

2006 USAC NATIONAL MIDGET SEASON REVIEW

Jerry-Tale Season for Coons

By: *Richie Murray*

Jerry Coons Jr. wasn't ready to settle for second again. This time around, Coons was eager to shed that runner-up label following a second-place finish in the 2005 USAC National Midget standings. Driving fulltime for Wilke-PAK Motorsports, the 34-year-old Coons used three early season victories, coupled with his challenger's misfortunes and his own late surge to escape with the 2006 title in a series in which he started competing in when he was more than half his age back in 1987.

But things didn't always go the way he planned. Instead, he had to offset his own bad luck with that of others to score the crown, one which wasn't determined until the final race after the Tucson, Ariz. native had to shake four other contenders off. After sharing the Wilke-PAK ride in 2005, the seat belonged to him in 2006, as did his first championship.

"Last year, I was a little disappointed because I thought I had a shot at the championship, but I missed four races because I didn't have a ride," Coons recalled. "I'd like to have thought I could have given Josh (Wise) a better run for his money.

We came in with the same cars and engines and we set out on a goal to win both the driver and entrant championship." One out of two ain't bad. Rival Keith Kunz Motorsports earned its first entrant title by a scant 11 points over Wilke-PAK, using a talented allotment of drivers such as veteran Jay Drake, newcomer Darren Hagen and series Rookie Bryan Clauson.

Dave Steele and Bobby Santos aced the pavement, winning eight out of 11 in total. Steele gave the Toyota engine its first USAC win in January's season opener at Phoenix International Raceway while Santos borrowed sister Erica Santos' ride after crashing his primary in qualifying to earn his initial triumph in the second round at Concord (N.C.) Motorsports Park.

The Great Plains proved to be the lynchpin for Coons' ascension to the point lead by virtue of June wins at Knoxville (Iowa) Raceway and Missouri's Lake Ozark Speedway. Coons commandeered a 39-point lead after his third victory in July at Kansas' 81 Speedway, giving him three wins at racetracks the series either hadn't competed at this decade or ever before.

However, July's last call at the Belleville (Kan.) Midget Nationals saw Coons' point lead dwindle to four as he abruptly hit rugged terrain that resulted in a pair of DNFs while Drake, Clauson, Wise and Dave Darland were suddenly hot on his heels.

Wise slugged back into contention with a two-night sweep at Belleville while Clauson became the youngest driver to win at Salem (Ind.) Speedway after sweeping victories in both ends of August's USAC Midget/Sprint doubleheader, moving him to second in points. The pendulum for second swung to Drake a race later, then back Clauson's way. Shortly after, both Clauson and Drake were forced to bow out of the title race when each suffered season-ending injuries during USAC National Sprint Car races, Clauson in September at Missouri's Lucas Oil Speedway and Drake in October at Terre Haute.

Wise played catch-up all year after missing January's Phoenix race due to injuries experienced in a USAC CRA Sprint Car crash the night before at Manzanita. He moved to second behind Coons with two races to go but was dealt a blow when the penultimate race at Texas' Thunder Hill Raceway was rained out. Wise sheared another 15 points off in the finale at Irwindale (Calif.) Speedway, racing to third while Coons' fortunes turned with a solid eighth to take the title by 39 markers.

Clauson netted fifth in the standings to earn Rookie of the Year despite missing three high-speed pavement races at Phoenix, Milwaukee and Iowa due to restrictions requiring drivers to be at least 18 years old to compete at those facilities, and five more due to injury. Brad Loyet was the Most Improved Driver, finishing seventh in points. Don Kenyon became the first and only two-time recipient of the Jim Blunk Award for his contributions to the sport, first winning it back in 1987.

In July at Ohio's Toledo Speedway, Kevin Swindell became the first son of a World of Outlaws champion (Sammy Swindell) to win a USAC feature. In August, Shane Cottle was crowned the USAC Indiana Midget Week champ for the second straight year.

Brady Bacon's IMW victory in the No. 999 at Kokomo marked the highest car number to win a USAC race. Bobby Santos recorded in the fastest qualifying lap in series history at 139.553 mph in September's Iowa Speedway debut. Tracy Hines earned \$25, 000 when he topped September's rain-delayed 4-Crown Nationals at Eldora, finishing well past 4am over Adam Clarke, whose runner-up result was the best ever by an Aussie.

Among the six first-time winners, the most since 1993, were Bud Kaeding who charged from 10th to win June's Knoxville Midget Nationals while Darren Hagen, likewise, earned his first in the Hut 100 at Terre Haute as did Ryan Durst in August at Angell Park. Burgeoning Billy Wease hit paydirt in the Turkey Night Grand Prix at Irwindale, his second career victory.

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Steele Toys with Field, Wins Again at Phoenix

Avondale, Ariz. – Questions about how reliable and what the Toyota Midget engine would do were answered in a big way Sunday at Phoenix International Raceway with a familiar face in Victory Lane.

Dave Steele, who signed with Steve Lewis last month to drive one of Lewis' Toyota-powered cars, proved the cars could compete just fine with a competitive victory over Michael Lewis and Jay Drake in the "Fast Signs 25, " part of the 29th annual "Copper World Classic" for the National and WESTERN STATES MIDGET Car Series.

"My hats off to the entire crew today," said Steele, who drove the Lewis ASE/Toyota Beast to victory. "Everyone did a great job."

Steele fought off Michael Lewis for the final half of the race after inheriting the lead from Bobby East, who slid in his own oil laid down on Lap 14.

Michael Lewis made multiple pass attempts on Steele throughout the race, including an outside effort on Lap 17 following a caution for several cars. Michael Lewis went to the high side as the cars retook the green flag but Steele shut down the outside passing lane going into Turn 1, disallowing Michael Lewis any attempt on the advantage.

From that point on, Steele inched away and led Michael Lewis by more than two car lengths to the twin checkered flags. Michael Lewis finished second, ahead of Jay Drake, Cole Carter and Ron Gregory.

"We just got beat today," said Michael Lewis, a former winner of the event. "But what they did today is very impressive." Drake, who also landed a podium finish in the 2005 edition of the "Copper World Classic," was elated with his effort, one he doesn't get much of a chance to achieve. Bryan Clauson, the car's original driver, can't compete at the one-mile because he's not 18 yet.

"We just had a fun day today," Drake said. "I enjoy coming out here and running. Any chance we get to run a Midget at PIR makes any day good."

East had led the first 13 laps in front of Steele after sweeping past the Tampa, Fla. native on the opening lap of the race. He achieved leads of nearly two seconds before Steele hung close on a Lap 9. The lead seesawed between two and 10 car lengths over the next five laps, with Steele trying to make a move on the inside in one of the turns.

But East's luck ran out on Lap 14 of the event. East's No. 4 Clorox/Ford Beast began smoking as the lead duo entered Turn 3, then he pushed up the track as he slid in his own moisture. The car hit the outside wall hard with the right side and came between Turns 3 and 4. Scott Pierovich was also involved in the same incident. East climbed out of his car under his own power and into the ambulance for a mandatory visit to the infield care center.

For Steele and Steve Lewis, the victory was a gift in a variety of ways. It served as a birthday present for the Laguna Beach, Calif. owner, and became the first owner/driver combo to win a Midget race with a Toyota engine.

"It's obviously a big thing for me just to be a part of Toyota's debut into Midget racing," said Steele, who won the race in 2002. "To have an engine come out and run really good right out of the box is a tribute to (engine builder) Ed Pink and his shop, and to Toyota for all their help with Ed. It's a good way to start."

East was not the only driver to encounter an accident. Thomas Meseraull hit the Turn 1 wall on Lap 7 and Lee Stark nailed the front stretch inner wall on Lap 9. Both drivers escaped serious injury.

Steele leads both the National and WESTERN STATES MIDGET points standings due to his victory, heading into a hiatus for both divisions. The next National race is set for May 21 in Concord, N.C., while the Western schedule continues March 25 at Bakersfield, Calif.

USAC NATIONAL & WESTERN STATES MIDGET RACE RESULTS: January 21-22, 2006 – Phoenix International Raceway – Avondale, Arizona – 29th Copper World Classic

QUALIFYING: (Held on January 21) 1. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-26.578; 2. Bobby East, 4, Klatt-26.587; 3. Michael Lewis, 40, Western Speed-26.605; 4. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-26.866; 5. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-27.076; 6. Bradley Galedrige, 29, Galedrige-27.139; 7. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-27.157; 8. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-27.212; 9. Ron Gregory, 22, Irvin-27.215; 10. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-27.246; 11. Aaron Pierce, 74, James-27.355; 12. Jay Drake, 67, Kunz-27.357; 13. David Gough, 82, A & G-27.409; 14. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-27.423; 15. Teddy Beach, 125, Beach-27.440; 16. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-27.523; 17. Tracy Hines, 8, Erickson-27.608; 18. A.J. Fike, 32, RFMS-27.685; 19. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-27.691; 20. Thomas Meseraull, 10, Walker-27.752; 21. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-27.869; 22. Scott Pierovich, 35, Pierovich-28.123; 23. Alex Pruett, 60, Western Speed-28.125; 24. Bobby Santos, 98, Santos-28.476; 25. Lee Stark, 31, Stark-28.695; 26. Johnny Rodriguez, 30, Orick-28.753; 27. Bobby Dalton, 36, Martin-28.890; 28. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-29.090; 29. David Ward, 88, Ward-29.098; 30. Matt Mitchell, 37x, Mitchell-29.169; 31. Mario Marietta, 37, Marietta-29.355; 32. Kevin Studley, 57, Studley-29.664; 33. Brian Olson, 71x, Flake-NT; 34. #4x, Klatt-NT; 35. #15, Beach-NT; 36. #19, Lewis-NT.

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Brad Kuhn, 74, James.

FEATURE: (25 laps – held on January 22) 1. Dave Steele, 2. Michael Lewis, 3. Jay Drake, 4. Cole Carter, 5. Ron Gregory, 6. Billy Wease, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Jerry Coons Jr., 9. David Gough, 10. A.J. Fike, 11. Levi Jones, 12. Brad Kuhn (#74), 13. Tom Hessert III, 14. Tracy Hines, 15. Darren Hagen, 16. Brad Loyet, 17. Alex Pruett, 18. Matt Mitchell, 19. Mario Marietta, 20. Teddy Beach, 21. David Ward, 22. Bradley Galedrige, 23. Bobby Santos, 24. Bobby Dalton, 25. Bobby East, 26. Scott Pierovich, 27. Johnny Rodriguez, 28. Joe Liguori, 29. Lee Stark, 30. Thomas Meseraull, 31. Kevin Studley, 32. Marc Jessup (#20). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-13 Bobby East, Laps 14-25 Dave Steele.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Dave Steele-66, 2-Michael Lewis-61, 3-Jay Drake-54, 4-Cole Carter-53, 5-Ron Gregory-48, 6-Billy Wease-48, 7-Dave Darland-42, 8-Jerry Coons Jr.-39, 9-David Gough-36, 10-A.J. Fike-33.

USAC WESTERN STATES MIDGET POINTS: 1-Dave Steele-66, 2-Michael Lewis-61, 3-Jay Drake-54, 4-Cole Carter-53, 5-Ron Gregory-48, 6-Billy Wease-48, 7-Dave Darland-42, 8-Jerry Coons Jr.-39, 9-David Gough-36, 10-A.J. Fike-33.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: May 21, 2006 – Concord Motorsports Park – Concord, North Carolina – Mopar All-Star Showdown

NEXT USAC WESTERN STATES MIDGET RACE: March 25, 2006 – Bakersfield Speedway – Bakersfield, California

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No Rivalry Here, Bobby Santos Wins Race in Sister's Car

Concord, N.C. – Sibling love was taken to new heights Sunday at Concord Motorsports Park, one that could have made USAC history.

Moments after hitting the wall and suffering a broken rear end and break in the No. 4 Ford Racing Midget chassis, Bobby Santos III took the generous offer from older sister Erica to drive the family-owned for the feature.

Just a couple of hours later, he put the family machine in Victory Lane.

Fighting to gain the point after more than 30 in the Top 3, Bobby Santos overtook longtime leader Brad Loyet and gave himself his first career USAC National Midget Car Series victory after four years of trying.

In qualifying, Bobby Santos' car pushed hard into the Turn 1 wall, forcing Janice East's team to withdraw the car, with the driver unable to explain what happened. But Erica Santos, just trying to make laps to compete in her first career non-wing Midget event (minus Ford Focus competition).

That offer was second nature to Erica Santos, and having already qualified the Midget 19th quickest, Bobby Santos had only to worry about working his way through the heat race. He proceeded to win his heat.

Then came the feature, one in which Loyet had the field covered for the first half of the 50-lap race. He fended off Tracy Hines on the initial start and two restarts following cautions before Hines broke on Lap 18.

Next came Bradley Galedrige, who from the second row bolstered the intent to claim his first National victory. Galedrige climbed to second with a daring pass inside defending series champion Josh Wise going into Turn 2, and with another caution before the halfway point was stuck solid on Loyet's tail tank.

On Lap 27, Bobby Santos slipped by Wise and for the next 15 laps added another car to the train. The Top 3 proceeded to clock fast lap after fast lap, with Galedrige and Bobby Santos looking to garner the point. At times, less than four tenths of a second separated the trio.

They ran nose-to-tail for 10 more laps before action changed the course of the race.

Bobby Santos took second from Galedrige on Lap 38, but that pass was called back when Billy Wease and Ben Seitz tangled in Turn 1. Another lap and caution later, another Bobby Santos pass was called back when Teddy Beach spun in Turn 3.

The next time, however, gave Bobby Santos second outright, by the misfortune of Galedrige. Driving hard through Turn 1, Bobby Santos showed he was ready to make the pass. Galedrige got loose going into the turn and spun on his own. He was relegated to 15th place.

Without their main antagonist, Loyet and Bobby Santos pressed on with their battle, with Bobby Santos desperately trying to inch under Loyet in any way possible. Finally, after pitting his front wheels with Loyet's rear wheels, Bobby Santos got a run on Loyet on the main straightaway on Lap 46. The two raced side-by-side through Turns 1 and 2 onto the dogleg before Bobby Santos took the advantage.

From there, it was never close, as Bobby Santos' lead reached 1.5 seconds at the checkered flag. Trailing were Josh Wise, Bryan Clauson and Jay Drake. In any case, Bobby Santos said he thought he drove the two fastest Midgets during the evening. And it came on the heels of his sister's assistance.

Joining Bobby Santos as a heat winner were Beach, Michael Lewis and Stephanie Mockler, debuting in the National Midget Car Series. She finished ninth in the feature.

Three-time National Midget Car Series champion Jason Leffler failed to finish the race, pulling off after mechanical problems sidelined him early in the event.

Billy Wease set the evening's fast qualifying time at 15.430 seconds. Dave Steele retained his point lead, now 13 over Drake, after finishing sixth.

The next USAC National Midget Car Series race is the Night Before the 500 on Saturday at Indianapolis Raceway Park.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: May 21, 2006 – Concord Motorsports Park – Concord, North Carolina – Mopar All-Star Showdown

QUALIFYING: 1. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-15.430; 2. Bryan Clauson, 67, Kunz-15.461; 3. Bradley Galedrige, 129, Galedrige-15.485; 4. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-15.499; 5. Tracy Hines, 1, Wilke-PAK-15.511; 6. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-15.527; 7. Jay Drake, 97, Kunz-15.530; 8. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-15.546; 9. Travis Miniea, 77, Fast Track-15.567; 10. David Gough, 82, A & G-15.595; 11. Jason Leffler, 38, Lefturn-15.615; 12. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-15.650; 13. Kevin Swindell, 25, Venture-15.658; 14. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-15.664; 15. Ron Gregory, 22, Irvin-15.664; 16. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-15.712; 17. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-15.757; 18. Teddy Beach, 125, Beach-15.768; 19. Erica Santos, 98s, Santos-15.775; 20. Michael Lewis, 93, Wagner-15.778; 21. Stephanie Mockler, 6, East-15.790; 22. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-15.796; 23. Aaron Fike, 32A, RFMS-15.826; 24. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-15.835; 25. Ben Seitz, 17, Valeri-15.853; 26. Kyle Nicholas, 29, Stewart-15.864; 27. Brandon Wagner, 92, Wagner-15.904; 28. Ryan Durst, 191, Kahne-15.927; 29. Randy Cabral, 35, Cabral-15.962; 30. David Byrne, 20B, Byrne-15.974; 31. Scott Thoman, 88, SST-16.046; 32. Alex Pruett, 40, Western Speed-16.111; 33. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-16.121; 34. Adam Cantor, 7NY, Cantor-16.142; 35. A.J. Fike, 32, RFMS-16.150; 36. Mario Marietta, 37, Marietta-16.228; 37. Mike Ordway, 99, Desrosiers-16.338; 38. Bobby Santos, 4, Klatt-NT; 39. #19, Lewis-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Stephanie Mockler, 2. Tracy Hines, 3. Ben Seitz, 4. Cole Carter, 5. Travis Miniea, 6. Billy Wease, 7. Mike Ordway, 8. Joe Liguori, 9. Randy Cabral, 10. Kevin Swindell. NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Teddy Beach, 2. Jerry Coons Jr., 3. David Byrne, 4. Brad Loyet, 5. Bryan Clauson, 6. David Gough, 7. Levi Jones, 8. Adam Cantor, 9. Kyle Nicholas. NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Bobby Santos (#98s), 2. Aaron Fike, 3. Bradley Galedrige, 4. Jason Leffler, 5. Ron Gregory, 6. Jay Drake, 7. A.J. Fike, 8. Brandon Wagner, 9. Scott Thoman. NT

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Michael Lewis, 2. Tom Hessert III, 3. Darren Hagen, 4. Dave Steele, 5. Josh Wise, 6. Dave Darland, 7. Alex Pruett, 8. Ryan Durst. NT

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Billy Wease, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. Josh Wise, 4. Jay Drake, 5. Travis Miniea, 6. Ron Gregory, 7. David Gough, 8. Dave Darland, 9. Kevin Swindell, 10. A.J. Fike, 11. Levi Jones, 12. Brandon Wagner, 13. Ryan Durst, 14. Scott Thoman, 15. Mike Ordway, 16. Adam Cantor, 17. Alex Pruett, 18. Randy Cabral. NT

FEATURE: (50 laps) 1. Bobby Santos (#98s), 2. Brad Loyet, 3. Josh Wise, 4. Bryan Clauson, 5. Jay Drake, 6. Dave Steele, 7. Jerry Coons Jr., 8. Travis Miniea, 9. Stephanie Mockler, 10. Dave Darland, 11. Darren Hagen, 12. Michael Lewis, 13. A.J. Fike,

14. Ron Gregory, 15. Bradley Galedrige, 16. Tom Hessert III, 17. David Byrne, 18. Cole Carter, 19. Teddy Beach, 20. Billy Wease, 21. Ben Seitz, 22. Aaron Fike, 23. Tracy Hines, 24. Jason Leffler. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-46 Brad Loyet, Laps 47-50 Bobby Santos.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Dave Steele-116, 2-Jay Drake-103, 3-Michael Lewis-98, 4-Jerry Coons Jr.-88, 5-Brad Loyet-84, 6-Bobby Santos-81, 7-Dave Darland-75, 8-Cole Carter-75, 9-Ron Gregory-74, 10-Billy Wease-71.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: May 27, 2006 – Indianapolis Raceway Park – Clermont, Indiana – 61st Coca-Cola Night Before the 500

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Santos Dominates Night Before the 500

Clermont, Ind. – Bobby Santos scored a dominating victory Saturday in the “Night Before the 500” classic for the USAC National Midget Car Series at Indianapolis Raceway Park, as the Franklin, Mass. native won his second straight race.

