

2023 USAC WESTERN FOCUS MIDGET SEASON

WESTOVER RACES TO 2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL TITLE IN MEMORY OF FALLEN DRIVER

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Devin Westover's USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget championship in 2023 was truly special in so many ways.

After 17-year-old Chaz Groat passed away from injuries sustained in a 2021 highway accident, Chuck and Julie Groat made the decision to race on in their son's memory. Westover was handpicked by the family to drive Chaz's Lucky #13 midget moving forward.

Westover succeeded in 2023, and the Saratoga Springs, Utah driver was able to edge teammate A.J. Luttmmer in the final tally to score the crown by a narrow four-point margin, the closest in series history.

On his path to the title, Westover won on four occasions, most in the series. He won once at Arizona's Havasu 95 Speedway and three times at Idaho's Magic Valley Speedway, where he won a recent track championship in the midgets for the Groat family. In the end, Westover became the first Utah native to capture a USAC driving championship since Jimmy Waters 12 years earlier in 2011.

It was a season of change for the series, which combined both the USAC Radical Focus Midget and Rocky Mountain Focus Midget series under one banner with a boosted schedule featuring 13 rounds, which shifted the series' focus to the states of Arizona and Idaho.

All seven victorious drivers with the series in 2023 also became first-time USAC winners in the process. Out of the Groat Racing stable, A.J. Luttmmer (West Jordan, Utah) won thrice, once in the season opener at Havasu 95 and twice at Magic Valley.

Anthony Quintana (Riverton, Utah) picked up a pair of early season wins at Idaho's Meridian Speedway in April and at Magic Valley in May. Chuck Groat, the father of Chaz Groat, captured an emotional victory on the opening night of the Chaz Groat Memorial at Meridian in September.

Meanwhile, three women were series winners during the season, including Salt Lake City, Utah sisters Cheyenne Merrill (June 17 at Meridian Speedway) and River Merrill (August 12 at Magic Valley Speedway) as well as Ashlynn Powell (West Valley, Utah), a softball player for Southeast Arkansas College away from the track, who collected the season finale Chaz Groat Memorial at Meridian.

Westover topped all drivers with 79 laps led while Luttmmer finished inside the top-five in all 13 of his starts. Luttmmer and Westover grabbed top-10 results in all 13 starts while Luttmmer was the fastest qualifier on a series-leading six occasions.

River Merrill and Anthony Quintana showed their prowess by winning a series-high four heat races apiece. Three drivers started all 13 events during the 2023 campaign, including Westover, Luttmmer and River Merrill.

=====

LUTTMER WINS USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN OPENER AT HAVASU

Lake Havasu, Arizona (March 24, 2023).....A.J. Luttmmer led all 20 laps en route to victory during the debut of USAC's Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget series on Friday night at Arizona's Havasu 95 Speedway.

For Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah), it was his first career USAC victory as he led the distance at the 1/4-mile paved oval. Fast qualifier Devin Westover (Saratoga Springs, Utah) took second in the main event while River Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) scored third.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: March 24, 2023 – Havasu 95 Speedway – Lake Havasu, Arizona

QUALIFYING: 1. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-14.865; 2. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-14.977; 3. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-15.058.

FEATURE: (20 laps) 1. A.J. Luttmer, 2. Devin Westover, 3. River Merrill. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-20 A.J. Luttmer.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-A.J. Luttmer-74, 2-Devin Westover-73, 3-River Merrill-69.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: March 25, 2023 – Havasu 95 Speedway – Lake Havasu, Arizona

=====

WESTOVER TAKES OVER AT LAKE HAVASU'S USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RUN

Lake Havasu, Arizona (March 25, 2023).....Devin Westover controlled the distance from start-to-finish on his way to winning Saturday night's USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget feature event at Arizona's Havasu 95 Speedway.

The Saratoga Springs, Utah native led all 20 laps at the 1/4-mile paved oval to score his first career series victory by a 1.149 second margin and emerged as the new series point leader two races into the season.

Friday night Havasu winner A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah) took second at the finish line while fast qualifier River Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) notched third.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: March 25, 2023 – Havasu 95 Speedway – Lake Havasu, Arizona

QUALIFYING: 1. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-14.943; 2. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-14.973; 3. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-15.075.

