

2016 USAC NATIONAL MIDGET SEASON REVIEW

Thorson Weathers the Storm

By: *Richie Murray*

The only thing that prevented Tanner Thorson from a championship in 2015 was an injury that forced him to miss two races. That being the case, most observers earmarked him as the odds-on favorite to become the 2016 USAC National Midget champ. With that said, the early portion of the season did not unfold according to plan and was beset by ragged inconsistency for he and his Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota. Through three events, Thorson had finished 7th, 18th and 19th and was nowhere to be found in the top-10 of the standings.

Ironically, Thorson's initial turning point arrived at the same arena of his undoing one year earlier. In June's round of USAC Indiana Midget Week at Lincoln Park, Thorson left the scene in an ambulance. This time around, Thorson found redemption with his first win of the year. Following an 11th and 7th in his next two outings, Thorson hit paydirt again to become the first repeat winner of the season in June during the series' Arkansas debut at Riverside International Speedway.

As late as early August, Thorson had fallen to fifth in points, a distant 76 markers back. Thorson found some mojo in the series debut at Pennsylvania's Lanco's Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway where he scored revenge after having been the most recent victim of a final corner pass in 2015. Thorson took control and tracked down teammate Spencer Bayston at the finish line of the 30-lapper after recovering from a lap four spinout that forced him to restart at the tail. Heavy afternoon rain doused the surface, forcing the track crew to use squeegees and leaf blowers to dry the 1/8-mile dirt oval.

That performance, followed by a runner-up finish in the 4-Crown Nationals at Ohio's Eldora Speedway, elevated Thorson back to fourth in the standings, but only 30 points behind Bayston at the head of the game. Thorson's "half-spin and win" in October's Gold Crown Midget Nationals opener at Illinois' Tri-City Speedway came after sliding into the infield early while running fourth. He dropped to seventh but worked his way into the lead with six to go to take night one. He then wired all 30 laps to collect night two and, by the following evening, he'd won his third race in as many nights to vault himself to within nine points of Bayston, second in the standings. He rose his undefeated Tri-City streak to five-in-a-row and became just the second driver in series history to win at least five-straight at a single track (Rich Vogler at Terre Haute).

With two races remaining, Thorson now had Bayston squarely within the crosshairs. Thorson recorded his sixth consecutive top-two result with a runner-up finish in late October's Jason Leffler Memorial at Illinois' Wayne County Speedway while Bayston was eighth, flipping the script to finally put Thorson in the driver's seat of the title hunt by a nine-point margin. While Thorson's top-two streak came to an end in the season-ending Turkey Night Grand Prix at Ventura (Calif.) Raceway, a sixth place was more than good enough to complete the feat while Bayston became entangled in an accident just before the midway point but made a valiant effort to fight back from 23rd to 9th, coming up just short.

Everything comes full circle and Thorson's 18-point victory over Bayston was eerily reminiscent of his 18-point deficit he was dealt a year ago. In claiming the championship, Thorson became the first Nevada native to earn the series title. The entrant championship was the eighth for Keith Kunz and the sixth for Mike Curb and Cary Agajanian.

Bayston finished second in a stellar season which saw him win in June at Gas City to become one of three first-time winners along with opening night victor Shane Golobic, who snared the first points-paying indoor race since 1993, and the first on dirt since 1972, in March at the Southern Illinois Center. Chad Boat was victorious in June's debut at Nebraska's Jefferson County Speedway where the first 35-lap race was held since 1979. Boat also completed a sweep of August's Belleville (Kan.) Midget Nationals where he joined his father Billy Boat (1995) as the first father-son duo to win the main event.

Tragedy struck on the final night at Belleville when race leader Bryan Clauson flipped on the high side of turns three and four on lap 14, just one lap after taking the lead, then was struck by the car of Ryan Greth. Clauson was transported to a Lincoln, Neb. hospital where he died from his injuries. The two-time series champ was just 27 years old. Just three nights earlier, Clauson won his final race, honoring the memory of the most recent series fatality, the Chad McDaniel Memorial at Kansas' Solomon Valley Raceway. In June, Clauson captured the first of his two season victories, overcoming uncertainty with nagging engine issues that forced his team to work feverishly in order to even make the call for the night at Riverside.

Kyle Larson and Rico Abreu each won twice. Kyle Larson, taking a midweek break from NASCAR duties, crafted a masterpiece of wheelmanship for his first series win since 2013 in the first series race held at Montpelier (Ind.) Motor Speedway, then concluded the year by cooking up a second on Thanksgiving in Turkey Night's return to Ventura for the first time since 1997. Abreu completed a unique USAC Indiana Midget Week sweep at Kokomo as his KKM team won all five IMW features with five different drivers, but it was the winless Clauson who snagged the IMW title. Abreu flew into Eldora in September alongside Tony Stewart, then flew to victory after competing in a NASCAR Truck race that afternoon at New Hampshire.

Just like clockwork, Christopher Bell won his third-straight USAC Indiana Midget Week A-Main at Bloomington. Brady Bacon provided FMR Racing its first series win worth \$20,000 at Wayne City. Carson Macedo, fifth in points, was the Rookie of the Year. The previous Fall, four-time series winning driver Levi Jones was named USAC's National Midget Racing Director, and took in his first full season in 2016, a role that expanded to all of USAC's national divisions in the years to come.

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Golobic Glides to First USAC Midget Victory in Du Quoin's Shamrock Classic

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Du Quoin, Illinois.....Shane Golobic of Fremont, California wasn't content on just running the bottom as he went to the high side to pass leader Shane Cottle on lap 34 and was able to pull away on a late green-white-checkered to win his first career USAC Midget National Championship feature in Saturday night's inaugural "Shamrock Classic" at the Southern Illinois Center in Du Quoin.

Golobic, driving the Matt Wood Motorsports/Elk Grove Ford – Competition Suspension, Inc./Spike/Esslinger, joined drivers Kevin Besecker, Blake Fitzpatrick, Todd Forbes, Gene Hartley, Steve Lotshaw, Henry Pens, Dick Pole and Terry Wente as the only drivers to win their first career USAC National Midget race in the season opening event.

Golobic started in the fifth spot, while the night's race promoter Bryan Clauson started on the pole with Tony Roney outside. The 50-lapper started out as the race that refused to begin. Three cautions and a red flag were thrown before a single lap was even completed.

When the race finally did begin, Clauson jumped into the lead with Cottle in tow. Bryan Clauson, who won his heat and his qualifying race earlier in the night appeared to be the car to beat as he first encountered lapped traffic on the fifth circuit. On the sixth lap, USAC Midget National Championship Rookie Holly Shelton pirouetted off the berm between turns three and four directly in front of the lead pack. Amazingly, Clauson's car went under the airborne Shelton without making contact.

However, under the caution, Clauson's engine shut off, forcing him into the pit area and leaving him with a hard luck, last place finish on the night. Cottle, who did make slight contact with Shelton during the incident, was the new leader on the ensuing restart followed by Zach Daum.

On the lap 6 restart, Travis Berryhill participated in the only flip during the feature. He was uninjured and, in fact, was able to restart.

With Cottle still in front on lap 18, second running Zach Daum spun in turn three while fourth-place Tyler Thomas came to a stop on the high side, sending them both to the tail.

It was a race to the bottom for the front runners through the midway point of the race as Cottle, Golobic, Thomas Meseraull, and Roney hugged the inside berm while Brady Bacon was the lone driver in the top-five utilizing the higher line.

After a caution brought out by the stopped car of Gage Walker with 18 laps to go, the restart saw second-running Shane Golobic venture to the outside and making it stick, gaining ground on Cottle each lap, resulting in a near dead-heat at the flag stand at the end of the 33rd lap. One lap later, Golobic was finally able to nose his number 17w ahead of Cottle, officially taking the lead at the stripe on lap 34.

Golobic drove away from second-place Cottle to gain a healthy advantage, but the lead was erased when a yellow on the final lap brought out a green-white-checkered finish. With the field bunched up and a clear track in front, Golobic had no problems whatsoever driving away to the victory followed by Cottle, Meseraull, Bacon, Roney, Spencer Bayston, Tanner Thorson, David Budres, Berryhill and Daum.

Saturday night, Golobic became the first driver since Kenny Irwin Jr. at the Toronto (Ontario) SkyDome in 1993 to win a full, points-paying USAC National Midget feature indoors.

“Man, I’ve waited so long to hear my name attached to the phrase ‘USAC National Midget winner,’ and it feels amazing,” Golobic exclaimed. “Our car was so good tonight; I’ve never driven one that good before. I’m so excited to be working with Tim Clauson and this Matt Wood Racing team. I think we’ve really got a nice package put together and I can’t wait for the rest of the season.”

Cottle, of Kokomo, Indiana led the most laps (28) and just came short of picking off his first series win since 2010. “It’s hard to be the leader and not really know where those guys behind you are running,” Cottle explained. “We were good on the bottom, but then Golobic went around us on the top and from then on, it was just playing defense to hold those other guys off. We had a really good car all night; (we) just couldn’t quite finish it off.”

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: March 19, 2016 – Southern Illinois Center – Du Quoin, Illinois – Shamrock Classic

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Chase Briscoe (#D33 Davis), 2. Andrew Felker (#11A Felker), 3. Katlynn Leer (#77K Leer), 4. Justin Grant (#38 Gardner), 5. Nick Knepper (#55 Knepper), 6. Kevin Thomas Jr. (#2x Shuman), 7. Ty Hulsey (#21 Hulsey), 8. Chase Hill (#11H Felker). NT

BENIC ENTERPRISES SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson (#63 RKR-Dooling), 2. Justin Peck (#5x Peck), 3. Kevin Olson (#5H Hoppe), 4. Spencer Bayston (#97 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 5. John Campbell (#19 Campbell), 6. Mike McSparin (#0A Zero), 7. Shane Morgan (#15m Morgan), 8. Tucker Klaasmeyer (#27 Klaasmeyer). NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Jake Neuman (#3N Neuman), 2. Chase Johnson (#17m Wood), 3. Michelle Decker (#4m Meents), 4. J.D. Black (#7JR Robinson), 5. Kyle Schuett (#9K Schuett), 6. Daniel Robinson (#57D McCreery), 7. Danny Meyer (#86J Bergfield), 8. Scott Orr (#88x Orr). NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Dereck King (#91 Harris), 2. Brady Bacon (#76m FMR), 3. Tyler Thomas (#91T Thomas), 4. Tim Siner (#15 Siner-Cyliax), 5. Chad Boat (#84 Tucker-Boat), 6. Austin Prock (#41 Prock-Hayward), 7. Dave Darland (#11AG Gray), 8. Carson Macedo (#71K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian). NT

FIFTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Zach Daum (#5D Daum), 2. Thomas Meseraull (#66 Amati), 3. Travis Berryhill (#11 Manic), 4. Ryan Greth (#4 Leshner), 5. Tanner Thorson (#67 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 6. Colten Cottle (#5c Cottle), 7. Daniel Adler (#50 Adler), 8. Robert Bell (#71½ Bell). NT

SIXTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Shane Golobic (#17w Wood), 2. Tony Roney (#1T Roney), 3. Anton Hernandez (#37x Felker), 4. Chris Urish (#77u Casson), 5. Holly Shelton (#67K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 6. Chris R. Andrews (#91A Thomas), 7. Bill Rose (#6 Rose). NT

SEVENTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Shane Cottle (#56 Hmiel), 2. Ryan Robinson (#71 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 3. Gage Walker (#7 Walker), 4. David Budres (#31 Manic), 5. Terry Babb (#88 Babb), 6. Brad Kraus (#6B Kraus). NT

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Larry Knowles (#13 Zero).

FIRST LAST CHANCE QUALIFIER: (10 laps) 1. Dave Darland, 2. Carson Macedo, 3. Shane Morgan, 4. Mike McSparin, 5. Ty Hulsey, 6. Bill Rose, 7. Robert Bell. NT

SECOND LAST CHANCE QUALIFIER: (10 laps) 1. Chris R. Andrews, 2. Scott Orr, 3. Danny Meyer, 4. Austin Prock, 5. Chase Hill, 6. Tucker Klaasmeyer. NT

FIRST QUALIFIER: (10 laps) 1. Shane Cottle, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Andrew Felker, 4. Jake Neuman, 5. Michelle Decker, 6. Justin Peck, 7. Tim Siner, 8. Kyle Schuett, 9. Colten Cottle. NT

SECOND QUALIFIER: (10 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Tony Roney, 3. Daniel Adler, 4. Terry Babb, 5. Ryan Robinson, 6. Brady Bacon, 7. Kevin Olson, 8. Chris Urish, 9. J.D. Black, 10. Daniel Robinson. NT

THIRD QUALIFIER: (10 laps) 1. David Budres, 2. Gage Walker, 3. Tyler Thomas, 4. Zach Daum, 5. Nick Knepper, 6. Anton Hernandez, 7. Katlynn Leer, 8. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9. Ryan Greth. NT

FOURTH QUALIFIER: (10 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Travis Berryhill, 3. Dereck King, 4. Shane Golobic, 5. Chase Briscoe, 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Holly Shelton, 8. Spencer Bayston, 9. John Campbell. NT

FIRST SEMI: (15 laps) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Anton Hernandez, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Daniel Adler, 6. Nick Knepper, 7. Kyle Schuett, 8. Chase Briscoe, 9. Carson Macedo, 10. Dave Darland, 11. Tim Siner, 12. Colten Cottle, 13. Kevin Thomas Jr., 14. Katlynn Leer, 15. John Campbell. NT

SECOND SEMI: (15 laps) 1. Travis Berryhill, 2. Terry Babb, 3. Michelle Decker, 4. Daniel Robinson, 5. Spencer Bayston, 6. Chris R. Andrews, 7. Holly Shelton, 8. Scott Orr, 9. Chris Urish, 10. Jake Neuman, 11. Ryan Robinson, 12. Ryan Greth, 13. Chase Johnson. NT

FEATURE: (50 laps) 1. Shane Golobic, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Thomas Meseraull, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Tony Roney, 6. Spencer Bayston, 7. Tanner Thorson, 8. David Budres, 9. Travis Berryhill, 10. Zach Daum, 11. Anton Hernandez, 12. Terry Babb, 13. Chad Boat, 14. Tyler Thomas, 15. Holly Shelton, 16. Gage Walker, 17. Justin Peck, 18. Daniel Robinson, 19. Michelle Decker, 20. Dereck King, 21. Andrew Felker, 22. Bryan Clauson. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-5 Bryan Clauson, Laps 6-33 Shane Cottle, Laps 34-50 Shane Golobic.

****Bill Rose flipped during the sixth heat. Austin Prock flipped during the second last chance qualifier. Ryan Robinson flipped during the second qualifier. Chris Urish flipped during the second qualifier. Travis Berryhill flipped on lap 6 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Shane Golobic-70, 2-Shane Cottle-67, 3-Brady Bacon-61, 4-Spencer Bayston-55, 5-Tanner Thorson-52, 6-David Budres-49, 7-Zach Daum-43, 8-Anton Hernandez-41, 9-Chad Boat-37, 10-Tyler Thomas-35.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: April 8-9, 2016 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – Kokomo Grand Prix

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Brady Bacon (Max Papis Innovations (MPI) “Wheelman of the Race”)

Zach Daum, Shane Cottle, Shane Morgan & Daniel Adler – Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI)

Shane Cottle, Bryan Clauson, David Budres & Chad Boat (All Star Performance)

Shane Golobic (Simpson Race Products Steering Wheel)

Tony Roney, Ryan Greth, John Campbell & Terry Babb (Simpson Race Products)

Shane Golobic (Priority Aviation \$777)

Shane Golobic, Danny Meyer & Spencer Bayston (AFCO Shocks)

Dave Darland, Chris R. Andrews, Chad Boat, Robert Bell & Terry Babb (Indy Race Parts)

Shane Golobic (Lap 39 leader from Ben Hodgin)

Dooling Machine “Pot of Gold” – 5 different winners

Chase Briscoe (Simpson Race Products First Heat)

Bryan Clauson (Benic Enterprises Second Heat)

Jake Neuman (Competition Suspension, Inc (CSI) Third Heat)

Dereck King (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat)

Tanner Thorson (KSE “Hard Charger”)

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Weather Forces Kokomo Midget Cancellations

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana.....This weekend’s “Kokomo Grand Prix” for USAC’s National Midget Championship races at the Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway have been cancelled due to inclement weather. There is no re-schedule of this event planned.

“We are disappointed that the weather has intervened, producing conditions not conducive for racing for race fans or participants,” said race organizer Reece O’Connor. “We want this event to offer everyone a pleasant atmosphere of fun and these weather forecasts will not permit that.”

Kokomo Speedway is among USAC's most active venues and will, host USAC Indiana Midget Week June 5, "Indiana Sprint Week" July 9 and the "Sprint Car Smackdown" August 24-27, plus a USAC Indiana Midget Championship race October 14.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: May 31, 2016 – Montpelier Motor Speedway – Montpelier, Indiana
– USAC Indiana Midget Week

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Larson Lights Up Montpelier for Victory in USAC Indiana Midget Week Opener

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Montpelier, Indiana.....These days, Kyle Larson doesn't get the chance to jump behind the wheel of a USAC Midget as often as he once did due to his NASCAR commitments to Chip Ganassi, but on Tuesday night in the 12th annual USAC Indiana Midget Week opener at Montpelier Motor Speedway, Larson looked as if he never left the open wheel ranks, crafting a masterpiece of wheelmanship to take his first USAC National Midget win since 2013 in his first, as well as the series' first, visit to the quarter-mile dirt oval in Montpelier, Ind.

Larson, in one of eight Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports entries, started on a star-studded front row that included recent Indianapolis 500 starter Bryan Clauson on the outside. Larson quickly jetted out to the lead at the start, but on the second circuit, teammate Tanner Thorson threw his car to the track's edge, running down and disposing of Larson as the two reached the flag stand at the end of lap two.

On lap five, a Steve Buckwalter turn four tip-over, that also collected Dave Darland, brought out the red flag. Tanner Thorson, who was looking to repeat his USAC Indiana Midget Week opening night victory from a year ago, came under constant attack from Larson as the race neared the one-third mark. Larson threw a rapid-fire succession of sliders on Thorson on the tenth lap in turns one and three but was unable to keep the advantage after pushing the nose of his machine over the cushion.

On lap 11, Larson attacked Thorson once again in the first turn with a slider, but Thorson battled back to remain up front. Two laps later, Larson attempted yet another major slide job on Thorson for the top spot, pulling in front and almost bringing the two a halt as Thorson continued on and Clauson scooted past Larson for second.

Just before the halfway point, it was Clauson's turn to take on Thorson for the lead. Clauson's slider attempt briefly put him in front, but it was to no avail as Thorson fought his way to remain the man to beat.

After a Spencer Bayston spin on lap 18 brought out the yellow, Clauson immediately returned to the "slider-fest" on the ensuing restart, entering turn one with a full head of steam, emerging in front of Thorson at the top of turn one, but Thorson made contact with the rear bumper of Clauson's car, sending Clauson slightly off the berm as Thorson sped off with the advantage and Larson moved back into second.

Thorson and Larson distanced themselves from Clauson with less than ten to go as Larson bounced off the concrete in turn four, but a Holly Shelton spin in turn four reset the lineup with just eight laps remaining.

After the restart, Larson followed Thorson on the high side for the next couple of laps, setting up his next move on Thorson. With five to go, Larson finally made the slide-job stick as the two entered one, with Larson pulling away and building a gap between him and second-running Thorson. But, once again, a yellow slowed the action, setting up a three-lap shootout between Larson, Thorson, Clauson and Bell, who charged from the tail after an opening lap incident.

Larson was able to get a huge jump on the restart as Thorson began to fade and Clauson and Bell moved past Thorson to run second and third. However, no one was in the vicinity of Kyle Larson, who pulled away at the end to take a 1.905-second victory over Clauson, Bell, Jerry Coons Jr. and Brady Bacon.

Larson, of Elk Grove, California, picked up his 4th career USAC Indiana Midget Week win and his 13th career USAC National Midget victory, tying him with Rico Abreu, Steve Knepper, Don Meacham, Ryan Newman and Stevie Reeves for 49th on the all-time list after taking the win in his Keith Kunz – Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/Parker Store – Target/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

“That was a lot of fun,” Larson exclaimed. “I didn’t think the top in (turns) one and two would be that great, but Tanner was able to rip around me. I knew I was a lot better than him in (turns) three and four. I just couldn’t quite figure out turn two. I was getting beat pretty bad over there. I don’t know if it just got cleaned off or what, but my grip off of turn two got a little better and I could stay closer to Tanner and then, eventually, throw the slider. I had so much fun, though! Thirty laps fly by in these races. It’s so enjoyable to run with Keith (Kunz) and Pete (Willoughby). They deserve all the attention that they’ve been getting the last few years.”

Just two days after competing in his third career Indianapolis 500-mile race, Noblesville, Indiana’s Bryan Clauson returned to the controls of his RKR-Dooling Racing/Cancer Treatment Centers of America – B & H Contractors/Spike/Stanton SR-11 to take second place after a furious race-long battle with Larson and Thorson.

“It became a race between me and Kyle to see who could clear Tanner first,” Clauson explained. “I got a run and threw something at him, and Tanner got into me when he came back across, and I let Kyle get by us. We just started getting tight there at the end. It might not have made a difference because it got tough to run once the track got real curby but second is a solid start to “USAC Indiana Midget Week.”

Norman, Oklahoma’s Christopher Bell came back after getting caught up in a first-turn, first-lap scrum involving two other cars that put him near the tail of the field of the restart. Bell stormed back to the front to salvage a third in the Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – DC Solar/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

“Staying out of trouble was huge,” Bell said with a sigh of relief. “Everybody kept crashing each other and it got me on the first lap. But once I got back there, they kept running into each other and I didn’t really feel like I passed a whole lot of cars. I was good at the end; it just got to be so fast around the top that you couldn’t really slide anybody unless you had a big run like Kyle did. I worked around the bottom really well, so that helped, but we just needed them to bottle up on the top one more time.”

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 31, 2016 – Montpelier Motor Speedway – Montpelier, Indiana – USAC Indiana Midget Week

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Christopher Bell, 71w, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.141; 2. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-14.295; 3. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.322; 4. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.408; 5. Jimi Quin, 8, Quin-14.414; 6. Bryan Clauson, 63, RKR/Dooling-14.439; 7. Zach Daum, 5D, Daum-14.446; 8. Kyle Larson, 1K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.447; 9. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-14.476; 10. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.497; 11. Rico Abreu, 97K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.499; 12. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.565; 13. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-14.586; 14. Jerry Coons Jr., 56, Hmiel-14.618; 15. Tony DiMattia, 50, TDM-14.627; 16. Justin Peck, 7K, Irwin-14.635; 17. Steve Buckwalter, 25, Buckwalter-14.666; 18. Shane Golobic, 17w, Wood-14.684; 19. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.690; 20. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-14.696; 21. Chris Windom, 5, Baldwin-14.704; 22. Ariel Biggs, 5B, Daum-14.756; 23. Tyler Nelson, 88, Robinson-14.767; 24. Austin Prock, 41, Prock/Hayward-14.773; 25. Anthony Nocella, 29s, Seymour-14.820; 26. Kyle Schuett, 9K, Schuett-14.829; 27. Kellen Conover, 76, Conover-14.836; 28. Chett

Gehrke, 11c, Matteson-14.850; 29. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-14.866; 30. Michael Koontz, 17, Koontz-14.867; 31. Jake Neuman, 3N, Neuman-14.868; 32. Cole Fehr, 15, Fehr-14.872; 33. Davey Ray, 33, RayPro-14.886; 34. Dayne Kingshott, 24, Kingshott-14.896; 35. Dave Darland, 11AG, Gray-14.915; 36. Logan Jarrett, 29, Doak-14.929; 37. Scott Hatton, 1, Hatton-15.069; 38. Brandon Gray, 22, Gray-15.172; 39. Kade Morton, 8m, Morton-15.310; 40. Chase Johnson, 17m, Wood-15.420; 41. Chris Baue, 35, Baue-15.897; 42. Ryan Secrest, 17KT, Koontz-15.951; 43. Harli White, 17H, White-21.436; 44. Austin Nemire, 91, Nemire/Yager-NT; 45. Gary Gipson, 5x, Byers-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Steve Buckwalter, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Jimi Quin, 5. Christopher Bell, 6. Gage Walker, 7. Davey Ray, 8. Anthony Nocella, 9. Ryan Greth, 10. Scott Hatton, 11. Chris Baue. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION, INC. (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Carson Macedo, 2. Chad Boat, 3. Bryan Clauson, 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 5. Ariel Biggs, 6. Dayne Kingshott, 7. Shane Golobic, 8. Michael Koontz, 9. Kyle Schuett, 10. Ryan Secrest, 11. Brandon Gray. 2:28.28

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Rico Abreu, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Holly Shelton, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Tyler Nelson, 6. Tony DiMattia, 7. Harli White, 8. Kade Morton, 9. Kellen Conover, 10. Zach Daum, 11. Jake Neuman. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Kyle Larson, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Ryan Robinson, 4. Justin Peck, 5. Tyler Thomas, 6. Logan Jarrett, 7. Chase Johnson, 8. Austin Prock, 9. Cole Fehr, 10. Chett Gehrke, 11. Austin Nemire. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps) 1. Davey Ray, 2. Jake Neuman, 3. Dayne Kingshott, 4. Logan Jarrett, 5. Scott Hatton, 6. Kade Morton, 7. Austin Nemire, 8. Cole Fehr, 9. Michael Koontz, 10. Ryan Secrest. NT

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Christopher Bell, 2. Zach Daum, 3. Shane Golobic, 4. Tyler Thomas, 5. Gage Walker, 6. Tony DiMattia, 7. Davey Ray, 8. Tyler Nelson, 9. Logan Jarrett, 10. Austin Prock, 11. Kyle Schuett, 12. Jake Neuman, 13. Ariel Biggs, 14. Dayne Kingshott, 15. Anthony Nocella, 16. Ryan Greth, 17. Chett Gehrke. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Kyle Larson, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. Christopher Bell, 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Chad Boat, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Chris Windom, 9. Tyler Thomas, 10. Jimi Quin, 11. Zach Daum, 12. Spencer Bayston, 13. Kyle Schuett, 14. Rico Abreu, 15. Tony DiMattia, 16. Holly Shelton, 17. Gage Walker, 18. Tanner Thorson, 19. Carson Macedo, 20. Ryan Robinson, 21. Shane Golobic, 22. Justin Peck, 23. Steve Buckwalter. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Kyle Larson, Laps 2-25 Tanner Thorson, Laps 26-30 Kyle Larson.

****Anthony Nocella flipped during the semi. Steve Buckwalter flipped on lap 5 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-125, 2-Spencer Bayston-105, 3-Chad Boat-104, 4-Bryan Clauson-97, 5-Shane Golobic-95, 6-Tanner Thorson-89, 7-Zach Daum-87, 8-Tyler Thomas-82, 9-Holly Shelton-70, 10-Shane Cottle & Dave Darland-67.

USAC INDIANA MIDGET WEEK POINTS: 1-Kyle Larson-78, 2-Bryan Clauson-74, 3-Christopher Bell-74, 4-Chad Boat-67, 5-Jerry Coons Jr.-66, 6-Brady Bacon-64, 7-Dave Darland-57, 8-Chris Windom-56, 9-Jimi Quin & Spencer Bayston-50.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 1, 2016 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – USAC Indiana Midget Week

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Christopher Bell (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Steve Buckwalter (Simpson Race Products First Heat Race Winner)

Carson Macedo (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race Winner)

Rico Abreu (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race Winner)

Kyle Larson (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS/B & W AUTO MART HARD CHARGER: Dave Darland (22nd to 7th)

Kyle Schuett (Wilwood Brakes 13th place finisher)

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Bayston Busts Through for First USAC Midget Win at Gas City

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Gas City, Indiana.....Flawless is the only word to describe Spencer Bayston's performance Wednesday night in the second round of the 12th annual USAC Indiana Midget Week at Gas City I-69 Speedway. The Lebanon, Indiana driver quickly shot to the lead from the pole position at the drop of the green flag and ran 30 straight laps without turning a wheel wrong to earn his first career USAC National Midget victory.

Bayston, the 2015 USAC National Midget "Rookie of the Year," began the race alongside fellow front row starter Zach Daum. It was Bayston who got the better of the two as the field headed for the bottom of the racetrack in the opening laps.

By the eight circuit, Bayston moved up a lane to run the middle as Daum, Kyle Larson and Bryan Clauson gave chase. However, on lap nine, Chase Johnson barrel-rolled his machine in turn four to bring about the first stoppage of the feature.

On the ensuing restart, Daum got to the inside of Bayston for the lead, but Bayston was able to withstand the challenge, nipping Daum at the stripe at the end of lap nine.

Larson and Clauson soon swarmed Daum for the second spot, crossing the line three-wide on both lap 11 and lap 12 as Larson emerged with second in front of Clauson while Daum dropped to third.

Just before halfway, Clauson fought back to reclaim the runner-up spot from Larson as Bayston continued to lead the way with a one-and-a-half second advantage over his nearest challenger. Bayston never missed a beat as he conquered the backmarkers with ease. But with just seven laps to go, the stopped car of Tanner Thorson brought out the yellow, erasing the lengthy gap that Bayston had established.

Bayston had a combined 68 career USAC National Midget wins bearing down on him in the four spots in the immediate vicinity of his tail tank on the lap 24 restart.

When the opportunity arose, Bayston was mentally and physically prepared to meet the task at hand. Bryan Clauson, Larson, Daum and Christopher Bell could not faze Bayston on the restart as the 17-year-old kept his poise and focus on what was in front, not behind him, standing on the throttle as he exploded on the restart to lay all doubts to rest.

From that point forward, the attention turned to the battle for second between Clauson and Larson. Larson stayed on Clauson's heels, but with five to go, Larson clipped a turn four infield tire, slowing his progress as Clauson sped away into the distance, allowing him to seize an additional position that provided important points toward the 2016 USAC Indiana Midget Week championship.

In the end, Bayston had the field covered, defeating Clauson by .097 seconds with Larson, Daum and Bell rounding out the top-five at the checkered flag.

For the second consecutive year, the USAC National Midget schedule opened up its season with two first-time series winners in the first three races. Kevin Thomas Jr. and Tanner Thorson won races two and three in 2015 while Shane Golobic won the 2016 season opener at the Southern Illinois Center in Du Quoin and now Spencer Bayston put his name in the winners' column in the third race of this season in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – Mobil 1/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"I'm speechless right now," Bayston exclaimed. "Big Al (Scroggins) had the car absolutely perfect. I could hold it to the ground, and it would dig the whole way around. I was waiting for Bryan (Clauson) and Kyle (Larson) to show up, but these guys gave me a good enough race car that I could stay out front. I was getting some signals under the red from my guys about where those two were running, so I just tried to focus on my line and tried to keep making good laps. To race against these guys is special and to beat them is even more special because both of them are guys that I've looked up to my whole career."

