

1960 USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR SEASON

BRANSON COPS FIRST SPRINT RACE

Don Branson of Urbana, Illinois got off to a good start in the defense of his 1959 Midwest championship by winning the first sprint car race of the season.

He beat Jim Hurtubise of Lennox, California to the line by about two feet in the 30-lap feature event on the half-mile asphalt of Meyer Speedway in Houston, Texas, Sunday, March 20.

Branson, who was driving the Bob Estes Special, set a new track record of 22.480 seconds in qualifications. This was 0.18 faster than the old record of 22.660, which was set in 1959 by Parnelli Jones.

A.J. Foyt of Houston was the second fastest qualifier, won the first heat and led the feature event at the start. Foyt encountered severe tire wear and was forced to slow down.

Branson took the lead on the 18th lap and remained in front to the finish. However, Hurtubise was in contention all the way and almost passed Branson at the finish line on the last lap. The time was 11:55.51, which automatically was a track record since this was the first 30-lap sprint race ever run on the track.

The heat winners were Foyt, Hurtubise, Jim Packard and Leon Clum. The purse was \$5,800.

The next event at Houston will be a midget race on Sunday, April 10. It will be preceded by midget races at Austin and San Antonio on April 8 and 9.

The next sprint race will be Sunday, March 27 at Reading, Pennsylvania. The following Sunday, April 3, the sprint cars will be at Williams Grove.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: March 20, 1960 – Meyer Speedway – Houston, Texas

QUALIFYING: 1. Don Branson, Estes-22.480 (New Track Record); 2. A.J. Foyt.

HEAT WINNERS: A.J. Foyt, Jim Hurtubise, Jim Packard & Leon Clum

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Don Branson, 2. Jim Hurtubise, 3. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 4. A.J. Foyt (Watson), 5. Wayne Weiler (HOW), 6. Jim Packard (Midwest), 7. Leon Clum (LaWarre), 8. Roger McCluskey, 9. Nelson Stacy, 10. Harry Ross, 11. Bob Mathouser, 12. Dan Morgan. 11:55.51 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-17 A.J. Foyt, Laps 18-30 Don Branson.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Don Branson-30, 2-Jim Hurtubise-24, 3-Parnelli Jones-21, 4-A.J. Foyt-18, 5-Wayne Weiler-15, 6-Jim Packard-12, 7-Leon Clum-9, 8-Roger McCluskey-7.5, 9-Nelson Stacy-6, 10-Harry Ross-4.5.

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BRANSON WINS TERRE HAUTE SPRINT

Don Branson of Urbana, Illinois won a 30-lap sprint race on the half-mile dirt track at Terre Haute, Indiana on Sunday, June 12. It was Branson's second victory of the season on the Midwest sprint car circuit. He drove the Bob Estes Special in both races.

Branson led every lap, but he was challenged continuously by Jim Hurtubise of Lennox, California, who finished second only a few feet behind. Parnelli Jones of Southgate, California was third. This was the exact finish of the only other Midwest sprint race this season at Houston.

Eddie Sachs of Allentown, Pennsylvania was the fastest qualifier with a time of 24.430 seconds. The heat winners were Branson, Sachs and Duke Hindahl. Tommy Hinnershitz won the semi-feature. The purse was \$5,400.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: June 12, 1960 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana

QUALIFYING: Eddie Sachs, 24.430.

HEAT WINNERS: Don Branson, Eddie Sachs & Duke Hindahl.

SEMI: 1. Tommy Hinnershitz.

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Don Branson (Estes), 2. Jim Hurtubise (Barnett), 3. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 4. Tommy Hinnershitz (Pfrommer), 5. Bob Cleberg (Hyneman), 6. Jim Packard (Stearly), 7. Shorty Templeman (HOW), 8. Eddie Sachs (Schmidt), 9. Jim McWithey (Midwest), 10. Marvin Pifer, 11. Duke Hindahl, 12. Bill Brown. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Don Branson.

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JONES & BRANSON WIN MILWAUKEE SPRINTS

Parnelli Jones of Gardena, California and Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois each won 50-mile sprint races on the one mile track at Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Sunday, June 26.

