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Oh! What a Feeling



Martin Truex Jr. Shows What
“Keep On Trying” Means
in Coca-Cola 600

Truex and Pearn; A Great Fit at JGR

The greatest racing day of the year wound up being a testament to the three greatest race teams in the world.

Lewis Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix Formula 1 race for Mercedes; Simon Pagenaud won the Indianapolis 500

IndyCar Series for Roger Penske; and Martin Truex Jr. had another dominating performance at the Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR race for Joe Gibbs.

After building three Super Bowl-winning teams for the Washington Redskins and earning a spot in Pro Football Hall of Fame, Gibbs turned his attention to stock-car racing in 1992. And just like he did in football, Gibbs created an organization that's won five championships to earn him a spot in the next class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Truex's drive Sunday night at the Charlotte Motor Speedway simply was a hall of fame effort.

He blew a tire and smacked the wall in the first of four 100-lap segments. But he rebounded to dominate late, including a four-wide pass for the lead following a late-race restart, for his third victory of the season.

Added with Kyle Busch's three wins and Denny Hamlin's two, Gibbs teams have combined to win eight of the first 13 races.

Gibbs already had a powerhouse lineup a year ago. His four-car organization won nine of 36 races. He dropped Daniel Suarez from the lineup and brought in Truex, the 2017 series champion.

Everyone expected big things. Although most teams need time to adjust to new surroundings, Truex has been a quick, and perfect, fit.

"It was a big deal for us," Gibbs said. But you never know when you make a move like that, it's a big deal, and I think particularly for them, Cole [Pearn, crew chief] and Martin working in a small group in a small environment, I was kind of worried when they came over with us is that going to bother them.

"But certainly, I think you can kind of see they've hit their stride, and it's obviously great for us. I

think in our technical meetings, I'll say this, all four of our teams sharing everything, drivers, crew chiefs, and nobody holds anything back, and I think it's – the thrill of really this sport, which I really love, it's very unusual."

Instead of taking months to get into the groove, it took Truex weeks. He didn't win until the ninth race, but since then he's won three out of the last five.

He had the same kind of success in his old job at Furniture Row Racing, winning 16 times in the previous three seasons.

Furniture Row had a technical alliance with Joe Gibbs Racing until car owner Barney Visser decided to shut his doors. And while both teams shared information, Gibbs' cars were assembled in Huntersville, N.C., while Visser's team worked in Denver. Separated by more than 1,500 miles didn't make it easy to build a working relationship.

Truex and Pearn created a relationship that apparently traveled well.

"The transition, looking at it now, it's going well, but it's come with a lot of hard work. It's been a lot of adjustment," Pearn said.

"For me and Martin, it's always been an easy relationship between the two of us. I never, ever dreamed that when I kind of took over as crew chief that we'd be sitting here with as many wins as we've had together. It just still blows my mind. Seemed like we were just hoping that we could knock out some top 10s, and looking back what we've been able to do is great, and just so fortunate to work with so many special people on our team and now be part of a big organization with that many more special people, it's really cool. People are everything that makes this sport and makes the team, so it's really cool."

That relationship was critical Sunday night.

Truex described how the car reacted to the fourth-turn collision; Pearn made the adjustments. Despite having much of the decals scraped away from the right side of the car, Truex was unbeatable in the final 150 miles.

"The 19 [Truex] was the fastest car," Busch said after finishing



DON COBLE



Crew chief Cole Pearn congratulates his driver Martin Truex Jr. in Charlotte Speedway's victory lane Sunday night. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

third. "I'm not sure what they had different than us. Obviously, we were just off a little bit. Otherwise, I felt like we had a race-winning car capable of at least running second."

Busch now knows what it's like to be every other team in the garage.

"Obviously to be sitting here halfway through the regular season with three wins is a big deal, and I feel at home there," Truex said. "I

feel like I'm part of the team, and I know the way things work and I know what they expect of me, and I'm really comfortable being myself."

"Just really have been having fun. It's a lot of work. It's a big challenge to win races at this level, but I've definitely really enjoyed it, and looking forward to hopefully just continuing to do what they brought me there to do."

Which means being among the very elite in the world.

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ON THE COVER:

BRIAN LAWDERMILK/GETTY IMAGES

Honor and Remember

For any race fan, the Memorial Day weekend is the most exciting racing weekend of the season. The so-called "Greatest Day in Motorsports" starts early on Sunday morning with the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix. The Indianapolis 500 follows in the afternoon with the Coca-Cola 600 from Charlotte Motor

Speedway climaxing a fabulous day of racing.

While the action on the track is usually hotly contested and competitive, the real meaning of the Memorial Day weekend is highlighted as well. And, no one does that better than Charlotte Motor Speedway.

The annual promotion of the Coca-Cola 600 begins weeks prior to the 400-lap, 600-mile event. This year, several drivers made trips to military and naval bases, visited with troops and families of those who sacrificed their life for our freedoms.

The stories that many of these drivers tell about meeting and spending time with these families is truly emotional and meaningful.

While there are so many special moments that highlighted race week at Charlotte over Memorial Day weekend, I want to focus on several that were very touching.

Jeffrey Earnhardt is the grandson of Dale Earnhardt and the son of Kerry and Rene Earnhardt. The talented young driver has worked very hard on his racing career, and has finally been given the opportunity to race good equipment with a quality organization.

Saturday, Jeffrey (Earnhardt) made his fourth start of the 2019 with Joe Gibbs Racing in the #18 Toyota in the Alsco 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at CMS. The result was Earnhardt's best career NASCAR national touring series finish – third.

"It was a hot, grueling race," Earnhardt stated. "I didn't help it by knocking the fence down and knocking the crush panels off the

car. That definitely didn't help much."

"Luckily, those guys busted their butts, we got it bent out, raced hard and got back on the lead lap," Earnhardt continued. "We gave it all we had right there at the end. I literally drove my guts out at the end. That's literally all I had left in the tank."

However, finishing third had a very special meaning to Earnhardt and many others. The #10 team honored Officer Jordan Sheldon with a special tribute paint scheme on their Toyota for Charlotte. Sheldon, a Mooresville, North Carolina police officer, was killed in the line of duty during a traffic stop earlier this month. Many of Sheldon's fellow officers, as well as his family, came to the race to support Earnhardt and the #18 team.

"It meant a lot to me," Earnhardt said. "I wasn't going to lay down. Having Officer Sheldon on the car was so special and meant a great deal to me. I wanted to make him proud, so I wasn't about to lay down on the

and breakfast at the speedway. Gold Star Families are family members of many of the fallen servicemen and women who were honored and remembered this Memorial Day. Each car racing in the Coca-Cola 600 had the name of a member of the military community who lost their life in the line of duty. Celebrity Chef Robert Irvine prepared the breakfast for the Gold Star Families.

Later on Sunday, Speedway Motorsports, Inc. unveiled its plans for Welcome Home Patriots, an initiative to improve the lives of active and post-servicemen and service-women. This program is a part of the ongoing efforts to support the U.S. Armed Forces.

Welcome Home Patriots is designed to close the gap between the military community and the civilian community by partnering with companies whose mission is to give back to America's troops after their careers in the Armed Forces, and to provide a welcoming race-day VIP experience for them at SMI's motorsports facilities from coast to coast.

The program initiative is designed to provide three tangible benefits:

- Salute – Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families will be thanked for their courage, com-

mitment, and sacrifice in part with unique race-day experiences.

- Engage – Civilians will be included in the initiative as a means to strengthen the military-civilian relationship and create better understanding of common values.
- Enable – Connections to job

and service providers will assist, advise and facilitate needs as military members transition back to civilian life.

"When a soldier enters training, the concept of individual is replaced with the concept of team," Marcus Smith, Speedway Motorsports, Inc. President and CEO said. "After active duty, transitioning back to civilian society as an individual can be challenging. Our goal with Welcome Home Patriots is to bridge that gap and let these American heroes know they are supported and appreciated."

The Welcome Home Patriots initiative will be lead by Speedway Motorsports new Vice President of Armed Forces Affairs, retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Chuck Swannack. Swannack is a 1971 graduate of West Point and a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina who served more than three decades in the Army. For the past five years, he has served as the executive director of the Speedway's Children Charities supporting children in need.

The pre-race ceremony for the Coca-Cola 600 is always one of the best Memorial Day tributes for those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. This year was no exception.

Then, the Coca-Cola 600 was stopped for a tribute during the race. All the cars were brought down pit road and stopped. Crew members lined pit wall, fan stood, and the entire race track observed a 30-second moment of silence to honor and remember the reason for Memorial Day. It was truly an emotional tribute.

And, to cap off a memorable weekend, Coca-Cola 600 winner Martin Truex Jr. paid a special tribute to US Navy Chief Petty Officer Nicholas H. Null. "CPO Null" was on the windshield of Truex's Toyota for the 600 and Martin talked about meeting the Null family at the track prior to the race. Also, Johnny Morris of Bass Pro Shops and sponsor of Truex's #19, mentioned several family members who had special meaning for him on Memorial Day.

It was a very fitting and outstanding celebration to put a finish on a wonderful weekend. Hats off once again to Charlotte Motor Speedway for another great event to honor and remember so many very special people.



DENNIS PUNCH



job."

Earnhardt, also a Mooresville native, certainly made the Sheldon family, fellow officers, and a host of others, very proud last Saturday.

On Sunday morning, Charlotte Motor Speedway hosted Gold Star Families to a very special reception

mitment, and sacrifice in part with unique race-day experiences.

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Martin Truex Jr. Rallies for Dramatic Coca-Cola 600 Victory

CONCORD, NC - Martin Truex Jr. survived an early brush with the outside wall and a frenetic restart with five laps left to win Sunday night's Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

On a race that featured 16 cautions—most since the record 22 in 2005—Truex made a four-wide pass to the inside coming off Turn 2 on Lap 396 of 400 at the 1.5-mile track and beat runner-up Joey Logano to the finish line by .330 seconds.

The victory was Truex's third of the season, matching Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch and Team Penske's Brad Keselowski for most in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series so far. It was his third at Charlotte and the 22nd of his career, but it was hardly the sort of dominating performance that saw Truex lead a record 392 laps in 2016.

Quite the contrary. After charging to a lead of nearly three seconds in the first stage of the race, Truex blew a right front tire and slammed the Turn 4 wall hard enough to cause the third caution of the evening. After repairs, Truex restarted 32nd on Lap 79, but by the end of Stage 1 on lap 100, he had rallied to finish ninth and remained in the mix the rest of the night.

And when David Ragan stayed out on old tires, and Ryan Newman made a two-tire stop before the final restart on Lap 396, Truex cleared those two drivers and

Logano down the backstretch in the move that won the race, and event in which each driver honored a fallen soldier in observance of Memorial Day.

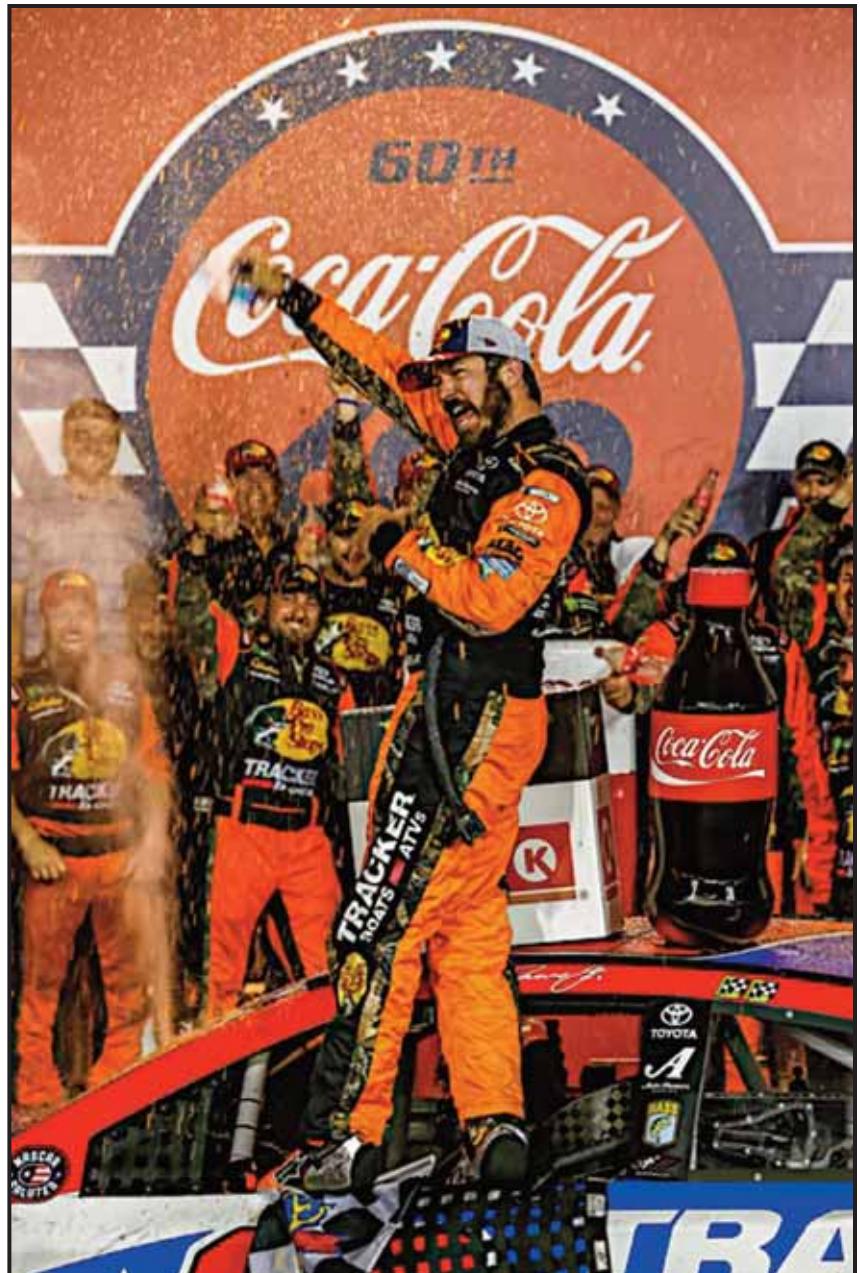
"That was just incredible—what a race!" Truex said after putting on a celebratory smoke show on the frontstretch. "This is for everybody who gave their life so we could be here doing this tonight."

"What a hell of a team—we never gave up on it. I thought we were done. We blew a tire and hit the wall. We never gave up on it. Just kept fighting, just kept fighting. What a race there at the end. That was pretty wild."

"Wild" doesn't adequately describe the decisive restart. Busch split the Fords of Ragan and Newman in Turn 2, choosing to go three-wide rather than pushing Ragan clear in the top lane. Truex then powered his No. 19 Toyota to the inside off Turn 2 and had the lead by the time the cars rolled through Turns 3 and 4.

But when Truex sped through Turn 4 and approached the tri-oval, Logano was right on his bumper, pushing hard. It wasn't until the cars reached Turn 1 on Lap 397 that Truex pulled away.

"I was thinking I was going wherever there was a hole, because I wasn't lifting," Truex said of his winning move. "That's kind of the way it works there. It seemed like the second half of the race, for sure, the bottom was really where you wanted to be. I had a hole in the bottom to get into (Turn) 3, and I knew that was my only shot. Just barely cleared the 22 (Logano) off (Turn) 4 sideways. He was on my



Martin Truex Jr. finds victory lane ever so sweet after battling for 600 miles at Charlotte Motor Speedway. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

bumper and had me sideways, and I hung onto it and luckily finished it from there."

Logano overcame early handling issues to finish second but wasn't a factor until late in the race.

"The 38 (Ragan) ran really high, and I thought he was going to run the middle, and I kind of misjudged it," Logano said of the last restart. "That's what just killed a little bit of momentum where Martin was just able to have enough momentum to clear me off that corner."

"At that point I shoved him ahead to try to make the pass to the outside, but he defended it well... The good thing is we kept fighting and got something out of the day."

Kyle Busch ran third, followed by Chase Elliott, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., and Chris Buescher, who rallied from hard contact with the Turn 4 wall on Lap 127 and charged from 12th to sixth after the final restart.

Alex Bowman, Jimmie Johnson, pole winner William Byron and

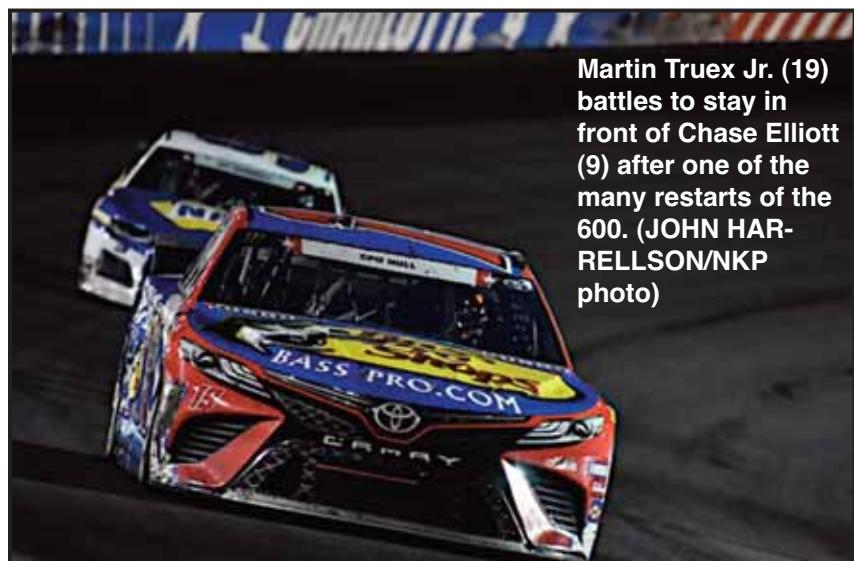
Kevin Harvick completed the top 10 in an action-filled race that featured 30 lead changes among 11 drivers.

Though Truex won NASCAR's only 600-mile race for the second time, the significance of the event was undiminished.

"This is just a special race," Truex said. "The longest race of the year."

"So much history. What this weekend means for all the soldiers and all those that have given the ultimate sacrifice so we can even be here. The Null Family that's on my car—Chief Petty Officer (Nicholas) Null."

"I met his family this weekend and they were so appreciative of NASCAR and teams and everybody for doing this. I can't wait to see them here. They said we were going to win, and now we get to have a cold beer and celebrate. Just appreciate everybody on this weekend. It's definitely a special one. Kudos to NASCAR and all the teams for putting it all together."



