

1959 USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RESULTS

BRANSON WINS FIRST MIDWEST SPRINT RACE AT BIRMINGHAM

Don Branson of Urbana, Illinois won the first Midwest championship race of the 1959 season at Birmingham, Alabama, Sunday, March 22.

Branson, who was driving the Hyneman Offy, started on the pole and led from start to finish in the 30-lap feature on the half-mile dirt track.

A.J. Foyt of Houston, Texas drove the Columbus Auto Parts Special from the fourth starting position to second at the finish. Jud Larson of Tampa, Florida, who had started seventh, finished third.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: March 22, 1959 – Alabama State Fairgrounds – Birmingham, Alabama

QUALIFYING: Nick McCormick-24.660.

FIRST HEAT: Branson, George, Johnson. 3:28.00

SECOND HEAT: 1. Foyt, 2. Sachs, 3. Charlie Lutkie. NT

THIRD HEAT: 1. Larson, 2. McCormick, 3. Hinnershitz. 3:36.00

SEMI: 1. Blundy, 2. Amick, 3. Easton, 4. Hemmings, 5. Cagle. 5:15.00

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Don Branson (Hyneman), 2. A.J. Foyt (Columbus), 3. Jud Larson (Sherk), 4. Van Johnson (Lowther), 5. Eddie Sachs (Cheesman), 6. Jerry Blundy (Helm), 7. Rex Easton (Champion), 8. Nick McCormick (Wilson), 9. Elmer George (HOW), 10. Tommy Hinnershitz (Traylor), 11. Will Cagle (Chevy), 12. Red Amick (S-K). 13:15.40 (New Track Record)

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Don Branson-30, 2-A.J. Foyt-24, 3-Jud Larson-21, 4-Van Johnson-18, 5-Eddie Sachs-15, 6-Jerry Blundy-12, 7-Rex Easton-9, 8-Nick McCormick-7.5, 9-Elmer George-6, 10-Tommy Hinnershitz-4.5.

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LARSON WINS AT GRAND RAPIDS

Jud Larson of Tampa, Florida won a 30-lap sprint car race on the half-mile dirt track at Michigan's Berlin Raceway on Friday, June 19.

Larson, who was driving the Bud Sherk Offy, made a clean sweep of the program. He was the fastest qualifier with a time of 23.710, won the first heat and led all 30 laps of the feature event.

There was an 11-car accident on the first lap. Rex Easton of Springfield, Illinois was injured and taken to the hospital where he is reported in fair condition. Both drivers and officials say the track surface was in good condition and was not a factor in the accident. The race was stopped and restarted. The purse was \$4750.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: June 19, 1959 – Berlin Raceway – Marne, Michigan

QUALIFYING: 1. Jud Larson-23.710.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Larson, 2. McWithey, 3. Roberts. 3:20.00

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Easton, 2. Johnson, 3. Branson. 3:22.00

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Barzda, 2. Grim, 3. Foyt. 3:24.50

SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Clum, 2. Carter, 3. Glenn Rockey.

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Jud Larson (Sherk), 2. Johnny Roberts (Engle), 3. Don Branson (Behner), 4. A.J. Foyt (Columbus), 5. Bud Tingelstad (Fuel Injection), 6. Van Johnson (Lowther), 7. Ed Elisian (Hoffman), 8. Joe Barzda (Barzda), 9. Dick Carter, 10. Jim McWithey (Cheesman), 11. Rex Easton (Champion), 12. Bobby Grim (Hyneman), 13. Leon Clum, 14. Tommy Hinnershitz. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Jud Larson.

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BRANSON WINS TERRE HAUTE RACE

Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois drove the Bob Estes Special to his second sprint car victory of the season in the 30-lap feature event on the half-mile dirt track at Terre Haute, Indiana, Sunday, June 21.

Branson won the first heat and led the feature from start to finish, recording a time of 12:47.20.

Van Johnson of Pittsburgh, Pa. set a new one-lap track record in qualifications with a time of 23.700 seconds. Branson earlier cracked the one-lap mark of 24.030 set by Jim McWithey in 1958 with a time of 23.890, only to see Johnson beat it later in the day.

Branson's share of the \$5500 purse was nearly \$1100.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: June 21, 1959 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana

QUALIFYING: 1. Van Johnson-23.700. (New Track Record)

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Branson, 2. Johnson, 3. Barzda. 3:16.60

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Grim, 2. Roberts, 3. Hinnershitz. 3:23.80

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Elisian, 2. Larson, 3. Plas. 3:23.00

SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Foyt, 2. Sachs, 3. Tingelstad. 4:24.20

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Don Branson (Estes), 2. Van Johnson (Lowther), 3. Tommy Hinnershitz (Pfrommer), 4. Ed Elisian (Hoffman), 5. Bobby Grim (Hyneman), 6. Johnny Roberts (Engle), 7. Eddie Sachs (Vargo), 8. A.J. Foyt (Columbus), 9. Art Plas (Behner), 10. Bud Tingelstad (G & J), 11. Jim Hemmings (Enterprise), 12. Joe Barzda (Barzda), 13. Leon Clum, 14. Jud Larson. 12:47.20

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Don Branson.