Branson, driving the Bob Estes Special, won the second race in the record time of 29:31.926 for an average speed of 101.584 miles per hour. Jones' winning time was slower at 31:44.887, because of time lost under the yellow flag.

Jones, who drove the Fike Plumbing Special, was the fastest qualifier with a time of 34.202 seconds for an average speed of 105.257 miles per hour, faster than any car has ever turned the Milwaukee mile.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: June 26, 1960 – Wisconsin State Fair Park – West Allis, Wisconsin

QUALIFYING: Parnelli Jones, Fike-34.202.

FIRST FEATURE: (50 laps) 1. Parnelli Jones, 2. Don Branson (Estes), 3. Elmer George (HOW), 4. A.J. Foyt (Watson), 5. Tony Bettenhausen (Competition), 6. Roger McCluskey (Tony's), 7. Bud Tingelstad (Hoffman), 8. Bill Cheesbourg (Hyneman), 9. Lloyd Ruby (Midwest), 10. Ronnie Duman (GMC), 11. Leon Clum (G & J), 12. Cotton Farmer (McCurdy). 31:44.887

SECOND FEATURE: (50 laps) 1. Don Branson, 2. Parnelli Jones, 3. A.J. Foyt, 4. Elmer George, 5. Leon Clum, 6. Jim Hurtubise (Fray), 7. Bud Tingelstad, 8. Roger McCluskey, 9. Bill Cheesbourg, 10. Dick Rathmann (Homeier), 11. Ronnie Duman, 12. Bruce Jacobi (Watterson). 29:31.926 (New Track Record)

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BRANSON WINS SALEM SPRINT RACE

Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois broke his own track record in winning a 30-lap sprint race on the half-mile banked track at Salem, Indiana, Sunday, July 3.

Branson scored his third feature win of the season in the Bob Estes Special with a time of 10:12.21 for an average speed of 88.205 miles per hour.

Parnelli Jones of Southgate, California led the first 24 laps and finished second in the Fike Plumbing Special, powered by a Chevrolet engine.

Branson was the fastest qualifier with a time of 19.022 seconds. The heat winners were Jones, A.J. Foyt and Jim Hurtubise. Bud Tingelstad won the semi-feature. Foyt set a new 8-lap record in the second heat, timed at 2:35.87.

Branson's share of the \$5,200 purse was \$1,042.

The track has been repaved and new double guard rail erected in addition to numerous other improvements. Drivers said the plant is in the best shape it's ever been in.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: July 3, 1960 – Salem Speedway – Salem, Indiana

QUALIFYING: Don Branson, Estes-19.022.

HEAT WINNERS: (8 laps) Parnelli Jones, A.J. Foyt. 2:35.87 (New Track Record) & Jim Hurtubise.

SEMI: 1. Bud Tingelstad.

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Don Branson, 2. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 3. A.J. Foyt (Watson), 4. Jim Hurtubise (Barnett), 5. Elmer George (HOW), 6. Eddie Sachs (Competition), 7. Ronnie Duman (GMC), 8. Roger McCluskey (Tony's), 9. Gene Force (Travelon), 10. Jim Packard (Vargo), 11. Shorty Templeman (Midwest), 12. Bud Tingelstad (Hoffman). 10:12.21 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-24 Parnelli Jones, Laps 25-30 Don Branson.

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JONES WINS DAYTON SPRINT RACE

Parnelli Jones of Southgate, California drove his Chevrolet powered Fike Plumbing Special into first place on the first lap and led all the way to the finish of a 30-lap sprint race on the refurbished half-mile banked track at Dayton, Ohio, Sunday, July 17.

Track records were smashed at every distance as Jones recorded a time of 9:44.15 for an average speed of 99.79 miles per hour for the 30 laps. He barely beat Don Branson, who had set records in qualifications and the first heat race.

Branson turned in the fastest lap ever recorded on any half-mile track in the world with a time of 18.530 seconds for a sizzling average speed of 104.861 miles per hour. Branson held the previous record at Dayton at 18.940 seconds, while a time of 18.696 seconds set by the late Bob Sweikert at Winchester in 1953 had been the fastest lap on a half-mile for seven years.