Martin Truex Jr. (19) battles to stay in front of Chase Elliott (9) after one of the many restarts of the 600. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

Tyler Reddick Charges to NASCAR Xfinity Victory at Charlotte

CONCORD, NC - NASCAR Xfinity Series leader Tyler Reddick ran the top lane throughout most of Saturday's Alsco 300 at Charlotte Motor Speedway—without clobbering the outside wall.

The same couldn't be said of Reddick's pursuers, many of whom developed a "Charlotte stripe" on the right sides of their cars.

Ultimately, Reddick, the defending series champion, rolled across the finish line 2.102 seconds ahead of runner-up Justin Allgaier, who couldn't catch the race winner despite racing on 14-lap fresher tires. The victory was Reddick's first at Charlotte, his second of the season and the fifth of his career.

"Hats off to all of Richard Childress Racing," Reddick said of the team to which he migrated after winning last year's series title with JR Motorsports. "We were pretty good going into the two 'off' weeks, but we weren't really happy with where we were, and they worked really hard and worked on a couple things, and we were so good when we came back here to Charlotte.

"I'm just so pumped about the

work ethic of everyone at the shop and the guys here with me today, they just worked their tails off. We held off Justin Allgaier, who is really tough to beat. I won at Charlotte—a place I used to hate."

Reddick led 110 of the 200 laps at the 1.5-mile track. Allgaier never held the top spot in posting his second straight second-place finish, but by the time he climbed from his car, his thoughts had already turned to the significance of the occasion.

"This is the kick-off to one of the coolest weekends in auto racing but also to Memorial Day," Allgaier said. "I have a grandfather who is no longer with us who served in a war, and this is a special very special day for me."

"My hat's off to all those who have lost their lives and their loved ones who are still here. Hopefully, we did them justice today."

Jeffrey Earnhardt, grandson of seven-time Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series champion Dale Earnhardt, finished third and required medical attention after the race, the result of temperatures that exceeded 135 degrees in the cockpits of some of the cars. Nevertheless, after spinning on Lap 141, thanks to a flat right front tire, Earnhardt rallied to finish third and



Tyler Reddick gives the "thumbs up" pulling into Charlotte's victory lanes after winning the Alsco 300 Saturday afternoon.
(STREETER ECKA/GETTY IMAGES photo)

claim the first top five of his career.

Noah Gragson overcame a penalty for an uncontrolled tire to run fourth, followed by Justin Haley, who rallied from a broken axle during qualifying and consequent start from the rear of the field to post a season-best result.

The race took its toll on several of the top contenders of the series. Cole Custer led the first 16 laps, but a litany of misfortunes—including several brushes with the outside wall and one collision with a

crush panel that had fallen out of a competing car—relegated him to 24th place and four laps down.

After his fifth stage win of the season in the first 45-lap segment, pole winner Christopher Bell was running second on Lap 89 when a blown right front tire, the result of a puncture from debris on the track, sent his No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing hard into the outside wall near the apex of Turns 1 and 2.

Half a lap later, Bell's teammate, Brandon Jones, smacked the Turn 4 wall with a nearly identical issue. Jones brought his car to pit road as Reddick took the green/checkered flag to win Stage 2. Bell stayed out to try to stay on the lead lap, and that decision proved costly.

As Bell rolled down the backstretch, the inner liner of his tire exploded, damaging the right front fender. Bell brought the car to pit road, where the remains of the tire caught fire in the wheel well of his Supra. As flames licked the right side of his car, Bell exited hurriedly, his race over.

"My car was running good there," Bell said after leaving the infield care center. "I had no warning of blowing a right front. I was actually a little bit loose that entire run. I guess we ran something over."

"I pile-drove the fence, and then, rolling down the back straightaway, I saw my teammate do it there, too. Bummer, but we had a really fast Rheem Supra today."

Jones, on the other hand, rallied to finish 10th.



Tyler Reddick (2) leads the battle in front of the charging field in the NASCAR XFINITY Series race at Charlotte Motor Speedway. (JARED C. TILTON/GETTY IMAGES photo)

Five Legends Named to 2020 NASCAR Hall Of Fame Class

D A Y T O N A BEACH, FL - NASCAR announced today the inductees who will comprise the NASCAR Hall of Fame Class of 2020. The five-person group – the 11th since the inception of the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2010 – consists of Buddy Baker, Joe Gibbs, Bobby Labonte, Tony Stewart and Waddell Wilson. In addition, NASCAR announced that Edsel Ford II earned the 2020 Landmark Award for Outstanding Contributions to NASCAR. The distinguished group will be honored during the NASCAR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Jan. 31, 2020.

The NASCAR Hall of Fame Voting Panel met today in a closed session at the Charlotte Convention Center to debate and vote upon the 20 nominees for the induction class of 2020 and the five nominees for the Landmark Award.

The Class of 2020 was determined by votes cast by the Voting Panel, including representatives from NASCAR, the NASCAR Hall of Fame, track owners from major facilities and historic short tracks, media members, manufacturer representatives, competitors (drivers, owners, crew chiefs), recognized industry leaders, a nationwide fan vote conducted through NASCAR.com and, for the sixth year, the reigning Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series champion (Joey Logano). In all, 57 votes were cast, with two additional Voting Panel members recused from voting as potential nominees for induction (Ricky Rudd and Waddell Wilson). The accounting firm of EY presided over the tabulation of the votes.

Voting was as follows: Tony Stewart (88%), Joe Gibbs (72%), Waddell Wilson (72%), Buddy Baker (70%) and Bobby Labonte (67%).

The next top vote-getters were Mike Stefanik, Ray Fox and Hershel McGriff.

Results for the NASCAR.com Fan Vote, in alphabetical order, were Buddy Baker, Neil Bonnett, Harry Gant, Bobby Labonte and

Tony Stewart.

The five inductees came from a group of 20 nominees that included, in addition to the five inductees chosen: Sam Ard, Neil Bonnett, Red Farmer, Ray Fox, Harry Gant, John Holman, Harry Hyde, Hershel McGriff, Ralph Moody, Marvin Panch, Jim Paschal, Larry Phillips, Ricky Rudd, Mike Stefanik and Red Vogt.

Nominees for the Landmark Award included Edsel Ford II, Alvin Hawkins, Mike Helton, Dr. Joseph Mattioli and Ralph Seagraves.

The Class of 2020 Induction Weekend is set for Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, through Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, at the NASCAR Hall of Fame and Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. The official Induction Ceremony will take place on Friday, Jan. 31, 2020. The Class of 2020 marks the 11th class and a total of 55 legends inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Tickets to Induction Ceremony events begin at \$75 per person (plus tax and applicable service fees). Tickets go on sale on Saturday, July 6, 2019, at 10 a.m. ET. Special pre-sales will be available to NASCAR Hall of Fame members Tuesday, June 25 through Friday, July 5.

For additional details about the Class of 2020 Induction Weekend events and to learn about becoming a NASCAR Hall of Fame member, visit nascarhall.com.

Class of 2020 Inductees:

- **Buddy Baker:** At six feet, six inches tall, Buddy Baker was often called the “Gentle Giant,” a nod to her personable nature during a 33-year career. In 1980, the Charlotte, North Carolina, native won the Daytona 500 with an average race speed of 177.602 mph – a track record that still stands. That same year, Baker became the first driver to eclipse the 200-mph mark on a closed course while testing at Talladega Superspeedway. He won 19 races in the Cup series, including a victory in the 1970 Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway where he lapped the rest of the field. He also won back-to-back Coca-Cola 600s at Charlotte in 1972-73. After retiring in 1992, Baker made a successful transition to the television

booth as a commentator for The Nashville Network and CBS, and later as a radio co-host on Late Shift and Tradin’ Paint for SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

- **Joe Gibbs:** Joe Gibbs has won throughout his entire life. The three-time Super Bowl champion football coach started Joe Gibbs Racing in 1992 and has led the organization to four Cup Series championships and five Xfinity Series titles. Known as a master motivator, Gibbs’ 164 Cup Series owner wins (through May 22, 2019) rank third all-time. They include three Daytona 500 victories and five Brickyard 400 wins. His Cup Series titles have come with three different drivers: Bobby Labonte (2000), Tony Stewart (2002, ‘05) and Kyle Busch (2015). Referred to in NASCAR circles has simply “Coach,” Gibbs was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1996.

- **Bobby Labonte:** The ultimate grinder, Bobby Labonte raced any car he could get behind the wheel of before he got his first break as a full-time Cup Series driver at 28 years old in 1993. His persistence paid off with a career highlighted by 21 trips to Victory Lane and the 2000 Cup Series title. A success in all three of NASCAR’s national series, Labonte was the first of four drivers to win both a Cup and Xfinity Series championship. He is also one of 27 drivers to win a race in all three national series. The Texan showed up on the biggest stages throughout his 2000 Cup championship season, earning two of his four wins in the Brickyard 400 and Southern 500.

- **Tony Stewart:** Known as “The People’s Champion” for his blue-collar, hard-nosed style of competition, Stewart immediately showed that he would be a force to be reckoned with in NASCAR – earning three victories in his Rookie of the Year season. The titles soon followed. Stewart won his first Cup championship in 2002 driving for Joe Gibbs Racing and answered that quickly in 2005. His versatility was on display throughout his 17-year NASCAR career. He tallied 49 wins in the Cup Series – winning on every style of track. He won the prestigious Brickyard 400 at his

beloved, home-state Indianapolis Motor Speedway twice. In 2009, Stewart became a team owner, partnering with Gene Haas. He won 16 times as a driver/owner including one of the most memorable championship pursuits in history. In 2011, he won five of the 10 Playoff races – including the season finale – to claim his third title by virtue of a tiebreaker over Carl Edwards.

- **Waddell Wilson:** A dual threat as an engine builder and crew chief, Waddell Wilson powered and guided cars to some of the biggest victories in NASCAR history. As an engine builder, he supplied the power that helped David Pearson (1968, ’69) and Benny Parsons (1973) to Cup Series titles. Overall, Wilson’s engines helped some of the greatest drivers to ever wheel a car – including NASCAR Hall of Famers Pearson, Fireball Roberts, Bobby Allison, Cale Yarborough and Darrell Waltrip – to 109 wins and 123 poles. He originally gained acclaim for building the engine Roberts used to win the 1963 Southern 500. Wilson guided three cars to Victory Lane in the Daytona 500 as a crew chief, winning The Great American Race with Buddy Baker (1980) and Cale Yarborough (1983-84). The famed “Grey Ghost” he assembled for Buddy Baker still holds the Daytona 500 record with an average speed of 177.602 MPH.

Landmark Award for Outstanding Contributions to NASCAR:

- **Edsel Ford II:** There are few names as iconic in the sport of auto racing as Edsel Ford II. A member of the Ford Motor Company Board of Directors and longtime executive of the company founded by his great-grandfather Henry Ford, Edsel’s is a familiar face in the racing garage. Ford’s support of NASCAR has been both behind the scenes with the Ford Motor Company but also out in front where he is greeted warmly by the sport’s competitors, executives, team owners and fans at any race track he visits. His leadership at Ford includes time as President and Chief Operating Officer (May, 1991-1998) and a Director of International Speedway Corporation (November, 2007-October, 2015).

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Ty Majeski Scores First Career ARCA Menards Series Victory in General Tire 150 at Charlotte

Ty Majeski (No. 22 Crestliner Ford) scored a surprise victory in Thursday night's ARCA Menards Series General Tire 150 at Charlotte Motor Speedway, taking the lead on a late restart and holding off Sheldon Creed (No. 21 Chevy Accessories Chevrolet) and Gus Dean (No. 32 Icebox Helmet Coolers Chevrolet) in a two-lap dash to the checkered.

Majeski benefitted when the race's dominant driver Michael Self (No. 25 Sinclair Lubricants Toyota) tapped the outside wall on lap 85. ARCA officials displayed the caution, but Self stayed out as the rest of the lead lap cars came to pit road for tires. Self restarted as the leader but drifted back through the field as Bret Holmes (No. 23 Holmes II Excavation Chevrolet) took over the lead. Holmes led through lap 95 when Majeski took the lead.

It wasn't all smooth sailing for Majeski, however, as the caution came out on lap 99, just as the field had taken the white flag for a crash involving Riley Herbst entering turn three. Majeski had to endure another restart when Codie Rohrbaugh made contact with the wall in turn two.

Despite the late race excitement, Majeski drove to a quarter-second advantage on the final lap over Creed.

"Restarts were crazy tonight," Majeski said. "Clean air is king. The 23 (Holmes) had two new tires and was able to hold off the 18 (Herbst) who had four tires because he had clean air. I worked the top and worked the top and was able to make up some ground and get around him."

Creed was penalized for speeding on his last stop at lap 92, but was able to quickly knife his way through the field.

"I knew I didn't want to speed and I watched the tach the whole way down pit road," Creed said. "I looked up to find my pit stall and and I looked back down and knew it was going to be close. ARCA called me for it and it was all on me. We had a great car and got through the field pretty quick. I hate what

happened with the 18 down the backstretch. He gave me the bottom the lap before and then threw a block pretty hard on the top side the next lap. I am not the kind of guy to just turn someone into the fence, but I am not the kind of guy that wants to get blocked like that either."

Dean was happy with a third-place result after spending much of the race at the back half of the top ten.

"We started eleventh and moved up to eighth in the first five laps," he said, "but that's all we could get until lap 90. Those last ten laps seemed like a totally different race. We went from eighth to second and eventually finished third. The restarts were wild. We had about six or eight cars there going for it. It was really intense. These cars race totally different than the (NASCAR Gander Outdoors) Truck I am used to. It was a lot of fun to be back."

Majeski was relieved to pick up his first career ARCA Menards Series win after a disappointing 2018 season.

"Last year was really tough," he said. "It's great to come back with Chad Bryant Racing and run well every time. I don't bring a lot of money, I got here on talent and results and when you have a bad year like we did last year there's a



Ty Majeski celebrates his first ARCA Menards Series victory in Thursday's General Tire 150 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. (HHP/Harold Hinson photo)

chance people won't want to work with you. Thankfully I have some great people behind me. It's great to get Chad and Paul Andrews into victory lane. They haven't had the results they've wanted this year either so it's a big night for all of us."

Self led 91 of the race's 109 laps before fading after he tapped the outside wall. He was disappointed with how his night ended up.

"I just made a mistake and got greedy," Self said. "I just pushed it a little too hard and made a mistake. I wish they didn't throw the caution. We still salvaged a top five which is good, I guess."

There were two lead changes among three drivers and seven cautions for a total of 38 laps. Majeski's winning average speed was 109.426 miles per hour. Christian Eckes was involved in the first caution of the night and was transported to a local hospital after the

race for evaluation after the crush panels were knocked out allowing exhaust fumes into the car.

Unofficially, Self leads the ARCA Menards Series standings by 25 points over Travis Braden and 35 points over Holmes.

Next up for the ARCA Menards Series is the General Tire #AnywhereIsPossible 200 at Pocono Raceway on Friday, May 31. Practice starts at 9 am ET, followed by General Tire Pole Qualifying at 12 noon. The race is scheduled to start at 5:45 pm ET and will be televised live on FS2 with a same day replay on FS1 at 8 pm ET. ARCA members can access live timing & scoring, live track updates, and live chat for free at ARCARacing.com. Now users may join for free with a valid email address at ARCARacing.com/login. For tickets, log on to PoconoRaceway.com or call 800-RACEWAY.

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LOWER LAP TIMES

Luke Wilhelm Wins Inaugural Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Model Series Feature

SALEM, IN - In a night of first, 12-year-old Luke Wilhelm from nearby Clio, Michigan, came away with the victory in the inaugural 25 lap feature for the Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Models on Saturday night at Birch Run Speedway. The newest series sanctioned by Champion Racing Association Powered by JEGS made its big debut on Saturday and with several of the drivers from nearby Birch Run, the stands were filled with family members and friends cheering on their favorite drivers, it was a great beginning for the new series.

The Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Models is a new racing series in 2019 to focus on a youth movement for short track stock car racing that will see 10 to 15-year-old drivers compete amongst themselves for both experience and recognition in full size late models with an economical drive train and suspension alternatives. Saturday's race was the first of eight scheduled events for the series in 2019.

"It's really cool to win the first ever series event," remarked Wilhelm in victory lane. "We have a lot of family and friends here and it was great to win in front of them. This is going to be a fun series and I'm looking forward to racing in it this year!"

The day started with an orientation meeting for the seven Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Models teams who participated in the first ever series event. That quickly went to the track with the first of two practice sessions. Some teams had tested prior to Saturday's event on the 1/3-mile track at Birch Run, while others made their first ever laps on that track and in a full-size late model. The first practice saw all seven cars make improvements. The second practice session also served as group qualifying with 14-year-old Chase Bruda claiming the first ever MPM Marketing Fast Qualifier Award.

The racers participated in an on-track autograph session to start the evenings festivities. From there the first of two heat races rolled off as

the drivers were participating in their first ever races in full size late models. 11-year-old Katelyn Hettinger got the win in the first heat with a great pass of 12-year-old Charlie Keeven. Burda raced from his fourth place starting position to get the win in the second heat race over Luke Wilhelm.

Luke Wilhelm grabbed the early lead at the drop of the green flag for the Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Models 25 lap feature from the pole after the three car inverted start. The action up front was tight between Luke Wilhelm and 13-year-old Jonathan Shafer. Shafer and Wilhelm made contact coming out of turn four on lap four when Shafer spun and clipped the right side of Burda's and then collecting Keeven. 11-year-old Zach Wilhelm also received heavy contact on his right front in the aftermath of the incident. The event was red flagged after the initial yellow came out.

All drivers were okay, but Shafer, Keeven and Zach Wilhelm's nights were over because of damage to their cars. Burda's car received repairs so he would be able to continue.

Luke Wilhelm grabbed the lead on the re-start and never looked back leading the final 22 all green flag laps and winning by a little over a second. Burda came from the tail on the restart to battle his way through the field to get a second-place finish with no body parts on his cars right side. Burda received the AR Bodies Cool Move of the Race for his run through the field to get a second-place finish.

Hettinger would finish in third place. 13-year-old Evan Varney did a great job avoiding several incidents and brought home a fourth-place finish.

