



AUGUST 30, 2021

FastTrack

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Blaney Finishes Regular Season with Back-to-Back Wins



Kyle Larson Clinches Regular Season Championship

Justin Haley Edges Out Allmendinger for Daytona Victory



Playoffs are Here

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Now it gets real.

A NASCAR regular season that started on Valentine's Day, carved a twisting tale around the country and wrapped up with 28 cars crashing in the final 19 laps of Saturday night's Coke Zero Sugar 400 at the Daytona International Speedway, now heads into its 10-race stretch

drive that will determine its next champion.

The Playoffs field of 16 drivers was set by the results of the first 26 races. Winners, including Daytona winner Ryan Blaney, got an automatic pass to the post-season, while Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick and Tyler Reddick all were winless – but efficient at stockpiling enough points to make the cut.

Blaney survived an eight-car crash on the backstretch with 14 laps remaining, a 11-car pileup in the same place with three laps left in regulation and nine-car melee coming to the checkered flag on the third lap of overtime.

The first round of the playoffs starts with Sunday's Southern 500 at the Darlington Raceway and includes races at Richmond, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee. The top 12 then advance to the second round and the championship field then will be reduced to eight after six races and four after nine races. The last four will compete for the title at the Phoenix International Raceway in a winner-take-all format.

So, who will be among the first four to be eliminated? Who will be in the Final Four? Here's a projection:

The upper crust: Kyle Larson, Blaney, Kyle Busch and Chase Elliott.

Larson clearly is the favorite after winning a series-best five wins, including three on intermediate tracks and a pair of road courses. He also has four second-place finishes on intermediate tracks between one and two miles and a runner-up on a road course. Since there are four intermediates and a road course in the Playoffs, Larson should be on the fast track to Phoenix. And as the regular-season champion, Larson will start the

Playoffs with a 28-point lead against Blaney and Ryan Truex Jr.

"I think there's a lot of good tracks for us. I don't know which ones specifically. I feel like we have a shot to win anywhere right now. That's encouraging," Larson said.

Blaney comes into the playoffs on a two-race winning streak. He also has five top-five finishes in his last six races.

"Momentum is what everything is all about," Blaney said. "Confidence is key and we came into this weekend very confident after last week with our heads held high. They'll be a little bit higher this week, so I look forward to getting to Darlington. It's a great way to end the regular season, but we've still got work to do. We've got 10 weeks of work to do and I'll look forward to them."

With three finishes of 20th or worse in the last five races, Kyle Busch needs the post-season to get things turned around – and nobody is better at flipping the switch. While his numbers aren't overwhelming, you can't ever count him out.

"Hopefully we can get a couple wins in the first round, Kyle Busch said. "We've got Darlington and we ran third there in the spring. Richmond we always run well at and Bristol we always run well at. It would be nice to get a win or two in the first round. That would be great."

No list would be complete without Chase Elliott at the top. The defending NASCAR Cup Series Champion is considered a road-course ringer, but he's been one of the most consistent drivers in the past two months with six top-eight finishes in his last seven races.

"I feel like the same thing that it was last year," Elliott said. "Just execute a really solid 10 weeks and try to be at our very best during the most important part of the year. We'll see how it stacks up. It's hard to time those things up, but we'll try our best to do that."

On the cusp: Martin Truex Jr., Hamlin, William Byron and Alex Bowman

Truex won the 2017 championship and finished second in 2018, 2019 and 2021. He has three wins this year, and all three came earlier in the season at tracks that are part of the Playoffs. The last victory, however, came on May 9 – a dry spell of nearly four months.



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"We just need to get away from all of this bad luck we've been having," he said. "Feeling good about the Playoffs. A lot of good tracks coming up and back to some normal tracks where we can race hard. Darlington was an awesome race for us this year so I look forward to kicking it off there and see what we can do."

Hamlin comes into the Playoffs without a victory – so far – this year. And yet, he's ranked sixth because he's put together 13 top-five races.

"Every week we give ourselves a chance so I'm excited for the Playoffs to start especially these first rounds of tracks," Hamlin said. "We definitely want to just keep getting some momentum, keep performing well and things will fall our way."

Byron and Bowman had the difficult tasks of replacing two legendary drivers at Hendrick Motorsports – Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon. Byron won at Homestead in February, while Bowman had a breakthrough season with three wins. But can they avoid customary pitfalls that come with three rounds of eliminations?

"It's been a rough stretch since the two off weeks, but I feel like we were really successful last year in the Playoffs and we have the ability to repeat that and go further," Bowman said. "I'm excited; a lot of great racetracks for us."

"We're excited," Byron said. "We finished fourth at Darlington in the spring, and I feel like we'll have a good car there. So, I'm excited for the first round."

Best of the rest: Brad Keselowski, Joey Logano, Kurt Busch and Christopher Bell

Keselowski and Logano have several things in common. They both drive for car owner Roger Penske, and both have shown bursts of speed. At the same time, they've both lacked the kind of consistency to make it through three rounds of eliminations. And for Keselowski, the end of the Playoffs will mark the end of his tenure with Penske as he moves to a driver/owner role at Roush Fenway Racing.

"I feel good about our speed and confident with what we have," Logano said. "It's just that some-

thing has been happening every week."

Kurt Busch announced he will be moving to a second car being fielded by Michael Jordan and Denny Hamlin next year. At the same time, his current team, Chip Ganassi Racing, is shutting down after Phoenix, which could affect everyone's commitment.

"We will see where things shake out," Kurt Busch said. "It's what it is and now we are in Playoff mode. I can feel it and we have a good 10 weeks ahead of us."

Bell, the often-forgotten fourth member of Joe Gibbs Racing that includes Hamlin, Kyle Busch and Truex, got into the Playoffs by winning the second race of the season. Since then, he's only had three other top-fives. But as long as he's in JGR equipment, anything is possible.

Thanks for playing: Kevin Harvick, Tyler Reddick, Aric Almirola and Michael McDowell

Harvick won nine races in 2020. He has none this year. His car has lacked speed and consistency, and there have been too many unforced errors by his Stewart-Haas Racing team.

The same can be said about Almirola, his SHR teammate. For either to advance, it would involve a dramatic turnaround for the team.

"That's really as far ahead as I look is one week at a time," Harvick said.

"I'm just really happy to be going to the playoffs," Almirola said. "It's been a tough season for us, so to get that win at New Hampshire was huge and we'll go these next 10 weeks and maximize our days and execute with perfection and just do everything we can to score all the points we can and try and win a race here or there. We'll see."

Reddick was involved in one of the late-race crashes at Daytona, but so was the only other driver who could catch him in points – Austin Dillion, his Richard Childress Racing teammate. His time in the limelight probably won't last long.

And that leaves Daytona 500 winner McDowell. After that stunning win, McDowell has only finished in the top five once. The Daytona 500 victory will ease the disappointment of a quick exit from the Playoffs.

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ON THE COVER:

NASCAR CUP SERIES: NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY
NASCAR XFINITY SERIES: GETTY IMAGES

Blaney Takes the Victory, Reddick Clinches Playoff Spot and Larson Wins Regular Season Championship at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - The Coke Zero Sugar 400 NASCAR Cup Series' regular season finale at Daytona International Speedway unfolded as billed with dramatic action all Saturday night that included 45 lead

changes, a 14-minute Red Flag period and a wild final lap of overtime to decide the championship Playoff picture.

Ultimately, Team Penske's Ryan Blaney managed it all and took his second NASCAR Cup Series victory in as many weeks as a huge multi-car accident happened be-

hind him in the last corners of the track on the final lap. Blaney's No. 12 Team Penske Ford led only seven of the 165 laps, but the 27-year-old North Carolinian took the lead from fellow Ford driver Roush Fenway Racing's Chris Buescher for the two laps of overtime to claim his third win of the season and seventh of his career.

Richard Childress Racing's Tyler Reddick earned the 16th and final Playoff position with a fifth-place finish in a close and suspenseful battle with his own teammate Austin Dillon.

"How about that," Blaney said. "That was a lot of fun. Gosh, we just barely missed that wreck. Got



Ryan Blaney takes the checkered flag as most of the field is involved in a crash and wins the Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona International Speedway. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)



Kyle Larson sports his newly won 2021 Regular Season NASCAR Cup Championship trophy after the Daytona race this past weekend. (RUSTY JARRETT/NKP photo)

to line up on the front row and got a good push by the 7 (Corey LaJoie). You never know how the end of these things is going to play out. Down the back you don't know what lane is getting a bigger run. I guess someone got tangled up over there, hopefully everyone is okay."

LaJoie was one of the drivers who was collected in that nine-car crash in Turn 3 on the final lap. He was one of four drivers – including Austin Dillon, Ross Chastain and Daniel Suarez – running among the top-10 on the final restart and needing a victory to qualify for the Playoffs. Instead, all four of them were unfortunately involved in the final incident that eliminated much of the front-running pack.

Kyle Larson, who has a series-best five wins on the season, clinched his first NASCAR Cup Series Regular Season Championship with a 21st-place finish. Both he and Denny Hamlin were in the last lap wreck. Hamlin, who has led the points standings for all but three of the previous 25 race weekends, finished 14th.

Blaney's Daytona wins caps an impressive summer run that is good enough to move him into second place in the Playoff standings – 28 behind Larson – heading into next week's Playoff opener at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway.

Martin Truex Jr. and Kyle Busch are ranked third and fourth in the

Playoff re-set, followed by 2020 NASCAR Cup Series champion Chase Elliott, Alex Bowman, Hamlin and William Byron. Joey Logano, who led a race best 37 laps Saturday but finished 24th, is seeded ninth, followed by his Team Penske teammate Brad Keselowski, Kurt Busch, Christopher Bell, this year's Daytona 500 winner Michael McDowell, Aric Almirola, Reddick and Kevin Harvick.

"Got good momentum," Blaney said smiling. "Nice to make it three in a row. We'll see."

Bubba Wallace, who led eight laps late in the race, finished second – his best result of the 2021 season.

Ryan Newman, Ryan Preece and Tyler Reddick rounded out the top five; a season best for Newman and Preece as well.

Haley was sixth, followed by Alex Bowman, who won the Xfinity Series race earlier in the afternoon. Chase Elliott, B.J. McLeod and Josh Billicki rounded out the top 10. It was McLeod's first top-10 finish in 76 NASCAR Cup Series starts.

The 10-race elimination style NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs begin with next Sunday's Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway (6 p.m. ET on NBCSN, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Kevin Harvick is the defending race winner. Martin Truex Jr. won at Darlington this spring.

Justin Haley Secures Playoff Spot with Xfinity Win at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Coming to the checkered flag, Justin Haley nudged his No. 11 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet just ahead of his teammates A.J. Allmendinger and Jeb Burton in a thrilling three-wide finish in the

Wawa 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday afternoon.

The blink-of-an-eye .023-second victory marked the fourth superspeedway victory for the 22-year-old Haley but his first win of the 2021 season. He has three wins on the Daytona high banks, also including one in a rain-shortened NASCAR Cup Series race here two years ago.

Allmendinger, who took the white flag in front of the field, may have just missed the race trophy, but he led the most laps on the day (30) and his runner-up effort was good enough to take the season driver standings lead by 17 points over defending series champion Austin Cindric, who was sidelined after a Lap 27 incident.

Although Haley and Allmendinger's third Kaulig Racing teammate Jeb Burton made it a three-wide photo at the line, JR Motorsports driver Justin Allgaier actually nudged just ahead in the middle to officially take third place. Burton was credited with fourth place, followed by Joe Gibbs Racing's Daniel Hemric, whose fifth-place finish was a massive

comeback after his No. 18 was involved in the same early-race incident that took Cindric out.

NASCAR Cup Series regular Christopher Bell was sixth with Noah Gragson, Myatt Snider, Harrison Burton and Riley Herbst rounding out the top 10. Hemric, Harrison Burton and Haley all clinched spots in the NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs with their finishes today.

"This has just not been the best season, it's been really, really hard on this No. 11 LeafFilter team all year," said an emotional Haley, who teared up in car congratulating his crew after the checkered flag. "We've had a lot of bad luck.

"I was trying to formulate a plan there and obviously there were team orders. Hats off to Kaulig Racing. I think we've got the teammate thing down. It's just so special to win here at Daytona."

"I've won twice here and neither time did I get to see anyone [fans] on the frontstretch, so thank you guys for being here," he told the cheering crowd. "I love you"

The first 19 laps of the 100-lapper ran on Friday night, but Florida rain showers forced the Saturday matinee. The competition resumed, however, in the kind of typically flat-out, thrilling superspeedway storyline that NASCAR fans have become accustomed to.

"That was like the perfect photo shoot right there coming across the line for all the Kaulig Racing Chevys," Allmendinger said with a huge grin. "Proud of my 'son' Justin Haley. He might be one of the best



Justin Haley is all smiles in Daytona's victory lane after winning the Wawa 250 Xfinity race. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

we've ever seen on superspeedways and Jeb did a fantastic job.

"I was just hanging on in the middle there. I thought we might get it [1-2-3 finish] but proud of everyone at Kaulig Racing."

Haley and Burton won the opening two stages in an action-packed afternoon that had great impact on the championship chase.

Cindric, the defending Xfinity Series champion and a series best five-race winner in 2021, has led the series standings all season. But he was involved in a five-car accident toward the front of the field on Lap 26 that eliminated him from the race.

Cindric's No. 22 Team Penske Ford was hit from behind by Snider's No. 2 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet entering Turn 1 sending a handful of cars into save-mode, with several – including top-

10 finishers Hemric and Snider - suffering damage but returning to the race.

The hard hit into the inside retaining wall did enough damage to Cindric's Ford, however, it could not continue. It marked the second straight race the 22-year-old was sidelined before the second stage even began. He finished 37th at Michigan last week after being collected in a seven-car accident only 12 laps into the race.

"Pretty upset for our Ford Mustang, two weekends in a row we've had race winning capable cars and I've had probably a total of 40 laps in the last two weeks," Cindric said. "Really frustrating to have that situation play out so early. It only takes one, sometimes."

Coming into the Daytona race, Cindric held a 35-point advantage over Allmendinger. Now he trails by 17 with only three races remaining to set the 12-driver Playoff field.

The top-10 work by Riley Herbst was significant in terms of the Playoffs. He came into the race ranked 12th, but was able to extend his lead ahead of Michael Annett (30th) and Brandon Brown (34th) who both had bad luck days at Daytona.

