Bacon is USAC Sprint King Again with 4th Career Title in 2021

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Throughout the past decade, Brady Bacon has consistently positioned himself as the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship's prolific driver, winning more titles and feature races in that time span than any other individual.

That fact alone makes it even more remarkable that his fourth career series championship in 2021 just very well may have been his best of the bunch.

The Broken Arrow, Okla. driver's 36 top-fives in 43 features starts throughout the 2021 USAC National Sprint Car trail was the most in series history. Sheldon Kinser previously held the record of 31 top-fives in 50 starts, set back in 1977.

Bacon's 41 top-ten finishes in 2021 were also an all-time record for the series, breaking Sheldon Kinser's record of 39, also set in 1977.

In 2021, Bacon shot to the point lead in race number three after winning at Lawrenceburg (Ind.) Speedway on April 3 and patrolled the standings from that point forward, possessing the number one spot uninterrupted for the remaining 40 events to score the title by a 120-point margin over runner-up Kevin Thomas Jr.

In the process, Bacon became just the third driver to capture at least four USAC National Sprint Car driving championships in his career, joining five-timer Levi Jones (2005-07-09-10-11) and fellow four-time titlist Steve Butler (1986-87-88-90) while also garnering Dynamics, Inc. a record-extending 13th series entrant championship (1989-1992-1993-1996-1997-1999-2002-2004-2008-2014-2016-2020-2021).

During his banner 2021 season, Bacon also became just the ninth driver to win at least 40 career USAC National Sprint Car feature events. His 40th, in the penultimate race of the campaign at Arizona Speedway in November, tied him with Gary Bettenhausen for eighth on the all-time series win list. Bacon's 43 career fast qualifying times also shot him to fourth all-time in that category.

Between Lawrenceburg and Arizona, Bacon sandwiched three more feature victories, for a total of five, including a fourth-straight win at Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania's Grandview Speedway in April after previous "dubs" in 2017, 2018 and 2019. He captured the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK round at Bloomington Speedway in July and a prelim night of the Oval Nationals at California's Perris Auto Speedway in November.

Perhaps, above all his wins, were Bacon's comeback performances in 2021. A major, wall clearing turn one heat race incident in May at Terre Haute forced a black-eyed Bacon to the team's backup car where he promptly drove to a 3rd place finish in the feature. A similar spectacular heat race crash in October at Lawrenceburg sent the team straight to the backup once again, returning to finish 4th in the feature.

It's an asset Bacon feels fortunate to have on his side, led by 2021 USAC Chief Mechanic of the Year, Matt Hummel, and D.J. Lebow.

"We just try to stay calm, do what we can do and, fortunately, this year, we were always able to get it done and get back out and get decent finishes," Bacon explained. "There's a lot of experience and a lot of time working together with the same crew. The chemistry over the years means a lot and we can get a lot more done faster when everyone kind of knows the routine and knows what the other people's responsibilities are."

With four series titles to his credit in 2014-2016-2020-2021, the 31-year-old Bacon shows no signs of letting up on this run of success with the series following the conclusion of the 2021 season. The hunger is strong for Bacon to attain championship number five in 2022.

“To get back-to-back championships, I’ve never been able to do that before,” Bacon exclaimed. “We’re going to go for another USAC National Sprint Car championship in 2021. I have a lot of great sponsors and supporters that help us make this happen, and we’ll try to keep everyone together and maybe add a few to come back even stronger next year.”

Despite a record-setting year, Bacon certainly had his fair share of obstacles, of which they overcame with a paramount of success in the Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy. However, Bacon and his crew still managed to make it look easy even when those two most notable of incidents would have resulted in a DNF for many other teams.

“Hopefully our team can just maintain this momentum and get another one next year,” Bacon pined. “Hopefully, we won’t have so many obstacles to climb and maybe it will be a little easier. My guys overcame a lot of stuff this year and it’s pretty much what won us the championship.”

Meanwhile, Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) earned a series best, and career best, nine USAC National Sprint Car victories in 2021 following a winless 2020 season. En route to a runner-up finish in the standings, Thomas scored the opener in February at Ocala, Florida’s Bubba Raceway Park, then added an April win at Bloomington and a June triumph in the series debut at Pennsylvania’s Bloomsburg Fair Raceway.

Moving into July, Thomas added an early July victory at Putnamville, Indiana’s Lincoln Park Speedway after starting all the way back in 14th, then tabbed a second career USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK championship in late July.

In August, KTJ notched a victory at Indiana’s Paragon Speedway, the first series race held at the track in 23 years. A daytime prelim Sprint Car Smackdown win followed at Indiana’s Kokomo Speedway in August, as did a $12,000 Haubstadt Hustler victory at Indiana’s Tri-State Speedway in September, a $10,000 win at the Lawrenceburg Speedway Fall Nationals in October and a third Oval Nationals victory lane celebration worth $10,000 at Perris in November.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) added seven wins of his own in his personal best season on his way to third in the final points after wins at Ocala in February, Grandview in June and again two nights later in the series’ first event at Pennsylvania’s Selinsgrove Speedway in 50 summers.

For Grant, an 18-lap Kokomo win came in July in what was the first-ever rain-shortened USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK main event in the series’ 34-year history. Exactly one week later, Grant capped ISW with a win in the finale at Tri-State. Grant dominated Smackdown at Kokomo in August with victories on back-to-back evenings, including the final night worth $15,000.

Tanner Thorson’s first season in USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car competition was downright historic. The Minden, Nevada native’s five wins were the most ever by a Rookie with the series and his fourth-place finish in the final standings was the best for any first-year USAC National Sprint Car driver since Rick Howerton in 1990. Thorson’s seven fast qualifying times were also the most ever for a series Rookie.

Thorson accumulated feature wins at Pennsylvania’s Big Diamond Speedway and Path Valley Speedway Park in April, then bagged the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK round at Lincoln Park in July, as well as the Huset’s Speedway USAC Nationals

opener in September in South Dakota, before winning the first dirt track race for the series in Indianapolis in 37 years during the debut at Circle City Raceway. The 2016 USAC National Midget champion was rewarded at season's end as the 2021 USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car Rookie of the Year.

A new combination featuring C.J. Leary and Michael Motorsports garnered five series wins in 2021, including the first for a Ford-powered engine in 10 seasons in April at Pennsylvania's BAPS Motor Speedway. Two sets of back-to-back wins followed for the Greenfield, Ind. driver at Indiana's Plymouth Speedway on July 1 and at Lincoln Park on July 2. His biggest career payday came in successive victories at Huset's on September 11-12, the latter of which paid $20,000 to win, all of which helped him to a fifth-place finish in the series standings.

Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) joined forces with Baldwin-Fox Racing in April, a combination which produced four series victories in 2021, three of which came in a season-best three-race winning streak in the middle of USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK that netted the 2018 USAC National Midget champion victories at Lawrenceburg, Gas City I-69 Speedway and the Terre Haute Action Track. The 10th place finisher in series' points, Seavey finished strong with a win in the final race of the season in November, the curtain closer for Arizona Speedway during the 54th annual Western World Championships.

Chris Windom (Canton, Ill.) made Terre Haute his personal playground in 2021, getting both of his USAC Sprint Car victories on the year at the famed half-mile and finishing 6th in series points. Windom snagged his third career rifle, and second straight, in May during the 51st annual Tony Hulman Classic. In October, Windom engineered his eighth career series victory at Terre Haute, elevating him into a three-way tie with Gary Bettenhausen and Jack Hewitt as the track's winningest USAC National Sprint Car driver. That win made Windom the lone five-time victor of the Jim Hurtubise Classic with scores in 2011, 2016, 2017, 2020 and now 2021.

Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) raced to his first USAC National Sprint Car victory in nearly three years after a spirited and daring duel with Tyler Courtney at Ohio's Eldora Speedway in May, denying Courtney a series record sixth consecutive series win at a single track. Ballou followed in suit with a win in the series' debut at the new Bridgeport Motorsports Park in June on his way to a second career Eastern Storm championship (2015) and 8th in the series standings.

Tyler Courtney (Indianapolis, Ind.) made just five series starts in 2021, but won two of them, both at Eldora. The first came in the daylight in May during which he captured his fifth consecutive feature event at Eldora, Courtney became just the third driver in USAC National Sprint Car history to win five-in-a-row at one track following Jim Hurtubise at Terre Haute between 1960-62 and Steve Chassey at Winchester (Ind.) Speedway in 1979.

Just last year, Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) was in the process of migrating from California to the Midwest to chase his dream of competing on the USAC National Sprint Car trail. After four runner-up finishes during the 2021 season, Swanson finally broke through to become a USAC National Sprint Car winner late in the year at Perris, winning the closest finish of the entire USAC National slate (0.01 sec.) with a last corner, last lap, spark-showering triumph. For his efforts with the Sprints as well as the USAC Silver Crown division, Swanson was honored as USAC's 2021 National Most Improved Driver.

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) returned to victory lane in April at Tri-State with his sixth career USAC National Sprint Car win at the southern Indiana track, although it was his first career in the Spring Showdown in what was his ninth career start in the event.

Chase Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.) finished 9th in the final standings for 2021, marking 10 consecutive seasons in which he has finished inside the top-10 in points, tied for the sixth best streak in series history. His record run of longevity came to

a close in April at Bloomington when his all-time series streak of 324 consecutive feature starts in USAC National Sprint Car competition ended after making an appearance in every starting lineup dating back to 2012.

The 43 USAC National Sprint Car events held in 2021 were the third most in series history, and the most in 44 years. The only other seasons that were busier had 44 race sin 1976 and a record 51 back in 1977.

==========

KTJ GETS OFF THE SCHNEID WITH SEASON OPENING USAC SPRINT WIN AT OCALA

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Ocala, Florida (February 11, 2021)……"We're back and I ain't going nowhere."

Those words from Kevin Thomas Jr. signaled a resounding stamp regarding his return to USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car victory lane for the first time in 16 months on Thursday night in the series' season opener at Ocala, Florida's Bubba Raceway Park.

Thomas (Cullman, Ala.) corralled the lead from Kyle Cummins in traffic on the 14th circuit of the 30-lap feature and led the remaining 17 trips around the 3/8-mile dirt track to triumph for the 28th time with the USAC National Sprint Cars, tying himself with A.J. Foyt, Chris Windom, Don Branson, J.J. Yeley and Levi Jones for 16th on the all-time series win list.

Thursday's non-stop, green to checkered feature event clocked in as the fastest 30-lap USAC Sprint Car feature ever run at Bubba Raceway Park, taking 7 minutes and 45.762 seconds to complete. The time defeated the now former record of 8:27.00, set by Bryan Clauson in 2011.

It was an unforeseen winless drought for Thomas, one of the series' premier drivers, who has endured a tumultuous year-plus, to say the least. A period of time which resulted in a shockingly winless campaign in 2020, and a season that tested him like no other after last tallying a win in October of 2019 at Lawrenceburg (Ind.) Speedway.

But 2021 was going to be different, Thomas just knew it. The addition of several key new personnel and the return of 2019 USAC Chief Mechanic of the Year Davey Jones into the fold on the KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper – McDonald's – KT Construction Services/DRC/Speedway Chevy gave Thomas a new air of confidence that he had long yearned for.

"It took longer than I expected to battle adversity, but we did it," Thomas said. "I like to win races, and I like to do it with the people that are behind us. Ever since Dr. Pepper and McDonald's came on board, I have not given them what they came on board for. I take full responsibility for that. I had to get things turned around because I've got a group of people that are behind me who are really good people and really fun to work with. I've got to have success for those people."

Although he had previously won twice with the POWRi Midgets at Ocala in 2018, Thursday marked Thomas' first in USAC National Sprint Car competition at the track. Despite that, the win was actually his second during Winter Dirt Games, having won a round with the series when it was held at East Bay Raceway Park in Gibsonton, Fla. in 2015.

The long, arduous offseason in recent months gave Thomas pause and time to reflect on the past, which he used to find the right the path for the coming season. Racing is both a physically and mentally daunting arena, and Thomas knew that

without having both aspects up to speed, he was never to power through the rut to return to the top of his game where he expects, and knows, he could be.

“I had to make some changes over the winter,” Thomas acknowledges. “The boys did a really good job with the racecars, but I had to do some other things personally. I just had to get my mind right. Whenever I get my mind right, I feel like I can win races and a lot of them. If that thing is not right between the ears, it’s going to be tough because there’s a lot of other people out here that are really talented and have their stuff together. Whether it comes from the mental side of things or the car side, there’s a lot of good car owners out here as well with a lot of good drivers in them, good crew chiefs. There’s just a lot of variables that can make you run 8th every single night. You’ve just got to be on top of your game and you’ve got to get the right piece underneath you and the one holding the steering wheel has got to have his head straight.”

“Whenever it comes to handling failure, you’ve got to do it a certain way,” Thomas continued. “If you don’t do it that way, you’re never going to get back to where you want to be in a quick amount of time. I was handling things the wrong way, and I wasn’t doing the things that I know how to do best. I really had to sit down and think about those. I literally made a checklist and I’ve been checking them all off. I feel very confident in my driving abilities, but I also feel confident in the way I think about things. Whenever you’re battling with these people, you’ve got to be one step ahead of them, or you’re going to get passed and you’re not going to win races. That’s where I was for two years. I had to change that, and I really went to work this past offseason.”

Thomas translated that effort into going to work at the racetrack Thursday night. Starting third, he chased leader Kyle Cummins and second-running Justin Grant for the first third of the event before making his pounce, driving under Grant in turn three while in the throes of traffic, then steadfastly zeroed in on Cummins one lap later off the bottom of the fourth turn to secure the lead on the 14th lap.

Grant clamped down to slip past Cummins with five laps remaining for second, but Thomas had already staked his claim at the front by then, holding a 2.3 second lead, which would ultimately balloon to a 2.769 second advantage at the finish line with Grant, Cummins, hard charger Brady Bacon (from 12th) and Tyler Courtney following him to the checkered.

For Thomas, it was all about patience, and finding the path to victory first before anybody else discovered it.

“You just had to work patiently,” Thomas explained. “You had to wait until they got impatient with traffic, try to move a little bit, then you could pounce on them. That was the biggest key, and there are a few little tracks to getting down the back stretch. If you don’t figure those out early, somebody’s going to snooker you and there’s a couple guys around here that know where it is and we just happened to find it first. We were in a good position to do that. We got to third right off the bat and didn’t have to battle too hard for that. We just got there, rode around, rode around, and I saw a few moves where a people were making mistakes and getting a little impatient trying to get the guy in front of them. You jump on them, and then you do it the next time you get to lapped traffic. It was just a big patience game out there. The track was fast, but you still had to be patient, just jump on them whenever you can don’t make any mistakes.”

Grant (Ione, Calif.) finished 2nd in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy. Twice a winner at Ocala, Grant has now earned three career runner-up finishes at the track with the series.

Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) earned a 3rd place result in his Rock Steady Racing/Mid-America Safety Solutions – Project Oversight Services/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy. It was Cummins’ fifth career podium finish with the series at Ocala. However, he has yet to taste victory for the first time at the track.

Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) collected the Hughes Racing / Indiana Mafia / Flamingo Sandy / KSE Racing Products Hard Charger honors for his feature performance in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy. It was third consecutive time that Bacon earned the hard charger award at Ocala dating back to 2020.

Timmy Buckwalter (Douglassville, Pa.) earned his second career Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying time on Thursday night in his first sprint car race since suffering a broken leg in a racing accident during the 2020 season. Interestingly enough, his only other fast time with the series also came at Ocala, in 2019, where he finished 10th in the feature. On Thursday night, Buckwalter finished, get this, 10th in his LNB Motorsports/The Bagel Rack – JRG Heating & Cooling – East Penn Excavating/DRC/Godfrey Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: February 11, 2021 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XII – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-13.853; 2. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.938; 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-13.955; 4. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.091; 5. Dave Darland, 5, Baldwin/Fox/Curb-Agajanian-14.119; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.159; 7. Jadon Rogers, 61m, Edwards-14.306; 8. Cole Bodine, 57, DCT-14.361; 9. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-14.372; 10. Carson Garrett, 15, KO-14.404; 11. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-14.434; 12. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-14.462; 13. Brent Beauchamp, 2E, Epperson-14.527; 14. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-14.528; 15. Davey Ray, 14AJ, FattFro/RayPro-14.578; 16. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.587; 17. Riley Kreisel, 91, DKR-14.802; 18. Drew Rader, 74, Heitmeyer-14.808; 19. Shane Butler, 18, Butler-14.926; 20. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-14.960; 21. Cam Schafer, 97, Roach-14.977; 22. Dickie Gaines, 44, Soudrette-15.108; 23. Jesse Vermillion, 5v, Vermillion-15.397.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Tyler Courtney, 7BC, Clauson/Marshall/Newman-14.034; 2. Buddy Kofoid, 20K, Dyson-14.109; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.226; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.249; 5. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.321; 6. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-14.338; 7. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.341; 8. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.398; 9. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-14.429; 10. Stevie Sussex, 77, Wingo-14.487; 11. Noah Gass, 20G, Gass-14.503; 12. Kory Schudy, 28K, Sawyer-14.570; 13. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-14.651; 14. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.682; 15. Chayse Hayhurst, 20, Hayhurst-14.901; 16. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-14.979; 17. Kade Morton, 8m, Morton-14.991; 18. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-15.105; 19. Scott Evans, 118, Evans-15.190; 20. Craig Pellegrini, 27, Pellegrini-15.840; 21. Blake Vermillion, 73, Vermillion-16.218; 22. Robert Bell, 71, Bell-NT

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Timmy Buckwalter, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Sterling Cling, 6. Briggs Danner, 7. Davey Ray, 8. Brent Beauchamp, 9. Riley Kreisel, 10. Shane Butler, 11. Cam Schafer, 12. Jesse Vermillion. 2:03.288

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Cole Bodine, 6. Max Adams, 7. Carson Garrett, 8. Paul Nienhiser, 9. Drew Rader, 10. Dickie Gaines, 11. Ryan Thomas. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Tyler Courtney, 3. Noah Gass, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Mario Clouser, 6. Robert Ballou, 7. Chase Johnson, 8. Chayse Hayhurst, 9. Blake Vermillion, 10. Kade Morton, 11. Scott Evans. 2:05.244

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Stevie Sussex, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Kory Schudy, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Dustin Clark, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Matt Goodnight, 9. Craig Pellegrini, 10. Buddy Kofoid. 2:06.999

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Chayse Hayhurst, 2. Riley Kreisel, 3. Dustin Clark, 4. Shane Butler, 5. Kade Morton, 6. Cam Schafer, 7. Drew Rader, 8. Dickie Gaines, 9. Ryan Thomas, 10. Matt Goodnight, 11. Blake Vermillion, 12. Scott Evans, 13. Jesse Vermillion, 14. Craig Pellegrini. NT

SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Buddy Kofoid, 3. Briggs Danner, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. Paul Nienhiser, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Chase Johnson, 10. Max Adams, 11. Brandon Mattox, 12. Brent Beauchamp, 13. Davey Ray, 14. Riley Kreisel, 15. Cole Bodine, 16. Dustin Clark, 17. Chayse Hayhurst, 18. Shane Butler. 3:19.651

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (3), 2. Justin Grant (2), 3. Kyle Cummins (1), 4. Brady Bacon (12), 5. Tyler Courtney (5), 6. Tanner Thorson (4), 7. C.J. Leary (11), 8. Buddy Kofoid (8), 9. Chris Windom (13), 10. Timmy Buckwalter (6), 11. Jake Swanson (9), 12. Robert Ballou (15), 13. Noah Gass (19), 14. Chase Stockon (22), 15. Mario Clouser (17), 16. Paul Nienhiser (21), 17. Dave Darland (10), 18. Stevie Sussex (7), 19. Jadon Rogers (14), 20. Brandon Mattox (23), 21. Briggs Danner (16), 22. Matt Westfall (24), 23. Carson Garrett (18), 24. Kory Schudy (20). 7:45.762 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-13 Kyle Cummins, Laps 14-30 Kevin Thomas Jr.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Kevin Thomas Jr.-82, 2-Justin Grant-75, 3-Kyle Cummins-74, 4-Brady Bacon-68, 5-Tanner Thorson-66, 6-C.J. Leary-57, 7-Timmy Buckwalter-55, 8-Chris Windom-53, 9-Jake Swanson-46, 10-Robert Ballou-43.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XII SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Kevin Thomas Jr.-358, 2-Justin Grant-347, 3-Kyle Cummins-346, 4-Brady Bacon- 334, 5-Tyler Courtney-333, 6-Tanner Thorson-327, 7-Timmy Buckwalter-312, 8-C.J. Leary-309, 9-Chris Windom-308, 10- Jake Swanson-296.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Carrick-9, 2-Cannon McIntosh-9, 3-Tanner Carrick-9, 4-Brady Bacon-8, 5-Chase Stockon-8, 6-Emerson Axsom-7, 7-Chris Windom-6, 8-Jake Neuman-6, 9-Noah Gass-6, 10-Daison Pursley-5.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XII SPRINT CAR PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chase Stockon-12, 2-Paul Nienhiser-11, 3-Brady Bacon-10, 4-Dustin Clark-7, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-6, 6-Chris Windom-6, 7-Cam Schafer-6, 8-Dickie Gaines-6, 9-Justin Grant-5, 10-Kyle Cummins-4.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: February 12-13, 2021 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XII – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Timmy Buckwalter

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Stevie Sussex

Hughes Racing / Indiana Mafia / Flamingo Sandy / KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (12th to 4th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Noah Gass

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Matt Westfall

ProSource Hard Work Award: Chase Stockon

==========

GRANT GRABS USAC SPRINT SCORE AT OCALA

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Ocala, Florida (February 12, 2021)……New engines, new cars, new crew guys and a new shop. That is among the inventory Justin Grant has had to adapt to for the start of the 2021 USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car season.

But what isn't new for the Ione, Calif. driver is finding victory lane early and often with the series, which he did once again Friday night in the second round for the Sprint Cars during Winter Dirt Games XII at Bubba Raceway Park, chasing down fellow Californian Jake Swanson for the lead just eight laps from the finish.

Like clockwork, Grant has now won each of his three USAC National Sprint Car features at the Ocala, Florida 3/8-mile dirt track on a Friday night in an odd-numbered year, previously doing so in both 2017 and 2019.

The latest triumph gave Grant his 22nd career USAC National Sprint Car feature victory, surpassing 1967 series champion Greg Weld for 31st all-time.

After leading the standings for most of the first half of 2020, Grant hopes that this victory is an omen of sorts, one that will carry on the tradition of successive drivers who've won at Ocala, then parlayed that achievement into a USAC National Sprint Car championship six times overall in the past 11 years, and in each of the last three years with Tyler Courtney (2018), C.J. Leary (2019) and Brady Bacon (2020) all doing the deed.

"Getting through Florida with some confidence is huge," Grant stated. "With a month off, there's almost like another offseason after this weekend, so just being able to go home and feel good is awesome leading into the year. If you run good down here, your car owners are excited and are wanting to spend money. The crew guys are excited, and they're

wanting to go the extra mile. Good success early just really snowballs, and I'm really looking forward to the rest of the year."

Grant is grateful for the faith that team owner Kevin Birchmeier has put in him, allowing Grant to take the reins of the team and move it to his own shop on Gasoline Alley in Indianapolis, Ind. Two new Maxims were constructed, and two new Kistler engines were installed. Now a couple chaotic, busy and productive late January/early February days and nights have led to a spectacular start to the new season, which sees Grant and the team in first place in the standings.

With a dedicated crew on his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy, it's an entire atmosphere, situation and climate that Grant embraces, and he wouldn't have any other way.

"I'm having so much fun," Grant said. "We've been going to the car wash every night afterwards, hanging out, laughing, pressure washing cars, cleaning things up, and then going out for dinner afterwards, then getting up in the morning, doing maintenance; we're sprint car racing and it's just a ton of fun."

Grant started all the way back in the eighth position while, up front, Kyle Cummins controlled the pace on the opening lap from the pole position, same as he did in Thursday night's opener. However, Cummins slid just a tad wide off the moistrous bottom in turn three on the second lap and third-starting Swanson was there to pounce, slipping underneath Cummins off four, and pulling a wheel stand as he crossed the start/finish line with the race lead.

Swanson built up a 1.5 second lead in the ensuing laps, but following a lap 11 caution for debris, the now third-running Grant began to surge, racing under Tanner Thorson for second on the 12th lap, then raced by Swanson for the lead in much the same manner one lap later.

However, over in turn three, 8th running Tyler Courtney banged the outside concrete, flattening his right rear tire and sending him to the work area. Repairs were made and Courtney returned to the field, racing from the tail of the field to a respectable 8th place finish at the checkered.

The stoppage placed Swanson back in front of Grant for the restart, and Swanson proceeded to command the mid-section of the 30-lapper, including another restart after series Rookie Paul Nienhiser's collision with the turn four wall on lap 14.

Like déjà vu, on the 23rd lap, Grant found a lane underneath Swanson for the lead exiting turn four. The two drag raced side-by-side to the bottom of turn one with the pair banging wheels, Grant's right rear and Swanson's left front. In a close quarters race, there's maybe only one chance you get to see for the race lead. Grant saw that opportunity knock and went after it.

"(Swanson) left the door open off of four and he was beat down the front stretch and into one," Grant explained. "He tried to dog me down in there and just wasn't in a position to be able to do it. We made contact, but I was far enough up under him that he knew what was coming; he knows the game. He's a good friend of mine, he's at my house all the time and he's a good dude. We'll be fine but I'm sure he might be mad tonight."

"You hate to do that to a guy leading his first race," Grant continued. "They're all awesome people, but I'm here to do a job. I'm here to put racecars in victory lane for everybody that supports this effort as well as (team owner) Kevin Birchmeier. That's what he hired me to do, and when I show up to the racetrack, that's what I'm here to do. Jake's one of my best friends, but when I signed in at the pit gate, I'm not getting paid to be Jake's friend. You've got to do your job as much as it pains you sometimes to do it."

As Swanson regathered himself to stay in front of Thorson for the runner-up spot, Buddy Kofoid stepped up to the topside to race around both Swanson and Thorson, then immediately began to threaten Grant's supremacy at the head of the pack with six laps remaining.

"Buddy was up there," Grant remembered. "We got to Davey Ray to lap him, and I'm idling the bottom, so the motor's really quiet, but I hear this motor just screaming down the front stretch, pretty close. I'm like 'Ooh, that guy ain't coming off the bottom. He's blazing the top.' I cleared Davey into one, then in the middle of two, I thought to myself, 'Do I bail off the bottom, do I go to the top," and then the yellow lights came on. I remember thinking, 'Whew, thank god. Now I've got a few laps to roll around and think about that decision.'"

"Clinton Boyles, who's down here helping us out this week, leaned out through the pit gates pointing to the top of three and four and I said, 'Got it, got it.' That gave me confidence in that decision and I'm really glad he did that. I don't know if I would've had the nerve to do that after leading everything on the bottom. It's hard to make that move."

On the restart, Grant had no qualms establishing a presence at the topside of turns three and four and began to distance himself from the field while the battle raged for second with Brady Bacon racing around the outside of Kofoid for second just three laps from the finish.

After finishing 2nd the night prior, Grant did one better on Friday, wrapping up the victory by a 1.164 second margin with Bacon, Kofoid, Thorson and C.J. Leary rounding out the top-five.

Brady Bacon's 2nd place result in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy was unique in the manner that it was achieved. It was the three-time series' champion's fourth consecutive Hughes Racing / Indiana Mafia / Flamingo Sandy / KSE Racing Products Hard Charger award at Bubba Raceway Park since 2020, all advancements of exactly eight positions. No more, no less. Last year, the Broken Arrow, Okla. native raced from 9th to 1st twice, and on Thursday of this year, he went 12th to 4th, and on Friday, went 10th to 2nd.

Buddy Kofoid (Penngrove, Calif.) made his fifth career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature start his best thus far, challenging for the race lead late and finishing 3rd in his Chris Dyson Racing/Thetford – Lelands.com – JVI Group – Norcold/Maxim/Ott Chevy. All five of his series starts have resulted in top-ten finishes thus far.

Five drivers are locked into Saturday's $10,000-to-win Winter Dirt Games XII finale, having secured the first five starting births after earning the most combined points throughout Thursday's and Friday's activities: high point man Justin Grant, as well as Thursday's winner Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.), Brady Bacon, Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) and Tyler Courtney (Indianapolis, Ind.).

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: February 12, 2021 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XII – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Tyler Courtney, 7BC, Clauson/Marshall/Newman-13.988; 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-14.127; 3. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.225; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.277; 5. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-14.393; 6. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.449; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.507; 8. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-14.517; 9. Dave Darland, 5, Baldwin/Fox/Curb-Agajanian-14.535; 10. Noah Gass, 20G, Gass-14.756; 11. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-14.791; 12. Jadon Rogers, 61m, Edwards-14.809; 13. Chayse Hayhurst, 20, Hayhurst-14.857; 14.

Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-14.942; 15. Stevie Sussex, 77, Wingo-14.967; 16. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-14.998; 17. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-15.130; 18. Drew Rader, 74, Heitmeyer-15.458; 19. Cam Schafer, 97, Roach-15.469; 20. Jesse Vermillion, 5v, Vermillion-15.661; 21. Blake Vermillion, 73, Vermillion-15.696; 22. Craig Pellegrini, 27, Pellegrini-16.143; 23. Robert Bell, 71, Bell-16.649.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-13.884; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.906; 3. Buddy Kofoid, 20K, Dyson-13.968; 4. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.026; 5. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-14.069; 6. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.082; 7. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.138; 8. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-14.365; 9. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.388; 10. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-14.391; 11. Davey Ray, 14AJ, FattFro/RayPro-14.417; 12. Cole Bodine, 57, DCT-14.463; 13. Carson Garrett, 15, KO-14.587; 14. Kade Morton, 8m, Morton-14.635; 15. Kory Schudy, 28K, Sawyer-14.712; 16. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-14.712; 17. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-14.751; 18. Shane Butler, 18, Butler-14.993; 19. Brent Beauchamp, 2E, Epperson-15.059; 20. Dickie Gaines, 44, Soudrette-15.118; 21. Riley Kreisel, 91, DKR-15.134; 22. Scott Evans, 118, Evans-15.426.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Tyler Courtney, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Paul Nienhiser, 6. Stevie Sussex, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Matt Goodnight, 9. Chayse Hayhurst, 10. Blake Vermillion, 11. Cam Schafer, 12. Robert Bell. 2:01.830

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Noah Gass, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Chase Johnson, 7. Mario Clouser, 8. Dustin Clark, 9. Drew Rader, 10. Jesse Vermillion, 11. Craig Pellegrini. 2:03.013

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Davey Ray, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Buddy Kofoid, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Timmy Buckwalter, 6. Chase Stockon, 7. Brent Beauchamp, 8. Kory Schudy, 9. Riley Kreisel, 10. Max Adams, 11. Carson Garrett. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Cole Bodine, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Sterling Cling, 7. Dickie Gaines, 8. Ryan Thomas, 9. Kade Morton, 10. Scott Evans, 11. Shane Butler. 2:05.141

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Mario Clouser, 2. Brandon Mattox, 3. Brent Beauchamp, 4. Ryan Thomas, 5. Scott Evans, 6. Riley Kreisel, 7. Blake Vermillion, 8. Cam Schafer, 9. Craig Pellegrini, 10. Dickie Gaines, 11. Shane Butler, 12. Max Adams, 13. Drew Rader, 14. Jesse Vermillion. NT

SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Paul Nienhiser, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Kory Schudy, 4. Chase Johnson, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Timmy Buckwalter, 7. Matt Goodnight, 8. Mario Clouser, 9. Carson Garrett, 10. Briggs Danner, 11. Brandon Mattox, 12. Dustin Clark, 13. Sterling Cling, 14. Chayse Hayhurst, 15. Ryan Thomas, 16. Kade Morton, 17. Stevie Sussex, 18. Brent Beauchamp. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (8), 2. Brady Bacon (10), 3. Buddy Kofoid (3), 4. Tanner Thorson (7), 5. C.J. Leary (13), 6. Kevin Thomas Jr. (4), 7. Jake Swanson (5), 8. Tyler Courtney (6), 9. Chris Windom (11), 10. Robert Ballou (2), 11. Chase Stockon (15), 12. Chase Johnson (16), 13. Jadon Rogers (21), 14. Kory Schudy (22), 15. Matt Westfall (17), 16. Noah Gass (19), 17. Timmy Buckwalter (14), 18. Mario Clouser (24), 19. Kyle Cummins (1), 20. Davey Ray (9), 21. Paul Nienhiser (12), 22. Cole Bodine (20), 23. Dave Darland (18), 24. Stevie Sussex (23). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Kyle Cummins, Laps 2-22 Jake Swanson, Laps 23-30 Justin Grant.

**Brent Beauchamp flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-153, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-142, 3-Brady Bacon-142, 4-Tanner Thorson-135, 5-C.J. Leary-122, 6-Kyle Cummins-109, 7-Jake Swanson-108, 8-Chris Windom-107, 9-Timmy Buckwalter-91, 10-Robert Ballou-91.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XII SPRINT CAR POINTS: (Top-5 locked into Saturday's feature) 1-Justin Grant-689, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.- 675, 3-Brady Bacon-675, 4-Tanner Thorson-656, 5-Tyler Courtney-654, 6-C.J. Leary-639, 7-Kyle Cummins-635, 8-Buddy Kofoid-627, 9-Chris Windom-623, 10-Jake Swanson-615.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-16, 2-C.J. Leary-12, 3-Chase Stockon-12, 4-Tanner Carrick-9, 5-Bryant Wiedeman-9, 6-Cannon McIntosh-9, 7-Noah Gass-9, 8-Chris Windom-8, 9-Jadon Rogers-8, 10-Kory Schudy-8.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XII SPRINT CAR PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-18, 2-Kory Schudy-18, 3-Chase Stockon-17, 4-Justin Grant-14, 5-Jadon Rogers-13, 6-Paul Nienhiser-12, 7-Riley Kreisel-10, 8-Chris Windom-8, 9-C.J. Leary-8, 10-Tyler Courtney-8.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: February 13, 2021 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XII – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Tyler Courtney

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Timmy Buckwalter

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Tanner Thorson

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Davey Ray

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Hughes Racing / Indiana Mafia / Flamingo Sandy / KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (10th to 2nd)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Jadon Rogers

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Matt Goodnight

Prosource Hard Work Award: Kory Schudy

==========

BACON WRAPS THE BURG WITH DOMINANT PERFORMANCE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Lawrenceburg, Indiana (April 3, 2021)……Lawrenceburg Speedway is the focal point in which Brady Bacon and Dynamics, Inc./Hoffman Auto Racing reached yet another zenith in their successful racing relationship.

On Saturday night, the team, based in nearby Milford, Ohio, received its rewards for the previous season's title – which concluded with a win at Lawrenceburg – during a stirring pre-race ceremony, and saw Rob Hoffman being presented the Richard Hoffman USAC National Sprint Car Entrant Championship trophy, so named in his father's memory.

Akin to so many prior occasions throughout much of the past decade, when the evening was all said and done, the rewards were aplenty, and the gifts, well, they kept on giving.

Exactly six months to the day of Bacon and team reigning victorious at The Burg in their most recent foray to the southeastern Indiana venue, the team reigned victorious for the 28th time together with the series, and for the second consecutive time at the 3/8-mile dirt oval.

The third-winningest combination in the history of USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car racing carried its mojo into its return trip to Lawrenceburg, as the Broken Arrow, Okla. native raced from the sixth starting position to the lead in just six short laps, carrying on to a complete annihilation of the 24-car field by a 2.924 sec. margin at the end of the 30-lap feature.

It was a seemingly comfortable win for the now 36-time USAC National Sprint Car driver, who surpassed Rich Vogler and Jon Stanbrough for sole possession of 10th all-time. However, Bacon's comfort cruise was more like a four lane highway in the thick of rush hour traffic for the majority of the contest.

"You never know," Bacon remarked, referring to how much of a lead a driver possesses in a sprint car race at any given time. "Traffic can really slow you down, and I got to where I wasn't in the right spot on the track, and I wasn't really gaining on the lapped cars. So, I assumed they were gaining on me. We had a good lead, but you never really know. But we passed two of the best cars out there, and if you can do that, you're rolling around pretty good."

Outside front row starter C.J. Leary grabbed the lead on the initial start but was quickly tracked down by Bacon who ascended to third by the end of lap one after riding the outside line in the wake of Leary with Grant in second.

Following Chase Stockon's bike and bounce in turn two that brought out an early yellow, Bacon scooted by Grant for second on the restart and, in short order, was threatening Leary's sovereignty. On the sixth circuit, Bacon stuck a nose underneath Leary in turn three and was able to get the drive off turn four to secure the top spot.

"I kind of worked him over and just had a good enough car to get by him as quickly as I could just in case it might turn into one lane; it didn't really, but it could've," Bacon explained. "So, I tried to get to the lead as quickly as I could, and I tried to be as aggressive as I thought I could afford to be in lapped traffic."

In relatively no time flat – two laps – Bacon let loose to construct a full-straightaway lead over Leary. High, low, slip, slide, dip and dive, Bacon found himself in a personal game of Tetris amongst lapped traffic as he sought to shoot the gap, fill the gap, and move onto the next level in quick succession.

A continuous line of combatants that forced him to move his line high, middle and low, wherever he needed to go, wasn't enough to slow Bacon down at any rate as he maintained and annexed his interval over Leary down the stretch while, in the process, putting all but the top-10 finishers a lap down at the finish.

Bacon closed out his third career Lawrenceburg USAC National Sprint Car win, after previous triumphs in 2015 and 2020, over Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman Ford while Chris Windom (Canton, Ill.) took third in his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) finished fourth while Thomas Meseraull raced to fifth. The top-five finishing drivers Saturday night have all previously won USAC National Sprint Car features at Lawrenceburg in their careers.

Bacon's win elevated him to the top of the point standings in this still very young season, but a good start is nothing to take for granted, and Bacon is no exception.

"I felt good," Bacon said. "But once you get to the middle of the year, you can really feel if you're really good or not. This place has always been kind of hit or miss for us. We always run decent, but the good guys always seem to find the front here. There could be a big difference between a first place car and a fourth place car here. I think we had one of the best cars at (a non-sanctioned event) at Brownstown and one of the best cars in Florida, so we're pretty happy with how the year has started."

Bacon next turns his attention to the April 9-10 Werco Manufacturing T-Town Midget Showdown presented by the Rayce Rudeen Foundation at Port City Raceway in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he'll serve not as a driver, but, instead, in the role of race promoter.

Simultaneously performing the balancing act of successful driver and successful promoter from one weekend to the next is a relatively uncommon occurrence, but he's bound and determined to make it work.

"We had an extra-long offseason, so we felt pretty prepared. My wife does a lot of the advertising work for the race. We'll really be hitting it hard this week, get that one behind us, and then we have another one right after that," Bacon said, alluding to his second promoting endeavor, the May 9 USAC Silver Crown race at Winchester (Ind.) Speedway.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 3, 2021 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Jadon Rogers, 61m, Edwards-14.297; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.307; 3. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-14.336; 4. Stevie Sussex, 77, Wingo-14.352; 5. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-14.401; 6. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.412; 7. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.435; 8. Nick Bilbee, 17, Bilbee-14.454; 9. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.476; 10. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.477; 11. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.510; 12. J.J. Hughes, 76, A-Fab-14.515; 13. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.601; 14. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.607; 15. Carson Garrett, 15KO, KO-14.610; 16. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-14.611; 17. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-14.634; 18. Dave Darland, 5, Baldwin/Fox/Curb-Agajanian-14.636; 19. Thomas Meseraull, 47, Eades-14.666; 20. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.703; 21. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-14.725; 22. Max Adams, 17G, On The Gass-14.765; 23. Garrett Abrams, 32, Abrams-14.778; 24. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-14.791; 25. Aaron Farney, 15F, DCT-14.823; 26. Dickie Gaines, 44, Soudrette-14.910; 27.

Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.977; 28. Saban Bibent, 10, Bibent-15.142; 29. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-15.354; 30. Anton Hernandez, 27, Densford-15.386; 31. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-15.600.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Sterling Cling, 2. Scotty Weir, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Cole Bodine, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Aaron Farney, 7. Ryan Thomas, 8. Chase Stockon. 1:58.459

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Dave Darland, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Max Adams, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Anton Hernandez, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Dickie Gaines. 2:01.061

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Garrett Abrams, 3. Paul Nienhiser, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Tanner Thorson, 6. Carson Garrett, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Ryan Barr. 2:02.934

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Stevie Sussex, 5. J.J. Hughes, 6. Nick Bilbee, 7. Saban Bibent. 1:59.986

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Nick Bilbee, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Tanner Thorson, 6. J.J. Hughes, 7. Aaron Farney, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Anton Hernandez, 10. Carson Garrett, 11. Chase Stockon, 12. Saban Bibent, 13. Dickie Gaines, 14. Ryan Thomas, 15. Ryan Barr. 3:10.209

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (6), 2. C.J. Leary (2), 3. Chris Windom (10), 4. Justin Grant (1), 5. Thomas Meseraull (9), 6. Jadon Rogers (11), 7. Paul Nienhiser (5), 8. Cole Bodine (3), 9. Robert Ballou (22), 10. Stevie Sussex (4), 11. Sterling Cling (7), 12. Nick Bilbee (14), 13. Tanner Thorson (13), 14. Jake Swanson (16), 15. Max Adams (20), 16. Dave Darland (8), 17. Scotty Weir (19), 18. Matt Westfall (12), 19. Kevin Thomas Jr. (17), 20. J.J. Hughes (15), 21. Kyle Cummins (18), 22. Brandon Mattox (P) (24), 23. Garrett Abrams (21), 24. Chase Stockon (P) (23). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-5 C.J. Leary, Laps 6-30 Brady Bacon.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-224, 2-Justin Grant-220, 3-C.J. Leary-195, 4-Chris Windom-179, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-174, 6-Tanner Thorson-173, 7-Jake Swanson-144, 8-Robert Ballou-142, 9-Kyle Cummins-138, 10-Jadon Rogers-135.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-21, 2-Robert Ballou-16, 3-Chris Windom-15, 4-Jadon Rogers-13, 5-C.J. Leary-12, 6-Chase Stockon-12, 7-Tanner Carrick-9, 8-Bryant Wiedeman-9, 9-Cannon McIntosh-9, 10- Noah Gass-9.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 16, 2021 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Stevie Sussex

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Jadon Rogers

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Sterling Cling

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Dave Darland

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Jadon Rogers

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (22nd to 9th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Tanner Thorson

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Aaron Farney

==========

KTJ THROWS CHANGE-UP TO WIN BLOOMINGTON'S LARRY RICE CLASSIC

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bloomington, Indiana (April 16, 2021)……Sometimes you've got to roll with what got you there in the first place. And, on those occasions when you change up the plan mid-stream, you've got to find your way back.

Kevin Thomas Jr. checked the boxes on all of the above throughout Friday night's 30-lap Larry Rice Classic USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature at Bloomington (Ind.) Speedway.

Religiously trekking around the 1/4-mile on the top in turns one and two, and on the bottom of turns three and four, Thomas (Cullman, Ala.) ventured down low on a late restart with six laps remaining, losing the lead to Brady Bacon in the process, then raced his way back to the front past Bacon with three laps remaining to become the first multi-time winner with the series this season.

Keep in mind that, over the past two seasons, Thomas had won a grand total of two USAC Sprint Car features. With a pair of victories under his hat in just four appearances (Ocala & Bloomington), it's marked a sea change of confidence and expectations for the driver of the KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper – McDonald's – KT Construction Services/DRC/Speedway Chevy.

"It's very important, for me especially," Thomas noted. "It's one of those things. I got to get rolling and I've got to have that confidence that I've not had for the last couple years. (Crew chief) Davey (Jones) brings that to me. He's kind of my safety blanket, and Jason (McDougal) and A.J. (Parker) as well. They got my season turned around last year in a pretty swift manner, so I have a lot of trust in those guys."

"You've just got to be on kill," Thomas continued. "That's just kind of the way it is. You've got to be very aggressive, you've got to be smart, and you've got to have a good racecar. Brady (Bacon) is going to be a pain in my butt all year; Grant, Windom, Leary, they're all going to be equal pains. We've just got to be the best that we can be every single night and it'll work itself out. We'll win the races that we're supposed to and, hopefully, win half the ones we're not supposed to. Tonight might've been one of those."

Thomas' triumph was the fourth of his USAC Sprint Car career at Bloomington, which made him the second winningest driver of all-time with the series at the track, trailing only Bryan Clauson's five. In fact, the very first of Thomas' 29 career series wins came at Bloomington in 2012.

Speaking of which, Thomas' 29th career victory elevated him into 14th place on the all-time USAC National Sprint Car win list, surpassing the win totals of series champions Don Branson, A.J. Foyt, Levi Jones, Chris Windom and J.J. Yeley, all of whom have won 28.

Thomas started on the outside of the front row, yet it was pole sitter Shane Cottle who got to the point initially. Cottle led the opening lap before Thomas swiftly drove around the outside of Cottle in turns one two, nipping Cottle at the line at the conclusion of lap two. Thomas raced around the circumference of Cottle in turns one and two on the third circuit, then made a beeline for the bottom of turn three, stealing Cottle's line and would remain on the same path for much of the remainder of the race.

While the majority of the 24-car driver lineup was deciphering whether to find traction high or low, Bacon had another idea to cut through the middle, slicing his way up to the second position and would continually press the issue with Thomas for the balance of the joust.

Bacon went on the offensive, riding the high line all the way around while Thomas swapped from high to low as he navigated each end of the racing surface. Bacon was able to stay within reach, but Thomas was "steady as he goes" on his current course.

However, with six laps remaining, 20th running Sterling Cling was uninjured after riding out a series of barrel rolls off the edge of the turn four banking. He walked away uninjured.

During the red flag period, Thomas surveyed the track and made the decision to alter his plan of attack.

"When we stopped there for that red, in one and two, I was like, 'there's a lot of moisture down here,'" Thomas recalled. "I know I was getting through one and two well, but I didn't know if it was going to hold up. I knew it was getting thin off two. I was hanging a little bit, so I changed my line."

After one lap following the restart, Thomas darted back to the high line in turns one and two, but that opened the door for Bacon to stick a foot into as he dove into turn one and slid up in front of Thomas in turn two to snare the lead. Thomas pretty much was required to commit himself to the bottom now or otherwise follow Bacon's lead and accept his fate of staring at the Dynamics, Inc. No. 69's rear bumper.

"It's a line I hadn't been running," Thomas explained. "I went down there, clipped the infield tire, got really tight and gave the lead up to Brady, and I just had to really work for it and focus on hitting my marks and doing what I was doing for the other 20 some odd laps. I don't know if that was the right thing to do but we did still end up winning the race. That's a lot to do with the racecar. It went wherever I wanted it to go. I just had to not screw up."

Racing is a game of concentration as much as it is anything else, and Thomas set his focus on racing the racetrack before being reactionary to what hand his competition was ultimately going to show.

"I never saw Brady until he passed me," Thomas reasoned. "The way I was running the top in one and two, I didn't ever look left to see who was under me or if I could see anybody because it was pretty big up there, and treacherous, so I had to really make sure I was paying attention. I had that feeling that somebody was there, and somebody was coming."

That somebody was Bacon who was now executing the middle/top as Thomas persistently dug his way on the low. With three to go, while exiting turn four, Bacon drifted just a tad high as Thomas nailed his four rubber soles to the huggy pole and shot off the corner in a might to clear Bacon and immediately jumped back to the top in turn one, back to his safe place where all had been relatively smooth for the first 24 laps.

Onward Thomas went unchallenged for the remaining two trips around as he locked up a 1.479 sec. margin victory over Bacon, Kyle Cummins, Cottle and Chris Windom.

A frightening incident at the finish line on the final lap saw Carson Garrett (13th) and Mario Clouser (14th) make wheel-to-wheel contact which sending Garrett careening nose first into the front straightaway wall before flipping over. Garrett climbed from the racecar under his own power but was later transferred to a local hospital for further observation.

Perhaps the most incredible of all longevity streaks in the history of USAC National Sprint Car racing came to an end Friday night at Bloomington when Chase Stockon finished 10th in the semi-feature, coming up shy of a transfer spot to the feature event. Although the team did have a provisional starting position available, they elected not to utilize it. Thus,

Stockon's all-time record streak of 324 consecutive feature starts in USAC National Sprint Car competition was over, a record which dated back to every series race run since 2012.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 16, 2021 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Larry Rice Classic

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-11.232; 2. Mario Clouser, 6, Clouser-11.269; 3. Max Adams, 17G, On The Gass-11.316; 4. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-11.418; 5. Jadon Rogers, 61m, Edwards-11.479; 6. Logan Seavey, 17GP, Dutcher-11.483; 7. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-11.520; 8. Dave Darland, 5, Baldwin/Fox/Curb- Agajanian-11.535; 9. Carson Short, 2E, Epperson-11.540; 10. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-11.606; 11. Carson Garrett, 15KO, KO-11.623; 12. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-11.655; 13. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-11.684; 14. Davey Ray, 14AJ, FattFro/RayPro-11.695; 15. Travis Berryhill, 77s, Sturgeon-11.712; 16. Brent Beauchamp, 11, LB-11.721; 17. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-11.727; 18. Brandon Morin, 98, Morin-11.797; 19. Jordan Kinser, 70, Hurst-11.811; 20. Hunter O'Neal, 77, O'Neal-11.823; 21. Brady Short, 11p, Pottorff-11.895; 22. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-11.914.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-11.297; 2. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.326; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.391; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-11.416; 5. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-11.476; 6. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-11.540; 7. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-11.563; 8. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-11.611; 9. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-11.622; 10. Ricky Lewis, 11L, Lewis-11.752; 11. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-11.768; 12. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-11.796; 13. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-11.859; 14. A.J. Hopkins, 04, Burton-11.873; 15. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.016; 16. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-12.102; 17. Tye Mihocko, 5T, Parker-12.136; 18. Jake Bland, 20, Bland-12.331; 19. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-12.337; 20. Ted Kirkpatrick, 63LK, Sturgeon-12.969; 21. Eric Perrott, 45, Perrott-13.187.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Carson Short, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Max Adams, 6. Travis Berryhill, 7. Chase Stockon, 8. Brady Short, 9. Jadon Rogers, 10. Sterling Cling. 2:00.740

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Cole Bodine, 3. Chris Windom, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Mario Clouser, 6. Brent Beauchamp, 7. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 8. Hunter O'Neal, 9. Davey Ray, 10. Brandon Morin, 11. Logan Seavey. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Paul Nienhiser, 2. Tye Mihocko, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Brayden Fox, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Isaac Chapple, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Matt Goodnight, 9. C.J. Leary, 10. Eric Perrott, 11. Harley Burns. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Robert Ballou, 3. A.J. Hopkins, 4. Scotty Weir, 5. Tanner Thorson, 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Jake Bland, 8. Ricky Lewis, 9. Ted Kirkpatrick, 10. Braxton Cummings. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Brent Beauchamp, 2. Braxton Cummings, 3. Brady Short, 4. Sterling Cling, 5. Jake Bland, 6. Brandon Morin, 7. Harley Burns, 8. Hunter O'Neal, 9. Eric Perrott, 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 11. Ted Kirkpatrick. 2:14.284

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Max Adams, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Ricky Lewis, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Davey Ray, 9. Isaac Chapple, 10. Chase Stockon, 11. Brent Beauchamp, 12. Sterling Cling, 13. Matt Goodnight, 14. Jadon Rogers, 15. Travis Berryhill, 16. Matt Westfall, 17. Brady Short, 18. Braxton Cummings. 2:40.395

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (2), 2. Brady Bacon (5), 3. Kyle Cummins (7), 4. Shane Cottle (1), 5. Chris Windom (4), 6. Tanner Thorson (11), 7. C.J. Leary (9), 8. Justin Grant (6), 9. Scotty Weir (16), 10. Robert Ballou (20), 11. Jake Swanson (13), 12. Dave Darland (15), 13. Carson Garrett (8), 14. Mario Clouser (10), 15. Tye Mihocko (22), 16. Paul Nienhiser (3), 17. Carson Short (17), 18. Max Adams (12), 19. Cole Bodine (19), 20. Brayden Fox (14), 21. Matt Westfall (23) (P), 22. A.J. Hopkins (21), 23. Sterling Cling (24) (P), 24. Ricky Lewis (18). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Shane Cottle, Laps 2-25 Kevin Thomas Jr., Laps 26-27 Brady Bacon, Laps 28-30 Kevin Thomas Jr.

**Logan Seavey flipped during the second heat. C.J. Leary flipped during the third heat. Sterling Cling flipped on lap 24 of the feature. Carson Garrett flipped on the lap 30 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-298, 2-Justin Grant-280, 3-C.J. Leary-255, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-252, 5-Chris Windom-243, 6-Tanner Thorson-233, 7-Kyle Cummins-210, 8-Robert Ballou-192, 9-Jake Swanson-186, 10-Paul Nienhiser-160.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-26, 2-Brady Bacon-24, 3-Chris Windom-24, 4-Tanner Thorson-21, 5-Bryant Wiedeman-21, 6-Buddy Kofoid-20, 7-C.J. Leary-14, 8-Justin Grant-13, 9-Jadon Rogers-13, 10-Jake Neuman-13.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 17, 2021 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Tye Mihocko

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Justin Grant

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Carson Garrett

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Paul Nienhiser

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: C.J. Leary

KSE Racing Products / B & W Auto Mart Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (20th to 10th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Carson Garrett

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Brandon Mattox

==========

CUMMINS SPRINGS FORWARD LATE TO WIN SHOWDOWN AT TRI-STATE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Haubstadt, Indiana (April 17, 2021)……At Tri-State Speedway, Kyle Cummins has long since honed his knack for taking the most extraordinary moments and making them seem almost routine.

Not to be taken for granted, but it's almost what many have come to expect from the track's most dominant wheelman over the last decade at the southern Indiana quarter-mile dirt oval.

Sure, we've become so accustomed to the plethora of highlight reel performances by the Princeton, Indiana native, but possibly none have been as impressive as Saturday night's drive to victory from the 11th starting position in which he ran down Jadon Rogers just four laps from the finish to score his first career Spring Showdown triumph, co-sanctioned by USAC and MSCS.

Cummins had won practically every named race at Tri-State, but the first eight editions of the Spring Showdown had eluded him thus far. His sixth career USAC victory at Tri-State made him the winningest USAC Sprint Car driver at Tri-State, breaking a three-way tie he had held with Kevin Thomas Jr. and Daron Clayton at five.

Six of Cummins' 10 career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car victories have come at the Haubstadt, Ind. track, and hitting the double-digit mark in terms of wins with the series also pushed him past Mario Andretti, Kyle Cummins, Pat O'Connor, Hunter Schuerenberg and Robbie Stanley on the all-time series win list.

Cummins' journey entailed continuous alterations, trials and errors and improvements on the car throughout the course of the evening following qualifying, the heat race, and even prompted a well-placed phone call to his father, Mark, a sprint car hero himself at Tri-State during the decades of the 1980s and 1990s.

"I didn't know if we had a shot or not," Cummins admitted. "At the beginning of the night, we had a mag going bad, and my team kept working and working and working. Every time we came in, we kept trying something, trying something, and I even called my dad at home, and he came down right after qualifying. Once he made it here, we got everything switched up."

Pole sitter Chase Stockon came out with a prominent bit of mental fire after his all-time record streak of 324 consecutive USAC National Sprint Car feature starts was snapped the previous night at Bloomington when the Fort Branch, Ind. pilot missed the transfer.

During an all-nighter that lasted until 4am into the wee hours of Saturday morning, Stockon and the KO Motorsports team pieced together last year's successful car and headed to Tri-State where the team was triumphant in its most recent USAC start last September, and to jump off the self-described struggle bus that had plagued the team since the beginning of the new season.

Stockon led the opening five laps while team manager and on-track teammate Kent Schmidt rallied to second and began to challenge him for the race lead. Meanwhile, fifth starting Jadon Rogers hustled his way up into the thick of the battle and, ultimately, worked his way underneath Stockon to gain the top spot on lap six.

Rogers, the 2020 USAC National Sprint Car Rookie of the Year, finished as the runner-up to Stockon last Fall at Tri-State for his best career result to that point. Additionally, Rogers was wheeling a car for the very same Randy Edwards owned team that was victorious in the most recent Spring Showdown in 2020 with first-time winner Stephen Schnapf, a feat Rogers was hoping to repeat on this night.

By mid-race, Rogers had opened up a 4.5 second lead as he aggressively attacked his way through lapped traffic to provide himself a healthy advantage over Stockon and the steadily emerging Cummins who had suddenly entered the top-five. Despite adaptively acclimating himself to his current situation amid the thick of traffic, in theory, the successive pair of cautions just after midway effectively provided Cummins an opportunity to catch up, settle in, regroup, and gain more positions without the hindrance of traffic thrust into his sight.

On the 21st lap, Cummins paced his way by Stockon for the second position, and just moments later, a yellow fell for the spinning duo of Paul Nienhiser (16th) and Chet Williams (18th) in between turns one and two. That provided Rogers another clear track out in front, thus making traffic practically an afterthought at that point. However, it did also pose Cummins an unobstructed shot at Rogers, mono y mono, just those two, down to the stripe for the win.

Rogers couldn't afford to make a mistake on the ensuing restart with nine laps remaining, as he rode the high line and Cummins displayed the entirety of his car just a smidge to the left of Rogers field of vision. Rogers was pretty much flawless over the next five laps as Cummins wasn't able to make much headway on the bottom.

With four laps remaining, the car of Carson Short slowed dramatically in front of the leaders on the front straightaway to bring out the yellow flag, setting up one final shot and one final opportunity for Cummins to give it a go.



"When I got to second, I felt pretty good on the bottom, and then Jadon stepped it up another gear, and went around the top and I wasn't going to catch him," Cummins revealed. "As soon as the yellow happened, I moved the shocks a little bit and I just knew I had to blaze her in there and just keep my momentum up."

Cummins didn't waste a second of his time blazing it in there on the lap 27 restart, sliding up in front of Rogers in turn one soon after the drop of the green. Rogers quickly countered and tossed his machine to the bottom of turn three, sliding by Cummins in the process, but leaving room for Cummins to race back by underneath to reassume the position and never relent over the final three laps, ultimately stretching his lead out to 1.323 seconds at the finish line.

"That was probably one of my most exciting wins down here in a long time because I had to battle, I had to change my line, run the top, run the bottom, I actually had to pull some tear-offs tonight. All in all, just an unbelievable night," an ecstatic Cummins stated in victory lane.

Rogers equaled his best career USAC National Sprint Car finish of 2nd in his Randy Edwards/Edwards Concrete Construction – Auto Wheel & Rim – Engler Machine/DRC/SPEC Chevy while Stockon recorded his first top-10 finish of the 2021 season, finishing 3rd in his KO Motorsports/Hutson John Deere – Superior Tank & Trailer – Ravens/Velocity/Fisher Chevy.

Justin Grant took 4th while Brady Bacon rounded out the top-five with a 5th. Bacon, the series point leader, remains the only driver to finish inside the top-five in all five of his USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car starts thus far this season.

During Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying, Kevin Thomas Jr. moved into the top-10 all-time in career fast qualifying times with the USAC National Sprint Cars. His 30th fast time moved him into a tie with Pancho Carter for 10th all-time.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 17, 2021 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Spring Showdown

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR/CHAD'S AUTOMOTIVE WHEEL REPAIR QUALIFYING: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-14.008; 2. Jadon Rogers, 61m, Edwards-14.074; 3. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-14.129; 4. Kent Schmidt, 5K, KO-14.140; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.152; 6. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.190; 7. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.214; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.256; 9. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.290; 10. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.359; 11. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.361; 12. Critter Malone, 7, Seven-14.377; 13. Max Adams, 17G, On The Gass-14.387; 14. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.410; 15. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-14.433; 16. Chet Williams, 38, Williams-14.473; 17. Kendall Ruble, 17, Ruble-14.526; 18. Stephen Schnapf, 11, Martin-14.620; 19. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.685; 20. Nic Harris, N2, Harris-14.733; 21. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-14.904; 22. Carson Short, 2E, Epperson-14.955; 23. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-14.985; 24. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-15.098; 25. Ricky Lewis, 11L, Lewis-15.250; 26. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-15.345; 27. Collin Ambrose, 36, Ambrose-15.416; 28. Stan Beadles, 84, Beadles-15.436; 29. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-15.438; 30. Brandon Morin, 98, Morin-15.485; 31. Sam Scott, 7s, Scott-15.845; 32. Anton Hernandez, 27, Densford-16.028; 33. Mitch Wissmiller, 29, RMB-16.053; 34. Eric Perrott, 45, Perrott-16.299; 35. Ryan Bond, 7R, Bond- NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Kendall Ruble, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Aric Gentry, 6. Paul Nienhiser, 7. Max Adams, 8. Ricky Lewis, 9. Mitch Wissmiller. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Stephen Schnapf, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Brandon Morin, 7. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 8. Eric Perrott, 9. Carson Short. 2:22.837

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Cole Bodine, 6. Shane Cottle, 7. Collin Ambrose, 8. Sam Scott, 9. Ryan Bond. 2:26.491

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Critter Malone, 3. Kent Schmidt, 4. Chet Williams, 5. Stan Beadles, 6. Nic Harris, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Anton Hernandez. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Paul Nienhiser, 2. Max Adams, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Carson Short, 6. Nic Harris, 7. Cole Bodine, 8. Ricky Lewis, 9. Brandon Morin, 10. Stan Beadles, 11. Collin Ambrose, 12. Matt Westfall, 13. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 14. Anton Hernandez, 15. Sam Scott, 16. Mitch Wissmiller, 17. Eric Perrott, 18. Ryan Bond, 19. Aric Gentry. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kyle Cummins (11), 2. Jadon Rogers (5), 3. Chase Stockon (1), 4. Justin Grant (7), 5. Brady Bacon (8), 6. Robert Ballou (12), 7. Kevin Thomas Jr. (6), 8. Tanner Thorson (13), 9. Kendall Ruble (19), 10. Chris Windom (4), 11. Jake Swanson (2), 12. Max Adams (15), 13. Critter Malone (14), 14. Kent Schmidt (3), 15. Paul Nienhiser (22), 16. C.J. Leary (16), 17. Cole Bodine (23) (P), 18. Carson Short (21), 19. Shane Cottle (17), 20. Chet Williams (18), 21. Nic Harris (20), 22. Brandon Mattox (10), 23. Aric Gentry (24) (P), 24. Stephen Schnapf (9). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-5 Chase Stockon, Laps 6-26 Jadon Rogers, Laps 27-30 Kyle Cummins.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-364, 2-Justin Grant-349, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-316, 4-Chris Windom-297, 5-C.J. Leary-293, 6-Tanner Thorson-287, 7-Kyle Cummins-286, 8-Robert Ballou-249, 9-Jake Swanson-234, 10-Jadon Rogers-223.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-32, 2-Brady Bacon-27, 3-Tanner Thorson-26, 4-Chris Windom-24, 5-Bryant Wiedeman-21, 6-Buddy Kofoid-20, 7-Justin Grant-16, 8-Jadon Rogers-16, 9-Kyle Cummins-14 10-C.J. Leary-14.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 18, 2021 – Paragon Speedway – Paragon, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Nic Harris

Fatheadz Eyewear / Chad's Automotive Wheel Repair Fast Qualifier: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Stephen Schnapf

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Brandon Mattox

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Paul Nienhiser

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Kyle Cummins (11th to 1st)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Critter Malone

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Cole Bodine

Everything Dirt Racing Hard Luck Award: Stephen Schnapf

==========

PARAGON USAC SPRINTS RAINED OUT

Paragon, Indiana (April 18, 2021)……Sunday's USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car event from Paragon (Ind.) Speedway was rained out after persistent showers doused the surface in what was to be the series' first appearance at the track since 1998.