The next Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Models event will be at Anderson Speedway on Saturday, June 15th. More information on the Victory Custom Trailers CRA Junior Late Models is available at www.cra-racing.com.

Raintree 100 at Mt. Lawn Speedway Postponed to June 30

SALEM, IN - The Vore's Welding CRA Late Model Sportsman Pow-

ered by JEGS Marcum's Steel and Welding Raintree 100 event scheduled for today at Mt. Lawn Speedway has been cancelled. Mt. Lawn Speedway management stated that excessive rains this week and last night, combined with the forecast for more today have left the grounds too saturated to support race haulers.

The Marcum's Steel and Welding Raintree 100 will now take place on the series already scheduled Sunday, June 30th event at Mt. Lawn Speedway, which will be the series next scheduled event.

VanDoorn Get First Ever JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Win at Birch Run Speedway

SALEM, IN - Johnny VanDoorn is a proven CRA Champion with three ARCA/CRA Super Series Championships and a proven winner with 22 ARCA/CRA Super Series victories in his career, but Saturday night VanDoorn got a CRA first, his first ever JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour Presented by Chevrolet Performance victory in the Dixie 100 Presented by JEGS.com at Birch Run Speedway. VanDoorn dominated the last 39 laps pulling away to win by almost five seconds over second place Hunter Jack.

"Had a heck of a car tonight, you just don't get too many of them like this," remarked VanDoorn in victory lane. "We brought a whole new package here. Butch and I are always trying new setups for our business and our customers with our Chassis'. We've started hitting on stuff the last few races last year and the beginning of this year at Nashville I also felt like we were hitting on some stuff. The car was really good. You don't get too many of them like that a year, so hopefully it isn't the last time."

Lakeland, Florida native Steve Dorer took the early lead from his outside pole position start after Jerico Performance Products Fast Qualifier Brian Campbell drew a ten for the inverted start. Dorer held off the early challengers of rookie Hayden Sprague who had a very fast car at the beginning of the race while VanDoorn started his march to the front from his eighth starting position. Dorer continued to lead through several early caution restarts but VanDoorn closed on his bumper with Brian Campbell also in the hunt for the lead. The three battled hard for several laps with Dorer holding them at bay using the high groove in the turns.

VanDoorn would finally get by on the bottom on lap 27 to grab the lead, but the battle continued behind him for second between Dorer and series all-time wins leader Campbell, with Campbell making contact with Dorer and getting around him to second, but a caution flew dropping Campbell back behind Dorer again.

At the drop of the next restart green flag VanDoorn kept his lead with Dorer in second and Campbell in third. Dorer continued to use the high line to hold off Campbell for several laps, Campbell then made a dive to the inside with some contact and got by Dorer, but Dorer soon caught Campbell and made contact, turning Campbell around. Both competitors were sent to the tail of the field for the next restart.

From there VanDoorn held off fellow ARCA/CRA Super Series regular Jack on a couple of restarts, the final with 39 laps to go. VanDoorn pulled away to get the win for owner Tom Kmak.

VanDoorn picked up a Hoosier Racing Tire Performance Award and the AR Bodies Cool Move of the Race Award for his pass on Dorer. Jack's second place finish was a series best for him, Jack picked up the FLUIDYNE High Performance Cool Under Pressure Award for holding off former series Champion and Birch Run native Dan Leeck over the closing laps to get his second-place finish. Leeck, a former series winner at Birch Run, raced in the top five through out the event.

Dorer would come back through the field to finish in fourth with a brand-new race car that hit the track for the first time in practice on Saturday, with veteran Michigan Crew Chief Jimmy Smith's help. Campbell would come from the back twice and get a fifth-place finish.

Mandy Chick picked up a Hoosier Racing Tire Performance Award for coming from her scheduled 19th place starting position to finish in ninth and was as high as fifth late in the race. Chick's crew picked up the PiBoxes.com Pit Crew of the Race Award after pulling their car out of impound after qualifying and making changes so Chick could have a great run in the feature.

The next JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour will be at the Third Annual Short Track U.S. Nationals at Bristol Motor Speedway on Saturday June 1st. That 100-lap event will pay \$5,000 to win. More information is available at www.cra-racing.com.

Logan Schuchart Fends Off a Hard Charging James McFadden to Win at Charlotte

Inches before Logan Schuchart claimed his third World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series win of the season, he could feel defeat breathing down his neck.

To it, he said, not today. Even with few options to stop it.

Life was close to leaving his right rear tire – a used tire from last year. It seemed inevitable. He claimed the lead with the assist of several drivers blowing a tire during the second night of the \$15,000-to-win United Rentals Patriot Nationals at The Dirt Track at Charlotte on Saturday.

That caused Schuchart's right foot to become wary of the throttle in the closing laps of the Feature.

"I was trying to be kind of conservative and not spin the tires, not run it into the corner very hard, try to not wear the tire very much," Schuchart said.

A second too long on the throttle or off it handed defeat the win.

That was not an option, though. He had something to lose. The top four in points blew a tire with a handful of laps to go, giving Schuchart the opportunity for a healthy points gain.

Behind him, though, defeat had nothing to lose. Australian James McFadden, running just his second race in the No. 9 Kasey Kahne Racing car, is only driving the car until an injured Kahne is ready to return. Points are of no concern. He's there to win at no cost.

To McFadden, defeat was in front of him, and he was going to do whatever it took to beat it.

Having blown a tire in the early stage of the race, McFadden managed to stay on the lead lap and use his newly granted right rear grip to blow by anxiety-ridden drivers trying to save their tire.

"We just had nothing to lose, really," McFadden said. "Everyone was trying to conserve, and I wasn't."

With three laps to go, McFadden became the hare chasing tortoises. Due to his carefree ability to run his car as hard as he wanted and several drivers blowing a tire, he went from 16th on Lap 27 to 5th on Lap

28. A lap later he was in the podium.

A caution flew with one lap to go, setting up a green-white-checkered finished. On the start, he blew by Kerry Madsen on the high side to take second. Next became a duel between the Tasmanian devil and the shark.

McFadden had nothing to lose, but Schuchart said he was going to make his Shark Racing car as wide as he could. Coming off turn two on the final lap, McFadden launched off the corner and went from being two car lengths back to on Schuchart's bumper. Then into the final turn, both drivers threw their car into the turn. McFadden up top. Schuchart on the bottom.

A car length distance grew between the two through turn three, but coming off turn four McFadden had a race winning run. Schuchart knew it. Defeat was breathing down his neck. His only option was to move up a lane, blocking McFadden's run.

"I knew somebody would be coming, especially the guys who changed their tire," Schuchart said. "I heard James when we went through (turns) one and two. I just tried to make my car as wide as possible. Definitely if we had another corner, he would have got by me. But it all worked out great."

McFadden wishes there was that extra corner.

"It was good fun. I wish we had a couple of more laps," McFadden said. "We were pretty decent there."



Logan Schuchart celebrates after winning Saturday's United Rentals Patriot Nationals at The Dirt Track at Charlotte. (HHP/Barry Cantrell photo)

McFadden did earn the hard charger award for the night, after starting 18th. Schuchart had his own impressive charge, coming from 14th to win – the furthest back a driver has come from this year to win.

His win leaves him fifth in points – 136 points behind leader Donny Schatz. It was more than a 20-point gain from the night before.

Schatz ended the race 11th, after being three laps from victory before blowing a tire. Brad Sweet, who sits second in points – 42 points behind Schatz – also blew a tire after taking the lead from Schatz, finishing 18th.

Schuchart's right rear tire resembled an asphalt modified tire more than a Sprint Car tire after the 31-lap Feature, making he and his team shake their head on how it survived.

"I knew I had a lot more rubber than the other cars, just by looking at them and when I go into the corner the last five laps it just felt like it wanted to drive right by them," Schuchart said. "I don't know why.

This thing [the tire] was used. I'm pretty sure it was up in the rack from last year. So, maybe if it sits for a while it adds something to it.

"I actually wasn't real happy with the tire being put on before the race, but it lasted and it got us the win."

With defeat breathing down his neck, Schuchart and his used – now very used – right rear tire said, not today.

Giovanni Scelzi Beats Kyle Larson to Win First Night of the United Rentals Patriot Nationals in Charlotte

A gasp echoed over the field of 24 thunderous Sprint Cars raging around the 4/10-mile Dirt Track at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Goliath fell. David won.

Seventeen-year-old Giovanni Scelzi did the unthinkable. He passed a dominate Kyle Larson in the closing laps of night one of the United Rentals Patriot Nationals at The Dirt Track at Charlotte Friday night. In doing so, he claimed his second World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series win.

"That's so cool," said Scelzi, choosing his words with hesitation, as those having to convince himself it actually happened. "I can't believe I got by him. Normally when he (Larson) gets away, he's gone."

Larson – still riding the momentum of his \$1 million NASCAR All-Star win – showed no signs of rust in a Sprint Car by Qualifying fourth, finishing second in his Drydene Heat race and winning the DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash.

With all of the attention on Larson, Scelzi quietly pieced together a competitive run. He also finished

(Continued Next Page)



Giovanni Scelzi waves the checkered flag from victory lane after defeating Kyle Larson for the win at the Dirt Track at Charlotte Motor Speedway. (Chris Owens/WoO photo)

Continued...

second in his Drydene Heat race and finished runner-up to Larson in the Dash.

When the 30-lap Feature went green, Larson left Scelzi to play with Brad Sweet and David Gravel for second-place. In the early stage of the race, Gravel looked to be the one potential car to challenge Larson, charging his way from fourth to second by lap four.

Scelzi shutdown Gravel's hope of another win the next lap with a slide job through turns one and two to reclaim second. Gravel made the same move the next lap, but Scelzi outpowered the No. 41 car again through turns three and four.

By the time Scelzi returned to second, Larson was gone. Riding the high side of the speedway, the No. 57 of Larson became a speck in the cloud of dust to Scelzi. However, the teenager's duel with Gravel taught him a lesson.

"David passed me and when I got by him, I knew it was time to go to the top," Scelzi said.

Moving to the top kept Scelzi on pace with Larson, but as the track began to rubber up, he moved a lane down again. His lane transitions proved beneficial. With about eight laps to go, Larson went from being a speck to a full frame picture. The NASCAR winner slid up off his line through turn two, making the back end step out and scrubbed off speed.

That gave Scelzi the advantage through turns one and two. He darted underneath Larson down the backstretch and slid by him in turns three and four to officially take the lead with five laps to go.

"I caught him in the rubber, and it looked like he was still searching, and I had the perfect opportunity to pull the trigger," Scelzi said. "I figured he'd chop me, but he's a very clean racer."

From there, Larson had nothing for the Fresno, Calif. native. Instead he had to fend off a hard charging Logan Schuchart, who came from seventh-place to third.

"Second is always a good spot to be because you can see the leader struggling and make your move, which Gio did," Larson said. "I made a mistake through that corner, I just go arched out too much and got the car bent and then I lost my right rear grip, which didn't help

for my exit speed."

While Schuchart was happy with his strong run, he left knowing it could have been better. He said he needs to get better at Qualifying up front more to put himself in position to start further up front and have a better shot at the win.

His finish leaves him fifth in the Series' points standings – 158 points behind leader Donny Schatz. The 10-time Series champion currently sits 28 points ahead of second-place Brad Sweet.

The finish to the opening night of the inaugural United Rentals Patriot Nationals left many fans stunned, but it's not the first time Scelzi has pulled off an astonishing feat. Last year, he became the youngest ever World of Outlaws winner, at 16 years old, by winning his first Series race at the historic Williams Grove Speedway.

This time though, he had extra attention. NASCAR attention.

In the grandstands, the likes of Bubba Wallace, Ryan Blaney and Jeff Gordon watched on. While on the track, he had to compete with Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Larson.

When the helmet goes on, Scelzi said he's just focused on the race, but he hopes his run gained him a little more attention.

"Man, I'd like to be over across the street at the NASCAR track," Scelzi said. "But who knows. I'm having a ball racing Sprint Cars. I'm just happy being here."

The crowd of thousands at the Charlotte dirt track knew the NASCAR names. When Larson was announced at the DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash draw, the bleachers erupted into emphatic cheers. Scelzi was greeted with golf claps.

When he pulled into Victory Lane ahead of Larson that changed. Standing atop the wing of his car, taller than Goliath, those

emphatic cheers became his.

Larson fell. Scelzi won.

Danny Dietrich Wins World of Outlaws Debut at 3/8-Mile Bridgeport Speedway

Sweat masked Danny Dietrich's face. His breathing adjusted to the need for an extra pocket of air. His boisterous posture tired, but a smile stayed. The Gettysburg, Pa. native wore the appearance of a lonely diver seconds after surviving a shark attack.

And in his own way, he did.

Dietrich won his fifth World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series victory Tuesday night in the Series' debut at the 3/8-mile Bridgeport Speedway. To claim it, he fended off attacks by David Gravel, Carson Macedo and 10-time Series champion Donny Schatz – who even stole the lead from him late in the race.

"It was pretty nerve racking," Dietrich said after the 35-lap Feature.

His night started on a less nerve-crushing note, setting Quick Time in Qualifying – making him the current track record holder for the new 3/8-mile track configuration. From there he went on to finish second in his Drydene Heat race to Schatz and then won the DIRTVision Fast Pass Dash.

His Dash victory lead to concern, though. He and his team discovered an issue with the rear end of their No. 48 car and had to change it. While sweat leaked from Dietrich and his crew, their nerves never faltered. Focused and determined, the Dietrich team, along with help from others were able to replace the car's rear end in about 15 minutes.

Having a new rear end in the car was of no concern to Dietrich, but

the new brakes were.

"We rolled out there (for the Feature), we had new brake pads and rotors. It needed to set the brake pads in a little bit," Dietrich said. "We didn't have very good brakes there rolling around before the green flag. They came in. That's the only thing I was worried about."

When the green flag flew, all that matter was the throttle. He mashed it, jolting to the lead over second-place Macedo and put several car lengths between them by the end of the first lap.

At the same time, Schatz – who was hungry for a win after getting passed for the win last week – almost found himself off the track on the first lap and fell from third to 10th. He wouldn't stay there long, though.

At the front, Dietrich enjoyed a clear race track for six laps before catching lap traffic. Behind him, Gravel worked his way by Macedo for second-place and could sense the blood in the water with lap cars slowing Dietrich's pace. The Watertown, Conn. native looked for *déjà vu* when lap cars helped him pass Dietrich at Williams Grove Speedway and he went on to win.

Gravel had set himself up to make a pass of Dietrich, finding grip on the bottom of the track, but a caution came out for a car stopped on the front stretch.

When the race went back green, Gravel didn't let Dietrich pull too far away. Macedo didn't let the No. 41 car get away either. On Lap 11, Macedo got by the No. 41 car, while Gravel tried to set himself up for another pass on Dietrich. At the same time, Schatz had made his way to fourth-place, steadily making his way back to the front.

For the next two laps Gravel and Macedo traded positions, while Schatz waited for his moment to strike. Macedo eventually won the battle for second-place with seven laps to go. Less than a lap later he was back in third, as Schatz found his way by Gravel and continued the run past Macedo. Next was Dietrich.

With three laps to go, Schatz snuck under the No. 48 car in turns three and four and took the lead.

"Slow down and just be patient," Dietrich said is what he told himself at that point. "When he passed me, I hit the bottom of (turns) one and two and I just had to slow down and just wait for the moisture. It felt like I was just going so slow, but patients."

A lap later his patients paid off. Dietrich slid underneath Schatz in **(Continued Next Page)**



Danny Dietrich raced his way to victory lane at Bridgeport Speedway, his fifth career World of Outlaws Series victory. (Paul Arch photo)

Continued...

turns three and four and fended him off to be the first Series winner on the 3/8-mile configuration of the Bridgeport, NJ track.

"Good hard, racing," Dietrich said. "I'm sure he's not happy to finish second, but I'm real happy to win."

Digesting the result back at his hauler, Schatz said he wishes he could have pulled off the win but isn't hanging his head too low.

"He did a little better job when I got by him and I probably should have used up more of the track a little bit," Schatz said. "But, hey, it's racing. There will be another one tomorrow."

Schatz also continues to hold the points lead over Brad Sweet – extending it to a 36 point lead. Daryn Pittman remains third – 74 points back – and Gravel, who finished third, remains fourth – 80 points back.

"The track was awesome," Gravel said. "It was really racey. A lot of grooves. Just disappointed I didn't get my wing back earlier. We had a good enough race car to win. Just got stuck on the bottom a little bit. I should have kept my speed up a little bit more."

Dietrich had the track figured out all night. Why? How?

"I have no idea," he said with a chuckle.

Wiping the sweat from his face and regaining a normal breathing pattern, Dietrich just knows he survived the big sharks of the World of Outlaws – a special present on his 31st birthday.

Curb Recording Artist Tim Dugger to Perform at Music City Outlaw Nationals

NASHVILLE, TN - Curb Recording artist Tim Dugger is not only a huge talent in the music industry, he's an even bigger race fan. For Dugger, his worlds will come together May 31-June 1 with the Music City Outlaw Nationals featuring the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series at Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway.

Dugger, who has a passion for country music and songwriting, will perform in a post-race concert on Friday, May 31, and then at a pre-

race concert on Saturday, June 1, at 4 p.m.

"I love watching the World of Outlaws race wheel-to-wheel, wing-to-wing," Dugger said. "There's no way I would miss a chance to have a concert at the Fairgrounds on the same nights with the Outlaws in Nashville. Nothing could be better!"

The Music City Outlaw Nationals marks the inaugural appearance for the World of Outlaws in Nashville, where the quarter-mile oval at the Fairgrounds has been covered in dirt for this unique event. More than \$150,000 is up for grabs, making it one of the Outlaws' biggest race weekends all year. Drivers like Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing's 10-time champion Donny Schatz, Kasey Kahne Racing's Brad Sweet, Kyle Larson Racing's Carson Macedo and Stenhouse Jr.-Marshall Racing's Sheldon Haudenschild will all be trying to capture the Friday \$15,000-to-win Feature and the Saturday \$25,000-to-win Feature.

Tickets are available online at WorldofOutlaws.com or by calling 844-DIRT-TIX Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway Gets Dirty for the Music City Outlaw Nationals

Putting dirt on top of asphalt is nothing new for the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series; the practice dates back decades prior to the formation of the series. Bringing The Greatest Show on Dirt to the historic Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway on the other hand, is brand new.