By virtue of two straight runner-up finishes at Montpelier and Gas City, Bryan Clauson of Noblesville, Indiana takes over the USAC Indiana Midget Week point lead as the series resumes Thursday at Putnamville, Indiana's Lincoln Park Speedway, a race he was victorious in one year ago.

"Our car was alright tonight; we were just a little off," Clauson admitted. "We could hang; we just didn't have enough to mount anything. I pulled out everything I had to hold Kyle off. Those three points could play a big factor at the end of the week, but it's a great start to 'USAC Indiana Midget Week' for us."

Elk Grove, California's Kyle Larson couldn't quite replicate the magic of his Montpelier performance one night ago but would have to settle for the third spot in his final appearance in 2016 "USAC Indiana Midget Week."

"It's always fun racing Bryan (Clauson)," Larson said. "I needed the caution, but I needed to restart in front of Bryan, and, after that, I didn't really have a shot at Spencer (Bayston). He wasn't on the bottom in (turns) three and four and I could get through there pretty well. Bryan was running on the bottom in (turns) three and four too and it was enough to slow me down a little, but I had a lot of fun. It was a pretty solid weekend of racing for me, so a big thanks to Keith (Kunz) and Pete (Willoughby)."

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 1, 2016 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – USAC Indiana Midget Week

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Rico Abreu, 97K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.048; 2. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.206; 3. Bryan Clauson, 63, RKR/Dooling-12.245; 4. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-12.328; 5. Kyle Larson, 1K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.346; 6. Zach Daum, 5D, Daum-12.376; 7. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-12.385; 8. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.390; 9. Jimi Quin, 8, Quin-12.391; 10. Justin Peck, 7K, Irwin-12.429; 11. Christopher Bell, 71w, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.433; 12. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.492; 13. Harli White, 17H, White-12.494; 14. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.497; 15. Jerry Coons Jr., 56, Hmiel-12.508; 16. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.521; 17. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-12.522; 18. Chris Windom, 5, Baldwin-12.532; 19. Tony DiMattia, 50, TDM-12.538; 20. Dayne Kingshott, 24, Kingshott-12.549; 21. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-12.580; 22. Shane Golobic, 17w, Wood-12.581; 23. Austin Prock, 41, Prock/Hayward-12.587; 24. Justin Grant, 38, Gardner-12.602; 25. Steve Buckwalter, 25, Buckwalter-12.611; 26. David Budres, 31, Manic-12.634; 27. Chase Johnson, 17m, Wood-12.655; 28. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-12.695; 29. Dave Darland, 11AG, Gray-12.718; 30. Tyler Nelson, 88, Robinson-12.720; 31. Jake Neuman, 3N, Neuman-12.805; 32. Scott Hatton, 1, Hatton-12.820; 33. Kellen Conover, 76, Conover-12.842; 34. Kyle Schuett, 9K, Schuett-

12.846; 35. Kade Morton, 8m, Morton-12.883; 36. Chett Gehrke, 19p, Ronk-12.887; 37. Logan Jarrett, 29, Doak-12.933; 38. Michael Koontz, 17, Koontz-12.943; 39. Justin Dickerson, 21D, Dickerson-13.063; 40. Brandon Gray, 22, Gray-13.071; 41. Ariel Biggs, 5B, Daum-13.087; 42. Ryan Secrest, 17KT, Koontz-13.125; 43. Anton Julian, 7R, Dickerson-13.326; 44. Austin Nemire, 91, Nemire/Yager-13.329; 45. Gary Gipson, 5x, Byers-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Ryan Greth, 2. Rico Abreu, 3. Kyle Larson, 4. Gage Walker, 5. Dave Darland, 6. Jimi Quin, 7. Harli White, 8. Logan Jarrett, 9. Kellen Conover, 10. Ariel Biggs, 11. Steve Buckwalter. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION, INC. (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Shane Golobic, 3. Zach Daum, 4. Chris Windom, 5. Tyler Nelson, 6. Kyle Schuett, 7. David Budres, 8. Michael Koontz, 9. Ryan Robinson, 10. Justin Peck, 11. Ryan Secrest. NT

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Christopher Bell, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. Tony DiMattia, 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 5. Austin Prock, 6. Chad Boat, 7. Chase Johnson, 8. Jake Neuman, 9. Kade Morton, 10. Justin Dickerson, 11. Anton Julian. 2:09.11

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Dayne Kingshott, 5. Tyler Thomas, 6. Carson Macedo, 7. Chett Gehrke, 8. Holly Shelton, 9. Brandon Gray, 10. Austin Nemire, 11. Scott Hatton. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps) 1. Jake Neuman, 2. Kellen Conover, 3. Kyle Schuett, 4. Chett Gehrke, 5. Logan Jarrett, 6. Michael Koontz, 7. Kade Morton, 8. Brandon Gray, 9. Ariel Biggs, 10. Scott Hatton, 11. Austin Nemire, 12. Ryan Secrest, 13. Justin Dickerson, 14. Anton Julian. 2:18.52

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Tyler Thomas, 2. Ryan Robinson, 3. Justin Peck, 4. Chase Johnson, 5. Chad Boat, 6. Jimi Quin, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Holly Shelton, 9. Chett Gehrke, 10. Jake Neuman, 11. Steve Buckwalter, 12. Tyler Nelson, 13. Kyle Schuett, 14. Austin Prock, 15. David Budres, 16. Kellen Conover, 17. Carson Macedo. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Spencer Bayston, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. Kyle Larson, 4. Zach Daum, 5. Christopher Bell, 6. Rico Abreu, 7. Brady Bacon, 8. Shane Golobic, 9. Justin Peck, 10. Jerry Coons Jr., 11. Ryan Robinson, 12. Chad Boat, 13. Justin Grant, 14. Ryan Greth, 15. Tyler Thomas, 16. Chris Windom, 17. Gage Walker, 18. Tony DiMattia, 19. Tanner Thorson, 20. Dayne Kingshott, 21. Jimi Quin, 22. Holly Shelton, 23. Chase Johnson, 24. Dave Darland. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Spencer Bayston.

****Scott Hatton flipped during the fourth heat. Chase Johnson flipped on lap 9 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-188, 2-Spencer Bayston-182, 3-Bryan Clauson-175, 4-Zach Daum-155, 5-Shane Golobic-151, 6-Chad Boat-144, 7-Tanner Thorson-122, 8-Tyler Thomas-119, 9-Jerry Coons Jr.-114, 10-Justin Peck-105.

USAC INDIANA MIDGET WEEK POINTS: 1-Bryan Clauson-152, 2-Kyle Larson-150, 3-Christopher Bell-140, 4-Spencer Bayston-127, 5-Brady Bacon-127, 6-Jerry Coons Jr.-114, 7-Zach Daum-112, 8-Rico Abreu-111, 9-Chad Boat-107, 10-Chris Windom-92.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 2, 2016 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 12th USAC Indiana Midget Week

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Rico Abreu (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Ryan Greth (Simpson Race Products First Heat Race Winner)

Tanner Thorson (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race Winner)

Christopher Bell (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race Winner)

Brady Bacon (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Race Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS/B & W AUTO MART HARD CHARGER: Shane Golobic (17th to 8th)

Justin Grant (Wilwood Brakes 13th place finish)

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Thorson Thrives in Return to Putnamville

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Putnamville, Indiana.....It was one year ago, during Lincoln Park Speedway's round of "USAC Indiana Midget Week," Tanner Thorson found himself leaving the racetrack in the back of an ambulance after a nasty crash during the feature event. One year later, at the same track and event, Thorson found redemption, holding off a hard-charging Bryan Clauson in the final laps and driving his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota into victory lane at the Putnamville, Indiana 5/16-mile dirt oval.

Young Ryan Robinson started on the pole at the beginning of the 30-lap feature with seven-time USAC National champion Clauson outside. Ryan Robinson, making only his fifth career series start, exhibited no ounce of intimidation as he quickly shot out to the lead with a half-straightaway advantage in the opening laps.

On the sixth lap, season-opener winner Shane Golobic rotated and pole-vaulted through the air between turns three and four before landing hard on the track's surface, bringing out the red flag. Golobic would walk away without injury. On the ensuing restart, Thorson shot out of a cannon down the back straightaway into turns three and four, blasting off the cushion around Clauson to grab second on lap six. With his sight now set on leader Robinson, Thorson rapidly erased the gap, hounding Robinson as the race neared the halfway point.

On lap 13, Thorson made his first bid for the top spot, sliding in front of Robinson as the two hit turn four, but Robinson hit the brakes, and turned down inside of Thorson as they exited four to maintain the lead.

With the pressure now squarely on the 15-year-old shoulders of Robinson on lap 14 and Thorson ready to strike, Robinson bobbled at the top of turn two, handing off the lead to Thorson.

Meanwhile, Robinson and Thorson's Kunz/Curb-Agajanian teammate Rico Abreu, the 2014 USAC National Midget champion, sliced and diced his way to third by the 18th lap. After a Jimi Quin spin that briefly disrupted the action, Rico spurred to second with a slide-job on Robinson entering turn one on the restart.

ProSource Fast Qualifier Brady Bacon dove underneath Robinson for the third spot in turn two with 11 laps to go as he hunted down his prey while the laps ticked away. After a brief yellow, the restart saw Abreu follow Thorson's tracks, as they both ripped the high side of turns one and two. Now, the chase was on.

With just eight laps remaining, Thorson stumbled atop the second turn cushion, allowing Abreu to close. As the two ran nose-to-tail down the back straight, Abreu set up Thorson for the winning pass. However, just as Abreu was in the process of clearing Thorson in turn three, the yellow lights around the track flashed due to a tangle between turn four tangle

between Darland and Shelton, thus making Abreu's move all for naught and slotting him in the second position for the next restart.

Under caution, Brady Bacon's car began to slow, relegating him to the infield for the rest of the feature after being one of the contenders for the victory as the laps wound down.

On the lap 23 restart, Abreu threw all he had at Thorson for the lead into turn one but couldn't make it stick. As Abreu lost momentum while drifting up the cushion, Clauson was able to get by to reclaim second.

Abreu's determined drive to get back to the front knew no bounds, where he tested the outer limits by jumping the cushion between turns three and four multiple times and losing valuable ground in the closing laps, falling to as far back as fifth.

On the final lap, Clauson made one last ditch effort for the lead, attempting a slider on Thorson heading into one, but it was to no avail as Thorson withstood the challenge and was able to hang on for a 0.762 second victory over Clauson, with Tyler Thomas, Rico Abreu and Spencer Bayston rounding out the top-five.

It was quite a turn of events from one year to the next for Minden, Nevada's Thorson, who captured his fifth career USAC National Midget feature victory after taking the lead on lap 14 and holding off all challenges throughout the remaining 17 laps to take the Kunz-Curb/Agajanian Motorsports team to victory lane for the third time in the first three nights of "USAC Indiana Midget Week."

"I left here last year in an ambulance, so to come back to this track and win is pretty awesome," Thorson said. "These guys work their butts off starting at 2:30 in the morning when we get back to the shop and it feels great to reward them with another win. Rico had me nervous just because you know a big move is coming. I knew the laps were winding down, but I knew that I just needed to keep hitting my marks. The top was so treacherous that you had to nail it perfectly every lap. I kept getting tight on the cushion and just tried to keep my composure towards the end because the last ten laps were really tricky with the track the way it was and knowing I had fast guys behind me."

Noblesville, Indiana's Bryan Clauson had to settle for his third consecutive runner-up feature finish in "USAC Indiana Midget Week," behind the wheel of his RKR-Dooling Racing/Cancer Treatment Centers of America – B & H Contractors/Spike/Stanton SR-11. Though he remains winless in his three IMW starts this week, Clauson has taken over the USAC National Midget point lead and, with a 24-point lead, Clauson has placed himself in prime position to collect a third USAC Indiana Midget Week title with three events to go.

"We just needed more time," Clauson said. "I was a little snug early and each yellow just wasn't what we needed. We got rolling towards the end and Tanner was getting tight on the curb, but we were good enough off of it to make some decent speed; we just ran out of laps. I saw the white and made my move in turns one and two because it seemed like it was easier to counter a slide job at the other end. I felt like if I slid him in (turns) three and four, it'd be too easy to cross me over, so I took a shot in (turns) one and two and just came up a little short."

Tyler Thomas of Collinsville, Oklahoma made a spirited drive to finish third after dropping back from his 10th starting position in the opening laps in his Tyler Thomas Motorsports/BT Machine – AirGroup/Spike/Esslinger.

"I moved to the bottom in the early laps of the race and it stuck, so I knew I needed to be down there if I wanted to pick some off," Thomas explained. "The top was so fast early on and the only way to pass was to slide somebody, but you had to have so much momentum to pull it off that it was just really difficult to make happen. Fortunately, our car was really working well on the bottom and I could slide myself in turns three and four and catch the cushion on exit. We qualified better tonight too, so if we can keep that up these next three nights, I think we'll be in good shape."

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 2, 2016 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana –
12th USAC Indiana Midget Week

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-13.308; 2. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.396; 3. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.435; 4. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.475; 5. Shane Golobic, 17w, Wood-13.481; 6. Bryan Clauson, 63, RKR/Dooling-13.521; 7. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.550; 8. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.581; 9. Chase Johnson, 17m, Wood-13.597; 10. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-13.641; 11. Jake Neuman, 3N, Neuman-13.652; 12. Austin Brown, 7B, KBR-13.687; 13. Rico Abreu, 97K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.714; 14. Jimi Quin, 8, Quin-13.725; 15. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-13.756; 16. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-13.792; 17. Dave Darland, 11AG, Gray-13.849; 18. Steve Buckwalter, 25, Buckwalter-13.855; 19. Harli White, 17H, White-13.860; 20. Colten Cottle, 5c, Cottle-13.891; 21. Kyle Schuett, 9K, Schuett-13.910; 22. Tony DiMattia, 50, TDM-13.919; 23. Tyler Nelson, 88, Robinson-13.932; 24. Dayne Kingshott, 24, Kingshott-14.065; 25. Logan Jarrett, 29, Doak-14.070; 26. Scott Hatton, 1, Hatton-14.080; 27. Garrett Aitken, 32, Aitken-14.137; 28. Cody Weisensel, 20, Weisensel-14.165; 29. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-14.177; 30. Jerry Coons Jr., 56, Hmiel-14.182; 31. Kade Morton, 8m, Morton-14.278; 32. Brandon Gray, 22, Gray-14.322; 33. Anton Julian, 7R, Dickerson-14.440; 34. Austin Prock, 41, Prock/Hayward-14.452; 35. Justin Dickerson, 21D, Dickerson-14.467; 36. Travis Young, 11, Young-14.542; 37. David Budres, 31, Manic-14.592; 38. Michael Koontz, 17, Koontz-14.605; 39. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 27, Klaasmeyer-14.643; 40. Ariel Biggs, 5B, Daum-14.895; 41. Chris Baue, 35, Baue-15.116; 42. Kellen Conover, 76, Conover-NT; 43. Zach Daum, 5D, Daum-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Rico Abreu, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Shane Golobic, 5. Chad Boat, 6. Chase Johnson, 7. Kyle Schuett, 8. David Budres, 9. Anton Julian, 10. Chris Baue, 11. Logan Jarrett. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tyler Thomas, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. Steve Buckwalter, 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 5. Spencer Bayston, 6. Tony DiMattia, 7. Michael Koontz, 8. Scott Hatton, 9. Jimi Quin, 10. Kellen Conover, 11. Austin Prock. NT

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Gage Walker, 3. Jake Neuman, 4. Zach Daum, 5. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 6. Holly Shelton, 7. Tyler Nelson, 8. Harli White, 9. Garrett Aitken, 10. Justin Dickerson, 11. Kade Morton. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Carson Macedo, 2. Dayne Kingshott, 3. Ryan Robinson, 4. Ryan Greth, 5. Colten Cottle, 6. Cody Weisensel, 7. Brandon Gray, 8. Travis Young, 9. Austin Brown. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Michael Koontz, 3. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 4. Austin Prock, 5. Anton Julian, 6. Travis Young, 7. David Budres, 8. Justin Dickerson, 9. Kade Morton, 10. Chris Baue, 11. Brandon Gray, 12. Kellen Conover. NT

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Spencer Bayston, 2. Holly Shelton, 3. Chase Johnson, 4. Chad Boat, 5. Tyler Nelson, 6. Logan Jarrett, 7. Jimi Quin, 8. Harli White, 9. Austin Brown, 10. Garrett Aitken, 11. Scott Hatton, 12. Cody Weisensel, 13. Colten Cottle, 14. Tony DiMattia, 15. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 16. Michael Koontz, 17. Austin Prock, 18. Kyle Schuett. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. Tyler Thomas, 4. Rico Abreu, 5. Spencer Bayston, 6. Carson Macedo, 7. Steve Buckwalter, 8. Ryan Robinson, 9. Jerry Coons Jr., 10. Chad Boat, 11. Jake Neuman, 12. Ryan Greth, 13. Gage Walker, 14. Chase Johnson, 15. Holly Shelton, 16. Jimi Quin, 17. Zach Daum, 18. Tyler Nelson, 19. Brady Bacon, 20. Dave Darland, 21. Logan Jarrett, 22. David Budres, 23. Dayne Kingshott, 24. Shane Golobic. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-13 Ryan Robinson, Laps 14-30 Tanner Thorson.

****Austin Prock flipped during the second heat. Tony DiMattia flipped during the semi. Shane Golobic flipped on lap 6 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Bryan Clauson-250, 2-Spencer Bayston-249, 3-Brady Bacon-225, 4-Tanner Thorson-204, 5-Tyler Thomas-191, 6-Zach Daum-189, 7-Chad Boat-188, 8-Shane Golobic-181, 9-Jerry Coons Jr.-165, 10-Ryan Robinson-143.

USAC INDIANA MIDGET WEEK POINTS: 1-Bryan Clauson-227, 2-Spencer Bayston-194, 3-Rico Abreu-180, 4-Jerry Coons Jr.-165, 5-Brady Bacon-164, 6-Tyler Thomas-156, 7-Tanner Thorson-152, 8-Chad Boat-151, 9-Kyle Larson-150, 10-Zach Daum-146.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 3, 2016 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 12th USAC Indiana Midget Week

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Brady Bacon (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Rico Abreu (Simpson Race Products First Heat Race Winner)

Tyler Thomas (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race Winner)

Tanner Thorson (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race Winner)

Carson Macedo (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Race Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS/B & W AUTO MART HARD CHARGER: Jerry Coons Jr. (23rd to 9th)

Gage Walker (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

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Bell Bolts to 3rd Straight Bloomington Midget Week Victory

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bloomington, Indiana.....Just like clockwork, each June when USAC Indiana Midget Week rolls around, one has been able to witness what has become a yearly tradition: Christopher Bell standing in Bloomington Speedway's victory lane.

For the third straight year, Bell's mastery of Bloomington's red clay was on full display Friday night at the southern Indiana track as he picked up USAC National Midget victory number 17, tying him with Jay Drake and J.J. Yeley for 36th on the all-time list.

Norman, Oklahoma's Bell also extended the Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports dominance of the past week by becoming the fourth consecutive (and fourth different) pilot on the team to earn a victory in the first four races of the six race series.

At the start, pole sitter Dave Darland stepped out in front of the field and, despite contact from behind by Carson Macedo between turns one and two, was able to take the advantage in the early going, leading his first laps in the series since the "Belleville Nationals" in July of 2014.

Meanwhile, seventh-place starter and ProSource Fast Qualifier Bell was steadfast in his charge to the front, moving into fifth by the second lap and fourth by lap three. On the fifth circuit, Bell surged from fourth to second with a three-wide pass on the outside of Shane Golobic and teammate Spencer Bayston coming off the second turn.

On lap seven, Bell continued to use the cushion to reel in race leader Darland, powering off of turns three and four to nip Darland at the stripe. Darland continued to fight back but was beat back to the line by Bell out of turn four to lead the eighth lap.

After a yellow on lap 12, sixth-running Clauson was the only frontrunner running the high line as the top-five continued to utilize the bottom groove. But Clauson found the top side to his liking, taking the fifth spot away from Macedo at the halfway mark and then running down Shane Golobic for fourth and Gas City winner Spencer Bayston for third with 13 to go.

Clauson then set sail toward Darland for second, who was working the low line as Clauson skated the rail up top with 10 laps remaining.

A caution for a Dayne Kingshott blown right rear tire closed the gap at the front of the field with just six laps to go. Immediately, Bell left his challengers in the distance as Darland (inside) and Clauson (outside) continued to battle for the runner-up spot. Each time Clauson was able to inch ahead of Darland, the wily racing veteran refused to relent, regaining the second position on lap 29 after the two champions waged war in a see-saw battle throughout the final run to the checkered.

But, once again, nobody could match the sheer speed of Christopher Bell at the end, taking a nearly one and a half second victory over Darland, who edged out Clauson by a mere 27-hundreths of a second and a half-car length to take second, while Golobic and Bayston grabbed fourth and fifth.

In an era of domination at Bloomington in both the USAC National Midget and AMSOIL National Sprint Car divisions, Bell's three consecutive victories at the track are just one shy of Clauson's current string of four straight USAC Sprint Car victories. Christopher Bell, though, has found that sweet spot on the red clay that has suited his strengths at the wheel of his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – DC Solar/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"This place is really technical and that plays to my advantage," Bell assured. "Tonight, there was a big ledge up top and I didn't spend a lot of time up there, but when I did, I could use it to my advantage and pass guys. The bottom here is really tough to run; you have to make sure you have enough angle in your car, but not too much so you miss the moisture. It's tough, but very fun too, and, obviously, Keith's (Kunz) cars are always good so that helps."

With his second-place result in the Gray Auto – Petry Excavating/Spike/Esslinger, Darland, of Lincoln, Indiana, earned his best series finish since collecting the win in the USAC Indiana Midget Week round at Lincoln Park Speedway in Putnamville, Indiana in June of 2014. Furthermore, he rewarded the Gray team with its best ever series finish, besting the 14th place finish earned by C.J. Leary for the team at Bloomington one season ago.

"I could hit the bottom of (turns) three and four really well, but in (turns) one and two, it was a lot harder," Darland explained. "When Bryan (Clauson) got up next to me, I might've bobbled down there and let him get around me. But I just had to get into turn one easy and not get out into the slick. I did that a couple of times early on, but luckily, it didn't cost me anything. Tonight is a great confidence builder. It feels good for the team. These guys are still new to the midget scene, so it feels really good to reward their effort."

Noblesville, Indiana's Clauson had his night go sour during heat race action after encountering mechanical trouble. Clauson and the team rolled the backup machine out of the trailer to start at the tail-end of the semi, a race in which Clauson drove from the rear of the 19-car field to earn a coveted transfer spot. During the feature, Clauson started in the eighth position before racing through to grab third at the checkered in the RKR-Dooling Racing/Cancer Treatment Centers of America – B

& H Contractors/Spike/Stanton SR-11 to extend his USAC Indiana Midget Week point lead to 40 markers over Spencer Bayston heading into Saturday's penultimate "Midget Week" event at Lawrenceburg Speedway.

"The middle was never really the fastest, but on restarts, I could use it to pick some guys off," Clauson said. "It made the guys on the bottom overdrive the corner a little bit and let me sneak by and that was really the only option I had. It was a herculean effort tonight to get back into contention with having to pull out the backup car and it kept our 'Midget Week' hopes alive."

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 3, 2016 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 12th USAC Indiana Midget Week

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Christopher Bell, 71w, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.301; 2. Bryan Clauson, 63, RKR/Dooling-11.383; 3. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.450; 4. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.516; 5. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-11.544; 6. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-11.577; 7. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.600; 8. Jerry Coons Jr., 56, Hmiel-11.607; 9. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.612; 10. Shane Golobic, 17w, Wood-11.635; 11. Dave Darland, 11AG, Gray-11.636; 12. Dayne Kingshott, 24, Kingshott-11.664; 13. Rico Abreu, 97K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.672; 14. Zach Daum, 5D, Daum-11.706; 15. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-11.712; 16. Tyler Nelson, 88, Robinson-11.719; 17. Jimi Quin, 8, Quin-11.738; 18. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.744; 19. Austin Brown, 7B, KBR-11.759; 20. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 27, Klaasmeyer-11.781; 21. Davey Ray, 33, RayPro-11.802; 22. Garrett Aitken, 32, Aitken-11.809; 23. Steve Buckwalter, 25, Buckwalter-11.822; 24. Austin Prock, 41, Prock/Hayward-11.831; 25. Kellen Conover, 76, Conover-11.831; 26. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-11.840; 27. Justin Peck, 5x, Peck-11.847; 28. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-11.856; 29. Michael Koontz, 17, Koontz-11.894; 30. Jake Neuman, 3N, Neuman-11.897; 31. Logan Arnold, 43, Arnold-12.020; 32. Kade Morton, 8m, Morton-12.108; 33. Ryan Secrest, 17KT, Koontz-12.130; 34. David Budres, 31, Manic-12.142; 35. Brandon Gray, 22, Gray-12.168; 36. Anton Julian, 7R, Dickerson-12.229; 37. Justin Dickerson, 21D, Dickerson-12.637; 38. Scott Hatton, 1, Hatton-NT; 39. Cody Weisensel, 20, Weisensel-NT; 40. Harli White, 17H, White-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Rico Abreu, 2. Jimi Quin, 3. Davey Ray, 4. Carson Macedo, 5. Christopher Bell, 6. Michael Koontz, 7. Justin Dickerson, 8. Ryan Secrest, 9. Chad Boat, 10. Kellen Conover. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Garrett Aitken, 4. Shane Golobic, 5. Tyler Thomas, 6. Zach Daum, 7. Jake Neuman, 8. Bryan Clauson. 2:58.00

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Austin Brown, 2. Steve Buckwalter, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Spencer Bayston, 5. Justin Peck, 6. Logan Arnold, 7. Brandon Gray, 8. Ryan Greth, 9. Ryan Robinson. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 2. Dayne Kingshott, 3. Jerry Coons Jr., 4. Gage Walker, 5. Tyler Nelson, 6. Holly Shelton, 7. Kade Morton, 8. Anton Julian, 9. Austin Prock. 2:30.00

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Christopher Bell, 2. Holly Shelton, 3. Zach Daum, 4. Chad Boat, 5. Bryan Clauson, 6. Tyler Thomas, 7. Justin Peck, 8. Ryan Greth, 9. Jake Neuman, 10. Tyler Nelson, 11. Kellen Conover, 12. Kade Morton, 13. Logan Arnold, 14. Anton Julian, 15. Justin Dickerson, 16. Brandon Gray, 17. David Budres, 18. Michael Koontz, 19. Scott Hatton. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Christopher Bell, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Bryan Clauson, 4. Shane Golobic, 5. Spencer Bayston, 6. Carson Macedo, 7. Brady Bacon, 8. Chad Boat, 9. Tyler Thomas, 10. Rico Abreu, 11. Tanner Thorson, 12. Steve Buckwalter, 13. Garrett Aitken, 14. Davey Ray, 15. Ryan Greth, 16. Gage Walker, 17. Austin Brown, 18. Jimi Quin, 19. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 20. David Budres, 21. Jerry Coons Jr., 22. Dayne Kingshott, 23. Zach Daum, 24. Holly Shelton. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-6 Dave Darland, Laps 7-30 Christopher Bell.

****Ryan Robinson flipped during the third heat. Holly Shelton flipped on lap 10 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Bryan Clauson-320, 2-Spencer Bayston-312, 3-Brady Bacon-285, 4-Tanner Thorson-253, 5-Shane Golobic-247, 6-Chad Boat-240, 7-Tyler Thomas-238, 8-Zach Daum-214, 9-Jerry Coons Jr.-194, 10-Dave Darland-193.

USAC INDIANA MIDGET WEEK POINTS: 1-Bryan Clauson-297, 2-Spencer Bayston-257, 3-Rico Abreu-231, 4-Christopher Bell-220, 5-Brady Bacon-204, 6-Tyler Thomas & Chad Boat-203, 8-Tanner Thorson-201, 9-Jerry Coons Jr.-194, 10-Dave Darland-183.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 4, 2016 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 12th USAC Indiana Midget Week

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Christopher Bell (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Rico Abreu (Simpson Race Products First Heat Race Winner)

Tanner Thorson (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race Winner)

Austin Brown (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race Winner)

Tucker Klaasmeyer (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Race Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS/B & W AUTO MART HARD CHARGER IN MEMORY OF DEAN WEVER: Tyler Thomas (21st to 9th)

Garrett Aitken (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

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Lawrenceburg USAC Indiana Midget Week Event Rained Out

Saturday night's USAC Midget National Championship event at Lawrenceburg Speedway has been cancelled due to rain with more precipitation forecast throughout the day and into the evening.

The event was to be round five of the 12th annual USAC Indiana Midget Week presented by Jonathan Byrd's Hospitality & Restaurant Group. Furthermore, the race was scheduled be the opener for the inaugural "Jonathan Byrd's Indy Challenge."

The debut of the challenge now takes place Sunday, June 5 along with the USAC Indiana Midget Week finale. Bryan Clauson holds a 40-point advantage over Spencer Bayston in the "Midget Week" standings heading into Kokomo.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 5, 2016 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 12th USAC Indiana Midget Week

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Rico Reigns at Kokomo, Clauson Captures Midget Week Title

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana.....Rico Abreu finished off a stretch of Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports domination Sunday night at Kokomo Speedway, becoming the fifth driver from the team's stable to win during the five nights of "USAC Indiana Midget Week." However, a string of consistent finishes by RKR/Dooling Racing pilot Bryan Clauson throughout the week was enough to earn the Noblesville, Indiana driver his third USAC Indiana Midget Week title.

Coming into the night, Clauson held a 40-point advantage over Spencer Bayston in the USAC Indiana Midget Week standings. By feature time, Clauson had bumped up his lead over Bayston to 43, meaning that Clauson would merely have to finish 18th or better to clinch the title.

Clauson's cause was benefited by his outside front row starting position, while Bayston rolled off from the eighth spot. However, it was Phoenix, Arizona's Chad Boat who took control at the start of the 30-lap feature.

Two laps in, Tyler Nelson, Gage Walker and Dave Darland tangled in a turn two tussle that put both Walker and Darland on the sidelines for the remainder of the event. Nelson would restart from the tail.

On the lap three restart, third-running Christopher Bell and Abreu in fifth were the only two frontrunners to put their right rears up on the cushion while the majority clung to the middle of the racetrack.

