, ME, was victorious in Pro All Star Series (PASS)

North competition with DJ Shaw of Center Conway, NH, winning his second straight Series championship.

Coming from fourth to the lead exiting the last corner on a wild final lap, Chase Dowling secured his second straight TTOMS victory. Despite damage to his ride and a dismal finish, Williams was able to secure the championship. The controversial finish that involved leaders Ron Silk and Matt Hirschman and collected Matt Swanson could not overshadow the victory celebrations.

Woody Pitkat and Matt Galko led the 29-car field to green for the Haunted Hundred. Pitkat edged out to the early lead with Chris Pasteryak taking over second. The lead trio of Pitkat, Pasteryak and Galko immediately ran out to a three-car breakaway over fourth running Les Hinckley. Hirschman ran in fifth, just two spots ahead of point leader Williams. Silk began his methodical march toward the front; quickly making his way into the top ten.

Williams got alongside Hirschman on lap 15; to no avail as Hirschman was able to use the outside groove to his advantage to retain the position. On lap 19, Hirschman was able to get by Hinckley for fourth. The top three was enjoying a sizeable but now shrinking advantage over Hirschman.

Kirk Alexander spun on the backstretch on lap 20 to bring out the event's first caution. Andy Jankowiak was also collected. Both were able to continue. Under the caution, leader Pitkat stalled in turn four. He could not re-fire and was pushed to the pit area. A handful of cars including Keith Rocco and Richard Savary headed pit side for service; relinquishing top-ten positions in the running order.

Pasteryak inherited the lead for the restart following Pitkat's misfortune. He got a great restart to easily retain the lead. Hirschman got a run on Galko on the inside to take second. Williams was able to get around Hinckley on lap 25 and Galko a lap later. Pasteryak continued to lead the championship contending duo.

Swanson had been meticulously working his way through the field and into contention before lap 30. Swanson drove by Hinckley on lap 31 and into the top-four. He immediately went to work on Williams. Silk and Dowling were making their presence known as well.

Pasteryak continued to carry a slight advantage over Hirschman in

second. Williams, Swanson, Hinckley, Silk, Dowling and Cam McDermott ran nose to tail. The second caution of the event flew on lap 44 when Joey Mucciacciaro came to a halt in turn four. Under the caution, several cars headed to pit road including leader Pasteryak, Silk, Dowling and others. Also under the caution, Seekonk regular Rob Murphy, who was having a strong performance, saw his solid run end on lap 44; requiring a push into the pit area. Pitkat returned to the field many laps down.

The restart saw Hirschman and Williams side-by-side on the front row. Hirschman was able to take the lead with Williams jumping in line behind. Swanson and Hinckley ran third and fourth. By virtue of pit strategy, Russ Hersey, who started scratch on the field, now ran inside the top-five.

Third caution flew on lap 48 when the machine of Derek Robbie came to a stop on the racetrack. Just two laps shy of halfway, the field went back to green with Hirschman and Williams once again showing the way.

A skirmish deep in the field shuffled the running order at lap 53 but kept the track green. The caution would fly; however, a pair of laps later as Joey Cipriano came to rest trying to exit the speedway. Cipriano, making his TTOMS debut, was also having a solid run before being sidelined. Under the caution, Hinckley relinquished his top-five position to head to pit road for service.

The lap 55 restart was much of the same for Hirschman and Williams. Hersey was able to make the top groove work for a few laps getting alongside Swanson. He eventually had to settle back in line in the fourth spot. Hirschman continued to lead Williams, Swanson, Hersey, Savary and Silk.

On lap 64, Silk got by Savary and into the top-five for the first time all day. Any further progress was slowed when the fifth caution of the event flew for a single-car spin by Calvin Carol.

Hirschman was once again up for the challenge on the ensuing restart. Swanson got inside Williams to take over second. Silk took fourth from Hersey. Tommy Barrett had worked his way into sixth position. Rocco and Dowling were working their way back into contention following their earlier pit-stops. Both got by Savary and now ran eighth and ninth, respectively. Pasteryak was back inside the top-ten with 20 laps to go.

