



FEBRUARY 15, 2016

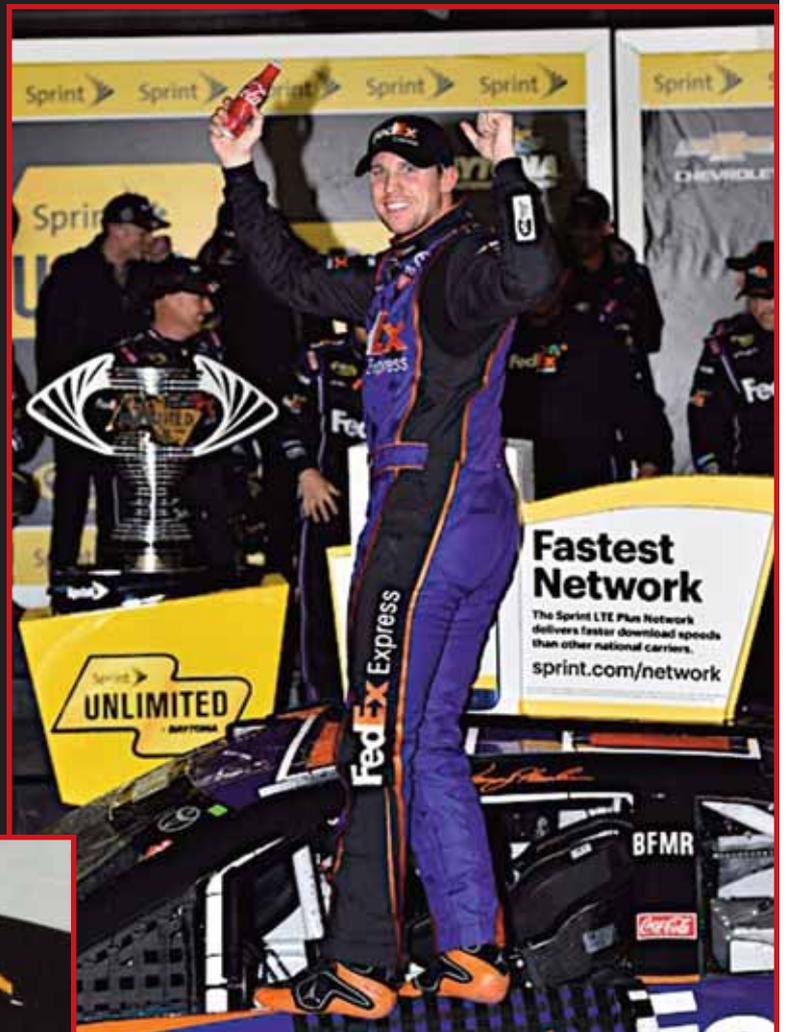
# FastTrack

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Chase Elliott Earns Pole for Daytona 500



Denny Hamlin Wins Sprint Unlimited in Dominant Fashion

The Big Gator Goes to Brad Sweet after Taking WoO Checkered Flag at Volusia Speedway Park



# Joie Chitwood III; A Thrill of a Job

DAYTONA BEACH, FL – There are days when Joie Chitwood III believes it would be easier climbing back into a speeding stunt car and driving it through a wall of fire than dealing with the never-ending challenges of running the Daytona International Speedway.

The fourth-generation stuntman who still carries a Screen Actors Guild card now has been entrusted to keep the wheels rolling – literally – at the premier race track in NASCAR – all while working with the dynamics of being an outsider in a family-owned business.

But it's a job he loves, and a job he was born to do.

For nearly half of his life, his name has been on the family business. His grandfather, Joie Chitwood, drove to three fifth-place finishes in the Indianapolis 500 before he bought the cars and equipment from Lucky Teter, a daredevil who died in 1942 while attempting to complete a record 150-foot jump.

After that, the family's Joie Chitwood Thrill Show traveled the Midwest during the summer, living like gypsies while performing four or five times a week, primarily at county and state fairs.

"We'd sleep in truck stops and rest areas," Chitwood said. "We were truly an on the road entertainment business.

"I can drive a car on two wheels. When I was 14 years old I stood on the side of the car while my dad drove it on two wheels. I laid on the

hood of the car, drove through a firewall and burst through the board with my helmet. I was a stuntman."

A stuntman who became Daytona's president.

From the start, he's brought his own brand of enthusiasm to the job. He rarely wears suits and ties, and he loves traveling the state and working directly with media outlets to sell tickets.

"I'm a promoter. I promote a brand, and Daytona is a special brand," Chitwood said. "I have suits and ties, but I don't like them. I like to get going."

Chitwood said his family ties, not his experience in the business, has played a greater role in his duties. There is a greater sense of importance and responsibility when the family name is involved.

He learned that with the Thrill Show and while working at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the families of Mari Hulman George and Tony George. Now it includes working with the France family.

"What you learn in this business is it's personal," Chitwood said as Daytona prepares to open its doors for Sunday's Daytona 500. "It's 24/7. When you're name is on the company, it's different. It's a personal thing."

For the past two years and seven months, he's also been in charge of the massive \$400 million overhaul, called Daytona Rising. The new grandstands rival the best stadiums in football and baseball, complete with 101,500 permanent seats and 60 luxury boxes.

The project was overwhelming because there was no margin for



**DON COBLE**

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 BRAD SWEET - PAUL ARCH

error. The job ended a couple weeks ago, just in time for the biggest stock car race of the season.

"It's been a stressful, intense project," he said. "I can't think of a day when it wasn't the No. 1 thing on my mind. That's how significant the investment was."

A year ago Kyle Busch broke his right leg and left ankle in a head-on collision with an infield wall at the conclusion of the Nationwide Series race. Chitwood immediately took responsibility for the injuries that likely were magnified by the lack of Steel and Foam Energy Reduction barriers.

While others in the business would take a more careful approach, Chitwood vowed to make sweeping changes. By the time the series returned in July, the angle of the infield wall where Busch crashed was changes and fitted

with SAFER barriers.

All outer and inner walls on the 2.5-mile raceway now are covered with SAFER barriers.

When he was a daredevil Chitwood liked the fact he controlled the final outcome. He never broke a bone or got injured doing a stunt, although there were a couple times when he was knocked silly a couple times.

Now he has to count on others. "Each has its own challenges," he said. "What I enjoy about the stunt show was, I was me. It was my performance. I did not have to worry about anyone else. If I couldn't drive the car on two wheels, I couldn't blame anyone else.

"It's different here. It's teamwork, communication and making sure everyone is doing what they need to do."

Either way, it's always been a thrill.



The renovations to Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Rising, reflects in the infield lake as the track readies for 2016 Speedweeks. (DIS photo)

# It's Crystal Ball Time!

Every year, this fearless forecaster makes his NASCAR predictions for the upcoming season. I wait until the week of Daytona to keep the bookmakers in Las Vegas from altering their season odds on each of the three major divisions of NASCAR. Yea, right!

Now, before we look ahead to 2016, let's reflect on the predictions and results from last season.

"Swami", as I'm known by my local peeps, picked Carl Edwards (Cup), Chase Elliott (XFINITY), and Eric Jones (Camping World Trucks) to win their respective Series championships. Well, one for three isn't too bad. In fact, if I could hit .333 in baseball every year, I'd still be playing and making a ton of money! Eric Jones did capture the CWT, but Kyle Busch and James Buescher won the other two.

As I pondered my predictions for the 2016 seasons, I looked at several factors and gauged each one very carefully. Any crew chief, manufacturer, crew, or team changes? How about drivers changing Series for 2016? How will the new aero package affect performance? Plus, with a new "Chase format" for the XFINITY and Camping World Truck Series, who will survive?

Before I get into the specifics, I will make my first "general prediction". I think that all three – Cup, XFINITY, and Camping World Truck – Series will have NEW champions in 2016. No repeats this year folks! Actually, that's not a major statement when you consider that Buescher (XFINITY) and Jones (CWT) will be racing in different series this year. So, basically, I'm predicting that Kyle Busch will not repeat as Cup champ.

Let's look first at the Camping World Truck Series. With Eric Jones moving to the XFINITY Series this season, a new champ will be crowned. And, when you look at the list of champion contenders, it didn't take me long to make my selection. The CWT Series will have lots of new faces this year as drivers continued to migrate to this series from local and regional series. Two drivers who will be racing in

CWT this year will have an immediate impact. Cole Custer with JRM and William Byron with KBM will both win races this year, but I don't see a title run until at least next season. However, I would not be surprised if both finish in the top five in points and be two of the four racing for the title at Homestead. With that being said, I see Matt Crafton and Timothy Peters battling it out for the CWT title this year. Some things change, and some things remain the same. I picked him last year, and I'm selecting him again. Matt Crafton will survive the first-ever Chase format for the CWT Series and become the 2016 champion.



DENNIS PUNCH

When I looked at the XFINITY Series for 2016, I had to spend extra time before I made my predictions. Champ Buescher and Chase Elliott moved to Cup. The Cup drivers will win most of the XFINITY

races again, but are not eligible to win the title. So, who are the title contenders? Elliott Sadler moves to JRM and will be joined by former Cup racer Justin Allgaier. Of the two, I see Sadler as the best title threat. CWT Champ Eric Jones will race fulltime in XFINITY in the always potent #20 Gibbs car, and will, without question, win multiple races. One driver who I see having a potential "breakout season" is Brennan Poole. Poole will be driving the #48 Ganassi car in all the races, and will certainly make a run for the XFINITY Chase.

I must admit that selecting the XFINITY Champion for 2016 was the toughest of all my predictions. However, I'm going to pick Eric Jones to make it two titles in two years with his XFINITY crown this season. Back-to-back titles in CWT and XFINITY would be an amazing accomplishment, but Eric Jones has the talent, team, and support to make it happen.

Now, what you've all been waiting for since Homestead, my NASCAR Sprint Cup predictions for 2016. I've already predicted that the Series will have a new champion, so that rules out the #18 car and Kyle Busch. I'll take the next step and predict that the 2016 Cup Champion will drive an even-numbered car. So, that means 2, 4, 20, 22, 24, 48, 78, and 88 are under consideration. I don't think Chase Elliott will win the title his rookie



MATT CRAFTON  
NASCAR CAMPING WORLD

season, so out goes the 24. Before I go further, I do believe that Elliott and the #24 team will win a race this year.

In analyzing the remaining contenders, I believe that the 2016 will be a driver who has won a previous Cup title. So, that eliminates the 22, 78, and 88. That leaves the 2, 4, 20, and 48 in my selection process.

Before I make my final selection as Cup Champion for 2016, I'll like to comment on several other items. While I didn't pick him to win the title, I believe Dale Earnhardt Jr. will make the final Chase round in Homestead. He could have, potentially, his best season ever in the Cup Series. I predict that the #1 car of Jamie McMurray and the #42 of Kyle Larson will BOTH win races for Chip Ganassi in 2016. One of

these two will win more than once. I believe that the Wood Brothers with Ryan Blaney will be a contender for multiple wins and may make the Chase for the Sprint Cup. On the other hand, I don't believe that Richard Childress Racing visit victory lane in 2016. RCR make have one or two drivers make the Chase, but it will be on points, not wins. I've kept you in suspense long enough, it's time to open the envelope.

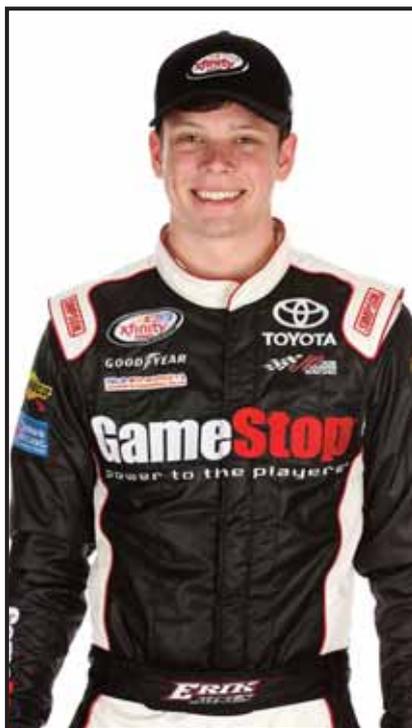
My NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion final four to choose from are Brad Keselowski, Kevin Harvick, Matt Kenseth, and Jimmie Johnson. That's one team each from Penske, Stewart-Haas, Gibbs, and Hendrick. Don't you just know that NASCAR would love to see these four battling it out next November in Homestead for the Cup title? My selection for the 2016 Sprint Cup Champion is Jimmie Johnson. That's right, Mr. Six-time becomes Mr. Seven-time! I predict that Johnson will join the elite club



JIMMIE JOHNSON  
NASCAR SPRINT CUP SERIES

of 7-time Champions with Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt.

So, the writing is now on the wall. Crafton, Jones, and Johnson will capture crowns in the top three divisions of NASCAR. Sorry Vegas, I held off as long as I could. However, as we have seen the past two seasons in the Cup Chase for the Championship, anything can, and probably will, happen. Let's hope that the Chase format for all the divisions in 2016 will provide the same exciting competition as the Cup Series. Most of all, I want 2016 to be the safest motorsports season ever, from local short tracks, dirt, asphalt, to massive superspeedways.



ERIC JONES  
NASCAR XFINITY SERIES

# Denny Hamlin Wins Wild Sprint Unlimited

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Running up front paid off long before the checkered flag Saturday night for Denny Hamlin. Leading the field for the last 16 laps kept him clear of two late-race cautions and enabled him to win the Sprint Unlimited for the third time at Daytona International Speedway.

It marked the third consecutive Sprint Unlimited victory and fourth in the last five years for Joe Gibbs Racing. Hamlin (No. 11 FedEx Express Toyota Camry) took the checkered and caution flags simultaneously, after a multi-car mishap during an "overtime" finish that extended the race four laps beyond its scheduled distance of 75 laps.

There were seven cautions on the night. The one that necessitated the overtime was caused by a Lap 73 backstretch incident that involved six cars including the No. 18 M&M's 75 Toyota Camry of reigning NASCAR Sprint Cup champion Kyle Busch.

Reigning DAYTONA 500 champion Joey Logano (No. 22 Shell Pennzoil Ford) finished second, after starting last in the 25-car field. Paul Menard (No. 27 Peak Antifreeze/Menard Chevrolet) finished third.

"This is a great team win," Hamlin said. "We're looking forward to [the DAYTONA 500]."

Former Sprint Unlimited champions and former DAYTONA 500 pole winners who competed full time in 2015 were eligible for this year's annual "all-star" race, as were all drivers from the 2015 Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup. Any remaining open positions were filled based on 2015 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship driver points. There also was a notable substitution, with Brian Vickers filling in for injured Tony Stewart, a three-time Sprint Unlimited champion. Vickers exited the race early, following a Lap 23 accident that also ended the night for three-time event champion Kevin Harvick.

The starting grid was determined Friday by a drawing involving the crew chiefs for the 25 drivers entered. Jimmie Johnson's crew chief Chad Knaus drew the top spot for his driver, a two-time

DAYTONA 500 champion and six-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion.

The non-points event was divided into two segments with a competition caution at Lap 25 separating the segments.

Tickets for all Speedweeks 2016 events – including the 58th annual DAYTONA 500 on Feb. 21, the season-opening race for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series – can be purchased on-line at [www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com](http://www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com) or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP.