FEATURE: (20 laps) 1. Devin Westover, 2. A.J. Luttmer, 3. River Merrill. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-20 Devin Westover.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-147, 2-A.J. Luttmer-146, 3-River Merrill-139.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: April 15, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

=====

QUICK QUINTANA WINS HIS FIRST AT MERIDIAN

Meridian, Idaho (April 15, 2023).....Anthony Quintana raced to the lead nine laps into Saturday night's USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget feature at Idaho's Meridian Speedway, and in doing so, collected his first career series win.

Driving Jimmy Waters' No. 02, Quintana (Riverton, Utah) assumed the lead of the 25-lap main event on the ninth circuit when he passed Cheyenne Merrill, then led the remaining 17 laps around the 1/4-mile paved oval to score the win.

Fast qualifier and series point leader Devin Westover (Saratoga Springs, Utah) ran second in the feature with A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah) third.

River Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) took fourth with Cheyenne Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) fifth after leading the initial eight laps. Nicholas Escobedo (Kuna, Idaho) rounded out the field in the sixth position.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: April 15, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-13.347; 2. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-13.418; 3. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-13.512; 4. Anthony Quintana, 02, Waters-13.586; 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-13.743; 6. Nicholas Escobedo, 05, Escobedo-13.883.

HEAT: (7 laps) 1. River Merrill, 2. Devin Westover, 3. Anthony Quintana, 4. A.J. Luttmer, 5. Nicholas Escobedo, 6. Cheyenne Merrill. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Anthony Quintana, 2. Devin Westover, 3. A.J. Luttmer, 4. River Merrill, 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 6. Nicholas Escobedo. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-8 Cheyenne Merrill, Laps 9-25 Anthony Quintana.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-227, 2-A.J. Luttmer-220, 3-River Merrill-212, 4-Anthony Quintana-79, 5-Cheyenne Merrill-63, 6-Nicholas Escobedo-60.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: April 29, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

=====

IT'S MAGIC: LUTTMER SHOWS THE WAY AT MAGIC VALLEY

Twin Falls, Idaho (April 29, 2023).....A.J. Luttmer became the first two-time winner of the USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget season on Saturday night at Twin Falls, Idaho's Magic Valley Speedway.

Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah), driving Chuck Groat's No. 31, took over the lead from the series' most recent winner, Anthony Quintana, on lap 16 of the 25-lap feature. From there, Luttmer led the remaining distance to score another victory after taking the season opener at Arizona's Havasu 95 Speedway in March.

Quintana (Riverton, Utah) fell back to sixth at the finish line but still led a race-high 15 laps until being overtaken by Luttmer. Point leader Devin Westover (Saratoga Springs, Utah) took second at the stripe. Ashlyn Powell (Salt Lake City, Utah) took third with River Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) collected fourth with fast qualifier Cheyenne Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) rounding out the top-five.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: April 29, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-14.308; 2. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-14.360; 3. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-14.373; 4. Ashlyn Powell, 25, Powell-14.425; 5. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-14.433; 6. Anthony Quintana, 02, Waters-14.450;

7. Monty Bergener, 12B, Bergener-14.717; 8. Nick Escobedo, 05, Escobedo-15.077; 9. Aiden Parker, 30, Parker-15.451; 10. Matt Elliott, 24, Elliott-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Anthony Quintana, 2. Ashlyn Powell, 3. A.J. Luttmer, 4. Nick Escobedo. NT

SECOND HEAT: (7 laps) 1. River Merrill, 2. Devin Westover, 3. Monty Bergener, 4. Cheyenne Merrill, 5. Aiden Parker. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. A.J. Luttmer, 2. Devin Westover, 3. Ashlyn Powell, 4. River Merrill, 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 6. Anthony Quintana, 7. Monty Bergener, 8. Aiden Parker, 9. Nick Escobedo. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-15 Anthony Quintana, Laps 16-25 A.J. Luttmer.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-305, 2-A.J. Luttmer-301, 3-River Merrill-283, 4-Anthony Quintana-143, 5-Cheyenne Merrill-132, 6-Nick Escobedo-111, 7-Ashlyn Powell-74, 8-Monty Bergener-58, 9-Aiden Parker-53, 10-Matt Elliott-10.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: May 13, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