The planning process began in 2018, long before the first dump truck full of Tennessee clay was dropped onto the quarter-mile bullring at the historic venue. While numerous players were involved in the process, World of Outlaws President Tom Deery credits Events Manager Megan Hazel with the idea.

"Megan lived here for a couple of years and knew how exciting the racing at Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway was. She brought up the conversation. In the meantime, Matt Crews of Brewco Marketing Group, an event production company that has a long history with NASCAR events, was talking to (World of Outlaws CMO) Ben Geisler about an event in Nashville. Then, I was talking to Jason Rittenberry, a Nashville promoter, at a

SEMA event about the idea, and the seed that Megan planted grew into this," said Deery.

William Scogin, Clarksville Speedway owner and part-time track prepper, was on hand to help work the dirt and get the track configuration dialed in. Finding the right dirt for such an event was a logistical challenge. Originally, the dirt was going to come from nearby Nissan Stadium, where a Super-Cross event was held just a few weeks prior.

"They [AMA Supercross] just put too much sand in it for us. So, we had to go to a backup option," said Scogin. "The backup option was to get freshly dug up dirt from further away. Yesterday we put on 72 loads, and we only had eight trucks running. Traffic is killing us. The dirt we were going to use is only a couple minutes away; we'd be halfway done by now. People don't realize how much work this is to do."

Moving enough dirt to cover the asphalt was a feat in and of itself. Over the course of four days, a constant stream of dump trucks shuttled the soil some 20 miles from Millersville, Tenn. Fighting traffic and weather, it took each truck about an hour to make a roundtrip. The man in charge of the move was Shane Trucking and Excavating owner Carl Shane.

A lifelong race fan, Shane dabbled in racing himself as a young man.

"I raced motorcycles in my younger days, and I've done a limited amount of dirt track racing in automobiles," Shane said. "We have worked with another group that does monster truck events, so not particularly a racing event like this with the World of Outlaws Sprint Car races. Our biggest challenge is the weather and the condition of the soil. This is pretty much like a typical construction project — except we're doing it on asphalt at a racing venue."

After heavy rains on Wednesday morning, the hauling was halted while a team of people worked the dirt that had already been put down. Using heavy equipment, they spent the better part of the afternoon driving back and forth over the clay surface to expel the moisture and allow the dirt to compact.

"It's easier to manage less dirt than more dirt. So, if it's already wet, the less you have, the less you have to dry. When they were driving over it yesterday it was still pretty spongy, so we're going to sheepfoot it and roll it some more. It's firming up a lot, but it's still got some moisture in it," said Scogin.

While the dirt was being laid down another team worked to move two-ton barriers into place, reconfiguring the small track into a suitable course for the 900 horsepower sprint cars. During the weeks leading into the event, the crew will also add fencing, guardrail and cables.

The renewed interest in the speedway by community members and civic leaders is welcomed by everyone in the industry. The track has seen its ups and downs over the last decade, and recent attempts by large organizations and politicians to improve the facility and preserve its history has brought renewed hope for fans and those in the industry.

"I've lived here all my life. It's good, we don't need to lose any more race tracks. All race tracks need to survive. Anything, whether it's asphalt or dirt, we need everybody's support in this industry," mused Scogin.

Asked about future plans to bring dirt to pavement Deery said, "We are always planning. We are always looking for new places to bring the World of Outlaws Sprints, the World of Outlaws Late Models, or DIRTcar Racing to introduce and show the race fans The Greatest Show on Dirt."

When the lights go on for the first event of the two-weekend show, 12 trucks will have made a combined 181 trips, hauling in a total of 3,500 cubic yards of dirt. That comes out to roughly 7,000,000 pounds of dirt.

For Hazel, seeing the project come to fruition has been a professional highlight. "Seeing the dirt starting to go down after 15 months of dreaming and planning is absolutely incredible," she said. "It has been a ton of work by so many to make this idea come to life. I'm so thankful for leadership that listened to an idea, believed in it and helped push it to become a reality."

More than \$150,000 is up for grabs over the course of the event, making it one of the Outlaws' biggest racing weekends all year. Drivers like Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing's 10-time Champion Donny Schatz, Kasey Kahne Racing's Brad Sweet, Kyle Larson Racing's Carson Macedo and Stenhouse Jr.-Marshall Racing's Sheldon Haudenschild will all be trying to capture the Friday \$15,000-to-win Feature and the Saturday \$25,000-to-win Feature.

Tickets are available online or by calling 844-DIRT-TIX Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Michael Page Wins Third Southern All Star Event in a Row at Senoia Raceway

SENOIA, GA - The Southern All Star Dirt Racing Series presented by Max Fab made its first stop of the season Saturday night at the Senoia Raceway, and Michael Page continued his dominance of the gumbo in Southern All Star action as he picked up his third win

in a row in the 40 lap contest that paid \$4,000 to win.

Page inherited the top spot on lap 8 when race leader 2017 Southern All Star Champion Austin Horton, and in second place four time Southern All Star Champion Clint Smith and J R Moseley were involved in a crash in turn three ending the night for the top two cars. Page then had to hold off several challenges from Riley Hickman and current Cruise with the

Champions/Dirtondirt.com rookie leader Zach Leonhardi to get his 4th career series win.

Hickman with his second place finish took back the points lead, Leonhardi closed the gap on the top spot with his third place finish, Ashton Winger who won the first PPM Racing Products B Main in a photo finish with Shane Fulcher finished fourth from his 11th starting spot and David Breazeale brought home a fifth place finish from his 13th starting spot.

Matt Dooley in his first race with the series this year finished in the sixth spot, Dalton Cook also in first start this year finished seventh, Mark Page also in his first start this

year came home eighth, ninth went to Joey Armistead show started 24th and tenth to Billy Franklin.

RACE TIDBITS: Riley Hickman got to the track right at qualifying as his hauler had problems on the trip he thanked Jeff Smith of Georgia for helping him get to the track.

Former Southern All Star competitor Tristan Sealy made his first appearance with the series in over a year,

Front runners Travis Pennington, Mason Massey and Ricky Williams all retired early.

Also first time starts with the series this year Thomas Mewborn, Glenn Morris, Dustin Elliott, and Dusty Jones.

Storm Damage Forces Postponement of Show-Me 100

WHEATLAND, MO - A severe storm and possible tornado has done major damage to Lucas Oil Speedway, forcing this weekend's Lucas Oil Show-Me 100 presented by ProtectTheHarvest.com to be postponed.

Track and series officials are evaluating a makeup weekend for the crown jewel event for dirt Late Models. An update will be posted next Tuesday, May 28.

"Our first thoughts are for the people of the Wheatland commu-

nity and the area and we are thankful that there were no fatalities," Lucas Oil Director of Racing Operations Dan Robinson said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who were affected."

The storm moved into the area shortly before midnight and damaged several buildings, destroyed the grandstands at the off road track and also damaged some of the the grandstands at the dirt rack. There also was damage in the campground and debris was scattered throughout the facility. Several vehicles on-site were toppled, including some campers that had arrived for the weekend.

Homes and businesses throughout Wheatland suffered damage and much of the area was without power Tuesday morning.

Those purchasing advance tickets for the event should hang on to them as they will be honored when the event is rescheduled. Call the speedway office at (417) 282-5984 for more information, though phone service may not be readily available over the next few days.

For the latest breaking news concerning the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series visit the official website at: www.lucasdirt.com.

Lucas Oil Late Models Target Clash at the Mag

BATAVIA, OH - One of the largest motorsports events in the Magnolia State continues to grow. Magnolia Motor Speedway is set to host a three-day weekend spectac-

ular that offers over \$110,000 in prize money.

The GEICO Clash at the Mag - Presented by Big River Steel, set for May 30 – June 1 for the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, will have full racing programs on Thursday and Friday, culminating in a 100-lap main event on Saturday, which pays \$15,000-to-win.

In 2019, for the first time, the Clash at the Mag will feature a complete program of Time Trials, Heat Races, B-Mains and a \$5,000-to-win main event on Thursday and Friday nights. Each night, the pit gates will open at 2:00pm, followed by general admission at 4:00pm.

For more information on the GEICO Clash at the Mag - Presented by Big River Steel, visit: www.magnoliadirt.com or call the track office at (662) 240-3478.

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John Carney II Victorious In Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series Thriller at Lake Ozark Speedway

ELDON, MO - In a thriller that had everyone guessing who would take the win at Lake Ozark Speedway, El Paso's John Carney II held off the hard-charging duo of Jonathan Cornell and Matt Covington for his first victory of the season with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network on Sunday night.

"Man this feels good. We've been working hard, and we've had a fast car. Just haven't caught any breaks and I guess we did catch at least one tonight, but this car was great. Every who helps me, South Plains Auto Transport, Danny Sander Construction, Mesilla Valley Transportation, Jackson Compaction...just everyone it means a lot. It takes lots of help to operate up and down the road, and without them, I couldn't be here racing. It's a lot of fun to get to come out here and do this," stated Carney in Victory Lane.

Carney's fourth career victory with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network, the battle between he and early race leader, Matt Covington, saw the duo trade the lead nearly a dozen times with each answering the other's slide job over the course of the \$5,000 to win feature event.

Taking the point after a second attempt at the start, Covington led the way with the race halted on Lap 6 when Sam Hafertepe, Jr. and Kyle Bellm came together battling for third; sending the pair flipping violently into the third and fourth turns. Both drivers were unharmed but unable to continue. Restarting with Jamie Ball and John Carney II in tow, Covington held the point as Carney worked to second on a Lap 7 restart for a stopped No. 28 of Scott Bogucki.

Working the low side of the Lake Ozark Speedway, Carney advanced to the point on Lap 10 with the pair exchanging the position several times before Carney was able to get some breathing room. Short-lived as the pair hit traffic, Carney found his line blocked; allowing the Triple X Race Co. No. 95

to make the high line pass working Lap 20, but the caution would bring the field back to Lap 19, and the Danny Sander Construction No. J2 back to the lead.

Keeping pace on the field at the restart, Carney continued to work the hub as Covington railed the cushion. Going after the lead with five to go, the pair were joined by Jonathan Cornell with the No. 35m looking anywhere they weren't. Slide for slide, Carney, and Covington exchanged the lead with Cornell nearly taking it away several times as the laps clicked by. To the white flag, and still anyone's race, Carney made his car as wide as possible as the trio dove into the final two turns. A drag race to the checkered flag, Carney snagged the win by 0.194 seconds with Jonathan Cornell getting the last lap pass for the runner-up spot. Matt Covington in a close, and badly needed third after flipping on Saturday night, trailed by a mere 0.911 seconds. Running inside the top five nearly the entire race, Paul Nienhiser held on to fourth with Jamie Ball making a nice rebound run to fifth.

Advancing 14 positions after having to race his way in through the second B-Feature, Blake Hahn was the night's hard charger in sixth. Terry McCarl was seventh with Sean McClelland eighth. Retaking the point's lead, Roger Crockett rallied from 14th to ninth for a pair of top tens on the weekend. Finishing 10th for the second night in a row was Jordon Mallett.

Seeing several weekly competitors for Knoxville Raceway make the trip on Sunday, 38 drivers broke down into five Heat Races that went to Kyle Bellm, Sam Hafertepe, Jr., Matt Covington, Jamie Ball, and Carson McCarl. A pair of B-Features were topped by Chris Martin and Scott Bogucki. Three drivers utilized provisionals with Harli White using a National Owner Point's Provisional. Miles Paulus entered on the ASCS Warrior Region Provisional with Aryton Gennetten gifted a Promoter's Provisional.

The next event for the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network is Saturday, June 1 at Route 66 Motor Speedway in



John Carney II celebrates in victory lane after winning at Lake Ozark Speedway, his first victory of the season. (Jessica Edmiston photo)

Amarillo, Texas. Fans not able to attend can find the weekend broadcast live at www.racinboys.com.

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

Hafertepe Makes It Three In A Row With The Lucas Oil ASCS

ELDON, MO - Dominating one week ago in Michigan, Sam Hafertepe, Jr. carried that momentum into Missouri for his third win in as many races with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network coming at Lake Ozark Speedway on Saturday night.

"Hats off to my guys. They did a hell of a job tonight, just like they've been doing all year long. That's three in a row and we're going to keep on going. Lock-in cars or not, we're going to try to get it done tomorrow night," commented Hafertepe, who has taken command of the National Tour point standings by 14 markers.

High point driver out of the Heat Races, the Heidbreder Foundation No. 15h drew the fourth starting spot for the 25 lap affair. Chasing John Carney II and Evan Martin on the first lap, the caution flew working lap two as John Schulz, Alex Hill, and Austin Alumbaugh all came to a rest in the second turn. Throwing a deep slide in the restart, Hafertepe took the battle three deep off the fourth turn to grab the lead on the second lap.

Pulling a considerable lead on the field, Hafertepe began finding slower traffic as the race progressed past Lap 10. Running top shelf around the Lake Ozark Speedway, Hafertepe's lead started going the other way with every passing turn as the Danny Sander Construction No. J2 of John Carney II worked patiently around the hub of the Speedway.

Closing the gap to mere car lengths, Carney tried for the lead on Lap 13, but without enough pull off the fourth turn, showed Hafertepe the line and allowed the No. 15h to transition off the cushion just before the caution lights clicked on for Bryan Grimes. Green for another lap, the yellow flag flew as Matt Covington made contact with Roger Crockett racing for third; spinning the No. 95 down the back straightaway.

Overtaken by Roger Crockett on the restart with a middle groove pass in the first and second turn, Carney slipped to third as the Route 66 Chevrolet of Tulsa No. 11 worked on keeping pace with Sam Hafertepe, Jr. Both working varying low lines, with Hafertepe a car width higher on the track, Sam again built a comfortable advantage only to have a caution dash his momentum while working Lap 23.

Red for Matt Covington on the restart, the field took the green for the final time with a three-lap dash seeing Hafertepe win by 2.647 seconds.

Asked about the late race caution and red, Sam explained, "It's tough to know where to be. I felt really good on the top in three and four and that's really where I

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wanted to stay, but I didn't want open the lane with three to go with those guys causing the cautions and reds at the end. It really gets you guessing."

Roger Crockett held on for second with the race for third going three-wide off the final turn with John Carney II taking the spot by 0.166 seconds with a high side pass on Miles Paulus, who was the night's hard charger coming from 17th to fourth, and Evan Martin to complete the top five.

Eldon, Missouri's Kory Bales advanced nine spots to sixth with Sean McClelland moving from 10th to seventh. Racing as high as fourth in the late stages of the A-Feature, the final restart saw Jonathan Cornell slip back to eighth with Kaley Gharst and Jordan Mallett making up the top ten.

A field of 33 drivers was on hand for Night 1 of the Lake Ozark Speedway Spring 360 Nationals. Four SCE Gaskets Heat Races went to Roger Crockett, Sam Hafertepe, Jr., John Carney II, and Jonathan Cornell. A pair of BMRS B-Features were topped by Miles Paulus and Randy Martin. Owner Point Provisionals were used by Jamie Ball and Robbie Price. A Promoter's Provisional was given to Steven Russell.

Kyle Shipley Tops San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Cars at Canyon Speedway Park

PEORIA, AZ - Keeping victory in the family, the Shipley name was the one to beat this past weekend with the San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Cars at Canyon Speedway Park. With Joshua Shipley topping action on Saturday night, it was Kyle Shipley Sunday night to make it a family sweep of the Memorial Day Weekend event.

Taking off from the third positions, Kyle trailed the first seven laps. Back and forth with Joshua Shipley for the runner-up spot, the No. 0g secured second on Lap 7 and wasted no time working around race-long leader, Bruce St. James the following rotation.

Keeping pace over the field the rest of the way, Shipley crossed 1.237 seconds ahead of Bruce St. James, who posted his best finish



Kyle Shipley celebrates in victory lane after winning with the Desert Sprint Cars at Canyon Speedway Park. (Ben Thrasher photo)



Josh Shipley added his fourth career win Saturday night after winning with the Desert Sprint Cars at Canyon Speedway Park. (Ben Thrasher photo)



Lorne Wofford lead start to finish to win with the ASCS Southwest Region at Canyon Speedway Park. (Ben Thrasher photo)

of the 2019 season. Joey Scheopner was third with R.J. Johnson screaming through the field from 14th to grab fourth. Joshua Shipley

slipped back to finish fifth.

Ryan Murphy, Asa Kesterson, Stevie Sussex, Daylin Perreira, and Ronald Webster completed the top ten. The San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Cars are back on track on June 15 at Arizona Speedway.

Josh Shipley Shines With San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Cars at Canyon Speedway Park

PEORIA, Z - Adding his fourth career win with the San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Sprint Cars on Saturday night, Joshua Shipley ran to the front of the field from eighth to open the Memorial Day Weekend double at Canyon Speedway Park.

Followed by Asa Kesterson, the No. 18 moved up from ninth to second with Tanner Grau making the night's podium. Rick Shuman and Joe Scheopner made up the top five. Rolling from 11th, Tyler Most ended his night sixth with Kyle Shipley seventh. Daylin Perreira moved up to eighth from 13th with Ryan Murphy and Ronald Webster to complete the top ten.

Lorne Wofford Victorious With ASCS Southwest at Canyon Speedway Park

PEORIA, AZ - Leading start to finish at Canyon Speedway Park, New Mexico's Lorne Wofford topped the ASCS Southwest Region Sunday night for his 10th career victory with the Arizona based tour.

Getting ahead of pole sitter J.T. Imperial, the driver of the No. 7 held on for a second-place finish with Josh Grady moving up two spots to third. Saturday's winner, Eric Wilkins, moved up to fourth after starting eighth with Missouri's Hunter Schuerenberg in fifth.

Colton Hardy in sixth was trailed by Jesse Baker, Billy Chester, Alex Pettas, and James Aragon to make up the top ten.

The ASCS Southwest Region runs again on June 22 at Central Arizona Speedway in Casa Grande, Ariz.

Wilkins Tops ASCS Southwest at Canyon Speedway Park

PEORIA, AZ - One victory deserves another, and that didn't take long for Eric Wilkins who is now **(Continued Next Page)**

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back-to-back with the ASCS Southwest Region with his second career victory coming Saturday night at Canyon Speedway Park.

Wheeling the Bob Ream, Jr. owned No. 8, Wilkins grabbed the pole of the A-Feature and used his position to its full extent. J.T. Imperial crossed second with Colton Hardy making the night's podium. Lorne Wofford and Chris Bonneau completed the top-five.