Thirty-seven sprint cars were signed in for the event before the rain came.

Paragon Speedway and USAC officials are working on a possible reschedule date for the event later in the season.

Tickets purchased through the track for Sunday's event can be used at Paragon, Bloomington Speedway and Lincoln Park Speedway at a race later during the 2021 season.

The USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car season continues this week with four events in Pennsylvania April 22-25. The inaugural Keystone Invasion begins Thursday, April 22, at Grandview Speedway in Bechtelsville, Pa.; then Friday, April 23, at Big Diamond Speedway in Pottsville, Pa.; BAPS Motor Speedway in York Haven, Pa. on Saturday, April 24; and the finale at Path Valley Speedway Park on Sunday, April 25.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 18, 2021 – Paragon Speedway – Paragon, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track EVENT RAINED OUT

Kyle Cummins (#3R Rock Steady), Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), Dave Darland (#5 Baldwin-Fox-Curb/Agajanian), Matt McDonald (#5m McDonald), Paul Nienhiser (#5N KO), Chase Stockon (#5s KO), Tye Mihocko (#5T Parker), Tyler Kendall (#5TD Daming), Josh Cunningham (#6s Cunningham), Kevin Thomas Jr. (#9K KT), Zack Pretorius (#9z Pretorius), Aric Gentry (#10 Gentry), Brent Beauchamp (#11 LB), Ricky Lewis (#11L Lewis), Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou), Jadon Rogers (#14 Rogers), Davey Ray (#14AJ FattFro-RayPro), Harley Burns (#16 Burns), Ben Knight (#16K Knight), Max Adams (#17G On The Gass), Logan Seavey (#17GP Dutcher), Chris Windom (#19 Hayward), Tanner Thorson (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood), Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), Nate McMillin (#24 McMillin), Brandon Mattox (#28 Mattox), Jake Scott (#33 Miller), Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), Matt Goodnight (#39 Goodnight), Cole Bodine (#39BC Clauson Marshall Newman), Eddie Tafoya Jr. (#51T Tafoya), Brayden

Fox (#53 Fox), Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), Braxton Cummings (#71B Cummings), Shane Cottle (#74x Hodges), C.J. Leary (#77m Michael), Travis Berryhill (#77s Sturgeon).

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 22, 2021 – Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track

==========

BACON BANKS 4th STRAIGHT GRANDVIEW USAC SPRINT SCORE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania (April 22, 2021)……In this era, few drivers have demonstrated their domination of a single racetrack as well as Brady Bacon has with Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania's Grandview Speedway over his past four visits to the 1/3-mile dirt oval.

On a chilly Thursday night in the lid lifter for Keystone Invasion, the three-time USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car champion stoked the fires once again on his hot streak, winning his fourth-straight series race at the track after previous "dubs" in 2017, 2018 and 2019, an extraordinary feat that has only been accomplished by those at the top of the game, a group in which the Broken Arrow, Oklahoma driver certainly belongs.

Bacon's fourth consecutive triumph at a single track in USAC National Sprint Car competition places him in an exclusive group which consists of only nine other individuals throughout the history of the division. Two have won five-in-a-row at one venue: Jim Hurtubise - Terre Haute Action Track (1960-1962) and Steve Chassey - Winchester Speedway (1979-1979).

Meanwhile seven more have won four consecutive at one place: Bryan Clauson - Bloomington Speedway (2013-2016); Tyler Courtney - Eldora Speedway (2018-2019); Mike Bliss - Indianapolis Raceway Park (1994-1994); Tracy Hines - Indianapolis Raceway Park (2000-2001); Robert Ballou - Perris Auto Speedway (2014-2015); Bubby Jones - Terre Haute Action Track (1979-1979) and Dave Steele - Winchester Speedway (1998-1999).

Bacon's $6,000 victory aboard his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy, also netted him his 37th career USAC National Sprint Car win, tying him with fellow three-time series champion Sheldon Kinser for ninth all-time.

Bacon tracked down race leader Kevin Thomas Jr. on the 22nd lap of Thursday's 40-lap feature. Bacon then withstood a late resurgence by Thomas to win his second series feature of the 2021 season.

The main event was the latest in a series of captivating Bacon/Thomas duels of late, which showed shades of the 2018 Grandview round in which Bacon led, then lost the lead late to Thomas, only to regain it back at the end. And it was just one week ago at Bloomington where Thomas led the majority, gave up the lead to Bacon, then regained it with three laps left en route to the score.

"This has turned into one of our better tracks," Bacon said, an understatement to be sure. "I look forward to coming here and I'm really happy to get another win here."

Bacon started third while outside front row starter Thomas scooted away from Bacon as well as pole sitter Brandon Mattox. Just two laps in, Thomas was up a half-straightaway, and by lap four, his advantage was a full-straightaway as he laid an early hurtin' on the 23-car field.

On the eighth lap, Bacon was able to clear Mattox for second with a swift move under the 2020 USAC National Most Improved driver exiting the fourth corner. By then, however, Thomas was barely visible within Bacon's scope, 4.8 seconds ahead.

Trouble for others spelled the closure of Thomas' substantial early-race advantage when sixth-running Chris Windom got completely sideways between turns one and two. While Windom was in the process of getting out of shape, seventh running Thorson, with nowhere to go, tapped the back of Windom's rear bumper, sending Windom around and to a stop.

Windom restarted at the tail and raced his way back to 10th, continuing his string of 21 consecutive top-ten finishes with the series dating back to July of 2020.

Bacon's newfound track position paid major dividends as he draped his car all over that of Thomas for the next several circuits and immersed himself entirely in lapped traffic. Then, on lap 22, Bacon diamonded turns three and four and swooped between the inside wall and Thomas off turn four to escape with the lead. Then, Bacon succinctly drove from the bottom of four straight to the top in turn one across the nose of Thomas to steal the line away and drive off to a one second lead during the ensuing laps.

"I knew if I could get to second, and that there'd probably be a yellow, I didn't have to worry about tracking him down," Bacon described of his pursuit of Thomas. "I just kind of worked him over in lapped traffic and I figured that, once we're on an open track, I could keep enough of a good pace to not let him get underneath me or slide me. The bottom just wasn't quite there like it sometimes is. I knew if I just made some good laps and didn't mess up, I'd be okay."

Bacon threaded his way through the back of the pack, decisively splitting between Joey Biasi and Ricky Lewis in turn one, while leaving Thomas stifled behind them and allowing Bacon to check out momentarily until a stoppage moments later on lap 29 when three-time USAC East Coast Sprint Car champion, and 16th running, Steven Drevicki, emerged unhurt following a flip between turns three and four.

A clear track for Bacon up front didn't necessarily foreshadow clear sailing as Thomas remained within earshot throughout the final 11 lap run. Thomas remained three to four car lengths back while Bacon continued maintained a steady pace up front. Traffic was relatively trouble free for Bacon as he navigated the high line while the lappers stayed the course and laid low, creating a clean path to a 0.814 sec. margin of victory.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) took second with Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) third, Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) fourth and Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) fifth.

Thomas, the lone multi-time winner on the USAC National Sprint Car trail prior to Bacon on Thursday night, finished in the runner-up spot in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper – McDonald's – KT Construction Services/DRC/Speedway Chevy. However, after leading a race-high 21 laps, Thomas felt as if this night very easily could've win number three.

"I felt like I gave that one away," Thomas stated. "We had a good car; Brady and I were equal there by the end. To that point, not making the right moves on lapped cars was a big mistake on my end. It's frustrating, and I just don't really have

words for it. But it's good when your pissed off about second. I just have to do a little better on my end. They gave me a winning racecar and I didn't do it."

Ballou connected the dots to earn his best finish of the 2021 season, finishing third in a KSE Racing Products Hard Charger performance after advancing 10 positions from his 13th starting spot. The final spot on the podium equaled his best career Grandview USAC finish of 3rd back in 2011. It was the series-leading third time in six races that Ballou has been rewarded for his hard charging ways in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom – Rossie Feed & Grain/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

"Last weekend, I finally wrapped my head around what the problem was with what we were doing with the car and got it changed," Ballou explained. "We weren't a whole lot better qualifying, but the car is reacting to the changes now, where before, we were catching instead of pitching. We've made some small gains now and I think we can end up in victory lane."

Allentown, Pennsylvania's Briggs Danner earned his first career Fatheadz Fast Qualifying time with the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Cars earlier in the night. The multi-time USAC East Coast Sprint Car winner turned a lap of 13.571 around the 1/3-mile.

Furthermore, Alex Bright's (Collegeville, Pa.) time of 2:24.412 in Simpson Race Products heat race one broke the 10-lap USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car track record at Grandview, which had been held by Mat Neely since the series' first race at the track in 2007. Neely's time was 2:27.30.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 22, 2021 – Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – Keystone Invasion

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-13.571; 2. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.789; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.886; 4. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-13.926; 5. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-13.953; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.964; 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-14.069; 8. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.071; 9. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.131; 10. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.148; 11. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.162; 12. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-14.185; 13. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-14.199; 14. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.273; 15. Ricky Lewis, 11L, Lewis-14.276; 16. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-14.313; 17. Joey Biasi, B1, Biasi-14.359; 18. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.364; 19. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-14.369; 20. Thomas Meseraull, 39, Hogue-14.389; 21. Nash Ely, 3BC, Franckowiak-14.523; 22. Mark Smith, 3R, Rock Steady/Mach-1-14.601; 23. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-14.602; 24. Kenny Miller III, 23m, Miller-14.750; 25. Rich Mellor, 3x, Wasitowski-15.344.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Alex Bright, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Carmen Perigo, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Steven Drevicki, 6. Briggs Danner, 7. Paul Nienhiser, 8. Rich Mellor, 9. Mark Smith. 2:24.412 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Joey Biasi, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Timmy Buckwalter, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Tanner Thorson, 6. C.J. Leary, 7. Thomas Meseraull, 8. Isaac Chapple. 2:27.060

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Kenny Miller III, 7. Nash Ely, 8. Ricky Lewis. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Briggs Danner, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Paul Nienhiser, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Kenny Miller III, 6. Isaac Chapple, 7. Ricky Lewis, 8. Nash Ely, 9. Rich Mellor. 3:01.832

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (3), 2. Kevin Thomas Jr. (2), 3. Robert Ballou (13), 4. Tanner Thorson (6), 5. Jake Swanson (5), 6. C.J. Leary (12), 7. Alex Bright (8), 8. Timmy Buckwalter (4), 9. Briggs Danner (10), 10. Chris Windom (7), 11. Brandon Mattox (1), 12. Paul Nienhiser (11), 13. Justin Grant (14), 14. Chase Stockon (16), 15. Thomas Meseraull (20), 16. Matt Westfall (18), 17. Joey Biasi (9), 18. Ricky Lewis (17), 19. Carmen Perigo (15), 20. Kenny Miller III (22), 21. Steven Drevicki (19), 22. Isaac Chapple (21), 23. Mark Smith (23) (P). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-21 Kevin Thomas Jr., Laps 22-40 Brady Bacon.

**Steven Drevicki flipped on lap 29 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-442, 2-Justin Grant-393, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-388, 4-Tanner Thorson-357, 5-C.J. Leary-351, 6-Chris Windom-348, 7-Robert Ballou-320, 8-Jake Swanson-301, 9-Kyle Cummins-286, 10-Paul Nienhiser-241.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-42, 2-Brady Bacon-29, 3-Tanner Thorson-28, 4-Chris Windom-24, 5-Bryant Wiedeman-21, 6-Buddy Kofoid-20, 7-C.J. Leary-20, 8-Justin Grant-17, 9-Jadon Rogers-16, 10-Thomas Meseraull-15.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 23, 2021 – Big Diamond Speedway – Pottsville, Pennsylvania – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Chris Windom

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Briggs Danner

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Alex Bright

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Joey Biasi

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Briggs Danner

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (13rd to 3rd)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Justin Grant

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Nash Ely

==========

THORSON SHINES IN FIRST USAC SPRINT WIN AT BIG DIAMOND

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Pottsville, Pennsylvania (April 23, 2021)……Tanner Thorson made clear his intentions to not just be known as the "top Rookie" with the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Cars; he let it be known he'd rather be the top dog of the series as not only a contender for feature wins, but also for a title run.

Thorson (Minden, Nev.) took the first step on Friday night during the second stop on the Keystone Invasion tour in the series' first visit in nine seasons to Pottsville, Pennsylvania's Big Diamond Speedway, grinding his way around the outside of racelong leader Jake Swanson with 11 laps remaining to score his first career victory with the series in just his 13th career start aboard the Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – CSI – MVT/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

"This is not something in which I'd settle and be okay with just winning Rookie of the Year," Thorson admitted. "We aren't here for that. We're here for the championship in the sprint car and the midget. We're not done going forward; that's for damn sure. We're getting faster and faster and it's just going to get better from here."

In doing so, Thorson kept intact a run of first-time USAC National Sprint Car feature winners at Big Diamond dating back to 2007. All four drivers that have won with the series at the 3/8-mile dirt oval, in fact, captured their first series victory at Big Diamond: Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (2007), Cole Whitt (2008) and Chris Windom (2010). Whitt repeated his Big Diamond triumph in 2009 while Windom did the same in 2012.

Thorson, the 2016 USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget champion and owner of 21 wins in the smaller-statured cars, started the 30-lap feature from the outside of the front row. Jake Swanson powered to the lead from the pole position, besting the all-Arizona based team front row with Swanson (#21AZ) gapping Thorson (#19AZ) in the early stages to the tune of a full second.

On the fourth lap, trouble ensued when 10th running Thomas Meseraull got sideways in turn four, collecting Robert Ballou (11th) and brand-new 10-lap track record holder Brandon Mattox (12th). Ballou escaped the melee and continued on while Mattox got the worst end of it, spiraling and flipping over. Meseraull's evening was also finished. All drivers involved were uninjured.

Swanson, also seeking his first career USAC National Sprint Car victory on this night, blasted away from Thorson on the lap five restart, but nearing the halfway point, the interval had closed up with Thorson sniffing high and low for a way around Swanson. Thorson took a run at Swanson, diving to the bottom of turn one and sliding up, to no avail, but stayed right near the back bumper of Swanson when the two made slight contact halfway down the back straightaway.

After first-time USAC National Sprint Car feature starter Nash Ely stopped to bring out a caution on lap 16, during the yellow, Thorson showed a little bit of gamesmanship, pulling alongside Swanson to indicate he was in his presence, among other things.

As the green flag was displayed for the restart, Thorson was relentless, poking his nose to Swanson's left and right before committing to the top all the way around turns one and two on the 20th lap, which propelled him around Swanson to secure the lead exiting the second turn.

A spin by series Rookie Ricky Lewis clamped down on Thorson's 1.247 second advantage with just five laps remaining, resetting the deck and placing Thorson in a position to have to defend his throne up front from a potential haymaker. Swanson knew he had one shot, and one shot only. He took that shot at the entrance to turn one on the final, lap 27 restart, throwing it to the bottom and sliding up toward Thorson, but it wasn't enough to overtake the position.

Thorson shuffled away without any qualms the remainder of the way, becoming the first "first-time" winner with the series since Stephen Schnapf on June 14, 2020, at Tri-State Speedway in Haubstadt, Ind.

Thorson copped a 0.951 second interval at the finish over Jake Swanson, Kevin Thomas Jr., Brady Bacon and C.J. Leary.

"It feels good," an elated Thorson said. "We've been working hard to get our car better and better and more comfortable for me. I don't have very many starts, especially compared to all these guys, but I knew we could do it based off my past results where I was able to beat them. It's just a matter of me getting comfortable."

Most of Thorson's previous experiences in sprint cars have come with a wing atop his car, but now, after a partial schedule one year ago and a full run this year, the experience level has gradually increased, which has coincided with his increased level of confidence.

"We're making progress," Thorson acknowledged. "This is the most comfortable I've been yet. A lot of that just comes with laps. There are many variables that go into making this car fast. We're fast, but we weren't "just there." It's all about fine-tuning the little things and we've just got to be faster and faster every time we go out."

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.), who initially wasn't even intending to make the trek out to Pennsylvania this week due to engine problems in his regular ride, teamed up with car owner Joe Daming, renumbered the car to #21AZ and has promptly recorded his two best finishes of the year in the last two races, a 5th a Grandview on Thursday and a career-best 2nd place result on Friday at Big Diamond after leading a race-high 19 laps in his Team AZ Racing/Daming Excavating – USW Cat Construction – RSS Industries/DRC/Tranter Chevy.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) turned in yet another fine performance, backing up Thursday's 2nd place finish at Grandview with a 3rd on Friday at Big Diamond aboard the KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper – McDonald's – KT Construction Services/DRC/Speedway Chevy.

Meanwhile, 11 of the 26 cars in during the Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying session at Big Diamond broke the former USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car track record of 15.237 seconds, set by Levi Jones in 2012. Timmy Buckwalter (Douglassville, Pa.) led all challengers on this night with a time of 14.924, his third fast qualifying time of the season in just four series appearances this year.

USAC East Coast Sprint Car standouts Briggs Danner (Allentown, Pa.) and Alex Bright (Collegeville, Pa.) each had solid performances once again. Danner won his heat race and finished a career-best 7th at Big Diamond after setting quick time and finishing 9th the previous night at Grandview. Bright took 8th at Big Diamond, finishing his second consecutive night inside the top-ten after recording a 7th at Grandview on Thursday.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 23, 2021 – Big Diamond Speedway – Pottsville, Pennsylvania – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – Keystone Invasion

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-14.924 (New Track Record); 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-14.951; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.961; 4. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.976; 5. Thomas Meseraull, 39, Hogue-15.075; 6. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-15.078; 7. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-15.078; 8. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-15.081; 9. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-15.196; 10. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-15.213; 11. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-15.220; 12. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-15.347; 13. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-15.438; 14. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-15.510; 15. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-15.572; 16. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-15.590; 17. Nash Ely, 3BC, Franckowiak-15.597; 18. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-15.610; 19. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-15.647; 20. Joey Biasi, B1, Biasi-15.759; 21. Kenny Miller III, 23m, Miller-15.819; 22. Mark Smith, 3R, Rock Steady/Mach-1-15.892; 23. Kyle Lick, 8, Lick-15.935; 24. Ricky Lewis, 11L, Lewis-16.518; 25. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-NT; 26. Brody Adamsky, 19A, Adamsky-NT (Time of 16.360 disallowed due to a right rear tire violation).

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Briggs Danner, 2. Isaac Chapple, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Chris Windom, 5. C.J. Leary, 6. Alex Bright, 7. Timmy Buckwalter, 8. Mark Smith, 9. Paul Nienhiser. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Steven Drevicki, 5. Nash Ely, 6. Thomas Meseraull, 7. Joey Biasi, 8. Kyle Lick, 9. Brody Adamsky. 2:06.045

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Carmen Perigo, 5. Justin Grant, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Kenny Miller III, 8. Ricky Lewis. 2:05.481 (New Track Record)

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (10 laps, shortened to 9 laps due to crash, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Timmy Buckwalter, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Kenny Miller III, 5. Alex Bright, 6. Ricky Lewis, 7. Mark Smith, 8. Kyle Lick, 9. Brody Adamsky, 10. Joey Biasi. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Tanner Thorson (2), 2. Jake Swanson (1), 3. Kevin Thomas Jr. (6), 4. Brady Bacon (5), 5. C.J. Leary (4), 6. Robert Ballou (12), 7. Briggs Danner (7), 8. Alex Bright (19), 9. Justin Grant (3), 10. Timmy Buckwalter (10), 11. Chris Windom (13), 12. Chase Stockon (8), 13. Steven Drevicki (14), 14. Matt Westfall (15), 15. Kenny Miller III (20), 16. Isaac Chapple (16), 17. Mark Smith (21), 18. Carmen Perigo (18), 19. Ricky Lewis (22), 20. Nash Ely (17), 21. Thomas Meseraull (11), 22. Brandon Mattox (9). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-19 Jake Swanson, Laps 20-30 Tanner Thorson.

**Paul Nienhiser flipped during the first heat. Joey Biasi flipped during the semi. Kyle Lick flipped during the semi. Brandon Mattox flipped on lap 4 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-513, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-464, 3-Justin Grant-444, 4-Tanner Thorson-433, 5-C.J. Leary-416, 6-Chris Windom-394, 7-Robert Ballou-382, 8-Jake Swanson-374, 9-Kyle Cummins-286, 10-Chase Stockon-274.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-48, 2-Brady Bacon-30, 3-Tanner Thorson-29, 4-Chris Windom-26, 5-Bryant Wiedeman-21, 6-Buddy Kofoid-20, 7-C.J. Leary-20, 8-Justin Grant-17, 9-Jadon Rogers-16, 10-Thomas Meseraull-15.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 24, 2021 – BAPS Motor Speedway – York Haven, Pennsylvania – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Justin Grant

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Timmy Buckwalter

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Briggs Danner

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Brandon Mattox

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Timmy Buckwalter

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Alex Bright (19th to 8th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Steven Drevicki

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Kyle Lick

Top-Finishing 360 c.i. Engine: Mark Smith

==========

LEARY LEADS FORD TO FIRST USAC SPRINT WIN IN A DECADE AT BAPS MATINEE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

York Haven, Pennsylvania (April 24, 2021)……C.J. Leary withstood a bevy of bombs fired at him from both Justin Grant and Chris Windom down the stretch to score his first victory of the 2021 USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car season during a rare matinee performance on Saturday for the series at BAPS Motor Speedway in York Haven, Pa., round three of Keystone Invasion.

In the process, Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) also provided the first victory by a Ford engine with the series since Bobby East's triumph at Ohio's Toledo Speedway in July of 2011.

Furthermore, Leary's win gave car owner Bill Michael his first career USAC National Sprint Car victory. Michael, of Chino Valley, Ariz., took his team on the road with the USAC National series for the first time this year after previously winning a record 39 USAC Southwest Sprint Car features, most notably with driver R.J. Johnson, while earning an unprecedented four consecutive USAC Southwest Sprint Car championships between 2013-16.

"It's huge for Bill and me," Leary exclaimed. "With a new team, you obviously want to win right out of the box, but he let me build whatever I wanted. He said you can build whatever chassis and whatever shocks you want, but the only thing he

made sure of was that we were going to run a Ford. The objective is to win a championship and he wanted to give it his best shot. Bill Michael, he's a helluva guy."

Leary and Michael's first racing foray together came in March of 2020, when the pair swept both nights of USAC CRA/Southwest competition at Canyon Speedway Park in Peoria, Ariz., providing them the confidence right off the bat that they truly had something there that could become truly special on the racetrack.

Now, with a National win in their back pockets, the duo feels that, as the lone rangers in the Ford camp, if they were to consistently find that sweet spot as the season moves along, they'd have a leg-up on the rest of the field in their Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman Ford.

The car, driver and engine were inserted into a tricky test during the afternoon affair, which had been pushed forward by four hours due to a high probability of inclement weather in the forecast for later that night during the originally scheduled race time.

With track position a cornerstone on this particular day, outside front row starter Leary took control of the 30-lap race from the get-go, driving by pole sitter Matt Westfall in the first two corners while Chase Stockon, then a few laps later, Justin Grant, slotted into second before glancing off the turn two guardrail on a slicked off, but racy surface around the 4/10-mile dirt oval.

Leary was gone at that point, snipping his way through traffic with a full-straightaway lead in hand by lap 12. Attempting to maneuver through a clogged artery of the racetrack, Leary dissected his way high and low around the competition, and at times, teetering over the cushion, and brushing Hoosier rubber with the likes of Thomas Meseraull, which momentarily put Leary precariously sideways in turn three at the midway point.

With Grant cutting Leary's lead in half, a yellow for debris in turn two reset the deck and cleared the traffic from Leary's path. Yet, as it turned out, traffic was arguably a safer position to reside in rather than being in the role of "sitting duck" as the leader on a restart.

There, Grant shot his shot with a slider in turn one, going all the way past Leary, and over the turn two cushion, which opened the door for both Robert Ballou and Windom to skate by, though Windom quickly snared second from Ballou with a slide job of his own in turn three moments later.

All that was a major help for Leary, who raced away from the skirmish behind him with a clear view ahead.

"After Justin bombed me getting into one, I thought he was going to get upside down and collect me and whoever else was behind me," Leary said. "I turned, crossed him over, and got back out in clear air, and I felt we had the car to beat on an open track. Even in lapped traffic, I felt pretty solid."

However, the "great escape" that netted Leary a massive 5.467 sec. advantage was short lived when, on lap 21, Ricky Lewis (14th) and Brandon Mattox (15th) collided in turn one, flipping both over. Joey Biasi (18th) also got caught up in the melee, spinning to a stop. All drivers involved were uninjured.

During the red flag period, Leary received a message from his dear old dad, Chuck Leary, a winner himself in the USAC Silver Crown series who's been in a similar position a time or two behind the wheel and was there on this occasion to lend a bit of a "heads up."

"After the red came out, my dad ran all the way around the racetrack to tell me to be prepared on the restart for another bomb. He told me to think about protecting and sliding yourself. I contemplated for three or four minutes while riding around whether or not I should slide myself or keep doing what I was doing. As it turned out, I slid myself and almost gave it away."

Windom, from the second position, used a massive run off turn two to set himself up for a slider attempt on Leary in turn three. Windom cleared Leary but snagged the cushion. Leary turned down underneath Windom and the two banged wheels, with Leary getting himself back into the lead while Windom fell to third and Grant ducked under to regain second.

"Chris actually made a mistake getting into three and four, and over rotated, and I think he thought I was going to be coming around the outside of him," Leary explained. "He cleared me by a mile, but we made contact and I just drove off from there, and in clear air, our car was so good."

Not close enough to fire any more ammo nor close enough to levy a credible challenge following that juncture, Grant and Windom could only look in the distance as Leary pulled away for a 2.651 sec. victory over Grant, Windom, KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger Alex Bright (from 16th) and point leader Brady Bacon, who rounded out the top-five.

The win was the first of Leary's career with USAC in the state of Pennsylvania in what was his ninth trip to compete in the Keystone State. It was also the 2019 series champion's 12th overall win with the series, tying him with Eric Gordon for 46th on the all-time list.

Grant (Ione, Calif.) finished 2nd in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy, by far his best run of the week in Pennsylvania following 13th and 9th place finishes over the past two nights at Grandview and Big Diamond, respectively.

Same for Windom (Canton, Ill.) who equaled his best finish of the season (3rd) aboard his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar just one night after his 21-race streak of top-ten finishes with the series came to a close.

Steven Drevicki (Reading, Pa.) earned his first career fast qualifying time with the series and also became the third consecutive Pennsylvanian to record fast time during Fatheadz Qualifying this week following Briggs Danner (Allentown, Pa.) at Grandview, and Timmy Buckwalter (Douglassville, Pa.) at Big Diamond. Drevicki, the three-time USAC East Coast Sprint Car champion, finished a career-best 7th in the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 24, 2021 – BAPS Motor Speedway – York Haven, Pennsylvania – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track – Keystone Invasion

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-19.349; 2. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-19.425; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-19.595; 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-19.639; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-19.802; 6. Ricky Lewis, 11L, Lewis-19.908; 7. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-19.926; 8. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-19.927; 9. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-20.036; 10. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-20.110; 11. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-20.149; 12. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-20.181; 13. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-20.187; 14. Mike Meyers, 10m, Meyers-20.351; 15. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-20.376; 16. Nash Ely, 3BC, Franckowiak-20.383; 17. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-20.412; 18. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-20.439; 19. Joey Biasi, B1, Biasi-20.559; 20. Mark Smith, 3R, Rock Steady/Mach-1-20.731; 21. Thomas Meseraull, 39,

Hogue-20.741; 22. Troy Fraker, 12w, Fraker-20.882; 23. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-21.130; 24. Billy Ney, 83s, Ney-21.332; 25. Tom Savage, 38s, Savage-21.370.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Nash Ely, 4. Steven Drevicki, 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 6. Joey Biasi, 7. Isaac Chapple, 8. Tom Savage, 9. Troy Fraker. 2:42.437

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Alex Bright, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Mark Smith, 8. Mike Meyers. 2:45.519

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Billy Ney, 6. Paul Nienhiser, 7. Thomas Meseraull, 8. Ricky Lewis. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (10 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Isaac Chapple, 2. Mark Smith, 3. Ricky Lewis, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Paul Nienhiser, 7. Joey Biasi, 8. Mike Meyers, 9. Troy Fraker, 10. Tom Savage. 3:26.334 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (2), 2. Justin Grant (5), 3. Chris Windom (7), 4. Alex Bright (16), 5. Brady Bacon (11), 6. Robert Ballou (8), 7. Steven Drevicki (6), 8. Jake Swanson (13), 9. Paul Nienhiser (15), 10. Thomas Meseraull (22), 11. Kevin Thomas Jr. (4), 12. Chase Stockon (3), 13. Matt Westfall (1), 14. Mark Smith (18), 15. Isaac Chapple (12), 16. Briggs Danner (20), 17. Nash Ely (19), 18. Tanner Thorson (14), 19. Ricky Lewis (10), 20. Brandon Mattox (9), 21. Joey Biasi (17), 22. Billy Ney (21). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 C.J. Leary.

**Ricky Lewis & Brandon Mattox flipped on lap 21 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-576, 2-Justin Grant-522, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-512, 4-C.J. Leary-494, 5-Tanner Thorson-467, 6-Chris Windom-466, 7-Robert Ballou-445, 8-Jake Swanson-429, 9-Chase Stockon-320, 10-Paul Nienhiser-298.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-50, 2-Brady Bacon-36, 3-Chris Windom-30, 4-Tanner Thorson-29, 5-Thomas Meseraull-27, 6-C.J. Leary-21, 7-Bryant Wiedeman-21, 8-Justin Grant-20, 9-Buddy Kofoid-20, 10- Paul Nienhiser-18.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 25, 2021 – Path Valley Speedway Park – Spring Run, Pennsylvania – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Briggs Danner

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Steven Drevicki

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Isaac Chapple

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Alex Bright (16th to 4th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Matt Westfall

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Mike Meyers

Top-Finishing 360 c.i. Engine: Mark Smith (14th)

==========

2 OUT OF 3 AIN'T BAD: THORSON WINS PATH VALLEY KEYSTONE INVASION FINALE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Spring Run, Pennsylvania (April 24, 2021)……After his first career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car victory on Friday night at Big Diamond, Thorson established that he's not willing to settle for just being the top Rookie with the series. His ideals involve winning races and winning a championship.

As it turned out, Thorson wasn't even open to settling for a single victory over the weekend. He wanted more.

It took 13 starts for Thorson to become a first-time winner and just two more starts for the Minden, Nevada native to become a two-time winner with the series, scoring the victory in Sunday's Keystone Invasion finale at Path Valley Speedway Park in Spring Run, Pa.

Sandwiched between the two winning performances was an 18th place dropout on Saturday at BAPS Motor Speedway, putting Thorson in the position of having to bounce back Sunday in the series' first ever event at Path Valley aboard his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – CSI – MVT/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

"We had to bounce back after last night's run," Thorson said. "What can I say? These guys are working hard to get me comfortable enough to be able to bang the curb, run in the slick and run anywhere. Our motor package and our cars are really good. Hats off to crew members (Tyler Ransbottom), Connor (Ridge) and (Austin French). I can't thank car owner Andy Reinbold enough for giving me the opportunity to run this."

With it being the first series event held at Path Valley, several drivers came in lacking prior experience at the Spring Run, Pa. quarter-mile. That wasn't the case for Tanner Thorson.

In three previous USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget starts there, Thorson led a total of 31 laps, was the fastest qualifier in 2015 and, that same year, led the first 13 laps of the feature. In 2017, Thorson was in position again to win at Path Valley, pacing the field for 18 laps and was leading when contact in turn four coming to the checkered flag sent him spinning out of the lead. An ultimately better result came about for Thorson in 2019 with a 4th place finish.

Thorson drew comparisons of Path Valley to a larger version of Port City Raceway. After all, it was exactly two weeks earlier that Thorson won a USAC National Midget feature at the 1/8-mile Port City track in Tulsa, Okla. Small track, bigger track, Thorson has come up big in recent weeks and felt he had the upper hand coming into Path Valley.



"I think anytime you can run somewhere, whether it's a midget, a sprint car, a wing car, it seems to help," Thorson explained. "I definitely like this place; it's definitely my cup of tea."

Thorson started from the outside of the front row with Saturday's BAPS winner, C.J. Leary, on the pole, for the 40-lapper. Thorson got the launch, breaking away from the pack initially, while a three-car scramble ensued just behind involving Chase Stockon, Chris Windom and Leary.

Exiting turn two on second lap, Windom attempted to split the gap between Stockon and Leary, but the gap closed soon thereafter with Windom serving as the meat in the sandwich, with Stockon launching over Windom's left front wheel and Leary ramping over Windom's right front wheel simultaneously, resulted in Windom's front end being knocked, Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier Brady Bacon spinning to a stop, and 12th starting Timmy Buckwalter flipping over. He was uninjured.

Windom and Buckwalter were knocked out of the race while Bacon restarted from the tail and drove to a 12th place finish.

When racing resumed, Thorson led the charge around the top with Leary stalking in the shadows until the 19th lap when Leary slid past Thorson from the bottom of turn three to the curb at the exit of turn four. Thorson tried to return the favor in turns one and two, pulling dead even with Leary. Leary then lost his footing atop the turn two cushion, allowing Thorson to scoot past under into three. Leary limboed even lower and cleared Thorson to the top of four.

The race's outlook turned on a dime when, moments later, Thorson fired another slider on the high-riding Leary into turn one, ultimately resulting in contact between Thorson's right rear and Leary's left front. Leary, now on the wrong side of the cush, throttled out of the proverbial quicksand, but now found himself in third as Justin Grant shot underneath to snag second.

By lap 23, Leary had gathered himself and was engaged in a ferocious battle with Grant when he tripped the turn three cushion. As he bounced like a basketball in the fluff, fourth-running Kevin Thomas Jr. tried to avoid, but ramped his right rear over the left front of Leary, which pre-empted Leary's evening on the hook.

En route to the 30th lap, Thorson was well in command. However, this was 40, and the 2016 USAC National Midget champ still had traffic to grapple with around the tight confines. Though bottled-up periodically, Thorson executed with relative ease, despite having to cut to the bottom with two laps remaining where traffic was running in the mid to high lanes. Thorson and the lapped car of Briggs Danner glanced rubber at the bottom of the first turn, though it was more of a case of "no harm, no foul," when all was said and done for both.

Thorson finished off the triumph by becoming the third multi-time winner of the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car season, following Kevin Thomas Jr. and Brady Bacon. Grant finished second with Kevin Thomas Jr. third, KSE Racing Products/Irvin King Hard Charger Alex Bright fourth (from 18th), and Brandon Mattox rounding out the top-five with his first top-five result of the season.

Also of note, with his 38th career Fatheadz Fast Qualifying time in USAC National Sprint Car competition earlier in the night, Bacon passed Larry Dickson for fifth on the all-time list.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 25, 2021 – Path Valley Speedway Park – Sprint Run, Pennsylvania – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Keystone Invasion

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-10.943 (New Track Record); 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-11.036; 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-11.067; 4. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-11.088; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-11.147; 6. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.157; 7. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-11.166; 8. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-11.207; 9. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-11.250; 10. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-11.290; 11. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-11.306; 12. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-11.310; 13. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-11.320; 14. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-11.345; 15. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-11.353; 16. Mark Smith, 3R, Rock Steady/Mach-1-11.451; 17. Nash Ely, 3BC, Franckowiak-11.475; 18. Ricky Lewis, 11L, Lewis-11.499; 19. Thomas Meseraull, 39, Hogue-11.592; 20. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-11.621; 21. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-11.665; 22. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-11.775; 23. Mike Meyers, 10m, Meyers-11.994; 24. Tom Savage, 38s, Savage-12.131.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Timmy Buckwalter, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Mark Smith, 6. Brady Bacon, 7. Alex Bright, 8. Thomas Meseraull. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Steven Drevicki, 3. Paul Nienhiser, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Nash Ely, 6. Carmen Perigo, 7. Isaac Chapple , 8. Mike Meyers. 2:00.41 (New Track Record)

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Ricky Lewis, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Briggs Danner, 8. Tom Savage. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Carmen Perigo, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Isaac Chapple, 6. Alex Bright, 7. Briggs Danner, 8. Mike Meyers, 9. Tom Savage. 2:28.157 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Tanner Thorson (2), 2. Justin Grant (6), 3. Kevin Thomas Jr. (5), 4. Alex Bright (18), 5. Brandon Mattox (7), 6. Jake Swanson (11), 7. Steven Drevicki (14), 8. Robert Ballou (8), 9. Thomas Meseraull (20), 10. Chase Stockon (3), 11. Carmen Perigo (10), 12. Brady Bacon (9), 13. Paul Nienhiser (13), 14. Mark Smith (16), 15. Briggs Danner (22), 16. Isaac Chapple (21), 17. Nash Ely (17), 18. Matt Westfall (15), 19. Ricky Lewis (19), 20. C.J. Leary (1), 21. Chris Windom (4), 22. Timmy Buckwalter (12). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-18 Tanner Thorson, Laps 19-20 C.J. Leary, Laps 21-40 Tanner Thorson.

**Timmy Buckwalter flipped on lap 2 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-625, 2-Justin Grant-602, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-586, 4-Tanner Thorson-543, 5-C.J. Leary-522, 6-Robert Ballou-502, 7-Chris Windom-499, 8-Jake Swanson-491, 9-Chase Stockon-370, 10-Paul Nienhiser-341.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-50, 2-Thomas Meseraull-38, 3-Brady Bacon-36, 4-Tanner Thorson-30, 5-Chris Windom-30, 6-Justin Grant-24, 7-C.J. Leary-21, 8-Bryant Wiedeman-21, 9-Buddy Kofoid-20, 10-Paul Nienhiser-18.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: May 7-8, 2021 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track - #LetsRaceTwo

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Brandon Mattox

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Brandon Mattox

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Brady Bacon

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Alex Bright (18th to 4th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Paul Nienhiser

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Mike Meyers

Top-Finishing 360 c.i. Engine: Mark Smith (14th)

==========

SUNSHINE SLAYS #LETSRACETWO FIELD, EQUALS USAC RECORD WITH 5th STRAIGHT AT ELDORA

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Rossburg, Ohio (May 8, 2021)……Amid Tyler Courtney's amazing string of success at Eldora Speedway, perhaps none were more impressive than the performance he put on at the high-banked half-mile oval on Saturday afternoon to score his fifth consecutive triumph with the series at The Big E dating to 2018, this one worth $10,000.

Courtney led all 30 circuits from start to finish after starting from the pole in his Clauson-Marshall-Newman Racing/NOS Turbo – ZMax/Spike/Chevy, living up to his sponsor's name by putting all but the top-six finishers a lap down at the finish line, thrashing the 22-car field in a caution-free race in which the Indianapolis, Ind. racer made USAC history.

By winning his fifth consecutive feature event at Eldora, Courtney became just the third driver in USAC National Sprint Car history to win five-in-a-row at one track. Jim Hurtubise won five-straight at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track between 1960-62 and Steve Chassey did the same with five successive at Winchester (Ind.) Speedway in 1979.

"It's very special," Courtney said. "I never could've imagined winning one race at Eldora, let alone five in a row. We've got something figured out at this place. I love coming back here. Thanks to (promoter) Roger (Slack) and (track owner) Tony Stewart and everybody here at Eldora for putting up the extra money for the USAC guys."

Additionally, Courtney became just the 14th driver to win at least 30 career USAC National Sprint Car features. His 30th moved him ahead of Robert Ballou and Kevin Thomas Jr. for 14th on the all-time list.

Saturday's event represented the first leg of Eldora's first USAC National Sprint Car single day double feature since 1980. Extensive rainfall on Friday night created an extremely moistrous track surface, forcing postponement following qualifying, and shifting the remainder of the event to Saturday afternoon.

A rare daytime dirt show – a more common occurrence in decades past – presented a challenging racetrack to navigate. However, the conditions proved to be no barrier for Courtney.

By lap six of the 30-lap feature, Courtney had ramped up his lead to a full straightaway and was thrust into lapped traffic only eight laps in as he slipped through a four-wide, turn one sandwich alongside Carmen Perigo, Tanner Thorson and Stevie Sussex to extend his advantage.

High-riding on the paper-thin cushion located just inches from the outside concrete, Courtney whipped around traffic with mere inches to spare at moments, many times opting to go a lane higher than the car in front of him rather than throwing a slide job. However, he performed all of the above with perfect precision before reengaging his highwire act up the concrete.

On the 28th lap, Courtney remained adamant to put an exclamation point on this one, rather than chocking up down the stretch, he split between the already lapped car of Brandon Mattox and the newly lapped car of 7th running Kevin Thomas Jr. and was beginning to bear down on 6th running Brady Bacon when the checkered flag flew.

Courtney wound up a whopping 5.477 seconds ahead of runner-up finisher Robert Ballou with Jadon Rogers, Justin Grant and Chris Windom rounding out the top-five.

"You always want to beat everybody," Courtney admitted. "It's really a combination of everything. We qualified really well and had great track position. Everything had to go perfect last night to catch the invert and sit on the front row. That makes the night go a lot smoother when you can start up front and run your own race from the drop of the green and have a really good car at the same time."

Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) earned his best series finish of the season, finishing as the runner-up to Courtney aboard his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy. For the 2015 series champ, it was his ninth consecutive top-ten finish in his last nine feature starts, tops in the series.

Jadon Rogers (Worthington, Ind.) had an impressive Eldora Speedway debut, finishing 3rd in his Randy Edwards/Edwards Concrete Construction – Auto Wheel & Rim – Engler/DRC/SPEC Chevy. It was second consecutive "podium" finish after earning a career best 2nd place result on April 17 at Tri-State Speedway in Haubstadt, Ind.

In Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying, held on Friday night before the rain, Brady Bacon earned his 39th career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car fast qualifying time, tying him with Levi Jones for fourth all-time in series history.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 7-8, 2021 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – #LetsRaceTwo

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: (Held on May 7) 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-15.006; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox/Curb-Agajanian-15.029; 3. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-15.240; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-15.330; 5. Jadon Rogers, 61m, Edwards-15.420; 6. Tyler Courtney, 7BC, Clauson/Marshall/Newman-15.481; 7. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-15.497;

8. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-15.544; 9. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-15.650; 10. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-15.660; 11. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-15.667; 12. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-15.711; 13. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-15.761; 14. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-15.766; 15. Stevie Sussex, 77, Wingo-15.947; 16. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-15.955; 17. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.004; 18. Max Adams, 17G, On The Gass-16.072; 19. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-16.158; 20. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-16.167; 21. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-16.197; 22. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-16.365; 23. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-16.380; 24. Paul Dues, 87, Dues-16.475; 25. Dallas Hewitt, 18, Keen-16.511; 26. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-16.609; 27. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-16.955; 28. Jack James, 99, James-17.034.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Justin Grant, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Chris Windom, 5. Steven Drevicki, 6. Isaac Chapple, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Evan Mosley, 9. Dallas Hewitt, 10. Jack James. 2:16.14

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Carmen Perigo, 8. Korbyn Hayslett, 9. Ryan Barr. 2:21.620

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Paul Nienhiser, 3. Tyler Courtney, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Stevie Sussex, 6. Ryan Thomas, 7. Matt Goodnight, 8. Paul Dues, 9. Max Adams. 2:22.526

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Isaac Chapple, 2. Brandon Mattox, 3. Korbyn Hayslett, 4. Dallas Hewitt, 5. Carmen Perigo, 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Ryan Barr, 8. Paul Dues, 9. Evan Mosley, 10. Matt Goodnight, 11. Jack James, 12. Max Adams, 13. Ryan Thomas. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Tyler Courtney (1), 2. Robert Ballou (4), 3. Jadon Rogers (2), 4. Justin Grant (3), 5. Chris Windom (9), 6. Brady Bacon (6), 7. Kevin Thomas Jr. (8), 8. Chase Stockon (11), 9. Matt Westfall (10), 10. Logan Seavey (5), 11. C.J. Leary (7), 12. Isaac Chapple (16), 13. Jake Swanson (14), 14. Paul Nienhiser (12), 15. Dallas Hewitt (21), 16. Steven Drevicki (18), 17. Brandon Mattox (13), 18. Tanner Thorson (17), 19. Stevie Sussex (15), 20. Carmen Perigo (19), 21. Korbyn Hayslett (20), 22. Ryan Barr (22). 10:06.253

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Tyler Courtney.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-692, 2-Justin Grant-673, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-646, 4-Robert Ballou-581, 5-Tanner Thorson-571, 6-C.J. Leary-571, 7-Chris Windom-562, 8-Jake Swanson-535, 9-Chase Stockon-425, 10-Paul Nienhiser-383.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-52, 2-Thomas Meseraull-47, 3-Tanner Thorson-43, 4- Brady Bacon-36, 5-Chris Windom-34, 6-Buddy Kofoid-29, 7-Justin Grant-29, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-24, 9-Bryant Wiedeman-22, 10-C.J. Leary-21.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: May 8, 2021 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track - #LetsRaceTwo

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Isaac Chapple

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Isaac Chapple

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Dallas Hewitt (21st to 15th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Jake Swanson

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Paul Dues

==========

BALLOU IS BACK, WINS ELDORA'S #LETSRACETWO BY A CAR LENGTH

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Rossburg, Ohio (May 8, 2021)……One-thousand, fifty-six days. That's how long it had been since Robert Ballou last experienced the thrill of a USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car victory entering Saturday's #LetsRaceTwo night cap at Rossburg, Ohio's Eldora Speedway.

Thirty laps. That's how long it took the Rocklin, Calif. native to return to the USAC win column for the first time since June 17, 2018, at Pennsylvania's BAPS Motor Speedway.

To be more succinct, Eldora's second #LetsRaceTwo A-Main of the day came down to the final five laps with Ballou fending off a furious charge courtesy of the seemingly unstoppable Tyler Courtney, who won the matinee earlier in the day, and had won every series race at the track dating back to 2018, a span of five races.

With a USAC record sixth-straight at The Big E in sight and the lap count dwindling, Courtney tracked down Ballou in short order, throwing everything in his arsenal to get by Ballou. At the line, the two past USAC National Sprint Car driving champions were separated by a single car length with Ballou prevailing over Courtney in what was the closest finish of the series' season – 0.085 sec. – a win worth $10,000 for Ballou.

In reality, Ballou's road back to the top is immeasurable. Shortly after the BAPS win, Ballou suffered a compound fracture of his right arm in a sprint car crash at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway. Sidelined for a substantial stretch of time in which he endured both the pain and the rehab, the climb back has been leading to this crescendo at a venue in which he's earned six of his 30 career wins with the series.

"It's been a few years," Ballou noted. "I broke my arm after my last win, and it's been a humbling experience. You're either on top or you're on the bottom. There's nobody that has more dedication in this sport than my team and my guys and everyone that's behind me. We have a never-give-up attitude and we never back down."

However, to get back on top, there are countless hurdles to overcome, and Ballou encountered one more just prior to the feature following a dominant heat race win earlier in the night, one that attempted to derail them and decide their fate prematurely.

"After that heat race, apparently, we blew up that brand new engine," Ballou stated. "So, we thrashed until the (USAC officials) blew the (eight-minute horn). We got the motor changed, and with everybody here back at the trailer, it was a full-out team effort, and it was down to the wire. We got the thing started and still had a bunch of changes to make to try and keep up with this race track."

Ballou's entire crew and family on hand became involved in the process of the engine swap and had the Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy ready to roll off from the pole position while Courtney pushed off from the seventh position.

The afternoon feature saw Ballou finishing second to a dominant Courtney. The tables were turned in the night session with Ballou blasting away to his own early race superiority while Courtney took on the role of chaser.

By midway, Ballou was already making his way through lapped traffic, high, low and anywhere in between to build as much of a cushion as he could. Meanwhile, Courtney had carved his way to second by Chris Windom on the 15th lap but still found himself a full straightaway behind and combing through the same traffic that Ballou, himself, had recently cleared.

By lap 23, Ballou's full straightaway lead over Courtney had been sheared to a half-straight. Two laps later, the lead was a mere two car lengths, setting up a frenzied run to the finish. With both running the fence, the classic, patented Eldora slide job was at the forefront of Courtney's repertoire as he tried to deliver the knell to Ballou twice between turns one and two with four laps remaining, then again with three to go. Yet Ballou kept his foot on the throttle and escaped Courtney's jabs utilizing the momentum up top.

On the 28th lap, the two encountered the lapped car of Isaac Chapple running the middle line entering turn three. Ballou dove low underneath Chapple while Courtney stayed up top. Ballou attempted to slide past Chapple and reclaim the high line up to the wall. Ballou first cleared Chapple by inches, then he and Courtney banged wheels, with Ballou's right rear meeting face-to-face with Courtney's left front. Courtney ricocheted off the wall, straightened it out, ducked low, then followed Ballou nose-to-tail into one.

Courtney shadowed Ballou all the way around the half-mile high banked dirt oval as the pair made their way to the white flag. Seemingly awaiting Courtney's final slider attempt in turn one, instead, Courtney bounced his right rear off the fourth corner concrete coming to the white, stifling his plans, and putting him back into line on the high side just behind in his endless pursuit of Ballou.

On the final lap, Courtney remained behind Ballou by two car lengths, opting to tail Ballou to the top in turn three, then cut under off four. Ballou was smooth, steady and steadfast, and powered off the fourth corner to defeat Courtney by a car length to notch the win with Courtney second, Chris Windom third, series point leader Brady Bacon fourth and Paul Nienhiser scoring a best career USAC finish to round out the top-five.

Just hours after Courtney reached USAC Sprint Car victory number 30, Ballou reached the same number for 14th on the all-time list. Similarly, earlier in the day, Courtney became the first three-time #LetsRaceTwo feature winner, which Ballou matched later in the night. Both also swapped finishing position with Ballou the runner-up to Courtney in the afternoon and vice versa at night.

Ballou knew he still had what it takes to be at the level of winning consistently and being the thick of the championship race, but he also knew he needed the equipment to match. Safe to say, he's found his match.

"Everyone's questioning my ability to do this, but I just said, 'if we can get a car that I can get comfortable with, we'll be on top,'" Ballou said. "We switched to a Triple X chassis and got a couple new Don Ott engines and we're just trying to plug away."

Courtney was aiming to make USAC history on this night aboard his Clauson-Marshall-Newman Racing/NOS Turbo – ZMax/Spike/Chevy. A 6th consecutive USAC National Sprint Car win at Eldora would've made him the first driver ever to win that many in a row at a single track in series' history. His five-straight USAC Sprint winning streak at one track gives him the shared distinction with Jim Hurtubise (1960-62 at Terre Haute) and Steve Chassey (1979 at Winchester).

Furthermore, Courtney (Indianapolis, Ind.) came a car length short of becoming the 21st driver to win multiple USAC National Sprint Car feature races on a single calendar day, and the first since to do so since Bud Kaeding at Terre Haute in 2001. Only twice had a driver won two USAC Sprint Car races in one day at Eldora: Pancho Carter in 1976 and Billy Cassella in 1979.

Besides Ballou and Courtney, Windom (Canton, Ill.) was the lone other driver to record two top-five finishes on Saturday. Windom earned a 5th in the afternoon and a 3rd at night in his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) moved ahead of Pancho Carter by earning his 31st career Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying time with the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Cars on Saturday night. That moved Thomas into a tie with Sheldon Kinser for 9th on the all-time series list in that category.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 8, 2021 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – #LetsRaceTwo

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-15.441; 2. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-15.486; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-15.494; 4. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-15.516; 5. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-15.547; 6. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-15.574; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-15.596; 8. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-15.601; 9. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-15.615; 10. Tyler Courtney, 7BC, Clauson/Marshall/Newman-15.633; 11. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox/Curb-Agajanian-15.635; 12. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-15.636; 13. Stevie Sussex, 77, Wingo-15.772; 14. Jadon Rogers, 61m, Edwards-15.867; 15. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-15.867; 16. Max Adams, 17G, On The Gass-15.914; 17. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-16.000; 18. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-16.056; 19. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-16.151; 20. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-16.185; 21. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-16.186; 22. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-16.375; 23. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-16.473; 24. Chris Phillips, 6, Phillips-16.637; 25. Dallas Hewitt, 18, Keen-16.698; 26. Jack James, 99, James-16.728; 27. Paul Dues, 87, Dues-16.853; 28. Tyler Kendall, 20, Kendall-16.883.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Tyler Courtney, 2. Stevie Sussex, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Max Adams, 8. Matt Goodnight, 9. Dallas Hewitt, 10. Tyler Kendall. 2:12.797

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Isaac Chapple, 5. Korbyn Hayslett, 6. Jack James, 7. Logan Seavey, 8. Evan Mosley, 9. Chase Stockon. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Paul Nienhiser, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Steven Drevicki, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. C.J. Leary, 7. Carmen Perigo, 8. Chris Phillips, 9. Paul Dues. 2:18.958

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Matt Goodnight, 3. Carmen Perigo, 4. Max Adams, 5. Paul Dues, 6. Dallas Hewitt, 7. Chris Phillips, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Evan Mosley, 10. Tyler Kendall, 11. Jack James, 12. Logan Seavey. 3:39.912

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Robert Ballou (1), 2. Tyler Courtney (7), 3. Chris Windom (3), 4. Brady Bacon (5), 5. Paul Nienhiser (8), 6. Justin Grant (2), 7. C.J. Leary (9), 8. Jake Swanson (11), 9. Isaac Chapple (16), 10. Steven Drevicki (17), 11. Kevin Thomas Jr. (6), 12. Max Adams (14), 13. Paul Dues (22), 14. Matt Westfall (10), 15. Dallas Hewitt (21), 16. Stevie Sussex (12), 17. Matt Goodnight (18), 18. Chris Phillips (20), 19. Carmen Perigo (15), 20. Korbyn Hayslett (19), 21. Jadon Rogers (13), 22. Tanner Thorson (4). 9:30.305

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Robert Ballou.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-763, 2-Justin Grant-734, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-697, 4-Robert Ballou-659, 5-Chris Windom-635, 6-C.J. Leary-628, 7-Tanner Thorson-602, 8-Jake Swanson-591, 9-Paul Nienhiser-449, 10-Chase Stockon-440.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-52, 2-Thomas Meseraull-47, 3-Tanner Thorson-43, 4- Brady Bacon-37, 5-Chris Windom-34, 6-Buddy Kofoid-29, 7-Justin Grant-29, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-24, 9-C.J. Leary-23, 10- Bryant Wiedeman-22.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: May 21-22, 2021 – Lakeside Speedway – Kansas City, Kansas – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: C.J. Leary

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Tyler Courtney

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Paul Nienhiser

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: C.J. Leary

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Paul Dues (22nd to 13th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Paul Dues

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Brandon Mattox

Top Gun Fastest Heat Race Winner: Robert Ballou

==========

WINDOM WINS WILD HULMAN CLASSIC AT TERRE HAUTE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Terre Haute, Indiana (May 26, 2021)……In the 51-year history of the Tony Hulman Classic, only a select few drivers have won the race on three occasions: Cary Faas, Levi Jones, and now Chris Windom, who snagged his third career rifle, and second straight, following a spirited duel Wednesday night at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track.

Windom (Canton, Ill.) assumed the lead from racelong leader Justin Grant with just four laps remaining, which included a mix of wheel-to-wheel contact for both, broken hearts for one party and pure ecstasy for the other when all was said and done at the conclusion of the 30-lap main event.

Furthermore, Windom became just the fourth driver to win consecutive Tony Hulman Classics, joining Steve Butler (1987-88), Levi Jones (2008-09) and Robert Ballou (2015-16), while his seventh career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car win at Terre Haute moved him to within one of Gary Bettenhausen and Jack Hewitt as the winningest driver in the history of the track.

However, in the present tense, akin to the 2020 season, the Hulman Classic provided a Shangri-La of sorts for Windom and his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar. For the second straight year, the event played host to the team's first series win of the year.

"We've been trying to win a race all year long; we've been so close," Windom exclaimed. "The crew has worked so hard to get us into this position. To put this car into victory lane here again, especially at the Hulman, is really cool."

Windom's nemesis throughout was Grant, who started from the pole, while Windom began his journey from the sixth position. Grant was poetic early on, constructing a commanding lead of nearly two seconds by the tenth lap while, simultaneously, Windom was working on Kyle Cummins for the runner-up spot, which he secured by diving underneath Cummins at the entry to turn three.

As soon as Windom raced into second, Grant's interval over Windom melted like an ice cube in the sun as Windom caught up to Grant's tail tank within three laps and commenced the pair's negotiation through the back end of the field as they passed under the crossed flags signifying the halfway point.

As each opportunity at the lead flashed before Windom's eyes, it was as if somebody slapped his hands to keep him out of the cookie jar. First getting caught behind a lap car on lap 18, then blasting the turn four cushion on lap 19, Windom was relegated to constantly catching and regrouping rather than catching and passing for the time being.

With nine laps remaining, Windom found the clearance to a pathway to get by Grant. Windom set up a slider halfway down the back straightway and dove underneath Grant, up to the top, between turns three and four. Grant refused to let his guard down and ran his line without letting Windom occupying any of his space. That resulted in Windom sliding over the turn four curb and coerced him into having to play catch-up once more.

"I think we had, by far, the car to beat," Windom believed. "It was just track position. Once I got to second, he was almost a straightaway up. Lapped traffic was so tough because he'd slide a guy and I'd have to follow him and lose time, and I'd have to run him back down. It was all about slide jobs and trying to time it the right way. At this place, you get strung out so fast. You can't follow a guy when he slides a guy. You've got to try to keep your momentum up and carry speed to get back to him in the next corner. You've got to go the opposite direction of where the other guy goes."

Grant, a previous Don Smith Classic and Jim Hurtubise Classic winner who was in the midst of pursuing his quest in joining Windom and Chase Stockon as fellow winners of "the big three" USAC National Sprint Car events at Terre Haute, had fended off every challenge presented to him by Windom. That is, until lap 27.

Windom, mimicking his first attempt to pass Grant in turn three five laps earlier, threw the slider once again. However, the outcome found a completely different result the second time around. Windom's right rear tire and Grant's left front tire connected, sending Grant entirely airborne before landing on all fours, kissing the concrete wall, and powering on, albeit in the second position while Windom overtook first and sped away to an ultimate 2.607 second advantage and a surefire cinch to take the checkered flag at the point.

"That was such a fast-paced race," Windom remarked. "I ran Justin down three or four times; I slid him once and he crossed me back over. It was so slick down there, the second time I went to slide him, I got super backed into it and I backed up into the front of him. I'm sorry to get into him there, but he would say the same thing. We're out here racing for a living and not out here to make best friends with everybody."

With Windom having the checkered in sight exiting turn four on the final lap, the race was relegated to a halt with 15th running Chase Johnson flipping into the outside turn four wall/fence just in front of Windom. That brought out the red flag and created a green-white-checkered scenario with Grant directly behind Windom on the ensuing restart.

Windom's restart was smooth as silk as he shot away to a healthy advantage instantaneously while Grant's dreams crumpled in turn two as he bumped the cushion, lost ground from second that ultimately dropped him back to fifth. All the while, Windom ran away with it to collect his 29th career USAC National Sprint feature win by a 1.939 sec. margin.

Windom's win moved him into 16th on the all-time series win list alongside Kevin Thomas Jr. His victory total surpassed the total of 28 possessed by Don Branson, A.J. Foyt, Levi Jones and J.J. Yeley.

Meanwhile, Grant (Ione, Calif.) was barely denied a first Hulman Classic victory in his own right, and he explained the moment that took him out of contention for the win and dropped him back to a fifth place finish at the close.

"I've been on the other side of that before and I leaned on Chris a few laps earlier," Grant wrote in a tweet. "(I) can't be mad. It knocked the (Jacob's) ladder off and I was hanging on after that. Wish we could've gotten back after him on that restart."

Finishing second was Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) in his Rock Steady Racing/Mid-America Safety Solutions – Project Oversight/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy, who had recently won his first career feature event at Terre Haute in early May with the Midwest Sprint Car Series. His previous career best Hulman Classic result came in a 9th place effort in 2017, a big boost to the driver's confidence for competing on the half-mile dirt oval.

"This is kind of a win for us," Cummins admitted. "Windom is unbelievable around here, and so is Brady. This is my first USAC podium here. Confidence here is all it takes, and I have a little bit now, so I can kind race with them, which makes it fun."

Brady Bacon's remarkable comeback story at the Hulman Classic was one that will be talked about for a long time to come. His night began with him earning his 40th career USAC National Sprint Car fast qualifying time, surpassing Levi Jones for fourth-place all-time. In the first heat race, however, Bacon nearly touched the clouds in a sky-high crash that sent him flipping viciously over the turn one wall aboard his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

Following the incident, Bacon and the team rolled out the backup car that he had run as the primary late in 2020 at Terre Haute and again, most recently, earlier this month at Ohio's Eldora Speedway. Subsequently, the three-time series champ raced from the tail (14th) to finish 3rd and transfer to the B-Main. And, to cap it all off, he made another charge from his 9th starting spot to a 3rd place finish in the feature.