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BRANSON WINS AGAIN AT NEW BREMEN

For the second straight year, Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois won the June sprint race on the half-mile semi-banked dirt track at New Bremen, Ohio.

Driving the Bob Estes Special, Branson led all the way and set a new track record in the 30-lap Midwest championship race, Sunday, June 28.

It was Branson's third win in four Midwest sprint races this season. His winning time of 10:42.30 bettered the old mark of 10:45.00 set by Eddie Sachs last year.

Branson's share of the \$5000 purse was \$980. The win pushed him even farther ahead in the Midwest championship point standings.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: June 28, 1959 – New Bremen Speedway – New Bremen, Ohio

QUALIFYING: Jim McWithey-19.910.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Sachs, 2. Branson, 3. McWithey. NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Packard, 2. Tingelstad, 3. Weyant. 2:51.50

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Elisian, 2. Hinnershitz, 3. Miller. 2:57.15

SEMI: (10 laps) 1. McClellan, 2. Hemmings, 3. Templeman. 3:51.00

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Don Branson (Estes), 2. Jim McWithey (Cheesman), 3. Eddie Sachs (Midwest), 4. Jim Packard (Waterson), 5. A.J. Foyt (Columbus), 6. Bud Tingelstad (ND&D), 7. Tommy Hinnershitz (Pfrommer), 8. Ed Elisian (Hoffman), 9. Bobby Grim (Hyneman), 10. Ronnie Duman (Stevens), 11. Chuck Weyant (Labadie), 12. Jim Hemmings (Enterprise), 13. Tom McClellan, 14. Jerry Richards, 15. Al Miller, 16. Shorty Templeman. 10:42.30 (New Track Record)

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Don Branson-111, 2-A.J. Foyt-64.5, 3-Van Johnson-54, 4-Jud Larson-51, 5-Eddie Sachs-45, 6-Johnny Roberts-36, 7-Tommy Hinnershitz-34.5, 8-Ed Elisian-34.5, 9-Bud Tingelstad-31.5, 10 Jim McWithey-28.5.

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BRANSON WINS ANOTHER SPRINT RACE AT SALEM

Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois continued to be unbeatable and won his fourth sprint race of the season, a 30-lapper on the half-mile banked track at Salem, Indiana, Sunday, July 5.

For the second straight week, Branson set a new track record in the Bob Estes Special. His time of 10:13.81 erased the old Salem 30-lap mark of 10:16.50 set in 1957 by Elmer George.

Jim McWithey was the fastest qualifier in the Cheesman Offy with a time of 19.682, won the first heat and finished second in the feature.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: July 5, 1959 – Salem Speedway – Salem, Indiana

QUALIFYING: Jim McWithey-19.682.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. McWithey, 2. Branson, 3. Foyt. 2:44.50

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tingelstad, 2. Amick, 3. Sachs. 2:41.20

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Packard, 2. Elisian, 3. Miller. 2:50.60

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Don Branson (Estes), 2. Jim McWithey (Cheesman), 3. A.J. Foyt (Columbus), 4. Bud Tingelstad (Hall), 5. Eddie Sachs (Midwest), 6. Jim Packard (Waterson), 7. Al Miller (Hyneman), 8. Ed Elisian (Hoffman), 9. Dick Northam (G & J), 10. Russ Congdon, 11. Bruce Jacobi, 12. Red Amick, 13. Ted Pfeiffer, 14. George Morris. 10:13.81 (New Track Record)

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IT'S BRANSON AGAIN IN SPRINT RACE AT NASHVILLE

Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois maintained his sizzling pace in the Midwest sprint car circuit by winning his fifth feature event in six starts at Nashville, Tennessee, Sunday, July 12.

In the first USAC sprint program ever run on the Nashville half-mile banked asphalt track, Branson completed the 30-lap event in the Bob Estes Special in the record time of 11:06.20. He led from start to finish.

Jim McWithey of Anderson, Indiana was the fastest qualifier in the Cheesman Offy with a time of 20.930 seconds. Branson's share of the \$5,375 purse was \$965.

The next sprint car race is a 30-lapper scheduled for August 9 at the Salem Speedway.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: July 12, 1959 – Nashville Fairgrounds – Nashville, Tennessee

QUALIFYING: 1. Jim McWithey-20.930.

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. McWithey, 2. Branson, 3. Sachs.