ASCS Elite Non-Wing Win Goes To Justin Melton at Heart O' Texas Speedway

WACO, TX - Making his second career trip to Victory Lane with the ASCS Elite Non-Wing Series presented by Abilene Powder Coating, Justin Melton was the cream of the crop on Sunday night at the Heart O' Texas Speedway.

His fourth overall ASCS Regional triumph, with wins, also coming in ASCS Lone Star and Sooner Region competition, Melton moved to the lead from the fourth starting spot. Following from seventh, Wyatt Burks crossed runner-up for this second podium run of the weekend. Justin Fifield was third with Paul White and Gary Floyd inside the top five.

Nathan Moore, from ninth, came up to sixth with Jeb Sessums from 13th to seventh. Michelle Melton made good moves as well from 11th to eighth. Chase Parson in ninth had Kenny Taylor come from 19th to 10th.

The next outing for the ASCS Elite Non-Wing Series presented by Abilene Powder Coating is June 1 at Big O Speedway in Ennis, Texas.

Wyatt Burks Captures First Career ASCS Elite Non-Wing Victory at Grayson County Speedway

BELLS, TX - Making the nearly 500-mile trip from Topeka, Kan. to Bells, Texas, Wyatt Burks made the trip worthwhile with his first career victory with the ASCS Elite Non-Wing Series presented by Abilene Powder Coating coming at

Grayson County Speedway this past Saturday night.

Burks is the 23rd different winner with the series in 47 A-Features contested.

Topping a field of 34 at the Texas oval, Burks got to the line ahead of Craig Oakes, who marched to second after gridding the field eighth. Pole sitter Gary Floyd slipped to third with Michelle Melton and Paul White making up the top five.

Sixth went to Michael Day with Craig Carroll in tow. Kevin Reed in eighth was followed by Chance McCrary with Nathan Moore in tenth.

Tony Bruce, Jr. Grabs Lonestar Speedway Victory In ASCS Gulf South/Lone Star Matchup

KILGORE, TX - Adding his 38th overall ASCS Victory to his resume', Tony Bruce, Jr. wheeled the Ostermiller Construction No. 12h from fifth to make the race-winning pass at the race's halfway point Sunday night at Lone Star Speedway.

The second round of the weekend's showdown between the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region and ASCS Lone Star Region, Bruce had to work past Caleb Martin who had led the opening 10 laps. Taking over on Lap 11, Bruce led the remainder of the A-Feature event.

Caleb Martin held on for second with Chad Wilson third. Moving up from ninth, Channin Tankersley was fourth with Louisiana's Dustin Gates making up the top five. Crossing sixth was Marcus

Thomas with Dale Wester advancing from 13th to seventh. Picking up 10 positions, Chance McCrary was eighth, followed by Cody Stacy and 15th starting Cody Tankersley.

The next outing for the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region is June 8 at Chatham Speedway in Chatham, La. The ASCS Lone Star Region heads for the Heart O' Texas Speedway on June 14.

Wayne Johnson Rebounds From Engine Failure For ASCS Gulf South/Lone Star Victory

MESQUITE, TX - With an engine expiring under the hood of his Outlaw Wings No. 2c during his Heat Race, Wayne Johnson fought out of the B-Feature and proceeded to put on a driving clinic Saturday night in the Griffith Truck and Equipment ASCS Gulf South Region vs. ASCS Lone Star Region showdown at the famed Devil's Bowl Speedway.

Rolling to second in the B-Feature from 12th, the transfer put Wayne starting 16th in the A-Feature. Picking his way through the running order, the wily veteran took over the point on Lap 10 and never looked back.

Tony Bruce, Jr. made a last-minute appearance after Mother Nature nixed his TBJ Promotions event in Garden City, Kan. and made it worthwhile with a second-place finish. Joe Wood, Jr. came up from 10th to complete the night's podium.

Kevin Ramey from 13th crossed

fourth with Jordan Weaver crossing fifth.

Also coming out of the B-Feature, 19th starting Forrest Sutherland crossed sixth. Jake Bubak in seventh has Steven Shebester in tow. Scott Evans and Chad Wilson made up the top ten.

ASCS Rules Amendment

TULSA, OK - Concerning two-day events with the American Sprint Car Series, an amendment has been made to the Rulebook in regards to lock-in drivers from the first night.

The Top-Four drivers from the first night of competition will no longer lock into the second day of a two-day show, meaning all two-day events are treated with each night as it's own standalone event. One thing not changed is in order to be eligible for the redraw on the second night, the driver must have drawn in and attempted to compete on the first night.

"I apologize for making the change after the season started. We talked about this last season and meant to make the change before PRI, and it got overlooked. We raced last weekend at I-96 Speedway and honored it because it was already a part of the weekend program, but going forward there will be no lock-ins from the first night to the second on ASCS two-day events," commented ASCS Founder, Emmett Hahn.

Events like Dirt Cup, Knoxville 360 Nationals, and the Hockett/McMillin Memorial do not follow the two-day format and are special events with unique formats that use event points.

The rule now reads as follows, "On the second night for a two-day event at the same track, all driver will re-qualify. No lock-ins from the first night. The top four in passing points (who drew in and attempted to compete on the first night) will draw for positions 1-4 with the next four drivers in Passing Points drawing for positions 5-8."

Questions regarding ASCS Rules and Format can be directed to the ASCS Office at (918) 838-3777. Rules are posted at www.ascsracing.com/series-info/rules.aspx

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



Wayne Johnson fought his way to victory lane with the ASCS Gulf South/Lone Star Series at Devil's Bowl Speedway. (ASCS photo)

Reutzel Goes Two-for-Two in the Buckeye State

FREMONT, OH - Despite a late arriving shower's attempt to ruin the evening by creating a near-three hour rain delay just after heat race competition was complete, Fremont Speedway and Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 officials persevered and proved Mother Nature wrong, giving Fremont, Ohio, fans their first taste of All Star competition in nearly three and a half years.

The delay was well worth the wait for the enthusiastic fans, as Clute, Texas' Aaron Reutzel hard charged ten positions to claim a second All Star victory in as many contested events. In fact, Reutzel's impressive charge to the top of the podium did not require all 40 main event circuits, as the defending All Star champion took the lead for the first time on lap 12, utilizing a restart on lap 11 to drive around Aliquippa, Pennsylvania's Tim Shaffer for the runner-up spot, soon followed by a second slingshot move in turns one and two to drive around race leader, Paul McMahan, the following circuit.

Impressive enough, the \$5,000 victory bumped Reutzel's career win total with Tony Stewart's All Star Circuit of Champions to 11, each of those occurring at a different race track.

Nashville's Paul McMahan held on to maintain second at the final checkers, followed by Rookie of the Year contender, Skylar Gee, a fast closing Christopher Bell from 12th, and local standout, Craig Mintz.

"This isn't Ohio racing. This is a night when a guy can drive really hard & make a difference," Aaron Reutzel expressed in victory lane. "A big thanks going out to the track and fans for sticking this one out and making this happen for us. We just want to race! Oh, and for the guy booing me, stop down when we're done here and I'll sign you an autograph."

Despite starting 11th on the grid, Reutzel wasted little time powering his way toward the front of the field. By lap five, with the added help of a caution, Reutzel was able to advance his way to fifth, eventually battling his way around Brock Zearfoss for the fourth position with only

nine laps recorded. A slowing Tyler Esh, who was racing just ahead of Reutzel, soon pulled to a stop on the speedway, not only allowing Reutzel the opportunity to restart in the third position, but it also gave the Texan a clear takeover attempt on the ensuing restart.

When green flags flew again, Reutzel pounced, this time utilizing an impressive slingshot move through turns one and two to drive around Tim Shaffer for the runner-up position. It was just one circuit later when Reutzel repeated his power move through the first and second corners, skimming the narrow cushion to blast by Paul McMahan to officially lead lap 12.

From that point forward, it was all Aaron Reutzel at the front of the field, and although the Texan was forced to deal with periods of heavy traffic during the later stages of the 40-lap program, as well as two more stoppages in the form of cautions - one of which a red flag incident involving Brock Zearfoss, Tim Shaffer and Buddy Kofoid - the former ASCS national champion and defending All Star champion was untouchable.

The All Star Circuit of Champions will enjoy a weekend off before returning to competition on Friday evening, June 7. Igniting a month-long campaign consisting of 14 events, Tony Stewart's All Stars will spend three nights in the Empire State during the first, full weekend of June, visiting Outlaw Speedway in Dundee on Friday before making an appearance at Busti's Stateline Speedway on Saturday. The weekend will conclude with a Sunday night visit to the state-of-the-art

Weedsport Speedway on June 9.

Mother Nature Wins at Wayne County

ORRVILLE, OH - Unfortunately, the Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 fell victim to Mother Nature yet again, this time at Wayne County Speedway.

Heavy rain and high winds invaded the Orrville, Ohio-area just after 4 p.m. and lasted nearly 20 minutes, ultimately leaving Wayne County Speedway heavily saturated. Additional heavy rain fell on the speedway just before 6 p.m. leaving All Star and Wayne County Speedway officials with no choice but to cancel the evening program. The event has been rescheduled for Monday, September 2.

Mother Nature is now responsible for 12 cancellations and/or postponements during the last 14 .

Aaron Reutzel Gets All Stars Back on Track with \$5,000 Victory at Attica Raceway Park

ATTICA, OH - It has been nearly six weeks since the Ollie's Bargain Outlet All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 last made a competitive lap, but despite the frustrating stretch of poor weather resulting in a long gap in the schedule, Aaron Reutzel never missed a beat, quickly resuming his role as defending All Star champion and current point leader by earning a first-ever Attica Raceway Park victory on Friday night for a \$5,000 payday.

Although dominate during the second half of the 40-lap program, eventually crossing under the final checkers by a margin of victory pushing three seconds, the pilot of the Baughman-Reutzel Motor-

sports entry was forced to chase fellow All Star full-timer, Brock Zearfoss, for the first 21 circuits. It was not until lap 22 when Zearfoss, who was attempting to navigate heavy lapped traffic, hooked a rut and spun all alone at the front of the field.

Zearfoss' mistake was an obvious lucky break for Reutzel, but the reigning Series champion was in close proximity of the top spot up until that point, actually earning command for a brief stint after a caution on lap 13. Reutzel's slide job attempt during the ensuing restart failed, but the Texan never lost track of the Premier Motor-sports entry.

When the 40-lap main event's dust finally settled, it was Buddy Kofoid who chased Reutzel to the final checkers, followed by Cap Henry, Shawn Dancer, and the 'Wild Child' Jac Haudenschild.

"We had a really great race car here tonight. Grant and the guys have been busting their butts in trying to make me better at these tracks in Ohio, Attica included," Aaron Reutzel explained.

After inheriting the top spot on lap 22, Reutzel's next challenge was in the form of lapped traffic, eventually coming into play for the first time for the new leader on lap 28. Buddy Kofoid, who started second on the grid, but faded to third after the initial start, was starting to make up ground on Reutzel as the traffic started to intensify. The California phenom chased Reutzel down to a car length by lap 33, soon pulling even with the familiar No. 87 at the entrance of turn one on the following circuit. Despite the effort, Reutzel's championship-earning experience with traffic proved to be too strong, as a bold, three-wide move to split a pair of slower cars sealed his winning fate.

Although Reutzel was able to stretch his late-race advantage to nearly a straightaway, utilizing the very topside of the speedway, an uncooperative lapped car nearly caused a similar fate that Zearfoss faced. Luckily for Reutzel, his outcome was different.

"That last lap, I had a lap car change lanes on me and that had me all mixed up. It wasn't his fault, he didn't know I was there. Luckily, I was able to maintain control and not spit out, because that's what I thought was going to happen," Aaron Reutzel continued.

"He's always fast wherever he goes," Buddy Kofoid said, driver of the No. 11N. "I gave it everything we got, but we came up one short."



Aaron Reutzel celebrates in victory lane after winning at Attica Raceway Park. Reutzel went on to win at Fremont Speedway Sunday night as well. (PAUL ARCH photo)



NASCAR, Rev Racing Announce Top Collegiate Athletes for NASCAR Drive for Diversity National Pit Crew Combine

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Following a national talent search at universities across the country, NASCAR and Rev Racing have invited 12 collegiate athletes to compete for roles as tire changers, carriers and jackmen at the fourth annual NASCAR Drive for Diversity National Pit Crew Combine in Concord, N.C., on Friday, May 24.

The annual event will be held at the NASCAR Research and Development Center and features athletes from colleges and universities across the nation with aspirations of a professional career in NASCAR. This year's competitors include football, soccer and baseball student-athletes.

Led by Phil Horton, Rev Racing director of athletic performance, the four-hour combine will test the athletes in a series of strength, agility and flexibility exercises to assess their fitness for a NASCAR pit crew. Additionally, each athlete will learn how to perform tasks required of over-the-wall crew members.

"We're excited to witness the impact this year's competitors bring to NASCAR and the overall pit crew development program," said Jusan Hamilton, NASCAR director of racing operations and event management. "Each athlete possesses something special and has demonstrated the potential to work in a fast-paced, highly competitive environment. Rev Racing's recruiting efforts have identified some phe-

nomenal athletes who can translate what they've accomplished in their respective sports to success on pit road. We look forward to training those selected to the program and positioning them for successful NASCAR careers."

Top performing athletes will earn a spot in the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Pit Crew Development program where they will spend six months training as pit crew members at Rev Racing, with hopes of one day pitting for a national series team.

"We couldn't be prouder of the journey both our pit crew development program and program graduates have taken from its inception," said Max Siegel, owner and CEO of Rev Racing. "With the expansion of our recruiting efforts across the country, the talent level rises, and our program continues to evolve and create more opportunities for advancement at a higher level. We're energized by the opportunity to work with these talented athletes and foresee a very impactful future on pit road for those selected to participate in our program."

Since the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Pit Crew Development Program began, more than 100 athletes have participated, and 65 graduates are now working in NASCAR. Thirty-five crew members have reached and competed in the sport's national series, including the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series™.

As part of the recruiting process, NASCAR and Rev Racing traveled to host student-athlete workouts at

Alabama A&M University, Alcorn State University, Arizona State University, Coppin State University, Virginia State University and the University of Miami.

Inspiring Life Story of Icons Michael Waltrip and Dale Earnhardt Sr. to Hit Theaters in Fall 2019

CORONA, CA - Prepare for the greatest sports story never told. As a long-time sponsor of NASCAR, Monster Energy is proud to announce the acquisition of NASCAR documentary *Blink of An Eye* by global commercial distribution platform 1091 Media. Based on the true story of NASCAR icons Michael Waltrip and Dale Earnhardt Sr., the documentary is produced and directed by multi Emmy-winning filmmaker Paul Taublieb, known for *Unchained: The Untold Story of Freestyle Motocross*. Also serving as producers are Monster Energy Vice President of Sports Marketing Mitch Covington, who discovered the true story and brought it to Taublieb, next to Susan Cooper and Pam Miller, and NASCAR's Steve Phelps serving as an Executive Producer.

Blink of An Eye was produced by Taublieb Films with support from Monster Energy and in association with NASCAR. Audiences can look forward to seeing the true-life saga at select theatres in New York and Los Angeles this fall, which will make *Blink of An Eye* eligible for Academy Award consideration. The documentary will be available On Demand, roll out to +600 theatres nationwide and is expected to play at major film festivals.

Based on the New York Times bestselling book, *Blink of An Eye* focuses on Michael Waltrip and his star-crossed friendship with iconic driver Dale Earnhardt Sr. Over the course of 462 races, Waltrip failed to notch a single win. He was on the longest losing streak in NASCAR history – maybe in all professional sports – when he joined Earnhardt's race team for the 2001 Daytona 500. On the last lap of the Great American Race, Waltrip held the lead with Earnhardt Jr. in second and "Sr." in third. Instead of making his trademark, ruthless charge to the front, Earnhardt Sr. blocked the field of 40 cars to allow his friend to take his first checkered flag. As fate would have it, Waltrip never had the opportunity to celebrate with Earnhardt Sr., as the legend was killed

on that last lap in what was initially thought to be a minor crash. Later, Waltrip would pay homage to "Sr." on his return to Daytona in dramatic, unexpected fashion.

"It's a story for the ages, and myself and the company are thrilled to support and help bring it to life, and we're all fortunate to have a talent like Taublieb helming the project," said Blink producer and Monster Energy VP of Sports Marketing Covington.

Covington also wrote the theme song performed by Bobby Capps of 38 Special, which will be released as a single by Cali-Bama Records.

Brought to life in director Taublieb's signature storytelling style, the film features interviews with Michael Waltrip and Dale Earnhardt Jr. along with Ty Norris, the former Executive Vice President of Motorsports for Dale Earnhardt Inc., and NASCAR Hall of Famers Richard Petty and Richard Childress, and includes a special audio cameo by country music star, Trace Adkins.

Aware of the story's wide appeal and emotional weight, Producer-Director Taublieb said: "I'm humbled Michael Waltrip placed his trust in me to tell his heartfelt and inspiring story in such intimate fashion, yet on the large canvass of cars going 200 miles an hour. *Blink of an Eye* is the most compelling sports story never told, and one that transcends sports."

Taublieb and his production company, Taublieb Films, are two-time Emmy winners. Known for his engaging visual storytelling and penchant for action sports, Taublieb also directed surfing documentary *The Monster Energy Big Wave Tow-in Invitational*, recently premiered on ABC.

"*Blink of an Eye* touches a much wider audience than NASCAR fans, it is a story of perseverance and friendship that anyone can relate to," said Danny Grant, Senior Vice President of Film and Strategic Partnerships. "Paul Taublieb does a fantastic, cinematic job with this long untold story and we are excited to partner with Taublieb Films and Monster Energy, along with the support of NASCAR, in bringing this film to theaters and homes nation-wide."

For more Monster Energy NASCAR racing and the 2019 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, visit www.monsterenergy.com and follow Monster Energy on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter for exclusive updates. For interview or photo requests contact Kim Dresser.