Santos, this week in the No. 4 Beast/Ford owned by Terry Klatt, finished more than four seconds ahead of Ron Gregory in the 61st edition of the race, capping a week in which he suffered problems with the car in two races but came away with victories twice.

“I couldn’t believe how fast I drove past those guys at the start of the race; the car was unbelievable,” Santos said. “When I got out front, I knew I just had to take my time and have a good race.”

The domination presented by Santos, who won Sunday at Concord Motorsport Park in North Carolina, wasn’t something most could have predicted going into the evening. He suffered through mechanical ailments prior to qualifying and pulled in before taking the green flag to start his run.

But he returned at the end of the qualifying line, and with one lap, set the night’s fast qualifying time. That allowed him to start sixth, and within a pair of laps, was challenging for the point.

He almost lost two spots on a restart on Lap 3, but that start was called back and Santos was repositioned in second. Then, he jumped past Josh Wise going into Turns 1 and 2, and by the end of the lap was five car lengths ahead. He was never challenged thereafter.

While Santos was busy buzzing around the .686-mile, the story of the night quickly became the racing in the remainder of the Top 10, and the spotlight began to show on Santos’ teammate, Stephanie Mockler. Starting 15th in only her second career USAC National Midget Car Series race, Mockler began slicing through the 26-car field in veteran-like fashion.

By Lap 8, she had already passed six cars and moved into the ninth position. She got between Lewis, Toyota-powered teammates Dave Darland and Dave Steele, and vaulted ahead of defending series champion Josh Wise on Lap 16.

That pass for Mockler set off a chain of passes against some of the top drivers in Midget racing today. She passed Steele on Lap 16, and though she was passed by the Floridian a couple laps later, was able to keep her composure for about 15 laps before completing a pass on Steele for the fifth position on Lap 31.

She continued to move through the field and finally caught Jerry Coons Jr. and Michael Lewis on Lap 39. After contemplating a three-wide pass attempt, he thought better of it. That patience paid off in the form of fourth from Coons on Lap 40.

While it wasn't easy getting past Coons, it was even harder for Mockler to pass Lewis. She tried inside and outside, and despite making a pass on Lap 45, lost third again on the next lap when Lewis slid in front of her.

Finally, apparent contact going into Turn 1 allowed Mockler to gain the position outright. With her sights set on Gregory, the best she could do was relieve him of second.

That didn't happen. Gregory finished second for the second straight season after winning the event in 2004. He was 4.485 seconds behind Santos.

"We're pretty excited," said Santos. "We had an awesome racecar; we couldn't ask for a better racecar. We've tested here before, but we didn't have time to play with the car today because we were playing with the motor. I think I had three laps on the track before we went racing tonight; it was just good knowledge of the track and good people setting up the racecar. I'm lucky I was the one that got to drive it."

Ecstatic about a personal best, Mockler – who has won two Regional Midget Car Series races this year – received a standing ovation for her third-place finish, and she reacted by shaking her fist in the air. She later talked about her advancing a dozen positions and what the night meant to her.

"It was a great run for us; a lot of fun," she said. "I just have to thank Ford, Clorox and East Enterprises. I ran with these guys last week, and it was awesome to get to run with them."

Finishing fourth and fifth were Lewis and Coons.

In an attempt to get back to the front, Wise came in the pits on Lap 26 to change a tire. That decision gained little, as he finished ninth at the checkered flag.

Wise's teammate, Levi Jones, failed to make the 50-lap feature as he was unable to move into a Top-9 transfer position in the qualifying race.

Lewis and Billy Wease, both of Noblesville, Ind., won the 12-lap qualifying races.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: May 27, 2006 – Indianapolis Raceway Park – Clermont, Indiana – 61st Coca-Cola Night Before the 500

QUALIFYING: 1. Bobby Santos, 4, Klatt-21.178; 2. Jay Drake, 97, Kunz-21.337; 3. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-21.385; 4. Ron Gregory, 22, Irvin-21.389; 5. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-21.395; 6. Bryan Clauson, 67, Kunz-21.429; 7. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-21.481; 8. Michael Lewis, 93, Wagner-21.485; 9. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-21.488; 10. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-21.488; 11. Bradley Galedrige, 129, Hamilton-21.525; 12. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-21.611; 13. Kevin Swindell, 25, Venture-21.612; 14. Brad Kuhn, 74, James-21.619; 15. Stephanie Mockler, 6, East-21.626; 16. Mario Marietta, 37, Marietta-21.663; 17. David Byrne, 20B, Byrne-21.671; 18. Ryan Kaplan, 21K, Kaplan-21.674; 19. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-21.707; 20. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-21.722; 21. Travis Miniea, 77, Fast Track-21.742; 22. Justin Overfelt, 78, Zephyr-21.754; 23. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-21.769; 24. Brian Olson, 71x, Olson-21.801; 25. David Gough, 82, A & G-21.842; 26. Richey Jacobs, 114, Speed Chasers-21.911; 27. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-21.981; 28. Erica Santos, 98s, Santos-21.990; 29. A.J. Fike, 32, RFMS-22.039; 30. Alex Pruett, 60, Western Speed-22.056; 31. Dan Drinan, 333, Lewis-22.067; 32. Scott Thoman, 88, SST-22.110; 33. Scott Pierovich, 35, Pierovich-22.112; 34. Kyle Nicholas, 29, Stewart-22.147; 35. Brandon Wagner, 92, Wagner-22.193; 36. Jimmy Light, 48, Light-22.386; 37. Teddy Beach, 125, Beach-22.432; 38. Nick Bohanon, 33, Bohanon-22.608; 39. Kevin Studley, 57, Studley-22.644; 40. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-22.706; 41. Ryan Durst, 191, Kahne-22.733; 42. Joey Poliszczuk, 8, Poliszczuk-22.781; 43. Adam Nuetzel, 17x, Nuetzel-23.254; 44. Dustin Morgan, 17, M & M-23.668; 45. Nick Wagner, 94, Wagner-NT; 46. #19, Lewis-NT.

FIRST SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Billy Wease, 2. Cole Carter, 3. Travis Miniea, 4. Bradley Galedrige, 5. Stephanie Mockler, 6. David Byrne, 7. David Gough, 8. Brandon Wagner, 9. Kevin Swindell, 10. Teddy Beach, 11. Levi Jones, 12. Dan Drinan, 13. Scott Pierovich, 14. A.J. Fike, 15. Tom Hessert III, 16. Ryan Durst, 17. Brad Loyet, 18. Kevin Studley, 19. Adam Nuetzel. NT

SECOND SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Michael Lewis, 2. Dave Steele, 3. Brad Kuhn, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Mario Marietta, 6. Justin Overfelt, 7. Ryan Kaplan, 8. Brian Olson, 9. Kyle Nicholas, 10. Erica Santos, 11. Richey Jacobs, 12. Nick Bohanon, 13. Jimmy Light, 14. Scott Thoman, 15. Joey Poliszczuk, 16. Darren Hagen, 17. Dustin Morgan, 18. Alex Pruett, 19. Joe Liguori. NT

FEATURE: (50 laps) 1. Bobby Santos, 2. Ron Gregory, 3. Stephanie Mockler, 4. Michael Lewis, 5. Jerry Coons Jr., 6. Billy Wease, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Dave Steele, 9. Josh Wise, 10. Bryan Clauson, 11. David Byrne, 12. Cole Carter, 13. Bradley Galedrige, 14. Kyle Nicholas, 15. Ryan Kaplan, 16. Darren Hagen, 17. Brad Kuhn, 18. Brandon Wagner, 19. David Gough, 20. Kevin Swindell, 21. Jay Drake, 22. Travis Miniea, 23. Mario Marietta, 24. Teddy Beach, 25. Justin Overfelt, 26. Brian Olson. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Josh Wise, Laps 3-50 Bobby Santos.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Dave Steele-155, 2-Michael Lewis-149, 3-Bobby Santos-147, 4-Jerry Coons Jr.-140, 5-Ron Gregory-134, 6-Jay Drake-121, 7-Dave Darland-117, 8-Billy Wease-116, 9-Cole Carter-104, 10-Stephanie Mockler-98.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACES: June 2-3-4, 2006 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – King Doodlebug Classic / Pepsi-Mountain Dew Knoxville Midget Nationals

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USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: June 2, 2006 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – King Doodlebug Classic / Pepsi-Mountain Dew Knoxville Midget Nationals

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Jerry Coons Jr. (#11 Wilke-PAK), 2. Davey Ray (#91 Lewis), 3. Tom Hessert III (#5 Hessert), 4. Andy Martin (#21m Martin), 5. Kyle Nicholas (#29 Stewart), 6. Jack Potter (#11m Murie), 7. Leroy Holler (#29L Holler), 8. Mike Dibart (#23 Meents), 9. Doug DeWitt (#11D DBR). 2:47.74

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Brad Kuhn (#74 James), 2. Brady Bacon (#991 Tel-Star), 3. Levi Jones (#21 Stewart), 4. Teddy Beach (#125 Beach), 5. Brad Mosen (#3 Kunz), 6. Russ Harper (#9H Harper), 7. Jake Sloten (#12 Acceleration). 2:47.12

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Ryan Durst (#191 Kahne), 2. Dave Darland (#9 Lewis), 3. Michael Lewis (#2 Dearing-Fuhr), 4. Mike Hess (#51 Hess), 5. Johnny Rodriguez (#21AZ Team AZ), 6. Donnie Lehmann (#31 Lehmann), 7. Brad Loyet (#05 Loyet), 8. Mallory Armfield (#5MA Armfield), 9. Jimmy Light (#49 Givens). NT

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Bud Kaeding (#38 Lefturn), 2. Tracy Hines (#1 Wilke-PAK), 3. Chad McDaniel (#1c McDaniel), 4. Don Droud Jr. (#4 Klatt), 5. Garrett Hood (#11H Hood), 6. Rik Forbes (#71x Love), 7. Mike Riley (#05x Riley). 2:50.09

FIFTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson (#67 Kunz), 2. Cole Carter (#7 Carter), 3. Darren Hagen (#71 Kunz), 4. Ryan Pace (#44 Pace), 5. Jay Drake (#97 Kunz), 6. Joe Boyles (#7B Boyles), 7. Josh Wise (#20 Stewart), 8. Daniel Adler (#50 Adler). NT

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Joe Liguori (#28 Owen), Cody Brewer (#96 Brewer), (#67K, Kunz), (#67x, Kunz), (#05L Loyet) & (#2x Stewart).

FIRST SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Johnny Rodriguez, 2. Jay Drake, 3. Kyle Nicholas, 4. Jake Sloten, 5. Donnie Lehmann, 6. Mike Riley, 7. Garrett Hood, 8. Leroy Holler, 9. Mallory Armfield, 10. Jack Potter, 11. Doug DeWitt, 12. Todd Streett (#37 Streett). NT

SECOND SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Ryan Kaplan (#27 Venture), 2. Brad Mosen, 3. Ryan Pace, 4. Andy Martin, 5. Brad Loyet, 6. Mike Dibart, 7. Josh Wise (#2x Stewart). NT

FEATURE: (20 laps) 1. Jerry Coons Jr., 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Bryan Clauson, 5. Mike Hess, 6. Brad Kuhn, 7. Michael Lewis, 8. Darren Hagen, 9. Ryan Durst, 10. Levi Jones, 11. Davey Ray, 12. Don Droud Jr., 13. Jay Drake, 14. Donnie Lehmann, 15. Johnny Rodriguez, 16. Ryan Pace, 17. Chad McDaniel, 18. Brad Loyet, 19. Kyle Nicholas, 20. Bud Kaeding, 21. Ryan Kaplan, 22. Teddy Beach, 23. Tom Hessert III, 24. Cole Carter, 25. Tracy Hines, 26. Brad Mosen, 27. Joe Boyles. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Bryan Clauson, Laps 2-4 Dave Darland, Laps 5-9 Brady Bacon, Laps 10-20 Jerry Coons Jr.

****Tracy Hines flipped on lap 3 of the feature. Brad Mosen flipped on the lap 3 restart during the feature. Tom Hessert III flipped on lap 7 of the feature.**

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-208, 2-Michael Lewis-197, 3-Dave Darland-178, 4-Dave Steele-155, 5-Bryan Clauson-152, 6-Jay Drake-148, 7-Bobby Santos-147, 8-Ron Gregory-134, 9-Darren Hagen-126, 10-Cole Carter-124.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: June 3-4, 2006 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – Pepsi-Mountain Dew Knoxville Midget Nationals

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Kaeding Fries Bacon, Field in Knoxville Midget Victory

Knoxville, Iowa – In a battle between veteran and rookie, the former prevailed as Bud Kaeding chalked up his first USAC National Midget Car Series victory of the season Sunday, winning the “Pepsi/Mountain Dew Knoxville Midget Nationals” at Knoxville Raceway, beating 16-year-old Brady Bacon to the flag stand.

Starting 10th, Kaeding, driving the No. 38 Team ASE/Great Clips Stealth/Esslinger, whistled around Bacon on the outside near the completion of Lap 21 of 25 and led the final five laps, handing the Oklahoma teenager his second straight runner-up finish of the weekend.

“Brady did a hell of a job,” Kaeding said. “It wasn’t because it was inexperience; it was me waiting on him to make a mistake. He slipped up there in Turn 4, and it was one of those never-going-to-end races with one yellow and another yellow. It’s just an awesome feeling to win at Knoxville.”

Kaeding’s move to the front was short but sweet, as he needed only six laps to advance to the fifth position, but he needed close to 10 laps to jump higher in the standings, as he challenged Dave Darland and Bryan Clauson.

Ahead of them, Brad Kuhn was on a roll. He surged to the top spot, prying the point from Clauson, who drew the pole position during pre-race festivities. Kuhn pounded out multiple-car length advantages over the Clauson, who was busy holding Darland, Bacon and Coons behind.

While Kuhn was busy experimenting with different lanes – running low in Turns 1 and 2 and high in Turns 3 and 4 – Bacon was taking spots away. He ripped third away from Darland on Lap 5 and took second away from Clauson as the native Hoosier swung wide at the exit of Turn 4 on Lap 9.

That advantage, coupled with a spin by Darren Hagen in Lap 14, gave Bacon a boost and the chance to pounce on Kuhn for the lead.

He didn't wait long. Bacon challenged for a lap, then on Lap 15 rode past Kuhn in Turn 4 to gain the lead. The lead, without cautions, grew quickly. Within two laps, more than a second-and-a-half separated Bacon and Kuhn.

But the hard-charging native of Campbell, Calif. was on the hustle. He got by Kuhn on Lap 18, and when the caution came out a lap later for a spin by Brad Loyet – who said he was contacted from the back – in Turn 2, Bacon and Kaeding were right together on the track.

Kaeding kept close on the restart, and a lap later Andy Martin brought out the event's only red flag when he flipped in Turn 2.

Again, Kaeding kept Bacon from producing an insurmountable lead on the restart, and on Lap 21 gained enough momentum on the high side of Turn 4 to whisk past near the flag stand.

Still, the race wasn't decided and nearly changed on Lap 24. Clauson's car stalled in Turn 3, and Kaeding came within inches of running into the car. He slowed considerably though and kept from hitting the car.

That narrow miss allowed him to lead the field back to the stripe, which nearly duped Bacon. Kaeding took off at the cone, but Bacon's car failed to start, thus allowing Kuhn and Darland second and third respectively. Bacon's second-place position was saved, however, when Josh Wise stopped in Turn 2 with a blown tire. He returned to the track to finish 19th. On the next restart, Bacon was able to stick with Kaeding, but only momentarily. Kaeding got good byte off the turns and kept his composure to hold a .690-second advantage at the checkered flags.

In his second career USAC National Midget Car Series start, Bacon finished second again, besting Kuhn, Russ Harper and Don Droud Jr.