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Hirschman had several car lengths over Swanson with Williams getting heaving pressure from Silk for third. Hersey ran comfortably in fifth. The sixth caution of the event flew for a spin by earlier leader Pasteryak on lap 85.

Hirschman now had the hungry Swanson lined up to his outside for the restart with 15 laps remaining in the Haunted Hundred.

Williams, Silk, Hersey, Rocco, Savary, Anthony Sesely and Hinckley completed the top-ten for the restart.

Hirschman got the advantage with Swanson slowing slightly to get behind the leader in hopes of making the cross-over move. The 27x of Derek Robbie slowed on the speedway to bring out the caution to thwart Swanson's bid.

Swanson got a great restart to get up alongside Hirschman but once again had to settle back in line. Silk was a bit more successful in the outside groove; getting by Williams and into third. The eighth caution of the event saw Hersey go spinning on lap 87; ending his bid for a strong finish.

Silk now restarted third behind Hirschman. Hirschman resumed the lead and Silk got by Swanson to grab second. Silk was glued to the back bumper of Hirschman. He was beginning to apply pressure to Hirschman for the lead when the ninth caution flew on lap 90 for an incident that involved Sesely and Hinckley.

On the restart with 10 laps to go it was Hirschman, Silk, Swanson, Williams, Dowling, Barrett, Rocco, Savary, Jankowiak and Austin Kochenash inside the top ten. Silk was alongside Hirschman on the restart but could not muster a real challenge. Swanson took advantage of a third-place restart position to, in turn, challenge Silk for the runner up spot. Both Dowling and Rocco edged ahead of Williams.

Undaunted, Silk got back by Swanson and immediately ran down Hirschman. Exiting turn two on the white flag lap, Silk got underneath Hirschman to take the lead. After settling in line briefly, Hirschman dove low and into the grass in an effort to make the cross-over coming out of four toward the waving checkers. With sparks flying, the two made con-

tact. Swanson was collected. Dowling and Rocco were able to miss the melee as Williams, who ended up across the line backwards, was also collected.

Hirschman was able to continue and drive under the checkers ahead of Dowling; however, TTOMS officials issued an immediate disqualification to Hirschman giving Dowling the win. Rocco came home second followed by an exuberant Jankowiak. Barrett and Galko completed the top five.

Swanson was able to salvage a sixth-place finish over Savary. An eventful day ended with Pasteryak posting an eighth-place finish over Dylan Izzo, who started deep in the field by provisional. Michael Gervais rounded out the top-ten when the dust settled on the Haunted Hundred.

Earlier in the day, modified heat race victories went to Robbie, Williams, Galko and Dowling. Consolation races went to Robie and Sesely.

The Tri-Track Open Modified Series community is keeping Mike Holdridge in their thoughts as the veteran campaigner was taken to the hospital following a scary incident in the consolation rounds.

In full-fendered action, Mike Hopkins won the companion Pro All Star Series 150. Seekonk Speedway's own Ryan Kuhn finished second followed by Reid Lanphear. DJ Shaw was crowned the PASS Northeast champion. Visit ProAll-StarSeries.com for a complete race report.

Rookie Derek Gluchacki displayed some veteran moves in taking down the victory in the \$2,000 to win 50-lap Late Model event. It was a bold three-wide pass for the lead that got the teenager his first Late Model victory at his home track.

Rey Lovelace led the 26-car field to green for the start of the 50-lapper but quickly relinquished the top spot to Ryan Lineham. He continued to backslide giving way to Vin-

nie Arrenagado and Charlie Rose. Arrenagado immediately applied heavy pressure to Lineham. The two went door-to-door for several laps, before Arrenagado settled back in line.

Kuhn, doing double-duty on the day, had been shuffled back on the opening lap; falling as far back as tenth from his second starting position. He recovered quickly fighting his way back to fourth position before the first caution of the event flew on lap 13 for pole sitter Lovelace.