Branson's record time in winning the first heat race was 2:31.20 for an average speed of 102.81 miles per hour. The other heat winners were Eddie Sachs and Ronnie Duman. A.J. Shepherd won the 10-lap semi-feature.

The purse was \$6464, a healthy \$1464 over the guarantee of \$5,000. Jones received \$1,308 as the winner's share. The crowd was 5,260 and 29 drivers attempted qualifications.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: July 17, 1960 – Dayton Speedway – Dayton, Ohio

QUALIFYING: 1. Don Branson-18.530 (New Track Record)

HEAT WINNERS: Don Branson. 2:31.20 (New Track Record), Eddie Sachs & Ronnie Duman.

SEMI: (10 laps) 1. A.J. Shepherd.

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 2. Don Branson (Estes), 3. Eddie Sachs (Competition), 4. Roger McCluskey (HOW), 5. Al Miller (Hyneman), 6. Johnny White (Standard Brass), 7. A.J. Shepherd (Hoffman), 8. Jim Packard (G & J), 9. Ronnie Duman (Stevens), 10. Tom McClellan (Beck), 11. A.J. Foyt (Dart Kart), 12. Red Renner (Knepper). 9:44.15 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Parnelli Jones.

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JONES IS SALEM WINNER

Parnelli Jones of Torrance, California won a 30-lap sprint race on the half-mile high-banked track at Salem, Indiana, Sunday, July 31 as records fell for three distances.

Jones set a new record for 30 laps with a time of 9:48.13 and for eight laps of 2:31.91.

The one-lap mark of 18.935 seconds set by Jim McWithey in 1957 was broken three times and Eddie Sachs had the best time of 18.729 seconds.

The heat winners were Jones, Red Amick and A.J. Shepherd. Jim Hemmings won the semi-feature. The purse was \$5,167.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: July 31, 1960 – Salem Speedway – Salem, Indiana

QUALIFYING: Eddie Sachs-18.729.

HEAT WINNERS: (8 laps) Parnelli Jones 2:31.91 (New Track Record), Red Amick & A.J. Shepherd.

SEMI: 1. Jim Hemmings.

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 2. Don Branson (Estes), 3. Eddie Sachs (Competition), 4. Leon Clum (G & J), 5. A.J. Foyt (Dart Kart), 6. Roger McCluskey (HOW), 7. Jack Rounds (Homeyer), 8. A.J. Shepherd (Hoffman), 9. Ronnie Duman (GMC), 10. Bruce Jacobi (Watterson), 11. Dan Morgan (Morgan), 12. Red Amick (Standard Brass). 9:48.13 (New Track Record)

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PARNELLI JONES TAKES POINT LEAD WITH WIN AT NEW BREMEN

Parnelli Jones of Torrance, California led all the way in a 30-lap sprint race on the half-mile dirt track at New Bremen, Ohio, Sunday, August 7.

It was his third sprint victory in a row and put him three points ahead of Don Branson in the Midwest standings.

A.J. Foyt of Houston, Texas was the fastest qualifier with a time of 21.810 seconds.

The heat winners were Foyt, Tommy Hinnershitz and Don Branson. Gene Force won the semi-feature. The purse was over the guarantee at \$5,360.

It was the fourth straight Midwest sprint purse that has exceeded the guaranteed amount.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: August 7, 1960 – New Bremen Speedway – New Bremen, Ohio

QUALIFYING: 1. A.J. Foyt, 21.810.

HEAT WINNERS: A.J. Foyt, Tommy Hinnershitz & Don Branson.

SEMI: 1. Gene Force.

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 2. A.J. Foyt (Dart Kart), 3. Jim Hurtubise (Barnett), 4. Eddie Sachs (Competition), 5. Don Branson (Estes), 6. Ronnie Duman (GMC), 7. Bob Cleberg (Hyneman), 8. Jim Hemmings (Iddings), 9. Tommy Hinnershitz (Pfrommer), 10. Johnny Thomson (Stearly), 11. Jim Packard (Enterprise), 12. Gene Force (Travelon). NT

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RECORDS FALL AS JONES WINS ANOTHER RACE AT DAYTON

Parnelli Jones of Torrance, California won his fourth straight Midwest sprint race as records were smashed in a program on the half-mile high-banked asphalt track at Dayton, Ohio, Sunday, August 14.