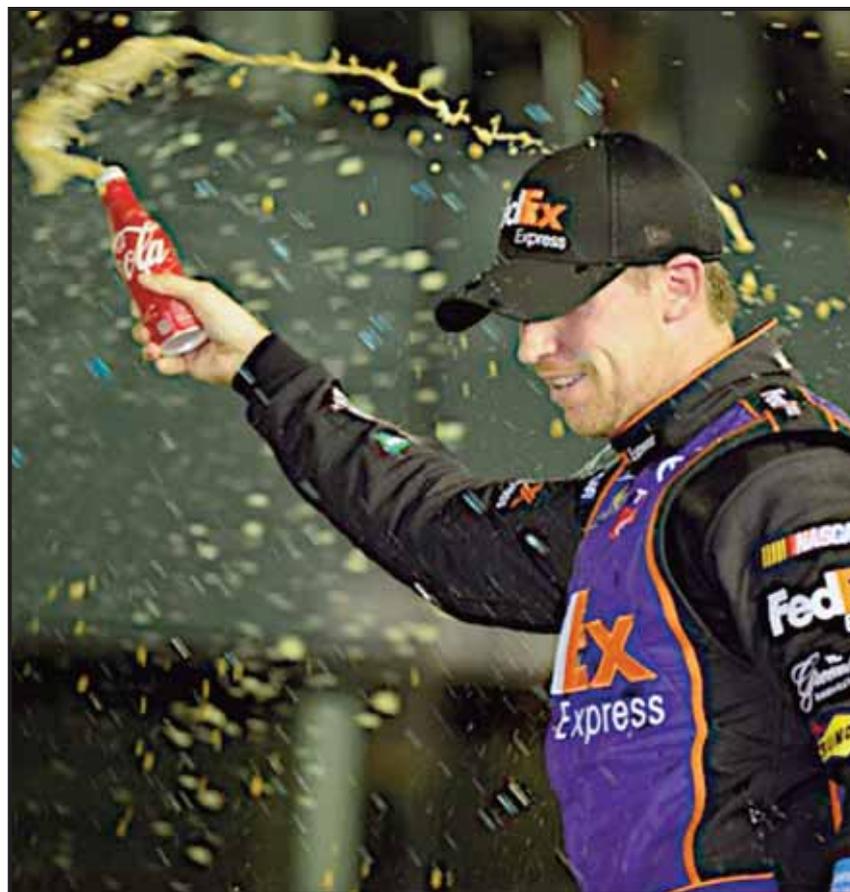
Fans can stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube for the latest speedway news throughout the season.

## Johnson Awarded Pole for Sprint Unlimited

### Crew Chief Chad Knaus Draws Top Starting Spot for Johnson

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Two-time DAYTONA 500 champion Jimmie Johnson will start Speedweeks 2016 in style Saturday night: on the pole for the 38th annual Sprint Unlimited at Daytona International Speedway.

Johnson, also a six-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion, was awarded the pole via a draw involving the respective crew



Denny Hamlin is all smiles as he celebrates winning his third Sprint Unlimited at Daytona International Speedway Saturday night. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

chiefs – in Johnson's case, that would be Chad Knaus – for the 25 drivers entered in the annual all-star, non-points event.

Eligibility for the Sprint Unlimited field is reserved for former Sprint Unlimited champions and former DAYTONA 500 pole winners who competed full time in 2015 and all 16 drivers from the 2015 Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup. Any remaining open positions are filled based on 2015 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship driver points. This year there also is a substitute driver, with Brian Vickers

filling in for injured Tony Stewart, a two-time Sprint Unlimited champion. The various qualification criteria creates an elite field that also includes reigning NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion Kyle Busch (starting ninth), two-time DAYTONA 500 champion Dale Earnhardt Jr. (23rd) and 2013 DAYTONA 500 pole winner Danica Patrick (12th).

In a vivid example of the "luck of the draw" concept, crew chief Todd Gordon drew the 25th and last starting spot for none other than the reigning DAYTONA 500 champion, Joey Logano.

The non-points event, starting at 8:15 p.m. (ET) will be divided into two segments with a competition caution at Lap 25 separating the segments.

There were two Sprint Unlimited practice sessions Friday. Kyle Larson (No. 42 Target Chevrolet) led the first, at 199.344 mph. The second session was led by Denny Hamlin (No. 11 FedEx Express Toyota), at 198.930.

Prior to the Sprint Unlimited, the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards will open its season with the 53rd annual Lucas Oil 200 Driven by General Tire. Cole Custer, driving for former Sprint Cup standout Ken Schrader, won the pole on Friday in the No. 54 Haas Automation Chevrolet (188.407 mph). The 18-year-old Custer became the series' youngest pole winner at DIS.



Jimmie Johnson (left) and his crew chief Chad Knaus go over last minute plans after Chad's draw put the #48 Chevrolet on the pole for the Sprint Unlimited. (NIGEL KINRADE/NKP photo)

# Chase Elliott Takes DAYTONA 500 Pole Position

*Matt Kenseth Qualifies 2nd, Will Start Alongside Elliott*

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - On Sunday at Daytona International Speedway, a hot-shoe rookie named Chase Elliott brought back memories of his legendary father Bill's DAYTONA 500 dominance, winning the pole in DAYTONA 500 Qualifying

Presented By Kroger.

Thirty years ago, Bill Elliott was in the middle of a streak of winning three consecutive DAYTONA 500 poles. Sunday, his son began his first season in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series with a fast lap of 196.314 mph on the 2.5-mile DIS tri-oval, becoming the race's youngest pole winner, at 20 years, two months and 17 days.

Sunday's qualifying had two rounds. After Round 1 – which was led by Dale Earnhardt Jr, (No. 88 Nationwide Chevrolet), the fastest 12 cars advanced to Round 2. Elliott was fourth-fastest in the first session.

Elliott also evoked more recent memories. His No. 24 NAPA Auto Parts Chevrolet also sat on the pole last year albeit with different sponsorship and a different driver – another legend, the now-retired Jeff Gordon.

"This is a very, very cool day," said Elliott, the 2014 champion of the NASCAR XFINITY Series. "I think the big thing is just the team. Daytona 500 qualifying is about the team guys and the effort they put into these cars. The DAYTONA 500 is about the team. This is a great way to start the season.

"This is a big day, but this is a long week. I'm just very honored and blessed to be with the group of guys that we have. I think it's a special group. This entire team did such a good job on this car during this off-season. It's awfully fast."

DAYTONA 500 Qualifying Presented By Kroger "locked in" the top two qualifying positions for the race. Joining Elliott on the front row will be two-time DAYTONA 500 champion Matt Kenseth (No. 20 Dollar General Toyota), who posted a speed of 196.036.

Elliott and Kenseth will start on the respective poles Thursday night in the Can-Am Duel – two 150-mile qualifying races that es-

tablish positions 3-40 on the DAYTONA 500 starting grid. The Can-Am Duel grids are based on Sunday's qualifying results.

Two drivers from a group of eight who are not guaranteed spots in the DAYTONA 500 field – 36 drivers are guaranteed spots – clinched spots in the race, based on their speeds Sunday: Ryan Blaney of the famed Wood Brothers organization and Matt DiBenedetto from BK Racing.

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## Wood Brothers and Blaney Say Thanks to Their Fans by Earning Daytona 500 Starting Spot

For Eddie Wood, co-owner of the No. 21 Motorcraft/Quick Lane Ford Fusion, and the rest of his family, the outpouring of fan support over the past 66 seasons, through the good times and the struggles, has been humbling.

This proved true again this past week, as fans and others in the NASCAR community have reached out through social media and other ways to express their support for the Woods.

The Motorcraft/Quick Lane team was looking for a way to say thank you to their supporters in a manner that measured up to the sentiments expressed on their behalf.

On Sunday, during pole qualifying for the Daytona 500, the team and rookie driver Ryan Blaney said "thanks" to their fans the best way they knew how – by posting the seventh fastest speed and thereby earning a starting spot in the Daytona 500 no matter the outcome of Thursday's Can-Am Duels, that will set the line-up for the Great American Race. The strong qualifying effort came at a place that is a huge part of the Wood Brothers history,



Chase Elliott (right) became the youngest person to win the Daytona 500 pole Sunday. Matt Kenseth (left) will start on the outside pole next Sunday in the 500. (MATT THACKER/NKP photo)

as the team has won NASCAR's showcase event; the Daytona 500, five time over the years, most recently in 2011.

Under NASCAR's new qualifying rules for the 500, 36 cars are locked in the 500. The Woods and seven other teams were left to fight over four starting spots. Two positions are based on being the top finishing open car in each Duel. The final two are awarded to the fastest two open cars from qualifying, not already earning a spot based on their respective Duel fin-

ish. "This one is for our fans and the people that have supported us over the past week and over the past seven decades," Wood said. "We've never taken the support of our fans for granted, and we're just elated to be able to give them reason to celebrate this week."

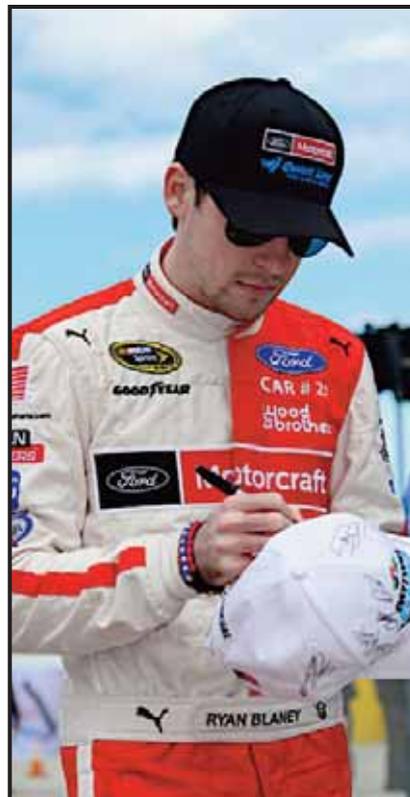
"It's been awkward for us the past few days, and I'm sure it's been that way for our fans as well. Now we can all focus on something positive, a great run in the Daytona 500."

For Blaney, the fast run in qualifying takes the pressure off him in Thursday's Duels and allows him and crew chief Jeremy Bullins to focus on the 500. But first, there are the Duels, and Blaney will start fourth in the first of two 150-mile runs.

"The biggest relief for us is to know you are locked in and are good to be able to race in the 500," Blaney said. "That kind of lets us go race on Thursday a little bit more than we would have instead of playing it conservative if we weren't locked in. It is nice to have such a fast car and be locked into the race."

"It is a load off our shoulders for sure. I think anytime you can make it to the last round (of qualifying) you feel good about the speed of your race car. I think our speed is pretty good. We definitely aren't the fastest, but we have good speed and I think we will dial it in and be good for the 500."

The Can-Am Duel qualifying races are set for Thursday, Feb. 18, with TV coverage on Fox Sports 1. The Great American Race set to get the green flag on Sunday, Feb. 21, just after 1 p.m., with TV coverage on FOX.



Ryan Blaney stops to sign a hat for one of the many Wood Brothers' fans while going to qualify for the Daytona 500. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

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**NASCAR FAST FACTS - 2016 Procedural Changes**

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series – Maximum 40-car field (36 Charter team cars, 4 Open team cars), race winner awarded 40 points, 40th place awarded one point.

NASCAR XFINITY Series – Maximum 40-car field, race winner awarded 40 points, 40th place awarded one point.

NASCAR Camping World Truck Series – Maximum 32-truck field, race winner awarded 32 points, 32nd place awarded one point

New points systems apply to driver, owner, and manufacturer championships. Existing 2015 Bonus points remain in place for 2016.

**Qualifying – NASCAR Sprint Cup Series - Daytona 500 Specific**

- Thirty-six Charter teams will be assigned a starting position
- Four Open teams are eligible for starting positions

The highest finishing Open team in each Can-Am Duel race earns a starting position

The final two starting positions are awarded to Open teams based on Coors Light Pole Qualifying if not already a top finisher in a Duel race

- Qualifying sets the front row for the Daytona 500 and the starting lineup for the Can-Am Duel fields, with the number of Charter team and Open team cars split evenly throughout both races
- If qualifying is cancelled due to weather, the top two finishing Open teams from each Can-Am Duel race earn starting positions in the Daytona 500
- If the second Can-Am Duel race is cancelled due to weather, the highest finishing Open team from the first race earns a starting position, with the other three Open teams determined by qualifying
- If both Can-Am Duel races are cancelled due to weather, qualifying determines all four Open teams
- If qualifying and both Can-Am Duel races are cancelled due to weather, the combined practice speeds are used to determine the four Open teams
- If all on-track activity prior to the race is cancelled due to weather, 2015 Owner points will be used to determine the four Open

teams.

**All Other Championship Race events**

- Thirty-six Charter teams will be assigned a starting position and four Open teams are eligible for starting positions.
- Qualifying results will determine the Open team starting positions assuming the event is run as scheduled
- If qualifying is cancelled due to weather, the combined practice speeds determine the four Open teams
- If practice and qualifying are cancelled due to weather, Owner points determine the four Open teams (events 1-3 revert to 2015 Owner points)

**NASCAR Overtime**

For all three NASCAR national series, a race may be concluded with overtime, consisting of a new procedure for a green-white-checked flag finish featuring an “overtime line.” The location of the overtime line will vary by track.

After taking the green on the overtime restart, if the leader then passes the overtime line on the first lap under green before a caution comes out (a “clean restart”), it will be considered a valid green-white-checked attempt. However, if a caution comes out before the leader passes the overtime line on the first lap under green, it will not be considered a valid attempt, and a subsequent attempt will be made. If necessary, multiple subsequent attempts will be made until a valid attempt occurs.

Once a valid attempt is achieved (clean restart), it will become the only attempt at a green-white-checked finish. If a caution comes out at any time during the valid green-white-checked attempt, the field will be frozen and the checkered/yellow or checkered/red displayed to cars at the finish line.

**Stewart-Haas Racing Names Brian Vickers Interim Driver for Daytona**

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Stewart-Haas Racing has named Brian Vickers interim driver of its No. 14 Chevrolet SS for all the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series events during Speedweeks Feb. 12-21 at Daytona International Speedway.

Vickers will begin driving the No. 14 Mobil 1 Chevrolet today as he and the team prepare for Saturday night’s Sprint Unlimited. On Sunday, Vickers will pilot the No. 14

Bass Pro Shops/Mobil 1 Chevrolet in qualifying for the Daytona 500 before racing it again on Thursday in the Can-Am Duel and, finally, in the 58th running of the Daytona 500 Feb. 21.

Vickers is a three-time winner in the Sprint Cup Series and was the 2003 NASCAR Xfinity Series champion. His best Sprint Cup finish at Daytona is a second-place result in the 2014 Coke Zero 400. His first career Sprint Cup victory came in 2006 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway, the sister track to Daytona. The 2016 Daytona 500 will mark Vickers’ ninth start in the Great American Race.

An interim driver for the No. 14 team in the races following Daytona has not been determined.

**Dale Earnhardt Jr.’s Dirty Mo Radio Set to Launch Fourth Season**

MOORESVILLE, NC - NASCAR driver and team owner Dale Earnhardt Jr. announced today that one of his digital properties, Dirty Mo Radio, will launch its fourth season this week and debut a line-up that includes eight programs, four of which are brand new.

Some of the new programming includes an outdoors lifestyle podcast co-hosted by Earnhardt Jr.’s brother, Kerry Earnhardt, as well as an edgy, pop culture podcast co-hosted by his 15-year-old niece, Karsyn Elledge.

Dirty Mo Radio podcasts are available free of charge on DaleJr.com as well as all major podcasting outlets such as iTunes, Stitcher and TuneIn Radio.