Kaeding was elated with the victory at the historic half-mile.

"It's awesome, " Kaeding said. "You could run a rental car race (here) and it would rank up there. It means a lot to my family. My brother (Tim) has won here. It's pretty cool for both of us to have won here."

Despite an 11th-place finish after starting fifth, Coons was able to further his point lead over Michael Lewis - who flipped during one of Saturday's heat races and scratched during the evening - by 42 points heading into Friday's National Sprint/Midget doubleheader at Lake Ozark Speedway in Eldon, Mo. the first appearances for both divisions at the 1/3mile track.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: June 3-4, 2006 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – Pepsi-Mountain Dew Knoxville Midget Nationals

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Don Droud Jr. (#4 Klatt), 2. Teddy Beach (#125 Beach), 3. Ryan Pace (#44 Pace), 4. Mike Riley (#05x Riley), 5. Chad McDaniel (#1c McDaniel), 6. Donnie Lehmann (#31 Lehmann). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Johnny Rodriguez (#21AZ Team AZ), 2. Brad Mosen (#3 Kunz), 3. Tracy Hines (#1 Wilke-PAK), 4. Brad Loyet (#05 Loyet), 5. Jimmy Light (#49 Givens), 6. Daniel Adler (#50 Adler), 7. Joe Boyles (#7B Boyles). 2:46.12

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Josh Wise (#20 Stewart), 2. Cole Carter (#7 Carter), 3. Davey Ray (#91 Lewis), 4. Tom Hessert III (#5 Hessert), 5. Ryan Kaplan (#27 Kaplan), 6. Leroy Holler (#29L Holler), 7. Bill Allen (#11m Murie). 2:45.68

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Bud Kaeding (#38 Lefturn), 2. Russ Harper (#9H Harper), 3. Levi Jones (#21 Stewart), 4. Kyle Nicholas (#29 Stewart), 5. Andy Martin (#21m Martin). 2:45.21

FIFTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Jay Drake (#97 Kunz), 2. Ryan Durst (#191 Kahne), 3. Garrett Hood (#11H Hood), 4. Mike Dibart (#23 Meents), 5. Joe Liguori (#28 Owen), 6. Darren Hagen (#71 Kunz), 7. Michael Lewis (#2 Dearing-Fuhr). NT

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Doug DeWitt (#11D DBR), Mallory Armfield (#5MA Armfield), Jake Slotten (#12 Acceleration), (#67K Kunz), (#67x Kunz), (#05L Loyet).

QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps – held on June 4 after June 3 rain) 1. Darren Hagen, 2. Davey Ray, 3. Tom Hessert III, 4. Brad Loyet, 5. Joe Boyles, 6. Kyle Nicholas, 7. Daniel Adler, 8. Donnie Lehmann, 9. Mike Moore (#11m Murie), 10. Andy Martin, 11. Doug DeWitt, 12. Ryan Kaplan, 13. Garrett Hood, 14. Mike Dibart. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps – held on June 4 after June 3 rain) 1. Bud Kaeding, 2. Brady Bacon (#991 Tel-Star), 3. Brad Kuhn (#74 James), 4. Russ Harper, 5. Don Droud Jr., 6. Kyle Nicholas, 7. Jay Drake, 8. Ryan Pace, 9. Brad Mosen, 10. Levi Jones, 11. Jerry Coons Jr. (#11 Wilke-PAK), 12. Tracy Hines, 13. Teddy Beach, 14. Joe Boyles, 15. Brad Loyet, 16. Darren Hagen, 17. Bryan Clauson (#67 Kunz), 18. Davey Ray, 19. Josh Wise, 20. Donnie Lehmann, 21. Dave Darland (#9 Lewis), 22. Cole Carter, 23. Andy Martin, 24. Garrett Hood, 25. Tom Hessert III, 26. Ryan Durst, 27. Johnny Rodriguez. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-14 Brad Kuhn, Laps 15-20 Brady Bacon, Laps 21-25 Bud Kaeding.

**Chad McDaniel flipped during the first heat. Michael Lewis & Joe Liguori flipped on lap 1 of the fifth heat. Andy Martin flipped on lap 20 of the feature.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-239, 2-Michael Lewis-197, 3-Dave Darland-191, 4-Jay Drake-190, 5-Bryan Clauson-171, 6-Dave Steele-155, 7-Brad Kuhn-155, 8-Bobby Santos-147, 9-Darren Hagen-147, 10-Cole Carter-137.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: June 9, 2006 – Lake Ozark Speedway – Eldon, Missouri

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Coons Pulls Off Lake Ozark Midget Victory

Eldon, Mo. – Jerry Coons Jr. escaped with a hard-fought victory over a swarming duo of Tony Stewart Racing Enterprises teammates Friday, winning his second USAC National Midget Car Series feature in the last three races – this time at Lake Ozark Speedway.

Coons, in the No. 11 Wilke-PAK machine, stormed to the front early in the going, then used a late-race pass on Levi Jones following a restart and cruised to victory in the 30-lapper. The victory set momentum for Coons to run away from competitors in the National Sprint Car Series race.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: June 9, 2006 – Lake Ozark Speedway – Eldon, Missouri

QUALIFYING: 1. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-14.154; 2. Bryan Clauson, 67, Kunz-14.390; 3. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-14.496; 4. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-14.533; 5. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-14.560; 6. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-14.582; 7. Brady Bacon, 991, Tel-Star-14.585; 8. Mike Hess, 51, Hess-14.620; 9. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-14.646; 10. Jay Drake, 97, Kunz-14.670; 11. Ryan Durst, 191, Kahne-14.695; 12. Brad Kuhn, 74, James-14.758; 13. Brett Anderson, 11A, Anderson-14.761; 14. Rik Forbes, 95x, Forbes-14.779; 15. Jimi Quin, 43NZ, Quin-14.803; 16. Russ Harper, 9H, Harper-14.823; 17. Kyle Nicholas, 29, Stewart-14.846; 18. Dustin Morgan, 17, M & M-14.869; 19. Michael Lewis, 2, Dearing/Fuhr-14.918; 20. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-14.950; 21. Donnie Lehmann, 31, Lehmann-14.967; 22. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-14.976; 23. Cody Brewer, 96, Brewer-14.980; 24. Joe Boyles, 7B, Boyles-15.019; 25. Will Pierce, 4p, Pierce-15.033; 26. Garrett Hood, 11H, Hood-15.043; 27. Ryan Pace, 44, Pace-15.112; 28. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-15.125; 29. Rick England, 12c, Cowman-15.134; 30. Mike Moore, 11m, Murie-15.261; 31. Mark Bush, 2x, Bush-15.547; 32. Steve Stroud, 21x, Stroud-15.636; 33. Doug DeWitt, 11D, DBR-16.125;

34. Leroy Holler, 29L, Holler-16.215; 35. Brad Mosen, 67K, Kunz-NT; 36. Mike Riley, 05x, Riley-NT; 37. #91, Lewis-NT; 38. #05L, Loyet-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Cole Carter, 2. Levi Jones, 3. Josh Wise, 4. Rick England, 5. Donnie Lehmann, 6. Brett Anderson, 7. Will Pierce, 8. Kyle Nicholas, 9. Doug DeWitt. 2:29.54

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Brad Loyet, 3. Jay Drake, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Dustin Morgan, 6. Mike Moore, 7. Leroy Holler, 8. Rik Forbes, 9. Garrett Hood. NT

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Jerry Coons Jr., 3. Cody Brewer, 4. Michael Lewis, 5. Ryan Durst, 6. Jimi Quin, 7. Brad Mosen, 8. Ryan Pace, 9. Mark Bush. 2:25.87

FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Darren Hagen, 2. Tom Hessert III, 3. Mike Hess, 4. Russ Harper, 5. Joe Boyles, 6. Mike Riley, 7. Steve Stroud, 8. Brad Kuhn, 9. Joe Liguori. NT

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Ryan Durst, 2. Brad Kuhn, 3. Brett Anderson, 4. Rik Forbes, 5. Dustin Morgan, 6. Mark Bush, 7. Brad Mosen, 8. Kyle Nicholas, 9. Donnie Lehmann, 10. Mike Moore, 11. Leroy Holler, 12. Doug DeWitt, 13. Joe Boyles, 14. Steve Stroud, 15. Will Pierce, 16. Jimi Quin, 17. Ryan Pace, 18. Mike Riley, 19. Joe Liguori. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Jerry Coons Jr., 2. Josh Wise, 3. Levi Jones, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Brad Kuhn, 6. Darren Hagen, 7. Jay Drake, 8. Brady Bacon, 9. Bryan Clauson, 10. Mike Hess, 11. Michael Lewis, 12. Ryan Durst, 13. Rick England, 14. Rik Forbes, 15. Mark Bush, 16. Cole Carter, 17. Dustin Morgan, 18. Brett Anderson, 19. Brad Loyet, 20. Tom Hessert III, 21. Russ Harper, 22. Cody Brewer. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Dave Darland, Lap 3 Darren Hagen, Lap 4-22 Jerry Coons Jr., Lap 23 Levi Jones, Lap 24-30 Jerry Coons Jr.

****Garrett Hood flipped during the second heat. Donnie Lehmann flipped during the semi.**

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-310, 2-Dave Darland-248, 3-Jay Drake-238, 4-Michael Lewis-233, 5-Bryan Clauson-220, 6-Brad Kuhn-206, 7-Darren Hagen-203, 8-Josh Wise-181, 9-Brady Bacon-168, 10-Levi Jones-167.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: July 1, 2006 – O'Reilly Raceway Park at Indianapolis – Clermont, Indiana – Toyota USAC Sprint/Midget Classic Presented by Comfort Suites of Brownsburg

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Steele Wins Toyota Midget Race at ORP

Clermont, Ind. – Dave Steele put Toyota into Victory Lane in the constructor's race Saturday at O'Reilly Raceway Park at Indianapolis in USAC National Midget Car Series competition.

Steele, in the No. 91 Beast/Toyota, led all 30 laps of the "Toyota Sprint/Midget Challenge" after starting on the pole. He beat Bobby Santos III by about four car lengths for his 56th career USAC National victory, his second National Midget triumph of the season (Phoenix International Raceway in Avondale, Ariz.) and 12th overall win at the .686-mile oval.

"This one was for my crew," the Tampa, Fla. native said in a post-race interview.

Steele jolted into the lead by more than 10 car lengths at the start and held the point by more than a second at times as he dominated the event.

Behind Steele were a gaggle of cars vying for the second position, one that nearly picked off the eventual winner near the end of the race. Steele's teammate, two-time series champion Dave Darland, catapulted into second at the drop of the green flag and held that spot for almost half of the race.

Bobby Santos III, who won the 50-lap "Night Before the 500" race in May, didn't want Darland to keep that spot forever though. He fought with Bryan Clauson over the course of the first seven laps before setting his sights on Darland. Then, on Lap 14, Santos ducked underneath Darland in Turn 1, fell back by the end of the back straightaway, but regained momentum to take the spot outright out of Turn 4.

But Santos didn't quite have a chance – at that point – to overtake Steele. Instead, Santos spent the better part of the next five laps cautiously reeling Steele in and was within four car lengths by Lap 18.

A lap later, the last of three caution periods began when Kyle Nicholas spin coming out of Turn 2. While it seemed a bonus for Santos to keep close with Steele on the restart, the Franklin, Mass. native later admitted had the caution not come out, he may have had a good run on him within a couple laps.

Still, he kept the pressure on Steele. He drove deeper and harder than Steele on the white lap but still came up about five car lengths short.

Following Santos were Bryan Clauson, Jay Drake and Ron Gregory.

"I've really got to thank everyone involved," Steele said. "I'm really fortunate to be in a Steve Lewis car. He's always got good stuff. Toyota gave us a great powerplant too."

Josh Wise was the event's fast qualifier, clocking in at 21.317 seconds.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: July 1, 2006 – O'Reilly Raceway Park at Indianapolis – Clermont, Indiana – Toyota USAC Sprint/Midget Classic Presented by Comfort Suites of Brownsburg

QUALIFYING: 1. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-21.317; 2. Bobby Santos, 4, Klatt-21.350; 3. Jay Drake, 97, Kunz-21.398; 4. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-21.401; 5. Ron Gregory, 22, Irvin-21.411; 6. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-21.411; 7. Bryan Clauson, 67, Kunz-21.453; 8. Kevin Swindell, 25, Venture-21.518; 9. Brad Kuhn, 74, James-21.532; 10. Stephanie Mockler, 6, East-21.542; 11. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-21.606; 12. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-21.613; 13. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-21.630; 14. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-21.646; 15. Jason Leffler, 38, Lefturn-21.684; 16. Tracy Hines, 1, Wilke-PAK-21.697; 17. Michael Lewis, 93, Wagner-21.713; 18. Dustin Morgan, 17, M & M-21.724; 19. David Gough, 82, A & G-21.746; 20. Brian Olson, 71x, Olson-21.755; 21. Kyle Nicholas, 29, Stewart-21.773; 22. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-21.862; 23. Ryan Durst, 191, Kahne-21.870; 24. Mario Marietta, 37, Marietta-21.884; 25. Aaron Fike, 32, RFMS-21.957; 26. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-21.974; 27. Erica Santos, 98s, Santos-22.006; 28. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-22.019; 29. Teddy Beach, 125, Beach-22.047; 30. David Byrne, 20B, Byrne-22.101; 31. Bradley Galedrige, 129, Hamilton-22.161; 32. Brandon Wagner, 92, Wagner-22.201; 33. Todd Beach, 15, Beach-22.229; 34. Nick Bohanon, 33, Bohanon-22.317; 35. Richey Jacobs, 114, Speed Chasers-22.358; 36. Dan Drinan, 333, Lewis-22.417; 37. Joey Poliszczuk, 8, Poliszczuk-22.481; 38. Scott Thoman, 88, SST-22.483; 39. Mat Neely, 35, Gardner-22.556; 40. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-22.631; 41. Kevin Studley, 57, Studley-22.665; 42. Nick Wagner, 94, Wagner-22.867; 43. Sean Murphy, 5m, Murphy-22.896; 44. Billy Wease, 40, Western Speed-NT; 45. #19, Lewis-NT.46. #04, Klatt-NT; 47. #05L, Loyet-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Teddy Beach, 2. Kyle Nicholas, 3. Brad Kuhn, 4. Josh Wise, 5. Michael Lewis, 6. Ron Gregory, 7. Jerry Coons Jr., 8. Joey Poliszczuk, 9. Todd Beach, 10. Kevin Studley. 2:56.26

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tom Hessert III, 2. Bobby Santos, 3. Dave Steele, 4. Stephanie Mockler, 5. Cole Carter, 6. David Byrne, 7. Levi Jones, 8. Nick Bohanon, 9. Nick Wagner, 10. Dustin Morgan, 11. Scott Thoman. NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Erica Santos, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. Jay Drake, 4. Jason Leffler, 5. David Gough, 6. Bradley Galedrige, 7. Richey Jacobs, 8. Mat Neely, 9. Sean Murphy, 10. Darren Hagen, 11. Ryan Durst. NT

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Brad Loyet, 2. Brian Olson, 3. Tracy Hines, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Kevin Swindell, 6. Billy Wease, 7. Mario Marietta, 8. Joe Liguori, 9. Brandon Wagner, 10. Dan Drinan. 2:56.23

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Kevin Swindell, 2. Ron Gregory, 3. Jerry Coons Jr., 4. Darren Hagen, 5. Billy Wease, 6. Levi Jones, 7. Ryan Durst, 8. Michael Lewis, 9. David Byrne, 10. Cole Carter, 11. Mario Marietta, 12. Bradley Galedrige, 13. Aaron Fike, 14. Brandon Wagner, 15. Richey Jacobs, 16. Nick Bohanon, 17. Scott Thoman, 18. Dan Drinan, 19. Sean Murphy, 20. Mat Neely, 21. Joe Liguori, 22. Kevin Studley, 23. Nick Wagner, 24. David Gough. 4:22.18

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Dave Steele, 2. Bobby Santos, 3. Bryan Clauson, 4. Jay Drake, 5. Ron Gregory, 6. Brad Kuhn, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Billy Wease, 9. Josh Wise, 10. Jerry Coons Jr., 11. Kevin Swindell, 12. Levi Jones, 13. Brad Loyet, 14. Kyle Nicholas, 15. Teddy Beach, 16. Erica Santos, 17. Jason Leffler, 18. Cole Carter, 19. Tracy Hines, 20. Tom Hessert III, 21. Darren Hagen, 22. Stephanie Mockler, 23. Brian Olson. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Dave Steele.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-345, 2-Jay Drake-299, 3-Dave Darland-298, 4-Bryan Clauson-281, 5-Brad Kuhn-257, 6-Michael Lewis-234, 7-Josh Wise-228, 8-Dave Steele-222, 9-Darren Hagen-217, 10-Bobby Santos-216.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACES: July 4-5, 2006 – Columbus Motor Speedway – Columbus, Ohio – Salute to the Red, White & Blue Kroger USAC Sprint/Midget Classic

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USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: July 4, 2006 – Columbus Motor Speedway – Columbus, Ohio – Salute to the Red, White & Blue Kroger USAC Sprint/Midget Classic

**Rained out. Rescheduled for July 5.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: July 5, 2006 – Columbus Motor Speedway – Columbus, Ohio – Salute to the Red, White & Blue Kroger USAC Sprint/Midget Classic

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Last Lap Santos Does it Again at Columbus

Columbus, Ohio - Bobby Santos III of Franklin, Mass. won Wednesday the 30-lap "Salute to the Red, White and Blue Kroger Sprint/Midget Classic" in USAC National Midget Car Series action at Columbus Motor Speedway when Josh Wise's engine expired on the final lap.