The 2019 NASCAR Drive for Diversity National Pit Crew Combine participants include:

Name	University	Primary Sport
Leishaun Ealey	Alcorn State University	Football
Hadji Gaylord	Norfolk State University	Football
Robin Loza	Central Piedmont Comm. College	Football
Terry McCray	University of Miami	Football
Dalandra Ouendeno	University of Miami	Soccer
Deonte Parker	Alabama A&M University	Baseball
Mequel Phillips	Virginia State University	Football
Josh Pokraka	Arizona State University	Football
Raynard Revels	Norfolk State University	Football
Matthew Sawyer	Coppin State University	Football
Dasmond Tautalatasi	Arizona State University	Football
Alvin Wilson	Alcorn State University	Football

Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, PA - Pocono Raceway announces more free amenities and two more reasons to get your tickets to the Pocono 400 race weekend. The Fan Stage and Free Carnival rides have been added to the Pocono 400 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Weekend, May 31 – June 2, 2019.

The free Carnival, located in Fan Fair, will include five, fair-style fan favorites. The rides include thrillers such as the 'Round-Up', 'Tornado' and 'Cobra,' as well as, a giant slide and swing. These rides are free to all grandstand ticket holders over the three-days of race festivities. There will also be a few classic, fair-style pay-to-play games.

"Our staff continues to push in every imaginable way to ensure those attending the Pocono 400 weekend have an incredible time and the value of their \$45 ticket is worth four-times that", said Raceway President, Ben May. "We like to have fun and, without a doubt, the Fan Stage and Free Carnival add to an already incredible atmosphere on race weekend."

The Fan Stage, also located in Fan Fair, will host three days of non-stop entertainment and include Driver Appearances, Driver Selfie Sessions, Pre-Race Concerts and the ever-popular Sunday Tweet-Up. In addition to the on-stage talent, the stage will have a 16x9 screen showing live racing action, a Bud Light Bar and lounge seating. Guest appearances at the Fan Stage will include Jeff Gordon, Alex Bowman, Chris Buescher, Corey LaJoie, Matt Tifft, Tyler Reddick, Justin Allgaier and much more!

Three pre-race concerts will take place daily at the Fan Stage in Fan Fair. Kaleb Lee, rising country star and "The Voice" alum, will play prior to the General Tire #AnywhereIsPossible 200 ARCA Menards Series race on Friday. Local favorites, Porter & Sayles, will play before the Pocono Green 250 Recycled by J.P. Mascaro & Sons NASCAR Xfinity Series on Saturday. Lee will return to the stage, before Sunday's Pocono 400, to perform his debut single, "Cooler Weather."

For a complete list of events please visit www.poconoraceway.com/schedule.

Tickets to Sunday's Pocono 400



NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee Darrell Waltrip, left, receives a commemorative Bruton Smith Trophy from Speedway Motorsports, Inc. President and CEO Marcus Smith on Thursday at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Waltrip won a record five Coca-Cola 600s in his storied driving career. (HHP/Harold Hinson photo)

start at \$45 and kids, ages 12 and under, receive free gate admission all weekend long. Both the Fan Carnival and Fan Stage will be free to all grandstand ticket holders, for the entire race weekend. Visit www.poconoraceway.com/tickets or call 1-800-722-3929 to get your tickets today.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - Darrell Waltrip won a record five Coca-Cola 600s in his NASCAR Hall of Fame career as a driver. Before the popular FOX: NASCAR broadcaster's time in the booth winds to a close this year, Waltrip added more hardware to his trophy case on Thursday at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Speedway Motorsports, Inc. President and CEO Marcus Smith presented Waltrip with a special-edition Bruton Smith Trophy to commemorate his five-decade influence on NASCAR as well as his remarkable five victories in NASCAR's toughest test of man and machine in 1978, '79, '85, '88 and '89.

"This is the trophy you get when you win the Coca-Cola 600, but this is not the inscription you get on the trophy. This will be something I cherish forever," said Waltrip, whose special trophy includes a nod to each of his 600-mile wins and a thank-you for his contributions to NASCAR. "You have trophies, you have championships, you have wins, but friends are what really make the difference. Marcus has been a great friend to me for a long time. Bruton Smith has been one of my heroes since I started racing in NASCAR in 1972.

"It was a pleasure racing here all those years, but it's been even

more of a pleasure to cover these races here for the last 19 years."

In addition to his successful history in the Coca-Cola 600, Waltrip won the first NASCAR All-Star Race in 1985 at Charlotte.

"DW is such a friend to everyone in the sport and certainly to me and my dad and to millions and millions of NASCAR fans," Smith said. "He's won more Coca-Cola 600s than any other driver and completely deserves this honor."

Darlington Raceway

DARLINGTON, SC - On Saturday, June 15, Darlington Raceway will give race fans a unique opportunity to drive their personal vehicles on the high banks of the Lady in Black, and in turn, support our service members and veterans.

For a \$30 cash donation per car, Darlington Raceway will allow fans to take three laps around the famed 1.366-mile egg-shaped oval. The Track Drive is scheduled for 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. on June 15.

For their donation, guests will also receive two (2) tickets to the August 31 NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 race (which will feature Dale Earnhardt Jr. racing in his only event of the season). With each \$30 donation, \$10 will benefit the VFW's Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship program.

"We had a great turnout last year with the track drive here at Darlington Raceway and are excited to get our fans back again for the opportunity to take a few laps around the track while supporting our

service members and veterans through the Sports Clips' Help A Hero Scholarship program," track President Kerry Tharp said. "We encourage our fans to come out to the track that day to participate in some family-fun activities for an extremely worthy cause."

Since 2013, Sport Clips has been the primary supporter of the VFW's Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship program, which provides scholarships for service members and veterans for use at post-secondary schools and trade schools. From October 14 through November 11, Sport Clips locations around the country will collect donations in-store to support the scholarship program. To date, nearly 1,300 scholarships more than \$5.7 million have been awarded.

Scholarship recipients come from every part of the United States and represent every branch of service. Recipients are earning a variety of degrees including engineering, computer science, business, accounting, healthcare, and many more.

TRACK LAPS RULES AND RESTRICTIONS

- Motorcycles will not be permitted. Passenger vehicles only.
- All drivers must present a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance at check-in
- The driver of the vehicle must be 21 years of age or older
- All participants must sign a waiver of liability (including all passengers)
- All drivers and passengers must adhere to South Carolina state laws regarding the usage of seat belts and child safety restraints
- Headlights must be on at all times
- Fans must enter the track through the Gate 39A tunnel entrance off of Highway 151
- Laps will be held at a maximum speed of 70 mph and regulated by Darlington Raceway personnel with a lead and chase vehicle
- The event is weather dependent. In case of inclement weather,

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the track will issue an official weather statement on DarlingtonRaceway.com no later than Friday, June 14 and announce an alternate date at that time.

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

You can keep up with all of the latest news from Darlington Raceway at DarlingtonRaceway.com, on Facebook at Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway and on Twitter at Twitter.com/TooToughToTame. Fans are encouraged to post their Bojangles' Southern 500 stories and memories at #TraditionContinues, #BojanglesSo500 and #SportClips200.

Irwindale Speedway

IRWINDALE, CA - Looking for something to share with your dad for Father's Day? Why not bring him out to watch a night full of death defying automotive stunts. Our very own Master of Mayhem and his band of Junkyard Dawgs will be taking on America's Got Talent contestants Dr Danger Stunts in a head to head battle of WHO BLOWS UP BETTER!!

From car jumps to explosives you won't want to miss a minute of this LIVE stunt show. And to cap it all off, we're pulling out the big guns for one of the largest destruction races EVER....that's right, we're not using travel trailers any more, we're super sizing to the MOTORHOME DESTRUCTION DERBY.

Tickets are now available for just \$15.00 for a limited time. Get yours before the price increases. Gates will open at 4PM and you'll have a chance to meet the starts of the show at 5:45 before the action begins at 7PM.

Michigan Int'l Speedway

BROOKLYN, MI - The Race Team Alliance (RTA) has joined Michigan International Speedway (MIS), NASCAR, Ford Perform-

ance and Chevrolet in participating in The Great Race for Charity, a unique friendly off-the-track competition between Ford Performance and Chevrolet that provides race fans with a special ticket package that benefits two nonprofit organizations.

Recently announced, Ford and Chevrolet will compete in The Great Race for Charity to see which manufacturer can raise the most money to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) (Ford's designated charity) and Operation Homefront, a national non-profit organization serving America's military families (Chevrolet's designated charity). Funds will be raised through the sale of a special ticket package for the two Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races at MIS.

To support The Great Race for Charity, Ford Performance and Chevrolet member race teams will feature decals representing the nonprofit organizations on cars for both Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races at MIS. All Ford Performance cars will feature the JDRF logo while the Chevrolet cars will showcase the Operation Homefront logo.

A \$5 donation on behalf of MIS will be made to each of the nonprofit organizations for every ticket package that is sold. Another \$5 donation will be made back to the manufacturer who sells the most tickets for both races. The winning nonprofit organization will be presented with a check during pre-race ceremonies at the Consumers Energy 400 on Aug. 11.

Fans can purchase tickets to support their favorite manufacturer and charity at www.mispeedway.com or by calling 888-905-7223.

JDRF, who will receive benefit from Ford's participation, is the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. Its strength lies in its exclusive focus and singular influence on the worldwide effort to end T1D.

Operation Homefront, who will benefit from Chevrolet's support, is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to build strong, stable, and secure military families so they can thrive — not simply struggle to get by — in the communities they have worked so hard to protect. For over 15 years, Operation Homefront has provided military families with critical financial assistance, transitional and permanent housing and other family support programs and services.

Tickets and campsites for two great weekends of racing at Michigan International Speedway are on sale. Don't miss your chance to purchase tickets and reserve a campsite for all the non-stop racing action and the week-long entertainment at NASCAR's Most Entertaining Track in 2019.

It has never been easier to purchase tickets and reserve a campsite at Michigan International Speedway in 2019. Fans can visit www.mispeedway.com or call 888-905-7223 to get the best deals. Grandstand tickets start at \$39 and week-long camping starts at \$160.

Michigan International Speedway will continue to be a premier racing facility in 2019 when it hosts a pair of Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races. NASCAR's most entertaining track will host the Monster Energy Series on June 9 and Aug. 11.

The Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series FireKeepers Casino 400 is on June 9. The series will return on Aug. 11 for the Consumers Energy 400.

Nestled in the lush Irish Hills of Southeastern Michigan, Michigan International Speedway is NASCAR's fastest racetrack. It has been the love of NASCAR racing and the thrill of a great time for race fans and drivers alike for 50 years.

New Hampshire Motor Speedway

LOUDON, NH - New Hampshire Motor Speedway is teaming up with Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series driver Kurt Busch to donate 200 race tickets for local military members and veterans to attend the Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 on Sunday, July 21. Fans are encouraged to join in and honor our military through the speedway's new Send A Solider program.

"I am appreciative of the sacrifice and commitment of our military service members and families which is why I started this program," said Busch. "I'm grateful to New Hampshire Motor Speedway for matching my donation and encouraging fans to help as well."

Through his KB100 Ticket Giveaway, Busch purchased 100 tickets to the Foxwoods Resort Casino 301, and New Hampshire Motor Speedway matched that, adding in another 100 tickets. Both Busch and the speedway are now challenging fans to add to the number of tickets being given to military members and veterans through New Hampshire Motor Speedway's new Send A Soldier program. This program allows fans to purchase a

\$50 ticket for just \$40 that will be added to the KB100 Ticket Giveaway to honor even more service members this July.

"There's no real way to fully thank a military member for their commitment and sacrifice to ensure all of our freedom," said David McGrath, executive vice president and general manager for New Hampshire Motor Speedway. "The Send A Soldier program is a great way for our fans to get involved and make a difference for a military family and help give them the chance to create lasting memories."

As an added bonus, fans who purchase a ticket through the Send A Soldier program will enjoy a special appearance by Busch on race day, and the first 50 fans to purchase a ticket through the Send A Soldier program will also receive a Monster Energy gift bag.

All currently serving military members and veterans are eligible to register to be selected for these tickets. The KB100 program is part of a relationship with the Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix) and will offer 100 tickets for each Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race in 2019.

New Hampshire Motor Speedway features military members as part of the pre-race festivities and always offers all current service members and veterans 20% off tickets and pre-race pit passes for July's NASCAR race weekend and September's Full Throttle Fall Weekend.

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

Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, PA - Pocono Raceway announced today NBC's "New Amsterdam" actor Jocko Sims has been named the Honorary Starter for the Pocono 400 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, June 2. Lieutenant General Todd Semonite of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Lieutenant General Giovanni Tuck of the U.S. Air Force will serve as the race's Grand Marshals. Additionally, Technical Sergeant Chris Whiting of the U.S. Air Force will perform the National Anthem prior

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to the green flag.

Jocko Sims, who currently stars as Dr. Floyd Reynolds on the NBC drama "New Amsterdam," will wave the green flag to start the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday. Sims, originally from Texas, has appeared in numerous film and television roles including series leads on both "Crash" and "The Last Ship" as well as films "Dawn of the Planet of The Apes" and "Dreamgirls" to name a few.

"NASCAR, its races and events have been extremely embedded in American culture for many decades," said Sims. "I am so honored to be a part of it in any way this weekend at Pocono Raceway."

The Monster Energy NASCAR race weekend at Pocono Raceway marks the second week of "NASCAR Salutes Refreshed by Coca-Cola," an industry-wide expression of respect, appreciation and reverence for those who have served both past and present. The Pocono 400 will feature several key elements and programs to honor the heroes of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

Lieutenant General Todd Seemonite and Lieutenant General Giovanni Tuck will give the command for drivers to start their engines, as co-Grand Marshals, prior to the Pocono 400. Lt. General Seemonite is the 54th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lt. General Tuck is the U.S. Air Force's Director of Logistics, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va. Technical Sergeant Chris Whiting, from the 436th Airlift Wing Dover (Del.) Air Force Base's Security Forces Squadron, will sing the "Star Spangled Banner" before the race on Sunday.

Tickets to Sunday's Pocono 400 start at \$45 for adults and kids, ages 12 and under, receive free gate admission all weekend long. To purchase tickets, visit www.poconoraceway.com or call 1-800-722-3929.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - The Ritz-Carlton in Uptown Charlotte, North Carolina, played host to a spectacular 39th annual Speedway Children's Charities Gala presented by Sonic Automotive and EchoPark on

Wednesday night, with the far-reaching nonprofit raising more than \$1 million for children in need throughout the greater Charlotte region.

"This year's Speedway Children's Charities Gala presented by Sonic Automotive and EchoPark saw our donations exceed \$1 million on a night full of fun and festivities," said Lisa Starnes, executive director of the Charlotte Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities. "We are honored to have enjoyed such a productive evening, and it's a credit to our many sponsors and supporters."

The evening included a menu designed by world-class Chef Robert Irvine of Food Network's "Restaurant: Impossible" fame and live music from country music star Justin Moore. The black-tie gala also featured a special recognition for NASCAR Vice Chairman Mike Helton, one of NASCAR's most significant leaders for five decades and a longtime supporter of and advocate for Speedway Children's Charities.

"Mike Helton is one of the most influential people in NASCAR, a longtime supporter of Speedway Children's Charities and a very deserving person to be honored," said Marcus Smith, vice chairman of Speedway Children's Charities. "Our gala gave us the chance to thank Mike for his commitments to the NASCAR industry and all of its stakeholders as well as Speedway Children's Charities. It was a great night. Thanks to the generosity of everyone in attendance, their support will enable us to really further our reach toward helping kids in the greater Charlotte region."

Other NASCAR dignitaries who attended the gala included Speedway Motorsports, Inc. Executive Chairman O. Bruton Smith; Sonic Automotive and EchoPark CEO David B. Smith; NASCAR President Steve Phelps; NASCAR Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors Lesa France-Kennedy, and 2020 NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee Joe Gibbs – on the day he was voted into the Hall – as well as fellow NASCAR Hall of Famers Dale Jarrett and Ken Squier. FOX NASCAR personalities including Adam Alexander, Shannon Spake, Michael Waltrip and Regan Smith were in attendance, as were Carolina Panthers head coach Ron Rivera and all-pro linebacker Luke Kuechly and former NFL players Jason Sehorn and Kevin Donnalley.

Since Bruton Smith founded Speedway Children's Charities in

1982, the organization has awarded \$53 million to other nonprofits across the country. Speedway Children's Charities are operated by Speedway Motorsports, Inc.

For more information on Speedway Children's Charities or to see how to volunteer or make a donation, visit www.speedwaycharities.org.

Talladega Superspeedway

TALLADEGA, AL - Since the checkered flag flew on the GEICO 500 nearly three weeks ago, Talladega Superspeedway's infield has seen mass demolition of buildings and structures to make way for the new Talladega Garage Experience, which will debut for the 1000Bulbs.com 500 and Sugarlands Shine 250 on October 11-13.

While much of the beginning of Phase II of Transformation – The Talladega Superspeedway Infield Project presented by Graybar is seeing part of the infield pit/garage area leveled, one building – Race Operations outside the mammoth 2.66-mile venue – already has its steel structure form and is being created high above the track's Tri-Oval.

The new Race Operations building, which will be 127 feet high – roughly 10 stories – from the ground to the top of its roof, will house Race Control where NASCAR officials will call the race, along with analysts for LIVE Network Television (NBC in fall, and FOX in spring) and LIVE Radio - Motor Racing Network (MRN), as well as public address (PA) announcers. During Talladega's recent race weekend, FOX's Jeff Gordon, MRN's Jeff Striegle and NASCAR Vice Chairman Mike Helton – all of whom will be in the new structure for future events – saw the new construction and had rave reviews.

"I don't know how we as commentators can get more excited about calling a race at Talladega, but the new tower will give us that opportunity," said Gordon. "I get just as excited in the booth as I did behind the wheel at Talladega because I know how tense it is out there, and with us being up so high, it's going to give us a whole new perspective of such an incredible place."

Race Operations, which is being built by GT Grandstands, a PlayCore Company out of Plant City, FL (www.gtggrandstands.com), will be

116 feet long by 18 feet tall, and 33 feet deep. It will also provide a new location for all the race team spotters, who will have the full length on top of the building to communicate with their driver and team. The new building will also oversee the Talladega Garage Experience (TGE) that will allow fans to be immersed into the sport of NASCAR like never before.

The TGE, which includes access under the same roof where the race cars are being prepped by the race teams, will feature "up-close" access, interactive attractions and enhanced amenities for fans, sponsors, teams and stakeholders in the iconic Talladega infield. It will take the place of the current garage/pit area that stretches from the center of the Tri-Oval all the way down near the start-finish line.