Abreu continuously worked the high line, reeling in Clauson for fourth, and by lap ten, put four wheels in the fluff to ring around the outside of Clauson in turn two to take the spot.

On lap 12, the action came to a stop when Tyler Nelson barrel-rolled down the back straightaway. He was uninjured. After the restart, it was a Keith Kunz-triumvirate of Bayston, Bell and Abreu running nose-to-tail in second, third and fourth as Boat sailed out front. Bayston was able to catch Boat just before the halfway point, making an attempt for the lead to no avail as he bounced through the third turn, settling back into second.

On the 19th lap, Abreu rocketed past Bell in turn three for third, but a red flag for a flip by Holly Shelton on the main straightaway ceased the action momentarily as the track crews had to make minor repairs to the catch fence.

As the leaders shot into the third turn just after the ensuing restart, Abreu slid Bell for second simultaneously as second running Bayston got sideways between turns three and four. Abreu banged wheels with Bayston, ricocheting in front of Bayston and into second-place with ten laps to go.

A yellow for debris in turns three and four closed the gap between first and second, providing Abreu a lifeline and a chance by placing him right on Boat's tail tank for the restart.

At the drop of the green, Abreu rode the razor's edge up against the wall as Boat matriculated the middle groove. Abreu continued to grind and grind as he applied pressure to Boat, ultimately pulling alongside Boat in a drag race that resulted in a dead-heat at the start/finish line on lap 22. Abreu was seemingly shot out of a cannon at the exit of turns two and four, distancing himself from Boat in the waning laps. Meanwhile, Bayston made his bid for second, banging wheels at the flag stand with Boat before ultimately emerging with the spot.

But, in the end, it was Rico Abreu who would not be denied, taking the victory in his Keith Kunz – Curb-Agajanian/DC Solar – Abreu Vineyards/Bullet/Speedway Toyota by a half-second over Bayston, Boat, Brady Bacon, Bell, Clauson, Tanner Thorson, Carson Macedo, Davey Ray and Ryan Robinson.

Abreu's 14th career USAC National Midget win puts him 46th on the all-time series list alongside Chuck Arnold, Jack Turner and Leroy Warriner. The victory also allowed the St. Helena, California native to become the fifth different Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports driver to stand in victory lane in the past five series races, joining teammates Kyle Larson (Montpelier), Bayston (Gas City), Thorson (Lincoln Park) and Bell (Bloomington) as USAC National Midget feature winners in the last week.

“Running the top the way we did tonight is tough because you have to keep the tires spinning and not let the motor get bogged down,” Abreu explained. “Midget racing is all about momentum and I felt like, running the bottom, you could get to the middle really quick, but then it would kill your exit because you are so sideways. So, I just tried to keep it straight up top and keep the wheels spinning, so it didn’t start bouncing. It means a lot to win another one of these races because this midget deal is so competitive right now with Clauson and guys like Brady Bacon, Tyler Thomas, plus eight Keith Kunz cars now. So, instead of just four or five competitive cars, there’s more like ten. Track position and qualifying are even more important now. It was a great week for us, but we would’ve liked to have had a better start to the week. But big congratulations to Bryan because I know how tough it is to win this whole deal. I want to run it next year and get a third one.”

Although Bryan Clauson was unable to pick up a win in his RKR-Dooling Racing/Cancer Treatment Centers of America – B & H Contractors/Spike/Stanton SR-11 during “USAC Indiana Midget Week,” his finishes of 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd and 6th showed remarkable consistency that corralled him the title by a 31-point margin. He joins Shane Cottle (2005) and Tracy Hines (2008) as the only drivers to win the title without winning a single feature.

“We were strong all week long,” Clauson exclaimed. “We knew tonight, seeing how rough and heavy the track was, that it wasn’t really our cup of tea, so we were just trying to make sure we did our job and finish this thing off. We ran strong all week; we just came up a little short the first few nights to get a win, but a few years from now, the only thing people will remember is who won ‘USAC Indiana Midget Week.’ I’m proud of these guys, so we’ll just keep plugging along and see if we can get into victory lane.”

With his solid third-place effort in the Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – Mobil 1/Bullet/Speedway Toyota, Lebanon, Indiana’s Spencer Bayston vaulted himself into the point lead in the latest USAC National Midget standings by a single point over Clauson.

“I was running the top, just not running it right,” Bayston admitted. “When Rico went by me, he kind of showed me a little different line. I’d run it deep into three but turn off too early and start bouncing. So, when he went by, it showed me I could run in deeper and come across a little smoother. I think if I’d gotten up there before he got to me, we would’ve been alright.”

Chad Boat scored a third-place finish after leading 21 laps in his Tucker-Boat Motorsports/PristineAuction.com – K & C Drywall/Spike/Esslinger, his best finish since a third at the Perris (Calif.) Auto Speedway on February 28, 2010.

“It’s a little disappointing to lead that much and run third, but it was still a great run for us,” Boat said. “We had a solid week, and I was excited to get back here to the Indiana bullrings and to come here to Kokomo, which is my favorite track. We obviously wanted to cap off the week with a win, but we’ll take the third and try to keep the momentum up for Arkansas.”

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 5, 2016 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 12th USAC Indiana Midget Week

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Rico Abreu, 97K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.332; 2. Christopher Bell, 71w, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.454; 3. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-13.579; 4. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.580; 5. Bryan Clauson, 63, RKR/Dooling-13.690; 6. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-13.747; 7. Zach Daum, 5D, Daum-13.747; 8. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.763; 9. Steve Buckwalter, 25, Buckwalter-13.786; 10. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.840; 11. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.881; 12. Shane Golobic, 17w, Wood-13.950; 13. Tony DiMattia, 50, TDM-13.970; 14. Jimi Quin, 8, Quin-13.982; 15. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-13.985; 16. Davey Ray, 33, RayPro-14.011; 17. Chase Johnson, 17m, Wood-14.033; 18. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.061; 19. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-

14.107; 20. Logan Jarrett, 29, Doak-14.186; 21. Dayne Kingshott, 24, Kingshott-14.223; 22. Tyler Nelson, 88, Robinson-14.227; 23. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-14.275; 24. Dave Darland, 11AG, Gray-14.410; 25. Austin Nemire, 91, Nemire/Yager-14.501; 26. David Budres, 31, Manic-14.506; 27. Anton Julian, 7R, Dickerson-14.832; 28. Gary Gipson, 5x, Byers-14.885; 29. Kade Morton, 8m, Morton-15.030; 30. Justin Dickerson, 21D, Dickerson-15.069; 31. Logan Arnold, 43, Arnold-NT (time of 14.776 disallowed); 32. Jerry Coons Jr., 56, Hmiel-NT; 33. Brandon Gray, 22, Gray-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Chase Johnson, 3. Steve Buckwalter, 4. Rico Abreu, 5. Tony DiMattia, 6. Dayne Kingshott, 7. Austin Nemire, 8. Kade Morton. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Carson Macedo, 2. Tyler Nelson, 3. Chad Boat, 4. Christopher Bell, 5. Jimi Quin, 6. Holly Shelton, 7. Justin Dickerson, 8. David Budres. 2:24.77

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Ryan Greth, 2. Zach Daum, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Gage Walker, 6. Tyler Thomas, 7. Anton Julian, 8. Logan Arnold. 2:26.65

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Davey Ray, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Ryan Robinson, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Logan Jarrett, 6. Shane Golobic, 7. Gary Gipson. NT

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Holly Shelton, 2. Shane Golobic, 3. Tyler Thomas, 4. Gage Walker, 5. Jimi Quin, 6. Dayne Kingshott, 7. Tony DiMattia, 8. Logan Jarrett, 9. Kade Morton, 10. Justin Dickerson, 11. Gary Gipson, 12. Logan Arnold, 13. Austin Nemire, 14. David Budres, 15. Anton Julian, 16. Jerry Coons Jr. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Rico Abreu, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Chad Boat, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Christopher Bell, 6. Bryan Clauson, 7. Tanner Thorson, 8. Carson Macedo, 9. Davey Ray, 10. Ryan Robinson, 11. Shane Golobic, 12. Dayne Kingshott, 13. Chase Johnson, 14. Tyler Thomas, 15. Jimi Quin, 16. Ryan Greth, 17. David Budres, 18. Zach Daum, 19. Holly Shelton, 20. Tyler Nelson, 21. Gage Walker, 22. Dave Darland, 23. Steve Buckwalter. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-21 Chad Boat, Laps 22-30 Rico Abreu.

****Brandon Gray flipped during hot laps. Tyler Nelson flipped on lap 12 of the feature. Holly Shelton flipped on lap 19 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-386, 2-Bryan Clauson-385, 3-Brady Bacon-356, 4-Chad Boat-311, 5-Tanner Thorson-310, 6-Shane Golobic-291, 7-Tyler Thomas-275, 8-Zach Daum-248, 9-Carson Macedo-236, 10-Dave Darland-221.

FINAL USAC INDIANA MIDGET WEEK POINTS: 1-Bryan Clauson-362, 2-Spencer Bayston-331, 3-Rico Abreu-312, 4-Christopher Bell-288, 5-Brady Bacon-275, 6-Chad Boat-274, 7-Tanner Thorson-258, 8-Tyler Thomas-240, 9-Carson Macedo-226, 10-Shane Golobic-221.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: June 17-18, 2016 – Riverside International Speedway – West Memphis, Arkansas – 40 for Shorty

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Rico Abreu (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Bryan Clauson (Simpson Race Products First Heat Race Winner)

Carson Macedo (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race Winner)

Ryan Greth (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race Winner)

Davey Ray (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Race Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS/B & W AUTO MART HARD CHARGER: Dayne Kingshott (19th to 12th)

Chase Johnson (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

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Thorson Turns Up the Heat in Victory at The Ditch

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

West Memphis, Arkansas.....On a hot muggy night in West Memphis, Tanner Thorson became the first repeat winner of the 2016 USAC Midget National Championship season, using a sensational turn three slide job on lap 11 to scoot past Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports teammate Carson Macedo, which proved to be the winning move, taking the win in the series' first ever visit to the state of Arkansas Friday night at Riverside International Speedway.

At the start of the 30-lap main event, outside front row starter Chad Boat took the first step forward, sliding across the nose of pole-sitter Carson Macedo to the lead at the entry of turn one.

Series rookie Macedo would fight back, inciting a barrage of sliders with Boat throughout the first couple of circuits that each culminated with Macedo leading at the stripe.

On the third lap, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., running fourth, got an enormous run off the turn two banking. As he attempted to split the gap between the cars of Boat and Spencer Bayston, the gap quickly closed. Stenhouse ramped over the left rear tire of Boat, sending himself into a mid-air 180-degree spin, launching him off the gumbo surface like an over-inflated basketball before smacking the back of the roll cage against the track, bouncing completely over once, and then slapping the sidewalls of his right side tires off the ground which propped him up on all fours as he stayed on the gas and drove away.

The amazing, spectacular, highlight-reel save by Stenhouse resulted in a red flag. Despite Stenhouse's ability to initially drive the car away from the scene, Stenhouse's Bryan Clauson Racing mount received a myriad of mechanical issues that came about due to the incident including a broken shock, radius rod, and a bent axle. Stenhouse was unable to continue, ending his return to his home track located just 30 miles northwest across the Mississippi River from his native Olive Branch, Mississippi.

Fifth-running Bryan Clauson's trying night came to an abrupt end, pulling into the infield on the eighth lap and having to settle for a disappointing 15th place result. This came after Clauson's RKR/Dooling team thrashed to replace the rear-end of the number 63 just prior to the feature.

By the 11th lap, ProSource Fast Qualifier and fifth-place starter Thorson had reeled in race leader Macedo. With Macedo set up high at the entrance to turn three, Thorson throttled to the bottom in a daring move that allowed him to slide up in front of his teammate as Macedo got squirrely and lost substantial ground to the flying Thorson.

Thorson was on a rail, on a one-way track and never looking back as he posted the fastest lap of the race one circuit later on the 12th lap. With less than ten to go, Thorson had extended his advantage to a full-straightaway over second-place Macedo.

At the checkered, Thorson had delivered a proverbial spanking to the rest of the field, winning by nearly five seconds and lapping all but the top-eight finishers: Macedo, Boat, Bayston, Brady Bacon, Ryan Greth, KSE Hard Charger Shane Golobic and Ryan Robinson.

It was Minden, Nevada native Thorson's sixth career USAC National Midget victory and his second in the series' first seven races of the 2016 season in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"These guys work their butts off," Thorson praised. "That was breathtaking. The track was awesome. It was racy and you could move around. The slide jobs were a lot of fun and you could run the bottom down in turns one and two to sneak by some guys. I could put my car anywhere I wanted all night and it's just a testament to Keith, Pete (Willoughby), Big Al (Scroggins) and the rest of these guys for all their hard work."

Lemoore, California's Carson Macedo led the first 10 laps of his USAC National Midget career on his way to earning a series' career-best second place finish in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - Tarlton & Son/Bullet/Speedway Toyota

"This team puts great cars underneath all of us," Macedo said. "I felt like I was good enough to win; I just spent too much time up top. I didn't know Tanner was so good down on the bottom and then he got by me, so then I could see where he was running. Being a rookie in the midget, everywhere we go is new to me, so it's nice to come back and use what we learned tonight. We'll try to do that tomorrow. I know I'll have a good car under me, so it's up to me."

Chad Boat, of Phoenix, Arizona, had yet another solid run in his Tucker-Boat Motorsports/PristineAuction.com - K & C Drywall/Spike/Speedway Toyota, finishing in the third spot for the second straight series race.

"We'll take a third tonight," Boat contented. "Tanner was just a little better than us tonight, but it's two thirds in a row, so we're building momentum. It was a decent night for us; it just kind of felt like we were missing something all night. But we'll work on it and come back tomorrow and go for the dub."

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 17, 2016 - Riverside International Speedway - West Memphis, Arkansas - 40 for Shorty

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.508; 2. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 17, Clauson-13.767; 3. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.767; 4. Bryan Clauson, 63, RKR/Dooling-13.794; 5. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-13.807; 6. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.831; 7. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-13.884; 8. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-13.893; 9. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.914; 10. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.914; 11. Matt Sherrell, 35, Sherrell-14.110; 12. Zach Daum, 5D, Daum-14.127; 13. Cody Brewer, 96, Central-14.195; 14. Kyle Jones, 54, Hefler-14.285; 15. Nick Bailey, 89, Bailey-14.300; 16. Shane Golobic, 17w, Wood-14.319; 17. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-14.497.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS/COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Ryan Robinson, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Matt Sherrell, 4. Chad Boat, 5. Spencer Bayston, 6. Brady Bacon, 7. Cody Brewer, 8. Gage Walker, 9. Nick Bailey. NT

BENIC ENTERPRISES/INDY RACE PARTS SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Carson Macedo, 2. Zach Daum, 3. Bryan Clauson, 4. Holly Shelton, 5. Ryan Greth, 6. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 7. Shane Golobic, 8. Kyle Jones. 2:23.15

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Carson Macedo, 3. Chad Boat, 4. Spencer Bayston, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Ryan Greth, 7. Shane Golobic, 8. Ryan Robinson, 9. Zach Daum, 10. Gage Walker, 11. Holly Shelton, 12. Matt Sherrell, 13. Cody Brewer, 14. Kyle Jones, 15. Bryan Clauson, 16. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 17. Nick Bailey. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-10 Carson Macedo, Laps 11-30 Tanner Thorson.

****Ricky Stenhouse Jr. flipped on lap 3 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-455, 2-Bryan Clauson-427, 3-Brady Bacon-417, 4-Tanner Thorson-393, 5-Chad Boat-382, 6-Shane Golobic-345, 7-Carson Macedo-312, 8-Zach Daum-301, 9-Tyler Thomas-275, 10-Ryan Robinson-266.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 18, 2016 – Riverside International Speedway – West Memphis, Arkansas – 40 for Shorty

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Tanner Thorson (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Ryan Robinson (Simpson Race Products/Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) First Heat Race Winner)

Carson Macedo (Benic Enterprises/Indy Race Parts Second Heat Race Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Shane Golobic (16th to 7th)

Cody Brewer (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

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Clauson Conquers 40 for Shorty at The Ditch

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

West Memphis, Arkansas.....Up to this point in the 2016 season, Bryan Clauson's journey had been mostly rosy and smooth as he's picked up win-after-win (22 to be exact) from coast-to-coast and everywhere in between. But, after losing an engine on Friday night and forced to go to the backup powerplant, Clauson and the Dooling/Hayward team had to work feverishly with uncertainty lingering in their minds, unsure if they would even be able to make the call at all for Saturday night's event.

When all was said and done, Clauson overcame, once again finding himself in familiar territory, victory lane, after taking advantage of a late-race tire issue on the car of leader Tanner Thorson to nail down his first USAC National Midget win of the season in Saturday night's "40 for Shorty" at Riverside International Speedway in his Dooling-Hayward/Cancer Treatment Centers of America – B & H Contractors/Spike/Stanton SR-11.

"Tonight was one of those nights where we'll look back on it after we finish all 200 (races) this year and just smile about," Clauson acknowledged. "We were at the point of just wanting to scrap it tonight because of our motor issues, but these guys kept busting their butts. Big Rick Stenhouse patched this motor back together and put the super tune on it; it was spectacular all night. My guys' effort and passion for the sport is unbelievable and it makes me want to win for them.

Having dad on the wrenches is fun. As we've gotten older, we've learned how to deal with each other, but it's been fun this year to win with him again. We did a lot of that in the midget in 2009 and 2010 and it was a lot of fun again tonight." On the initial start, things went awry for Oklahoma's Matt Sherrell as he tumbled down the back straightaway on the opening lap, bringing out the red flag. He would walk away uninjured, but unable to restart.

On the next attempt, pole-sitter Brady Bacon would run side-by-side with outside front row starter Zach Daum, but would hold court, fending off Daum to take the lead at the conclusion of lap one.

In a repeat performance of Friday night's opener at Riverside, Tanner Thorson was lightning quick during the early stages of the feature, picking his way to the front in no-time-flat from his fourth starting position.

On lap three, Thorson slid past Daum in turn three to seize the second spot and, three laps later, he had reeled in race leader Bacon. On the seventh lap, Thorson would head to the bottom, setting up a turn three slider on Bacon for the lead. As Thorson drifted his right rear tread up to the guardrail, Bacon crossed over, pulling alongside Thorson as the two drag raced to the line with the advantage going to Thorson by a mere .033 seconds.

Shortly thereafter, tenth-running Kyle Jones was unharmed after barrel-rolling his machine through turns one and two to bring out the feature's second red.

After the restart, Thorson was on a rail, appearing to put the field to bed as he continuously stretched his lead throughout the middle portion of the race.

Meanwhile, Clauson was hanging tough, running consistent, fast laps, but not able to significantly chop into Thorson's lead, but on lap 29, what looked like a foregone conclusion had vanished into the thick West Memphis atmosphere. Thorson's right rear tire had come apart, shredding pieces down the back straightaway as he crawled to a stop.

With the stage reset, Clauson was now in control at the front of the pack while Thorson, with fresh rubber, restarted at the tail, which was only 11th at that point in the race due to attrition. Thorson could not be counted out as a contender.

For, it was just one season ago during the "Gold Crown Midget Nationals" at Tri-City Speedway in Granite City, Illinois that Thorson pitted to change a flat right rear tire just after the midway point and then proceeded to slice his way through the pack to take the lead and secure the victory in the final two laps.

Thorson charged hard up against the outer edge during the final circuits but was only able to manage a seventh at the finish.

But, up front, nobody had anything for Clauson who took his third 40-lap USAC National Midget feature win in his last four tries, completing a memorable performance with his 13th USAC-sanctioned victory of 2016 and 23rd overall triumph of the season.

Clauson collected his 37th career USAC National Midget win ahead of Bacon, Carson Macedo, Chad Boat, Shane Golobic, Ryan Robinson, Thorson, Spencer Bayston, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Holly Shelton. Broken Arrow, Oklahoma's Bacon took home second in his FMR Racing/Beast/Toyota for his third straight top-five finish, placing himself in the thick of the championship race as the series takes a break before hitting the heartland hard during a four-race stretch in early August.

"Bryan found the bottom first and we were a little too tight to run as far down as he was," Bacon explained. "We just didn't have the grunt to race with them and we had to be more defensive than we should have. The car was really good and hooked up and it was cool to watch the track change as the line moved around. Second is our best run of the year, so we're knocking on the door and, hopefully, we can just keep picking up steam."

Macedo, the series rookie out of Lemoore, California, followed up Friday night's career-best second place performance with yet another strong run, taking third in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - Tarlton & Son/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"The track was really fast through the middle which made it a little hard to pass, but it was a great weekend for us," Macedo said. "I guess I jumped the start, which is too bad, obviously, but that's the way it goes sometimes. But we're running up

front, so I think we can get one of these sometime soon. All in all, though, we're happy with how things went, and we'll come out next time and just try to keep getting better."

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 18, 2016 – Riverside International Speedway – West Memphis, Arkansas – 40 for Shorty

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.373 (New Track Record); 2. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.389; 3. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.416; 4. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.501; 5. Zach Daum, 5D, Daum-13.572; 6. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-13.610; 7. Shane Golobic, 17w, Wood-13.675; 8. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-13.785; 9. Bryan Clauson, 63, Dooling/Hayward-13.807; 10. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-13.832; 11. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-13.897; 12. Kyle Jones, 54, Hefler-13.962; 13. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 17, Clauson-14.020; 14. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.033; 15. Cody Brewer, 96, Central-14.092; 16. Matt Sherrell, 35, Sherrell-14.179; 17. Nick Bailey, 89, Bailey-16.200.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS/COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Zach Daum, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Spencer Bayston, 5. Shane Golobic, 6. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 7. Gage Walker, 8. Cody Brewer, 9. Nick Bailey. 2:15.41

BENIC ENTERPRISES/INDY RACE PARTS SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Carson Macedo, 4. Kyle Jones, 5. Ryan Greth, 6. Ryan Robinson, 7. Matt Sherrell, 8. Holly Shelton. 2:15.25 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (40 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Carson Macedo, 4. Chad Boat, 5. Shane Golobic, 6. Ryan Robinson, 7. Tanner Thorson, 8. Spencer Bayston, 9. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 10. Holly Shelton, 11. Gage Walker, 12. Zach Daum, 13. Cody Brewer, 14. Ryan Greth, 15. Kyle Jones, 16. Matt Sherrell, 17. Nick Bailey. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-6 Brady Bacon, Laps 7-28 Tanner Thorson, Laps 29-40 Bryan Clauson.

**Matt Sherrell flipped on lap 1 of the feature. Kyle Jones flipped on lap 8 of the feature.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-515, 2-Bryan Clauson-505, 3-Brady Bacon-492, 4-Tanner Thorson-455, 5-Chad Boat-451, 6-Shane Golobic-407, 7-Carson Macedo-387, 8-Zach Daum-349, 9-Ryan Robinson-327, 10-Gage Walker-286.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 2, 2016 – Jefferson County Speedway – Fairbury, Nebraska – Riverside Chevrolet Tuesday Night Thunder

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Spencer Bayston (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Bryan Clauson (Simpson Race Products/Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) First Heat Race Winner)

Chad Boat (Benic Enterprises/Indy Race Parts Second Heat Race Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Bryan Clauson (9th to 1st)

Cody Brewer (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

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Boat Cruises to First Career Series Victory in USAC Midgets' Jefferson County Debut

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Fairbury, Nebraska.....In the USAC Midget National Championship's return to the state of Nebraska after a nine-year hiatus, Phoenix, Arizona's Chad Boat broke through in his 65th career series start, leading the final 19 laps to take his first series victory in front of a standing-room-only crowd at Riverside Chevrolet's "Tuesday Night Thunder" in USAC's first ever visit to Fairbury, Nebraska's Jefferson County Speedway.

The night's 35-lap feature marked just the sixth the time a USAC National Midget main event of this distance had been held, and the first occasion since February of 1979 when Bob Wenthe took the victory at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum.

On the opening laps of the 35-lap feature, pole sitter Holly Shelton waged in a side-by-side battle with Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports teammate Spencer Bayston, who started alongside on the outside of the front row. Bayston appeared to have the upper hand at the entrance to turns one and three, but each time, series rookie Shelton fought back on the inside line to retain the top spot.

On the third lap, fourth-running Tanner Thorson got bottled-up on the top side of turn four, sliding to a stop at the exit of the turn to bring out the night's first yellow flag.

On the lap four restart, third-running Tyler Thomas, returning from a two-month break from midget racing, dove to the bottom in turn one, going three-wide alongside Shelton (middle) and Bayston (outside). Thomas was able to edge ahead to the lead, albeit briefly, before both Shelton and Bayston made a Tyler Thomas sandwich off of turn two, resuming their high-low battle for the lead as Thomas slid back to third.

On lap five, Bayston was finally able to slip by Shelton for the lead on the outside with Thomas in tow, shuffling Shelton back to third.

On the tight confines of the 1/5-mile dirt oval, real estate was at a premium, but that wasn't any hindrance to sixth-starting Boat, who sailed his way past Thomas for the second spot on lap 12.

Boat was able to chase down Bayston in the ensuing laps and, on lap 16, made his first bid for the lead on the inside of Bayston in turn one, but was unable to make the move stick. Undeterred, Boat stayed right with Bayston as the two sped down the back straightaway into the third turn, ripping the bottom as he propelled himself past Bayston for the lead at the flag stand at the conclusion of lap 17.

Meanwhile, Thomas found his second wind as Boat found himself fenced-in while negotiating lapped traffic. But, with 11 laps to go, an incident involving the cars of Terry Goodwin, Lance Bennett and sixth-running Ryan Greth in turn three slowed the pace, bringing out a caution and, thus, removing lapped traffic from play to give the leaders a clear track ahead on the restart.

Chad Boat aimed for the bottom on the lap 25 restart as Thomas shadowed just behind in second. One lap later, Thomas showed Boat his nose entering the first turn, but Boat was able to withstand the pressure to hold onto to the lead as the pair exited turn two.

With just seven to go, Greth's once-promising night went from bad to worse after flipping wildly down the front straightaway. He would climb away from the wreckage uninjured.

Boat got a solid jump on Thomas on the final restart on lap 29, distancing himself out in front by roughly five car-lengths by the time the two hit the back straightaway.

The final spot on the podium was still up for grabs, though. After starting 13th, Bryan Clauson, who was utilizing a backup car after experiencing troubles with the primary car during qualifications, had carved his way through the pack to get by Bayston with an outside turn two pass for third with six laps to go while ProSource Fast Qualifier Bacon was able to slip by Bayston for the fourth position.

The see-saw battle between the two saw Bacon fight back to regain the third spot from Clauson with four laps to go. Yet, Clauson would battle back to regain the spot on the white flag lap. However, a bobble on the cushion on the final lap by Clauson allowed Bacon to shoot by Clauson to claim the third position for good.

Up front, Boat was in total control, pulling away from Thomas after the final restart to take his first career USAC National Midget feature victory by 0.981 seconds over Thomas, Bacon, Clauson and Bayston. Chad Boat, the 2008 series Rookie of the Year, has found success in his first full year of USAC National Midget competition since the 2010 season, joining Shane Golobic (Du Quoin) and Spencer Bayston (Gas City) to become the third different first-time winner in the series in 2016 in his Tucker-Boat Motorsports/PristineAuction.com – K & C Drywall/Spike/Speedway Toyota.

“I knew my car was going to come to me on the bottom on that last restart, so I wasn’t super nervous,” Boat admitted. “I was committed to the top, but Tyler Thomas showed me the bottom in (turns) one and two, and I just went down there to make them beat me on the top. What a great car we had, though! Those laps in the middle of the race, when everybody else was on the bottom and we were up top, this thing was hauling! It was dicey getting through the lapped traffic, but it’s exciting to get my first National win. It feels like a monkey off our back and I think we’re going to start rolling from here. We have some momentum now and I’m excited to get the rest of the week going.”

Thomas hadn’t made an appearance in a USAC Midget National Championship event since the USAC Indiana Midget Week finale at Kokomo Speedway nearly two months ago, but the Collinsville, Oklahoma native made his return to the series a successful one, equaling his career-best USAC finish of second in his Tyler Thomas Motorsports/BT Machine – AirGroup/Spike/Esslinger.

“I drove as hard as I could drive,” Thomas said. “Chad (Boat) drove a great race and didn’t make any mistakes. I didn’t feel like I did either; it’s tough to run second again. We took a two-month break from midget racing to get our program right and it paid off. My dad worked his tail off these last two months to make sure these engines were running right. I just really want to win. It seems like I’ve had a lot of seconds, but we’ll get our win. You have to lose some before you win them, though. Our confidence right now is not even in the same ballpark. We feel really good about what we have. (Solomon Valley Raceway in) Beloit (Kansas) is a good track for us, so we’re excited for tomorrow.”

Fellow Oklahoma native Brady Bacon, of Broken Arrow, earned his fourth consecutive top-five series finish with his third place run Tuesday night. Although he’s yet to pick up a feature win this season, Bacon’s consistency has put him just 15 points out of the point lead behind Spencer Bayston and Bryan Clauson in the latest standings for the USAC Midget National Championship on the strength of six top-five finishes in nine series starts in his FMR Racing/Beast/Toyota.

“We got into lapped traffic and that was tough tonight,” Bacon said. “We had a car good enough to win, (we) just needed the cards to fall a little differently. Chad (Boat) and Tyler (Thomas) got through the traffic better at the beginning, but we were up beside them when that first yellow came out, so we were good enough to run with them. It’s great to come to a place, though, where the fans are really into the event and everybody who was a part of it did a fantastic job.”

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 2, 2016 – Jefferson County Speedway – Fairbury, Nebraska – Riverside Chevrolet Tuesday Night Thunder

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-11.354; 2. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-11.457; 3. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-11.479; 4. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-11.514; 5. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.581; 6. Spencer

Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.586; 7. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.631; 8. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.687; 9. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-11.702; 10. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 27, Klaasmeyer-11.718; 11. Dave Darland, 11AG, Gray-11.745; 12. Keith Rauch, 47, Mason-11.819; 13. Bryan Clauson, 63, Dooling/Hayward-11.911; 14. Matt Johnson, 85, Central-11.929; 15. Chett Gehrke, 11c, Matteson-11.948; 16. Bob Harr, 2, Halarr-11.989; 17. Anton Hernandez, 25, Petry/Goff-11.994; 18. John Klabunde, 77, Klabunde-12.054; 19. Brayton Lynch, 1K, RKR-12.137; 20. Lance Bennett, 10, McCauley-12.138; 21. Troy Simpson, 7, Simpson-12.332; 22. Terry Goodwin, 2G, Goodwin-12.443; 23. Dustin Weland, 88, Weland-12.503; 24. Ryan Oerter, 43, RKO-12.510; 25. Jeff Stasa, 91, SBR-12.578; 26. Johnny Murdock, 0, Zero-12.647; 27. Derek Kral, 0B, Zero-12.923; 28. Tyler Dunkle, 37, Zero-13.212; 29. Nathan Johnson, 13, Zero-13.254; 30. Mark Hamilton, 76, Hamilton-16.499; 31. Casey Shuman, 32, Dunlap-NT; 32. Jeff Crook, 5J, Crook-NT; 33. Ashley Oerter, 16, RKO-NT (time of 14.082 disallowed).