On the restart, Lineham was able to take the lead once again over Arrenagado. Kuhn continued his march to the front taking third from Rose. A three-car battle for fifth between Gluchacki, Mark Jenison and Ryan Morgan saw three-wide racing. Gluchacki came out of the fray with the position. A brewing battle between Gluchacki and Rose cooled when the second caution flew on lap 18 for a multi-car incident that involved Jerrame Lillie, Nick Uhrig and Mark Hudson.

Behind a side-by-side battle for the lead between Lineham and Arrenagado on the restart was a three-wide spar for third featuring Rose, Kuhn and none other than Gluchacki. Before things could get sorted out, the caution waved again on lap 18 for Uhrig and Lillie. After a failed attempt at a restart, Lineham was able to retain his lead once back under green. Arrenagado and Kuhn were locked into a heated battle for second; allowing Gluchacki to join the fray. Rose ran in fifth.

Gluchacki was making it difficult on Arrenagado, who was working over leader Lineham. The hungry young driver peeked inside a couple of times looking to make it three-wide for the lead. Less than a lap later Gluchacki was able to take second from Arrenagado. A single-car incident on lap 27 brought out the fourth caution.

On the restart, with Lineham still on the point and Arrenagado in

second, Gluchacki, from third, dove underneath Lineham making it three-wide for the lead. He settled back in line before, trying the move once again on lap 29.

Arrenagado backed out letting Gluchacki and Lineham fight for the lead. Lineham lost the lead to Gluchacki on lap 30; bringing Arrenagado along for the ride. Rose and Kuhn continued to battle door to door for fourth. Kuhn took over the pot on lap 33. Stuck on the outside, Rose continued to slip back.

Up front Gluchacki began to stretch his advantage slightly over Arrenagado. Kuhn had reeled in Lineham. He got alongside Lineham on lap 38 and took the spot a lap later. Morgan had worked his way into the top five. Late in the race, Gerry DeGasparre had quietly moved into contention with less than 10 laps to go.

The fifth and final caution of the event flew on lap 44; setting up a late race dash to the checkers. Gluchacki and Arrenagado were wheel-to-wheel several laps. At the stripe, each time it was Arrenagado by mere feet. The heated battle for the lead allowed Kuhn to join the fight.

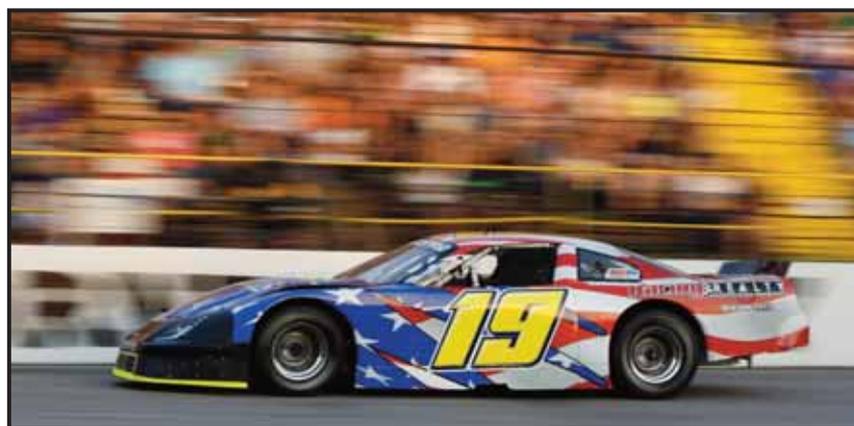
Arrenagado and Gluchacki made contact heading out of turn four on the final lap. The contact caused Arrenagado to get out of shape just enough to allow Gluchacki to edge ahead for the win coming under the checkered flag. Kuhn capped off a solid day with another podium finish. Morgan and DeGasparre Jr. rounded out the top five. Paul Lineham, Rose, Tommy Adams and Uhrig completed the top-ten in the Late Model main event.