“We’ve added programming to Dirty Mo Radio every year, but this is our biggest jump to date,” said Earnhardt Jr., who will begin his 17th full season of NASCAR Sprint Cup Series racing tomorrow night with the Sprint Unlimited at Daytona International Speedway.

“With eight diverse programs, Dirty Mo Radio has a very good opportunity to appeal to different audiences with unique, on-demand content that listeners can access easily – whether at home, at work, in the car, in the gym, wherever they are. And it doesn’t cost anything. It’s a big part of our digital package that we use to engage with our fans.”

Dirty Mo Radio’s complete 2016 programming line-up is as follows:

NEW: “Door, Bumper, Clear” presented by OneMain – unique perspective and candid commentary from veteran spotters T.J. Majors and Brett Griffin as they spend

their lives touring the NASCAR circuit... New episodes to post every Tuesday following the race weekend, with a special debut episode happening today, Feb. 12.

NEW: “Earnhardt Outdoors” – a lifestyle podcast hosted by Kerry Earnhardt and Hank Parker Jr. that shares the Earnhardt-family passion for the great outdoors... This show will debut on March 11 and feature new episodes every other Friday throughout the season.

NEW: “Motor Mouths” – three outgoing, sarcastic and over-the-top girls dishing on hot topics while seeking real answers from NASCAR’s most interesting personalities... Hosted by Karsyn Elledge, Natalie Sather and Katie Buttera... First episode to debut in April.

NEW: “Historically Speaking” presented by Axalta – a countdown to the most memorable moments in the life and career of Earnhardt Jr... Will debut Feb. 19 and air each Friday throughout the season.

“The Dale Jr. Download” presented by SPY – the official podcast of Dale Earnhardt Jr., recapping his week at the race track and featuring fan reactions and commentary... New episodes to air each Monday throughout the NASCAR season.

“Fast Lane Family” presented by Bedhead by TiGi – Hosted by Kelley Earnhardt Miller, this podcast involves life conversations with people in the NASCAR industry by one of the most influential women in business, not to mention a mother, wife, sister and daughter... New season to launch March 9 with new episodes every other Wednesday throughout the NASCAR season.

“JR Motorsports Up Front” presented by K1 Speed – a peek behind the curtains at the personalities and antics of Earnhardt Jr.’s race team, JR Motorsports, as it competes on NASCAR’s national touring stage... New season debut will be Feb. 18 and continue every Thursday during the season.

“Said Junior” presented by Nationwide – full audio replay of press conferences and media sessions by Earnhardt Jr. throughout the NASCAR season... New season debuted on Jan. 21 and will continue throughout the year.

Dirty Mo Radio podcasts are recorded in the JR Nation Retail Store inside JR Motorsports. Dirty Mo Radio also has a line of apparel and merchandise that is available in the JR Nation Retail Store or online at ShopJRNation.com.

### **Gerard Butler Named Grand Marshal**

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (Feb. 16, 2016) – Actor Gerard Butler, star of the high-octane action thriller *London Has Fallen* that opens in theaters nationwide March 4, will serve as the Grand Marshal for the 58th annual DAYTONA 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. at Daytona International Speedway (TV – FOX, FOX Deportes; Radio – MRN Radio, SiriusXM).

As Grand Marshal, Butler will deliver the most famous words in motorsports, “Drivers, start your engines.” Along with the command, Butler will take part in other pre-race ceremonies including riding in one of the Grand Marshal cars during the pace laps prior to the green flag of the 200-lap, 500-mile race and attend the drivers meeting.

“We’re honored to have Gerard Butler serve as Grand Marshal for the DAYTONA 500,” Daytona International Speedway President Joie Chitwood III said. “Gerard is a talented actor and we look forward to hearing his starting command to kick off the first DAYTONA 500 held in the new motorsports stadium.”

In Gramercy Pictures’ *London Has Fallen*, the non-stop suspenseful sequel to “*Olympus Has Fallen*,” Butler returns as Secret Service agent Mike Banning, alongside Aaron Eckhart as U.S. President Benjamin Asher, Angela Bassett as Secret Service Director Lynne Jacobs, and Morgan Freeman as Allan Trumbull, now the Vice President.

For more information on *London Has Fallen*, visit [www.LondonHasFallen.com](http://www.LondonHasFallen.com) or check out the movie through its social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, #LondonHasFallen, Instagram, and YouTube.

Butler has starred in such hit films as “*Machine Gun Preacher*” and “*300*.” He joins a long list of actors who have previously served as DAYTONA 500 Grand Marshals including Vince Vaughn, James Franco, Chris Evans, John Travolta, Ben Affleck, Nicolas Cage, and Matthew McConaughey.

Tickets for the 2016 DAYTONA 500 and Speedweeks can be purchased online at [www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com](http://www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com) or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP.

Fans can also follow NASCAR on Twitter and stay up to speed on the latest news by using #DAYTONA500 and #SPEEDWEEKS. Stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Pinterest for the latest news all season long. You can also stay updated on the latest information by downloading the new version of Daytona International Speedway’s mobile app.

### **Ken Griffey Jr. Named Honorary Starter**

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Newly elected Baseball Hall of Fame centerfielder Ken Griffey Jr. will serve as Honorary Starter of the 58th annual DAYTONA 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. at Daytona International Speedway (TV – FOX, FOX Deportes; Radio – MRN Radio, SiriusXM).

Griffey received a record-breaking 99.32 percent of the vote (437 of 440) by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America. He played 22 seasons – 13 with the Seattle Mariners, nine with the Cincinnati Reds and less than one season with the Chicago White Sox. In his 22 seasons, Griffey was a 13-time All Star, 10-time Gold Glove winner and 1997 American League MVP; he is also ranked sixth on the career home run list (630).

“We’re honored to welcome baseball great Ken Griffey Jr. as the Honorary Starter for the DAYTONA 500,” Daytona International Speedway President Joie Chitwood III said. “We’re looking forward to having such a legendary athlete wave the green flag on the first ‘Great American Race’ in the world’s first motorsports stadium.”

The 2016 Hall of Fame Weekend will be held July 22-25, with the annual Induction Ceremony scheduled to take place on Sunday, July 24. Griffey will be the first player to represent the Seattle Mariners organization in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Most recent DAYTONA 500 Honorary Starters include members of the U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team (Abby Wambach, Kelley O’Hara and Christie Rampone), NASCAR Hall of Famers Bobby Allison and Richard Petty and actor Gary Sinise.

Tickets for the 2016 DAYTONA 500 and 2016 Speedweeks At Daytona can be purchased online at [www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com](http://www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com) or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP.

Fans can also watch live on

FOX, follow NASCAR on Twitter and stay up to speed on the latest news by using #DAYTONA500 and #SPEEDWEEKS. Stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest for the latest news all season long. You can also stay updated on the latest information by downloading the new version of Daytona International Speedway’s mobile app.

### **New Version of Daytona International Speedway Mobile App Now Available**

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - Daytona International Speedway (DIS) is excited to announce that a new version of its mobile app is now available for download on iOS and Android devices. As part of the \$400 million DAYTONA Rising redevelopment project, the updated DIS mobile app helps race fans take full advantage of the amenities and offerings at the new motorsports stadium during upcoming events such as Speedweeks 2016.

The DIS mobile app offers a variety of features to help fans find their way around the new stadium including Bluetooth-based indoor and GPS-based outdoor turn-by-turn navigation. It also includes an interactive GPS facility map and the ability to drop pins to remember certain locations like a parking spot.

“When fans attend sporting events, they expect to have a complete and fully-advanced technology system that will enhance their overall experience,” said Daytona International Speedway President Joie Chitwood III.

“The updated DIS app does just that by keeping fans connected to what’s happening on and off the track, and we’re excited that it will enable fans to truly immerse themselves in our events and interact with us on a whole new level.”

Also included in the new version of the app is location-based proximity engagement technology. The DIS app offers dynamic experiences for fans as they enter each of the new injectors/entrances from DIS Founding Partners such as Toyota, Florida Hospital, Chevrolet and Sunoco.

Additionally, the DIS app is fully integrated with the new DAYTONA Rewards program, with locations throughout the property to provide one unified mobile experience for fans. DAYTONA Rewards provides another way for fans to interact

with DIS and its partners. To participate, fans only need to a complete a one-time registration in which they are issued a unique QR code. Using that code, fans will be able to play games, see photos and videos, win prizes and more. Fans can pre-register now at <http://www.disrewards.com/>, inside the new app or register onsite at the DAYTONA Rewards locations.

A customizable daily schedule, advanced notifications and the ability to stay up-to-date with DIS Facebook, Twitter and RSS News feeds round out the features in this interactive offering. The DIS app is available for free on iTunes and Google Play. Fans attending Speedweeks 2016 and other upcoming DIS events are encouraged to download the app by visiting the iTunes store or Google Play Store.

### **John Cena Named Honorary Pace Car Driver**

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - WWE Superstar and actor John Cena will serve as the Honorary Pace Car Driver for the 58th annual DAYTONA 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. at Daytona International Speedway (TV – FOX, FOX Deportes; Radio – MRN Radio, SiriusXM). Cena will pace the 43-car field to the green flag in a Toyota Camry.

Cena, a 15-time WWE World Heavyweight Champion, has been at the forefront of WWE’s programming for more than a decade, and most recently starred on the big screen in the Golden Globe-nominated “*Trainwreck*” as well as “*Sisters*” with Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. He next will host FOX’s upcoming reality competition series *AMERICAN GRIT*, in which contestants work together to complete a variety of military-grade and survival-themed challenges. The series premieres Thursday, April 14 (9:00 -10:00 pm ET/PT) on FOX.

In addition to his celebrity accolades, Cena is a wish ambassador for Make-A-Wish having granted more than 500 wishes – more than any other celebrity or athlete in the history of the organization. Make-A-Wish has recognized Cena’s unwavering dedication to children with life-threatening medical conditions with their highest honor, the Chris Greicius Award.



## **Bristol Motor Speedway**

BRISTOL, TN -

Race fans attending the Food City 500 are in for a treat as they "Listen to the Music" during The Doobie Brothers Pre-Race concert on Sunday, April 17 at Bristol Motor Speedway. The four-time GRAMMY Award-winning band will bring their powerhouse rock n' roll to one of NASCAR's biggest races. With

iconic hits such as "China Grove," "Long Train Runnin,'" "Listen to the Music" and "Black Water," The Doobie Brothers will get the race day party started.

Led by original members Tom Johnston, Patrick Simmons, and longtime-member John McFee, the band continues to break genre barriers; most-recently releasing *Southbound*, an album of fan favorites re-recorded with some of country music's biggest stars including: Blake Shelton, Zac Brown Band, Brad Paisley, and Toby Keith.

"We can't wait to see the Doobie Brothers' energetic performance at the Food City 500 pre-race concert," said Jerry Caldwell, executive vice president and general manager for Bristol Motor Speedway. "They are an American musical institution with many songs guests will recognize and sing along to; it will be a memorable experience for everyone."

Tickets are currently available for race weekend by visiting [BristolTix.com](http://BristolTix.com) or calling (855) 580-5525. While supplies last, Food City 500 ticket holders may add on a pre-race SuperPass and be stage-side (on the track) for the concert featuring The Doobie Brothers. The SuperPass also includes a Track Walk and track access for Bristol's wildly popular Food City 500 Driver Introductions.

## **Atlanta Motor Speedway**

HAMPTON, GA - Atlanta Motor Speedway is an oasis for race fans who want to spend every possible minute of the NASCAR weekend within shouting distance of the track. A new social venue, a money-saving camping package complete with tickets for all three days of racing, and an ultimate camping experience giveaway courtesy of Honda highlight this year's camping lineup at the 2016 Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 week-

end.

The Park Pavilion, similar to the Gathering Place which opened last year, is a center for race weekend activity, located adjacent to Bruton Smith Park, near the Blue parking lot. It features a large patio, a fire pit and picnic tables and is open to both fans and campers alike.

"The Park Pavilion is another feature we've incorporated especially with campers in mind," said Ed Clark, Atlanta Motor Speedway president. "It provides an inviting atmosphere in a convenient location for our camping fans to mix and mingle and share their race weekend experiences."

The Happy Camper Special is an all-new budget friendly camping and race ticket package option for campers attending the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 weekend. For just \$275, the package includes a weekend space in the Legends RV Campground, two general admission tickets to Friday's Active Pest Control Qualifying Day and Saturday's XFINITY Series and Camping World Truck Series doubleheader, and a pair of tickets in the Lower Earnhardt Grandstand for Sunday's Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500.

Atlanta Motor Speedway is again teaming up with Honda in 2016 to give away the ultimate camping experience during the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 weekend. The package includes one infield camping space for race weekend, four infield passes, four weekend pre-race pit passes, one \$250 Camping World merchandise certificate and a Honda EU2000i generator. There is no purchase necessary to enter, and fans can register by logging on to [www.atlantamotorspeedway.com/honda](http://www.atlantamotorspeedway.com/honda) today.

Reserved camping areas at Atlanta Motor Speedway start at just \$100, and options include tent and pop-up camping, coveted infield RV locations, luxurious lakeside spaces and even select trackside locations complete with full amenities, views overlooking the AMS oval and both grandstand and pre-race pit passes. Handicap camping spaces are also available. Fans are encouraged to secure their camping plans early, as a limited number of reserved spaces are available.

Camping areas outside the track and all unreserved areas will open on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 8 a.m. Trackside and infield camping areas open to campers on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.

For more information about all camping options and upgrades, call

the AMS ticket office at (770) 946-4211, (877) 9-AMS-TIX or visit [www.atlantamotorspeedway.com/events/camping/](http://www.atlantamotorspeedway.com/events/camping/).

## **Darlington Raceway**

DARLINGTON, SS - Darlington Raceway is pleased to announce that it is once again giving fans the opportunity to participate in a special race day celebration featuring several NASCAR Hall of Fame inductees and legends that helped build the foundation of the sport.

The Bojangles' Legends Breakfast, considered one of the most memorable moments of last season's Labor Day race weekend, will once again feature a panel of NASCAR icons, including Darrell Waltrip, Rusty Wallace and Leonard Wood, among others. The "fireside chat" will be moderated by NASCAR Hall of Fame executive director Winston Kelley.

"Darlington Raceway served as the backdrop for countless memorable moments that our NASCAR Hall of Fame inductees experienced over the decades," says Winston Kelley. "Having the true legends of our sport continue to come back to help honor a place that is rooted in some of their proudest achievements and our sport's most defining points in history is another reminder of the significance Darlington plays in both our past and future."

The once-in-a-lifetime event was a must-see for over 1,000 race fans that participated in the breakfast in 2015.

"Last year's Bojangles' Legends Breakfast was one of our favorite events of the race weekend," Darlington Raceway President Chip Wile said. "To see so many NASCAR icons in one place at one time was very special. We honored them during our throwback weekend in a truly special way. We had so much positive feedback from fans and stakeholders about the breakfast it was an easy decision to bring the event back for another year. With a great partner like Bojangles', who will serve their award winning breakfast, it will be an event you don't want to miss."

The promotion kicks off on Wednesday, Feb. 17. Fans that purchase their seats to the Sept. 4 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500 will receive free access to the Bojangles' Legends Breakfast while supplies last.

This offer will be valid for ticket purchases made through the Feb. 21 Daytona 500 by calling 866-459-7223, visiting [www.DarlingtonRaceway.com](http://www.DarlingtonRaceway.com) or through the

track's mobile app.

The Bojangles' Legends Breakfast will take place on Sunday morning, Sept. 4 from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the track's hospitality village just outside turn three.

The Tradition Continues on Labor Day weekend as the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Bojangles' Southern 500® is set for Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016. The NASCAR XFINITY Series VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero 200 will race on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016.