"I was pretty confident in my guys that everything was ready," Bacon said. "I wasn't really too nervous about going back out there. I knew I had to get by a lot of the slower cars in the B, and after a couple of laps, you get back into the rhythm and start thinking about how you can make your car even better."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 26, 2021 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 51st Tony Hulman Classic

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-19.495; 2. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-19.884; 3. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox/Curb-Agajanian-19.902; 4. Riley Kreisel, 91, DKR-19.938; 5. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-19.972; 6. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-19.977; 7. Davey Ray, 14AJ, FattFro/RayPro-20.191; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-20.228; 9. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-20.269; 10. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-20.274; 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-20.360; 12. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-20.366; 13. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-20.366; 14. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-20.398; 15. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-20.410; 16. Brian VanMeveren, 24v, VanMeveren-20.518; 17. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-20.575; 18. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-20.653; 19. Max Adams, 17G, On The Gass-20.677; 20. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-20.691; 21. Tye Mihocko, 5T, Parker-20.704; 22. Nick Bilbee, 17, Bilbee-20.709; 23. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-20.815; 24. Mitch Wissmiller, 29, RMB-20.877; 25. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-20.918; 26. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-21.066; 27. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-21.077; 28. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-21.102; 29. Nate McMillin, 24, McMillin-21.180; 30. Ricky Lewis, 11L, Lewis-21.399; 31. Brandon Morin, 98, Morin-21.588; 32. Joe Stewart, 19x, Stewart-26.687; 33. Dan Clodfelter, 19c, Clodfelter-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Cole Bodine, 5. Tye Mihocko, 6. Brady Bacon, 7. Anthony D'Alessio, 8. Nate McMillin. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Nick Bilbee, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Charles Davis Jr., 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Sterling Cling. 2:44.588

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Max Adams, 3. Mario Clouser, 4. Davey Ray, 5. Chase Johnson, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Brandon Morin, 8. Matt Goodnight. 2:47.348

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Riley Kreisel, 3. Mitch Wissmiller, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Brian VanMeveren, 7. Paul Nienhiser, 8. Dan Clodfelter. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Charles Davis Jr., 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Chase Johnson, 6. Tye Mihocko, 7. Paul Nienhiser, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Brandon Mattox, 10. Brian VanMeveren, 11. Matt Goodnight, 12. Nate McMillin, 13. Brandon Morin, 14. Dan Clodfelter. 4:19.929

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Chris Windom (6), 2. Kyle Cummins (3), 3. Brady Bacon (9), 4. Kevin Thomas Jr. (7), 5. Justin Grant (1), 6. C.J. Leary (4), 7. Robert Ballou (15), 8. Jake Swanson (13), 9. Riley Kreisel (5), 10. Logan Seavey (10), 11. Tanner Thorson (22), 12. Chase Stockon (8), 13. Cole Bodine (11), 14. Davey Ray (2), 15. Matt Westfall (17), 16. Nick Bilbee (19), 17. Mario Clouser (20), 18. Charles Davis Jr. (12), 19. Brandon Mattox (24-P), 20. Paul Nienhiser (23-P), 21. Chase Johnson (14), 22. Tye Mihocko (18), 23. Mitch Wissmiller (21), 24. Max Adams (16). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-26 Justin Grant, Laps 27-30 Chris Windom.

**Brady Bacon & Anthony D'Alessio flipped during the first heat. Chase Johnson flipped on lap 30 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-835, 2-Justin Grant-800, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-766, 4-Robert Ballou-718, 5-Chris Windom-717, 6-C.J. Leary-691, 7-Tanner Thorson-648, 8-Jake Swanson-645, 9-Chase Stockon-487, 10-Paul Nienhiser-472.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-60, 2-Tanner Thorson-54, 3-Thomas Meseraull-47, 4- Brady Bacon-43, 5-Chris Windom-39, 6-Buddy Kofoid-29, 7-Justin Grant-29, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-27, 9-C.J. Leary-23, 10-Jake Swanson-23.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 15, 2021 – Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Brady Bacon

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner:

Kyle Cummins Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Logan Seavey

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Tanner Thorson (22nd to 11th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Cole Bodine

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Paul Nienhiser

ProSource Hard Work Award Winner: Tanner Thorson

==========

GRANT-VIEW: GRANT GRABS USAC EASTERN STORM OPENER AT GRANDVIEW

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania (June 15, 2021)……Every victory holds significance for a racer. From time to time, there's something that makes a win even a little more special.

That was the case for Justin Grant on Tuesday night in the USAC Eastern Storm opener at Grandview Speedway in Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania.

With his 23rd career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature victory, the Ione, Calif. surpassed his father-in-law on the all-time win list, the late, great Bubby Jones, who passed away in January 2020.

It had been four months since the 22nd and most recent victory for Grant, in Ocala, Fla., a number which tied him with the National Sprint Car Hall of Famer, Ol' Bub.

"It means a lot," Grant said. "Bubby was awesome and won a lot of races and he helped me win a lot of races. We miss him a lot and I wish he was here to see it. I'm sure he would've helped me get there tonight. Bub won more races than I'm ever going to win and, if he was here, he'd tell you. It was really special to be on the same number (of wins) for a while, which also means it's been a really long time since we won a race, so I've got to relish it."

Furthermore, Grant's second series victory of the season came on an evening in which many were mindful of two racers who won an Eastern Storm round at Grandview and whose lives were both tragically cut short in their prime: Jesse Hockett and Bryan Clauson.

Hockett, the 2009 Grandview USAC winner, was the namesake of Tuesday night's race. For Clauson, the 2016 Grandview winner, the calendar fell on what would've been his 32nd birthday. Grant competed with both individuals and had his mind on the two greats throughout the course of the evening.

"Both guys made a big impression on me," Grant said of Hockett and Clauson. "I raced with the Clauson family for a while and got to know the Hockett family well. You always want to win but winning a race on a day that carries some meaning is special. We wish they were here to race with us, but if they were here, I might've run third."

Wildly enough, Bryan Clauson was the last driver not named Brady Bacon to win a USAC National Sprint Car feature at Grandview Speedway. Bacon came into Tuesday's event riding a four-race winning streak at the 1/3-mile dating back to the 2017 season.

Bacon lined up fifth, but it was Grant who started from the pole position and wound up as the one his competitors found themselves chasing for all 40 laps.

Bacon sliced his way to the lead on the start, sweeping into turn one ahead of outside front row starter and USAC East Coast Sprint Car point leader Alex Bright.

Cautions came early and quite often, starting with 5th running Jake Swanson who slowed on the sixth lap, which sent him to the work area. After being shuffled to the back of the 22-car field, Swanson raced his way back to the 12th position at the checkered.

Following the restart, by lap 10, Grant flexed his muscle up front as he built himself a half-straightaway cushion by the 10th circuit. However, a yellow flag on lap 13 halted the pace when Mark Smith (20th) slowed on the back straightaway with a mechanical issue. In the process of trying to avoid contact, Paul Nienhiser (22nd) made contact with the rear bumper of Smith. Smith pulled off, finishing 22nd, while Nienhiser soldiered on to a 17th place result.

Nearly a full lap after the restart, second running Alex Bright slipped off the bottom in the fourth turn, opening the door for both Tanner Thorson and Brady Bacon to slip underneath for 2nd and 3rd, respectively, while Bright fell back to fourth. Immediately, the path was clear for Thorson and Bacon, who shrunk Grant's advantage to where the three-pack ran nose-to-tail for the lead.

On the 22nd lap, 11th running Brandon Mattox stopped in turn three to force another yellow, but once the fray resumed, the contentious contest resumed just as well with this trio of Grant, Thorson and Bacon in unison much like the three-part harmony of Crosby, Stills and Nash.

However, Grant, like the members of CSN, went solo. Thorson, while tailing the rear bumper of Grant, became sideways at the exit of turn four, allowing Grant a little bit of separation until another untimely yellow fell for three-time USAC East Coast Sprint Car champion Steven Drevicki (11th) who slowed to a stop in turn two.

With the gap now closed for the restart with only the final five laps remaining, Thorson went right to the back bumper of Grant as the two sped into turn one. Thorson cranked it completely sideways on the entry into turn one but saved it. Bacon used the space, and the opportunity, to race around the outside of Thorson for the runner-up spot moments later.

Bacon attempted to track down Grant during the final few laps but only managed to pull within four car lengths of Grant in traffic. Grant closed out his victorious night with a 0.701 second margin of triumph over Bacon, Thorson, Kevin Thomas Jr. and Robert Ballou.

Grant, in his 24th career Eastern Storm start, finally broke through for his first ever victory in the five-race mini-series which originated in 2007.



“I finally got one of these,” Grant exclaimed, referring to an Eastern Storm win. I’ve historically been absolutely terrible out here. The track was kind of changing, but I really felt like I moved at the right times. I felt confident in my moves, and I felt confident that it was time to move when I moved. That doesn’t always work that way. The nights when you win races, everything flows, almost like it’s already done and you’re just going through the motions. That’s how tonight felt.”

Despite zero wins since leaving Florida in mid-February, Grant has hung in the thick of the title hunt and has now landed inside the top-five in five of his last six series starts while residing second in the USAC National standings behind Bacon.

After a wintertime move of Grant and TOPP Motorsports’ sprint car operation from Rochester, Ind. down to next door to Hemelgarn Racing’s shop on Gasoline Alley in Indianapolis, Ind., Grant reflected on the difficulty of winning a USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car race and what it has taken to put the TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy up front and contending for wins.

“Every one of these wins gets more and more special, it seems like,” Grant reflected. “I keep fearing that each one is going to be the last one. We keep working hard and we keep trying to be better. Everybody just seems like they’re getting better and better, and their cars are getting faster and faster. It’s a lot of fun to try and stay ahead of that curve, a lot of work as well. The effort and the preparation that it takes to run this deal and the team around you is so big. Everybody’s got nice cars now; everybody’s got nice motors; everybody’s got a good shock package now. A lot of days, it really comes down to where you’re at mentally, having a good group around you, people you can trust, people who have your back and people who are pumping you up is huge. I have that right now.”

Brady Bacon had been unstoppable at Grandview in recent years, winning four-straight USAC National Sprint Car features. Bacon hoped to join an exclusive list of drivers who’ve won five consecutive USAC National Sprint Car A-Mains at a single track: Jim Hurtubise at Indiana’s Terre Haute Action Track between 1960-62; Steve Chassey at Indiana’s Winchester Speedway in 1979; and Tyler Courtney at Eldora from 2018-2021.

Although the Broken Arrow, Okla. driver finished a close second on this night, Bacon still has not finished outside of the top-ten in any of his nine Grandview USAC Sprint starts aboard his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

Prior to Tuesday at Grandview, Tanner Thorson had endured three-straight finishes outside the top-ten in USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car racing this year. The most recent finish to his liking came at a Pennsylvania track (Path Valley) during April’s Keystone Invasion. In fact, both of his USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car wins came in the state, and it appears all Thorson needed was a little Keystone magic to right the ship in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Competition Suspension, Inc. – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) earned the 32nd Fatheadz Fast Qualifying time of his USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car career, moving him past Sheldon Kinser for sole possession of 9th place on the all-time list.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 15, 2021 – Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – Eastern Storm / Jesse Hockett Classic

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-14.344; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.387; 3. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.576; 4. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.637; 5. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-

14.641; 6. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.708; 7. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-14.715; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.739; 9. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.765; 10. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-14.787; 11. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-14.840; 12. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-14.846; 13. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-14.941; 14. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.951; 15. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.955; 16. Mark Smith, 3R, Rock Steady-14.974; 17. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-14.987; 18. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.999; 19. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-15.062; 20. Nash Ely, 3BC, Franckowiak-15.093; 21. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-15.170; 22. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-15.492; 23. Mike Meyers, 10m, Meyers-15.836; 24. Craig Pellegrini, 27c, Pellegrini-16.173; 25. Tom Savage, 38s, Savage-16.393; 26. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Briggs Danner, 2. Charles Davis Jr., 3. Alex Bright, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Tanner Thorson, 6. C.J. Leary, 7. Mark Smith, 8. Alex Banales. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Steven Drevicki, 6. Timmy Buckwalter, 7. Paul Nienhiser, 8. Mike Meyers, 9. Nash Ely. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Chris Windom, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Isaac Chapple, 8. Craig Pellegrini. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Timmy Buckwalter, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Brandon Mattox, 4. Mark Smith, 5. Isaac Chapple, 6. Paul Nienhiser, 7. Nash Ely, 8. Alex Banales, 9. Craig Pellegrini, 10. Mike Meyers. 3:14.947

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (1), 2. Brady Bacon (5), 3. Tanner Thorson (3), 4. Kevin Thomas Jr. (6), 5. Robert Ballou (9), 6. Briggs Danner (8), 7. Chris Windom (13), 8. Alex Bright (2), 9. Timmy Buckwalter (10), 10. Matt Westfall (4), 11. Chase Stockon (15), 12. Jake Swanson (7), 13. Logan Seavey (18), 14. Charles Davis Jr. (14), 15. C.J. Leary (19), 16. Shane Cottle (17), 17. Paul Nienhiser (22), 18. Isaac Chapple (21), 19. Brandon Mattox (11), 20. Nash Ely (20), 21. Steven Drevicki (12), 22. Mark Smith (16). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Justin Grant.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-913, 2-Justin Grant-877, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-838, 4-Robert Ballou-784, 5-Chris Windom-775, 6-C.J. Leary-727, 7-Tanner Thorson-719, 8-Jake Swanson-692, 9-Chase Stockon-533, 10-Paul Nienhiser-502.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-78, 2-Justin Grant-77, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-72, 4-Tanner Thorson-71, 5-Robert Ballou-66, 6-Briggs Danner-63, 7-Chris Windom-58, 8-Alex Bright-55, 9-Timmy Buckwalter-52, 10-Matt Westfall- 51.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-83, 2-Thomas Meseraull-81, 3-Robert Ballou-64, 4- Kevin Thomas Jr.-57, 5-Chris Windom-52, 6-Brady Bacon-50, 7-Buddy Kofoid-41, 8-Justin Grant-41, 9-Logan Seavey-37, 10- Emerson Axsom-35.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 16, 2021 – Bridgeport Speedway – Swedesboro, New Jersey – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track – Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Jake Swanson

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Briggs Danner

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Timmy Buckwalter

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Chris Windom (13th to 7th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Logan Seavey

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Alex Banales

==========

BALLOU BESTS BRIDGEPORT FIELD IN ROUND TWO OF USAC'S EASTERN STORM

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Swedesboro, New Jersey (June 16, 2021)……Robert Ballou's first career victory in the state of New Jersey during the 2015 USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car season led him to an Eastern Storm title and, ultimately, a USAC National title late that year.

Wednesday night in round two of the 2021 edition of Eastern Storm, Ballou's triumph at New Jersey's Bridgeport Motorsports Park just so happened to propel the Rocklin, Calif. driver into the Eastern Storm point lead.

Granted, a long road ahead awaits Ballou, along with everyone else, for that matter. Three events remain on the Eastern Storm docket this week and five more months of racing is marked on the calendar before a USAC National champion is decided.

However, Ballou's stock in mid-June is on the rise and his results have shown that through and through as the only driver in the series to achieve a top-ten finish in 13 consecutive races. His 31st career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature win at Bridgeport moved him past Tyler Courtney and into sole possession of 14th place on the all-time series win list, just one behind 1973 driving champion Rollie Beale.

Ballou did it basically serving as his own crew chief, calling the shots on the decisions that are made on race night as well as bigger picture decisions at the shop, like his move to revamp his lineup of cars in the offseason after going winless for nearly three consecutive seasons. With now two USAC victories to his credit this year in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy, that move has been proven to suit him well thus far.

"We switched chassis over the winter," Ballou explained. "I used to run them back in 2010 and thought that we should change back. We have two cars now and they're unbelievable, and I just had to get a balance. There's a fine line in getting

it just right. I'm probably the biggest pain in the (butt) driver, but as of now, I'm the crew chief, so I can only be mad at myself, but I've got really good guys that keep busting their butts every night."

After moving from 6th to 1st in his heat race earlier in the night, Ballou began his 30-lap quest in the feature from the fifth spot. With that said, Ballou didn't spend much time middling back the third row for too long as he jumped up to third on the opening lap, then settled into fourth for much of the first third of the race while pole sitter Shane Cottle blitzed away from the field, withstanding heavy pressure delivered early on by Briggs Danner who started fourth.

By lap 11, Cottle had opened his lead up to one second-plus while Danner attempted to fend off an on-the-move Ballou to no avail. Ballou ducked under Danner in turn three on the 11th lap and drag raced the USAC East Coast Sprint Car star wheel-to-wheel down the front straightaway. Danner had Ballou by a half-car-length at the start/finish line, but the writing was on the wall as Ballou tore by Danner with a slide job into turn one to overtake the runner-up position just as he and his car began to get into a rhythmic groove.

"When I have a full load of fuel in my racecar, the car gets kind of lazy," Ballou explained. "It takes four or five laps for the thing to come to life and burn off a couple gallons of fuel, and kind of get back up on the arms."

At that point, it seemed as if it would take a little time, or a bit of fortuitousness, for Ballou to track down and cut into Cottle's lead. However, Ballou figuratively grabbed a shovel and feverishly went digging. On each ensuing trip around the 4/10-mile, Ballou carved a quarter-second chunk away from Cottle as the pair headed to face-off with the tail end of the field.

Ballou tailed Cottle for the following five laps, unable to strike a blow due to either not being close enough to make a move or, rather, encountering traffic that was occupying the low line, which prevented a slider attempt. However, on the 17th lap, the oceans parted on the back straightaway and Ballou stepped his way through by virtue of a massive run off turn two, then bolted onto the bottom line of turn three to assume the number one spot.

Down the stretch, Ballou encountered his fair share of obstacles in the depths of traffic, yet still ably gapped Cottle to the tune of 1.852 seconds at race's end as he closed out his fifth career Eastern Storm feature win, second most all-time behind the six shared by Bryan Clauson, Levi Jones and Chris Windom.

A literal last-minute deal was put together for Shane Cottle (Kansas, Ill.) to compete during Eastern Storm in one of the more familiar local cars that competes annually on USAC's tour of the east, the Tim Hogue/Boulevard Truck Repair – Bout the Hops Brewing – VP Racing Fuels/DRC/Ott Chevy. Cottle rewarded the New Jersey based team with a race-high 16 laps led while earning the team's best USAC National Sprint Car finish in just his second ever start for the team.

"We've got a good group of guys over there and they put together a good car for me tonight," Cottle remarked. "This was a lot of fun and it's the first time I've been here; it's a neat racetrack. The track got really technical, and it was a lot of fun."

Chris Windom (Canton, Ill.) slotted back onto the podium with a 3rd place finish at Bridgeport aboard his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar, coming back from an early-race near incident nine laps into the feature that dropped him a spot and forced him to play catch up throughout to retake third just six laps from the finish.

"We made a step in the right direction by running in the top-three tonight," Windom stated. "I just couldn't quite figure out the first 10 laps where exactly to go and lost a little ground. (In the incident) I had to lift big off two and lost some time

there. We probably weren't a winning car but could've run second there. Once I got up and just put it on the fence, we were pretty good."

Ballou's Bridgeport victory worth $6,000 was the second non-stop, caution free feature he's won with USAC this year. In total, four of the 14 series feature races run this year have gone caution-free: Feb. 11 at Ocala; twice on May 8 at Eldora and again on Thursday.

Justin Grant recorded the 27th Fatheadz Fast Qualifying time of his USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car career at Bridgeport. That moved the Ione, Calif. driver past Jay Drake and tied him with Dave Steele and Chase Stockon for 14th all-time.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 16, 2021 – Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Swedesboro, New Jersey – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track – Eastern Storm

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-15.799 (New Track Record); 2. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-15.815; 3. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-15.874; 4. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-15.899; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-15.999; 6. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.044; 7. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-16.058; 8. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-16.098; 9. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-16.132; 10. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-16.229; 11. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-16.256; 12. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.286; 13. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-16.300; 14. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-16.320; 15. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.321; 16. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-16.377; 17. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.501; 18. Nash Ely, 3BC, Franckowiak-16.503; 19. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-16.562; 20. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-16.617; 21. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-16.649; 22. Mark Smith, 3R, Rock Steady-16.652; 23. Mark Bitner, 15, Bitner-17.074; 24. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-17.444; 25. Chris Allen Jr., 3x, Wasitowski-17.522; 26. Craig Pellegrini, 27c, Pellegrini-17.777.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Timmy Buckwalter, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Chris Windom, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Justin Grant, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Alex Bright, 8. Mark Smith, 9. Chris Allen Jr. 2:11.630 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Charles Davis Jr., 4. Brandon Mattox, 5. Mark Bitner, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Jake Swanson, 8. Paul Nienhiser, 9. Craig Pellegrini. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Briggs Danner, 4. Nash Ely, 5. Steven Drevicki, 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Isaac Chapple, 8. Alex Banales. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Paul Nienhiser, 2. Isaac Chapple, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Alex Bright, 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Mark Smith, 8. Matt Westfall, 9. Craig Pellegrini, 10. Alex Banales, 11. Chris Allen Jr. 3:43.172 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Robert Ballou (5), 2. Shane Cottle (1), 3. Chris Windom (2), 4. Brady Bacon (14), 5. Briggs Danner (4), 6. Justin Grant (6), 7. C.J. Leary (3), 8. Timmy Buckwalter (8), 9. Steven Drevicki (19), 10. Kevin Thomas Jr. (15), 11. Jake Swanson (9), 12. Tanner Thorson (10), 13. Logan Seavey (12), 14. Charles Davis Jr. (16), 15. Isaac Chapple (11), 16. Paul Nienhiser (13), 17. Alex Bright (22), 18. Chase Stockon (7), 19. Brandon Mattox (18), 20. Mark Bitner (21), 21. Mark Smith (20), 22. Matt Westfall (23), 23. Nash Ely (17). 8:47.620 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-16 Shane Cottle, Laps 17-30 Robert Ballou.

**Jake Swanson & Paul Nienhiser flipped during the second heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-981, 2-Justin Grant-942, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-888, 4-Robert Ballou-867, 5-Chris Windom-845, 6-C.J. Leary-787, 7-Tanner Thorson-760, 8-Jake Swanson-736, 9-Chase Stockon-568, 10-Paul Nienhiser-537.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-149, 2-Brady Bacon-146, 3-Justin Grant-142, 4-Briggs Danner-131, 5-Chris Windom-128, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-122, 7-Tanner Thorson-112, 8-Shane Cottle-110, 9-Timmy Buckwalter-109, 10-C.J. Leary-96.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-83, 2-Thomas Meseraull-81, 3-Robert Ballou-68, 4- Kevin Thomas Jr.-62, 5-Brady Bacon-60, 6-Chris Windom-52, 7-Buddy Kofoid-41, 8-Justin Grant-41, 9-Logan Seavey-37, 10- Emerson Axsom-35.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 17, 2021 – Selinsgrove Speedway – Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Jake Swanson

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Justin Grant

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Timmy Buckwalter

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Paul Nienhiser

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (14th to 4th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Logan Seavey

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Matt Westfall

Doug Rose Top-Finishing 360 c.i. Drivers: Mark Bitner & Craig Pellegrini

==========

GNARLY GRANT GRABS SELINSGROVE'S FIRST USAC SPRINT RACE IN 50 YEARS

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania (June 17, 2021)……The waiting is the hardest part.

While race fans endured a wait of fifty years between the first and second USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car appearances at Pennsylvania's Selinsgrove Speedway, Justin Grant only had to wait a mere two days between Eastern Storm win number one and Eastern Storm win number two.

Just 48 hours after earning his first career Eastern Storm feature triumph following a near decade of trying, the Ione, Calif. driver collected his second career Eastern Storm score in a three-night span, leading the final seven laps on Thursday night around the half-mile dirt oval which had last hosted a USAC National Sprint Car event in 1971.

Grant took the lead from Windom seven laps from the finish, then withstood multiple Robert Ballou slide job attempts during the final restart to win his third series feature of the season, and 24th of his USAC National Sprint Car career, surpassing Roger McCluskey for 27th all-time in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

"These half-miles, they're not always the most comfortable thing, so a lot of times it comes down to knowing you have a good racecar," Grant explained. "But it seemed like everybody up front was all kind of running the same speed there. Coming to these half-miles, you've just got to want to win these races bad, and we really, really wanted to win this race tonight. We got off to a good start this year, then got kind of slow, so we're trying to make up for it now."

Funny enough, it was Grant who initiated the drive to bring USAC Sprint Car racing back to Selinsgrove following a half-century absence. A couple of years ago, Grant and fellow driver Jason McDougal paid a visit to the track on their own and pleaded their case.

"We actually stopped in here one night after they were racing a few years ago and said, 'why don't you run us here,' and we were told, 'I didn't think you guys would want to come here.' I said, 'we want to come here.' This place is pretty wicked and pretty gnarly and that's why we drive non-wing sprint cars; we like gnarly stuff."

Grant started fourth in the 22-car field, which pole sitter Kevin Thomas Jr. had dominion over in the early going, leaving the position jockeying solely for those who trailed him. Grant cleared outside front row starter C.J. Leary on the fifth lap for second while Chris Windom slipped past Leary for the fourth position a circuit later on lap six.

On the ninth lap, Chris Windom positioned himself into the second spot with a turn three slider on Grant, then began to clamp down on race leader Thomas Jr., who had just recently possessed a near two-second advantage over the rest of the field. By lap 11, the entire top-seven in the running order ran nose-to-tail behind Thomas.

With 12 laps down, Windom made a move under Thomas to try to snare the lead. Windom came up a half car length short at the line but continued to grind until opportunity came knocking and pulled ahead of Thomas with a slide job for the lead in turn one mere moments later. Thomas fought back on the bottom, engaging side-by-side with Windom down the back straightway and through turns three and four, but momentum was on Windom's side as he used the banking up on the topside to drive back past Thomas to lead by a single car length at the stripe.

A single lap later, Grant followed suit and moved up the rung to second-place with a pass on Thomas. USAC National Sprint Car Rookie and USAC Rapid Tire East Coast Sprint Car standout Briggs Danner sliced his way to the third position and was steadily charging when he made a self-pronounced "Rookie mistake," jumping the turn two cushion and pancaking the guardrail.

Grant suddenly began to close the gap between him and race leader Windom with a little bit of traffic now in play. Windom had been running the top routinely throughout the first 23 laps but made the split decision to enter on the bottom of turns three and four. Grant, in turn, stuck it up top near and rode the fence right into the race lead.

“It was going to be tough to pass anybody and the cushion was getting really high off two, but it wasn’t to the wall yet,” Grant recalled. “So, I started diamonding one and two off, and it was just enough to show Chris a nose up off the bottom and he peeled to the bottom of three and four where we were able to commit back to the curb and circle him.”

Windom’s race, henceforth, went from good to bad to ugly within a half-mile span. Soon after Windom relinquished the lead, Wednesday night’s Bridgeport winner Robert Ballou emerged into the fray and set up his shot at Windom for second. Instead, things went awry, with Ballou tossing a slider toward Windom in turn three when the two made contact, sending Windom airborne and into the outside guardrail. Windom immediately slowed with a flat left rear tire, bringing about the first caution of the evening on lap 25 and ending Windom’s too, for all intents and purposes. Windom returned but finished 15th.

“I want to say sorry to Chris,” Ballou stated. “I ran in there and had too much speed. I was going to knock the fence down and I checked up and, when I checked up, I got in a four-wheel slide, and I slid up. I didn’t see him until he got my right rear. I wouldn’t want to do that to anybody, so I’m sorry for that.”

Meanwhile, under the yellow, Danner, who would’ve assumed third on the restart six laps remaining, was forced to the sidelines when his right rear tire ultimately deflated following contact with the guardrail 11 laps earlier.

On the one, final and only restart with six laps to go, Ballou made his final bids for a second-straight victory. Two successive tries to get past Grant proved unsuccessful for Ballou as he was able to pull alongside Grant on both ends of the racetrack, but was unable to edge ahead, instead, filing into line behind Grant as the laps wound down and the distance between the two growing more substantial.

“We got rolling under that yellow and saw that the curb had gotten pushed all the way to the wall,” Grant noted. “It wasn’t moving anymore. It was kind of powdery up there and it was hard to get a hold of. Once it packs against the wall, it’s firm, so we went ahead and started crashing into that off two to make some drive. I knew we had a really good racecar and I felt really confident once I got clear of Ballou on the restart. He’s so good on these big half-miles when it’s right on the fence. Once I got him cleared, I felt like we were going to be really good.”

Grant disallowed any further challenges by extending the interval between he and Ballou while cementing his possession of a second Eastern Storm victory this week, closing out this one in particular by a 3.061 margin over Ballou, Leary, Thomas and Brady Bacon who rounded out the top-five.

Ballou finished as the runner-up in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy, which helped extend his Eastern Storm point lead to four points over Grant with two races remaining on Saturday, June 19, at Port Royal Speedway and on Sunday, June 20, at the Bloomsburg Fair Raceway, both of which are in the state of Pennsylvania.

“We were the car to beat until that caution,” Ballou said. “I used my stuff up trying to get there, sliding back and forth with guys. Justin, the last five laps, was incredible. If we didn’t have a caution, I think I could’ve won, but hindsight’s always 20/20.”

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) finished 3rd for his best series result of the season since winning in the state of Pennsylvania (Path Valley) on April 25 aboard his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman Ford.

"I felt like we were going to be a little better than that," Leary admitted. "We got kind of stagnant there a couple laps in, lost momentum and Justin slid me. Once I broke my momentum, a couple guys got by me, and we were just riding there for about half of the race. It's frustrating when you do lose your momentum and there's nothing you can do about it. That restart really let me regroup and adjust on the shocks a little bit, and we had a great restart getting by Brady and KTJ."

A tumultuous evening for Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) actually rooted its origins the night before at Selinsgrove after becoming a victim of a heat race flip at Bridgeport. Following Thursday's qualifying session, Swanson and crew went to work but missed their heat race while making changes. The team rolled out the backup car for Swanson to join the feature field in the 20th position where he proceeded to carve his way to an impressive 7th place finish to earn himself the KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger honors for the night while driving the Team AZ Racing/USW Cat Construction – RSS Industries – CSI – Lucas Oil/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

"We're still chasing the gremlins from when our crash last night," Swanson explained. "I can't say enough about this race team. We missed our heat race, and we didn't even watch a lap of any of the heat races. We were just thrashing on the thing trying to put it back together. Right before we rolled out, my crew chief, Mike Burkhart, was like, 'I have no idea what this is, but it's our best guess.' I know (the setup is) always going to be pretty close with him. He's a hell of a mechanic and I just really appreciate driving for him, and I appreciate all the hard work my guys did, Craig (Burkhart), Justin (Grau) and my dad. It was a lot of work, and we almost didn't make that feature. To come up through like we did and to have the speed like we did, I'm really stoked."

During Fatheadz Qualifying, Windom collected his 12th career Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying time with the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Cars, tying him for 39th all-time with Steve Chassey, Elmer George, Rick Hood, Jud Larson, Bill Puterbaugh and Joe Saldana.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 17, 2021 – Selinsgrove Speedway – Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Eastern Storm

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-19.506 (New Track Record); 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-19.607; 3. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-19.615; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-19.761; 5. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-19.891; 6. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-19.982; 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-20.109; 8. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-20.142; 9. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-20.218; 10. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-20.222; 11. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-20.224; 12. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-20.364; 13. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-20.391; 14. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-20.489; 15. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-20.516; 16. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-20.660; 17. Mark Smith, 3R, Rock Steady-20.669; 18. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-20.690; 19. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-20.690; 20. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-20.753; 21. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-20.894; 22. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-NT; 23. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Briggs Danner, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Chris Windom, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Charles Davis Jr., 7. Paul Nienhiser. 2:51.334 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Mark Smith, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Steven Drevicki, 6. Alex Bright. 2:54.705

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Chase Johnson, 5. Carmen Perigo, 6. Brandon Mattox. 2:53.472

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (4), 2. Robert Ballou (7), 3. C.J. Leary (2), 4. Kevin Thomas Jr. (1), 5. Brady Bacon (5), 6. Alex Bright (10), 7. Jake Swanson (20), 8. Carmen Perigo (14), 9. Mark Smith (17), 10. Chase Johnson (11), 11. Shane Cottle (13), 12. Tanner Thorson (3), 13. Matt Westfall (15), 14. Steven Drevicki (16), 15. Chris Windom (6), 16. Brandon Mattox (21), 17. Chase Stockon (18), 18. Paul Nienhiser (19), 19. Charles Davis Jr. (12), 20. Logan Seavey (9), 21. Briggs Danner (8), 22. Isaac Chapple (22). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-12 Kevin Thomas Jr., Laps 13-23 Chris Windom, Laps 24-30 Justin Grant.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1049, 2-Justin Grant-1020, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-956, 4-Robert Ballou-942, 5-Chris Windom-890, 6-C.J. Leary-859, 7-Tanner Thorson-809, 8-Jake Swanson-788, 9-Chase Stockon-603, 10-Paul Nienhiser-566.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-224, 2-Justin Grant-220, 3-Brady Bacon-214, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-190, 5-Chris Windom-173, 6-C.J. Leary-168, 7-Briggs Danner-162, 8-Tanner Thorson-161, 9-Shane Cottle-158, 10-Jake Swanson-143.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-83, 2-Thomas Meseraull-81, 3-Robert Ballou-73, 4- Kevin Thomas Jr.-62, 5-Brady Bacon-60, 6-Chris Windom-52, 7-Justin Grant-44, 8-Buddy Kofoid-41, 9-Logan Seavey-37, 10- Jake Swanson-36.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 19, 2021 – Port Royal Speedway – Port Royal, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: C.J. Leary

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Chris Windom

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Briggs Danner

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Tanner Thorson

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Jake Swanson (20th to 7th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Matt Westfall

==========

KTJ DOMINATES BLOOMSBURG DEBUT, BALLOU BY 1 FOR USAC EASTERN STORM TITLE

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania (June 20, 2021)……Just six days following his 30th birthday, Kevin Thomas Jr. celebrated another milestone 30th on Sunday night at Pennsylvania's Bloomsburg Fair Raceway by winning his 30th career USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature event in the series' debut at the brand-new 3/8-mile dirt oval.

While Thomas took top honors for the night, the week belonged to Robert Ballou, whose 6th place finish at Bloomsburg secured the Eastern Storm championship by one single point over Brady Bacon, which tied for the closest Eastern Storm finish ever alongside Bryan Clauson's one-point victory over Dave Darland in 2013.

Ballou's four-race record of 5th, 1st, 2nd and 6th place finishes secured his second career Eastern Storm title, and first since 2015, a season in which the Rocklin, Calif. carried onward to win the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Driving Championship.

With each position a priority on Sunday night, Ballou turned a paltry qualifying time into gold after winning his heat race, which elevated him to a seventh-place starting position for the feature. Ballou spent much of the middle portion of the race 5th while his championship compadre Bacon ran 2nd.

Entering the feature with a 10-point lead, Ballou needed to finish within three positions of Bacon to secure the title and maintained that position throughout much of the middle stages. Both Bacon and Ballou ran 3rd and 6th, respectively, between laps seven and twelve of the 30-lap feature. On lap 13, both simultaneously moved up one position to 2nd and 5th with Ballou maintaining that single point lead.

With seven laps remaining, USAC Rapid Tire East Coast standout, and point leader, Alex Bright slid by Ballou to take the 5th position, relegating Ballou back to 6th. For a five-lap span between laps 23-27, Bacon had the Eastern Storm title within his grasp, holding a two-point advantage over Ballou with just three laps remaining. That's when the hard-charging Tanner Thorson slid by Bacon for the second position, moving Bacon back to 3rd which handed the point lead back to Ballou by one once again.

And that's how they'd wind up crossing the line, three positions apart and one point of a separation between the two. Ballou the champion and Bacon the runner-up.

While the drama unfolded for the overall Eastern Storm title, Kevin Thomas Jr. left little doubt and embraced the lack of drama from his point of view from the drop of the green to the checkered.

Thomas bounced out to a three-second, near-straightaway lead by lap five after starting from the pole position. Just two laps later, the Cullman, Ala. driver was already encountering a stifling amount of lapped traffic, which didn't hinder him much in the grand scheme but proved to be a challenge all the same.

"It was a little tough," Thomas acknowledged. "There were some good guys back there that just had bad nights, like (Justin) Grant and (Chris) Windom and those guys. Just a rough night for them but they're really good racecars. They know how to win races and they also know how to not get passed. Just getting through the lapped traffic was difficult, and I was kind of glad to see those cautions."

After 19 laps of continuous green, that caution arrived when 21st running Justin Grant stopped in turn three to bring out the yellow. An uncharacteristically rotten night for the driver who'd won two of the first three Eastern Storm races this past week, Grant fought a power steering line failure throughout the main event and finished a season worst 21st.

Thomas held a whopping 3.551 sec. lead prior to the yellow. However, the negative of having his substantial lead erased was supplanted by the positivity of a clear track that now lie ahead of him.

“In clean air, I could run one line, but whenever I got to traffic, I had to slow down a lot getting into one and two to try to get underneath those guys,” Thomas explained. “I just felt like I was getting sloppy and killing a lot of speed when I was doing that. I was glad to get some caution and get some clean air.”

The restart was short-lived, however, as first-time USAC National Sprint Car feature starter Michael Markey, running 21st, hit the outside wall in turn one, ending his evening with a 23rd place finish.

Once things did get rolling, Thomas was able to separate himself comfortably from Bacon by a good five to six car lengths and was further compounded when Thorson tussled with Bacon for the runner-up position, ultimately taking it from Bacon with three laps remaining.

By then, Thomas was uncompromised and unaccompanied by any challengers as he raced to his third series win of the year in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper – McDonald’s – KT Construction Services/DRC/Speedway Chevy by a 0.879 second margin over Thorson, Bacon and Jake Swanson with Alex Bright rounding out the top-five.

Thomas’ 30th career USAC National Sprint Car win moved him into a tie for 15th all-time alongside Tyler Courtney, a position he credits to his crew utilizing the last couple of “off days” to get the car back on rails for the team’s first series victory since mid-April.

“We had a good Dr. Pepper 9K,” Thomas stated. “We just finally clicked one off there. It’s been a little bit of a struggle bus since April, but these guys went to work yesterday and the day before and they did some things to the car that made it so much better to drive in the slick. I think we finally figured some things out with our engine program and the car itself to get ourselves up front in these races.”

Ballou drove his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy to a second career Eastern Storm title, joining Bryan Clauson (3), Levi Jones (3), Cole Whitt (2) and Chris Windom (2) as multi-time champions of the annual June series.

“I’ve got a lot of good guys behind me, good sponsors who have a never-give-up attitude. We never backed down.”

Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) bookended an up-and-down first Eastern Storm experience with a 3rd place result Tuesday at Grandview a 2nd on Sunday at Bloomsburg, sandwiched around a pair of 12th place finishes at Bridgeport and Selinsgrove. Thorson takes his hat off to the team that turned the wrenches on the No. 19AZ to get the Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – CSI – MVT/Spike/Stanton Chevy back up front while adapting to the changing track conditions throughout the evening.

“We’ve had a really fast car every night I’d say, but the crew has been working really hard to get me better and we’ve been struggling in the slick,” Thorson explained. “But tonight, we got better and better as it got slicker and slicker. I think they found a little something there.”

It was heartbreak for Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla), who narrowly missed out on a second career Eastern Storm title after winning his first back in 2014. However, a consistent Eastern Storm for Bacon had him pegged as the only driver to finish inside the top-five in all four starts. Despite a lack of a win, Bacon more than doubled his overall USAC AMSOIL

National Sprint Car lead from 35 at the beginning of the week to 71 by the conclusion in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

"I thought we were going to have a chance on that restart but (Kevin Thomas Jr.) was just a little bit better than us and Tanner got really good working up high," Bacon recalled. "We weren't quite as good as them at the end. I think, maybe, if we got to traffic, we were pretty maneuverable, but that didn't happen, so we'll take it after we dug ourselves a bit of a hole after qualifying. Coming out unscathed in a race like this is good, a place we've never been before."

A hairy Fatheadz Eyewear qualifying session saw three separate incidents in turn one halt the proceedings. Steven Drevicki was the first to get upside down on the second lap of his run. Chris Windom was the next to turn over later in the session. Brandon Mattox, who was the very next car to take time after Windom, biked in the same manner as Drevicki and Windom, but did not get upside down, instead, making hard contact with the rear of his car against the outside concrete wall.

The incidents resulted in an abrupt end to the night for Drevicki and Mattox who endured too much damage to continue. Windom went to a backup car for the evening as did C.J. Leary, who experienced an engine failure his first qualifying lap and never officially recorded a time. Leary recovered nicely and drove from the 21st starting position to a 7th place finish in the feature to earn KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger honors.

Meanwhile, Chase Stockon earned his first Fatheadz Qualifying time of the year, which was the 28th of his USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car career, moving him past Dave Steele for sole possession of 14th on the all-time list.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 20, 2021 – Bloomsburg Fair Raceway – Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – Eastern Storm

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-15.936 (New Track Record); 2. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-15.994; 3. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-16.031; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.043; 5. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-16.068; 6. Briggs Danner, 5G, Gallagher-16.118; 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-16.158; 8. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-16.164; 9. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-16.200; 10. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-16.225; 11. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.289; 12. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.317; 13. Nash Ely, 3BC, Franckowiak-16.504; 14. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.692; 15. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-16.719; 16. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.746; 17. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-16.775; 18. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-16.812; 19. Mark Smith, 3R, Rock Steady-16.821; 20. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-17.310; 21. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-17.383; 22. Michael Markey, 3x, Wasitowski-18.108; 23. Richy Carnathan, 64, Werner-18.131; 24. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-NT; 25. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Paul Nienhiser, 5. Nash Ely, 6. Chris Windom, 7. Alex Banales, 8. Chase Stockon. 2:45.324 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Timmy Buckwalter, 6. Carmen Perigo, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Michael Markey. 2:49.546

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Mark Smith, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Alex Bright, 4. Charles Davis Jr., 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Richy Carnathan. 2:51.580

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (1), 2. Tanner Thorson (5), 3. Brady Bacon (6), 4. Jake Swanson (4), 5. Alex Bright (9), 6. Robert Ballou (7), 7. C.J. Leary (21), 8. Briggs Danner (2), 9. Timmy Buckwalter (11),



10. Shane Cottle (3), 11. Paul Nienhiser (13), 12. Chase Stockon (10), 13. Chris Windom (20), 14. Logan Seavey (12), 15. Matt Westfall (16), 16. Mark Smith (8), 17. Nash Ely (15), 18. Carmen Perigo (18), 19. Charles Davis Jr. (17), 20. Alex Banales (19), 21. Justin Grant (14), 22. Richy Carnathan (23), 23. Michael Markey (22). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Kevin Thomas Jr.

**Steven Drevicki & Chris Windom flipped during qualifying.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1121, 2-Justin Grant-1050, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1032, 4-Robert Ballou-1005, 5-Chris Windom-930, 6-C.J. Leary-917, 7-Tanner Thorson-886, 8-Jake Swanson-859, 9-Chase Stockon-649, 10-Paul Nienhiser-612.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-287, 2-Brady Bacon-286, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-266, 4-Justin Grant-250, 5-Tanner Thorson-238, 6-C.J. Leary-226, 7-Briggs Danner-216, 8-Jake Swanson-214, 9-Chris Windom-213, 10-Alex Bright-211.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-86, 2-Thomas Meseraull-81, 3-Robert Ballou-74, 4- Brady Bacon-64, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-62, 6-Chris Windom-60, 7-Justin Grant-44, 8-Buddy Kofoid-41, 9-C.J. Leary-41, 10- Logan Seavey-37.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 1, 2021 – Plymouth Speedway – Plymouth, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Alex Bright

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Chase Stockon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Mark Smith

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: C.J. Leary (21st to 7th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Chris Windom

==========

LEARY'S "BACKUP" PLAN BECOMES A WINNING PLAN AT PLYMOUTH

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Plymouth, Indiana (July 1, 2021)……On occasion, the backup plan ultimately becomes the master plan.

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

A bad vibration and a broken U-Joint forced driver C.J. Leary and his Michael Motorsports team to pull down the spare car from the trailer for the most recent USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car event at Bloomsburg (Pa.) Fair Raceway 12 days earlier.

Following a 21st to 7th to charge in the Bloomsburg feature, the team stuck with the "backup" car and engine for the series' Thursday night round at Plymouth (Ind.) Speedway, where Plan B came to fruition as the Greenfield, Ind. driver and Chino Valley, Ariz. based team raced to their second victory of the year in a non-stop 30-lap contest that was completed in a tick under eight minutes.

Leary entered Plymouth with just one top-five result in his last eight starts with the series, but Plymouth proved to be a "get-right" track for he and his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman Ford, with the No. 77m feeling just the same to Leary as it did when he left Bloomsburg – fast.

The victory was the 13th USAC National Sprint Car feature triumph for Leary, the 2019 series champion. That surpassed Eric Gordon on the series win list and now equals him with Steve Chassey for 45th all-time.

Pole sitter Leary and fifth-starting Justin Grant entered Thursday's event as the only two drivers to finish inside the top-three in each of their last two visits to the 3/8-mile Plymouth dirt oval.

Leary, in fact, had finished 2nd in 2019 and 3rd in 2020, and also owns the one-lap USAC track record at Plymouth. He also has winning experience there, capturing the non-sanctioned 2016 Tony Elliott Classic.

On this night, Leary sought the winning formula once again at Plymouth, gliding his way to the lead after a side-by-side tussle into turns one and two on the opening lap with outside front row starter, and series Rookie, Paul Nienhiser with Leary emerging as the leader by the time the pack hit the back straightaway.

Third-starting Tanner Thorson soon slotted into the second spot past Nienhiser on the second circuit while Grant, likewise, slipped underneath Nienhiser for the third position on lap three.

As Leary fashioned a half-straightaway lead throughout the first half of the event and entered into a frenetic fray of lapped traffic, the war waged on for positions two, three and four in his vapor trail. At the halfway point, Fatheadz Eyewear fastest qualifier Kevin Thomas Jr. blitzkrieged from 4th to 2nd on the back straightaway past both Grant and Thorson in unison, while Grant followed suit by Thorson for 3rd off the bottom of turn four.

As Leary began to distance himself from Thomas, it was Grant who began to close on Thomas for 2nd. On the 24th lap, Thomas became entangled in the middle of the racing surface exiting turn two as he worked his way around a slower car. That provided the upper hand of momentum to Grant, who conducted a slide job in turn three that moved him past Thomas and immediately set him forth on his course to clamp down on the distant Leary.

Ever so quickly, Grant now had Leary right within his scope, quickly eating up ground that put Grant within a single car length of Leary's rear bumper with just three laps remaining. However, when Grant snagged the turn four cushion with his right rear tire that same lap, the "ground" was now a substantial unoccupied space between the two.

Grant was put in catch-up mode once again, but ably reeled Leary back in to affix himself right back into contention, and to the rear bumper of Leary as the pair entered turn one on the final lap. Nonetheless, Grant was unable to get any closer than that snapshot right there while an unfazed Leary sealed the door shut for his first series score since April by a 0.605

second margin over Grant, Thomas, Thorson and Brady Bacon, who rounded out the top-five by earning KSE Racing Products Hard Charger honors after starting 13th.

While the fans in the stands had the advantage of an overhead view of the on-track action, Leary's view from the cockpit was slightly different. At no point did Leary see or hear Grant, and never once did he feel the pressure and the anticipation of Grant's constant presence in the waning laps, as did we.

"We got that track position that I think is really crucial here," said Leary, who started the 30-lap feature from the pole position. "We've been good here in the past but have never been able to pick up a USAC win. I had to slide a couple guys in traffic, but I never really heard anybody pressure me. I was surprised I didn't hear anybody, but I just got on cruise control out there, hit my marks, and made sure I got a good bite off the cushion.

The cushion was banked off the wall in two and you could really get a bunch of speed down the back stretch off that," Leary continued. "If you missed it, I felt like that was an opportunity to get passed, and a guy could slide you in three and four with how wide the racetrack got. Without ever hearing Justin, I was just making sure I didn't do anything stupid and give it away at the end."

One recent notable addition to the Leary/Michael team since early June of this year is Jason McDougal, a multi-time USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget and USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car winner who, himself, finished 5th at Plymouth in a USAC Sprint Car feature in 2019. McDougal has traded in a steering wheel for a wrench on USAC Sprint Car race nights, and along with team owner Michael, crew members Maison Hadley and father, Chuck Leary, they form the core that contributed to the winning effort at Plymouth.

"Having an extra guy that knows what's going on and can jump in and do anything and help me make good setup decisions is good," C.J. said of McDougal. "We put our heads together; we both watch the track; and we both have a lot of hands-on experience with racing. It's tough doing it all, driving the truck, washing the car, doing maintenance on the car, driving the car and making the setup calls, it's a lot for one person to do."

Grant (Ione, Calif.) remains the lone multi-time USAC National Sprint Car winner at Plymouth but came up one spot short of becoming the first three-time victor at the track Thursday night in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries – The Bow Foundation/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

"We were good," Grant acknowledged. "I could run to Leary's bumper, but there's so much momentum when it's on the curb like that. When I'd get to his bumper, it would almost slow me down to his speed. I had trouble going faster than him when I was right behind him. When it was kind of an open track, I could run him down. I always seemed to have a row of lappers there rolling the bottom where I couldn't really peel off and pull off the slider. Not that it was going to be easy to do, he was going to have to miss off of two and I was going to have to nail it, and I was going to have to have an open lane to do it. It just never all worked out on the same lap. Then, I busted the wall, the cushion, or something there with a few laps to go; got away from me and I had to run him back down. That may have squandered any opportunity that did arise."

Thomas earned his 33rd career USAC National Sprint Car Fast Qualifying time earlier in the evening, moving him to within two of Rich Vogler for eighth all-time. In the feature, the Cullman, Alabama native finished 3rd, following up his Bloomsburg victory with his fifth top-four finish in his last six starts aboard the KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper – McDonald's – KT Construction Services/DRC/Speedway Chevy.



"I think a lot of our passes were because of lapped traffic," Thomas admitted. "I didn't really feel as good as we looked. Once we got all strung around the top, C.J. had us covered, then Justin slid back by us and took off. We've just got to do a little work when it gets to that, and the majority of that is me."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 1, 2021 – Plymouth Speedway – Plymouth, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-13.231; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.273; 3. Thomas Meseraull, 47, Eades-13.353; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.398; 5. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.398; 6. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-13.414; 7. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.470; 8. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.484; 9. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.537; 10. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.554; 11. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.567; 12. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-13.587; 13. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.628; 14. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.664; 15. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-13.674; 16. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-13.710; 17. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-13.801; 18. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.980; 19. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.084; 20. Brayden Clark, 42, Jackson/Clark-14.159; 21. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-14.215; 22. Cannon McIntosh, 71p, Daigh/Phillips-14.248; 23. Max Adams, 57, Hazen-14.268; 24. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-14.296; 25. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-14.410; 26. Jack James, 99, James-14.517; 27. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-14.540.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Robert Ballou, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Cannon McIntosh, 9. Max Guilford. 1:52.510 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Mario Clouser, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Max Adams, 8. Brayden Clark, 9. Jack James. 1:53.29

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Brandon Mattox, 4. Paul Nienhiser, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Sterling Cling, 7. Thomas Meseraull, 8. Anthony D'Alessio, 9. Alex Banales. 1:57.920

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Cole Bodine, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Max Adams, 6. Brayden Clark, 7. Anthony D'Alessio, 8. Alex Banales, 9. Sterling Cling, 10. Jack James, 11. Cannon McIntosh, 12. Max Guilford. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (1), 2. Justin Grant (5), 3. Kevin Thomas Jr. (6), 4. Tanner Thorson (3), 5. Brady Bacon (13), 6. Jake Swanson (4), 7. Shane Cottle (15), 8. Paul Nienhiser (2), 9. Logan Seavey (12), 10. Chase Stockon (7), 11. Robert Ballou (19), 12. Chris Windom (8), 13. Brandon Mattox (18), 14. Cole Bodine (11), 15. Thomas Meseraull (10), 16. Matt Westfall (14), 17. Mario Clouser (9), 18. Kyle Cummins (16), 19. Anthony D'Alessio (21), 20. Brayden Clark (20), 21. Jadon Rogers (17), 22. Max Adams (22). 7:56.94

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 C.J. Leary.

**Max Guilford flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1185, 2-Justin Grant-1127, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1107, 4-Robert Ballou-1048, 5-C.J. Leary-994, 6-Chris Windom-977, 7-Tanner Thorson-955, 8-Jake Swanson-921, 9-Chase Stockon-700, 10-Paul Nienhiser-667.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-86, 2-Robert Ballou-83, 3-Thomas Meseraull-81, 4- Brady Bacon-72, 5-Chris Windom-67, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-66, 7-Justin Grant-47, 8-Logan Seavey-45, 9-Buddy Kofoid-41, 10-C.J. Leary-41.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 2-3, 2021 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – Bill Gardner Sprintacular

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Max Adams

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Mario Clouser

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Thomas Meseraull

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (13th to 5th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Brandon Mattox

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Alex Banales

==========

LEARY BACKS IT UP WITH THE BACK-UP AT LINCOLN PARK

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Putnamville, Indiana (July 2, 2021)……"We can't win all three if we don't win tonight."

That was the mantra C.J. Leary relayed to crew member Maison Hadley prior to leaving the shop on Thursday morning as the team embarked on this weekend's three-race USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car slate in a three-night span.

The Greenfield, Ind. native knocked out the first phase Thursday night at Plymouth (Ind.) Speedway, then carried the winning formula into Friday night's Bill Gardner Sprintacular opener at Putnamville, Indiana's Lincoln Park Speedway where the 2019 series champion started 11th in the 23-car field, then tracked down Jake Swanson and slid by for the lead just three laps from the finish to earn his second win in as many nights.

Victories throughout Leary's career have seemingly arrived in bunches. In fact, eight of his now 14 career USAC National Sprint Car feature triumphs have come in consecutive races. The 14th score moved him past Steve Chassey and into a tie with Billy Cassella, Lee Kunzman, Chase Stockon and Bruce Walkup for 41st all-time.

Leary's weekend thus far has already doubled his win output from the first 16 races of the season. After a U-Joint malfunction at Bloomsburg (Pa.) Fair Raceway during qualifying on June 20, Leary was forced to pull down the untested "backup" Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman Ford machine that the team had constructed this past Winter.

The new car went 21st to 7th at Bloomsburg in its first outing, won at Plymouth on Thursday in its second test, then aced the third exam on Friday. Leary feels they've finally found the comfort, the confidence and the stride they'd been longing after for the first several months of the season, yet it came after an inauspicious beginning to the evening at Lincoln Park.

"I think we've hit on something," Leary relayed. "This second car has been really good, but I don't know what happened in group qualifying tonight. We started our night off 34th quick. I don't think I've ever been that bad before. I said these races were hard to win if you aren't on the front row, and I kind of debunked that idea."

It was in Plymouth's victory lane the night before that Leary declared that particular sentiment after winning from the pole, but he'd have to dig in deep for 30 laps on the 5/16-mile dirt oval after having to begin his race from the inside of row six.

An adverse start to the feature saw contact between fifth-starting Kyle Cummins and the rear bumper of fellow third row inhabitant Shane Cottle on the bottom of turn one on the opening lap, which sent Cummins into a 180-degree loop and stopping at the edge of the infield and the racing surface.

Meanwhile, up at the top of turn one, as the trailing field scrambled to miss the melee, 16th starting Ryan Thomas climbed the wheel of another car and flipped wildly over the banking. The first-time USAC National Sprint Car feature starter was uninjured.

While Leary was picking his way through the pack, outside front row starter Brady Bacon had established his footprint as the driver to beat early on. Once Bacon surpassed pole sitter Zach Daum in turn on the initial lap, he quickly applied the hammer forcefully to nail down a half-straightaway lead within the first three laps while third-starting Jake Swanson slotted into the runner-up spot past Daum.

Methodically, Swanson edged his way closer and closer to Bacon, decreasing his deficit from 1.7 seconds to 1.2 between lap nine and lap 11, and dropping the interval another half-second to 0.7 on lap 13. By the 15th circuit, Swanson had arrived right at the rear bumper of Bacon entering the first turn.

A narrow escape of misfortune for both Bacon and Swanson came on the 15th lap when Bacon entered the high line of turn one, then rotated his car to dart straight down to the bottom of turn two. Not fully expecting that sequence to unfold was Swanson who narrowly avoided contact between his right front wheel and Bacon's left rear corner.

A similar occurrence came to a head on lap 17 for Swanson and Bacon between turns one and two. Swanson's heart skipped a beat for a second time, but after straightening his car out, Swanson didn't miss a beat in re-tracking down Bacon for the race lead, which he did amid traffic, making a beeline off the turn four cushion, then sliding up in front of Bacon in turn one just inches apart from each other without a single ounce of contact.

Three laps later, Leary tore around the outside of Bacon in turns one and two for the second spot, then rapidly encroached on Swanson's territory at the front.

Interestingly enough, Leary was unsure of where he stood in the running order at the moment despite being just one position out of the lead. However, it didn't take long after that for Leary to realize where he stood and the opportunity that lie ahead of him.

"I passed Brady there late in the race and I really didn't know what position I was in at that point," Leary explained. "I looked up and saw Jake and didn't really see anybody else. I was like, 'I don't think someone could be that far ahead.' I reeled him in, got a couple good sliders on him, and I thought I finally had him cleared there when the red came out"

Leary had slid past Swanson between turns three and four on both lap 26 and 27, but each time, Swanson cut back underneath to beat Leary to the line by a half-car length with four laps to go and by half a wheel with three laps remaining when the red flag was displayed for a turn two flip by 14th running Cole Bodine.

With Leary in deep contemplation as he awaited the close of the red flag period, he was fully conscious Swanson was going be "elbows up" and tough to pass. However, Leary stuck to his guns and tried the same turn three maneuver once more when action resumed on the 28th lap. Nonetheless, Swanson had an answer by matriculating his way back under Leary to get to the line first by a full car length with two laps left.

Leary took the game to the other end of the racetrack on lap 29, diving to the bottom at the entry of turn one and gliding his way past Swanson to the top in turn two. Swanson momentarily stumbled atop the turn two cushion, losing momentum as he managed to pull himself even with Leary's left rear midway down the back straightaway.

Responding with a resounding shut of the door, Leary collapsed on the low line at the approach to turn three, keeping Swanson behind him to lead the way to the stripe for the first time. Leary secured his position at the front for the remaining lap-and-a-half to become the third three-time series winner of 2021, joining Justin Grant and Kevin Thomas Jr. as the leaders in the clubhouse.

Leary's advancement from 11th to 1st equaled the furthest back any winner has started this year. Kyle Cummins also won from the 11th position at Haubstadt, Indiana's Tri-State Speedway in April.

Swanson and Leary are good friends and were Alex Bowman Racing teammates during the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals this past January. For the second time this season, Swanson led laps but ultimately finished 2nd in his Team AZ Racing/USW Cat Construction – RSS Industries – CSI – Lucas Oil/DRC/1-Way Chevy. That equaled the best career series finish for the Anaheim, California native who remains on the hunt for his first career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature win.

"It hurts. I really, really want that USAC win," Swanson admitted. "C.J. is a really good racecar driver, and to be running up front with these guys, it says a lot about this race team; it says a lot about how far we've come in just a short amount of time. All we can do is race and figure out how we can be better. I feel like I raced pretty good. I don't know if there's a few things I could've done different or better. I feel like, in hindsight, I should've done this or that, but at the same time, if it would've gone green all the way, who knows? Either way, C.J. was obviously a little bit better there. He could slide up to (the cushion) and hit it, and he had a lot of drive."

Shane Cottle (Kansas, Ill.) was victorious on the opening night of the Bill Gardner Sprintacular one year ago after starting sixth. Starting from the same sixth position again on Friday night, Cottle worked his way to a third-place finish aboard his

Hodges Motorsports/Ortega's Appliance – CSI – Parts Plus/DRC/J & D Chevy, and felt, with just a little bit more time, he might've had a little something for Leary and Swanson at the finish.

"The track was a little technical and you had to hit your marks really good," Cottle noted. "The slick coming off of two, if you missed that, you were a sitting duck. The Hodges team put a good car under me. I screwed up after that red there late. I got it too tight and pushed the nose there. I thought I had something for them there. I'll take that one and put it on my shoulders. These guys work their butts off, and I appreciate everything they do."

Cannon McIntosh (Bixby, Okla.) picked up KSE Racing Products Hard Charger honors in what was his first career USAC National Sprint Car feature start, driving from the 20th starting spot to finish 8th in his Daigh-Phillips Motorsports/Frank & Jill Daigh – Hitch-It – Jockish Flowers/DRC/Foxco Chevy. The performance came just 24 hours following a crash while running in a transfer spot during the semi-feature at Plymouth, which delayed his highly-anticipated initial series start by one day.

In Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying, Kevin Thomas Jr. earned his season-leading fifth "quick time" and the 34th of his USAC National Sprint Car career, putting him just one shy of Rich Vogler for eighth on the all-time list.