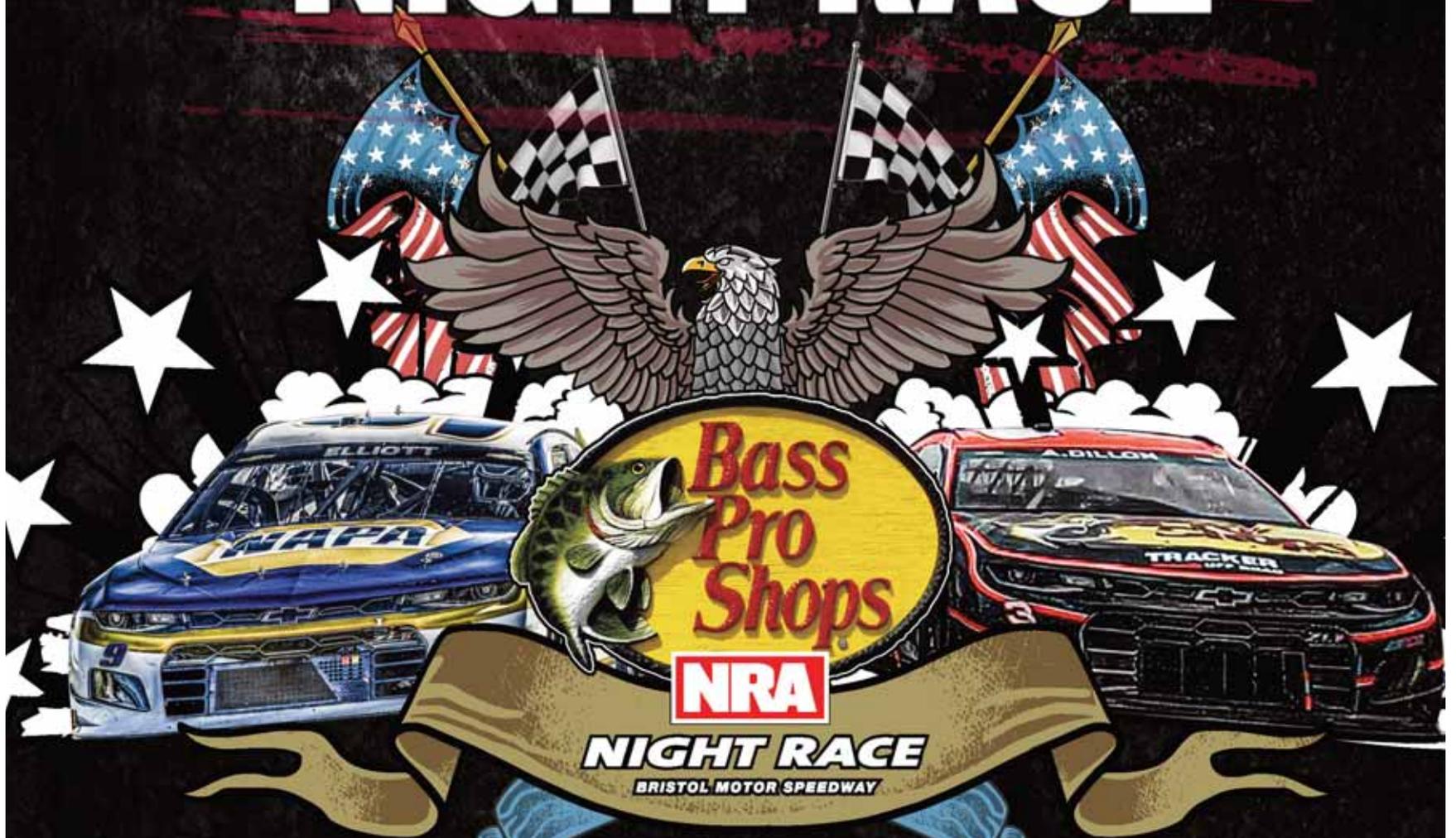
The Sports Clips Haircuts VFW Help a Hero 200 is next Saturday (3:30 p.m. ET on NBCSN, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) at the historic Darlington (S.C.) Raceway. Allgaier won at the track this Spring. Joe Gibbs Racing driver Brandon Jones, who finished last on Saturday after his Toyota battled overheating issues, is the defending race winner.



Justin Haley (11) hit the checkers just in front of AJ Allmendinger (16) for a close finish in the Xfinity race Saturday afternoon. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)



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Ty Gibbs Leads Every Lap at Milwaukee Mile for Ninth Win of 2021 Season

WEST ALLIS, WI - The last time the ARCA Menards Series was on track, a week ago on the Springfield dirt at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Ty Gibbs failed to lead a lap for the first time all season.

The 18-year-old driver of the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota did the opposite Sunday in the Sprecher 150 at the Milwaukee Mile.

Gibbs, who qualified on the General Tire Pole, led every lap on the one-mile paved oval to pick up his series-high ninth win of 2021. He has now led every lap of a race three times (Kansas Speedway and Charlotte Motor Speedway) this season. That doesn't count his leading all but one lap in ARCA Menards Series races at Iowa Speedway and Michigan International Speedway.

"All these guys right here," Gibbs said, pointing to the crew members standing behind him in Victory Lane. They do so much for me and for my team. These guys work their butts off, and they want to win more than I do."

Having entered the 16th of 20 ARCA Menards Series races this season tied with Corey Heim atop the championship standings, Gibbs' victory at Milwaukee gives him a 17-point lead in points with four events remaining.

Dealing with engine issues late in the race, Heim limped to a sixth-place finish at Milwaukee, his second-worst result of the season behind his seventh-place run at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio.

Heim was involved in the only incident of Sunday's Sprecher 150. He got into the back of Stephanie Moyer's lapped car on Lap 118, sending her spinning off Turn 2.

Sam Mayer, a Wisconsin native and the two-time reigning ARCA Menards Series East champion who was making his fourth ARCA Menards Series start of the season for Bret Holmes Racing, finished second.

"This place is really fun," Mayer said of the Milwaukee Mile, the oldest continuously operating speedway in the world and a venue the ARCA Menards Series had not vis-

ited since 2007. "I've never got to run here before today, and man, I wish I would have a long time ago, because this place is pretty awesome."

Added third-place finisher Daniel Dye: "It was really cool, trying to figure out the air. It was really fun racing Sam, and him trying to reel in Ty. (Crew chief) Chad (Bryant) brought a great piece. Third's two spots behind what we wanted to do, but none of us had been here. It's a flat race track; first time I've ever been on a flat race track, so I had a lot of fun."

The Sprecher 150 was a combination race with the ARCA Menards Series East, where Gibbs' Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Sammy Smith entered Milwaukee with a 19-point edge over second-place Mason Diaz in championship points.

After qualifying second, Smith ran well all day at Milwaukee and finished fifth. The result extends his points lead to 24 over Dye, who jumped Diaz for second in East Series points.

Taylor Gray was the fourth-place finisher at Milwaukee. He has a top-10 finish in all nine of his ARCA Menards Series starts in 2021.



Ty Gibbs celebrates his ninth win of the season in victory lane at the Milwaukee Mile on Sunday afternoon. (arca.com photo)

Sunday's race also marked Round 8 of the 2021 Sioux Chief Showdown, a 10-race series within the series that allows East and West Series drivers to compete against ARCA Menards Series regulars for a title. Gibbs extended his lead over Heim in this series, as well, to 13 points.

The next chapter in the season-long title race between Gibbs and Heim will come next week in the Southern Illinois 100 at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds, the second of two dirt races on the 2021 ARCA Menards Series schedule. Having just dominated on the dirt and winning at Springfield, Heim will be looking to get the

better of Gibbs once again to make up the points he lost at the Milwaukee Mile.

The Southern Illinois 100 is scheduled to start at 8 p.m. CT / 9 p.m. ET on Sunday, Sept. 5. It will broadcast live on MAVTV with a live stream available on NBC Sports Gold's TrackPass.

The East Series will return to action Thursday, Sept. 16 for its season-finale at Bristol Motor Speedway, another combination event with the ARCA Menards Series. The Bush's Beans 200 will start at 6:30 p.m. ET with live TV coverage on FS1. The Bristol race also marks the ninth round of the Sioux Chief Showdown.

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Bobby McCarty and Carson Kvapil Return to CARS Tour Victory Lane in Series Return to Motor Mile

MOORESVILLE, NC - The Solid Rock Carriers CARS Tour returned to the Motor Mile Speedway in the southwest mountains of Virginia Saturday night for the first time since the 2019 season. Just as in previous events at the

4/10th mile track, multiple grooves of racing produced tough battles amongst competitors, before eventual winners sailed away for wins in the closing laps.

Bobby McCarty made it back-to-back wins at Motor Mile Speedway dating back to the series last time in the New River Valley during the 2019 season. Carson Kvapil picked up his third win of the season in his attempt to regain his championship points lead from the beginning of the year.

Super Late Model Recap:

Matt Craig looked to possibly make it two in a row, but pitting for adjustments on a lap forty competition caution gave his championship points rival Carson Kvapil the lead and he never looked back.

Kvapil dominated the final sixty laps of the event and scored some much needed championship points on Craig to tighten the battle between the two.

Georgia native Jake Garcia continued his hot streak of wins and strong finishes with the runner-up position over Matt Craig who was able to recover and finish third to grab a podium finish.

Giovanni Bromante returned to racing for the first time in over a year to a solid fourth place finish, but it was Jeff Batten who grabbed people's attention all night. The veteran of Nashville, North Carolina raced within the top three all night until having to settle for fifth when the brakes went south on his family owned #49 Batten Ceramic Tile machine.

Late Model Stock Car Recap:

Bobby McCarty had to work hard for it but was able to extend his championship point lead slightly, scoring his second win of the season Saturday night at Motor Mile Speedway.

Starting from the outside pole position, McCarty took command of the lead position through the early

portion of the race. McCarty's strait-away lead was erased via a caution just prior to the event's halfway point.

That was the opportunity that Justin Johnson needed to give McCarty all he could handle for the top spot. Johnson used the outside lane, with McCarty on the bottom,

to accelerate his #44 machine to the lead to score an all-important bonus point.

Despite his efforts McCarty's #22 Solid Rock Carriers Toyota shined in the final stages of the 125 lap race and pulled away from the rest of the field to score the win.

Johnson kept McCarty in his sights to finish second, with track favorite Mike Looney taking the checkered flag in third position.

Rookie Kaden Honeycutt finished fourth and continued his 2021 streak as the only CARS Late Model Stock Tour driver to complete every single lap thus far this

season.

Youngster Jonathan Shafer equaled his best finish of the 2021 season in fifth to round out the top five finishers.

For additional information on the CARS Late Model Stock Tour and the CARS Super Late Model Tour visit www.carsracingtour.com. Be sure to stay active and social with the tour by liking "CARS Tour" on Facebook, following @CARSTour on Twitter, and scrolling through photos on Instagram cars_tour. Additional series information can be obtained by calling the CARS Tour series office at 704.662.9212.



Bobby McCarty (left) and Carson Kvapil (right) celebrate in victory lane at Motor Mile Speedway after winning the Late Model Stock Car and Super Late Model CARS Tour events. (CARS Tour photo)

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Haudenschild Rockets to Rushmore Outlaw Showdown Win

Sheldon Haudenschild was sick of second. He had to settle for the runner-up spot in his last two races. No more. That ended at Black Hills Speedway.

With the correct prediction of a move by 10-time World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series

champion Donny Schatz, Haudenschild was able to break that streak and win the Rushmore Outlaw Showdown – along with its \$10,000 payday.

Like a driver stuck in Ground Hogs Day, Haudenschild was pinned against Schatz on the front row for the DIRTVision FAST PASS Dash and 25-lap World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series Feature. In the Dash, he lost the battle. In the Feature, he won the war.

Schatz, on the outside pole, launched ahead of Haudenschild on the first lap of the Dash and ran away with the win. When the Feature commenced, it was Haudenschild's turn to try the same.

Starting on the outside pole, Haudenschild rocketed around the outside of Schatz off Turn 2 but the CARQUEST #15 fought back and pulled even with Haudenschild down the backstretch to retake the lead. However, the caution flew before their battle could continue. Haudenschild had another free shot. Only, this time, Schatz was ready for it.

When they saw the green flag, again, Schatz time his restart better than Haudenschild and pulled ahead of him into Turn 1. He drifted up the track to block Haudenschild's expected run off Turn 2. This is where Haudenschild made the correct prediction.

Expecting Schatz to move up, the NOS Energy Drink #17, shifted hard left on the exit of the first corner and darted underneath the 10-time champion down the backstretch. Like Schatz on the initial start, Haudenschild had the better momentum and pulled ahead of Schatz into Turn 3. From there, the Wooster, OH driver hit the afterburners and ran qualifying laps for the remainder of the race.

"I can't give it up enough for Ripper, Steve and Drew," Hauden-

schild said of his Stenhouse Jr.-Marshall Racing crew. "They bust their butt. We had to change an engine there before Hot Laps. They always make sure our shit is right."

Five cautions plagued the progress of the Feature and Haudenschild's command out front. That didn't hinder the fighter jet-like speed of his car, though. On every restart, Haudenschild found something no one else could and put a second gap between him and the field in a single lap.

On multiple occasions this year, circumstances out of Haudenschild's control robbed him of a win. With several drivers blowing tires throughout the event, anxiety tapped on the shoulder of his crew as they watched from the top of the team hauler, waiting to see if they would be faced with the same fate.

Inside the cockpit, Haudenschild knew exactly what he needed to do to avoid an issue.

"I feel like I kept it down in the clean part of the track and I felt like they were cutting them, not really getting them bald," Haudenschild said. "I just tried to cool them there and run in the clean part of the track and get to the end of this. I was sputtering on fuel there at the end."

Behind him, Schatz, who was on a mission to sweep the weekend after claiming his first I-80 Speedway win on Friday could do nothing but watch the black and orange #17 rocket away from him on every restart.

"We tried to move around and catch him," Schatz said. "I was going to have to make something work there in the middle of (Turns) one and two. Just could never hit it right there. We could stay with him at the end. At the beginning, he set a pretty good pace. Hats off to him, he did a great job."

With the fortune of blown tires by others, Gravel was able to keep his equipment clean and round out the podium.

"I felt like we had a pretty good car there," Gravel said. "I felt like we were just as good as anybody. Just track position is really important. I had a hole in my right rear on the last restart and had about four or five pounds left in it."

Two-time and reigning champion Brad Sweet managed to salvage a fifth-place finish after blowing a tire early. However, with Gravel finish-



Sheldon Haudenschild celebrates his win at Black Hills Speedway in the Rushmore Outlaws Showdown. (Trent Gower photo)

ing ahead of him, he still lost a few points – now holding a 120-point lead over Gravel.

Rookie of the Year contender Brock Zearfoss continued his career run as his sixth-place finish was his fifth top-10 in a row.

For Haudenschild, the victory was his first at Black Hills Speedway and eighth of the year – a new career-high of wins in a season for him.

"To finish the weekend off with a win is great," Haudenschild said.

Second no more.

UP NEXT: The World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series returns to Washington for the first time since 2019 for the inaugural Sage Fruit Skagit Nationals at Skagit Speedway – Friday to Sunday (Sept. 3 to Sept. 5).

If you can't make it to the track, you can watch all the action live on DIRTVision – either online or through the DIRTVision App.

Donny Schatz Sets Another Milestone with First I-80 Speedway Win

Whispers mirrored each other in Victory Lane. "That looked like the Donny Schatz of old."

The sentence was said with wonder by some and fear by others. They've seen what happens when the 10-time World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series champion puts on a performance like he did Friday night at I-80 Speedway for the FVP Platinum Battery Showdown.

Schatz, of Fargo, ND, started fourth in the 30-lap Feature and marched his way forward with an iron right foot, taking every position with the force of a determined winner. He had the lead at the conclusion of the first third of the race and

then ran away with it. When the checkered was presented to the field, Schatz reached it first with a more than three-second lead at the 4/10-mile track.

It was the 302nd Series win of Schatz's career and his first ever at I-80 Speedway – a feat even he was surprised by.

"First win here? Well, that's always good," Schatz said in Victory Lane. "I know we've been fast here in the past. I try to forget about what is behind me. It feels good to win. We didn't really feel that great in the (DIRTVision FAST PASS) Dash. The guys took a huge swing with the race car and tried to make it better. And it obviously worked."

"That's what's fun about it when you can make those huge swings and make something happen."

David Gravel presented himself as the driver to beat throughout the early stages of the night, setting Slick Woody's Quick Time, winning his Drydene Heat Race and finishing second in the Dash. However, once the Feature commenced, the chance at a win slipped through his fingers during its progression.