It was Santos' second straight last-lap USAC victory after taking Saturday the National Sprint Car Series race at O'Reilly Raceway Park at Indianapolis in somewhat of a similar fashion.

Santos, who has won three of the season's first eight races, trailed Wise off Turn 2 before Wise slowed on the backstretch. The defending National Midget Car Series champion was positioned in 17th.

Trailing Santos and the No. 4 Ford Racing/Clorox Beast/Esslinger at the checkered flag were Brad Kuhn, Ryan Newman, Todd Beach and Kevin Swindell. Darren Hagen led the first 25 laps before spinning in Turn 4. Hagen's misfortune gave Wise the lead before his problem.

National Midget Car Series point leader Jerry Coons Jr. finished 13th but still leads Dave Darland by 31 points going into the seventh "Hemelgarn/Super Fitness Open Wheel Doubleheader" Saturday at Toledo Speedway in Ohio.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: July 5, 2006 – Columbus Motor Speedway – Columbus, Ohio – Salute to the Red, White & Blue Kroger USAC Sprint/Midget Classic

QUALIFYING: 1. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-13.895; 2. Jay Drake, 97, Kunz-14.023; 3. Bryan Clauson, 67, Kunz-14.023; 4. Stephanie Mockler, 6, East-14.051; 5. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-14.038; 6. Brad Kuhn, 74, James-14.064; 7. Ryan Newman, 39, Tucker-14.080; 8. Todd Beach, 15, Beach-14.089; 9. Nick Bohanon, 33, Bohanon-14.091; 10. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-14.098; 11. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-14.102; 12. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-14.108; 13. Kyle Nicholas, 29, Stewart-14.116; 14. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-14.126; 15. Bobby Santos, 4, Klatt-14.127; 16. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-14.136; 17. Dustin Morgan, 17, M & M-14.150; 18. Kevin Swindell, 25, Venture-14.164; 19. Brian Olson, 71x, Olson-14.176; 20. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-14.220; 21. Michael Lewis, 93, Wagner-14.284; 22. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-14.295; 23. Richey Jacobs, 114, Speed Chasers-14.336; 24. Alex Pruett, 56, Pruett-14.396; 25. Isaiah Bross, 4T, Bross-14.521; 26. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-14.555; 27. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-14.562; 28. #19, Lewis-NT; 29. #05L, Loyet-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Michael Lewis, 2. Dustin Morgan, 3. Nick Bohanon, 4. Josh Wise, 5. Darren Hagen, 6. Kyle Nicholas, 7. Isaiah Bross. NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Cole Carter, 2. Billy Wease, 3. Kevin Swindell, 4. Dave Steele, 5. Tom Hessert III, 6. Jay Drake, 7. Brad Kuhn. NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Joe Liguori, 2. Brian Olson, 3. Bryan Clauson, 4. Richey Jacobs, 5. Bobby Santos, 6. Ryan Newman, 7. Jerry Coons Jr. NT

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Alex Pruett, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Levi Jones, 4. Stephanie Mockler, 5. Todd Beach, 6. Brad Loyet. NT

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Darren Hagen, 2. Jay Drake, 3. Ryan Newman, 4. Brad Kuhn, 5. Todd Beach, 6. Bobby Santos, 7. Tom Hessert III, 8. Jerry Coons Jr., 9. Kyle Nicholas, 10. Isaiah Bross, 11. Brad Loyet. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Bobby Santos, 2. Brad Kuhn, 3. Ryan Newman, 4. Todd Beach, 5. Kevin Swindell, 6. Dave Steele, 7. Nick Bohanon, 8. Bryan Clauson, 9. Dave Darland, 10. Dustin Morgan, 11. Billy Wease, 12. Levi Jones, 13. Jerry Coons Jr., 14. Stephanie Mockler, 15. Jay Drake, 16. Richey Jacobs, 17. Josh Wise, 18. Brian Olson, 19. Joe Liguori, 20. Tom Hessert III, 21. Darren Hagen, 22. Alex Pruett, 23. Cole Carter, 24. Michael Lewis. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Darren Hagen, Laps 26-29 Josh Wise, Lap 30 Bobby Santos.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-372, 2-Dave Darland-341, 3-Bryan Clauson-330, 4-Jay Drake-330, 5-Brad Kuhn-316, 6-Bobby Santos-277, 7-Dave Steele-272, 8-Josh Wise-258, 9-Michael Lewis-255, 10-Darren Hagen-236.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: July 8, 2006 – Toledo Speedway – Toledo, Ohio – 7th Annual Hemelgarn/Super Fitness Open Wheel Classic

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Swindell Holds Off Clauson in Toledo Midget Feature

Kevin Swindell hasn't spent much time running in the USAC National Midget Car Series and hasn't had the most time in the cockpit of a pavement car.

But the teenager and son of open-wheel standout Sammy Swindell looked like a veteran Friday at Toledo Speedway in Ohio, crossing the finish line first in scoring his initial victory after leading wire-to-wire in the "Hemelgarn/Super Fitness Open Wheel Doubleheader" 30-lap feature.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: July 8, 2006 – Toledo Speedway – Toledo, Ohio – 7th Annual Hemelgarn/Super Fitness Open Wheel Classic

QUALIFYING: 1. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-15.154; 2. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-15.286; 3. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-15.333; 4. Bobby Santos, 4, Klatt-15.345; 5. Bryan Clauson, 67, Kunz-15.358; 6. Kevin Swindell, 25, Venture-15.418; 7. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-15.461; 8. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-15.473; 9. Kyle Nicholas, 29, Stewart-15.535; 10. Michael Lewis, 93, Wagner-15.544; 11. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-15.547; 12. Ron Gregory, 22, Irvin-15.551; 13. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-15.555; 14. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-15.570; 15. Stephanie Mockler, 6, East-15.584; 16. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-15.590; 17. David Gough, 82, A & G-15.664; 18. Brian Olson, 71x, Olson-15.695; 19. Mario Marietta, 37, Marietta-15.700; 20. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-15.736; 21. Jay Drake, 97, Kunz-15.751; 22. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-16.006; 23. Nick Bohanon, 33, Bohanon-16.140; 24. Alex Pruett, 56, Pruett-16.262; 25. Kent McCloskey, 12, McCloskey-16.702; 26. #04, Klatt-NT; 27. #40, Western Speed-NT; 28. #19, Lewis-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Joe Liguori, 2. Cole Carter, 3. Bobby Santos, 4. Josh Wise, 5. Mario Marietta, 6. Billy Wease, 7. Kent McCloskey, 8. Michael Lewis, 9. Darren Hagen. NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Brad Loyet, 2. Tom Hessert III, 3. David Gough, 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 5. Bryan Clauson, 6. Dave Steele, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Nick Bohanon. 2:08.18

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Jay Drake, 2. Kevin Swindell, 3. Stephanie Mockler, 4. Kyle Nicholas, 5. Levi Jones, 6. Brian Olson, 7. Alex Pruett, 8. Ron Gregory. NT

SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Dave Steele, 2. Darren Hagen, 3. Michael Lewis, 4. Billy Wease, 5. Dave Darland, 6. Brian Olson, 7. Nick Bohanon, 8. Alex Pruett, 9. Kent McCloskey. 2:37.28

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Kevin Swindell, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. Dave Steele, 4. Levi Jones, 5. Tom Hessert III, 6. David Gough, 7. Brad Loyet, 8. Jay Drake, 9. Billy Wease, 10. Bobby Santos, 11. Brian Olson, 12. Nick Bohanon, 13. Michael Lewis, 14. Darren Hagen, 15. Dave Darland, 16. Joe Liguori, 17. Josh Wise, 18. Jerry Coons Jr., 19. Kyle Nicholas, 20. Mario Marietta, 21. Stephanie Mockler, 22. Cole Carter. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Kevin Swindell.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-394, 2-Bryan Clauson-393, 3-Jay Drake-377, 4-Dave Darland-365, 5-Dave Steele-335, 6-Bobby Santos-319, 7-Brad Kuhn-316, 8-Levi Jones-291, 9-Josh Wise-288, 10-Michael Lewis-284.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: July 21-22, 2006 – Milwaukee Mile – West Allis, Wisconsin – Toyota USAC Midget Classic 25

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USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: July 21-22, 2006 – Milwaukee Mile – West Allis, Wisconsin – Toyota USAC Midget Classic 25

QUALIFYING: (Held on July 21) 1. Bobby Santos, 4, Klatt-27.999; 2. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-28.295; 3. Michael Lewis, 37x, Mitchell-28.308; 4. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-28.308; 5. Dave Steele, 19, Lewis-28.341; 6. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-28.506; 7. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-28.558; 8. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-28.573; 9. Ron Gregory, 22, Irvin-28.574; 10. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-28.623; 11. Darren Hagen, 97, Kunz-28.628; 12. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-28.691; 13. David Gough, 82, A & G-28.711; 14. Jay Drake, 67, Kunz-28.761; 15. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-28.799; 16. Brad Kuhn, 74, James-28.861; 17. Scott Thoman, 88, SST-28.995; 18. David Byrne, 20B, Byrne-29.035; 19. Davey Ray, 33, Ray-29.447; 20. Ryan Durst, 191, Kahne-29.459; 21. Jim Anderson, 36, Anderson-29.705; 22. Kevin Studley, 57, Studley-29.999; 23. Josh Lane, 41, Charlo/Lane-30.423; 24. Terry Ahern, 4x, Ahern-33.828; 25. Mario Marietta, 37, Marietta-NT; 26. Tom Schnabel, 20s, Schnabel-NT; 27. Steve Thinnies, 48, Thinnies-NT.

FEATURE: (25 laps – held on July 22) 1. Bobby Santos, 2. Billy Wease, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Brad Loyet, 5. Dave Steele, 6. Jerry Coons Jr., 7. Cole Carter, 8. Darren Hagen, 9. Jay Drake, 10. Tom Hessert III, 11. Levi Jones, 12. Ron Gregory, 13. David Gough, 14. Michael Lewis, 15. Scott Thoman, 16. Ryan Durst, 17. Kevin Studley, 18. Steve Thinnies, 19. Jim Anderson, 20. David Byrne, 21. Davey Ray, 22. Brad Kuhn, 23. Terry Ahern, 24. Josh Wise, 25. Josh Lane. 12:40.00

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Bobby Santos, Laps 2-11 Billy Wease, Laps 12-25 Bobby Santos.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-439, 2-Dave Darland-422, 3-Jay Drake-413, 4-Bryan Clauson-393, 5-Bobby Santos-385, 6-Dave Steele-385, 7-Brad Kuhn-329, 8-Levi Jones-322, 9-Michael Lewis-313, 10-Darren Hagen-303.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: July 25, 2006 – 81 Speedway – Park City, Kansas

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USAC NATIONAL & WESTERN STATES MIDGET RACE RESULTS: July 25, 2006 – 81 Speedway – Park City, Kansas

QUALIFYING: 1. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-17.753; 2. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-17.802; 3. Jay Drake, 97, Kunz-17.819; 4. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-17.822; 5. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-17.847; 6. Brad Mosen, 3, Kunz-17.880; 7. Michael Lewis, 2, Dearing/Fuhr-17.889; 8. Tyler Brown, 34, Brown-17.901; 9. Brady Bacon, 991, Tel-Star-17.971; 10. Danny Ebberts, 14, Ebberts-18.002; 11. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-18.035; 12. Leon Bacon, 199, Tel-Star-18.153; 13. Jerome Rodela, 25, Rodela-18.182; 14. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-18.201; 15. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-18.213; 16. Chase Barber, 91x, Barber-18.231; 17. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-18.247; 18. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-18.363; 19. Bryan Clauson, 67s, Kunz-18.397; 20. Rick England, 12c, England-18.423; 21. Cody Brewer, 96, Brewer-18.602; 22. Scott Pierovich, 35, Pierovich-18.831; 23. Don Droud Jr., 4, Klatt-19.017; 24. Will Pierce, 4p, Pierce-19.461; 25. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-19.629; 26. Bryan Clauson, 67, Kunz-NT; 27. Luke Cranston, 22, Thornton-NT, 28. Jerome Rodela, #71c, Pedregon-NT; 29. #05, Loyet-NT; 30. #5H, Hessert-NT; 31. #91 Lewis-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Danny Ebberts, 2. Levi Jones, 3. Bryan Clauson (#67s), 4. Josh Wise, 5. Joe Liguori, 6. Chase Barber, 7. Michael Lewis, 8. Jerome Rodela (#25), 9. Scott Pierovich. NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tom Hessert III, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Jerry Coons Jr., 4. Don Droud Jr., 5. Tyler Brown, 6. Rick England, 7. Luke Cranston, 8. Brad Loyet, 9. Darren Hagen. 2:27.29

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Cole Carter, 2. Leon Bacon, 3. Jay Drake, 4. Brad Mosen, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Cody Brewer, 7. Matt Mitchell, 8. Will Pierce. 2:27.05

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Brad Loyet, 2. Cody Brewer, 3. Jerome Rodela (#71c), 4. Michael Lewis, 5. Rick England, 6. Scott Pierovich, 7. Will Pierce, 8. Darren Hagen, 9. Matt Mitchell, 10. Chase Barber, 11. Luke Cranston. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Jerry Coons Jr., 2. Bryan Clauson (#67s), 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Josh Wise, 5. Tom Hessert III, 6. Jay Drake, 7. Don Droud Jr., 8. Danny Ebberts, 9. Dave Darland, 10. Cody Brewer, 11. Cole Carter, 12. Chase Barber, 13. Brad Mosen, 14. Jerome Rodela (#71c), 15. Levi Jones, 16. Rick England, 17. Scott Pierovich, 18. Brad Loyet, 19. Will Pierce, 20. Michael Lewis, 21. Tyler Brown, 22. Leon Bacon, 23. Joe Liguori. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-24 Levi Jones, Laps 25-30 Jerry Coons Jr.

**Chase Barber flipped during the first heat.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-507, 2-Jay Drake-468, 3-Dave Darland-465, 4-Bryan Clauson-456, 5-Bobby Santos-385, 6-Dave Steele-385, 7-Josh Wise-363, 8-Levi Jones-355, 9-Brad Kuhn-329, 10-Michael Lewis-327.

USAC WESTERN STATES MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerome Rodela-700, 2-Tyler Brown-662, 3-Chase Barber-582, 4-Chris Rahe-406, 5-Greg Bragg-396, 6-Scott Pierovich-364, 7-Shannon McQueen-354, 8-Garrett Hansen-339, 9-Garratt Boyden-327, 10-Randi Pankratz-306.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL & WESTERN STATES MIDGET RACES: July 28-29, 2006 – Belleville High Banks – Belleville, Kansas – 29th Mopar Belleville Midget Nationals

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USAC NATIONAL & WESTERN STATES MIDGET RACE RESULTS: July 28, 2006 – Belleville High Banks – Belleville, Kansas – 29th Mopar Belleville Midget Nationals

QUALIFYING: 1. Johnny Rodriguez, 21AZ, Team AZ-17.612; 2. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-17.640; 3. Brad Mosen, 3, Kunz-17.646; 4. Gary Taylor, 5D, Conklin-17.654; 5. Brady Bacon, 991, Tel-Star-17.699; 6. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-17.743; 7. Michael Lewis, 2, Dearing/Fuhr-17.753; 8. Adam Clarke, 1A, Smith-17.785; 9. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-17.823; 10. Don Droud Jr., 4, Klatt-17.823; 11. Teddy Beach, 125, Beach-17.846; 12. A.J. Fike, 32, RFMS-17.887; 13. Jay Drake, 97, Kunz-17.891; 14. Robby Flock, 19s, Sala-17.901; 15. Danny Ebberts, 14, Ebberts-17.935; 16. Jerome Rodela, 71x, Pedregon-17.975; 17. Brad Kuhn, 74, James-17.976; 18. Dustin Morgan, 17, M & M-17.991; 19. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-18.006; 20. Bryan Clauson, 67, Kunz-18.044; 21. Scott Hatton, 15, Huston-18.072; 22. Aaron Fike, 132, RFMS-18.082; 23. Ryan Durst, 191, Kahne-18.086; 24. Alex Harris, 54, Martens-18.088; 25. Michael Pickens, 13, Smith-18.104; 26. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-18.113; 27. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-18.116; 28. Danny Stratton, 2s, Lein-18.124; 29. Tyler Brown, 34, Brown-18.175; 30. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-18.208; 31. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-18.227; 32. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-18.260; 33. Cody Brewer, 96, Brewer-18.288; 34. Russ Harper, 9H, Harper-18.301; 35. Chad McDaniel, 1c, McDaniel-18.324; 36. Chase Barber, 91x, Barber-18.327; 37. Bud Kaeding, 38, Lefturn-18.360; 38. Leon Bacon, 199, Tel-Star-18.372; 39. Ryan Kaplan, 21x, Venture-18.434; 40. Davey Ray, 91, Lewis-18.445; 41. Scott Pierovich, 35, Pierovich-18.577; 42. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-18.622; 43. Billy Mentgen, 7m, DeCroce-18.711; 44. Joe Boyles, 7B, Boyles-18.732; 45. Jimi Quin, 43NZ, Quin-18.947; 46. Doug DeWitt, 11D, DBR-19.552; 47. Mallory Armfield, 5A, Armfield-19.645; 48. #2x, Lein-NT; 49. #19, Lewis-NT; 50. #67K, Kunz-NT; 51. #5H, Hessert-NT; 52. #25, Rodela-NT; 53. #05L, Loyet-NT; 54. #43x, Quin-NT; 55. #2T, Stewart-NT; 56. #11x, Wilke-PAK-NT; 57. #15x, Huston-NT.