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Carson Macedo, 3. Anton Hernandez, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Troy Simpson, 7. Jeff Stasa, 8. Nathan Johnson, 9. Ashley Oerter. 2:00.76

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Chad Boat, 4. Terry Goodwin, 5. Johnny Murdock, 6. Matt Johnson, 7. John Klabunde. NT

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Ryan Greth, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Dustin Weland, 4. Chett Gehrke, 5. Ryan Robinson, 6. Derek Kral, 7. Brayton Lynch. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tyler Thomas, 2. Holly Shelton, 3. Keith Rauch, 4. Bob Harr, 5. Ryan Oerter, 6. Lance Bennett, 7. Tyler Dunkle, 8. Jeff Crook. 2:00.58

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Ryan Robinson, 3. Brayton Lynch, 4. Lance Bennett, 5. Jeff Stasa, 6. John Klabunde, 7. Troy Simpson, 8. Derek Kral, 9. Nathan Johnson, 10. Ashley Oerter, 11. Ryan Oerter, 12. Tyler Dunkle, 13. Johnny Murdock. NT

FEATURE: (35 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Tyler Thomas, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Bryan Clauson, 5. Spencer Bayston, 6. Carson Macedo, 7. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 8. Holly Shelton, 9. Ryan Robinson, 10. Tanner Thorson, 11. Brayton Lynch, 12. Chett Gehrke, 13. Keith Rauch, 14. Lance Bennett, 15. Bob Harr, 16. John Klabunde, 17. Dustin Weland, 18. Terry Goodwin, 19. Ryan Greth, 20. Dave Darland, 21. Anton Hernandez, 22. Jeff Stasa. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-4 Holly Shelton, Laps 5-16 Spencer Bayston, Laps 17-35 Chad Boat.

****Ryan Greth flipped on lap 29 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-581, 2-Bryan Clauson-574, 3-Brady Bacon-566, 4-Chad Boat-532, 5-Tanner Thorson-505, 6-Carson Macedo-449, 7-Shane Golobic-407, 8-Ryan Robinson-376, 9-Tyler Thomas-353, 10-Zach Daum-349.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 3, 2016 – Solomon Valley Raceway – Beloit, Kansas – 7th Annual Chad McDaniel Memorial

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Brady Bacon (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Bryan Clauson (Simpson Race Products First Heat winner)

Tucker Klaasmeyer (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race winner)

Ryan Greth (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race winner)

Tyler Thomas (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Bryan Clauson (13th to 4th)

Keith Rauch (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

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Clauson Conducts a Clinic In Beloit; Becomes First Two-Time Chad McDaniel Memorial Victor

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Beloit, Kansas.....Bryan Clauson's magical 2016 season found the way to victory lane Wednesday night as he became the first two-time winner of the "Chad McDaniel Memorial" USAC Midget National Championship race at Solomon Valley Raceway.

The Noblesville, Indiana driver worked his way from the fifth-starting spot to challenge Spencer Bayston for the lead in the final third of the race, making the winning pass with 11 laps to go after two consecutive dead-heats on laps 24 and 25 to take his 27th feature victory of the year (15th in USAC) while also taking over the series' point lead heading into the 39th running of the "Belleville Midget Nationals" this Friday and Saturday night.

At the drop of the green flag, pole sitter Spencer Bayston shot out to the lead on the bottom with Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports teammate Carson Macedo and Tucker Klaasmeyer trailing just behind. Fourth-starting Holly Shelton teetered off the edge of the banking between turns one and two on the opening lap, slipping back to the 11th spot by the conclusion of lap one.

The red flag flew for an incident on the fifth lap when Tyler Thomas found himself spinning backwards between turns three and four. With nowhere to go, Cody Brewer – the promoter of the previous night's event in Fairbury, Nebraska – plowed head-on in a nose-to-nose meeting with the sitting-duck Thomas, tipping Brewer onto his side after the contact. Brewer walked away uninjured but would not restart. Tyler Thomas would resume his race from the tail.

As Bayston continued to lead the way, hugging the infield tires on the bottom all the way around the ¼-mile dirt oval, a pair of Ryan's duelled for the fifth position – Ryan Robinson and Ryan Greth. On lap six, Greth went to the outside of Robinson between the third and fourth turns. Robinson's front end stepped out from him, sending him ever so slightly up the racetrack as Greth ramped over the right rear tire of Robinson, sending himself airborne before landing on all fours and sliding gently backward into the outside turn four wall. Greth would restart from the tail.

Bayston and Macedo led a two-car breakaway on the ensuing restart while 2014 "Chad McDaniel Memorial" winner Clauson began to mount a charge on the topside while the majority of the front runners stuck to the bottom. On lap eight, though, Clauson swapped to the bottom to sneak underneath Klaasmeyer at the exit of turn four to grab third.

However, the action would once again come to a halt just one lap later after Anton Hernandez flipped wildly at the end of the front straightaway, landing a country-mile outside the turn one banking. Hernandez would walk away uninjured.

Clauson was now tucked behind the two front runners of the early portion of the event on the lap nine restart. Clauson continued to go to work a lane or two higher than Bayston and Macedo in the middle of the racetrack and was able to quickly reel in Macedo and blast by off the exit of turn four to take second at the stripe.

However, before the entire lap could be completed, a Matt Johnson/Jeff Stasa tangle between turns one and two negated Clauson's pass, relegating him back behind Macedo on the restart.

After a sluggish start to the race that saw three cautions and two red flags in the opening 14 laps of the event, Clauson was anxious to get going to the front, and that he did on lap 19 as he closed in on Macedo once again for second. Carson Macedo, the leading series rookie out of Lemoore, California, drifted up the racetrack at the entrance of turn three, opening the door for Clauson to dart by on the bottom to grab second place.

Clauson's sole focus was now lasered-in on leader Bayston with 16 laps remaining. Clauson wasted no time carving into the advantage held by Bayston, the 2015 series rookie of the year, as he ripped the high-side of the surface, banging off the cushion between turns one and two to get a run down the back straight that allowed him to pull even alongside Bayston entering turn three on lap 24.

The two remained side-by-side, wheel-to-wheel through the corner and off of turn four, resulting in a near dead-heat at the line with Bayston officially credited as the leader of the lap by the length of the radius of his front right wheel.

As the pair sped by the flag stand, Clauson carried his momentum into turn one with Bayston to his inside. Clauson used the top to perfection, jetting off the cushion down the banking to pull away to a three-car advantage on the back straight. However, Clauson got tight on the entry to turn three, shoving the nose of his machine up the racetrack just enough to allow Bayston to claw back underneath to edge ahead for a split-second, but Clauson gathered himself and gassed it back to the lead by a full wheel at the start/finish line with 11 to go on lap 25.

Clauson motored away off the top between turns one and two past Bayston, immediately putting an end to the suspense after staking his claim on the bottom of turns three and four and ripping the top in one and two to pull away from Bayston in the waning laps.

At the checkered, Clauson was on a pressure-free comfort cruise as he ran away for a three and a half-second victory over a hard-charging Tanner Thorson, who snuck by third-place finisher Bayston with four circuits to go, with Macedo and previous night's feature winner Chad Boat rounding out the top-five.

In a dream season in which Bryan Clauson has barnstormed across the country (and the world) competing at a wide array of venues in a variety of racing machines on his quest to compete in 200 racing events throughout the year, Clauson just may very well add another USAC National title to the resume as he took over the point lead in the latest Midget standings by six points over Bayston by virtue of his 38th career USAC National Midget feature victory (7th all-time) on Wednesday night in his Dooling-Hayward/Cancer Treatment Centers of America – B & H Contractors/Spike/Stanton SR-11.

"It's a little bit of an advantage to be the guy doing the chasing because the leaders don't necessarily know where you're at," Clauson explained. "Spencer (Bayston) was going on the bottom pretty good. I showed him the nose and got him hustling a little bit and we could make a move. If there had been anything up in (turns) three and four, it would've been an advantage, but everything funneled back into (turns) one and two. I just tried make it quick and rip it off like a Band Aid to make our move. I feel really good headed to Belleville. It's a place I've had a lot of success and we're going back with a little different package. I've won twice before with my dad on the wrenches, so it should be a lot of fun. It's a place we always look forward to going to, especially on Saturday when it gets up on the guardrail."

Thorson, of Minden, Nevada, overcame his 17th starting spot with a spirited charge to second at the finish line, earning the night's KSE Racing Products "Hard Charger" Award for his efforts in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"I just tried to get the power down to the racetrack as I was moving forward," Thorson said. "It was really slick on entry to (turns) three and four and you couldn't be on the gas or you'd miss the little groove that was there. We made some changes tonight that are a little bit different than our normal setup and it definitely helped. With this team, you always have confidence no matter where you finish. I'm excited going into Belleville."

Bayston led the first 24 laps of the event before relenting the spot to Clauson. Yet, despite the circumstances, Bayston is pleased overall as he looks ahead to making his second appearance at Belleville in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – Mobil 1/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

“It’s tough leading because you don’t know where the guys behind you are running,” Bayston lamented. “I was wondering but never felt like I absolutely needed to try it because we were so good on the bottom. I could hear (Clauson) behind me and, as the race went on, the bottom in (turns) three and four got slick and I just made a mistake which let him by us.

Then, I was trying to do what Bryan (Clauson) did and it let Tanner (Thorson) get by too, so we kind of just got ate up at the end. But we led a good chunk of the race, so that was solid. Overall, it was a decent night for us. Obviously, we want to win, but we’ll take a third and head to Belleville.”

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 3, 2016 – Solomon Valley Raceway – Beloit, Kansas – 7th Annual Chad McDaniel Memorial

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-13.253; 2. Bryan Clauson, 63, Dooling/Hayward-13.480; 3. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.654; 4. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 27, Klaasmeyer-13.730; 5. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.742; 6. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.750; 7. Casey Shuman, 32, Dunlap-13.776; 8. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.794; 9. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-13.806; 10. Anton Hernandez, 25, Petry/Goff-13.836; 11. Keith Rauch, 47, Mason-13.855; 12. Dave Darland, 11AG, Gray-13.895; 13. Chett Gehrke, 11c, Matteson-13.930; 14. Bob Harr, 2, Halarr-13.955; 15. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-13.969; 16. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-14.077; 17. Lance Bennett, 10, McCauley-14.149; 18. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.182; 19. Jeff Crook, 5J, Crook-14.184; 20. Matt Johnson, 85, Central-14.245; 21. Cody Brewer, 96, Central-14.266; 22. Dustin Weland, 88, Weland-14.270; 23. Ryan Oerter, 43, RKO-14.291; 24. Brayton Lynch, 1K, RKR-14.299; 25. Troy Simpson, 7, Simpson-14.310; 26. Jeff Stasa, 91, SBR-14.539; 27. Tyler Dunkle, 0B, Zero-14.647; 28. Johnny Murdock, 0, Zero-14.958; 29. Terry Goodwin, 2G, Goodwin-14.960; 30. Ashley Oerter, 16, RKO-16.173; 31. Cody Williams, 13, Zero-16.497; 32. Garrett Hood, 11H, Two Hoods-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Ryan Greth, 2. Carson Macedo, 3. Chett Gehrke, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Lance Bennett, 6. Terry Goodwin, 7. Cody Brewer. 2:02.67

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Bryan Clauson, 3. Anton Hernandez, 4. Bob Harr, 5. Ryan Robinson, 6. Jeff Stasa, 7. Dustin Weland, 8. Ashley Oerter. 2:06.81

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Keith Rauch, 2. Holly Shelton, 3. Tyler Thomas, 4. Ryan Oerter, 5. Cody Williams, 6. Jeff Crook, 7. Casey Shuman. 2:11.40

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Chase Johnson, 3. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 4. Spencer Bayston, 5. Dave Darland, 6. Johnny Murdock, 7. Brayton Lynch, 8. Garrett Hood. 2:20.64

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Casey Shuman, 2. Ryan Robinson, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Cody Brewer, 5. Jeff Stasa, 6. Terry Goodwin, 7. Dustin Weland, 8. Johnny Murdock, 9. Tyler Dunkle, 10. Ashley Oerter, 11. Lance Bennett, 12. Jeff Crook, 13. Cody Williams. NT

FEATURE: (35 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Spencer Bayston, 4. Carson Macedo, 5. Chad Boat, 6. Brady Bacon, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Ryan Robinson, 9. Tyler Thomas, 10. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 11. Holly Shelton, 12. Chett Gehrke, 13. Casey Shuman, 14. Bob Harr, 15. Keith Rauch, 16. Jeff Stasa, 17. Ryan Oerter, 18. Terry Goodwin, 19. Ryan Greth, 20. Matt Johnson, 21. Anton Hernandez, 22. Cody Brewer, 23. Brayton Lynch. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-24 Spencer Bayston, Laps 25-35 Bryan Clauson.

****Troy Simpson flipped during qualifying. Cody Brewer flipped on lap 5 of the feature. Anton Hernandez flipped on lap 9 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Bryan Clauson-656, 2-Spencer Bayston-650, 3-Brady Bacon-632, 4-Chad Boat-598, 5-Tanner Thorson-580, 6-Carson Macedo-519, 7-Ryan Robinson-429, 8-Shane Golobic-407, 9-Tyler Thomas-405, 10-Holly Shelton-385.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: August 5-6, 2016 – Belleville High Banks – Belleville, Kansas – 39th Annual Belleville Midget Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Brady Bacon (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Ryan Greth (Simpson Race Products First Heat winner)

Tanner Thorson (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race winner)

Keith Rauch (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race winner)

Chad Boat (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat winner)

Casey Shuman (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

Spencer Bayston (First lap leader in memory of Chad McDaniel)

Anton Hernandez (Hard Luck in memory of Chad McDaniel)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Tanner Thorson (17th to 2nd)

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Chad Boat Wins Belleville Prelim; Joins Father Billy as a Winner on the High Banks

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Belleville, Kansas.....When it comes to racing at the Belleville High Banks, Chad Boat has big shoes to fill. On Friday night, Chad used those shoes to stand on the gas, whipping by Carson Macedo on the high side on lap 10 and narrowly avoiding disaster on the final lap to take night one of the “Belleville Midget Nationals,” joining his father Billy as the first father-son duo to win preliminary features in the 39-year history of the storied event.

At the start of the 25-lap feature, Macedo quickly stormed from his third starting position to the front, going three-wide on the bottom alongside front row combatants Brady Bacon (middle) and Ryan Robinson (outside), sliding up in front of both to take the lead between turns one and two.

Meanwhile, fifth-starting Chad Boat shot to second on the opening lap in hot pursuit of Macedo as the front-two peeled away from the pack.

Boat, who picked up his first career USAC National Midget feature win just three nights prior at Jefferson County Speedway in Fairbury, Nebraska, was on a tear as Macedo held steady at the helm. Boat reeled him in, poking his nose underneath Macedo as the two began to encounter lapped traffic.

Macedo, making his Belleville debut, gradually crept down the banking to protect his line. That decision provided Boat the opportunity to take Macedo to school as he rode the cushion, using a big run on the outside of turn four to beat Macedo to the flag stand on lap ten for the top spot.

Boat quickly motored away, distancing himself from second-running Macedo by more than two seconds, and increasing, with less than ten laps remaining as he majestically maneuvered past each lapped car as if they were two ships passing in the night.

However, Boat's cruise to the checkers would be reeled back in after Isaac Chapple slowed to a stop in turn three with just seven laps to go, erasing Boat's ever-increasing lead. Yet, on the restart, Boat and second-running Macedo were separated by the lapped cars of Scott Hatton and Morgan Frewaldt, allowing Boat to throttle away as Macedo fought to slip by the two machines down a lap with Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian teammate and ProSource Fast Qualifier Tanner Thorson in tow.

In the final five-lap dash to the finish, Boat swelled the distance between him and second-place Macedo from a little over a half-second to more than a second as the rest of the pack watched him disappear into the horizon.

On the white flag lap, pressure for Boat was non-existent as he had his first Belleville victory just within his grasp. That's when disaster struck.

As Boat entered turn three, the lapped car of Morgan Frewaldt slid sideways at the exit of the fourth turn, coming to a stop directly in the middle of the track. As the yellow flag flew, Boat veered hard left from the high side of the track to avoid clipping Frewaldt, narrowly missing contact by mere inches and averting disaster for both.

Just as Boat and Frewaldt breathed a sigh of relief after making it through unscathed, the rest of the field entered turn four, including fourth-running Bryan Clauson. Clauson had nowhere to go as he arrived on the scene, pitching his car sideways in an attempt to avoid carnage as he sped toward Frewaldt. But it was too late. The right side of Clauson's car hit Frewaldt's left side, flipping both over and igniting flames out of the left side of Frewaldt's car that quickly burnt itself out.

Both Frewaldt and Clauson were able to exit their cars but were shook up after the vicious incident. Both were able to walk away, but Clauson's hit also hurt him in the race for the USAC National Midget title. His 18th place result cost him his short-lived point lead, relegating him back to third in the standings.

The restart set up a green-white-checkered dash that now put Macedo and Thorson directly on leader Boat's tail tank as he led the field down to the green flag.

Boat spurted out front as Thorson worked on teammate Macedo for second. Thorson came trucking against the outside guardrail with a head of steam, gliding by Macedo for second off of turn two.

By that time, Boat had the race in the refrigerator and the door was closed. Nobody was going to catch him as he ripped the banks and, figuratively, dropped the mic by recording the fastest lap of the race on the final lap, taking the checkered flag over Thorson, Macedo, new series point leader Spencer Bayston and Jerry Coons Jr.

Phoenix, Arizona's Chad Boat joined his father, Billy Boat, as a preliminary feature winner at the "Belleville Midget Nationals" Friday night in his Tucker-Boat Motorsports/PristineAuction.com – K & C Drywall/Spike/Speedway Toyota, roughly two decades after his dad also took prelim victories on the "High Banks." Billy scored prelim feature wins in 1995 and 1997. In 1995, Billy grabbed the preliminary win en route to his first and only "Championship Night" Belleville Nationals title: a feat that 24-year-old Chad is aiming to repeat this Saturday night.

"This is unbelievable," Boat exclaimed. "What a car we had tonight! I have to thank John Lawson. He gave us the idea to build this car and now I can see why he won so many damn races. This thing was a rocket, and I can't wait for 40 laps tomorrow night. I knew I was faster than (Carson) Macedo at the beginning, so I was just trying to be patient and work around them. When I knew I'd showed him the bottom, I knew it'd be faster up top and my car was better, which is why I

could make the bottom work. But when he moved down, I was just thinking 'thank you.' The track was up there tonight, but we expect it to be even higher tomorrow, so we'll have to be extra-focused and just put together 40 perfect ones."

Tanner Thorson, of Minden, Nevada, took home his second consecutive runner-up finish in the series, taking second place after passing teammate Macedo with two laps to go in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"Chad (Boat) has been fast all year and they had a great car tonight," a complimentary Thorson said. "It's cool for him to get back in a midget after a few years and be able to win, so congratulations to them. My guys have been working hard and I know it'll be the same tomorrow; we just need to be a little better."

Lemoore, California's Carson Macedo rounded out the podium in his Belleville debut after leading the first nine laps of the feature in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - Tarlton & Son/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"I just got beat," Macedo admitted. "I saw Chad (Boat) on the bottom and went down there to protect it, but that wasn't the move to make. I think I just made too many mistakes that I just have to learn from moving forward. You can't make those with these USAC guys and expect to win. My guys did a great job, and we had a car good enough to win. This place is wild; it's fast. You have to carry momentum and keep it straight. This car was a rocket tonight and, if I just do my job, it's good enough to stay up front."

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 5, 2016 - Belleville High Banks - Belleville, Kansas - 39th Annual Belleville Midget Nationals

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.114; 2. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-17.118; 3. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.150; 4. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.240; 5. Bryan Clauson, 63, Dooling/Hayward-17.300; 6. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.364; 7. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-17.416; 8. Jerry Coons Jr., 1K, RKR-17.506; 9. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.514; 10. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-17.716; 11. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-17.821; 12. Cody Brewer, 96, Central-17.861; 13. Jeff Stasa, 91, SBR-17.882; 14. Isaac Chapple, 52c, Chapple-17.936; 15. Garrett Hood, 11H, Two Hoods-17.977; 16. Scott Hatton, 1, Hatton-18.080; 17. Chett Gehrke, 11c, Matteson-18.167; 18. Michelle Decker, 4m, Meents-18.178; 19. Chase McDermid, 10A, WALLACE-18.661; 20. Terry Goodwin, 2G, Goodwin-18.727; 21. Matt Johnson, 85, Central-18.945; 22. Hunter Fischer, 24, Fischer-18.996; 23. Morgan Frewaldt, 926, Nussbaum-19.327; 24. Warren Johnson, 42, Nussbaum-19.368; 25. Chad Frewaldt, 4F, Nussbaum-19.987; 26. Ryan Oerter, 43, RKO-20.284; 27. Phillip Davis, 110, Gehrke-20.310; 28. Curtis Spicer, 13, Zero-20.441; 29. Johnny Murdock, 0, Zero-20.501; 30. Travis Scott, 2s, Scott-20.509; 31. Zach Middleton, 37, Zero-20.841; 32. Ashley Oerter, 16, RKO-22.713; 33. Tyler Dunkle, 0B, Zero-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Holly Shelton, 3. Chett Gehrke, 4. Jeff Stasa, 5. Zach Middleton, 6. Bryan Clauson. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Tyler Thomas, 3. Isaac Chapple, 4. Ryan Robinson, 5. Michelle Decker, 6. Phillip Davis, 7. Ashley Oerter, 8. Hunter Fischer. 2:18.56

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Spencer Bayston, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Garrett Hood, 4. Ryan Greth, 5. Chase McDermid, 6. Morgan Frewaldt, 7. Curtis Spicer. 2:19.56

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Carson Macedo, 2. Jerry Coons Jr., 3. Scott Hatton, 4. Terry Goodwin, 5. Warren Johnson, 6. Johnny Murdock, 7. Ryan Oerter. 2:21.05

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Michelle Decker, 3. Chase McDermid, 4. Travis Scott, 5. Warren Johnson, 6. Morgan Frewaldt, 7. Phillip Davis, 8. Curtis Spicer, 9. Ryan Oerter, 10. Zach Middleton, 11. Johnny Murdock, 12. Cody Brewer, 13. Ashley Oerter. 3:29.83

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Carson Macedo, 4. Spencer Bayston, 5. Jerry Coons Jr., 6. Brady Bacon, 7. Ryan Robinson, 8. Tyler Thomas, 9. Holly Shelton, 10. Ryan Greth, 11. Scott Hatton, 12. Garrett Hood, 13. Chett Gehrke, 14. Travis Scott, 15. Michelle Decker, 16. Jeff Stasa, 17. Terry Goodwin, 18. Bryan Clauson, 19. Morgan Frewaldt, 20. Isaac Chapple, 21. Curtis Spicer, 22. Warren Johnson, 23. Chase McDermid, 24. Phillip Davis. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-9 Carson Macedo, Laps 10-25 Chad Boat.

****Morgan Frewaldt & Bryan Clauson flipped on lap 24 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-723, 2-Brady Bacon-694, 3-Bryan Clauson-689, 4-Chad Boat-681, 5-Tanner Thorson-661, 6-Carson Macedo-574, 7-Ryan Robinson-487, 8-Tyler Thomas-461, 9-Holly Shelton-438, 10-Shane Golobic-407.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 6, 2016 – Belleville High Banks – Belleville, Kansas – 39th Annual Belleville Midget Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Tanner Thorson (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Tanner Thorson (Simpson Race Products First Heat Race winner)

Chad Boat (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race winner)

Spencer Bayston (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race winner)

Carson Macedo (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Race winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Travis Scott (24th to 14th)

Chett Gehrke (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

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Boat Wins Belleville Midget Nationals, Clauson Fatally Injured

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Belleville, Kansas.....Phoenix, Arizona's Chad Boat joined his father Billy in Belleville High Banks lore, replicating his dad's 1995 victory by winning Saturday night's 39th running of the "Belleville Midget Nationals."

Boat picked up the lead on the lap 14 restart and drove away to his third USAC National Midget feature victory in the last four races, including back-to-back nights at Belleville to cap off the series' visit to the Heartland.

After dominating victories earlier in the night during his heat race and the pole dash, Boat earned the pole position for Saturday night's 40-lap finale.

Though Boat had been the driver to beat all weekend, it was Tanner Thorson who had the advantage on the outside, blasting to the lead into turn one.

Boat attempted a slider on Thorson for the lead at the entrance to turn one on lap two, going side-by-side to the inside of Thorson to no avail, allowing Thorson to open up his lead as Boat lost momentum and fell into line in the second position.

On lap six, three-time “Belleville Midget Nationals” winner Bryan Clauson had rose to the forefront, sliding across the nose of Boat for second at the exit of turn four. Boat countered, diving to the inside of Clauson to reclaim the spot as the two sprinted down the front stretch.

Clauson kept tabs on Boat and, on lap 10, was able to capitalize when Boat’s turn one slider attempt on Thorson fell short. With the high-side momentum in his favor, Clauson flat-footed past Boat on the outside of turn two to grab second with the leader, Thorson, now within sight.

On lap 13, Clauson quickly reeled in Thorson as the frontrunners encountered lapped traffic. Clauson and Boat were able to pounce as the two grabbed first and second, respectively, while Thorson fell to third.

One lap later, Clauson was once again on cruise control as he stretched his lead, but as Clauson entered the top of turns three and four, his car and the lapped car of Scott Hatton made contact, sending Clauson flipping end-over-end on the high side of the track. Clauson’s car careened down to the middle of the racing surface at the exit of turn four where it was struck by the car of Ryan Greth. Greth walked away uninjured, but Clauson would be transported to a Lincoln, Nebraska hospital for injuries which would ultimately prove to be fatal.

On the restart, Boat checked out from the field and never looked back, warding off a Spencer Bayston rally in the final laps that saw him come within three-car-lengths of Boat with five to go as the duo entered lapped traffic. Boat was able to navigate around the cars of Michelle Decker and Travis Scott to gain all the separation he needed at the end, taking the checkered flag by 1.283 seconds over Bayston, Jerry Coons Jr., Brady Bacon and Carson Macedo.

Boat became the 12th driver to win the “Belleville Midget Nationals” from the pole in his Tucker-Boat Motorsports/PristineAuction.com – K & C Drywall/Spike/Speedway Toyota, the first to do so since Christopher Bell in 2013. Boat also became the 18th driver to win the feature on both his preliminary night and on “Championship Night” on the same weekend, the first to accomplish the feat since Coons in 2012.

Boat’s victory also came in the second round of the seven-race Jonathan Byrd’s “Indy Challenge,” putting him in position to claim a seat in the 2017 Freedom 100 Indy Lights race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway if he can win four of the next five “Byrd Challenge” races. If Boat can attain victories in the next five-straight “Byrd Challenge” events, he would secure a seat for the full schedule of oval races on the 2017 Indy Lights schedule.

“This is hard to describe,” Boat said. “You dream about winning races like Belleville, the Chili Bowl, kind of the ‘Big Five’ in midget racing. To get my first of the ‘Big Five’ tonight is really special. At the beginning of this year, we set out to win races. Until this week, I hadn’t been holding up my end of the deal. To come out of here with three out of four is pretty pleasing. The lapped cars split for me at the right time, but it was a battle because I could push harder, but I knew I needed to save my tires. From that last caution to the end, I was probably only a quarter-throttle to save them.”

Spencer Bayston extended his point lead to 35 markers in the race for the USAC Midget National Championship with his second-place finish in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – Mobil 1/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

“This place is tricky, especially when it lays rubber,” Bayston explained. “It’s hammer-down, but there’s a fine line between being aggressive and conserving your equipment. We changed a left rear under the red and that got us to the end. I wanted to push myself to track him down, but if I drove too hard, I’d get out of the rubber. We were right on the edge all night, but Chad got ahead first and we just had to soldier on.”

Three-time "Belleville" winner Jerry Coons Jr. finished a season-best third in his Rusty Kunz Racing/Competition Suspension, Inc. – Hoosier Tire/Spike/Stanton SR-11, scoring his best finish in a USAC National Midget event since a second-place run at "Little Belleville" in 2013 at Belle-Clair Speedway in Belleville, Illinois.

"I never felt like we had the car where I was comfortable," Coons said. "We were just a tad loose, but we changed left rears under the red. The car was good after the red, though we were able to pass some cars and get in a position to get to third past Tanner on that last restart. It was just one of those nights where we just missed it a little bit."

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 6, 2016 – Belleville High Banks – Belleville, Kansas – 39th Annual Belleville Midget Nationals

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Chad Boat (#84 Tucker-Boat), 2. Holly Shelton (#67K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 3. Tyler Thomas (#91T Thomas), 4. Jeff Stasa (#91 SBR), 5. Terry Goodwin (#2G Goodwin), 6. Ryan Oerter (#43 RKO), 7. Phillip Davis (#11o Gehrke). NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson (#67 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 2. Ryan Robinson (#71 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 3. Bryan Clauson (#63 Dooling-Hayward), 4. Michelle Decker (#4m Meents), 5. Ryan Greth (#4 Lesh), 6. Tyler Dunkle (#37 Zero), 7. Chase McDermand (#10A Wallace). 2:21.66

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Carson Macedo (#71K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 2. Brady Bacon (#76m FMR), 3. Scott Hatton (#1 Hatton), 4. Travis Scott (#2s Scott), 5. Morgan Frewaldt (#2 Nussbaum), 6. Warren Johnson (#42 Nussbaum), 7. Chad Frewaldt (#4F Nussbaum). 2:22.40

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Spencer Bayston (#97 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 2. Jerry Coons Jr. (#1K RKR), 3. Isaac Chapple (#52c Chapple), 4. Chett Gehrke (#11c Matteson), 5. Garrett Hood (#11H Two Hoods), 6. Curtis Spicer (#13 Zero), 7. Ashley Oerter (#16 RKO), 8. Hunter Fischer (#24 Fischer). 2:22.88

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Johnny Murdock (#0 Zero) & Zach Middleton (#0B Zero).