Carson Macedo, who finished second at I-80 Speedway last year, started from the pole – due to his Dash win – and held command out front for the first 10 laps. His Jason Johnson Racing #41 looked smooth and in control in clean air, pulling ahead of the field by more than a second. Once lap traffic came into play around Lap 10, his rocket ship run hit debris and slowed. The timing couldn't have been worse for the California native as Schatz was like a programmed bullet destined for the lead.

Cruising around the low line, Schatz officially took the top spot from Macedo on Lap 11 and was never seen from the other podium

(Continued Next Page)

Continued...

contenders again.

"Starting fourth, just tried to make the bottom work from the word go," Schatz said. "I didn't really know if that was going to work or not, but I stayed there and stayed there to figure out how to get it going. It worked."

After Macedo lost the lead to Schatz, early predictions would've had him finishing in the runner-up spot as Gravel, in

third, had his hands full with Sheldon Haudenschild. They'd be wrong. The NOS Energy Drink #17 of Haudenschild started third but fell back early before making his climb. He passed Gravel with 10 laps to go and was able to track down Macedo for second five laps later.

By that point, there was no catching Schatz. Haudenschild had to settle for his second runner-up finish in a row.

"He [Schatz] got a good gap on us," Haudenschild said. "He started working the bottom early and got around me and the 2 and the 41. He was really good and got a gap. He was able to get to the lappers first and get a good gap. It is what it is. Ran second. Felt good. The car was really good all night."

Macedo rounded out the podium in third. Behind him was a Roman colosseum-gliadiator-flight-to-the-death war for the fourth and fifth spots. Gravel held fourth in the closing laps, but Brock Zearfoss, James McFadden and Gio Scelzi swung slide jobs and threw dive bombs at each other for the final five laps.

McFadden exited the victor, securing fourth-place at the line. He also earned the KSE Hard Charger award, having started 10th.

"We struggled early (in the night), I just couldn't get comfortable for some reason," McFadden said. "We threw a big setup at it. Something that has worked for us before. We thought we'd give it a crack. We had nothing to lose and it worked a lot. I wish we had a caution there with 10 or 15 laps to go. The car was really truckin'."

Gravel finished fifth with Zearfoss in sixth and Scelzi seventh. However, for Zearfoss, it was still a win as the finish was his fourth top-10 in a row – a new career-best for the Jonestown, PA driver.

"We were really good early, just



Brad Sweet stole the River Cities Speedway event from Sheldon Haudenschild Wednesday night. (Trent Gower photo)

needed to be probably a little bit tighter there at the end," Zearfoss said. "I got a little free. All in all, a really good night. I kind of messed ourselves up there in the Heat Race and got beat, plain as day. Knocked ourselves out of the (DIRTVision FAST PASS) Dash draw there and potentially a position to win the race. Just shows how important it is to make the Dash."

Sweet Steals River Cities Thriller from Haudenschild on Last Lap

It seems as if River Cities Speedway has been providing "race of the year" vibes for the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series all the way back to the dawn of time.

On Wednesday night, the "world-famous legendary bullring" offered up its latest masterpiece, a last-lap pass for the win between the Series' forefront champion and the Series' hottest rising star.

It's something the Grand Forks, ND oval has become famous for with daring moves in tight traffic, treacherous curbs atop a multi-lane surface, and nail-biting finishes that stun the fans over and over again.

This mid-week rescheduled date was no different.

Carson Macedo commanded the opening 28 laps aboard the Jason Johnson Racing #41, but Sheldon Haudenschild rose to the top spot on Lap 29 and seemed to be a sure bet to seal the deal on win #8 this year. However, with each passing lap, the lead dwindled and dwindled for the NOS Energy Drink #17.

It was The Big Cat Brad Sweet who pounced perfectly, though, watching as the white flag waved

and immediately flipping his Kasey Kahne Racing, NAPA Auto Parts #49 into attack mode. The savvy veteran rolled the middle of turns one and two right by the young gun and took command down the backstretch.

The duo ran wheel-to-wheel through turns three and four before a drag race to the checkered flag solved all with a mere 0.133-second advantage, in the favor of Sweet.

"I hope you fans enjoyed that finish," Sweet told the Grand Forks faithful as they stood in awe for the second-straight year. "We've been struggling lately, so I'm just happy to get the win. I've been close here so many times, but Donny just dominated this place for years. We finally found something that got us on the top step of the podium; it feels good."

Ironically enough, Sweet's last-lap pass of one Haudenschild lifted him past another Haudenschild in the grand scheme of the history books.

By overtaking Sheldon for his 73rd career win, the Grass Valley, CA native officially moved beyond Jac to take sole possession of 11th on the World of Outlaws All-Time Wins List.

Wednesday marked his 15th NOS Energy Drink Feature win of the season and his first breakthrough at North Dakota's River Cities Speedway.

After starting fifth in the 40-lap Feature, Sweet slipped as far back as eighth, but never let himself get too far out of it. He went seventh-to-four on a single restart on Lap 15, then passed Schatz for third on Lap 33, snuck by Macedo for second on Lap 35, and snookered Haudenschild for the win on Lap 39.

"I knew when I saw the white

flag that I had to go for it," Sweet noted. "The lappers kept moving Sheldon around just enough to give me that chance. I found the middle through turns one and two, and that's how I got by Donny and Carso, too. It got tight there at the end, glad we could hang on for it."

In a heartbreaking turn of events, Sheldon Haudenschild was handed his sixth second-place effort of the season in dramatic fashion. The throttle smasher and cushion blaster from Wooster, OH didn't hang his head through the disappointing result but instead looked forward to the momentum his NOS Energy Drink squad is building.

"All we can do is keep learning and getting better," Haudenschild acknowledged. "I survived the first half just playing it cool, but I probably should have protected the middle more there at the end. Brad is one of the best in the business, those guys were great tonight. This track was incredible."

Outside polesitter Carson Macedo paced the opening 28 laps of the 40-lapper before settling into a third-place finish. It was a much-needed podium appearance for the Jason Johnson racing #41 following a rough-go at Huset's on Sunday. The Lemoore, CA 25-year-old knows he just can't make mistakes competing against The Greatest Show on Dirt.

"I made too many mistakes in traffic and that's what really cost me," Macedo mentioned. "All it takes is one mistake to lose these Outlaw races with how good everyone else is. I tried to move around and find something after Sheldon got me, but he set such a good pace up top there was no keeping up. It sucks to lead that many laps and not win the race, but it's good momentum to get this #41 team going again."

Rounding out the top-five on Wednesday Fargo's own Donny Schatz with his 12th-straight top-10 run in the Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing #15, and behind him was Shark Racing's Logan Schuchart in the fifth position aboard the Drydene Performance Products #1S.

Closing out the top-10 at River Cities was David Gravel & the Big Game Motorsports #2 in sixth, James McFadden & the Kasey Kahne Racing #9 in seventh, Brock Zearfoss & the Moose's LZ Bar & Grill #3Z in eighth, Mark Dobmeier & the Buffalo Wild Wings #13 with a season-best ninth, and Wayne Johnson & the Two-C Racing #2C with a second-straight top-10 effort.

Moran Grabs \$30,000 Win at Davenport

DAVENPORT, IA - Devin Moran faced two different battles Saturday night at Davenport Speedway.

The Dresden, OH driver survived several restarts against his competitors, and overcame power steering issues to score the \$30,000 Victory in the Quad Cities 150 presented by Hoker Trucking.

In the first few laps, Moran traded the lead with reigning Series champion Brandon Sheppard but took the lead for good on Lap 6. While the "Mailman" was cruising out front, his power steering started going away, forcing him to battle the steering wheel through every corner.

"[The Power Steering] slowly got worse and worse and worse as the race went on, and like under caution, I had no power steering," Moran said. "My arms felt like noodles, and I'm not the biggest guy in the world anyways, but I just told myself on that last caution, don't be a sissy, get out there and do what I need to do, and that's what I did."

Moran's win is his fourth World of Outlaws triumph of the season and eighth of his career. He added \$43,500 to his bank account this weekend, between two wins and a third-place finish.

The "Mailman" dealt with challenges from a familiar foe for part of the race, as Bobby Pierce tried to steal the lead from him on one occasion. Moran held him at bay after searching for the best line on the speedway.

"The middle was really really good for most of the race, and then when [Bobby Pierce] slid me, and when I slid him back in one and two, I felt like the slider line was actually like really fast," Moran said. "When I did that [Wylie Moran, his crew chief], hands got wider, and we trucked on from there."

While Moran led most of the race, the rest traded positions throughout all 70 laps.

Brian Shirley, the race's hard charger, drove his way to second after starting 15th. The Chatham, IL driver, stated his car was fast and took advantage of some breaks along the way.

"I wasn't sure how it was going to turn out, to be honest, we just needed a good run, and a lot of

things were falling our way there," Shirley said. "We had a good car and had a couple of breaks with the cautions happening and getting in the right spot. Luckily, we just capitalized on some good things that went on [Saturday]."

From Bear Lake, PA, Boom Briggs crossed the line third—his best World of Outlaws finish of 2021. The help he received from one of his competitors, paved the way to success on Saturday night.

"I got to thank Mark Richards and all of the [Rocket1 Racing Team]," Briggs said. "[Brandon Sheppard] welded on my car [Saturday], Mark helped me with some stuff and it got me in the game.

"That's all I ever ask is I want in the game and to just be competitive."

Sheppard finished fourth, his second top-five of the weekend. The New Berlin, IL driver ran second for most of the race, but lost his brakes around the halfway point.

"It didn't affect me too bad around the halfway point, but the longer the race went, and the more I needed to slow my entry down a little bit, the worse I got," Sheppard said. "I couldn't steer in unless I was kind of on the gas because I needed to slow up with the brakes, and I didn't have no brakes to slow me up."

Bobby Pierce rounded out the top-five, dropping from second on the final restart after a fierce battle for the runner-up spot with Chris Madden.

Pierce was trying to pass Madden on the outside of Turn 3 with five laps to go, when Pierce made contact with Madden, sending the Gray Court, SC driver spinning on the inside of the track.



Devin Moran celebrates in victory lane after overcoming power steering issues to win the Quad Cities 150 Saturday night at Davenport Speedway. (Jacy Norgaard photo)

Pierce stated he was trying to get the most out of his car while running the cushion when the incident happened.

"Anyone that doesn't know, racing these cars, you're trying to get that best run off into the corner you can possibly get when you're running the top," Pierce said. "When there's a guy constantly swinging out in front of your line, you're trying to get to his quarter panel as close as you can without touching him or at least nicking him so you can at least get that best runoff because this game is about inches.

"I could've went in there and threw a slider and knocked his nose off. I didn't want to do that; I wanted to pass him clean. So, therefore, racing deal, it sucks, I take accountability for it because I'm trying to get the most out of my racecar I possibly can."

We reached out to Madden after the race about the incident, but he declined to comment.

Devin Moran overcame adver-

sity to win for the second time in three days, despite leading more laps than anyone throughout the weekend. The "Mailman's" perseverance shows it'll take more than a minor issue to keep him out of Victory Lane, when his Longhorn Chassis is dialed in.

UP NEXT: The Most Powerful Late Models on the Planet return to Cherokee Speedway on Thursday, Sept. 2 for the rescheduled Rock Gault Memorial.

If you can't make it to the track, you can watch all the action live on DIRTVision – either online or through the DIRTVision App.

Sheppard Takes Night Two of the Quad Cities 150

DAVENPORT, IA - Former Major League Baseball Pitcher Lefty Gomez once said, "I'd rather be lucky than good." For three-time and defending champion Brandon Sheppard, why not both?

The New Berlin, IL driver, drew the outside pole and took advantage of his starting position to cruise to his seventh win of the season Friday night at Davenport Speedway.

Sheppard wasted no time getting the lead, using his momentum to blast around Jason Feger on the top of the racetrack. It's a move the "Rocket Shepp" needed to make quickly, as the track started taking rubber near the halfway point.

"[Starting second] was definitely key tonight for sure," Sheppard said. "We had a really good car for the slick before it rubbered, so that makes me feel good for [Saturday]."

(Continued Next Page)



Brandon Sheppard celebrates with his wife and daughter after winning night two of the Quad Cities 150 at Davenport Speedway. (Jacy Norgaard photo)

Continued...

Sheppard's win is the 76th World of Outlaws triumph of his career and third trip to Victory Lane in the last six races. He's also won three of the previous four Series events at Davenport Speedway.

Sheppard stated his crew is starting to hit a stride, even as they are trying different setups to better the Rocket1 race team.

"My guys have been just working their butts off on this thing, getting it going good for me," Sheppard said. "We're hit and miss some nights, but we're doing a lot of trial and error and trying to fine-tune this thing in and get it figured back out again."

Bobby Pierce finished in the runner-up spot for the second consecutive night and had a chance at the lead toward the end. The Oakwood, IL driver stuck his nose underneath Sheppard but backed out of it when he realized he couldn't make the pass.

"I didn't want to try anything crazy," Pierce said. "When you dip down on that rubber line, you're kind of in a death slide. If I had a really clear shot, maybe, but it's very unlikely to do that in the rubber, so you kind of hang on to your spot."

Pierce, who started fourth, made a move on an early restart to get to second. Like Sheppard, the "Smooth Operator" found an open lane on the outside.

"I was unlucky with the draw, but I was lucky with that caution coming out," Pierce said.

"[Chris Madden] did the best thing he could've done for me and dive down to that middle. I knew the top was good for me, so I just found it out and basically rolled to second."

Devin Moran backed up his win on Thursday with a third-place finish. The Dresden, OH driver felt he had a good car again, but was limited to how far he could go.

"I felt like my [Longhorn] chassis was really good; I just couldn't get any further than third," Moran said.

Feger crossed the line fourth, and Chris Madden rounded out the top five.

Brandon Sheppard put himself in position for luck to go his way by qualifying well and winning his Drydene Heat Race. If the "Rocket Shepp" can be "good" again on

Saturday, a little luck could lead him to \$30,000 and put him one step away from World of Outlaws history.

Moran Scores Third Win of the Season at Davenport

DAVENPORT, IA - Devin Moran's plan Thursday night at Davenport Speedway didn't go as expected. He planned on running the outside, allowing his momentum to carry around pole-sitter Chris Madden. But calling an audible turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

The Dresden, OH driver's switch to the inside on Lap 1 allowed him to dive under Madden. A few laps later, he took the lead for good, holding on for the win on night one of the Quad Cities 150 presented by Hoker Trucking.

Madden grabbed the lead off Turn 2 on the first lap and immediately moved up to the outside. That's where Moran made his move to the bottom, as the "Mailman" pulled even with "Smokey."

"I barreled off in there on the bottom, and it stuck way harder than I expected," Moran said. "I thought we'd eventually move back up, but we just never did. I'm kind of glad we didn't because it helped us out to our win."

Moran's trip to Victory Lane is

his third World of Outlaws win of the season and seventh of his career.

Before Thursday's Feature, both of his wins were on 1/2-mile tracks. That didn't matter to Moran, thanks to recent success with the DIRTcar Summer Nationals.

"I feel like our cars have been really good," Moran said. "We were good on those short tracks last week up in Michigan with the [DIRTcar Summer Nationals], so I knew we had a chance; we just had to play our cards right."

Even though Moran led most of the race, he still had a challenger trying to keep him out of Victory Lane. Bobby Pierce was also running the inside lane and pulled even with Moran with five laps to go.