You can keep up with all of the latest news at [DarlingtonRaceway.com](http://DarlingtonRaceway.com), [Facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonRaceway) and at [Twitter.com/TooToughToTame](https://twitter.com/TooToughToTame). Fans are encouraged to post their Bojangles' Southern 500 stories and memories at #TraditionContinues, #BojanglesSo500 and #SportClips200.

## **Eldora Speedway**

ROSSBURG, OH - The renewals were strong for Eldora's "Big Four" races and beginning today, fans can purchase tickets, suites and select campsites for all 28 racing events at the legendary half-mile dirt oval.

All orders can be placed at [www.EldoraSpeedway.com](http://www.EldoraSpeedway.com), by phone at (937) 338-3815 or at the box office at the race track.

Since December the ticketing department has been filling orders for the major events: the 22nd annual Dirt Late Model Dream presented by Ferris Mowers; the expanded 33rd annual Kings Royal, the 4th Annual NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and the 46th annual World 100.

Now tickets are available for the balance of the highly-anticipated season, including the 63rd Season Opener (April 16), the #LetsRaceTwo Weekend featuring the World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series and the USAC National Sprint Cars (May 6-7) and the 35th Four Crown Nationals (September 23-24) where \$100,000 will be awarded to any driver winning all four races on Saturday.

Due to popular demand, Reserved Camping is again available at the #LetsRaceTwo and Four Crown Nationals weekends.

As always, online is the best and easiest way to order tickets for all events, but fans may call (937) 338-3815 or show up in person at the box office. Camping and Indoor Suites are now also easily reserved online. The complete schedule for Eldora's 63rd consecutive season, including ticket and campsite information, is available at [www.EldoraSpeedway.com](http://www.EldoraSpeedway.com).



# PUBLIC AUCTION

*Selling Race Car Parts and Equipment*

**February 23, 24, 25, 2016**

Starting at 9:30 AM – Doors open at 8:00 AM

## SALE LOCATION:

8955 W NC Hwy. 152, Mooresville, NC, 28115; From I-77 North of Charlotte to Exit 36, go East on 150 approx. 6 miles to Junction 152, hang a right and go approx. 2 • miles to Sale Site; Watch for Auction Signs

## PARTIAL SALE LISTING – RACE PARTS

Exhaust Pcs, C/F Air Boxes, Radiator Hose, Window Nets, Calipers, Sway Bars, Alum Tanks, Rotors, Shock Parts, R07 Heads, Carbon Fiber Pcs, Headers, Rods – Carrillo & Pankl, SB2 Heads, Steel Rockers, Upper & Lower A-arms, Crankshafts, Aeroquip, Coil Springs, Braided Line, Driveshafts, Rearend Housings, Brake Pads, Tires and Wheels, Push Rods, Valves, Radiators, Oil Coolers, 2007 – 2015 Jeep full width front recovery winch mount bumper by Rampage; 2007 -2015 Jeep full width rear bumper by Rampage

## TERMS OF SALE:

Terms of sale is cash, cashier checks, money orders, traveler's checks, Visa or Mastercard. Business or Personal Checks must be accompanied by a Bank Letter of Credit submitted to cashier on Sale Days. There will be a 15% buyer's premium charged on each lot number sold, with a 5% discount given for cash. Driver's license or picture identification is required to register. All items sold "As Is, Where Is" with no guarantees or warranty expressed or implied. Buyers must settle and remove all items at the end of each sale day. Announcements sale day take precedence over any printed matter.

**Owners: Hendrick Motorsports,  
Race 101, Gnassi Motorsports,  
Plus Others**

Visit our website for additional info:

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NCAL #8595  
IN AU10800010

Danny Irvin, Auctioneer  
NCAL #8657  
IN AU10800039

Auction Firm License #8623

## **NOTE:**

**This is our first regular sale of the new year; will be unpacking and setting up sale next week. Please plan to attend and see what other items we may uncover**

**ADDITIONAL SALE DATE: Mar 22, 23, 24, 2016**

Hendrick Motorsports  
8955 W NC Hwy 152, Mooresville, NC 28115

# Gilliland Wins K&N Pro Series East Opener at New Smyrna

NEW SMYRNA, FL - Todd Gilliland started his 2016 season in the same fashion he finished last year – with a win in a debut race.

Gilliland drove the No. 16 NAPA AUTO PARTS Toyota Camry to Victory Lane at New

Smyrna Speedway in Florida on Sunday night as he made his series debut in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East season opener.

The 15-year-old third-generation racer from Sherrils Ford, North Carolina had closed out 2015 with a victory as he made his debut in the K&N Pro Series West season finale in November. He is now two-for-two driving for Bill McAnally Racing in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series.

"I can't thank everyone at BMR enough for the great preparation," said Gilliland, the son of NASCAR Sprint Cup Series veteran David Gilliland. "We had a really good NAPA Toyota."

He paced the field throughout the day, topping the speed chart in practice and then winning the pole award in qualifying. Gilliland slipped to third at the drop of the green flag, however, and had to charge back. He moved into the lead on Lap 24 and built up a margin of more than three seconds by the halfway point in the race.

After losing the lead on a Lap 114 restart, Gilliland had to make another comeback as the laps wound down. Although he had led a majority of the race, it took a fierce door-to-door battle in the end for him to edge out the win.

"We were running the leader back down and were under him when another caution came out," he said. "Then we did it all again."

Despite having confidence in a strong car, it was a challenge to mount a comeback late in the race, Gilliland said.

"You're always concerned when you lead the whole race and lose it on a restart like that," he said. "It's really hard to lose the lead and have to race back."

Gilliland's BMR teammate, Riley Herbst, also had a successful night in his first race in a NASCAR K&N Pro Series car. Although disappointed after qualifying 17th on the

grid, the 16-year-old Las Vegas driver rebounded to break into the top 10 and finish ninth.

"We started mid-pack and had to work our way through all the traffic," Herbst said. "I wish we would have had a little more saved at the end, but it was a pretty good night for the NOS Energy Drink Toyota team."

The NASCAR K&N Pro Series East race from New Smyrna Speedway is slated to air on NBCSN at 11:30 p.m. ET on Feb. 25. It was part of the 50th Annual World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing on the half-mile oval at New Smyrna.

## Majeski Closes the Deal This Time

NEW SMYRNA, FL - Ty Majeski had to settle for second behind Steven Wallace on Opening Night. Saturday night, he got the shot at Wallace in the closing laps and pulled out the victory on Night 2 of the 50th Annual World Series of Asphalt Racing at New Smyrna Speedway.

Wallace settled for second ahead of defending World Series champion Zane Smith.

"It's huge," said Majeski. "Last year we won on Saturday night and had the off day on Sunday, and kind of relaxed and thought about what we had to do to make the car a little bit faster. And hopefully we'll come out firing on Monday."

The 21-year-old from Seymour, Wisconsin, also won the 2015 Florida Governor's Cup in November.



Ty Majeski grabbed the 35-lap Super Late Model win Saturday night at New Smyrna (Fla.) Speedway. (JASON CHRISTLEY/NASCAR photo)



Todd Gilliland is 2-for-2 in his K&N Pro Series career with Sunday's win at New Smyrna. (SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES photo)

Majeski closed in on Wallace as a long green-flag run ate up most of the second half of the race. But a late caution slowed Majeski's advantage.

"I started to get a run on him, he started to get real loose off in the center," said Majeski. "I got a run on him and unfortunately, the caution came out. Definitely not what I wanted to see. "The outside on the restarted are real critical here. I knew I was going to be stuck on the bottom."

"These 35 lap races, your car's got to be free to maintain a go, but it's just finding that fine line," Wallace said. "First and second is pretty damn good. It's just when I got down in Turn 1, Ty ran up there and smashed my left rear and kind of moved me up the track. But that's just good short track racing. But overall, not too bad."

Majeski, however, was able to track Wallace back down in the closing laps and make the pass with two to go.

"We've got to work on our car a

little bit, we're going to tune it up," said Wallace, "We're going to work on the car, get it all cleaned up, prepared and ready for Kill Mode on Monday."

Two red flags slowed the first half of the race and attrition took out many of the contenders. In fact, Smith cut a tire under one caution and was able to come back for a podium spot.

"I didn't think we had a top three there - especially after we blew a right rear," said Smith. "But we came back. We restarted 10th and just made our way back up."

Derek Thorn, who started on the pole, finished fourth and Stephen Nasse was fifth.

Christian Eckes, Dalton Armstrong, Austin Nason, Garrett Hall and Tanner Gray completed the top 10.

Thorn managed to hold off a charging Daniel Keene Jr. in the last five laps to win the second Pro Late Model feature of the week.

Josh Todd kicked off the second night of the 50th Annual World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing by winning the Florida Modified feature.

## Wallace Sets the Tone for the Week Wins Opening Night Super Late Feature at New Smyrna

NEW SMYRNA, FL - Steven Wallace won the first trophy of the 50th Annual World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing at New Smyrna Speedway.

The 29-year-old Charlotte, North Carolina, native won the 35-lap Super Late Model feature after (Continued on next page...)

(Continued...)

using the night's three cautions to his advantage to power past his competition.

"Our Jet Tools Chevy was very good tonight," said Wallace, who started fifth after the invert of the top eight qualifiers. "We just kind of worked our way back up to the front. Some action happened off Turn 1 – the two leaders ran into each other and wrecked each other off Turn 2 – and I inherited the lead."

Wallace gained control on Lap 16 and held off a charging Ty Majeski and Harrison Burton through two more cautions to come out on top five.

The son of NASCAR Hall of Famer Rusty Wallace won the Super Late Model championship two years ago at New Smyrna.

"The car was really fast tonight – we were able to get up top and carry a lot of momentum," said Wallace. "It just feels real good to come out of the box, the first night with a win; we feel we're going to have a pretty good World Series."

The race went green the last 17 laps, allowing Wallace to pull away from Majeski.

"We battled a lot at the Governor's Cup and he raced me clean. I tried to do the same to him (but) we didn't quite have the car to go up there and battle with him," said Majeski. "Some of the guys we thought we were going to have to race with in points had issues tonight. I feel very fortunate to keep the car in one piece, especially these early days in the week."

Burton, the 15-year-old son of former NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Jeff Burton, started in the rear of the field after needing to make a mechanical fix after qualifying. He managed to pick his way to a podium finish.

"I just tried to stay out of the wrecks and slowly work our way up," Burton said. "It's important to keep your head down in these races and not get in a wreck."

Tyler Ankrum and Martin Latulipe rounded out the top five.

Dalton Armstrong was sixth, followed by David Garbo Jr., defending New Smyrna World Series Super Late Model champ Zane Smith, Christian Eckes and Derek Thorn.

Todd Gilliland, who started on the pole, finished 24th. Cole Ander-

son, who won the Red-Eye 100 and Orange Blossom 100 at New Smyrna, was also among those involved in a wreck and he finished 25th.

Cameron Ray won the inaugural Florida Modified feature of the week.

Daniel Keene Jr. started the week strong, taking home the Pro Late Model win.

Patrick Thomas capped off the first night at New Smyrna earning the Sportsman feature victory.

### Landauer Named to Drive for BMR Track Champ Joins K&N Pro Lineup of Drivers

ROSEVILLE, CA - Bill McAnally Racing today announced that Julia Landauer will join the team's lineup in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series for 2016.

Landauer brings with her a diverse racing resume that includes a NASCAR Whelen All-American Series championship this past season in the Limited Late Model division at Motor Mile Speedway in Radford, Virginia.

The 24-year-old – who is originally from New York City; but currently resides in Charlotte, North Carolina – joins a BMR driver lineup that includes Chris Eggleston, Todd Gilliland, and Riley

Herbst. Plans call for all four drivers to run the full schedule in the K&N Pro Series West, along with select events in the K&N Pro Series East.

"It's great to have Julia join the BMR team, as she moves up to the K&N Pro Series," said BMR President Bill McAnally. "She has experienced success in a variety of racing venues and we want to provide her the opportunity to continue that success at this level of competition. We look forward to working with her again and anticipate an exciting season ahead."

It marks a return to BMR for Landauer, who competed in a handful of NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Late Model races for the race team at All American Speedway in Roseville, California in 2009.

Landauer will be making her debut in the K&N Pro Series as she launches into her rookie season in 2016.

"I couldn't be more excited to be racing in the K&N Pro Series with Bill McAnally Racing," Landauer said. "Bill and I have worked together in the past, so I'm really looking forward to building on that relationship for a great team dynamic this year."

"After a track championship in 2015, it's time to carry that momentum into 2016," she said. "BMR is a successful, hard working group of people who produce top-notch

equipment and I can't wait to get on track for the first race. A huge thank you to all of the partners who helped make this season come together."

Landauer began her racing career at the age of 13, competing in the Skip Barber Racing series in 2005. The following year she ran the full series and became the first female champion in the history of the series, scoring 12 wins.

Her racing resume also includes Formula BMW in 2007, Ford Focus Midgets in 2008, late model events with BMR in 2009, select late model races at South Boston (Virginia) Speedway in 2010/2011, and partial seasons in Legend cars from 2012 to 2014. She became the first woman to win a NASCAR track championship in the Limited Late Model division at Motor Mile Speedway in 2015.

Landauer has been busy away from the track, as well. She graduated from Stanford University in 2014, with a bachelor's degree in science, technology and society. Landauer took a short hiatus from racing in 2012 to be a cast member on the television series "Survivor." She made it to day 19 before being eliminated in the season that aired in early 2013.

Landauer is also an advocate for women in sports and in education in the field of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



Julia Landauer joins a BMR driver lineup that includes Chris Eggleston, Todd Gilliland, and Riley Herbst. (Photo Courtesy of Bill McAnally Racing)

## Secret Weapons Help Townley to Victory Lane at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards veteran John Wes Townley has a secret weapon at Daytona; his name is Kevin Reed. Townley, in a brand new Zaxby's Chevrolet, returned to the Gatorade Victory Lane at Daytona Int'l Speedway with an old friend. Reed who crew-chiefed Townley to Victory Lane in 2013 at Daytona with a different team, reunited with Townley just in time to win the Lucas Oil 200 Driven By General Tire Saturday afternoon.

"This is just awesome," Townley said. "We had it planned from the beginning, but plans rarely work out at Daytona, but they did today. The calls Kevin Reed made from pit road were spot on. He was with me for my win here in 2013 and it definitely means a lot to have him back. What a way to start the year. This is really special."

However, Reed wasn't the only secret weapon Townley had during the 80-lap, 200-mile race.

"It was quite a ride there for a while, running three-wide at times, but my spotter...Terry Cook...he really helped me out. He's won Camping World Truck Series races and I learned so much from him today. I just want to thank Zaxby's, ARCA and General Tire...this is really cool to be a part of."

The win not only reunited Townley with Reed, it was the first win for the new Tony Townley-owned Athenian Motorsports team.

Eighteen-year-old rookie William Byron, in the No. 55 Liberty University Toyota, finished second, three lengths away (.209 seconds/margin of victory) at the final stripe. It was Byron's career-first start at Daytona.

"I was really looking, watching my mirrors to see what we might be able to do," said Byron, who tied his career-best ARCA finish.

"I came over the radio to see if I could back up to anyone to get a run, but by then we were only in a tight pack of three, so I had to sit tight.

"I just want to thank Venturini Motorsports. They gave me a great racecar all weekend. I was really

just learning all day, trying to stay patient and learn the process of drafting in the pack. When it got three-wide, you had to learn on the fly and put your trust in the guys around you."

