Grant Reaches The Mountain-TOPP in 2022

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

There was a time when Justin Grant nearly walked away from the sport.

Without a full-time sprint car ride and twin children on the way in 2016, Grant envisioned a life away from the track and leaving his racing dreams in the rearview mirror.

That's when a voice from within the family, a voice from a National Sprint Car Hall of Famer, expressed to Grant that it would be something he'd soon regret, and promptly altered the course of his career and livelihood.

"I raced for a while, then things got pretty rough when I wasn't having much success and I was getting pretty broke," Grant recalled. "I about hung it up, but I'm sure glad I didn't. My father-in-law, Bubby (Jones), told me that it would be the dumbest thing I ever did. Turns out he was right. He usually was."

Six years later, in 2022, the resilient Ione, Calif. native finally became a USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Champion for the first time, and a USAC National titlist for the second time in his career following a Silver Crown championship in 2020.

By doing so, Grant became the 14th driver to capture both a USAC National Sprint Car and Silver Crown title in his career, joining Gary Bettenhausen, Steve Butler, Pancho Carter, Jerry Coons Jr. , Dave Darland, A.J. Foyt, Justin Grant, Tracy Hines, Rick Hood, Levi Jones, Ken Schrader, Tony Stewart, Chris Windom & J.J. Yeley.

He couldn't help but recall the long, arduous journey that took him from 2010 USAC National Sprint Car Rookie of the Year for Baldwin Brothers Racing to his 2016 comeback with Sam McGhee Motorsports and all the way to the mountaintop in 2022 and a championship reward worth $50,000, not counting his copious amounts of race winnings.

Grant's mind goes back to a time in the days preceding that, when he just wanted a chance, any chance, to get behind the wheel and was willing to pitch in any way he could to get noticed and get his shot.

The post-race championship celebration at California's Perris Auto Speedway seemed fitting for Grant, and the 31-year-old couldn't help but realize the significance of the setting as he stood on the front straightaway following the final night of the year.

"I grew up coming to Perris and watching guys race sprint cars and I'd go down to scrape mud on Danny Sheridan's car or whomever would let me hang around," Grant recalled. "I never really thought I'd get the chance to drive one. I met Jeff Walker, went to work for him and he taught me a lot and, eventually, he let me drive one of his cars for a few nights."

It wasn't only Grant's first rodeo as a USAC National Sprint Car champ, it was the first entrant title for Rochester, Indiana's TOPP Motorsports, which had finished third in the standings in 2017-20-21.

The Grant/TOPP combo is the longest, continuously tenured team on the USAC tour, first teaming up for the start of the 2018 season. Along the way, the team has won 26 times, making it the fifth winningest driver/team pairing in USAC National Sprint Car history. The team has built upon its foundation, getting closer and closer to the top, adding pivotal pieces along the way, until reaching the pinnacle at last.

"We've spent the last couple of years working really hard trying to become a championship caliber team," Grant explained. "Hiring (crew chief) "Paul Bunyan" Dylan Cook was huge, and we didn't have a single DNF all year. I went to work pretty hard on myself trying to keep myself mentally sharp and keep my head in the game and in the right spot. (TOPP Motorsports owner) Kevin Birchmeier gives us everything we need go out and compete every night. We have plenty of

fast cars and plenty of spares and there's so many who contribute to this operation to make it possible for us to be prepared and ready to race as we are."

It's a full family effort for Grant who, for the second year in a row, has participated in every single event across USAC's three national divisions (Silver Crown, Midget & Sprint), and there's no way to make the hectic schedule operate like clockwork without assistance from all around.

"I've had so much help along the way, and I still have so much help," Grant acknowledged. "There are so many people who I can lean on, and I've got a lot of great people in my corner. All my car owners and all my sponsors, they're all some of my best friends. My wife, Ashley, makes it possible for me to do this and always has my back. She's always pumping me up to keep me confident and I'm just so thankful. I've certainly worked hard to be here, but it wouldn't have been possible without everybody around me and all the people who have supported me along the way."

In 2022, Grant recorded an impeccable 37 top-ten finishes in 39 feature starts, which registers a top-10 rate of nearly 95 percent. Grant was still running at the checkered flag in all 39 races between February and November with nary a DNF throughout the yearlong quest. His six victories on the season came in many of the series' most marquee events.

Grant scored in February during Winter Dirt Games at Florida's Bubba Raceway Park and again in June at Pennsylvania's Williams Grove Speedway. He added a $10,000 prize during July's Bill Gardner Sprintacular at Indiana's Lincoln Park Speedway. He captured the Indiana Sprint Week round at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway later that month and repeated at Kokomo in August during a preliminary night of Sprint Car Smackdown. Another $10 Grand went in his pocket following September's 4-Crown Nationals at Ohio's Eldora Speedway.

Grant was one of three drivers to hit the six-win mark on the season along with Brady Bacon and Robert Ballou. That made it only the fourth time in series history that in which at least three different drivers have won six or more features in a season (1961, 1977, 2013 & 2022).

Also on Grant's checklist for the 2022 season was an Indiana Sprint Week title, which he clinched for the first time in his career during midsummer after finishing inside the top-five of the annual series' points in each of the prior three seasons.

In the end, Grant became the seventh individual to collect both Indiana Sprint Week and USAC National Sprint Car driving titles in the same year: J.J. Yeley (2003), Levi Jones (2009), Bryan Clauson (2013), Robert Ballou (2015), Brady Bacon (2016) and C.J. Leary (2019).

Thirteen different drivers won a USAC National Sprint Car feature in 2022, the most since 2017. Among them were Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) who had a season that was highlighted by a first career Oval Nationals victory to conclude the slate in November at Perris and was worth $20,000.

Bacon padded his wallet by earning the inaugural Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment series title, a 10-race series within a series in which Bacon earned an extra $10,000 as the point champ.

Furthermore, Bacon extended his streak of consecutive seasons with a USAC National Sprint Car win to 12, which now stands only one behind the all-time mark of 13-straight set by Sheldon Kinser between 1974-86. Bacon's 46th victory in the season finale moved him to fourth all-time on the series win list. He's now one of only four drivers in the 40/40 club to have accumulated at least 40 series wins and 40 fast qualifying times in his career along with Dave Darland, Tom Bigelow and Tracy Hines.

Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) posted his best result since his 2015 championship campaign by earning six wins, including the 52nd running of the Tony Hulman Classic at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track in May, racing within the confines of the new

guardrail surrounding the half-mile dirt oval, a guardrail which Ballou, himself, played a major role in instructing and installing.

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) had his most successful single-season run with the series, tallying four wins and the best single-night payday of the year with a $35,000 triumph during Sprint Car Smackdown at Kokomo in August.

Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) took Rookie of the Year honors, a season which got off on the right foot with wins in two of his first three starts in February at Florida's Bubba Raceway Park.

Axsom was one of four first-time USAC National Sprint Car feature winners during the season, which is the most since 2016. Mitchel Moles (Raisin City, Calif.) avenged a crash while leading the night before to win his first in July at the Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals in South Dakota.

Moles' eight fast qualifying times were the most ever in series history for a Rookie, breaking the mark set by Tanner Thorson in 2021. Incidentally, both Moles and Thorson were driving the same Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports No. 19AZ when they set their respective records.

USAC west coast standout Ryan Bernal (Hollister, Calif.) made just three starts during the season, but one of those three resulted in a first career series victory after more than a decade of trying. His win at Huset's also provided event promoter Matt Wood with his first career series win as a car owner.

Jadon Rogers (Worthington, Ind.) had to slay a pair of giants en route to his first series victory during September's $12,000-to-win Haubstadt Hustler at Tri-State Speedway, withstanding a barrage from the track's two winningest USAC Sprint Car drivers during the final laps – Kevin Thomas Jr. and Kyle Cummins.

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) won thrice, but his qualifying prowess was off the charts. His 12 fast times in 2022 rank as the third most all-time in a single season behind Kevin Thomas Jr.'s 15 in 2018 and Tom Bigelow's 14 in 1978. After notching 11 fast times in 2019, Leary became the first driver in series history to hit double figures in that category on two separate occasions.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) was absent for practically the entire first half of the season but emerged with a force by reaching victory lane three times in a span of five starts during the latter stages of summer.

Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) won twice in June during the series' swing through New Jersey and Pennsylvania. His spectacular week resulted in a first career Eastern Storm miniseries title.

Shane Cottle (Kansas, Ill.) led one lap and one lap only during the 2022 season. He made it the right one during July's Indiana Sprint Week opener at Gas City I-69 Speedway. It was the second time in the last four years that Cottle had made a last lap effort to win the Gas City round of ISW.

Furthermore, the 50-year-old Cottle joined an exclusive club by becoming the seventh driver over the age of 50 to win a USAC National Sprint Car main event, putting him in the same company as Bob Kinser (54), Terry Pletch (52), Dean Shirley (51), Hank Lower (51), Dave Darland (51) and Jack Hewitt (50).

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) endured a tumultuous up-and-down season that saw him injured during a July crash at Kokomo, which resulted in a hospital stay. Swanson finished the season with a flurry, collecting podium finishes in four of his last five starts to conclude the season.

Swanson's biggest success of the year arrived in the 55th Annual Western World Championships, held for the first time at Arizona's Cocopah Speedway. Swanson's performance on the final night consisted of a fast qualifying time, a heat race

win and a feature victory, resulting in a $10,000 prize and the first complete "sweep" in the series since Tyler Courtney at Eldora in 2019.

Eight drivers appeared at all 39 series events in 2022: Axsom, Bacon, Ballou, Grant, Leary, Rogers, Seavey and Westfall. Five drivers started all 39 feature during the season: Axsom, Bacon, Ballou, Grant and Leary. The average car count across all events was 34.5 while 137 different drivers recorded at least one feature start.

Bacon led all drivers with 224 laps led, 27 top-five finishes and 11 heat race victories.

The most positions advanced in a single feature race throughout the year was +15 from Shane Cottle (22nd to 7th) on July 25 at Circle City Raceway and by Logan Seavey (21st to 6th) on October 29 at Cocopah Speedway.

The series was saddened by the death of Terry Babb (Decatur, Ill.), who passed away from a heart attack while leading a winged sprint car feature in a non-USAC sanctioned event at Missouri's Saint Francois County Raceway in July at the age of 55. Babb made his final USAC National Sprint Car appearance in June at Wisconsin's Angell Park Speedway, finishing 13th. Babb qualified for eight USAC National Sprint Car feature events in his career, scoring a 14th in his debut at Tri-City Speedway in Granite City, Ill. in 1990. With the series in 2010 at 34 Raceway in West Burlington, Iowa, Babb set quick time during qualifying and finished a career best 5th in the main event.

==========

FIRST STRIKE: AXSOM SCORES USAC SPRINT WIN #1 AT OCALA

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Ocala, Florida (February 17, 2022)……For Emerson Axsom, a ride that began as merely a brief, three-race stint for Clauson Marshall Newman Racing's USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship team late last season, ultimately turned into a full-time deal for 2022 based on the flashes of brilliance the Franklin, Ind. teenager displayed when he received his initial shot.

The 17-year-old rewarded the team's faith in him by recording his first career series feature victory in what was just his eighth career series start on Thursday night in the season opener at Ocala, Florida's Bubba Raceway Park, round number one of Winter Dirt Games XIII.

Axsom made his series debut for CMNR in late August of 2021 and finished a best of 7th on two occasions, in the Sprint Car Smackdown at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway and at Circle City Raceway in Indianapolis, Ind. But it was the final start of last season at Lawrenceburg (Ind.) Speedway that stuck in his craw, one in which he led every lap until four to go when his right rear tire gave way, denying him a shot at victory.

But it was those types of flashes that just whetted the appetite and generated excitement for a chance at redemption with a full-scale run as a series Rookie this coming year.

"Last year was supposed to be like a three-race deal and it just went so good that I talked (team co-owner) Tim (Clauson) into letting me run a full season," Axsom explained. "I want to stay with this team as long as possible. These guys gave me a great racecar and I can't thank them enough. I'm speechless. I'm glad we got one out of the way early because I felt we got robbed in that one last year. I'm so happy for this team."

Prior to Axsom, it had been 19 years since a driver won his first career USAC National Sprint Car feature in the season opening race, not since Aaron Pierce in 2003. In all, 11 drivers have accomplished the feat: Bob Sweikert (1956), James McElreath (1977), Paul Pitzer (1979), Dave Peperak (1981), Jack Hewitt (1982), Jeff Gordon (1989), Robbie Stanley (1991), Frankie Kerr (1994), Dave Steele (1996), Pierce (2003) and now Axsom (2022).

However, after setting the fastest time in Wednesday's practice and securing a spot on the outside of the front row for Thursday's feature, Axsom had the utmost confidence that this could very well be the night of his breakthrough in the Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

On the opening lap, Axsom drifted around the outside of pole sitter Jason McDougal on the back straightaway entering turn three for the race lead and held strong and content at the front of the field by a half-straight in the early going.

However, the fun and games halted on the fifth lap when fifth-running Brady Bacon uncharacteristically spun sideways on his own in turn three, then was plowed into by the sixth-place car of Ballou. Bacon got kickstarted and resumed under power and promptly drove away from the scene while Ballou's ride came to a complete stop.

The middle portion was plagued by a bevy of cautions, with Bacon's not-so-good night getting worse on lap eight when he spun again in turn four. Meanwhile, another tangle ensued and claimed several cars in the latter half of the field from 12th on back with Mario Clouser hopping a right rear, and the ensuing entanglement catching Shane Cockrum and Tanner Thorson in its web as both stopped alongside the infield berm.

The most serious accident of the night occurred on the 13th lap when Wesley Smith tagged the back straightaway wall and flipped several times into turn three. He was able to walk away from the incident with assistance from the medical personnel.

Down the stretch, it appeared as if it was going to be a tale of tire and equipment conservation. He who pushed hard, but not too hard, would last and, thus, would find themselves in comfortable shape at the end of 30 laps. Axsom found and maintained that perfect balance as both McDougal and Meseraull followed closely behind – a single car length separating first from second and from second to third – but not able to budge into the leader's gap.