FIRST NON-QUALIFIERS RACE: (6 laps) 1. Bud Kaeding, 2. Cody Brewer, 3. Ryan Kaplan, 4. Chad McDaniel, 5. Scott Pierovich, 6. Jimi Quin, 7. Billy Mentgen, 8. Mallory Armfield. 1:51.33

SECOND NON-QUALIFIERS RACE: (6 laps) 1. Chase Barber, 2. Russ Harper, 3. Davey Ray, 4. Leon Bacon, 5. Joe Liguori, 6. Joe Boyles, 7. Doug DeWitt. 1:52.20

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tyler Brown, 2. Michael Pickens, 3. Brad Kuhn, 4. Jay Drake, 5. Cole Carter, 6. Johnny Rodriguez, 7. Scott Hatton, 8. Bud Kaeding, 9. Brady Bacon. 2:25.65

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Darren Hagen, 2. Don Droud Jr., 3. Dustin Morgan, 4. Aaron Fike, 5. Josh Wise, 6. Levi Jones, 7. Brad Loyet, 8. Robby Flock, 9. Cody Brewer. NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tom Hessert III, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Brad Mosen, 4. Danny Ebberts, 5. Ryan Durst, 6. Chase Barber, 7. Matt Mitchell, 8. Michael Lewis, 9. Teddy Beach. NT

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Danny Stratton, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. A.J. Fike, 4. Adam Clarke, 5. Gary Taylor, 6. Russ Harper, 7. Alex Harris, 8. Jerome Rodela, 9. Jerry Coons Jr. 2:29.52

DASH: (6 laps) 1. Tom Hessert III, 2. Darren Hagen, 3. Tyler Brown, 4. Danny Stratton, 5. Josh Wise, 6. Johnny Rodriguez. 1:53.79

SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Gary Taylor, 2. Brad Loyet, 3. Robby Flock, 4. Cole Carter, 5. Bud Kaeding, 6. Russ Harper, 7. Levi Jones, 8. Jerome Rodela, 9. Scott Hatton, 10. Cody Brewer, 11. Ryan Durst, 12. Chase Barber, 13. Michael Lewis, 14. Alex Harris. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Josh Wise, 2. Danny Stratton, 3. A.J. Fike, 4. Adam Clarke, 5. Bryan Clauson, 6. Jay Drake, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Levi Jones, 9. Cole Carter, 10. Brad Loyet, 11. Brad Kuhn, 12. Gary Taylor, 13. Robby Flock, 14. Davey Ray, 15. Michael Pickens, 16. Brad Mosen, 17. Tyler Brown, 18. Johnny Rodriguez, 19. Jerry Coons Jr. (#35), 20. Don Droud Jr., 21. Dustin Morgan, 22. Tom Hessert III, 23. Aaron Fike, 24. Darren Hagen, 25. Danny Ebberts, 26. Chase Barber. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-24 Danny Stratton, Lap 25 Josh Wise.

**Teddy Beach flipped in the third heat. Matt Mitchell flipped in the third heat. Alex Harris flipped during the semi.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-522, 2-Jay Drake-518, 3-Dave Darland-514, 4-Bryan Clauson-511, 5-Josh Wise-432, 6-Levi Jones-394, 7-Bobby Santos-385, 8-Dave Steele-385, 9-Brad Kuhn-366, 10-Cole Carter-343.

USAC WESTERN STATES MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerome Rodela-701, 2-Tyler Brown-688, 3-Chase Barber-595, 4-Chris Rahe-406, 5-Greg Bragg-396, 6-Scott Pierovich-364, 7-Shannon McQueen-354, 8-Garrett Hansen-339, 9-Garratt Boyden-327, 10-Randi Pankratz-306.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL & WESTERN STATES MIDGET RACE: July 29, 2006 – Belleville High Banks – Belleville, Kansas – 29th Mopar Belleville Midget Nationals

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Wise Collects Second Career Belleville Midget Nationals Victory

Belleville, Kan. – With one fist pumping and another hand shaking his teammates' hands, Josh Wise climbed out of his No. 20 Tony Stewart Racing Enterprises Mopar/Bass Pro Shops Spike/Mopar on Saturday the sixth two-time "Mopar Belleville Midget Nationals" champion at the Belleville High Banks.

A winner for the first time three years ago on the half-mile, Wise caught leader Bryan Clauson on Lap 29 of the 40-lapper and cruised to victory – by more than a straightaway over Danny Stratton – for his second straight USAC National Midget Car Series triumph of the season.

“I don’t know how I feel right now,” said Wise following the victory, which netted him \$12,500. “I just have to thank my guys. They gave me a great car tonight, and this is big because we’ve been struggling all season. It’s definitely an upswing for us.”

One night after passing Stratton in the final turn for the preliminary win, Wise earned a more comfortable win after taking the lead when Clauson and Keith Kunz Motorsports teammate Jay Drake endured misfortunes on Laps 29 and 30.

Clauson, who dominated early and tolerated multiple challenges midway through the race from Drake and Wise, led the opening 28 laps after shooting ahead of the field on the initial lap. He took advantage of several restarts to establish leads, but by the halfway mark, was involved in a four-way battle for the lead.

By Lap 25, Clauson had about a four-car length lead margin and was lapping cars at will. Jay Drake, on the other hand, couldn’t take advantage of Clauson’s dicing through lapped traffic, as he was busy holding off Wise and Stratton.

Then, tire troubles relegated the Kunz machines to the back of the pack. Jay Drake, who was running second, was the first, as he pulled off the track when cars were restarting on Lap 29 following a flip by Scott Pierovich. He returned to the field – tire changed – in time to join the tail.

Wise wasted no time on the restart, pulling alongside Clauson in Turns 1 and 2 and taking the point coming out of Turn 4. While Clauson roared around the track looking for a counterattack, he suffered a flat right rear. His slowed machine brought out the final caution of the race. Wise wasn’t pressured when the green was thrown again, as he enjoyed a seven-car length lead within two laps as the cars switched from the higher to the middle groove. Back in the pack, though, others were dicing and trying to grasp a podium finish.

Teddy Beach passed Don Droud Jr. on Lap 34, but he didn’t stay there long. Bud Kaeding quickly got into the mix and pestered Beach for four laps before taking third himself. He finished there ahead of Wise’s teammate, Levi Jones, who got around Beach moments before the checkered flag was thrown.

Brad Loyet, who started 25th after using a provisional, finished sixth. Despite tire problems by other competitors, Wise said he had none with his tires.

“They held up really well,” he said. “We probably could have gone another 30 laps or so on them.”

Prior to his tire misfortunes, Clauson was a man on a mission. Trying to become the youngest driver (17) ever to tame the high banks, the Noblesville, Ind. native had opened up more than a second lead before a range of yellows and reds stopped the race’s fast pace. Pierovich wasn’t the only driver to flip in the event. Brady Bacon brought out the first of two reds when he tumbled in Turn 4 on Lap 9. Neither Bacon nor Pierovich was seriously injured.

Wise became the second driver in three years to sweep the Belleville weekend. Bobby East won both ends of the event in 2004.

Clauson earned the feature pole after winning the 10-lap fifth heat, also known as the pole dash. Before that, Beach, Jones, Johnny Rodriguez and Cody Brewer won eight-lap heats. Russ Harper won the 15-lap semi-feature.

Point leader Jerry Coons Jr.’s advantage was helped a little when Drake and Clauson fell out. He increased his lead by only three, stretching his lead to seven over Drake, heading into the “Joe James/Pat O’Connor Classic” on Aug. 12 at Salem Speedway in Indiana.

Jerome Rodela continued to hold his Western point lead, but Tyler Brown cut it to 14 as the series hibernates until September 2, when it visits the Altamont Motorsports Park in Tracy, Calif.

USAC NATIONAL & WESTERN STATES MIDGET RACE RESULTS: July 29, 2006 – Belleville High Banks – Belleville, Kansas – 29th Mopar Belleville Midget Nationals

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Teddy Beach (#125 Beach), 2. Scott Hatton (#15 Huston), 3. Dave Darland (#9 Lewis), 4. Davey Ray (#91 Lewis), 5. Russ Harper (#9H Harper), 6. Don Droud Jr. (#4 Klatt), 7. Aaron Fike (#132 RFMS), 8. Jerome Rodela (#71x Pedregon), 9. Scott Pierovich (#35 Pierovich), 10. Ryan Durst (#191 Kahne). 2:25.60

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Johnny Rodriguez (#21AZ Team AZ), 2. Jerry Coons Jr. (#11 Wilke-PAK), 3. Ryan Kaplan (#21x Kaplan), 4. Bud Kaeding (#38 Lefturn), 5. Brad Loyet (#05 Loyet), 6. Joe Liguori (#28 Owen), 7. Chad McDaniel (#1c McDaniel), 8. Dustin Morgan (#17 M & M), 9. Mallory Armfield (#5m Armfield). 2:26.60

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Levi Jones (#21 Stewart), 2. Tyler Brown (#34 Brown), 3. Michael Lewis (#2 Dearing-Fuhr), 4. Cole Carter (#7 Carter), 5. Darren Hagen (#71 Kunz), 6. Gary Taylor (#5D Conklin), 7. Michael Pickens (#13 Smith), 8. Jimi Quin (#43 Quin), 9. Billy Mentgen (#7m DeCroke). NT

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Cody Brewer (#96 Brewer), 2. Brady Bacon (#991 Tel-Star), 3. Robby Flock (#19s Sala), 4. Brad Mosen (#3 Kunz), 5. Brad Kuhn (#74 James), 6. Danny Ebberts (#14 Ebberts), 7. Chase Barber (#91x Barber), 8. Tom Hessert III (#5 Hessert), 9. Joe Boyles (#7B Boyles). 2:30.20

POLE DASH: (10 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson (#67 Kunz), 2. Jay Drake (#97 Kunz), 3. Adam Clarke (#1A Smith), 4. Josh Wise (#20 Stewart), 5. Danny Stratton (#2s Lein), 6. A.J. Fike (#32 RFMS). NT

SEMI: (15 laps) 1. Russ Harper, 2. Bud Kaeding, 3. Davey Ray, 4. Don Droud Jr., 5. Brad Kuhn, 6. Cole Carter, 7. Brad Loyet, 8. Aaron Fike, 9. Tom Hessert III, 10. Michael Pickens, 11. Brad Mosen, 12. Jerome Rodela, 13. Chase Barber, 14. Chad McDaniel, 15. Jimi Quin, 16. Scott Pierovich, 17. Joe Boyles, 18. Darren Hagen, 19. Danny Ebberts, 20. Joe Liguori, 21. Gary Taylor, 22. Dustin Morgan, 23. Billy Mentgen. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps) 1. Josh Wise, 2. Danny Stratton, 3. Bud Kaeding, 4. Levi Jones, 5. Teddy Beach, 6. Brad Loyet, 7. A.J. Fike, 8. Jerry Coons Jr., 9. Jay Drake, 10. Don Droud Jr., 11. Johnny Rodriguez, 12. Cody Brewer, 13. Ryan Kaplan, 14. Bryan Clauson, 15. Brad Kuhn, 16. Jerome Rodela, 17. Dave Darland, 18. Davey Ray, 19. Tom Hessert III, 20. Scott Hatton, 21. Scott Pierovich, 22. Adam Clarke, 23. Russ Harper, 24. Tyler Brown, 25. Michael Lewis, 26. Brady Bacon, 27. Cole Carter, 28. Robby Flock. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-28 Bryan Clauson, Laps 29-40 Josh Wise.

****Brady Bacon & Scott Pierovich flipped during the feature.**

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-568, 2-Jay Drake-561, 3-Bryan Clauson-544, 4-Dave Darland-539, 5-Josh Wise-497, 6-Levi Jones-453, 7-Brad Kuhn-390, 8-Brad Loyet-386, 9-Bobby Santos-385, 10-Dave Steele-385.

USAC WESTERN STATES MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerome Rodela-723, 2-Tyler Brown-708, 3-Chase Barber-595, 4-Chris Rahe-406, 5-Greg Bragg-396, 6-Scott Pierovich-377, 7-Shannon McQueen-354, 8-Garrett Hansen-339, 9-Garratt Boyden-327, 10-Ryan Kaplan-315.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: August 12, 2006 – Salem Speedway – Salem, Indiana – 49th Jasper Engines & Transmissions Joe James-Pat O'Connor Memorial

NEXT USAC WESTERN STATES MIDGET RACE: September 2, 2006 – Altamont Motorsports Park – Tracy, California

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USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: August 12, 2006 – Salem Speedway – Salem, Indiana – 49th Jasper Engines & Transmissions Joe James-Pat O'Connor Memorial

QUALIFYING: 1. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-16.328; 2. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-16.388; 3. Bryan Clauson, 67, Kunz-16.395; 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-16.526; 5. Darren Hagen, 71, Kunz-16.545; 6. Bobby Santos, 4, Klatt-16.567; 7. Aaron Fike, 32A, RFMS-16.589; 8. Brad Kuhn, 74, James-16.593; 9. Tracy Hines, 32, RFMS-16.613; 10. Jay Drake, 97, Kunz-16.619; 11. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-16.634; 12. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-16.646; 13. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-16.690; 14. Kyle Nicholas, 02, Nicholas-16.754; 15. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-16.923; 16. Nick Bohanon, 33, Bohanon-17.072; 17. Travis Miniea, 77, Fast Track-17.171; 18. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-17.369; 19. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-NT; 20. #19, Lewis-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tom Hessert III, 2. Jerry Coons Jr., 3. Dave Steele, 4. Aaron Fike, 5. Nick Bohanon. 2:15.70

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Levi Jones, 2. Kyle Nicholas, 3. Darren Hagen, 4. Brad Kuhn, 5. Josh Wise, 6. Travis Miniea. 2:18.37

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Dave Darland, 2. Bobby Santos, 3. Brad Loyet, 4. Bryan Clauson, 5. Tracy Hines, 6. Joe Liguori. 2:15.01

SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Josh Wise, 3. Aaron Fike, 4. Tracy Hines, 5. Brad Kuhn, 6. Jay Drake, 7. Nick Bohanon, 8. Travis Miniea, 9. Joe Liguori. 2:49.44

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Dave Steele, 3. Bobby Santos, 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 5. Josh Wise, 6. Tracy Hines, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Aaron Fike, 9. Kyle Nicholas, 10. Levi Jones, 11. Nick Bohanon, 12. Joe Liguori, 13. Brad Loyet, 14. Jay Drake, 15. Brad Kuhn, 16. Darren Hagen, 17. Tom Hessert III, 18. Travis Miniea. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1-9 Darren Hagen, Laps 10-30 Bryan Clauson.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-629, 2-Bryan Clauson-613, 3-Dave Darland-589, 4-Jay Drake-587, 5-Josh Wise-553, 6-Levi Jones-494, 7-Dave Steele-454, 8-Bobby Santos-447, 9-Brad Loyet-419, 10-Brad Kuhn-418.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: August 18, 2006 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – USAC Indiana Midget Week

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USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: August 18, 2006 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – USAC Indiana Midget Week

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Jerry Coons Jr. (#11 Wilke-PAK), 2. Brad Mosen (#3 Kunz), 3. Cole Carter (#7 Carter), 4. Brad Kuhn (#74 James), 5. Michael Pickens (#4 Klatt), 6. Dustin Morgan (#17 M & M), 7. Chase Barber (#91x Barber), 8. John Wolfe (#3m Wolfe). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tracy Hines (#10 Moore), 2. Shane Cottle (#44 Pace), 3. Jimi Quin (#43NZ Quin), 4. Brady Bacon (#991 Tel-Star), 5. Adam Barth (#14 Barth), 6. Ryan Durst (#191 Kahne), 7. Levi Jones (#21 Stewart). NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Jake Slotten (#12x Acceleration), 2. Brad Loyet (#05 Loyet), 3. Bryan Clauson (#67 Kunz), 4. Cody Brewer (#96 Brewer), 5. Dave Darland (#9 Lewis), 6. Jeremy Warren (#12 Wease), 7. Steve Buckwalter (#25 Buckwalter). NT

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Jay Drake (#97 Kunz), 2. Darren Hagen (#71 Kunz), 3. Tom Hessert III (#5 Hessert), 4. Jimmy Light (#49 Givens), 5. Joe Liguori (#28 Owen), 6. Josh Wise (#2 Dearing-Fuhr). NT

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Josh Wise (#20 Stewart), #05L Loyet, #91 Lewis, #5H Hessert & #67K Kunz.

SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Josh Wise (#2), 3. Dave Darland, 4. Ryan Durst, 5. Levi Jones (#91x Barber), 6. Steve Buckwalter, 7. Dustin Morgan, 8. Joe Liguori, 9. Adam Barth, 10. Jeremy Warren, 11. John Wolfe. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Shane Cottle, 2. Jerry Coons Jr., 3. Tracy Hines, 4. Brad Kuhn, 5. Jay Drake, 6. Josh Wise (#2), 7. Steve Buckwalter, 8. Jake Slotten, 9. Levi Jones, 10. Dave Darland, 11. Darren Hagen, 12. Michael Pickens, 13. Cole Carter, 14. Jimi Quin, 15. Cody Brewer, 16. Brad Mosen, 17. Jimmy Light, 18. Ryan Durst, 19. Tom Hessert III, 20. Brady Bacon, 21. Bryan Clauson, 22. Brad Loyet. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-4 Brad Mosen, Laps 5-30 Shane Cottle.

****Brad Loyet flipped during the feature.**

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-694, 2-Jay Drake-643, 3-Bryan Clauson-632, 4-Dave Darland-624, 5-Josh Wise-601, 6-Levi Jones-531, 7-Brad Kuhn-474, 8-Dave Steele-454, 9-Bobby Santos-447, 10-Brad Loyet-439.