But the Oakwood, IL driver couldn't wrestle the lead away, forcing him to settle for second. The "Smooth Operator" was satisfied with his runner-up position but hoped for one shot at Moran as the laps dwindled.

"[Moran] was doing a great job staying tucked into the bottom," Pierce said. "I tried the middle on the last corner, but I wish I would've tried it a couple of laps earlier. I don't think it was there, but at least gave it a shot."

"I think in the long run, we were a little bit better, especially when we got caught in lap traffic, but he

did a good job."

Frank Heckenast Jr. crossed the line third after starting seventh. The Frankfort, IL driver stated his car was good, but he started too far back to contend for the win.

"It's still a great run," Heckenast said. "Anytime you're in the top three with these guys is always a huge accomplishment. We'll chalk it up and go on to [Friday]."

Shannon Babb finished fourth, and Nick Hoffman rounded out the top five. It's the Mooresville, NC driver's first top-five with the World of Outlaws, a month after teaming up with 2004 Series champion Scott Bloomquist.

"I feel like we've got a really good car, and a lot of it's just me getting laps and getting comfortable," Hoffman said. "We're learning what we need setup-wise every night, and then with the tire rule here, it's a little different being on all hards. You have to race a little bit different with that and prepare different."

Reigning Series champion Brandon Sheppard finished seventh, extending his points lead on Chris Madden to 164 points.

Even though Devin Moran's initial plan didn't come to fruition, the change worked in his favor. The "Mailman" will likely use that knowledge to create a new plan; one that could lead him on a path worth winning \$40,000 more.



David Moran opened the Quad Cities 150 at Davenport Speedway with a win Thursday night. (Jacy Norgaard photo)

McCreadie Captures Friday Night's Lucas Oil Race at Port Royal

PORT ROYAL, PA - Current Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series championship point leader, Tim McCreadie, took another big step in his quest for his first series title by winning Friday Night's event at Port Royal Speedway.

The 47-year-old New York native captured his fourth series win of 2021 as he crossed the line nearly a straightaway ahead of four-time Series Champion Jimmy Owens. Tyler Erb came from 10th to place third with Shane Clanton taking fourth and Hudson O'Neal finishing in fifth.

Jonathan Davenport and McCreadie started on the front row for the 40-lap main event as the two went side-by-side at the line to complete the first lap. McCreadie would take the lead from Davenport on the next lap, a lead he never relinquished.

A terrific four-car battle for the lead would ensue for several laps as the leaders raced through traffic. Davenport stayed close by, with O'Neal and Chris Ferguson in the hunt as well.

During a lap 25 caution flag period, both Davenport and Ferguson had issues with flat tires as they made their way to the hot pit area for new rubber. With the second and fourth place running cars relegated to the back, that opened the door for Owens and Erb to move into the top three. Erb got to second on lap 27, but Owens would get back around Erb for second with ten laps to go.

McCreadie, who has finished second in the final championship point standings three out of the last four years extended his current lead after Friday Night's victory. "I am still nervous; I was nervous the whole race. I am not getting any younger, there's not that many chances to be up front as you get older. You need to cherish every moment. I hated it for JD. He might have got me there in traffic. I know the sticks were getting pretty close. JD had his problems and then Hudson, these two have been better than all of us here lately. As a team we just try things and try things. I felt so good in three and four and I didn't think anybody could roll me."

Owens, the reigning Series Champion came home in second. "We had a good car especially through the middle of the track. I wasn't as good as those other guys were up at the cushion. I was able to maintain with them a little bit, so I thought when he got to traffic I was going to be able to do something with them. We could gain on them. We're happy to bring this car home in second. Maybe we will have something for them tomorrow night."

Erb, who was looking for his fifth series win of the season rounded out the podium in third. "We were just fortunate when the 49 [Davenport] and the 22 [Ferguson] had their misfortunes, when they had their flats. I definitely didn't want to be on the bottom on the restart. I knew Jimmy probably did. I was able to get by him on the first one. I didn't want to see that last caution. All-in-all it was good. I am historically not very good here, so we are just getting better."

The winner's Donald and Gena Bradsher Paylor Motorsports Longhorn Chassis is powered by a Cornett Racing Engine and sponsored by Mega Plumbing of the Carolinas, Bilstein Shocks, New Point Lighting and Design, D&E Marine, Racing for Heroes, and The Aesthetic Haus.

Completing the top ten were Earl Pearson Jr., Michael Norris, Spencer Hughes, Ross Robinson, and Trever Feathers.

Torrential Rain Fall Cancels Rumble by the River Finale

PORT ROYAL, PA - Due to torrential rain fall during the late afternoon hours and unfavorable forecast for Sunday, Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series and Port Royal Speedway track officials have can-



Tim McCreadie celebrates his Port Royal Speedway in victory lane Friday night. Saturday's finale was canceled due to rain and will not be made up. (lucasdirt.com photo)

celed the Rumble by the River finale. There will not be a make-up date for this event, but we do look forward to a return visit in 2022.

The series will return to action next weekend at Portsmouth Raceway Park on Saturday, September 4th with the River Days Rumble presented by Pepsi, paying \$15,000-to-win. On Sunday, September 5th teams will be battling for a \$30,000 top prize at Tyler County Speedway for the 53rd Annual Hill-billy Hundred.

For the latest breaking news visit www.lucasdirt.com.

O'Neal Continues to Impress with Lucas Oil Win at Port Royal

PORT ROYAL, PA - Coming off the biggest win of his racing career last Saturday Night in Batesville, Arkansas, Hudson O'Neal took his winning ways to Port Royal Speedway on Thursday Night in the opening round of the Rumble by the River.

O'Neal's fifth Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series win of the season earned him \$10,000 as the 20-year-old Indiana native becomes the first driver on the tour to go over the \$200,000 mark in season earnings.

O'Neal and Jonathan Davenport came across the line dead-even for the lead on the opening lap at Port Royal. Davenport got too high in turn two though, allowing O'Neal to

get by and go on to lead the rest of the race.

Davenport came home in second, for the second straight race, to O'Neal. Ricky Thornton Jr. crossed the line in third with Shane Clanton fourth, and 16th-starting Tim McCreadie rounding out the top five drivers.

O'Neal's 12th career series win did not come without some tense moments. "Before that last caution I planted it in the wall. I didn't get the right front, but I got the right rear hard. I knew we were knocking the spoiler off. A big shoutout to my guys. They have been working hard and not giving up. I think sometimes they have a better mindset than I do and that's what it's all about. I am just so happy I can deliver this for them. This is just a huge confidence booster for the rest of the weekend."

Davenport picked up some championship points with his second-place run. "I just needed to get the lead there. The top finally started to slow down with about five laps to go. I could run him down in three and four, but then I would lose some ground in one and two. Congratulations to him, he only missed one time and it was when I was moving around, and I wasn't close enough to him."

Thornton Jr., the top Eibach Springs Rookie-of-the-Year candidate, rounded out the podium in third. "We were really good tonight. We came here last year and wasn't bad against the wall, tonight we ran mostly off the wall. Congrats to Hud and JD, we'll back at it tomorrow night."

The winner's Roger Sellers Double Down Motorsports, Rocket Chassis is powered by a Cornett Racing Engine and sponsored by Lazydays RV, O'Neal's Salvage and Recycling, and Tarp Trucking.

Completing the top ten were Kyle Hardy, Gregg Satterlee, Michael Norris, Colton Flinner, and Mike Marlar.



Hudson O'Neal raced his way to victory lane on Thursday night at Port Royal Speedway. (lucasdirt.com photo)

Blake Hahn Tops Sunday Showdown with ASCS Sooner Region at Creek County Speedway

SAPULPA, OK - Chasing early on Sunday night, the end was everyone else watching Blake Hahn roll to victory with the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products.

Hahn's seventh overall win on the 2021 season, the win is his fourth at Creek County Speedway, and eighth against the ASCS Sooner Region.

Taking off third, Hahn chased Kyle Clark the opening five rotations before a slip through the cushion off the second turn ended the night for the No. 9\$. Pursued by Noah Harris, the No. 7f chased Hahn into traffic, but the No. 52 was quick to clear cars to keep the Creek County Speedway points' leader at bay.

Cautions in the closing laps of the A-Feature none were enough to give anyone a shot at Hahn, who made it to the finish 2.479-seconds ahead of Noah Harris. Glenpool's Brandon Anderson made up three spots to finish third with Dylan Postier fourth. Up from 11th, Michael Tyre II completed the top five.

Jeremy Campbell from 10th

worked to sixth with Fred Mattox in seventh. Grady Mercer crossed eighth from 17th, followed by Lance Norick in ninth. The night's hard charger from 20th, Joshua Tyre, rounded out the top ten.

The American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products joins the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network and Racinboys.com ASCS Warrior Region presented by Impact Signs, Awnings, and Warps at Lucas Oil Speedway for the Hockett/McMillin Memorial on September 16, 17, and 18.

For other news, notes, and in-



Blake Hahn celebrates with family and friends in victory lane after racing to the win at Creek County Speedway. (Richard Bales photo)

formation on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the Regional Tours that make up ASCS Nation in 2021, log onto www.ascsracing.com, follow

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

Anderson Leads All with ASCS Sooner at Caney Valley

CANEY, KS - Never relinquishing the point Saturday night at Caney Valley Speedway, Oklahoma's Brandon Anderson held on for his third victory of the season against the American Bank of Oklahoma ASCS Sooner Region presented by Smiley's Racing Products.

Committed to the hub of the Kansas quarter-mile, Anderson had some pressure in the latter stages of the race as Terry Easum and Dylan Postier began reeling in the No. 55B while battling for second.

(Continued Next Page)



Brandon Anderson lead every lap enroute to the win with the ASCS Sooner Region at Caney Valley Speedway. (ASCS photo)

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With Easum leading the charge, the pair worked to Anderson's back bumper before caution lights came on.

Able to keep pace over the two, the race for second was still anyone's with Postier finally working into silver on Lap 18. Running an altering line that put the No. 10p low in turns one and two, then top in turns three and four, the gap

between the top two shrank again just as the caution came out.

One final slowdown with three laps to go, Postier gave it a final run, but Brandon Anderson would not be denied. Crossing with just 0.398-seconds to spare, the two were joined on the podium by Terry Easum, with Grady Mercer, and Kyle Clark charging through the field to round out the top five.

Jeremy Campbell was sixth, with Lance Norick seventh. Casey Wills, Michael Tyre, and Kolton Garriss completed the top ten.

Jason Martin Returns to Lucas Oil ASCS Victory Lane at WaKeeney Speedway

WAKEENEY, KS - Leading start to finish at WaKeeney Speedway, Jason Martin made his return to Victory Lane with the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series presented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network.

The third time that Martin has topped a SawBlade.com A-Feature, his last visit was just down the road at the former Great American Dirt Track in his hometown of Liberal, Kan. on May 26, 2012.

Getting the lead over Dylan Westbrook at the start, the pair found traffic working Lap 8 as the caution lights came on. Putting the field back to Lap 7, Martin again took the same amount of time to find the back of the field, but this time the red lights would come on as a parts failure in the steering system of Scott Cochran's car sent him sailing violently into the wall off the top of the fourth turn. Thankfully, the driver was ok.

Back to green with nine laps to go, Westbrook again trailed.

Finding something in the closing laps, the No. 47x cut substantial time off the advantage held by Martin, but it would not be enough as



Leading start to finish, Jason Martin brought home the win with the ASCS at WaKeeney Speedway. (Photos by Red photo)

the No. 36 found the checkered flag with 0.778-seconds to spare. Westbrook in second was joined by Matt Covington on the podium, who ended up losing nearly all his brakes in the closing laps. Ryan Bickett held off the charge of J.J. Hickel for fourth, with the No. 63 driver setting for fifth.

Blake Hahn crossed sixth with Zach Blurton seventh. Jeremy Campbell, J.D. Johnson, and Travis Reber completed the top ten.

The next event on the 2021 lineup is the Lake Ozark 360 Nationals at Lake Ozark Speedway on Saturday, September 4 and Sunday, September 5, with Sunday's showing paying \$5,000 to the winner. More information on the track is online at <http://www.lakeozark-speedway.net>.

The 2021 season is the 30th year of competition for the Lucas Oil American Sprint Car Series pre-

sented by the MAVTV Motorsports Network.

For the first time, the series can be seen live on two platforms, with Racinboys.com and FloRacing.com featuring National Tour events in tandem. Both are subscription-based sites. FloRacing.com is \$20 per month, billed annually at \$150 per year. Racinboys.com is \$29.99 per month.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the Regional Tours that make up ASCS Nation in 2021, log onto www.ascsracing.com, follow on Facebook, on Instagram, and Twitter (@LucasOilASCs).

Logan Forler Wins Ostermiller Memorial at Big Sky Speedway

BILLINGS, MT - Making it a weekend sweep with the Brodix

ASCs Frontier Region, Idaho's Logan Forler rolled into Victory Lane Saturday night at Big Sky Speedway after leading non-stop.

Topping the Harvey Ostermiller Memorial, the win is Forler's eighth with the series and third on the season.

Propelling Logan into the point's lead by one point, the next driver to make it to the finish line was Trevor Kirkland, while Joe Perry moved up three spots for the final podium step. Phil Dietz and Kory Wermling made up the top five.

Up from 11th, Shad Petersen made it to the finish sixth with Michael Bingham following. William Hernandez, Joey Price, and Darren Smith completed the top ten.

The Brodix ASCS Frontier Region races again on Friday, September 3, and Saturday, September 4 at Sweetwater Speedway in Rock Springs, WY.

Logan Forler Leads The Way with ASCS Frontier at Gallatin Speedway

BELGRADE, MT - Leading start to finish at Gallatin Speedway, Logan Forler captured his seventh career victory with the Brodix ASCS Frontier Region. The second time this season that Logan has gone to Victory Lane against the Montana-based tour, Forler has six podium appearances this season in 10 events.

Beating Phil Dietz to the line, the podium rounded out with Trevor Kirkland, while Tyler Driever and Kory Wermling completed the top five. Shad Petersen was sixth, followed by Bryan Brown, Joey Price, Michael Bingham, and Mike Manwill to complete the top ten.



Logan Forler celebrates his ASCS Frontier Series win in victory lane at Big Sky Speedway. Forler swept the weekend action, also winning the night before at Gallatin Speedway. (Andrew Kunas photo)

Danny Dietrich Hunts Down Hunter Schuerenberg for BAPS All Star Victory in Johnny Mackison Clash

YORK HAVEN, PA - Not deterred by his fifth-row starting position, "Double-D" Danny Dietrich put on a show Sunday night at BAPS Motor Speedway near York Haven, Pennsylvania, and ultimately charged his way

through the A-Main field to snag his second FloRacing All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 main event victory of the 2021 season. The Johnny Mackison Clash score, earning the Gettysburg, Pennsylvania-native a \$5,000 payday, commenced from tenth on the grid, climbing his way to a top-five spot by lap 12, all before tracking down race leader, Hunter Schuerenberg, to steal command with just two circuits remaining. Dietrich's All Star win pushes his career total to 15; a first-ever at BAPS Motor Speedway.

Hunter Schuerenberg held on to finish second, followed by Ryan Smith, Freddie Rahmer, who led the first 12 circuits, and 12th-starting Anthony Macri.

"Hats off to the track prep team here tonight. This is the best this track has been in a long time...there was a top, middle, and bottom...that was a lot of fun," Danny Dietrich said, driver of the Gary Kauffman Racing, Weikert's Livestock, Sweeney Cars, Pace Performance, Self Made, No. 48 sprint car. "We needed a win pretty badly. Our schedule has been all over the place this year, so to get this win close to home makes things even more special. We'll celebrate this one tonight and get ourselves ready for a busy weekend next weekend."