=====

QUINTANA ZOOMS TO MAGIC VALLEY VICTORY

Twin Falls, Idaho (May 20, 2023).....Anthony Quintana joined the ranks of two-time winners this season in USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget competition on Saturday night at Magic Valley Speedway in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Quintana (Riverton, Utah) started strongly, leading the opening 17 circuits of the 30-lapper before Devin Westover took over and controlled the next four go-arounds. Quintana caught his second wind with nine laps remaining and retook the top spot from Westover on lap 22.

At the stripe, Quintana held a 0.484 second advantage over River Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah), who came home second at the finish line. A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah), the series' only other two-time winner this season, scored a third while Westover (Saratoga Springs, Utah) ran fourth and Cheyenne Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) rounded out the top-five.

Luttmer was the fastest qualifier with a new track record lap of 14.108 and now holds the championship lead with a one-point edge over Westover. Ashlyn Powell (Salt Lake City, Utah) and Luttmer captured heat race victories.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: May 20, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-14.108 (New Track Record); 2. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-14.116; 3. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-14.252; 4. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-14.274; 5. Anthony Quintana, 02, Waters-14.305; 6. Ashlyn Powell, 25, Powell-14.671; 7. Aiden Parker, 30, Parker-15.416.

FIRST HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Ashlyn Powell, 2. Devin Westover, 3. River Merrill. NT

SECOND HEAT: (7 laps) 1. A.J. Luttmer, 2. Anthony Quintana, 3. Cheyenne Merrill. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Anthony Quintana, 2. River Merrill, 3. A.J. Luttmer, 4. Devin Westover, 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 6. Aiden Parker, 7. Ashlyn Powell. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-17 Anthony Quintana, Laps 18-21 Devin Westover, Laps 22-30 Anthony Quintana.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-A.J. Luttmer-379, 2-Devin Westover-378, 3-River Merrill-359, 4-Anthony Quintana-222, 5-Cheyenne Merrill-200, 6-Ashlyn Powell-135, 7-Nick Escobedo-111, 8-Aiden Parker-108, 9-Monty Bergener-58, 10-Matt Elliott-10.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: June 3, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

=====

WESTOVER BRINGS THE MAGIC TO VICTORY LANE IN TWIN FALLS

Twin Falls, Idaho (June 3, 2023).....Devin Westover got two in one fell swoop on Saturday night at Magic Valley Speedway in Twin Falls, Idaho.

The Saratoga Springs, Utah native captured his second USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget victory of the season and also ascended to the series point lead.

Westover set the tone early as the evening's fastest qualifier, then followed it up by chasing down early race leader Cheyenne Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) four laps into the feature event. From there, Westover finished it off by leading the final 22 laps en route to the win.

Heat race winner River Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) crossed the finish line second behind Westover in the 30-lap feature while Cheyenne Merrill took third. Anthony Quintana (Riverton, Utah) grabbed fourth and A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah) was fifth.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: June 3, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-14.487; 2. Anthony Quintana, 02, Waters-14.661; 3. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-14.698; 4. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-14.753; 5. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-NT.

HEAT: (10 laps) 1. River Merrill, 2. Cheyenne Merrill, 3. Devin Westover, 4. Anthony Quintana, 5. A.J. Luttmer. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Devin Westover, 2. River Merrill, 3. Cheyenne Merrill, 4. Anthony Quintana, 5. A.J. Luttmer. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-3 Cheyenne Merrill, Laps 4-25 Devin Westover.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-460, 2-A.J. Luttmer-443, 3-River Merrill-437, 4-Anthony Quintana-293, 5-Cheyenne Merrill-275, 6-Ashlyn Powell-135, 7-Nick Escobedo-111, 8-Aiden Parker-108, 9-Monty Bergener-58, 10-Matt Elliott-10.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: June 16, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

=====

COMPLETE SWEEP FOR WESTOVER AT MERIDIAN

Meridian, Idaho (June 16, 2023).....Devin Westover scored his second consecutive USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget feature victory on Friday night at Idaho's Meridian Speedway.