That proved to be short lived in the final 10-lap stanza as Axsom steadily increased his lead as each successive lap clicked off, building to a crescendo of 4.002 seconds when he crossed under the checkered flag ahead of McDougal, Meseraull, Kyle Cummins and Buddy Kofoid in the distance, rounding out the top-five.

Axsom's victory was the third for the Clauson Marshall Newman Racing sprinter at Bubba Raceway Park, having won on consecutive nights in 2018 with Tyler Courtney.

For all intents and purposes, Jason McDougal partied like it was 2019. In his first Winter Dirt Games sprint car start since 2019, the Broken Arrow, Okla. driver snared his best result since finishing 2nd at Bloomington (Ind.) Speedway in 2019. On Thursday night, McDougal started the 2022 season strong with an impressive runner-up finish in his KO Motorsports/Hutson John Deere – S & C Machine – Chrome Dome/Flea RC/J & D Chevy.

"When it started taking rubber, I thought we had something for a minute, but they got really good," McDougal explained. "I felt my stuff start to vibrate with about seven laps to go, so I just rode it because I figured it's better to run second than to blow a right rear."

With just a single podium finish throughout the 2021 USAC National Sprint Car season, Thomas Meseraull already equaled his output after a single race in 2022. The San Jose, Calif. native traveled from 7th to finish 3rd in the A-Main aboard his Chris Dyson Racing/Concord American Flagpole – Racer Magazine/Maxim/Ott Chevy.

"I don't know what (Crew Chief) Sean (Michael) does, but he does a great job with the car," Meseraull praised. "He hits and misses USAC shows, but they win every year. I'm super stoked to be a part of the team. We have an awesome car and Chris Dyson always has really nice stuff."

Following a complete multi-day rebuild of their Curb Records – Mobil 1 – IWX/Spike/Speedway Chevy car following a devastating practice crash last Sunday at Bubba Raceway Park, the Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports team nearly headed home. But it was the determination of the entire crew who stuck it out, stripped down the car and pieced it back together for the team's first USAC National Sprint Car appearance since the 2013 Smackdown at Kokomo with driver Christopher Bell.

In the newly rebuilt KKM ride, Buddy Kofoid charged from 18th to finish 5th tonight in only his sixth career USAC National Sprint Car start, five of which have concluded with top-five finishes. The Penngrove, Calif. driver's performance through the pack on this night earned him the Irvin King Hard Charger award.

"We had really good speed yesterday (in practice) and we were good in hot laps today, but I kind of made a mistake and I feel like we didn't go far enough for qualifying for how late we had to go out," Kofoid detailed. "We just missed it there, then got a little better, but we were still chasing it in the heat race, then finally got it better in the main event. But I was able to bide my time and ride in the rubber, keep my tires under me and use my knowledge from the wing car of driving it straight and keeping the tires secure and not blowing them off with how abrasive it was. Eighteenth to fifth wasn't bad, and hopefully we can have a way better day tomorrow so I don't have to pass that many cars."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: February 17, 2022 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XIII – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

FATHEADZ QUALIFYING: 1. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.959; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.979; 3. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.027; 4. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.128; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.190; 6. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-14.191; 7. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-14.206; 8. Carson Short, 21x, RCM-14.214; 9. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-14.324; 10. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-14.404; 11. Landon Simon, 24, LSR-14.406; 12. Thomas Meseraull, 20D, Dyson-14.410; 13. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.420; 14. Wesley Smith, 44, Smith-14.433; 15. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.477; 16. Kory Schudy, 28K, Sawyer-14.478; 17. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.528; 18. Buddy Kofoid, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.536; 19. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.547; 20. Shane Cockrum, 66, Amati-14.548; 21. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-14.549; 22. Cole Bodine, 57B, DCT/Crow/Bodine-14.583; 23. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-14.642; 24. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE/Dougherty-14.662; 25. Mario Clouser, 6, Eberhardt/Zirzow-14.685; 26. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.739; 27. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-14.755; 28. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner-14.763; 29. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.830; 30. Chad Boespflug, 2B, 2B Racing-14.875; 31. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-14.878; 32. Steve Irwin, 0, Flying Zero-14.971; 33. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-15.059; 34. Dallas Hewitt, 21, Hewitt-15.075; 35. Jackson Slone, 16, Slone-15.277; 36. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-15.343; 37. Jack Hoyer, 57c, DCT/Crow/Bodine-15.397; 38. Jeremy Kerzman, 3K, Kerzman-15.533; 39. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-15.668; 40. Robert Bell, 71, Bell-15.793; 41. Josh Turner, 4x, Turner-15.808; 42. Kyle Shipley, 17GP, Dutcher-15.838; 43. Eddie Vancil, 7v, Vancil-16.523.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Tanner Thorson, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Mario Clouser, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Braxton Cummings, 8. Jadon Rogers, 9. Jack Hoyer, 10. Josh Turner, 11. Jake Swanson. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Buddy Kofoid, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Brady Short, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Wesley Smith, 8. Chad Boespflug, 9. Kyle Shipley, 10. Dallas Hewitt, 11. Jeremy Kerzman. NT

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Charles Davis Jr., 3. Jason McDougal, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Kyle Cummins, 6. Landon Simon, 7. Dustin Clark, 8. Alex Bright, 9. Jackson Slone, 10. Brian Ruhlman, 11. Eddie Vancil. 2:03.66

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Shane Cockrum, 4. Kory Schudy, 5. Carson Short, 6. Carson Garrett, 7. Briggs Danner, 8. Steve Irwin, 9. Alex Banales, 10. Robert Bell. 2:05.47

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Dustin Clark, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Steve Irwin, 4. Alex Banales, 5. Jack Hoyer, 6. Jackson Slone, 7. Dallas Hewitt, 8. Kyle Shipley, 9. Brian Ruhlman, 10. Josh Turner, 11. Robert Bell, 12. Jeremy Kerzman. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Carson Short, 3. Landon Simon, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Wesley Smith, 7. Logan Seavey, 8. Braxton Cummings, 9. Cole Bodine, 10. Briggs Danner, 11. Carson Garrett, 12. Brandon Mattox, 13. Alex Bright, 14. Dustin Clark, 15. Chad Boespflug, 16. Steve Irwin, 17. Jadon Rogers, 18. Alex Banales. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Emerson Axsom (2), 2. Jason McDougal (1), 3. Thomas Meseraull (7), 4. Kyle Cummins (9), 5. Buddy Kofoid (18), 6. Justin Grant (6), 7. Chase Stockon (3), 8. Carson Short (10), 9. Logan Seavey (23-P), 10. Mario Clouser (22), 11. Shane Cottle (11), 12. Brady Short (12), 13. Matt Westfall (15), 14. Jake Swanson (14), 15. Kory Schudy (16), 16. Brady Bacon (5), 17. Landon Simon (13), 18. Robert Ballou (8), 19. Tanner Thorson (17), 20. Shane Cockrum (20), 21. Charles Davis Jr. (21), 22. C.J. Leary (4), 23. Wesley Smith (19). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Emerson Axsom.

**Wesley Smith flipped on lap 13 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-77, 2-Jason McDougal-73, 3-Thomas Meseraull-72, 4-Kyle Cummins-69, 5-Justin Grant-69, 6-Buddy Kofoid-65, 7-Chase Stockon-59, 8-Carson Short-52, 9-Shane Cottle-48, 10-Logan Seavey-46.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XIII SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-347, 2-Jason McDougal-341, 3-Thomas Meseraull-339, 4-Justin Grant-336, 5-Kyle Cummins-327, 6-Buddy Kofoid-319, 7-Chase Stockon-316, 8-Carson Short-305, 9-Shane Cottle-305, 10-Brady Bacon-301.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Buddy Kofoid-16, 2-Thomas Meseraull-13, 3-Mario Clouser-12, 4-Brenham Crouch-8, 5-Tanner Thorson-7, 6-Taylor Reimer-7, 7-Kaylee Bryson-7, 8-Ethan Mitchell-6, 9-Kevin Thomas Jr.-6, 10-Kyle Cummins-5.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XIII SPRINT CAR HUGHES RACING / INDIANA MAFIA / FLAMINGO SANDY PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Mario Closuer-19, 2-Buddy Kofoid-13, 3-Thomas Meseraull-7, 4-Jason McDougal-6, 5-Kyle Cummins-6, 6-Kyle Shipley-6, 7-Justin Grant-5, 8-Logan Seavey-5, 9-Brady Bacon-5, 10-C.J. Leary-4.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: February 18-19, 2022 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XIII – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Brady Short

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Justin Grant

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Kyle Cummins

ProSource Hard Work: Mario Clouser

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Buddy Kofoid (13.851)

Irvin King Hard Charger: Buddy Kofoid (18th to 5th)

==========

WINTER GRANT GAMES: JUSTIN GRANT SCORES AGAIN WITH USAC IN OCALA

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Ocala, Florida (February 18, 2022)……If there was to be a proposition to rename the second month on the 2022 calendar, it would most likely have to be changed to "Justin Grant."

For the third time in less than a week, the Ione, Calif. native won a USAC national feature event at Ocala, Florida's Bubba Raceway Park. The latest of the batch came in Friday night's Mother Nature plagued USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature, this coming a week after sweeping both USAC NOS Energy Drink Midget National Championship main events at the 3/8-mile dirt track.

In a feature that started at 1am local time due to a nearly three-hour rain delay, Grant swept around the outside of Carson Short on lap three, then staved off a handful of late race cautions to earn his first series victory of the year in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries – LA Poly/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

The win was the 29th of Grant's USAC National Sprint Car career, moving him into sole possession of 18th all-time ahead of Don Branson, A.J. Foyt, Levi Jones and J.J. Yeley on the list.

And, perhaps more extraordinary, the triumph added Grant to an elite list of six drivers who've won features in at least two USAC National series prior to the end of February: Billy Vukovich (Sprint & Midget in 1968), Tony Stewart (Silver Crown & Midget in 1998), Dave Steele (Silver Crown & Midget in 2006), Darren Hagen (Sprint & Midget in 2009), Levi Jones (Silver Crown & Sprint in 2010) and now Grant (Midget & Sprint in 2022).

For a winning performance to transpire on this evening, the recipe was there, and the ingredients were such that even if he had absorbed a lethal challenge to his stranglehold on the race lead, it would only occur because of his own undoing. However, Grant wasn't about to let any of that happen.

"I was really confident in our car," Grant explained. "I felt like I could make enough time getting off four and going back to the bottom of one, that even if someone was really better, I didn't know what they were really going to be able to do with me. I felt pretty good there and I just needed to not make any mistakes and bring the thing home.'

Grant started his race from the pole position and, for the first two laps, dueled with one-lap track record holder Carson Short for the top spot. Short held the upper hand for the first two circuits, leading at the line by a single car length at the conclusion of lap one and a full two lengths at the completion of lap two as Grant continued to present a challenge to the inside of Short.

On the third lap, Grant's persistence paid off as he carved to the inside of Short and burst off turn two with the lead in his grasp. Short, nonetheless, continued to scrap and bolted around the outside of Grant on the back straightaway while completing the fourth lap. As Short exited turn four, however, a slight step-out slashed his momentum as Grant powered by at the exit to reassume the lead.

Short's tenure near the front of the field came to a close when he slowed on the front straightaway with 16 laps completed. He'd return to finish a decent eighth. When racing resumed, Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier Buddy Kofoid plotted his charge up the running order, sliding to the inside of Thursday night winner Axsom in turn one for the second position on lap 16, promptly gapping Axsom, but still had a mountainous one second interval to erase between he and leader Grant.

On the 24th lap, contact between Thomas Meseraull's right front and Jason McDougal's left rear in between turns one and two sent the eighth running Meseraull spinning to a stop and the seventh-place car of McDougal slowing dramatically with a flat left rear tire. As Meseraull's car rest near the outside wall, a brief moment later, Ballou nosed right into Meseraull's right rear, sending Ballou's machine snapping around and catching the wall.

Ballou, who earlier in the night had endured five flips during a semi-feature incident, was undeterred as he sprinted all the way across the track following the accident in order to prepare the backup car for a provisional feature starting position and had charged from 23rd to 11th prior to the crash amid a monumental milestone in which he became the seventh driver ever to make 400 career USAC National Sprint Car feature starts. Ballou finished 19th, Meseraull 20th, and McDougal in 12th after restarting.

Grant escaped Kofoid's pursuit on the ensuing lap 24 restart and reconstructed a 1.2 second lead with three laps to go when, suddenly, eighth running C.J. Leary lost power in turn four. Ninth place Brady Bacon had nowhere to go and ran into the back of Leary, resulting in both drivers stopping. Leary finished with an 18th place result while Bacon took 15th.

Diverting from his racelong path, Grant went topside down the stretch with Kofoid hanging in the wings about five car lengths back of Grant and not in position to make a last ditch effort to put it in victory lane for the first time in his USAC National Sprint Car career.

Grant closed it up, locked it away and chalked up the 0.636 margin of victory for the night over Buddy Kofoid, Emerson Axsom, Chase Stockon (11) and Tanner Thorson.

It was a podium featuring the veteran Grant as the undeniable force up front all while a pair of series Rookies and midget racing standouts gave Grant a chase throughout much of the 30-lap, $5,000-to-win feature event.



"These guys are tough, Buddy and Emerson, they race so hard coming out of midgets," Grant said. "I'm having a ton of fun racing with those guys and am looking forward to racing with them as the year goes on in the sprint cars."

Kofoid (Penngrove, Calif.) zipped from 6th to 2nd tonight at to earn his best career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car finish aboard his Keith Kunz-Curb-Agajanian Motorsports/Curb Records – Mobil 1 – IWX/Spike/Speedway Chevy. In just seven series starts he's run this far since 2020, he's been 4th, 4th, 5th, 8th, 3rd, 5th & 2nd.