The co-sanctioned event with the Midwest Sprint Car Series utilized the MSCS format, which included group qualifying and a top-four heat race inversion rather than USAC's traditional single-car qualifying, top-six heat race inversion. Due to the nature of differing program format from the standard USAC event, 50 appearance points for all licensed USAC National Sprint Car drivers and entrants were issued regardless of finishing position.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 2, 2021 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – Bill Gardner Sprintacular – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-12.638; 2. Carson Garrett, 15KO, KO-12.652; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.728; 4. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-12.796; 5. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.841; 6. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-12.882; 7. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-12.887; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.912; 9. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.919; 10. Cannon McIntosh, 71p, Daigh/Phillips-13.001; 11. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.050; 12. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.114; 13. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.151; 14. Riley Kreisel, 91, DKR-13.160; 15. Zach Daum, 5D, Daum-13.184; 16. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.194; 17. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-13.202; 18. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-13.215; 19. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.218; 20. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.264; 21. Kyle Shipley, 0G, Shipley-13.297; 22. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-13.321; 23. Carson Short, 2E, Epperson-13.368; 24. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.371; 25. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-13.497; 26. Tye Mihocko, 5T, Parker-13.536; 27. Alec Sipes, 99, Sipes-13.577; 28. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-13.586; 29. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-13.617; 30. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-13.634; 31. Robert Carrington, 34c, Carrington-13.665; 32. Stephen Schnapf, 11, Martin-13.697; 33. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-13.784; 34. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.823; 35. Chris Babcock, 35, Babcock-13.871; 36. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-13.894; 37. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-13.993; 38. Shayna Ensign, 9, Sylvia-14.226; 39. Tim Creech, 2c, Creech-14.245; 40. Collin Ambrose, 36, Ambrose-14.245; 41. Cindy Chambers, 18c, DC-14.289; 42. Braydon Cromwell, 4c, Cromwell-14.299; 43. Stan Beadles, 84, Beadles-14.349; 44. Nate McMillin, 57R, Robinson-14.373; 45. Ryan Bond, 7R, Bond-15.656.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Ryan Thomas, 5. Paul Nienhiser, 6. Max Guilford, 7. Anthony D'Alessio, 8. Chris Babcock, 9. Shayna Ensign. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Alec Sipes, 5. Collin Ambrose, 6. Braydon Cromwell, 7. Nate McMillin, 8. Tim Creech, 9. Ryan Bond. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Cole Bodine, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. Max Adams, 7. Brayden Fox, 8. Gabriel Gilbert, 9. Robert Carrington. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Zach Daum, 2. Carson Short, 3. Harley Burns, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Braxton Cummings, 6. Sterling Cling, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Zack Pretorius, 9. Stan Beadles. NT

FIFTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Riley Kreisel, 4. Cannon McIntosh, 5. Thomas Meseraull, 6. Tye Mihocko, 7. Stephen Schnapf, 8. Cindy Chambers, 9. Kyle Shipley. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the semi) 1. Tim Creech, 2. Chris Babcock, 3. Zack Pretorius, 4. Shayna Ensign, 5. Kyle Shipley, 6. Gabriel Gilbert, 7. Stan Beadles, 8. Cindy Chambers, 9. Ryan Bond. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Paul Nienhiser, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Max Adams, 4. Carson Garrett, 5. Tye Mihocko, 6. Brayden Fox, 7. Braydon Cromwell, 8. Braxton Cummings, 9. Brandon Mattox, 10. Max Guilford, 11. Anthony D'Alessio, 12. Nate McMillin, 13. Stephen Schnapf, 14. Tim Creech, 15. Collin Ambrose, 16. Chris Babcock. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (11), 2. Jake Swanson (3), 3. Shane Cottle (6), 4. Kevin Thomas Jr. (8), 5. Brady Bacon (2), 6. Chris Windom (4), 7. Justin Grant (10), 8. Cannon McIntosh (20), 9. Zach Daum (1), 10. Chase Stockon (12), 11. Paul Nienhiser (21), 12. Robert Ballou (13), 13. Mario Clouser (19), 14. Riley Kreisel (15), 15. Kyle Cummins (5), 16. Alec Sipes (17), 17. Carson Garrett (23-P), 18. Carson Short (9), 19. Harley Burns (14), 20. Cole Bodine (18), 21. Tanner Thorson (7), 22. Thomas Meseraull (22), 23. Ryan Thomas (16). NT

(P) represents an MSCS provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-20 Brady Bacon, Laps 21-28 Jake Swanson, Laps 29-30 C.J. Leary.

**Nate McMillin flipped during the second heat. Robert Carrington flipped during the third heat. Ryan Thomas flipped on lap 1 of the feature. Cole Bodine flipped on lap 27 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1235, 2-Justin Grant-1177, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1157, 4-Robert Ballou-1098, 5-C.J. Leary-1044, 6-Chris Windom-1027, 7-Tanner Thorson-1005, 8-Jake Swanson-971, 9-Chase Stockon-750, 10-Paul Nienhiser-717.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-86, 2-Robert Ballou-84, 3-Thomas Meseraull-81, 4- Brady Bacon-72, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-70, 6-Chris Windom-67, 7-C.J. Leary-51, 8-Justin Grant-50, 9-Logan Seavey-45, 10- Buddy Kofoid-41.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 3, 2021 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – Bill Gardner Sprintacular – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Thomas Meseraull

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Zach Daum

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Paul Nienhiser

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Cannon McIntosh (20th to 8th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Mario Clouser

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Max Adams

==========

THOMAS' SPECTACULAR CHARGE FROM 14th TO 1st NETS USAC SPRINTACULAR

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Putnamville, Indiana (July 3, 2021)……On the two prior occasions this season in which Kevin Thomas Jr. began his feature race from the back half of the field, the final result was about as satisfying as a room temperature soda on a hot summer day.

However, after starting 14th in Saturday night's 22-car feature lineup, the Cullman, Ala. native rapidly ascended through the field, securing the lead just six laps from the finish of the 40-lap event to quench his thirst with a Bill Gardner Sprintacular victory worth $7,000 in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper – McDonald's – KT Construction Services/DRC/Speedway Chevy.

Thomas' newly-minted fourth USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car victory of the season now leads all drivers in that particular category and was also the 31st of his career, elevating him past Tyler Courtney and into a tie with Robert Ballou for 14th on the all-time list.

But the charge from outside row seven to 1st is one which will be bandied about for some time and marked the single biggest advancement for a feature winner since Shane Cottle won from the 18th position at Gas City (Ind.) I-69 Speedway in 2019.

Saturday night's 13 spot advancement to the top of the leaderboard is one which Thomas estimates as a personal-best in his storied career with many chapters still yet to be written.

"I've never won from that far back, I don't think," Thomas pondered. "That was a lot of fun there, just battling through the field and doing whatever we had to do to win."

During the previous two nights, Thomas recorded consecutive Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying times, which resulted in smaller, yet successful surges, from 6th to 3rd at Plymouth (Ind.) Speedway on Thursday and 8th to 4th at Lincoln Park on Friday.

Funny enough, as it turned out, Thomas' winning night was initiated by a poor qualifying, run by his standards. Much to his chagrin, a runner-up finish behind Jake Swanson in heat race one prevented him from a surefire top-ten starting spot if he had won said heat.

"We ran fourth last night and we weren't real pleased with it," Thomas remembered. "Then, I did an awful job of qualifying. The crew worked on it and worked on it after not winning the heat race set us back a little bit, but they got the tune on it tonight. I'm just real fortunate to drive this racecar with these guys working on it and the people we have behind us."

While Thomas's journey from the center of the starting lineup commenced, the early occupant of the race lead early on was outside front row starter Justin Grant, who had reached a milestone 300th career series start just 24 hours earlier at the 5/16-mile dirt oval. Grant split between pole sitter Riley Kreisel and third-starting Brady Bacon on the path to the lead at the exit of turn two.

Bacon surpassed the feature winner on each of the previous two nights with the series, C.J. Leary, for 3rd on the fifth lap, and then raced by Kreisel for second on lap six. Bacon quickly cut to the quick and tracked down Bacon by the 15th lap, sliding past Grant in turn three to take his turn up front and in the lead.

Grant remained in stride with Bacon despite losing his stranglehold on the first position, and as the two raced off turn four, the pair touched wheels – Bacon's left rear and Grant's right front met face-to-face, pitching Grant sideways before he recovered without an instance of hesitation before tracking down Bacon on lap 20 in turn three, slithering past to reassume his position at the head of the class.

However, a new contender had entered the fray on the bottom with Thomas breezing around the infield tires and into second by Bacon on the 22nd lap and coming within a single car length of Grant at the stripe. For the next several laps, Thomas hounded Grant like a bulldog pursues a porkchop.

With seven laps remaining and amid the negotiating of the tail end of the field, Thomas got the run he so desperately needed on the bottom of turns one and two, edging ahead by a half car length into turn three. As Grant put the nose straight into the cushion at the entry of turn three, Thomas was smooth as silk on the low line, beating Grant to the line by the same half car length margin.

Grant managed to get right back to Thomas' rear bumper coming to the white flag as he took a gander for himself at the bottom in turns three and four. Thomas ventured through the middle of one and two on the final lap as Grant repositioned himself at the top.

"It's easy to not screw up in the middle," Thomas explained. "You don't have to worry about anything except maybe a guy's right rear. One end (of the track) is way different than the other. We were really good down here through the middle and really, everywhere we went, I had the car to maneuver around, but down there, I'm a sissy when it comes to running the top like that. I just wasn't going to do it. I just stuck to the bottom."

Midway down the back straight on the 40th and final go-around, Grant trailed by five car lengths, but made up substantial ground in turns three and four. Thomas followed the final car on the lead lap, Robert Ballou, on the bottom, then drifted

wide at the exit onto the front straightaway crossing the line just a car length ahead of Grant, with a full head of steam on the outside, with a difference of 0.080 sec. between the two, the closest finish of the 2021 season thus far through 19 events.

Following Thomas and Grant were series point leader Bacon, C.J. Leary and Shane Cottle, who won the accompanying USAC Midwest Regional Midget feature earlier in the evening.

Thomas' hard-earned victory came over Grant, with whom he now edges ahead of in terms of most USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature wins this season (4). Thomas was tenacious in his pursuit of Grant throughout the second half, and Thomas knew he had to pay his dues if order to not sing blues, and he know it wasn't going to come easy.

"We're good friends, but he's going to race the crap out of you as long as he can," Thomas said of Grant. "I had to stay patient and not give up on the bottom, and that's how I got there. It was getting a little bit clean, but people were running a little bit lower and throwing some dust up on it. I was a little worried about that but it's just the way it worked out. Sometimes you run from the back, sometimes you win, sometimes you start up front, and sometimes you just run right where you started. It's just the ups and downs and, sometimes, it's all in one night."

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) led early and often, more so than any other driver in the field, on his way a runner-up finish aboard his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

"I would've liked to have come out on top of that one; we were close but not quite," Grant lamented. "My guys gave me a great racecar. This car is fast what seems like night-in and night-out. We're up here (on the podium) a lot, but you hate to let ones get away. I was pretty committed to the top there, and I was going to just keep beating it to death and see if we could make it work. I'm not very good at running the bottom, so I just try to pound the curb until it doesn't work. KT and I were both racing hard and wanted to win. It's what puts on good races and that's why we like doing this; it's a lot of fun."

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) was the lone driver to lead laps during the feature on both nights of the seventh running of the Bill Gardner Sprintacular, possessing the lead for 20 laps on Friday and five more just prior to midway on Saturday before ultimately finishing 3rd in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

"We've had cars good enough to compete for wins," Bacon said. "We just kind of have to wait for the circumstances to come our way. We had a shot, but KT was just better than us tonight. We'll just try to get a little bit better. We're not really good when the cushion gets that big. That kind of challenged us a little bit, but actually, KT was better than us down where our bread and butter is on the bottom. So, I was kind of searching around and I was actually a little better on the top in three and four. I'm just not quite as good at doing that than some people. I think we were kind of equal at the end, but KT just got himself into position to win."

Earlier in the night, Shane Cottle recorded his first Fatheadz Fast Qualifying time with the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Cars since Pennsylvania's Port Royal Speedway six years earlier in 2015. It was the seventh total of his career with the series.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 3, 2021 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – Bill Gardner Sprintacular – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-12.721; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.889; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.970; 4. Riley Kreisel, 91, DKR-13.005; 5. Carson Garrett, 15KO, KO-13.093; 6. Cannon McIntosh, 71p, Daigh/Phillips-13.111; 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-13.186; 8. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-13.301; 9. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.654; 10. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-13.885; 11. Alec Sipes, 99, Sipes-13.889; 12. Nate McMillin, 57R, Robinson-13.968; 13. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-13.980; 14. Stephen Schnapf, 11, Martin-14.029; 15. Collin Ambrose, 36, Ambrose-14.034; 16. Dan Clodfelter, 19c, Clodfelter-14.037; 17. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-14.185; 18. Ryan Bond, 7R, Bond-14.382.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.923; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.190; 3. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.219; 4. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-13.255; 5. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-13.394; 6. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-13.447; 7. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-13.486; 8. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.514; 9. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.549; 10. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.565; 11. Carson Short, 2E, Epperson-13.647; 12. Brady Short, 11p, Pottorff-13.724; 13. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.760; 14. Zach Daum, 5D, Daum-13.936; 15. Tim Creech, 2c, Creech-14.002; 16. Jake Scott, 33, Miller-14.275; 17. Shey Owens, 17s, SNO-14.393; 18. Cindy Chambers, 18c, DC-14.558; 19. Brian Carber, 2, Yeley-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Justin Grant, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. Alec Sipes, 7. Gabriel Gilbert, 8. Collin Ambrose. 2:17.13

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Cannon McIntosh, 3. Riley Kreisel, 4. Harley Burns, 5. Ryan Thomas, 6. Nate McMillin, 7. Stephen Schnapf, 8. Ryan Bond, 9. Dan Clodfelter. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Carson Short, 3. Chris Windom, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Cole Bodine, 6. Robert Ballou, 7. Brayden Fox, 8. Tim Creech, 9. Shey Owens. 2:17.58

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Mario Clouser, 4. Paul Nienhiser, 5. Brady Short, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Zach Daum, 8. Jake Scott, 9. Cindy Chambers. 2:15.57

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Cole Bodine, 2. Carson Garrett, 3. Brayden Fox, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Stephen Schnapf, 6. Collin Ambrose, 7. Brady Short, 8. Nate McMillin, 9. Jake Scott, 10. Tim Creech, 11. Zach Daum, 12. Alec Sipes, 13. Ryan Thomas, 14. Shey Owens, 15. Gabriel Gilbert, 16. Cindy Chambers, 17. Ryan Bond, 18. Brandon Mattox. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (14), 2. Justin Grant (2), 3. Brady Bacon (3), 4. C.J. Leary (4), 5. Shane Cottle (6), 6. Jake Swanson (7), 7. Tanner Thorson (5), 8. Kyle Cummins (18), 9. Riley Kreisel (1), 10. Cannon McIntosh (12), 11. Chase Stockon (16), 12. Cole Bodine (8), 13. Carson Short (19), 14. Carson Garrett (10), 15. Paul Nienhiser (13), 16. Brayden Fox (11), 17. Robert Ballou (20), 18. Chris Windom (15), 19. Mario Clouser (9), 20. Stephen Schnapf (21), 21. Collin Ambrose (22), 22. Harley Burns (17). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-14 Justin Grant, Laps 15-19 Brady Bacon, Laps 20-34 Justin Grant, Laps 35-40 Kevin Thomas Jr.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1307, 2-Justin Grant-1253, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1234, 4-Robert Ballou-1128, 5-C.J. Leary-1118, 6-Tanner Thorson-1069, 7-Chris Windom-1060, 8-Jake Swanson-1034, 9-Chase Stockon-796, 10-Paul Nienhiser-755.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-87, 2-Tanner Thorson-86, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-83, 4- Thomas Meseraull-81, 5-Brady Bacon-72, 6-Chris Windom-67, 7-C.J. Leary-51, 8-Justin Grant-50, 9-Logan Seavey-45, 10-Buddy Kofoid-41.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 10, 2021 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Corn Belt Clash – Co-Sanctioned by the USAC Midwest Wingless Racing Association & Lucas Oil POWRi WAR Sprints

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Collin Ambrose

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Shane Cottle

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Tanner Thorson

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Cole Bodine

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Kevin Thomas Jr. (14th to 1st)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Carson Short

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Brady Short

==========

USAC CORN BELT CLASH RAINED OUT AT KNOXVILLE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Knoxville, Iowa (July 10, 2021)……Steady, continuous and heavy rain began to fall just prior to hot laps, causing Saturday's Brandt Professional Agriculture Corn Belt Clash at Iowa's Knoxville Raceway to be rained out.

The event was co-sanctioned by the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship, Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association and POWRi WAR Sprint Car Series.

The USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship season resumes on Friday night, July 23, with the opener of the 34th annual NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 10, 2021 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Brandt Professional Agriculture Corn Belt Clash – Co-Sanctioned by the Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association & POWRi Lucas Oil Sprint Car Series

CARS & DRIVERS IN ATTENDANCE: (31) Don Droud Jr. (#1m Burch), Thomas Meseraull (#2 Yeley), Jason Billups (#2x Billups), Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), Braydon Cromwell (#4x Cromwell), Paul Nienhiser (#5N KO), Chase Stockon (#5s KO), Mario Clouser (#6 EZR), Lance Silvers (#7x Silvers), Kevin Thomas Jr. (#9K KT), Justin Zimmerman (#9w Williams), Wyatt Burks (#11w Burks), Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou), Doug Sylvester (#12s Sylvester), Dakota Earls (#15E Earls), Chris Windom (#19 Hayward), Tanner Thorson (#19AZ Reinbold/Underwood), Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), Zach Clark (#26 C & C), Mark Lane (#33L Lane), Wesley Smith (#44 Smith), Chris Parkinson (#65 Parkinson), Max Grogan (#66m Grogan), Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), Robert Bell (#71 Bell), Xavier Doney (#74 Lawson), Terry Babb (#76 Babb), C.J. Leary (#77m Michael), Chad Tye (#88 Tye), Riley Kreisel (#91 DKR), A.J. Johnson (#93x Germar).

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 23, 2021 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1357, 2-Justin Grant-1303, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1284, 4-Robert Ballou-1178, 5-C.J. Leary-1168, 6-Tanner Thorson-1119, 7-Chris Windom-1110, 8-Jake Swanson-1084, 9-Chase Stockon-846, 10-Paul Nienhiser-805.

==========

GAS CITY USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK OPENER RAINED OUT, RESCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JULY 26

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Gas City, Indiana (July 23, 2021)……Friday night's 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL opening event was rained after heavy showers doused Gas City I-69 Speedway following Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying.

The event has been rescheduled for Monday night, July 26, with a completely new program, beginning with hot laps and followed by qualifying and racing.

Spectators and pit pass holders from Friday night may use their wristbands to gain re-entry for Monday's rescheduled event.

Monday's date will retain the same schedule with pits opening at 3pm EDT, front gates open at 5pm, drivers meeting at 6pm with cars on track at 6:30pm and qualifying/racing immediately following.

For attendees without a Friday wristband, general admission tickets are $30, kids 12 and under are free. Pit passes are $30 for members and $35 for non-members.

Friday's Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying session at Gas City was completed before the rain arrived. Brayden Fox (Avon, Ind.) earned quick time honors for the first time in his USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car career with a time of 11.916 seconds, besting the field of 50 cars and drivers in time trials.

Because the qualifying session was completed prior to the rain, the points earned will count toward both the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car and USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK standings with all drivers and entrants earning qualifying points, plus 10 appearance points.

Fox holds the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK point lead with 16, followed by Anaheim, California's Jake Swanson with 15; Sutter, California's Logan Seavey with 14; Broken Arrow, Oklahoma's Brady Bacon with 13; Princeton, Indiana's Kyle Cummins with 12; Minden, Nevada's Tanner Thorson with 11; while the remaining 44 drivers are tied with 10.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK's first weekend of competition resumes Saturday, July 24, at Kokomo Speedway and Sunday, July 25, at Lawrenceburg Speedway before returning to Gas City on Monday, July 26.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 23, 2021 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-11.937; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.961; 3. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.027; 4. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-12.065; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.133; 6. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.158; 7. Jordan Kinser, 17G, On The Gass-12.166; 8. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-12.169; 9. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-12.223; 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-12.241; 11. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-12.272; 12. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.275; 13. Cannon McIntosh, 71p, Daigh/Phillips-12.283; 14. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-12.334; 15. Tye Mihocko, 47, Eades-12.367; 16. Garrett Aitken, 32, Aitken-12.396; 17. Tyler Hewitt, 57, Hazen-12.404; 18. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-12.422; 19. Chase Jones, 81G, Gray-12.439; 20. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-12.472; 21. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-12.519; 22. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-12.576; 23. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-12.725; 24. Ryan Bond, 7R, Bond-12.750; 25. Matt McDonald, 5mc, McDonald-12.784.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-11.916; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-11.940; 3. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-11.969; 4. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.970; 5. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-11.997; 6. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.037; 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-12.038; 8. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-12.043; 9. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.068; 10. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-12.113; 11. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-12.192; 12. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-12.203; 13. Brent Beauchamp, 29, LB-12.214; 14. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-12.236; 15. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-12.239; 16. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-12.242; 17. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.266; 18. Tyler Kendall, 20, Kendall-12.305; 19. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-12.466; 20. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-12.507; 21. Charles Davis Jr., 47D, Davis-12.551; 22. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-12.702; 23. Jack James, 99, James-12.748; 24. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-12.836; 25. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-13.008.

**REMAINDER OF PROGRAM RAINED OUT

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1370, 2-Justin Grant-1313, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1294, 4-Robert Ballou-1188, 5-C.J. Leary-1178, 6-Tanner Thorson-1130, 7-Chris Windom-1120, 8-Jake Swanson-1099, 9-Chase Stockon-856, 10-Paul Nienhiser-815.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK BY AMSOIL POINTS: 1-Brayden Fox-16, 2-Jake Swanson-15, 3-Logan Seavey-14, 4-Brady Bacon-13, 5-Kyle Cummins-12, 6-Tanner Thorson-11, (44 drivers tied for 7th).

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-96, 2-Thomas Meseraull-94, 3-Robert Ballou-87, 4- Kevin Thomas Jr.-83, 5-Chris Windom-83, 6-Justin Grant-74, 7-Brady Bacon-72, 8-Logan Seavey-65, 9-Buddy Kofoid-63, 10-C.J. Leary-51.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 24, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Brayden Fox

==========

GRANT STORMS TO RAIN-SHORTENED KOKOMO USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK VICTORY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (July 24, 2021)……Justin Grant had never experienced a victory quite like he did Saturday night at Indiana's Kokomo Speedway.

Just two nights after scoring a 100-lap, long distance USAC Silver Crown race, the Ione, California native reigned triumphant in one of the shortest feature events in the 66-year history of USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship racing.

Under threatening skies that hovered over the top of Kokomo's quarter-mile dirt oval, Grant raced to the lead on the ninth lap past Kevin Thomas Jr., then remained at the head of the field when the skies let loose, halting the race with 18 of 30 laps complete.

A feature event is considered complete when more than half of the scheduled laps are completed. When it became apparent that the rain was going to make the resumption of the event an impossibility, Grant was declared the winner in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

With the falling precipitation causing the mass exodus from both the capacity-filled grandstands and pit area, the traditional victory lane celebration and the resulting jubilation was a little more muted than usual.

Instead, the hoopla was traded in for a quick exit from the pit area followed by a post-race meal at a nearby Rally's. Grant has no qualms with that. A win is a win no matter how you slice it, and Grant certainly earned this one before the proverbial buzzer sounded.

"I'll take them anyway I can get them," Grant declared. "This one paid more per lap than anyone I've ever won!"

The 18-lap, rain-shortened feature has much historical significance within the USAC record books with it being the first-ever rain-shortened USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK main event in the series' 34-year history.

Saturday's truncated race placed it tied for the third-shortest completed feature race in USAC Sprint Car history. Doug Wolfgang won both ends of twin 15-lappers at Tri-City Speedway in Granite City, Ill. during the 1991 season. Jim McWithey won an 18-lap USAC Midwest Sprint Car race, rain-shortened from 30 circuits, at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track in 1959.

The last completed, rain-shortened USAC National Sprint Car feature of any kind prior to Saturday came at Anderson (Ind.) Speedway in 2006, a race won by Darren Hagen with 35 of 40 laps in the books when it was called.

While mother nature was on the forefront of many minds as the feature pushed away on Saturday night beneath and beside lightning-filled skies, Grant admitted that the weather situation certainly was, at least, in the back of his mind while the task at hand of racing taking precedence and being first and foremost on the brain.

But in USAC National Sprint Car competition, it's always imperative to reach the front as soon as you possibly can, but with a short distance ahead, and the likes of Kevin Thomas Jr. and C.J. Leary ahead of yourself on the front row, whether there's weather or no weather, it's a chore.

From the third starting position, Grant quickly slotted into second along the bottom of turns one and two on the opening lap, underneath, while Thomas Jr. spurted away topside to lead the opening stages.

The only stoppage of the feature came on the sixth lap when 19th running Brandon Mattox flipped nose-and-tail down the front straightaway, separating the fuel tank from the racecar as the Terre Haute, Ind. driver landed upside down straddling the start/finish line. When the car was tipped back over onto its four wheels, a brief oil fire broke out on the right side headers but was quickly extinguished.

When racing resumed with the lap seven restart, Grant put a move on Thomas Jr., diving underneath in turn one and sliding past for the race lead, only to be counteracted by Thomas Jr.'s reemergence to the front, back under in turns three and four. Entering turn one on lap eight, Thomas Jr. closed the door on Grant, taking away his line and his run on the top side of the first turn.

The following lap, which ultimately turned out to be the midway point of the feature – lap nine – saw Grant rear back his slingshot and fire a shot across the bow of Thomas Jr. in turn one. Once again, Thomas Jr. ripped right past Grant on the back straightway on the bottom entering turn three. However, Grant was prepared and instantly turned back down between turns three and four, slipping past Thomas Jr. for good.

"I remember being a really long way back going into one," Grant recalled of the initial pass for the lead. "(Thomas Jr.) went to slide me back into three, and I let him go, then slid him as he was sliding me and kind of got him corner pocketed off four where he had to let us go. I felt like we were in pretty good shape once we got to the front."

After spending his time prior to the red flag searching every which-a-way, Grant found his groove just prior to the early race halt. He put his discovery into full execution directly afterward.

"I was pretty good in three and four," Grant said. "We were both pretty much just ripping the top in three and four and I was kind of moving around in one and two trying to find something that worked for me. I kind of found it right before the red. Luckily, after the red, I was able find that line where I could slide myself and catch the cushion in two. I felt pretty confident with that and stuck with that the entire race."

When raindrops kept falling on the heads of the field at lap 18, and Grant holding an eight-car-length lead over new second-place runner Brady Bacon, the red flag was displayed for extensive moisture. Several moments later, when water began to pool inside the perimeter of the racetrack, the plug was pulled, and the event was officially complete with Grant the winner for the fourth time overall in his USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK career, and first time in the ISW series at Kokomo.

Grant's 25th career USAC National Sprint Car feature win moved him into 24th on the all-time list alongside past series champions Steve Butler, Jay Drake and Parnelli Jones.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) earned his 41st career USAC National Sprint Car fast qualifying time, which ranks fourth on the all-time series list. His 2nd place finish in the A-Main marked the third consecutive year Bacon has finished as the runner-up in the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK round at Kokomo in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy. The 2016 USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK champion leads the ISW standings exiting Kokomo.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) led the first nine laps of the feature en route to a 3rd place result in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy. The final spot on the podium was KTJ's best USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK finish at Kokomo since earning a 3rd in 2016. He won the round in 2013.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 24, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK By AMSOIL

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.594; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-12.683; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.858; 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-12.948; 5. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.958; 6. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-12.993; 7. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-13.078; 8. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.086; 9. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-13.161; 10. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.293; 11. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-13.337; 12. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-13.367; 13. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-13.463; 14. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-13.463; 15. Tyler Hewitt, 57, Hazen-13.473; 16. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-13.541; 17. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.558; 18. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-13.610; 19. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.619; 20. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-13.673; 21. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.786; 22. Critter Malone, 7, Seven-13.885; 23. David Hair, 44, Hair-14.157; 24. Jack James, 99, James-14.229; 25. Tayte Williamson, 20, 88 Speed Shop-14.493; 26. Ryan Bond, 7R, Bond-15.518; 27. Cooper Welch, 2w, Welch-NT.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-13.061; 2. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-13.152; 3. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.167; 4. Brent Beauchamp, 29, LB-13.233; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.327; 6. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-13.373; 7. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-13.385; 8. Cannon McIntosh, 71p, Daigh/Phillips-13.388; 9. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.426; 10. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.441; 11. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-13.458; 12. Jordan Kinser, 17G, On The Gass-13.503; 13. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-13.525; 14. Tye Mihocko, 47, Eades-13.599; 15. Garrett Aitken, 32, Aitken-13.624; 16. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-13.643; 17. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-13.656; 18. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.669; 19. Charles Davis Jr., 47D, Davis-13.763; 20. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.787; 21. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-13.798; 22. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-13.835; 23. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-13.868; 24. Mitchell Davis, 56, Davis-13.900; 25. Brayden Clark, 42, Jackson/Clark-14.030; 26. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-14.067; 27. Chase Jones, 81G, Gray-14.466.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Tyler Hewitt, 6. Max Guilford, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Matt Goodnight, 9. Zack Pretorius, 10. Alex Banales, 11. Cooper Welch, 12. Tayte Williamson, 13. David Hair, 14. Scotty Weir. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Brady Short, 3. Jason McDougal, 4. Brandon Mattox, 5. Critter Malone, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Chris Gansen, 8. Ryan Barr, 9. Ryan Bond, 10. Jack James, 11. Harley Burns, 12. Chase Johnson, 13. Dustin Clark. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Thomas Meseraull, 6. Charles Davis Jr., 7. Brayden Fox, 8. Korbyn Hayslett, 9. Stevie Sussex, 10. Chase Jones, 11. Brayden Clark, 12. Evan Mosley, 13. Garrett Aitken. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Braydon Cromwell, 3. Chris Windom, 4. Cannon McIntosh, 5. Jordan Kinser, 6. Brent Beauchamp, 7. Cole Bodine, 8. Tye Mihocko, 9. Paul Nienhiser, 10. Chase Stockon, 11. Anthony D'Alessio, 12. Mitchell Davis, 13. Kyle Edwards. 2:18.24

THE FROLIC BAR & GRILL D-MAIN: (6 laps, shortened to 0 laps due to accident, top-6 transfer to the C-main) 1. Jack James, 2. Mitchell Davis, 3. Tayte Williamson, 4. Brayden Clark, 5. Kyle Edwards, 6. Chase Jones. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Stevie Sussex, 2. Evan Mosley, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Cole Bodine, 5. Harley Burns, 6. Ryan Barr, 7. Zack Pretorius, 8. Charles Davis Jr., 9. Sterling Cling, 10. Brayden Clark, 11. Chase Jones, 12. Korbyn Hayslett, 13. David Hair, 14. Kyle Edwards, 15. Jack James, 16. Tayte Williamson, 17. Alex Banales, 18. Critter Malone, 19. Anthony D'Alessio, 20. Mitchell Davis. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Chase Johnson, 3. Thomas Meseraull, 4. Brent Beauchamp, 5. Stevie Sussex, 6. Max Guilford, 7. Tye Mihocko, 8. Jordan Kinser, 9. Paul Nienhiser, 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 11. Chase Stockon, 12. Tyler Hewitt, 13. Matt Goodnight, 14. Cole Bodine, 15. Brayden Fox, 16. Chris Gansen, 17. Dustin Clark, 18. Evan Mosley. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, shortened to 18 laps due to rain, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (3), 2. Brady Bacon (6), 3. Kevin Thomas Jr. (1), 4. C.J. Leary (2), 5. Tanner Thorson (9), 6. Kyle Cummins (7), 7. Chris Windom (4), 8. Jadon Rogers (5), 9. Robert Ballou (8), 10. Logan Seavey (10), 11. Shane Cottle (18), 12. Brent Beauchamp (11), 13. Jake Swanson (12), 14. Chase Johnson (13), 15. Cannon McIntosh (17), 16. Braydon Cromwell (14), 17. Cole Bodine (23-P), 18. Thomas Meseraull (15), 19. Stevie Sussex (22), 20. Max Guilford (20), 21. Brady Short (21), 22. Jason McDougal (19), 23. Brandon Mattox (16). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-8 Kevin Thomas Jr., Laps 9-18 Justin Grant.

**Garrett Aitken flipped during the third heat. Ryan Bond & Cooper Welch flipped during the D-Main. Anthony D'Alessio & Mitchell Davis flipped during the C-Main. Brandon Mattox flipped on lap 6 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1449, 2-Justin Grant-1392, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1369, 4-C.J. Leary-1244, 5-Robert Ballou-1242, 6-Tanner Thorson-1196, 7-Chris Windom-1178, 8-Jake Swanson-1143, 9-Chase Stockon-866, 10-Paul Nienhiser-825.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK BY AMSOIL POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-92, 2-Justin Grant-89, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-85, 4-Tanner Thorson-77, 5-Kyle Cummins-77, 6-C.J. Leary-76, 7-Chris Windom-68, 8-Logan Seavey-66, 9-Jadon Rogers-65, 10-Robert Ballou-64.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-100, 2-Thomas Meseraull-94, 3-Robert Ballou-87, 4- Kevin Thomas Jr.-83, 5-Chris Windom-83, 6-Justin Grant-76, 7-Brady Bacon-76, 8-Logan Seavey-65, 9-Buddy Kofoid-63, 10- Cannon McIntosh-53.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 25, 2021 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Cannon McIntosh

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Tanner Thorson

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Logan Seavey

The Frolic Bar & Grill D-Main: Jack James

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (18th to 11th)

ProSource Hard Work Award: Stevie Sussex

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Jake Swanson

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Tye Mihocko

==========

SEAVEY DELIVERS USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK WIN IN BURG ENCORE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Lawrenceburg, Indiana (July 25, 2021)……USAC's most recent event at Indiana's Lawrenceburg Speedway came to be known as "Logan Seavey Night" during early June of this year when he swept both the USAC Indiana Midget Week feature and the accompanying local sprint car A-Main on the very same night.

As it just so happened, that marvelous showing in the Spring was just a prelude to an unforgettable midsummer encore performance.

Seavey delivered a Sunday night spectacular in round two of USAC NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL feature at the southeastern Indiana 3/8-mile dirt oval that he'd been the dominant force at just seven weeks prior.

Seven weeks later, Seavey was the winner once again on the high banks of "The Burg" in his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – Claxton Engines/DRC/Claxton Chevy to become just the third driver to earn victories in both an Indiana Midget Week and USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK feature at the same track in the same season.

Jerry Coons Jr. won both an IMW and ISW feature at Kamp Motor Speedway in 2007 while Bryan Clauson equaled the feat at Bloomington Speedway in 2013.

Seavey's USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car score on this night was the third of his career and was also the second triumph added to his USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK resume, coming exactly a year and a day following his first one in the 2020 opener at Gas City.

Meanwhile, Seavey, who joined the Baldwin-Fox team in early May, provided the distinctive orange No. 5 its first USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature win since an Eastern Storm victory at Port Royal (Pa.) Speedway more than three years ago in 2018 with driver Chris Windom.

"It feels so good," Seavey exclaimed. "I feel like every time I've been here, I've been good. This year, everything's coming together."

The fourth-starting Seavey was in the hunt throughout the duration of the 30-lapper despite the race for the lead over the first two-thirds of the event being hotly contest by front row starters Jake Swanson and Tanner Thorson who exchanged slide jobs on both ends of the racetrack, first coming courtesy of Thorson in turn one and then Swanson following in kind in turn two. Thorson fired another shot in turn one on the lap, getting by momentarily until Swanson countered off two to secure the lead, which he'd hold onto for the first 17 laps.

Thorson thwarted Seavey's advances a third of the way through the event, responding to Seavey's slider for second with a crossover exiting turn two to reoccupy the position.

By midway, the chapter had been turned to a quagmire of heavy traffic for the front runners. Swanson commanded the race by eight car lengths, but his progress stalled out as he attempted to put reigning USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK champion Chase Stockon a lap down. On the 18th lap, Thorson followed Stockon on the top line, which opened the bottom door for Thorson to slot his way into the top spot.

However, Swanson wasn't apt to fall by the wayside so quickly and so easily, returning to the inside of Thorson off turns three and four, and just barely being nipped at the line by Thorson. Swanson glided from the bottom of turn one to the top of turn two to put his number 21AZ back on the top of the pylon.

Moments later, Seavey entered into the fray on the bottom of the back straightaway when Thorson sliced between Seavey and Swanson in an attempt to slide past Swanson into turn three. Swanson kept his foot in it, never lifting, no hesitating, and eked around Thorson's right side wheels to reassume the number one position.

Thorson reengaged and, using the machine of Stockon as a sort of "pick," climbed the ladder from the bottom of turn one to the top of turn two to pocket the top spot back for himself on lap 22. However, simultaneously, 22nd running Paul Nienhiser stopped in turn four to bring out the yellow, negating Thorson's move and sending him back to second behind Swanson, who was now clear of traffic after the caution.

On the restart, the man on the move was Seavey who quickly surpassed Thorson on lap 22, then set his sights on running down Swanson. On lap 24, Seavey's eyes were affixed on the ride of Swanson. Just then, Swanson became sideways on the top side at the exit of turn two, allowing Seavey to charge under for the lead.

Six laps later, just one corner from the race win and with the checkered flag literally within his sight, a half-track behind him, Justin Grant and Jadon Rogers made wheel-to-wheel contact with each other while battling for eighth, sending Rogers tumbling upside down on the 30th lap. Rogers was uninjured.

With the incident taking place, for Seavey, the altercation put the kibosh on a surefire feature win and forced him to partake in a tense green-white-checkered finish with Swanson and Thorson right on his tail tank.

The pressurized situation quite naturally presented a certain magnitude of stress, but Seavey was game for the challenge as he waited patiently to return to work.

"The red coming to the checker was a heartbreaker," Seavey recalled. "You've got to sit there for five minutes under red and figure out what you've got to do better to keep these guys behind you because they're doing the same thing. This motor, I think I pushed out all the water under the red and pushed half the power steering fluid out. I don't know how many more laps we had in her."

Undeniable is the label Seavey was working under on the final restart as the battle raged for second behind him between Thorson and Swanson, with Thorson edging ahead initially before Swanson, with a severely bent radius rod and all, scraped his way back into the runner-up spot.

The advantage went to Seavey with the second-place bicker between Swanson and Thorson firing on all cylinders. With absolutely nothing serving as a deterrent, Seavey went free and easy to the finish line, gapping Swanson and Thorson in the process to the tune of a 1.161 second margin at the finish line. Swanson took second with Thorson third, Brady Bacon fourth and Kevin Thomas Jr. fifth.

"I had a pretty decent restart and just tried to protect from there," Seavey explained. "I kind of slid myself there on the last lap. I knew doing that would probably be safe if I didn't screw it up. It's just so hard to cross over a slider. I couldn't afford to get slid there on the last lap."

In his first eight USAC starts for the Baldwin-Fox operation since joining them in May, Seavey hadn't finished better than ninth at Plymouth (Ind.) Speedway. Sunday night at Lawrenceburg, the team finally hit the sweet spot in USAC competition.

"Hats off to (crew chief) Derek (Claxton)," Seavey praised. "This thing's a dream to drive. I was almost running flat out around here at the end. Derek has this thing so drivable. It really fits how I like to drive. I ran really, really straight and you have to have a free car to do that, and you can run really hard against the cushion that way. He just trusts me and knows what I need to get around this track. I'm sure it's a little bit different than what he's used to, but he does what I need and sees what I need to go fast. We're able to do that fairly effortlessly. It doesn't take a whole of communication between us and that's nice. This car does exactly what I want it to do and that makes my job easy."

After leading a race-high 22 laps, Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) had to settle with a runner-up finish for the third time during the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car season aboard his Team AZ Racing/Honey Shine – USW Cat Construction – RSS Industries – CSI/DRC/1-Way Chevy. A first career series win has eluded him thus far, but Swanson firmly believes his day will soon arrive.

"It's getting old running second," Swanson admitted. "I can't hang my head too much, though. I've got really smart guys on my racecar and, if I keep doing my job, it's going to come. I just couldn't get off turn two there; I started to get tight. But man, it definitely hurts to run second again."

Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) established himself as a bonafide USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK championship threat, rising to third in the standings following his performance on Sunday night in Lawrenceburg in which he led a lap and finished in the third position driving his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – CSI – MVT/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) overcame some early mechanical woes that included an engine issue which required the changing of mags and boxes before ultimately deciding to completely swap the engine out after the heat race. After a flat left rear tire due to contact between he and Nick Bilbee on lap two, Grant's crew got new rubber swapped on, allowing Saturday night's Kokomo winner to rejoin the field from the tail to finish eighth, which earned the Ione, California driver KSE Racing Products/Irvin King Hard Charger honors for the evening.

In Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying, Brady Bacon earned his second consecutive fast time with the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK series over the past two evenings and also achieved the 42nd of his USAC National Sprint Car career, fourth on the all-time list.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 25, 2021 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.707; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-13.825; 3. Tyler Kendall, 20, Kendall-13.928; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.946; 5. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.969; 6. Tye Mihocko, 47, Eades-13.994; 7. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-14.013; 8. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-14.026; 9. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-14.050; 10. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-14.054; 11. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.113; 12. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.123; 13. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-14.146; 14. Nick Bilbee, 17, Bilbee-14.147; 15. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-14.247; 16. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-14.501; 17. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-14.574; 18. J.J. Hughes, 76, Hughes-14.591; 19. Charles Davis Jr., 47D, Davis-14.627; 20. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-14.716; 21. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-14.774.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-13.808; 2. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-13.989; 3. Scotty Weir, 23s, Simon-14.112; 4. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.284; 5. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-14.284; 6. Jordan Kinser, 17G, On The Gass-14.296; 7. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-14.383; 8. Cannon McIntosh, 71p, Daigh/Phillips-14.392; 9. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.398; 10. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-14.508; 11. Saban Bibent, 98, Wedgewood-14.519; 12. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.524; 13. Chase Jones, 81G, Gray-14.530; 14. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-14.560; 15. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-14.560; 16. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-14.624; 17. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-14.730; 18. Joss Moffatt, 5J, Moffatt/Wright-14.744; 19. Tayte Williamson, 20, 88 Speed Shop-15.466; 20. Ricky Lewis, 43B, Tibbits-17.488.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Johnson, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Shane Cottle, 6. Paul Nienhiser, 7. Tyler Kendall, 8. Thomas Meseraull, 9. Charles Davis Jr., 10. Chris Gansen, 11. Alex Banales. 2:21.38

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Tye Mihocko, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Nick Bilbee, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Ryan Barr, 8. Kyle Edwards, 9. Chris Windom, 10. J.J. Hughes. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Jason McDougal, 4. Scotty Weir, 5. Chase Jones, 6. Max Guilford, 7. Korbyn Hayslett, 8. Braydon Cromwell, 9. Tayte Williamson, 10. Saban Bibent. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Cole Bodine, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Cannon McIntosh, 5. Jordan Kinser, 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Stevie Sussex, 9. Joss Moffatt, 10. Ricky Lewis. 2:37.12

C-MAIN: (6 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) , 1. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 2. Max Guilford, 3. Chris Gansen, 4. Charles Davis Jr., 5. Tayte Williamson, 6. Ricky Lewis, 7. Alex Banales, 8. Kyle Edwards. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Nick Bilbee, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Stevie Sussex, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Tyler Kendall, 7. Jordan Kinser, 8. Korbyn Hayslett, 9. Max Guilford, 10. Chris Windom, 11. Braydon Cromwell, 12. Chase Jones, 13. Paul Nienhiser, 14. Ryan Barr, 15. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 16. Sterling Cling, 17. Chris Gansen, 18. Charles Davis Jr. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Logan Seavey (4), 2. Jake Swanson (2), 3. Tanner Thorson (1), 4. Brady Bacon (6), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (5), 6. C.J. Leary (10), 7. Robert Ballou (8), 8. Justin Grant (19), 9. Kyle Cummins (13), 10. Shane Cottle (16), 11. Cole Bodine (9), 12. Chase Johnson (7), 13. Scotty Weir (3), 14. Nick Bilbee (21), 15. Chris Windom (22-P), 16. Stevie Sussex (11), 17. Chase Stockon (20), 18. Jadon Rogers (17), 19. Jason McDougal (14), 20. Cannon McIntosh (18), 21. Tye Mihocko (15), 22. Paul Nienhiser (23-P), 23. Thomas Meseraull (24), 24. Tyler Kendall (12). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-17 Jake Swanson, Lap 18 Tanner Thorson, Laps 19-23 Jake Swanson, Laps 24-30 Logan Seavey.

**Saban Bibent flipped during the third heat. Jadon Rogers flipped on lap 30 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1521, 2-Justin Grant-1448, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1439, 4-C.J. Leary-1307, 5-Robert Ballou-1302, 6-Tanner Thorson-1266, 7-Jake Swanson-1218, 8-Chris Windom-1211, 9-Chase Stockon-902, 10-Paul Nienhiser-848.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK BY AMSOIL POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-164, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-155, 3-Tanner Thorson-147, 4-Justin Grant-145, 5-Logan Seavey-145, 6-C.J. Leary-139, 7-Jake Swanson-134, 8-Kyle Cummins-130, 9-Robert Ballou-124, 10-Shane Cottle-102.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-100, 2-Thomas Meseraull-95, 3-Robert Ballou-88, 4- Justin Grant-87, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-83, 6-Chris Windom-83, 7-Brady Bacon-78, 8-Logan Seavey-68, 9-Buddy Kofoid-63, 10-C.J. Leary-55.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Stevie Sussex-24, 2-Chase Jones-13, 3-Cole Bodine-11, 4-Brayden Clark-10, 5-Brady Bacon-7, 6-Shane Cottle-7, 7-Chase Stockon-7, 8-Korbyn Hayslett-6, 9-Critter Malone-6, 10- Tanner Thorson-5.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 26, 2021 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Nick Bilbee

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Johnson

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Cole Bodine

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Nick Bilbee

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Justin Grant (19th to 8th)

ProSource Hard Work Award: Nick Bilbee

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Scotty Weir

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Jordan Kinser

==========

LOGAN'S RUN: SEAVEY GOES BACK-TO-BACK IN ISW AT GAS CITY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Gas City, Indiana (July 26, 2021)……On a rare Monday night appearance for USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship racing, Logan Seavey grabbing the headlines has become the most common of occurrences.

The Sutter, California racer went back-to-back on multiple levels during Monday's NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL event at Gas City I-69 Speedway, which had been postponed by rain from the previous Friday night.

Seavey not only repeated his Gas City ISW feature win from a year ago but also captured his second victory in the series within a 24-hour span after topping the field at Lawrenceburg Speedway on Sunday night in his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – Claxton Engines/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

Seavey raced from the fourth starting position to the lead on the second lap of Monday's 30-lap main event after rocketing past race leader Jake Swanson. Seavey persevered on a "giddy-up" quarter-mile surface which had been hammered by a substantial amount of rainfall over the weekend, leading the final 29 laps and requiring a set of proverbial spurs to get the job done.

"What a different Gas City then I had ever seen," Seavey exclaimed. "I've only been here a handful of times and I honestly had no idea where I needed to be on the racetrack. I didn't know if anybody was close; it felt like there was someone on me the whole time. I felt like I couldn't put together two laps the same. I think that's just how the racetrack was. It was a 'cowboy up' place."

Monday's Gas City race was the fourth of its kind in the 34-year history of USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK. Just three previous Monday ISW installments had been held coming into the night with J.J. Yeley winning at Twin Cities Raceway Park in 2002; Dave Darland at Kokomo Speedway in 2012; and C.J. Leary at Gas City in 2017.

Just like Leary did four years prior, Seavey followed Sunday's Lawrenceburg winning performance with a Monday encore that also resulted in victory at Gas City, making for a most-successful double-dip for the 2018 USAC National Midget driving champion.

Jake Swanson, the runner-up to Seavey one night earlier, shot to the lead on the initial lap around the outside of pole sitter Jason McDougal in turns one and two as McDougal and the third-place car of Tye Mihocko snagged their right rear into the crevice on the bottom groove.

However, Swanson's lead wasn't long for the world with Seavey shooting the gap between Swanson and McDougal exiting turn four, leaving Seavey just inches away from being in the lead at the stripe. Seavey carried his momentum to the bottom of turn one, then slid up in front of Swanson to complete the pass for position by turn two on lap two.

Just 10 laps in, Seavey had built himself a cushy lead of nearly five seconds and was a little more than a full straightaway ahead of Swanson and approaching the early stages of battling traffic.

Eighth-starting Brady Bacon had already made his way into the third spot in the first-third of the race and had gotten the diamond pattern game going strong where he entered high in turn one, slowed, rotated and pitched the car sideways to where he was able to travel in a straight line from the top of turn one to the bottom exiting turn two without scrubbing speed.

On the 11th lap, Bacon shined on like a crazy diamond by streaming past Swanson for the second position and began the process of trying to track down Seavey. However, Bacon received a sliver of hope in his pursuit of Seavey when 9th running Chase Jones spun to a stop between turns three and four to bring out the caution.

Now positioned right on the rear bumper of Seavey for the lap 12 restart, Seavey ended any notion of a Bacon challenge with a tremendous restart to distance himself from Bacon by a straightaway until hitting lapped traffic once again within the final 10 lap stanza.

Once in the throng of the back end of the field, the game at hand for Seavey was the prevention of making a detrimental mistake that allowed Bacon to capitalize. Bacon managed to move himself within a couple car lengths of the lead behind Seavey, but not much more than that while Seavey was demonstratively lifting his left rear on the entry into turn one to escape the breathing down his neck courtesy of Bacon while a wall of potential challengers stood ahead between he and his fourth career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature win during the final laps.

“I knew the slightest mistake could cause me to lose a second in a hurry,” Seavey explained. “I was driving really hard the whole race, and at the end, I was really getting nervous because I wasn’t gaining on the lapped cars as much as I thought I would. I didn’t know if something was working different. I wasn’t very good on the bottom either so I just kind of committed to blowing through the holes there. She biked a few times, but (Crew Chief) Derek (Claxton) has this car so good and so stable that I’m able to do that and that’s what won us the race tonight.”

Seavey executed with precision and without a notable hiccup or miscue that could have been taken advantage of, winning by a 0.788 margin over Brady Bacon, Kyle Cummins and Jake Swanson while Jason McDougal rounded out the top-five.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) turned in another patented consistent run that increased his point lead in both the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship standings as well as in the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK title race in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

“We tightened up quite a bit because we knew we were going to have to move around to pass quite a few good cars in front of us,” Bacon said. “We couldn’t commit to the top, so we were pretty tight and that’s how we were able to maneuver around and get to second. Once we got there and he had an open track, we didn’t quite have enough car to run up there with (Seavey). We were diamonding one and two and hoping he might mess up off two, but he never really made any mistakes, at least not big enough ones for me to capitalize on. Everyone was making some mistakes in the holes; it was hard not to. We did what we had to do, rebounding from qualifying bad, winning our heat, got a decent starting spot and passed some good cars in the feature to keep us in the hunt.”

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) collected KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger honors by starting 12th and finishing 3rd in his Rock Steady Racing/Mid-America Safety Solutions – Project Oversight/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy.

“It separated the men from the boys there a little bit,” Cummins said of the track. “I’m flat worn out and I’m glad we have a break. We started 12th and decided that the track was going to be rough and that we were going to sail it around the top. We changed a whole bunch of stuff and got the car pretty loose. There at the beginning, I was actually really good picking them off, then the track kind of went away and I did a little shock adjustment. We just had the overall chassis too loose.”

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 26, 2021 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Chase Jones, 81G, Gray-11.835; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-11.929; 3. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-11.984; 4. Tye Mihocko, 47, Eades-12.001; 5. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.010; 6. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-12.041; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.065; 8. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.086; 9. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-12.095; 10. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.097; 11. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.146; 12. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-12.176; 13. Clinton Boyles, 57, Boyles-12.207; 14. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-12.217; 15. Cannon McIntosh, 71p,

Daigh/Phillips-12.234; 16. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-12.234; 17. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-12.307; 18. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-12.397; 19. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-12.412; 20. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-12.417; 21. Ricky Lewis, 11, Lewis-12.427; 22. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-12.457; 23. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-NT.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.809; 2. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-11.853; 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-11.854; 4. Paul Nienhiser, 5N, KO-11.965; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-11.965; 6. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-11.983; 7. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-12.031; 8. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-12.044; 9. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-12.045; 10. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.112; 11. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-12.173; 12. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.210; 13. Shane Cockrum, 17G, On The Gass-12.212; 14. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.220; 15. Scotty Weir, 23s, Simon-12.257; 16. Brayden Clark, 42, Jackson/Clark-12.341; 17. Brent Beauchamp, 29, LB-12.362; 18. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-12.405; 19. Charles Davis Jr., 47D, Davis-12.489; 20. Jack James, 99, James-12.623; 21. Matt McDonald, 5mc, McDonald-12.649; 22. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-12.695; 23. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-12.757.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jason McDougal, 2. Cannon McIntosh, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Chase Jones, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Clinton Boyles, 7. Harley Burns, 8. Ricky Lewis, 9. Matt Goodnight, 10. Alex Banales, 11. Chase Johnson, 12. Zack Pretorius. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Tye Mihocko, 5. Brayden Fox, 6. Shane Cottle, 7. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Anthony D'Alessio, 10. Chris Gansen, 11. Braydon Cromwell. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Stevie Sussex, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Tanner Thorson, 6. Shane Cockrum, 7. Brent Beauchamp, 8. Evan Mosley, 9. Matt McDonald, 10. Kevin Thomas Jr., 11. Charles Davis Jr., 12. Scotty Weir. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Chris Windom, 4. Cole Bodine, 5. Paul Nienhiser, 6. Chase Stockon, 7. Ryan Barr, 8. Brayden Clark, 9. Jack James, 10. Max Guilford, 11. Gabriel Gilbert. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Brent Beauchamp, 2. Braydon Cromwell, 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Charles Davis Jr., 5. Matt Goodnight, 6. Brayden Clark, 7. Evan Mosley, 8. Harley Burns, 9. Sterling Cling, 10. Ryan Barr, 11. Jack James, 12. Chris Gansen, 13. Alex Banales, 14. Gabriel Gilbert, 15. Matt McDonald. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Zack Pretorius, 4. Chase Johnson, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Chase Stockon, 7. Scotty Weir, 8. Brayden Fox, 9. Clinton Boyles, 10. Brent Beauchamp, 11. Charles Davis Jr., 12. Max Guilford, 13. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 14. Shane Cockrum, 15. Shane Cottle, 16. Anthony D'Alessio, 17. Paul Nienhiser. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Logan Seavey (4), 2. Brady Bacon (8), 3. Kyle Cummins (12), 4. Jake Swanson (2), 5. Jason McDougal (1), 6. Tanner Thorson (9), 7. Chris Windom (5), 8. Justin Grant (14), 9. Kevin Thomas Jr. (10), 10. Tye Mihocko (3), 11. Robert Ballou (7), 12. Jadon Rogers (13), 13. Chase Stockon (21), 14. Stevie Sussex (19), 15. C.J. Leary (15), 16. Cannon McIntosh (22), 17. Chase Johnson (17), 18. Brandon Mattox (20), 19. Chase Jones (6), 20. Cole Bodine (18), 21. Zack Pretorius (11), 22. Thomas Meseraull (16). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Jake Swanson, Laps 2-30 Logan Seavey.

**Chase Johnson flipped during the first heat. Paul Nienhiser flipped during the semi. Anthony D'Alessio flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1596, 2-Justin Grant-1503, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1491, 4-Robert Ballou-1351, 5-C.J. Leary-1347, 6-Tanner Thorson-1331, 7-Jake Swanson-1287, 8-Chris Windom-1273, 9-Chase Stockon-940, 10-Paul Nienhiser-859.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK BY AMSOIL POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-239, 2-Logan Seavey-223, 3-Tanner Thorson-212, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-207, 5-Jake Swanson-203, 6-Kyle Cummins-201, 7-Justin Grant-200, 8-C.J. Leary-179, 9- Robert Ballou-173, 10-Chris Windom-140.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-103, 2-Thomas Meseraull-95, 3-Justin Grant-93, 4- Robert Ballou-88, 5-Brady Bacon-84, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-84, 7-Chris Windom-83, 8-Logan Seavey-71, 9-Buddy Kofoid-63, 10-Cannon McIntosh-59.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Stevie Sussex-29, 2-Shane Cottle-27, 3-Chase Stockon-25, 4-Justin Grant-20, 5-Kyle Cummins-20, 6-Brady Bacon-17, 7-Chase Jones-17, 8-Nick Bilbee-17, 9-Chris Windom-14, 10- Cannon McIntosh-14.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 28, 2021 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Zack Pretorius

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Tanner Thorson

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jason McDougal

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Tanner Thorson

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Kyle Cummins (12th to 3rd)

ProSource Hard Work Award: Cannon McIntosh

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Chase Stockon

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Scotty Weir

==========

HAT TRICK! SEAVEY WINS 3rd STRAIGHT USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK RACE AT TERRE HAUTE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Terre Haute, Indiana (July 28, 2021)……Logan Seavey entered the start of this past week with just two career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature wins in a span of 50 starts.

In his three most recent series starts, the Sutter, California native has surpassed his entire win output throughout his first three seasons by scoring his third consecutive victory on Wednesday night at the Terre Haute Action Track, round four of NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL.

Seavey's trifecta of victories began Sunday at Lawrenceburg Speedway, continued Monday at Gas City I-69 Speedway and now has reached official "streak" status with his third win in his last three tries, leading all 30 laps at Terre Haute aboard the Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – Claxton Engines/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

The third win of Seavey's personal hat trick was special in a myriad of manners, but most of all, it came at Terre Haute, a place in which so few have tamed throughout its 60-plus year history. A win at this place is something special, something memorable, something remarkable. Seavey was all of those things and more on Wednesday night at the Don Smith Classic.

"To win at Terre Haute is unlike anything I've ever done in my career; this is awesome," Seavey exclaimed. "To beat (Justin) Grant too just makes it that much sweeter. He's one of the best here and I had to run 110 percent every lap to keep him behind us."

Seavey's three-straight USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK victories puts him in rarified air and are the most since Kevin Thomas Jr. won three consecutively in 2013. Jay Drake also captured three-straight USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK wins in 2000 as did Cory Kruseman during the 2002 series.

The longest winning streak in USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK history belongs to Jon Stanbrough with four-in-a-row between 2006- 07.

What makes Seavey and Baldwin's ongoing magical ride during the past week even more astounding is that, in their first eight USAC feature starts together since teaming up in early May, the best finish they had managed to this point was a 9th at Plymouth (Ind.) Speedway on July 1. Although, we'd be remiss if we didn't mention the multiple wins Seavey and Baldwin have achieved together on the local level this year at Lincoln Park and Kokomo Speedways.

Call it "clicking," hitting your stride," or what have you, but Seavey and the Baldwin team have positioned themselves as the team to beat, although that proposition has been one that other teams have found impossible to accomplish over the past three races.

"I don't know what it is," Seavey admitted. "We've raced a lot around Indiana this year and have been really good. We went to Eastern Storm, and we were not good at all. We were down on confidence quite a bit, then showed up this week and we've just been on kill every lap. I feel like I'm finally running good races again. It's been a while since I've put some good races together and I feel like I'm finally doing that. I'm just able to show how fast this car is. (Crew chief) Derek (Claxton) is so good, and he deserves every bit of this."

Seavey hooked the pole for the start of the 30-lap feature and quickly established his presence at the front of the field on the opening lap, hugging the inner guardrail as he motored by outside front row starter Nick Bilbee. Meanwhile, fourth starting Justin Grant took the high road past Chase Stockon in turns three and four for third, then laid down a slide job on Bilbee for the second position entering turn one on the second lap.

A two-car break headed by Seavey and Grant forged an unstoppable force in the early going until the ninth lap when Robert Ballou and Eddie Tafoya Jr., running 14th and 15th respectively, simultaneously flipped after contact on the back straightaway. Both drivers were uninjured, but the night was finished prematurely for both.

When the field began to roll once again, it was discovered that third-place running Kevin Thomas Jr. had a flat right front tire. Under the caution, Thomas paid a visit to the work area where the KT Motorsports team went to work, swapping out the tire for another before rejoining the field. Thomas subsequently charged from the tail of the field to finish seventh.

On the ensuing lap nine restart, Grant fired off a slider into turn one, clearing Seavey by three car lengths midway through the corner on his way up to the cushion. Meanwhile, Tanner Thorson pulled completely even with Grant as he worked the bottom. Seavey, now momentarily third, shot the gap exiting turn two and split between both Grant and Thorson to reclaim the lead.

A handful of laps of utter perfection sent Seavey from being on the receiving end of being slid to holding a full two second lead in just a couple of laps. That remained the interval throughout the middle stages of the race. However, with 10 laps to go, Grant, the defending winner of Terre Haute's USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK feature, began to steadily close the gap a couple tenths at a time.

Down to one second with 10 to go, Grant relentlessly pursued Seavey on the high side as the pair cruised by a steady wave of lapped cars occupying the low line around the inside guardrail.

Five car lengths, four car lengths, three, two and, finally, just one separated the two entering turn one with four laps remaining. Grant never quite found the space to make a slide job attempt a reality with the low line being occupied. A slight blip against the turn two cushion with two laps remaining all but settled the score as precious real estate was lost and the laps tick, tick, ticking away.

Although Grant made up the ground that he lost by the next lap, he couldn't gain back the time. Seavey, on the other hand, had an open E-ZPass lane ahead of him as he navigated the high side around the speedway to lock up yet another feature victory by a 0.756 second margin over Grant.

More than 10 seconds behind the top-two at the finish line was Chris Windom in third with Brady Bacon fourth and Jason McDougal bringing it home fifth after starting 15th, which brought him KSE Racing Products / B & W Auto Mart Hard Charger honors for the evening.

Seavey has quickly put himself into USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK championship contention with the trio of winning performance and now stands just four points behind the ultra-consistent Bacon with three races remaining. Right now, Seavey's the unbeatable machine that nobody's been able to stifle over the past week. The amazing run continued Wednesday at Terre Haute, a venue which Seavey conceded was not his forte, until this night, that is.

"I thought, going into this week, that this is probably my worst track on the schedule, and we showed up and won," Seavey noted. "It just goes to show how good these guys are and I'm just glad to be driving it."

Grant (Ione, Calif.) came up just one position short of becoming the second driver to win the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK feature at Terre Haute in back-to-back years (Tyler Courtney in 2018-19) aboard his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

"I could reel him in, but I couldn't do much with him once I got to him," Grant acknowledged. "We had a good car, but It was hard for me to do anything. I could get to him but then the exits were kind of slick. So, you were just running on momentum. When I got to him, it was tough to mount enough of a charge to slide him. I thought that one restart was my chance at him there, and I slid by him and got up over the cushion, then he was able to get me back at the other end. That was kind of it. I got tight and up near the fence at that point, then we were having to chase him back down. We could get to him, but I really feel like I could've followed him around another 30 laps. I don't know if we would've been able to do anything with him barring a major mistake out of him, but he didn't make any."

Seven-time Terre Haute USAC National Sprint Car winner Windom (Canton, Ill.) finally reached the "podium" for his first top-three finish with the series since a third at New Jersey's Bridgeport Motorsports Park nine races ago in his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Byrd – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar.