The Saratoga Springs, Utah native performed the feat in spectacular fashion by recording the fastest qualifying time, winning his heat and scoring the feature win - a complete sweep of the evening's racing program.

Westover achieved the latter by tracking down Nick Escobedo on lap 10, and from there, led the remaining 16 laps to earn his third series win of the season.

Following Westover to the line in the 25-lap main event were A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah), Anthony Quintana (Riverton, Utah) and Nick Escobedo (Kuna, Idaho) with Cheyenne Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) rounding out the top-five.

The triumphant performance pushed Westover's series point lead to 23 over Luttmer in the tight championship race.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: June 16, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-13.367; 2. Anthony Quintana, 02, Waters-13.393; 3. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-13.431; 4. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-13.674; 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-13.723; 6. Nick Escobedo, 05y, Escobedo-13.762; 7. Keith Davidson, 52, Davidson-14.090.

FIRST HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Devin Westover, 2. A.J. Luttmer, 3. Cheyenne Merrill, 4. Keith Davidson. NT

SECOND HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Anthony Quintana, 2. Nick Escobedo, 3. River Merrill. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Devin Westover, 2. A.J. Luttmer, 3. Anthony Quintana, 4. Nick Escobedo, 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 6. River Merrill, 7. Keith Davidson. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-9 Nick Escobedo, Laps 10-25 Devin Westover.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-544, 2-A.J. Luttmer-521, 3-River Merrill-501, 4-Anthony Quintana-370, 5-Cheyenne Merrill-341, 6-Nick Escobedo-180, 7-Ashlyn Powell-135, 8-Aiden Parker-108, 9-Monty Bergener-58, 10-Keith Davidson-57.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: June 17, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

=====

CHEYENNE MERRILL GETS FIRST WIN AT MERIDIAN

Meridian, Idaho (June 17, 2023).....Cheyenne Merrill scored her first career USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget feature victory on Saturday at Idaho's Meridian Speedway.

Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) led all 25 laps from start to finish to capture her initial series win on the 1/4-mile paved oval.

Series point leader and fast qualifier Devin Westover (Saratoga Springs, Utah) finished second with A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah) third, River Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) fourth while Nick Escobedo (Kuna, Idaho) rounded out the top-five.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: June 17, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-13.321; 2. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-13.371; 3. Anthony Quintana, 02, Waters-13.445; 4. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-13.478; 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-13.499; 6. Nick Escobedo, 05y, Escobedo-13.623; 7. Keith Davidson, 52, Davidson-13.899.

FIRST HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Anthony Quintana, 2. Devin Westover, 3. Cheyenne Merrill, 4. Keith Davidson. NT

SECOND HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Nick Escobedo, 2. River Merrill, 3. A.J. Luttmer. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Cheyenne Merrill, 2. Devin Westover, 3. A.J. Luttmer, 4. River Merrill, 5. Nick Escobedo, 6. Keith Davidson, 7. Anthony Quintana. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Cheyenne Merrill.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-624, 2-A.J. Luttmer-596, 3-River Merrill-572, 4-Anthony Quintana-434, 5-Cheyenne Merrill-419, 6-Nick Escobedo-247, 7-Ashlyn Powell-135, 8-Keith Davidson-117, 9-Aiden Parker-108, 10-Monty Bergener-58.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: July 8, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

=====

BEST OF THE WESTOVER, NATIVE UTAHN WINS AT MAGIC VALLEY

Twin Falls, Idaho (July 8, 2023).....Devin Westover showed championship-caliber form en route to winning Saturday's USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget feature at Twin Falls, Idaho's Magic Valley Speedway.

The series point leader from Saratoga Springs, Utah trailed River Merrill for the first 14 circuits of the 25-lap main event before making the winning move, overtaking Merrill for the top spot on the 15th go-around.

Westover then drove away from the pack to a 2.922 second triumph, leading the final 11 laps to score his fourth series win of the year. River Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) grabbed a distant second with A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah) third, Chuck Groat (West Valley City, Utah) fourth and Cheyenne Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) fifth while Aiden Parker (Salt Lake City, Utah) took sixth.