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Clum, 2. Foyt, 3. Packard. 3:31.00

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tingelstad, 2. Sutton, 3. Jacobi.

SEMI: (20 laps) 1. Elisian, 2. Hemmings, 3. Red Amick. 7:30.30

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Don Branson (Estes), 2. Jim McWithey (Cheesman), 3. Leon Clum (ND&D), 4. Eddie Sachs (Midwest), 5. A.J. Foyt (Columbus), 6. Len Sutton (Bill's), 7. Jim Packard (Waterson), 8. Bud Tingelstad (Hoffman), 9. Ed Elisian (Engle), 10. Bruce Jacobi (Hazel), 11. Jim Hemmings (Enterprise), 12. Dave Norris (Mead), 13. Red Amick. 11:06.20 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Don Branson.

USAC MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Don Branson-171, 2-A.J. Foyt-100.5, 3-Eddie Sachs-78, 4-Jim McWithey-76.5, 5-Bud Tingelstad-57, 6-Van Johnson-54, 7-Jud Larson-51, 8-Ed Elision-48, 9-Jim Packard-39, 10-Johnny Roberts-36.

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BRANSON WINS SIXTH SPRINT RACE AT SALEM

Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois won his sixth Midwest championship race of the season by taking the 30-lap feature event on the half-mile asphalt track at Salem, Indiana, Sunday, August 9.

Branson passed Jim McWithey on the sixth lap and led to the finish. His time of 10:14.20 was only slightly slower than the track record of 10:13.81, which he set on July 5. Branson now has won five straight sprint races.

Jim McWithey was the fastest qualifier with a time of 19.335 seconds. Branson won the first heat and started the feature on the pole, but McWithey jumped into the lead at the start. The purse was \$5,000.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: August 9, 1959 – Salem Speedway – Salem, Indiana

QUALIFYING: 1. Jim McWithey-19.335.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Branson, 2. McWithey, 3. Elisian. 2:41.20

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tingelstad, 2. Sachs, 3. Sutton. 2:46.40

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Duman, 2. Packard, 3. Clum. NT

SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Leisure, 2. Miller, 3. Hemmings. 3:27.80

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Don Branson (Estes), 2. Ed Elisian (Watson), 3. Eddie Sachs (Midwest), 4. Len Sutton (Bill's), 5. Jim McWithey (Cheesman), 6. Jim Packard (Waterson), 7. Red Amick (Engle), 8. Curly Boyd (Hall), 9. Dick Leisure (Allen), 10. Ronnie Duman (Doty), 11. Al Miller (Hyneman), 12. Jim Hemmings (Enterprise), 13. Leon Clum, 14. Bud Randall. 10:14.20

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-5 Jim McWithey, Laps 6-30 Don Branson.

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McWITHEY STOPS BRANSON STREAK IN TERRE HAUTE SPRINT RACE

Jim McWithey of Anderson, Indiana won a rain-shortened sprint race on the half-mile dirt track at Terre Haute, Indiana, Sunday, August 16.

The race, originally scheduled for 30 laps, was called after 18 laps.

Prior to McWithey's victory, Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois had won five Midwest championship races in succession and six of seven scheduled this season.

Branson was the fastest qualifier with a time of 23.880 seconds and won the first heat but finished fourth in the feature event.

The race was halted at 15 laps because of an accident involving Bill Brown and Jud Larson. After restarting, only three laps were completed before the rain forced cancellation of the rest of the race. Neither driver was seriously injured. McWithey led all 18 laps.

The semi-feature was cancelled because of rain. The purse was \$5,000.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: August 16, 1959 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana

QUALIFYING: 1. Don Branson-23.880.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Branson, 2. McWithey, 3. Elisian. 3:22.20

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Hinnershitz, 2. Larson, 3. Brown. 3:20.03

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Packard, 2. Grim, 3. Duman. NT

FEATURE: (18 laps, shortened from 30 laps due to rain) 1. Jim McWithey (Cheesman), 2. Tommy Hinnershitz (Pfrommer), 3. Ed Elisian (Watson), 4. Don Branson (Estes), 5. Eddie Sachs (Midwest), 6. Leo Caldwell (LaWarre), 7. Jim Packard (Waterson), 8. Ronnie Duman (Doty), 9. Leon Clum (Allen), 10. Bud Tingelstad (Hoffman), 11. Len Sutton (Bill's), 12. Jud Larson (Lowther), 13. Bill Brown, 14. Ray Duckworth. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-18 Jim McWithey.

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HINNERSHITZ WINS 100TH AT NEW BREMEN

Tommy Hinnershitz of Oley, Pennsylvania claimed the 100th feature victory of his career by winning a 50-lap sprint car race on the half-mile dirt track at New Bremen, Ohio, Sunday, September 6.