Byron also earned the SCOTT Highest Finishing Rookie of the Race award.

Kyle Weatherman, in the No. 58 Lira Motorsports Ford, battled from the 32nd starting position on very little practice as a result of an engine change Friday. The Wentzville, Missouri driver also barely missed a multi-car crash just as the leaders began the third lap.

"Maybe that was a blessing in disguise (starting in the back)," Weatherman said.

"I could have been right in the middle of that. Starting in the back definitely helped today. Everything happens for a reason. After that first crash, I had to keep my eyes wide open."

Weatherman was referring to a nine-car wreck in the tri-oval, triggered when Derrick Lancaster and Cole Powell made contact in a tight pack. Bobby Gerhart, Kevin Thomas, Jr., Shane Lee, Austin

Wayne Self, Jairo Avila, Mark Thompson, Cole Powell, Lancaster and Gus Dean were involved. Gerhart, Self, Lee, Dean and Avila were evaluated in the infield care center and released.

"Today was a big learning curve," added Weatherman, also making his Daytona debut. "This is the biggest track I've ever been on. I learned everything this place could throw at me today. I learned you have to trust the people around you...you hope they're your friends."

Chase Briscoe, in the No. 77 Cunningham Motorsports Dodge, finished fourth in his Daytona debut. Frank Kimmel finished fifth in the No. 46 JUICE Batteries Ford for Team Stange, a brand new team for Kimmel.

"Today was pretty remarkable," Kimmel said. "Our guys really fought hard for this. We didn't have enough time to prepare for this race. We had great pit strategy...the General Tire ran great all day...we never put a tire on it. Thank the 22 car (Kevin Thomas, Jr.)...he pushed us really hard. Great day. Thanks to John and Ashley Stange for believing in me. We have our eyes on a championship."

Bo LeMastus finished a career-best sixth in his own No. 42 Crosley Brands Dodge. Kevin Thomas, Jr., in a second Cunningham car, finished seventh in his series debut in

the No. 22 Bakken Concrete-KT Construction Services Dodge.

Willie Mullins, with some help from his crew chief Andy Belmont, finished a career-best eighth in his Daytona debut in the No. 34 Bugsy's Auto Repair-Crow Wing Recycling Ford. Gray Gaulding, who turned 18 on February 10, finished ninth in his series debut in the No. 38 Krispy Kreme Ford. Cole Custer rounded out the top-10 finishers in the No. 54 Haas Automation Chevrolet, a car fielded by Ken Schrader Racing.

Custer also won the Menards Pole Award presented by Ansell and led the most laps – 42 overall.

Townley spent much of the race outside the leader Custer, but once the Watkinsville, Georgia driver got to the bottom on lap 50, no driver could find a way around the eventual winner.

Will Kimmel was a strong contender all day, leading five laps in the back half of the race, but ran out of gas under five laps remaining, relegating the Sellersburg, Indiana driver to 18th in the final running order.

Despite a red flag for the aforementioned pile-up for 11 minutes, the race, which also included three cautions, was completed in one hour, 27 minutes and 45 seconds.

The next event for the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards is on April 9 at Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway.



John Wes Townley exits his winning racer in Daytona International Speedway's victory lane after winning the Lucas Oil 200. (ARCA photo)

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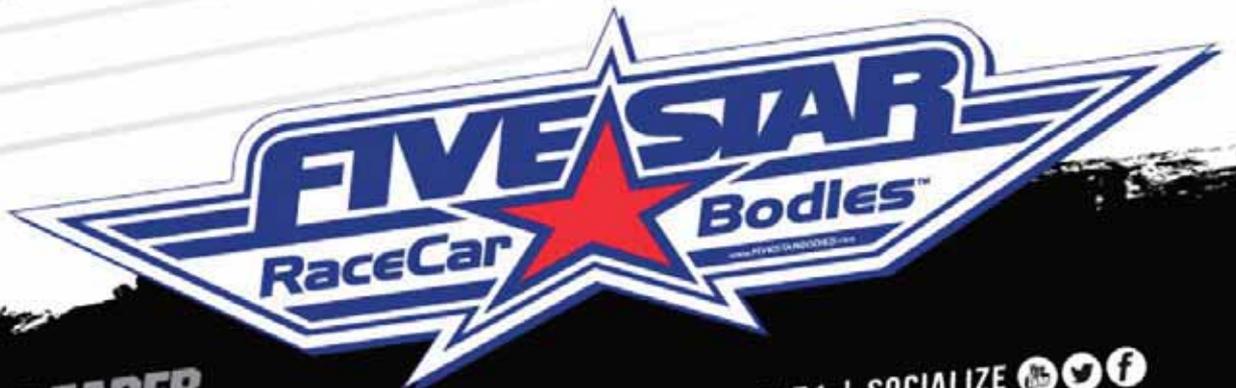
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## Davenport Wins in First Lucas Oil Visit to Bubba Raceway Park

OCALA, FL - Defending Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series National Champion, Jonathan Davenport took the lead on lap 31 from Scott Bloomquist and sped on to win the LOLMDS event on Sunday Night at Bubba Raceway Park. Scott Bloomquist was in command of the

race until Davenport and Josh Richards went by him. A few laps later Bloomquist's night ended with a flat right rear tire.

Richards finished second to Davenport, followed by Brandon Sheppard, Eddie Carrier Jr., and Frank Heckenast Jr.

"We got beat around out there pretty good early in the race. We'd pass a couple of cars then there would be a caution and I would have to go back. It got to be quite frustrating for a while. I just kept being patient though. The ignition problems we have been having were in the back of my mind tonight. I know Kevin, Lee Roy and Brian went to work on the car and they looked it over meticulously to have it ready for me and once we got past Josh [Richards] there it really took off."

Richards completed a successful Georgia-Florida Speedweeks with the LOLMDS series garnering a runner-up spot to Davenport. "The new Rocket car has been exceptional since we came down here. We have been here several times before and that definitely helped tonight. The track was different than what we have seen in the past. We made the right choice on tires and set-up. Congrats to Jonathan on the win, he deserved it! Anytime we can run close to him the way he has been running the last couple of years, says a lot for our team and our preparation."

Sheppard, who started 15th on the grid made his way to third as the 23-year-old unofficially moved to second in the championship points standings. "We have been here before and won, so we had some experience with set-ups and such. Mark Richards came over and helped us some tonight. It was another strong points night for the Best Performance Motorsports Team."

Completing the top ten were Tim

McCreadie, Ivedent Lloyd, Jr. Don O'Neal, Gregg Satterlee, and Jared Landers.

In preliminary action, Jonathan Davenport set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time (Group B) amongst the 26 entrants, with a lap of 14.185 seconds. Josh Richards set the fastest time in Group A with a time of 14.249 seconds. Scott Bloomquist, Eddie Carrier Jr., and Ivedent Lloyd Jr. won their respective heat races.

For the latest breaking news on the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, including the latest series standings, 2016 tour schedule, driver information, and more visit the official website at: [www.lucas-dirt.com](http://www.lucas-dirt.com).

### Zeigler Zips to Victory Lane at East Bay Finale

TAMPA, FL - Mason Zeigler pulled a major upset by winning the finale of the 40th Annual Winternationals on Saturday Night at East Bay Raceway Park. Zeigler passed race leader Scott Bloomquist on lap 23 and held off the Hall-of-Fame driver to capture the biggest win of his career in the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series sanctioned event.

A packed grandstand stood on its collective feet as Bloomquist charged to the inside of Zeigler on the final lap, but his charge fell one car length short as the 23-year-old Pennsylvania driver crossed the line first.

Bloomquist finished second, followed by 10th starting Dennis Erb Jr., Gregg Satterlee, and Darrell Lanigan.

"I just worked my tires so hard to get to the lead," said Zeigler, who started fourth on the grid. "I didn't think my right rear would survive the whole race, so I focused on slowing down once I got by him [Bloomquist]."

Zeigler held a steady pace over the field as Bloomquist and several other drivers were running two and three wide behind the leader for the first half of the 60 lap event.

"This week, we have been up at 7 am to work on the car every day. We let JD [Jonathan Davenport] drive the car one night this week just to see what was wrong. They found some things in the brakes and other parts of the car that



Second place finisher Josh Richards (right) offers his congratulations in victory lane to race winner Jonathan Davenport (left). (LOLMDS photo)

needed addressed and they helped get us straightened out. I would like to thank Kevin Rumley and Longhorn Chassis for such a spectacular ride."

"We have put a new front fender on the car each race this week. We have thrashed and thrashed all week to get to here [in victory lane]. To get the biggest win of my career in front of a live broadcast audience and for TV is just great. This is a dream come true!"

Zeigler's Longhorn Chassis is powered by a Pro Power Engine and sponsored by Ohio Pyle Vacation Rentals, Gotta Race, and Old Mill Farms.

Bloomquist complemented the young driver on his victory. "He [Zeigler] drove a very good race. I

didn't see him until he got alongside me on the outside and he just drove off from there. We were in rush mode all night long. We found a cracked transmission and I was working with the shocks and trying to decide what right rear to put on, it was pretty crazy."

"We started off pretty well. The car fired better than I thought it would. I tried to keep pace with him [Zeigler] and while doing that, also trying not to hurt the tires. We closed in on him in the last few laps and he left the door open just enough that I was able to get to his driver's door, but couldn't get any further. My hat's off to him!"

Erb snuck by Satterlee at the end to get third. "It was our best run of the week, no doubt. We hadn't seen those track conditions all week. My car was good the entire race. There was two and three wide racing for a long time tonight. I'd like to give special thanks to McBride Mack, M&S Concrete, Cheap Cars, and J.R. McBride Leasing."

Completing the top ten were Jimmy Owens, Tim McCreadie, Brandon Sheppard, Don O'Neal, and Randy Weaver.

In preliminary action, Jonathan Davenport set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time (Group B) amongst the 35 entrants, with a lap of 15.012 seconds. Scott Bloomquist set the fastest time in Group A with a time of 15.152 seconds. Scott Bloomquist, Tim McCreadie, Jonathan Davenport, and Mason Zeigler won their respective heat races. Tim Dohm and Kyle Bronson won their respective B-Mains. Chad Hollenbeck, David Breazeale, and Nick Davis earned the Miller Welders Fast Time Provisionals. James Rice won the DirtOnDirt.com Strawberry Dash.



Mason Zeigler celebrates winning the finale of the 40th Annual Winternationals at East Bay Raceway Park beating out Scott Bloomquist. (LOLMDS photo)

## Davenport Prevails Again at East Bay Internationals

TAMPA, FL - Jonathan Davenport passed Scott Bloomquist with ten laps to go and went on to win the Internationals event on Friday Night. Davenport's win was his second of the week in Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series competition at East Bay Raceway Park.

Trailing Davenport and Bloomquist to the checkered flag were Darrell Lanigan, Don O'Neal, and Tim McCreddie.

"Just like last night, I gave it all I had. I saved my equipment and my tires. We still have electrical issues with this motor. It was breaking up so bad, that I could only run three-quarters of the throttle until the end of the race. Lee Roy [Rumley] told me if it was skipping too badly, to pull it in. I only ran the first five laps with it skipping," said a smiling Davenport afterwards.

Bloomquist took off and led the caution-plagued event until Davenport went by him coming to the flagstand on lap 40. Before that, Davenport had a hard-fought battle with Lanigan for second. He broke away from that and was able to challenge Bloomquist for the top spot.

"This Longhorn Chassis; Kevin Rumley he has got this thing working great. With all of the stuff going on, we are as good as we were last year. With all the cautions, I don't think it helped tire wear any. I couldn't take off at the starts. It took a couple of laps to get the heat back in them."

"Darrell and I had a pretty good race for a while. I kind of pinched him off going into turn one and got into the back of Scott [Bloomquist]. I knew if could stay in front him [Lanigan] I would have a chance at Scott at the end of the race. Scott's car was really good. He is the master of all of this stuff. Once I got going, he started to slow down going into one. I knew after that last restart that I was going to roll around him on the top."

Davenport's K&L Rumley-owned entry is sponsored by Baird Transport, Elite Concrete, Mac Trailers, Mega Plumbing of Carolinas, National Transportation, Race Note, JRi Shocks, Sunoco, Dirt Wrap, FK Rod Ends, Bryson Motorsports, CV Products, and Midwest Sheet

Metal.

Bloomquist beat Davenport to the finish line the night before, and commented on his race tonight. "I think everything went pretty well until the end. Last night I tore up the tires a little more. The black got a little icy tonight. We didn't cut up the tire like we did last night. Our restarts weren't what we are accustomed to. I would spin the tires, and he [Davenport] got too good of a jump."

"He [Davenport] ran really well tonight. Hopefully we learned some things for tomorrow night. Our car seemed really well balanced out there, but it was still a little bit tight. I had to 3-wheel brake the car to get it to turn. I want to thank Mark Martin Honda, Reece Monument, Crop Production Services, Sorbera Chiropractic, Horton Coal, and everyone else who makes this possible."

Lanigan is in his first full-year running the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series for Clint Bowyer Racing and was pleased with his third place finish.

"We had a good car early on. The last ten laps, we sort of fell off a bit, but we've got a pretty good piece with this Georgia Boot/Club 29 car. It was good finish for the team with [Don] O'Neal getting fourth."

Completing the top ten were Brandon Sheppard, Jared Landers, Jimmy Owens, Devin Moran, and Earl Pearson Jr.

In preliminary action, Jonathan Davenport set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time (Group B) amongst the 35 entrants, with a lap of 14.819 seconds. Scott Bloomquist set the fastest time in Group A with a time of 14.829 seconds. Scott Bloomquist, Jared Landers, Jonathan Davenport, and Don O'Neal won their respective heat races. Mason Zeigler and David Breazeale won their respective B-Mains. Bobby Pierce earned the Miller Welders Fast Time Provisional and Austin Kirkpatrick won the DirtOnDirt.com Strawberry Dash.

### Bloomquist Runs Away with Thursday East Bay Victory

TAMPA, FL - Scott Bloomquist held off a late charge from Jonathan Davenport to win the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series

sanctioned event on Thursday Night at East Bay Raceway Park. Bloomquist took the lead on lap two from Tim Dohm and then he held off Davenport and Gregg Satterlee for his seventh career win at the East Bay Internationals. Darrell Lanigan and Devin Moran rounded out the top five.

"There was plenty of room out there to race. A guy could move around on the track a lot tonight. If we needed to go to the top to get around a lapped car, it was still fast. We didn't want to overdrive. I didn't know how much damage I could do to the tires. After that last restart, it didn't take off like I wanted it too. They move the show along so quickly here, that it makes it's tough to make any major adjustments on the car. There were two or three more things to change but we didn't get the chance. Overall I am very happy with the car after

**(Continued Next Page)**

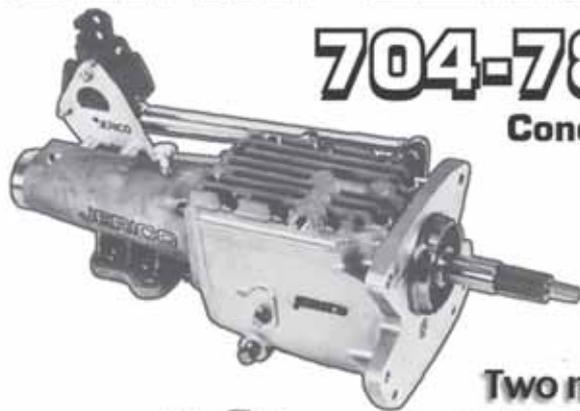


Scott Bloomquist celebrates in victory lane with his crew after running away with the win at East Bay Raceway. (LOLMDS photo)

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tonight's race," said Bloomquist.