By virtue of his victory, Westover bumped his series point lead up to 34 points over Luttmer.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: July 8, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-14.272; 2. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-14.301; 3. Chuck Groat, 14, Groat-14.309; 4. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-14.506; 5. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-14.628; 6. Aiden Parker, 30, Parker-15.033.

FIRST HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Cheyenne Merrill, 2. River Merrill, 3. Devin Westover, 4. A.J. Luttmer, 5. Chuck Groat, 6. Aiden Parker. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Devin Westover, 2. River Merrill, 3. A.J. Luttmer, 4. Chuck Groat, 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 6. Aiden Parker. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-14 River Merrill, Laps 15-25 Devin Westover.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-705, 2-A.J. Luttmer-671, 3-River Merrill-648, 4-Cheyenne Merrill-488, 5-Anthony Quintana-434, 6-Nick Escobedo-247, 7-Aiden Parker-167, 8-Ashlyn Powell-135, 9-Keith Davidson-117, 10-Chuck Groat-69.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: August 12, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

=====

RIVER RUNS WILD; MERRILL WINS FIRST AT MAGIC VALLEY

Twin Falls, Idaho (August 12, 2023).....Just less than two months after her sister's first career USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget feature victory, River Merrill did just the same on Saturday night at Twin Falls, Idaho's Magic Valley Speedway.

The Salt Lake City, Utah racer charged into the lead by passing point leader Devin Westover on lap seven of the feature of the 20-lap feature before narrowly defeating fast qualifier A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah) by a half car length with River just 0.060 sec. ahead at the finish line in the closest series finish of the season.

River's winning performance came after younger sister Cheyenne Merrill scored a victory at the same at Idaho's Meridian Speedway on June 17 of this year. Cheyenne did not compete in Saturday's feature due to mechanical troubles.

In doing so, the Merrill sisters became just the second pair of sisters to win in the 68-year history of USAC competition. Toni and Annie Breidinger are the only other sisters to accomplish the feat.

William Ginn (Twin Falls, Idaho) grabbed a third-place feature finish in his first series start of the season after also winning his heat race. Aiden Parker (Salt Lake City, Utah) took fourth while Devin Westover (Saratoga Springs, Utah) rounded out the top-five after leading the initial six laps of the feature.

Westover maintains a 23-point lead in the season championship standings over Luttmer.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: August 12, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-14.185; 2. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-14.231; 3. William Ginn, 14, Groat-14.239; 4. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-14.292; 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-14.324; 6. Aiden Parker, 30, Parker-14.500; 7. Nick Escobedo, 05, Escobedo-14.562.

FIRST HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Devin Westover, 2. River Merrill, 3. Aiden Parker. NT

SECOND HEAT: (7 laps) 1. William Ginn, 2. A.J. Luttmer, 3. Cheyenne Merrill, 4. Nick Escobedo. NT

FEATURE: (20 laps) 1. River Merrill, 2. A.J. Luttmer, 3. William Ginn, 4. Aiden Parker, 5. Devin Westover. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-6 Devin Westover, Laps 7-20 River Merrill.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-774, 2-A.J. Luttmer-751, 3-River Merrill-730, 4-Cheyenne Merrill-506, 5-Anthony Quintana-434, 6-Nick Escobedo-262, 7-Aiden Parker-235, 8-Ashlyn Powell-135, 9-Keith Davidson-117, 10-Chuck Groat-69.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: September 9, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

=====

LUTTMER LAUNCHES TO MAGIC VALLEY VICTORY IN IDAHO

Twin Falls, Idaho (September 9, 2023).....A.J. Luttmer raced to his third USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget feature victory of the season on Saturday night at Twin Falls, Idaho's Magic Valley Speedway.

River Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah), who was contending for her second consecutive series win, led the opening 11 laps of the 25-lapper. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah) tracked down Merrill by lap 12 to launch into the lead.

From there, Luttmer led the final 14 laps en route to victory over series point leader and runner-up finisher Devin Westover (Saratoga Springs, Utah) with River Merrill third, William Ginn (Twin Falls, Idaho) fourth, Aiden Parker (Salt Lake City, Utah) fifth and Cheyenne Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) sixth.