Hinnershitz broke a three-year-old track record with his time of 18:06.10 in the Pfrommer Offy. Bobby Grim of Indianapolis was the fastest qualifier in the Watson Special with a time of 20.519 seconds.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: September 6, 1959 – New Bremen Speedway – New Bremen, Ohio

QUALIFYING: 1. Bobby Grim-20.519

FEATURE: (50 laps) 1. Tommy Hinnershitz (#4 Pfrommer), 2. Bobby Grim (#33 Watson), 3. Leon Clum (#22 LaWarre), 4. A.J. Foyt (#1 Midwest), 5. Eddie Sachs (#44 Schmidt), 6. Don Branson (#4 Estes), 7. Ronnie Duman (#37), 8. Bud Tingelstad (#98 Hoffman), 9. Jim Packard (#12 Waterson), 10. Bert Brooks (#78 Fray), 11. Hugh Randall (#19 G & J), 12. Ray Duckworth (#44 Duckworth), 13. Al Miller (#49), 14. Wayne Weiler (#31), 15. Johnny White (#7 Forberg). 18:06.10 (New Track Record)

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Chuck Arnold (#7), Curly Boyd (#24), Leo Caldwell (#95), Al Chamberlain (#55), Billy Earl (#88), Cotton Farmer (#29), Jim Hemmings (#58), Duke Hindahl (#38), Tom McClellan (#11), Jim McWithey (#25) & Dave Norris (#79)

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FOYT WINS SALEM 100

A.J. Foyt of Houston, Texas won the annual 100-lap Midwest sprint race on the half-mile banked track at Salem, Indiana, Sunday, September 13.

It was the first sprint car victory of Foyt's career, who was driving the A.J. Watson Special.

Foyt led all 100 laps but was able to beat Don Branson to the checkered flag by only a car length. Branson clinched the 1959 Midwest championship by finishing second.

Foyt's time for the race was 35:13:46, which was less than a half-minute off the track record. His share of the \$7,020 purse was \$1,306. He was also the fastest qualifier with a time of 19.815 seconds.

The heat winners were Al Miller and Tom McClellan, while the semi-feature was won by Leon Clum. The five fastest qualifiers did not run in a heat race.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: September 13, 1959 – Salem Speedway – Salem, Indiana

QUALIFYING: 1. A.J. Foyt-19.815

HEAT WINNERS: Al Miller & Tom McClellan.

SEMI: 1. Leon Clum.

FEATURE: (100 laps) 1. A.J. Foyt (Watson), 2. Don Branson (Estes), 3. Bud Tingelstad (Hoffman), 4. Tom McClellan (Beck), 5. Dick Amick (Midwest), 6. Jim Packard (Hyneman), 7. Red Renner (Jennings), 8. Bruce Jacobi (Bill's), 9. Curly Boyd (Hall), 10. Jim Hemmings (Enterprise), 11. Hugh Randall (G & J), 12. Leon Clum (LaWarre), 13. Jim McWithey, 14. Johnny White, 15. Al Miller, 16. George Morris. 35:13.46

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-100 A.J. Foyt.

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FOYT WINS FIRST RACE IN HOMETOWN

A.J. Foyt of Houston, Texas won the first USAC sanctioned race on the new Meyer Speedway in Houston, Texas, Sunday, Oct. 11.

It was a 50-lap event on a half-mile asphalt track for sprint cars.

Foyt led from start to finish in the Watson Special. Parnelli Jones was the fastest qualifier with a time of 22.660 seconds but encountered a sticking throttle at the start.

He dropped back to 12th position before the condition was corrected. In the course of the 50 laps, he moved back through the field and finished third behind Don Branson. The time for the feature was 19:33.51.

The heat winners were Parnelli Jones, Shorty Templeman and Jim Packard. The winner of the semi-feature was Bud Sterrett. The purse went over the guarantee to \$7,394.

USAC MIDWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: October 11, 1959 – Meyer Speedway – Houston, Texas

QUALIFYING: Parnelli Jones-22.660.

HEAT WINNERS: Parnelli Jones, Shorty Templeman & Jim Packard.

SEMI: 1. Bud Sterrett.

FEATURE: (50 laps) 1. A.J. Foyt (Watson), 2. Don Branson (Estes), 3. Parnelli Jones (Fike), 4. Shorty Templeman (HOW), 5. Tony Bettenhausen (Sherk), 6. Chuck Hulse, 7. Jim Packard (Midwest), 8. Bud Sterrett, 9. Harry Ross, 10. Curly Daggett, 11. Leon Clum (LaWarre), 12. Roger McCluskey, 13. Jim Hurtubise, 14. Hall, 15. Dempsey Wilson, 16. Bill Griswold. 19:33.51

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-50 A.J. Foyt.