POLE DASH: (4 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Spencer Bayston, 4. Carson Macedo, 5. Jerry Coons Jr., 6. Brady Bacon, 7. Ryan Robinson, 8. Holly Shelton. 1:13.45

B-DASH: (4 laps) 1. Bryan Clauson, 2. Tyler Thomas, 3. Scott Hatton, 4. Isaac Chapple, 5. Michelle Decker, 6. Travis Scott, 7. Jeff Stasa, 8. Chett Gehrke. 1:12.88

SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Ryan Greth, 2. Garrett Hood, 3. Terry Goodwin, 4. Chase McDermand, 5. Phillip Davis, 6. Curtis Spicer, 7. Tyler Dunkle, 8. Chad Frewaldt, 9. Ashley Oerter, 10. Ryan Oerter. 3:55.63

FEATURE: (40 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Jerry Coons Jr., 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Carson Macedo, 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Holly Shelton, 8. Ryan Robinson, 9. Isaac Chapple, 10. Jeff Stasa, 11. Michelle Decker, 12. Travis Scott, 13. Garrett Hood, 14. Curtis Spicer, 15. Scott Hatton, 16. Bryan Clauson, 17. Tyler Thomas, 18. Ryan Greth, 19. Chett Gehrke, 20. Tyler Dunkle, 21. Terry Goodwin, 22. Phillip Davis, 23. Chase McDermand, 24. Chad Frewaldt. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-12 Tanner Thorson, Lap 13 Bryan Clauson, Laps 14-40 Chad Boat.

**Bryan Clauson & Ryan Greth flipped on lap 14 of the feature.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-790, 2-Brady Bacon-755, 3-Chad Boat-751, 4-Bryan Clauson-720, 5-Tanner Thorson-716, 6-Carson Macedo-632, 7-Ryan Robinson-536, 8-Tyler Thomas-490, 9-Holly Shelton-490, 10-Ryan Greth-422.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 14, 2016 – Susquehanna Speedway – York Haven, Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania Midget Week – Co-Sanctioned by ARDC

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Chad Boat (Simpson Race Products First Heat Race winner)

Tanner Thorson (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race winner)

Carson Macedo (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race winner)

Spencer Bayston (Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Race winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Curtis Spicer (22nd to 14th)

Garett Hood (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

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Mother Nature Claims “Pennsylvania Midget Week” Opener at Susquehanna

York Haven, Pennsylvania.....Heavy rains just prior to ProSource Qualifying forced cancellation of Sunday night’s “Pennsylvania Midget Week” USAC Midget National Championship/ARDC opener at Susquehanna Speedway.

It was to mark the USAC Midget division’s first ever visit to the track after rains cancelled last year’s Susquehanna event as well.

Brady Bacon recorded the fastest time in hot laps on Sunday with a time of 17.504 seconds.

“Pennsylvania Midget Week” continues Monday night, Aug. 15 at Path Valley Speedway Park before heading off to Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway in Newmanstown on Tuesday, Aug. 16 and concludes with Abbottstown’s Lincoln Speedway on Wednesday, Aug. 17.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 14, 2016 – Susquehanna Speedway – York Haven, Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania Midget Week – Co-Sanctioned by ARDC

****Rained out.**

CARS & DRIVERS AT THE TRACK: (23) Ryan Greth (#4 Leshner), P.J. Gargiulo (#5 JHG), Gage Walker (#7 Walker), Josh Heckman (#12 Heckman), Trevor Kobylarz (#14 RT), John Heydenreich (#22 Givens), Steve Buckwalter (#27 Heffner), Brett Wanner (#44 Fisher), Brett Arndt (#46 Arndt), Kenney Johnson (#46x Johnson), Tony DiMattia (#50 DiMattia), Jason Rice (#57 Rice), Tanner Thorson (#67 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), Holly Shelton (#67K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), Ryan Robinson (#71 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), Carson Macedo (#71K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), Brady Bacon (#76m FMR), Alex Bright (#77 Hemler), Chad Boat (#84 Tucker-Boat), Brenden Bright (#92 Bright), Jim Radney (#95 Radney), Spencer Bayston (#97 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian) & Justin Grosz (#99G Grosz).

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-800, 2-Brady Bacon-765, 3-Chad Boat-761, 4-Tanner Thorson-726, 5-Bryan Clauson-720, 6-Carson Macedo-642, 7-Ryan Robinson-546, 8-Holly Shelton-500, 9-Tyler Thomas-490, 10-Ryan Greth-432.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 15, 2016 – Path Valley Speedway Park – Spring Run, Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania Midget Week – Co-Sanctioned by ARDC

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Rain Wins Second Straight “Pennsylvania Midget Week” Event at Path Valley

Spring Run, Pennsylvania.....Heavy rains have forced cancellation of Monday night’s “Pennsylvania Midget Week” USAC Midget National Championship/ARDC event at Path Valley Speedway Park.

It was the second consecutive rainout for the series after Sunday night’s race at Susquehanna Speedway was called due to adverse weather conditions.

“Pennsylvania Midget Week” continues Tuesday night, Aug. 16 at Lanco’s Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway in Newmanstown and concludes with Abbottstown’s Lincoln Speedway on Wednesday, Aug. 17.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-800, 2-Brady Bacon-765, 3-Chad Boat-761, 4-Tanner Thorson-726, 5-Bryan Clauson-720, 6-Carson Macedo-642, 7-Ryan Robinson-546, 8-Holly Shelton-500, 9-Tyler Thomas-490, 10-Ryan Greth-432.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 16, 2016 – Lanco’s Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway – Newmanstown, Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania Midget Week – Co-sanctioned by ARDC

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Spin & Win! Thorson’s Last Corner Pass Caps Wild Lanco USAC Debut

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Newmanstown, Pennsylvania.....It took two whole days to finally get underway, but once it did, the 2016 “Pennsylvania Midget Week” opener was well worth the wait.

Minden, Nevada’s Tanner Thorson recovered from a lap four spin, carved his way from the tail-end of the field, setting him up for a last lap, last corner slide job on teammate Spencer Bayston to take an improbable USAC Midget National Championship/ARDC feature win Tuesday night at Lanco’s Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway.

A heavy shower in the late afternoon hours doused the Lanco surface with moisture, creating a lightning quick and gnarly racing surface for USAC’s debut at the 1/8-mile dirt bullring.

Thorson got the jump from his outside front row starting position at the start of the 30-lap main event, using the topline to glide around Pennsylvania Midget star Alex Bright for the top spot who, along with Brady Bacon, formed a three-car breakaway in the opening laps.

However, on lap four, Thorson entered the first turn and promptly looped it all by his lonesome, bringing about a yellow flag and relegating him to the back of the pack where he would restart 19th with 27 laps to go.

Alex Bright would inherit the lead from Thorson and, throughout the middle portion of the race, would firmly establish himself as the man to beat as a hornet's nest of cars developed behind him in a battle for the lead as he resisted a challenge from the winner of three of the last four series races, Chad Boat.

Nearing the halfway mark, leading series rookie Carson Macedo threw a big slider for the second position on Boat, but Boat was able to slide him back to retain the spot as the two drag raced into turn one.

Yet, Boat's magnificent run of seven-straight top-five finishes would take a severe blow on lap 17 when he slid sideways through the middle of turns three and four while battling Macedo, coming to rest in the middle of the racetrack without making contact. Boat would restart.

On the lap 17 restart, Bright snaked the field down low to the green as Macedo jumped to the top, but just as quickly as it began, the red flag was displayed for an upside-down Gage Walker who tipped it over against the guardrail between turns one and two.

On the ensuing restart, Bright chose the middle route into turns one and two while Macedo rode the cushion, but as Macedo began to line up a slider on Bright for the lead in the third turn, action slowed yet again as the yellow flag dropped for a backwards Holly Shelton between turns one and two.

Fourth-running Brady Bacon was involved in a tangle in the fourth turn on lap 18 that also collected top-10 runners Steve Buckwalter and Kenney Johnson. Johnson would be the only driver unable to restart.

Macedo was getting better and better as the race wore on, but yellow after yellow halted his procession to the front, keeping him at bay in the second position with just 13 laps to go.

But, on the following restart, Macedo hounded Bright for the top spot. Two accomplished racers – Bright, a Chili Bowl prelim winner and Macedo, a World of Outlaws feature winner – each duked it out for their first career USAC win with less than ten to go.

On lap 21, Macedo made his move, diamonding off turn two and rocketing down the banking to grab the lead from Bright as the two sprinted down the back straight. Bright counter-punched, slipping back by Macedo briefly in turn one before Macedo shot back by Bright to secure the point.

Heartbreak ensued for Bright shortly after losing the lead when his right rear tire deflated, forcing him into the infield with just a handful of circuits left after leading all drivers with 17 laps led during the feature.

With just four laps to go, Macedo, Bayston and now Thorson, who had charged his way back to the front from the tail, led the field to the restart. Macedo maintained his high-side presence into turn one while Bayston dove to the bottom to slide up in front of Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports teammate Macedo for the lead.

As soon as Bayston cleared Macedo between turns one and two, Macedo hit the brakes with the intention of changing direction on a dime, dipping underneath Bayston and driving away on the back straight as Bayston's momentum carried him to the outside turn two wall.

However, Macedo's car stalled before he could put the notion into action, coming to a stop in the middle of turn two to bring out the yellow once again and, thus, moved Thorson to second, directly behind his teammate and race leader Bayston with just four laps remaining.

Bayston exploded off the starting blocks for a solid restart on lap 27 as he gapped himself from Thorson, but that proved to be short-lived as Thorson quickly reeled Bayston back in, putting him in prime position to pounce in a moment's notice.

As Thorson shadowed Bayston's every move, coming to the white flag, Bayston got a big bite coming off of turn two, pulling a wheel stand half the length of the back straight away, yet still maintaining his ever-dwindling lead over Thorson as the two entered the final lap.

Bayston and Thorson held court on the topside of turns one and two after receiving flagman Warren Alston's white flag, but Thorson, who proved to have the fastest car throughout the main event, appeared to be waiting for just the right moment to make the move, leaving no chance for Bayston to return the favor.

As Bayston entered turn three through the middle, Thorson aimed his machine like a dart from the mid-point of the back straight toward the bottom of turns three and four at full throttle, pitching the car sideways and sliding up in front of Bayston at the exit of turn four. That slowed Bayston's momentum and pulled his front wheels off the ground as he got back on the gas, allowing Thorson to nail the bullseye and finish out the last 30 feet to the flag stand in front to record the astonishing spin and win victory by .296 seconds over Bayston, Tyler Thomas, Jim Radney and Ryan Robinson.

Incidentally, it was the first time a last corner pass for the lead was made on the final lap in a USAC National Midget feature since Thorson lost the lead to teammate Rico Abreu at Sun Prairie, Wisconsin's Angell Park Speedway in July of 2015.

Thorson's last lap heroics led to his third win of the season after June victories at Lincoln Park Speedway in Putnamville, Ind. and Riverside International Speedway in West Memphis, Ark., tying him with Boat for the most series victories during the 2016 season in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"I didn't think there'd be any way we could get back to the front after the spin," Thorson admitted. "I just misjudged my angle into the corner and got a little too sideways and spun it out. I'm just so happy we could do this for Bryan (Clauson). The track smoothed out a lot throughout the night and there were a lot of guys up top, but I never felt like we needed to get up there because we were strong enough running middle to bottom. We've all been itching to race this week, but it was worth the wait for this. We parked it for Bryan."

Despite Bayston's final lap heartbreak, the Lebanon, Indiana driver was able to extend his series point lead to 55 over Boat and 65 over Bacon after both encountered misfortune at Lanco, recording a second-place run in his Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – Mobil 1/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"I never felt like I was good enough to really be in the lead; it just fell into our hands," Bayston acknowledged. "But I still hate to let it slip away at the end. Tanner was really good, but this was elbows up tonight. I just feel bad. Second is okay, but I want to win and when it's right there in front of you and you don't deliver, it's pretty frustrating. Regardless, we're glad to put on a show for Bryan. We know he's cheering us on from heaven."

Collinsville, Oklahoma's Tyler Thomas could finally breathe a sigh of relief after his long, strange trip to "Pennsylvania Midget Week" had him stuck in Dayton, Ohio for the previous two days with mechanical issues on their motorhome, making it just in time to Lanco to take third after starting 11th in his Tyler Thomas Motorsports/BT Machine – AirGroup/Spike/Esslinger.

"It's been a rough start to our week with motorhome problems getting out here, but we had a great car tonight," said a relieved Thomas. "The track was awesome and gave us a multi-groove surface we could race on. Tanner (Thorson) went by me like I was standing still, so it was impressive. One of these days, it'll be us in victory lane, but we're putting together some good runs here lately, and the more we're up there, the better chance we'll have to grab one."

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 16, 2016 – Lanco's Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway – Newmanstown, Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania Midget Week – Co-sanctioned by ARDC

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-10.208; 2. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-10.406; 3. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-10.578; 4. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-10.579; 5. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-10.604; 6. Alex Bright, 77, Hemler-10.615; 7. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-10.642; 8. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-10.644; 9. Jim Radney, 95, Radney-10.648; 10. Steve Buckwalter, 27, Heffner-10.738; 11. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-10.765; 12. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-10.799; 13. Brett Wanner, 44, Fisher-10.811; 14. Nick Wean, 78, Wean-10.889; 15. Tony DiMattia, 50, TDM-10.904; 16. Trevor Kobylarz, 14, RT-10.926; 17. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-10.973; 18. Kenney Johnson, 46x, Johnson-11.018; 19. Kyle Spence, 25K, Spence-11.032; 20. Tommy Kunsman, 21, Kunsman-11.205; 21. Jamie Speers, 74, Speers-11.277; 22. Brenden Bright, 92, Bright-11.319; 23. Josh Heckman, 12, Heckman-11.332; 24. Justin Grosz, 99G, Grosz-11.595; 25. Eric Heydenreich, 11, Heydenreich-11.732; 26. Brett Arndt, 46, Arndt-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Carson Macedo, 3. Steve Buckwalter, 4. Ryan Robinson, 5. Trevor Kobylarz, 6. Brenden Bright, 7. Brett Wanner, 8. Kyle Spence, 9. Eric Heydenreich. 1:50.63

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Gage Walker, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Nick Wean, 5. Josh Heckman, 6. Ryan Greth, 7. Holly Shelton, 8. Tommy Kunsman, 9. Brett Arndt. NT

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Tyler Thomas, 3. Alex Bright, 4. Tony DiMattia, 5. Jim Radney, 6. Justin Grosz, 7. Chase Johnson, 8. Jamie Speers. NT

INDY RACE PARTS SEMI: (12 laps) 1. Holly Shelton, 2. Brett Wanner, 3. Tommy Kunsman, 4. Brenden Bright, 5. Eric Heydenreich, 6. Brett Arndt, 7. Chase Johnson, 8. Kyle Spence, 9. Justin Grosz, 10. Jamie Speers. 2:15.80

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Tyler Thomas, 4. Jim Radney, 5. Ryan Robinson, 6. Chad Boat, 7. Brenden Bright, 8. Tommy Kunsman, 9. Holly Shelton, 10. Carson Macedo, 11. Steve Buckwalter, 12. Tony DiMattia, 13. Brady Bacon, 14. Brett Arndt, 15. Alex Bright, 16. Josh Heckman, 17. Kenney Johnson, 18. Gage Walker, 19. Justin Grosz, 20. Eric Heydenreich, 21. Nick Wean, 22. Brett Wanner, 23. Trevor Kobylarz. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-3 Tanner Thorson, Laps 4-20 Alex Bright, Laps 21-26 Carson Macedo, Laps 27-29 Spencer Bayston, Lap 30 Tanner Thorson.

****Brett Arndt flipped during hot laps. Gage Walker flipped on lap 17 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-879, 2-Chad Boat-824, 3-Brady Bacon-814, 4-Tanner Thorson-804, 5-Bryan Clauson-720, 6-Carson Macedo-718, 7-Ryan Robinson-612, 8-Tyler Thomas-561, 9-Holly Shelton-550, 10-Ryan Greth-442.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 17, 2016 – Lincoln Speedway – Abbottstown, Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania Midget Week – Co-Sanctioned by ARDC

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Carson Macedo (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Chad Boat (Simpson Race Products First Heat Race winner)

Gage Walker (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race winner)

Brady Bacon (Benic Enterprises Third Heat Race winner)

Holly Shelton (Indy Race Parts Semi-Feature winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Brenden Bright (19th to 7th)

Brady Bacon (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher)

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Mother Nature Takes Pennsylvania Midget Week Title; Wins 3 of 4

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Abbottstown, Pennsylvania.....The quote “It’s like déjà vu all over again” attributed to Yogi Berra has never been more apt than it is after these past 96 hours in the Keystone State as, for the third time in four nights, Mother Nature washed away USAC/ARDC Midget racing during “Pennsylvania Midget Week.”

After rainouts at Susquehanna Speedway and Path Valley Speedway Park on Sunday and Monday night, respectively, Wednesday night at Lincoln Speedway was the latest victim, falling to the elements with just six of 30 laps completed during the feature.

At the start of the abbreviated feature, pole-sitter and ARDC regular Nick Wean jetted out front to the lead with a scramble for position following closely behind.

Spencer Bayston, eying redemption after losing the lead on the final corner of the final lap to Tanner Thorson one night prior at Lanco, hit the bottom of turn three underneath Wean. The two made contact and Bayston was able to capitalize, grabbing the lead while Wean got shuffled out as the field exited turn four at the end of the opening lap. Brady Bacon ducked to the inside, taking second, just trailing Bayston at the start/finish line by a half-car length.

As the frontrunners entered turn one on the second lap, sixth-starting ProSource Fast Qualifier Tanner Thorson put his heavy right foot on display as he nearly painted the inside turn one guardrail with the nose of his no. 67 as he threaded the needle three-wide on the bottom alongside Bacon and Wean, emerging with second by the time the trio hit turn two. A yellow on lap three for the stalled car of Eric Heydenreich brought out the yellow, setting up a restart with Thorson just behind Bayston at the front.

When the green flag flew, Thorson hit the topside in turn one, riding the cushion to perfection, rocketing off of turn two with a run on the inside of Bayston, pulling away from Bayston as the two hit the back straightaway.

After a pair of cautions were displayed due to the stopped car of Steve Buckwalter, the skies began to open up and the rain began to fall, saturating the Lincoln Speedway surface.

After a valiant effort by the crew to nearly get the track back to near race-worthiness, the rain began to fall again, signaling an end to the night’s activities and an unsavory conclusion to “Pennsylvania Midget Week” that saw two complete washouts, a rained out feature and a fantastically competitive feature at Lanco’s Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway that was run after a lengthy rain delay.

The Lincoln event also was to be the third round of Jonathan Byrd’s Indy Challenge. Rico Abreu won the opener at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway in June while Chad Boat took the “Belleville Nationals” earlier in August.

The next event for the Indy Challenge is scheduled for Sunday, September 4 when the USAC Western States Midgets head to Calistoga Speedway for the “Louie Vermeil Classic.”

Next up on the USAC Midget National Championship calendar is the 35th running of the “4-Crown Nationals” on Saturday, September 24 at Rossburg, Ohio’s Eldora Speedway.

Contingency award winners at Lincoln Speedway included Tanner Thorson (ProSource Fast Qualifier), Trevor Kobylarz (Simpson Race Products First Heat Race winner), Chad Boat (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Race winner) and Alex Bright (Benic Enterprises/Indy Race Parts Third Heat Race winner).

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 17, 2016 – Lincoln Speedway – Abbottstown, Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania Midget Week – Co-Sanctioned by ARDC

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-15.942; 2. Steve Buckwalter, 27, Heffner-16.085; 3. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-16.102; 4. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-16.179; 5. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-16.231; 6. Brenden Bright, 92, Bright-16.231; 7. Nick Wean, 78, Wean-16.234; 8. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-16.244; 9. Alex Bright, 77, Hemler-16.245; 10. Tyler Thomas, 91T, Thomas-16.320; 11. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-16.329; 12. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-16.367; 13. Trevor Kobylarz, 14, RT-16.391; 14. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-16.449; 15. Tony DiMattia, 50, TDM-16.487; 16. Brett Arndt, 46, Arndt-16.536; 17. Jamie Speers, 74, Speers-16.729; 18. Brett Wanner, 44, Fisher-16.793; 19. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-16.863; 20. Eric Heydenreich, 11, Heydenreich-16.888.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Trevor Kobylarz, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Brett Arndt, 4. Tyler Thomas, 5. Nick Wean, 6. Carson Macedo, 7. Ryan Greth. 2:10.20

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Gage Walker, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Steve Buckwalter, 5. Ryan Robinson, 6. Jamie Speers, 7. Eric Heydenreich. 2:10.60

BENIC ENTERPRISES/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Alex Bright, 2. Tony DiMattia, 3. Brenden Bright, 4. Spencer Bayston, 5. Holly Shelton, 6. Brett Wanner. 2:12.59

FEATURE: (Halted by rain after 6 of 30 laps)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Spencer Bayston, Laps 3-6 Tanner Thorson.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-911, 2-Chad Boat-855, 3-Brady Bacon-845, 4-Tanner Thorson-840, 5-Carson Macedo-747, 6-Bryan Clauson-720, 7-Ryan Robinson-639, 8-Tyler Thomas-589, 9-Holly Shelton-577, 10-Ryan Greth-467.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 24, 2016 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 35th 4-Crown Nationals

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Rico Romps in Eldora 4-Crown Midget Rout

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Rossburg, Ohio.....Rico Abreu arrived at Eldora Speedway Saturday evening via an airplane ride alongside Tony Stewart after competing in the afternoon’s NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race in New Hampshire.

As soon as the St. Helena, California driver hit the western Ohio half-mile for the first time on Saturday, it almost seemed as if Abreu was still on-board a jet as he piloted his Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports entry to a complete sweep of the night's USAC National Midget events, recording ProSource Fast Qualifying time, then following that up with a new 8-lap track record run on his way to a heat race victory before slashing his way to third from his sixth starting position by the end of the first lap of the feature.

Abreu rocketed around the outside of teammate Tanner Thorson in turn two on the second lap, and then quickly ran down leader Chad Boat by the time the two got to turn three.

Abreu instantly shot down to the bottom of turn three for a classic Eldora slide job right up in front of Boat to take the top spot as Boat countered underneath Abreu and drag raced to the line with Abreu beating Boat back to the stripe by a wheel.

Boat, who won both nights at the "Belleville Midget Nationals," one month ago, made one more attempt on Abreu into turn one on the third lap, but came up short as Abreu shot out of a cannon off the turn two cushion to instantly leave Boat in his afterthoughts.

By the tenth lap, Abreu had established a full-straightaway lead that continued to grow as he sliced, diced and pureed his way through the backmarkers while the lap counter on the scoreboard ticked away, but with just four laps remaining, Abreu's lead would be wiped away as Tyler Courtney slowed with a broken U-Joint.

On the lap 22 restart, it was no contest as Abreu pulled away without missing a beat, but the battle for second waged between Boat, Thorson and Brady Bacon became the race to watch as Thorson slid by Boat for second entering turn one. Bacon slipped past Boat as well for third and made a mad-dash toward Thorson for second in turn one a lap later that came up short.

Yet, in the distance was Abreu who finished off one of the most impressive drives in "4-Crown" midget history as he lapped up to sixth place on his way to his second career USAC Midget victory at Eldora (2013) in his Keith Kunz – Curb-Agajanian/DC Solar – Abreu Vineyards/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"Keith Kunz gives me phenomenal racecars every time I come and race with him. I'm very fortunate I get to race with him," Abreu praised. "It's special every time I get to stand up here (at Eldora). I've come close a lot this year and last year, but just never was able to get a win, but we've had solid finishes here."

Minden, Nevada's Tanner Thorson took second in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota as he edged his way into the thick of a tightened USAC National Midget point race where he now sits just 30 points out of the lead behind Spencer Bayston who dropped out on the sixth lap of Saturday night's feature and finishing in the 22nd position.

Brady Bacon, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, finished third in his FMR Racing/Beast/Toyota. With five races remaining, Bacon finds himself 27 points out of the lead in the series standings and just five behind Boat.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 24, 2016 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 35th 4-Crown Nationals

PROSOURCE QUALIFYING: 1. Rico Abreu, 97K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.164; 2. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.647; 3. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-17.647; 4. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.721; 5. Davey Ray, 33, RayPro-17.724; 6. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-17.775; 7. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.852; 8. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-17.972; 9. Jerry Coons Jr., 25x, Petry/Goff-18.065; 10. Jake Blackhurst, 37, Felker-18.153; 11. Tyler Courtney, 7K, Irwin-18.155; 12. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-18.197; 13. Andrew Felker, 11A, Felker-18.211; 14. Dave Darland, 11AG, Gray-18.236; 15. Justin Grant, 37x, Felker-18.391; 16. Jake Neuman, 3N, Neuman-18.491; 17. Isaac Chapple, 52c,

Chapple-18.528; 18. Bear Wood, 8JR, LW-19.075; 19. Eric Hein, 3, Drangmeister-20.411; 20. Robert Bell, 71½, Bell-NT (time of 19.266 disallowed); 21. Gary Gipson, 5, Byers-NT (time of 19.763 disallowed); 22. Tony DiMattia, 50, TDM-NT; 23. Steve Buckwalter, 25, Buckwalter-NT; 24. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-NT; 25. Ken Drangmeister, 76, Drangmeister-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Rico Abreu, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Andrew Felker, 4. Ryan Robinson, 5. Jake Neuman, 6. Jake Blackhurst, 7. Eric Hein, 8. Tony DiMattia. 2:08.94 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Spencer Bayston, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Davey Ray, 4. Holly Shelton, 5. Isaac Chapple, 6. Tyler Courtney, 7. Robert Bell. 2:15.76

BENIC ENTERPRISES/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Carson Macedo, 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 5. Justin Grant, 6. Ryan Greth, 7. Bear Wood, 8. Gary Gipson. 2:14.25

FEATURE: (25 laps) 1. Rico Abreu, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Chad Boat, 5. Holly Shelton, 6. Davey Ray, 7. Carson Macedo, 8. Ryan Robinson, 9. Jerry Coons Jr., 10. Dave Darland, 11. Andrew Felker, 12. Justin Grant, 13. Jake Neuman, 14. Isaac Chapple, 15. Jake Blackhurst, 16. Bear Wood, 17. Robert Bell, 18. Tyler Courtney, 19. Eric Hein, 20. Gary Gipson, 21. Ryan Greth, 22. Spencer Bayston, 23. Steve Buckwalter. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Chad Boat, Laps 2-25 Rico Abreu.

****Tony DiMattia & Carson Macedo flipped during qualifying.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-947, 2-Chad Boat-925, 3-Brady Bacon-920, 4-Tanner Thorson-917, 5-Carson Macedo-805, 6-Bryan Clauson-720, 7-Ryan Robinson-693, 8-Holly Shellton-640, 9-Tyler Thomas-589, 10-Ryan Greth-493.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: October 6-7-8, 2016 – Tri-City Speedway – Granite City, Illinois – Gold Crown Midget Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Rico Abreu (ProSource Fast Qualifier)

Rico Abreu (Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner)

Spencer Bayston (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Winner)

Chad Boat (Benic Enterprises/Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS/LARRY RICE HIGH PERFORMANCE HARD CHARGER AWARD: Carson Macedo (23rd to 7th)

Jake Neuman (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Feature Finisher)

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Thorson Thrills at Granite City; Wins Gold Crown Opener

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Granite City, Illinois.....While it may not become as famous as Danny Sullivan's "Spin and Win" at the 1985 Indianapolis 500, Minden, Nevada's Tanner Thorson's "Half Spin and Win" performance on Thursday's opening night of the 2016 "Gold Crown Midget Nationals" at Tri-City Speedway will surely go down as one he won't soon forget.

While running fourth on the sixth lap of the 30-lap feature, Thorson drifted into the infield after getting sideways between turns three and four. Thorson regained control of the car, kept the RPMs up and was able to continue on, albeit after kicking up a cloud of southern Illinois soil as he gassed his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota through the infield to rejoin the action on the front straightaway.

The mishap immediately dropped Thorson back to seventh as teammates Carson Macedo and Spencer Bayston sped past as did 2008 "Gold Crown" winner Jerry Coons Jr.

Not only was Thorson's bid for a third straight Granite City victory in jeopardy, but an opportunity also to cash in on valuable points toward a tight USAC National Midget championship was in danger of being squandered.

Thorson didn't panic and, one lap later, he was able to get back around Coons for sixth just before the yellow flag flew for a Brayton Lynch spin on the back straight.

On the ensuing restart, Thorson worked his way back to the fourth spot as, up front, Brady Bacon threw a successful slider on Chad Boat for the lead entering turn one.

After disposing of Zach Daum for third, Thorson engaged in a see-saw battle with Boat for second that changed hands three times.

On the tenth lap, Thorson used a big run on the bottom of turn four to grab the spot from Boat. But, on lap 11, Boat cruised the cushion to glide around the outside of Thorson in turn four to retake the position. Thorson stuck within close range and was able to take a hold of second for good with another run on the bottom of turn four past Boat on the 12th lap.

The spectacular back-and-forth game of chess between Boat and Thorson played into Bacon's favor as it allowed Bacon to stretch his lead out front to more than a second as he sought his first USAC National Midget win since 2012's "Hut 100" at Haubstadt, Indiana's Tri-State Speedway.

Thorson also began to put distance between himself and third-running Boat, but with ten laps to go, race leader Bacon began to encounter lapped traffic. With cars running high and low, Bacon had the daunting task of carefully wading his way through the backmarkers with a flying Thorson set to pounce at a moment's notice.

Bacon had difficulty working his way around the lapped car of Gage Walker, eventually executing a lap 22 slide job on Walker, but that allowed Thorson to knock a half-second off of the interval and slice Bacon's lead down to a mere three car lengths.

With Thorson hot on the trail of Bacon with six laps remaining, Bacon bounced over the turn four cushion, contacting the outside wall before continuing on as Thorson shot by for the lead.

There would be no victory lane celebration for Bacon on this particular night as, by the time he hit turn two, it became apparent that the right rear tire on his machine was flat, necessitating a yellow that brought the action to a halt.

The late-race restart set up a rematch of last year's Saturday night "Gold Crown" showdown between Thorson and Daum. This time around would be the same as the last as Thorson would once again hold the upper hand, pulling away on the restart to tame the three-eighths-mile dirt oval in Granite City for the third time in as many tries dating back to last year's sweep of the "Gold Crown."

Thorson's eighth career victory in the series came one and a half second in front of Daum, Macedo, Boat and Bayston. Thorson became just the second driver to win three straight at the "Gold Crown," joining Darren Hagen, who won three in a row during a single weekend in 2010.