Westover maintains an 18-point lead in the season championship standings over Luttmer.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: September 9, 2023 – Magic Valley Speedway – Twin Falls, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-14.148; 2. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-14.304; 3. William Ginn, 14, Groat-14.380; 4. Aiden Parker, 30, Parker-14.512; 5. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-14.519; 6. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-14.661.

HEAT: (7 laps) 1. A.J. Luttmer, 2. Devin Westover, 3. Aiden Parker, 4. William Ginn, 5. River Merrill, 6. Cheyenne Merrill. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. A.J. Luttmer, 2. Devin Westover, 3. River Merrill, 4. William Ginn, 5. Aiden Parker, 6. Cheyenne Merrill. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-11 River Merrill, Laps 12-25 A.J. Luttmer.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-853, 2-A.J. Luttmer-835, 3-River Merrill-800, 4-Cheyenne Merrill-565, 5-Anthony Quintana-434, 6-Aiden Parker-302, 7-Nick Escobedo-262, 8-William Ginn-146, 9-Ashlyn Powell-135, 10-Keith Davidson-117.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: September 22-23, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

=====

PRIME MERIDIAN: GROAT WINS FIRST IN IDAHO

Meridian, Idaho (September 22, 2023).....Chuck Groat scored his first career USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget feature victory on Friday night at Idaho's Meridian Speedway, part of the Pink Lady Classic.

Groat (West Valley City, Utah) led all 30 laps in wire-to-wire fashion to take the win over teammate A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah). Cheyenne Merrill (Salt Lake City, Utah) took third with Tyler West (Silvana, Wash.) fourth and Ashlyn Powell (West Valley, Utah) fifth.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: September 22, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-13.209; 2. Anthony Quintana, 02, Quintana-13.241; 3. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-13.342; 4. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-13.391; 5. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-13.415; 6. Chuck Groat, 14, Groat-13.441; 7. Ashlyn Powell, 25, Powell-13.559; 8. Nick Escobedo, 05y, 13.562; 9. Tyler West, 77, West-13.633; 10. Drew Crenshaw, 0, Crenshaw-13.760; 11. Brian Hayes, 3B, Hayes-14.047; 12. Duane Swanson, 1, Swanson-14.298; 13. Robert Clark, 36c, Clark-14.671; 14. Trevor Anderson, 69, Anderson-19.667.

FIRST HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Devin Westover, 2. Chuck Groat, 3. Tyler West, 4. Duane Swanson. NT

SECOND HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Anthony Quintana, 2. Nick Escobedo, 3. Brian Hayes, 4. Cheyenne Merrill, 5. Trevor Anderson. NT

THIRD HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Ashlyn Powell, 2. Drew Crenshaw, 3. River Merrill, 4. A.J. Luttmer, 5. Robert Clark. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Chuck Groat, 2. A.J. Luttmer, 3. Cheyenne Merrill, 4. Tyler West, 5. Ashlyn Powell, 6. Devin Westover, 7. Drew Crenshaw, 8. Robert Clark, 9. Brian Hayes, 10. River Merrill, 11. Anthony Quintana, 12. Nick Escobedo, 13. Duane Swanson, 14. Trevor Anderson. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Chuck Groat.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-920, 2-A.J. Luttmer-913, 3-River Merrill-852, 4-Cheyenne Merrill-636, 5-Anthony Quintana-488, 6-Nick Escobedo-308, 7-Aiden Parker-302, 8-Ashlyn Powell-201, 9-Chuck Groat-147, 10-William Ginn-146.

NEXT USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RACE: September 23, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

=====

POWELL WINS HER FIRST AT MERIDIAN, WESTOVER IS RADICAL CHAMP

Meridian, Idaho (September 23, 2023).....Ashlyn Powell raced to her first career USAC Rocky Mountain Radical Focus Midget feature win during Saturday night's Pink Lady Classic at Idaho's Meridian Speedway.

Powell (West Valley City, Utah), a softball player for Southeast Arkansas College away from the track, overtook Cheyenne Merrill for the lead on lap four, then held strong throughout the final 32 laps to take the checkered flag in the season finale for the series.