The approximately \$50 million Transformation Infield Project presented by Graybar is part of International Speedway Corporation's (Talladega's parent company) long-term capital allocation plan and reinvestment into its major motorsports complexes. Some items in the new TGE will include: a fan viewing walkway to the teams, cars and inspection stations during race preparation in the new Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Garage; New Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Garages (44 stalls); New, modern Open Air Club (covered) with close-up viewing of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Garage; Wi-Fi presented by Xtreme Concepts in all areas of the TGE; New Gatorade Victory Lane with fan up-close view in TGE; Pit Road Club to enhance the experience for fans and corporate guests; Exclusive social, engagement areas with Concessions/Souvenirs/Restrooms facilities, Guest Services Center & First Aid facility; and much more!

DLR Group is the architect of the entire project while Hoar Construction from Birmingham is spearheading Phase II. In addition to Race Operations, GT Grandstands will construct the new Pit Road Club. Fans can learn more about the project by visiting www.talladegasuperspeedway.com/transformation. For ticket information log onto www.talladegasuperspeedway.com or call 855-518-7223 (RACE).



Bowman Gray Stadium

Winston-Salem, NC - "It's good to be back."

That's what Brandon Ward of Winston-Salem said after taking the checkered in Saturday's first scheduled 25-lapper for the Brad's Golf Cars Modified Series.

"We didn't get to race over here a lot last year. We ran into some problems, but we're glad to be back full time this year," said Ward.

Jason Myers of Walnut Cove was the fastest qualifier and started on the pole, with Ward starting outside of him in second. When the green flag fell, Ward leaped out into the lead and never looked back.

"It's all about the initial start with these twin 25s," said Ward. "It's kinda a game. You're trying to go as soon as you can and not jump the start. It was pretty even between me and Jason. The outside was good. I was able to get a good launch off of four and just barely get him cleared."

Ward was particularly pleased to take his first win in a 25-lap race. "The other wins we've had over here have been these long distance races. So if we've struggled anywhere, I feel that it's been in the twin 25s," said Ward. "So to come over here and finally get one of these races so early in the season – it shows we're headed in the right direction."

Jason Myers finished on his bumper in second. Danny Bohn of Huntersville took third.

Saturday was the Midway Mobile Storage Sportsman 100 for the McDowell Heating & Air Sportsman Series – one of their long-distance races and always a showcase of racing action. Dylan Ward of Winston-Salem started on the pole after being the fastest qualifier. Second-place started Derek Stoltz of Walkertown was soon knocking on his door, taking the lead away on lap 7.

Stoltz then immediately had to contend with veteran Tommy Neal of Walkertown. Neal moved out into the top spot on lap 14 and then fended off challenge after challenge for the next 70 laps. John Holleman of Winston-Salem gave Neal a run for his money but the caution flag came out on lap 93 while Neal was still ahead.

That caution flag would be the



Brandon Ward (04) leads the way with fastest qualifier Jason Myers (4) following closely behind in second. (ERIC HYLTON PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

last where Neal would lead. Dylan Ward chose the outside during the double-file restart to challenge Neal for the top spot. As Ward and Neal headed into turn one as the green flag was waving, a massive crash ensued. Much of the field was collected in the wreckage – but Justin Taylor of King was able to make it out to take over the lead position.

An abrupt storm began to pelt the cars with rain, leading to the event being shortened due to weather. On lap 96, Taylor was declared the unofficial winner of the race. The results are pending review by NASCAR Officials.

"I really don't have a clue what happened – I saw them all pile up and I hammered down," said Taylor about the massive wreck where he claimed the lead. "That's why I went in the corner sideways – I didn't really care what the outcome was as long as I was the first one out the other corner."

"That's the biggest race of the year and to come over here and win it – we're the smallest budget team. We have worked on this car every single week – week-in and week-out," said Taylor.

The victory, if declared official, would give him a strong lead in the points standings – but Taylor doesn't pay attention. "Everybody keeps messaging me about a championship, championship, championship," said Taylor. "That's the last thing on my mind. This year I'm winning the Top Gun Award [for most wins] and that's a fact. You can take it to the bank."

In the Law Offices of John Barron Street Stock Series, Jeremy Warren of Winston-Salem powered by Fletcher Whaley of Advance to take the win.

Randy Butner of Pfafftown was slated to start on the pole for the start of the second race, but the rain led to an early end to the night. The Q104.1 Stadium Stock Series was also unable to race – but they

will return next week with double points at stake.

Carteret County Speedway

PELETIER, NC – Chris Burns opened up Sunday night's WITN-TV Memorial Classic with a victory in the first of two Limited Late Model features while T.J. Barron closed out the night with his second Limited Late Model win at Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway.

Burns started on the pole in the first twin race and led the first 33 laps. Ross "Boo Boo" Dalton, after starting sixth, drove past Burns on lap 34 to take the lead and looked like he had the win in hand in his first ever Carteret County Speedway start. However, Burns would battle back, taking the lead with five laps to go and holding on for the win – his second Late Model win of the 2019 season.

"Boo Boo is a tough competitor," Burns said in victory lane. "For being his first time here, very stout. They keep on coming back and they'll win some races here. We didn't have the best car tonight, I don't think. We had some sort of problem. A little bit of luck fell on our side tonight."

While Dalton did lead laps late, he believed Burns' car was just a little better at the end of the race.

"I knew he was probably going to be able to get back to me," Dalton stated. "We were really free right there. I really couldn't get back to the throttle the way I wanted to. He was a little worse than us up off of two. That was the only place I could capitalize. He was a lot better through three and four. First time out, never saw the place until Thursday, got it dialed in pretty close."

T.J. Barron finished third while Tyler Horne and Rusty Daniels rounded out the top-five in the 14 car field.

The second race came down to a duel between Barron and Burns. Burns once again dominated much of the race, but Barron made the winning pass inside 20 laps to go and never looked back as he went on to pick up his second win in three races and his second career Carteret County Speedway victory.

"It's what you always hope for," Barron said. "We got that monkey off our back. We've got a good car, good crew. Me and Chris, we go way back racing almost 20 years together. That's how racers race right there. We got into each other a little bit, banged some doors, but it was a good race."

Burns said he had nothing for Barron in the final laps, despite hanging with him and looking like

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Chris Burns and T. J. Barron battle for the lead with Barron winning the second race of the night. (CARTERET COUNTY SPEEDWAY photo)



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he could make his move.

"I think we were rolling the center a little better than him but, where we lacked, he gained," Burns commented. "It was close racing. I wanted to race T.J. clean, I know he'd race me the same way. I can't complain. I'm happy to be in second."

Eric Winslow, who has had a rough season to date, picked up his first podium finish of the season.

"I think we had a pretty fair shot at the win tonight," Winslow remarked. "The car was pretty good. This is the first week we haven't had to rebuild the motor the night before. Just that in itself is pretty much a win. I've got to thank all the fans for coming out. We've got some really great fans. This little girl drew a picture for me a little while ago. We've got great fans and that's why we come to Carteret. It's four hours for us but these people are second to none."

Boo Boo Dalton and Brandon Clements rounded out the top-five.

While Clements remains winless in the Late Model division in 2019, he was finally able to pick up his first win of the year in the Battlefield Tire Pros Mini-Stock race.

After starting at the rear of the field, Clements quickly raced his way through the field and passed Stephen Sanders for the lead within the first 10 laps of the race. After making the pass, Clements held Sanders off and returned to victory lane for the first time since October 2018.

"This win means a lot," Clements said. "Hit in the shoulder, I guess. It doesn't matter if you in a Mini-Stock car, Late Model, or a tricycle, they're hard to come by. It definitely means a lot every time."

Sanders finished in second while Kris Hetu, Adam Resnick and Travis Provost rounded out the top-five.

Zach Miller led wire-to-wire in the Legends feature, holding back Eric Courtney to pick up his second win of the season as he continues to prepare for the INEX Legends Asphalt Nationals in October.

"I think we learned a lot the last time we came down here," Miller said. "Definitely learned from our mistakes. Got the thing tightened up a little bit this time so I could ac-

tually get in the gas. The car was hooked up. This has been an incredible weekend. We were in Charlotte on Friday, we're here today celebrating Memorial Day weekend. This one goes out to all the veterans. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be here."

Courtney finished in second while Tyler Lester, Sam Butler and Caleb Heady rounded out the top-five.

Lee Ottaway picked up the victory in Champ Kart competition over Cory Dimauro and Stephen Sanders. For much of the race, Ottaway was holding back a challenge from Sean Wales, but Wales was forced out of the race in the final laps – ending his winning streak. The \$150 bounty that was placed on Wales will carry over into the next race for Champ Karts on June 8th.

Andrew Jackson held off a hard charging Robert Arch to pick up his second U-CAR victory of the 2019 season. Steve Sullivan finished in third while a pair of active duty U.S. Marines, Zac Reimer and Neil Mason, finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Greg Butcher picked up the win in the Southern Ground Pounders Sportsman division, Dwight Saults was victorious in Southern Ground Pounders Modified competition, and Jacob O'Neal scored the win in the Bandolero feature.

The 2019 racing season at Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway resumes on June 10th with the Summer Sizzler, which will be headlined by the Sportsman's Wholesale Street Stock division. Mini-Stocks, Legends, U-CARs, Champ Karts and Mini Cups will also be in action on June 8th.

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.

Claremont Motorsports Park

CLAREMONT, NH - In what may be considered uncharacteristic fashion, Matt Hirschman of Northampton, PA took the lead just past halfway of the Ron Bouchard's Auto Sales 100 for the Tri-Track Open Modified Series (TTOMS) season opener at Claremont Motorsports Park. Under picture-perfect conditions Hirschman bested a full-field that included runner-up Les Hinckley of Windsor Locks, CT, and emerging hot-shoe Ronnie Williams of Ellington, CT.

Heat races and consolation events set the 26-car field for the first leg of the Ron Bouchard's Auto Stores Challenge Cup. In total 34 cars attempted to qualify for the night's event. After the redraw, Andy Jankowiak of Tonawanda, NY, and Ron Silk of Norwalk, CT, led the field to green. A bauble on the start for Jankowiak opened the door for defending race champion Mike Willis of Grantham, NH to make it three-wide with Silk and into the lead.

Todd Patnode of Swanzey, NH, handily made his way into third. The top three cars began to distance themselves slightly from fourth running Jankowiak. Matt Swanson of Acton, MA, in Ole Blue, was getting pressure in fifth from Anthon Sesely of Matawan, NJ.

The battle for the lead was heating up at lap 10 between Willis and Silk. Russ Hersey of Swanzey, NH, began to pressure Sesely for fifth. The first caution of the event flew on lap 13 for a two-car incident that involved Geoff Rollins of Groton, MA, and Carl Medeiros of Westport, MA.

On the restart, Willis was once again able to jump out to the lead over Silk. Contact between the lead duo had Willis sideways; both were able to continue. Jankowiak spun amid the tussle to bring out the second caution again on lap 13.

Willis was back in command on the restart with Silk glued to his back bumper. Hersey was up to fourth and Sesely had his hands full with Hirschman and Sammy Rameau of Westminster, MA. Over the next few laps Silk was getting racy for the lead with Willis. Silk was the new leader at lap 20.

With the top ten cars running nose to tail the best battle on the speedway was for eighth between Williams in the Roscoe Racing #25 and Hinckley, who was piloting the SPAFCO #21 for Art & Kenny Barry. At lap 30, a brewing battle for third place between Patnode and Hersey was slowed when Medeiros slowed on the front stretch to bring out the third caution. Under yellow, Sesely gave up fifth position to head to pit road for service.

For the ensuing restart on lap 30, Silk and Willis made up the front row with Patnode, Hersey and Hirschman completing the top-five. Rameau, Williams, Hinckley, Matt Galko of Meriden, CT, and hometown favorite Bucky Demers of Cornish, NH, made up the top-ten.

Hirschman made his way past Hersey to take over fourth position on the restart behind Silk, Willis and Patnode. Hersey continued to

backslide slightly; losing a position to Rameau as well. Contenders Woody Pitkat, of Stafford Springs, in the Stan Mertz #6, Kirk Alexander of W. Swanzey, NH, in the Perry Family entry and Tommy Barrett of Millis, MA, aboard the #43, were mired deep in the field.

Under green Silk was able to gain some distance over Willis while Hinckley was providing pressure to Hersey for sixth. As Silk continued to extend his lead, the top five was Willis, Patnode, Hirschman and Rameau.

At halfway, the top-five remained the same with Hinckley, Demers, Hersey, Williams and Joey Jarvis of Ascutney, VT, occupying the top-ten. The complexion of the race would change dramatically with the unfurling of the event's fourth caution flew on lap 56 for a spin by Hersey.

Under yellow, all cars headed to pit road for service except Willis, Sesely and Jankowiak; the latter two had pitted previously. Hirschman won the battle off pit road to rejoin the field in fourth followed by Rameau, Silk, Hinckley, Williams, Richard Savary of Canton, MA, and Brian Robie of Sunapee, NH.

Willis jump out to the lead with Sesely falling in line in second, Jankowiak lost third position to Matt Hirschman on lap 57. Silk was hooked up in the outside groove in search for the lead once again.

Silk was gaining ground on the outside when the battle erupted with Silk, Rameau and Hinckley. The result found Silk hard into the outside wall on the front stretch to bring out the fifth caution on lap 61. Other cars collected included potential winners Robie, Patnode, Alexander and Jarvis. Robie, Patnode and Jarvis were able to continue. Rameau was penalized to the rear of the field.

Under the caution, the leader Willis ducked onto pit road for service. After leading many laps of the event, he would ultimately not challenge for the win.

On the lap 61 restart Hirschman was able to rocket by Sesely for the lead. He immediately ran out to a multiple car length advantage. Hinckley battled Jankowiak on the outside for third. Williams was making a charge back to the front; moving into the top-five on lap 66. Brad Babb of Windham, ME, was having a great run; just outside of the top-five.

Hinckley moved into second position on lap 69 while a great battle was emerging for third between

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Sesely, Jankowiak and Williams. Swanson and Hersey were on the move as well.

Hirschman had a half-straightaway advantage over Hinckley with 25 laps to go. Jankowiak and Williams got by Sesely relegating him fifth. Williams immediately went to work on Jankowiak. Babb exited the speedway under green on lap 81 while running sixth.

Hersey had recovered nicely; knocking on the door of the top-five with less than 20 to go and looking for more. Willis lurked outside the top 10 with only 15 laps remaining.

Hinckley could not cut into Hirschman's lead as the laps wound down. Hersey took fifth from Sesely on lap 89; leaving Sesely to defend against Swanson. With Hirschman handily out front, the best battle on the track continued to be for third between Jankowiak and Williams. Williams took the spot way with five laps remaining.

Hirschman had stretched his lead over the final few laps and cruised to the victory over Hinckley, Williams, Jankowiak and Hersey. Swanson, Sesely, Barrett, Calvin Carroll of Andover, NJ, and Robie completed the top-ten.

During qualifying, heat race victories went to Hirschman, Sesely, Carroll and Swanson. Consolation race winners were Dana Smith, Sunapee, NH and Colbey Fournier of Berkley, MA.

Kingsport Speedway

KINGSPORT, TN - It's been a rainy and unseasonably cool spring in Northeast Tennessee, and the arrival of first day of summer isn't until later in June. But try telling everyone gathered Friday at Kingsport Speedway that it isn't already summer, because the temperature reached 90 degrees and was downright sweltering hot. Nonetheless a great Memorial Day holiday weekend crowd came out for racing at "The Concrete Jungle."

It was Ford Night at the Races and a long-running Ford Motor Company commercial asks "Have you driven a Ford lately?" Defending NASCAR Whelen All-American Series "Highlands Sign Shop" Late Model Stock Car champion Zeke Shell of Johnson City wheeled a Ford Mustang to his first win of the season.

Joey Trent earned the Late Model Stock Car pole qualifying award with a fast-time of 15.140 seconds, but with the roll of the dice the top four qualifiers were inverted for the 60-lap feature.

Shell and Bryson Dennis started from the front row, with Shell jumping out to the lead over Dennis, Nik Williams, Trent, Wayne Hale and Derek Lane. Williams was pressuring Dennis trying move up to second and all the while out front leader Shell was putting several car lengths between himself and closest challengers. Racing into the first turn on lap 5, Williams made his move to the inside of Dennis to take away the second spot.

With Shell riding on the point with Williams in pursuit, a good four-car battle for position was taking place between Dennis, Trent, Hale and Lane. Williams closed the distance between himself and Shell on lap 22 as he pulled to the leader's back bumper. At the halfway point in the race, Shell and Williams had pulled away to a full straightaway advantage over Dennis, Trent, Hale and Lane.

Williams, already a three-time winner this season and not wanting to just ride behind Shell, on several occasions stuck his nose to the inside of the leader as they raced off the corners. But each time Shell managed to close the door and maintain his position. The last thing Shell wanted to see was a late race caution, but that's what happened when Trent and Hale got together between turns three and four on lap 51 with both cars spinning.

The stage was set for a classic shootout for the win between Shell and Williams, and those two starting alongside one another you just knew it was going to be a battle. Like oil and water doesn't mix, well, Shell and Williams have a history –

they've had on-track skirmishes.

Shell chose the inside line for the double-file restart and back under green he and Williams raced into the first turn, with Shell getting the advantage to retake the lead. But you knew Williams wasn't going to be defeated without giving up a fight, that much was a given.

With each attempt Williams tried in getting around Shell, the race-long leader thwarted. Behind Shell and Williams the action was intense, just good ol' short-track racing. Racing is a contact sport, and contact was definitely occurring involving the quartet of Dennis, Hale, Trent and Lane.

Shell received the white flag with Williams glued to his back bumper. A little contact between turns one and two allowed Williams to get a good run on Shell racing up off (turn) two down the backstretch. Would Williams use the bump-and-run maneuver on Shell between turns three and four to move the leader up the track, and then drive by on the inside to take the win?

Shell held his line going into the corner and quickly picked the throttle (gas) back up to power off the fourth turn headed to the checkered flag to record the hard-earned victory over Williams. They were followed by Dennis, Hale, Trent and Lane.

The "Super Transmission" Modified Street race was worth the price of admission in itself, with a strong field of 15 competitors taking the green flag for the 30-lap feature. Father-and-son, Royce and Austin Peters, started alongside one another on the front row and it was a hold-your-breath battle into the first turn to see who would emerge with family bragging rights.