"This was by far the best I've ever felt in a non-wing sprint car," Kofoid praised. "I think we were a little on the tight side this time and a little low air pressure hurt us at times. Once I got going, I felt like I was just as fast as Justin. He's been really good here and hopefully tomorrow we can beat him."

It hasn't been a bad two nights to start the 2022 USAC National Sprint Car season for Emerson Axsom. After winning Thursday's season opener, he finished a strong 3rd earn high points status entering Saturday's Winter Dirt Games finale.

Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) is both the USAC National Sprint Car point leader and is the high point man in the Winter Dirt Games XIII Sprint Car standings going into Saturday night where he'll be among the favorites after backing up his win another fine performance in his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

"I'm just glad we had a good run tonight so we can't say last night was a fluke," Axsom stated. "That was on me to have a good run and I feel like we did. We were really solid; it's just that these guys are really good up here in front of me. It's tough to beat them and we must be on our A-game."

On Friday, Shane Cottle (Kansas, Ill.) became the 19th driver to start 300 career USAC National Sprint Car features, and he made it a pretty stout one. He blitzed from 21st to 10th to earn a $100 bonus from Irvin King as the night's feature hard charger in his Hogue Enterprises/Boulevard Truck Repair – Bout The Hops Brewing – VP Racing Fuels/DRC/Rider Chevy.

"It was definitely hard to make a pass but down in turns three and four, we could stick it on the bottom, and if they missed it, they'd slide up in the slick and we could shoot underneath them," Cottle explained. "It was a real technical, tricky track, but it was fun."

In the grand schemed of Winter Dirt Games, Grant, Kofoid and Axsom are the five drivers locked into Saturday night's $10,000-to-win feature, along with Kyle Cummins and Chase Stockon.

One-and-a-third Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying sessions were technically held on Friday night. The initial attempt at qualifying lasted only through 16 of the 43 cars being qualified when the rain hit. With the substantial downpour and subsequent complete track rework, by rule, time trials completely started over. This is so all drivers will have the opportunity to compete uninterrupted on the same track surface.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: February 18, 2022 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XIII – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

FATHEADZ QUALIFYING: 1. Buddy Kofoid, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-14.100; 2. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.149; 3. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-14.237; 4. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-14.266; 5. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.292; 6. Carson Short, 21x, RCM-14.327; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.340; 8. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.378; 9. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.394; 10. Landon Simon, 24, LSR-14.436; 11. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-14.513; 12. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.551; 13. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.604; 14. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.607; 15. Chad Boespflug, 2B, 2B Racing-14.655; 16. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.664; 17. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE/Dougherty-14.715; 18. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-14.734; 19. Tanner Thorson, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.736; 20. Matt Westfall, 33m,

Marshall-14.769; 21. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-14.794; 22. Steve Irwin, 0, Flying Zero-14.843; 23. Kyle Shipley, 17GP, Dutcher-14.855; 24. Thomas Meseraull, 20D, Dyson-14.857; 25. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-14.861; 26. Shane Cockrum, 66, Amati-14.879; 27. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-14.894; 28. Cole Bodine, 57B, DCT/Crow/Bodine-14.955; 29. Dallas Hewitt, 21, Hewitt-15.020; 30. Kory Schudy, 28K, Sawyer-15.030; 31. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-15.050; 32. Mario Clouser, 6, Eberhardt/Zirzow-15.090; 33. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-15.105; 34. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-15.240; 35. Jack Hoyer, 57c, DCT/Crow/Bodine-15.407; 36. Jeremy Kerzman, 3K, Kerzman-15.602; 37. Jackson Slone, 16, Slone-15.665; 38. Josh Turner, 4x, Turner-15.756; 39. Austin Hawkins, 5A, Hawkins-15.770; 40. Eddie Vancil, 7v, Vancil-15.903; 41. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-16.124; 42. Robert Bell, 71, Bell-16.717; 43. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Buddy Kofoid, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Braxton Cummings, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Charles Davis Jr., 8. Dallas Hewitt, 9. Jackson Slone, 10. Brian Ruhlman. 1:59.48

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Short, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Steve Irwin, 4. Carson Short, 5. Landon Simon, 6. Shane Cockrum, 7. Robert Ballou, 8. Kory Schudy, 9. Josh Turner, 10. Jadon Rogers, 11. Robert Bell. NT

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Tanner Thorson, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Alex Bright, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Shane Cottle, 6. Kyle Shipley, 7. Jack Hoyer, 8. Dustin Clark, 9. Austin Hawkins. 1:55.12

FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. C.J. Leary, 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Cole Bodine, 8. Mario Clouser, 9. Jeremy Kerzman, 10. Eddie Vancil. 2:00.04

C-MAIN: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Alex Banales, 2. Jeremy Kerzman, 3. Josh Turner, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Jack Hoyer, 6. Robert Bell, 7. Brian Ruhlman, 8. Eddie Vancil, 9. Jackson Slone. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Kory Schudy, 5. Landon Simon, 6. Shane Cockrum, 7. Cole Bodine, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Jadon Rogers, 10. Alex Banales, 11. Dallas Hewitt, 12. Josh Turner, 13. Charles Davis Jr., 14. Robert Ballou, 15. Carson Garrett, 16. Kyle Shipley, 17. Mario Clouser, 18. Jeremy Kerzman. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (1), 2. Buddy Kofoid (6), 3. Emerson Axsom (4), 4. Chase Stockon (11), 5. Tanner Thorson (9), 6. Kyle Cummins (7), 7. Jake Swanson (14), 8. Carson Short (2), 9. Logan Seavey (3), 10. Shane Cottle (21), 11. Shane Cockrum (20), 12. Jason McDougal (5), 13. Matt Westfall (17), 14. Brady Short (8), 15. Brady Bacon (15), 16. Alex Bright (13), 17. Kory Schudy (22), 18. C.J. Leary (16), 19. Robert Ballou (23-P), 20. Thomas Meseraull (10), 21. Landon Simon (12), 22. Braxton Cummings (18), 23. Steve Irwin (19). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Carson Short, Laps 3-30 Justin Grant.

**Robert Ballou flipped during the semi. Kyle Shipley & Mario Clouser flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-150, 2-Justin Grant-146, 3-Buddy Kofoid-145, 4-Kyle Cummins-132, 5-Chase Stockon-125, 6-Jason McDougal-121, 7-Carson Short-107, 8-Thomas Meseraull-103, 9-Logan Seavey-100, 10-Tanner Thorson-97.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XIII SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-686, 2-Justin Grant-686, 3-Buddy Kofoid-670, 4-Kyle Cummins-655, 5-Chase Stockon-642, 6-Jason McDougal-641, 7-Carson Short-616, 8-Thomas Meseraull-606, 9-Tanner Thorsone-591, 10-Brady Bacon-589.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Buddy Kofoid-20, 2-Thomas Meseraull-13, 3-Mario Clouser-12, 4-Tanner Thorson-11, 5-Shane Cottle-11, 6-Shane Cockrum-9, 7-Brenham Crouch-8, 8-Chase Stockon-7, 9-Jake Swanson-7, 10-Taylor Reimer-7.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XIII SPRINT CAR HUGHES RACING / INDIANA MAFIA / FLAMINGO SANDY PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Buddy Kofoid-21, 2-Shane Cottle-20, 3-Mario Clouser-19, 4-Jadon Rogers-16, 5-Kory Schudy-15, 6-Shane Cockrum-13, 7-Kyle Cummins-10, 8-Chase Stockon-9, 9-Josh Turner-9, 10-Jason McDougal-8.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: February 19, 2022 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XIII – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Buddy Kofoid

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Buddy Kofoid

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brady Short

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Tanner Thorson

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

ProSource Hard Work: Kory Schudy

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Jason McDougal

Irvin King Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (21st to 10th)

==========

SECOND HELPING: AXSOM POCKETS $10,000 WINTER DIRT GAMES USAC SPRINT FINALE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Ocala, Florida (February 19, 2022)……Following Friday night's Winter Dirt Games XIII USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Champion feature, Emerson Axsom expressed the sentiment that he was pleased with his third-place result because, by doing so, it proved that his victory in Thursday's season opener was no fluke.

The collective sentiment of the racing world following his second series victory in a span of three nights at Ocala, Florida's Bubba Raceway Park is that Emerson Axsom, unequivocally and without a doubt, is no fluke.

The 17-year-old series Rookie is $10,000 richer after Saturday night's victory, which he began from the fourth position but chased down race-long leader Chase Stockon for the lead with 11 laps remaining in only the second ever 35-lap feature held in series history. The only other event of that distance – a rain-shortened race in May of 2006 at Anderson (Ind.) Speedway – was won by Darren Hagen.

From there, Axsom closed the lid on a breakout weekend by becoming the first driver since Kevin Swindell in 2008 to capture his first two career USAC National Sprint Car wins within a 48-hour span. Axsom did his work at the controls of the Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

“This is way better than two nights ago; we had to race for this one,” Axsom exclaimed. “Like I said after that one, I just had to get after it non-wing sprint car style. This thing was on rails. It wasn’t me; it kind of drove itself out there to be honest. This team is one whole big family and I love these guys to death. I wouldn’t want to drive a racecar for any other team.”

With a unique format in place for Saturday’s event, Emerson Axsom had already locked himself into the feature lineup by virtue of his points accumulation throughout the previous two nights of racing. A six-lap dash featured the top-five in Winter Dirt Games sprint car points, plus three more qualifying race winners from Saturday night. There, Axsom finished fourth and lined up outside the second row for the main event.

A front row with a delectable southern Indiana flavor led the field to the green flag, with Stockon emerging as the early leader following several side-by-side laps around the 3/8-mile dirt track versus pole sitter Kyle Cummins. Meanwhile, it took 11 laps for Axsom to muscle his way past Cummins into the runner-up spot on the bottom of turn two.

Stockon hit his stride using the top side but gradually began to lose ground when Axsom got ahold of the bottom right around the midway point. On lap 20, however, Stockon finally got wind of Axsom’s nose, front bumper and front wheels, which entered the peripheral vision of Stockon. Stockon responded by protecting the bottom between turns three and four to keep on hangin’ on, just as the yellow flag was displayed.

In this incident with 16 laps remaining, eighth running Robert Ballou and ninth-place Jake Swanson collided on the front straightaway, sending Swanson into the outside wall before crawling to a stall on the bottom of turn one. Swanson took umbrage due to the incident and, after climbing from his car, pump faked a steering wheel throw at the passing car of Ballou under yellow. Swanson was knocked out of the race while Ballou continued onward to finish eighth, but the fireworks that started on the track between the two continued into the pits following the checkered.

Back up front, the sly Axsom knew Stockon had spotted his attacker on the radar prior to the caution. However, a brief move to the top shelf by Axsom with 13 laps remaining on the ticker forced a counter-reaction from Stockon, who inched off the bottom, and parted the seas for Axsom to take advantage, although both Justin Grant and, ultimately, Tanner Thorson soon posed a potent threat.

“(Chase) saw me on the bottom there and moved down but he didn’t fully see what I was doing,” Axsom revealed. “So, I was still able to get a run on him and kind of trick him there in three and four and just pull up to the side of him. He moved up and left me a lane.”

It took a couple shots, and a caution period to ponder, but Axsom now had course of direction and a course of action to take, which he attacked.

“I was trying the slider line into one and two and just rolling the bottom in three and four,” Axsom explained. “Chase was definitely the best car when he was on the top all the way around, but I just went for it on the bottom of three and four and tried it and it just so happened that it was good. I kind of saw the top getting so far up that it was above the flat. Usually when it does that, it slows down a lot. I just went down there and tried it and I gained about a straightaway on him in two laps. I didn’t know if anybody behind was just as good, but I knew we were really good and that’s when I knew I had to stick with what I was doing.”

With eight laps to go, Thorson fired by Stockon to take over second and began his pursuit of Axsom for the race lead. A caution for the slowing Shane Cottle on lap 30 impeded the proceedings momentarily just as Thorson was cutting his way into Axsom's lead. With the frontrunners bunched up for the final restart, Axsom inserted the dagger as he burst away from Thorson and the remainder of the field to exponentially extend his commanding lead down the final stretch.

Axsom left all challengers in the rearview as he crossed the stripe 2.536 seconds ahead of second place finisher Thorson with Stockon third, Friday night winner Justin Grant fourth and Brady Bacon fifth.

Thorson (Minden, Nev.) carved his way through the field to challenge for the lead late, finishing 2nd after starting 14th in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy, a performance which netted him a $100 bonus as the night's Irvin King Hard Charger, recovering from a tumultuous couple of nights in which he finished 19th and 5th.

"It makes it better," Thorson said of his runner-up finish compared to the past couple of evenings. "It goes to show how good my guys are without giving up on me and letting me do what I do; my guys didn't give up in me. I just came up a little bit short. I wish we would've started a little further up and we might've had a shot at the 47, but we'll try again next time."

Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.) led a race-high 24 laps and concluded a successful Winter Dirt Games with a 3rd place result in his KO Motorsports/Hutson John Deere – Superior Tank & Trailer – AMSOIL/Flea RC/J & D Chevy. With a 7th, 4th and a 3rd this weekend, it's the first time Stockon has finished three-straight USAC National Sprint Car features inside the top-7 since the end of 2020.

"The first part of that race, we were really good, almost too good," Stockon lamented. "I kind of knew we'd be a sitting duck running out front and the track started taking rubber in a few places. I saw Emerson coming and I knew I needed to move. We just fell two spots short, and we have nothing to hang our head about. That's for sure."

With 26 positions advanced throughout Winter Dirt Games sprint cars weekend, including 10 on Saturday night, Jadon Rogers (Worthington, Ind.) earned a come-from-behind prevailing performance to score a sweet $800 bonus as the Hughes Racing / Indiana Mafia / Flamingo Sandy Passing Master aboard his Engler Family/Engler Machine & Tool – AMSOIL – Sherrill's Pest Control/DRC/SPEC Chevy.

