

2019 USAC MIDWEST REGIONAL MIDGET SEASON

NELSON NAILS DOWN GAS CITY MIDGET VICTORY

Gas City, Indiana (May 17, 2019).....Tyler Nelson led the final 18 laps to score Friday night's USAC Midget Midwest Special Event victory at Indiana's Gas City I-69 Speedway.

Nelson (Olathe, Kans.) started 20-lap A-Main from the fourth position, and by lap 3, was ready to pounce as early leader Michael Koontz (Bloomington, Ind.) and Chris Baue (Indianapolis, Ind.) tussled for the top spot. Nelson took advantage when Baue tried to duck under Koontz in turn three on the third lap to no avail as Nelson drove around the outside of both to secure the lead.

From there forward, Nelson dominated, winning by a full-straightaway over Koontz, Nick Spiedel (Parker City, Ind.), Aaron Leffel (Springfield, Ohio) and Anton Hernandez (Arlington, Texas).

USAC MIDGET MIDWEST SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: May 17, 2019 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Oval

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom (#15 Petry), 2. Nick Spiedel (#21 Spidel), 3. Justin Dickerson (#21D Dickerson), 4. Stratton Briggs (#71 Briggs), 5. John Heydenreich (#22H Givens), 6. Gunnar Lucius (#22L Lucius), 7. Chris Bounds (#84 Bounds), 8. Don Bigelow (#4B Bigelow), 9. Zane Briggs (#10 Briggs), 10. Adam Schmenk (#6 Schmenk), 11. Bryce Dues (#23 Dues), 12. Alex Cogley (#18 Cogley). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Tyler Nelson (#88 Nelson), 2. Anton Hernandez (#8JR Wood), 3. Alex Watson (#3 Watson), 4. Ian Creager (#36 Creager), 5. Jeff Beasley (#83B Beasley), 6. Matt Cogley (#50 Cogley), 7. Kyle Kriegbaum (#63 Kriegbaum), 8. Tyler Key (#5T Key), 9. Tim Key (#6K Key), 10. Kevin Blue (#DW7 Blue), 11. Chett Gehrke (#93c Gehrke). NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Michael Koontz (#17K Koontz), 2. Chris Baue (#9 Baue), 3. Oliver Akard (#41 Akard), 4. Jeff Wimmenauer (#15J Wimmenauer), 5. Anthony Haas (#66 Haas), 6. Aaron Leffel (#11L Taylor), 7. Tommy Bigelow (#2B Bigelow), 8. Chuck Taylor (#11T Taylor), 9. Jon Steed (#7 Steed), 10. Cory Guingrich (#62 Guingrich), 11. Davey Ray (#8 Cornell). NT

SEMI: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Gunnar Lucius, 2. Aaron Leffel, 3. Chris Bounds, 4. Tommy Bigelow, 5. Chuck Taylor, 6. Kyle Kriegbaum, 7. Tim Key, 8. Don Bigelow, 9. Bryce Dues, 10. Tim Key, 11. Davey Ray, 12. Tyler Key. NT

FEATURE: (20 laps) 1. Tyler Nelson, 2. Michael Koontz, 3. Nick Spiedel, 4. Aaron Leffel, 5. Anton Hernandez, 6. Gunnar Lucius, 7. John Heydenreich, 8. Justin Dickerson, 9. Stratton Briggs, 10. Chris Baue, 11. Jeff Wimmenauer, 12. Chris Bounds, 13. Jeff Beasley, 14. Ian Creager, 15. Tommy Bigelow, 16. Oliver Akard, 17. Chuck Taylor, 18. Anthony Haas, 19. Kyle Kriegbaum. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Michael Koontz, Laps 3-20 Tyler Nelson.

NEXT USAC MIDGET MIDWEST SPECIAL EVENT RACE: May 24, 2019 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana

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CLING HOLDS FIRM GRIP IN BLOOMINGTON MIDGET VICTORY

Bloomington, Indiana (May 24, 2019).....Sterling Cling raced to his first career midget win in Friday night's Josh Burton Memorial USAC Midget Midwest Special Event at Bloomington (Ind.) Speedway.

Cling (Tempe, Ariz.), a veteran of off-road and sprint car racing in the Southwest, took over the lead just before the halfway point from Kendall Ruble (Vincennes, Ind.) who led the first nine laps. From there, Cling led the final 11 laps for the victory aboard the Petry Motorsports No. 35.