Jones, the current point leader in the Midwest, lowered his own 30-lap mark of 9:44.15, set on July 17, to 9:38.12, which is an average speed of 100.837 miles per hour.

This is the first time that a 30-lap race on a half-mile track has been won at a speed of more than 100 miles per hour.

Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois, who finished second to Jones, set a new record for one lap in qualifications of 18.280 seconds for an average speed of 106.301 miles per hour. This broke his old record of 18.530 seconds, also set on July 17.

Jones, A.J. Foyt and Jim Hemmings won heat races and Jim McWithey won the semi-feature. Jones led all 30 laps of the feature event, but Branson was only a few feet behind at the finish.

Jones' share of the \$5,000 purse was \$940. He now has a nine point lead in the standings.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: August 14, 1960 – Dayton Speedway – Dayton, Ohio

QUALIFYING: 1. Don Branson-18.280 (New Track Record).

HEAT WINNERS: Parnelli Jones, A.J. Foyt & Jim Hemmings.

SEMI: 1. Jim McWithey.

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 2. Don Branson (Estes), 3. Leon Clum (G & J), 4. A.J. Foyt (Dart Kart), 5. Roger McCluskey (HOW), 6. Bud Tingelstad (Beck), 7. Al Miller (Hyneman), 8. Jim Hemmings (Iddings), 9. Jim Hurtubise (Barnett), 10. Ronnie Duman (GMC), 11. Eddie Sachs (Competition), 12. Tom McClellan (Bratton). 9:38.12 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Parnelli Jones.

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HURTUBISE IS TERRE HAUTE WINNER

The Branson/Jones stranglehold on Midwest sprint car victories was broken in a 30-lap race on the half-mile dirt track at Terre Haute, Indiana by Jim Hurtubise of Lennox, California, Sunday, August 21.

Don Branson, who finished third, has four wins this season and moved ahead in the point standings over Parnelli Jones, who spun out on the first lap. Jones has five wins this season.

Roger McCluskey of Tucson, Arizona tangled with Jones on the first lap and dropped into last position. However, he worked his way back into second place at the finish.

Hurtubise was the fastest qualifier with a time of 23.790 seconds, only nine hundredths of a second off the track record. Heats were won by Wayne Weiler, McCluskey and A.J. Foyt and the semi-feature was won by Cecil Beavers.

The purse was \$5,550 or \$550 over the guarantee. Hurtubise won slightly more than \$1,100.

The next sprint race on the Midwest circuit will be a 100-lap event on the half mile track at Salem on September 4.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: August 21, 1960 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana

QUALIFYING: 1. Jim Hurtubise-23.790.

HEAT WINNERS: Wayne Weiler, Roger McCluskey & A.J. Foyt

SEMI: 1. Cecil Beavers.

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Jim Hurtubise (Barnett), 2. Roger McCluskey (HOW), 3. Don Branson (Estes), 4. A.J. Foyt (Dart Kart), 5. Eddie Sachs (Competition), 6. Wayne Weiler (Fike), 7. Jim Packard (Enterprise), 8. Johnny Thomson (Stearly), 9. Gene Force (Travelon), 10. Al Miller (Hyneman), 11. Tommy Hinnershitz (Pfrommer), 12. Cecil Beavers. NT

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JONES WINS SALEM SPRINT RACE

Parnelli Jones of Torrance, California virtually clinched the Midwest championship by winning a 100-lap sprint race on the half mile asphalt track at Salem, Indiana, Sunday, September 4.

Jones now leads Don Branson, the defending champion from Champaign, Illinois, by 68 points with only 50 points still available on the present schedule. The only chance Branson has is in the event more races are scheduled in between now and the end of the year.

Jones set a new track record of 34:23.06 after leading all 100 laps. He also broke the one-lap standard in qualifications with a time of 18.590 seconds. Eddie Sachs had previously held both marks.

The heat winners were Leon Clum and Jim Hurtubise, while Chuck Hulse won the semi-feature. Jones received \$1,466 of a total purse of \$7,800, which was \$800 over the guarantee.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: September 4, 1960 – Salem Speedway – Salem, Indiana

QUALIFYING: 1. Parnelli Jones-18.590 (New Track Record).