Carteret County Speedway

PELETIER, NC - Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway will crown its champions in prime-time on Saturday, November 2nd in the regular season finale at the track and the next to last race on the 2019 calendar.

While many of the points battles have been decided already entering the regular season finale, twin races for the Battlefield Tire Pros Mini-Stock division will provide the backdrop of a thrilling championship showdown between reigning division champion Stephen Sanders and Kris Hetu. The two drivers are separated by just four points entering next Saturday's championship race.

The Limited Late Model division will see Chris Burns clinch the track championship for the second time
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Chris Burns leading on track during a race on May 26th at Carteret County Speedway. (MORGAN ODUM photo)

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in his career. Burns won the Limited Late Model title back in 2016 and has more wins in Limited Late Model competition at Carteret than any other driver.

Mike Cooper enters the Street Stock finale with an insurmountable 23-point advantage and should clinch the Sportsman's Wholesale Street Stock division championship by

starting next Saturday. Andrew Jackson, likewise, is expected to clinch the U-CAR division championship by taking the green flag on November 2nd.

Carteret County Speedway rookie Jordan Lamothe will pick up the division championship in the Legends division, the strongest division at Carteret County in 2019 which has seen 83 drivers compete throughout the course of the regular season.

Another driver competing in their first season at Carteret is Charles Pudenz, and Pudenz has already clinched the Mini Cup division championship. In Jr. Mini Cup, Scotty Benford trails division leader by 12 points.

While the November 2nd race will conclude the regular season and determine the track's championships, it will not be the last race of the season at Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway. On Saturday, November 16th, the Carolina Mini-Stock Nationals will return to Carteret County with the largest field of Mini-Stocks in the region.

The championship race on November 2nd will also play host to the Southern Ground Pounders Vintage Racing Club. Pre-race festivities on both November 2nd and November 16th will get underway at 4pm and the green flag will wave at 5pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults while kids 10 and under are admitted free.

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

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Ronnie Williams and the #50 Les's Auto Center team came into the



Ronnie Williams and team found it comfortable in Stafford Speedway's victory lane in 2019 and won the SK Modified Championship. (STAFFORD SPEEDWAY photo)

2019 SK Modified® season at Stafford Speedway ready to defend their championship. Williams and the #50 team recorded an impressive 5 wins, 13 top-5 and 18 top-10 finishes this season, but those impressive stats nearly weren't enough. After 20 events and a long summer grind the SK Modified® points championship ended in a tie between Williams and Todd Owen with 840 points each. Owen won the final SK Modified® race of the season but Williams' 5 wins to Owen's 4 gave him the tiebreaker and a second consecutive championship.

"I can't thank all my guys enough," said Williams. "They worked hard all year long, the driver kind of put us in a little setback at the beginning of the year but the guys all believed in me and we won some races. It came down to the wire and Todd did what he had to do by going out and winning the final race but we also did what we had to do. I'm really happy to be the champion again this year. Thanks to Empower Financial, All Town Sanitation & Recycling, Flamingo Motorsports, Les's Auto, Noonan Energy, Hamm's Welding, Pettit for the awesome power, Centurn Machine, and NAPA of Tolland. We lost Cory Flowers and Bud Edmonds over the off-season so this is for those guys and hopefully we can come back and do it again next season."

Williams' defense of his championship didn't get off to the best of starts. Williams was caught up in a last lap wreck in the very first race of the year as part of the NAPA Spring Sizzler® and he finished 18th on May 31 after losing a transmission during the race. At the conclusion of the first 8 races of the

season, Williams was 6th in the point standings, 76 points behind Owen.

"I've always said the Spring Sizzler is the most important race of the season," said Williams. "If you don't have a good run in that race, you're starting the next race in the back because of the handicapping and that leads into the following weeks. We were running 7th and overall not having a very good day and we got spun on the last lap and finished 17th because I put the car in a spot that it shouldn't have been in. Then the night that Andrew Molleur won his first race, we were running third and probably would have had a least a top-5 finish, the transmission let go and we ended up finishing 18th. At that point we were 76 points behind so we had a lot of ground to make up and we had to be perfect for the remainder of the season."