By virtue of his second-place result, Devin Westover (Saratoga Springs, Utah) collected the season-long championship by one single position over series runner-up A.J. Luttmer (West Jordan, Utah), a four-point difference between the two in the final tally.

Fast Qualifier Luttmer finished third in the feature with Tyler West (Silvana, Wash.) fourth and Friday night Meridian winner Chuck Groat (West Valley City, Utah) rounding out the top-five.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET RESULTS: September 23, 2023 – Meridian Speedway – Meridian, Idaho

QUALIFYING: 1. A.J. Luttmer, 31, Groat-13.209; 2. Chuck Groat, 14, Groat-13.441; 3. River Merrill, 9, Merrill-13.391; 4. Anthony Quintana, 02, Quintana-13.241; 5. Ashlyn Powell, 25, Powell-13.559; 6. Devin Westover, 13, Groat-13.342; 7. Cheyenne Merrill, 8, Merrill-13.415; 8. Tyler West, 77, West-13.633; 9. Drew Crenshaw, 0, Crenshaw-13.760; 10. Nick Escobedo, 05y, 13.562; 11. Duane Swanson, 1, Swanson-14.298; 12. Brian Hayes, 3B, Hayes-14.047; 13. Robert Clark, 36c, Clark-14.671.

FIRST HEAT: (7 laps) 1. River Merrill, 2. Devin Westover, 3. Drew Crenshaw, 4. Brian Hayes. NT

SECOND HEAT: (7 laps) 1. Tyler West, 2. Chuck Groat, 3. Ashlyn Powell, 4. Duane Swanson. NT

THIRD HEAT: (7 laps) 1. A.J. Luttmer, 2. Anthony Quintana, 3. Cheyenne Merrill, 4. Robert Clark, 5. Nick Escobedo. NT

FEATURE: (35 laps) 1. Ashlyn Powell, 2. Devin Westover, 3. A.J. Luttmer, 4. Tyler West, 5. Chuck Groat, 6. Trevor Anderson, 7. Drew Crenshaw, 8. Brian Hayes, 9. Robert Clark, 10. Anthony Quintana, 11. Cheyenne Merrill, 12. River Merrill, 13. Duane Swanson. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-3 Cheyenne Merrill, Laps 4-35 Ashlyn Powell.

USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL FOCUS MIDGET POINTS: 1-Devin Westover-995, 2-A.J. Luttmer-991, 3-River Merrill-903, 4-Cheyenne Merrill-683, 5-Anthony Quintana-541, 6-Nick Escobedo-322, 7-Aiden Parker-302, 8-Ashlyn Powell-279, 9-Chuck Groat-217, 10-William Ginn-146.

=====

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET STAT LEADERS:

Driver Champion: Devin Westover

Most Feature Wins: 4-Devin Westover

Feature Laps Led: 79-Devin Westover

Top-Fives: 13-A.J. Luttmer

Top-Tens: 13-A.J. Luttmer & Devin Westover

Fast Qualifying Times: 6-A.J. Luttmer

Heat Race Wins: 4-River Merrill & Anthony Quintana

Feature Starts: 13-A.J. Luttmer, River Merrill & Devin Westover

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET DRIVER POINT STANDINGS:

POS.	PTS.	DRIVER, HOMETOWN
1.	995	Devin Westover, Saratoga Springs, Utah
2.	991	A.J. Luttmer, West Jordan, Utah
3.	903	River Merrill, Salt Lake City, Utah
4.	683	Cheyenne Merrill, Salt Lake City, Utah
5.	541	Anthony Quintana, Riverton, Utah
6.	322	Nick Escobedo, Kuna, Idaho
7.	302	Aiden Parker, Salt Lake City, Utah
8.	279	Ashlyn Powell, West Valley, Utah
9.	217	Chuck Groat, West Valley, Utah
10.	146	William Ginn, Boise, Idaho
11.	117	Keith Davidson, Princeton, B.C.
12.	58	Monty Bergener, Saratoga Springs, Utah

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET FEATURE WINNERS:

Mar 24: Havasu 95 Speedway - Lake Havasu, AZ

WINNER: A.J. Luttmer (Chuck Groat #31)