After getting by Freddie Rahmer with a slider on lap 13, Schuerenberg was off to the races, scooting away from the rest of the frontrunners even as traffic entered the picture on lap 15. Meanwhile, Dietrich was a force to be reckoned with. The former Central PA Sprint Cars points champion battled his way to fifth by lap 12, then getting by Bill Balog for fourth two circuits later. By lap 20, Dietrich had worked his way to the runner-up position, sliding by Ryan Smith on lap 20 to secure the position. Schuerenberg

did his best hide and seek impression in traffic, but Dietrich was too quick to outrun.

By lap 26, Dietrich was all over Schuerenberg for the race lead, utilizing the top of turns one and two, as well as the bottom of turn three, to make up most of his ground. An eventual slider over Schuerenberg on lap 28 would seal the deal.

The All Star Circuit of Champions will continue their 2021 campaign with an Attica Raceway Park doubleheader on Friday and Saturday, September 3-4. Dubbed the Attica Ambush, the two-day program will award a total winner's share equaling \$15,000; \$5,000 on Friday and \$10,000 on Saturday.

For those who can not witness the All Star Circuit of Champions live and in person, FloRacing.com, the official media partner and broadcast provider of the All Stars, has you covered. To access live and on-demand racing action from the All Star Circuit of Champions, visit FloRacing.com and become an annual PRO subscriber. Race fans can see all the USAC and dirt late-model action they want in addition to Eldora Speedway's slate of races and those of the All Star Circuit of Champions. The sub-



Danny Dietrich celebrates in victory lane after winning the Johnny Mackison Clash at BAPS Motor Speedway. (Chad Warner photo)

scription unlocks access to premium content across the entire FloSports network. Watch the events across all screens by downloading the FloSports app on iOS, Android, Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire and Chromecast.

Cory Eliason Cashes in for \$7,300 in Lincoln Speedway's Kramer Klash

ABBOTTSTOWN, PA - For the second time in four starts, and for the seventh time in his career, Visalia, California's Cory Eliason is a FloRacing All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1

main event winner, doing so during Lincoln Speedway's annual Kramer Klash which honors the late, great Kramer Williamson. Earning the pole position by way of dash result, Eliason led all 35 circuits of the \$7,300-to-win showstopper, forced to fend off early charges by fellow front row starter Zeb Wise, as well as a late charge by Parker Price Miller, who snuck by Justin Peck for second with just four circuits remaining.

"We probably should have been up here a lot more times this year, but it feels great to get another win," an elated Cory Eliason expressed in Lincoln Speedway
(Continued Next Page)



Cory Eliason raced his way to victory lane for the annual Kramer Klash at Lincoln Speedway. (Chad Warner photo)

Continued...

victory lane. "My guys have been really busting their butts the last month or so and it's really beginning to show. We're starting to get more competitive, at least at the level we should be at. Hopefully all of the guys back home are awake watching this. Everyone at the Rudeen office is a diehard race fan and they're always reaching out and letting us

know they see us and support us...having that level of support makes wins like these a lot more special."

Despite a caution-filled first two circuits that included a pair of red flag incidents, one of which resulting in an open red, the Kramer Klash finally commenced with its first uninterrupted stretch of green flag action beginning on lap three. Eliason was the man in charge, tracked every corner by Angola, Indiana's Zeb Wise and Swindell Speedlab's Parker Price Miller.

Although Eliason was able to maintain a steady advantage through the first ten circuits, slower traffic eventually changed the game for the pilot of the Rudeen Racing, Hager Realty, Rayce Rudeen Foundation, No. 26 entry allowing Wise to chip away at the gap.

Laps 12 and 13 would see Wise do his best to take advantage of Eliason's confrontation with traffic, actually showing his nose to the Californian on lap 13, all before pulling even with Eliason for a short stint the following circuit. Despite the pressure, Eliason found himself another gear and quickly scooted away from Wise's Sundollar Restoration No. 10.

Meanwhile, Monrovia, Indiana's Justin Peck, who started tenth aboard his Kramer Kraft tribute car, was on the move, avoiding the early race messes and cruising his way to fifth within the first few circuits.

Peck battled his way to fourth well before halfway, eventually claiming third on lap 20, then second on lap 27. Regardless of his progress, a caution on lap 29, and another on lap 31, would ultimately end Peck's potential for victory, as Eliason was given clean air and a clear track for the ensuing restarts.

As mentioned, Kokomo, Indiana's Parker Price Miller snuck by



Tyler Courtney takes the checkered flag at Grandview Speedway Thursday night in the opening of the All Star Swing through Pennsylvania. (Paul Arch photo)

Peck on lap 31 to lock down second; Cory Eliason drove off unscathed.

Williams Grove Jack Gunn Memorial Canceled

MECHANICSBURG, PA - Just as drivers were beginning to assemble for the FloRacing All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 drivers' meeting, Mother Nature stepped in and intervened, ultimately forcing Williams Grove Speedway and All Star officials to cancel Friday's Jack Gunn Memorial twin-20s program.

The Jack Gunn Memorial will now be held as part of the Dirt Classic Qualifier when the All Stars return to the speedway on Friday, September 17.

Tyler Courtney Opens Pennsylvania All Star Swing with Thunder Cup Victory at Grandview

BECHTELSVILLE, PA - Leading a FloRacing All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Mobil 1 charge that concluded with five full-time Series competitors finishing within the top six spots, "Sunshine" Tyler Courtney accomplished another "first" on Thursday night and earned a first-ever All Star victory in Pennsylvania Posse Country, doing so during Thunder Cup action at

Grandview Speedway in Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania. The victory, a \$6,000 payday, was accomplished from third on the grid, taking control just beyond the midpoint of the 35-lap contest before driving on to score his eighth All Star victory of the 2021 season; the eighth of his career.

Anthony Macri, who started from the pole position by way of dash victory, held on to finish second on Thursday night, followed by Justin Peck, Zeb Wise, and Cory Eliason.

"This NOS Energy Turbo car has been really good this year. I just can't say enough about my guys," Tyler Courtney said in Grandview Speedway victory lane. "Everyone at Clauson Marshall Racing...they believe in us to come out here and do this winged thing and it's paying off. A big thanks to all of the fans here in Central Pennsylvania. We finally got that win out here...we're going to celebrate this one tonight and hopefully come out and get three more this weekend."

Angola, Indiana's Zeb Wise led the first 18 circuits of the Thunder Cup main event and maintained a healthy advantage until slower traffic came into play with just six laps knocked off the counter. Periods of two-wide traffic created a near-impenetrable road block for Wise allowing Anthony Macri and Tyler Courtney to close in on the Sundollar Restoration No. 10. Using the topside of turns one and two, Courtney drove by Macri for second on lap 11, then setting his aim

on Wise.

By lap 15, Courtney was all over Wise for the race lead, attempting a slider on lap 18 before driving by the reigning Rayce Rudeen Foundation Race champion the following circuit. Playing to Courtney's advantage, a slip by Wise and a bobble on the turn four cushion allowed Sunshine to make his winning move.

After a caution on lap 24, it was all but smooth sailing for the Clauson Marshall Racing No. 7BC, that until Macri, who followed Courtney by Wise on lap 24, appeared and began to apply pressure. With momentum shifting to the bottom of the speedway, and slower traffic reflooding the landscape by lap 33, Macri was forced to conduct a last-ditch effort in the final corner, making slight contact with Courtney's left rear in hopes of sneaking beneath the current All Star championship leader. Without saying, Courtney perfected his block and prevailed.

"I knew I was probably going to get tight behind a lapped car," Courtney continued. "If I could just block him a little bit with the lapped car, he wasn't going to get by me. The lapped car had grip, so I knew I just had to get down as low as I could. I didn't know who was behind me. Anthony (Macri) is aggressive, but he's fun to race with."

"Getting by the lapped cars was key tonight. They kept getting faster and faster. I didn't expect it to clean off like it did there at the end."

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Robin L. Miller, a lifelong motorsports fan who became one of the sport's most recognized and influential media personalities, died Aug. 25 in Indianapolis. He was 71.

A native of his beloved Southport, Indiana, Miller rose to prominence as an Indianapolis Star sports writer, parlaying his love of many sports

into more than 50 years of communication that defined his life.

Known predominantly as a writer and columnist covering the Indianapolis 500 and INDYCAR SERIES racing, Miller became a television personality first with ESPN, then SPEED and most recently NBC. He also had long stints at all of Indianapolis' TV affiliates over the years.

Miller's journalism career began at The Star in 1968, and he never retired from writing about auto racing. His stories and columns were featured in Autoweek, Car and Driver, Sports Illustrated and RACER, among other notable publications and websites, and for years he hosted shows on Indianapolis radio stations as he was a master storyteller.

Miller first visited Indianapolis Motor Speedway with his father, Bob, in 1957, attending his first "500" two years later. In 1968, at the age of 18, he began working for his racing hero, hard-luck driver Jim Hurtubise, running the pit board and assigned to various non-mechanical jobs. However, the stint was short-lived as Miller ruined part of the paint on Hurtubise's car.

Miller got hired at The Star a month later and talked his way into the sports department, where his first duties included answering telephones and taking box score information alongside Jeff Smulyan, who later owned the Seattle Mariners, and future Star columnist Bill Benner.

Miller, a Ball State dropout, got his first break as a newspaper writer when The Star needed a reporter for the still-fledgling professional basketball team, the Indiana Pacers of the American Basketball Association. Fiery coach Bobby Leonard took a liking to Miller, allowing the skinny-but-frisky 19-year-old access to the team that would be unheard of for today's



Long time motorsports journalist Robin Miller passed away last week. (Racer Bulletin photo)

sportswriters. Many of the ABA players from that era – Bob Neltolicky, Mel Daniels, Roger Brown and Billy Shepherd – became among Miller's closest friends.

Miller tried his hand at driving race cars in the early 1970s, buying a Formula Ford from Andy Granatelli. Two years later, Miller purchased a midget from Gary Bettenhausen to start a 10-year run as a USAC competitor. With help from racing buddies Larry Rice, Johnny Parsons and the Bettenhausen brothers, Miller developed into a driver quick enough to qualify fifth for the 1980 Hut Hundred midget race at the Terre Haute Action Track, a prestigious dirt event featuring 33 cars lined up in 11 rows of three. However, a blown engine forced him out of the race.

Miller admittedly didn't have a mechanical bone in his body and long enjoyed telling stories of his racing naivety. Such as, he bought a trailer too narrow for his race car – it had to be loaded in at an angle -- and he survived a crash into a telephone pole in the Indiana State Fairgrounds parking lot when he started the car without buckling up. The throttle stuck, launching the powerful machine unexpectedly and dangerously forward.

In an even more serious situation, Miller suffered a head injury in hot laps at a 1975 midget race in Hinsdale, Illinois, when he flipped the car into a concrete wall, tearing the cage off his car.

However, a decade in a race car gave Miller a unique perspective on the sport and the drivers he covered. Over a span of 50 years, Miller befriended most of racing's biggest names, regularly engaging them at lunches and dinners he organized. He was particularly close with "500" drivers Tom Sneva, Parnelli Jones, A.J. Foyt, Dan Gurney, Bobby and Al Unser, Tony Bettenhausen, Mario Andretti, Johnny

Rutherford, Dario Franchitti and Tony Kanaan, and late-night TV icon and INDYCAR SERIES team owner David Letterman. Yet he seemed to know something about everyone involved in the sport, and he could hold court with the best of them.

For years, Miller was the animated emcee of the Last Row Party, the Indiana Press Club Foundation's event which traditionally skewered the slowest three qualifiers of each "500." He particularly enjoyed the event when it included Gordon Johncock, Steve Chassey and Pancho Carter, other close friends of his.

In 2019, as Miller covered his 50th "500" amid declining health, Indianapolis Motor Speedway announced the creation of the Robin Miller Award, to be given annually to an unheralded individual who has brought unbridled passion and an unrelenting work ethic to enrich the sport.

Miller, a lifelong bachelor, is survived by a sister, Diane, and nieces Emily and Ashley.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - To help all race fans enjoy next month's Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway, whether they are enjoying the race at the track or watching from the comfort of their homes, track officials are making the 100-page commemorative digital souvenir program available in a free download starting Friday, Sept. 10.

For fans who would like to purchase a printed copy as a keepsake they can order one for \$15 (includes shipping and handling) at the BMS website or while they are purchasing their tickets to the event. The offer is valid while limited

supplies remain. Once purchased, a printed version of the souvenir program will arrive in the mail a few weeks after the running of the Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race.

The program, which features Dale Earnhardt Jr. on the cover from his 2004 BMS victory, is stocked with great feature stories, including the cover story about the top 10 moments in Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race history. In addition, there is a feature on the milestone 60th anniversary of Bristol Motor Speedway, a complete review of the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series season, plus full preview stories for the Cup, Xfinity, Truck and ARCA Series races scheduled for the weekend.

There are great driver photos, including a photo spread featuring the 16 Cup Series drivers in the NASCAR Playoffs as well as individual bio pages for each of those qualified drivers. There are also hero pages for Xfinity and Truck drivers, track history, driver rosters, track records, stats, a wide array of hyperlinked sponsor advertisements and so much more.

In order to download your free digital copy, please visit the Bristol Motor Speedway website or be on the lookout for email messages from Speedway team members as well as invitations to download the program on any one of the BMS social media channels.

If you would like to purchase a printed copy of the program for post-delivery, please visit www.bristolmotorspeedway.com/tickets/bass-pro-shops-nra-night-race/.

The 2021 commemorative Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race program was designed by Learfield-IMG College Publishing in Lexington, Ky. The feature stories were authored by many of the top journalists who travel with the NASCAR Cup Series circuit.

As the air fills with anticipation for the green flag to drop for the 2021 Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. (NBCSN and PRN Radio), with so much at stake in the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs, fans can expect magical moments to unfold as NASCAR's best drivers compete in close quarters in pursuit of a coveted victory at The Last Great Colosseum. Only the strongest will

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survive 500 laps of mayhem on the storied short track. You'll get to see all of your favorite drivers racing hard to advance in the Playoffs, including Bristol dominator Kyle Busch, Food City Dirt Race winner Joey Logano, three-time Bristol winner Brad Keselowski, defending Night Race winner Kevin Harvick, Bristol All-Star Race winner and defending series champ Chase Elliott, and five-time season winner Kyle Larson, who is still looking for his first BMS Cup victory.

Charlotte Motor Speedway

CONCORD, NC - This summer, Charlotte Motor Speedway (Speedway) and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC), along with the Speedway Children's Charities (SCC), raised nearly \$30,000 to help improve food security for local families through the Speedway's Drive-in to Drive Out Hunger movie series.

All proceeds, totaling over \$14,310, from the drive-in movie series hosted by the Speedway supported local organizations and their initiatives that work to improve food security. Blue Cross NC committed to a dollar-for-dollar match, bringing the total amount raised to over \$28,620 for the nearly 1 in 5 households in Mecklenburg County that are considered food insecure.

This collaboration builds on Blue Cross NC's ongoing effort to address critical non-medical drivers of health, specifically food security.

"At Blue Cross NC, we are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all North Carolinians, and a large part of health relies on food security," said Reagan Greene Pruitt, vice president of marketing and community engagement at Blue Cross NC. "We're proud to support this collaborative effort and join forces with Charlotte Motor Speedway and generous community members in efforts to combat hunger throughout the Charlotte region."