USAC INDIANA MIDGET WEEK POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-67, 2-Jerry Coons Jr.-65, 3-Tracy Hines-62, 4-Brad Kuhn-56, 5-Jay Drake-56.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: August 20, 2006 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – USAC Indiana Midget Week

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Bacon Sizzles in First Win at Kokomo

Kokomo, Ind. – Quietly and humbly, Brady Bacon showed why he could be one of the next young stars in the USAC National Midget Car Series.

Driving even through the checkered flag, showing little emotion – other than a big smile – Bacon claimed the two-race “USAC Indiana Midget Week” finale Sunday at Kokomo Speedway, besting Jon Stanbrough and several other top competitors for his first career series victory.

Bacon, of Broken Arrow, Okla., led 25 of the 30 laps in the No. 999 Keizer Wheels/Tel-Star Communications Eagle/Esslinger Ford, beating Jon Stanbrough and Jeremy Warren to the flag stand.

But it wasn’t easy for the 16-year-old, who became the second driver at that age in less than a year to win a feature. Jon Stanbrough, who picked up the second-place position on Lap 22 when teammate and “USAC Indiana Midget Week” champion Shane Cottle and Josh Wise tangled in Turn 2. Both continued, with Cottle drifting back to fourth and Wise toward the tail end of the Top 10.

Stanbrough pushed his No. 44 Pace Bros. Racing to within two car lengths and appeared to pick up the lead within the final five laps, but that pass was taken away too, when Wise spun in Turn 2 on Lap 29. Jon Stanbrough, Warren and Cottle gave

it one last heave though. The trailing trio kept close and made it a four-car battle until the end, but Bacon wouldn't budge, taking the checkered flag by about a car length and a half.

Cottle made his presence known almost immediately and had his chance at the front twice. On two occasions, he drove past on the inside and into the lead from his second row spot, passing both polesitter Warren and Bacon in Turn 1.

But both times, Cottle's efforts were negated by incidents – one involving a flip by Tracy Hines and a spin on the restart by Cole Carter – sending the field into three starts.

Cottle wasn't as lucky the third time, as Warren held off Bacon and led the first five laps. Bacon fell back a bit at first but charged back, and on Lap 6 held a short advantage over Warren. He increased it slightly over a lap, but couldn't pull away as much as he wanted, as Cottle took second on Lap 7.

Cottle worked intensely to sweep the series, following his victory Friday at Gas City I-69 Speedway. He cut the gap to one and a half car lengths on Lap 11, a car length on Lap 13, and also appeared to take the point right after the halfway point.

That, too, was taken away from him, when Tom Hessert III and Brad Mosen were involved in an incident, one that saw Hessert upside for the second red of the feature.

It ended up being Cottle's last chance. With the charging fleet, Bacon pulled away, leaving Cottle, Wise, Stanbrough and Warren to do battle until Cottle and Wise tangled in Turn 2.

Bacon, the Southern Midget Racing Series point leader, had already shown promise in USAC competition this season, and hasn't been far from a victory. He scored runner-up finishes in both races in the "Knoxville Midget Nationals" in June, and added to that a Top-10 finish a week later at Lake Ozark Speedway in Eldon, Mo.

Tonight, it was his turn to join Bobby Santos III and Kevin Swindell as a first-time series victor this season.

Dave Darland rounded out the Top 5 at his hometown track. Josh Wise, Bryan Clauson and point leader Jerry Coons Jr. won eight-lap heats. Brad Mosen won the semi-feature, which was checkered after only one lap after half of the 10-car field was involved in an incident in Turn 4.

Coons fell 16 points short of Cottle's 125 markers in the "USAC Indiana Midget Week" championship, the second straight for the Kokomo, Ind. native.

Though Coons was ninth in the feature, he retained a 56-point lead over Clauson heading into the "Hall of Fame Midget Classic" at Angell Park Speedway in Sun Prairie, Wis.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: August 20, 2006 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – USAC Indiana Midget Week

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Josh Wise (#20 Stewart), 2. Shane Cottle (#44 Pace), 3. Chase Barber (#91x Barber), 4. Dave Darland (#9 Lewis), 5. Jay Drake (#97 Kunz), 6. Steve Buckwalter (#25 Buckwalter), 7. Brad Mosen (#3 Kunz), 8. Jimmy Light (#49 Givens), 9. Darren Hagen (#71 Kunz). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson (#67 Kunz), 2. Jeremy Warren (#12 Wease), 3. Brady Bacon (#991 Tel-Star), 4. Brad Loyet (#05 Loyet), 5. Tracy Hines (#10 Moore), 6. Levi Jones (#21 Stewart), 7. Adam Barth (#14 Barth), 8. Lee Stark (#85 Stark), 9. Joe Liguori (#28 Owen). NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Jerry Coons Jr. (#11 Wilke-PAK), 2. Tom Hessert III (#5 Hessert), 3. Michael Lewis (#2 Dearing-Fuhr), 4. Cole Carter (#7 Carter), 5. Jon Stanbrough (#44s Pace), 6. Lynsey Tilton (#18 Tilton), 7. Dustin Morgan (#17 M & M), 8. Michael Pickens (#4 Klatt). NT

ALSO AT THE TRACK: #5H Hessert, #67K Kunz & #91 Lewis.

SEMI: (1 lap, shortened from 10 laps due to accident) 1. Brad Mosen, 2. Dustin Morgan, 3. Darren Hagen, 4. Joe Liguori, 5. Adam Barth, 6. Steve Buckwalter, 7. Lynsey Tilton, 8. Jimmy Light, 9. Michael Pickens, 10. Lee Stark. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Jon Stanbrough, 3. Jeremy Warren, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Dave Darland, 6. Levi Jones, 7. Bryan Clauson, 8. Darren Hagen, 9. Jerry Coons Jr., 10. Cole Carter, 11. Brad Loyet, 12. Dustin Morgan, 13. Jay Drake, 14. Michael Lewis, 15. Josh Wise, 16. Michael Pickens, 17. Chase Barber, 18. Joe Liguori, 19. Adam Barth, 20. Tom Hessert III, 21. Brad Mosen, 22. Tracy Hines. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1-5 Jeremy Warren, Laps 6-30 Brady Bacon.

**Lynsey Tilton flipped during the semi. Tracy Hines flipped on lap 1 of the feature. Brad Mosen & Tom Hessert III flipped on lap 16 of the feature.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-738, 2-Bryan Clauson-682, 3-Dave Darland-677, 4-Jay Drake-674, 5-Josh Wise-632, 6-Levi Jones-579, 7-Brad Loyet-475, 8-Brad Kuhn-474, 9-Dave Steele-454, 10-Bobby Santos-447.

FINAL USAC INDIANA MIDGET WEEK POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-125, 2-Jerry Coons Jr.-109, 3-Dave Darland-88, 4-Jay Drake-87, 5-Levi Jones-85.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: August 26, 2006 – Angell Park Speedway – Sun Prairie, Wisconsin – Hall of Fame Midget Classic

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USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: August 26, 2006 – Angell Park Speedway – Sun Prairie, Wisconsin – Hall of Fame Midget Classic

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Davey Ray (#33 Ray), 2. Jerry Coons Jr. (#11 Wilke-PAK), 3. Jay Drake (#97 Kunz), 4. Brad Loyet (#05 Loyet), 5. Brian Ramstack (#02R Ramstack), 6. Jimmy Light (#49 Givens), 7. Chad DeSelle (#6 Fiscus), 8. Nick Lundgreen (#5w Wilke), 9. Joe Wipperfurth (#8 Fiscus). 2:46.18

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Ryan Durst (#191 Kahne), 2. Bryan Clauson (#67 Kunz), 3. Adam Clarke (#1A Smith), 4. Darren Hagen (#71 Kunz), 5. Michael Pickens (#13 Smith), 6. A.J. Fike (#32 RFMS), 7. Steve Buckwalter (#25 Buckwalter), 8. Mike Adams Jr. (#21s Shreffler), 9. Doug Schenck (#19 Imhoff). 2:40.65

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Mike Hess (#4K Jerryatric), 2. Tracy Hines (#132 RFMS), 3. Josh Wise (#20 Stewart), 4. Derrick Myers (#25m Myers), 5. Brandon Waelti (#3w Waelti), 6. Don Droud Jr. (#4 Klatt), 7. Brady Bacon (#991 Tel-Star), 8. Tom Hessert III (#5 Hessert). 2:41.08

FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Cole Carter (#7 Carter), 2. Dean Erfurth (#14 Jerryatric), 3. Jimi Quin (#43NZ Quin), 4. Aaron Fiscus (#7x Fiscus), 5. Rob Keelan (#17x Keelan), 6. Dave Darland (#9 Lewis), 7. Kurt Mayhew (#21K Mayhew), 8. David Gough (#57 Gough). NT

FIFTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Danny Stratton (#2 Lein), 2. Brad Mosen (#3 Kunz), 3. Scott Hatton (#15 Huston), 4. Brad Kuhn (#74 James), 5. Joe Liguori (#28 Owen), 6. Levi Jones (#21 Stewart), 7. Bryon Walters (#5x Walters), 8. Dustin Morgan (#17 M & M). NT

FIRST SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Aaron Fiscus, 2. Brian Ramstack, 3. Brandon Waelti, 4. Dave Darland, 5. A.J. Fike, 6. Levi Jones, 7. Brady Bacon, 8. Chad DeSelle, 9. Mike Adams Jr., 10. Darren Hagen. 2:38.80

SECOND SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Michael Pickens, 2. Brad Loyet, 3. Rob Keelan, 4. Jimmy Light, 5. Joe Liguori, 6. Dustin Morgan, 7. Derrick Myers, 8. Steve Buckwalter, 9. Don Droud Jr., 10. Nick Lundgreen, 11. Tom Hessert III, 12. Kurt Mayhew. 2:34.40

ALSO AT THE TRACK: #67K Kunz-NT, #91 Lewis-NT & #05L Loyet-NT.

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Ryan Durst, 2. Scott Hatton, 3. Davey Ray, 4. Bryan Clauson, 5. Tracy Hines, 6. Danny Stratton, 7. Josh Wise, 8. Mike Hess, 9. Adam Clarke, 10. Michael Pickens, 11. Brad Kuhn, 12. Brandon Waelti, 13. Jimi Quin, 14. Dave Darland, 15. Jay Drake, 16. Brad Loyet, 17. Dean Erfurth, 18. Rob Keelan, 19. Aaron Fiscus, 20. Brian Ramstack, 21. Don Droud Jr., 22. Jerry Coons Jr., 23. Brad Mosen, 24. Cole Carter. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-13 Davey Ray, Laps 14-30 Ryan Durst.

****Darren Hagen flipped during the first semi.**

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-758, 2-Bryan Clauson-740, 3-Jay Drake-703, 4-Dave Darland-702, 5-Josh Wise-680, 6-Levi Jones-580, 7-Brad Kuhn-510, 8-Brad Loyet-501, 9-Dave Steele-454, 10-Cole Carter-453.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: September 9, 2006 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – Clabber Girl Hut 100 Presented by Terre Haute First Financial Bank and the Terre Haute Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Hut 100 is Hagen's at Terre Haute

Terre Haute, Ind. – Darren Hagen set two goals before the 2006 season – to win the “4-Crown Nationals,” and to take the checkered flag in the “Hut Hundred.”

Two weeks from now, he hopes to take the former. On Saturday, he accomplished the latter.

Hagen, of Riverside, Calif., held off a determined charge by Shane Cottle to score the victory in the prestigious “Hut Hundred” at the Terre Haute Action Track.

“I could just cry,” said an elated Hagen after taking the No. 97 Keith Kunz Motorsports Advanced Racing/Fontana Bullet to the victory, one which netted the team an additional \$15,000 for the three-race “Toyota Challenge.”

“I have to thank everyone who has helped me out, from Keith and Pete (Willoughby) and all of my sponsors. If it weren't for them, I couldn't do this. They've believed in me and helped me get this far. I owe it all to them.”

Hagen jolted into the lead at the start and traded the point with Cole Carter over the first quarter of the race, which ran smoothly despite a pair of cautions. The pair swapped the lead numerous times in the corners, but the lead only officially changed once – on Lap 10.

But the second quarter didn't run as well, with three flips in four laps. Lynsey Tilton was the first. Attempting to avoid the slowing car of Billy Wease, Tilton pancaked the outside Turn 1 wall and flipped multiple times. The race was red flagged and opened for crews to make adjustments. Nearly everyone topped off their fuel load.

On Lap 32, a three-car incident was triggered when Carter slowed in Turns 1 and 2. Like Tilton, Josh Wise tried to dodge the slowing machine but ended his evening upside down. Jimi Quin was also involved in the incident.

No more than 10 seconds after racing resumed did the red flag fly for the third time, this when Jon Stanbrough slightly clipped the front of a stopped Brad Loyet in the middle of Turns 1 and 2. He tipped over, but the car suffered enough damage not to continue.

Hagen got great jumps on every restart, but couldn't shake Cottle, who attempted to ride around the bottom. Cottle went low on every restart and came close to upending Hagen from the point, leading through the turns, but was unable to hold the lead coming out of the turns. Hagen held him at bay for much of the middle portion of the race.

But Cottle wasn't alone in challenging Hagen. And his lead only held until Lap 63.

Australian Adam Clarke was trying to become the first of his countrymen to win a USAC National race. Having stayed strong in the Top 5 since the start, he negotiated past Cottle on Lap 52 and then past Brad Mosen the next lap to jump into second.

Clarke cut into the six-car gap quickly thereafter and began challenging Hagen on the inside. He finally made the pass on Lap 63, diving to the inside in Turns 1 and 2.

The Aussie got comfortable until a caution for point leader Jerry Coons Jr. bunched the field back up. The lack of a good restart then hurt Clarke, as Hagen showed his strength again. The pair went back and forth through the turns on Laps 76 and 77.

Another caution – this on Lap 79 when defending race winner Johnny Rodriguez stopped in Turn 4 – bunched the field again and signaled the end of counting yellow flag laps.

It also nearly signaled the end of Clarke's lead. That was off by one lap.

Hagen pressured Clarke for a lap before returning to the lead. Three laps later, Rodriguez's car stopped again, and in doing so, forced another caution. Clarke wasted no time and zipped into the work area to change a tire but gave his chances up to win the race.

That opened the door back up to Cottle, who showed his strength again. He dived under Hagen several times on restarts and nearly picked Hagen off on Lap 93 following the penultimate caution, before Hagen shut the door. Hagen also cruised on the final restart following Don Droud Jr.'s stopped car in Turn 1, and breezed home by about a second.

Cottle finished second, while Davey Ray – who came from 19th – finished third, his third straight podium finish in the race. Michael Pickens and Dave Darland rounded out the Top 5.

Hagen said he followed some advice of Kunz's brother Rusty, at least in terms of when others past him.

"He said just follow them, and then go," Hagen said. "I don't know if I would have had anything for him but he had his problems. It felt good to come out here and win this race."

Pickens and Tracy Hines won eight-lap Qualifying Races.

Coons suffered trouble in his Qualifying Race and took a provisional but finished 12th. However, coupled with an accident which kept incoming runner-up Bryan Clauson from running the race, Coons left with a 37-point advantage heading into next Sunday's (September 17) series debut at the Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa.

Darland moved up to second in the standings, while Drake trails Darland by four points.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: September 9, 2006 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – Clabber Girl Hut 100 Presented by Terre Haute First Financial Bank and the Terre Haute Convention & Visitors Bureau

QUALIFYING: 1. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-20.863; 2. Brad Mosen, 3, Kunz-20.889; 3. Darren Hagen, 97, Kunz-21.075; 4. Dustin Morgan 17, M & M-21.134; 5. Adam Clarke, 1A, Smith-21.153; 6. Jay Drake, 67, Kunz-21.157; 7. Kevin Swindell, 40, Western Speed-21.233; 8. Ryan Durst, 191, Kahne-21.254; 9. Brady Bacon, 991, Tel-Star-21.261; 10. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-21.289; 11. Jon Stanbrough, 44p, Pace-21.308; 12. Shane Cottle, 44, Pace-21.324; 13. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-21.326; 14. Shane Hollingsworth, 16, Sandy-21.342; 15. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 52D, Rocket-21.376; 16. Cody Brewer, 96, Brewer-21.397; 17. Jimi Quin, 43NZ, Quin-21.398; 18. Johnny Rodriguez, 4, Klatt-21.409; 19. Michael Pickens, 13, Smith-21.409; 20. Tracy Hines, 11x, Wilke-PAK-21.421; 21. Teddy Beach, 125, Beach-21.491; 22. Davey Ray, 91, Lewis-21.560; 23. Jake Slotten, 12, Slotten-21.570; 24. Steve Buckwalter, 25, Buckwalter-21.599; 25. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-21.620; 26. A.J. Fike, 32, RFMS-21.659; 27. Chuck Gurney Jr., 73, Ellis-21.672; 28. Jimmy Light, 49, Givens-21.693; 29. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-21.697; 30. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-21.704; 31. Don Droud Jr., 04, Klatt-21.722; 32. Russ Harper, 9H, Harper-21.749; 33. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-21.790; 34. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-21.790; 35. A.J. Ernesto, 14, RT-21.939; 36. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-22.027; 37. Lynsey Tilton, 18, Tilton-22.413; 38. Carey Becker, 20c, RT-22.832; 39. Rob Simpson, 3x, Simpson-23.783; 40. Brad Kuhn, 74, James-26.193; 41. Michael Lewis, 2, Dearing/Fuhr-NT; 42. #97x, Kunz-NT; 43. #05L, Loyet-NT; 44. #5H, Hessert-NT; 45. #19, Lewis-NT; 46. #71, Kunz-NT.