Meanwhile, a minor bit of redemption was in store for Bacon in the end as he raced to a sixth-place finish during the final six laps after changing his right rear tire and restarting from the tail.

With Thorson's win and Bacon's misfortune, the tide has once again turned in the race for the 2016 USAC National Midget title. The points battled that entered Thursday night with just a 30-point separation between first and fourth remained at 30, but with a few positions rearranged.

Thorson leapfrogged both Bacon and Boat to vault from fourth to second in the standings with four races remaining while Bayston's lead shrunk from 22 to 18. With Thorson's recent dominance at Granite City, he has the chance to make up a good chunk of ground during the next two nights of the "Gold Crown."

"This is one of my favorite tracks," Thorson exclaimed. "Saving the tires is going to be a big factor in these races this weekend because the track is so fast, and the races are longer. I feel like I saved them pretty well tonight, but it's a 40-lapper on Saturday. The last couple of restarts were tricky because I knew the bottom was good. It went away on entry, though, toward the end of the race so I knew I needed to get to the top. I just went with my gut and it worked out for us. My guys gave me a great car and we're excited for tomorrow and Saturday."

Zach Daum had to settle for his second straight runner-up performance at Granite City behind Thorson in his Dan Daum/TRD - Daum Crop Insurance/Eagle/Stanton Toyota, but the Pocahontas, Illinois native was pleased to bring home his best USAC finish of the season.

"We were back there in the thick of it, even though we were towards the front," Daum explained. "The big sliders are probably more nerve-wracking to watch than when you're in the car and I know that nine out of ten guys out here aren't going to stick you in the fence if they can't clear you. We'll take a second tonight; it's the same as last year with Tanner out front, but hopefully by the end of the weekend, we can change that."

Leading series rookie Carson Macedo of Lemoore, California turned in another solid performance Thursday night, grabbing third in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - Tarlton & Son/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

"The car was good tonight, but the track was tricky," Macedo said. "You had to find where you were good at right away and Tanner did that. I'm happy with our night, though; it was fun to race with all of these guys the way we did, really hard, but very clean. This place is wild! You have to respect it because you're moving. There's not a lot of room on the top of turn four, but you have to commit to the top if you're going to run it. It's tricky, but I'm really excited for the next two nights."

Davey Ray and Ryan Greth walked away uninjured after both flipped in turn one on the second lap of the feature.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: October 6, 2016 – Tri-City Speedway – Granite City, Illinois – Gold Crown Midget Nationals

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tyler Thomas (Thomas #91T), 2. Justin Peck (#5x Peck), 3. Zach Daum (#5D Daum), 4. Dave Darland (#11AG Gray), 5. Ryan Robinson (#71 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 6. Kyle Jones (#5B Daum), 7. Alex Bright (#77 Hemler), 8. Steve Buckwalter (#25 Buckwalter), 9. Gage Walker (#7 Walker). NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Chad Boat (#84 Tucker-Boat), 2. Davey Ray (#33 RayPro), 3. Ryan Greth (#4 Leshner), 4. Spencer Bayston (#97 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 5. Tanner Thorson (#67 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 6. Holly Shelton (#67K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 7. Jake Neuman (#3N Neuman), 8. Andrew Felker (#11A Felker). 2:01.55

BENIC ENTERPRISES/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Brad Loyet (#05 Loyet), 2. Brady Bacon (#76m FMR), 3. Carson Macedo (#71K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 4. Jerry Coons Jr. (#25x Petry-Goff) 5. Brayton Lynch (#1K RKR), 6. Andy Malpocker (#22 Malpocker), 7. Tyler Roth (#13 Zero), 8. Johnny Murdock (#0 Zero). 2:03.44

FIRST QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Davey Ray, 3. Kyle Jones, 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 5. Brayton Lynch, 6. Johnny Murdock, 7. Brad Loyet, 8. Alex Bright. 2:37.67

SECOND QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps) 1. Carson Macedo, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Zach Daum, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Jake Neuman, 6. Andy Malpocker, 7. Ryan Robinson. NT

THIRD QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Ryan Greth, 3. Holly Shelton, 4. Spencer Bayston, 5. Justin Peck, 6. Tyler Thomas, 7. Tyler Roth. 2:36.61

FEATURE: (30 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Zach Daum, 3. Carson Macedo, 4. Chad Boat, 5. Spencer Bayston, 6. Brady Bacon, 7. Kyle Jones, 8. Jerry Coons Jr., 9. Dave Darland, 10. Holly Shelton, 11. Jake Neuman, 12. Justin Peck, 13. Tyler Thomas, 14. Gage Walker, 15. Andy Malpocker, 16. Ryan Robinson, 17. Steve Buckwalter, 18. Johnny Murdock, 19. Brayton Lynch, 20. Tyler Roth, 21. Alex Bright, 22. Davey Ray, 23. Ryan Greth. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-7 Chad Boat, Laps 8-24 Brady Bacon, Laps 25-30 Tanner Thorson.

****Davey Ray & Ryan Greth flipped on lap 2 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-1005, 2-Tanner Thorson-987, 3-Chad Boat-986, 4-Brady Bacon-975, 5-Carson Macedo-869, 6-Ryan Robinson-724, 7-Bryan Clauson-720, 8-Holly Shellton-683, 9-Tyler Thomas-626, 10-Ryan Greth-516.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: October 7-8, 2016 – Tri-City Speedway – Granite City, Illinois – Gold Crown Midget Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Tyler Thomas (Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner)

Chad Boat (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Winner)

Brad Loyet (Benic Enterprises/Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Gage Walker (22nd to 14th)

Tyler Thomas (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Feature Finisher)

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Thorson Wins 4th Straight at Granite City; Cruises in Gold Crown Night #2

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Granite City, Illinois.....Throughout history, certain tandems have become synonymous with each other: Lewis and Clark, Lennon and McCartney, Calvin and Hobbes, Milk and Cookies, etc.

After his USAC Midget National Championship feature victory Friday night, a new duo to add to the list may very well be Tanner Thorson and Tri-City Speedway.

The Minden, Nevada driver dominated every lap of the caution-free affair in which he established a new 35-lap track record at the 3/8-mile dirt oval on the way to his fourth straight “Gold Crown Midget Nationals” win dating back to 2015.

In the process, Thorson was able dig a little closer to the point-lead, as he is now just 15 points behind teammate Spencer Bayston in the latest series standings with three events remaining including Saturday night’s “Gold Crown” finale.

Thorson began the feature from outside of the front row alongside Brady Bacon and immediately established the point as the field hit turn one on the opening lap.

Bacon, another driver in the thick of the series point race, encountered trouble one night prior after suffering a cut tire while leading with six laps to go. On this night, the Broken Arrow, Oklahoma native settled into second in the early going, running the high side as Thorson worked the bottom.

Suddenly, on lap six, heartbreak met Bacon for the second consecutive night as his mount began to slow dramatically entering turn three, resulting in an early exit, a 20th place finish and the loss of substantial ground in the title race – a race that he now finds himself 74 points out of the lead after entering Thursday down just 22.

With Bacon now out of sight, no one was able to put up much of a fight on Thorson for the remaining 30 laps and, though, Thorson quickly distanced himself to a three-second lead by the 15th lap, he was unable to completely break away from his fellow competitors involved in the point race.

With his pass on Thursday night runner-up Zach Daum, Chad Boat positioned himself in third, a straightaway behind leader Thorson and Bayston with 20 to go.

The only obstacle separating Thorson from certain victory in the second half of the contest was lapped traffic. But, with a full straightway lead, Thorson was in a zone and a backmarker or two wasn’t going to trip him up on this night.

Thorson had to negotiate the eighth, ninth and tenth place cars with less than five laps to go as the battle for position between Holly Shelton, Jerry Coons Jr. and Kyle Jones waged on in front of the leader.

Thorson had little trouble as he stuck to the bottom while the lappers pursued the high side, providing Thorson a clear path to an eventual, commanding 4.85 second victory over Bayston, Boat, Ryan Robinson and Carson Macedo.

Thorson completed the 35-lap feature at a track record time of nine minutes, 24.36 seconds in his Keith Kunz – Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota, his series-leading fifth USAC National Midget victory of the 2016 season and the ninth of his career.

“I don’t know if it’s me or this car that keeps getting to victory lane, but these Keith Kunz guys are awesome,” Thorson exclaimed. “They deserve to be here. The track was in our favor tonight, for sure. You can’t enter the bottom too early here; that makes it tough but having that track position at the start was really big. Our confidence level is really high heading into tomorrow and I’m looking forward to trying to make it two ‘Gold Crowns’ in a row.”

Lebanon, Indiana’s Spencer Bayston held serve at the head of the points race, finishing one spot behind Thorson in Friday night’s feature to take second in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – Mobil 1/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

“I was more confident tonight than I was last night,” Bayston thought. “I made a couple mistakes earlier in the night and the guys made sure to point them out to me so we could correct them for the feature; I feel like we made some progress

in that sense. Tanner was really good through the lapped cars. I felt like I was catching him a little bit, but he was so strong on the bottom that it was hard to make up any ground. We probably needed a yellow, but we'll take a second for points, though, and go try to get a win tomorrow."

Chad Boat, of Phoenix, Arizona, now stands 22 markers out of the lead and seven behind Thorson in the updated series standings after earning third in his Tucker-Boat Motorsports/PristineAuction.com – K & C Drywall/Spike/Speedway Toyota.

"Track position hurt us a little bit," Boat admitted. "We were rolling there for ten laps or so and I thought we could get Spencer. I felt like we were better than Tanner, but then our tire went away, and I just had to hold on. Overall, though, it was a decent night. We learned some things last night and got better tonight, so we'll hopefully be two spots better tomorrow."

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: October 7, 2016 – Tri-City Speedway – Granite City, Illinois – Gold Crown Midget Nationals

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Brady Bacon (#76m FMR), 2. Chad Boat (#84 Tucker-Boat), 3. Spencer Bayston (#97 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 4. Ryan Greth (#4 Leshner), 5. Jerry Coons Jr. (#25 Petry-Goff), 6. Gage Walker (#7 Walker), 7. Kyle Jones (#5B Daum), 8. Davey Ray (#23 Two-Three). 2:02.44

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson (#67 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 2. Carson Macedo (#71K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 3. Zach Daum (#5D Daum), 4. Jake Neuman (#3N Neuman), 5. Tyler Thomas (Thomas #91T), 6. Johnny Murdock (#0 Zero). 2:03.28

BENIC ENTERPRISES/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Dave Darland (#11AG Gray), 2. Ryan Robinson (#71 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 3. Brad Loyet (#22 Malpocker), 4. Holly Shelton (#67K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 5. Justin Peck (#5x Peck), 6. Brayton Lynch (#1K RKR), 7. Tyler Roth (#13 Zero). 2:05.01

FIRST QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Jake Neuman, 5. Holly Shelton, 6. Alex Bright, 7. Brayton Lynch, 8. Johnny Murdock. 2:40.66

SECOND QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps) 1. Tyler Thomas, 2. Brad Loyet, 3. Chad Boat, 4. Ryan Robinson, 5. Gage Walker, 6. Jerry Coons Jr., 7. Tyler Roth. NT

THIRD QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps) 1. Kyle Jones, 2. Zach Daum, 3. Carson Macedo, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Ryan Greth, 6. Justin Peck, 7. Davey Ray. 2:45.99

FEATURE: (35 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Spencer Bayston, 3. Chad Boat, 4. Ryan Robinson, 5. Carson Macedo, 6. Zach Daum, 7. Brad Loyet, 8. Holly Shelton, 9. Jerry Coons Jr., 10. Kyle Jones, 11. Dave Darland, 12. Alex Bright, 13. Jake Neuman, 14. Tyler Thomas, 15. Justin Peck, 16. Gage Walker, 17. Brayton Lynch, 18. Davey Ray, 19. Tyler Roth, 20. Brady Bacon, 21. Johnny Murdock, 22. Ryan Greth. 9:24.36 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-35 Tanner Thorson.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-1072, 2-Tanner Thorson-1057, 3-Chad Boat-1050, 4-Brady Bacon-998, 5-Carson Macedo-927, 6-Ryan Robinson-785, 7-Holly Shelton-732, 8-Bryan Clauson-720, 9-Tyler Thomas-661, 10-Ryan Greth-539.

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: October 8, 2016 – Tri-City Speedway – Granite City, Illinois – Gold Crown Midget Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Brady Bacon (Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner)

Tanner Thorson (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Winner)

Dave Darland (Benic Enterprises/Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Alex Bright (22nd to 12th)

Jake Neuman (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Feature Finisher)

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Thorson Thwarts Macedo's Late-Race Charge To Sweep Gold Crown At Granite City

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Granite City, Illinois.....For the second consecutive year, the “Gold Crown Midget Nationals” became the “Tanner Thorson Show” at Tri-City Speedway.

The 20-year-old Minden, Nevada native held off hard-charging teammate Carson Macedo after a late-race restart to win his fifth “Gold Crown” feature in a row dating back to the 2015 event.

Thorson's unforgettable weekend also vaulted him to within arm's reach of the USAC Midget National Championship point lead behind teammate Spencer Bayston with two races remaining as he now stands in the shadows of Bayston just nine back by virtue of three consecutive victories in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

“I could see those guys on the restarts throwing sliders at each other, so I knew I just needed to hit my marks perfectly on the last one,” Thorson said. “I knew it'd happen to me eventually, but thankfully, we had enough of a buffer over Carson when we got to turn one that we were able to hold on. I love this place, though; it's so much fun to race on. The “Gold Crown” is a marquee event and to sweep it two years in a row is awesome. Big Al (Scroggins) gave me an awesome setup tonight and that makes my job easy.”

As high-point man for the night, Thorson began Saturday night's 40-lap finale from the pole and, from the outset, he immediately established himself as the driver to beat, constructing a lead of more than a second-and-a-half over his fellow championship contenders Bayston, Chad Boat and Brady Bacon who ran first through fourth in the early going.

But on lap nine, two of those contenders would see their nights take an unexpected turn for the worse.

Entering turn one side-by-side, Boat's right rear tire ramped over Bacon's left front, sending Bacon into a series of violent snap rolls into the catch fencing before coming to a rest on the track surface.

With the fence heavily damaged, extensive repairs had to be made before racing could continue. Under the lengthy red flag, Brady Bacon's FMR Racing crew thrashed feverishly to make repairs to their Beast/Toyota in time for the restart as did Boat who joined Bacon at the tail of the field when the race resumed.

With Bacon and Boat both out of the contention at the front for the meantime, it became a two-car race between Thorson and Bayston at the head of the pack.

Thorson found a comfort zone at the top of turns one and two and the bottom of turns three and four with Bayston in tow, hugging the low line all the way around the 3/8-mile dirt oval.

However, Bayston was only able to hang with Thorson for a couple of laps following the restart before Thorson began separating himself from the field once again as the race crossed the halfway point.

On the lap 24 restart following Kyle Jones' slide into the infield with a collapsed front end, the fiercest battle for position became the race for second as Macedo hit the bottom of turn one before sliding up in front of Bayston. Macedo took the position, albeit briefly, when Bayston countered and dove underneath to reclaim the spot exiting turn two.

One lap later, Macedo gave the all-out assault on Bayston one more try but saw the same result once again as Bayston answered each successive challenge that was thrown at him.

With less than ten laps remaining, Brad Loyet was a man on a mission just laps after entering the top-five from the back half of the field in Ken Malpocker's No. 22. A furious battle between the two waged on and, on the 33rd circuit, Loyet raced high into turn one alongside Bright for fourth. Loyet ran out of racetrack and out of luck as he rode his right side wheels up the concrete perimeter, somersaulting nose-to-tail a couple of times before coming to a rest on his wheels.

The ensuing restart presented another opportunity for Macedo to set up a slide job on Bayston for second. This time was a success as Macedo blasted by his teammate in turn one. Bayston once again crossed-over, cutting beneath Macedo exiting turn two, then partaking in a side-by-side drag race into turn three that was won by Macedo.

Macedo could now set his laser-focus on running down Thorson, who hadn't yet faced much of a battle at the end of the feature during the first two nights of the "Gold Crown." But Macedo was only able to trim a miniscule amount of time between he and Thorson as the laps ticked away and the odds became slimmer.

With just two laps to go, Thorson had victory just within his grasp, but the hard-charging Zach Daum, who was running fourth, tagged the outside wall with quite a force between turns one and two before coming to a stop, necessitating a yellow flag.

With Macedo right on Thorson's tail for the green-white-checkered finish, Macedo shot to the bottom entering turn one on the restart, overtaking the top spot from Thorson momentarily, but Thorson anticipated the move and crossed over, using the downhill momentum off the turn two banking to drive back by Macedo for the lead.

That proved to be Macedo's last shot as Thorson was able to thwart the attack and pull away on the final lap and a half to defeat Macedo by 0.724 seconds, followed by Bayston and a remarkable comeback by Brady Bacon who raced from the tail to grab fourth after nearly clearing the turn one fence earlier in the feature. Ryan Robinson rounded out the top-five.

Carson Macedo's second-place run in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – Mobil 1/Bullet/Speedway Toyota equaled his best career result set back in June of this season in West Memphis, Arkansas. With two races remaining, Macedo, the series' leading rookie in the standings, seeks to become just the 13th driver (and the first since Christopher Bell in 2013) to win the USAC National Midget "Rookie of the Year" award and be victorious in a feature in the same season.

"We were really fast," Macedo stated matter-of-factly. "I thought I had a shot. I was pretty thankful when that yellow came out with three (laps) to go. I threw everything I had at him and we just came up short. Overall, though, I'm happy with the weekend. We were consistent and that's big. I really like this race track and had a blast; I just wish we were up there in victory lane tonight."

Lebanon, Indiana's Spencer Bayston continues to hold onto the USAC Midget National Championship lead after his third place finish Saturday night in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – Mobil 1/Bullet/Speedway Toyota, though the gap has now shrunk to a mere nine points over the rapidly-approaching Thorson.

“Early on, I was following Tanner and trying to learn,” Bayston explained. “We didn’t lose too much ground on him there and then, once we went up top, I felt stronger. Under the red, we started to have a right rear issue and it blistered when we went back to green. I was sort of in defense mode at the end, which allowed Carson to get by. I’m happy for Tanner, though. To sweep this race two years in a row and for us to sweep the podium tonight tells you how good this team is and how hard everybody works.”

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: October 8, 2016 – Tri-City Speedway – Granite City, Illinois – Gold Crown Midget Nationals

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Ryan Robinson (#71 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 2. Tanner Thorson (#67 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 3. Jerry Coons Jr. (#25 Petry-Goff), 4. Zach Daum (#5D Daum), 5. Jake Neuman (#3N Neuman), 6. Holly Shelton (#67K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 7. Tyler Roth (#13 Zero), 8. Joey Rinne (#0 Zero). 2:02.83

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Carson Macedo (#71K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 2. Brady Bacon (#76m FMR), 3. Tyler Thomas (Thomas #91T), 4. Chad Boat (#84 Tucker-Boat), 5. Gage Walker (#7 Walker), 6. Davey Ray (#23 Two-Three), 7. Broc Hunnell (#73 HFR). 2:01.95

BENIC ENTERPRISES/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Spencer Bayston (#97 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 2. Kyle Jones (#5B Daum), 3. Alex Bright (#77 Hemler), 4. Brayton Lynch (#1K RKR), 5. Dave Darland (#11AG Gray), 6. Ryan Greth (#4 Lesh), 7. Brad Loyet (#22 Malpocker). 2:03.41

FIRST QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Ryan Greth, 4. Kyle Jones, 5. Brayton Lynch, 6. Broc Hunnell, 7. Tyler Roth. 2:34.51

SECOND QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps) 1. Ryan Robinson, 2. Davey Ray, 3. Gage Walker, 4. Brad Loyet, 5. Tyler Thomas, 6. Alex Bright, 7. Jake Neuman. 2:35.61

THIRD QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps) 1. Holly Shelton, 2. Chad Boat, 3. Spencer Bayston, 4. Carson Macedo, 5. Zach Daum, 6. Dave Darland. 2:37.03

FEATURE: (40 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Carson Macedo, 3. Spencer Bayston, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Ryan Robinson, 6. Holly Shelton, 7. Jake Neuman, 8. Alex Bright, 9. Chad Boat, 10. Tyler Thomas, 11. Gage Walker, 12. Dave Darland, 13. Brayton Lynch, 14. Davey Ray, 15. Joey Rinne, 16. Zach Daum, 17. Brad Loyet, 18. Broc Hunnell, 19. Kyle Jones, 20. Ryan Greth, 21. Tyler Roth, 22. Jerry Coons Jr. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Tanner Thorson.

****Brady Bacon flipped on lap 9 of the feature. Brad Loyet flipped on lap 33 of the feature.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Spencer Bayston-1136, 2-Tanner Thorson-1127, 3-Chad Boat-1096, 4-Brady Bacon-1059, 5-Carson Macedo-994, 6-Ryan Robinson-843, 7-Holly Shelton-787, 8-Bryan Clauson-720, 9-Tyler Thomas-704, 10-Ryan Greth-562.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: October 21, 2016 – Wayne County Speedway – Wayne City, Illinois – 4th Jason Leffler Memorial Presented by Great Clips – Co-Sanctioned by POWRi

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Ryan Robinson (Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner)

Carson Macedo (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Heat Winner)

Spencer Bayston (Benic Enterprises/Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Jake Neuman (21st to 7th)

Brayton Lynch (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Feature Finisher)

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Bacon a Beast in Jason Leffler Memorial Score at Wayne City

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Wayne City, Illinois.....Wayne County Speedway in southern Illinois is a place that's become near and dear to Brady Bacon and the FMR Racing team.

Nearly exactly one year to the day of Bacon and FMR's initial series start, the duo reached its greatest height yet Friday night – their very first USAC National Midget feature victory in the midget racing season's largest winner's payout share in North America.

Bacon, the 2014 USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car champion, sped past Chris Windom on the eighth lap and immediately pulled away, leading the final 33 laps of the 40-lap "Jason Leffler Memorial" co-sanctioned by POWRi to, ultimately, take the commanding half-straightaway victory worth \$20,000.

It was the Broken Arrow, Oklahoma driver's third career USAC National Midget feature win and his first in the series since winning the "Hut 100" at Haubstadt, Indiana's Tri-State Speedway in 2012.

"I think it's amazing how far we've come from this race last year to now," Bacon said. "We were good at this race last year, but at the beginning of this year, we had some struggles and had to fine-tune some stuff and get things rolling to catch Keith (Kunz Motorsports) and some of the faster guys. I'm impressed how fast we've been able to do it."

The team's Wayne City performance follows up a frustrating three-day weekend at the "Gold Crown Midget Nationals" in Granite City, Illinois two weeks prior in which the team ran into misfortune night-after-night despite having one of, if not the, fastest cars on the racetrack.

"I feel like we've had a car to win the last four or five races; we just haven't been able to do it," Bacon assured. "This is a good race to get rid of some of that bad luck. There was nothing we could do to prevent the things that were happening. It was frustrating, but I just didn't feel like it was anything to waste my time over. I knew we were fast, and I knew it was going to happen. Fortunately, this was the one it happened at."

For east coast-based car owner Frank Manafort, the victory is a culmination of what came together just one year ago when Bacon was hired to drive the FMR Racing/Beast/Toyota even though the two had, at that point, never even met.

"To get this win means a lot," a prideful Manafort said. "It's just so great for the whole team and for Janice (East) and (crew chief) Bob East. I'm so happy for him with it being the Jason Leffler race. And for me too! I met Brady for the first time at this race a year ago, so it's wonderful."

East was the crew chief for Leffler when he drove the famed Steve Lewis-owned "Nine Cars" – a period of time when Leffler won his second and third USAC National Midget driving titles in 1998 and 1999. Friday night at Wayne City, East was on

the wrenches again, making the calls that worked in Brady's favor to earn the victory in the event honoring Leffler whom East won 12 races with between 1998 and 2000

"I was at Bob (East's) shop," Bacon recalled. "He told me that when he and Jason went to 16th Street Speedway, they crashed every time, or something broke every time they went there. But, when it paid \$20,000 to win the "Summer Sizzle" at 16th Street (in 1999), they won. That's cool that it kind of happened the same way tonight at the 'Jason Leffler Memorial.'"

At the start, recent USAC Indiana Midget Kokomo Speedway feature winner Chris Windom got the jump from the pole position as Bacon settled into second from the outside of the front row.

Bacon didn't spend too much time doddling in second as he challenged and, eventually, overtook Windom with an outside pass at the exit of turn four on the fifth lap to propel him into the lead.

However, with the stoppage of Rico Abreu's machine in between turns three and four, the pass was negated, and the running order would revert to the previous lap.

On the ensuing restart, Bacon continued to do his work a lane higher than Windom who stayed glued to the bottom and, on lap 8, beat Windom on the outside into turn one to grab the lead. With a clear track in front of him, Bacon shot away to a half-straightaway advantage over Windom on the following laps.

With the tight confines of the one-eighth-mile circuit and 28 feature starters, space was a limited quantity, which, in most cases, would mean that Bacon would have to contend with lapped traffic throughout the event.

However, as opposed to their terrible luck at Granite City, every break seemed to work in Bacon's advantage at Wayne City. Each time Bacon reached the tail end of the field with the possibility of getting hung up traffic looming over him, the caution came out for an incident somewhere else on the track, which bunched up the field and provided Bacon a clear racetrack when action resumed and the ensuing laps following each restart.

It may not have mattered, though, as Bacon was clearly the class of the field Friday night with only Tanner Thorson offering a brief challenge on a restart at the halfway point. Thorson was able to stay nose-to-tail with Bacon midway through the back straightaway on lap 21 before Bacon once again broke away, separating himself from Thorson by a half-straight within a handful of laps.

After a bevy of late-race cautions put a clamp on the action before it could even resume, Bacon answered the bell each and every time racing got back underway, holding off all challengers on each restart and never turning a wheel wrong during the entirety of his 40-lap run to take the checkered flag in the 4th annual race honoring the life of Leffler, the four time USAC National champion.

Thorson finished in the runner-up spot followed by Carson Macedo, Windom and Andrew Felker.

Although Thorson's three-race winning streak was snapped, his second-place finish in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota provided him enough points to overtake eighth place finisher Spencer Bayston for the lead in the USAC National Midget standings where he now stands nine points in front heading into the season's final race – the 76th running of the "Turkey Night Grand Prix" at Ventura (Calif.) Raceway on Thanksgiving night, November 24.

"I haven't been paying attention to the points as much as everyone probably thinks I am," Minden, Nevada's Thorson admitted. "I've been going out and trying to win and run the best I can to give this team a great finish. We have really good people behind us, and they deserve this championship and these wins more than I do. I've just been trying to give everyone on this team a good run every time I go out and it's been working for us."

Leading series rookie contender Carson Macedo of Lemoore, Calif. brought home a third-place result in his first visit to Wayne City Friday night in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD – Tarlton & Son/Bullet/Speedway Toyota.

“Thank you to the Keith Kunz Motorsports team, Big Al (Scroggins), Keith and everybody who works hard at the shop,” a thankful Macedo said. “The car ran really well tonight and having a great crew really makes my job easy.”

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: October 21, 2016 – Wayne County Speedway – Wayne City, Illinois – 4th Jason Leffler Memorial Presented by Great Clips – Co-Sanctioned by POWRI

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tanner Thorson (#67 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 2. Gage Walker (#7 Walker), 3. Andrew Felker (#11A Felker), 4. Dave Darland (#11AG Gray), 5. Alex Bright (#77 Hemler), 6. J.B. Gilbert (#83 Beasley), 7. Jason McDougal (#73 Factor 1), 8. Cole Fehr (#15 Live Loud). 1:53.92

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tucker Klaasmeyer (#27 Klaasmeyer), 2. Carson Macedo (#71K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 3. Riley Kreisel (#93K DKR), 4. Brayton Lynch (#1K RKR), 5. Chad Boat (#84 Tucker-Boat), 6. Andy Malpocker (#22 Malpocker), 7. Austin Brown (#7B KBR). NT

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Chris Windom (#5 Baldwin), 2. Shane Cottle (#71x Love), 3. Grady Chandler (#72 Fenton), 4. Ryan Robinson (#71 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 5. Matt Ponder (#5H Hoppe), 6. Tyler Thomas (#91T Thomas), 7. Zach Daum (#5D Daum). NT

FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Brady Bacon (#76m FMR), 2. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (#39 Clauson Marshall), 3. Rico Abreu (#97K Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 4. Chase Briscoe (#38 Gardner), 5. Isaac Chapple (#52c Chapple), 6. Ariel Biggs (#5B Daum), 7. Jake Neuman (#3N Neuman). NT

FIFTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Justin Peck (#8K Hard Eight), 2. Damion Gardner (#71G Klatt), 3. Colten Cottle (#5c Cottle), 4. Chett Gehrke (#37 Felker), 5. Ryan Greth (#4 Leshner), 6. Brad Loyet (#05 Loyet), 7. Daniel Robinson (#57D McCreery). NT

SIXTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Jonathan Beason (#8J Hard Eight), 2. Spencer Bayston (#97 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 3. Daniel Adler (#50 Adler), 4. Jerry Coons Jr. (#25 Petry-Goff), 5. Justin Grant (#35 Gardner), 6. Holly Shelton (#67K (Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 7. Ace McCarthy (#28 Hard Eight). 1:55.47

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST QUALIFIER: (12 laps) 1. Carson Macedo, 2. Andrew Felker, 3. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 4. Daniel Adler, 5. Jerry Coons Jr., 6. Grady Chandler, 7. Shane Cottle, 8. Ryan Greth, 9. Andy Malpocker, 10. Brad Loyet, 11. Ace McCarthy. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND QUALIFIER: (12 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Rico Abreu, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Alex Bright, 5. Justin Peck, 6. Spencer Bayston, 7. J.B. Gilbert, 8. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 9. Jake Neuman, 10. Ariel Biggs, 11. Zach Daum. NT

BENIC ENTERPRISES THIRD QUALIFIER: (12 laps) 1. Dave Darland, 2. Colten Cottle, 3. Chris Windom, 4. Jonathan Beason, 5. Gage Walker, 6. Chase Briscoe, 7. Holly Shelton, 8. Justin Grant, 9. Isaac Chapple, 10. Cole Fehr, 11. Daniel Robinson. 2:19.95

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH QUALIFIER: (12 laps) 1. Ryan Robinson, 2. Chett Gehrke, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Brayton Lynch, 5. Damion Gardner, 6. Jason McDougal, 7. Tyler Thomas, 8. Riley Kreisel, 9. Matt Ponder, 10. Austin Brown. 2:19.19

C-MAIN: (12 laps) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Andy Malpocker, 3. Tyler Thomas, 4. Isaac Chapple, 5. Ariel Biggs, 6. Cole Fehr, 7. Jake Neuman. NT

SEMI: (15 laps) 1. Justin Peck, 2. Gage Walker, 3. Grady Chandler, 4. Jerry Coons Jr., 5. Jason McDougal, 6. Riley Kreisel, 7. Holly Shelton, 8. Damion Gardner, 9. Justin Grant, 10. Chase Briscoe, 11. Andy Malpocker, 12. J.B. Gilbert, 13. Tyler Thomas, 14. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 15. Brayton Lynch, 16. Ryan Greth, 17. Daniel Adler, 18. Isaac Chapple. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Carson Macedo, 4. Chris Windom, 5. Andrew Felker, 6. Alex Bright, 7. Chett Gehrke, 8. Spencer Bayston, 9. Dave Darland, 10. Jerry Coons Jr., 11. Shane Cottle, 12. Justin Peck, 13. Grady Chandler, 14. Jonathan Beason, 15. Chad Boat, 16. Riley Kreisel, 17. Ryan Robinson, 18. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 19. Andy Malpocker, 20. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 21. Jake Neuman, 22. Brayton Lynch, 23. Damion Gardner, 24. Colten Cottle, 25. Holly Shelton, 26. Jason McDougal, 27. Rico Abreu, 28. Gage Walker. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-7 Chris Windom, Laps 8-40 Brady Bacon.