The drive-ins are part of a larger campaign with the Speedway called Drive Out Hunger, with events scheduled throughout the year, including camper food donation drives, gate entry canned goods collections and appearances

from the campaign-branded Pace Car that encourages fans to donate to help "drive out hunger."

"Our partnership with Blue Cross NC transcends sports and shows what is truly possible when entities work together to make a real impact in their communities," said Greg Walter, Charlotte Motor Speedway's executive vice president and general manager. "What began as an idea to bring COVID-safe fun to the speedway in the form of drive-in movies – through creativity and the generosity of our friends at Blue Cross NC – became a concerted effort to enrich the lives of locals facing food insecurity."

Fans can still participate in these programs and help make an impact on food security. All donations collected throughout the year will be given to local community partners through the Speedway Children's Charities. For more information regarding the Drive out Hunger campaign, visit <https://www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/drive-outhunger/>.

Bristol Motor Speedway

BRISTOL, TN - As revered Bristol Motor Speedway celebrates its milestone 60th anniversary in 2021, everyone is well-versed about the conquests of the NASCAR legends who have scored victories at the World's Fastest Half-Mile. Pictures of the most successful drivers hang around The Last Great Colosseum as a tribute to their brilliance on the .533-mile all-concrete bullring.

A stout challenge is required in stock car racing to tame revered Thunder Valley. A lot can happen in 500 laps around the high-speed track that's been christened "The Holy Grail of Short Tracks."

Many great drivers over the years have found out just how difficult it is to win at Bristol when their quest ends in heartbreak in the closing laps. The tall BMS trophy sparkles and shines just out of their reach.

While those drivers who take the checkered flags at BMS are immortalized in legendary status, those who have given Bristol all they've got and still come up a bit short are usually forgotten in the aftermath. However, there are a few of those hard luck stories at Bristol over the years that defy the famous quote by golf pro Walter Hagen, "No one ever remembers who finished second."

Below are the compelling stories of six drivers, in alphabetical order, who nearly won Bristol. Three of the six are still trying to get the job

done and are among those entered in the upcoming race.

CLINT BOWYER: If there ever was a driver in the NASCAR Cup Series whose passion for a race track just came oozing out all over the place it was Bowyer with his beloved Bristol. Bowyer's love affair with the challenging short track started early on as he posted back-to-back third place finishes in the 2007 Night Race and 2008 Food City 500 just a couple years into his Cup Series career. From there he went on to post six more top five finishes and a respectable 17 top-10 finishes. However, it was his sixth-place finish in the 2018 race won by Kurt Busch that racing historians have tagged as an "Instant Classic." Bowyer led 120 laps of that race and appeared to be in the driver's seat as he pulled away from the pack. A late caution flew, however, for a single car spin on lap 473 and bunched the field back up for a restart. Bowyer had led the last 34 laps and appeared to be on his way to a win, but Kurt Busch took over after that restart on lap 477 and held on to take the checkered flag.

MATT DIBENEDETTO: There aren't many drivers in NASCAR Cup Series history who are serenaded by the fans in the grandstands, especially not a second-place finisher. Well, on a magical night at Bristol in August 2019, DiBenedetto had fans singing to him as he licked his wounds on pit road after coming up a few inches short of victory in the Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race. DiBenedetto nearly had a breakthrough Cup Series victory at Bristol that night as he was in front for 93 laps. DiBenedetto led the race from lap 396 until lap 488 and the Cinderella story appeared for a moment to be ready to take flight. However, Denny Hamlin had other plans as he took the lead with 12 laps to go, turning DiBenedetto's chariot back into a pumpkin.

KYLE LARSON: His quest to earn a Cup Series victory at Bristol continues next month in the NASCAR Playoff cut-off race, but in his brief NASCAR Cup Series career Larson has proven that he enjoys the challenge that Bristol presents and has a knack for running up front on the speedy half-mile as he has led 641 laps in 13 starts. Following one of his two back-to-back hard-fought second-place finishes in 2018, he showed his love for the unique .533-mile oval by saying, "Let's build more Bristols." This will be his first start on the BMS concrete surface at the

controls of the No. 5 Chevy with his new team, Hendrick Motorsports. Larson has won a series-best five races this year and he comes to BMS this time around with a ton of confidence and momentum.

TIM RICHMOND: One of NASCAR's greatest drivers who was taken from us way too soon, Richmond proved that he had what it took to tame Bristol by racing to seven top-10s and two top-fives in his 11 career starts. While driving the No. 27 Pontiac, Richmond posted a pair of top fives at BMS, including his best effort, a second-place finish to Dale Earnhardt in the historic 1985 Night Race, the Busch 500. Richmond and Earnhardt gave the fans their money's worth, in an intense door-handle to door-handle battle for the victory. Richmond moved into the lead on lap 447 and stayed there until The Intimidator came knocking. After holding off the blue and yellow No. 3 Wrangler Chevy on several pass attempts, Richmond was nudged out of the way by Earnhardt with 18 laps to go.

RICKY RUDD: This one is a total shocker. A real head-scratcher. If it was a trivia question, just about everyone would miss it. How in the world did Rudd, a 23-time Cup Series winner, never win a race at Bristol? The Virginia native was a proven short track stud winning multiple times at both Martinsville and Richmond and also a demonstrated master of the half-mile high-banked track in Bristol, posting an incredible 16 top-five finishes and 31 top-10s in his 58 career starts at the Tennessee bullring. He led an impressive 605 laps there during his career, just never the final one. His four second place finishes and six third-place finishes rank up near the top of all-time greats. In four of his best chances to win he was denied each time, including twice by Darrell Waltrip and once each by Dale Earnhardt and Rusty Wallace.

RICKY STENHOUSE JR.: This self-proclaimed Bristol lover has posted three second place finishes at Bristol, including a second at the historic Food City Dirt Race this past March. Like Bowyer, Stenhouse loves racing at BMS and was in the mix to win on the high-banked short track early in his career. He has also posted second place finishes in the 2014 Food City 500 and the 2016 Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race. The odd stat regarding Stenhouse and Bristol is despite all of his great BMS finishes, he has never led a lap around The Last Great Colosseum in the Cup Series.

Clinton County Speedway

MILL HALL, PA - Early evening thunderstorms forced speedway officials to cancel the Friday night racing program. It was the second rain cancellation in back to back weeks at the 3/8 mile oval.

This Friday night, September 3rd, the limited late models will be the headline division for the Lenny Stroud Jr. Memorial.

The Limited Lates will compete in a \$1,200 to win race event. In addition, the Pro Stocks will compete in their summer championship paying \$500 to the winner. The 270 Micro Sprints, 600 Micro Sprints and the Four Cylinders will be part of the 5 division program. The Stroud Memorial is the final points event of the season for the Limited Late Models. Andrew Yoder is the current point leader with 1,390 points. He holds a 60 point lead over Mike Smith (1330) and 80 points over Jim Yoder (1310). Matt Cochran of Williamsport is the defending winner of the Stroud Memorial and the defending track champion.

The 270 Micro Sprints will compete in their summer championship on Friday, September 10th. The 270s will race for \$600 to win and \$50 to start presented by Murray Ford of Lock Haven. The Race-Saver Sprint cars, Pro Stocks, 600 Micros and 4 Cylinders will also be of the on the program.

The final points event of the season will take place on Friday, September 17th presented by RC Bowman Inc. The five division show will include the RaceSaver Sprint Cars, Pro Stocks, 270 Micro Sprints, 600 Micro Sprints, and the 4 Cylinders.

The speedway will have an off week on September 24th for an event on the fairgrounds. Then during the month of October, the speedway will switch over to Saturday for 2 big nights of racing.

Bill's Happy Camper of Mill Hall will present the Nittany 40 for the RaceSaver Sprint Cars on Saturday, October 2nd. In addition, the Sprints, the Pro Stocks will compete in the CW Smith Memorial. The 270 Micros, 600 Micros and 4 Cylinders will be part of the racing program.

Then the season finale will take place on Saturday, October 9th when Strouse Electric presents the



D.J. Murphy celebrates in victory lane with friends and family after scoring his first career win at Goodyear All American Speedway. (Eric Creel/Short Track Scene photo)

Super Late Model 50 paying \$5,000 to win. The Pro Stocks, 270s, 600s and 4 Cylinders will also be part of the racing program.

For the latest updates and events at the Clinton County Speedway, visit the website, www.clintoncountyspeedway.com or like us on Facebook.

Goodyear All American Speedway

JACKSONVILLE, NC - Marine veteran D.J. Murphy picked up the first win in his racing career in the opening feature at Goodyear All American Speedway on Saturday night.

Murphy, who now lives in Richlands, made the long drive from New York after attending his younger brother's wedding. Early in the race, he inherited the lead after mechanical gremlins sidelined the race's fastest qualifier, Scotty Benford, and was able to hold off a fierce challenge from Eric Winslow, who would also be sidelined with mechanical problems, and eventually drove away from Derek Burleson and Carsyn Gillikin.

"This feels amazing," Murphy said. "It's been a long 24 hours for me. I've been in the car for about 14 of the hours today. My little brother just got married last night. We drove all the way back down here from western New York to make this race. This one's to little Mini Mark, to my kids, to my wife, to everybody's that's helped me along the way. Thank you to the fans, the spectators, to the fellow racers. Thank you."

Murphy, who served in the United States Marine Corps, paid tribute to the 13 American service members who were killed in Afghanistan - including Camp Lejeune Maine Sgt. Nicole L Gee.

"For all you Marines out there, let's give them one," Murphy chanted to the crowd. "Oorah!"

Derek Burleson took his second place finish in stride as he continued to make gains.

"A lot of hard work has been put into the car week in and week out," Burleson said. "It sucks for the other competitors. We love coming out here. Love the lord, love my wife. Thanks to all the fans for coming out."

T.J. Barron swept the Late Model Stock Car features in dominant fashion while Jody Measamer kept his winning streak alive in Super Trucks, Curtis Lanier picked up his second consecutive win in U-CAR, and Michael O'Brien took the victory in Chargers.

Late Models and Super Trucks will both be back in action on Saturday, September 11th at Goodyear All American Speedway in the American Heroes Tribute. Active duty and retired military, police officers, firefighters and EMS workers will be admitted free on September 11th and the Americans who lost their lives on the nation's darkest day will be remembered as part of the pre-race festivities. The American Heroes Tribute will also feature the Spectator Drag Races, Mini Stocks, Street Stocks, Bombers, Legends, and Champ Karts.

Goodyear All American Speedway is Jacksonville's Action Attraction featuring racing and other events. For more information about Goodyear All American Speedway, check out the speedway's website, like/follow "Goodyear All American Speedway" on Facebook, or follow the track on Instagram.

Grandview Speedway

BECHTELSVILLE, PA - Brad Brightbill, the Grandview Speedway 2019 NASCAR Sportsman Point Champion that garnered 11 career wins in the division, took over the reins of driving the Breit-

enstein Motorsports No. 14 in the NASCAR Modified ranks. The team ran a limited schedule and had their share of unforeseen misfortunes.

Saturday night at Grandview Speedway things went better for them and Brightbill went on to chalk up his first career victory in the 30-lap 358 NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series T.P. Trailers Modified feature race.

Another driver struggling in the NASCAR Sportsman class is Cole Stangle, but he finally had a change of luck and was able to claim his first career win in the T.P. Truck Equipment 25-lap Sportsman feature.

In the 12-lap Outlaw Vintage Racing Series features Todd Lapp won the Modified portion and Dave Dissinger was the Sportsman feature winner.

Ron Haring Jr. led two laps of the Modified feature before Darrin Schuler spun in turn two for the yellow. On the restart Brightbill out-gunned him and took over first.

Duane Howard, Kevin Hirthler and Bobby Gunther Walsh were eliminated from competition on the fourth lap caution after Gunther Walsh spun in turn two and the others were unable to avoid contact. Brightbill kept the pace on the restart with rad Grim, Haring Jr., Justin Grim and Eric Biehn in tow.

Positions were constantly changing behind Brightbill and at the conclusion of the Dan's Deli 1/2 hoagie award second through fifth consisted of B. Grim, J. Grim, Manmiller, in an attempt to make it two-in-a-row, and Brett Kressley. Trying to break into the top five was Craig Von Dohren and he did when he worked his way up to fourth on lap 19.

Despite numerous cautions which is one thing a driver doesn't want when they're leading the race on a track surface to their liking, Brightbill kept the competition behind him, even though B. Grim made valiant efforts at times to pass him; to pull into the winner's circle. Chasing him across were B. Grim, J. Grim, Von Dohren and Manmiller. Kressley, Jared Umbenhauer, Danny Bouc, Brad Arnold and Jeff Strunk rounded out the top ten.

Umbenhauer, Manmiller and Gunther Walsh won the heats with Jack Butler winning the consi.

Colton Perry was the leader of the Sportsman feature for two laps before Cody Manmiller was spun along the homestretch. When action continued, Bryan Rhoads was

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now in control. Kenny Bock was now in the runner-up spot using the outside lane to close the distance with Stangle now reeling in the top two.

Bock became the leader on the ninth lap restart caused when Nathan Mohr spun on the homestretch. Rhoads stayed with him however trying to regain the lead.

Lap 13 was a lucky one for Stangle as he got around Rhoads and Bock for the lead.

Battling for positions behind Stangle were Rhoads, Bock, Steve Young and Kyle Lilick with the order intact as the race progressed.

At the drop of the checkered Stangle was the victor followed by Bock, Rhoads, Young and Lilick. Sixth through tenth were Kyle Smith, Jimmy Leiby, Logan Bauman, Ryan Beltz and Kenny Gilmore.

Cody Manmiller, Perry and Hunter Iatalese were the heat winners while Matt Yoder won the consi.

Todd Lapp led from start to finish and was able to hold off the challenges of runner-up Andy Cassel for the triumph in the Outlaw Vintage Modified feature. Third went to Scott Schaeffer followed by Kevin Kuser and Bobby Hall.

In the Sportsman Vintage feature Bill Gerhart took the early lead and help that position until the red came out when Myron Haydt flipped in the third turn. When the race went green again Dissinger took the lead away and went on to win the event followed by Gerhart, Mike Garris Jr., Travis Jacobus and Jay Garris.

Next on the Saturday night schedule is another tripleheader show that features the American Racing Drivers Club midgets making their first appearance of the season. Midgets have always been known for excitement racing at Grandview and the Saturday, September 4th show which will also feature the T.P.Trailers NASCAR Modifieds and T.P.Truck Equipment Sportsman will be no different. A strong field of Midgets is expected including Steve Buckwalter, Steve Craig, Randy Mausteller, Eric Heydenreich, J.R.Booth and others.

Adding to the excitement is the fact that there are just two Saturday night shows remaining on the

schedule that count toward the championships in the Modifieds and Sportsman. The battle for the titles is close in both divisions with Craig Von Dohren, looking for his 12th title, leading the Modified standings while Kenny Gilmore, searching for his first Sportsman championship, leading the standings.

Adult admission is \$18 while youngsters 11 and under are admitted free.

Saturday, September 11, 7:30 p.m. Hope Mortgage Championship Night for Modifieds and Sportsman- Jeff Strunk, Justin Grim and Lex Shive take part in Meet & Greet. Bonus bucks for select racers-FIREWORKS SHOW-Adults \$15. Youngsters 11 and under admitted free.