"This is our place, so it's upsetting when we don't win here," Windom stated. "I couldn't get rolling enough there early in the race. Those guys just didn't make any mistakes. Once I got back to third, I felt like I was just as good as them, but I started searching and they got away from me and there was never a caution to try and race them again. I was just searching there a lot, trying to hope a caution would come out and I know where the best line to be was. To get this car back in the top-three feels good and I hope we can click some more off the rest of the week."

In Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying, Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) recorded his series-leading sixth fast time of the season with the series and the 35th of his career, which tied him with Rich Vogler for eighth on the all-time list.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 28, 2021 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL / Don Smith Classic

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-20.039; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-20.214; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-20.256; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-20.307; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-20.323; 6. Nick Bilbee, 17, Bilbee-20.328; 7. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-20.403; 8. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-20.436; 9. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-20.516; 10. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-20.520; 11. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-20.565; 12. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-20.571; 13. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-20.638; 14. Cannon McIntosh, 71p, Daigh/Phillips-20.670; 15. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-20.681; 16. Shane Cockrum, 17G, On The Gass-20.698; 17. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-20.712; 18. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-20.736; 19. Tye Mihocko, 47, Eades-20.749; 20. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-20.757; 21. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-20.830; 22. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-20.842; 23. Charles Davis Jr., 47D, Davis-20.933; 24. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-20.940; 25. Riley Kreisel, 91, DKR-20.942; 26. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-20.957; 27. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-20.966; 28. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-20.979; 29. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-21.050; 30. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-21.091; 31. Carson Short, 2E, Epperson-21.097; 32. Chase Jones, 81G, Gray-21.436; 33. Harley Burns, 9, Schepper-21.477; 34. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-21.497; 35. Dan Clodfelter, 19c, Clodfelter-21.997; 36. Ryan Bond, 7R, Bond-22.275.

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Stevie Sussex, 6. Chase Johnson, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Riley Kreisel, 9. Harley Burns. 2:48.84

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 4. Nick Bilbee, 5. Cannon McIntosh, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Max Guilford, 8. Chris Gansen, 9. Thomas Meseraull. 2:48.74

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Tye Mihocko, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Charles Davis Jr., 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Jason McDougal, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Mario Clouser, 8. Carson Short, 9. Dan Clodfelter. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Shane Cockrum, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Chase Jones, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Ryan Bond, 9. Kyle Cummins. 2:49.72

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Brandon Mattox, 3. Max Guilford, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Jason McDougal, 6. Kyle Cummins, 7. Chase Johnson, 8. Stevie Sussex, 9. Carson Short, 10. Jadon Rogers, 11. Cole Bodine, 12. Harley Burns, 13. Chris Gansen, 14. Dan Clodfelter, 15. Sterling Cling, 16. Chase Jones, 17. Ryan Bond, 18. Cannon McIntosh. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Logan Seavey (1), 2. Justin Grant (4), 3. Chris Windom (7), 4. Brady Bacon (12), 5. Jason McDougal (15), 6. Chase Stockon (3), 7. Kevin Thomas Jr. (6), 8. Tanner Thorson (8), 9. Shane Cottle (13), 10. C.J. Leary (5), 11. Kyle Cummins (21), 12. Jake Swanson (10), 13. Nick Bilbee (2), 14. Shane Cockrum (16), 15. Tye Mihocko (9), 16. Brandon Mattox (20), 17. Charles Davis Jr. (18), 18. Matt Westfall (19), 19. Mario Clouser (11), 20. Max Guilford (22), 21. Robert Ballou (14), 22. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (17). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Logan Seavey.

**Cannon McIntosh flipped during the semi. Sterling Cling flipped during the semi. Robert Ballou & Eddie Tafoya Jr. flipped on lap 9 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1662, 2-Justin Grant-1581, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1556, 4-C.J. Leary-1402, 5-Tanner Thorson-1388, 6-Robert Ballou-1379, 7-Chris Windom-1345, 8-Jake Swanson-1333, 9-Chase Stockon-1003, 10-Paul Nienhiser-859.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK BY AMSOIL POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-305, 2-Logan Seavey-301, 3-Justin Grant-278, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-272, 5-Tanner Thorson-269, 6-Jake Swanson-249, 7-Kyle Cummins-243, 8-C.J. Leary-234, 9- Chris Windom-212, 10-Robert Ballou-201.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-103, 2-Justin Grant-95, 3-Thomas Meseraull-95, 4- Brady Bacon-92, 5-Robert Ballou-88, 6-Chris Windom-87, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-84, 8-Logan Seavey-71, 9-Buddy Kofoid-63, 10-Kyle Cummins-61.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Stevie Sussex-29, 2-Shane Cottle-27, 3-Chase Stockon-25, 4-Justin Grant-20, 5-Kyle Cummins-20, 6-Brady Bacon-17, 7-Chase Jones-17, 8-Nick Bilbee-17, 9-Chris Windom-14, 10- Cannon McIntosh-14.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 29, 2021 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Brandon Mattox

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Tanner Thorson

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Tye Mihocko

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Logan Seavey

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Jake Swanson

KSE Racing Products / B & W Auto Mart Hard Charger: Jason McDougal (15th to 5th)

ProSource Hard Work Award: Max Guilford

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Nick Bilbee

American Racing Ministries Final Transfer: Kyle Cummins

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Chase Johnson

==========

HIGH DRAMA AT LINCOLN PARK: THORSON THRILLS IN ISW ROUND #5

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Putnamville, Indiana (July 29, 2021)……High heat, high emotion and high intensity were the main ingredients of a dramatic ending between drivers Tanner Thorson and C.J. Leary during Thursday night's USAC NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK By AMSOIL feature event at Lincoln Park Speedway in Putnamville, Ind.

A last lap caution set up a green-white-checkered finish that Tanner Thorson utilized for one last shot. On the lap 30 restart, Thorson slid from the bottom of turn one up toward the top of turn two while Leary occupied the high side, nestled snugly against the cushion.

While the two were dead even, wheel-to-wheel near the top of turn two, Leary's car biked on the curb, getting both left side wheels airborne before landing on all fours and skidding at the exit atop the second turn. No contact was made between the two cars as Thorson raced by underneath to take over the lead while Windom followed suit to second, although Leary briefly returned to the runner-up spot on the 31st and final lap before Windom retook the spot off turn two.

Thorson, who had earlier posted his second Fatheadz Eyewear fast qualifying time of USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK, led just the final two laps in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – CSI – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy, crossing under the double checkers 0.707 seconds ahead of Windom, Leary, Kevin Thomas Jr. and Logan Seavey.

Seavey possessed a three-race USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK winning streak coming into Lincoln Park as he attempted to equal Jon Stanbrough's record of four consecutive ISW victories over the course of 2006 and 2007.

But on this night, it was Thorson's turn in just about the most dramatic of ways imaginable as Leary unbelted, hopped out of his car and made a beeline to "greet" Thorson in victory lane while Leary's racecar continued to roll across the infield driverless until petering out halfway across the 5/16-mile dirt oval.

As Thorson came to a stop to celebrate, Leary put his foot down, quite literally, on the nose of Thorson's car. Immediately, Thorson rose from his seat and the two exchanged blunt words, muffled only by the protection of their head sock and helmet, while also gesturing their displeasure quite animatedly.

Just as Seavey did last Sunday at Lawrenceburg, Thorson followed up his June Indiana Midget Week feature score at Lincoln Park with an USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK win at the same venue in July. By doing so, Thorson became fourth ever driver to earn both victories at the same track in the same season, joining Seavey, Jerry Coons Jr. at Kamp Motor Speedway in 2007 and Bryan Clauson at Bloomington Speedway in 2013.

As with many situations in auto racing, one driver has an opinion on what went down while the other may have the complete opposite view from their vantage point. This particular occasion was no exception.

"I was going to apologize to C.J. for cutting it close, but he did the same thing at Path Valley," Thorson said. "I was just kind of waiting for him to (make a mistake). He just kept getting tighter and tighter on the top. He probably could've crossed me back over, been back in the lead and won the damn thing. Hats off to my guys. (Crew chief Tyler Ransbottom) has been working really, really hard to get me more and more comfortable. This 19AZ is on rails. It's clicking."

On the other hand, despite earning his best finish of USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK and his best result with the series since winning at Lincoln Park back on July 2, Leary wasn't too peachy when all was said and done. The Greenfield, Ind. racer was in the driver's seat of another likely victory after leading a race-high 23 laps that resulted in a bitterly unfulfilling third-place finish in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman Ford.

Likewise to Thorson, Leary had his opinion on the interaction with him and Thorson at the end.

"We had the fastest car," Leary said matter of factly. "Tanner Thorson, no respect. He drives everybody in the midget ranks like that and he's beginning to drive everybody in the sprint car ranks like that. Us sprint car drivers ain't going to buy that."

Thorson started his 30-lap race from the sixth position. Up front for the first six laps of the race was pole sitter Cole Bodine, only interrupted by the first terse interaction of the feature on lap four when Robert Ballou and Justin Grant contacted each other for the 10th position, sending Grant spinning to a stop.

On the lap five restart, Leary mounted a challenge toward Bodine for the lead, sliding by between turns three and four before Bodine cut back under off turn four to reestablish the top spot. However, on the seventh go-around, Leary stuck the bottom of turns one and two to secure the spot from Bodine.

Thorson, meanwhile, worked his way by Kevin Thomas Jr. for third on lap eight and overtook Bodine on the bottom of turn three soon after for the runner-up position on the 10th lap and began his pursuit of Leary and the race lead.

Leary and the trailing Thorson split their way through the lapped traffic with less than 10 laps to go, with Leary picking and grinning his way through a potential minefield that can spell disaster if not dissected properly.

It nearly did on lap 26 for leader Leary. While racing for the 12th spot with five laps remaining, Grant and Bodine connected in turn one with Grant climbing over Bodine's left side tires, sending both spinning to a stop in the middle of the racetrack, which also collected 16th running Brandon Mattox in the process. Leary was just a car width to the outside of the incident, and narrowly avoided them all, as did Stevie Sussex.

Sussex wound up with B & W Auto Mart / KSE Racing Products Hard Charger honors by finishing 9th after starting 22nd while Grant and Bodine carved their way back through the field to finish 8th and 11th, respectively.

Resuming with just five to go and a clear track ahead of him, Leary appeared to have the race fully in control until a final lap accident halted Shane Cottle (5th) and Chase Stockon (6th) at the flag stand. Sitting backwards with terminal damage to his ride, Cottle spotted Thomas driving by during the yellow flag and fired his steering wheel at Thomas' car.

That set up the final restart which led Thorson getting one last shot, elevating him to the spot and driving away to his third victory of the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car season, and his USAC-leading seventh combined win of the season between the National Sprint Cars and NOS Energy Drink National Midgets.

Splitting between the fracas of Thorson and Leary on the final restart was Chris Windom in his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Byrd – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar. Starting 11th, the Canton, Ill. native moved around the surface, running the diamond pattern to advance nine positions in the field and very nearly took advantage of all that transpired at the end, coming up one spot short of his first series win since May.

"I don't know what those two did," Windom said of the Thorson and Leary incident. I was coming across the bottom when I saw those two up there together. I wanted to try to throw a bomb on both of them but I kind of misjudged it and went back to the top. Overall, it was a great night for us. We had to come out of the semi-feature, then came from the fifth row up to second there in the feature. We get one step closer every night. We finished 3rd last night and 2nd tonight. We'll just go to Bloomington tomorrow and win, I guess."

Logan Seavey has taken over the point lead of USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK with two races remaining on Friday, July 30 at Bloomington Speedway and on Saturday, July 31 at Tri-State Speedway in Haubstadt. Seavey holds a 15-point lead over Thorson with Kevin Thomas Jr. third, 22 points back.

Brady Bacon had led the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK points standings for the high majority of time thus far. However, on Thursday at Lincoln Park, Bacon did not even get the chance to take the green flag for the feature due to a mag issue after his car sheared a roll pin while pushing out for the feature, concluding Bacon's run of 13 consecutive top-five finishes with the series dating back to May 8.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 29, 2021 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.553; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.627; 3. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-12.634; 4. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.699; 5. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.821; 6. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-12.864; 7. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.943; 8. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.048; 9. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.061; 10. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-13.075; 11. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.126; 12. Brandon Spencer, 22s, Spencer-13.235; 13. Charles Davis Jr., 47D, Davis-13.248; 14. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-13.260; 15. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-13.290; 16. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-13.299; 17. A.J. Hopkins, 04, Burton-13.430; 18. Shane Cockrum, 17G, On The Gass-13.505; 19. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.561; 20. Alec Sipes, 99, Sipes-13.651; 21. Dickie Gaines, 44, Soudrette-13.684; 22. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-13.688; 23. Jake Scott, 33, Miller-13.830; 24. Dan Clodfelter, 19c, Clodfelter-13.965.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-12.676; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-12.866; 3. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.877; 4. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.882; 5. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-12.971; 6. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.992; 7. Colten Cottle, 5c, Cottle-13.091; 8. Carson Short, 2E, Epperson-13.135; 9. Brent Beauchamp, 34, Olson-13.267; 10. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.293; 11. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-13.311; 12. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-13.349; 13. Matt McDonald, 5mc, McDonald-13.362; 14. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-13.396; 15. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-13.412; 16. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-13.440; 17. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-13.539; 18. Shey Owens, 17s, Owens-13.568; 19. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-13.574; 20. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-13.703; 21. Jessica Swanson, 5T, Daming-13.809; 22. Ryan Bond, 7R, Bond-NT; 23. Tye Mihocko, 47, Eades-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Chris Windom, 7. Chase Johnson, 8. A.J. Hopkins, 9. Alex Banales, 10. Jake Scott, 11. Charles Davis Jr., 12. Dickie Gaines. 2:09.325 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Anthony D'Alessio, 7. Shane Cockrum, 8. Braydon Cromwell, 9. Brandon Spencer, 10. Kyle Edwards, 11. Dan Clodfelter, 12. Alec Sipes. 2:13.982

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Chris Gansen, 3. Brent Beauchamp, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Brayden Fox, 6. Stevie Sussex, 7. Colten Cottle, 8. Matt McDonald, 9. Thomas Meseraull, 10. Jessica Swanson. 2:16.135

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Cole Bodine, 5. Carson Short, 6. Max Guilford, 7. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 8. Harley Burns, 9. Gabriel Gilbert. 2:19.861

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Braydon Cromwell, 2. A.J. Hopkins, 3. Max Guilford, 4. Shane Cockrum, 5. Thomas Meseraull, 6. Jake Scott, 7. Gabriel Gilbert, 8. Kyle Edwards, 9. Alex Banales, 10. Dan Clodfelter, 11. Jessica Swanson, 12. Dickie Gaines. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Carson Short, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Brandon Spencer, 6. Stevie Sussex, 7. Chase Johnson, 8. Colten Cottle, 9. Charles Davis Jr., 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 11. Brayden Fox, 12. Shane Cockrum, 13. A.J. Hopkins, 14. Braydon Cromwell, 15. Max Guilford, 16. Harley Burns, 17. Matt McDonald, 18. Anthony D'Alessio. NT

FEATURE: (31 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Tanner Thorson (6), 2. Chris Windom (11), 3. C.J. Leary (3), 4. Kevin Thomas Jr. (5), 5. Logan Seavey (4), 6. Jason McDougal (2), 7. Jake Swanson (10), 8. Justin Grant (12), 9. Stevie Sussex (22),

10. Jadon Rogers (13), 11. Cole Bodine (1), 12. Chase Stockon (15), 13. Kyle Cummins (8), 14. Brent Beauchamp (17), 15. Robert Ballou (14), 16. Brandon Spencer (21), 17. Matt Westfall (19), 18. Brandon Mattox (9), 19. Carson Short (16), 20. Chris Gansen (20), 21. Shane Cottle (18), 22. Brady Bacon (7). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-6 Cole Bodine, Laps 7-29 C.J. Leary, Laps 30-31 Tanner Thorson.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1693, 2-Justin Grant-1636, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1628, 4-C.J. Leary-1471, 5-Tanner Thorson-1470, 6-Chris Windom-1420, 7-Robert Ballou-1418, 8-Jake Swanson-1392, 9-Chase Stockon-1043, 10-Paul Nienhiser-859.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK BY AMSOIL POINTS: 1-Logan Seavey-366, 2-Tanner Thorson-351, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-344, 4-Brady Bacon-336, 5-Justin Grant-333, 6-Jake Swanson-306, 7-C.J. Leary-303, 8-Chris Windom-283, 9- Kyle Cummins-280, 10-Jason McDougal-252.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-108, 2-Justin Grant-99, 3-Chris Windom-96, 4-Thomas Meseraull-95, 5-Brady Bacon-92, 6-Robert Ballou-88, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-85, 8-Logan Seavey-71, 9-Buddy Kofoid-63, 10- Kyle Cummins-61.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Stevie Sussex-52, 2-Kyle Cummins-35, 3-Chris Windom-31, 4-Shane Cottle-31, 5-Justin Grant-30, 6-Chase Stockon-30, 7-Brady Bacon-27, 8. Max Guilford-26, 9-Tanner Thorson-21, 10-Logan Seavey-19.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 30, 2021 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL – Sheldon Kinser Memorial

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Cole Bodine & Jason McDougal

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Tanner Thorson

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Brandon Mattox

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Chris Windom

KSE Racing Products / B & W Auto Mart Hard Charger: Stevie Sussex (22nd to 9th)

ProSource Hard Work Award: Stevie Sussex

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Kyle Cummins

American Racing Ministries Final Transfer: Stevie Sussex

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Chase Johnson

==========

BACON FINDS REDEMPTION AT BLOOMINGTON'S SHELDON KINSER MEMORIAL

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bloomington, Indiana (July 30, 2021)……Twenty-four hours earlier, Brady Bacon and the Dynamics, Inc. crew experienced the lowest of lows when a magneto issue knocked the team out of the feature at Lincoln Park Speedway before the green flag had even been waved.

Twenty-four hours later, the team was standing in victory lane, celebrating its first series victory in more than three months on Friday night following the Sheldon Kinser Memorial, the sixth and penultimate round of the 34th annual USAC NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL at Bloomington Speedway.

Once again, resiliency from the Bacon/Hoffman/Dynamics camp was on full display, as for the second year in a row, the team endured a similar magneto fate at Lincoln Park one night, then bounced back the following evening with a feature victory for the Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

"It's just a testament to the whole Hoffman team," Bacon praised. "When something goes wrong, we put our noses down and keep working. We know we're doing the right thing, it's just that sometimes things get out of your control. You just can't get down about it. You just plug away and keep trying."

Bacon's 38th career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car victory was a special one indeed. The triumph broke a tie the Broken Arrow, Okla. native held with the race's namesake, Sheldon Kinser, for ninth all-time.

The victory also proved special as it thrusted Bacon back into the thick of the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK championship race following heartache the night prior that dropped him from first to fourth. Heading into Saturday's finale at Tri-State Speedway in Haubstadt, Bacon now rides just 12 points behind point leader Logan Seavey in his quest to earn a first ISW crown since 2016.

Despite having not won a USAC National Sprint Car feature since April 22 at Pennsylvania's Grandview Speedway, Bacon had constantly found himself in contention at the front, as proven by recording a series-high 22 top-fives throughout his first 25 starts. As proven time and time again, even when the racing gods weren't exactly on their side for the night, the team found a way to plug away and find success substantially more often than not.

"Sometimes the racing luck just doesn't go your way," Bacon acknowledged. "We just know that it's coming. It comes in waves. Some guys have good luck like Seavey went on a tear and started in the front every night and was able to capitalize and win. We're able to grind it out even if we get dealt a bad hand and able to get a good finish when we're capable of doing that. That's how we're going to try to win this championship. If we get lucky, we might even pull off Sprint Week."

Bacon started fifth in the 22-car, 30-lap main event and had a front row seat for a tumultuous first lap which saw the front row of pole sitter C.J. Leary and Chris Windom take the fight side-by-side through turns one and two.

Atop the turn two cushion on the opening lap, Windom become airborne, landed on all fours and spun 180 degrees to a stop in an incident nearly reminiscent of the much-ballyhooed altercation between Leary and Thorson on Thursday at Lincoln Park. Windom restarted from the tail and worked his way back to a 12th place finish at the checkered.

During the first third of the event, it became a three-car breakaway at the front with Leary leading fourth starting Kyle Cummins and Bacon. Bacon worked tirelessly on Cummins for the second position, and with the three running nose-to-tail, Bacon managed to slide up in front of Cummins exiting turn four to slot right in between the first and third place cars.

Closing in on the tail end of traffic on lap 13, third-running Cummins fell away from contention momentarily as he lost his footing over the turn two banking and dropped back into the distance.

Two laps later, on the 15th circuit, the same fate befell race leader Leary who found himself over the edge in turn two, losing the top spot to Bacon who raced by underneath, then subsequently dropped to third four laps later as Cummins charged his way back into the runner-up spot.

Meanwhile, sixth-starting Tanner Thorson had navigated his way up into the thick of the battle by racing past Leary in traffic for the third position on lap 23 amid his pursuit of a second-straight win after racing to victory the night before.

Leary reemerged in front of Thorson with a bottom side maneuver off turn four to lead by a car length at the line on lap

24. However, Thorson cut back under Leary off turn two on lap 25 to retake second, then had Leary pinned on the bottom behind the lapped car of Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier Brent Beauchamp between the third and fourth turn.

While Bacon desperately tried to navigate a path by a three-wide swath of lapped traffic at the back end of the field, his nearest pursuant Thorson's run in second was short-lived, however, as, one lap later, Thorson's bid for a repeat victory came to a halt when his right rear tire gave way on the back straightaway, necessitating the yellow flag. Thorson returned with a new right rear tire to finish 15th, suffering a severe crimp in his hopes for an USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK championship in his first attempt.

Despite finding himself in a whirlwind logjam, a yellow flag to clear the path wasn't necessarily the thing Bacon wanted to see at that moment. Everything else, however, fit him to a T on this particular night.

"The yellow at the end kind of worried me because I had a pretty good rhythm going even despite the lapped traffic," Bacon explained. "I think I was about to pick through them. We've worked really hard on (our slick track program) and, for the first part of this week, we didn't get to utilize much of it. The tracks were pretty hammer down and put us out of our comfort zone a little bit. But tonight, it was pretty slick."

During the final five-lap sprint to the checkered flag, Bacon went undeniably unchallenged as he scored his third series victory of the year and his second with the USAC National Sprint Cars at Bloomington, and first since 2019, by a 1.448 second margin over Kyle Cummins, C.J. Leary and Kevin Thomas Jr. with Robert Ballou rounding out the top-five.

"I look forward to this race during USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK every year; we're usually pretty good here," Bacon acknowledged. "The cushion made me a little nervous because that's not really our forte. We kind of put all our eggs in the slick basket and it worked out for us."

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) earned his best result of 2021 USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK with a second-place finish in his Rock Steady Racing/Mid-America Safety Solutions – Project Oversight/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy, recovering from a

bitterly disappointing end the night before at Lincoln Park when a last lap incident negated what was going to be a top-five finish.

“Brady is really, really good here running right through the middle; I don’t know how he does it,” Cummins pondered. “I tried a little bit and, a couple times, I felt like I had a little bit of grip. His drive off and side bite on the straightaway is unbelievable.

All in all, it was a pretty good night for us,” Cummins continued. “We struggled a little bit in the heat race, and we made some changes. Starting up front is a huge deal. Any of these USAC races, starting up front is a big deal. I was doing all I could do around the top, and when he came by me, I changed my shocks, changed my line a little bit, and it just didn’t seem to help. There at the end, I thought maybe I had a little bit of something, and then he just pulled away from me. He’s really good here and we just need to get our car a little bit better, then we can start clicking off some wins.”

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) finished third for the second consecutive night aboard his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman Ford after leading the first 14 laps of the 30-lap affair.

“We just didn’t get the car quite tight enough,” Leary admitted. “This is USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK. These guys are tough. I felt like I could roll the bottom there at the end and maybe get Kyle back. I knew Brady was going to be too good the way he was rolling right through the middle. I want to apologize to Chris Windom for missing the bottom a little bit there on the start and sliding up. We didn’t really make contact, but I feel like I may have scared him a bit and he got into the cushion.”

Brent Beauchamp (Fairland, Ind.) earned his third career Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying time with the USAC National Sprint Cars and his first during USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK since the series opener in 2012 at Gas City I-69 Speedway.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 30, 2021 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL / Sheldon Kinser Memorial

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Brent Beauchamp, 29, LB-11.273; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-11.289; 3. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.342; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.363; 5. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-11.375; 6. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-11.402; 7. Charles Davis Jr., 47D, Davis-11.426; 8. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-11.433; 9. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-11.445; 10. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-11.446; 11. Tye Mihocko, 5T, Parker-11.463; 12. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-11.466; 13. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-11.479; 14. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-11.487; 15. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-11.491; 16. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-11.497; 17. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-11.538; 18. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-11.579; 19. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-11.590; 20. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-11.608; 21. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-11.619; 22. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-11.631; 23. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-11.669; 24. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-11.669; 25. Chase Jonson, 22, Goodnight-11.675; 26. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-11.725; 27. A.J. Hopkins, 04, Burton-11.866; 28. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-11.877; 29. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-11.889; 30. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-11.934; 31. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-11.991; 32. Dickie Gaines, 44, Soudrette-12.100; 33. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-12.130; 34. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-12.145; 35. Carson Short, 2E, Epperson-12.169; 36. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-12.384.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Chase Johnson, 5. Brady Short, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Kyle Edwards, 9. Brent Beauchamp. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Stevie Sussex, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Sterling Cling, 7. Dustin Clark, 8. Chris Gansen, 9. Alex Banales. 2:09.30

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. A.J. Hopkins, 4. Tye Mihocko, 5. Braydon Cromwell, 6. Carson Short, 7. Charles Davis Jr., 8. Max Guilford, 9. Eddie Tafoya Jr. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Jason McDougal, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Dickie Gaines, 8. Gabriel Gilbert, 9. Anthony D'Alessio. 2:10.70

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Brent Beauchamp, 4. Braydon Cromwell, 5. Brady Short, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 9. Dickie Gaines, 10. Dustin Clark, 11. Alex Banales, 12. Chris Gansen, 13. Gabriel Gilbert, 14. Kyle Edwards, 15. Brandon Mattox, 16. Charles Davis Jr., 17. Anthony D'Alessio, 18. Max Guilford, 19. Jason McDougal, 20. Carson Short. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (5), 2. Kyle Cummins (4), 3. C.J. Leary (1), 4. Kevin Thomas Jr. (3), 5. Robert Ballou (7), 6. Shane Cottle (15), 7. Logan Seavey (12), 8. Jake Swanson (10), 9. Jadon Rogers (13), 10. A.J. Hopkins (21), 11. Chase Stockon (8), 12. Chris Windom (2), 13. Justin Grant (22), 14. Tye Mihocko (14), 15. Tanner Thorson (6), 16. Braydon Cromwell (19), 17. Brent Beauchamp (11), 18. Stevie Sussex (16), 19. Cole Bodine (17), 20. Brady Short (18), 21. Chase Johnson (20), 22. Thomas Meseraull (9). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-14 C.J. Leary, Laps 15-30 Brady Bacon.

**Max Guilford flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1772, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1696, 3-Justin Grant-1678, 4-C.J. Leary-1542, 5-Tanner Thorson-1514, 6-Robert Ballou-1484, 7-Chris Windom-1466, 8-Jake Swanson-1449, 9-Chase Stockon-1092, 10-Kyle Cummins-865.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK BY AMSOIL POINTS: 1-Logan Seavey-427, 2-Brady Bacon-415, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-412, 4-Tanner Thorson-395, 5-Justin Grant-375, 6-C.J. Leary-374, 7-Jake Swanson-363, 8-Kyle Cummins-355, 9- Chris Windom-329, 10-Robert Ballou-306.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-108, 2-Justin Grant-108, 3-Brady Bacon-96, 4-Chris Windom-96, 5-Thomas Meseraull-95, 6-Robert Ballou-90, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-85, 8-Logan Seavey-76, 9-Buddy Kofoid-63, 10-Kyle Cummins-63.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Stevie Sussex-52, 2-Shane Cottle-41, 3-Justin Grant-39, 4-Kyle Cummins-39, 5-Brady Bacon-34, 6-Chris Windom-34, 7-Chase Stockon-30, 8-Logan Seavey-26, 9-Max Guilford-26, 10-Tanner Thorson-25.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 31, 2021 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Braydon Cromwell

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Brent Beauchamp

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Logan Seavey

KSE Racing Products / B & W Auto Mart Hard Charger: A.J. Hopkins (21st to 10th)

ProSource Hard Work Award: A.J. Hopkins

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Justin Grant

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Sterling Cling

==========

TRI-STATE FINALE IS GRANT'S, USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK CROWN IS ALL KTJ'S

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Haubstadt, Indiana (July 31, 2021)……It's a rare instance when both the first and second-place finishers of a race can celebrate in unison for their own, separate personal accomplishments.

For Justin Grant and Kevin Thomas Jr., that was the scene on Saturday night following the finale for USAC NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK By AMSOIL at Tri-State Speedway in Haubstadt.

Both veteran racers cut their own slice of triumph, one as a race winner at a track that has been a longtime nemesis, and another who reached the zenith of his racing summer.

Grant bookended the beginning and end of the seven-race ISW slate with a feature win at Kokomo to start and a Tri-State feature win to conclude the 34th annual edition of the series while Thomas capped the points race with a crown as the ISW champion for the second time in his career, and for the first time since 2017.

"We had some issues through the middle of sprint week," Grant acknowledged after leading the final 29 laps of the 30- lap race aboard his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy. "We started it with a win and ended it with a win. It was good, and we won a race at Haubstadt. I can't believe it!"

Only five other drivers had won both the first and the last feature race during a single USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK, and the first to do it in 17 years. Danny Smith was the first to accomplish the feat in 1989, followed by Kelly Kinser in 1994, Dave Darland in 1998, Cory Kruseman in 2002 and J.J. Yeley in 2004.

Grant's 26th career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car victory worth $6,000 moved him past Steve Butler, Jay Drake and Parnelli Jones on the all-time list and into a tie for 22nd with Tony Elliott and Dave Steele.

There's never a dull moment at Tri-State, for as easily as you think you have it handled, there's something always there to contend with whether it's the unpredictable nature of the style of racing on the 1/4-mile paperclip or the fact that traffic seems to come up quickly, even for a leader who was as "checked out" as Grant was.

"There were a couple times where I was all squirrelled up," Grant remembered. "Fortunately, the thing would get digging and drive again. It certainly wasn't the prettiest race I've ever won but it was enough to get the job done." Jackie Young, just days removed from earning a gold medal for Women's 3x3 basketball at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, presented the winner's trophy to Grant in victory lane.

A succession of middling finishes throughout the past decade had Grant searching for answers on how to run up front at Tri-State. The answer came to him via his father-in-law, National Sprint Car Hall of Fame driver and ace wrench turner Bubby Jones, who assisted Grant in a number of manners prior to his passing in 2020.

"He's not with us, but I've got to thank Bubby," Grant recognized. "He knew how to get around here. He gave me a setup to run here a few years back and we were really fast, but I crashed the thing. We struggled and I kind of got away from it, then went back to the notebook and put Bubby's set up back on it. It's got Bubby's ladder and Bubby's shocks. It's got the whole Bub tech tune. He's not here, but I wish he was."

Both Grant's and Thomas' paths to victory intersected each other throughout the race with Thomas leading the first lap from his outside front row starting position just before fourth-starting Grant power surged under Thomas in turn four to gain the lead on the very next lap.

Entering the 30-lap feature, Grant found himself on the outside looking in in terms of an USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK title with five drivers remaining eligible. Logan Seavey led by nine with Brady Bacon nine back in second, Thomas third (-10), Tanner Thorson (-26) and C.J. Leary (-46).

Seavey was mired mid-pack throughout much of the feature. Earlier in heat race number two, Seavey was caught up in an incident that put him behind the eight ball for the remainder of the night, flipping his machine and necessitating a run through the semi-feature.

Previous night's Bloomington Speedway winner Bacon faced a slightly different variation of struggledom in his own right at Tri-State with the team missing out on hot laps while they were busy swapping out the engine for another bullet prior to qualifying. A qualifying run chock full of challenges tested the team throughout the night, ultimately positioning themselves on the tail for the feature where they subsequently charged from 22nd to finish 8th, a valiant effort to capture KSE Racing Products Hard Chargers honors, but only enough to get to second in the final ISW standings.

Meanwhile, Kevin Thomas Jr. was in about as good of a position as you could ask for, sitting outside the front row for the main event where simply maintaining the position throughout the duration, while easier said than done, would put him in a prime position for the title.

That quest for Thomas very nearly became his undoing when the lapped car of Cole Bodine spun sideways in turn four on the 17th lap, right in front of Thomas, who narrowly escaped getting collected.

Down the stretch, and on multiple restarts, nobody had an answer for Grant, or for Thomas for that matter, who remained between a half second and a full second behind Grant who strummed his way through a bevy of traffic to score his series-leading fifth feature win of the year by a margin of 0.814 over Thomas.

Thomas' second place finish was more than good enough to clinch the title by 17 points over Bacon, with Seavey, Thorson and Grant rounding out the top-five. Thomas' $10,000 prize for winning the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK championship was accompanied by the traditional rocker going to the ISW championship team, which is a hand-built creation constructed out of cherry wood, series #036, by John Youngs and is serial #036.

As it panned out, Thomas was the lone driver who finished inside the top-five of the final 2021 ISW point standings not to win a race during the series. Once again, for the fourth consecutive year, the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK champion driver went winless throughout their run following Chris Windom (2018), C.J. Leary (2019) and Chase Stockon (2020).

Funny enough, Thomas remains the only ISW champion to also win a feature during the same week since doing so in 2017. It's a monumental task to put up seven straight nights of successful runs without a major mechanical failure, accident or any other occurrence that can take the whole operation off the rails, especially with the competition level being what it is. Thomas and team were sublime in getting the job done in the KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy.

"You've just got to be consistent with these guys," Thomas explained. "They're just so balls out every time they get around you. They're all wanting to win the race. (My crew) stayed consistent and kept their composure. We all know that I don't do that very well, so I'm glad I have those guys behind my back as well as my wife to talk me back down from certain circumstances on the way home.

"You have bad nights and people that are really fast have bad nights," Thomas continued. "Brady had an engine issue that set him back for the night. You've just got to be at the right place at the right time and we had a good solid week. That was good enough to win and I'm so proud of everybody, our team, our sponsors, it's just so much fun. I love doing this, and to win another Sprint Week is really special."

Behind Grant and Thomas at the finish line were Chase Stockon from nearby Fort Branch, Ind. who finished off a rollercoaster ride of a week by equaling his best finish of the season with a third after they switched to a different chassis than the one he had campaigned throughout the first six ISW events, wheeling the KO Motorsports/Hutson John Deere – Superior Tank & Trailer – Ravens/Velocity/Fisher Chevy to the podium.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 31, 2021 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 34th NOS Energy Drink USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK by AMSOIL

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-13.590; 2. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.686; 3. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.743; 4. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.767; 5. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-13.777; 6. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-13.807; 7. Kent Schmidt, 5K, KO-13.823; 8. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-13.963; 9. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.016; 10. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.037; 11. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.160; 12. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-

14.243; 13. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-14.320; 14. Sam Scott, 7s, Scott-14.431; 15. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.451; 16. Chet Williams, 38, Williams-14.487; 17. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-15.165; 18. Ryan Bond, 7R, Bond-15.381; 19. Charles Davis Jr., 47D, Davis-NT.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Kendall Ruble, 17, Ruble-13.969; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.982; 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-13.985; 4. Stephen Schnapf, 11, Martin-14.002; 5. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.069; 6. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-14.076; 7. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-14.105; 8. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-14.229; 9. A.J. Hopkins, 04, Burton-14.292; 10. Stan Beadles, 84, Beadles-14.294; 11. Cole Bodine, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-14.364; 12. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-14.367; 13. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.444; 14. Critter Malone, 7, Seven-14.472; 15. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-14.638; 16. Alec Sipes, 99, Sipes-14.697; 17. Dylan Moan, 17D, Moan-15.578; 18. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-15.663.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Kent Schmidt, 7. Stevie Sussex, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Alex Banales. 2:16.021

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jason McDougal, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 5. Shane Cottle, 6. Chet Williams, 7. Sam Scott, 8. Logan Seavey, 9. Ryan Bond. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Kendall Ruble, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. A.J. Hopkins, 6. Chase Johnson, 7. Dustin Clark, 8. Cole Bodine, 9. Dylan Moan. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Short, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Chris Gansen, 4. Stephen Schnapf, 5. Critter Malone, 6. Thomas Meseraull, 7. Stan Beadles, 8. Alec Sipes, 9. Aric Gentry. 2:20.315

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Aric Gentry, 3. Kent Schmidt, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Cole Bodine, 6. Shane Cottle, 7. Critter Malone, 8. A.J. Hopkins, 9. Stan Beadles, 10. Stevie Sussex, 11. Chase Johnson, 12. Dustin Clark, 13. Sam Scott, 14. Alec Sipes, 15. Ryan Bond, 16. Dylan Moan, 17. Chet Williams, 18. Brandon Mattox, 19. Thomas Meseraull. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (4), 2. Kevin Thomas Jr. (2), 3. Chase Stockon (5), 4. Kyle Cummins (9), 5. Tanner Thorson (7), 6. C.J. Leary (3), 7. Jadon Rogers (10), 8. Brady Bacon (22), 9. Brady Short (8), 10. Kendall Ruble (6), 11. Robert Ballou (18), 12. Jake Swanson (17), 13. Jason McDougal (1), 14. Logan Seavey (13), 15. Chris Windom (12), 16. Chris Gansen (21), 17. Cole Bodine (19), 18. Stephen Schnapf (11), 19. Kent Schmidt (15), 20. Aric Gentry (14), 21. Shane Cottle (16), 22. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (20). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Kevin Thomas Jr., Laps 2-30 Justin Grant.

**Logan Seavey flipped during the second heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1826, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1770, 3-Justin Grant-1755, 4-C.J. Leary-1606, 5-Tanner Thorson-1580, 6-Robert Ballou-1531, 7-Chris Windom-1508, 8-Jake Swanson-1494, 9-Chase Stockon-1168, 10-Kyle Cummins-934.

FINAL USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK BY AMSOIL POINTS: 1-Kevin Thomas Jr.-486, 2-Brady Bacon-469, 3-Logan Seavey-464, 4-Tanner Thorson-461, 5-Justin Grant-452, 6-C.J. Leary-438, 7-Kyle Cummins-424, 8-Jake Swanson- 408, 9-Chris Windom-371, 10-Robert Ballou-353.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-111, 2-Tanner Thorson-110, 3-Brady Bacon-110, 4-Robert Ballou-97, 5-Chris Windom-96, 6-Thomas Meseraull-95, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-85, 8-Logan Seavey-76, 9-Kyle Cummins-68, 10-Buddy Kofoid-63.

FINAL USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Stevie Sussex-52, 2-Brady Bacon-51, 3-Justin Grant-46, 4-Kyle Cummins-45, 5-Shane Cottle-41, 6-Chris Windom-36, 7-Chase Stockon-36, 8-Tanner Thorson-30, 9-Logan Seavey-26, 10-Max Guilford-26.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 22, 2021 – Paragon Speedway – Paragon, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Chase Stockon

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Jadon Rogers

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Jason McDougal

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Tanner Thorson

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Brady Short

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Jadon Rogers

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (22nd to 8th)

ProSource Hard Work Award: Brady Bacon

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Jason McDougal

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Critter Malone

==========

KTJ GOES NON-STOP TO WIN FIRST PARAGON USAC SPRINT RUN IN 23 YEARS

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Paragon, Indiana (August 22, 2021)…… In what has been a renaissance 2021 USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car season following a winless 2020 campaign, Kevin Thomas Jr. added one more tally to his ever-growing win list for this year, conquering a Sunday night, caution-free duel between he and Logan Seavey at Indiana's Paragon Speedway.

In the series' return to the 3/8-mile dirt oval following a 23-year absence, Thomas couldn't hardly wait to end his personal absence from victory lane, moving to the lead past Seavey eight laps in, then spending the remaining 23-lap distance trying to simultaneously press through lapped traffic while keeping Seavey behind him.

Thomas' 32nd career USAC National Sprint Car feature win tied him with USAC and National Sprint Car Hall of Famer Rollie Beale for 13th on the all-time win list and provided Thomas with a win in both the final race leading into USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK in July at Putnamville, Ind. as well as the first race leading out of USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK Sunday at Paragon.

In fact, Thomas, of Cullman, Ala., is the first driver in more than two decades to capture the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK title, then win the first race held afterward. Only Tony Elliott (1999) and Jay Drake (2000) have previously accomplished the feat.

Oh, and wedged between those two victories, he also was crowned as the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK king. The Paragon win further demonstrated that Thomas' roll is still ongoing and shows no sign of letting up in the latter half of the year for he and his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy.

"I'm glad to get the win," Thomas stated. "It's been a long time since we've been to Paragon, and I'm glad we're back. It's a fun little racetrack. It's a good win for us, and coming right after winning Sprint Week, it just carries over momentum-wise."

Pole sitter C.J. Leary initially edged ahead at the start for the first three-quarters of a lap, but off turn four, Seavey muscled his way through on the cushion to reach the point from his outside front row starting position while Thomas followed suit on the topside past Leary exiting the fourth corner to slot into second.

Thomas hovered all over the back bumper of Seavey as the pair crossed the stripe to complete lap eight. Seavey went straight the top through turns one and two while Thomas stuck the middle and surged ahead to take over the race lead at the exit of turn two.

The name of the game for the remaining two-thirds of the race was traffic, and both Thomas and Seavey blasted their way through the back half of the field with precision, Seavey remaining a half second back and desperately trying to reel himself back into contention.

Any single mistake or misstep in negotiating the racetrack itself or another car would prove costly, and twice throughout the middle portion of the race, Seavey got oh-so-close to the back of Thomas but encountered issues atop the tricky curb between turns three and four that cost himself a half-second of ground each time on laps 14, 17 and 24.

Running two distinct lines – Thomas through the middle and Seavey up top – the two worked on the 14th place car of semi-feature winner Koby Barksdale as Seavey closed the gap to two car lengths with three laps remaining. Thomas pulled to the inside of Barksdale exiting turn two as Barksdale hiked the front end and veered right just as Thomas was overtaking him to his left field of vision, leaving nothing but open space in front of the leaders for the final two-lap run to the checkered.

Crossing under the white flag, less than two car lengths separated both Thomas and Seavey. Thomas nailed his path through turns one and two to open up a separation of six car lengths that ultimately proved insurmountable. In turns three

and four, Thomas slid through the middle and up to the top to take away Seavey's line at the exit of turn four to be greeted by twin checkers for the fifth time during this season with the series.

Thomas' 0.375 second margin of victory at the finish line put him ahead of Seavey, Kyle Cummins, point leader Brady Bacon and KSE Racing Products Hard Charger Chris Windom, who came all the way from 18th to finish 5th.

For the duration of his time up front, Thomas was unsure of himself regarding where to attack the racetrack. Lapped cars dictated that in certain aspects, so Thomas found a tactic that worked for him and pushed him to victory lane once again, the fifth different month he's won in this year: February, April, June, July and August.

"The whole race, I was kind of in defense mode," Thomas recalled. "I felt alright at the beginning after the track work. Once I got to the lead, about five to eight laps later, I didn't know where to run. I saw lapped cars pulling me certain places and I wasn't really good where they were getting me. I tried other things and ended up sliding myself for 30 laps."

It had been a span of 22 days since the most recent USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship event and Thomas had run seven USAC National Midget races in that timeframe. Thomas relished the opportunity to get back to work in the No. 9K sprinter, while his crew chief Davey Jones offered some poignant advice.

"It feels good," Thomas said. "I like getting back in the sprint car, and running the midget during our off weeks really keeps me up to par. But after qualifying, Davey said if you don't quit driving that thing like a midget, we're going to have trouble. I enjoy doing it, and I enjoy racing sprint cars and coming to new places."

The resulting success has moved Thomas to within 39 of Bacon's series point lead as he seeks his first career USAC National championship. Offering a quick quip regarding his championship outlook, Thomas got right to the point to show where his mindset is with so many races lying ahead.

"I ain't even going to talk about that," Thomas remarked.

Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) led the first seven laps and took second to Thomas in his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – Claxton Engines/DRC/Claxton Chevy. For Seavey, it was his second consecutive day of finishing second after finishing in the runner-up spot to Kody Swanson in Saturday afternoon's USAC Silver Crown event at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

"I had a lot of runs at him, but it's so hard to get an opportunity to pass here, especially when you have to pass good cars," Seavey explained. "We were struggling to lap guys, and it's really narrow down the straightaways, which makes it tough to go by people. You really have to clear them through the corner or else you're kind of in trouble.

(Thomas) ran just a little better than I did in the beginning," Seavey continued. "I was just floating around the middle and my car wasn't wanting to be there. Once he went by, he started hammering the cushion. It was tricky and it was over the edge; you have to ease it up there and ease it back off. I feel like that was an awesome race. It's been many years since we've been back here, and to put on a race like that, is really cool."

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) scored his third-straight top-four finish with USAC in his Rock Steady Racing/Mid-America Safety Solutions – Project Oversight/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy. His dad, Mark, won at Paragon. Kyle has won at Paragon numerous times in his career. While hoping to get a first USAC win on Sunday night, Cummins admittedly was pleased to finish third and pleased just to finish, all things considered.



"I wish we had a little bit better car there at the end," Cummins said. "At the beginning, I was really good. It was pretty hard to pass, and it was a pretty tricky cushion. I don't think ever figured it out in turns one and two. In the heat race, we had a fuel filter plug up, so we thrashed and changed all kinds of stuff. I'm glad we just finished the race to be honest."

Thomas' time of 8:28.95 in the non-stop, green-to-checker feature shattered a 39-year-old record for USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car racing at Paragon. The 30-lap record for the series, formerly held by Rich Vogler, was set in 1982 with a time of 12:01.780.

USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget standouts Emerson Axsom and Chase Randall made their USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car debuts Sunday at Paragon. Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) won his heat race and finished 10th in the feature while Randall (Waco, Texas) ran second in his heat and collected a 13th place result in the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 22, 2021 – Paragon Speedway – Paragon, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.905; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-15.017; 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-15.061; 4. Shane Cockrum, 17G, On The Gass-15.067; 5. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-15.094; 6. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-15.184; 7. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-15.218; 8. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-15.273; 9. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-15.283; 10. Emerson Axsom, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-15.308; 11. Brandon Spencer, 22, Spencer-15.334; 12. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-15.373; 13. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-15.455; 14. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-15.493; 15. Ricky Lewis, 11, Lewis-15.513; 16. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-15.539; 17. Chase Randall, 19A, Reinbold/Underwood-15.541; 18. Jake Scott, 33, Miller-15.546; 19. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-15.673; 20. Brandon Morin, 98, Morin-15.713; 21. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-15.759; 22. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-15.826; 23. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-15.851; 24. Kyle Shipley, 0G, Shipley-16.010; 25. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-16.125; 26. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-16.178; 27. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-16.366; 28. Tony Helton, 87, Miller-16.681; 29. Justin Meneely, 100, Meneely-17.414; 30. Dave Gross, 37, Gross-19.403.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Shane Cockrum, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Kyle Cummins, 6. Brayden Fox, 7. Tye Mihocko, 8. Tony Helton, 9. Braxton Cummings, 10. Koby Barksdale. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Chase Randall, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Brandon Morin, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Justin Meneely, 10. Brandon Spencer. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Ricky Lewis, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Chris Windom, 7. Jake Scott, 8. Kyle Shipley, 9. Alex Banales, 10. Dave Gross. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Koby Barksdale, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Jake Scott, 4. Brayden Fox, 5. Brandon Morin, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Tye Mihocko, 8. Tanner Thorson, 9. Brandon Spencer, 10. Alex Banales, 11. Tony Helton, 12. Justin Meneely, 13. Dave Gross, 14. Braxton Cummings, 15. Kyle Shipley. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (4), 2. Logan Seavey (2), 3. Kyle Cummins (6), 4. Brady Bacon (9), 5. Chris Windom (18), 6. C.J. Leary (1), 7. Robert Ballou (19), 8. Justin Grant (5), 9. Jason McDougal (13), 10. Emerson Axsom (7), 11. Jake Swanson (10), 12. Tanner Thorson (23-P), 13. Chase Randall (14), 14. Koby Barksdale (11), 15. Brayden Fox (16), 16. Jake Scott (15), 17. Brandon Mattox (21), 18. Brandon Morin (22), 19. Tye Mihocko (20), 20. Chase Stockon (8), 21. Jadon Rogers (12), 22. Ricky Lewis (17), 23. Shane Cockrum (3). 8:28.95 (New Track Record)

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-7 Logan Seavey, Laps 8-30 Kevin Thomas Jr.

**Braxton Cummings flipped during the first heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1891, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1852, 3-Justin Grant-1814, 4-C.J. Leary-1667, 5-Tanner Thorson-1619, 6-Robert Ballou-1587, 7-Chris Windom-1569, 8-Jake Swanson-1542, 9-Chase Stockon-1196, 10-Kyle Cummins-1008.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-128, 2-Brady Bacon-119, 3-Tanner Thorson-118, 4- Justin Grant-116, 5-Robert Ballou-109, 6-Thomas Meseraull-103, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-97, 8-Logan Seavey-91, 9-Kyle Cummins-71, 10-Buddy Kofoid-71.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: August 26-27-28, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Koby Barksdale

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Kyle Cummins

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Logan Seavey

Indy Metal Finishing/Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Koby Barksdale

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Chris Windom (18th to 5th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Chase Randall

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Tanner Thorson

==========

SMACKDOWN OPENER RAINED OUT, ON AS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, DOUBLE EVENTS ON SATURDAY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 26, 2021)……Thursday night's Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown X opener at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway was rained out after persistent showers doused the racing surface just prior to hot laps for the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship with 46 cars and drivers on hand.

Smackdown will continue as scheduled on Friday night, August 27, with hot laps beginning at 6:30pm Eastern.

On Saturday, August 28, the Smackdown program will begin with hot laps at 3pm Eastern and the first full program to follow immediately thereafter with qualifying, heats, last chance races and feature events.

Once the first program on Saturday is completed, a 90-minute break will follow with Smackdown's "finale" being run as scheduled on Saturday night.

If you purchased Smackdown wristbands for Thursday's race through TracPass, please hold onto them. The wristbands will be good to use for admission at Kokomo on Friday or the first program on Saturday during Smackdown. Thursday's wristbands are not valid for use to gain admission during Saturday night's program.

On Friday at Kokomo, the pits open at 3pm Eastern, grandstands open at 3pm, driver's meeting at 6pm and hot laps at 6:30pm, with qualifying and racing immediately following. For new ticket buyers, general admission tickets are $30 and kids 12 and under are free.

On Saturday at Kokomo, general admission tickets are $35, kids 12 and under are free. USAC Midwest Regional Midgets will also be on hand.

Reserved seating, three-day passes can be purchased on race night for $95.

All events during Sprint Car Smackdown at Kokomo will be aired live on FloRacing at https://bit.ly/2ZpafUr.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 26, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown X

CARS & DRIVERS IN ATTENDANCE: (46) Anthony D'Alessio (#01 D'Alessio), Brandon Long (#02 Long), Thomas Meseraull (#2 Yeley), Tye Mihocko (#2E Epperson), Kyle Cummins (#3R Rock Steady), Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), Scotty Weir (#4p Pedersen), Braydon Cromwell (#4x Cromwell), Logan Seavey (#5 Baldwin-Fox), Jason McDougal (#5m KO), Chase Stockon (#5s KO), Alex Banales (#5x Baldwin-Fox), Mario Clouser (#6 EZR), Kevin Thomas Jr. (#9K KT), Zack Pretorius (#9z Pretorius), Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou), Jadon Rogers (#14 Rogers), Koby Barksdale (#16K Knight), Danny Faria Jr. (#17GP Dutcher), Chris Windom (#19 Hayward), Tanner Thorson (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood), Steven Drevicki (#19s DeGre), Alex Bright (#20 Hummer), Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), Chase Johnson (#22 Goodnight), Brandon Mattox (#28 Mattox), Brent Beauchamp (#29 LB), Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), Sterling Cling (#34 Cling), Parker Frederickson (#34F Frederickson), Matt Goodnight (#39 Goodnight), Emerson Axsom (#39BC Clauson Marshall Newman), Brayden Clark (#42 Jackson-Clark), Eddie Tafoya Jr. (#51T Tafoya), Max Adams (#57 Hazen), Cole Bodine (#57x DCT), Steve Irwin (#61 Smith), Ted Kirkpatrick (#63LK Sturgeon), Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), Shane Cottle (#74x Hodges), Stevie Sussex (#77 Wingo), Ryan Thomas

(#77FR Wingo), C.J. Leary (#77m Michael), Max Guilford (#79BT Goodnight), Tyler Hewitt (#97 Hewitt) & Jack James (#99 James).

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: August 27-28, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown X

==========

GRANT'S LATE FLURRY NETS FRIDAY SMACKDOWN WIN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 27, 2021)……Justin Grant had kind of won everything in the record book as far as USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car competition at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway goes.

In 2018, the Ione, California native won the 40-lap Sprint Car Smackdown finale, just after he had been victorious in the three-lap King of the Hill championship round. Just one month ago, Grant added an 18-lap, rain-shortened feature win to his Kokomo USAC resume.

One thing that was missing – a standard 30-lap USAC feature at Kokomo.

That item was finally crossed off the list during Friday night's Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown X opener at the quarter-mile dirt oval in a 30-lap feature that was anything but standard.

After setting Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying time earlier in the evening, Grant charged his way through the field, engaging in a no holds barred duel which witnessed he and Kyle Cummins repeatedly swapping the lead for three laps straight until Grant took over for good and secured his series-leading sixth victory of the season in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

The triumph was the 27th of Grant's USAC National Sprint Car career, moving him ahead of Tony Elliott and Dave Steele for sole possession of 21st all-time in the series record book.

As opposed to July's abbreviated finish that was not all that unwelcome in Grant's pursuit of victory, in Friday night's showdown, Grant needed virtually every lap offered, and every ounce of racing acumen he could muster to get the job done.

"We needed that one to go to the end, for sure," Grant said with a grin. "Man, tonight was like prime Kokomo. Just pound the fence and try not to make mistakes. I just kept working, trying to figure out how to get off four. Early in the race, I couldn't get off four very good, so I kept working, kept working, and we finally got to where we could."

Pole sitter C.J. Leary opened up the festivities by possessing the lead in the early going, but quickly, a challenge was put forth by the driver who had swept both Smackdown prelims one year earlier, Kyle Cummins. Blasting from his fourth starting position, Cummins dug in and surged past Leary off turn four to nip Leary by a wheel at the line at the completion of lap three.

Moments later, ninth-running Brady Bacon was stopped in turn four following a tangle. With the lap completed and scored, Cummins assumed his role as the new race leader. However, at Kokomo, many times it seems the leader is not in total and outright control and, more like, under constant attack.

Following the yellow, Tanner Thorson was rolling, zipping by Leary for second at the exit of turn four on the fifth lap. A little blip above the turn three cushion for Cummins on lap nine allowed the gap between he and Thorson to shrink, and put Thorson, a 2020 Kokomo USAC National Midget winner, in prime position to throttle past Cummins at the exit of turn four on lap 12, pointing his front wheels to the sky as he took ownership of the number one spot.

Entering the second half of the affair meant entering the back half of the field as Thorson and Cummins became engulfed in a high-speed game of warfare. With cars stacked two and three-wide, Thorson had to choose the right door, switching high and low when needed until he and Cummins nearly got caught up in Stevie Sussex's collision with the turn one wall. All narrowly avoided catastrophe, except for 17th running Sussex, who saw an early dismissal from the race with heavy damage to his machine.

For better or worse, that provided a wide open space for the leaders to maneuver in front of them without the aid, or disruption, of traffic down the stretch. As it turned out, the advantage went to Cummins who glided the cushion crisply on lap 22 between turns one and two, which rocketed him around Thorson and into the lead with just eight laps remaining.

One lap later, big trouble hit Wednesday's Bob Darland Memorial Kokomo winner Robert Ballou, who snap-rolled with force into the turn one catchfence. Ballou had been running fifth at the time but was eliminated from the competition with a 22nd place result. Ballou was uninjured.

Grant was in hot pursuit of Thorson just prior to the yellow as he followed Cummins' path on the top side while Thorson worked the bottom around the infield tires. On the 25th lap, Thorson made a bid to get back to the top in turn four but washed up the track just enough to open an alley underneath for Grant to slide through and into the second position.

Thomas Meseraull, running 19th, slowed and stopped on the back straightway on lap 27 to bring out the yellow and reset the itinerary once again for a four-lap shootout. Second-running Grant fired the first shot, sliding past Cummins in turn one. Cummins crossed back under Grant, forcing Grant to reload and try once more in turn three. Cummins retaliated with another cross over in response, beating Grant to the stripe by inches.

Now, it was Cummins' turn to be the slider and Grant the slidee on lap 28 with Cummins successful in his endeavor. Grant turned back and slid Cummins into the third turn. Cummins cranked the wheel, got the car turned down hill and beat Grant to the line to complete lap 28 a car length ahead. Grant took the bull by the horns and made the next one stick in turn one as he forced Cummins to 'whoa up' as he drifted up in front of Cummins' front bumper, causing him to lose precious momentum.

"On the restart there, Kyle got kind of tight and lost the nose," Grant recalled. "I slid him into one and I felt like I could wear him down on the cushion and at least break his momentum, and we were able to. Fortunately, nobody rolled by us while we were racing each other. That was a heck of a lot of fun. I sure had a heck of a good time too."

Grant instantly took off and it was "curtains" from there. Cummins got all four wheels above the cushion in turns three and four on his way to take the white flag, which cost him even more time, and gave an opening for Chris Windom to sneak by on the bottom of turn four for second after starting 10th.

The victory went to Grant with Windom taking second, Cummins third, Leary fourth and Thorson rounding out the top-five.

Chris Windom (Canton, Ill.) collected KSE Racing Products/Irvin King Hard Charger honors after starting 10th and clawing all the way up to a runner-up finish where he made a run at the win during the final laps of the feature aboard his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Byrd – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar.

“It feels good coming from 10th there to run second,” Windom acknowledged. “I knew Justin was going to be running the top and I knew he’d be sliding Kyle there. I thought maybe we could sneak one out on the bottom as they were sliding each other back-and-forth. I just lost a little bit of time at the end, but we made it close.”

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) led a race-high 16 laps and came up just two laps short of reeling off a third-straight Smackdown prelim feature win dating back to 2020. However, Cummins did continue his impressive streak of consecutive top-three finishes during Smackdown, which now stands at five, after finishing third in his Rock Steady Racing/Mid-America Safety Solutions – Project Oversight/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy.

“On the restart, I got a little bit of a push and just kind of let Justin play the slider game,” Cummins explained. “We kept going back-and-forth, back-and-forth. Going into one and two, right at the end, I was going to stay in it, but I decided to let off and it didn’t let me turn down good enough to get a good run down the back stretch. I wish I could’ve had another shot at him because he could’ve played the ‘let off’ game. But it’s fine. It’s just racing.”

Meanwhile, Grant’s 28th career Fast Qualifying time with the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Cars moved him past Dave Steele and into a tie with Chase Stockon for 14th in series history.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 27, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown X

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.579; 2. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.789; 3. Brent Beauchamp, 29, LB-12.805; 4. Stevie Sussex, 77, Wingo-12.844; 5. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.882; 6. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-12.985; 7. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.001; 8. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.030; 9. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-13.093; 10. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.124; 11. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-13.165; 12. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-13.210; 13. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-13.233; 14. Andrew Prather, P8, Prather-13.345; 15. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-13.370; 16. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-13.402; 17. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-13.425; 18. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.462; 19. Cole Bodine, 57x, DCT-13.598; 20. Danny Faria Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-13.618; 21. Tyler Hewitt, 97, Hewitt-13.948; 22. Parker Frederickson, 34F, Frederickson-14.040; 23. Jack James, 99, James-14.536.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.668; 2. Emerson Axsom, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.766; 3. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-12.811; 4. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.822; 5. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-12.853; 6. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-12.883; 7. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-12.991; 8. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.019; 9. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.187; 10. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-13.193; 11. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.216; 12. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-13.224; 13. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-13.324; 14. Max Adams, 57, Hazen-13.396; 15. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-13.504; 16. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-13.576; 17. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-13.599; 18. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.646; 19. Brayden Clark, 42, Jackson/Clark-13.708; 20. Brandon Long, 02,

Long-13.791; 21. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-13.992; 22. Ted Kirkpatrick, 63LK, Sturgeon-14.947; 23. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Brent Beauchamp, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Tye Mihocko, 8. Matt Goodnight, 9. Koby Barksdale, 10. Jack James, 11. Tyler Hewitt, 12. Alex Bright. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Stevie Sussex, 7. Andrew Prather, 8. Zack Pretorius, 9. Parker Frederickson, 10. Braydon Cromwell, 11. Danny Faria Jr. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Jason McDougal, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Shane Cottle, 6. Mario Clouser, 7. Chase Johnson, 8. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 9. Max Guilford, 10. Steven Drevicki, 11. Brayden Clark. 2:14.81

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Max Adams, 6. Scotty Weir, 7. Ryan Thomas, 8. Ted Kirkpatrick, 9. Anthony D'Alessio, 10. Sterling Cling, 11. Brandon Long. NT

THE FROLIC BAR & GRILL C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Cole Bodine, 2. Tye Mihocko, 3. Max Guilford, 4. Steven Drevicki, 5. Brayden Clark, 6. Zack Pretorius, 7. Ted Kirkpatrick, 8. Jack James, 9. Tyler Hewitt, 10. Parker Frederickson. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Shane Cottle, 2. Stevie Sussex, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Alex Bright, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Scotty Weir, 8. Max Adams, 9. Ryan Thomas, 10. Andrew Prather, 11. Steven Drevicki, 12. Matt Goodnight, 13. Tye Mihocko, 14. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 15. Max Guilford, 16. Koby Barksdale, 17. Brandon Mattox, 18. Chase Johnson. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (6), 2. Chris Windom (10), 3. Kyle Cummins (4), 4. C.J. Leary (1), 5. Tanner Thorson (5), 6. Brady Bacon (11), 7. Logan Seavey (12), 8. Shane Cottle (14), 9. Jadon Rogers (16), 10. Matt Westfall (7), 11. Kevin Thomas Jr. (13), 12. Jake Swanson (18), 13. Emerson Axsom (3), 14. Chase Stockon (17), 15. Cole Bodine (23), 16. Mario Clouser (20), 17. Alex Bright (22), 18. Brent Beauchamp (2), 19. Steven Drevicki (21-P), 20. Jason McDougal (19), 21. Thomas Meseraull (9), 22. Robert Ballou (8), 23. Stevie Sussex (15). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 C.J. Leary, Laps 3-11 Kyle Cummins, Laps 12-21 Tanner Thorson, Laps 22-28 Kyle Cummins, Laps 29-30 Justin Grant.