****Ryan Robinson flipped during the third heat. Jake Neuman flipped during the C-Main. Ryan Greth flipped during the semi.**

USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-1194, 2-Spencer Bayston-1185, 3-Chad Boat & Brady Bacon-1129, 5-Carson Macedo-1058, 6-Ryan Robinson-872, 7-Holly Shelton-810, 8-Bryan Clauson-720, 9-Tyler Thomas-714, 10-Ryan Greth-572.

NEXT USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: November 24, 2016 – Ventura Raceway – Ventura, California – 76th Turkey Night Grand Prix

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Carson Macedo (Simpson Race Products First Qualifier Winner)

Chad Boat (Competition Suspension, Inc. (CSI) Second Qualifier Winner)

Dave Darland (Benic Enterprises Third Qualifier Winner)

Ryan Robinson (Indy Race Parts Fourth Qualifier Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER: Alex Bright (16th to 6th)

Grady Chandler (Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Feature Finisher)

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Larson Carves Up Turkey Night Win #2; Thorson Tastes First USAC Midget Title

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Ventura, California.....On the rare occasion that Kyle Larson gets the chance to take the wheel of a midget these days, he certainly makes each opportunity count.

On Thursday night in the centerpiece of the USAC National and Western States Midget calendar, Larson cooked up one of his patented performances, holding off a furious late-race rally from early leader Brady Bacon to win his second career “Turkey Night Grand Prix” in the 76th running of the prestigious event at California’s Ventura Raceway.

Larson, of Elk Grove, Calif., started from the outside of the front row in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/Bullet/Speedway Toyota alongside Bacon. Larson fought his way to the lead on lap 21 with a turn two outside pass of Bacon. Larson then navigated through numerous bouts with lapped traffic as Bacon rapidly closed to mount a serious challenge on Larson for the victory in the final laps. Larson weathered the storm and sped off to grab the 0.303 second victory over Bacon, Carson Macedo, Rico Abreu and Damion Gardner.

Larson became the 18th driver to win "Turkey Night" twice during his career and also joins Mel Kenyon, Ron Shuman, Stan Fox, Billy Boat and Dave Darland as one of six drivers to claim a "Turkey Night" victory at two different tracks after also winning in 2012 at Perris (Calif.) Auto Speedway.

"I had a good qualifying run and started second," Larson explains. "I was able to get by Brady (Bacon) fairly early and got through traffic. I tried the bottom early on, but it still felt like the top was better, so I went back to the top. I could see he was closing in on me a little bit more on the bottom and I knew I just had to get around that one lapper. I was running the top and could see Brady running to my inside. I knew eventually I'd have to get down to the bottom and I knew if I could clear him, I could run a better pace around the bottom. As soon as I cleared the lapper, I got down just in time to hold onto the lead. Once I cleared him, I ran the bottom even though I still went to the top a couple times in (turns) three and four and Brady was still right there. The white flag was not too far after that. A 98-lap race is a long time, but it felt pretty short for me."

A successful NASCAR Cup season that saw Larson score his first career series victory at Michigan in August concluded with the 14th win of his USAC National Midget career on a playground that he doesn't get to visit as much any longer but cherishes every opportunity he gets.

"I enjoy running on the dirt every chance I get since I don't get to do it a whole lot anymore," Larson admits. Anytime I can do it, run up front and get wins, it's a lot of fun. I can't wait for the rest of the offseason, so I can run some more stuff on the dirt and get some more wins."

A melting pot of 52 midget drivers from coast-to-coast filled the pit area at Ventura in the event's largest car count since Larson's first victory in 2012.

The event was whittled to 29 for the 98-lapper at the one-fifth-mile dirt oval by the beach, but the action was quickly halted with Gage Walker's flip on the first corner of the first lap. He walked away unscathed.

Following the complete restart, Bacon and the FMR Racing/Beast/Toyota backed up the speed shown by recording the fastest laps in two of the three sessions in Wednesday night's hot laps and Thursday's ProSource/Woodland Auto Display fastest qualifier, proving to be the strongest combination early on after rocketing away to a half-straightaway lead.

By the 13th lap, Bacon was steadfast on the bottom as Larson made waves up on the cushion. After slipstreaming through Bacon's wake, Larson charges right to the tail of the leader. On lap 21, Larson ripped around the outside of Bacon in turn two for the race lead. As the pair entered turn three, Larson slanted down from the top, cutting in front of the nose of Bacon just before the apex of the turn to take the bottom line, and the race lead, away just prior to meeting the tail-end of lapped traffic.

Meanwhile, the table was set for a heated battle for the USAC National Midget title. Separated by a mere nine markers coming into "Turkey Night," point leader Tanner Thorson ran eighth and teammate Spencer Bayston 11th just prior to the midway point.

On lap 42, Bayston and Frankie Guerrini were involved in a turn four tangle. The move was disastrous for Bayston as he lost pivotal track position that relegated him to the 23rd position for the restart.

Larson appeared to establish himself in a class of his own as he built his very own half-straightaway lead. However, multiple yellow flag periods would evaporate those leads. With 26 laps to go, Larson and Bacon, running one-two, were separated by the lapped car of Holly Shelton on the restart. It would take a couple of laps before Bacon would manage to slip by Shelton, using a turn one slide job on lap 74 to put Larson back within a clear view of out of the Broken Arrow, Oklahoma's helmet visor.

Larson went topside while Bacon remained on the chalk-lined bottom berm as the two entered the green room of lapped traffic. Bacon steadily reeled in Larson, but swiftly as Larson went high, low, anywhere he could go to find daylight.

With seven laps remaining, Bacon edged ahead of Larson on the bottom for the lead, briefly, off turn two. Yet, Larson found an avenue back to the front moments later by sneaking back down to the bottom in front of the lapped car of Nick Chivello to create separation between he and second-running Bacon.

With three laps remaining, Larson and Bacon swapped lines with Larson now down low and Bacon up top. Bacon appeared to have found the top to his liking soon after but was unable to get off the corners as strongly as Larson who commandeered the point as Bacon lost precious ground.

Larson withstood a heady drive by Bacon, the two-time USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car champ, to seal the deal in the final laps for his second USAC National Midget win of the year in just his third start.

Minden, Nevada's Thorson would leave the "Turkey Night Grand Prix" a happy man for the second straight Thanksgiving night after winning last season's diamond jubilee. By virtue of his sixth-place finish in his Keith Kunz - Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/TRD - JBL Audio/Bullet/Speedway Toyota in Thursday night's feature, the 20-year-old Thorson was crowned as 2016 USAC National Midget champion.

"I went into this race set on winning," Thorson assured. "I didn't think about points all year until this race, so I wasn't trying to make it a big deal to myself because it can get you worked up and it doesn't allow you to perform your best. I just went out there to win the race."

Thorson's teammate and fellow championship combatant Bayston recovered from a spin just before halfway to finish ninth after restarting from the tail. It was an impressive feat in its own right to respond to adversity, but it would not warrant enough points for Bayston to surpass Thorson who became the first Nevada native to claim the series title.

"I saw Spencer get tangled up and it was really unfortunate," Thorson recalls. "You never want to see a teammate go out like that. It was unfortunate for him, but it worked in our favor. This whole team and our sponsors are what make this deal what it is. We have two of the best in the business in Keith (Kunz) and Big Al (Scroggins) who always put awesome cars underneath us."

"I came really close to getting the job done last year, but we came up a little bit short," Thorson adds. "This year, we were able to get it done even though we didn't start the season the way we wanted. I remember we were leading the first race during 'USAC Indiana Midget Week' at Montpelier and popped a right rear tire. A few races later, we had an issue at 'The Ditch' (West Memphis, Ark.) and all that led to a not-so-great stretch. I didn't think that we were going to be able to get the job done after those issues. Suddenly, though, we just started clicking. Every time I went out onto the track, I had an awesome car which allowed me to win a lot of races this year. That's really the only thing that saved me this year. We got wins and stayed consistent after 'Midget Week' and it allowed us to get the job done. It's pretty incredible to be the champion. I'm speechless!"

Thirteenth-place finisher Ronnie Gardner would be the first to tell you that his 'Turkey Night' didn't go as well as he had hoped, but despite that one aberration, it was yet another banner season for the Corona, California native who became the first driver in the history of the USAC Western States Midget series to win four consecutive series championships in his Six8 Motorsports/Baldozier Racing - Esslinger Engineering/Stewart/Esslinger.

“My mom and Sleepy Tripp’s wife are really good friends,” Gardner explains. “I grew up idolizing Sleepy with what he accomplished on the west coast and across the United States in a midget. It’s a pretty big deal to actually beat one of his records.”

“I was a little disappointed,” Gardner laments about Thursday night’s race. “I thought we’d stack up a little better, but we kind of went outside the box tonight just trying to be better than we were, but we missed a little bit. I messed up qualifying and that put us mid-pack at the start and that hurt us in the race. Starting from the middle of the field against this competition makes it hard to get up to the front.”

USAC NATIONAL & WESTERN STATES MIDGET CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: November 24, 2016 – Ventura Raceway – Ventura, California – 76th Turkey Night Grand Prix

PROSOURCE/WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 76m, FMR-12.277; 2. Kyle Larson, 71w, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.356; 3. Carson Macedo, 71K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.378; 4. Shane Golobic, 17w, Wood-12.387; 5. Michael Faccinto, 35F, MF-12.425; 6. Damion Gardner, 4K, Klatt-12.458; 7. Gage Walker, 7, Walker-12.460; 8. Rico Abreu, 97K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.476; 9. Cory Elliott, 11E, Elliott-12.543; 10. Tanner Thorson, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.575; 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 73T, Ford-12.592; 12. Spencer Bayston, 97, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.595; 13. Ryan Bernal, 73, Ford-12.602; 14. Ronnie Gardner, 68, Six8-12.608; 15. Jake Swanson, 17, Swanson-12.614; 16. Colton Hardy, 4H, Leshner-12.624; 17. Michael Pickens, 25p, Rodela-12.639; 18. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 27, Klaasmeyer-12.654; 19. Tyler Nelson, 47, Mason-12.662; 20. Chad Boat, 84, Tucker/Boat-12.682; 21. Courtney Crone, 25, Rodela-12.712; 22. Jake Hagopian, 14, Hagopian-12.715; 23. Cory Kruseman, 21K, Kruseman-12.721; 24. David Prickett, 122Q, Nichols/Neverlift-12.733; 25. Ryan Greth, 4, Leshner-12.746; 26. Danny Ebberts, 5, Van Dyne-12.754; 27. Holly Shelton, 67K, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.764; 28. Terry Nichols, 1p, Nichols-12.786; 29. Katlynn Leer, 77K, Leer-12.819; 30. Randi Pankratz, 8, Pankratz-12.827; 31. Nick Chivello, 17K, Morris-12.833; 32. Robert Dalby, 4D, Dalby-12.836; 33. Robby Josett, 2, Josett-12.851; 34. Ryan Robinson, 71, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.852; 35. R.J. Johnson, 51, Martin-12.879; 36. Austin Brown, 7B, KBR-12.887; 37. Shon Deskins, 20, Deskins-12.960; 38. Maria Cofer, 57, Cofer-12.984; 39. Austen Figueroa, 49JR, Bach-13.024; 40. Tyler Seavey, 88, Arata-13.059; 41. Chris Ennis, 288, Ennis-13.061; 42. Kyle Smith, 55, Smith-13.071; 43. Zac Taylor, 12K, Kruseman-13.082; 44. Frankie Guerrini, 63, Guerrini-13.082; 45. Nate Wait, 35w, MF-13.097; 46. Tyler Dolacki, 18, Dolacki-13.110; 47. Dylan Ito, 73F, Ford-13.199; 48. Tim Barber, 3T, Finkenbinder-13.233; 49. Tony Everhart, 5T, Everhart-13.319; 50. Kirk Kubik, 32, Kubik-14.223; 51. Bryan Drollinger, 71D, Drollinger-NT; 52. Troy Rutherford, 73x, Ford-NT.

FIRST QUALIFYING RACE: (12 laps) 1. Ryan Bernal, 2. Michael Pickens, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Courtney Crone, 5. Cory Kruseman, 6. Ryan Greth, 7. Nick Chivello, 8. Robby Josett, 9. Holly Shelton, 10. Chase Johnson, 11. Tyler Nelson, 12. Shon Deskins, 13. Katlynn Leer, 14. Zac Taylor, 15. Dylan Ito, 16. Austen Figueroa, 17. Chris Ennis, 18. Tony Everhart, 19. Nate Wait. NT

SECOND QUALIFYING RACE: (12 laps) 1. Chad Boat, 2. Ronnie Gardner, 3. Ryan Robinson, 4. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 5. Robert Dalby, 6. David Prickett, 7. Colton Hardy, 8. Tyler Dolacki, 9. Frankie Guerrini, 10. Tim Barber, 11. Kyle Smith, 12. Danny Ebberts, 13. Randi Pankratz, 14. Terry Nichols, 15. Austin Brown, 16. Tyler Seavey, 17. Jake Hagopian, 18. Maria Cofer. NT

SEMI: (15 laps) 1. Robby Josett, 2. Cory Kruseman, 3. Frankie Guerrini, 4. Nick Chivello, 5. Robert Dalby, 6. Tyler Dolacki, 7. Tyler Nelson, 8. Kyle Smith, 9. Danny Ebberts, 10. Shon Deskins, 11. Tim Barber, 12. Chase Johnson, 13. Colton Hardy, 14. David Prickett, 15. Holly Shelton, 16. Ryan Greth. NT

LIGHT UP THE WORLD BEVERAGES FEATURE: (98 laps) 1. Kyle Larson, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Carson Macedo, 4. Rico Abreu, 5. Damion Gardner, 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Shane Golobic, 8. Jake Swanson, 9. Spencer Bayston, 10. Cory Elliott, 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 12. Ryan Bernal, 13. Ronnie Gardner, 14. Holly Shelton, 15. Chad Boat, 16. Ryan Robinson, 17. Tucker Klaasmeyer, 18. Robert Dalby, 19. Maria Cofer, 20. Robby Josett, 21. Tyler Dolacki, 22. Courtney Crone, 23. Nick Chivello,

24. Frankie Guerrini, 25. Michael Faccinto, 26. Michael Pickens, 27. Randi Pankratz, 28. Cory Kruseman, 29. Gage Walker.
NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-20 Brady Bacon, Laps 21-98 Kyle Larson.

****Chris Ennis flipped during the first qualifying race. Ryan Greth flipped during the second qualifying race. Colton Hardy flipped during the second qualifying race. Gage Walker flipped on lap 1 of the feature.**

FINAL USAC MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-1249, 2-Spencer Bayston-1231, 3-Brady Bacon-1202, 4-Chad Boat-1162, 5-Carson Macedo-1126, 6-Ryan Robinson-1003, 7-Holly Shelton-847, 8-Bryan Clauson-720, 9-Tyler Thomas-714, 10-Ryan Greth-582.

FINAL USAC WESTERN STATES MIDGET CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Ronnie Gardner-1042, 2-Michael Faccinto-873, 3-Cory Elliott-835, 4-Frankie Guerrini-772, 5-Courtney Crone-713, 6-Maria Cofer-610, 7-Robert Dalby-609, 8-Randi Pankratz-596, 9-Cody Swanson-564, 10-Tyler Dolacki-498.

NEXT USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE: December 17, 2016 – Southern Illinois Center – Du Quoin, Illinois – Junior Knepper 55

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS

Brady Bacon (ProSource/Woodland Auto Display/Jason Leffler Memorial Fast Qualifier)

Kyle Larson (Light Up the World Beverages Feature Winner)

KSE RACING PRODUCTS/KEIZER WHEELS/ROD END SUPPLY HARD CHARGER: Jake Swanson (17th to 8th)

DON BASILE “ROOKIE OF THE RACE:” Carson Macedo (3rd)

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Courtney Closes 2016 with Indoor Domination at the Junior Knepper 55

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Du Quoin, Illinois.....Six years ago, Tyler Courtney was a newcomer to the midget racing scene when he made his debut at the first full midget race ever held at the Southern Illinois Center.

Saturday, on the very same ground, Courtney became a winner at the place where it all began, on the one-sixth-mile dirt bullring indoors at the “Junior Knepper 55” as the Indianapolis, Indiana native raced to victory in the second annual USAC Midget Special Event honoring the late, successful USAC car owner.

Courtney led the opening lap before giving way to Justin Allgaier, then clawed his way back to the front on the eighth lap to reclaim a lead that he wouldn’t relinquish to take his first career Midget win under the USAC banner.

The 22-year-old Courtney became the third consecutive driver to pilot a Tim Clauson/Tyler Ransbottom-wrenched car to victory lane at the Southern Illinois Center following fellow teammates Ricky Stenhouse Jr.’s “Knepper” triumph one year ago and Shane Golobic’s “Shamrock Classic” win this past Spring.

It was an emotional win for Courtney as his racing career has now gone full-circle just as his career is beginning to blossom. And, on this night, running the letters BC behind the No. 7 on his tail tank in honor of 2011 Southern Illinois Center Midget victor Bryan Clauson.

“This is where I ran my first real midget race and it was for Bryan and Tim (Clauson) and their whole family,” Courtney recalled. “To come back here and get a win with this new team with all these guys, it’s pretty special. They’ve been a part of my career since it’s really gotten going and I can’t thank them enough for the opportunity.”

“Tim definitely knows how to make a racecar go,” Courtney continued. “And he’s got two of the best guys to work on them in the shop. They’ve all done a heck of a job over the last month and a half getting these cars ready to go. To put two cars on the podium tonight is a statement. It’s a pretty good start to something that’s going to be special.”

The weather outside was frightful as roads leading to the Southern Illinois Center Saturday night were wrought with slippery surfaces due to the harsh winter conditions. Courtney’s road to victory at the “Junior Knepper 55,” on the other hand, was paved with pay dirt.

Courtney spurted out to the lead on the opening lap, yet the run up front was short-lived as he pushed up at the exit of turn four on the second lap, allowing Allgaier to slip by on the bottom.

Allgaier, the 2008 ARCA champ, took control in the early stages of the 55-lapper, but he too drifted high, this time at the entrance of the first turn, as Courtney surged ahead on the bottom to retake the point on lap eight. From there on, Courtney was in total control as he extended his lead to a full-straightaway on a lengthy 28-lap green flag run through the middle stages that saw him work lapped traffic to his advantage as he pointed his car high, low, everywhere it could go, to cast all doubts aside as to who the class of the field on this night was.

Chase Briscoe, the 2016 ARCA champ, posed a threat as he worked his way from sixth into a challenge for second until a broken right front shock sidelined the Mitchell, Indiana driver with 17 laps remaining.

Meanwhile, Golobic, the most recent USAC Midget winner at the Southern Illinois Center, dashed his way up to second in the late stages, but was separated by a slew of lapped cars between he and leader Courtney that threw a wrench in his quest to mount a serious challenge for the win.

On a restart with six to go, Courtney once again shot away to a hefty advantage to put this one to rest as he sped away to take a 2.649-second victory over Golobic, Chris L. Andrews, Allgaier and Chad Wheeler.

It was Courtney’s second USAC-sanctioned feature victory of the year in his first voyage in the Clauson Marshall Racing/TOPP Industries – B & H Contractors/Spike/Stanton SR-11. In July’s “Indiana Sprint Week” round at Gas City I-69 Speedway, Courtney made a historic comeback from the tail position (24th) to win after an opening lap spin. Even though lapped traffic on the tight confines of the SIC can wreak havoc for some, that wasn’t the case for Courtney as he made it look just a tad easier on Saturday night.

“I kind of liked getting into lapped traffic, especially there toward the middle of the race,” Courtney acknowledged. “I knew I had quite a bit of a cushion between me and the second-place car. I wouldn’t have minded if it stayed green there, but it was also nice to get a break there and kind of reset and adjust on the car a little bit. This one’s going to mean a lot for a long time.”

Fremont, California’s Golobic made a valiant charge toward the front at the end, but a repeat victory wasn’t in the cards on Saturday night as he earned a solid second-place finish behind his teammate in his Clauson Marshall Racing/Elk Grove Ford – B & H Contractors/Spike/Stanton SR-11.

“Tyler (Courtney) was on an island all by himself out there up front,” Golobic admits. “I would’ve loved to have had a late race restart to see if we might’ve had anything for him. We got pretty good there at the end and the car came alive on the

bottom. I'm happy for this team. To come here with a bunch of brand new racecars and leave with a one-two finish isn't too bad."

Tulsa, Oklahoma native Chris L. Andrews, who's garnered extensive accolades for his Micro Sprint prowess over the years, took an impressive third-place finish in his Jimmy Miller-owned, R & B Powder Coating – Bell Helmets/Boss/Esslinger.

"If you would've told me going into tonight that we were going to have a night like we did, I would've said there's no way possible," Andrews exclaimed. "Jim and Jimmy Miller put me in the car two weeks ago. I sat in the car last night for the first time. To do what we did was amazing and it's one of those nights we'll always cherish and remember."

USAC MIDGET SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: December 17, 2016 – Southern Illinois Center – Du Quoin, Illinois – Junior Knepper 55

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Shane Golobic (#17w Clauson Marshall), 2. Tyler Courtney (#7BC Clauson Marshall), 3. Justin Peck (#7K Irwin) 4. Cory Kruseman (#21K Kruseman), 5. Riley Kreisel (#93K DKR), 6. Ryan Bernal (#87 Saldana), 7. Chris Urish (#77u Casson), 8. Tyler Robbins (#35T Robbins). NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Chris L. Andrews (#95 Miller), 2. Justin Allgaier (#7A Allgaier), 3. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (#17BC Clauson Marshall), 4. Thomas Meseraull (#66 Amati), 5. Wesley Smith (#44 WSR), 6. Broc Hunnell (#73 HFR), 7. Cody Beard (#7B Beard), 8. Matt Veatch (#56v Fifty6x). 1:51.20

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tony Roney (#1T Roney), 2. Johnathon Henry (#16K Kruseman), 3. Bricen James (#45x Herrera), 4. Joey Saldana (#17 Saldana), 5. Ryan Fleming (#11L Taylor), 6. Nick Drake (#55 Cline), 7. Chad Wheeler (#88w Team Eights), 8. Ryan Jamison (#51J Jamison). NT

FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tim Siner (#15 Siner-Cylix), 2. Chase Briscoe (#5 Briscoe), 3. Jason Johnson (#41 Clauson Marshall), 4. Kyle Schuett (#9K Schuett), 5. Daniel Adler (#50 Adler), 6. Alex Schriever (#25 Peterson), 7. David Hair (#29 Hair), 8. Hunter Lane (#0A Zero). NT

FIFTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Mark Chisholm (#56x Fifty6x), 2. Dylan Peterson (#25p Peterson), 3. Terry Babb (#88 Babb), 4. Tyler Van Toll (#30T Van Toll), 5. Daniel Robinson (#57D McCreery), 6. Aaron Leffel (#11T Taylor), 7. Travis Pence (#01 Pence), 8. Jesse Colwell (#2 Zero). 1:52.91

SIXTH HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Tony Bruce Jr., (#18 Team Eights), 2. Matt Westfall (#14w Bordner), 3. Danny Meyer (#86J Bergfield), 4. Tyler Nelson (#91 Harris), 5. Kyle O'Gara (#68 SFHR), 6. Colten Cottle (#5c Cottle), 7. Chris Baue (#35 Baue). NT

FIRST QUALIFIER: (12 laps) 1. Chase Johnson, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Chase Briscoe, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Tyler Van Toll, 6. Mark Chisholm, 7. Kyle O'Gara, 8. Ryan Fleming, 9. Matt Veatch, 10. Tyler Nelson, 11. Alex Schriever, 12. Cody Beard. NT

SECOND QUALIFIER: (12 laps) 1. Tyler Courtney, 2. Riley Kreisel, 3. Shane Golobic, 4. Bricen James, 5. Chad Wheeler, 6. Joey Saldana, 7. Dylan Peterson, 8. Broc Hunnell, 9. Tony Roney, 10. Chris Urish, 11. Derek Kral (#11 Zero). NT

THIRD QUALIFIER: (12 laps) 1. Justin Allgaier, 2. Chris L. Andrews, 3. Tony Bruce Jr., 4. Nick Drake, 5. Wesley Smith, 6. Kyle Schuett, 7. Danny Meyer, 8. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. NT

FOURTH QUALIFIER: (12 laps) 1. Terry Babb, 2. Cory Kruseman, 3. Daniel Adler, 4. Tim Siner, 5. Chris Baue, 6. Justin Peck, 7. Colten Cottle, 8. Johnathon Henry, 9. Daniel Robinson, 10. Ryan Jamison, 11. Aaron Leffel. NT

FIRST SEMI: (15 laps) 1. Chad Wheeler, 2. Bricen James, 3. Nick Drake, 4. Daniel Adler, 5. Johnathon Henry, 6. Ryan Fleming, 7. Alex Schriever, 8. Chris Urish, 9. Daniel Robinson, 10. Aaron Leffel, 11. Danny Meyer, 12. Kyle Schuett, 13. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 14. Tony Roney, 15. Matt Veatch. NT

SECOND SEMI: (15 laps) 1. Riley Kreisel, 2. Wesley Smith, 3. Justin Peck, 4. Mark Chisholm, 5. Joey Saldana, 6. Ryan Jamison, 7. Tyler Nelson, 8. Dylan Peterson, 9. Kyle O’Gara, 10. Broc Hunnell, 11. Chris Baue, 12. Colten Cottle, 13. Tyler Van Toll. NT

FEATURE: (55 laps) 1. Tyler Courtney, 2. Shane Golobic, 3. Chris L. Andrews, 4. Justin Allgaier, 5. Chad Wheeler, 6. Tony Bruce Jr., 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Thomas Meseraull, 9. Joey Saldana, 10. Cory Kruseman, 11. Terry Babb, 12. Tim Siner, 13. Justin Peck, 14. Nick Drake, 15. Riley Kreisel, 16. Bricen James, 17. Chase Briscoe, 18. Mark Chisholm, 19. Wesley Smith, 20. Daniel Adler, 21. Jason Johnson. NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Tyler Courtney, Laps 2-7 Justin Allgaier, Laps 8-55 Tyler Courtney.

**Cody Beard flipped during the first qualifying race. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. flipped during the first semi.

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2016 USAC NATIONAL MIDGET STATISTICS:

Driver Champion: Tanner Thorson

Entrant Champion: Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #67

Rookie of the Year: Carson Macedo

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2016 USAC NATIONAL MIDGET SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Mar 19: &&& Du Quoin, Illinois - Southern Illinois Center

WINNER: Shane Golobic

Apr 8: Kokomo, Indiana - Kokomo Speedway

WINNER: Rained Out

Apr 9: Kokomo, Indiana - Kokomo Speedway

WINNER: Rained Out

May 31: @@@ Montpelier, Indiana - Montpelier Motor Speedway

WINNER: Kyle Larson

Jun 1: @@@ Gas City, Indiana - Gas City I-69 Speedway

WINNER: Spencer Bayston

Jun 2: @@@ Putnamville, Indiana - Lincoln Park Speedway

WINNER: Tanner Thorson

Jun 3: @@@ Bloomington, Indiana - Bloomington Speedway

WINNER: Christopher Bell

Jun 4: @@@ Lawrenceburg, Indiana - Lawrenceburg Speedway

WINNER: Rained Out

Jun 5: @@@ Kokomo, Indiana - Kokomo Speedway

WINNER: Rico Abreu

Jun 17: West Memphis, Arkansas - Riverside International Speedway

WINNER: Tanner Thorson

Jun 18: West Memphis, Arkansas - Riverside International Speedway

WINNER: Bryan Clauson

Aug 2: Fairbury, Nebraska – Jefferson County Speedway

WINNER: Chad Boat

Aug 3: Beloit, Kansas - Solomon Valley Raceway

WINNER: Bryan Clauson

Aug 5: Belleville, Kansas - Belleville High Banks

WINNER: Chad Boat

Aug 6: Belleville, Kansas - Belleville High Banks

WINNER: Chad Boat

Aug 14: *** York Haven, Pennsylvania - Susquehanna Speedway

WINNER: Rained Out

Aug 15: *** Spring Run, Pennsylvania - Path Valley Speedway Park

WINNER: Rained Out

Aug 16: *** Newmanstown, Pennsylvania - Lanco's Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway

WINNER: Tanner Thorson

Aug 17: *** Abbottstown, Pennsylvania - Lincoln Speedway

WINNER: Rained Out

Sep 24: Rossburg, Ohio - Eldora Speedway

WINNER: Rico Abreu

Oct 6: Granite City, Illinois - Tri-City Speedway

WINNER: Tanner Thorson

Oct 7: Granite City, Illinois - Tri-City Speedway

WINNER: Tanner Thorson

Oct 8: Granite City, Illinois - Tri-City Speedway

WINNER: Tanner Thorson

Oct 20: %%% Wayne City, Illinois - Wayne County Speedway

WINNER: Brady Bacon

Nov 24: ### Ventura, California - Ventura Raceway

WINNER: Kyle Larson

Races noted with &&& represent an indoor race.

Races noted with @@@ represent USAC Indiana Midget Week.

Races noted with *** represent a Co-Sanctioned race with ARDC.

Races noted with %%% represent a co-sanctioned race with POWRi.

Races noted with ### represent a Co-Sanctioned race with the USAC Western Midget Championship.