"The crew worked their butts off," Rogers praised. "We changed everything possible on that racecar and ended up coming around full circle, getting back to where we started, and we ended up being pretty fast."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: February 19, 2022 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XIII – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST QUALIFYING RACE: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Shane Cottle (#39 Hogue), 2. Brady Short (#61m Edwards), 3. Landon Simon (#24 LSR), 4. Jason McDougal (#5m KO), 5. Logan Seavey (#5 Baldwin-Fox), 6. Chad Boespflug (#2B 2B Racing), 7. Charles Davis Jr. (#47 Davis), 8. Steve Irwin (#0 Flying Zero), 9. Jack Hoyer (#57c DCT-Crow-Bodine), 10. Dallas Hewitt (#21 Hewitt), 11. Robert Bell (#71 Bell). 2:03.40

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND QUALIFYING RACE: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Short (#21x RCM), 2. Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), 3. Shane Cockrum (#66 Amati), 4. Braxton Cummings (#71B Cummings), 5. Jadon Rogers (#14 Engler), 6. Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), 7. Briggs Danner (#5G Heffner), 8. Kory Schudy (#28K Sawyer), 9. Alex Banales (#5x Baldwin-Fox), 10. Brandon Mattox (#28 Mattox), 11. Brian Ruhlman (#49 Ruhlman). NT

PIT STOP USA THIRD QUALIFYING RACE: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), 2. Thomas Meseraull (#20m Dyson), 3. Tanner Thorson (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood), 4. C.J. Leary (#77m Michael), 5. Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou), 6. Alex Bright (#20 Hummer), 7. Cole Bodine (#57B DCT-Crow-Bodine), 8. Carson Garrett (#15 BGE-Dougherty), 9. Josh Turner (#4T Turner), 10. Jeremy Kerzman (#3K Kerzman), 11. Austin Hawkins (#5A Hawkins). 2:06.01

C-MAIN: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Josh Turner, 2. Robert Bell, 3. Jack Hoyer, 4. Jeremy Kerzman, 5. Alex Banales, 6. Brian Ruhlman, 7. Dallas Hewitt, 8. Austin Hawkins, 9. Brandon Mattox. NT

DASH: (6 laps, finishing order determined the first four rows of the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins (#3R Rock Steady), 2. Chase Stockon (#5s KO), 3. Carson Short, 4. Emerson Axsom (#47BC Clauson Marshall Newman), 5. Buddy Kofoid (#67 Kunz/Curb-Agajanian), 6. Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), 7. Shane Cottle, 8. Jake Swanson. 1:32.62 (New Track Record)

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Alex Bright, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Briggs Danner, 7. Kory Schudy, 8. Cole Bodine, 9. Chad Boespflug, 10. Steve Irwin, 11. Carson Garrett, 12. Jack Hoyer, 13. Josh Turner, 14. Charles Davis Jr., 15. Robert Bell, 16. Jeremy Kerzman. NT

FEATURE: (35 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Emerson Axsom (4), 2. Tanner Thorson (14), 3. Chase Stockon (2), 4. Justin Grant (6), 5. Brady Bacon (10), 6. Buddy Kofoid (5), 7. Logan Seavey (19), 8. Robert Ballou (18), 9. Carson Short (3), 10. Shane Cockrum (13), 11. Jason McDougal (15), 12. C.J. Leary (17), 13. Kyle Cummins (1), 14. Alex Bright (20), 15. Jadon Rogers (22), 16. Brady Short (9), 17. Matt Westfall (21), 18. Shane Cottle (7), 19. Jake Swanson (8), 20. Thomas Meseraull (11), 21. Landon Simon (12), 22. Braxton Cummings (16). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-24 Chase Stockon, Laps 25-35 Emerson Axsom.

**Charles Davis Jr. flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-220, 2-Justin Grant-207, 3-Buddy Kofoid-200, 4-Chase Stockon-189, 5-Kyle Cummins-169, 6-Tanner Thorson-164, 7-Jason McDougal-162, 8-Carson Short-153, 9-Logan Seavey-152, 10-Brady Bacon-142.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-23, 2-Buddy Kofoid-20, 3-Logan Seavey-14, 4-Thomas Meseraull-13, 5-Shane Cockrum-12, 6-Mario Clouser-12, 7-Shane Cottle-11, 8-Robert Ballou-10, 9-Matt Westfall-10, 10-Brenham Crouch-8.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XIII SPRINT CAR HUGHES RACING / INDIANA MAFIA / FLAMINGO SANDY PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Jadon Rogers-26, 2-Buddy Kofoid-23, 3-Shane Cottle-23, 4-Logan Seavey-19, 5-Mario Clouser-19, 6-Kory Schudy-19, 7-Tanner Thorson-17, 8-Shane Cockrum-17, 9-Robert Ballou-13, 10-C.J. Leary-13.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 2, 2022 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Braxton Cummings

Simpson Race Products First Qualifying Race Winner: Shane Cottle

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Qualifying Race Winner: Carson Short

Pit Stop USA Third Qualifying Race Winner: Jake Swanson

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Robert Ballou

ProSource Hard Work: Jadon Rogers

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Buddy Kofoid

Irvin King Hard Charger: Tanner Thorson (14th to 2nd)

Hughes Racing / Indiana Mafia / Flamingo Sandy Winter Dirt Games XIII Sprint Car Passing Master Champion: Jadon Rogers (26)

==========

ATOMIC MACHO: BACON GETS BACK INTO THE WIN COLUMN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Chillicothe, Ohio (April 16, 2022)……Following a season in which he only finished outside the top-ten on two occasions, Brady Bacon opened his defense of the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship with a pair of 15th and 16th place results.

But that was the story of February, a prelude of sorts to the grind that is the bulk of the season. Now, this is April, the beginning of the "regular season" that the Broken Arrow, Okla. native excels at practically without exception on an annual basis.

That was then; this is now. That's old news, and this was the kind of performance Bacon can finally hang his hat on early in this young season.

Bacon did the job by thwarting several advances from both Justin Grant and Robert Ballou throughout the 30-lap slider fest to complete his 41st career USAC National Sprint Car feature victory on Saturday night at Ohio's Atomic Speedway, tying himself with Bryan Clauson for seventh on the all-time list.

"We've had a disappointing year so far despite having really fast cars," Bacon relayed. "I'll take it to get the regular season started here. It's been a long spring. We've been ready to get back racing, making money and selling some t-shirts."

The four-time series champ repelled the challenge of traffic away with his left hand while figuratively casting aside repeated attacks to his throne at the forefront, most notably from Grant who drew closer and closer with repeated bids for the lead down the stretch to put himself in USAC National Sprint Car victory lane for the 12th consecutive season and now trails only Sheldon Kinser's run of 13-straight years with at least one series win between 1974-1986.

"We were coming up on lapped traffic and, if you broke your momentum, you lost a lot of time," Bacon explained. "To be able to get into the corner hard and keep your momentum up without spinning your tires was huge. I caught a couple lapped cars wrong and I'm sure (Grant) did too, but it was tough."

Bacon and his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Gressman Sanitation – DriveWFX.com – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy started on the pole for the 30-lap event, which marked the series' first feature at Atomic Speedway since 1994, and the first visit to the 3/8-mile dirt oval since the rain-abbreviated racing program in 2010.

While Bacon got the edge on the initial start, it was fourth-starting Ballou who made waves with a big maneuver around the edge of the earth on the steep bank of turn two to travel to second by both Grant and point leader Emerson Axsom before diving low into turn three to go wheel-to-wheel with Bacon for the lead. However, Ballou's work was all for naught as 18th running Austin Graby stopped backwards at the top of turn two with a broken rear end, ending his USAC National Sprint Car debut before it really began.

On the complete restart, front row starters Bacon and Axsom held serve to run one-two as they completed the first circuit with Grant and Ballou giving chase in third and fourth. By lap three, Grant dove to the bottom of turn one, and slid up in front of Axsom by the time the duo reached turn two. Immediately after, Axsom quickly fell back, from second to fifth, as a result of a rapidly deflating left rear tire as both Ballou and C.J. Leary slipped by to occupy third and fourth, respectively.

Axsom caught a small break when 15th running Brandon Mattox slowed to a stop on the front straightaway, bringing out the yellow flag, which allowed Axsom to stop in the work area for fresh rubber. He'd return and rejoin the tail of the field for the restart, then salvaged his evening with a ninth-place finish, which kept him atop the series point standings heading out of Atomic.

On the ensuing lap five restart, Ballou went right for the jugular with an absolute monster of a slide job in turn three. He and Grant came within inches of contact, but Grant kept his foot on the throttle and kept on keepin' on in the runner-up spot while Ballou lost ground but recalibrated and reloaded while remaining in third.

Meanwhile, Bacon worked heavy traffic at the halfway point, and promptly saw his lead dwindle from two seconds down to a car length within a two-lap span as Grant closed right to the bumper of Bacon. A high speed chess match commenced as Grant repeatedly attempted to slide Bacon for the lead lap-after-lap to no avail, even getting completely sideways after briefly passing Bacon in turn two with 10 laps to go, which allowed Bacon to cut back underneath and resume his stance at the front with Grant and Ballou now in complete lockstep just behind.

Grant's pursuit of a second series victory in 2022 paused when his left rear tire gave away at the exit of turn four with eight laps remaining. Bacon now found Ballou right on his tail tank for the lap 23 restart, but it was of no hindrance to Bacon who mastered the restart and instantly shot away at the drop of the green and never relented, building up a 2.514 second gap by the time the checkered flag fell, with Ballou slotting into second, Leary third, Chase Stockon fourth and Kyle Cummins fifth.

Ballou's tumultuous day finished much better than it started. En route to the track, a flat steer tire on the Rocklin, California native's trailer put him on the side of the road. After making repairs, he arrived at the track just in time for the driver's meeting, then found his generator to be broken. Living up to his nickname, Ballou steered from sixth to first to win his heat race, which earned him a $100 bonus as the recipient of the GSP Quality Driving Performance, then recorded a strong runner-up finish in the feature aboard his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Dragonfly Aviation – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy, just one spot short of his first series victory since last June.

"I've just got to get my racecar a little bit better," Ballou admitted. "We're trying to find a balancing act with (crew chief) Derrick (Bye) back and trying to find our groove. Once we get about 10 more races into it, hopefully we can get this car up front. I'm really pushing hard but I've had a lot of setbacks here lately. It's nothing to hang our heads about but we definitely had nothing for the 69 tonight. We've got to sharpen our pencil a little bit and I've got to do a better job racing."

Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) put himself back on the podium with a third place result, emerging ahead in a ferocious late-race duel with Stockon for the position. After a best finish of 12th during his first three outings of the USAC season in Ocala, Leary returned to a bit of normality, driving his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/Cressman Ford to its best result of the season. That all came after setting a new track record in Fatheadz Qualifying, which erased Dave Darland's former mark from 2010 by nearly nine tenths, while also winning his heat from the sixth starting spot.

"Chase (Stockon) and I went back-and-forth, and he passed me on that original restart there," Leary recalled. "I felt like they were just a little bit better than us at one point, then we were like the same speed. Overall, we were good all night. We've been fast all year and I think we've got a good package moving forward, so I'm pleased."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 16, 2022 – Atomic Speedway – Chillicothe, Ohio – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

FATHEADZ QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.862 (New Track Record); 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.949; 3. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.979; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.982; 5. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.023; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.088; 7. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.197; 8. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.227; 9. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.279; 10. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.283; 11. Dallas Hewitt, 21, Hewitt-13.544; 12. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.620; 13. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.700; 14. Ricky Lewis, 43, Tibbits/Stensland/Halley-13.727; 15. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-13.784; 16. Kent Schmidt, 5K, KO-13.855; 17. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-14.079; 18. Austin Graby, 7, Lotier/Nemeth-14.225; 19. Keith Baxter, 1B, Baxter-14.668; 20. Josh Davis, 8D, Davis-14.676.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Kent Schmidt, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Alex Banales, 7. Keith Baxter. 1:55.52 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Ricky Lewis, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Dallas Hewitt, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Korbyn Hayslett, 7. Josh Davis. 1:58.81

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Austin Graby. 2:01.29

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (1), 2. Robert Ballou (4), 3. C.J. Leary (6), 4. Chase Stockon (8), 5. Kyle Cummins (10), 6. Logan Seavey (5), 7. Justin Grant (3), 8. Jadon Rogers (15), 9. Emerson Axsom (2), 10. Jason McDougal (11), 11. Matt Westfall (9), 12. Dallas Hewitt (12), 13. Alex Banales (14), 14. Korbyn Hayslett (17), 15. Ricky Lewis (7), 16. Josh Davis (20), 17. Keith Baxter (19), 18. Kent Schmidt (16), 19. Brandon Mattox (13), 20. Austin Graby (18). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Brady Bacon.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-273, 2-Justin Grant-269, 3-Chase Stockon-254, 4-Kyle Cummins-232, 5-Brady Bacon-220, 6-Logan Seavey-216, 7-Jason McDougal-210, 8-Buddy Kofoid-200, 9-Robert Ballou-193, 10-C.J. Leary-181.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tanner Thorson-23, 2-Buddy Kofoid-20, 3-Logan Seavey-14, 4-Jadon Rogers-14, 5-Thomas Meseraull-13, 6-Robert Ballou-12, 7-Mario Clouser-12, 8-Shane Cockrum-12, 9-Chase Stockon-11, 10-Kyle Cummins-11.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 29, 2022 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Larry Rice Classic

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Robert Ballou

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary

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

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Ricky Lewis

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Justin Grant

Hard Charger: Jadon Rogers (15th to 8th)

==========

WORTH THE WAIT: IT'S A BACK-TO-BACK BACON BEAT DOWN AT LAKESIDE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kansas City, Kansas (May 12, 2022)……With the havoc that Mother Nature had been playing on the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship of late, it nearly seemed as if it had been five years since the series last completed a feature event.

While, in reality, just a tick less than a month ago had passed by since the last feature was completed, and it just so happened to be five years since the series had last competed at Kansas City, Kansas' Lakeside Speedway.