**Danny Faria Jr. flipped during the second heat. Brandon Mattox & Chase flipped during the semi. Robert Ballou flipped on lap 23 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1952, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1900, 3-Justin Grant-1895, 4-C.J. Leary-1735, 5-Tanner Thorson-1689, 6-Chris Windom-1644, 7-Robert Ballou-1618, 8-Jake Swanson-1587, 9-Chase Stockon-1233, 10-Kyle Cummins-1080.

SMACKDOWN X POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-348, 2-Kyle Cummins-335, 3-C.J. Leary-335, 4-Tanner Thorson-335, 5-Chris Windom-334, 6-Brady Bacon-319, 7-Logan Seavey-312, 8-Shane Cottle-307, 9-Jadon Rogers-306, 10-Matt Westfall-306.

SMACKDOWN X PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Cole Bodine-23, 2. Steven Drevicki-11, 3-Chris Windom-8, 4-Jadon Rogers-8, 5-Justin Grant-7, 6-Brady Bacon-6, 7-Shane Cottle-6, 8-Jake Swanson-6, 9-Max Adams-6, 10-Logan Seavey-5.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-136, 2-Brady Bacon-124, 3-Justin Grant-121, 4-Tanner Thorson-118, 5-Robert Ballou-109, 6-Thomas Meseraull-103, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-99, 8-Logan Seavey-96, 9-Kyle Cummins- 72, 10-Buddy Kofoid-71.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: August 28, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown X

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Cole Bodine

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Justin Grant

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Matt Westfall

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Shane Cottle

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Chris Windom (10th to 2nd)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Emerson Axsom

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Scotty Weir

ProSource Hard Work Winner: Cole Bodine

==========

KTJ BRINGS THE HEAT TO WIN MIDDAY SMACKDOWN PRELIM

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 28, 2021)……In a sun-splashed matinee performance by the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship, a sliver of daylight was all Kevin Thomas Jr. needed.

On a restart with five laps remaining, the Cullman, Ala. native slipped by leader Logan Seavey, who glanced off the wall between turns one and two, cracking open a window of opportunity for Thomas to drive through to victory Saturday afternoon during the final prelim of the weekend for Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown X at Indiana's Kokomo Speedway.

The afternoon affair couldn't have come soon enough for Thomas, of Cullman, Ala., admitting his confidence was a little low following Friday night's 11th place finish, which snapped his streak of 16 consecutive top-10 finishes with the series.

The 2016 Smackdown and Kokomo champ got back on track at just the right time in the heat of the day, scoring his sixth USAC National Sprint Car feature win of the year while piloting his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy.

Thomas began his race from the third position, but the initial individual on the move off the starting blocks was Friday night winner Justin Grant who launched from his fourth starting spot to split between front row starters Matt Westfall and Jadon Rogers exiting turn four on the opening lap, putting Grant at the top of the pecking order in quick fashion.

Following Chase Johnson's ramp up the turn four wall 11 laps into the event that necessitated a yellow, on the ensuing restart, it appeared as if Thomas may soon be the one to overtake Grant for the top spot as he checked high, then raked the bottom while Grant occupied the bottom/middle. However, Seavey took both by surprise and burst from third to first around the outside exiting turn four to assume the lead.

Thomas, never shy to express his candor, spoke of the up-and-down nature of this portion of the race, which saw him bounce back-and-forth between challenging for the lead before quickly being relegated back to third in the rundown.

"I felt we were good," Thomas relayed. "I didn't know the top was going to come in that early. When I was restarting behind Justin there, I took a peek at it, and I didn't think it was that good; it looked pretty dirty. The next thing you know, Justin and I are down there stuck in the middle of the racetrack. Seavey goes blowing by us, then I made a few bad decisions and I let Brady get back by me. I just had to do a few little things there in the cockpit, mainly getting my crap together. I knew I had a good racecar; I just had to do what I needed to do."

Brady Bacon then entered the fray, taking third from Grant on lap 13, then second from Thomas on lap 14 with a dazzling flick of the steering wheel that cut him from the top of four to the bottom of one and into the runner-up spot at the halfway point.

With six to go and running third, Thomas took note of a couple of slight slip-ups that worked to his advantage. Race leader Seavey got a tad tight on the cushion and tapped the wall, forcing second-running Bacon to chock up ever so slightly just behind Seavey. Thomas, meanwhile, had already committed to the bottom and went unfettered past Bacon and into the second position.

When 10th running Emerson Axsom spun a stop in turn two on lap 26, that closed the slight gap that existed between Seavey and Thomas and put them back into a restart scenario. Seavey's car lifted the left rear on the entry to turn one, sending his car skating across the cushion. With Seavey's tap of the wall and resulting scrubbed speed, Thomas had gone by and become the new leader.

From that point onward, four trips around the quarter-mile dirt oval were all safe and sound for Thomas who notched his 33rd career USAC National Sprint Car feature win, elevating his total above that of USAC and National Sprint Car Hall of Famer Rollie Beale for sole possession of 13th all-time.

For Seavey, it was oh-so-close after leading a race-high 15 laps in his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – Claxton Engines/DRC/Claxton Chevy. The Sutter, California driver had to settle for second, 1.723 seconds behind Thomas, and readily admitted he could've done without the yellows.

"The track got cleaner and cleaner and was gripping up, actually," Seavey explained. "I think I just got myself a little too tight. I was just trying not to make too big of adjustments, but I knew the track was getting slicker and slower. I just couldn't get off the corners as good as I needed to and made a little bit of an adjustment, but I just didn't run hard enough there on those last couple laps. I just really didn't need the yellows. KTJ just found a little bit better line in one and two. It was so treacherous, and then the top at exit got really slick and it just lost everything that made it good in the beginning of the race and I just didn't move with the racetrack. To be leading and knowing the track's changing, you just don't know where to go. He figured it out and I just need to be a little bit better."

Brady Bacon became a major player in his bid for victory late in the going in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy, ultimately finishing third to remain up front with a healthy lead of the standings in pursuit of his fourth career series crown.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 28, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown X – (Daytime Event)

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin-12.863; 2. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.971; 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-13.149; 4. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.163; 5. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-13.288; 6. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-13.293; 7. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-13.351; 8. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.404; 9. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.492; 10. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.509; 11. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-13.516; 12. Cole Bodine, 57x, DCT-13.519; 13. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-13.631; 14. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.856; 15. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.866; 16. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-14.141; 17. Anthony D'Alessio, 01, D'Alessio-14.180; 18. Jack James, 99, James-14.262; 19. Ted Kirkpatrick, 63LK, Sturgeon-14.267; 20. Brandon Long, 12, Ballou-14.371; 21. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-14.717.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.102; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.122; 3. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-13.187; 4. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-13.200; 5. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-13.246; 6. Emerson Axsom, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.356; 7. Stevie Sussex, 77, Wingo-13.468; 8. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.486; 9. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-13.493; 10. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.504; 11. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-13.532; 12. Brent Beauchamp, 29, LB-13.544; 13. Chase Johnson, 22, Goodnight-13.563; 14. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.778; 15. Max Adams, 57, Hazen-13.856; 16. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-13.908; 17. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-14.003; 18. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-14.517; 19. Brayden Clark, 42, Jackson/Clark-14.719; 20. David Hair, 44, Hair-14.773.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Max Guilford, 6. Koby Barksdale, 7. Matt Goodnight, 8. Zack Pretorius, 9. Anthony D'Alessio, 10. Ryan Barr, 11. Ted Kirkpatrick. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Cole Bodine, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Alex Bright, 6. Brandon Long, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Jack James, 9. Brandon Mattox, 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Max Adams, 3. Mario Clouser, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Scotty Weir, 6. Stevie Sussex, 7. Jake Swanson, 8. Chase Johnson, 9. Ryan Thomas, 10. Brayden Clark. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Jason McDougal, 6. Brent Beauchamp, 7. Steven Drevicki, 8. Tye Mihocko, 9. Thomas Meseraull, 10. David Hair. NT

THE FROLIC BAR & GRILL C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Ryan Thomas, 2. Anthony D'Alessio, 3. Tye Mihocko, 4. Steven Drevicki, 5. Jack James, 6. David Hair, 7. Brayden Clark, 8. Ryan Barr, 9. Ted Kirkpatrick, 10. Brandon Long. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Scotty Weir, 4. Alex Bright, 5. Stevie Sussex, 6. Chase Johnson, 7. Koby Barksdale, 8. Max Guilford, 9. Sterling Cling, 10. Brandon Mattox, 11. Matt Goodnight, 12. Jason McDougal, 13. Tye Mihocko, 14. Brent Beauchamp, 15. Anthony D'Alessio, 16. Steven Drevicki, 17. Ryan Thomas, 18. Zack Pretorius. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (3), 2. Logan Seavey (6), 3. Brady Bacon (7), 4. Justin Grant (4), 5. C.J. Leary (8), 6. Tanner Thorson (5), 7. Jake Swanson (11), 8. Shane Cottle (12), 9. Chris Windom (9), 10. Chase Stockon (18), 11. Cole Bodine (10), 12. Kyle Cummins (19), 13. Jadon Rogers (2), 14. Matt Westfall (1), 15. Stevie Sussex (17), 16. Thomas Meseraull (16), 17. Emerson Axsom (15), 18. Scotty Weir (13), 19. Mario Clouser (20), 20. Max Adams (22), 21. Alex Bright (14), 22. Chase Johnson (21), 23. Brandon Long (23-P). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-10 Justin Grant, Laps 11-25 Logan Seavey, Laps 26-30 Kevin Thomas Jr.

**Eddie Tafoya Jr. flipped during the second heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2024, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-1977, 3-Justin Grant-1964, 4-C.J. Leary-1801, 5-Tanner Thorson-1754, 6-Chris Windom-1698, 7-Jake Swanson-1647, 8-Robert Ballou-1618, 9-Chase Stockon-1283, 10-Kyle Cummins-1126.

SMACKDOWN X POINTS: (Top-8 Locked Into Saturday Night Feature) 1-Justin Grant-678, 2-Logan Seavey-659, 3-C.J. Leary-659, 4-Tanner Thorson-658, 5-Brady Bacon-654, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-646, 7-Chris Windom-641, 8-Kyle Cummins-627.

SMACKDOWN X PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Cole Bodine-23, 2. Steven Drevicki-16, 3-Max Adams-14, 4-Brady Bacon-12, 5-Logan Seavey-12, 6-Shane Cottle-12, 7-Chase Stockon-12, 8-Kyle Cummins-10, 9-Jake Swanson-10, 10- Justin Grant-9.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-136, 2-Brady Bacon-128, 3-Justin Grant-121, 4-Tanner Thorson-118, 5-Robert Ballou-109, 6-Thomas Meseraull-103, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-101, 8-Logan Seavey-100, 9-Kyle Cummins-79, 10-Buddy Kofoid-71.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 28, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown X

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Chase Johnson

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Logan Seavey

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Cole Bodine

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Jake Swanson

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Chase Stockon (18th to 10th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Jadon Rogers

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Koby Barksdale

ProSource Hard Work Winner: Max Adams

==========

SMACKDOWN GRANTED: JUSTIN GRANT WINS $15,000 AT KOKOMO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 28, 2021)……In essence, Saturday night's 40-lap Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown X feature at Indiana's Kokomo Speedway came down to a two-lap conquest for Justin Grant.

A frequent storyboard for the event throughout its first decade has demonstrated that a final restart and, consequently, how one responds to it, can ultimately decide a driver's fate regardless of the success that led up to that point.

Case in point came earlier in the day for Kevin Thomas Jr. and Logan Seavey, and the same was true for Grant himself who faced, and conquered, a similar scenario just 24 hours earlier versus Kyle Cummins at the quarter-mile dirt oval.

This time, $15,000 was on the line, and the green-white-checkered conclusion gave us a Grant/Thorson gem that provoked both to bring out all the stops in order to put this one in their personal win column.

Race leader Grant answered Thorson's slide job in turn one by returning the favor in turn three, then fending Thorson off on the final circuit to claim his second career Smackdown victory (2018), making him the third multi-time winner in the event's history (Dave Darland and Tyler Courtney) in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

"Smackdown comes down to late-race restarts like this a lot," Grant explained. "You never know that you have it. Even when it's green and going well, these guys are so good, and everyone that we race with is so tough and so savvy at what they do. It's easy to get snookered on a restart; you got to do your job as good as you can."

TOPP Motorsports became the second three-time Smackdown winning team following previous scores with Tyler Courtney in 2017 and Grant in 2018. Phillips Motorsports also won three-straight with Dave Darland in 2013-14-15.

Additionally, Grant's 28th career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car win tied him with series champions Don Branson, A.J. Foyt, Levi Jones and J.J. Yeley for 18th on the all-time list, and it took nearly everything the Ione, Calif. driver could generate out of himself and out of the car.

"I was smashing this thing off the fence all the way around," Grant recalled. "I about crashed coming to the checkered. It's hot. I'm out of breath. That was 40 laps of everything this car had."

The race belonged to Thorson for the first 15 revolutions, holding a lead upwards of a full second until he became trapped in a box between the cars of Matt Westfall and Stevie Sussex at the tail end of the lead lap on the bottom of turn one. That halted Thorson's progress momentarily and gave Grant the go-ahead to levy a full-on attack.

Grant ducked under Westfall midway down the back straight, then tossed his car all the way from the bottom of turn three to the top of turn four, which screamed right past the front bumper of Thorson, who turned down and answered the bell to edge Grant at the stripe by a whisker.

Reloaded and ready to fire again, Grant made a beeline to the bottom of turn one and stuck the slider in turn two to secure the lead with 24 laps still remaining. With Grant upping his lead to more than two seconds, much seemed to be relatively well in hand. However, the car of Scotty Weir nearly spun in front of him in turns one and two, hampering Grant's progress, undotting his i's and uncrossing his t's as his advantage melted to just a single second in the blink of an eye.

With two to go, any and all daylight for Grant was overcasted as eighth-running Shane Cottle slowed dramatically with a ball of flame and smoke emanating from his ride, putting an end to his evening and setting up one final restart.

Grant was an up-close and personal witness to Thorson snagging the lead away from him on the lap 29 restart in turn one. Grant took it right back in turn three, rising right up to the outside wall in the fourth turn and giving it a kiss with the right rear. Taking the white flag, Grant slid himself from the middle to the top in turns one and two in an attempt to stifle Thorson's momentum.

"He was able to slide me there and I was afraid that was going to happen just with the moisture being low on the front stretch, but I didn't want to give up the speed down the back stretch," Grant explained. "It worked out, and I was able to get him crossed back over and then just go on defense and block his sliders when he was throwing them to try to make momentum when he wasn't."

Thorson climbed the ladder as he charged from the bottom of turn three to the top in turn four, coming up short and falling into line behind Grant, who subsequently ricocheted his right rear tire and right front tire off the outside wall, yet maintained control, and led Thorson across the line underneath the double checkers by a margin of 0.773 sec.

As the leaders crossed the finish line, a melee took place in the aftermath of the battle for the seventh spot which resulted in both C.J. Leary and Jake Swanson flipping through turns three and four. Kyle Cummins also became entangled and nosed into the turn four wall. All drivers walked away with Leary, Swanson and Cummins finishing 11th, 12th and 13th, respectively.

Grant and crew had two schools of thought and two approaches to take set-up wise entering Smackdown. The path ultimately chosen became the winning combination on this night, and twice throughout the weekend.

“I felt pretty confident around the middle section of the race; I felt like we had a pretty good car,” Grant said. “But there at the end, it got all shaken up. We went back and forth on this car and whether to make it drive forward really, really hard or have momentum around the fence with a lot of stability. We went back and forth all week but ultimately decided, if we were going to win this thing, it was going to be momentum around the fence. The first couple of laps after a restart, we’re a sitting duck because we don’t launch, but we do go out and rail around the fence better that way. It’s a gamble but tonight it paid off.”

Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) had the best Smackdown “Rookie” performance in the history of the event, running through all three rounds of the brackets to claim the B & W Auto Mart King of the Hill title, then finished as the runner-up in the feature in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – CSI – MVT/Spike/Stanton Chevy, which garnered him The Frolic Bar & Grill Smackdown X Rookie of the Year award.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) was the only driver to finish inside the top-three during both events held at Kokomo on Saturday, under the sun and under the moon, finishing third to close out the night cap in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 28, 2021 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown X – (Nighttime Event)

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Shane Cottle (#74x Hodges), 2. Brent Beauchamp (#29 LB), 3. Scotty Weir (#4p Pedersen), 4. Chase Johnson (#22 Goodnight), 5. Max Guilford (#79BT Goodnight), 6. Steven Drevicki (#19s DeGre), 7. Zack Pretorius (#9z Pretorius), 8. Ryan Barr (#21B Barr). 2:17.150

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), 2. Max Adams (#57 Hazen), 3. Stevie Sussex (#77 Wingo), 4. Koby Barksdale (#16K Knight), 5. Anthony D’Alessio (#01 D’Alessio), 6. Tye Mihocko (#2E Epperson), 7. David Hair (#44 Hair), 8. Cole Bodine (#57x DCT). NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers (#14 Rogers), 2. Emerson Axsom (#39BC Clauson Marshall Newman), 3. Mario Clouser (#6 EZR), 4. Jason McDougal (#5m KO), 5. Sterling Cling (#34 Cling), 6. Brayden Clark (#42 Jackson-Clark), 7. Matt Goodnight (#39 Goodnight), 8. Jack James (#99 James). 2:13.683

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull (#2 Yeley), 2. Chase Stockon (#5s KO), 3. Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), 4. Alex Bright (#20 Hummer), 5. Ryan Thomas (#77FR Wingo), 6. Brandon Mattox (#28 Mattox), 7. Brandon Long (#12 Ballou), 8. Ted Kirkpatrick (#63LK Sturgeon). NT

B & W AUTO MART KING OF THE HILL FIRST QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #1 Justin Grant (#4 TOPP) defeats #8 Kyle Cummins (#3R Rock Steady).

B & W AUTO MART KING OF THE HILL SECOND QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #4 Tanner Thorson (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood) defeats #5 Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics).

B & W AUTO MART KING OF THE HILL THIRD QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #2 Logan Seavey (#5 Baldwin-Fox) defeats #7 Chris Windom (#19 Hayward).

B & W AUTO MART KING OF THE HILL FOURTH QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #6 Kevin Thomas Jr. (#9K KT) defeats #3 C.J. Leary (#77m Michael).

B & W AUTO MART KING OF THE HILL FIRST SEMIFINAL: (3 laps) #4 Tanner Thorson defeats #1 Justin Grant.

B & W AUTO MART KING OF THE HILL SECOND SEMIFINAL: (3 laps) #6 Kevin Thomas Jr. defeats #3 C.J. Leary.

B & W AUTO MART KING OF THE HILL FINAL: (3 laps) #4 Tanner Thorson defeats #6 Kevin Thomas Jr.

THE FROLIC BAR & GRILL C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Brayden Clark, 3. Steven Drevicki, 4. Brandon Long, 5. Ryan Barr, 6. David Hair, 7. Zack Pretorius, 8. Ted Kirkpatrick, 9. Jack James. 2:25.587

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (15 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Scotty Weir, 2. Mario Clouser, 3. Stevie Sussex, 4. Chase Johnson, 5. Jason McDougal, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Max Guilford, 8. Alex Bright, 9. Koby Barksdale, 10. Sterling Cling, 11. Steven Drevicki, 12. Brandon Long, 13. Brayden Clark, 14. Ryan Thomas, 15. Brandon Mattox, 16. Anthony D'Alessio. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (3), 2. Tanner Thorson (1), 3. Kevin Thomas Jr. (2), 4. Brady Bacon (6), 5. Logan Seavey (4), 6. Chris Windom (7), 7. Emerson Axsom (15), 8. Chase Stockon (16), 9. Jadon Rogers (11), 10. Mario Clouser (18), 11. C.J. Leary (5), 12. Jake Swanson (10), 13. Kyle Cummins (8), 14. Jason McDougal (21), 15. Brent Beauchamp (13), 16. Stevie Sussex (19), 17. Shane Cottle (9), 18. Thomas Meseraull (12), 19. Chase Johnson (20), 20. Scotty Weir (17), 21. Matt Westfall (22), 22. Max Adams (14). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-16 Tanner Thorson, Laps 17-40 Justin Grant.

**Cole Bodine flipped during the second qualifier. C.J. Leary & Jake Swanson flipped on lap 30 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2085, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2041, 3-Justin Grant-2034, 4-C.J. Leary-1842, 5-Tanner Thorson-1821, 6-Chris Windom-1753, 7-Jake Swanson-1686, 8-Robert Ballou-1618, 9-Chase Stockon-1332, 10-Kyle Cummins-1163.

FINAL SPRINT CAR SMACKDOWN X PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Cole Bodine-23, 2-Chase Stockon-20, 3-Steven Drevicki-20, 4-Max Adams-16, 5-Brady Bacon-14, 6-Mario Clouser-14, 7-Logan Seavey-12, 8-Shane Cottle-12, 9-Jason McDougal-12, 10-Justin Grant-11.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-137, 2-Brady Bacon-130, 3-Justin Grant-123, 4-Tanner Thorson-118, 5-Robert Ballou-109, 6-Thomas Meseraull-103, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-101, 8-Logan Seavey-100, 9-Kyle Cummins-79, 10-Emerson Axsom-75.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: September 10-11-12, 2021 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – Inaugural Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

Smackdown X ProSource Passing Master: Cole Bodine

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Brent Beauchamp

B & W Auto Mart King of the Hill: Tanner Thorson

The Frolic Bar & Grill Smackdown X Rookie of the Year: Tanner Thorson

Simpson Race Products First Qualifier Winner: Shane Cottle

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Qualifier Winner: Jake Swanson

Indy Metal Finishing Third Qualifier Winner: Jadon Rogers

Indy Race Parts Fourth Qualifier Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Scotty Weir

KSE Racing Products / Irvin King Hard Charger: Emerson Axsom (15th to 7th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Kyle Cummins

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Max Guilford

ProSource Hard Work Winner: Chase Johnson

Quick Car Fastest in Hot Laps: Mario Clouser

==========

THORSON THRIVES AFTER CLOSE CALL TO WIN HUSET'S USAC SPRINTS

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Brandon, South Dakota (September 10, 2021)……Following a bitterly disappointing end to his run in the midget feature less than 30 minutes before strapping in to go again in the sprint car, Tanner Thorson lived up to the adage, "the best

revenge is living well" during Friday's USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature on the opening night of the inaugural USAC Nationals.

In the immediacy of jumping out of his damaged midget that sat facing the outside turn two wall, Thorson turned his focus to the sprint car and his upcoming leading role on the pole for the evening's 25-lap nightcap.

A smooth sail for 23 of the 25-lap distance hit choppy waters as Thorson neared scoring what appeared to be a relatively stress-free feature win.

However, that wasn't the case as race leader Thorson became sideways in turn four, resulting in he and 16th running Charles Davis Jr. locking horns. With both cars sideways and nearly going on their own respective wild rides, the yellow flag was displayed while Thorson somehow managed to escape the calamity without stopping or spinning.

By the skin of his teeth, Thorson (Minden, Nev.) resumed, then promptly engaged in his own personal green-white-checkered contest with Thomas Meseraull, who prevailed in a much similar situation in the preceding midget feature.

Thorson stayed tried and true on the topside for the remaining two circuits to capture his fourth series victory of the season in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – CSI – MVT/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

The four feature wins by Thorson have surpassed the most by a USAC National Sprint Car Rookie since Michael Lewis won three in 2003. It was also Thorson's series-leading 11th overall USAC National feature victory this season, with seven in the midget added to four more in the sprint car.

"It was my bad. I got in there pretty hard trying to clear both (Ryan) Bernal and Charles. That was all my bad," Thorson revealed. "It paid off in the end for us because we had a fast racecar. Starting there on the bottom, then working on the bottom, I feel like helped us for the first few laps."

Eventually moving to the top shortly thereafter, that's where Thorson performed most of his work, building a cushion of 1.5 seconds over his front row counterpart, Meseraull, who started second and followed Thorson in sync around the perimeter of the racetrack.

Meseraull managed to whittle a full second off Thorson's lead in traffic, but once Thorson hit clear air once again, the interval grew back to 1.5 seconds until the flashing yellow lights for the Thorson/Davis slight tangle restacked the deck with two laps remaining.

Without traffic, Thorson stepped away to put a stamp on a winning performance while multiple battles raged back behind him and second-running Meseraull.

Tenth-starting Brady Bacon dipped underneath Robert Ballou for the third spot in turn three coming to the white flag while, simultaneously, Ballou and Jake Swanson touched wheels, getting Ballou's car into a peculiar sideways position momentarily before he gathered it up and motored back past Kevin Thomas Jr. who had briefly nosed ahead off turn four for fourth.

Up front, it was all Thorson who put the race on ice with a 0.715 second margin of victory over Meseraull, Bacon and Ballou with Thomas Jr. rounding out the top-five.

For Meseraull, it was a sterling night with a midget win followed by a second-place result in his Yeley Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Apache Scapes – CK Electric/Twister/Claxton Mopar sprint car. The runner-up finish marks the San

Jose, California driver's best with the series since winning the Sprint Car Smackdown opener at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway in 2019. Furthermore, the second-place finish is the best by a Jack Yeley-owned car with the series since Kevin Swindell finished second at Southern Iowa Speedway in Oskaloosa, during the 2008 season.

"I'm pretty excited about putting the ol' 2 up here on the podium," Meseraull said. "How about that? Hats off to Jack Yeley. We just really haven't been all that great in this thing. He put the super tune to it because here we are on the podium."

In regard to the big payouts throughout the week with $5,000-to-win on the Friday and Saturday night programs, plus a $20,000 winner's share for Sunday night's finales, Meseraull was cautious about his mindset toward it.

"For me, it's so important to not pay attention to the money because I will drive this thing right into the fence if it paid enough money," Meseraull said point blankly. "That's what happens when you put the money on the line. I really don't care about the money. I'm going to try to go forward, rip the lip, bang sliders, you know, do what I love to do best."

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) put his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy back into the top-five for the 17th time in his last 20 starts to extend his series point lead to an even 50 as he pursues a fourth career USAC National Sprint Car driving title. His advancement from the 10th starting spot to finish third also earned him KSE Racing Products Hard Charger honors for the evening.

"We were running fourth, and we got a really good run off the bottom and kind of poked him out of the way there," Bacon explained of his late-race pass of Ballou to round out the podium. "We were going to get freight-trained if we were going to be following. Twenty-five laps just isn't enough to come from 10th when you have to pass good cars, but I think we had a car capable of winning for sure."

In qualifying, Logan Seavey set a new one-lap track record for USAC National Sprint Cars at Huset's Speedway with a time of 12.576 seconds, taking over the best all-time speed at the track from Kevin Thomas Jr. who held the former mark of 12.711, set in 2016.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 10, 2021 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – Inaugural Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.576 (New Track Record); 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-12.674; 3. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.900; 4. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-12.916; 5. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.953; 6. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.183; 7. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.379; 8. Cam Schafer, 97, Roach-13.570; 9. Jeremy Kerzman, 3K, Kerzman-13.850; 10. Clinton Bruns, 7, Bruns-14.293.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.787; 2. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-12.888; 3. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.900; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.988; 5. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-13.277; 6. Chad Frewaldt, 4F, Frewaldt-13.505; 7. Jeff Pellersels, X, Pellersels-13.583; 8. Donovan Peterson, 11xs, Peterson-13.818; 9. Robert Bell, 71, Bell-14.260.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT THREE: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.595; 2. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.654; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.773; 4. Ryan Bernal, 17w, Wood-12.912; 5. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.022; 6. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-13.222; 7. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-13.513; 8. Terry Richards, 18, Richards-13.663; 9. Glen Saville, 19L, Layton-13.688.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, winner plus top-5 in points transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Cam Schafer, 7. Clinton Bruns, 8. Matt Westfall, 9. Alex Banales, 10. Jeremy Kerzman. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, winner plus top-5 in points transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Robert Bell, 6. Jeff Pellersels, 7. Donovan Peterson, 8. Mario Clouser, 9. Chad Frewaldt. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING / INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, winner plus top-5 in points transfer to the feature) 1. Jason McDougal, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Isaac Chapple, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Charles Davis Jr., 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Ryan Bernal, 8. Terry Richards, 9. Glen Saville. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (10 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Cam Schafer, 3. Chad Frewaldt, 4. Alex Banales, 5. Robert Bell, 6. Glen Saville, 7. Donovan Peterson, 8. Jeremy Kerzman, 9. Clinton Bruns, 10. Terry Richards. NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Tanner Thorson (1), 2. Thomas Meseraull (2), 3. Brady Bacon (10), 4. Robert Ballou (3), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (9), 6. Jake Swanson (4), 7. Justin Grant (8), 8. Logan Seavey (11), 9. Jason McDougal (5), 10. Chris Windom (6), 11. C.J. Leary (12), 12. Brandon Mattox (14), 13. Chase Stockon (7), 14. Ryan Bernal (17), 15. Mario Clouser (13), 16. Charles Davis Jr. (19), 17. Matt Westfall (16), 18. Isaac Chapple (15), 19. Glen Saville (24), 20. Jeff Pellersels (18), 21. Alex Banales (22), 22. Robert Bell (23), 23. Cam Schafer (20), 24. Chad Frewaldt (21). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Tanner Thorson.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2149, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2099, 3-Justin Grant-2086, 4-Tanner Thorson-1891, 5-C.J. Leary-1883, 6-Chris Windom-1796, 7-Jake Swanson-1741, 8-Robert Ballou-1679, 9-Chase Stockon-1369, 10-Kyle Cummins-1163.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-139, 2-Brady Bacon-137, 3-Justin Grant-124, 4-Tanner Thorson-121, 5-Robert Ballou-114, 6-Logan Seavey-112, 7-Thomas Meseraull-108, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-106, 9-Kyle Cummins-84, 10-Emerson Axsom-78.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: September 11-12, 2021 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – Inaugural Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Logan Seavey

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Jason McDougal

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (10th to 3rd)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Chase Stockon

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Donovan Peterson

==========

LEARY SPRINTS TO HUSET'S USAC NATIONALS NIGHT TWO TRIUMPH

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Brandon, South Dakota (September 11, 2021)……"Man, I love winning races."

C.J. Leary has a knack for doing just that, and when everything comes together on both sides of the coin, that's when reaching victory lane becomes a reality just as it did on Saturday during the second night of the Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals in Brandon, South Dakota.

The Greenfield, Ind. native charged from sixth to first with a quick progression through the field that saw him come within inches of taking the lead on the opening lap. Finally, on lap three, Leary stuck the position, then withstood a plethora of late-race restarts to score his fourth USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature win of the season in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman.

Leary's 15th career triumph moved him into 38th all-time on the USAC National Sprint Car win list, equaling Bobby East, Cory Kruseman and Brian Tyler.

"When you get a really good racecar, it gives you a ton of confidence," Leary explained after collecting $5,000 for his winning efforts. "Last night, I didn't know how good our racecar was. We all started back there, and we were all kind of running the same speed. We started sixth tonight, made quick work, and got to the front. That was the key to winning the race."

The initial start to the 30-lap feature was halted by a melee involving several cars. Initiated by fourth-starting Mario Clouser's spin in turn two, collected into the carnage was Kevin Thomas Jr. who nosed into the left side nerf bar of the spinning Clouser. Justin Grant ramped his right rear over the front bumper of Thomas. Logan Seavey spun to the inside in a valiant effort to avoid the altercation. Glen Saville clipped Thomas and flipped over. Matt Westfall nearly did the same as Saville, but was hit in his car's undercarriage by Alex Banales, which rotated Westfall back on all four wheels.

All drivers were unharmed in the incident, and all were able to restart, with Thomas carving all the way from near the tail of the 24-car field to finish fifth with Seavey eighth, Clouser 11th, Grant 14th, Banales 20th, Westfall 23rd and Saville 24th.

When action resumed, Leary, the 2019 USAC National Sprint Car driving champion, burst by Tanner Thorson, Jason McDougal, Ryan Bernal and Brady Bacon in quick succession, and soon found himself side-by-side with pole sitter Charles Davis Jr. at the conclusion of the opening lap, with Leary missing out on the lead by a half-car length at the stripe.

At the end of lap two, the difference between the two was about an inch with Davis just a sliver of a hair ahead of Leary. Moments later, Leary powered by Davis with a slider entering turn one to occupy his position at the head of the field while Bacon slotted into second one lap later as the first pair of positions embarked on a two-car breakaway in the early going.

Twelve laps in, the frontrunners were now hustling their way through the backend of the field with Leary splitting between the two lapped cars of Westfall and Chad Frewaldt in turn three. Bacon attempted to go underneath both lappers on the following lap in turns one and two, but lost the momentum, which Jake Swanson now possessed and utilized to rip around Bacon for the runner-up spot nearing midway.

It became a match of point/counterpoint between Leary and Swanson with each of Leary's escape artist maneuvers being repeatedly answered without an ounce of hesitation by Swanson. Leary completed a double-slider with seven laps remaining between turns three and four with Leary and Chapple bouncing wheels off each other at the exit of turn four. Swanson retaliated by swiftly overtaking both and positioned himself to within a single car length with five laps remaining.

Following in close-quarters with Leary's rear bumper was a hungry Swanson, a three-time runner-up finisher this season who's yet to breakthrough with a first career USAC National Sprint Car feature win. Swanson's hopes for that breakthrough found a roadblock when he bounced off the turn one cushion on lap 26, dropping him back and forcing him to watch as Leary began to stretch his lead out.

With the white flag unfurled, that's when things got a tad hairy. In their joust for the fourth position, Thorson jumped to the inside of turn one in an attempt to surpass Ryan Bernal. Thorson's front wheels climbed over the infield berm on entry and contact was made between Thorson's right rear and Bernal's left front, sending Bernal backwards hard into the outside wall.

Sixth-running Robert Ballou was caught up as a victim in the fracas as he plowed into Bernal, which spun him around backwards against the wall. Meseraull, in ninth, also slid to a stop to avoid contact with Bernal and Ballou, both of whom were unable to restart while Meseraull returned to finish just where he had been, in ninth.

On the restart, Leary's prowess of the 1/3-mile rolled on without interruption toward a five-car-length advantage while the fight for second was on. Second-running Swanson, however, banged the right rear tire off the turn four cushion coming to the white flag, allowing both Thorson and Davis to glide by on the low slide while Swanson fell back to fifth momentarily, but was able to drive back past Bacon to grab the fourth spot on the final lap.

Leary finished off his duties with a 0.640 second victory over Thorson, Davis and Swanson, which made it an all-Arizona team top-four with the Grand Canyon State's Michael Motorsports (Chino Valley), Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports (Gilbert), Davis Race Team (Buckeye) and Team AZ Racing (Phoenix) earning the top-four finishing spots.

A succession of late yellows made for an arduous journey to the checkered flag for Leary, but it resulted in reaching the promised land once again, and for the first time in South Dakota.

"Those late yellows are always tough," Leary lamented. "You never really know where to go and whether you should protect or just keep doing what you're doing. The racetrack took rubber at the end, and I was trying to figure out if it was faster to rail the top or come down a lane and get in the rubber. Lapped traffic was hectic too, but we hit this setup pretty good on the 77m."

Friday night Huset's winner Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) finished second to record his third consecutive top-two feature result with the series in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – CSI – MVT/Spike/Stanton Chevy, which was marred by a late-race incident with Bernal and Ballou.

"First off, I want to apologize to Ryan and Ballou," Thorson said. "I don't think (Ryan) expected me to be down there. I caught the berm with my left front and got into him. I take full responsibility for that one. I did what I had to do there after that to get to second and (car owner) Andy (Reinbold) gave me a great car to do that."

Charles Davis Jr. (Buckeye, Ariz.) celebrated unlike any other for a driver who just earned a third-place finish. The 53-year-old veteran performed a cage stand while simultaneously chugging a can of beer on the front straightaway following his best career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car finish, a third in his Davis Race Team/MP Environmental – Black Magic Bead Breaker – RSS Industries/DRC/Ott Chevy.

"It was awesome," Davis exclaimed. "We really got the car figured out there yesterday. I screwed up in qualifying so badly; the car was just so tight. I knew I had to win that heat race and that's all there was to it. That was the only way we were going to be in the show without having to run the B-main. I had no idea it was going to start me on the front row, so everybody was happy about that."

In Fatheadz Eyewear qualifying, Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) recorded his third consecutive fast time aboard his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – Claxton Engines/DRC/Claxton Chevy before going on to finish eighth in the feature event.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 11, 2021 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – Inaugural Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.591; 2. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-12.617; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.727; 4. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.780; 5. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-12.875; 6. Cam Schafer, 97, Roach-12.958; 7. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.966; 8. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.011; 9. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.206.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.589; 2. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-12.695; 3. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.719; 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-12.860; 5. Chad Frewaldt, 4F, Frewaldt-13.139; 6. Glen Saville, 19L, Layton-13.285; 7. Jeremy Kerzman, 3K, Kerzman-13.553; 8. Jeff Pellersels, X, Pellersels-13.728; 9. Robert Bell, 71, Bell-13.911.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT THREE: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.688; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.712; 3. Ryan Bernal, 17w, Wood-12.825; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.844; 5. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.848; 6. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-12.998; 7. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-13.075; 8. Terry Richards, 18, Richards-13.396; 9. Clinton Bruns, 7, Bruns-13.931.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, winner plus top-5 in points transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Mario Clouser, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Chris Windom, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Cam Schafer, 8. Alex Banales, 9. Chase Stockon. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, winner plus top-5 in points transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Logan Seavey, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Chad Frewaldt, 6. Glen Saville, 7. Robert Bell, 8. Jeff Pellersels, 9. Jeremy Kerzman. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING / INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, winner plus top-5 in points transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Isaac Chapple, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Ryan Bernal, 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Justin Grant, 8. Terry Richards, 9. Clinton Bruns. 2:23.90

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (8 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Isaac Chapple, 3. Alex Banales, 4. Terry Richards, 5. Cam Schafer, 6. Robert Bell, 7. Clinton Bruns, 8. Jeff Pellersels. 2:00.15 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (6), 2. Tanner Thorson (7), 3. Charles Davis Jr. (1), 4. Jake Swanson (9), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (8), 6. Brady Bacon (2), 7. Chris Windom (10), 8. Logan Seavey (11), 9. Thomas Meseraull (12), 10. Brandon Mattox (18), 11. Mario Clouser (4), 12. Chase Stockon (24), 13. Terry Richards (21), 14. Justin Grant (13), 15. Isaac Chapple (19), 16. Ryan Bernal (3), 17. Robert Ballou (14), 18. Chad Frewaldt (16), 19. Cam Schafer (22), 20. Alex Banales (20), 21. Robert Bell (23), 22. Jason McDougal (5), 23. Matt Westfall (15), 24. Glen Saville (17). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Charles Davis Jr., Laps 3-30 C.J. Leary.

**Glen Saville flipped on lap 1 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2204, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2157, 3-Justin Grant-2121, 4-Tanner Thorson-1958, 5-C.J. Leary-1953, 6-Chris Windom-1848, 7-Jake Swanson-1802, 8-Robert Ballou-1708, 9-Chase Stockon-1408, 10-Kyle Cummins-1163.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-147, 2-Brady Bacon-137, 3-Justin Grant-131, 4-Tanner Thorson-128, 5-Thomas Meseraull-119, 6-Logan Seavey-115, 7-Robert Ballou-114, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-111, 9-Kyle Cummins-84, 10-Buddy Kofoid-79.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 12, 2021 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – Inaugural Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Charles Davis Jr.

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Logan Seavey

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Brandon Mattox

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Chase Stockon (24th to 12th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Terry Richards

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Clinton Bruns

==========

C.J. SEES $20,000 USAC SPRINT CAR PAYDAY AT HUSET'S USAC NATIONALS

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Brandon, South Dakota (September 12, 2021)……When C.J. Leary gets on a roll, he's routinely displayed his ability to ride that hot streak as long as he possibly can.

In fact, since 2016, no driver has won two-in-a-row more often in USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature events than the Greenfield, Ind. native with five.

Sunday night, during the inaugural Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals, Leary became the first driver in the series' 2021 season to win consecutive races on multiple occasions, also doing the same in July at Plymouth, Ind. and Putnamville, Ind.

Leary turned the Brandon, South Dakota 1/3-mile dirt oval into his personal ATM as he followed Saturday's preliminary win with the biggest payday of his racing career during Sunday's finale, collecting a payday of $20,000 by capturing the 40-lap victory.

Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) became the third different race leader on lap 19 after Logan Seavey and Chris Windom exchanged the lead five different times in the first half of the event. Leary tracked down the leaders just one lap prior to midway, and ultimately propelled past Windom for the top spot, then fended off challenges from both Chris Windom and Brady Bacon down the stretch to score a biggie in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman.

"I hit the setup really good two nights in a row," Leary revealed. "That's kind of unheard of in sprint car racing. It's usually just 'get it close and let the driver drive it.' I gave all I had tonight, and during the last yellow, I looked at the jumbo screen and saw that there were only five laps to go, and I was like, 'man, I've got to get up on the wheel If I really want to win this $20-grand because I knew Brady and Chris were hungry to win too.'"

Pole sitter Seavey hopped into driver's seat of the 24-car field on the initial start, leading the opening circuit-and-a-quarter when Robert Ballou and Windom, running second and third, made contact, sending Ballou's left front wheel ramping over Windom's right rear in turn one. Ballou glanced off the outside wall, then stopped with a flat left front tire on his machine. Ballou would return to finish 11th.

Seavey struck the first blow by leading each of the first three laps before Windom stormed by around the outside to lead lap four. Seavey ducked back under Windom to etch his name and number on laps five and six until Windom came roaring back topside to the point on the seventh go-around. Seavey flexed his muscles one more time as he scooted back by on the bottom of turns one and two to reassume the number one position.

Bacon turned up the thermostat on Windom by edging ahead in turn two on lap nine, which caught Windom's attention as he gritted his teeth to shoot by both Bacon and Seavey in quick succession to snare the lead around the bottom berm with nine laps now completed and it's where he'd remain until the 19th lap.

Meanwhile, Leary's run was beginning to take shape as he rocketed past Bacon for third on the lowline in turn two on lap 11, then maneuvered his way by Seavey for second in the same spot five laps later, this time in the thick of the forest of traffic.

Once clear, Leary scooped chunks out of Windom's once commanding lead, from five car lengths behind to two car lengths in arrears and then nosing in front of Windom as the pair of past USAC National Sprint Car champion split above and below 18th running Isaac Chapple in an electrically hair-raising endeavor entering the third turn with Leary shooting out the other side of the tunnel as the race leader.

With five laps remaining, Leary and Windom approached the 13th running car of Mario Clouser to put him a lap down. Leary followed Clouser through the middle while Windom went two steps higher up to the cushion in turns three and four. Windom whirled past the pair and became the new race leader for a split-second when the yellow was displayed for early race leader Logan Seavey who slowed and endured an agonizing crawl down the back straightaway with mechanical issues sending him to the sidelines.

With the yellow, Windom was repositioned back into the position he possessed during the last scored lap – second. Now with lapped traffic absent from the equation, it was time for Leary to prepare for another war, this time with three-time series champ Bacon.

Bacon clawed his way past Windom for second, and then applied the heavy pressure to Leary, looking high and low to no avail as Leary withstood all of the above to win by a 0.582 margin over Bacon, Windom, Tanner Thorson and Kevin Thomas Jr., who finished as the driver who recorded the most points throughout the entirety of the three-night USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car racing event Huset's.

Leary endured traffic, and he endured pressure from two of the best in the business in Bacon and Windom on the homestretch. In the end , he endured trials and tribulations, some of which he attributed to placing him directly in victory lane at the conclusion of the evening.

"That lapped traffic was tough," Leary said. "Actually, it might've won me the race. I caught Clouser there, and he was ripping the top in three and four and I'd been kind of diamonding it. He was slowly driving away from me off of four. So, I was like, 'man, maybe the top finally came in down there.' On the restart, I moved up there and I felt like it was treacherous. I had to go elbows up and give her all she had. It won me the race over there, for sure. That was a helluva race and I had a lot of fun. I've never won $20 grand before."

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.), who'd twice won $20,000-to-win USAC National Sprint Car races at Iowa's Knoxville Raceway in 2019-20, came up just short in his bid for another hefty padding of his wallet, finishing in the second position in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

"I wasn't aggressive enough at the beginning, but with the way the track was, I didn't really know what it was going to do," Bacon explained. "It was actually slicker at the beginning than it was at the end. We had a really good car, and we were able to sneak by Windom on a restart. My only shot was to get under C.J. entering turns one and two before he cut down, but I just couldn't quite get there with two to go. I just had to take what we could get there."

Chris Windom (Canton, Ill.) thought he had the deal sealed with five laps remaining. However, an untimely caution relegated him from first to second, then ultimately third at the finish line in his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Byrd – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar. A similar caution while leading Friday's midget race saw him shuffled the USAC career Triple Crown champion back to second in the end, a feat Windom wasn't all that excited to repeat in Sunday night's sprint car race.

"That's $20,000 down to whatever we got for third," Windom lamented. "I felt like we had it there. We got by (Leary) and I think that would've been the race. It's another caution here this week that put me in a bad spot. That's racing though. You never know when they're going to come out. This weekend, they just haven't been on my side."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 12, 2021 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – Inaugural Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Ryan Bernal (#17w Wood), 2. Jason McDougal (#5m KO), 3. Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou), 4. Tanner Thorson (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood), 5. Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), 6. Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), 7. Chad Frewaldt (#4F Frewaldt), 8. Jeff Pellersels (#X Pellersels), 9. Robert Bell (#71 Bell), 10. Donovan Peterson (#11xs Peterson). 2:09.61 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Chase Stockon (#5s KO), 2. Terry Richards (#18 Richards), 3. Isaac Chapple (#52 Chapple), 4. Mario Clouser (#6 EZR), 5. C.J. Leary (#77m Michael), 6. Chris Windom (#19 Hayward), 7. Thomas Meseraull (2 Yeley), 8. Cam Schafer (#97 Roach), 9. Clinton Bruns (#7 Bruns). 2:11.51

INDY METAL FINISHING / INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (10 laps) 1. Charles Davis Jr. (#47 Davis), 2. Kevin Thomas Jr. (#9K KT), 3. Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), 4. Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), 5. Alex Banales (#5x Baldwin-Fox), 6. Brandon Mattox (#28 Mattox), 7. Jeremy Kerzman (#3K Kerzman), 8. Glen Saville (#19L Layton), 9. Logan Seavey (#5 Baldwin-Fox). NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Alex Banales, 2. Cam Schafer, 3. Glen Saville, 4. Jeremy Kerzman, 5. Jeff Pellersels, 6. Clinton Bruns, 7. Donovan Peterson, 8. Robert Bell. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (9), 2. Brady Bacon (8), 3. Chris Windom (4), 4. Tanner Thorson (10), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (11), 6. Justin Grant (3), 7. Chase Stockon (6), 8. Jason McDougal (12), 9. Thomas Meseraull (7), 10. Ryan Bernal (14), 11. Robert Ballou (2), 12. Jake Swanson (13), 13. Mario Clouser (15), 14. Matt Westfall (18), 15. Brandon Mattox (17), 16. Charles Davis Jr. (5), 17. Logan Seavey (1), 18. Isaac Chapple (16), 19. Terry Richards (19), 20. Cam Schafer (22), 21. Chad Frewaldt (20), 22. Glen Saville (23), 23. Jeremy Kerzman (24), 24. Alex Banales (21). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-3 Logan Seavey, Lap 4 Chris Windom, Laps 5-6 Logan Seavey, Lap 7 Chris Windom, Lap 8 Logan Seavey, Laps 9-18 Chris Windom, Laps 19-40 C.J. Leary.

**Glen Saville flipped during the third heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2271, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2215, 3-Justin Grant-2176, 4-C.J. Leary-2023, 5-Tanner Thorson-2019, 6-Chris Windom-1912, 7-Jake Swanson-1841, 8-Robert Ballou-1749, 9-Chase Stockon-1460, 10-Kyle Cummins-1183.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-148, 2-Brady Bacon-143, 3-Tanner Thorson-134, 4- Justin Grant-131, 5-Thomas Meseraull-119, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-117, 7-Logan Seavey-115, 8-Robert Ballou-114, 9-Kyle Cummins-84, 10-Buddy Kofoid-79.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 17, 2021 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Jeremy Kerzman

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Ryan Bernal

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Alex Banales

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: C.J. Leary (9th to 1st)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Mario Clouser

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Jeff Pellersels

==========

THORSON THREADS THE NEEDLE TO CIRCLE CITY USAC SPRINT WIN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 17, 2021)……No driver has won more often during the 2021 USAC National season than

Tanner Thorson. Likewise, no driver has been victorious more often under the Friday night lights this season than he.

The Minden, Nevada driver added another one to his most prolific USAC campaign yet on this particular Friday evening, leading all 30 laps and threading the needle to avoid catastrophe along the way en route to the win in the series' debut at Circle City Raceway, the first USAC National Sprint Car event held at a dirt track in Indianapolis, Indiana since 1984.

Thorson collected his series-leading 12th USAC National victory of the year, five of which have come on a Friday night. His fifth USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature victory of the season came amid a close call early in the going after leading the first 10 laps of the event in relatively comfortable fashion.

On lap 11, as Thorson was just beginning to work his way into traffic, turn two became calamity corner. With Thorson following just feet behind, the 20th and 21st place cars of Travis Berryhill and Jadon Rogers made bumper-to-bumper contact at the top of the second turn, sending Berryhill into a spin.

The quick acting Thorson mashed the gas, shot the narrow gap, and split the difference between Rogers and Berryhill to escape without harm and without foul in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – CSI – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

“I know I had to show my nose,” Thorson explained. “I kind of poked my nose in there and was kind of hoping they’d jump out of the throttle. As soon as I got next to them, the guy outside of me jumped in the throttle and got into the back of him. I just jumped out of the throttle and rolled right between them.”

As Thorson escaped the escapade, the same couldn’t be said for a few others. Berryhill’s landing spot for his spin just happened to be right into the path of second-running Brady Bacon who locked up his brakes and broadsided the sitting car of Berryhill at the bottom of turn two before coming to a stop.

Moments later, 17th running Ricky Lewis clipped the turn three infield tire and flipped wildly several times, eventually coming to a rest upside down in turn four. The Ventura, Calif. native, who was up until 9am that morning constructing his brand-new racecar, walked away without injury.

When action resumed, it was second-running Kevin Thomas Jr. taking repeated runs at Thorson at the top of the pedestal. Thomas worked the bottom with Thorson never straying from the top. Thomas came within a half-car length of Thorson at the stripe on both laps 13 and 14, then gradually slipped back to a full length on lap 15, two lengths on lap 16 and more beyond the 17th circuit.

During Thomas Jr.’s surge, similar circumstances were occurring for Emerson Axsom, who ran ninth during the lap 11 restart and had worked his way up to third by the time eighth running Thomas Meseraull spun to a stop onto the edge of the infield grass in turn two on lap 21.

On the ensuing lap 22 restart, Axsom pulled no punches and wasted little time in continuing his spurt to the front of the field. In turn three, Axsom shot to the bottom to slide past Thomas Jr. However, midway through the turn, as Axsom skated up to the cushion, his car became just a tad too sideways.

The trailing Thomas Jr. tried but couldn’t avoid the contact, his front bumper nudging the left side nerf bar of Axsom, which straightened Axsom out. Both kept going, after nearly halting. As they gathered their horses up, Chris Windom and Jake Swanson raced under the pair while C.J. Leary went around the outside of both, completely knocking both out of the top-five in the running order.

The trouble that transpired behind was a-okay with Thorson, free without a major challenge the rest of the way to win the $5,000 top prize with Windom, Swanson, Bacon (who restarted 20th on lap 11) and Leary rounding out the top-five.

Chris Windom (Canton, Ill.) finished as the runner-up, 3.092 seconds behind Thorson in his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Byrd – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar.

“I was just holding him off there at the end,” Windom recalled of keeping J. Swanson at bay. “We probably weren’t the winning car there, but we got a little better on the last restart. I adjusted on my shocks a little bit but didn’t quite get tight enough to be good off the bottom all while Tanner was hitting his marks on the top. It was kind of hard to reel him in at that point.

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) had a tumultuous ride on the way to a 3rd place result in what was his fourth podium finish of the season in his Team AZ Racing/USW Cat Construction – RSS Industries – CSI/DRC/1-Way Chevy. An incident during

the heat race forced his crew to swap out front ends, and ultimately, the team was forced to transfer their way through the night's semi-feature.

Swanson's first appearance at the 1/4-mile dirt oval led him from a 10th place starting spot and into the top-three at a venue he likened to a Midwest version of California's Ventura Raceway.

"The fact that we can dig ourselves out of these holes, that's big. That means a lot," Swanson said. "You have to be able to do that; that's what wins races and wins championships. I don't think we wanted to practice changing front ends, but we did. We can fine tune. It was good to drive by guys and roll up through there, but we just need to start up front to feel like we'll be in position. We can't have bad luck like that in those heat races and have problems like that because it just buries you too deep."

Brady Bacon's (Broken Arrow, Okla.) 43rd career Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying time on Friday night allowed him to become the current Circle City Speedway one-lap track record for both USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Cars and USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midgets after scoring quick time back in June at CCR during Indiana Midget Week.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 17, 2021 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.163 (New Track Record); 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.301; 3. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-12.330; 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-12.346; 5. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.363; 6. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.370; 7. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.438; 8. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-12.449; 9. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.541; 10. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.558; 11. Max Adams, 2E, Epperson-12.605; 12. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-12.627; 13. Thomas Meseraull, 23s, Simon-12.644; 14. J.J. Hughes, 76, Hughes-12.663; 15. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.676; 16. Brent Beauchamp, 29, LB-12.705; 17. Ricky Lewis, 11, Lewis-12.749; 18. Emerson Axsom, 39BC, Clauson/Marshall-12.785; 19. Travis Berryhill, 77s, Sturgeon-12.796; 20. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.872; 21. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.991; 22. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-13.028; 23. Braydon Cromwell, 77, Sturgeon-13.059; 24. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-13.169; 25. Andrew Prather, P8, Prather-13.210; 26. Scott Hampton, 51, Slinkard-13.251.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Brent Beauchamp, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Jason McDougal, 7. Max Guilford, 8. Andrew Prather, 9. Travis Berryhill. 2:07.99 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Max Adams, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. J.J. Hughes, 4. Chris Windom, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Ricky Lewis, 7. Scott Hampton, 8. Braydon Cromwell, 9. Jake Swanson. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING / INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Koby Barksdale, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Justin Grant, 8. Jadon Rogers. 2:13.31

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Ricky Lewis, 6. Travis Berryhill, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Scott Hampton, 9. Braydon Cromwell, 10. Max Guilford, 11. Andrew Prather. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Tanner Thorson (2), 2. Chris Windom (1), 3. Jake Swanson (10), 4. Brady Bacon (6), 5. C.J. Leary (3), 6. Shane Cottle (5), 7. Emerson Axsom (9), 8. Kevin Thomas Jr. (4), 9. Justin Grant (11), 10. Chase Stockon (12), 11. Jason McDougal (13), 12. Robert Ballou (20), 13. Koby Barksdale (14), 14. Matt Westfall (16), 15. Jadon Rogers (22), 16. Max Adams (7), 17. Brent Beauchamp (17), 18. Thomas Meseraull (8), 19. Brandon Mattox (21), 20. J.J. Hughes (15), 21. Ricky Lewis (18), 22. Travis Berryhill (19). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Tanner Thorson.

**Andrew Prather flipped during the semi. Ricky Lewis flipped on lap 11 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2342, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2274, 3-Justin Grant-2225, 4-Tanner Thorson-2095, 5-C.J. Leary-2090, 6-Chris Windom-1984, 7-Jake Swanson-1914, 8-Robert Ballou-1792, 9-Chase Stockon-1509, 10-Logan Seavey-1183.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-154, 2-Tanner Thorson-149, 3-Brady Bacon-145, 4- Justin Grant-133, 5-Robert Ballou-122, 6-Thomas Meseraull-119, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-117, 8-Logan Seavey-115, 9-Buddy Kofoid-88, 10-Kyle Cummins-84.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 18, 2021 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Haubstadt Hustler (Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series)

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Jadon Rogers

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Max Adams

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Jake Swanson

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (20th to 12th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Koby Barksdale

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Scott Hampton

==========

4 OF A KIND: KTJ JETS TO FOURTH HAUBSTADT HUSTLER WIN WORTH $12,000

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

Haubstadt, Indiana (September 18, 2021)……It wasn't all that long ago that Kevin Thomas Jr. considered himself lapped traffic at Tri-State Speedway.

Three years removed from his last moment of exuberance at the Haubstadt, Indiana quarter mile, the all-time leader in Haubstadt Hustler victories was back on top with his fourth career win in the 14th edition of the 40-lap event on Saturday night.

The 2013, 2017, 2018 and 2021 Haubstadt Hustler winner rose to the lead on lap 18 where he took advantage of a fortuitous opportunity in traffic when the two frontrunners collided. Thomas then led the final 23 circuits to become

$12,000 richer in the event co-sanctioned by the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship and the Midwest Sprint Car Series.

In the ensuing years after his most recent Tri-State Speedway win, the Cullman, Alabama driver's USAC results at the track were unfathomable considering he now stands ahead of Daron Clayton and is now tied with Kyle Cummins as the winningest USAC Sprint Car driver at TSS with six scores in his career.

In five USAC starts between 2019-2020, Thomas finished better than 14th just once. In 2021, however, his program has taken a turn for the better with a 7th in April; 2nd in July; and capped it off with a victory on Saturday in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy.

"I was lapped traffic here for two years," Thomas reflected. "I veered away from the normal things we did, so we just went back to the drawing board, figured some things out and went back to our normal package. We just gave it everything we've got, and it worked out. It's been a work in progress for the last couple years to get back to our normal form here. I think after a few times being here and running on the podium and having good races, 40 laps is what we needed."

Thomas' 34th career USAC National Sprint Car feature victory places him just one behind Jon Stanbrough and Rich Vogler for 11th on the all-time series win list, four of which have now come in the lucrative Haubstadt Hustler.

"It's pretty cool," Thomas said of his Tri-State success. "There's a lot of people that are really good here who've been doing it a long time. Cummins being one of them, Clayton being the other. They're showmen around this place, so it's good to be in the same category as them."

Thomas' seventh series win of the year has already equaled his most successful USAC National Sprint Car season in terms of feature victories after also winning seven in 2013 and 2018. And it all came after having to make some alterations to his ride to get it prepared to go the distance.

"It's been a bit of an up and down night," Thomas said. "I had to change a rear end earlier today. I haven't won at Haubstadt in what seems like forever, so it's fun to come back and win the Haubstadt Hustler again. It was a good showing for us and I'm super happy for our guys."

Thomas started fourth and remained in the position for the first 12 laps while pole sitter and 2015 Haubstadt Hustler winner Brady Short led the opening lap, which were his first laps led in a USAC National Sprint Car feature since winning the USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK round at Lincoln Park Speedway more than five years earlier in July of 2016.

Short's initial run at the front was short lived, however, as he slid straight up the track on his entry in turn one on the second lap, allowing the defending Haubstadt Hustler winner, Chase Stockon, a wide-open shot underneath to claim the top spot.

Short kept in close touch with Stockon, not allowing the 2021 MSCS titlist to construct a profound chasm between himself and his challengers. Short was the teeter to Stockon's totter, and on lap seven, it was Short's turn to repossess control of the race lead when he used the bottom side to charge past Stockon at the exit of turn four.

Subsequently constructing a 1.4 second lead, Short held control as July Tri-State USAC Sprint winner Justin Grant slotted into second. On lap 16, Grant chiseled a full second off Short's advantage as Short skidded up the surface in turn four while trying to wade his way through the backend of the field.

Push came to shove on the 18th lap in turn four when the 21st running car of Max Adams became sideways at the exit of turn four. The nose of Adams' car contacted the passing car of Short, which ricocheted him into Grant, knocking both airborne and askew, clearing a path for both Thomas and Cummins to race by on the outside and take over the top two spots.

"Early in the race, it gets a little tight whenever we get around lapped cars just because the track is still a little narrow," Thomas explained. "It's 40 laps, so they have to do that in order for us to have a good race there at the end. It's just unfortunate for (Short and Grant) because they were really fast. I don't really think I would've had a whole lot for them."

In pursuit of Thomas for the next 16 successive laps, Cummins' bid for a third career Haubstadt Hustler crown ended on lap 34. Cindy Chambers, running 22nd, and another car made contact between turns three and four, knocking out the front end of Chambers machine as it veered straight into the path of Cummins who ramped over her left rear tire, performed a 180-degree spin, and came to a stop after bouncing his left rear tire against the outside turn four wall.

Cummins managed to restart and finish in the 11th position. Meanwhile, Chambers, who used an MSCS provisional, became the fifth woman driver to start a USAC National Sprint Car feature event, joining Katlynn Leer, Jordan Weaver, Shauna Hogg and Sheila Rankin. Chambers finished 22nd.

From there on out, for the final seven lap stretch, Thomas was unrattled as he whisked away from the field virtually unchallenged to grab the checkered flag by a 2.216 second margin over Justin Grant, Brady Bacon, Tanner Thorson and Chase Stockon.

Justin Grant's prowess in USAC National Sprint Car competition at Tri-State has been solid this year with the Ione, California driver earning a 4th in the spring, followed by a win in July and a runner-up finish on Saturday in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy. His previous best finish in the Haubstadt Hustler came in a sixth-place performance in 2020.

"I think we're finally getting it figured out," Grant said of his recent performances at Tri-State. "I didn't want to think that last time in case it was just a fluke. The guys gave me a great car again. We were pretty good tonight, but we were maybe a little bit too good, too early and it got loose at the end. So, we'll note it and try to come back stronger for the next 40-lapper."