FIRST SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Tracy Hines, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Johnny Rodriguez, 4. Brad Loyet, 5. Cody Brewer, 6. Jake Slotten, 7. Tom Hessert III, 8. Don Droud Jr., 9. Chuck Gurney Jr., 10. Lynsey Tilton, 11. A.J. Ernesto, 12. Rob Simpson, 13. Shane Hollingsworth, 14. Jerry Coons Jr., 15. Joe Liguori. NT

SECOND SEMI: (10 laps) 1. Michael Pickens, 2. Jon Stanbrough, 3. Jimi Quin, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Davey Ray, 6. Steve Buckwalter, 7. Levi Jones, 8. Russ Harper, 9. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 10. Billy Wease, 11. Jimmy Light, 12. Carey Becker, 13. Josh Wise. 3:39.69

FEATURE: (100 laps) 1. Darren Hagen, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Davey Ray, 4. Michael Pickens, 5. Dave Darland, 6. Levi Jones, 7. Jay Drake, 8. Jake Slotten, 9. Cody Brewer, 10. Jimmy Light, 11. Jerry Coons Jr., 12. Don Droud Jr., 13. Brady Bacon, 14. Brad Loyet, 15. Adam Clarke, 16. Johnny Rodriguez, 17. Brad Mosen, 18. Tom Hessert III, 19. Carey Becker, 20. Dustin Morgan 21. Ryan Durst, 22. Russ Harper, 23. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 24. Cole Carter, 25. Steve Buckwalter, 26. Josh Wise, 27. Jon Stanbrough, 28. Jimi Quin, 29. Chuck Gurney Jr., 30. A.J. Ernesto, 31. Billy Wease, 32. Lynsey Tilton, 33. Rob Simpson, 34. Tracy Hines, 35. Kevin Swindell. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-9 Darren Hagen, Laps 10-26 Cole Carter, Laps 27-62 Darren Hagen, Laps 63-81 Adam Clarke, Laps 82-100 Darren Hagen.

**Lynsey Tilton flipped on lap 19 of the feature. Josh Wise flipped on lap 32 of the feature. Jon Stanbrough flipped on the lap 32 restart during the feature.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-789, 2-Dave Darland-750, 3-Jay Drake-746, 4-Bryan Clauson-740, 5-Josh Wise-693, 6-Levi Jones-625, 7-Brad Loyet-526, 8-Brad Kuhn-510, 9-Darren Hagen-508, 10-Cole Carter-472.

TOYOTA CHALLENGE CAR ENTRANT CHAMPION: Keith Kunz Motorsports

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: September 16-17, 2006 – Iowa Speedway – Newton, Iowa

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USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: September 16-17, 2006 – Iowa Speedway – Newton, Iowa

QUALIFYING: (Held on September 16) 1. Bobby Santos, 4, Klatt-22.572; 2. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-22.682; 3. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-22.856; 4. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-22.884; 5. Darren Hagen, 97, Kunz-22.931; 6. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-22.948; 7. Jay Drake, 67, Kunz-23.063; 8. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-23.107; 9. Tracy Hines, 1, Wilke-PAK-23.126; 10. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-23.156; 11. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-23.191; 12. Bradley Galedrige, 129, Hamilton-23.237; 13. Stephanie Mockler, 6, East-23.325; 14. David Byrne, 20B, Byrne-23.544; 15. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-23.621; 16. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-23.980; 17. Scott Thoman, 88, SST-NT; 18. Brian Gerster, 71, Kunz-NT; 19. #19, Lewis-NT; 20. #05L, Loyet-NT.

FEATURE: (25 laps – held on September 17) 1. Dave Steele, 2. Tom Hessert III, 3. Tracy Hines, 4. Brad Loyet, 5. Josh Wise, 6. Jay Drake, 7. Stephanie Mockler, 8. Levi Jones, 9. Joe Liguori, 10. Bobby Santos, 11. Dave Darland, 12. Billy Wease, 13. Darren Hagen, 14. Brian Gerster, 15. Bradley Galedrige, 16. Jerry Coons Jr., 17. David Byrne. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Bobby Santos, Laps 2-19 Dave Steele, Lap 20 Bobby Santos, Laps 21-25 Dave Steele.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-810, 2-Jay Drake-791, 3-Dave Darland-781, 4-Josh Wise-745, 5-Bryan Clauson-740, 6-Levi Jones-664, 7-Brad Loyet-577, 8-Darren Hagen-537, 9-Dave Steele-519, 10-Brad Kuhn-510.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: September 22-23, 2006 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – Mopar Thunder at the 4-Crown Nationals

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Hines Scores \$25, 000 Midget Show at Eldora

Rossburg, Ohio – Tracy Hines simply wasn't fooling around during Sunday morning's USAC National Midget Car Series race.

Run in the wee hours of the morning, Hines dominated the 25-lap Midget portion of the "4-Crown Nationals" at Eldora Speedway, fending off Australian Adam Clarke for his first USAC Midget victory of the season. The win made him the second driver in 2006 to win in all three USAC National divisions.

A late race caution – caused when Levi Jones overshot the pit entrance and stopped on the front stretch – gave Adam Clarke a chance he hadn't earned after Hines had led competitors by more than a straightaway.

Clarke sat glued on Hines's tail tank at the drop of the green flag and shadowed him thru Turns 1 and 2 and onto the backstretch. For two laps, the Black Hill, Australia driver sat poised to catch the New Castle, Ind. native, before Hines inched away.

Finally, he had established an advantage that no one else could slice. He led Clarke by about three car lengths as he flashed under the checkered flags with a fist in the air. That advantage was a fad Hines had set early on in the evening. After dominating the Midget and Sprint semi-features, the former USAC Silver Crown and National Sprint champion wanted to add to his night of success.

Hines took off when the green flag fell and left teammate and point leader Jerry Coons Jr. far behind by the time he crossed underneath the flag stand after the opening lap. He was already multiple car lengths ahead of Coons, who was quickly being challenged by Darren Hagen.

Hines had led the field by a straightaway on Lap 10 and was lapping cars by the midway point.

But two caution periods breathed new life into Clarke's chance for the five-digit payoff. On a Lap 15 restart – which followed a caution caused when 2003 series champion J.J. Yeley stopped on the backstretch – Clarke went right to the front.

Starting seventh, Clarke leapfrogged four cars and planted himself into the third position. Then, with little effort, Clarke dived underneath Coons in Turn 3 and set his sights on Hines.

Those sights were nearsighted.

Clarke began reeling Hines in when Jones stopped on the front stretch. Then, Clarke tagged Hines's car's tail tank before the pair crossed under the checkered flags.

Hagen finished third, ahead of a spirited run by Davey Ray, who jumped from 14th to fourth. Coons slipped to fifth, but the Top-5 finish was a feather in his car as far as the weekend went. It was the first time in three races the series point leader finished in the Top 10 and only the second time in four races he finished at all.

To add to his finish, it came in a race that lacked Dave Darland's presence. Dave Darland, third in series points, failed to make the race after he couldn't transfer through the heats or semi-feature. Hines won the 10-lap semi-feature.

Hagen set the event's fast time on Friday.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: September 22-23, 2006 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – Mopar Thunder at the 4-Crown Nationals

QUALIFYING: (Held on September 22) 1. Darren Hagen, 97, Kunz-16.466; 2. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-16.504; 3. Danny Stratton, 2s, Lein-16.506; 4. Brad Mosen, 3, Kunz-16.558; 5. Brad Kuhn, 71x, Love-16.570; 6. Steve Buckwalter, 25, Buckwalter-16.571; 7. Tracy Hines, 11x, Wilke-PAK-16.633; 8. Jerry Coons Jr., 11, Wilke-PAK-16.665; 9. Adam Clarke, 1A, Smith-16.684; 10. J.J. Yeley, 4, Klatt-16.692; 11. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-16.725; 12. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-16.735; 13. Jon Stanbrough, 2x, Lein-16.769; 14. Michael Lewis, 2, Dearing/Fuhr-16.795; 15. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-16.828; 16. Ryan Durst, 191, Kahne-16.847; 17. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-16.887; 18. Russ Harper, 9H, Harper-16.904; 19. Teddy Beach, 125, Beach-16.906; 20. Jay Drake, 67, Kunz-17.004; 21. Davey Ray, 91, Lewis-17.050; 22. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-17.128; 23. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 52R, Rocket-17.151; 24. Dustin Morgan, 17, M & M-17.178; 25. Brady Bacon, 71, Kunz-17.206; 26. Shane Cottle, 44, Pace-17.237; 27. Jake Slotten, 12, Slotten-17.261; 28. Joe Liguori, 28, Owen-17.304; 29. Don Droud Jr., 44p, Pace-17.325; 30. Tate Martz, 85x, Hollingsworth-17.369; 31. Shane Hollingsworth, 16, Sandy-17.372; 32. Michael Pickens, 13, Smith-17.373; 33. Leon Bacon, 991, Tel-Star-17.387; 34. Jimmy Light, 49, Givens-17.390; 35. Matt Westfall, 14, Bordner-17.462; 36. Dickie Gaines, 24, Parker-17.540; 37. Bryon Walters, 5x, Walters-17.846; 38. Lee Stark, 85, Hollingsworth-18.017; 39. #191x, Kahne-NT; 40. #05L, Loyet-NT; 41. #5H, Hessert-NT; 42. #97x, Kunz-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps – held on September 23) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Don Droud Jr., 3. Tom Hessert III, 4. Adam Clarke, 5. Davey Ray, 6. Jon Stanbrough, 7. Darren Hagen, 8. Brad Kuhn, 9. Leon Bacon, 10. Bryon Walters. 2:09.92

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps – held on September 23) 1. J.J. Yeley, 2. Brad Loyet, 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Josh Wise, 5. Michael Lewis, 6. Russ Harper, 7. Lee Stark, 8. Steve Buckwalter. 2:13.34

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps – held on September 23) 1. Shane Hollingsworth, 2. Teddy Beach, 3. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 4. Danny Stratton, 5. Levi Jones, 6. Tracy Hines, 7. Jake Slotten, 8. Matt Westfall, 9. Dave Darland. NT

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps – held on September 23) 1. Michael Pickens, 2. Jay Drake, 3. Brad Mosen, 4. Dustin Morgan, 5. Jerry Coons Jr., 6. Joe Liguori, 7. Ryan Durst, 8. Dickie Gaines. NT

SEMI: (10 laps – held on September 23) 1. Tracy Hines, 2. Darren Hagen, 3. Levi Jones, 4. Jon Stanbrough, 5. Davey Ray, 6. Jerry Coons Jr., 7. Dave Darland, 8. Steve Buckwalter, 9. Ryan Durst, 10. Leon Bacon, 11. Russ Harper, 12. Jake Slotten, 13. Lee Stark, 14. Bryon Walters, 15. Brad Kuhn, 16. Cole Carter, 17. Michael Lewis, 18. Joe Liguori, 19. Matt Westfall, 20. Dickie Gaines. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps – held on September 23) 1. Tracy Hines, 2. Adam Clarke, 3. Darren Hagen, 4. Davey Ray, 5. Jerry Coons Jr., 6. Josh Wise, 7. Danny Stratton, 8. Brad Mosen, 9. Jon Stanbrough, 10. Brady Bacon, 11. Jay Drake, 12. Brad Loyet, 13. Dustin Morgan, 14. Michael Pickens, 15. Leon Bacon, 16. Teddy Beach, 17. Tom Hessert III, 18. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 19. Shane Hollingsworth, 20. Levi Jones, 21. Shane Cottle, 22. J.J. Yeley, 23. Don Droud Jr. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Tracy Hines.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-859, 2-Jay Drake-829, 3-Josh Wise-800, 4-Dave Darland-782, 5-Bryan Clauson-740, 6-Levi Jones-679, 7-Brad Loyet-613, 8-Darren Hagen-600, 9-Dave Steele-519, 10-Brad Kuhn-513.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACES: October 14-15, 2006 – Thunderhill Raceway – Kyle, Texas – Allstate Texas Lightning 40

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Steele Wins National Midget Return to Texas

Kyle, Texas – Dave Steele survived a strong battle with Stephanie Mockler and later another with Kevin Swindell on Saturday to win the first night of the Texas RaceFest at Thunder Hill Raceway, the first USAC National Midget Car Series race in The Lone Star State in more than 30 years.

Steele, who started on the pole in the No. 91 Lewis Toyota/Oakley Beast/Pink Toyota, led all 40 laps, withstanding pressure from the teenagers for the majority of the race.

But Mockler and her top challenger – point leader Jerry Coons Jr. – spun with less than a handful of laps to go, and Kevin Swindell nearly picked Steele off before the Tampa, Fla. native won by five car lengths. However, Swindell was docked two positions for a restart infraction and finished fourth, behind runner-up Tracy Hines and third-place Dave Darland, Steele's Toyota teammate.

"I've got to thank the guys at the Toyota for helping me," said Steele, one of three drivers to have tested at the track previously. "We had good starts. We didn't have the fastest car, but we knew going in starting position was going to be key."

Steele spent countless times getting good jumps on Mockler and did his best to establish comfortable margins. He led Mockler by a race high five car lengths by Lap 14 before she began reeling Steele in.

For the next 20 laps, Mockler tried everything in her power to get by the Steele. After spending the opening laps getting wide off Turn 4, she kept the car glued to the bottom and sought ways to cut Steele's lead to a car length.

By Lap 24, Mockler was there. She spent two laps banging the tail tank bar in search of her first victory and first National win ever by a female.

But cautions ended those attempts. A spin by Michael Marfia on Lap 25 – his second spin of the 40-lapper – caused the field to bunch up, and on the restart, Steele pulled away.

Mockler and Coons – who battled Mockler for the first 38 laps – kept their battle going on the restart. The same occurred on Lap 34, when Brad Loyet stopped on the frontstretch due to a battery problem. He drove into the pits and fixed the problem and eventually moved through the field to finish fifth.

Steele left the pack on the restart, while Coons picked off Mockler on Lap 37. That position wouldn't last for long. The dueling pair of Mockler and Coons kept close on that restart – and the penultimate caution period on Lap 38 involving defending series champion Josh Wise – before bowing out of their top spots.

Wise and Mockler tangled when Wise drove to the outside, one of few times a driver could drive to the outer groove and make passes. He finished ninth.

On the next restart, Steele ran away again. Swindell jumped to the outside and tried to take second from his fourth position. While he didn't improve his position, he did not adhere to the single file restart presented at the driver's meeting. His penalty came following the checkered flag.

On the same lap, Coons spun on his own in Turn 4, and Mockler did the same exiting the corner. Both cars stopped – bringing out the caution – and both tagged the tail of the field. Mockler left the track, finishing 12th. Coons ended his evening with 10th.

Swindell tried to get the point over the last three laps, jumping to the outside repeatedly. On the last lap, he gave it all he had in Turn 1 but slid too wide and lost his chance for a last ditch effort. Steele led Swindell by five car lengths before the penalty was assessed.

Steele said he knew he was being pressured and knew starting position was what helped his cause.

"I knew they were back there, " he said. "I didn't think we were going to win if we didn't start where he did."

Hines and Keith Kunz Motorsports teammates Brady Bacon and Darren Hagen won eight-lap heats. Wise set the night's fast time in group qualifying with the only sub-14 second lap, clocking in at 13.981 seconds.

Coons continues to lead the points – now by 54 – with two races to go. The next is Sunday at the 3/8-mile track, with the "Allstate Texas Lightning 100."

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: October 14, 2006 – Thunderhill Raceway – Kyle, Texas – Allstate Texas Lightning 40

QUALIFYING: 1. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-13.981; 2. Kevin Swindell, 25, Venture-14.029; 3. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-14.050; 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 11x, Wilke-PAK-14.073; 5. Stephanie Mockler, 6, East-14.084; 6. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-14.085; 7. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-14.102; 8. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-14.111; 9. Michael Lewis, 4, Klatt-14.111; 10. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-14.177; 11. Tracy Hines, 11, Wilke-PAK-14.125; 12. Darren Hagen, 67, Kunz-14.221; 13. Brady Bacon, 97, Kunz-14.259; 14. Brian Olson, 71x, Olson-14.280; 15. Ricky Ehrigott, 44, Ehrigott-14.442; 16. Michael Marfia, 38, McGerigle-14.670; 17. Paul White, 45, Hughes-14.736; 18. #3, Kunz-NT; 19. #19, Lewis-NT; 20. #71, Kunz-NT; 21. #05L, Loyet-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Jerry Coons Jr., 4. Josh Wise, 5. Levi Jones, 6. Michael Marfia. 1:56.70

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tracy Hines, 2. Brian Olson, 3. Brad Loyet, 4. Kevin Swindell, 5. Stephanie Mockler, 6. Paul White. 1:54.47

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Darren Hagen, 2. Michael Lewis, 3. Dave Steele, 4. Ricky Ehrigott, 5. Tom Hessert III. 1:56.04

FEATURE: (40 laps) 1. Dave Steele, 2. Tracy Hines, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Kevin Swindell, 5. Brad Loyet, 6. Darren Hagen, 7. Brady Bacon, 8. Ricky Ehrigott, 9. Josh Wise, 10. Jerry Coons Jr., 11. Tom Hessert III, 12. Stephanie Mockler, 13. Michael Lewis, 14. Brian Olson, 15. Michael Marfia, 16. Paul White, 17. Levi Jones. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Dave Steele.

USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-901, 2-Josh Wise-847, 3-Dave Darland-843, 4-Jay Drake-829, 5-Bryan Clauson-740, 6-Levi Jones-702, 7-Brad Loyet-667, 8-Darren Hagen-653, 9-Dave Steele-586, 10-Tom Hessert III-529.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: October 15, 2006 – Thunderhill Raceway – Kyle, Texas – Allstate Texas Lightning 40

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USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE RESULTS: October 15, 2006 – Thunderhill Raceway – Kyle, Texas – Allstate Texas Lightning 40

**Rained Out.

NEXT USAC NATIONAL MIDGET RACE: November 23, 2006 – Irwindale Speedway – Irwindale, California – 66th Turkey Night Grand Prix

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USAC NATIONAL & WESTERN STATES MIDGET RACE RESULTS: November 23, 2006 – Irwindale Speedway – Irwindale, California – 66th Turkey Night Grand Prix

QUALIFYING: 1. Kody Swanson, 60, Western Speed-16.988; 2. Jason Leffler, 171, Leftturn-17.128; 3. Dave Steele, 91, Lewis-17.237; 4. Bobby Santos, 4, Klatt-17.258; 5. Billy Wease, 80, Western Speed-17.262; 6. Chase Scott, 40, Western Speed-17.278; 7. Kevin Swindell, 25, Venture-17.310; 8. Jerome Rodela, 71p, Pedregon-17.315; 9. Jerry Coons Jr., 11w, Wilke-PAK-17.371; 10. Dave Darland, 9, Lewis-17.372; 11. Tracy Hines, 11, Wilke-PAK-17.383; 12. Josh Wise, 20, Stewart-17.388; 13. Aaron Fike, 32, RFMS-17.391; 14. Stephanie Mockler, 6, East-17.415; 15. Levi Jones, 21, Stewart-17.431; 16. Brian Olson, 71x, Olson-17.450; 17. Aron Oakley, 39, Tucker-17.463; 18. Casey Mears, 4R, Rosen-17.506; 19. Brad Loyet, 05, Loyet-17.508; 20. Tony Stewart, 2, Stewart-17.546; 21. Tom Hessert III, 5, Hessert-17.558; 22. Bobby East, 04, Klatt-17.558; 23. Bradley Galedrige, 129, Hamilton-17.563; 24. Bobby Grewohl, 11D, DeBeaumont-17.581; 25. Brad Kuhn, 74, James-17.589; 26. Chuck Gurney Jr., 51, IPC-17.599; 27. Brady Bacon, 97, Kunz-17.602; 28. Kyle Nicholas, 71, Kunz-17.602; 29. Michael Lewis, 137, Mitchell-17.629; 30. Darren Hagen, 67, Kunz-17.642; 31. Brandon Wagner, 92, Wagner-17.663; 32. Garrett Hansen, 70, Hansen-17.676; 33. Justin Grant, 30, Grant-17.732; 34. Dallen McKenney, 88x, McKenney-17.805; 35. Evan Margeson, 11m, Margeson-17.816; 36. Ryan Scott, 94, Wagner-17.865; 37. Nick Wagner, 93, Wagner-17.883; 38. Garratt Boyden, 42, Boyden-17.906; 39. Shannon McQueen, 7x, McQueen-17.910; 40. Alex Pruett, 56, Pruett-17.921; 41. Chase Barber, 91x, Barber-17.956; 42. Alfred Galedrige Jr., 26, Galedrige-17.994; 43. Tony Hunt, 4x, Rosen-17.995; 44. Cole Carter, 7, Carter-18.047; 45. Scott Pierovich, 35, Pierovich-18.058; 46. Ben Petter, 22, Petter-18.074; 47. Ricky Ehr Gott, 44, Ehr Gott-18.149; 48. Scott Thoman, 88, SST-18.200; 49. Greg Bragg, 41, Walker-18.208; 50. Brea Lopez, 25x, Lopez/Press-18.249; 51. Alex Harris, 5x, Van Dyne-18.312; 52. Rob Lindsey, 23, Lindsey-18.560; 53. David Prickett, 15, Neverlift-18.676; 54. Pete Davis, 00, Davis-18.841; 55. Jared Little, 23x, Little-19.225; 56. Josh Lakatos, 37x, Mitchell-19.750; 57. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-NT; 58. Michael Marfia, 38, McGerigle-NT; 59. Kyle Nicholas, 02, Nicholas-NT; 60. Chris Petersen, 14, Maples-NT; 61. Ryan Kaplan, 21x, Kaplan-NT; 62. Thomas Meseraull, 10x, Walker-NT; 63. Spencer Gatrell, 8x, Pro-Fab-NT; 64. Mike Murgoitio, 10, Western Speed-NT; 65. #19, Lewis-NT; 66. #05L, Loyet-NT; 67. #3, Kunz-NT.

NOTE: Rip Williams also in #37x during hot laps.

FIRST SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Bradley Galedrige, 2. Brad Loyet, 3. Aron Oakley, 4. Michael Lewis, 5. Brad Kuhn, 6. Levi Jones, 7. Tom Hessert III, 8. Brady Bacon, 9. Justin Grant, 10. Chase Barber, 11. Evan Margeson, 12. Brandon Wagner, 13. Scott Pierovich, 14. Shannon McQueen, 15. Alex Harris, 16. Nick Wagner, 17. Greg Bragg, 18. Ricky Ehr Gott, 19. David Prickett, 20. Spencer Gatrell, 21. Jared Little. NT

SECOND SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Bobby East, 2. Tony Stewart, 3. Chuck Gurney Jr., 4. Casey Mears, 5. Kyle Nicholas, 6. Bobby Grewohl, 7. Garrett Hansen, 8. Dallen McKenney, 9. Ryan Scott, 10. Alfred Galedrige Jr., 11. Ben Petter, 12. Alex Pruett, 13. Brea Lopez, 14. Josh Lakatos, 15. Pete Davis, 16. Scott Thoman, 17. Rob Lindsey, 18. Garratt Boyden, 19. Brian Olson, 20. Darren Hagen, 21. Cole Carter. NT

FEATURE: (100 laps) 1. Billy Wease, 2. Kody Swanson, 3. Josh Wise, 4. Dave Steele, 5. Kyle Nicholas, 6. Tracy Hines, 7. Jerome Rodela, 8. Jerry Coons Jr., 9. Brad Kuhn, 10. Chase Scott, 11. Aaron Fike, 12. Dave Darland, 13. Levi Jones, 14. Garrett Hansen, 15. Chuck Gurney Jr., 16. Casey Mears, 17. Darren Hagen, 18. Tom Hessert III, 19. Aron Oakley, 20. Shannon McQueen, 21. Stephanie Mockler, 22. Bradley Galedrige, 23. Brady Bacon, 24. Tony Stewart, 25. Bobby Grewohl, 26. Cole Carter, 27. Chase Barber, 28. Bobby Santos, 29. Kevin Swindell, 30. Jason Leffler, 31. Dallen McKenney, 32. Brad Loyet, 33. Michael Lewis, 34. Bobby East. 39:49.24

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-80 Kody Swanson, Laps 81-100 Billy Wease.

FINAL USAC NATIONAL MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerry Coons Jr.-940, 2-Josh Wise-901, 3-Dave Darland-872, 4-Jay Drake-829, 5-Bryan Clauson-740, 6-Levi Jones-729, 7-Brad Loyet-680, 8-Darren Hagen-672, 9-Dave Steele-641, 10-Brad Kuhn-549.

FINAL USAC WESTERN STATES MIDGET POINTS: 1-Jerome Rodela-956, 2-Chase Barber-795, 3-Tyler Brown-708, 4-Shannon McQueen-634, 5-Ryan Kaplan-614, 6-Garrett Hansen-607, 7-Scott Pierovich-572, 8-Greg Bragg-538, 9-Chris Rahe-526, 10-Matt Mitchell-448.

NEXT USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACES: December 29-30, 2006 – Memorial Coliseum Expo Center – Fort Wayne, Indiana – 9th Annual Rumble in Fort Wayne

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USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: December 29, 2006 – Memorial Coliseum Expo Center – Fort Wayne, Indiana – 9th Annual Rumble in Fort Wayne

QUALIFYING: 1. Tony Stewart, 2, Stewart-8.115; 2. Dave Darland, 0, RAD-8.185; 3. Billy Wease, 99, Burrow-8.232; 4. Mel Kenyon, 61, 3K-8.301; 5. Mike Fedorcak, 97, Stewart-8.369; 6. Brandon Knupp, 15x, Knupp-8.380; 7. Ronnie Wuerdeman, 33w, Wuerdeman-8.404; 8. Matt Estep, 25, BRP-8.418; 9. Lou Cicconi Jr., 56, Rencurrel-8.422; 10. Robby Parish, 42, Robertson-8.423; 11. Patrick Wilda, 33p, Wilda-8.464; 12. Kyle Hamilton, 33, Hamilton-8.464; 13. Arin McIntosh, 8, Reed-8.475; 14. Jimmy Light, 22, Givens-8.487; 15. Drew Charlson, 21, Fuhrman-8.501; 16. Tracy Hines, 10, Moore-8.509; 17. Ginny Quinones, 00, Quinones-8.524; 18. Jason Hart, 19, Davis-8.536; 19. Tony Elliott, 7J, Williams-8.540; 20. David Budres, 50, Leeke-8.546; 21. Brian Olson, 41x, Griffith/Horn-8.549; 22. Kevin Studley, 41, Griffith-8.551; 23. Jacob Wilson, 07, WBR-8.602; 24. Bobby Smith, 8x, Epperson-8.632; 25. Doug Dietsch, 0, Dietsch-8.649; 26. Zach Leeke, 19x, Leeke-8.658; 27. Derek Bischak, 3x, Barnett-8.709; 28. Dakota Armstrong, 17, Armstrong-8.712; 29. Ryan Miller, 87, Miller-8.718; 30. Jeff Wimmenauer, 15J, Wimmenauer-8.721; 31. Rich Corson, 15, Corson/Savage-8.742; 32. Kyle Robbins, 17x, Robbins-8.795; 33. Cale Conley, 3, Conley-8.839; 34. Basil Hicks, 22x, Hicks-8.940; 35. Palmer Eicher, 54, Eicher-8.982; 36. Adam Schuyler, 56x, Schuyler-9.030; 37. Deano Lennon, 27, Lennon-9.128; 38. Billy Hulbert, 5, Hulbert-9.254; 39. Jason Therkelsen, 11, Therkelsen-9.254; 40. Dave Fuhrman, 32, Fuhrman-9.258; 41. Mike Krysiak, 7x, Krysiak-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (12 laps) 1. Tony Stewart, 2. Mike Fedorcak, 3. Lou Cicconi Jr., 4. Arin McIntosh, 5. Ginny Quinones, 6. Doug Dietsch, 7. Ryan Miller, 8. Cale Conley, 9. Brian Olson, 10. Deano Lennon. NT

SECOND HEAT: (12- laps) 1. Dave Darland, 2. Robby Parish, 3. Jimmy Light, 4. Jason Hart, 5. Brandon Knupp, 6. Zach Leeke, 7. Kevin Studley, 8. Jeff Wimmenauer, 9. Basil Hicks, 10. Billy Hulbert. NT

THIRD HEAT: (12 laps) 1. Drew Charlson, 2. Rich Corson, 3. Tony Elliott, 4. Jacob Wilson, 5. Jason Therkelsen, 6. Palmer Eicher, 7. Derek Bischak, 8. Patrick Wilda, 9. Ronnie Wuerdeman, 10. Billy Wease. NT

FOURTH HEAT: (12 laps) 1. Tracy Hines, 2. Matt Estep, 3. Mel Kenyon, 4. Dakota Armstrong, 5. Kyle Hamilton, 6. Kyle Robbins, 7. Bobby Smith, 8. Dave Fuhrman, 9. David Budres, 10. Adam Schuyler. NT

FIRST SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Kyle Hamilton, 2. Ginny Quinones, 3. Jacob Wilson, 4. Ryan Miller, 5. Adam Schuyler, 6. Zach Leeke, 7. Jason Therkelsen, 8. Cale Conley, 9. David Budres. NT

SECOND SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Mel Kenyon, 2. Lou Cicconi Jr., 3. Arin McIntosh, 4. Bobby Smith, 5. Brian Olson, 6. Dave Fuhrman, 7. Derek Bischak, 8. Basil Hicks, 9. Jeff Wimmenauer, 10. Deano Lennon, 11. Jason Hart. NT

THIRD SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Brandon Knupp, 2. Tony Elliott, 3. Jimmy Light, 4. Kevin Studley, 5. Doug Dietsch, 6. Billy Hulbert, 7. Kyle Robbins, 8. Dakota Armstrong, 9. Patrick Wilda. NT

FEATURE: (60 laps) 1. Tony Stewart, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Mike Fedorcak, 4. Ginny Quinones, 5. Mel Kenyon, 6. Drew Charlson, 7. Kyle Hamilton, 8. Tracy Hines, 9. Brandon Knupp, 10. Rich Corson, 11. Tony Elliott, 12. Robby Parish, 13. Matt Estep, 14. Lou Cicconi Jr. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-7 Rich Corson, Laps 8-60 Tony Stewart.

NEXT USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE: December 30, 2006 – Memorial Coliseum Expo Center – Fort Wayne, Indiana – 9th Annual Rumble in Fort Wayne

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USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: December 30, 2006 – Memorial Coliseum Expo Center – Fort Wayne, Indiana – 9th Annual Rumble in Fort Wayne

QUALIFYING: 1. Tony Stewart, 2, Stewart-7.920; 2. Mike Fedorcak, 97, Stewart-8.298; 3. Tracy Hines, 10, Moore-8.334; 4. Dave Darland, 0, RAD-8.390; 5. Arin McIntosh, 8, Reed-8.397; 6. Mel Kenyon, 61, 3K-8.451; 7. Brandon Knupp, 15x, Knupp-8.464; 8. Jason Hart, 19, Davis-8.466; 9. Tony Elliott, 7J, Williams-8.488; 10. Lou Cicconi Jr., 56, Rencurrel-8.495; 11. Matt Estep, 25, BRP-8.498; 12. Patrick Wilda, 33p, Wilda-8.503; 13. Ryan Miller, 87, Miller-8.504; 14. Ginny Quinones, 00, Quinones-8.509; 15. Derek Bischak, 3x, Barnett-8.573; 16. Kyle Robbins, 17x, Robbins-8.573; 17. Kyle Hamilton, 33, Hamilton-8.594; 18. Doug Dietsch, 0x, Dietsch-8.604; 19. Dakota Armstrong, 17, Armstrong-8.610; 20. Kevin Studley, 41, Griffith-8.610; 21. Bobby Smith, 8x, Epperson-8.641; 22. Cale Conley, 3, Conley-8.669; 23. Jacob Wilson, 07, WBR-8.724; 24. Brian Olson, 41x, Griffith/Horn-8.725; 25. Adam Schuyler, 56x, Schuyler-8.752; 26. Billy Hulbert, 5, Hulbert-8.756; 27. Drew Charlson, 21, Fuhrman-8.763; 28. Jimmy Light, 22, Givens-8.765; 29. Jeff Wimmenauer, 15J, Wimmenauer-8.822; 30. Jack Arute, 7, Armstrong-8.824; 31. Basil Hicks, 22x, Hicks-8.866; 32. Zach Leeke, 19x, Leeke-8.904; 33. Rich Corson, 15, Corson/Savage-8.911; 34. Dave Fuhrman, 32, Fuhrman-8.973; 35. Jason Therkelsen, 11, Therkelsen-9.334; 36. Palmer Eicher, 54, Eicher-9.495; 37. Mike Schenker, 32x, Fuhrman-9.863; 38. Deano Lennon, 27, Lennon-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (12 laps) 1. Rich Corson, 2. Tony Elliott, 3. Jeff Wimmenauer, 4. Adam Schuyler, 5. Kyle Hamilton, 6. Ryan Miller, 7. Tony Stewart, 8. Arin McIntosh, 9. Mike Schenker, 10. Bobby Smith. NT

SECOND HEAT: (12 laps) 1. Mel Kenyon, 2. Mike Fedorcak, 3. Billy Hulbert, 4. Dave Fuhrman, 5. Cale Conley, 6. Jack Arute, 7. Ginny Quinones, 8. Doug Dietsch. NT

THIRD HEAT: (12 laps) 1. Tracy Hines, 2. Derek Bischak, 3. Brandon Knupp, 4. Dakota Armstrong, 5. Jacob Wilson, 6. Drew Charlson, 7. Basil Hicks, 8. Jason Therkelsen, 9. Matt Estep. NT

FOURTH HEAT: (12 laps) 1. Kyle Robbins, 2. Kevin Studley, 3. Brian Olson, 4. Jimmy Light, 5. Zach Leeke, 6. Palmer Eicher, 7. Patrick Wilda, 8. Dave Darland, 9. Jason Hart. NT

FIRST SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Tony Stewart, 2. Brandon Knupp, 3. Bobby Smith, 4. Kyle Hamilton, 5. Dave Fuhrman, 6. Brian Olson, 7. Jack Arute, 8. Mike Schenker, 9. Matt Estep. NT

SECOND SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Dave Darland, 2. Patrick Wilda, 3. Jason Hart, 4. Doug Dietsch, 5. Jimmy Light, 6. Adam Schuyler, 7. Cale Conley, 8. Basil Hicks, 9. Jason Therkelsen. NT

THIRD SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Arin McIntosh, 2. Jacob Wilson, 3. Zach Leeke, 4. Dakota Armstrong, 5. Palmer Eicher, 6. Ginny Quinones, 7. Lou Cicconi Jr., 8. Jeff Wimmenauer, 9. Billy Hulbert. NT

FEATURE: (60 laps) 1. Tony Stewart, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Mike Fedorcak, 4. Kyle Robbins, 5. Billy Wease (#19), 6. Derek Bischak, 7. Rich Corson, 8. Brandon Knupp, 9. Jacob Wilson, 10. Kevin Studley, 11. Mel Kenyon, 12. Patrick Wilda, 13. Arin McIntosh, 14. Tony Elliott, 15. Tracy Hines. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-6 Rich Corson, Laps 7-60 Tony Stewart.