HEAT WINNERS: Leon Clum & Jim Hurtubise.

SEMI: 1. Chuck Hulse.

FEATURE: (100 laps) 1. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 2. Roger McCluskey (HOW), 3. Ronnie Duman (Stevens), 4. Al Miller (Midwest), 5. Bud Tingelstad (Beck), 6. Chuck Hulse (Travelon), 7. Wayne Weiler/A.J. Foyt (Fike), 8. Jim Hurtubise (Barnett), 9. Don Branson (Estes), 10. Jim Packard (Enterprise), 11. A.J. Foyt (Dart Kart), 12. Leon Clum (G & J). 34:23.06 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-100 Parnelli Jones.

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BRANSON WINS NEW BREMEN SPRINT

Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois won the final sprint race of the Midwest season, a 50-lap event on the half-mile dirt track at New Bremen, Ohio, Sunday, Sept. 11.

Driving the Bob Estes Special, Branson led the entire race, which was halted and restarted at 34 laps, because of a two car accident involving Jim Hemmings and Ronnie Duman. Neither driver was injured.

Elmer George was the fastest qualifier with a time of 19.77 seconds. The heats were won by Branson, Parnelli Jones and Leon Clum. The semi-feature winner was Hemmings.

The purse was \$5,500, and the crowd was over 3,000.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: September 11, 1960 – New Bremen Speedway – New Bremen, Ohio

QUALIFYING: Elmer George-19.770.

HEAT WINNERS: Don Branson, Parnelli Jones & Leon Clum

SEMI: 1. Jim Hemmings.

FEATURE: (50 laps) 1. Don Branson (Estes), 2. Jim Hurtubise (Barnett), 3. A.J. Foyt (Dart Kart), 4. Roger McCluskey (HOW), 5. Elmer George (Tony's), 6. Eddie Sachs (Competition), 7. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 8. Wayne Weiler (Fike), 9. Leon Clum (G & J), 10. Al Miller (Midwest), 11. Cotton Farmer (Beck), 12. Curly Boyd (Hyneman).

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-50 Don Branson.

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JONES CLINCHES MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIP WITH WIN AT HOUSTON

Parnelli Jones, the 1960 sensation from Torrance, California, clinched the Midwest championship by winning a 50-lap sprint car race on the half-mile asphalt track at Houston, Texas, Sunday, October 23.

It was Jones' seventh win out of 13 races in the Midwest this season and gave him a 67-point lead in the final standings over Don Branson, the defending champion from Champaign, Illinois.

The race at Houston was a sizzler, with A.J. Foyt losing by only a car length after a thrilling duel from the start. Foyt was the fastest qualifier on his hometown track with a time of 22.510 seconds, which was only three-hundredths of a second off the track record set in the spring by Branson.

Jones led the first 15 laps and Foyt took the next 22. Jones grabbed the lead on laps 38 and 39, but Foyt was back in first for the next three. Jones passed him on the 43rd lap and held on to the finish despite terrific pressure from Foyt.

Jones and Foyt each won a heat race and Jim Hurtubise won the other. Don Davis won the semi-feature. The time of the feature was 19:56.42. The purse was \$5,800.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: October 23, 1960 – Meyer Speedway – Houston, Texas

QUALIFYING: 1. A.J. Foyt-22.510.

HEAT WINNERS: Parnelli Jones, A.J. Foyt & Jim Hurtubise.

SEMI: 1. Don Davis.

FEATURE: (50 laps) 1. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 2. A.J. Foyt (Dart Kart), 3. Roger McCluskey (HOW), 4. Don Branson (Estes), 5. Jim Hurtubise (Barnett), 6. Bud Tingelstad (Hyneman), 7. Elmer George (Tony's), 8. Billy Wade, 9. Jim Hemmings (Midwest), 10. Hank Henry (Barnett), 11. Bruce Jacobi (Watterson), 12. Don Melton. 19:56.42

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-15 Parnelli Jones, Laps 16-37 A.J. Foyt, Laps 38-39 Parnelli Jones, Laps 40-42 A.J. Foyt, Laps 43-50 Parnelli Jones.