Either way – one month or five years – the song remained the same with Brady Bacon backing up his victory with yet another. The Broken Arrow, Okla. driver entered Thursday night's event as the most recent victor at the 4/10-mile dirt oval in 2017 and had also captured the most recent round contested at Ohio's Atomic Speedway in mid-April.

The four-time series champion spent little time doddling on this evening's co-sanctioned race with the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association as he sprinted to the front from his fifth starting position by lap four and produced a K.C. Masterpiece of a drive with a drubbing of the 22-car field throughout the 30-lap main event, piloting his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Gressman Sanitation – DriveWFX.com – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy to a 4.595 second margin of victory.

His 42nd career series score was yet another in his succession of successes, as he rose to a tie for sixth on the all-time USAC National Sprint Car win list alongside Pancho Carter while surpassing Bryan Clauson in that department.

Bacon knows victory all too well at Lakeside, winning a TNT Sprint Bandits feature as far back as 2009 in KCK before winning once more in 2017 and again on Thursday night, which reminded him of the old times when he was a budding teenager

just beginning to make his mark on the sport. As a now established veteran and champ, the good times are the same as it ever was.

“The track was more like it was 13 years ago when we used to run here and had a lot of success,” Bacon compared. “The banking has changed a little bit and it was spotty in the past like it was tonight. I knew if I could get my car to roll around the bottom, it’d be pretty hard for the top to be as fast. It kind of shelves off on exit.

(Turns) three and four had me scared,” Bacon continued. “I didn’t know how slow I was getting in lapped traffic. They had all my lanes taken up and I didn’t feel good enough on the bottom. I was hoping I could keep enough speed up to keep everybody at bay. I felt really, really good in one and two on the bottom and, luckily, I found it on the first lap and just stuck to it from then on.”

Pole sitter and series point leader Emerson Axsom took the top to surge to the lead on the opening circuit, but inside second row starter C.J. Leary skimmed the bottom to ride to the lead between turns one and two on lap two. Bacon briefly swung to the outside of Leary on the opposite end in three and four, trailing at the stripe by a single car length at the conclusion of lap two before ducking back to the bottom entering the first turn.

Bacon was committed to the bottom now and clung to it down the back straightaway and into the third turn on lap three. The trio entered the corner three abreast with Bacon down low, Leary to the middle and Axsom up on the high line and carrying the momentum to beat Bacon to the line by a half car length.

Axsom’s resurgence to the lead was brief as Bacon launched off turn two on the fourth go-around to rip past Axsom and, for all intents and purposes, put a lock on the remainder of the feature as he continuously grew his lead throughout the balance of the A, sticking to his guns all the way home.

“The bottom was my bread and butter, and I didn’t think it was going to last the whole race, so I wanted to make hay while the sun was shining, I guess, and make sure that I passed any cars on the bottom that I needed to while it was still there, but fortunately, in one and two, it stayed there the whole race.”

The race behind Bacon was not as much of a foregone conclusion down the stretch. Sixth-starting Robert Ballou, who picked up his first fast qualifying time since 2018 earlier in the night, and previously the lone multi-time USAC National Sprint Car winner at Lakeside entering the evening, climbed his way to second utilizing a turn three slide job on Axsom to gain the position with 12 laps remaining.

Bacon dealt with three lanes of traffic during the final laps, but it was of no hindrance to him in any form or fashion as he punctuated his dominance with a victorious performance over Ballou and Logan Seavey who overtook Axsom with four laps remaining to secure the last spot on the podium. Axsom and Leary, meanwhile, rounded out the top-five.

Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) earned his second consecutive runner-up finish on the USAC National Sprint Car trail Thursday night in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Dragonfly Aviation – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy. It was the 2015 series champion’s third career top-two finish with USAC at the track after winning in both 2015 and 2016.

“We were the second place car tonight,” Ballou acknowledged. “Brady (Bacon) and (crew chief) Matt Hummel and those guys were the class of the field. It took me a little while to get to second, and then we got the racecar a little too tight, and we were just kind of riding. I knew we were good enough to be second after hot laps no matter what, and it turned out to be the Brady/Ballou show as always. We weren’t very good tonight, and that’s why he was a half-track ahead of us.”

Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) has finished all five of his USAC National Sprint Car starts this season inside the top-ten. Starting with a 9th, 9th, 7th and 6th, the 2018 USAC NOS Energy Drink Midget National Champion picked up a 3rd place result on

Thursday night in his first career series visit to Lakeside aboard his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Chevy. All that success came despite an inauspicious start to his run.

“I just got a really bad start,” Seavey explained. “I was pinned on the top and I knew early that the race would be on the bottom. Then, we kind of moved up, but I was just pinned up there and fell to fifth. I biked on my warmup lap and was super timid after that. I gave up a few spots and, once I got confident there at the end, I ran down C.J. and was able to get him in traffic. It was kind of the same with Emerson. My car was really good, but I just spooked myself on the warmup and it took me too long to get feeling comfortable again in my car. We were so fast all night; I’ve just got to do my job a little bit better earlier in the race and not let too many guys get by me. Overall, I’m really happy. We had good speed and I thought we were pacing with Robert right at the end. I’m excited to head into the next couple of nights.”

Thursday’s Lakeside event was the inaugural race of the Spire Sports + Entertainment Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster mini-series for the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship, which will pay $5,000 to the overall points champion for the 10-race series within a series.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 12, 2022 – Lakeside Speedway – Kansas City, Kansas – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track – Co-Sanctioned by the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association – Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster Race #1

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.783; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.895; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-17.030; 4. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-17.052; 5. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-17.123; 6. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-17.190; 7. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-17.204; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-17.246; 9. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-17.268; 10. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-17.334; 11. Wesley Smith, 44, Smith-17.407; 12. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-17.451; 13. Cody Baker, 9, Tribble/Hall-17.469; 14. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-17.500; 15. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-17.566; 16. Zach Daum, 5d, Daum-17.715; 17. Wyatt Burks, 11w, Burks-17.765; 18. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-17.811; 19. Chris Parkinson, 65, Parkinson-18.012; 20. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-18.150; 21. Braydon Cromwell, 90, Smith-18.254; 22. Chad Frewaldt, 2x, Lewis-18.262; 23. Dakota Earls, 15E, Earls-18.365; 24. Rece Wommack, 33, Wommack-18.554; 25. Zach Clark, 26, C & C-18.670; 26. Chase Howard, 13, Howard-18.676; 27. Jason Billups, 2J, Billups-18.940; 28. Justin Johnson, 27, Johnson-19.386; 29. Tyler Burton, 03, Burton-19.616; 30. Buddy Parker, 93, Weld/Parkinson-20.152; 31. Chad Tye, 88, Tye-20.185.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Wyatt Burks, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Cody Baker, 6. Braydon Cromwell, 7. Zach Clark, 8. Tyler Burton. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mario Clouser, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Alex Banales, 4. Brandon Mattox, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Chad Frewaldt, 7. Chase Howard, 8. Buddy Parker. 2:24.40

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Emerson Axsom, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Wesley Smith, 5. Chris Parkinson, 6. Dakota Earls, 7. Jason Billups, 8. Chad Tye. 2:25.79

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jason McDougal, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Xavier Doney, 5. Rece Wommack, 6. Justin Johnson, 7. Zach Daum. 2:24.90

ELLIOTT’S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (10 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Cody Baker, 2. Zach Daum, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Chris Parkinson, 5. Rece Wommack, 6. Zach Clark, 7. Chase Howard, 8. Justin Johnson, 9. Braydon Cromwell, 10. Jason Billups, 11. Chad Tye, 12. Tyler Burton, 13. Dakota Earls, 14. Chad Frewaldt, 15. Buddy Parker. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (5), 2. Robert Ballou (6), 3. Logan Seavey (2), 4. Emerson Axsom (1), 5. C.J. Leary (3), 6. Matt Westfall (11), 7. Jason McDougal (8), 8. Chase Stockon (9), 9. Jadon Rogers (13), 10. Justin Grant (12), 11. Xavier Doney (18), 12. Jake Swanson (4), 13. Mario Clouser (7), 14. Wesley Smith (14), 15. Wyatt Burks (10), 16. Zach Daum (16), 17. Brandon Mattox (15), 18. Chris Parkinson (22), 19. Zach Clark (20), 20. Rece Wommack (19), 21. Alex Banales (21), 22. Cody Baker (17). 9:56.04 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Emerson Axsom, Lap 2 C.J. Leary, Lap 3 Emerson Axsom, Laps 4-30 Brady Bacon.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-349, 2-Justin Grant-327, 3-Chase Stockon-318, 4-Brady Bacon-312, 5-Logan Seavey-295, 6-Robert Ballou-284, 7-Jason McDougal-276, 8-C.J. Leary-256, 9-Kyle Cummins-238, 10-Matt Westfall-226.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Buddy Kofoid-26, 2-Tanner Thorson-23, 3-Brady Bacon-22, 4-Thomas Meseraull-20, 5-Jadon Rogers-18, 6-Robert Ballou-16, 7-Justin Grant-15, 8-Logan Seavey-15, 9-Matt Westfall-15, 10-Ethan Mitchell-14.

SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-82, 2-Robert Ballou-80, 3-Logan Seavey-71, 4-Emerson Axsom-68, 5-C.J. Leary-68, 6-Jason McDougal-60, 7-Matt Westfall-58, 8-Chase Stockon-57, 9-Jadon Rogers-52, 10-Justin Grant-49.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: May 13, 2022 – U.S. 36 Raceway – Osborn, Missouri – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – Co-Sanctioned by the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Zach Clark

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Robert Ballou

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Wyatt Burks

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Mario Clouser

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat Winner: Jason McDougal

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Robert Ballou

Feature Hard Charger: Xavier Doney (18th to 11th)

NO MORE 2ND THOUGHTS: BALLOU WINS USAC SPRINT RETURN TO I-70

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

2022 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR SEASON REVIEW

Odessa, Missouri (May 14, 2022)……Robert Ballou returned the favor to Brady Bacon in more ways than one during Saturday night's USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship event at Odessa, Missouri's I-70 Motorsports Park.

After running second to Bacon in each of the past two series events in April at Ohio's Atomic Speedway and on Thursday at Kansas' Lakeside Speedway, Ballou turned the tables to reach victory lane for the first time in 11 months and for the 32nd time in his USAC National Sprint Car career, moving past Tyler Courtney and into a tie for 14th on the all-time list alongside 1973 series champion, Rollie Beale.

As fate would have it, Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) had to withstand a late-race bout with Bacon to earn Saturday's victory, dominating for the majority of the first two-thirds of the 30-lapper before being overtaken by Bacon with a mere nine laps remaining. However, the never-say-quit Ballou immediately clawed his way back to the lead a half-lap later and put the clamps on Bacon's bid for a third-straight triumph, securing the lead all for himself for the final eight laps to earn his first victory celebration of 2022.

In what was the first USAC National Sprint Car appearance at I-70 in 26 years – first on the .045-mile dirt oval configuration – the win list at the track displayed six past National Sprint Car Hall of Fame inductees in the only six USAC Sprint Car events ever held at the track.

While Ballou will undoubtedly one day be enshrined in the HoF, just the same as Gary Bettenhausen, Sheldon Kinser, Jeff Swindell, Steve Butler, Tony Stewart and Eric Gordon, he now shares a common trait that each of those aforementioned racers possess on their resume – a USAC National Sprint Car victory at I-70 Motorsports Park.

"I've said since the beginning of the year that this is going to be the Bacon/Ballou show," Ballou exclaimed. "Bacon's got the best racecar, but I just wanted it a little worse tonight. It's been a tough season and we've had a lot of problems, but I've got a lot of good guys behind me."

In a myriad of ways, Ballou's early season form is the type he hasn't experienced since his USAC National Sprint Car title campaign of 2015. From his engine program on down to the shocks, Ballou has found the competitive fire and edge to regularly compete for victories in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Dragonfly Aviation – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

"We got ahead of the game in 2015, and I kind of snuck up on everyone with the best engines in the country," Ballou explained. "Then we laid in the weeds for a little while and got caught with our pants down. Now we've got some bullets under the hood, and I think we can keep up with the rest of these guys. We've got a brand new one coming for Eastern Storm, so I think it'll be even better.

Ballou started his race from the outside of the front row but watched as pole sitter Mario Clouser kept Ballou at bay for the opening lap to lead by a half-car length at the line in the event co-sanctioned by the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association. Ballou quickly put an end to the brief duel with a slide job on Clouser entering turn one moments later to take a firm grip of the race lead.

Promptly making mincemeat of the field, Ballou carved his way through traffic throughout the first 20 laps to build a commanding 2.5 second advantage with 12 laps in the book as Bacon surged through the field to slot himself into second past Clouser after starting back in the fifth spot.

From there on, the foible for Ballou was traffic as he cut in, around and between the tail end of the field while Bacon, the four-time series champ, snipped at the interval, dwindling it to within a couple of car lengths while Ballou became stymied behind the lapped car of series Rookie Alex Banales. Bacon pounced at the opportunity and slid past Ballou at the entrance

to turn three. Bacon completed the pass as he swept from the bottom of turn three up to the top of four, jammed between Banales, who was positioned just ahead of his front bumper and Ballou on his rear bumper.

“He kind of got into it a little bit when he slid up and was backing up the racetrack,” Ballou recalled when he lost the lead to Bacon. “I could’ve spun him out but that’s just not the way we race.

Using Banales as a pseudo pick, Ballou dove below both Bacon and Banales entering turn one while Bacon remained pinned behind Banales. That allowed Ballou to seemingly say “sayonara” as he bolted off into the distance never to be headed again as he completed his parting shot with a 3.632 second margin of victory over Ballou, Justin Grant and C.J. Leary with first-time series Fatheadz Fast Qualifier Emerson Axsom rounding out the top-five.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) nearly pulled off a third consecutive USAC National Sprint Car victory on Saturday night, leading a single lap ever so briefly with just nine laps remaining. Instead, he settled for second, making it his third-straight finish inside the top-two in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Gressman Sanitation – DriveWFX.com – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

“He was definitely slowed down in traffic and the line I was running was clear,” Bacon explained of his late-race challenge of Ballou. “So, I was able to catch him really fast and, as I caught him and got him, the grip on the line I was running just went away. I probably used up what I had when I tried to get by him, and he was able to get by me. After that, I was having more trouble with lapped cars, then he pulled away, so we just had to settle in. We gave it a shot and got in front of him once, but it wasn’t quite good enough. He set a pretty fast pace when he was up there by himself.”