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) swapped cars for Saturday night's Haubstadt Hustler following a fourth-place result on Friday night at Circle City Raceway. One night later, it was a typical, gold standard Bacon result with a third-place finish in

his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy, which marked his fifth consecutive top-five finish with the series.

"We're usually good here in the feature," Bacon said. "We just struggled at getting a decent starting spot. I could at least see the front tonight and we were able to get to third. The track had a little more grip to start with than we're used to here, so it kind of threw us off a little bit. Every time we think we're getting something figured out, it throws us a little curveball. But, usually in the feature, everything gets back to normal and we're pretty good."

Of note, all five KO Motorsports cars of Chase Stockon (5th), Daison Pursley (8th), Jason McDougal (9th), Kent Schmidt (14th) and Carson Garrett (21st) started Saturday night's feature, marking the first time in USAC National Sprint Car history that five cars from the same team made the same feature event.

McDougal's performance during Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying was the first career fast time for the driver in USAC National Sprint Car competition.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 18, 2021 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Haubstadt Hustler (Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series)

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.562; 2. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-13.721; 3. Stephen Schnapf, 11s, Martin-13.862; 4. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.933; 5. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-13.949; 6. Critter Malone, 7, Seven-14.131; 7. Stan Beadles, 84, Beadles-14.167; 8. James Lyerla, 11, JL-14.349; 9. Eddie Vancil, 7v, Vancil-14.984; 10. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-17.268.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Kendall Ruble, 17, Ruble-13.525; 2. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-13.704; 3. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-13.911; 4. Cindy Chambers, 18c, Chambers-14.010; 5. Collin Ambrose, 36, Ambrose-14.081; 6. Dylan Moan, 17D, Moan-14.120; 7. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.126; 8. Braydon Cromwell, 77s, Sturgeon-14.312; 9. Carson Garrett, 15KO, KO-14.323.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT THREE: 1. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.399; 2. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.483; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.569; 4. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.675; 5. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-13.724; 6. Emerson Axsom, 39BC, Clauson/Marshall-13.867; 7. Sam Scott, 7s, Scott-13.924; 8. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.070; 9. Tres Mehler, 5A, Hawkins-NT.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT FOUR: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-13.404; 2. Daison Pursley, 5KO, KO-13.494; 3. Kent Schmidt, 5K, KO-13.762; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.819; 5. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-14.029; 6. Matt Humphrey, 79, Humphrey-14.391; 7. Kyle Stearns, 87, Stearns-14.797; 8. Ted Kirkpatrick, 63LK, Sturgeon-15.082; 9. Chris Robling, 23, Kolehouse/Scott-15.663.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Stephen Schnapf, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Critter Malone, 6. C.J. Leary, 7. Stan Beadles, 8. James Lyerla, 9. Aric Gentry, 10. Eddie Vancil. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Short, 2. Kendall Ruble, 3. Chris Windom, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. Cindy Chambers, 7. Collin Ambrose, 8. Dylan Moan, 9. Braydon Cromwell. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Jason McDougal, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Koby Barksdale, 7. Sam Scott, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Tres Mehler. NT

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Kent Schmidt, 5. Max Adams, 6. Matt Humphrey, 7. Kyle Stearns, 8. Ted Kirkpatrick, 9. Chris Robling. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Aric Gentry, 2. James Lyerla, 3. Braydon Cromwell, 4. Ted Kirkpatrick, 5. Chris Robling, 6. Eddie Vancil, 7. Dylan Moan, 8. Brandon Mattox. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Carson Garrett, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Koby Barksdale, 5. Max Adams, 6. Aric Gentry, 7. Sam Scott, 8. James Lyerla, 9. Collin Ambrose, 10. Cindy Chambers, 11. Kyle Stearns, 12. Braydon Cromwell, 13. Ted Kirkpatrick, 14. Stan Beadles, 15. Matt Humphrey, 16. Critter Malone. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (4), 2. Justin Grant (3), 3. Brady Bacon (8), 4. Tanner Thorson (7), 5. Chase Stockon (2), 6. Robert Ballou (15), 7. Brady Short (1), 8. Daison Pursley (12), 9. Jason McDougal (11), 10. Jake Swanson (14), 11. Kyle Cummins (5), 12. Koby Barksdale (20), 13. Jadon Rogers (13), 14. Kent Schmidt (16), 15. C.J. Leary (19), 16. Chris Windom (10), 17. Emerson Axsom (17), 18. Stephen Schnapf (9), 19. Collin Ambrose (23-P), 20. Kendall Ruble (6), 21. Carson Garrett (18), 22. Cindy Chambers (24-P), 23. Max Adams (21), 24. Aric Gentry (22). NT

(P) represents an MSCS provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Brady Short, Laps 2-6 Chase Stockon, Laps 7-17 Brady Short, Laps 18-40 Kevin Thomas Jr.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2392, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2324, 3-Justin Grant-2275, 4-Tanner Thorson-2145, 5-C.J. Leary-2140, 6-Chris Windom-2034, 7-Jake Swanson-1964, 8-Robert Ballou-1842, 9-Chase Stockon-1559, 10-Logan Seavey-1213.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-154, 2-Tanner Thorson-152, 3-Brady Bacon-150, 4- Justin Grant-134, 5-Robert Ballou-131, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-120, 7-Thomas Meseraull-119, 8-Logan Seavey-115, 9-Buddy Kofoid-88, 10-Kyle Cummins-84.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 23, 2021 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Kyle Cummins

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Jason McDougal

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brady Short

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (15th to 6th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Jadon Rogers

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Sam Scott

==========

SUNSHINE'S DESIRE PREVAILS IN 4-CROWN USAC SPRINT SCORE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Rossburg, Ohio (September 25, 2021)……Tyler Courtney had one goal and one goal only in mind coming into Saturday night's 39th running of the 4-Crown Nationals presented by NKT.TV at Eldora Speedway – to win all four divisions.

After running a distant fifth in the USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget feature to begin the night, the Indianapolis, Ind. driver admitted to having to dig deep to shake off the disappointment heading into the 30-lap USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature.

Once the green flag was dropped, however, the burning desire immediately rekindled within, which he utilized to blitz from his sixth starting position and into the lead just nine laps from the finish past Logan Seavey.

Courtney prevailed with the victory after the two waged battle down the stretch, sending himself into 4-Crown Nationals history by becoming the first driver ever to win three consecutive USAC National Sprint Car features in the event after previously standing triumphant in both 2018 and 2019.

The 2018 USAC National Sprint Car champion was adamant down the stretch that the USAC Sprint Car race was one opportunity he and his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/NOS Turbo – ZMax/Spike/Chevy weren't going to let slip from their grasp.

"It was hard to find motivation after losing the first one," Courtney admitted. "We came here with one goal in mind and that was to win all four of them. It's unfortunate; I really wanted to win four. I'm more disappointed in myself, more than anything. My guys bust their tails to make all three of these cars go fast and make my job easy. I feel like I probably didn't quite do my whole job in the midget feature, but I made sure to get every ounce out of it in the sprint car race."

Courtney's sixth career USAC National Sprint Car win at Eldora was the 11th overall of his career at the half-mile dirt oval in USAC competition. The 31st score of Courtney's USAC National Sprint Car career equaled Robert Ballou for 15th on the list.

Furthermore, Courtney's sixth overall victory at the 4-Crown Nationals made him the third winningest driver in the event's history, behind only Jack Hewitt's 19 and Dave Darland's seven.

He set the tone earlier in the night by recording his 14th career Fatheadz Eyewear fast qualifying time with the series, tying Billy Cassella for 34th all-time. That positioned Courtney sixth on the grid for the 30-lap main event.

However, it was Chris Windom who picked right up where he left off after wiring all 25 laps to capture the victory in the preceding midget feature. He'd soon find a familiar foe in Logan Seavey who slotted into second behind him on lap four fresh off a runner-up finish to Windom in said midget main event.

Seavey grabbed the upper hand on lap nine as he cruised through the middle on entry into turn three to glide past the rim-riding Windom. Two laps later, Courtney took the slider line into turn one to drift past Windom, smooching the wall with the right rear tire ever so slightly as he overtook the second position on lap 11.

Next up on Courtney's hit parade was the race lead. Taking the same slider line into the first turn on lap 13, Courtney carried a tad too much speed, which pulled him straight into the clutches of the wall. The contact was more than a kiss, but just a touch below a slobber knocker, which momentarily lifted his left side wheels off the track surface.

As Courtney wrestled back control, he witnessed his brief tenure up front dissipate to a nine car length deficit. But, anywhere, especially at Eldora, you can't count Courtney out. He returned to the fray at the front of the field on lap 17, sliding past Seavey in turn one but was unable to make it stick as Seavey crossed back under.

Ultimately, Courtney stuck to his guns, putting his right rear tire mere inches from the outside wall, and firing around the wide-open top-lane at wide-open speed, surpassing Seavey for the top spot by a single car length at the stripe at the conclusion of lap 22.

With that said, Seavey refused to go quietly into the night as he attempted to refute his trend of runner-up finishes in the midget on Friday and Saturday night. Seavey edged ahead of Courtney between turns one and two with seven laps to go and was right in the same spot in turns three and four during each of the next two laps.

However, with Seavey working the middle, Courtney's line right on the edge of the high side proved to be just right as he utilized the supersonic momentum to pull away in the final five laps and earn his second USAC National Sprint Car win of the year over Seavey, Windom, Justin Grant and Isaac Chapple.

Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) finished as the runner-up in his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – Claxton Engines/DRC/Claxton Chevy after leading a race-high 13 laps, which served as his best career USAC National Sprint Car result at Eldora.

Windom (Canton, Ill.) followed up his winning 4-Crown midget performance with a solid third-place finish in his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Byrd – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar, making it his third "podium" finish in his last four feature starts with the series.

Grant (Sutter, Calif.) endured a vicious turn three flip during practice, which necessitated the TOPP Motorsports team pulling down the backup car for the remainder of the evening. Grant used the car to win his heat race, then finish fourth in the feature aboard his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

Chapple (Willow Branch, Ind.) scored his best finish of the 2021 USAC National Sprint Car season with a fifth in his Isaac Chapple Racing/Mike Martin Racing – KL – No Drama Zone – The Tin Plate/DRC/Ott Chevy. It was his third consecutive top-10 finish in the 4-Crown USAC Sprint feature after scoring a career best third in 2018 and a ninth in 2019.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 25, 2021 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 39th 4-Crown Nationals Presented by NKT.TV

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Tyler Courtney, 7BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-16.123; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.178; 3. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-16.212; 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-16.301; 5. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-16.306; 6. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.323; 7. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-16.349; 8. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-16.458; 9. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.476; 10. Thomas Meseraull, 23s, Simon-16.489; 11. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-16.579; 12. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-16.641; 13. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-17.099; 14. Steven Drevicki, 19s, DeGre-17.105; 15. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-17.243; 16. Tye Mihocko, 5T, Parker-17.375; 17. Paul Dues, 87, Dues-17.432; 18. Dickie Gaines, 44, Soudrette-17.483; 19. Alex Banales, 5A, Baldwin/Fox-17.519; 20. Dustin Ingle, 2DI, Ingle-17.566; 21. Kyle May, 39x, May-17.680; 22. Davey Ray, 14AJ, FattFro-NT (time of 16.510 disallowed due to not meeting minimum weight requirements).

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-16.171; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-16.326; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.352; 4. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.493; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.507; 6. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.703; 7. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-16.727; 8. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-16.753; 9. Dallas Hewitt, 18, Keen-16.929; 10. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-17.171; 11. Chad Boespflug, 24, Simon-17.302; 12. Nick Bilbee, 17, Bilbee-17.355; 13. Brandon Whited, 15, Whited-17.436; 14. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-17.456; 15. Cole Bodine, 57, DCT-17.572; 16. Max Guilford, 79BT, Goodnight-17.583; 17. Chris Phillips, 6, Phillips-17.620; 18. Chet Williams, 38, Williams-17.732; 19. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-17.765; 20. Damon Cooley, 19c, Cooley-17.941; 21. Jake Scott, 66, McMurray-18.348.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Tyler Courtney, 3. Chris Windom, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Isaac Chapple, 7. Carmen Perigo, 8. Alex Banales, 9. Paul Dues, 10. Braxton Cummings, 11. Kyle May. 2:20.31

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Davey Ray, 7. Tanner Thorson, 8. Dickie Gaines, 9. Dustin Ingle, 10. Steven Drevicki, 11. Tye Mihocko. 2:21.35

INDY METAL FINISHING THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Dallas Hewitt, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Brandon Whited, 7. Chad Boespflug, 8. Chris Phillips, 9. Cole Bodine, 10. Jake Scott, 11. Ryan Barr. 2:23.28

INDY RACE PARTS FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Nick Bilbee, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Max Adams, 6. Damon Cooley, 7. Chet Williams, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Matt Goodnight, 10. Max Guilford. 2:24.91

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Tye Mihocko, 2. Chris Phillips, 3. Max Guilford, 4. Ryan Barr, 5. Dickie Gaines, 6. Paul Dues, 7. Dustin Ingle, 8. Alex Banales, 9. Chet Williams, 10. Davey Ray, 11. Jake Scott, 12. Kyle May, 13. Damon Cooley. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Isaac Chapple, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Max Adams, 7. Chris Phillips, 8. Brandon Whited, 9. Matt Goodnight, 10. Carmen Perigo, 11. Ryan Barr, 12. Sterling Cling, 13. Braxton Cummings, 14. Max Guilford, 15. Chad Boespflug, 16. Cole Bodine, 17. Tye Mihocko. 3:51.59

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Tyler Courtney (6), 2. Logan Seavey (5), 3. Chris Windom (2), 4. Justin Grant (7), 5. Isaac Chapple (12), 6. Brady Bacon (4), 7. Kevin Thomas Jr. (1), 8. Shane Cottle (18), 9. Matt Westfall (15), 10. Jadon Rogers (22), 11. C.J. Leary (3), 12. Robert Ballou (11), 13. Nick Bilbee (9), 14. Chase Stockon (13), 15. Thomas Meseraull (8), 16. Max Adams (19), 17. Jason McDougal (16), 18. Brandon Mattox (21), 19. Kyle Cummins (17), 20. Jake Swanson (10), 21. Tanner Thorson (14), 22. Dallas Hewitt (20). 9:41.62

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-8 Chris Windom, Laps 9-21 Logan Seavey, Laps 22-30 Tyler Courtney.

**Justin Grant flipped during practice. Damon Cooley flipped during the C-Main.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2456, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2385, 3-Justin Grant-2344, 4-C.J. Leary-2188, 5-Tanner Thorson-2172, 6-Chris Windom-2107, 7-Jake Swanson-1989, 8-Robert Ballou-1886, 9-Chase Stockon-1601, 10-Logan Seavey-1263.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-157, 2-Tanner Thorson-154, 3-Brady Bacon-150, 4- Justin Grant-143, 5-Robert Ballou-131, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-130, 7-Logan Seavey-124, 8-Thomas Meseraull-122, 9-Buddy Kofoid-91, 10-Kyle Cummins-84.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: October 1, 2021 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Oval – 22nd Jim Hurtubise Classic Presented by Terre Haute Chevrolet

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

ProSource 4-Crown Nationals Passing Master: Logan Seavey (22)

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Max Adams

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Tyler Courtney

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Indy Metal Finishing Third Heat Winner: Logan Seavey

Indy Race Parts Fourth Heat Winner: Nick Bilbee

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Tanner Thorson

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Jadon Rogers (22nd to 10th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Nick Bilbee

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Chris Phillips

ProSource Hard Work Award: Jadon Rogers

Rosewood Machine Precision Move of the Race: Justin Grant

==========

WINDOM JOINS HEWITT & GARY B., WINS #8 AT TERRE HAUTE'S HURTUBISE CLASSIC

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Terre Haute, Indiana (October 1, 2021)……Winning performances in USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car competition at the Terre Haute Action Track are reserved for greatness.

None have been greater in this era at the western Indiana dirt oval than Chris Windom who engineered his eighth career series victory at Terre Haute on Friday night, elevating him into a three-way tie with USAC and National Sprint Car Hall of Famers Gary Bettenhausen and Jack Hewitt as the track's winningest USAC National Sprint Car drivers ever.

"That's pretty surreal," Windom acknowledged. "I wouldn't have ever thought I would get to this point. To tie somebody like Jack Hewitt, who I feel like has never lost on a half-mile when he raced, is pretty cool. This place has been good to me over the years. I love coming here anytime we can and, hopefully, we can get one more win to take over the lead solely."

Windom started third on the grid in the 22nd running of the Jim Hurtubise Classic Presented by Terre Haute Chevrolet but quickly put himself into position to track down racelong leader Jake Swanson on the 18th lap of the 30-lap feature, then motored away to for his second series win of the year in his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Byrd – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar.

The Canton, Illinois driver entered the event as the only four-time winner of the Hurtubise Classic and left the premises as the lone five-time victor of the event in 2011, 2016, 2017, 2020 and now 2021. Furthermore, his 30th overall USAC National Sprint Car win equaled him with Tyler Courtney for 16th on the all-time list.

It's been a season that Windom readily admits has been somewhat of a rough go with "off nights" arriving more often than preferred throughout the campaign. It's been a season in which the highest of highs have both come at Terre Haute after capturing his only USAC Sprint Car victory of the season there during the Tony Hulman Classic in May.

This one was special. This place is special. And when Windom was close enough to make his move on Swanson just after the halfway point, he went all-in and it ultimately paid off with what was truly a historic Terre Haute milestone win.

"I just love this place," Windom exclaimed. "I love the speed and the technicality of it also. Our cars are just always so good here. Jake (Swanson) was really good early on and I felt like I would catch him, but he'd kind of pull away. When I got close enough to make a move, I had to make a move there. I knew I cleared him, but I knew it was close. Once you get to lapped traffic, it's really hard to get through. I wanted to clear him before we started getting into heavy lapped traffic because I knew we had the car to win."

Pole sitter Robert Ballou edged ahead initially at the start of the feature entering turn one, but Swanson quickly assumed control utilizing the outside groove, narrowly eclipsing Ballou at the stripe by a half car length at the conclusion of the opening lap, a position he'd remain in for the majority of the distance.

Just a tick later, Windom crawled the bottom around the inside guardrail to go past Ballou between turns three and four to slot into second on the third lap.

Meanwhile, Swanson was in the midst of constructing a 1.5 second lead, which began to shrink ever so slightly once he thrust himself into traffic by lap nine, seeing his lead dwindle by half in that time frame to where Windom had roped him in to within two to three car lengths.

By lap 12, Windom was able to position himself underneath Swanson entering turn one. Swanson biked slightly as he lifted both left side wheels while the right-side wheels were simultaneously nestled snugly on the cushion. Swanson pressed on and kept Windom at arm's length for the time being.

Splitting high and low between lapped traffic proved seamless for Swanson, yet a slight bobble in turn two on lap 17 proved to be his undoing as Windom instantly closed the gap between he and Swanson's rear bumper. Windom cut to the inside and attempted a slide job on Swanson for the lead to no avail, falling into line briefly before restuffing the cannon and taking aim once again in between the first and second turns.

There, Windom stuck his pass of Swanson, sliding from the bottom to top and forcing Swanson to 'whoa up' then watch Windom make his exodus down the back straightaway. Swanson remained just a car-length-and-a-half back until getting in above the cushion between turns one and two on lap 19, dropping him to half-straightway back, and spelling the end for Swanson's hopes and spelling good fortune for Windom on this particular evening.

Although tough sledding through traffic proved the be the path after surpassing Swanson with 13 laps remaining, Windom had no qualms, no issues and no hesitation as he stretched his lead out to 3.289 seconds by race's end with Swanson a distant second, Ballou third, point leader Brady Bacon fourth and Kevin Thomas Jr. fifth at the checkered.

A pleasant and joyful demeanor couldn't completely conceal the despair of Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) who once again became crushingly close to a first career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car feature win after leading a race-high 17 laps. While a second place is nice, he's more than ready to find that elusive breakthrough triumph following his fourth runner-up result of the season in his Team AZ Racing/USW Cat Construction – RSS Industries – CSI/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

I'm really tired of losing," Swanson laid out. "The fact that we've done what we've done in such a short amount of time, I can't thank them enough for the opportunity. Obviously, it's frustrating, and I think we're due for a win. We're hungry for it and we'll just keep plugging away.

It was just one of those deals where I could tell (Windom) had the line, so you've got to make a choice as a driver whether to try and drive around him or whether you're going to try to cut underneath him. He did a good enough job sliding me to where he landed right in front of the racecar, and I couldn't really make either decision. It just broke my momentum and that's why he's a good racecar driver."

With his third-place finish, 2015 Jim Hurtubise Classic winner Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) recorded his best finish with the series since a second-place result at Selinsgrove (Pa.) Speedway in June of this year aboard his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

"I came here tonight with a totally different package, trying to get my balance right and I've struggled all year to get that," Ballou explained. "It was awful, so we threw the notebook at it and got it better. With the track changing the way it did, I don't have my shocks exactly where I need to be and, hopefully, by tomorrow we can get a little bit better of a gameplan and can finish two spots better."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: October 1, 2021 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Oval – 22nd Jim Hurtubise Classic Presented by Terre Haute Chevrolet

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-19.377; 2. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-19.809; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-19.850; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-19.874; 5. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-19.895; 6. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-19.897; 7. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-19.949; 8. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-19.954; 9. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-20.039; 10. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-20.093; 11. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-20.161; 12. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-20.168; 13. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-20.170; 14. Tye Mihocko, 5T, Parker-20.185; 15. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-20.202; 16. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-20.209; 17. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-20.264; 18. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-20.379; 19. Mitch Wissmiller, 29, RMB-20.550; 20. Davey Ray, 14AJ, FattFro-20.584; 21. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-20.606; 22. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-20.687; 23. Brandon Morin, 98, Morin-20.706; 24. Patrick Budde, 90, Budde-22.220.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Max Adams, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Tanner Thorson, 7. Mitch Wissmiller, 8. Sterling Cling. 2:43.05

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Tye Mihocko, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Harley Burns, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Davey Ray, 8. Brandon Morin. 2:45.84

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Patrick Budde. 2:42.02

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Chris Windom (3), 2. Jake Swanson (2), 3. Robert Ballou (1), 4. Brady Bacon (5), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (7), 6. Tanner Thorson (9), 7. Logan Seavey (11), 8. C.J. Leary (12), 9. Shane Cottle (14), 10. Chase Stockon (6), 11. Jadon Rogers (15), 12. Max Adams (8), 13. Mario Clouser (10), 14. Justin Grant (4), 15. Jason McDougal (18), 16. Brandon Mattox (13), 17. Sterling Cling (22), 18. Matt Westfall (21), 19. Davey Ray (20), 20. Harley Burns (17), 21. Brandon Morin (23), 22. Tye Mihocko (16), 23. Patrick Budde (24), 24. Mitch Wissmiller (19). 10:31.97 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-17 Jake Swanson, Laps 18-30 Chris Windom.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2525, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2451, 3-Justin Grant-2387, 4-C.J. Leary-2243, 5-Tanner Thorson-2236, 6-Chris Windom-2187, 7-Jake Swanson-2063, 8-Robert Ballou-1957, 9-Chase Stockon-1655, 10-Logan Seavey-1318.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-159, 2-Tanner Thorson-157, 3-Brady Bacon-151, 4- Justin Grant-143, 5-Logan Seavey-133, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-132, 7-Robert Ballou-131, 8-Thomas Meseraull-122, 9-Buddy Kofoid-91, 10-Shane Cottle-88.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: October 2, 2021 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Oval – Fall Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Chris Windom

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Tanner Thorson

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Max Adams

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

KSE Racing Products / B & W Auto Mart Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (14th to 9th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Mario Clouser

==========

KTJ WINS 3rd FALL NATIONALS WITH LAST LAP CROSSOVER AT THE BURG

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Lawrenceburg, Indiana (October 2, 2021)……Kevin Thomas Jr. knew it was coming.

On the fly, he had to conjure up a plan on whether to fight the inevitable slide job on the final lap or just let it happen and prepare himself with a counter measure in response.

After missing his mark in turn one on the 30th and final lap of Saturday night's $10,000-to-win Fall Nationals at Indiana's Lawrenceburg Speedway, those exact thoughts raced through his mind with Chris Windom and Tanner Thorson already in hot pursuit and dead-set on denying his plan to become the first ever three-time winner in the event's history.

"I went down the front stretch to get the white flag and just told myself, 'do not miss this ridge' getting into turn one and, sure enough, I missed the whole thing," Thomas recalled. "I knew as soon as I was coming off two that somebody was going to have a run, and I knew one of the 19s was going to rip the top through one and two and slide me. My best option was to let him go, then hit the ridge in the middle of three and four and cross him over."

As it turned out, it was the straight 19 of Windom who was tailing Thomas on the last go around. Although the pressure hadn't been totally and forcefully applied up to that point during the final four lap stretch, Thomas sensed something was about to go down as he sought the best course of action for his defense.

"I knew he was coming," Thomas admitted. "I could hear him back there and I saw the top cleaning off. Where I'd been running was a little bit off the top, more through the middle. There was a ridge, but it was starting to go away there in three and four and especially in one and two. I was like, 'man, do I move? What do I do? I hadn't felt any pressure up to that point."

As the leader, it's practically impossible to tell what exactly is going on behind your back, and it became readily apparent coming to the white flag that Windom was setting up for one last hurrah to slide past Thomas in heroic fashion to score his first victory in the event after 14 consecutive years of trying.

The only question remained whether Windom would be able to retain his lead once he slid past, and how? After blazing a path around turns one and two, Windom shadowed Thomas' rear bumper for the entire length of the back straightaway before making a break toward the bottom of turn three.

Thomas watched Windom sail past his front bumper up to the cushion as he flicked the wheel to the left and traced the middle portion of the high banks. Windom took one more glance underneath, but Thomas had control in the palms of his hands as he motored off the final corner to defeat Windom by a 0.268 second margin, a mere one-and-a-half car length ahead, in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy.

For Thomas, it was his third career Fall Nationals victory after previous triumphs arrived for him in the odd-numbered years of 2017, 2019 and now 2021. Furthermore, the 35th win of his USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship career sent him to 11th on the all-time list alongside Jon Stanbrough and Rich Vogler.

Thomas also became the first driver to reach the eight-win mark with the series this season, but for the longest time, it appeared outside front row starter Emerson Axsom had the upper hand as he led the first 12 laps and was already knee deep into traffic when disaster nearly befell, at the time, fourth-running Windom.

As Windom attempted to navigate his way around the tail end of the field, he encountered the car driven by 20th running J.J. Hughes. Windom ramped over the right rear tire of Hughes just before the entry to turn one but somehow, someway, did not get upside down and was able to untangle himself from the potential carnage and continue onward while Hughes slowed a stop in turn one with a completely flattened right rear.

Unluckiest in the deal was eighth running Robert Ballou who encountered the situation at full speed on the high side, at first, successfully avoiding Hughes, but was unable to avoid smacking the outside wall which ended his night prematurely as it also did for Hughes.

Under the yellow, fifth-running C.J. Leary suffered a flat right rear tire, which sent him to the work area for fresh rubber before returning to blitz his way back up through the pack to a 10th place result at the checkered.

With 14 to go, Thomas was able to pull himself completely alongside Axsom, but the 17-year-old driver who was making just his seventh career USAC Sprint start displayed the poise of a veteran in fending off his Petry Motorsports teammate on the USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget trail.

Axsom, wheeling the same car that was raced to victory lane one week earlier by Tyler Courtney at Ohio's Eldora Speedway during the 4-Crown Nationals, kept Thomas at bay lap-after-lap until, exiting the fourth turn on lap 26. That is until Axsom's right rear tire suddenly gave away, forcing him to a complete stop in a heartbreaking moment that denied the Franklin, Ind. driver his first career series victory.

Thomas felt his eventual victory very well may not have occurred if not for Axsom's misfortune, giving praise to the young driver to seemingly had it all in hand before things went awry.

"I want to give a shout out to Emerson," Thomas acknowledged. "I don't think we would have won that race. That kid has a heck of a lot of talent and is really impressive in pretty much anything that he's gotten into. I love him to death. He's my teammate on the midget side of things and I've got a good relationship with him and his family. It was an unfortunate circumstance; they had that one.

He makes very swift moves in lapped traffic, so he doesn't really mess up that much," Thomas added in regard to Axsom.

"I showed him a nose one time and he never moved. I don't know if he was going to make a mistake."

The one and only driver to start all 16 Fall Nationals feature events in his career, Windom (Canton, Ill.), came up just one spot short of his first win in the event in his Hayward Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Byrd – B & H Contractors – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Mopar. Instead, it wound up as Windom's fifth second place finish in the annual late-season race, which he previously accomplished in 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2016.

"I feel like we were a little better than him at the end there," Windom hypothesized. "I couldn't quite get him squared up. It was really starting to get hard to throw a slider in one and two because he was running the middle, so I knew I had to time it right to make it work in three and four. I needed just one chance to attempt that and get a second chance at it to know where to stick it a little better because he was able to cross me back over there and get back by us."

Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) swiftly set back-to-back Fatheadz Eyewear fast qualifying times this weekend with the series on Friday at Terre Haute and Saturday at Lawrenceburg in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy. He followed up a third-place finish during the summer at Lawrenceburg with another third in his debut Fall Nationals run on Saturday night.

In what has become an all too familiar storyline for Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) this season, Bacon flipped hard between turns one and two during the second heat race as a result of contact with C.J. Leary. The backup Dynamics, Inc. No. 69 was then rolled from the trailer where Bacon promptly utilized it to charge from 15th to 3rd in the semi-feature, then from 11th to 4th in the feature to earn the GSP Quality Driving Performance Award for the evening.

In almost a nearly identical situation, if you recall, Bacon sailed over the turn one and two wall at Terre Haute in May after contact from another car. The team brought the backup car out, which Bacon similarly drove from the tail to third in the semi, then to a third-place result in the feature event.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: October 2, 2021 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Oval – Fall Nationals

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.441; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.647; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.654; 4. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.664; 5. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.738; 6. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-13.748; 7. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-13.759; 8. Emerson Axsom, 39BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.805; 9. Saban Bibent, 98, Wedgewood-13.849; 10. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.887; 11. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.902; 12. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.907; 13. Jadon Rogers, 14, Rogers-13.938; 14. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-13.969; 15. Max Adams, 2E, Epperson-13.987; 16. Thomas Meseraull, 23s, Simon-14.036; 17. J.J. Hughes, 76, Hughes-14.206; 18. Justin Owen, 44, Fischesser-14.259; 19. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.314; 20. Keith Sheffer II, 86, Sheffer-14.337; 21. Dallas Hewitt, 18, Keen-14.401; 22. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-14.418; 23. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-14.566; 24. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-14.593; 25. Jacob Beck, 43B, Tibbits-14.638; 26. Nate Carle, 14c, Carle-14.732; 27. Mitchell Davis, 56, Davis-14.774; 28. Tye Mihocko, 5T, Parker-14.805; 29. Scotty Weir, 24, Simon-NT; 30. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Tanner Thorson, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Ryan Thomas, 8. Jason McDougal, 9. Tye Mihocko, 10. Jacob Beck. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. J.J. Hughes, 5. C.J. Leary, 6. Keith Sheffer II, 7. Shane Cottle, 8. Ryan Barr, 9. Nate Carle, 10. Brady Bacon. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING/INDY RACE PARTS THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Max Adams, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Justin Owen, 4. Saban Bibent, 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Scotty Weir, 8. Dallas Hewitt, 9. Mitchell Davis. 1:55.21

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Brandon Mattox, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Ryan Thomas, 6. Dallas Hewitt, 7. Shane Cottle, 8. Mitchell Davis, 9. Tye Mihocko, 10. Keith Sheffer II, 11. Ryan Barr, 12. Scotty Weir, 13. Nate Carle, 14. Jacob Beck, 15. Alex Banales. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (3), 2. Chris Windom (8), 3. Tanner Thorson (6), 4. Brady Bacon (11), 5. Jake Swanson (10), 6. Justin Grant (14), 7. Logan Seavey (4), 8. Max Adams (9), 9. Chase Stockon (7), 10. C.J. Leary (5), 11. Thomas Meseraull (16), 12. Brandon Mattox (19), 13. Dallas Hewitt (20), 14. Saban Bibent (1), 15. Jadon Rogers (15), 16. Ryan Thomas (12), 17. Emerson Axsom (2), 18. Justin Owen (18), 19. Shane Cottle (22), 20. Robert Ballou (13), 21. J.J. Hughes (17), 22. Jason McDougal (21). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-26 Emerson Axsom, Laps 27-30 Kevin Thomas Jr.

**Brady Bacon flipped during the second heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2590, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2526, 3-Justin Grant-2449, 4-Tanner Thorson-2311, 5-C.J. Leary-2295, 6-Chris Windom-2262, 7-Jake Swanson-2129, 8-Robert Ballou-1987, 9-Chase Stockon-1709, 10-Logan Seavey-1377.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-165, 2-Tanner Thorson-160, 3-Brady Bacon-158, 4- Justin Grant-151, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-134, 6-Logan Seavey-133, 7-Robert Ballou-131, 8-Thomas Meseraull-127, 9-Buddy Kofoid-91, 10-Shane Cottle-91.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: November 4-5-6, 2021 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Oval – 25th Oval Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Brady Bacon

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Tanner Thorson

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Indy Metal Finishing / Indy Race Parts Third Heat Winner: Max Adams

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner: Jake Swanson

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger: Justin Grant (14th to 6th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Dallas Hewitt

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Mitchell Davis

==========

HAIL MARY! SWANSON'S LAST LAP NETS FIRST USAC NATIONAL SPRINT WIN AT OVAL NATIONALS OPENER

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Perris, California (November 4, 2021)……With four runner-up finishes throughout his first full USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car season, Jake Swanson wasn't about to settle for yet another in his ongoing pursuit of a first career series victory during Thursday night's opener for the 25th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals Presented by All Coast Construction at southern California's Perris Auto Speedway.

In fact, running second entering the final set of turns on the last lap wasn't sufficient enough to satisfy the Anaheim, Calif. native who was making his first trip back to his home track since becoming a permanent resident of Indiana about a year ago.

Swanson threw a "Hail Mary" through the marbles on the final circuit, removing himself from the bottom to take one last shot at the top of turn four. Swanson ignited the sky with a shower of sparks as his right-side wheels glanced off the outside front straightaway wall, then promptly brushed Thomas' left side wheels in a drag race to the finish line with Swanson ahead at the stripe by a mere 0.010 of a second for the closest finish of the year, and one of the closest in series history.

Not only was it dramatic, it was downright historic for Swanson who earned his first victory in what was his 84th career USAC National Sprint Car feature start. A long time coming and a long time to wait patiently, but his turn arrived Thursday night. A dream fully realized. A dream come true.

"I'm speechless. I'm absolutely speechless. I could cry I'm so happy," Swanson exclaimed after bringing his Team AZ Racing/Beaver Stripes – USW Cat Construction – RSS Industries – CSI/DRC/1-Way Chevy to USAC victory lane for the first time ever.

"I cannot say enough about this race team," Swanson continued. "This racecar was so dynamite. My race team is absolutely incredible, and I know it sounds cliché, but these guys are the best and I'm so glad to finally get this done for them. I can't thank everybody on the side of this racecar enough who has helped us and helped me get to the level I want to be at, and we finally accomplished that tonight."

Equipped with a new powerplant under the hood, Swanson started third on the grid, but for the majority of the distance, was resigned to chasing Thomas around the bottom of the 1/2-mile dirt oval all while simultaneously negotiating copious amounts of lapped traffic.

With six laps remaining, the cards fell in Swanson's favor after spying an opportunity on the back straightaway when Thomas split high to maneuver around the lapped car of Chris Gansen. With a big drive, Swanson cut under Gansen, making it three-wide as the trio hit turn three.

Thomas swung across both Gansen and Swanson, and back to the bottom with his left front tire teetering over the edge of the infield berm, but couldn't quite stick to the bottom, opening up the low line for Swanson to eke by for the lead exiting the fourth corner.

The moment was fleeting, as it turned out, when he became entrapped behind Logan Williams at the tail end of the lead lap entering low in turn one just a straightaway later. Thomas took to the top in one and two and gleefully reestablished his position at the head of the field on lap 26.

At that precise moment, now back in second and chasing Thomas once again, Swanson readily admitted to nearly feeling resigned to the fact that a first win just might be out of reach.

"I was worried; I didn't really think I could do it," Swanson said. "He's so good on the bottom and it was just a chess match dealing with lapped traffic. I tried to split the lapped car there off turn two and it almost worked, then I tried to do it again, but the next few lappers were running too tight down there."

Swanson shadowed Thomas for four-straight laps until reaching the white flag, sitting just a single car length back, and even saw Bacon briefly edge ahead of him by a bumper for the second spot off turn two on the last lap. Swanson got back into the groove and carried his momentum back by Bacon and deeper into turn three than he had all evening, at any cost, and the ultimate result wound up as the proudest achievement of his racing career.

"I wasn't lifting," Swanson flatly stated. "It didn't matter if we hit the fence. It didn't matter if I flipped the length of the front straightaway. I was not going to lift. I was buried in it. I bounced off the fence, I bounced off him, and he gave me just enough room. I really appreciate that, so I didn't go for a ride. I didn't think I was going to get it, but all of a sudden, I found some grip either on the wall or right next to the wall and I think I got him by an inch or two. It was unreal."

Swanson dedicated the victory to his grandfather, who passed away recently while Kevin Thomas Jr. finished second and series point leader Brady Bacon took third, just a single car length behind the front two. Defending Oval Nationals winner C.J. Leary grabbed fourth while Justin Grant rounded out the top-five.

Pole sitter Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) came out on the short end of the photo finish in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy, finishing second by the smallest of margins.

"It was wild," Thomas said. "It was a good race, though, and congrats to Jake. They've been working so hard and have been very, very close. We did all that and ran that close and that hard and we never touched each other. I've got a lot of respect for Jake and what he's done. Everybody on our crew did a great job and our car was good. I just got passed. It's not what we wanted, obviously, but we had a good solid run, and we'll try to duplicate it tomorrow and try to win a race."

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) collected yet another top-five – his 32nd in 39 series starts this year – while finishing third, 0.129 sec. behind the winner, aboard his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy. Bacon started on the outside of the front row but lost the spot to Swanson on lap two yet still had a shot to win despite engine issues hampering the team throughout their night.

Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) became the second driver this season (Logan Seavey) to record Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier awards after previously doing so in early October at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track and Lawrenceburg (Ind.) Speedway.

Three drivers got upside down throughout the night: Dan Taylor and Chris Gansen did so during qualifying, while Chris Muraoka flipped during the fourth heat. All drivers walked away without injury and, in fact, Gansen returned to action with the same car, transferring through his heat race finish 18th in the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: November 4, 2021 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Oval – 25th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals Presented by All Coast Construction

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR/WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.487; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-16.511; 3. Max Adams, 73 Ford-16.529; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.532; 5. Austin Williams, 92, Sertich-16.562; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.613; 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-16.675; 8. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-16.696; 9. Logan Williams, 5w, McCarthy-16.736; 10. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-16.748; 11. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-16.753; 12. Chase Johnson, 2, Yeley-16.754; 13. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-16.770; 14. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-16.772; 15. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-16.810; 16. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-16.819; 17. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-16.862; 18. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-17.000; 19. Matt McCarthy, 28m, McCarthy-17.024; 20. A.J. Bender, 21, Bender-17.052; 21. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-17.084; 22. Verne Sweeney, 98, Tracy-17.092; 23. Carson Short, 17, Snow-17.115; 24. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-17.125; 25. Austin Grabowski, 72, Grabowski-17.146; 26. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-17.162; 27. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-17.167; 28. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-17.206; 29. Dennis Gile, 13G, Gile-17.280; 30. Danny Faria Jr., 17v, Hollywood-17.322; 31. Tye Mihocko, 38, Crossno-17.342; 32. Alex Banales, 5A, Baldwin/Fox-17.507; 33. Tommy Malcolm, 5x, Napier-17.517; 34. Shane Sexton, 74, Sexton/Gatlin-17.880; 35. Dan Taylor, T5, Taylor-18.006; 36. Chris Muraoka, 25, Sure Can-18.199.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS/FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Brody Roa, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Logan Williams, 5. Austin Williams, 6. Dennis Gile, 7. Austin Grabowski, 8. Tommy Malcolm, 9. Chris Windom. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI)/HUNTINGTON BEACH GLASS & MIRROR SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Chris Gansen, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Verne Sweeney, 6. Danny Faria Jr., 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Shane Sexton, 9. Cody Williams. 2:53.53

INDY METAL FINISHING/ALL COAST CONSTRUCTION THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Short, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Max Adams, 5. Matt Mitchell, 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 7. Tye Mihocko, 8. Matt McCarthy, 9. Dan Taylor. 2:53.80

INDY RACE PARTS/COMPONENT REPAIR COMPANY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. A.J. Bender, 3. R.J. Johnson, 4. Damion Gardner, 5. Charles Davis Jr., 6. Kyle Edwards, 7. Alex Banales, 8. Chris Muraoka, 9. Chase Johnson. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-8 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Austin Williams, 3. Cody Williams, 4. Matt Mitchell, 5. Charles Davis Jr., 6. Verne Sweeney, 7. Austin Grabowski, 8. Matt McCarthy, 9. Danny Faria Jr., 10. Tye Mihocko, 11. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 12. Sterling Cling, 13. Tommy Malcolm, 14. Dennis Gile, 15. Kyle Edwards, 16. Shane Sexton, 17. Chase Johnson, 18. Dan Taylor. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Jake Swanson (3), 2. Kevin Thomas Jr. (1), 3. Brady Bacon (2), 4. C.J. Leary (5), 5. Justin Grant (7), 6. Tanner Thorson (6), 7. Austin Williams (9), 8. Chris Windom (18), 9. R.J. Johnson (10), 10. Max Adams (4), 11. Carson Short (8), 12. Shane Cottle (12), 13. Brody Roa (14), 14. Damion Gardner (17), 15. Charles Davis Jr. (23), 16. A.J. Bender (21), 17. Logan Williams (11), 18. Chris Gansen (15), 19. Matt Mitchell (16), 20. Logan Seavey (13), 21. Matt McCarthy (20), 22. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (25-P), 23. Verne Sweeney (22), 24. Cody Williams (19), 25. Austin Grabowski (24). NT

(P) represents a USAC CRA provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-24 Kevin Thomas Jr., Lap 25 Jake Swanson, Laps 26-29 Kevin Thomas Jr., Lap 30 Jake Swanson.

**Dan Taylor & Chris Gansen flipped during qualifying. Chris Muraoka flipped during the fourth heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2663, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2600, 3-Justin Grant-2515, 4-Tanner Thorson-2378, 5-C.J. Leary-2367, 6-Chris Windom-2315, 7-Jake Swanson-2210, 8-Robert Ballou-1987, 9-Chase Stockon-1709, 10-Logan Seavey-1406.

AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1212, 2-Brody Roa-1141, 3-Austin Williams-1017, 4-Chris Gansen-946, 5-Cody Williams-875, 6-Tommy Malcolm-836, 7-Charles Davis Jr.-749, 8-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-606, 9-Verne Sweeney-604, 10-Logan Williams-554.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-186, 2-Justin Grant-167, 3-Tanner Thorson-160, 4-Brady Bacon-158, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-135, 6-Logan Seavey-134, 7-Thomas Meseraull-133, 8-Robert Ballou-131, 9-Buddy Kofoid- 91, 10-Shane Cottle-91.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA RACES: November 5-6, 2021 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Oval – 25th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals Presented by All Coast Construction

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Chris Gansen

Fatheadz Eyewear/Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: Tanner Thorson

Simpson Race Products/Flowdynamics First Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Competition Suspension, Inc./Huntington Beach Glass & Mirror Second Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Indy Metal Finishing/All Coast Construction Third Heat Winner: Carson Short

Indy Race Parts/Component Repair Company Fourth Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner: Chris Windom

KSE Racing Products/In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Hard Charger: Chris Windom (18th to 8th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Brody Roa

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Danny Faria Jr.

Schoenfeld Hard Work Award: Austin Grabowski

Shawn McDonald Memorial Qualifying Award: Brady Bacon

Shawn McDonald Memorial Feature Award: Tanner Thorson

==========

BACON FINDS LAST LAP OVALS FORTUNE AMID GRANT'S MISFORTUNE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Perris, California (November 5, 2021)……In a season that has been earmarked by a consistency matched by no other individual, feature wins have been, rather surprisingly, relatively few and far between for USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship point leader, Brady Bacon.

As it turned out, all the Broken Arrow, Okla. native needed for that to occur was a little bit of good fortune to fall his way, somehow, someway.

Bacon became the leader for the third and final occasion while Justin Grant's car faltered with a broken nozzle line in Friday's night two of the Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals Presented by All Coast Construction at southern California's Perris Auto Speedway.

Bacon cruised past the rapidly slowing Grant on the last of the 30th circuits to prevail with his fourth win of the year and marked his first time standing in victory lane since July's USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK round at Bloomington Speedway.

The three-time series champion's 39th career USAC National Sprint Car feature win moved him to within one of Gary Bettenhausen for 8th on the all-time win list. Bacon's third career Perris win also went toward cementing his bid for a fourth career title as he incrementally elevated his lead from 63 to 64 with just three races left on the championship trail.

"We've had a good enough car to win a bunch of races this year and it just never went our way," Bacon explained. "Tonight, we probably didn't deserve to win but we did, so we'll take it after all the races we've lost throughout the year."

After experiencing a rare downward descent when starting from the front row during Thursday night's opener at The PAS, Bacon was bound and determined not to let history repeat itself on consecutive nights. Bacon led the opening three circuits before being overtaken by Thorson, then regained the top spot from him just past halfway, then saw his lead slip into the abyss with Grant getting by just three laps from the end.

"I made a mistake there by letting him by," Bacon recalled of Grant's late-race pass. "We just had a little luck on our side tonight and I was able to capitalize on that and get the win. I thought we had a pretty good car, but we just got a little tight there after those couple cautions, probably because of low air pressure, which caused it to push really bad off four. After

he got me, I just tried not to make any mistakes and, if he did, I was going to be able to capitalize. Unfortunately for him, something happened, but we'll definitely take it after the year we've had."

Bacon initially lost the lead to Thorson on the fourth lap when Thorson went third to first within a half lap, first charging by Grant for second midway down the back straightaway, then dove to the bottom of turns three and four to swipe the lead from Bacon.

Following a front straightaway flip performed by Sterling Cling (24th), which also ensnarled Danny Faria Jr. (25th) on lap five, Grant relegated Bacon back to third on the sixth lap as Grant muscled his way under at the exit of turn four to put himself in the runner-up spot. Bacon ultimately regained the second position from Grant a mere three laps later.

Out front, Thorson continued to pull away on top, with everyone else following suit on the high line in their pursuit of the 2015 Turkey Night Grand Prix Midget winner when it was held at Perris.

Thorson, meanwhile, had lost his brakes about halfway through, and the issue came into focus as he attempted to put Tommy Malcolm a lap down in the running order with a turn one slider on the 17th lap that initially worked in his favor. However, as Thorson drifted past and glided up the racetrack, all momentum was lost, and opportunity was gained by both Malcolm to get his lap back momentarily as well as Bacon to race past and become the new leader.

As Bacon caressed a 2.089 second advantage with 10 laps remaining, Carson Short and Logan Williams were waging their own battle for the 17th position, which resulted in Williams enduring a rapid tumble after contact with both Short and the wall sent him on a wild ride of which he walked away from.

While Thorson went on the attack in turn two for second with Grant on lap 22, Grant had his sights set on ripping away Bacon's lead entering turn three. Grant ably pulled even with Bacon through the corners but was unable to make a successful go of it as of yet.

Grant tailed Bacon around the entire circumference of the half-mile dirt oval from his view a half-car length back as the two crossed underneath the flag stand with three laps to go. That's precisely where Grant made a swift maneuver to the bottom of turn one and stole the lead away with the race's distance waning in the balance.

Taken by utter complete surprise just two laps later, Bacon pounced as Grant slowed to a crawl on the top side of the racetrack, clearing him between turns one and two as he cut underneath Grant with Thorson in tow to second. Thorson nearly climbed Grant's left rear tire coming off turn two, which stifled him momentarily, and allowed Bacon free reign to put the clamp and his stamp on the victory over Thorson, Kevin Thomas Jr., C.J. Leary and Thursday's winner Jake Swanson.

Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) finished a fine second after leading 13 laps in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) followed up Thursday's runner-up finish with a solid third on Friday in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy. The 2017-18 Oval Nationals winner feels like he's got a good game plan if the track conditions are similar to Thursday's and acknowledges having to find a little bit something more for conditions akin to those he faced on Friday night.

Six drivers – Jake Swanson, Kevin Thomas Jr., Brady Bacon, Tanner Thorson, C.J. Leary and Justin Grant ranked as the top-six overall points-getters throughout the first two evenings of the Oval Nationals. All six are locked into the first three rows

of Saturday night's 40-lap main event. The starting order of those first three rows will be determined via a Super 6 Dash which pits six cars against each for a six-lap race with high stakes.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: November 5, 2021 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Oval – 25th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals Presented by All Coast Construction

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR/WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.434; 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-16.486; 3. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.508; 4. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-16.576; 5. Matt McCarthy, 28m, McCarthy-16.593; 6. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-16.634; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.653; 8. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.763; 9. Chase Johnson, 2, Yeley-16.781; 10. Logan Williams, 5w, McCarthy-16.798; 11. Austin Williams, 92, Sertich-16.803; 12. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-16.830; 13. Dennis Gile, 13G, Gile-16.862; 14. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-16.865; 15. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-16.885; 16. Max Adams, 73 Ford-16.916; 17. A.J. Bender, 21, Bender-16.932; 18. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-17.004; 19. Tommy Malcolm, 5x, Napier-17.045; 20. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-17.058; 21. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-17.065; 22. Alex Banales, 5A, Baldwin/Fox-17.136; 23. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-17.148; 24. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-17.157; 25. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-17.173; 26. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-17.175; 27. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-17.181; 28. Danny Faria Jr., 17v, Hollywood-17.230; 29. Carson Short, 17, Snow-17.255; 30. Verne Sweeney, 98, Tracy-17.295; 31. Tye Mihocko, 38, Crossno-17.388; 32. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-17.489; 33. Brent Owens, 71, RMR-17.516; 34. Shane Sexton, 74, Sexton/Gatlin-17.552; 35. Dan Taylor, T5, Taylor-18.025; 36. Chris Muraoka, 73x, Ford-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS/FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. A.J. Bender, 4. Carson Short, 5. Chase Johnson, 6. Dennis Gile, 7. Chris Gansen, 8. Matt McCarthy, 9. Brent Owens. 2:53.58

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI)/HUNTINGTON BEACH GLASS & MIRROR SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Damion Gardner, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Logan Williams, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Alex Banales, 7. Shane Sexton, 8. Verne Sweeney, 9. Sterling Cling. 2:55.97

INDY METAL FINISHING/ALL COAST CONSTRUCTION THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. R.J. Johnson, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Austin Williams, 5. Tommy Malcolm, 6. Cody Williams, 7. Brody Roa, 8. Tye Mihocko, 9. Dan Taylor. 2:57.41

INDY RACE PARTS/COMPONENT REPAIR COMPANY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Matt Mitchell, 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Danny Faria Jr., 5. Kyle Edwards, 6. Charles Davis Jr., 7. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 8. Max Adams, 9. Chris Muraoka. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-8 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Cody Williams, 3. Chase Johnson, 4. Dennis Gile, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Tommy Malcolm, 7. Max Adams, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Kyle Edwards, 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 11. Brody Roa, 12. Alex Banales, 13. Shane Sexton, 14. Brent Owens, 15. Dan Taylor, 16. Matt McCarthy, 17. Tye Mihocko, 18. Chris Gansen, 19. Verne Sweeney. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (1), 2. Tanner Thorson (4), 3. Kevin Thomas Jr. (5), 4. C.J. Leary (3), 5. Jake Swanson (6), 6. Shane Cottle (13), 7. Justin Grant (2), 8. Chris Windom (7), 9. Austin Williams (12), 10. Brody Roa (25-P), 11. Chase Johnson (10), 12. Charles Davis Jr. (9), 13. Damion Gardner (15), 14. Max Adams (17), 15.

Carson Short (24), 16. Logan Seavey (22), 17. Dennis Gile (14), 18. Cody Williams (16), 19. Matt Mitchell (21), 20. Chris Gansen (26-P), 21. Tommy Malcolm (20), 22. R.J. Johnson (8), 23. A.J. Bender (18), 24. Logan Williams (11), 25. Sterling Cling (19), 26. Danny Faria Jr. (23). NT

(P) represents a USAC CRA provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-3 Brady Bacon, Laps 4-16 Tanner Thorson, Laps 17-27 Brady Bacon, Laps 28-29 Justin Grant, Lap 30 Brady Bacon.

**Matt McCarthy flipped during the semi. Sterling Cling flipped on lap 5 of the feature. Logan Williams flipped on lap 20 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2741, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2677, 3-Justin Grant-2573, 4-Tanner Thorson-2456, 5-C.J. Leary-2435, 6-Chris Windom-2372, 7-Jake Swanson-2281, 8-Robert Ballou-1987, 9-Chase Stockon-1709, 10-Logan Seavey-1438.

AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1256, 2-Brody Roa-1184, 3-Austin Williams-1068, 4-Chris Gansen-969, 5-Cody Williams-905, 6-Tommy Malcolm-860, 7-Charles Davis Jr.-795, 8-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-616, 9-Verne Sweeney-614, 10-Matt McCarthy-590.

OVAL NATIONALS POINTS: (TOP-6 LOCKED INTO SATURDAY'S FEATURE) 1-Jake Swanson-285, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-284, 3-Brady Bacon-284, 4-Tanner Thorson-276, 5-C.J. Leary-270, 6-Justin Grant-252, 7-Chris Windom-233, 8-Austin Williams-232, 9-Shane Cottle-227, 10-Carson Short-212.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-186, 2-Justin Grant-167, 3-Tanner Thorson-162, 4-Brady Bacon-158, 5-Logan Seavey-140, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-137, 7-Thomas Meseraull-133, 8-Robert Ballou-131, 9-Shane Cottle- 98, 10-Buddy Kofoid-91.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA RACE: November 6, 2021 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Oval – 25th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals Presented by All Coast Construction

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Carson Short

Fatheadz Eyewear/Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: Jake Swanson

Simpson Race Products/Flowdynamics First Heat Winner: Chris Windom

Competition Suspension, Inc./Huntington Beach Glass & Mirror Second Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Indy Metal Finishing/All Coast Construction Third Heat Winner: R.J. Johnson

Indy Race Parts/Component Repair Company Fourth Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

KSE Racing Products/In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Hard Charger: Carson Short (24th to 15th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Damion Gardner

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Kyle Edwards

Schoenfeld Hard Work Award: Carson Short

Shawn McDonald Memorial 6th Place Qualifying Award: C.J. Leary

Shawn McDonald Memorial 6th Place Feature Award: Shane Cottle

==========

OVALMEISTER: KTJ EQUALS RECORD WITH 3rd OVAL NATIONALS WIN AT PERRIS

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Perris, California (November 6, 2021)……Like any young person raised on the sport of auto racing, having racing heroes of your own is a natural consequence.

Kevin Thomas Jr. is among those individuals.

One of the Cullman, Alabama native's racing heroes just so happens to be among the select gifted who, themselves, have won the Oval Nationals on three occasions.

Following his performance on Saturday night at southern California's Perris Auto Speedway, a new name, a new face was added to the books as one of four drivers to capture glory in the traditional November event three different times. Kevin Thomas Jr. is now among those individuals.

Thomas joined Bud Kaeding (2001-02-07), Damion Gardner (2009-11-16) and Dave Darland (2005-06-13) to become the latest driver to earn three eagle trophies, accomplishing the feat in Saturday's finale for the 25th running of the Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals Presented by All Coast Construction.

Thomas Jr. tracked down Justin Grant just four laps from the finish, then blazed a trail straight to racing immortality, straight to the land of legends, and straight to the realm of where several of the biggest sprint car racing names have cemented themselves as a hero of the Oval Nationals.

"This is a race I love to win," a choked-up Thomas stated. "I love taking home those eagles. It's emotional. It's our third one. Not many people have done that. I know Dave Darland has and he's one of my heroes. It's pretty cool to tie him."

Thomas' USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car leading ninth win of the season in his KT Motorsports/Dr. Pepper Presents the Ronald McDonald House Charities/DRC/Speedway Chevy was especially pertinent based on how his weekend in Perris began – on the wrong side of a historic photo finish in Thursday's opener with winner Jake Swanson.

Following his runner up result, Swanson finished third on Friday and seemed to be on the cusp of breaking through. However, 40 laps annually present a test of wills, fortune (good and bad), and fortitude of position oneself in the right place at exactly the right time.

Starting fifth in the 25-car field, Thomas remained in constant pursuit of the leaders throughout the first three-quarters of the race. Meanwhile, at the head of the field, Grant had established a foothold in the lead from the outset as he powered around pole sitter and Super Six Dash winner C.J. Leary on lap one while all others continuously strategized how to reel him back in to their grasp.

A melee put a stoppage to the event just two laps in when 13th running Logan Williams spun sideways in turn four. He was then T-boned by the oncoming 20th place car of Matt Mitchell. Both came to a rest near the outside wall with damage. At the same time, 18th running Eddie Tafoya Jr. was collected in the incident and walloped the inside front straightaway wall. All drivers were uninjured but the same could not be said for their cars as all had their races come to a premature conclusion.

During the yellow, 7th running and fast qualifier Damion Gardner bowed out with brake issues that ended his bid for a record fourth Oval Nationals score, relegating him to a 22nd place result.

Coming up on the halfway mark, Grant found a close encounter of the traffic kind in turn four when he and 19th place Dennis Gile met wheel-to-wheel, but Grant continued on safely, no harm-no foul, while the encroaching machines of Leary in 2nd, Tanner Thorson in 3rd and Thomas in 4th became stifled in the quagmire of lapped cars, which allowed Grant to build up his lead to 2.5 seconds.

However, the gridlock did help Thomas a bit further back as he picked and grinned his way around the outside of Thorson for 3rd at the stripe on lap 19, then struck once more in much cleaner air on lap 23 as he bolted past Leary around the outside on the front straightaway to move to 2nd.

In short order, Thomas downsized Grant's lead a full two seconds in the ensuing laps, turning the quickest lap amongst anybody in the entire race on the 25th circuit, ultimately charging around the outside of Grant to nip him by a wheel at the line on lap 31. Grant surged back ahead of Thomas on the bottom of turn one mere moments later but now inherited a Noah's Ark of traffic within his view, two by two, marching high and low.

Grant and Thomas played the game with Grant drifting high and Thomas sticking low as they split Gile midway down the back straightaway with eight laps remaining. Grant staved off Thomas' charge for the time being with the topside cleared away and the bottom clamped down by the lappers.

"I knew that the 4 car was going to give it everything he had," Thomas recalled. "Whenever we got to lapped traffic, it was just about who was going to make the right move at the right time. We had a couple different opportunities to take advantage and I didn't do that at the right time, but everything happens for a reason."

That reason soon became clear when Thomas' shining moment rose with four laps remaining as he stuck the bottom in turns three and four while Grant negotiated the long road home up top on the cushion. A major run by Thomas shot him past Grant to a car length advantage at the line on the 37th lap and, from there on, Thomas took the stage front and center, all for his own as he began his countdown to victory.

A quick dismissal of the now-lapped car of Charles Davis Jr. by Thomas in turn one with two go put a mountainous, insurmountable half-straightaway separation between Thomas and Grant that completed the final chapter of the silver edition of the event which began 25 years earlier in 1996.

Thomas ran away to a final winning margin of 3.129 seconds at the finish line with Grant second, Leary third, Thorson fourth and point leader Brady Bacon rounding out the top-five.

“We got the win and I’m just so proud of these guys and everybody that’s behind us,” Thomas said in praise after corralling the $10,000 winning prize. “A lot of those people believed in me when a lot of people didn’t. I’m fortunate to have all those people behind me doing good things for us. They gave me one heck of a racecar and they read that track perfectly. They did their job 100 percent. That was a good one to drive.”

Thomas’ 36th career USAC National Sprint Car feature win moved him past Jon Stanbrough and Rich Vogler for sole possession of 11th on the all-time list. He now stands just one victory behind Sheldon Kinser for 10th all-time.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) led a race-high 35 laps of the 40-lap distance in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy, equaling his best career Oval Nationals final night result of 2nd place, which he also earned back in 2017.

“The bottom started getting narrow and the top stayed so dirty,” Grant explained. “I had to slow down so much to try and get stuck on the bottom. I don’t do a whole lot other than go pound the fence, so we usually leave that thing set on ‘cushion kill.’ When the bottom gets that narrow, it’s hard on us. We figured if we were going to win this race, it was going to be on the boards, but when the bottom got that thin, I had to get so slow. KTJ was just better than we were at the end, and we really started fading with about 10 to go and got real bad with about five to go.”

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) had a successful 2021 Oval Nationals, following up 4th place finishes in both prelims with a 3rd place result in Saturday night's finale aboard the Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman Ford.

“This car was really consistent all weekend, which is something we haven’t had a lot of the year,” Leary admitted. “We’ve struggled and we’ve been really good, then we’ve been not so good. This weekend was not bad at all.”