Five different states were represented in the top-five with Ruble finishing 2nd behind Cling while Chett Gehrke (Broken Arrow, Okla.), Aaron Leffel (Springfield, Ohio) and Patrick Ryan (Springfield, Ill.) rounded out the top-five.

USAC MIDGET MIDWEST SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: – May 24, 2019 – Bloomington, Indiana – Bloomington Speedway – Josh Burton Memorial

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Kendall Ruble (#11m Martin), 2. Chase McDermand (#40 McDermand), 3. Patrick Ryan (#23 Ryan), 4. Cory Guingrich (#62 Guingrich), 5. Nick Spiedel (#21 Spiedel), 6. Cory Trammell (#34T Trammell), 7. Alex Watson (#3 Watson), 8. Jon Watson (#25 Watson), 9. Cindy Chambers (#18c Chambers), 10. Kenneth Key (#5T Key), 11. Brent Watson (#17 Watson). NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Sterling Cling (#35 Petry), 2. Stratton Briggs (#71 Briggs), 3. Aaron Leffel (#11L Taylor), 4. Brent Fordyce (#4 Fordyce), 5. Jacob Denney (#11T Taylor), 6. Tyler Kalb (#32T Kalb), 7. Tim Key (#6K Key), 8. Michael Koontz (#17K Koontz), 9. Ian Creager (#36 Creager). NT

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Emerson Axsom (#25A Petry), 2. Cody Beard (#7 Beard), 3. Mark Nieft Jr. (#20N Nieft), 4. Kyle Kriegbaum (#12 Kriegbaum), 5. Zane Briggs (#10B Briggs), 6. Chris Baue (#9 Baue), 7. Bryce Dues (#23D Dues), 8. Tim Light (#14L Reynolds), 9. Gunnar Lucius (#22L Lucius). NT

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Kevin Blue (#DW7 Blue)

FEATURE: (20 laps) 1. Sterling Cling, 2. Kendall Ruble, 3. Chett Gehrke (#10 Moore), 4. Aaron Leffel, 5. Patrick Ryan, 6. Jacob Denney, 7. Cody Trammell, 8. Cory Guingrich, 9. Ian Creager, 10. Jack Routson (#14 Routson), 11. Jon Watson, 12. Zane Briggs, 13. Brent Fordyce, 14. Kyle Kriegbaum, 15. Tyler Kalb, 16. Stratton Briggs, 17. Michael Koontz, 18. Brent Watson, 19. Mark Nieft Jr., 20. Kenneth Key, 21. Cindy Chambers, 22. Tim Key, 23. Chase McDermand, 24. Nick Spiedel, 25. Alex Watson, 26. Emerson Axsom, 27. Cody Beard. NT

****Bryce Dues flipped during the third heat.**

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-9 Kendall Ruble, Laps 10-20 Sterling Cling.

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PICKENS FLIES TO MIDGET VICTORY IN WAYNE CITY

Wayne City, Illinois (June 1, 2019).....On Friday night, Michael Pickens landed in Chicago following a 13-and-a-half hour flight from his New Zealand home.

Less than 24 hours later, he was standing in victory lane following his triumph in Saturday night's USAC Midget Special Event at Wayne County Speedway in Wayne City, Ill.

Pickens, from Auckland, dominated the event, winning his heat race, then led all 30 laps of the feature from the pole position. Jake Neuman (New Berlin, Ill.) took second ahead of Tyler Nelson (Olathe, Kans.) and Shelby Bosie (Sherman, Ill.) with Daniel Robinson (Ewing, Ill.) rounding out the top-five.

USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: June 1, 2019 – Wayne County Speedway – Wayne City, Illinois – 1/8-Mile Dirt Oval

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Ace McCarthy (#28 Neuman), 2. Jake Neuman (#3N Neuman), 3. Tyler Nelson (#88 Nelson), 4. Daniel Robinson (#57D McCreery), 5. Tyler Robbins (#35 Robbins), 6. Dean Parker (#99 Parker), 7. Austin Hawkins (#5 Hawkins). NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Michael Pickens (#1NZ RMS), 2. Shelby Bosie (#3B Bosie), 3. Chett Gehrke (#11c Matteson), 4. Jeff Schindler (#88x Schindler), 5. Brandon Smith (#11 Smith), 6. Dylan Moan (#17D Moan). NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting position in parentheses) 1. Michael Pickens (1), 2. Jake Neuman (2), 3. Tyler Nelson (4), 4. Shelby Bosie (3), 5. Daniel Robinson (8), 6. Chett Gehrke (6), 7. Ace McCarthy (5), 8. Tyler Robbins (9), 9. Brandon Smith (10), 10. Dylan Moan (11), 11. Dean Parker (12), 12. Austin Hawkins (13), 13. Jeff Schindler (7). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Pickens.