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) recovered from his worst result of the USAC National Sprint Car season (10th) on Thursday night at Lakeside by finishing 3rd on Saturday at I-70. Grant and the team made wholesale changes in the time between the two events and even had trouble with their semi-trailer en route to I-70. But all’s well ends well as Grant got back on track as the feature’s hardest charger, advancing from the 8th starting spot to take 3rd in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries – LA Poly/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

“We worked on everything,” Grant stated. “We worked on the car, worked on the motor, worked on the driver, worked on the semi, and we had a heck of a trip out here. It’s been a little rough but we’re back on the podium tonight and we’re still out racing sprint cars. It’s better than digging ditches and grinding dumpsters. It’s what I’d be doing if I wasn’t here.”

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 14, 2022 – I-70 Motorsports Park – Odessa, Missouri – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – Co-Sanctioned by the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association (Special Event)

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-15.856 (New Track Record); 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-15.892; 3. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-15.994; 4. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-15.998; 5. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.004; 6. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-16.050; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.099; 8. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.107; 9. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-16.173; 10. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.176; 11. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-16.221; 12. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.237; 13. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-16.295; 14. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-16.391; 15. Wesley Smith, 44, Smith-16.436; 16. Wyatt Burks, 11w, Burks-16.513; 17. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-16.730; 18. Chad Frewaldt, 4F, Frewaldt-16.881; 19. Cody Baker, 38, Tribble/Hall-17.076; 20. Dakota Earls, 15E, Earls-17.512; 21. Chase Howard, 13, Howard-17.513; 22. J.D. Black, 7JR, Black-17.646; 23. Tyler Burton, 03, Burton-17.726; 24. Chad Tye, 88, Tye-17.822; 25. Brian Beebe, 37, Nussbaum-17.856; 26. Mark Lane, 33L, Lane-18.261; 27. Casey Lewallen, 55L, Lewallen-18.487; 28. Rece Wommack, 33, Wommack-19.075.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Jason McDougal, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Wyatt Burks, 7. Cody Baker, 8. J.D. Black, 9. Rece Wommack, 10. Brian Beebe. 2:13.29 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Brandon Mattox, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Alex Banales, 6. Xavier Doney, 7. Dakota Earls, 8. Mark Lane, 9. Tyler Burton. 2:16.05

PIT STOP USA / ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Mario Clouser, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Wesley Smith, 6. Chad Frewaldt, 7. Chase Howard, 8. Chad Tye, 9. Casey Lewallen. 2:17.36

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI-FEATURE: (10 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Wyatt Burks, 2. Xavier Doney, 3. Chase Howard, 4. Chad Frewaldt, 5. Chad Tye, 6. Brian Beebe, 7. J.D. Black, 8. Rece Wommack, 9. Mark Lane, 10. Dakota Earls, 11. Casey Lewallen, 12. Cody Baker, 13. Tyler Burton. 3:03.19 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Robert Ballou (2), 2. Brady Bacon (5), 3. Justin Grant (8), 4. C.J. Leary (3), 5. Emerson Axsom (6), 6. Mario Clouser (1), 7. Logan Seavey (4), 8. Jason McDougal (7), 9. Jake Swanson (11), 10. Matt Westfall (9), 11. Jadon Rogers (10), 12. Chase Stockon (13), 13. Alex Banales (12), 14. Wesley Smith (15), 15. Xavier Doney (17), 16. Brandon Mattox (14), 17. Chad Tye (21), 18. Chase Howard (19), 19. Brian Beebe (22), 20. Chad Frewaldt (18), 21. Wyatt Burks (16), 22. J.D. Black (20). 9:52.36 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Mario Clouser, Laps 2-20 Robert Ballou, Lap 21 Brady Bacon, Laps 22-30 Robert Ballou.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-417, 2-Justin Grant-396, 3-Brady Bacon-392, 4-Chase Stockon-364, 5-Robert Ballou-361, 6-Logan Seavey-359, 7-Jason McDougal-333, 8-C.J. Leary-326, 9-Matt Westfall-275, 10-Kyle Cummins-238.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Buddy Kofoid-26, 2-Brady Bacon-25, 3-Tanner Thorson-23, 4-Justin Grant-20, 5-Thomas Meseraull-20, 6-Jadon Rogers-18, 7-Robert Ballou-17, 8-Logan Seavey-15, 9-Matt Westfall-15, 10-Emerson Axsom-14.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: May 20, 2022 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Don Smith Classic

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Emerson Axsom

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Brian Beebe

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jason McDougal

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Pit Stop USA & Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Logan Seavey

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner: Wyatt Burks

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Justin Grant

Feature Hard Charger: Justin Grant (8th to 3rd)

==========

FINALLY! LEARY LANDS LONG-AWAITED TERRE HAUTE USAC SPRINT WIN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Terre Haute, Indiana (May 20, 2022)……C.J. Leary had waited, waited and patiently waited for this night to arrive – a first career USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature victory at the hallowed grounds of the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track.

He'd actually won his first career USAC national event at the half-mile dirt oval back in 2016, piloting a Silver Crown car. However, despite his best efforts over the past decade, the Greenfield, Ind. native had never finished higher than fourth in a sprinter at Terre Haute.

That narrative changed in an instant during Friday night's 12th running of the Don Smith Classic when a late caution bunched up the field and allowed Leary a renewed opportunity to pen his own triumphant script with just 11 laps remaining.

Diving to the bottom of turn one on the lap 20 restart, Leary surpassed Moles and discarded all the hurdles that had previously stood in his path.

After once and for all exorcising those Terre Haute demons, Leary checked out and checked off his first career victory at the western Indiana track, pulling away to a commanding 6.328 second margin of separation between he and his nearest competition at the finish line.

After exiting his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/Cressman Ford, C.J.'s father, Chuck, greeted him on the front straightway with the universal verbal sigh of relief, shouting, "finally!"

"We've been racing for 10 years, and we've never been able to win a sprint car race here," C.J. exclaimed. "This place has escaped me time and time again. I've never really been that good here, so it feels pretty special to park this thing in victory lane. I worked my butt off there those last 10 laps. Mitchel was really good and, before that yellow, I think he had the race won; he was so far out there."

In fact, Moles had dominated since the drop of the green flag from his pole position in his first appearance for the Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports team, which had fielded driver Tanner Thorson, who recently vacated the seat that he had competed in for the past two seasons.

Moles looked every bit the part of a series veteran early on as he appeared to be a prime contender to become the first driver since Tanner Swanson at Anderson (Ind.) Speedway in 2008 to win in his USAC National Sprint Car debut.

By lap seven, Moles had constructed a half-straightaway lead, but the early ascendancy was hushed when Brady Bacon, who had climbed from eighth to fourth in the early going, had his right rear tire give way midway down the front straightaway. Bacon miraculously managed to whoa the car down enough to avoid crunching the outside turn one Armco barrier, but the damage proved to be too much, thus prematurely and permanently ending Bacon's evening with a 19th place result.

The yellow flag seemed to be just a quick hiccup for Moles, who resumed his prowess following the restart as he sprayed the outer guardrails with western Indiana soil while completely rebuilding his lead, and then some, to the tune of more than three seconds with just 11 laps remaining.

Back a bit to the battle for sixth and seventh, contact between Jason McDougal and Robert Ballou damaged McDougal's rear bumper and dislodged Ballou's wheel cover, which fell to the racing surface and forced officials to call for a debris yellow on lap 20.

Much to the chagrin of Moles who was on a comfort cruise up front, the yellow deleted his freeway to history and put him in the unenvious position of having to defend a patented Terre Haute slide job on the restart with the likes of Leary and defending Don Smith Classic winner Logan Seavey tailing him into turn one. Leary ably shot past to the lead while Seavey followed suit by sneaking underneath Moles to grab second spot. Moles, meanwhile, had freefallen back to third within the blink of an eye.

"I felt like if I could break his momentum there on the restart, and maybe get in front of him, we had a car fast enough to win," Leary explained.

Eluded no more, Leary sprinted away to officially put his name in the book as a series winner at Terre Haute, followed in the distance by Seavey, or so it appeared initially. However, in post-race tech inspection, Seavey's car was found to be under the minimum weight requirement, which relegated him from second back to a 22nd place finish.

Officially, Moles (Raisin City, Calif.) led a race-high 19 laps and came home as the second place finisher in his AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy. The leading Rookie on the USAC NOS Energy Drink Midget National Championship trail turned in one of the finest debuts in USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car history, securing the best finish for a driver in his USAC National Sprint Car debut since his predecessor, Tanner Thorson, finished second in his first start for the same Reinbold-Underwood outfit in 2020 at Plymouth (Ind.) Speedway.

"We definitely had the car to win; I screwed that one up on the restart," Moles admitted. "This is only my second non-wing sprint car race, so I struggled a little bit just knowing where to be, like on the restarts. C.J. ran lower in the grip and I was kind of in the slick stuff trying to get to the top. I think that just allowed him to get a run on me. On green flag laps, I don't think there was a car better than ours."

Following a mid-pack qualifying run, Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) turned his night into gold as he moved from 13th to a 3rd place result as the night's hard charger. Ballou has now finished each of his past four USAC National Sprint Car starts on the podium with a 2nd at Ohio's Atomic Speedway, followed by a 2nd at Kansas' Lakeside Speedway and a victory at Missouri's I-70 Motorsports Park aboard his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Dragonfly Aviation – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy. Despite possessing the best average finish of all his peers in this ongoing span, Ballou isn't ready to settle.

"We've just got to get our ducks in a row a little better," said Ballou. "I tried some things tonight with different gears and stuff in hot laps and qualifying. A tenth of a second would have put me on the front row. Shame on me for trying, but the only way you get better in this deal is to try."

After hurting an engine during last weekend's events, Leary's team owner Bill Michael had been nose-to-the-grindstone in the shop to get the powerplant put back together and back in the car in time for Terre Haute, where they came out early in the night with both guns blazing. Leary's quick time in Fatheadz Qualifying was the 31st of his USAC National Sprint Car career, tying him for 10th all-time alongside 1977-81-82 series champion Sheldon Kinser.

Furthermore, Leary's 17th career USAC National Sprint Car feature win moved him past Damion Gardner and Jud Larson into 33rd on the list. He now resides alongside Jerry Coons Jr., Jim Hurtubise and Bud Kaeding in the all-time tally.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 20, 2022 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 12th Don Smith Classic

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-19.739; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-19.861; 3. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-19.965; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-19.975; 5. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-20.070; 6. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-20.108; 7. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-20.156; 8. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-20.175; 9. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-20.215; 10. Max Adams, 5A, Adams-20.241; 11. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-20.272; 12. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-20.312; 13. Nick Bilbee, 17, Bilbee-20.353; 14. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-20.589; 15. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-20.658; 16. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-20.759; 17. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-20.785; 18. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-20.867; 19. Zach Daum, 5d, Daum-20.879; 20. Mitch Wissmiller, 29, RMB-20.901; 21. Corey Smith, 66s, CS-21.043; 22. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-21.077; 23. Dallas Hewitt, 18, Keen-21.234; 24. Brian Hayden, 2H, Hayden-21.759; 25. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Hayden-22.709.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Shane Cottle, 2. Nick Bilbee, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Max Adams, 6. Zach Daum, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Evan Mosley, 9. Ivan Glotzbach. 2:47.67

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Jason McDougal, 6. Dallas Hewitt, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Mitch Wissmiller. 2:48.55

PIT STOP USA / ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. Alex Banales, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Charles Davis Jr., 7. Corey Smith, 8. Brian Hayden. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI-FEATURE: (10 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Zach Daum, 3. Brandon Mattox, 4. Dallas Hewitt, 5. Mitch Wissmiller, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Evan Mosley, 8. Corey Smith, 9. Brian Hayden, 10. Ivan Glotzbach. 3:36.61

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (6), 2. Mitchel Moles (1), 3. Robert Ballou (13), 4. Jake Swanson (3), 5. Shane Cottle (7), 6. Justin Grant (5), 7. Chase Stockon (9), 8. Nick Bilbee (14), 9. Jason McDougal (2), 10. Emerson Axsom (10), 11. Jadon Rogers (20), 12. Charles Davis Jr. (11), 13. Matt Westfall (15), 14. Zach Daum (18), 15. Brandon Mattox (16), 16. Alex Banales (17), 17. Max Adams (12), 18. Dallas Hewitt (21), 19. Brady Bacon (8), 20. Mitch Wissmiller (19), 21. Evan Mosley (22), 22. Logan Seavey (4) (Seavey was initially the second place finisher but was repositioned to 22nd after his car was found to be underweight in post-race tech inspection.) NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-19 Mitchel Moles, Laps 20-30 C.J. Leary.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-466, 2-Justin Grant-461, 3-Robert Ballou-432, 4-Brady Bacon-425, 5-Chase Stockon-424, 6-C.J. Leary-408, 7-Logan Seavey-390, 8-Jason McDougal-385, 9-Matt Westfall-317, 10-Jake Swanson-295.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-27, 2-Jadon Rogers-27, 3-Buddy Kofoid-26, 4-Brady Bacon-25, 5-Tanner Thorson-23, 6-Justin Grant-20, 7-Thomas Meseraull-20, 8-Matt Westfall-17, 9-Chase Stockon-15, 10-Logan Seavey-15.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: May 21, 2022 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 52nd Annual Tony Hulman Classic Presented by Jake Dodds

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Mitchel Moles

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Shane Cottle

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Pit Stop USA & Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Shane Cottle

Feature Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (13th to 3rd)

==========

RIFLES UP! BALLOU BECOMES THE FOURTH 3-TIME HULMAN CLASSIC WINNER

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Terre Haute, Indiana (May 22, 2022)……Prior to Sunday night, there were just three drivers who could boast possession of three career Tony Hulman Classic victory rifles.