Friday, September 17 7:30 p.m. Freedom38 for Sportsman plus Modifieds practicing

Saturday, September 18 7 p.m. 51st Annual Freedom 76 for Modifieds paying \$30,000 to win—Chapel service has been moved outside of main gate area starting at 2:45 p.m. BRING YOUR BLANKET OR CHAIR. Entry blanks for this event can be found at www.grandviewspeedway.com under the rules and forms section.

Lap and qualifying event sponsorships are available for the 51st Annual Freedom 76 set for September 18th. The winner will walk off with at least \$30,000. For info contact Tina Rogers or Tommy Kramer at the track or telephone Ernie Saxton at 267.934.7286.

Hickory Motor Speedway

NEWTON, NC - The NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series roared back to life Saturday night at America's Most Famous Short Track with a huge partnership with the Catawba County United Way. The Ready to Race United event

featured a full slate of racing action and a huge fireworks display free of charge to all who attended.

Leading off the night's festivities would be 40 laps in race one of the Heritage Finance Late Models doubleheader. Jake Crum in the #12 would set fast time in qualifying and start from the pole position with Katie Hettinger in the #71 to his outside separated by just one hundredth of a second. Row two would be made up of Josh Kossek in the #44 and Whitney Meggs in the #41 side by side for the start. After a couple attempts at the start the #40 of Taylor Satterfield would make contact with Kossek, as the caution would come out the slow the field and unfortunately end Satterfields opportunity in the first event.

Crum would jump to the early lead as Hettinger would battle with the #6 of Rajah Caruth and Meggs for second. Caruth would make the pass for second and bring Meggs to third. Meggs would make the pass on Caruth for second. As lap 16 approached, Meggs would make the pass on Crum for the lead. The halfway point would see Meggs, Crum, Caruth, the #7 of Holden German, and Kossek as the top five. Lap 32 would see the #70 of Nathan Lineback suffer a parts failure and pull to pit road. Meggs would drive on to take the win. Crum would finish 2nd and Caruth would take 3rd. German would take 4th and Kossek would fight back to finish 5th.

Next up would see the Super Trucks hit the track for 35 laps of battle. Allen Huffman in the #51 would top time trials and start from the point with Charlie Watson in the #9 to his outside. Jacob Weidman in the #77 and Jesse Clark in the #6 would make up row two for the green flag. Huffman would battle with Watson door to door until he would drive to the lead coming off

of turn four. Lap 5 would see the #30 of Joey Shuryan bring out the caution as he would come to a stop on the backstretch. The restart would see Huffman and Watson pacing the field back to the green flag. The battle for the lead would go door to door for several laps, before Huffman would pull back to the point with Watson giving chase. Clark would move around Weidman for third position.

Huffman, Watson, Clark, Weidman, and the #70 of Travis Baity would be the top five at the halfway point. Baity would bring out the caution on lap 23 with a spin in turn two. The restart would once again see Huffman and Watson side by side for the restart. Huffman would quickly rocket back to the lead. Shuryan would move to fourth around Weidman. Lap 31 would see Baity bring out the caution once again with another turn two spin. Huffman and Watson would set up for a four lap duel on the restart. Huffman would pull back to the lead with Watson in second. Huffman would drive on to the win. Watson would finish 2nd and Clark would take 3rd. Weidman would finish 4th and Shuryan would come home in 5th.

The Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models would roll off next for 35 laps of action. Bryson Ruff in the #24 would set fast time in qualifying and start from the pole position with Mason Maggio in the #12 to his outside. Row two would be made up of Max Price in the #22 and Katie Hettinger in the #71 doing double duty for the start. Ruff would pull to the pits with mechanical issues before the start. The start would see Maggio and Price door to door for the first four laps before Price would move to the lead. Hettinger would look to make it a three way battle for the lead early before settling in to their tire tracks to try to chase the leaders down. The halfway point would see Price, Maggio, Hettinger, Zack Wells in the #66, and Josh Stark in the #32 as the top five. Price would set a torrid pace while Maggio and Hettinger would battle for second. Price would drive on to take the win. Maggio would take 2nd by a nose with Hettinger having to settle for 3rd by a nose. Wells would take 4th and Stark would finish 5th.

Rolling onto the famed 3/8 mile oval next would be the Heritage Finance Street Stocks for their 30 lap feature. Jesse Clark in the #5 would top time trials and start from the point with Cody DeMarmels in the #12 to his outside. DJ Hamby

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Whitney Meggs celebrates with her family in victory lane after winning the first Heritage Finance Late Models feature at Hickory Motor Speedway. (Sherri Starns Photography photo)

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in the #17 and Marshall Sutton in the #64 would make up row two for the green flag. Jesse Clark would pull to the early lead with DeMarmels close behind. The caution would fly on lap 2 when the #33 of DJ Little would spin on the front stretch. DeMarmels would take the opportunity to come down pit road during the caution to make some necessary

changes.

The restart would see Jesse Clark and Sutton side by side for the green flag. Jesse Clark would pull to the lead with Sutton facing a challenge by the #31 of Derek Fowler. Fowler would take the second position. The caution would fly again on lap 16 as DJ Little would spin on the front stretch. The restart would see Jesse Clark and Fowler door to door. Jesse Clark would take the position as Fowler would face challenge from DeMarmels for position.

The next ten laps would see a battle for second with Fowler and DeMarmels swapping the position several times before DeMarmels would clear the spot. Jesse Clark would drive on to the win. DeMarmels would take 2nd while Fowler would finish 3rd. Sutton would take 4th and Hamby would come in 5th.

The Renegades would roar to life next with 20 laps of paint swapping action. Robbie Hollifield in the #51 would set fast time in qualifying and start from the pole position with Brandon Hasson in the #82 to his outside. Row two would be made up of Zachary Mullins in the #72 and David Hasson in the #83 side by side for the start. Hollifield would pull to the early lead with Brandon Hasson giving chase. Spencer Dickinson in the #6 would start in the rear, but work his way into contention. With five laps to go Dickinson would drive to Hollifield's rear bumper. Hollifield would hang on and take the win. Dickinson would finish 2nd with Brandon Hasson taking 3rd. David Hasson would finish 4th and Mullins would come home in 5th.

The Heritage Finance Late Models would finish the night's on track activities with 40 laps in race two of their doubleheader. After the 8 car invert from the finishing order of race one, row one would be made



Taylor Satterfield raced his way to victory lane for the second Heritage Finance Late Models feature at Hickory Motor Speedway. (Sherri Starns Photography photo)

up of Regina Sirvent in the #10 and Jessie Cann in the #19. Row two would see Katie Hettinger in the #71 and Josh Kossek in the #44 side by side for the start. Hettinger and Cann would be side by side at the green flag as the #7 of Holden German would nose under Hettinger for a three wide battle in turn one. Hettinger would fall into single file as Jake Crum in the #12 would dive under German and Cann coming off of turn two and down the backstretch would see another three wide battle.

Turn three and four would narrow up and contact would send Cann spinning and collecting Hettinger, the #41 of Whitney Meggs, and Sirvent. The next restart would see German and Kossek leading the field to the green. Kossek would pull to the lead with Rajah Caruth in the #6 in second. Caruth and Kossek would have a spirited battle for the top spot with Caruth moving into the lead. The battle for the top spot would be a four way affair between Caruth, the #40 of Taylor Satterfield, Crum, and Kossek. Crum would unfortunately pull to the pits with mechanical issues. Caruth would face a furious challenge from Satterfield and Kossek over the final laps with an attempt to pass at every corner. Contact in turns three and four on the final lap would move Caruth up out of the racing groove and dive to Caruths inside. Kossek would see the battle ahead and make his move to the bottom for his bid at the win.

Satterfield and Kossek would make contact on the front stretch coming to the checkered flag as Caruth would be right in the mix. Satterfield would take the win by a nose. Kossek would have to settle for 2nd as Caruth would spin across the finish line in 3rd. Het-

tinger would take 4th and German would finish 5th.

For more info check us out at www.hickorymotorspeedway.com, Facebook, Twitter, or call 828-464-3655.

Selinsgrove Speedway

SELINSGROVE, PA - Anthony Macri of Dillsburg turned in a perfect performance during Saturday night's Acme Companies 41st annual Jack Gunn Memorial for 410 sprint cars.

Macri set fast time with a lap of 16.175, won his heat race, then dueling with Pat Cannon of Etters for his exciting win in the 30-lap tribute race. He earned \$5,000 for his first win of the season at Selinsgrove and seventh overall in 410 sprint car competition at the wheel of the Macri Concrete/J&S Fabrication No. 39M. It was his third career win at the Snyder County oval.

Trent Brenneman of Port Royal wired the field for his second win in a row in the 20-lap limited late model race, while Curtis Lawton of Bloomsburg was awarded the win in the 12-lap roadrunner feature when the car driven by Brad Mitch of McClure was disqualified during a post-race inspection.

Devin Hart of Port Royal clinched the limited late model series championship in the division's final race of the season.

Polesitter Pat Cannon powered into the lead at the start of the sprint car Gunn Memorial. He was chased by third-place starter Anthony Macri for the first lap until fifth-place starter Ryan Smith advanced to second.

An intense battle unfolded early in the race between Can-

non, Smith, and Macri, with Macri reclaiming the runner up spot on lap three. By lap eight, the leaders encountered slower traffic.

On the 13th circuit, Cannon and Macri raced wheel to wheel for the lead with Cannon maintaining the edge. On lap 18, Macri pulled off a thrilling slider in turn two to take the lead away from Cannon.

With 10 laps remaining, Macri led Cannon, Smith, fourth-place starter Danny Dietrich, and 12th-place starter Jason Shultz.

On lap 22, Cannon's car rolled to a stop in turn two with a flat tire, ending an impressive run. On the final restart, Macri stormed to victory over Smith, Dietrich, Blane Heimbach, and Shultz.

Polesitter Trent Brenneman took the lead at the drop of the green flag in the limited late model feature and raced mostly uncontested. On the first lap, seventh-place starter Andrew Yoder, who was in contention for the division's series title, withdrew from the race.

By lap five, Brenneman had already opened up a straightaway lead over fifth-place starter Todd Snook while second-place starter JR Toner pressured third-place starter Jim Yoder for the third spot.

A caution on lap nine for debris regrouped the field with Brenneman quickly stretching his lead again. Then a seven-car pileup on lap 11 stopped the race; there were no driver injuries and most of the cars were able to restart the race.

In the final laps of the race, Brenneman opened up a comfortable lead and posted the win over Snook, Yoder, fourth-place starter Devin Hart, and Toner.

Second-place starter Curtis Lawton pulled into the lead at the start of the roadrunner feature. Lawton was trailed by third-place starter Nate Romig for the first lap until fourth-place starter Keith Bissinger took over the runner-up position.

A tight four-car battle unfolded at the front of the pack between Lawton, Bissinger, fifth-place starter Adam Campbell, and Romig. Brad Mitch, who started at the back of

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the pack, worked his way into the top five.

With two laps to race, Mitch stormed into second and set his sights on Lawton. Mitch made the pass for the lead and checkered flag on the final lap only to have his car disqualified during a post-race tech inspection.

Lawton was awarded the win over Bissinger, Romig, Smith Cope, and Tom

Underwood.

Selinsgrove Speedway will present the Selinsgrove Ford National Open Qualifier for the 410 sprint cars plus super late models (ULMS) and roadrunners at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 5. The 30-lap main events for the 410 sprint cars and super late models will each pay \$5,000 to win. Track gates open at 4 p.m.

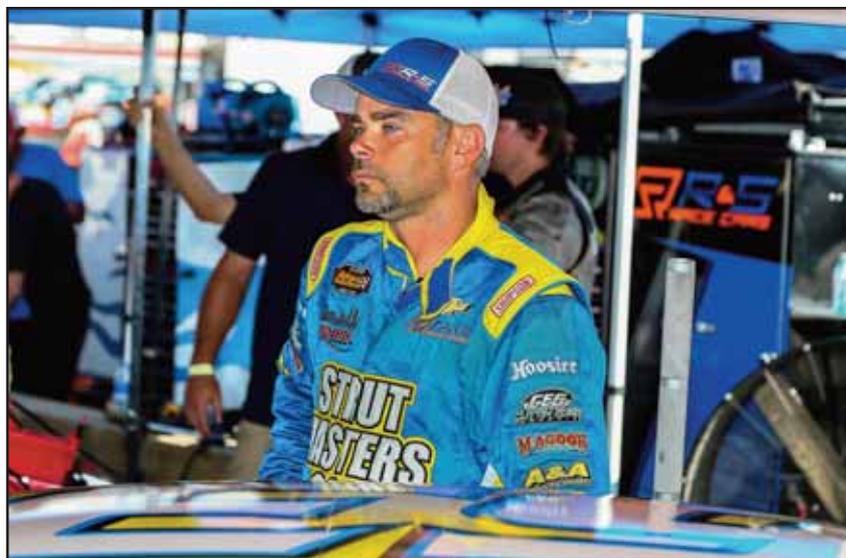
South Boston Speedway

SOUTH BOSTON, VA - South Boston, Va.....Halifax County, Virginia native Chris Throckmorton called his return to South Boston Speedway on August 21 to compete in the twin 75-lap NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series Late Model Stock Car Division races "incredibly good."

It had been several seasons since the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina resident and Halifax County, Virginia native had returned home to race at South Boston Speedway. Throckmorton races primarily at Dillon Motor Speedway and Florence Motor Speedway in South Carolina and is a solid contender. He had won his first Late Model Stock Car race at Dillon Motor Speedway three weeks prior to the South Boston Speedway event.

Not having raced on the .4-mile South Boston Speedway oval since it was repaved, Throckmorton understood he was facing an uphill climb. He qualified 14th and finished ninth in the opening 75-lap race. Throckmorton started on the pole in the second race, was involved in an early-race mishap, restarted at the rear of the field, and raced his way back through the field to post a fifth-place finish.

"I'm happy," Throckmorton remarked after the second race. "For us to come to a racetrack with this caliber of competition and come out of here with a top five finish in the second race, it's top of the world.



Chris Throckmorton watches the action on the track as he prepares to climb into his car for a practice session during the August 21 NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series event at South Boston Speedway. (Joe Chandler/South Boston Speedway photo)

We come from tracks where you don't have grip and there's no walls and such. For us to come back up here and race with the best in the country and earn a top-five finish is great."

This return trip home to compete at South Boston Speedway was a far better trip than the one he made in 2012.

"In 2012, when we first got the (Limited Sportsman) car and were living in Myrtle Beach, we decided let's go home and run at home in South Boston," Throckmorton explained. "We came back here and had our sights set a little high, and we had a reality check. We've been in Late Model now for five or six years, and for us to come back and run a Late Model race in our new car, it's like homecoming all over again."

Throckmorton says "South Boston is always home" because it is where his roots are. His parents, Neil and Rachel Throckmorton, formerly owned and operated Discount Furniture & Carpet World, a well-known furniture and carpet store in Halifax County, Virginia for more than 20 years and were active supporters of racing.

The Throckmorton family sponsored cars that competed at South Boston Speedway and participated as a sponsor at South Boston Speedway. Throckmorton's late grandmother, Josephine Evans, formerly owned and operated a trio of fast-food restaurants, two in Halifax County, Virginia and one in nearby Clarksville, Virginia known as the Dairy Dell. One of those restaurants, the Dairy Dell in the Riverdale area of Halifax County, Virginia, continues to be a popular stop among area residents.

"I live in South Carolina now, but

this is still home no matter how you look at it," Throckmorton remarked.