"He [Davenport] didn't give me a whole lot of room on the start in our heat, but we were able to get by him. He [Davenport] is still running well. I can't take anything away from him for the way he is running. We are still working hard. We are up for the challenge and excited for tonight, and ready for the rest of the

week," said the 52-year-old Hall-of-Famer driver who recorded his 557th career win.

"I don't compliment people much, but I take my hat off to him [Davenport], he has definitely improved a lot. He has a good race-car underneath him and he is driving it for all its worth. He makes an old man step his game, no doubt! The track was excellent tonight. I can't believe how smooth it has been."

Davenport won his first career super late model feature at East Bay yesterday, and came up just short of making it back-to-back wins.

"It was a good race. It would have been more exciting for me if I would have won, but I gave it all I had in the last few laps. We tried to go the outside to make it work. We came home in second so that's not too bad."

Satterlee had his best finish of the Georgia-Florida Speed weeks, coming home in third place. The Pennsylvania driver ran as high as second.

"It's been tough. Our heads have been hanging in the pit area for the last couple of days. We are trying to stay positive with this new Rocket. We think we found how to balance the car out properly. It feels good to get a third place finish. We fell off there at the end. It was probably me trying to protect the bottom. I guess I just need to worry about going fast," said the driver of the Satterlee Petroleum, Andy Durham Racing Engines, Rocket.

Completing the top ten were Jared Landers, Earl Pearson Jr., Tim Dohm, Eddie Carrier Jr. and Ricky Weiss.

In preliminary action, Jonathan Davenport set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time (Group A) amongst the 38 entrants, with a lap of 14.706 seconds. Tim Dohm set the fastest time in Group B with a

time of 15.005 seconds. Scott Bloomquist, Gregg Satterlee, Tim Dohm, and Darrell Lanigan won their respective heat races. Steve Francis and Ricky Weiss won their respective B-Mains. Bobby Pierce earned the Miller Welders Fast Time Provisional and Nick Davis won the DirtOnDirt.com Strawberry Dash.

## Davenport Captures First East Bay Winternationals Win

TAMPA, FL - Jonathan Davenport returned to Lucas Oil Victory Lane on Wednesday Night at East Bay Raceway Park during the 40th Annual East Bay Winternationals. Davenport led 34 of the 35 laps, but had to withstand a late race challenge from both Tim McCreadie and Don O'Neal to get his first career win at East Bay.

McCreadie was going for the lead and the win heading to the checkers, but he hooked the cushion and ended up headlong into the wall. McCreadie was uninjured but his night was ended. On the final restart with one lap to go, O'Neal fell just short after trying to mount a final charge.

O'Neal finished in second, followed by Josh Richards, who saw his Lucas Oil win streak come to an end. Darrell Lanigan was fourth and Brandon Sheppard came home in fifth after starting in 18th.

Davenport was pleased with finally getting to victory lane at "The Clay by the Bay."

"We have tried a bunch of times to win here. This is a brand new car. We brought it out last night, and made some adjustments today. This place is just one of those that I have never been able to figure out. I learned a lot by following Marlar for the first lap and then lapped traffic."

"The car actually died once in turn three. I thought I had killed our chances for the win. It got to the point that it was getting hard to turn the car when we were up top on the track. Overall it was a good run. I could hear someone's motor there at the end. I didn't know who it was, but it turned out to be Timmy and I knew he was going to give a Hail Mary there on the last lap."

O'Neal started tenth and came into the race looking for his 17th career win at East Bay. He was pleased with his second place finish.

"We are going in the right direction now! Hopefully we can start up closer to the front tomorrow night. I am glad my teammate [Lanigan]

had a good run as well. We went with same set-up for both cars and it paid off. It was a pretty wild race; whoever got the breaks on the restart was going to get to the front."

"It was slick tonight, and it didn't rubber up like last night. It wasn't nearly as tough on tires as last night. We really want to win badly. We did well in Arizona back in January and hopefully we can get some wins before we are done here this week," said the 2014 LOLMDS Champion. "A big thank you goes out to everyone at Clint Bowyer Motorsports, Peak Antifreeze, and Motor Oil, Club 29 Race Cars, and everyone else that supports our team!"

Richards was looking to win for the third straight night at East Bay, but he salvaged a third-place finish. "It was old East Bay tonight; it was kind of 'rough and tumble'. I think everyone has damage on their car. It was a very competitive race. We got off to a good start, but in the middle of race we got all jumbled up and it cost us. All-in-all we have had a super good week," said the driver of the Mark Richards Racing, Rocket House Car.

Completing the top ten were Eddie Carrier Jr., Steve Francis, Billy Moyer Jr., Scott Bloomquist, and Bobby Pierce.

In preliminary action, Mike Marlar set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time (Group A) amongst the 40 entrants, with a lap of 14.730 seconds. Jonathan Davenport set the fastest time in Group B with a time of 14.789 seconds. Mike Marlar, Josh Richards, Jonathan Davenport, and Brian Shirley won their respective heat races. Devin Moran and Tim Dohm won their respective B-Mains. Ricky Weiss earned the Miller Welders Fast Time Provisional and Freddie Carpenter won the DirtOnDirt.com Strawberry Dash.

## Richards Keeps Rolling at East Bay Winternationals

TAMPA, FL - Josh Richards continued to dominate the competition on Tuesday Night at East Bay Raceway Park, winning his fourth Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series event of 2016. Richards took the lead from Jared Landers on lap nine after Landers jumped the turn four cushion.

Richards went on to win his sixth career East Bay Winternationals feature event. Scott Bloomquist finished second, followed by Tim McCreadie, Jonathan Davenport, and

Eddie Carrier Jr.

"We changed motors today. I was a little nervous about the balance we had in the car, but it worked out well in the feature. The track started off like last night, it was nice and fast. With the weather conditions tonight, you had to get to the front quickly to have a chance to win."

"The car tightened up quite a bit. We were way too tight for the conditions out there. I don't know how many more laps I had in that right rear; probably not many; the way it looks. Jared [Landers] got off to a good start. I just tried to stay under him and then he must have jumped the berm there and we were able to get by him. This place is tricky with the way you move around so much. I want to thank the fans for coming out tonight as well!"

Landers led the first eight laps, then fell to second behind Richards and held that spot until contact sent him spinning on lap 23. Bloomquist then moved into second and held off McCreadie for third.

Bloomquist who did not run Monday Night at East Bay said, "We got some rest last night. I have been feeling sick, so we decided to take the night off. The car was just a little bit free in the heat race, and I tightened it up way too much. That's not how I like to drive it," said the 2-time LOLMDS Champion.

"I thought Jared was getting a flat tire or something. I thought I was outside of him enough and I guess I just barely hooked him. I hate that because we are really good friends. We have race together a lot and that's the first time something has happened between us. I apologize for that! It was absolutely my fault."

McCreadie is following the LOLMDS for the first time in his career, and had another solid finish.

Completing the top ten were Devin Moran, Dennis Erb Jr., Don O'Neal, Steve Francis, and Mason Zeigler.

In preliminary action, Darrell Lanigan set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time (Group B) amongst the 41 entrants, with a lap of 14.763 seconds. Mike Marlar set the fastest time in Group A with a time of 14.773 seconds. Scott Bloomquist, Tim McCreadie, Jared Landers, and Josh Richards won their respective heat races.

Josh Richards and Jimmy Owens won their respective B-Mains. Mike Marlar earned the Miller Welders Fast Time Provisional and Freddie Carpenter won the DirtOnDirt.com Strawberry Dash.

## Brad Sweet Claims Victory, Big Gator Trophy

BARBERVILLE, FL - Brad Sweet continued his DIRTcar Nationals dominance Sunday night as he scored his second World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car Series feature victory of the season and claimed the coveted 'Big Gator' trophy by winning the Sprint Week championship.

"It's unbelievable," Sweet said. "The competition is so stiff that you have to put yourself in position each and every time you're on the race track and it's not easy, one mistake and you're behind the eight ball. Tonight we did pretty much everything right, and luckily the dash draw helped us there because it was going to be a tough track to pass on."

Sweet, who won the season opening series event at Volusia Speedway Park on Friday night, edged Greg Hodnett, who had been the picture of consistency all week, by just four points to win the 'Big Gator.' With Daryn Pittman's 2015 Sprint Week championship, it is the second year in a row Kasey Kahne Racing with Mike Curb has claimed the 'Big Gator' trophy.

The win rounded out a good night for Sweet who kicked it off by scoring the quick time in his No. 49 Razorback Professional Tools car. It was a DIRTcar Nationals quick time sweep for KKR after Sweet's teammate, Pittman, picked up the award the first two nights.

Joey Saldana, in his opening week with new team Roth Motorsports, led the field to the green flag. Before a lap could be completed there was a yellow flag for a crash and when the 30-lap feature got underway again a red flag flew.

As the feature got underway, Saldana led early with Sweet on his heels. Saldana caught traffic in his No. 83 car on lap eight. A caution again flew, this time on lap nine. The moment proved pivotal for Sweet as he battled past Saldana when the race returned to green. Through the next 20 laps, Sweet was the class of the field, adeptly maneuvering through the field and building distance between he and Saldana.

As the laps wound down, Saldana had his hands full with the No. 1Z of Lucas Wolfe. After a multi-lap battle, Wolfe, the 2008 Kevin Gob-

recht Rookie of the Year, got side-by-side with Saldana in turn one and completed the pass on the back straight.

Through the closing laps Saldana worked to hold off David Gravel, as Wolfe tried to run down Sweet. When the final checkered flag fell on sprint week, it was another Sweet victory.

"Hats off to these guys, it's an unbelievable car to driver," Sweet said.

"To show up down here like that, and we had a chance to win every single night, and all three of the Outlaw nights. Tonight going fast time, winning the heat and the main event, the only thing we didn't do is win the dash, so it's a hat off to [my crew]."

Through the first three features of the very young 2016 season, Sweet leads the championship standings by 27 points over Hodnett.

For Wolfe, a second place showing Sunday night was a rebound over Saturday where he failed to make the feature.

"It was a great way to end the whole week for all of us at Zemco racing," Wolfe said.

"It was a good race for us, we were able to catch a few breaks there at the start moving us up a row, and I was competitive the whole race which was good. I was able to get by Joey and Brad getting caught behind the lapped car there allowed me to catch up, but



Brad Sweet claimed the 'Big Gator' trophy for winning the Sprint Week championship at the DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park. (PAUL ARCH photo)

once he got around him I was faced with the same thing and never got quite clear of him. It was a good result for us, I think we were strong enough to challenge Brad at the end there just could never get to him. So we're going to go back home and get everything ready for our season back down there."

Wolfe finished Sprint Week 11th in the overall standings.

Saldana, who closed out Sprint Week fifth overall in the standings, worked through the week to find a rhythm with his new team and build toward the season ahead.

"Tonight we put the whole night together, we qualified well and did everything right, we just got a little free and messed up on a restart," Saldana said. "I think even if I choose the outside, I would get

beat on the bottom. But hats off to Brad, he had the speed. When we got to the lapped cars at the end I could hang with him, but when we had to move around I couldn't move, I was kinda stuck on the cushion. It was a great effort by the whole Roth team, I can't thank Theresa and Dennis enough for the opportunity and their commitment to the Outlaws. Hopefully we can do better than we did tonight in a couple of weeks."

Jason Johnson was the night's KSE Racing Hard Charger, advancing six positions to finish 12th.

The World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series begins the march west with a stop at Cotton Bowl Speedway in Paige, Texas on Feb. 26 and Royal Purple Raceway Park in Baytown, Texas on Feb. 27.

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## Donny Schatz Rebounds, Picks Up Second Win at DIRTcar Nationals

BARBERVILLE, FL - One night after his first did-not-finish result since September 2013, Donny Schatz rebounded at DIRTcar Nationals as he battled with Brad Sweet on Saturday night to score his first World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car Series win of the

2016 season.

"It's kind of a relief to be over that hill of having that DNF that's been haunting us for I guess 180 races or whatever," Schatz said. "Now we can just focus on trying to win races."

The win is Schatz's second of DIRTcar Nationals after he won the second All Star Circuit of Champions night.

Schatz started the night by being second quick in qualifying but it was Daryn Pittman who took the quick time for the second straight night.

Chad Kemenah led the field to the green flag in but Sweet quickly overpowered him, taking over the lead after a short battle on lap four.

As Sweet built a several second lead in front of the field, the fight was on for the second, third and fourth positions. Kemenah, in second had Pittman behind him and Schatz in fourth. The three drivers engaged in a multi-lap fight, with Pittman taking over second on lap 11.

With lapped traffic in play, Schatz got around Kemenah for third and then Pittman in second.

The caution flag flew for the first time on lap 16 and when the field returned to green, Schatz and Sweet raced wheel-to-wheel for the lead.

With the inside advantage, Sweet held off Schatz. When the caution flag flew again five laps later, Sweet was not as lucky.

As the two drivers worked to complete lap 22, Schatz entered the front straight off turn four and dove to the low side, cutting off the line for Sweet and propelling his No. 15 Bad Boy Buggies/Chevrolet Performance car to the lead.

"I beat him to the line. He stepped outside on me there," Sweet said. "I knew he was going to be tough."

The final restart proved pivotal

for Dale Blaney, the reigning All Star Circuit of Champions champion. After running much of the night in the top-five, Blaney had Pittman in sight. He passed Pittman on lap 27 but lost the position the next time by. As the two drivers made the final circuit, Blaney battled past Pittman for the third position.

Schatz cruised to victory with Sweet in second.

"I'd be even better if we could win all of them," Schatz said. "That's what this team shoots for, that's what they aim for, and that's what they work hard for. We're here tonight and that's all that matters... Another good night, lots of people in the stands, glad to see everybody."

Sweet, who won Friday night's season opening World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series feature at Volusia Speedway Park, was disappointed with the finish but said he was pleased with his team's performance.

"You know there's a few things on our car that we can maybe get a little bit better and hopefully this is a sign for things to come throughout the season," Sweet said.

"It's not bad losing to the best in the world. As long as we can keep giving him a run for his money you know we'll win some of these."

Blaney, who along with Schatz, Sweet and Greg Hodnett has been consistent throughout the five nights said he struggled early with the restarts but was able by the end of the night to get the run he needed to put his No. 1B Go-Muddy.com car in position.

As the series heads into the final night of sprint week at DIRTcar Nationals, Greg Hodnett leads Schatz



Donny Schatz picked up his second win at the DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Raceway Park. (PAUL ARCH photo)

by one point in the championship standings. Blaney is in third, 12 points out of the lead and Sweet is in fourth, 32 points out of the lead. The winner will hoist the coveted 'Big Gator' on Sunday night.

Kerry Madsen was the night's KSE Racing Hard Charger, advancing nine positions to finish in ninth.

### **Kasey Kahne Racing's Brad Sweet Wins Outlaws Opener at DIRTcar Nationals**

BARBERVILLE, FL - In front of one of the largest crowds in DIRTcar Nationals history, Kasey Kahne Racing's Brad Sweet and Daryn Pittman fought a pitched battle for the season opening World of Outlaws Craftsman® Sprint Car Series feature on Friday night. When the checkered flag fell, it was Sweet who took the win.

Sweet and Pittman started side-by-side in the 30-lap main event at Volusia Speedway Park. The two teammates traded the lead through the opening laps of the night's event as reigning series champion and the previous night's winner, Donny Schatz, battled through the field.