NEXT USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT: July 5, 2019 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Oval – Co-Sanctioned with USAC Speed2 Midwest Thunder Midgets

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USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: August 9, 2019 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana

QUALIFYING: 1. #86 Mark Lowrey-12.109; 2. #10 Chett Gehrke-12.147; 3. #37 Ronnie Gardner-12.153; 4. #1BR Chase Jones-12.209; 5. #88 Tyler Nelson-12.254; 6. #9 Chris Baue-12.306; 7. #67 Kyle O’Gara-12.418; 8. #57K Kevin Studley-12.542; 9. #21D Justin Dickerson-12.640; 10. #43 Logan Arnold-12.754; 11. #71 Stratton Briggs-12.757; 12. #3 Alex Watson-12.884; 13. #62 Cory Guingrich-13.259; 14. #11T Jacob Denney-13.272; 15. #10x Zane Briggs-13.329; 16. #36 Ian Creager-13.360; 17. #23D Bryce Dues-13.561; 18. #4 Brent Fordyce-13.895; 19. #57F Nate Foster-14.018; 20. #12 Kyle Kriegbaum-14.497; 21. #20N Mark Nieft Jr.-19.287; 22. #11L Aaron Leffel-NT; 23. #21 Nick Spiedel-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Stratton Briggs, 2. Aaron Leffel, 3. Logan Arnold, 4. Mark Lowrey, 5. Brent Fordyce, 6. Zane Briggs, 7. Nick Spiedel, 8. Mark Nieft Jr.

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Tyler Nelson, 2. Justin Dickerson, 3. Kevin Studley, 4. Alex Watson, 5. Jacob Denney, 6. Ian Creager, 7. Nate Foster, 8. Kyle Kriegbaum.

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Ronnie Gardner, 2. Kyle O’Gara, 3. Chris Baue, 4. Chase Jones, 5. Chett Gehrke, 6. Cory Guingrich, 7. Bryce Dues.

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Chase Jones, 2. Chris Baue, 3. Tyler Nelson, 4. Ronnie Gardner, 5. Justin Dickerson, 6. Kevin Studley, 7. Stratton Briggs, 8. Chett Gehrke, 9. Mark Lowrey, 10. Cory Guingrich, 11. Zane Briggs, 12. Logan Arnold, 13. Brent Fordyce, 14. Nate Foster, 15. Kyle Kriegbaum, 16. Kyle O’Gara, 17. Bryce Dues, 18. Alex Watson, 19. Aaron Leffel, 20. Nick Spiedel, 21. Mark Nieft Jr.

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Stratton Briggs, Laps 3-25 Chase Jones.

NEXT USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE: August 10, 2019 – Wayne County Speedway – Wayne City, Illinois

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JOHNSON WIRES WAYNE CITY FOR FIRST MIDGET WIN

Wayne City, Illinois (August 10, 2019).....Sam Johnson went wire-to-wire, leading all 20 laps from the pole position to capture the victory in Saturday night's USAC Midget Special Event at Wayne County Speedway in Wayne City, Ill.

Johnson (St. Peters, Mo.) took the win in dominating fashion, by a straightaway at the 1/8-mile dirt oval over Chris Baue (Indianapolis, Ind.), with Chett Gehrke (Broken Arrow, Okla.), Daniel Robinson (Ewing, Ill.) and Jacob Hesson (Marysville, Ohio) rounding out the top-five.

USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: August 10, 2019 – Wayne County Speedway – Wayne City, Illinois

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. #72 Sam Johnson, 2. #11 Daniel Robinson, 3. #93c Chett Gehrke, 4. #9 Chris Baue, 5. #23s Brad Strunk, 6. #43 John Heitzman, 7. #28 Raymond Holden. NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. #81JH Jacob Hesson, 2. #99 Dean Parker, 3. #14J Jaylon Mills, 4. #8E8 Ethan Rutherford, 5. #81H Anthony Haas, 6. #60E Mark Billings. NT

FEATURE: (20 Laps, starting position in parentheses) 1. Sam Johnson (1), 2. Chris Baue (6), 3. Chett Gehrke (7), 4. Daniel Robinson (4), 5. Jacob Hesson (3), 6. Brad Strunk (9), 7. Jaylon Mills (2), 8. Dean Parker (5), 9. Ethan Rutherford (8), 10. Anthony Haas (10), 11. Mark Billings (11), 12. Raymond Holden (13), 13. Jeff Schindler (14), 14. John Heitzman (12). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-20 Sam Johnson.