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2016 USAC NATIONAL MIDGET STATISTICS

FEATURE WINS:

6-Tanner Thorson (Lincoln Park Speedway on June 2, Riverside International Speedway on June 17, Lanco's Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway on Aug. 16, Tri-City Speedway on Oct. 6, Tri-City Speedway on Oct. 7 & Tri-City Speedway on Oct. 8)

3-Chad Boat (Jefferson County Speedway on Aug. 2, Belleville High Banks on Aug. 5 & Belleville High Banks on Aug. 6)

2-Rico Abreu (Kokomo Speedway on June 5 & Eldora Speedway on Sept. 24)

2-Bryan Clauson (Riverside International Speedway on June 18 & Solomon Valley Raceway on Aug. 3)

2-Kyle Larson (Montpelier Motor Speedway on May 31 & Ventura Raceway on Nov. 24)

1-Brady Bacon (Wayne County Speedway on Oct. 21)

1-Spencer Bayston (Gas City I-69 Speedway on June 1)

1-Christopher Bell (Bloomington Speedway on June 3)

1-Shane Golobic (Southern Illinois Center on March 19)

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SPECIAL EVENT FEATURE WINS:

1-Tyler Courtney (Southern Illinois Center on Dec. 17)

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FEATURE LAPS LED:

180-Tanner Thorson

91-Chad Boat

84-Kyle Larson

76-Brady Bacon

69-Spencer Bayston

33-Rico Abreu

29-Bryan Clauson

28-Shane Cottle

25-Carson Macedo

24-Christopher Bell

17-Alex Bright & Shane Golobic

13-Ryan Robinson

7-Chris Windom

6-Dave Darland

4-Holly Shelton

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TOP-FIVE FEATURE FINISHES:

13-Spencer Bayston

11-Brady Bacon

10-Chad Boat, Carson Macedo & Tanner Thorson

7-Bryan Clauson

4-Rico Abreu & Christopher Bell

3-Jerry Coons Jr., Shane Golobic, Kyle Larson, Ryan Robinson & Tyler Thomas

2-Zach Daum

1-Shane Cottle, Dave Darland, Andrew Felker, Damion Gardner, Thomas Meseraull, Jim Radney, Tony Roney, Holly Shelton & Chris Windom

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TOP-TEN FEATURE FINISHES:

17-Spencer Bayston

16-Brady Bacon, Carson Macedo & Tanner Thorson

15-Chad Boat

12-Ryan Robinson

9-Jerry Coons Jr.

8-Bryan Clauson, Holly Shelton & Tyler Thomas

6-Rico Abreu, Dave Darland & Shane Golobic

5-Zach Daum

4-Christopher Bell

3-Kyle Larson

2-Alex Bright, Ryan Greth, Kyle Jones, Tucker Klaasmeyer, Davey Ray & Chris Windom

1-Travis Berryhill, Brenden Bright, Steve Buckwalter, David Budres, Isaac Chapple, Shane Cottle, Cory Elliott, Andrew Felker, Damion Gardner, Chett Gehrke, Tommy Kunsman, Brad Loyet, Thomas Meseraull, Jake Neuman, Justin Peck, Jimi Quin, Jim Radney, Tony Roney, Holly Shelton, Jeff Stasa, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Jake Swanson & Gage Walker

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PROSOURCE FAST QUALIFYING TIMES:

4-Brady Bacon

3-Rico Abreu & Tanner Thorson

2-Christopher Bell

1-Spencer Bayston & Carson Macedo

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HEAT RACE WINS: (Presented by Simpson Race Products, Competition Suspension (CSI), Benic Enterprises & Indy Race Parts)

8-Tanner Thorson

7-Chad Boat & Carson Macedo

4-Rico Abreu, Brady Bacon, Spencer Bayston, Bryan Clauson & Ryan Greth

3-Tucker Klaasmeyer & Tyler Thomas

2-Ryan Robinson

1-Jonathan Beason, Christopher Bell, Alex Bright, Chase Briscoe, Austin Brown, Steve Buckwalter, Shane Cottle, Dave Darland, Zach Daum, Shane Golobic, Dereck King, Trevor Kobylarz, Kyle Larson, Brad Loyet, Jake Neuman, Justin Peck, Keith Rauch, Davey Ray, & Gage Walker & Chris Windom

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SEMI WINS:

2-Christopher Bell & Holly Shelton

1-Brady Bacon, Spencer Bayston, Travis Berryhill, Bryan Clauson, Robby Josett, Thomas Meseraull, Justin Peck, Casey Shuman & Tyler Thomas

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DASH WINS:

1-Chad Boat & Bryan Clauson

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QUALIFYING RACE WINS:

4-Chad Boat

2-Carson Macedo, Ryan Robinson & Tanner Thorson

1-Brady Bacon, Ryan Bernal, David Budres, Bryan Clauson, Shane Cottle, Dave Darland, Kyle Jones, Holly Shelton & Tyler Thomas

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C-MAIN WINS:

1-Chris Andrews, Chad Boat, Dave Darland, Justin Grant, Jake Neuman & Davey Ray

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FEATURE STARTS:

19-Brady Bacon, Spencer Bayston, Chad Boat, Carson Macedo, Holly Shelton & Tanner Thorson

17-Ryan Robinson

14-Ryan Greth, Tyler Thomas & Gage Walker

12-Bryan Clauson & Dave Darland

11-Jerry Coons Jr. & Zach Daum

9-Shane Golobic

8-Rico Abreu

7-Steve Buckwalter

6-Brayton Lynch, Jake Neuman, Justin Peck & Davey Ray

5-Alex Bright, Chett Gehrke, Kyle Jones, Tucker Klaasmeyer & Jimi Quin

4-Christopher Bell, David Budres, Terry Goodwin, Dayne Kingshott & Jeff Stasa

3-Cody Brewer, Isaac Chapple, Tony DiMattia, Andrew Felker, Anton Hernandez, Chase Johnson, Kyle Larson, Tyler Roth, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. & Chris Windom

2-Nick Bailey, Shane Cottle, Phillip Davis, Michelle Decker, Damion Gardner, Justin Grant, Bob Harr, Scott Hatton, Garrett Hood, Brad Loyet, Andy Malpocker, Chase McDermid, Johnny Murdock, Tyler Nelson, Keith Rauch, Matt Sherrell, Travis Scott & Curtis Spicer

1-Garrett Aitken, Brett Arndt, Terry Babb, Jonathan Beason, Robert Bell, Lance Bennett, Ryan Bernal, Travis Berryhill, Jake Blackhurst, Brenden Bright, Austin Brown, Grady Chandler, Nick Chivello, Maria Cofer, Colten Cottle, Tyler Courtney, Courtney Crone, Robert Dalby, Michelle Decker, Tyler Dolacki, Tyler Dunkle, Cory Elliott, Michael Faccinto, Chad Frewaldt, Morgan Frewaldt, Ronnie Gardner, Gary Gipson, Justin Grosz, Frankie Guerrini, Josh Heckman, Eric Hein, Eric Heydenreich, Broc Hunnell, Cory Kruseman, Logan Jarrett, Kenney Johnson, Matt Johnson, Warren Johnson, Robby Josett, Dereck King, John Klabunde, Trevor Kobylarz, Riley Kreisel, Tommy Kunsman, Jason McDougal, Thomas Meseraull, Ryan Oerter, Randi Pankratz, Michael Pickens, Jim Radney, Joey Rinne, Daniel Robinson, Tony Roney, Kyle Schuett, Casey Shuman, Jake Swanson, Kevin Thomas Jr., Brett Wanner, Nick Wean, Dustin Weland & Bear Wood

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KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER OF THE RACE

Mar 19: Southern Illinois Center: Tanner Thorson (19th to 7th)

May 31: Montpelier Motor Speedway: Dave Darland (22nd to 7th)

Jun 1: Gas City I-69 Speedway: Shane Golobic (17th to 8th)

Jun 2: Lincoln Park Speedway: Jerry Coons Jr. (23rd to 9th)

Jun 3: Bloomington Speedway: Tyler Thomas (21st to 12th)

Jun 5: Kokomo Speedway: Dayne Kingshott (19th to 12th)

Jun 17: Riverside International Speedway: Shane Golobic (16th to 7th)

Jun 18: Riverside International Speedway: Bryan Clauson (9th to 1st)

Aug. 2: Jefferson County Speedway: Bryan Clauson (13th to 4th)

Aug. 3: Solomon Valley Raceway: Tanner Thorson (17th to 2nd)

Aug. 5: Belleville High Banks: Travis Scott (24th to 14th)

Aug. 6: Belleville High Banks: Curtis Spicer (22nd to 14th)

Aug. 16: Lanco's Clyde Martin Memorial Speedway: Brenden Bright (19th to 7th)

Sept. 24: Eldora Speedway: Carson Macedo (23rd to 7th)

Oct. 6: Tri-City Speedway: Gage Walker (22nd to 14th)

Oct. 7: Tri-City Speedway: Alex Bright (22nd to 12th)

Oct. 8: Tri-City Speedway: Jake Neuman (21st to 7th)

Oct. 21: Wayne County Speedway: Alex Bright (16th to 6th)

Nov. 24: Ventura Raceway: Jake Swanson (17th to 8th)

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2016 USAC National Midget Driver Points

Pos.	Pts.	Driver, Hometown
1	1249	Tanner Thorson, Minden, Nevada
2	1231	Spencer Bayston, Lebanon, Indiana
3	1202	Brady Bacon, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
4	1162	Chad Boat, Phoenix, Arizona

5	1126	Carson Macedo (R), Lemoore, California
6	903	Ryan Robinson, Foresthill, California
7	845	Holly Shelton, Sacramento, California
8	720	Bryan Clauson, Noblesville, Indiana
9	714	Tyler Thomas, Collinsville, Oklahoma
10	582	Ryan Greth, Shartlesville, Pennsylvania
11	545	Jerry Coons Jr., Tucson, Arizona
12	527	Dave Darland, Lincoln, Indiana
13	514	Gage Walker, Fairland, Indiana
14	512	Zach Daum, Pocahontas, Illinois
15	462	Shane Golobic, Fremont, California
16	316	Steve Buckwalter, Royersford, Pennsylvania
17	253	Davey Ray, Davenport, Iowa
18	226	Justin Peck, Monrovia, Indiana
19	221	Tucker Klaasmeyer, Paola, Kansas
20	173	Jimi Quin, Brisbane, Queensland
21	138	Dayne Kingshott, Eaton, Western Australia
22	134	David Budres, Beloit, Wisconsin
23	125	Chase Johnson, Penngrove, California
24	108	Shane Cottle, Kansas, Illinois
25	99	Anton Hernandez, Arlington, Texas
26	98	Tyler Nelson, Olathe, Kansas
27	67	Kyle Schuett, Philo, Illinois
28	50	Austin Prock, Brownsburg, Indiana
29	41	Kevin Thomas Jr., Cullman, Alabama
30	40	Ariel Biggs, Hoquiam, Washington
31	40	Kellen Conover, Saint Louis, Missouri
32	10	Ken Drangmeister, Crown Point, Indiana

(R) represents the USAC National Midget Rookie of the Year

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2016 USAC National Midget Entrant Points

Pos.	Pts.	Entrant, Location
1	1249	Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports, Columbus, Indiana (#67)
2	1231	Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports, Columbus, Indiana (#97)
3	1202	FMR Racing, Palm City, Florida (#76m)
4	1162	Tucker-Boat Motorsports, Mooresville, North Carolina (#84)
5	1126	Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports, Columbus, Indiana (#71K)
6	903	Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports, Columbus, Indiana (#71)
7	845	Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports, Columbus, Indiana (#67K)
8	814	Rusty Kunz Racing, Springfield, Illinois (#1K)
9	714	Tyler Thomas Motorsports, Catoosa, Oklahoma (#91T)
10	582	Wayne Leshner, New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania (#4)
11	527	Gray Auto, Greenfield, Indiana (#11AG)
12	514	Brian Walker, Fairland, Indiana (#7)
13	512	Daum Motorsports, Pocahontas, Illinois (#5D)
14	480	Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports, Columbus, Indiana (#97K)
15	371	Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports, Columbus, Indiana (#71w)
16	271	Shane Hmiel, Pleasant Garden, North Carolina (#56)
17	226	Brian Buckwalter, Royersford, Pennsylvania (#25)
18	221	Dale Klaasmeyer, Paola, Kansas (#27K)
19	215	Dooling-Hayward Motorsports, Hartford, Illinois (#63)
20	191	RayPro, Indianapolis, Indiana (#33)
21	173	Jimi Quin, Brisbane, Queensland (#8)
22	160	Daum Motorsports, Pocahontas, Illinois (#5B)
23	138	Dayne Kingshott, Eaton, Western Australia (#24)
24	134	Manic Racing, Beloit, Wisconsin (#31)
25	129	A.J. Felker Racing, Charlestown, Indiana (#37)
26	111	Steve Peck, Monrovia, Indiana (#5x)

27	88	Tyler Nelson Racing, Olathe, Kansas (#88)
28	67	Schuett Racing, Philo, Illinois (#9K)
29	50	Austin Prock Racing, Brownsburg, Indiana (#41)
30	40	Kellen Conover, Saint Louis, Missouri (#76c)
31	27	Ken Drangmeister, Crown Point, Indiana (#3)
32	10	Ken Drangmeister, Crown Point, Indiana (#76)

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2016 USAC NATIONAL MIDGET DRIVER ROSTER

A

Rico Abreu/St. Helena, California (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian #97K)

Daniel Adler/St. Louis, Missouri (Mike Adler #50)

Garrett Aitken/Paris, Illinois (Greg Aitken #32)

Justin Allgaier/Riverton, Illinois (Allgaier Motorsports #7A)

Chris L. Andrews/Tulsa, Oklahoma (Jimmy Miller #95)

Chris R. Andrews/Sandusky, Ohio (Tyler Thomas Motorsports #91A)

Brett Arndt/Topton, Pennsylvania (Scott Arndt #46)

Logan Arnold/Franklin, Indiana (Kevin & Angie Arnold #43)

B

Terry Babb/Decatur, Illinois (Terry Babb #88)

Brady Bacon/Broken Arrow, Oklahoma (FMR Racing #76m)

Nick Bailey/Cabot, Arkansas (Joe Bailey #89)

Tim Barber/San Francisco, California (Ted Finkenbinder #3T)

Chris Baue/Indianapolis, Indiana (Chris Baue #35)

Spencer Bayston/Lebanon, Indiana (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #97)

Jonathan Beason/Broken Arrow, Oklahoma (Hard Eight Racing #8J)

Cody Beard/St. Anthony, Indiana (Zero Motorsports #7B)

Christopher Bell/Norman, Oklahoma (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #71w)
Robert Bell/Colfax, Iowa (Robert Bell Motorsports #71½)
Lance Bennett/Parker, Colorado (Olivia McCauley #10)
Ryan Bernal/Hollister, California (Keith Ford #73 & Joey Saldana #87)
Travis Berryhill/American Canyon, California (Manic Racing #11)
Ariel Biggs/Hoquiam, Washington (Dan Daum #5B)
J.D. Black/Grain Valley, Missouri (Scott Robinson #7R)
Jake Blackhurst/Hanna City, Illinois (A.J. Felker #37)
Chad Boat/Phoenix, Arizona (Tucker/Boat Motorsports #84)
Cody Brewer/Choctaw, Oklahoma (Central Motorsports #96)
Alex Bright/Collegeville, Pennsylvania (Joe Hemler #77)
Brenden Bright/Collegeville, Pennsylvania (Ted Bright #92)
Chase Briscoe/Mitchell, Indiana (Chase Briscoe Racing #5, Jeff & Jill Davis #D33 & Larry Gardner #38)
Austin Brown/Millstadt, Illinois (Austin Brown Racing #7B)
Tony Bruce Jr./Liberal, Kansas (Team Eights #18)
Steve Buckwalter/Royersford, Pennsylvania (Brian Buckwalter #25 & Heffner Racing Enterprises #27)
David Budres/Beloit, Wisconsin (Manic Racing #31)

C

John Campbell/Bellefonte, Pennsylvania (John Campbell #19)
Grady Chandler/Piedmont, Oklahoma (Eric Fenton #72)
Isaac Chapple/Willow Branch, Indiana (Isaac Chapple Racing #52)
Mark Chisholm/Cheyenne, Wyoming (Fifty6x Racing #56x)
Nick Chivello/Manteca, California (Morris Motorsports #17K)
Bryan Clauson/Noblesville, Indiana (Dooling-Hayward #63)
Maria Cofer/Macdoel, California (Johnny Cofer #57)
Jesse Colwell/Red Bluff, California (Zero Motorsports #2)
Kellen Conover/St. Louis, Missouri (Kellen Conover Racing #76)
Jerry Coons Jr./Tucson, Arizona (Rusty Kunz Racing #1K, Petry/Goff Motorsports #25 & Hmiel #56)
Colten Cottle/Kansas, Illinois (Rick Cottle #5c)

Shane Cottle/Kokomo, Indiana (Hmiel #56 & Kenny Love #71x)

Tyler Courtney/Indianapolis, Indiana (Baldwin Brothers Racing #5, Clauson Marshall Racing #7BC & Kenny Irwin #7K)

Courtney Crone/Corona, California (Jerome Rodela #25)

Jeff Crook/Garden City, Kansas (Jack Crook #5J)

D

Robert Dalby/Anaheim, California (Ken Dalby #4D)

Dave Darland/Lincoln, Indiana (#11AG Gray Auto)

Zach Daum/Pocahontas, Illinois (Dan Daum #5D)

Phillip Davis/Broken Arrow, Oklahoma (Chett Gehrke #11o)

Michelle Decker/Guthrie, Oklahoma (Stephanie Meents #4m)

Shon Deskins/Waddell, Arizona (Shon Deskins Racing #20)

Justin Dickerson/Pittsboro, Indiana (Mike Dickerson #21D)

Tony DiMattia/Malvern, Pennsylvania (Tony DiMattia #50)

Tyler Dolacki/Fresno, California (Mark Dolacki #18)

Nick Drake/Mooresville, North Carolina (Troy Cline #55)

Ken Drangmeister/Crown Point, Indiana (Ken Drangmeister #76)

Bryan Drollinger/Lomita, California (Drollinger Brothers Racing #71D)

Tyler Dunkle/Lincoln, Nebraska (Zero Motorsports #0B & Zero Motorsports #37)

E

Danny Ebberts/Menifee, California (Tres Van Dyne #5)

Cory Elliott/Bakersfield, California (Mitch Elliott #11E)

Chris Ennis/Bakersfield, California (Sidewaze Motorsports #288)

Tony Everhart/El Cajon, California (Everhart Racing #5T)

F

Michael Faccinto/Hanford, California (MF Motorsports #35F)

Cole Fehr/Coatesville, Indiana (Live Loud Racing #15)

Andrew Felker/Carl Junction, Missouri (Danny Felker #11A)

Austen Figueroa/El Segundo, California (Ron Bach #49JR)

Hunter Fischer/Tulsa, Oklahoma (James Fischer #24)

Ryan Fleming/Xenia, Ohio (Taylor Racing #11L)

Chad Frewaldt/Kansas City, Kansas (Nicole Nussbaum #4F)

Morgan Frewaldt/Garretson, South Dakota (Nicole Nussbaum #2 & Nicole Nussbaum #926)

G

Damion Gardner/Concord, California (Klatt Enterprises #4K & Klatt Enterprises #71G)

Ronnie Gardner/Corona, California (Six8 Motorsports #68)

P.J. Gargiulo/Ridley Park, Pennsylvania (JHG Racing #5)

Chett Gehrke/Broken Arrow, Oklahoma (Skip & Diana Matteson #11c & Kami Ronk #19p)

J.B. Gilbert/Charleston, Illinois (Jeff Beasley #83B)

Gary Gipson/Carmel, Indiana (Gary Byers #5x)

Shane Golobic/Fremont, California (Matt Wood Racing #17w & Clauson Marshall Racing #17w)

Terry Goodwin/Belleville, Kansas (Misty Goodwin #2)

Justin Grant/Ione, California (Larry Gardner #35)

Brandon Gray/Greenfield, Indiana (Brad Gray #22)

Ryan Greth/Newport, Pennsylvania (Wayne Leshar #4)

Justin Grosz/Cambridge, Massachusetts (John Grosz #99G)

Frankie Guerrini/San Rafael, California (Frank Guerrini #63)

H

Jake Hagopian/Fresno, California (Martin Hagopian #14)

David Hair/Camby, Indiana (Hair Racing #29)

Mark Hamilton/Arvada, Colorado (Hamilton Motorsports #76)

Colton Hardy/Phoenix, Arizona (Wayne Leshar #4H)

Bob Harr/Arvada, Colorado (Halarr Racing #2)

Scott Hatton/Sharon, Wisconsin (Scott Hatton #1)

Josh Heckman/Auburn, Pennsylvania (Josh Heckman #12)

Eric Hein/Hobart, Indiana (Richard Drangmeister #3)

Andrew Hennig/Dyer, Indiana (H3 Motorsports #2)
Johnathon Henry/Stockton, California (Kruseman Motorsports #16K)
Anton Hernandez/Arlington, Texas (Petry/Goff Motorsports #25 & A.J. Felker #37)
Eric Heydenreich/Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania (Rich Heydenreich #11)
John Heydenreich/Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania (John Givens #22)
Chase Hill/Redding, California (Danny Felker #11H)
Garett Hood/Concordia, Kansas (Two Hoods Racing #11H)
Ty Hulsey/Owasso, Oklahoma (Harlan Hulsey #21)
Broc Hunnell/Eolia, Missouri (HFR #73)

I

Dylan Ito/Ventura, California (Keith Ford #73F)

J

Bricen James/Albany, Oregon (Johnny Herrera Racing #45x)
Ryan Jamison/Mediapolis, Iowa (Jamison Racing #51J)
Logan Jarrett/Kokomo, Indiana (Stan Doak #29)
Chase Johnson/Penngrove, California (Matt Wood Racing #17m)
Jason Johnson/Eunice, Louisiana (Clauson Marshall Racing #41)
Kenney Johnson/Bethany, Connecticut (Jeff Johnson #46x)
Matt Johnson/Edmond, Oklahoma (Central Motorsports #85)
Nathan Johnson/Hastings, Nebraska (Zero Motorsports #13)
R.J. Johnson/Tempe, Arizona (Bobby Martin #51)
Warren Johnson/Overland Park, Kansas (Nicole Nussbaum #42)
Kyle Jones/Kennedale, Texas (Dan Daum #5B & Jeromy Hefler #54)
Robby Josett/Santa Clarita, California (Robby Josett #2)
Anton Julian/New Plymouth, New Zealand (Mike Dickerson #7R)

K

Dereck King/Vienna, Illinois (Jack Harris #91)

Dayne Kingshott/Eaton, Western Australia (Dayne Kingshott #24)

Tucker Klaasmeyer/Paola, Kansas (Dale Klaasmeyer #27)

John Klabunde/Fort Calhoun, Nebraska (John Klabunde #77)

Nick Knepper/Belleville, Illinois (Steve Knepper #55)

Larry Knowles/Mt. Vernon, Illinois (Zero Motorsports #13)

Trevor Kobylarz/Birdsboro, Pennsylvania (RT Racing #14)

Michael Koontz/Bloomington, Indiana (Michael Koontz Racing #17)

Derek Kral/Hastings, Nebraska (Zero Motorsports #0B & Zero Motorsports #11)

Brad Kraus/Atlanta, Indiana (Brad Kraus #6B)

Riley Kreisel/Warsaw, Missouri (DKR Motorsports #93K)

Cory Kruseman/Ventura, California (Kruseman Motorsports #21K)

Kirk Kubik/Long Beach, California (Kirk Kubik #32)

Tommy Kunsman/Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (Tom Kunsman #21)

L

Hunter Lane/Milo, Iowa (Zero Motorsports #0A)

Kyle Larson/Elk Grove, California (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #1K & Keith Kunz/Agajanian Motorsports #71w)

Katlynn Leer/Moulton, Iowa (Katlynn Leer Motorsports #77K)

Aaron Leffel/Springfield, Ohio (Taylor Racing #11T)

Brad Loyet/Sunset Hills, Missouri (Loyet Motorsports #05 & Ken Malpocker #22)

Brayton Lynch/Springfield, Illinois (Rusty Kunz Racing #1K)

M

Carson Macedo/Lemoore, California (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #71K)

Andy Malpocker/St. Charles, Missouri (Ken Malpocker #22)

Kurt Mayhew/Roselawn, Indiana (Kurt Mayhew #21)

Ace McCarthy/Tahlequah, Oklahoma (Jon Kantor #28)

Chase McDermid/Springfield, Illinois (WALLACE Technology #10A)

Jason McDougal/Broken Arrow, Oklahoma (Factor 1 Racing #73)

Mike McSparin/Carrier Mills, Illinois (Zero Motorsports #0A)

Thomas Meseraull/San Jose, California (Amati Racing #66)
Danny Meyer/Tuscola, Illinois (Ebbby Bergfeld #86J)
Zach Middleton/Beloit, Kansas (Zero Motorsports #37)
Shane Morgan/Creve Coeur, Illinois (Morgan Motorsports #15m)
Kade Morton/Coweta, Oklahoma (Blane Morton #8m)
Johnny Murdock/Dallas, Texas (Zero Motorsports #0)

N

Tyler Nelson/Kansas City, Kansas (Cappy Mason #47, Nancy Robinson #88 & Harris Racing #91)
Austin Nemire/Sylvania, Ohio (Nemire-Yager Racing #91)
Jake Neuman/New Berlin, Illinois (Jim Neuman #3N)
Terry Nichols/Delano, California (Terry Nichols #1p)
Anthony Nocella/Woburn, Massachusetts (Bob Seymour #29s)

O

Kyle O’Gara/Beech Grove, Indiana (SFH Racing #68)
Ashley Oerter/Elliott, Colorado (RKO Management #16)
Ryan Oerter/Elliott, Colorado (RKO Management #43)
Kevin Olson/Rockford, Illinois (Dennis Hoppe #5H)
Scott Orr/Columbia City, Indiana (Orr Motorsports #88x)

P

Randi Pankratz/Atascadero, California (Wally Pankratz #8)
Justin Peck/Monrovia, Indiana (Peck Motorsports #5x, Kenny Irwin #7K & Hard Eight Racing #8K)
Travis Pence/Stronghurst, Illinois (Pence Racing #01)
Dylan Peterson/Sioux Falls, South Dakota (Vance Peterson #25p)
Michael Pickens/Auckland, New Zealand (Jerome Rodela #25p)
David Prickett/Fresno, California (Nichols-Neverlift Motorsports #122Q)
Austin Prock/Brownsburg, Indiana (Jim Prock/Brodie Hayward #41)

Q

Jimi Quin/Brisbane, Queensland (Quin-Girard Racing #8)

R

Jim Radney/New Cumberland, Pennsylvania (Jim Radney #95)

Keith Rauch/Thornton, Colorado (Cappy Mason #47)

Davey Ray/Davenport, Iowa (Two-Three Motorsports #23 & RayPro #33)

Jason Rice/Danielsville, Pennsylvania (Wayne Rice #57)

Joey Rinne/Arnold, Missouri (Zero Motorsports #0)

Tyler Robbins/Collinsville, Illinois (Robbins Racing #35T)

Daniel Robinson/Ewing, Illinois (McCreery Motorsports #57D)

Ryan Robinson/Foresthill, California (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #71)

Tony Roney/Herculaneum, Missouri (Rich Roney #1T)

Bill Rose/Plainfield, Indiana (Bill Rose #6)

Tyler Roth/Springfield, Illinois (Zero Motorsports #13)

Troy Rutherford/Ojai, California (Keith Ford #73x)

S

Joey Saldana/Brownsburg, Indiana (Joey Saldana #17)

Alex Schriever/Sioux Falls, South Dakota (Vance Peterson #25)

Kyle Schuett/Philo, Illinois (Schuett Racing #9K)

Travis Scott/Goldsby, Oklahoma (Steve Scott #2s)

Tyler Seavey/Sutter, California (Arata Bros. #88)

Ryan Secrest/Newton, Kansas (Michael Koontz Racing #17KT)

Holly Shelton/Sacramento, California (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #67K)

Matt Sherrell/Owasso, Oklahoma (Matt Sherrell #35)

Casey Shuman/Tempe, Arizona (Brian Dunlap #32)

Troy Simpson/Fort Collins, Colorado (Troy Simpson #7)

Tim Siner/Dupo, Illinois (Siner-Cylix Racing #15)

Kyle Smith/Moorpark, California (Mike Smith #55)

Wesley Smith/Nixa, Missouri (Wesley Smith Racing #44)

Jamie Speers/New Holland, Pennsylvania (Jamie Speers #74)

Kyle Spence/Bear, Delaware (Kyle Spence #25K)

Curtis Spicer/Marysville, Kansas (Zero Motorsports #13)

Jeff Stasa/Kingman, Kansas (Mark Stasa #91)

Ricky Stenhouse Jr./Olive Branch, Mississippi (Bryan Clauson Racing #17, Clauson Marshall Racing #17BC & Clauson Marshall Racing #39)

Cody Swanson/Corona, California (Kirk Swanson #71s)

Jake Swanson/Anaheim, California (Jake Swanson #17)

T

Zac Taylor/Green River, Wyoming (Kruselman Motorsports #12K)

Kevin Thomas Jr./Cullman, Alabama (Casey Shuman #2x & Keith Ford #73T)

Tyler Thomas/Collinsville, Oklahoma (Tyler Thomas Motorsports #91T)

Tanner Thorson/Minden, Nevada (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #67)

U

Chris Urish/Elkhart, Illinois (Tom Casson #77u)

V

Tyler Van Toll/Bellefonte, Pennsylvania (Van Toll Racing #30T)

Matt Veatch/McLeansboro, Illinois (Fifty6x Racing #56v)

W

Nate Wait/Lodi, California (MF Motorsports #35w)

Gage Walker/Fairland, Indiana (Gage Walker Racing #7)

Brett Wanner/Shoemakersville, Pennsylvania (Richard Fisher #44)

Nick Wean/Phillipsburg, New Jersey (Rick & Cindy Wean #78)

Cody Weisensel/Sun Prairie, Wisconsin (Kevin Weisensel #20)

Dustin Weland/Parker, Colorado (Dustin Weland #88)

Matt Westfall/Ludlow Falls, Ohio (Steve Bordner #14w)

Chad Wheeler/Muskogee, Oklahoma (Team Eights #88w)

Harli White/Lindsay, Oklahoma (Charlie White #17H)

Cody Williams/Minneapolis, Kansas (Zero Motorsports #13)

Chris Windom/Canton, Illinois (Baldwin Brothers Racing #5)

Bear Wood/New Madison, Ohio (LW Racing #8JR)

Y

Travis Young/Franklin, Indiana (Travis Young #11)