By the midway point of the feature Schatz had moved into second and was challenging Pittman for the lead when his night was cut short by an engine failure on lap 21. It was his first did-not-finish result in 178 World of Outlaws features - a streak that stretched back to September, 2013.

Through the closing laps of the feature, Pittman and Sweet battled for the lead through lapped traffic with Sweet making a last lap pass of Pittman for the win.

"I'll tell you what, we definitely needed that lap traffic," Sweet said. "Daryn did a great job, you know. It's pretty awesome for Kasey Kahne Racing to be battling for first and second. I know what it's like to lose on the last lap. I've won some like that; I've lost some like that. Hats off to those guys, they did a great job all night."

### **David Gravel Leads Open Practice on Night One of DIRTcar Nationals**

BARBERVILLE, FL - David Gravel kicked off sprint week at the 45th Annual DIRTcar Nationals on Tuesday night by turning the fastest lap in the open practice session.

The Connecticut native turned the fast lap of 13.814 seconds during the first hot laps session. It is Gravel's first outing driving the No. 5 Big Game Treestands car for CJB Motorsports.

"It's definitely something that takes time, but so far so good," Gravel said of his new team.

"We made good adjustments tonight and it seemed like we were all on the same page. If we keep that going I think we'll have a good week."

Kasey Kahne Racing driver Brad Sweet was second fastest with a lap of 13.831 which also came during the first practice session.



Brad Sweet (#49) races Donny Schatz (#15) at Volusia Speedway Park. (PAUL ARCH photo)

## Donny Schatz Cruises to Arctic Cat All Star DIRTcar Nationals Win

BARBERVILLE, FL - Donny Schatz surpassed his Wednesday night performance by one position on Thursday evening, mastering the Volusia Speedway Park half-mile en route to a \$5,000, Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions victory. Schatz, who charged

from the fifth row to secure his position in victory lane, increased his Arctic Cat All Star win total to 12 on his career. The Fargo, North Dakota, native cruised to the final checkers by a near four second lead. Dale Blaney and Jason John-

son rounded out the podium finishers.

"This is an incredible race team" Donny Schatz said, "I didn't want to have to call the boss tonight and tell him I left something on the table. Just an incredible effort by these guys."

Danny Lasoski and Jason Johnson led the 24 feature starters to green at Volusia Speedway Park. Lasoski controlled the opening lap before losing the top spot to Johnson. The "Ragin' Cajun" made his way to the top-side of the speedway, eventually extending his lead over Danny Lasoski and Dale Blaney. Traffic would soon come into play, but a lap ten caution would bring the field to a stop for



**Donny Schatz celebrates his Arctic Cat All Star Star Circuit of Champions victory at Volusia Speedway Park. (PAUL ARCH photo)**

the first and only time. Paul McManahan made contact with the turn one wall; he would walk away unharmed.

Johnson brought the field back to life during the lap 10 restart, returning to the point position over

Danny Lasoski and Dale Blaney. Donny Schatz, who started tenth on the grid, climbed his way to a top-five position for the first time during the restart. The pilot of the familiar Tony Stewart Racing/No.

**(Continued Next Page)**

## Eckert Ekes Out Win on Final Night of Winter Freeze VI

SYLVANIA, GA - Rick Eckert battled Chris Ferguson and held off Boom Briggs on Saturday night to score his first World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series victory of the season on the final night of Winter Freeze VI at Screven Motor Speedway.

Eckert, a native of York, Pa., last tasted victory lane in September at Berlin Raceway but showed his speed early in the night, pacing the first qualifying group with the fastest time.

Drawing fourth in the redraw, Eckert started the A-main from the second row with Donald Bradsher grabbing the pole-position. Bradsher who explained he was "just happy to make the feature" earlier in the night, would not start the final event.

Jason Covert, who finished fifth on the first night of Winter Freeze VI, inherited the first starting position, but lost the lead once the green-flag dropped to second place starter Chris Ferguson.

Ferguson dominated the majority of the race, leading 38 laps before tire issues derailed his night, resulting in a disappointing 22nd place finish.

Before the tire issues, a hard-

charging Eckert bumped his way around Ferguson for the lead. Once out front, Eckert extended his lead on second place Boom Briggs.

A few late race cautions and a challenge from Briggs were not enough as Eckert lead the remaining 11-laps, scoring his first victory at Winter Freeze VI at Screven Motor Speedway.

"This place is challenging for me, I have never won here," Eckert said. "Once it gets where we can drive straight, I feel like I can keep up, then it became a tire wear race and I can usually hold my own in that."

"I knew we were going to wear tires, we all knew that when the race started. Chris [Ferguson] got out there in the lead and I feel like I could run right there with him, but then he got to running harder...so I just backed my pace up, and slowed way down entering the corner."

Briggs, who came up just short at the end of the feature and also just short of a redraw position, started the 50-lap feature near the middle of the pack. After fighting his way to the front, the Bear Lake, Pa. native brought home the runner-up position, improving on his 18th place finish on the first night of the double-header.

"My car was good enough the first 10 or 15 laps that I could get position on those guys," Briggs

said. "I made a couple of passes on the top, but most of them I made on the bottom."

"Definitely the best run I have ever had. To start 10th and finish second on a one-lane racetrack is a pretty good accomplishment."

### Clanton Claims Thriller on Opening Night of Winter Freeze

SYLVANIA, GA - Defending World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series champion Shane Clanton rocketed around both Josh Richards and Jason Covert in one pass as he claimed the season opener at Screven Motor Speedway's Winter Freeze VI on Friday.

Clanton started from the sixth position but made quick work powering his way into the top three. Richards, who is in the midst of a hot streak, drew the pole-position after winning his heat race earlier in the night.

Richards led just two laps before second place starter Covert battled past. Covert controlled the field for the first half of the race but could never pull away from Richards and eventually a hard-charging Clanton.

Clanton saw an opening in turn four on lap 15 when Richards pulled even with Covert for the lead. Clanton rocketed his car to the outside of the leaders, creating a three-wide drag race for the lead as they approached lapped traffic.

Clanton, a native of Zebulon, Ga., completed the pass in turn one on the following lap, with Richards settling into second.

Richards stayed glued to Clanton's back bumper, taking shots at the leader on multiple occasions but Clanton held on to the lead and dominated the remaining laps, winning the opening night of Winter Freeze VI at Screven Motor Speedway.

"It was a phenomenal race," Clanton said. "Sometimes it sucks being the leader and catching that many lapped cars going two and three-wide. Covert didn't know to run the top [line] because he has never been here before, but you can lean on that top. The experience being around this place as much as I have really helps out. It boosts our confidence to come in here and win and beat the hottest guy in the pit area. Josh [Richards] hasn't finished outside the top three yet this year, but to be able to beat him and outrun him on the first night we have raced against him this year, that feels pretty good."

Richards settled for second after challenging for the lead all night, which is an improvement on his results from this race last year in which he finished fourth.

"We had a great car, we definitely had a car good enough to win," the Shinnston, W.Va. native said.

"We were following Covert there and got jammed up in lapped traffic and got stuck on the bottom. Clanton got a good run and got around us, then after that it was going to be hard to get back in front of him. I feel like at the end of the race we were better than him, but the way the lapped traffic played out it was hard to get back up there."

Continued...

15 continued his pursuit toward the front, ultimately capturing the fourth position by lap 13 and the third position by lap 14, utilizing all lanes of the slick, Volusia Speedway Park surface. Schatz continued to waste little time, eventually taking command of the runner-up position over Danny Lasoski on lap 17. It would only take three more green flag circuits before Schatz could diminish Jason Johnson's charge at the front of the field, taking the top spot officially on lap 20.

"You have to go where everyone else isn't" Schatz explained, "We were decent, I just had to find my way around. Once we got going, we were pretty good. This race team is incredible for sure. I have the best job in the business."

Six-time and defending Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions tittlist Dale Blaney attempted a late-race charge, but would fall short. The "Low Rider" started fourth on the feature grid and raced inside the top-five during the entire distance. Blaney made his final move of the 30-lap main event on lap 25 when he raced around Jason Johnson for second.

"We've been really good all year, really" Blaney explained, "The guys have been working hard. Can't thank Big Game, Muddy, CH Motorsports enough. I'm not sure if I needed that red. I felt like I couldn't get going after that. This is a great

group of cars racing down here. We'll take second, come back tomorrow and see if we can do one better."

### Dave Blaney Scores Arctic Cat All Star Opener at DIRTcar Nationals

BARBERVILLE, FL - The "Buckeye Bullet" Dave Blaney capitalized on his outside front row starting position on Wednesday evening and scored the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions victory at Volusia Speedway Park. The pilot of the Motter Equipment, Motter Motorsports, No. 71M took command of the 30-lap, DIRTcar Nationals main event at the halfway signal and never looked back, surviving two cautions and periods of late-race traffic to score his 47th career Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions victory. Defending World of Outlaws Craftsman Sprint Car Series champion Donny Schatz finished second, followed by Brownsburg, Indiana, native Joey Saldana.

"I'm thrilled to be driving for Dan Motter" Dave Blaney said, "We wanted to come here and be competitive, and we ended up winning it. Can't thank my guys enough. They did a great job tonight and really helped put this entire deal together."

After utilizing a unique format, combining qualifying points, heat race finishing points and an eight-car dash, the evening's starting grid was set. Joey Saldana and Dave Blaney led the 24 starters to green at Volusia Speedway Park. The "Brownsburg Bullet" Joey Saldana took command on the opening lap, setting a torrid pace during the first



Dave Blaney (center) scored the victory on the opening night of the DIRTcar Nationals for the Arctic Cat All Star Circuit of Champions. Donny Schatz (left) came in second followed by Joey Saldana (right). (PAUL ARCH photo)

nineteen, caution-free circuits. After falling to third at the opening green, Blaney worked his way forward; recapturing the runner-up spot from second row starter Greg Hodnett on lap eight. Less than ten laps later, Blaney charged under Joey Saldana at the flag stand, taking control of the field for the first and last time. The main event's only two cautions, waving on lap 20 and lap 21, would prove to be a benefit for Dave Blaney; utilizing clean air and a very fast, bottom grooved race track to hold off a sixth starting Donny Schatz.

"I didn't know Donny (Schatz) was behind me...I really didn't know if anyone was behind me" explained Dave Blaney, "I was just going as hard as I could go before I got to lapped traffic. I didn't want to make any mistakes in case there

was someone close behind me. Glad we could get it done."

After starting on the outside of row three, Fargo, North Dakota, native Donny Schatz made his first appearance inside the top-three on lap 16, taking the third position away from Spring Grove, Pennsylvania's Greg Hodnett. A lap later, Schatz drove by Joey Saldana for second, resetting his targets to Dave Blaney.

After attempting to utilize back-to-back restarts on lap 20 and lap 21, Schatz would have to settle for second, unable to get by the "Buckeye Bullet" during the remaining nine green flag circuits.

Joey Saldana would round out the podium finishers after starting third. Greg Hodnett would settle for fourth, followed by a seventh starting Sammy Swindell.

## JR Motorsports Launches JRM On Tour 2016 to Honor its Fans and Partners

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - JR Motorsports is going on tour this year, and it is inviting JR Nation to be a part of it.

The Dale Earnhardt Jr.-owned racing company announced the start of a year-long marketing initiative that works in conjunction with the 33-race

NASCAR Xfinity Series schedule, in which JR Motorsports fields three full-time teams. JRM On Tour 2016 will feature stops along the

circuit in which it rewards fans with free merchandise, ticket deals, social events and more.

"JR Motorsports is going on tour this year starting this weekend at Daytona," said Kelley Earnhardt Miller, general manager of JR Motorsports. "We want to have events where we can mingle with fans. We want to not only tell them how much they mean to us, but show them."

Tour Takeover stop No. 1 will be this Thursday night, Feb. 18, and Friday night, Feb. 19, in Daytona Beach, Fla., at Racing's North Turn Beach Bar and Grille, located at

4511 S. Atlantic Ave, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127. Racing's North Turn is a popular hot spot during Daytona Speedweeks, as it sits on the northern corner of Daytona's legendary beach course.

JR Motorsports On Tour 2016 activities at Racing's North Turn Bar and Grille are as follows:

- Thursday, Feb. 18 – Junior fans will enjoy drink specials on Oskar Blues beer and win giveaways, including one of 500 special-edition "JRM On Tour 2016" T-shirts, presented by Hellmann's.

- Friday, Feb. 19 – Junior fans can continue to enjoy drink specials on Oskar Blues brands on tap, and can participate in Trivia Night, presented by OneMain. OneMain will also give away free "JRM On Tour 2016" T-shirts.

- All week through Sunday, Feb.

21 – Oskar Blues and its line of beers, including Dale's Pale Ale and Mama's Little Yella Pils, will provide beer specials and prize packs.

"The JRM On Tour 2016 program is going to be fun and engaging for the loyal members of JR Nation," Earnhardt Miller said. "Working with our partners to show appreciation to our fan base is something we're thrilled to do. They are truly the driving force behind our sport."

Future JRM On Tour 2016 stops are being planned at race tracks and will be announced soon. Those tour stops will include ticket specials, more giveaways, and even the chance to meet JR Motorsports drivers. Follow the JRM On Tour 2016 updates through JRM's social media channels.

## Ruhlman Holds Off Hawkins, Dillon for DIRTcar Nationals Win

On the second night of Gator Qualifying for the DIRTcar UMP Modifieds, Brian Ruhlman, a Clarklake, Mich. native, muscled his way to the top spot on lap one and held off challenges from Jacob Hawkins and NASCAR star Austin Dillon to claim his first DIRTcar Nationals vic-

tory.

"I've always wanted a Gator, and we have been so close," Ruhlman said. "I have to thank [my girlfriend] Veronica, it's just her and I down here this weekend.

"We ran it wide-open all the way around there. If they were going to beat me, they were going to have to earn it."

Nightly doubleheaders at Volusia run through Saturday, Feb. 20. On Monday night, the DIRTcar Late Models join the DIRTcar UMP Modifieds as the modifieds compete in for the Gator Championship.

### Hoffman Battles Dillon for DIRTcar Nationals Win

BARBERVILLE, FL - Ty Dillon looked to be the driver to beat in Saturday night's DIRTcar UMP Modified Gator Qualifying feature at DIRTcar Nationals but Nick Hoffman had other ideas as he cruised to his third win at Volusia Speedway Park.

Dillon dominated the early part of the 20-lap modified feature building a large lead over Hoffman and Ray Bollinger. As the laps wound

down though, Hoffman, who has been the class of the field at DIRTcar Nationals, closed the gap. As lapped traffic came into play, Hoffman made his move. He battled past Dillon off of turn four and took the lead on lap 16.

Dillon, a driver in NASCAR's Xfinity Series, tried to close the gap, but Hoffman marched to the win.

"Ty was really good," Hoffman said. "Once I got to about halfway I started to momentum my car around. It was really good. I think he still would have had me if it wasn't for that lap traffic deal. We'll take them as we can get them."

Hoffman won Tuesday and Wednesday night's modified features.

### Young Holds Off Hoffman for DIRTcar Nationals Victory

In the 20-lap DIRTcar UMP Modified feature, Trent Young held off a



**Race winner Brian Ruhlman (#49) races with the #36 of Kenny Wallace at Volusia Speedway Park during the DIRTcar Nationals. (PAUL ARCH photo)**

hard-charging Nick Hoffman to score his first ever DIRTcar Nationals victory.

A wreck between the top two cars, A.J. Fike and Dave Jamison, midway through the feature put Young in the lead. Hoffman battled his way into second and tried to close the gap in the final laps, but Young held firm.