NEXT USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE: October 5, 2019 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana

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GAMESTER GETS IT DONE AT GAS CITY

Gas City, Indiana (October 5, 2019).....Russ Gamester controlled Saturday night's Fall Festival of Speed from start to finish, leading all 25 laps to win the final USAC Midget Midwest Special Event of the season at Indiana's Gas City I-69 Speedway.

Gamester, the 1989 USAC National Midget champion from Peru, Ind., started from the pole position and ran away to a full-straightaway lead at the checkered over Chett Gehrke (Broken Arrow, Okla.), Kendall Ruble (Vincennes, Ind.), Alex Watson (Columbus, Ohio) and Cody Beard (Huntingburg, Ind.).

USAC MIDGET MIDWEST SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: October 5, 2019 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – Fall Festival of Speed

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chett Gehrke (#10 Moore), 2. Cole Ketcham (#3E Martini/Ketcham), 3. Cody Beard (#7B Beard), 4. Jeff Beasley (#83B Beasley), 5. Zane Briggs (#10B Briggs), 6. Mark Nieft Jr. (#20N Nieft), 7. Tommy Bigelow (#2B Bigelow), 8. Don Bigelow (#4B Bigelow), 9. Jon Steed (#7 Steed). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Alex Watson (#3 Watson), 2. Kendall Ruble (#11m Martin), 3. Kyle Dager (#2 Briggs), 4. Jon Watson (#25 Watson), 5. Chris Bounds (#65 Bounds), 6. Brent Watson (#17K Watson), 7. Nate Foster (#57F Foster), 8. Kevin Blue (#5T Blue), 9. Kyle Kriegbaum (#12 Kriegbaum), 10. Tim Key (#6 Key). NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Russ Gamester (#46 Gamester), 2. Justin Dickerson (#21D Dickerson), 3. Cory Guingrich (#42 Guingrich), 4. Stratton Briggs (#71 Briggs), 5. Chris Baue (#9 Baue), 6. Jeff Wimmenauer (#15J

Wimmenauer), 7. Jacob Denney (#11T Taylor), 8. Ryan Thomas (#17 Thomas), 9. Oliver Akard (#41 Akard), 10. Ian Creager (#36 Creager). NT

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom (#15 Petry), 2. Tyler Nelson (#88 Nelson), 3. Aaron Leffel (#11L Taylor), 4. Drew Rader (#74 Rader), 5. Gunnar Lucius (#22 Lucius), 6. Ryan Irwin (#38 Irwin), 7. Bryce Dues (#23D Dues), 8. Zach Guingrich (#62 Guingrich), 9. Denny Smith (#66 Smith). NT

FIRST SEMI: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Baue, 2. Jacob Denney, 3. Zane Briggs, 4. Jeff Wimmenauer, 5. Oliver Akard, 6. Mark Nieft Jr., 7. Ryan Thomas, 8. Tommy Bigelow, 9. Don Bigelow, 10. Ian Creager. NT

SECOND SEMI: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Nate Foster, 2. Gunnar Lucius, 3. Kevin Blue, 4. Brent Watson, 5. Chris Bounds, 6. Kyle Kriegbaum, 7. Zach Guingrich, 8. Bryce Dues, 9. Ryan Irwin, 10. Denny Smith, 11. Tim Key. NT

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Nick Spiedel (#21 Spiedel)

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Russ Gamester, 2. Chett Gehrke, 3. Kendall Ruble, 4. Alex Watson, 5. Cody Beard, 6. Aaron Leffel, 7. Tyler Nelson, 8. Chris Baue, 9. Drew Rader, 10. Cole Ketcham, 11. Justin Dickerson, 12. Stratton Briggs, 13. Nate Foster, 14. Cory Guingrich, 15. Jon Watson, 16. Gunnar Lucius, 17. Jacob Denney, 18. Jeff Beasley, 19. Emerson Axsom, 20. Kyle Dager.

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Russ Gamester.