After Sunday night's 52nd annual running was through, Robert Ballou had bumped that number up to four.

The Rocklin, Calif. native scored the victory at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track, quickly erasing a two-second disadvantage by masterfully maneuvering through lapped traffic and sliding past race long leader Logan Seavey with just seven circuits remaining in the 30-lap main event to capture the $10,000 top prize.

Ballou joined Cary Faas (1992-94-98), Levi Jones (2005-08-09) and Chris Windom (2011-20-21) on the Mount Rushmore of Hulman Classic competitors by earning his lead-tying third career victory in the event following back-to-back triumphs in 2015 and 2016.

In the present tense, the Rocklin, Calif. native is on a tear, having finished on the podium in five consecutive USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship outings, including two victories in his last three starts behind the wheel of the Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Dragonfly Aviation – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

Ballou has invested an enormous amount of time and effort into renovating the Terre Haute Action Track throughout the winter and spring months along with his boss Scott Ronk and Bernie Stuebgen, among others.

In Sunday night's event, Ballou invested quite a bit of time on the bottom of the racetrack to carve a path from his fifth starting position to the front. At the start, Ballou found the top shelf was not to his car's liking quite yet. Ultimately, he found his way up to the top and, ultimately, he found his way to the front to collect his 33rd career USAC National Sprint

Car feature win, moving himself past fellow series titlist Rollie Beale and into sole possession of 14th on the all-time win list.

“I figured the bottom was going to be excellent for 30 laps around the bottom of turns one and two, but it wasn’t so,” Ballou explained. “I was too tight on the top at the beginning, and I was just trying to bide my time. I knew before the start that I was in trouble; I was a little tight on the right rear. It’s a good thing I lost 50 pounds over the winter or else I probably would’ve ended up out at the Chick-Fil-A.”

The nearest Chick-Fil-A location can be found just within a stone’s throw of the half-mile dirt oval, but unlike the restaurant’s “closed on Sunday” policy, the Terre Haute Action Track’s victory lane was open for Ballou, the 2015 series driving champion.

But first, he had to find his way to the front. Of all drivers in the 22 car field, Ballou was the quickest mover, rising up the leaderboard from fifth to second from the time he ducked to the inner rail in turn three on the opening lap until the time he crossed the start/finish line at the completion of lap one. Outside front row starter Brady Bacon took notice and took back control of second on lap two before relenting for good to Ballou, who slipped under in turns three and four on the third lap to reassume the runner-up position.

Meanwhile, it was Logan Seavey who was groovin’ on a Sunday afternoon and holding serve right from the start, leading by a commanding 2.7 second margin at the halfway mark while Ballou, Bacon, Justin Grant and C.J. Leary all followed suit in lockstep on the highline and resided in positions two through five.

In the blink of an eye, Ballou found himself right on the back bumper of Seavey who was working to overtake the 17th place car of Charles Davis Jr. as the laps dwindled to less than 10 to go. Seavey was able to move past Davis with a dive into turn three on lap 21 to momentarily stave off Ballou’s pressure, which only proved to be momentary. Ballou lined up Seavey off turn two on the 24th lap and shot to the bottom rail in the third turn before sliding back up and corralling the position at the exit of turn four.

Ballou subsequently crossed the starter’s stand out in front while Bacon was setting up his move to take second from Seavey, successfully doing so in turn one just as the red flag was displayed for 8th running Jadon Rogers who flipped up near the outside guardrail in turn four. He was uninjured.

While Ballou maintained his spot in the lead, Bacon relinquished his second position back to Seavey for the lap 25 restart. Bacon was forced to reload for the resumption, and it took three laps for him to slide job his way back into the second spot past Seavey in turn one. Bacon now had his work cut out for him, down more than a second to Ballou with only four laps remaining.

On the same day in which drivers vying for the pole position at the Indianapolis 500 pushed it to the limits for a four-consecutive-lap qualifying run, Bacon did virtually the same in his pursuit of Ballou, running his two fastest laps of the race on laps 28 and 29, which was the fastest overall in the field. On the final lap, Bacon stood just about four car lengths back of Ballou and made one last ditch effort in turn three, puling even between turns three and four, before falling back into line behind Ballou up top, who rode the final turn to victory ahead of Bacon, Seavey, Grant and Leary.

Ballou’s Terre Haute victory came in race number two of ten for the Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster mini-series. The first event, held at Kansas City, Kansas’ Lakeside Speedway, was won by Bacon with Ballou finishing second. Terre Haute saw the tables turned with Ballou winning and Bacon second. In fact, the “Bacon & Ballou Show” has already witnessed four occasions in which the duo has finished first and second in a USAC National Sprint Car feature this season.

Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) put up a valiant effort with a late charge to finish second in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Gressman Sanitation – DriveWFX.com – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy, equaling his best career Hulman Classic result from 2013. It was a nice rebound for Bacon who competed on Sunday using a fully-prepared backup car after the primary suffered damage during a tire blow in the most recent event on Friday at Terre Haute. Bacon feels that the late-race red flag may very well have stifled his bid for a first career Hulman Classic triumph.

"I wish it hadn't come out," Bacon lamented. "I had just passed for second right before that, and I think we would've had a shot to run Robert down. It took me a couple laps to get back by Logan after the red. Robert made some good decisions early in the race; he ran the bottom and got by me and that's what put him in position to win at the end. We had a little bit better car at the end, but he had put himself in a spot where we didn't have enough time to catch him. I should've been more aggressive through the middle of the race, but I was biding my time thinking I was going to have a good shot at the end. I almost ran him down and got him, but at these big fast half-miles, we're both usually up front and it's hard to beat us once the race plays out and one of us gets in front of the other."

Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) led a race-high 23 laps before finishing third in his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Chevy. It's a welcome comeback for Seavey following a disheartening repositioning from 2nd to 22nd in Friday's feature after being found light at the scales in post-race technical inspection. Seavey eased the disappointment by rounding out the podium for his best career Hulman Classic finish, outdoing his 10th in 2021.

"When I first got to traffic, I was making some okay moves," Seavey recalled. "Once I got to some faster cars, it slowed my closing speed down a little bit. I just got a little too soft there; it's my fault. You've got to push hard for all 30 laps here to beat these guys. I backed off for a lap or two and I kind of slipped up down the back stretch. I could almost hear Robert and I didn't want to protect and give up more time, but he got just enough to clear me. It's heartbreaking when you lead that many laps and have a good racecar, a car that should win the race."

Dustin Clark (Washington, Ind.) made an excellent burst from his 19th starting spot to finish 9th in the feature. The 9th place result, which came in his 23rd series start, is his best career finish and the first top-10 result of his USAC National Sprint Car career.

Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) passed Sheldon Kinser for sole possession of 10th place on the all-time list in terms of Fatheadz fast qualifying times in USAC National Sprint Car competition. The 32nd of his career was his second in the Hulman Classic, with the first coming in 2019.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 22, 2022 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 52nd Annual Tony Hulman Classic Presented by Jake Dodds

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-19.527; 2. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-19.627; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-19.656; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-19.785; 5. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-19.842; 6. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-19.882; 7. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-19.914; 8. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-20.080; 9. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-20.141; 10. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-20.216; 11. Max Adams, 5A, Adams-20.267; 12. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-20.372; 13. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-20.382; 14. Nick Bilbee, 17, Bilbee-20.383; 15. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-20.565; 16. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-20.599; 17. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-20.608; 18. Brian Hayden, 2H, Hayden-20.666; 19. Dustin Clark, 75, DCR-20.771; 20. Shane Cockrum, 66, Amati-20.882; 21. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-21.135; 22. Cole Bodine, 57c, DCT/Crow/Bodine-21.189; 23. Brandon Morin, 98, Morin-21.427; 24. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Hayden-21.576; 25. Nate McMillin, 24, McMillin-21.867.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Justin Grant, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Nate McMillin, 8. Cole Bodine, 9. Dustin Clark. 2:44.22

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Max Adams, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Nick Bilbee, 7. Brandon Morin, 8. Shane Cockrum. NT

PIT STOP USA / ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. Brian Hayden, 4. Charles Davis Jr., 5. Sterling Cling, 6. Alex Banales, 7. Ivan Glotzbach, 8. Jake Swanson. 2:54.11

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI-FEATURE: (10 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Nick Bilbee, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Dustin Clark, 5. Shane Cockrum, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Brandon Morin, 8. Nate McMillin, 9. Alex Banales, 10. Ivan Glotzbach. 3:40.74

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Robert Ballou (5), 2. Brady Bacon (2), 3. Logan Seavey (1), 4. Justin Grant (3), 5. C.J. Leary (6), 6. Jake Swanson (11), 7. Emerson Axsom (9), 8. Max Adams (13), 9. Dustin Clark (19), 10. Jason McDougal (17), 11. Chase Stockon (7), 12. Nick Bilbee (15), 13. Matt Westfall (12), 14. Shane Cockrum (20), 15. Sterling Cling (14), 16. Cole Bodine (21), 17. Charles Davis Jr. (16), 18. Brandon Morin (22), 19. Mitchel Moles (4), 20. Jadon Rogers (10), 21. Brian Hayden (18), 22. Brandon Mattox (8). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-23 Logan Seavey, Laps 24-30 Robert Ballou.

**Jadon Rogers flipped on lap 24 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-529, 2-Emerson Axsom-524, 3-Robert Ballou-511, 4-Brady Bacon-501, 5-C.J. Leary-479, 6-Chase Stockon-473, 7-Logan Seavey-463, 8-Jason McDougal-433, 9-Matt Westfall-356, 10-Jake Swanson-354.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-159, 2-Brady Bacon-158, 3-Logan Seavey-144, 4-C.J. Leary-139, 5-Emerson Axsom-126, 6-Justin Grant-117, 7-Jake Swanson-108, 8-Jason McDougal-108, 9-Chase Stockon-106, 10-Matt Westfall-97.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-31, 2-Jadon Rogers-27, 3-Buddy Kofoid-26, 4-Brady Bacon-25, 5-Tanner Thorson-23, 6-Justin Grant-20, 7-Thomas Meseraull-20, 8-Shane Cockrum-18, 9-Jason McDougal-17, 10-Matt Westfall-17.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: May 25-26, 2022 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Week of Indy Presented by Mastin & Cain

NEXT BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER SERIES RACE: June 16, 2022 – Selinsgrove Speedway – Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Brandon Mattox

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brandon Mattox

Pit Stop USA & Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Logan Seavey

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature Winner: Jake Swanson

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Mitchel Moles

Feature Hard Charger: Dustin Clark (19th to 9th)

==========

ONE-IN-A-ROW: BACON BEGINS NEW GRANDVIEW WINNING STREAK IN USAC EASTERN STORM OPENER

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania (June 14, 2022)……After going on an undefeated stretch of 4-0 in USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car competition at Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania's Grandview Speedway, Brady Bacon was dethroned one year ago when he finished a distant second at the 1/3-mile dirt oval.

Seeing the door closed on his Grandview winning streak, there was only one remedy that could cure his subsequent blues – start a new winning streak.

The Broken Arrow, Okla. native did exactly that on Tuesday night during the $6,000-to-win Jesse Hockett Classic USAC Eastern Storm opener by leading all 40 laps in nearly wire-to-wire fashion, with the exception of a brief moment when upstart Briggs Danner edged ahead just before the halfway point.

Bacon's third series win of the year was also his 43rd career USAC National Sprint Car feature victory, which moved him ahead of 1974 and 1976 series champion Pancho Carter and into sole possession of 6th on the all-time list, which also vaulted him from fourth to second in the overall series standings as he pursues his fifth career title aboard the Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Gressman Sanitation – DriveWFX.com/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

"I knew we had a good shot starting up front, and I just had to not mess up," Bacon explained. "I did mess up a couple of times, but, luckily, not bad enough for him to get by us."

Bacon started from the outside of the front row and quickly established the point as he shot by pole sitter Jadon Rogers on the opening circuit of the 40-lap main event. Danner came right along in Bacon's wake on the outside from the fourth starting position and pulled right to the rear bumper of Bacon.

On the 14th lap, Bacon began to encounter the tail end of the field. Nineteenth-place running Alex Banales occupied the middle groove entering the first turn. Bacon opted to drive underneath Banales, slightly knocking Bacon out of his rhythmic procession. Meanwhile, Danner chose to take the high road, and it very nearly paid off.

Danner pulled ahead of Bacon by a full car length off the exit of turn two but, midway down the back straight, Danner swung just a bit too wide and slapped his right rear tire, then the right front, against the outside concrete wall. That promptly delivered the race lead on a platter right back to Bacon who gladly accepted and raced away back to a three to four car gap between he and Danner.

"Briggs definitely pressured us there," Bacon recalled. "I thought we were going to be pretty good out there in clean air, but he poked his nose in there a couple times. I had to get my elbows up a little bit more."

The first stoppage of the evening came in turn four on lap 21 when 16th running Shane Cottle slowed just moments after Bacon slid past him to put him a lap down. Cottle ultimately came to a stop on the front straightaway to bring out the yellow flag with the race halfway complete – 20 down, 20 to go.

With a clear, open road up ahead of him now, Bacon had no traffic to negotiate and simply had to pedal it to keep Danner, the youthful USAC East Coast Sprint Car point leader, at an arm's length distance, doing so admirably as he constructed a half-straightaway lead during the ensuing laps, which reached to more than a full second interval despite having to muscle his machine with all his might around the track.

"I thought, eventually, the top would go away, and we'd go back down to driving across the bottom, but it never did," Bacon revealed. "I was waiting on that, and it never happened, so I had to keep my elbows up longer than we usually have to here."

Fourth-running Logan Seavey encountered trouble on lap 28 when he slowed with a flat right front tire, which forced the second yellow flag of the feature and relegated Seavey back to 13th in the final running order after returning from the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area.