"It feels amazing. This is a dream come true," Young said. "I was pretty content just riding in third. I was going to be happy with that if the race went like it was. I got lucky to make it through that wreck.

and held off NASCAR star Ty Dillon to pick up his first DIRTcar UMP Modified win of DIRTcar Nationals. The win ended the two race streak for Nick Hoffman, but Hoffman had reason to celebrate as the builder of Nicely's Elite Chassis.

Jason Beaulieu battled with Ruhlman through the first half of the 20-lap feature. Nicely worked his way forward and by lap 11 took over the lead. Nicely and Ruhlman traded position through the next eight laps. As lapped traffic came into play, Dillon closed the gap and passed Ruhlman for second.

Off the final turn, Dillon was side-by-side with Nicely, but Nicely held the lead and took the checkered flag.

"It's awesome to be able to race with someone you trust and not tear up your equipment," Nicely said of Ruhlman. "I just knew if I could keep it down there in the good dirt, hopefully I could get a good enough run to clear him."

### Wilson Makes it Two in a Row at DIRTcar Nationals

In the 30-lap DIRTcar UMP Modified feature, Nick Hoffman made it two wins in a row, battling former NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver David Stremme early and holding off other NASCAR notables Ty Dillon and Kenny Wallace through the feature.

Wallace kept Hoffman within striking distance but was never able to get close enough to complete a pass for the lead.

"[Kenny Wallace] is tough everywhere we go. I knew he would race us clean when I looked up at the scoreboard and saw he was in second. They told me in the infield to hustle it for three more laps at the end, so I gave it everything I had," Hoffman said. "Everything held together and we got us another Gator (trophy)."



**Trent Young held off Nick Hoffman for his first career DIRTcar Nationals victory at Volusia Speedway Park. (PAUL ARCH photo)**

I don't want to win one like that, but I wanted one here so I'll take it any way I can get it. I hate that that happened to Fike. I really couldn't see what happened but I know it was pretty nasty, and I got lucky to make it through it."

### Tyler Nicely Gets First DIRTcar Nationals Win

Tyler Nicely fought a wheel-to-wheel battle with Brian Ruhlman



**Nick Hoffman (#2) raced his way past Ty Dillon (#41) for the win at Volusia Speedway Park during the DIRTcar Nationals. (PAUL ARCH photo)**

## SEMA to Fight EPA for Short Track Racing

A proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulation came to light Monday which aims to prohibit the conversion of on-road vehicles into racecars. This would affect any division where the machine is taken from stock and made into a racecar, such as Four Cylinder, Pure Stock and Street

Stock classes. It is unclear how many divisions may be affected in total.

While this could be a devastating blow to short track racing, the EPA should be ready to expect a fight. From whom? Well, from the racing community, of course – but also from the Specialty Equipment Market Association, or SEMA, as they are more commonly known.

Although SEMA is best known for its huge trade show in Las Vegas, the organization is much more. Since their formation in 1963 they have become the authoritative source for research, data, trends and market growth information for the specialty auto parts industry. They also have a proven legislative and regulatory program based in Washington, D.C. The program includes a number of components that together have resulted in a long list of successes of significant benefit to the industry. In recent affairs, SEMA battled proposed legislation to register all racecars.

The newest proposed regulations would reach far beyond the world of circle track racing, as it would also spread into many forms of drag racing and road racing.

According to SEMA the proposed regulation was contained within a non-related proposed regulation which is titled “Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles—Phase2.” The regulation is proposed to impact all types of vehicles including sports cars, sedans and hatch-backs commonly converted strictly for use at the track. SEMA also reported that the regulation also seeks to make the sale of certain products for use on those vehicles illegal.

“This proposed regulation represents overreaching by the agency, runs contrary to the law and defies decades of racing activity where EPA has acknowledged and al-



SEMA is fighting to keep cars available for short track racing.

lowed conversion of vehicles,” said SEMA President and CEO Chris Kersting. “Congress did not intend the original Clean Air Act to extend to vehicles modified for racing and has re-enforced that intent on more than one occasion.”

SEMA does not have to fight this battle alone. Anyone who is interested can join the SEMA Action Network (SAN). The SAN is a nationwide partnership between vehicle clubs, enthusiasts and members of the specialty auto parts industry who want to protect their hobby. They rally the support of nearly 36 million enthusiasts to amplify SEMA’s political voice on issues that affect the auto parts industry.

The concept is of SAN is to keep enthusiasts informed. SEMA provides detailed, regularly updated information on legislative and regulatory issues that impact auto-related hobbies. The more hands that touch the information, the more eyes that read the information and the more people that stand up and do something about the information...the more effectively the hobby can be saved.

If action is required, SEMA will urge SAN members to contact legislators and regulators to express support or opposition to a particular bill or proposal that directly affects the automotive hobby. Those interested in joining to help the cause of the SEMA Action Network can do so fairly easily by visiting <http://pages.message.sema.org/san-signup/>

### Caraway Speedway

SOPHIA, NC – In less than a month, Late Model Stock racers from across the Southeast will head to Caraway Speedway with an eye towards the NASCAR Whe-

len All-American Series National Championship. But a new race format and more money being offered has teams especially excited for the prospects that a new year brings. The NASCAR Late Model Stocks will compete six times in 2016 at Caraway Speedway with each race paying \$5,000 to win and \$500 to start. Most of those events will be 150 laps and will feature a live pit stop with teams having the option to change two tires.

Tommy Lemons, Jr. is a hometown driver at Caraway Speedway, having started racing there in 2004. In recent years, Lemons has traveled to different speedways in the region, where he has also been a winner. Lemons believes the changes at Caraway Speedway are necessary to not only benefit the track, but the racers too.

“I like the bigger purse, it’s what we’ve needed from the track as the costs of racing has gone up,” said Lemons. “I know it’s been hard on the tracks financially, but it’s been hard on us too and I’m glad to see them upping their effort. And I love the idea of the pit stop. I think it will add excitement for the teams and fans. It’s something out of the norm for most short tracks and that’s another thing the racing community needs.”

Although Lemons has won almost everything there is to win at Caraway Speedway, including last year’s Daggett Shuler’s Attorneys At Law Rusty Harpe Memorial, he has never won the track championship. With nearly \$5,000 being awarded to the champion and an invitation to the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Banquet in Charlotte, Lemons is excited for his prospects at a first title.

“Caraway is where I went as a kid dreaming to one day race there,” said Lemons. “I came within

one race of the championship in 2006, so to win a title at Caraway would be awesome and would rank pretty high for me.”

Virginia’s Kyle Dudley scored his first win at Caraway Speedway last year and thinks the changes for 2016 will bring even more competition to race against. Dudley has improved tremendously since his first start at Caraway and believes the new format and increased purse will be beneficial to all the Late Model Stock competitors.

“The \$5000 to win is huge and I think it’s going to draw a lot of people and attention to Caraway,” says Dudley. “\$500 to start is what I would consider fair with the tire rule. As far as the live pit stops, I’m not real sure how that’s gonna go quite yet, but it will change things up for sure. I think it will be a kind of learn on the fly type deal for a while, but I definitely see it being exciting for the fans.”

Dudley narrowly missed out on the track championship last year to veteran Nathan Buttke. He believes he is primed for a run at the title in 2016 and is excited to compete against other track champions from across the Southeast.

“A championship would be huge for this team and it’s something we’ve strived for,” said Dudley. “I feel like what we’ve got going on and the progress we’ve been making and with all we’ve been learning, I feel like we’re stronger and better and more experienced than ever and this year is our best shot yet.”

The season will begin at Caraway Speedway with the first 150 lapper for the NASCAR Late Model Stocks on Sunday, March 6. There will be an open practice on Saturday, March 5. For more information please go to [carawayspeedway.com](http://carawayspeedway.com) or contact Renee Hackett at 336-302-5803.

### I-30 Speedway

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Christopher Bell will spend a substantial amount of time on asphalt in 2016 as he chases down NASCAR Camping World Truck Series honors for Kyle Busch Motorsports.

So it’s little wonder that the Norman, OK, native is already chomping at the bit to go sling some clay on March 10-12 as he defends his Short Track Nationals title atop the ¼-mile I-30 Speedway clay oval.

With last October’s event falling victim to rain, Bell still reigns as defending champion as the 28th Annual COMP Cams Short Track Nationals presented by Hoosier

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Tires rapidly approaches.

"I'm looking forward to it, Short Track Nationals is always a lot of fun," commented Bell, who is set for his first full NASCAR Camping World Truck Series campaign after picking off a win in one of his initial series starts last year.

With a \$15,000 winner's share up for grabs and \$2,000 just to start the March 12 STN finale, Bell tries to make it two in a row after capturing the 2014 edition. Bell's 2014 triumph followed a pair of STN runner-up finishes the previous two years to give the 21-year-old an unrivaled STN average finish.

"I just hope I can keep that average up there," Bell said. "It will be tough, there's so much competition at Short Track Nationals."

Bell will try to become just the fourth driver to go back-to-back in STN history. Steve Kinser topped the initial two events in 1988 and 1989, Gary Wright went back-to-back in 2003 and 2004 and most recently Tony Bruce, Jr., reeled off consecutive wins in '07 and '08.

With the entry forms released last week, entries are already beginning to flow into the I-30 Speedway track office. Entry forms are available at [http://www.i-30speedway.com/flyers/STNFlyer\\_March2016.pdf](http://www.i-30speedway.com/flyers/STNFlyer_March2016.pdf). Entries are just \$150 if postmarked by March 4, with entries after that \$250.

March's STN makeup will be the first of two Short Track Nationals events at I-30 Speedway in 2016, with the regularly scheduled 29th edition set for November 2-5.

This March's edition will feature two full qualifying nights of action on Thursday and Friday preceded by an open practice session on Wednesday night. The top three from the Thursday and Friday features will lock into the \$15,000-to-win, \$2,000-to-start STN finale.

The original attempt at the 28th Short Track Nationals in October was reduced from four nights to just one due to inclement weather. That card on the final Thursday of October did more than live up to billing though, with Aaron Reutzel rallying from seven rows deep to make a late move on the high side around Jac Haudenschild for the win. Reutzel and Haudenschild earned provisional starting positions in the March 12 STN finale by virtue of finishing first and second.

Bell became the 17th different winner of the event in October of 2014 and youngest thus far on a star-studded list that includes Sammy Swindell, Paul McMahan,

Brad Sweet, Tony Bruce, Jr., Jason Meyers, Jason Johnson, Tim Montgomery, Gary Wright, Jason Sides, Mike Ward, Tim Crawley, Wayne Johnson, Pete Butler, Terry Gray, John Gerloff and Steve Kinser.

For more information regarding I-30 Speedway's Short Track Nationals, check at [www.i-30speedway.com](http://www.i-30speedway.com) or call the track at 501-455-4567.

## Myrtle Beach Speedway

MYRTLE BEACH, SC - Myrtle Beach Speedway announces a major addition to the 2016 event schedule. Local residents will see the return of a fair to Horry County. The newly formed Horry County Fair at Myrtle Beach Speedway will feature demonstrations, displays, vendors, free live music, petting zoo, 4-H display, children's educational activities, and an amazing midway put on by Strates Shows Inc at the speedway's 48 acre property.

Fun for all ages, the highly anticipated event will feature some of Strates Show Inc's finest amusements including thrill rides, the best in carnival foods, prize winning games, and much more. Myrtle Beach Speedway General Manager Steve

Zacharias said, "Having the Horry County Fair here at the speedway for 2016 is what we hope to see become a long-standing event here in the community. This is the opportunity for us as a local business to give back to the locals who have been supporters of the speedway for over 50 years."

Affordably priced, the Horry County Fair at Myrtle Beach Speedway will begin on Friday, April 15th and end on Sunday April 24th. In conjunction with the family fair, the speedway will include many attractions. Throughout the ten day schedule, there will be special events comprised of concerts at the Myrtle Beach Speedway Amphitheater, 4-H tent programs, as well as a Corn-hole competition. Concert events will see a couple nights of established acts as well as up and comers in a "Battle of the Bands" contest.

The speedway will offer incentives for local charities and schools to come out for special trips throughout the 10 day event in hopes to build more community involvement and further give back to the locals. To help promote local businesses, Myrtle Beach Speedway is looking for local talent including: Dance Teams, Choirs, Cheerleaders, Bands and other unique acts to showcase your tal-

ents on the Myrtle Beach Speedway Amphitheatre stage. For a full lineup of the schedule, inquire about performing and general information please visit [mbspeedway.com/hcfair](http://mbspeedway.com/hcfair) or call 842-236-0500.

Daily Gate Admission: for the Horry County Fair is: Adults: \$5.00, Children 5-11: \$3.00, Children 4 & under: Free, Seniors 65+: \$3.00, Military ID: \$3.00

Parking: FREE on Speedway grounds and also in designated area at Tanger Outlet.

Location: 455 Hospitality Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC, located on 501 beside Tanger Outlet Mall at the intersection of Highway 501 and Waccamaw Pines Blvd.

## South Boston Speedway

SOUTH BOSTON, VA - Thanks to some cost-cutting rule changes, Danny Willis Jr. is going back to his racing roots this year at South Boston Speedway.

Willis began his racing career in the Late Model Stock division at South Boston back in 1999. After a couple of seasons, the division became cost-prohibitive for Willis and he made the move to the Limited Division.

"The biggest thing (in the decision) was the new tire rule in Late Model," said Willis. "The way the tire rule is now in Late Model is the way we did in Limited, so I'm used to that. It's going to save us a lot of money during the year.

"In the past to keep up with some of those (Late Model) guys who used to buy so many (tires) ... if you wanted to keep up with them, you had to buy as many tires as they did."

Willis certainly knows success under the recently introduced rule that limits Late Model teams to purchase only two new tires a race night. Under the same rules Willis was dominant in the Limited Division at South Boston. In the past five years he won three Limited track championships and finished second twice.

Willis had actually decided to step back from racing after the 2015 season and sold the car he had finished second in the points.

"I had intentions of getting out," said Willis

He had a change of heart though after South Boston introduced a broad range of changes for the season to help the teams and make rac-

ing better for fans, including the two-tire rule and a minimum of \$500 to start a night of Late Model racing. Willis figured it gave him the chance to move back up to Late Models and to be competitive.

"They came out with the new rules and it's going to be just as easy to run the Late Model car," said Willis. "The rule changes, the tire cost, that was a big deal for me."

He also elected to take the cost-saving route of a crate motor which he said would help cut the "cost of motor upkeep. Hopefully it will be competitive."

Even though it's been a lot of years since Willis competed regularly in Late Models, he thinks the playing field has been evened with the two-tire rule.

"We've had a lot of success the last couple of years. I'm familiar with the two-tire deal, but we'll be running more laps in Late Model and that's something I'll have to get used to," said Willis. "But everybody is going to have to be thinking about how to save your two new tires and not wear them out for the next week. That's gonna be a learning curve for everybody, but maybe we'll come in with a little advantage."

Even though he's been around the sport a lot of years, Willis admits he's pumped about the upcoming season.

"We're excited. We're trying to hurry up and get the car ready. There are a lot of late nights," said Willis, who has Gardner Marsh, Riverview Signs, Gene Comer Construction and Meeler Insurance Agency coming back as sponsors, but is still looking for more backing. "We bought a new car, but there were a lot of things on it I didn't like, so we stripped it and are putting it back together."

Willis will get to try out his new ride on Saturday, March 12 when the South Boston season kicks off with the Danville Toyota NASCAR Whelen Late Model twin 100. There will also be a 50-lap Limited race, 30-lap Pure Stock race, 50-lap Modified race and a 15-lap Hornet race.