Williams' march towards the championship began with the June 28 NAPA SK 5k. Williams became the first back-to-back winner of the 100-lap extra distance summer classic following a hard charge back through the field after getting caught up in a multi-car wreck on a lap-40 restart. The NAPA SK 5k victory set off a 5-race stretch that saw Williams finish in the top-3 each week. The strong summer run carved his deficit to Owen from 76 points down to 44 points. Over the final 12 races of the season, Williams never finished a race worse than 6th position.

"Every time I come to the race-track with the #50 team, I feel like we have a good chance to win, it's just a matter of if things fall our way or not," said Williams. "In the 5k we were involved in a wreck around lap-40 and had 2 tires go down.

When we came into the pits, we didn't put stickers on the car, we used the tires from the previous week that probably had around 100 laps on them. I remember going into turn 1 on the first lap under green the steering didn't feel quite right and I started thinking I was going to wreck at any second. Then we won, which was unbelievable and that race definitely turned things around for us."

Williams' performance in the second half of the season slowly chipped away at the point lead that Owen had built up eventually taking control of the point lead for the first time following his victory in the August 9th feature that also saw Owen finish 22nd after an early race wreck. Williams headed into the final race with a 6 point lead over Owen, meaning that if he finished fourth or better, he would win the championship no matter where Owen finished. Williams managed to finish fourth, but it was tough sledding for Williams as he didn't get up to fourth place until there were 3 laps to go in the race and the 2019 season.

"The last race, I couldn't seem to get into the right line," said Williams. "For all the restarts we were lined up on the top and it just seemed like the top wasn't going, which was odd compared to the rest of the season. I think that race was probably the most frustrated I've ever been in a car but my spotter Jerry does a good job of calming me down. It didn't help to see that Todd got to the lead pretty early in the race. We went from 8th to 13th and he went from 9th to the lead in about 10 laps, so I knew there was going to be some tough competition getting through the field, we just needed to catch a break. The last restart with about 12 to go we started 7th and I followed [Michael] Gervais through the field and I was able to get by him with 3 laps to go."

Williams is now the 6th different driver to have won back to back championships in the SK Modified® division, joining Jerry Pearl ('84-'85), Mike Christopher ('89-'90), Bob Potter ('91-92, '94-95), Ted Christopher ('00-01), and Rowan Pennink ('15-'16). Williams and the #50 team will look to become the first SK Modified® team to win three consecutive championships since the division was created in 1982.

"That's pretty crazy, I didn't realize that no one has ever won three championships in a row in the SK's," said Williams. "You look at

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the back to back list and there's some really great names like Jerry Pearl, Mike and Teddy Christopher, and Bob Potter. It's hard to believe Teddy won 9 championships at Stafford but never 3 in a row. I think every year is a different year. Our first championship was a relief and this year was an awesome feeling and now we're gunning for that same feeling of winning championships."

Williams will officially be crowned the 2019 SK Modified® Champion at the 50th Annual Stafford Speedway Champion's Awards Banquet, scheduled for Friday, November 15 at Maneeley's in South Windsor. Tickets to the awards banquet are \$50 and are on sale now. Tickets can be ordered by calling the track at 860-684-2783 or they can be ordered online at www.staffordspeedway.com.

For more information, visit www.staffordspeedway.com, checkout Stafford Speedway on Facebook or Twitter, or contact the track office at 860-684-2783.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Over the past several seasons, Tom Fearn has become synonymous with winning Late Model races and championships at Stafford Speedway. The East Longmeadow, MA native and driver of the #92 King Ward Coach Lines Chevrolet entered the 2019 season with 22 wins and 2 championships from 2016-2018 and added another 8 wins to those totals with a dominant 2019 season that saw him clinch a second consecutive championship and third Late Model championship in the last 4 years.