Mar 25: Havasu 95 Speedway - Lake Havasu, AZ

WINNER: Devin Westover (Chuck Groat #13)

Apr 15: Meridian Speedway - Meridian, ID

WINNER: Anthony Quintana (Jimmy Waters #02)

Apr 29: Magic Valley Speedway - Twin Falls, ID

WINNER: A.J. Luttmer (Chuck Groat #31)

May 20: Magic Valley Speedway - Twin Falls, ID

WINNER: Anthony Quintana (Jimmy Waters #02)

Jun 3: Magic Valley Speedway - Twin Falls, ID

WINNER: Devin Westover (Chuck Groat #13)

Jun 16: Meridian Speedway - Meridian, ID

WINNER: Devin Westover (Chuck Groat #13)

Jun 17: Meridian Speedway - Meridian, ID

WINNER: Cheyenne Merrill (Rodney Merrill #8)

Jul 8: Magic Valley Speedway - Twin Falls, ID

WINNER: Devin Westover (Chuck Groat #13)

Aug 12: Magic Valley Speedway - Twin Falls, ID

WINNER: River Merrill (Rodney Merrill #9)

Sep 9: Magic Valley Speedway - Twin Falls, ID

WINNER: A.J. Luttmer (Chuck Groat #31)

Sep 22: Meridian Speedway - Meridian, ID

WINNER: Chuck Groat (Chuck Groat #14)

Sep 23: Meridian Speedway - Meridian, ID

WINNER: Ashlyn Powell (Tim Powell #25)

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET FEATURE WINS:

4-Devin Westover (Mar 25 at Havasu 95 Speedway, Jun 3 at Magic Valley Speedway, Jun 16 at Meridian Speedway & Jul 8 at Magic Valley Speedway)

3-A.J. Luttmer (Mar 24 at Havasu 95 Speedway, Apr 29 at Magic Valley Speedway & Sep 9 at Magic Valley Speedway)

2-Anthony Quintana (Apr 15 at Meridian Speedway & May 20: Magic Valley Speedway)

1-Chuck Groat (Sep 22 at Meridian Speedway)

1-Cheyenne Merrill (Jun 17 at Meridian Speedway)

1-River Merrill (Aug 12 at Magic Valley Speedway)

1-Ashlyn Powell (Sep 23 at Meridian Speedway)

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET FEATURE LAPS LED:

79-Devin Westover

58-Anthony Quintana

44-A.J. Luttmer

39-Cheyenne Merrill & River Merrill

32-Ashlynn Powell

30-Chuck Groat

9-Nick Escobedo

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET TOP-5 FEATURE FINISHES:

13-A.J. Luttmer

12-Devin Westover

10-River Merrill

8-Cheyenne Merrill

4-Anthony Quintana

3-Chuck Groat & Ashlyn Powell

2-Nick Escobedo, William Ginn, Aiden Parker & Tyler West

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET TOP-10 FEATURE FINISHES:

13-A.J. Luttmer & Devin Westover

12-River Merrill

9-Cheyenne Merrill

7-Anthony Quintana

5-Aiden Parker

4-Nick Escobedo & Ashlyn Powell

3-Chuck Groat

2-Robert Clark, Drew Crenshaw, Keith Davidson, William Ginn, Brian Hayes & Tyler West

1-Trevor Anderson & Monty Bergener

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET FEATURE STARTS:

13-A.J. Luttmer, River Merrill & Devin Westover

10-Cheyenne Merrill

8-Anthony Quintana

5-Nick Escobedo & Aiden Parker

4-Ashlyn Powell

3-Chuck Groat

2-Trevor Anderson, Robert Clark, Drew Crenshaw, Keith Davidson, William Ginn, Brian Hayes, Duane Swanson & Tyler West

1-Monty Bergener

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET FAST QUALIFYING TIMES:

6-A.J. Luttmer

5-Devin Westover

1-Cheyenne Merrill & River Merrill

2023 USAC ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADICAL MIDGET HEAT RACE WINS:

4-River Merrill & Anthony Quintana

3-A.J. Luttmer & Devin Westover

2-Ashlyn Powell

1-Nick Escobedo, William Ginn, Cheyenne Merrill & Tyler West