Throckmorton said he enjoys racing at South Boston Speedway and would love to be able to put together a sponsorship package that would enable him to race a full season at the .4-mile oval. One of his goals is to win a Late Model race at South Boston Speedway.

"I know that before I hang up my helmet, I want to win a race at South Boston Speedway," Throckmorton pointed out. "I know before I hang up my helmet that I would like to be a championship contender here. South Boston Speedway is like no other. The competition level is great, the facility is state-of-the-art - it's just all around everything a driver could want."

South Boston Speedway will close out its regular-season schedule of NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series points events on Saturday night, September 4, with Danville Toyota Championship Night presented by Ad Nerds Media.

It will be a big night for all four of the track's NASCAR racing divisions with division champions being crowned during the event.

A total of five races are slated for the Danville Toyota Championship Night presented by Ad Nerds Media event with a 100-lap race for the NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series Late Model Stock Car Division competitors headlining the action. A 50-lap Limited Sportsman Division race, a 30-lap race for the Budweiser Pure Stock Division and a 15-lap race for the Budweiser Hornets Division are also on the schedule.

As a special treat, the regional touring Southern Ground Pounders

Vintage Racing Club will make its second visit of the season to South Boston Speedway that night. The Modified and Sportsman cars of the Southern Ground Pounders Vintage Racing Club will be featured in a 25-lap race.

Registration and pit gates will open at 2 p.m. Practice will begin at 3:45 p.m. and grandstand gates will open at 5:30 p.m. Qualifying begins at 6 p.m. and the first race of the night will get the green flag at 7 p.m.

Advance adult general admission tickets for the Danville Toyota Championship Night presented by Ad Nerds Media event are priced at \$10 each and may be purchased online on South Boston Speedway's website, www.southboston-speedway.com, through Friday night, September 3. Adult general admission tickets online and at the gate on race day are priced at \$15 each. Kids ages 12 and under will be admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Fans and competitors are urged to visit the South Boston Speedway website and the speedway's social media channels for the latest news and information about the speedway and its events.

Stafford Motor Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT - Stafford Speedway returned to Friday night racing action with a Stafford Weekly Series program on Friday night August 27. Scoring feature wins on the night were Stephen Kopcik in the SK Modified® feature, Michael Bennett in the Late Model feature, Anthony Bello was a first time career winner in the SK Light feature, Gary Patnode in the Limited Late Model feature, and Chris Meyer in the Street Stock feature. The Kids Night Big Wheel Race was won by Brantley Sullivan, son of Stafford SK Light driver Brian Sullivan.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Marcello Rufrano took the the lead from polesitter Matt Vassar on the first lap and began to set the early pace. Teddy Hodgdon quickly moved into third with Tyler Hines taking fourth and Bryan Narducci taking fifth on lap-5 to drop David Arute back to sixth, just in front of Stephen Kopcik. Hines went around Hodgdon to take third place on lap-6 and Kopcik went around Narducci to move into fifth place on lap-8.

Hines took second from Vassar on lap-9 while Kopcik was looking for a way around Hodgdon to move into fourth. Rufrano was still in the

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lead with Hines in second. Kopcik was able to make a pass for fourth place on lap-13 and his move opened the door for Narducci to take fifth and kick Hodgdon back to sixth place. The caution flew with 13 laps complete for a spin coming out of turn 4 by Chris Viens.

Rufrano took the lead on the restart with Hines right behind him in second and Kopcik

in third. Vassar was fourth with Narducci holding off the side by side duo of Hodgdon and Michael Christopher, Jr. for fifth. Hodgdon won the battle with Christopher to take sixth as Rufrano led Kopcik, Hines, Vassar, and Narducci to the halfway point of the race.

Kopcik got around Hines to move into second and he was applying heavy pressure to Rufrano for the lead on lap-25. The top-3 cars had slightly pulled away from Vassar, Hodgdon, and Narducci and on lap-27 Kopcik went to the front of the field. Debris in turn 1 brought the caution back out with 28 laps complete.

Kopcik again took the lead on the restart with Rufrano and Hines right behind him. Hodgdon and Vassar were side by side for fourth place with Arute in sixth. Arute took fifth from Vassar on lap-32 while Hines, Hodgdon, and Rufrano briefly went 3-wide on lap-33 in the fight for second. Hines emerged in second with Hodgdon and Rufrano still fighting side by side for third. Todd Owen was on a late race charge as he moved into fifth and dropped Arute back to sixth with Narducci in seventh place. Owen continued his march to the front by taking third from Hodgdon on lap-37 just before the caution came out for spins in turn 3 by Noah Korner and Mark Alkas.

Kopcik resumed his place out front back under green while Hodgdon charged up to second. Owen took third from Hines as the field took the white flag with Arute in fifth. Kopcik led the field to the checkered flag to pick up his third win of the 2021 season. Hodgdon finished second with Owen, Hines, and Arute rounding out the top-5.

In the 30-lap Late Model feature, Paul Varricchio, Jr. took the lead at the green but a half spin by Paul Arute brought the caution out before the first lap could be com-



Michael Bennett brought home the 30-lap Late Model feature at Stafford Motor Speedway. (SMS photo)

pleted. Andrew Durand was sent to the rear of the field by Stafford officials for making contact with Arute.

Varricchio charged back into the lead with Zack Robinson slotting into second place. Adam Gray was third with Wayne Coury, Jr. and Andrew Molleur were side by side for fourth place with Coury winning that duel. The caution came back out with 2 laps complete for Cliff Saunders, who spun through the frontstretch grass and Durand, who also took a trip through the grass.

Varricchio didn't come up to speed as quickly as the field on the restart and he slipped back to seventh place as Robinson was the new leader. A multicar spin in turn 2 brought the yellow flag back out with 3 laps complete.

Robinson took the lead back under green with Coury coming up to second. Tom Fearn was third followed by Michael Wray and Molleur. Coury took the lead from Robinson on lap-5 with a pass in turn 4 and Gray took fifth from Molleur. The caution came back out with 11 laps complete for a spin by Robinson. The order up front

had shuffled just before the caution flew with Coury leading Fearn, Gray, Wray, and Michael Bennett.

Coury took the lead on the restart with Gray moving up to second. Bennett took third with Kevin Gambacorta taking fourth and Molleur fifth as Fearn slid from second back to sixth. Varricchio spun on lap-14 but he was able to get going again and the race stayed green. The caution did come back out with 15 laps complete for a spin in turn 1 by Darrell Keane.

Coury again took the lead on the restart with Bennett taking second. Molleur moved up to third with Gray fourth and Fearn in fifth. Bennett took the lead from Coury on lap-18 with a move in turn 4. That pass opened the door for Molleur to take second and Gray to move up to third as Coury fell back to fourth with Wray in fifth place.

With 5 laps to go, Bennett held the lead with Molleur right behind him in second. Gray was still third with Coury right behind him in fourth and Fearn was fifth. With 2 laps to go, Molleur right on Bennett's back bumper but couldn't find



The 20-lap Limited Late Model feature went to Gary Patnode. It was Patnode's second win of the season. (SMS photo)

a way to get by. Molleur made a run to the inside of Bennett on the final lap and the two cars rubbed fenders but Bennett held off Molleur's challenge to take down his division leading fifth win of the 2021 season. Gray finished third with Coury and Gambacorta rounding out the top-5.

In the 20-lap SK Light feature event, Peter Bennett took the lead at the green flag with Amanda West and Meghan Fuller going side by side for second. West came out in second with Bob Charland going 3-wide on lap-2 to move into third. Charland then took second and moved into the lead on lap-3. Anthony Bello was following Charland through the field and he took the lead from Charland on lap-5 before West brought the caution out with 5 laps complete with a spin in turn 2.

Bello took the lead on the restart with George Bessette, Jr. charging his way into second. Charland was third in line followed by Tyler Chapman and the side by side duo of Norm Sears and Brian Sullivan. Sullivan won the battle with Sears and then he moved around Chapman to take fourth place. Chris Bagnall, Anthony Forino, and Glenn Bartkowski spun coming out of turn 2 to bring the caution flag back out with 11 laps complete.

Bello resumed his place at the front of the field back under green with Bessette still in second. Charland worked his way into third with Sullivan and Alexander Pearl making up the top-5.

With 2 laps to go, Bessette was glued to the back bumper of Bello in the race for the lead. Bessette made one last effort on the final lap, giving Bello's back bumper a touch going into turn 3 but Bello was able to stay out front and he scored his first career win at Stafford. Charland finished third with Sullivan and Pearl rounding out the top-5.

In the 20-lap Limited Late Model feature event, Matt Scappini took the lead at the green flag taking to the outside of polesitter Damian Palardy. Gary Patnode quickly took second with Palardy third, Rich Hammann fourth and R.J. Surdell fifth. Patnode made a move in turn 4 to take the lead from Scappini on lap-3 while behind the leaders, Hammann took over third place to drop Palardy back to fourth and Devon Jencik was up to fifth place with Alexandra Fearn right behind him in sixth place.

Jencik took fourth and Fearn took on lap-6 to drop Palardy back to sixth place as Patnode was starting to stretch out his lead over

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Scappini and Hammann. Hammann took second place from Scappini on lap-9 with both Jencik and Fearn following him through to take third and fourth and drop Scappini back to fifth place. Jeremy Lavoie was challenging Scappini for fifth and he was able to make the pass on lap-11.

With 5 laps to go Patnode was still in command of the race with Hammann trying to chase him down. Jencik was third followed by Fearn and Lavoie.

Hammann couldn't get close enough to Patnode to make a bid for the lead as Patnode took down his second win of the 2021 season. Jencik finished third with Fearn and Lavoie rounding out the top-5.

In the 20-lap Street Stock feature event, Jason Finkbein took the lead at green flag with Jeremy Washburn taking second in front of Bert Ouellette. Ouellette took second from Washburn on lap-3 and he took the lead on lap-4 as Finkbein's car dropped off the pace.

Ouellette was now followed in line by Nickolas Hovey, Bobby Stirk, III, Chris Meyer, and Adrien Paradis, III. The caution came out with 4 laps complete for a spin in turn 1 by Patrick Grady.

Ouellette took the lead back under green with Hovey right on his back bumper in second. Mehyer was third in line with Travis Hydar working his way into fourth and Frank L'Etoile, Jr. taking fifth. Hovey was applying heavy pressure to Ouellette but Ouellette was able to hold him off.

Hovey made a pass for the lead stick on lap-10 and his move for the lead allowed Meyer to take second, Hydar third, and L'Etoile fourth as Ouellette fell from the lead back to fifth.

Meyer took the lead from Hovey on lap-14 with Hydar and L'Etoile still in third and fourth place. Stirk was back up to fifth place as Ouellette fell back to seventh place with Paradis moving into sixth.

Meyer led Hovey to the checkered flag to pick up his fourth win of the 2021 season. Hydar came home in third with L'Etoile and Stirk rounding out the top-5.

Brantley Sullivan was the winner of the Kids Night Big Wheel race



Brantley Sullivan was the winner of the Kids Night Big Wheel race that saw 17 kids take part in a race down the frontstretch. (SMS photo)

that saw 17 kids between the ages of 3 and 7 take part in a race down the frontstretch.

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

Wake County Speedway

RALEIGH, NC - The finest stars, cars and trucks visited Wake County Speedway for a special Saturday night show at America's "Favorite" Bullring.

The flooding in the mountains of Va. and Tenn kept the car and truck counts down as some teams were unable to compete do to losing cars and trucks, trailers, ect. in the flooding so pray for these teams to be able to rebuild and come back to the tour.

Clark Houston from Hickory roared to victory in the Southeast Super Truck feature visiting Rick Hendrick Cars victory lane for his 3rd win of the 2021 racing season. Lee Tissot from Asheville roared under the stripe in 2nd place with Joe Heigl from Raleigh having a great run in his Performance Auto Body truck to finish in 3rd place. Tim Lollis from Easley, SC. and Benny Davis from Canton rounded out your top 5 finishers.

The Bando drivers put on a great show with Phoenix Kimball making the trip to Hendrick-Cars.com victory lane, Kimball held off Red Head Racing brothers, Jacob and Kaleb Bradley from Chapel Hill, Hunter Morgan from TN. and Brody Marinko in the action packed event.

The Legends Feature was an action packed race with over 20

cars starting the feature. Numerous lead changes, battles all around the race track all feature long and when the checkered flag flew, car #51 was victorious over #22, #99, #45 and #24. The Vintage cars and stars waged a tremendous battle as well, congrats to drivers, teams and car owners.

The SELLM feature winner was John Gallman from Fountain Inn, SC.. Gallman held off T.J. Lollis from Easley, SC., D.J. Canipe, Bud Haney and Taylor Campbell for the win. So nice meeting and working with the team of veterans that run the Southeast Touring Series out of Asheville, class act by all, quick well paced show and hope to do it again in 2022.

Wake County Speedway roars back into action Friday September 3 with another action packed evening. Solid Rock Carrier Late Models, Mini-Stock, twin races for Legends plus Bandos and Bombers make up the high card of action. Track Rental, Hoosier Tires and Sunoco Racing Fuel, are all available, follow Wake County Speedway on all media sources, www; [fb](https://www.facebook.com), [twitter](https://www.twitter.com) for more info. By the grace of God and 600 horsepower, see you at the races.

Williams Grove Speedway

MECHANICSBURG, PA - Williams Grove Speedway will celebrate the career of three-time track champion Todd Shaffer of Millerstown coming up this Friday, September 3 at 7:30 pm when VP Racing Fuels presents the Todd Shaffer Tribute Race for Lawrence Chevrolet 410 Sprint Cars.

The special race run in honor of "Mr. Excitement," Todd Shaffer, will

pay \$6,088 to win as part of the 2021 Diamond Series at the track.

In addition, up for grabs in the sprint car feature will be the "Mr. Excitement Hard Charger Award," paying \$350 as sponsored by Shaffer's pit crew members from throughout his career.

VP Racing Fuels will present each Friday sprint car winner a VP Racing Fuels fuel jug and a \$50 gift certificate for VP Fuels.

During his long and exciting career in sprint cars that began in 1986, Shaffer recorded a total of 38 sprint car victories at the track, placing him just inside the top 10 on the all-time oval career win list.

His track championships, all for car owners Gary and Patty Beam of Gardners, came in 1995, 2007 and in 2009.

To celebrate Shaffer's career at the track, a Beam Team reunion of sorts including car owner Patty Beam will be held in the speedway infield from 5:45 – 6:45 pm on race night.

The pre-race action will include a live Facebook broadcast on Beer Hill Gang TV that will be simulcast on the speedway public address system.

Taking part in the pre-race will be crew members, mechanics and sponsors from the Shaffer/Beam team over the years along with additional Shaffer car owners Jim and Laura Allebach and the son of late car owner Al Hamilton, Mr. Tim Hamilton.

Good friends Fred Rahmer and Lance Dewease are also expected to be a part of the celebration.

The 358 sprint cars will also be on the September 3 holiday weekend program along with fireworks.

Derek Locke is the only driver to win in 358 action at the oval this season having scored all six shows run to date.

Locke has quite simply "Locked – Up" the 2021 track point title for the division.

Meanwhile, Lance Dewease is poised to put on his final run to a seventh track title in the 410 sprints division during September.

A seventh track title would be his first since 2011.

Adult general admission for September 3 is \$20 with youth ages 13 – 20 admitted for \$10.

Kids ages 12 and under are always admitted for FREE at Williams Grove Speedway.

Keep up to date on all the latest speedway news and information by visiting the oval's official website located at www.williams Grove Speedway.com or by following the track on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.