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: November 6, 2021 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Oval – 25th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals Presented by All Coast Construction

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR/WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING: (Top-6 in Oval Nationals points did not qualify) 1. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-16.613; 2. Max Adams, 73 Ford-16.700; 3. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-16.790; 4. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-16.831; 5. Austin Williams, 92, Sertich-16.867; 6. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-16.904; 7. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-16.912; 8. A.J. Bender, 21, Bender-16.912; 9. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-16.923; 10. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-16.969; 11. Dennis Gile, 13G, Gile-16.982; 12. Alex Banales, 5A, Baldwin/Fox-17.018; 13. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-17.021; 14. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-17.030; 15. Chase Johnson, 2, Yeley-17.030; 16. Logan Williams, 5w, McCarthy-17.086; 17. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-17.129; 18. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-17.140; 19. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-17.226; 20. Carson Short, 17, Snow-17.244; 21. Tye Mihocko, 38, Crossno-17.257; 22. Danny Faria Jr., 17v, Hollywood-17.337; 23. Verne Sweeney,

98, Tracy-17.424; 24. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-17.549; 25. Brent Owens, 71, RMR-17.697; 26. Shane Sexton, 74, Sexton/Gatlin-18.120; 27. Dan Taylor, T5, Taylor-18.276; 28. Chris Muraoka, 73x, Ford-19.085.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS/FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Damion Gardner, 3. Logan Williams, 4. Brody Roa, 5. Chris Windom, 6. Matt Mitchell, 7. Danny Faria Jr., 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Brent Owens, 10. Chris Muraoka. 2:55.10

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI)/HUNTINGTON BEACH GLASS & MIRROR SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. A.J. Bender, 2. Cody Williams, 3. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 4. Max Adams, 5. Dennis Gile, 6. Verne Sweeney, 7. Carson Short, 8. Shane Sexton, 9. Austin Williams. 2:54.62

INDY METAL FINISHING/ALL COAST CONSTRUCTION/INDY RACE PARTS/COMPONENT REPAIR COMPANY THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Chase Johnson, 4. R.J. Johnson, 5. Chris Gansen, 6. Tye Mihocko, 7. Kyle Edwards, 8. Alex Banales, 9. Dan Taylor. NT

FAST ARMED SUPER SIX DASH: (6 laps, finishing order set the first 3 rows of the feature) 1. C.J. Leary (#77m Michael), 2. Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), 3. Tanner Thorson (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood), 4. Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (#9K KT), 6. Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ). 1:42.75

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Chris Windom, 2. Matt Mitchell, 3. Carson Short, 4. Chris Gansen, 5. Tye Mihocko, 6. Dennis Gile, 7. Austin Williams, 8. Verne Sweeney, 9. Danny Faria Jr., 10. Alex Banales, 11. Kyle Edwards, 12. Shane Sexton, 13. Brent Owens, 14. Dan Taylor, 15. Chris Muraoka, 16. Sterling Cling. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (5), 2. Justin Grant (2), 3. C.J. Leary (1), 4. Tanner Thorson (3), 5. Brady Bacon (4), 6. Jake Swanson (6), 7. Shane Cottle (7), 8. Chris Windom (19), 9. Charles Davis Jr. (11), 10. R.J. Johnson (10), 11. A.J. Bender (12), 12. Brody Roa (16), 13. Logan Seavey (13), 14. Cody Williams (15), 15. Max Adams (9), 16. Carson Short (21), 17. Chase Johnson (17), 18. Dennis Gile (24), 19. Verne Sweeney (25-P), 20. Chris Gansen (22), 21. Tye Mihocko (23), 22. Damion Gardner (8), 23. Logan Williams (14), 24. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (18), 25. Matt Mitchell (20). NT

(P) represents a USAC CRA provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Justin Grant, Lap 31 Kevin Thomas Jr., Laps 32-36 Justin Grant, Laps 37-40 Kevin Thomas Jr.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2799, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2747, 3-Justin Grant-2640, 4-Tanner Thorson-2517, 5-C.J. Leary-2499, 6-Chris Windom-2421, 7-Jake Swanson-2336, 8-Robert Ballou-1987, 9-Chase Stockon-1709, 10-Logan Seavey-1475.

AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1279, 2-Brody Roa-1223, 3-Austin Williams-1078, 4-Chris Gansen-992, 5-Cody Williams-940, 6-Tommy Malcolm-860, 7-Charles Davis Jr.-841, 8-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-639, 9-Verne Sweeney-639, 10-Matt McCarthy-590.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-197, 2-Justin Grant-167, 3-Tanner Thorson-162, 4-Brady Bacon-158, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-141, 6-Logan Seavey-140, 7-Thomas Meseraull-133, 8-Robert Ballou-131, 9-Shane Cottle- 98, 10-Buddy Kofoid-91.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA RACES: November 12-13, 2021 – Arizona Speedway – San Tan Valley, Arizona – 3/8-Mile Dirt Oval – 54th Western World Championships Presented by San Tan Ford

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Chris Windom

Fatheadz Eyewear/Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: Damion Gardner

Simpson Race Products/Flowdynamics First Heat Winner: Logan Seavey

Competition Suspension, Inc./Huntington Beach Glass & Mirror Second Heat Winner: A.J. Bender

Indy Metal Finishing/All Coast Construction/Indy Race Parts/Component Repair Company Third Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner: Chris Windom

KSE Racing Products/In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner/All Coast Construction Tony Jones Hard Charger: Chris Windom (19th to 8th)

Fast Armed Super Six Dash Winner: C.J. Leary Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Logan Seavey

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Austin Williams

Schoenfeld Hard Work Award: Tye Mihocko

Shawn McDonald Memorial 6th Place Qualifying Award: R.J. Johnson

Shawn McDonald Memorial 6th Place Feature Award: Jake Swanson

==========

CLINCHED: BACON CEMENTS USAC SPRINT TITLE WITH WESTERN WORLD NIGHT #1 WIN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

San Tan Valley, Arizona (November 12, 2021)……There's just something magical in the symbiosis between Brady Bacon and Western World.

The Broken Arrow, Okla. driver collected his 10th career victory in the event Friday night at Arizona Speedway as he tracked down racelong leader Logan Seavey with five laps remaining, then thwarted Seavey's comeback slider in the final corner on the final lap, driving back by to capture the victory in the 54th annual Western World Championships Presented by San Tan Ford opener for the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship.

With his winning performance and Kevin Thomas Jr.'s subsequent misfortune, Bacon clinched the 2021 USAC National Sprint Car driving championship with one race remaining Saturday night.

Bacon's fourth career series title makes him just the third driver to capture at least four championships in his career, joining five-timer Levi Jones (2005-07-09-10-11) and fellow four-time titlist Steve Butler (1986-87-88-90) while also garnering Dynamics, Inc. a record-extending 13th series entrant championship.

The milestones were racked up in droves throughout the night with Bacon also becoming just the ninth driver to win at least 40 career USAC National Sprint Car feature events. His 40th ties him with Gary Bettenhausen for eighth on the all-time series win list.

Bacon's Western World record continues to be remarkable and impeccable ever since winning his first race in the esteemed event in 2009. He won two 360 c.i. non-wing sprint car races at Tucson, Arizona's USA Raceway in 2009 and repeated in the same division there once more in 2010 with the ASCS Canyon Region series.

Furthermore, at Peoria, Arizona's Canyon Speedway Park in 2012, Bacon was an ASCS Winged 360 Sprint Car feature winner. He returned to USA Raceway in 2015 to add a USAC National Sprint Car triumph.

When Western World migrated to Arizona Speedway in San Tan Valley, Ariz., Bacon's winning ways continued with USAC Southwest 360 Sprint Car scores in 2016-17-18, followed by a USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget win in 2019 and, finally, his USAC National Sprint Car tally Friday night, displaying a knack for success in the event unlike any other.

"This race has been great to me over the years, and I've got another win tonight," Bacon exclaimed. "I've won at three different tracks that the Western World has been at. I don't know what it is about the race; we just seem to find our way to victory lane. It doesn't matter if it's wing, non-wing, 360, 410 or midget, there's just something about this race. There's great fans in Arizona and a lot of history here, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Bacon started third in the 30-lap feature event aboard his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts – TelStar/Triple X/Rider Chevy while Arizona native and USAC National Sprint Car Rookie Sterling Cling led the charge to the green flag. However, it was outside front row starter Logan Seavey who established the pace up front from the get-go.

Drifting from third back to sixth on the opening lap, Bacon was forced to steadily work his way back into contention, to fifth on lap five, to fourth on lap seven and to third just past the midway point as he slid past his nearest championship foe, Kevin Thomas Jr., with a turn three slide job on lap 17.

Two laps later, Bacon surged past Jake Swanson for the second position, utilizing the bottom of turns one and two, then set his sights on tracking down the leader, Seavey, who, at that point in time, was mired knee deep in a tussle with a myriad of cars on the tail end of the lead lap, thus shrinking the 1.5 second interval in half between himself and Seavey.

That margin was scrunched up even more on the 22nd lap when the lapped cars of Jake Helsel and Caleb Stelzig tangled in turn two, sending Helsel spinning backwards to a stop. Second running Thomas Jr. was already committed and affixed to the bottom groove, and with nowhere to roam, connected right rear to right rear with Hessel, ending Hessel's evening and also putting a wrap on Thomas Jr.'s slim title chances for good when he came to a stop. Thomas Jr. did, however, restart and finish 13th.

With Bacon now right on the back bumper of Seavey with eight laps remaining, both drivers stayed attached to their comfort zones, Seavey striding on the cushion and Bacon rolling the bottom, which proved to be equal with both drivers side-by-side lap-after-lap, with nary a car length separating the two on laps 22-23-24-25.

It was the 26th lap that turned the tide in Bacon's favor after Seavey got tight on the cushion in turns one and two, sending him skating up the 3/8-mile dirt oval which allowed Bacon to break free with six car lengths of daylight between the two on the back straightaway.

Seavey regained his footing and began rapidly reeling in Bacon, who had occupied the low line in turns one and two and the top in three and four during the late stages. Seavey took the high road in turns one and two to close within a car length of Bacon midway down the back straight.

"Three and four was kind of the question, I didn't know where I should be and whether I should stay on the bottom or go back to the top," Bacon quizzed. "I felt like it was going to have to be harder for someone else to pass me on the bottom that it would be for them to rip around me on the top if I made a mistake."

It was right there, at that moment, Seavey fired a deep shot at Bacon on the bottom of three, sliding three lengths ahead of Bacon before plowing his right rear into and over the edge of the turn four cushion. Bacon was prepared and had his front wheels pointed straight to the bottom of four to charge back by and cross the stripe 0.495 of a second ahead of Seavey with Tanner Thorson third, C.J. Leary fourth and Charles Davis Jr. fifth.

"It was easier to make a mistake on the top, I felt like, and the bottom is kind of my bread and butter and the top is probably his," Bacon noted. "It was just going to be whoever messed up. On the last lap, I messed up on the bottom of one and two and gave him a shot at me. Luckily, I had enough drive off the bottom of four to get back by him."

Despite coming up just short after leading a race-high 25 laps, Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) displayed his reemergence after a rough go last weekend during three nights of racing in Perris, Calif. which saw all three finishes outside the top- ten. Seavey's second place performance was his best result with the series since a runner-up finish during the 4-Crown Nationals at Ohio's Eldora Speedway in his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – Claxton Engines/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

Tanner Thorson (Minden, Nev.) obliterated the one-lap USAC National Sprint Car track record at Arizona Speedway in Fatheadz Qualifying with a lap of 14.390 seconds, erasing the five-year-old record of 13.625, set by Chad Boespflug in 2016. Thorson was briefly in contention for the win with seven laps remaining before ultimately finishing third in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy, his 14th finish of sixth or better in his last 15 starts.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: November 12, 2021 – Arizona Speedway – San Tan Valley, Arizona – 3/8-Mile Dirt Oval – 54th Western World Championships Presented by San Tan Ford

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR/WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.390 (New Track Record); 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.549; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.609; 4. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-15.005; 5. Stevie Sussex, 34AZ, Grau-15.231; 6. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-15.267; 7. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-15.269; 8. Tommy Malcolm, 5x, Napier-15.290; 9. Jake Helsel, 44H, Helsel-15.415; 10. Charles Davis

Jr., 47, Davis-15.416; 11. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-15.548; 12. Verne Sweeney, 98, Tracy-15.590; 13. Kyle Shipley, 57, Stone-15.610; 14. Tye Mihocko, 38, Crossno-15.677; 15. Austin Grabowski, 72, Grabowski-15.706; 16. Bruce St. James, 7K, St. James-15.771; 17. Spencer Hill, 7D7, West-16.061; 18. Jimmy Pontin, 24, Pontin-16.670; 19. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-19.960.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR/WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-14.700; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.723; 3. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-14.873; 4. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-15.003; 5. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-15.046; 6. Austin Williams, 92, Sertich-15.099; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-15.157; 8. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-15.170; 9. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-15.237; 10. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-15.269; 11. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-15.292; 12. Caleb Stelzig, 21x, Stelzig-15.465; 13. Chris Bonneau, 15, Bonneau-15.473; 14. Alex Banales, 5A, Baldwin/Fox-15.664; 15. Colt Treharn, 77, Treharn-15.844; 16. Daylin Perreira, 21p, Perreira-16.090; 17. Danny Mathus, 42, Mathus-16.213; 18. Ikaika O'Brien, 11o, O'Brien-16.314; 19. Tuesday Calderwood, 4c, Calderwood-16.355.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS / FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Helsel, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Stevie Sussex, 4. Brody Roa, 5. Tanner Thorson, 6. Logan Calderwood, 7. Austin Grabowski, 8. Kyle Shipley, 9. Spencer Hill, 10. Shane Cottle. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) / HUNTINGTON BEACH GLASS & MIRROR SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Tommy Malcolm, 6. Tye Mihocko, 7. Verne Sweeney, 8. Bruce St. James, 9. Jimmy Pontin. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING / ALL COAST CONSTRUCTION THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. R.J. Johnson, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Cody Williams, 5. Damion Gardner, 6. Chris Bonneau, 7. Colt Treharn, 8. Tuesday Calderwood, 9. Chris Windom, 10. Danny Mathus. NT

INDY RACE PARTS / COMPONENT REPAIR COMPANY FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Caleb Stelzig, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Sterling Cling, 4. Chris Gansen, 5. Austin Williams, 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 7. Alex Banales, 8. Daylin Perreira, 9. Ikaika O'Brien. NT

C-MAIN: (6 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Shane Cottle, 2. Spencer Hill, 3. Daylin Perreira, 4. Jimmy Pontin, 5. Ikaika O'Brien, 6. Tuesday Calderwood, 7. Bruce St. James. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Damion Gardner, 3. Austin Williams, 4. Tommy Malcolm, 5. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 6. Shane Cottle, 7. Logan Calderwood, 8. Tye Mihocko, 9. Chris Windom, 10. Chris Bonneau, 11. Alex Banales, 12. Austin Grabowski, 13. Kyle Shipley, 14. Daylin Perreira, 15. Verne Sweeney, 16. Colt Treharn, 17. Spencer Hill, 18. Jimmy Pontin. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (3), 2. Logan Seavey (2), 3. Tanner Thorson (11), 4. C.J. Leary (5), 5. Charles Davis Jr. (8), 6. Chris Windom (23-P), 7. Austin Williams (15), 8. Justin Grant (17), 9. Brody Roa (16), 10. Tommy Malcolm (18), 11. Jake Swanson (4), 12. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (19), 13. Kevin Thomas Jr. (6), 14. Shane Cottle (22), 15. Damion Gardner (13), 16. R.J. Johnson (9), 17. Chris Gansen (21), 18. Verne Sweeney (24-P), 19. Caleb Stelzig (10), 20. Jake Helsel (7), 21. Sterling Cling (1), 22. Stevie Sussex (12), 23. Thomas Meseraull (14), 24. Cody Williams (20). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Logan Seavey, Laps 26-30 Brady Bacon.

**Bruce St. James flipped during the C-Main. Tuesday Calderwood flipped during the C-Main.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2880, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2793, 3-Justin Grant-2696, 4-Tanner Thorson-2591, 5-C.J. Leary-2572, 6-Chris Windom-2477, 7-Jake Swanson-2386, 8-Robert Ballou-1987, 9-Chase Stockon-1709, 10-Logan Seavey-1548.

AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1315, 2-Brody Roa-1274, 3-Austin Williams-1132, 4-Chris Gansen-1026, 5-Cody Williams-968, 6-Charles Davis Jr.-907, 7-Tommy Malcolm-904, 8-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-679, 9-Verne Sweeney-666, 10-Logan Williams-605.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-197, 2-Tanner Thorson-177, 2-Justin Grant-176, 4-Brady Bacon-160, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-147, 6-Logan Seavey-140, 7-Thomas Meseraull-140, 8-Robert Ballou-131, 9-Shane Cottle-106, 10-Buddy Kofoid-94.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA RACE: November 13, 2021 – Arizona Speedway – San Tan Valley, Arizona – 3/8-Mile Dirt Oval – 54th Western World Championships Presented by San Tan Ford

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Sterling Cling

Fatheadz Eyewear / Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: Tanner Thorson

Simpson Race Products / Flowdynamics First Heat Winner: Jake Helsel

Competition Suspension, Inc. / Huntington Beach Glass & Mirror

Second Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr. Indy Metal Finishing / All Coast Construction Third Heat Winner: R.J. Johnson

Indy Race Parts / Component Repair Company Fourth Heat Winner: Caleb Stelzig

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner: Tanner Thorson

KSE Racing Products / In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Hard Charger: Justin Grant (17th to 8th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Logan Calderwood

Bill's Jerky Hard Luck Award: Logan Calderwood

==========

THE CLOSER: SEAVEY FINISHES USAC SPRINT SEASON AS WESTERN WORLD VICTOR

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

San Tan Valley, Arizona (November 13, 2021)……If at first you don't succeed, then dust yourself off and try again.

Logan Seavey lived and breathed this particular proverb through and through during both nights of the 54th annual Western World Championships presented by San Tan Ford at Arizona Speedway.

On Friday night, the Sutter, Calif. native led 25 of 30 laps before one tiny mistake cost him the victory. The following evening, Seavey vowed not to repeat his misfortune nor his ultimate fate, and instead, fully intending to capitalize on the opportunity at hand with an outside front row starting spot and a winning race car in his grasp.

Seavey led all 30 circuits of Saturday's feature, only briefly relenting the top spot to C.J. Leary just past the halfway mark. Without a rattle, without a hesitation, Seavey calmly raced back by to capture the season finale for the USAC AMSOIL National and USAC CRA Sprint Cars.

It was Seavey's first USAC National Sprint Car victory since running off three-straight in succession during USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK in July, a Western World triumph worth $7,500 after piloting the Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – Claxton Engines/DRC/Claxton Chevy to victory lane in the last ever USAC event to be held at the 3/8-mile dirt oval before its permanent closure later this month.

"It's awesome," Seavey exclaimed following his sixth career USAC National Sprint Car win, which equaled him for 75th place all-time alongside Chad Boespflug, Kevin Briscoe, Jac Haudenschild, Jason McCord, Jan Opperman, Tom Sneva, George Snider and Dick Tobias. "We led so many laps last night. I really, really love this place and I hate that it's our last time coming here."

The main crux of finding redemption is slaying those small landmines that are constantly thrown in the direction of team and driver and are bound to trip up individuals on occasion. Seavey attempted to thwart those aspects but ultimately resigned to be patient and wait for the track to come to him, as opposed to the reverse, as the surface changed throughout the duration.

"Last night, I got myself too tight with the shocks under yellow, trying to over-adjust, and I almost did the same thing tonight going the wrong way, getting myself freer," Seavey explained. "The rubber just wasn't quite as much as I thought it was there with a few to go. Then, it finally latched up and my car got really good.

It was maybe just a little overthinking on my end, but you've got to do everything you can to win these races," Seavey continued. "Everybody's so good and you've got to be perfect. It showed last night. We had a good car, good enough to win, and I messed up and gave it away. I knew I had I had a good car, and I could win tonight. I just had to do everything I could not to give this one away."

From the drop of the green, it was all Seavey as he sprinted to the lead from the outside of the front row, then surpassed pole sitter Austin Williams around the outside at the exit of turn four and promptly led the charge throughout the first half with C.J. Leary in tow on the high line, likewise, shooting around Williams on the top for the second position in turn four on lap two.

Seavey's 1.1 second lead over Leary began to dwindle in traffic and was carved in half by lap 18 when fifth running Kevin Thomas Jr.'s end-of-year misfortune continued with a flat right rear tire, which brought out the caution. Thomas returned to action but wound up a disappointing 22nd.

The stoppage put the traffic situation on the shelf and delivered Leary a golden opportunity that he nearly made work. With the top line paved in rubber, making a clean pass became a challenging proposition, but Leary was game.

On the first lap of the lap 18 restart, Leary stuck right to Seavey's rear bumper through turns one and two, and midway down the back straightaway, before diving to the bottom of turn three. However, Leary's momentum took him up the racetrack, to the very top off turn four, freeing the lane for Seavey to cross over back underneath and reclaim the lead.

"I knew my car was good up top," Seavey claimed. "Racing here in the past and knowing how clean the top got, I knew the rubber was coming. I got to lapped traffic and felt it coming, then a yellow came out and I freed myself way up for the rubber and I did it too early and about gave it away. C.J. got a huge run and about went by us. Luckily, I was able to hold on just long enough for the rubber to come."

With Leary's shot fired, Seavey was safe and sound for the final 13 laps as he contested the high line unchallenged the rest of the way, raising the interval to a whopping 3.127 seconds as he raced under the checkered flag with C.J. Leary second, Jake Swanson third, Thomas Meseraull fourth and newly crowned 2021 USAC National Sprint Car champion Brady Bacon rounding out the top-five.

Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) completed his season with a flurry of successful outings, finishing inside the top-five in each of his last five starts aboard his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Valvoline/DRC/Cressman Ford.

Swanson's daring turn one pass of Meseraull for the third position with 10 laps remaining put the Anaheim, California driver on the podium for the seventh time with the USAC National Sprint Cars this year in his Team AZ Racing/Beaver Stripes – USW Cat Construction – RSS Industries – CSI/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) clinched his fourth career USAC National Sprint Car driving championship on Friday night at Western World, but was officially crowned following Saturday night's finale, placing him as the third member of an exclusive club of drivers who've won at least four titles with the series: Levi Jones (2005-07-09-10-11) and Steve Butler (1986-87-88-90).

Furthermore, Bacon became the first back-to-back USAC National Sprint Car driving champion since Bryan Clauson in 2012-13. Meanwhile, the Dynamics, Inc. No. 69 for Bacon earned its unprecedented 13th series entrant title after previously being crowned in 1989, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2014, 2016 and 2020.

Damion Gardner (Concord, Calif.) racked up an awe-inspiring eighth consecutive AMSOIL USAC CRA Sprint Car driving championship, and ninth overall, this year while also providing entrant Mark Alexander and car No. 1 its eighth-straight series entrant title, and ninth overall. The Gardner and Alexander partnership has garnered previous series titles in 2013-14-15-16-17-18-19. No 2020 champion was crowned. Gardner first earned a USAC CRA driving championship in 2005 while Alexander first did so in the entrant category during the 2007 campaign.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: November 13, 2021 – Arizona Speedway – San Tan Valley, Arizona – 3/8-Mile Dirt Oval – 54th Western World Championships Presented by San Tan Ford

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR/WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAYQUALIFYING FLIGHT ONE: 1. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.497; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.601; 3. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.631; 4. Austin

Williams, 92, Sertich-14.780; 5. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.829; 6. Tye Mihocko, 38, Crossno-14.852; 7. Jake Helsel, 44H, Helsel-14.882; 8. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-14.888; 9. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-14.924; 10. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-14.933; 11. Stevie Sussex, 34AZ, Grau-14.972; 12. Tommy Malcolm, 5x, Napier-15.175; 13. Kyle Shipley, 57, Stone-15.489; 14. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-15.539; 15. Caleb Stelzig, 21x, Stelzig-15.543; 16. Verne Sweeney, 98, Tracy-15.820; 17. Ikaika O'Brien, 11o, O'Brien-15.896; 18. Austin Grabowski, 72, Grabowski-16.172; 19. Jimmy Pontin, 24, Pontin-16.397.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR/WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING FLIGHT TWO: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.847; 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9K, KT-14.904; 3. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-14.940; 4. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-15.026; 5. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-15.030; 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-15.049; 7. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-15.073; 8. Chris Bonneau, 15, Bonneau-15.115; 9. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley-15.225; 10. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-15.303; 11. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-15.310; 12. Alex Banales, 5A, Baldwin/Fox-15.319; 13. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-15.330; 14. Colt Treharn, 77, Treharn-15.468; 15. Spencer Hill, 7D7, West-15.472; 16. Danny Mathus, 42, Mathus-15.775; 17. Daylin Perreira, 21p, Perreira-15.975; 18. Brent Yarnal, 29, Yarnal-16.159.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS / FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Tanner Thorson, 3. R.J. Johnson, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Stevie Sussex, 6. Caleb Stelzig, 7. Jake Helsel, 8. Kyle Shipley, 9. Ikaika O'Brien, 10. Jimmy Pontin. 2:05.70

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) / HUNTINGTON BEACH GLASS & MIRROR SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Tye Mihocko, 3. Damion Gardner, 4. Austin Williams, 5. Tommy Malcolm, 6. Austin Grabowski, 7. Verne Sweeney, 8. Logan Calderwood, 9. Brody Roa. NT

INDY METAL FINISHING / ALL COAST CONSTRUCTION THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Chris Windom, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Cody Williams, 6. Shane Cottle, 7. Chris Gansen, 8. Spencer Hill, 9. Daylin Perreira. 2:01.52 (New Track Record)

INDY RACE PARTS / COMPONENT REPAIR COMPANY FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Charles Davis Jr., 3. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 4. Alex Banales, 5. Colt Treharn, 6. Danny Mathus, 7. Chris Bonneau, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Brent Yarnal. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Shane Cottle, 2. Stevie Sussex, 3. Tommy Malcolm, 4. Brody Roa, 5. Jake Helsel, 6. Sterling Cling, 7. Chris Gansen, 8. Cody Williams, 9. Caleb Stelzig, 10. Chris Bonneau, 11. Spencer Hill, 12. Colt Treharn, 13. Austin Grabowski, 14. Kyle Shipley, 15. Logan Calderwood, 16. Verne Sweeney , 17. Daylin Perreira, 18. Ikaika O'Brien, 19. Jimmy Pontin, 20. Danny Mathus, 21. Brent Yarnal. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Logan Seavey (2), 2. C.J. Leary (4), 3. Jake Swanson (5), 4. Thomas Meseraull (8), 5. Brady Bacon (15), 6. Justin Grant (7), 7. Tanner Thorson (6), 8. Chris Windom (11), 9. Shane Cottle (9), 10. Austin Williams (1), 11. Jake Helsel (14), 12. Brody Roa (16), 13. Stevie Sussex (20), 14. Tye Mihocko (12), 15. Sterling Cling (10), 16. Damion Gardner (18), 17. R.J. Johnson (17), 18. Charles Davis Jr. (19), 19. Cody Williams (23-P), 20. Alex Banales (22), 21. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (13), 22. Kevin Thomas Jr. (3), 23. Austin Grabowski (24-P), 24. Tommy Malcolm (21). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Logan Seavey.

**Brody Roa flipped during the second heat.

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

FINAL USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-2944, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-2824, 3-Justin Grant-2761, 4-Tanner Thorson-2656, 5-C.J. Leary-2652, 6-Chris Windom-2533, 7-Jake Swanson-2456, 8-Robert Ballou-1987, 9-Chase Stockon-1709, 10-Logan Seavey-1627.

FINAL AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1352, 2-Brody Roa-1314, 3-Austin Williams-1180, 4-Chris Gansen-1036, 5-Cody Williams-993, 6-Charles Davis Jr.-941, 7-Tommy Malcolm-929, 8-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-708, 9-Verne Sweeney-676, 10-Logan Williams-605.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chris Windom-201, 2-Justin Grant-187, 3-Tanner Thorson-183, 4-Brady Bacon-170, 5-Thomas Meseraull-148, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-147, 7-Logan Seavey-141, 8-Robert Ballou-131, 9-Shane Cottle-106, 10-Buddy Kofoid-100.

CONTINGENCY AWARDS:

GSP Driving Performance of the Night: Brody Roa

Fatheadz Eyewear / Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: Tanner Thorson

Simpson Race Products / Flowdynamics First Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Competition Suspension, Inc. / Huntington Beach Glass & Mirror Second Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

Indy Metal Finishing / All Coast Construction Third Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Indy Race Parts / Component Repair Company Fourth Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner: Shane Cottle

KSE Racing Products / In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (15th to 5th)

Wilwood Brakes 13th Place Finisher: Stevie Sussex

Saldana Racing Products First Non-Transfer: Chris Gansen

Bill's Jerky Hard Luck Award: Chris Gansen

==========

2021 USAC AMSOIL NATIONAL SPRINT CAR STAT LEADERS

Driver Champion: Brady Bacon

Entrant Champion: Dynamics, Inc. #69

Rookie of the Year: Tanner Thorson

Most Wins: 9-Kevin Thomas Jr.

Most Laps Led: 222-Justin Grant

Most Top-Fives: 36-Brady Bacon

Most Top-Tens: 41-Brady Bacon

Most Fast Qualifying Times: 7-Tanner Thorson

Most Heat Race Wins: 15-Robert Ballou

Most Feature Starts: 43-Brady Bacon, Justin Grant, C.J. Leary, Jake Swanson, Kevin Thomas Jr., Tanner Thorson & Chris Windom

Biggest Charge of the Year: 4/25: Path Valley Speedway Park – Alex Bright (18th to 4th) | 6/20: Bloomsburg Fair Speedway – C.J. Leary (21st to 7th) | 7/31: Tri-State Speedway – Brady Bacon (22nd to 8th)

==========

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Driver Points

Pos.	Pts.	Driver, Hometown
1	2944	Brady Bacon, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
2	2824	Kevin Thomas Jr., Cullman, Alabama
3	2761	Justin Grant, Ione, California
4	2656	(R) Tanner Thorson, Minden, Nevada
5	2652	C.J. Leary, Greenfield, Indiana
6	2533	Chris Windom, Canton, Illinois
7	2456	Jake Swanson, Anaheim, California
8	1987	Robert Ballou, Rocklin, California
9	1709	Chase Stockon, Fort Branch, Indiana
10	1627	Logan Seavey, Sutter, California
11	1343	Shane Cottle, Kansas, Illinois
12	1244	Kyle Cummins, Princeton, Indiana
13	1050	Brandon Mattox, Terre Haute, Indiana

14	1036	Jadon Rogers, Worthington, Indiana
15	988	Thomas Meseraull, San Jose, California
16	972	Matt Westfall, Pleasant Hill, Ohio
17	859	(R) Paul Nienhiser, Chapin, Illinois
18	695	Max Adams, Loomis, California
19	660	(R) Cole Bodine, Rossville, Indiana
20	628	Charles Davis Jr., Buckeye, Arizona
21	590	Mario Clouser, Auburn, Illinois
22	540	Stevie Sussex, Tempe, Arizona
23	471	Isaac Chapple, Willow Branch, Indiana
24	455	(R) Steven Drevicki, Reading, Pennsylvania
25	436	(R) Briggs Danner, Allentown, Pennsylvania
26	399	Timmy Buckwalter, Douglassville, Pennsylvania
27	399	(R) Sterling Cling, Tempe, Arizona
28	281	Brent Beauchamp, Fairland, Indiana
29	269	Mark Smith, Sunbury, Pennsylvania
30	250	Carmen Perigo, Stoystown, Pennsylvania
31	240	Riley Kreisel, Warsaw, Missouri
32	228	(R) Ricky Lewis, Camarillo, California
33	228	(R) Carson Garrett, Littleton, Colorado
34	206	Nick Bilbee, Indianapolis, Indiana
35	187	Stephen Schnapf, Newburgh, Indiana
36	162	(R) Ryan Thomas, Indianapolis, Indiana
37	155	(R) Harley Burns, Brazil, Indiana
38	152	Matt Goodnight, Winchester, Indiana
39	152	Kendall Ruble, Vincennes, Indiana
40	146	Dave Darland, Lincoln, Indiana

41	128	Davey Ray, Davenport, Iowa
42	126	Robert Bell, Colfax, Iowa
43	125	(R) Zack Pretorius, Yorktown, Indiana
44	121	Kent Schmidt, Owensville, Indiana
45	114	Critter Malone, Pittsboro, Indiana
46	91	J.J. Hughes, Jasper, Indiana
47	90	(R) Braxton Cummings, Bedford, Indiana
48	82	(R) Brandon Morin, Jasonville, Indiana
49	80	(R) Noah Gass, Mounds, Oklahoma
50	80	(R) Brayden Fox, Avon, Indiana
51	71	Joey Biasi, Mary D, Pennsylvania
52	60	Zach Daum, Pocahontas, Illinois
53	60	Dustin Clark, Washington, Indiana
54	60	(R) Saban Bibent, Cincinnati, Ohio
55	50	Wyatt Burks, Topeka, Kansas
56	40	(R) Craig Pellegrini, Buena, New Jersey
57	34	(R) Travis Berryhill, American Canyon, California
58	20	Anton Hernandez, Arlington, Texas
59	20	(R) Chayse Hayhurst, Evansville, Indiana
60	20	(R) Shane Butler, Bushnell, Florida
61	10	Aaron Farney, Brookston, Indiana

(R) represents a USAC National Sprint Car Rookie

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Entrant Points

Pos.	Pts.	Entrant, Location
1	2944	Dynamics Inc., Milford, Ohio (#69)
2	2824	KT Motorsports, Whitestown, Indiana (#9K)

3	2761	TOPP Motorsports, Rochester, Indiana (#4)
4	2656	Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports, Gilbert, Arizona (#19AZ)
5	2652	Michael Motorsports, Chino Valley, Arizona (#77m)
6	2533	Hayward Motorsports, Morrison, Illinois (#19)
7	2456	Team AZ Racing, Brownsburg, Indiana (#21AZ)
8	2020	Ballou Motorsports, Tipton, Indiana (#12)
9	1763	Baldwin-Fox Racing, West Lafayette, Indiana (#5)
10	1709	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5s)
11	1513	Rock Steady Racing, Dupont, Indiana (#3R)
12	1473	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5m)
13	1133	Hodges Motorsports, Albuquerque, New Mexico (#74x)
14	1050	Brandon Mattox Racing, Cory, Indiana (#28)
15	972	Ray Marshall Motorsports, Forest, Ohio (#33m)
16	886	Clauson Marshall Newman Racing, Fishers, Indiana (#39BC)
17	713	Kyle Rogers, Worthington, Indiana (#14)
18	694	Yeley Racing, Waddell, Arizona (#2)
19	628	Charles Davis Jr., Buckeye, Arizona (#47D)
20	590	Eberhardt-Zirzow Racing, Greenfield, Wisconsin (#6)
21	491	Randy Edwards, Evansville, Indiana (#61m)
22	471	Isaac Chapple Racing, Fortville, Indiana (#52)
23	455	DeGre Engineering, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania (#19s)
24	436	Bill Gallagher, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania (#5G)
25	399	LNB Motorsports, Douglassville, Pennsylvania (#7)
26	399	Sterling Cling Racing, Franklin, Indiana (#34)
27	377	Epperson Racing, Camby, Indiana (#2E)
28	365	Hogue Racing Enterprises, Westampton, New Jersey (#39x)
29	365	Goodnight Racing, Hartford City, Indiana (#22)

30	315	On the Gass Racing, Advance, Indiana (#17G)
31	294	Tyler Sturgeon Racing, Indianapolis, Indiana (#77s)
32	267	Wingo Brothers Racing, Pittsboro, Indiana (#77)
33	256	Tom Eades Racing, Sharpsville, Indiana (#47)
34	250	Stehman Motorsports, Halifax, Pennsylvania (#21)
35	240	DKR Motorsports, Warsaw, Missouri (#91)
36	234	Daigh-Phillips Motorsports, Avon, Indiana (#71p)
37	228	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#15KO)
38	220	Lauren Beauchamp, Needham, Indiana (#29)
39	218	Ricky Lewis, Indianapolis, Indiana (#11L)
40	206	Bilbee Motorsports, Indianapolis, Indiana (#17)
41	204	Zach Parker, Plainfield, Indiana (#5T)
42	187	Brian & Deidre Martin, Vincennes, Indiana (#11m)
43	179	Scott Adams, Marion, Indiana (#5x)
44	169	Scott Pedersen, Indianapolis, Indiana (#4p)
45	162	Wingo Brothers Racing, Pittsboro, Indiana (#77FR)
46	152	Kendall Ruble Racing, Vincennes, Indiana (#17K)
47	152	Goodnight Racing, Hartford City, Indiana (#39)
48	145	Harley Burns Racing, Brazil, Indiana (#16)
49	129	Todd Keen, Union City, Ohio (#18)
50	128	FattFro Motorsports-Team RayPro, Hoffman Estates, Illinois (#14AJ)
51	126	Robert Bell, Colfax, Iowa (#71)
52	125	Jeff Pretorius, Yorktown, Indiana (#9z)
53	121	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5K)
54	117	Paul Hazen, Columbia City, Indiana (#57)
55	114	Seven LLC, Pittsboro, Indiana (#7m)
56	98	Jerry Burton, Bloomington, Indiana (#04)

57	91	John Hughes, Indianapolis, Indiana (#76)
58	90	Bub & Amanda Cummings, Bedford, Indiana (#71B)
59	86	Larry Gentry, Robards, Kentucky (#10)
60	82	Brandon Morin Racing, Jasonville, Indiana (#98)
61	80	Randy Gass, Mounds, Oklahoma (#20G)
62	80	Fox Brothers Racing, Avon, Indiana (#53)
63	75	Gray Brothers, Greenfield, Indiana (#81G)
64	71	Mary Biasi, Mary D, Pennsylvania (#B1)
65	64	RMB Motorsports, Colfax, Illinois (#29)
66	60	Daum Motorsports, Pocahontas, Illinois (#5D)
67	60	Dustin Clark Racing, Washington, Indiana (#75)
68	50	Wyatt Burks Racing, Topeka, Kansas (#11w)
69	40	Michael Dutcher Motorsports, Cicero, Indiana (#17GP)
70	40	Craig Pellegrini, Buena, New Jersey (#27c)
71	20	Cam Pottorff, Martinsville, Indiana (#11p)
72	20	Gary Densford, Austin, Indiana (#27D)
73	20	Vermillion Racing, Greencastle, Indiana (#5v)
74	20	Vermillion Racing, Greencastle, Indiana (#73)
75	20	Hayhurst Racing, Elberfeld, Indiana (#20)
76	20	Butler Motorsports, Bushnell, Florida (#18)
77	10	DCT Racing, Fowler, Indiana (#15F)
78	10	Maury Bibent, Cincinnati, Ohio (#10B)
79	10	Hurst Brothers Racing, Salem, Indiana (#70)
80	10	Kenny McMillin, Rosedale, Indiana (#24)

==========

2021 USAC National Sprint Car Rookie Points

Pos.	Pts.	Driver, Hometown
1	2656	Tanner Thorson, Minden, Nevada
2	859	Paul Nienhiser, Chapin, Illinois
3	660	Cole Bodine, Rossville, Indiana
4	455	Steven Drevicki, Reading, Pennsylvania
5	436	Briggs Danner, Allentown, Pennsylvania
6	399	Sterling Cling, Tempe, Arizona
7	228	Ricky Lewis, Camarillo, California
8	228	Carson Garrett, Littleton, Colorado
9	162	Ryan Thomas, Indianapolis, Indiana
10	155	Harley Burns, Brazil, Indiana
11	125	Zack Pretorius, Yorktown, Indiana
12	90	Braxton Cummings, Bedford, Indiana
13	82	Brandon Morin, Jasonville, Indiana
14	80	Noah Gass, Mounds, Oklahoma
15	80	Brayden Fox, Avon, Indiana
16	60	Saban Bibent, Cincinnati, Ohio
17	40	Craig Pellegrini, Buena, New Jersey
18	34	Travis Berryhill, American Canyon, California
19	20	Chayse Hayhurst, Evansville, Indiana
20	20	Shane Butler, Bushnell, Florida

==========

2021 USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Feb 11: Ocala, FL - Bubba Raceway Park



WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (KT Motorsports #9K)

Feb 12: Ocala, FL - Bubba Raceway Park

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Apr 3: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, IN

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Apr 16: Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, IN

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (KT Motorsports #9K)

Apr 17: (M) Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, IN

WINNER: Kyle Cummins (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

Apr 22: Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, PA

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Apr 23: Big Diamond Speedway – Pottsville, PA

WINNER: Tanner Thorson (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)

Apr 24: BAPS Motor Speedway – York Haven, PA

WINNER: C.J. Leary (Michael Motorsports #77m)

Apr 25: Path Valley Speedway Park – Spring Run, PA

WINNER: Tanner Thorson (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)

May 8: Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, OH

WINNER: Tyler Courtney (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #7BC)

May 8: Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, OH

WINNER: Robert Ballou (Ballou Motorsports #12)

May 26: Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, IN

WINNER: Chris Windom (Hayward Motorsports #19)

Jun 15: (E) Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, PA

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jun 16: (E) Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Swedesboro, NJ

WINNER: Robert Ballou (Ballou Motorsports #12)

Jun 17: (E) Selinsgrove Speedway – Selinsgrove, PA

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jun 20: (E) Bloomsburg Fair Raceway – Bloomsburg, PA

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (KT Motorsports #9K)

Jul 1: Plymouth Speedway – Plymouth, IN

WINNER: C.J. Leary (Michael Motorsports #77m)

Jul 2: (M) (A) Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, IN

WINNER: C.J. Leary (Michael Motorsports #77m)

Jul 3: (M) Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, IN

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (KT Motorsports #9K)

Jul 24: (I) Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jul 25: (I) Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, IN

WINNER: Logan Seavey (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5)

Jul 26: (I) Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, IN

WINNER: Logan Seavey (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5)

Jul 28: (I) Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, IN

WINNER: Logan Seavey (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5)

Jul 29: (I) Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, IN

WINNER: Tanner Thorson (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)

Jul 30: (I) Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, IN

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Jul 31: (I) Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Aug. 22: Paragon Speedway – Paragon, IN

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (KT Motorsports #9K)

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Aug 27: Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (KT Motorsports #9K)

Aug 28: (F) Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Sep 10: (F) Huset's Speedway – Brandon, SD

WINNER: Tanner Thorson (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)

Sep 11: (F) Huset's Speedway – Brandon, SD

WINNER: C.J. Leary (Michael Motorsports #77m)

Sep 12: (F) Huset's Speedway – Brandon, SD

WINNER: C.J. Leary (Michael Motorsports #77m)

Sep 17: Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, IN

WINNER: Tanner Thorson (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)

Sep 18: (M) (A) Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, IN

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (KT Motorsports #9K)

Sep 25: Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, OH

WINNER: Tyler Courtney (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #7BC)

Oct 1: Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, IN

WINNER: Chris Windom (Hayward Motorsports #19)

Oct 2: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, IN

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (KT Motorsports #9K)

Nov 4: (C) Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, CA

WINNER: Jake Swanson (Team AZ Racing #21AZ)

Nov 5: (C) Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, CA

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Nov 6: (C) (F) Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, CA

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (KT Motorsports #9K)

Nov 12: (C) Arizona Speedway – San Tan Valley, AZ

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Nov 13: (C) Arizona Speedway – San Tan Valley, AZ

WINNER: Logan Seavey (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5)

---------- KEY DEFINITIONS ----------

(M) represents an event co-sanctioned by MSCS

(E) represents an Eastern Storm event

(I) represents an USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK event

(C) represents an event with the USAC/CRA AMSOIL Sprint Cars

(SE) represents a non-points, special event

(F) represents a race awarding feature points only

(A) represents a race awarding appearance points only

(P) represents an event co-sanctioned by POWRi WAR Sprints

==========

2021 USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP STATISTICS

FEATURE WINS

9-Kevin Thomas Jr. (Feb 12 at Bubba Raceway Park, Apr 16 at Bloomington Speedway, Jun 20 at Bloomsburg Fair Raceway, Jul 3 at Lincoln Park Speedway, Aug 22 at Paragon Speedway, Aug 28 at Kokomo Speedway, Sep 18 at Tri-State Speedway, Oct 2 at Lawrenceburg Speedway & Nov 6 at Perris Auto Speedway)

7-Justin Grant (Feb 11 at Bubba Raceway Park, Jun 15 at Grandview Speedway, Jun 17 at Selinsgrove Speedway, Jul 24 at Kokomo Speedway, Jul 31 at Tri-State Speedway, Aug 27 at Kokomo Speedway & Aug 28 at Kokomo Speedway)

5-Brady Bacon (Apr 3 at Lawrenceburg Speedway, Apr 22 at Grandview Speedway, Jul 30 at Bloomington Speedway, Nov 5 at Perris Auto Speedway & Nov 12 at Arizona Speedway)

5-C.J. Leary (Apr 24 at BAPS Motor Speedway, Jul 1 at Plymouth Speedway, Jul 2 at Lincoln Park Speedway, Sep 11 at Huset's Speedway & Sep 12 at Huset's Speedway)

5-Tanner Thorson (Apr 23 at Big Diamond Speedway, Apr 25 at Path Valley Speedway Park, Jul 29 at Lincoln Park Speedway, Sep 10 at Huset's Speedway & Sep 17 at Circle City Raceway)



4-Logan Seavey (Jul 25 at Lawrenceburg Speedway, Jul 26 at Gas City I-69 Speedway, Jul 28 at Terre Haute Action Track & Nov 13 at Arizona Speedway)

2-Robert Ballou (May 8 at Eldora Speedway & Jun 16 at Bridgeport Motorsports Park)

2-Tyler Courtney (May 8 at Eldora Speedway & Sep 25 at Eldora Speedway)

2-Chris Windom (May 26 at the Terre Haute Action Track & Oct 1 at the Terre Haute Action Track)

1-Kyle Cummins (Apr 17 at Tri-State Speedway)

1-Jake Swanson (Nov 4 at Perris Auto Speedway)

==========

FEATURE LAPS LED

222-Justin Grant

210-Kevin Thomas Jr.

162-Logan Seavey

158-C.J. Leary

146-Tanner Thorson

107-Brady Bacon

90-Jake Swanson

48-Chris Windom

44-Robert Ballou

39-Tyler Courtney

34-Kyle Cummins

26-Emerson Axsom

21-Jadon Rogers

17-Shane Cottle

12-Brady Short

10-Chase Stockon

6-Cole Bodine



2-Charles Davis Jr.

==========

TOP-FIVE FEATURE FINISHES

36-Brady Bacon

29-Kevin Thomas Jr.

22-Justin Grant & Tanner Thorson

21-C.J. Leary

16-Chris Windom

13-Jake Swanson

10-Logan Seavey

9-Robert Ballou & Kyle Cummins

4-Shane Cottle & Tyler Courtney

3-Alex Bright, Thomas Meseraull & Chase Stockon

2-Charles Davis Jr., Jason McDougal, & Jadon Rogers

1-Isaac Chapple, Briggs Danner, Buddy Kofoid, Brandon Mattox & Paul Nienhiser

==========

TOP-TEN FEATURE FINISHES

41-Brady Bacon

38-Justin Grant

37-Kevin Thomas Jr.

34-C.J. Leary

33-Chris Windom

32-Tanner Thorson

27-Jake Swanson

22-Robert Ballou

20-Logan Seavey

17-Shane Cottle

14-Chase Stockon

12-Kyle Cummins

10-Jadon Rogers

7-Alex Bright, Jason McDougal & Thomas Meseraull

6-Timmy Buckwalter

5-Tyler Courtney & Briggs Danner

4-Steven Drevicki, Paul Nienhiser, Matt Westfall & Austin Williams

3-Emerson Axsom & Charles Davis Jr.

2-Max Adams, Isaac Chapple, R.J. Johnson, Buddy Kofoid, Riley Kreisel, Brandon Mattox, Cannon McIntosh, Brody Roa, Kendall Ruble, Brady Short & Stevie Sussex

1-Ryan Bernal, Cole Bodine, Mario Clouser, Zach Daum, A.J. Hopkins, Chase Johnson, Tommy Malcolm, Tye Mihocko, Carmen Perigo, Daison Pursley, Mark Smith & Scotty Weir

==========

FAST QUALIFYING TIMES (Presented by Fatheadz Eyewear)

7-Tanner Thorson

6-Brady Bacon & Kevin Thomas Jr.

3-Timmy Buckwalter, Justin Grant & Logan Seavey

2-Jadon Rogers

1-Brent Beauchamp, Shane Cottle, Tyler Courtney, Kyle Cummins, Briggs Danner, Steven Drevicki, Brayden Fox, Damion Gardner, Jason McDougal, Chase Stockon, Jake Swanson & Chris Windom

==========

HEAT RACE WINS (Presented by Simpson Race Products, Competition Suspension Inc., Indy Metal Finishing & Indy Race Parts)

15-Robert Ballou

11-Kevin Thomas Jr. & Chris Windom

9-Brady Bacon & Justin Grant

8-Kyle Cummins & Chase Stockon

7-C.J. Leary & Thomas Meseraull

6-Jake Swanson & Tanner Thorson

4-Charles Davis Jr., Brandon Mattox & Logan Seavey

3-Max Adams, Briggs Danner, & Jason McDougal

2-Emerson Axsom, Cole Bodine, R.J. Johnson, Paul Nienhiser & Brady Short

1-A.J. Bender, Ryan Bernal, Joey Biasi, Nick Bilbee, Alex Bright, Timmy Buckwalter, Sterling Cling, Mario Clouser, Tyler Courtney, Dave Darland, Zach Daum, Carson Garrett, Jake Helsel, Chase Johnson, Tye Mihocko, Davey Ray, Stephen Schnapf, Carson Short, Mark Smith, Caleb Stelzig, Stevie Sussex & Matt Westfall

==========

SEMI WINS

4-Paul Nienhiser & Jake Swanson

3-Logan Seavey, Tanner Thorson & Chris Windom

2-Timmy Buckwalter, Isaac Chapple, Shane Cottle, Charles Davis Jr., C.J. Leary & Jadon Rogers

1-Brady Bacon, Robert Ballou, Alex Banales, Koby Barksdale, Nick Bilbee, Cole Bodine, Briggs Danner, Brandon Mattox, Thomas Meseraull, Kevin Thomas Jr. & Scotty Weir

==========

D-MAIN WINS

1-Jack James

==========

C-MAIN WINS

2-Brent Beauchamp

1-Cole Bodine, Mario Clouser, Shane Cottle, Tim Creech, Braydon Cromwell, Aric Gentry, Chayse Hayhurst, Brandon Mattox, Tye Mihocko, Stevie Sussex, Eddie Tafoya Jr. & Ryan Thomas

==========

FEATURE STARTS

43-Brady Bacon, Justin Grant, C.J. Leary, Jake Swanson, Kevin Thomas Jr., Tanner Thorson & Chris Windom

36-Robert Ballou & Chase Stockon

29-Logan Seavey

27-Shane Cottle & Matt Westfall

25-Brandon Mattox

22-Kyle Cummins, Thomas Meseraull & Jadon Rogers

19-Paul Nienhiser

17-Jason McDougal

16-Max Adams & Cole Bodine

15-Mario Clouser & Stevie Sussex

14-Charles Davis Jr.

13-Isaac Chapple

10-Alex Bright, Steven Drevicki, Chase Johnson & Tye Mihocko

9-Briggs Danner

8-Timmy Buckwalter, Carson Short & Mark Smith

7-Emerson Axsom, Ricky Lewis & Carmen Perigo

6-Brent Beauchamp, Sterling Cling, Nash Ely, Chris Gansen & Eddie Tafoya Jr.



5-Alex Banales, Nick Bilbee, Tyler Courtney, Damion Gardner, Carson Garrett, R.J. Johnson, Cannon McIntosh, Brody Roa, Scotty Weir & Cody Williams

4-Dave Darland, Dallas Hewitt, Stephen Schnapf, Brady Short & Austin Williams

3-Koby Barksdale, A.J. Bender, Ryan Bernal, Harley Burns, Brayden Fox, Chad Frewaldt, Aric Gentry, J.J. Hughes, Riley Kreisel, Tommy Malcolm, Matt Mitchell, Davey Ray, Kendall Ruble, Glen Saville, Cam Schafer, Kent Schmidt, Verne Sweeney & Logan Williams

2-Collin Ambrose, Robert Bell, Joey Biasi, Shane Cockrum, Braydon Cromwell, Noah Gass, Dennis Gile, Austin Grabowski, Max Guilford, Korbyn Hayslett, Jake Helsel, A.J. Hopkins, Buddy Kofoid, Kenny Miller III, Brandon Morin, Terry Richards, Kory Schudy, Ryan Thomas & Mitch Wissmiller

1-Garrett Abrams, Ryan Barr, Travis Berryhill, Saban Bibent, Mark Bitner, Patrick Budde, Richy Carnathan, Cindy Chambers, Brayden Clark, Anthony D'Alessio, Zach Daum, Paul Dues, Danny Faria Jr., Matt Goodnight, Nic Harris, Chase Jones, Tyler Kendall, Jeremy Kerzman, Brandon Long, Critter Malone, Michael Markey, Matt McCarthy, Billy Ney, Justin Owen, Jeff Pellersels, Chris Phillips, Zack Pretorius, Daison Pursley, Chase Randall, Jake Scott, Alec Sipes, Brandon Spencer, Caleb Stelzig & Chet Williams

==========

GSP QUALITY DRIVING PERFORMANCE OF THE NIGHT

2/12: Bubba Raceway Park – Tyler Courtney

4/3: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Stevie Sussex

4/16: Bloomington Speedway – Tye Mihocko

4/17: Tri-State Speedway – Nic Harris

4/22: Grandview Speedway – Chris Windom

4/23: Big Diamond Speedway – Justin Grant

4/24: BAPS Motor Speedway – Briggs Danner

4/25: Path Valley Speedway Park – Brandon Mattox

5/8: Eldora Speedway – Isaac Chapple

5/8: Eldora Speedway – C.J. Leary

5/26: Terre Haute Action Track – Brady Bacon

6/15: Grandview Speedway – Jake Swanson

6/16: Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Jake Swanson

6/17: Selinsgrove Speedway – C.J. Leary

6/20: Bloomsburg Fair Speedway – Alex Bright

7/1: Plymouth Speedway – Max Adams

7/2: Lincoln Park Speedway – Thomas Meseraull

7/3: Lincoln Park Speedway – Collin Ambrose

7/24: Kokomo Speedway – Cannon McIntosh

7/25: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Nick Bilbee

7/26: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Zack Pretorius

7/28: Terre Haute Action Track – Brandon Mattox

7/29: Lincoln Park Speedway – Cole Bodine & Jason McDougal

7/30: Bloomington Speedway – Braydon Cromwell

7/31: Tri-State Speedway – Chase Stockon

8/22: Paragon Speedway – Koby Barksdale

8/27: Kokomo Speedway – Cole Bodine

8/28: Kokomo Speedway – Chase Johnson

8/28: Kokomo Speedway – Brent Beauchamp

9/10: Huset's Speedway – Kevin Thomas Jr.

9/11: Huset's Speedway – Charles Davis Jr.

9/12: Huset's Speedway – Jeremy Kerzman

9/17: Circle City Raceway – Jadon Rogers

9/18: Tri-State Speedway – Kyle Cummins

9/25: Eldora Speedway – Max Adams

10/1: Terre Haute Action Track – Chris Windom

10/2: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Brady Bacon

11/4: Perris Auto Speedway – Chris Gansen

11/5: Perris Auto Speedway – Carson Short

11/6: Perris Auto Speedway – Chris Windom



11/12: Arizona Speedway – Sterling Cling

11/13: Arizona Speedway – Brody Roa

==========

KSE RACING PRODUCTS "HARD CHARGER" OF THE RACE

2/11: Bubba Raceway Park – Brady Bacon (12th to 4th)

2/12: Bubba Raceway Park – Brady Bacon (10th to 2nd)

4/3: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Robert Ballou (22nd to 9th)

4/16: Bloomington Speedway – Robert Ballou (20th to 10th)

4/17: Tri-State Speedway – Kyle Cummins (11th to 1st)

4/22: Grandview Speedway – Robert Ballou (13th to 3rd)

4/23: Big Diamond Speedway – Alex Bright (19th to 8th)

4/24: BAPS Motor Speedway – Alex Bright (16th to 4th)

4/25: Path Valley Speedway Park – Alex Bright (18th to 4th)

5/8: Eldora Speedway – Dallas Hewitt (21st to 15th)

5/8: Eldora Speedway – Paul Dues (22nd to 13th)

5/26: Terre Haute Action Track – Tanner Thorson (22nd to 11th)

6/15: Grandview Speedway – Chris Windom (13th to 7th)

6/16: Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Brady Bacon (14th to 4th)

6/17: Selinsgrove Speedway – Jake Swanson (20th to 7th)

6/20: Bloomsburg Fair Speedway – C.J. Leary (21st to 7th)

7/1: Plymouth Speedway – Brady Bacon (13th to 5th)

7/2: Lincoln Park Speedway – Cannon McIntosh (20th to 8th)

7/3: Lincoln Park Speedway – Kevin Thomas Jr. (14th to 1st)

7/24: Kokomo Speedway – Shane Cottle (18th to 11th)

7/25: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Justin Grant (19th to 8th)



7/26: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Kyle Cummins (12th to 3rd)

7/28: Terre Haute Action Track – Jason McDougal (15th to 5th)

7/29: Lincoln Park Speedway – Stevie Sussex (22nd to 9th)

7/30: Bloomington Speedway – A.J. Hopkins (21st to 10th)

7/31: Tri-State Speedway – Brady Bacon (22nd to 8th)

8/22: Paragon Speedway – Chris Windom (18th to 5th)

8/27: Kokomo Speedway – Chris Windom (10th to 2nd)

8/28: Kokomo Speedway – Chase Stockon (18th to 10th)

8/28: Kokomo Speedway – Emerson Axsom (15th to 7th)

9/10: Huset's Speedway – Brady Bacon (10th to 3rd)

9/11: Huset's Speedway – Chase Stockon (24th to 12th)

9/12: Huset's Speedway – C.J. Leary (9th to 1st)

9/17: Circle City Raceway – Robert Ballou (20th to 12th)

9/18: Tri-State Speedway – Robert Ballou (15th to 6th)

9/25: Eldora Speedway – Jadon Rogers (22nd to 10th)

10/1: Terre Haute Action Track – Shane Cottle (14th to 9th)

10/2: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Justin Grant (14th to 6th)

11/4: Perris Auto Speedway – Chris Windom (18th to 8th)

11/5: Perris Auto Speedway – Carson Short (24th to 15th)

11/6: Perris Auto Speedway – Chris Windom (19th to 8th)

11/12: Arizona Speedway – Justin Grant (17th to 8th)

11/13: Arizona Speedway – Brady Bacon (15th to 5th)

==========

WILWOOD BRAKES 13TH PLACE FINISHER

2/11: Bubba Raceway Park – Noah Gass

2/12: Bubba Raceway Park – Jadon Rogers

4/3: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Tanner Thorson

4/16: Bloomington Speedway – Carson Garrett

4/17: Tri-State Speedway – Critter Malone

4/22: Grandview Speedway – Justin Grant

4/23: Big Diamond Speedway – Steven Drevicki

4/24: BAPS Motor Speedway – Matt Westfall

4/25: Path Valley Speedway Park – Paul Nienhiser

5/8: Eldora Speedway – Jake Swanson

5/8: Eldora Speedway – Paul Dues

5/26: Terre Haute Action Track – Cole Bodine

6/15: Grandview Speedway – Logan Seavey

6/16: Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Logan Seavey

6/17: Selinsgrove Speedway – Matt Westfall

6/20: Bloomsburg Fair Speedway – Chris Windom

7/1: Plymouth Speedway – Brandon Mattox

7/2: Lincoln Park Speedway – Mario Clouser

7/3: Lincoln Park Speedway – Carson Short

7/24: Kokomo Speedway – Jake Swanson

7/25: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Scotty Weir

7/26: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Chase Stockon

7/28: Terre Haute Action Track – Nick Bilbee

7/29: Lincoln Park Speedway – Kyle Cummins

7/30: Bloomington Speedway – Justin Grant

7/31: Tri-State Speedway – Jason McDougal

8/22: Paragon Speedway – Chase Randall

8/27: Kokomo Speedway – Emerson Axsom



8/28: Kokomo Speedway – Jadon Rogers

8/28: Kokomo Speedway – Kyle Cummins

9/10: Huset's Speedway – Chase Stockon

9/11: Huset's Speedway – Terry Richards

9/12: Huset's Speedway – Mario Clouser

9/17: Circle City Raceway – Koby Barksdale

9/18: Tri-State Speedway – Jadon Rogers

9/25: Eldora Speedway – Nick Bilbee

10/1: Terre Haute Action Track – Mario Clouser

10/2: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Dallas Hewitt

11/4: Perris Auto Speedway – Brody Roa

11/5: Perris Auto Speedway – Damion Gardner

11/6: Perris Auto Speedway – Logan Seavey

11/12: Arizona Speedway – Kevin Thomas Jr.

11/13: Arizona Speedway – Stevie Sussex

==========

SALDANA RACING PRODUCTS FIRST NON-TRANSFER

2/11: Bubba Raceway Park – Matt Westfall

2/12: Bubba Raceway Park – Matt Goodnight

4/3: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Aaron Farney

4/16: Bloomington Speedway – Brandon Mattox

4/17: Tri-State Speedway – Cole Bodine

4/22: Grandview Speedway – Nash Ely

4/23: Big Diamond Speedway – Kyle Lick

4/24: BAPS Motor Speedway – Mike Meyers

4/25: Path Valley Speedway Park – Mike Meyers

5/8: Eldora Speedway – Paul Dues

5/8: Eldora Speedway – Brandon Mattox

5/26: Terre Haute Action Track – Paul Nienhiser

6/15: Grandview Speedway – Alex Banales

6/16: Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Matt Westfall

7/1: Plymouth Speedway – Alex Banales

7/2: Lincoln Park Speedway – Max Adams

7/3: Lincoln Park Speedway – Brady Short

7/24: Kokomo Speedway – Tye Mihocko

7/25: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Jordan Kinser

7/26: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Scotty Weir

7/28: Terre Haute Action Track – Chase Johnson

7/29: Lincoln Park Speedway – Chase Johnson

7/30: Bloomington Speedway – Sterling Cling

7/31: Tri-State Speedway – Critter Malone

8/22: Paragon Speedway – Tanner Thorson

8/27: Kokomo Speedway – Scotty Weir

8/28: Kokomo Speedway – Koby Barksdale

8/28: Kokomo Speedway – Max Guilford

9/10: Huset's Speedway – Donovan Peterson

9/11: Huset's Speedway – Clinton Bruns

9/12: Huset's Speedway – Jeff Pellersels

9/17: Circle City Raceway – Scott Hampton

9/18: Tri-State Speedway – Sam Scott

9/25: Eldora Speedway – Chris Phillips

10/2: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Mitchell Davis

11/4: Perris Auto Speedway – Danny Faria Jr.

11/5: Perris Auto Speedway – Kyle Edwards

11/6: Perris Auto Speedway – Austin Williams

11/12: Arizona Speedway – Logan Calderwood

11/13: Arizona Speedway – Chris Gansen