Royce, a two-time track champion, showed Austin that "ol' dad

still ruled" as he took the lead on the opening lap. Behind Royce and Austin, Trey Lane, Rusty Clendenin, Kevin Wolfe, Alex Miller, Paul Shull, Kevin Canter and Colby Higgins were jockeying for real estate two- and three-wide. Lane worked his way around Austin for second on lap 10 and set his sights ahead on Royce.

Lane closed to Royce's back bumper and was waiting for the moment to make his move to try grab the lead. A late race caution for oil on the track meant Royce and Lane would start side-by-side on the front row to battle for the win.

With the green flag waving Royce and Lane raced into the first turn, with Lane getting out of shape up in the high groove he lost several positions before falling back into place sixth in the running order. Out front Royce liked what he was seeing in his rearview mirror as son Austin and Clendenin were battling for the runner-up spot. ... Royce, from Kingsport, captured his first win of the season and Austin barely edged Clendenin for second. Finishing fourth and fifth, respectively, were Wolfe and Miller.

Keith Helton reeled off five straight Pure 4 victories to start the season, and defending division champion Bruce Crumbley is now on a winning streak of his own. Crumbley, from Kingsport, captured his second straight win over Josh Detwiler, Kenny Absher, Bucky Smith and Helton.

With three straight Mod 4 track championships to his credit, just go ahead and call Kevin Canter "Mr. Mod 4." Canter, from Abingdon, Va., started the 30-lap feature from the tenth spot and quickly worked his way to the front, passing Dennis Arnold to take the lead on lap 8. Once out front Canter never looked back en route to his eighth win of the season over Arnold, Billy Duty, Chris Amburgey and Hershell Robinette.

With Doug Austin having won six races and standing atop the Pure Street points leader-board, the bull's-eye was planted squarely on his back. Tony Dockery, from Dungannon, Va., came out guns-a-blazing and fired the winning shot in capturing his first win of the season over Austin, Jay Swecker, and husband and wife Ricky Payne and Jessica Payne.

Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINSGROVE, PA - Kyle Reinhardt of Neptune City, N.J., claimed \$2,500 in the Insinger Perform-
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Zeke Shell is all smile in Kingsport Speedway's victory lane.
(DREW HIERWARTER photo)



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ance/Sunoco Race Fuels Jack Gunn Memorial for 360 sprint cars sanctioned by the United Racing Club Saturday night at Selinsgrove Speedway.

It was Reinhardt's second win of the season in the 39th annual 30-lap tribute race to the late Hall of Fame promoter Gunn at the wheel of the Westbrook Enterprises No. 1W

Andrew Yoder of Selinsgrove drove to victory in the 30-lap limited late model championship that paid \$1,500 to win.

Kyle Bachman of Selinsgrove was victorious in the 15-lap pro stock race, while Smith Cope of Danville won the 12-lap roadrunner race.

Selinsgrove Speedway is back in action at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 1, with the 360 sprint cars, the A&A Auto Stores Pro Stock 20, USAC SpeedSTR series, and roadrunners. Track gates will open at 5 p.m.

Cody Keller shot into the sprint car lead from the pole position and was followed by Ryan Kissinger, Kyle Reinhardt, Chad Layton and Jason Shultz. Thomas Radivoj quickly brought out the yellow with a spin in the third turn.

After having some trouble getting restarted, Reinhardt showed some speed by taking over second with Layton moving into third. Lap four saw yet another caution for Ryan Stillwagon.

The restart worked for Reinhardt as this time he took the lead from Keller and started to pull away. Layton using the top side of the racetrack got around Keller and Kissinger followed.

Rookie Jake Hummel rolled to a stop on lap 23 again slowing the field.

Reinhardt went on to lead the rest of the way picking up his second win of the season by 3.85 seconds over Kissinger, Derek Locke, Shultz and Keller.

Sprint car heats were won by Keller and Layton

Andrew Yoder rocketed into the limited late model feature lead followed by his uncle Jim Yoder, Troy Miller, Derrick German and Shaun Miller.

Zach Kauffman slowed on the track bringing out the yellow on lap six. Two laps later, father Troy and

son Shaun Miller got together with Shaun spinning out.

A. Yoder, who started his career on the 1/5th mile inner oval was untouchable for the rest of the race, won going away over J. Yoder, T. Miller, Garman and Jared Fulkroad.

Limited late model heats were won by Yoder and Miller.

Shaun Lawton drove past Tommy Dawson for the lead in the pro stock feature and was followed by Kyle Bachman, Brandon Moser and AJ Stroup.

The caution was brought out at the half way point for Wayne Shaffer.

Bachman dogged Lawton and on lap 13 ran hard into the third turn coming off the fourth turn with the lead and the win over Lawton, Moser, AJ Stroup and Dawson.

Pro stock heats went to Bachman and Moser.

Smith Cope inherited the lead on lap two when the leader spun and led the rest of the way despite being tested by Will Brunson to win the roadrunner feature over, Brunson, Bob Bussey, Jake Jones and Keith Bissinger.

Cope and Jake Jones won the roadrunner heats.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Stafford Speedway hosted the Open Modified 80 with tour style modifieds taking center stage for an 80-lap race around the Connecticut half-mile. Keith Rocco took the lead just before halfway in the 80-lap race and he dominated the second half of the race to win the race and lead a podium that consisted of Stafford SK Modified® regulars with Todd Owen finishing second and Matt Galko third.

Todd Owen streaked into the lead from pole position at the green flag with Keith Rocco right on his bumper. Ronnie Williams was third with Dave Etheridge fourth and Max Zachem in fifth. Eric Goodale was in sixth with Chase Dowling, Jeff Gallup, Matt Galko, and Cam McDermott making up the top-10.

Williams began to slide backwards as Etheridge, Zachem, Goodale, Dowling, and Galko all got by him to drop him from third back to 8th in line as Owen and Rocco continued to lead the field. The caution came out with 20 laps complete for Marcello Rufrano, who appeared to lose an engine at the entrance to turn 1.

Owen took the lead back under green with Rocco right behind him in second. Etheridge was third in line with Galko coming up to fourth and Goodale up to fifth. Williams

was back up to sixth with McDermott, Mark Bakaj, Zachem, and Sal Accardi, Jr. making up the top-10. Rocco made a move to the inside of Owen in turn 3 on lap-26 to move into the lead. Accardi spun in turn 2 to bring the caution out with 36 laps complete.

Under the caution all the leaders came to pit road for fresh tires with teams allowed to change 2 tires. Goodale won the race off pit road and he restarted second as Andrew Molleur stayed out on track. Rocco was third in line for the restart with Owen alongside him in fourth.

Molleur took the lead on the restart with Rocco taking second from Goodale. Owen was fourth in line with Etheridge fifth. Rocco took the lead from Molleur on lap-38 and Molleur began to slide backwards as Goodale took second, Owen third, Dowling fourth, and Galko fifth. Etheridge was sixth with McDermott and Dave Schneider in seventh and eighth with Molleur finally slotting into line in ninth place.

Goodale nearly took the lead from Rocco in turn 4 on lap-48 but Rocco was able to hold him off. Owen then pulled to the outside of Goodale on lap-59 and he moved into second place. Owen was hounding Rocco for the lead but Rocco was able to fend off Owen's challenges and remain in the lead.

Rocco and Owen began to slowly pull away from Goodale in third, who in turn had Dowling, Galko, Etheridge, and McDermott lined up behind him. This was the order with 10 laps to go.

Rocco led Owen to the checkered flag to win the Open Mod 80. Galko finished third with Goodale and Dowling rounding out the top-5.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Stafford Speedway returned to NASCAR Whelen All-American Series racing action on Friday, May 24 with Dunleavy's Modifiedz Night. Stafford's SK Lights took center stage with a 40-lap feature that paid over \$10,000 in total posted awards. Noah Korner picked the perfect night to nail down his first career SK Light win at Stafford as he won the 40-lap Dunleavy's Modifiedz Night SK Light feature to take home \$2,025 in total posted awards. Other winners on the night were Ronnie Williams in the SK Light feature, Kevin Gambacorta in the Late Model feature, Matt Clement in the Limited Late Model feature, and George Bessette, Jr. in the Street Stock feature.

With 10 laps to go Hodgdon was still in command with Bakaj, Korner, Puleo, and Steven Chapman making up the top-5. Prucker was sixth with Charland, Anglace, Sears, and Glenn Griswold making up the top-

In the 40-lap Dunleavy's Modifiedz Night SK Light feature event, Norm Sears spun in turn 4 to bring the caution out before a lap could be completed. On the restart Wesley Prucker used a 3-wide move to pass Todd Douillard and Bob Charland to take the early lead. Douillard came right back on the outside and he took the lead from Prucker on lap-2. The lead changed hands again on lap-4 as Charland moved to the front. It was now a high speed pace lap with Charland and Douillard side by side for the lead and Prucker and Mikey Flynn side by side for third.

The action continued to be fast and furious at the front as Prucker came back to the lead on lap-8 with Charland and Flynn behind him. The caution came out with 8 laps complete for a piece of debris on the track in turn 1. The debris came off the car of Flynn and he parked on pit road under the caution, done for the evening.

Back under green, Prucker took the lead with Jonathan Puleo now side by side with Charland for second. Puleo got clear to second with Noah Korner now side by side with Charland for third. Puleo pulled alongside Prucker for the lead on lap-12 and he had the lead at the line by a nose. Puleo cleared to the lead on lap-13 and now Korner and Prucker were side by side for second. A multi car incident involving Alexander Pearl, Douillard, Amanda West, and several others on the frontstretch brought the caution back out with 13 laps complete.

Puleo charged into the lead on the restart with Korner moving into second. Teddy Hodgdon got a good run in the outside groove and he moved into third. Mark Bakaj was up to fourth with Nick Anglace in fifth. Hodgdon continued to use the outside lane to his advantage as he drew even with Korner for second and then pulled to the outside of Puleo for the lead on lap-19. Hodgdon took the lead from Puleo on lap-20 with Bakaj following in his tire tracks in the outside lane to move into second. Korner was now behind Bakaj in the outside lane and they both got by Puleo to drop Puleo back to fourth on lap-22 with Anglace still in fifth as Hodgdon continued to lead the race.

With 10 laps to go Hodgdon was still in command with Bakaj, Korner, Puleo, and Steven Chapman making up the top-5. Prucker was sixth with Charland, Anglace, Sears, and Glenn Griswold making up the top-
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10. Charland got out of shape on lap-33 and fell outside the top-10.

The race nearly got turned upside down with 37 laps complete as Alina Bryden spun directly in front of Hodgdon as Hodgdon was attempting to put her a lap down and the caution came out. Hodgdon took the lead back under green but Bakaj came right back with a crossover move and he nearly retook the lead from Hodgdon in turn 3. Robert Bloxsom, III spun on the backstretch to bring the caution out with 38 laps complete and set up a green white checkered finish.

Hodgdon took the lead on the restart with Bakaj and Korner lined up side by side behind him. Hodgdon had the lead at the line as the white flag was displayed. Heading into turn 3, Korner made a power move to the inside of Hodgdon and made the pass stick. Korner and Hodgdon drag raced to the checkered flag with Korner beating him to the line by a nose. Bakaj spun in turn 4 on the final lap and finished 10th, allowing Puleo to finish third with Prucker and Anglace rounding out the top-5. In NAPA Victory Lane, Doug Dunleavy of Duleavy's Truck & Trailer Repair had three prizes for the top-3 drivers to choose from, including a \$500 bonus from Dunleavy's, \$88 in lotto scratch tickets courtesy of Rocco Motorsports, and a \$100 Texas Roadhouse gift card from Rockingham Boat. Korner picked the envelope with the \$88 in scratch tickets, Hodgdon picked the Texas Roadhouse gift card, and Puleo got the \$500 cash prize. Dunleavy also had a \$300 cash prize for a random driver in the field and with Korner selecting #21, Joey Ferrigno won the \$300 prize as the 21st place finisher.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Andrew Molleur took the lead at the green flag with Joey Cipriano and Marcello Rufrano side by side for second. Ronnie Williams was fourth with Eric Berndt and Ed Spiers side by side for fifth.

Williams moved into third on lap-4 and right behind him Stephen Kopcik made a power move to the inside of Rufrano to move into fourth. Rufrano came right back to Kopcik's outside and they ran side

by side until lap-7 when Rufrano brushed the backstretch wall coming out of turn 2 and slid back in line to sixth.

Williams got around Molleur in turn 3 on lap-8 to take the lead. Cipriano was third in line with Kopcik and Eric Berndt lined up behind him. Spiers spun in the middle of turns 1+2 to bring the caution out with 8 laps complete.

Williams charged back into the lead with Cipriano taking second. Berndt and Molleur were side by side for third place with Todd Owen taking fifth from Kopcik one lap after the restart. Owen took fourth from Molleur on lap-10 and he was looking high and low for a way to get by Berndt for third.

At the halfway point of the race, it was still Williams in command with Cipriano, Berndt, Owen, and Nick Salva making up the top-5. Michael Gervais, Jr. was in sixth with Keith Rocco, last week's winner Glen Reen, Kopcik, and Rufrano making up the top-10 runners.

Salva got by Owen to move into fourth on lap-26 and Gervais was looking to the inside of Owen on lap-29 and he was able to complete the pass to drop Owen back to sixth.

Williams led the field to the checkered flag to pick up his first win of the 2019 season. Cipriano came home in second with Salva, Berndt, and Gervais rounding out the top-5.

In the 30-lap Late Model feature event, Ryan Fearn took the lead from Paul Varricchio, Jr. at the green flag with Chase Cook third. Michael Bennett quickly worked his way by Tyler Leary to move into fourth on lap-2 with Al Saunders taking fifth as Leary slid back to eighth behind Kevin Gambacorta and Michael Wray.

Gambacorta took fourth place from Bennett on lap-6 as Fearn continued to lead with Varricchio and Cook still giving chase. Al Saunders was looking high and low for a way around Bennett for fifth but Bennett was able to hold him off.

Gambacorta took third from Cook on lap-9 while Tom Fearn was starting to move to the front after starting tenth. Fearn moved into seventh on lap-10 and he took sixth from Saunders on lap-11.

Out front, Gambacorta had run down the lead duo of Fearn and Varricchio to make a three-car train for the lead. Varricchio was looking to the inside of Fearn for the lead and the two cars touched briefly on lap-14 but Fearn was able to stay

out with Varricchio and Gambacorta still behind him. Gambacorta took second from Varricchio on lap-17 and set his sights on Fearn in the lead.

Gambacorta took the lead from Fearn on lap-23 and Varricchio was now right on Fearn's back bumper for second with Cook closing in on the lead trio. Gambacorta led the field to the checkered flag to pick up his first win of the 2019 season. Fearn finished second with Varricchio, Cook, and Tom Fearn rounding out the top-5.

In the 15-lap Limited Late Model feature event, Alexandra Fearn took the lead at the drop of the green flag with Matt Clement getting around Gary Patnode to move into second. Jeremy Lavoie was fourth with last week's winner Duane Provost behind him in fifth in the early going.

With 5 laps complete Fearn was still out front with Clement, Patnode, Lavoie, and Provost all giving chase. Clement made a strong move to the inside of Fearn on lap-9 in turns 1+2 but got sideways and couldn't complete the pass. Clement charged his way into the lead on lap-10 with a pass coming out of turn 2. Behind the lead duo, Provost was starting to work Patnode over for the third position but Patnode was able to fend off the challenge.

Fearn came back to the inside of Clement on lap-14 but she got loose in turn 2 and had to slot back into line behind Clement. Fearn took another look to the inside of Clement on the final lap, but Clement was able to hold her off to the line for his second win of the 2019 season. Provost finished third with Patnode and Lavoie making up the top-5.

In the 20-lap Street Stock feature event, Steve Kenneway took the early lead with George Bessette, Jr. hot on his trail in second. Jason Lafayette held third with Mike Hopkins fourth and Johnny Walker in fifth. The order shifted on lap-6 as Bessette took the lead from Kenneway and Travis Hydar got around Walker to take fifth. The caution came out with 6 laps complete for a spin in turn 4 by Bobby Stirk, III.

Bessette took the lead back under green with Kenneway in second. Lafayette was third with Hydar fourth and Meg Fuller in fifth. Hopkins' car was loose on the restart and he slid back to ninth in line.

Lafayette took second from Kenneway on lap-10 and that move opened the door for Hydar, Nicole

Chambrello, and Fuller to all get by Kenneway as he slid from third back to sixth.

With 5 laps to go it was Bessette still in the lead with Lafayette, Hydar, Fuller, Chambrello, and Walker lined up behind him. Bessette led the field to the checkered flag to pick up his first win of the 2019 season. Lafayette finished second with Hydar, Fuller, and Walker rounding out the top-5.

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

Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINSGROVE, PA - Selinsgrove Speedway will return to action at 7 p.m. this Saturday, June 1, with an open wheel doubleheader featuring the 360 sprint cars and the return of the USAC All Pro SpeedSTRs in the Iron Cowboy Classic.

The pro stocks will also take the spotlight in the 18th annual A&A Auto Stores Pro Stock 20 plus roadrunners. Track gates will open at 5 p.m.

The Keller's Auto Body & Towing 360 sprint cars will race 25 laps for \$2,000 to win. Kyle Reinhardt of Neptune City, N.J., a two-time winner this season, leads the standings by just 30 points over two-time winner Jason Shultz of Carlisle entering this weekend's action.

This Saturday will be the first race for the USAC All Pro SpeedSTRs since last fall when the division put on an exciting 100-lap race as part of the World Series of Dirt Racing. Billy Pauch Jr. of Frenchtown, N.J., won the event. This weekend's 32-lap Iron Cowboy Classic will pay \$3,200 to win out of the \$11,000 purse.

The Pro Stock 20 will again pay \$1,000 to win and \$100 to start. Group time trials and heats will be the qualifying format for the Pro Stock 20. The championship trophy will be sponsored by The Middleburg IGA.

The A&A Auto Stores roadrunners will round out the four-division program with a 12-lap feature. Five races have produced three different winners, including repeaters Smith Cope of Danville, Jake Jones of Hunlock Creek, and single-time winner Will Brunson of Middleburg.

Selinsgrove Raceway Park, the one-fifth mile track located inside of Selinsgrove Speedway's half-mile oval, will present a complete program of go kart racing at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 31. Track gates will open at 5:30 p.m.