"The competition level has risen every year and we just have to try to stay on top of our game," said Fearn. "We're enjoying what we're doing right now and team morale is great. It's nice to be able to give something back to all the guys on the crew who take a lot of time away from home and other things to be able to work on the car and be at the track during the week. This championship isn't just for me, it's for all of them as well. The last few years we've been real consistent and we've tried to finish every lap. I have a great car and crew

behind me with great sponsors supporting us like King Ward Coach Lines, SAFCO Foam, Sun Valley Fire Equipment, Whips Sporting Goods, JR Sweeping, Hamm's Chassis, R.A.D. Auto Machine, John Williams, Buzzy does our drivetrain, and the track sponsors NAPA, Sunoco, iRacing. We have something that is working for us right now and our plan is to keep on going with that. I guess I'll continue to keep on doing this until I can't do it anymore."

Fearn and the #92 team took control of the Late Model point lead after the second race of the 2019 season and maintained that lead all the way through the end of the season. Fearn's point lead was so large that a rainout on the night of September 7 enabled Fearn to clinch the championship with 2 races still left to run.

"We strived to complete every lap this year and be consistently on the podium every week," said Fearn. "We kind of distanced ourselves from the field in the points race and it's a good feeling to have a decent point lead where you can always try things and at that point, if they don't work out then it's no big deal. With Ryan [Fearn] also driving in the Late Model division this year, we were able to try some things that if it didn't work for me it might work for Ryan and vice versa. Our car setups are almost identical but we both do some different things and it's always better when you have 2 notebooks to work off of rather than just one."

Although Fearn ended up winning 8 times and recorded 17 top-5 and 19 top-10 finishes in 20 starts this season, the year got off to somewhat of a slow start by Fearn's standards. It took Fearn and the #92 team until the fifth race to record their first win. Once they won that first race, they enjoyed an 8-race stretch where they finished 1st or 2nd in every race.

Following his first win of the season on May 31st, Fearn's point lead was 28 points and by the end of his 8 race top-2 streak, his point lead was up to 96 points or nearly 2 full races with wins worth 50 points each.

"We came to the track with what we ran last year and we had to tune on that a little," said Fearn. "Every week we'd get a little better and once we got something that worked we stuck with it. Kevin [Gambacorta] was definitely the fastest car at the beginning of the year and we were starting to wonder what he was doing that we weren't doing while we were chasing after him those first couple of races. Now I know how the other drivers feel when they're trying to chase us down on the track. I had to lean on some of my experience by going back years and years ago to when we ran a treaded tire in the Late Model division to figure out what we ran then and base my setup decisions off of that. We tried a few things and it ended up working out pretty good."

With 2 consecutive championships in their pocket, Fearn and

the #92 team will look to join Phil Rondeau ('87-'89) and Ryan Posocco ('03-'05) as the only drivers to win three consecutive Late Model track championships at Stafford. Fearn and his team will also have their eyes set on the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Division 2 National Championship after finishing third this season.

"I feel like we're in a pretty good position to do it with our team and our equipment," said Fearn. "It gets harder and harder every year to win but we continue to work harder each season as well. We started to look at the national points this season and we ended up third. The year before we won 12 races and we ended up somewhere around 25th in the national standings. That would be something else for us to shoot for next season and see if we can be in the hunt for a national championship."

Fearn will officially be crowned the 2019 Late Model Champion at the 50th Annual Stafford Speedway Champion's Awards Banquet, scheduled for Friday, November 15 at Maneeley's in South Windsor. Tickets to the awards banquet are \$50 and are on sale now. Tickets can be ordered by calling the track at 860-684-2783 or they can be ordered online at www.staffordspeedway.com.

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2019 Stafford Speedway Late Model Champion Tom Fearn shows off his second consecutive title after winning 8 features this year. (STAFFORD SPEEDWAY photo)