That issued Bacon another restart and another opportunity for Danner to pounce from 2nd, but for Bacon, on any track surface he's been presented with over the years, and in any curves thrown his way, Bacon has proven to excel at any situation that arises.

"We were pretty tight, and we we're set up for this place to go glass slick from top to bottom," Bacon noted. "That little lip (in turn one) was giving us a little bit of trouble. I kind of had to cheat it on entry and, for the one in the center after the restarts, when my tires were low, I had to manhandle it a little bit; it was bucking around a little bit. Once we got the air up and our tires hot again, after a few laps, we were able to get through it all right."

One last final restart with 13 laps remaining resulted in the same postscript for Bacon as he distanced himself from Danner down the stretch and chalked up yet another feature victory in his illustrious career by a 1.442 second margin over Danner, Chase Stockon, Justin Grant and Robert Ballou.

Briggs Danner, the impressive young driver from Allentown, Pa., turned in his most impressive performance yet by scoring a career-best USAC National Sprint Car finish with a runner-up result in his Heffner Racing Enterprises South/E. Schneider & Sons Recycling – Wingstop/Triple X/Rider Chevy. To the roar of the crowd, the popular home state driver came up just one spot short becoming the first Pennsylvania to win a USAC National Sprint Car feature since Frankie Kerr in 1999 at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track.

"I really had my hopes up in the beginning," Danner admitted. "I think we were a little tight once it started to slick off to the curb. Brady's got a couple more laps than I do, so this is like a win for us here. Starting up front helped, but I started making a few mistakes there at the end. Nobody showed me a nose, so I can't complain."

Grandview's 2014 Eastern Storm winner, Chase Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.), came home in 3rd place, equaling his best USAC National Sprint Car result of the season after also taking 3rd in February's Ocala, Florida finale in his KO Motorsports/Hutson John Deere – Superior Tank & Trailer – AMSOIL/Flea RC/Fisher Chevy.

"Those two (Bacon and Danner) were out there on their own and we were just maintaining there," Stockon recalled. "I was kind of glad the race was over. At the end, we were hanging on for dear life, it felt like."

What a comeback effort it was for both Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) and his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing team. After a vicious bit of wall contact and flip in his heat race, which also involved Robert Ballou, Axsom's team utilized a

backup car for the feature. Axsom started 20th and raced to a 10th place finish to become the night's hardest charger at +10 in his Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 14, 2022 – Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – 18th USAC Eastern Storm / Jesse Hockett Classic

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR/CLEVER GIRL WINERY QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.713; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.734; 3. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-13.831; 4. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.078; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.114; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.193; 7. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-14.213; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.228; 9. Thomas Meseraull, 20m, Dyson-14.269; 10. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-14.299; 11. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.303; 12. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, Lotier/Nemeth-14.332; 13. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-14.342; 14. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-14.361; 15. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-14.410; 16. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.582; 17. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-14.586; 18. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.616; 19. Steven Drevicki, 19, DeGre-14.711; 20. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-14.801.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Brandon Mattox, 5. Steven Drevicki, 6. Emerson Axsom, 7. Robert Ballou. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Korbyn Hayslett, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Alex Bright, 7. Alex Banales. 2:28.62

PIT STOP USA / ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Timmy Buckwalter. 2:25.98

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (2), 2. Briggs Danner (4), 3. Chase Stockon (3), 4. Justin Grant (10), 5. Robert Ballou (13), 6. C.J. Leary (6), 7. Thomas Meseraull (7), 8. Jadon Rogers (1), 9. Jake Swanson (16), 10. Emerson Axsom (20), 11. Charles Davis Jr. (9), 12. Matt Westfall (8), 13. Logan Seavey (5), 14. Shane Cottle (17), 15. Brandon Mattox (14), 16. Alex Banales (18), 17. Alex Bright (12), 18. Timmy Buckwalter (11), 19. Korbyn Hayslett (15), 20. Steven Drevicki (19). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Brady Bacon.

**Emerson Axsom flipped during the first heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-607, 2-Brady Bacon-588, 3-Robert Ballou-584, 4-Emerson Axsom-580, 5-C.J. Leary-557, 6-Chase Stockon-554, 7-Logan Seavey-519, 8-Jason McDougal-443, 9-Matt Westfall-413, 10-Jake Swanson-405.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-77, 2-Briggs Danner-75, 3-Chase Stockon-71, 4-Justin Grant-68, 5-C.J. Leary-68, 6-Robert Ballou-63, 7-Thomas Meseraull-60, 8-Jadon Rogers-55, 9-Jake Swanson-51, 10-Charles Davis Jr.-49.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Buddy Kofoid-45, 2-Thomas Meseraull-45, 3-Brady Bacon-39, 4-Robert Ballou-39, 5-Justin Grant-35, 6-Brenham Crouch-32, 7-Kyle Cummins-29, 8-Mario Clouser-29, 9-Kaylee Bryson-27, 10-Jadon Rogers-27.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: June 15, 2022 – Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Swedesboro, New Jersey – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track – 18th USAC Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Thomas Meseraull

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Matt Westfall

Pit Stop USA & Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Logan Seavey

Feature Hard Charger: Emerson Axsom (20th to 10th)

==========

SEAVEY WEATHERS THE STORM, REIGNS USAC SPRINTS AT BRIDGEPORT

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Swedesboro, New Jersey (June 15, 2022)……In his five career USAC Eastern Storm feature starts coming into Wednesday night's event at New Jersey's Bridgeport Motorsports Park, Logan Seavey had yet to experience a finishing position in the top-half of the field.

The laundry list of Seavey's results included a pair of 13th place finishes, a 14th and a 20th in 2021, followed by another 13th during Tuesday night's Eastern Storm opener at Grandview Speedway, which was not indicative of his performance that saw him running as high as fourth late in the going before suffering a flat tire.

Seavey's results were also certainly not representative of the type of run he could muster when everything aligns, from himself, the team, the setup and yes, even the aspect of luck.

All those attributes came together in simultaneous fashion on Wednesday night during round two of USAC Eastern Storm 2022 at Bridgeport, for this evening ultimately belonged to the driver of the Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

While Seavey remained in the hunt throughout, he quite nearly saved his best for last when he surged to the front late in the going, taking over the lead with a turn one slide job on Briggs Danner just three laps from the finish to score his first USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature win of the season.

The $6,000 triumph was the seventh of the Sutter, California driver's USAC National Sprint Car career, tying him with Kevin Doty, Darren Hagen, Kenny Irwin Jr., Doug Kalitta, Jim Keeker, Bobby Santos, Brady Short, Kevin Thomas, Bobby Unser and Josh Wise.

Among the aforementioned results, Seavey's Bridgeport resume was just as much of a puzzling puzzle with a 13th in both his USAC National Sprint Car and USAC National Midget appearances during the 2021 campaign. But on this night, he made it imperative to turn the beat around.

"I've kind of struggled here in the past in the sprint car and the midget," Seavey acknowledged. "I'm just so proud of (crew chief) Ronnie Gardner. We've just been so fast every race. To come out to Pennsylvania where I've struggled, and to now get a win here is really cool."

Seavey started fourth on the grid and witnessed trouble up ahead right from the get-go on the initial lap when outside front row starter, and early leader, Emerson Axsom slipped high in turn three and slapped the outside wall. Axsom instantly slowed to a crawl and, subsequently, after pulling into the work area, his crew found a brake line issue on the car that sidelined him for the rest of the 30-lap feature, resulting in a 22nd place result.

While Seavey was running solidly in second behind early leader Thomas Meseraull, his Baldwin-Fox Racing teammate Alex Banales found the outside wall to be just as solid, unfortunately, as he tagged the concrete perimeter between turns three and four and flipped over. The Lafayette, Ind. native was uninjured in the incident and finished 21st.

On the ensuing lap six restart, Danner cracked the whip and slid past Seavey on the entry into turn one for the second position as the USAC East Coast Sprint Car point leader put himself in prime position to challenge Meseraull in his drive for a first career series win.

Following Korbyn Hayslett (15th) and Charles Davis Jr.'s (16th) spin and stop in turn two on the 16th circuit, Danner utilized the resumption to make his bid to get out ahead of Meseraull for the lead in turn one, but Meseraull countered and drove past Danner in turn two, then slyly stole his line as he cut across Danner's nose at the entry to turn three before, ultimately, ducking back in line as a swarm consisting of C.J. Leary, Seavey and more closed in.

"I fell back to third," Seavey recalled. "I was a little bit better than T-Mez early but after a couple yellows, I don't know what changed, but I didn't really love how I was feeling when the track got slick. That restart about halfway through, I really just committed to pounding the fence in one and two because I couldn't really cut the middle very good. My left rear tire grabbed some grip and it just cleaned up. I found a really good lane in one and two to gain some speed."

The unforeseen became the standard down the stretch as heartbreak hit race leader Meseraull's machine when he shockingly ran out of fuel at the start/finish line 11 laps from the finish. He'd return to the lineup at the tail of the running order and salvage an 8th place finish for the night.

Danner assumed his newfound position as the leader and, on the lap 20 restart, he stretched his advantage to nearly a full second over Leary as Leary contended with a challenge from both Seavey and Ballou who were on the move. Shortly thereafter, Seavey came to life as he slid by Leary for 2nd in turn three on lap 25 and clamped down to within a car length of Danner.

"The top didn't really have a cushion, so you couldn't really make a lot of speed early; that's where I was giving up spots," Seavey explained. "I was trying to get some momentum going early and I just kept getting slid on restarts. I felt like I was getting decent restarts, but it's just so easy to slide people here. Luckily, it's also easy to cross them over. I didn't give up too much, and then we came on at the end when it mattered."

With three to go, Seavey got right to the back bumper of Danner on the front straightaway, then slid by in turn one on lap 28 to take over at the front, completing the lap just before Jake Swanson (8th) performed a 360 degree spin in turn four to bring out the yellow.

Danner was out of line on the lap 29 restart attempt, which was called back. As a result, Danner was docked one spot from second to third, which moved him to 3rd behind Seavey and Stockon for the green flag and was promptly passed by Leary for the final spot on the podium as soon as action resumed.

A little bit further ahead, Seavey was up front and in control as he successfully completed the task over the next three laps and earned his accolades as a Bridgeport USAC Eastern Storm winner by 0.599 of a second over Stockon, Leary, Danner and Ballou.

Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.) became the lone driver to finish on the podium in each of the first two nights of Eastern Storm. After taking 3rd the night before at Grandview Speedway, Stockon took a season-best 2nd place finish at Bridgeport in his KO Motorsports/Hutson John Deere – Superior Tank & Trailer – AMSOIL/Flea RC/Fisher Chevy. It's his best result in a USAC National Sprint Car feature since winning at Indiana's Tri-State Speedway in September of 2020.

Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) corralled his best career finish at Bridgeport, securing a 3rd place result in the main event in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/Chevy. The 2019 Eastern Storm titlist now stands tied atop the six-race series standings alongside Stockon with two races completed and four to go.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 15, 2022 – Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Swedesboro, New Jersey – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track – 18th USAC Eastern Storm

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-14.779 (New Track Record); 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.785; 3. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.809; 4. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-15.147; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-15.283; 6. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-15.316; 7. Thomas Meseraull, 20m, Dyson-15.374; 8. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-15.426; 9. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-15.437; 10. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-15.460; 11. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-15.604; 12. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-15.617; 13. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-15.664; 14. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-15.857; 15. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-15.866; 16. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, Lotier/Nemeth-15.872; 17. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-15.970; 18. Steven Drevicki, 19, DeGre-15.985; 19. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-16.053; 20. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-16.403; 21. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-16.640; 22. Michael Markey, 3x, Wasitowski-19.560.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Timmy Buckwalter, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Shane Cottle, 7. Charles Davis Jr., 8. Michael Markey. 2:11.89

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Alex Bright, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Alex Banales, 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Joey Amantea. 2:14.96

PIT STOP USA / ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Brandon Mattox, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Korbyn Hayslett, 7. Steven Drevicki. 2:16.43

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Logan Seavey (4), 2. Chase Stockon (12), 3. C.J. Leary (6), 4. Briggs Danner (3), 5. Robert Ballou (9), 6. Jadon Rogers (7), 7. Alex Bright (22), 8. Thomas Meseraull (1), 9. Matt Westfall (14), 10. Brady Bacon (8), 11. Joey Amantea (19), 12. Timmy Buckwalter (16), 13. Jake Swanson (10), 14. Brandon Mattox (15), 15. Justin Grant (5), 16. Shane Cottle (13), 17. Charles Davis Jr. (18), 18. Korbyn Hayslett (20), 19. Steven Drevicki (17), 20. Michael Markey (21), 21. Alex Banales (11), 22. Emerson Axsom (2). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-19 Thomas Meseraull, Laps 20-27 Briggs Danner, Laps 28-30 Logan Seavey.

**Alex Banales flipped on lap 5 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-650, 2-Justin Grant-650, 3-Brady Bacon-639, 4-C.J. Leary-634, 5-Chase Stockon-628, 6-Emerson Axsom-608, 7-Logan Seavey-598, 8-Matt Westfall-466, 9-Jake Swanson-447, 10-Jason McDougal-443.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Chase Stockon-145, 2-C.J. Leary-145, 3-Briggs Danner-143, 4-Robert Ballou-129, 5-Brady Bacon-128, 6-Logan Seavey-125, 7-Jadon Rogers-118, 8-Thomas Meseraull-114, 9-Justin Grant-111, 10-Matt Westfall-100.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Buddy Kofoid-45, 2-Thomas Meseraull-45, 3-Robert Ballou-43, 4-Brady Bacon-39, 5-Justin Grant-35, 6-Brenham Crouch-32, 7-Kyle Cummins-29, 8-Mario Clouser-29, 9-Jadon Rogers-28, 10-Kaylee Bryson-27.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 16, 2022 – Selinsgrove Speedway – Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 18th USAC Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Briggs Danner

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Pit Stop USA & Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Briggs Danner

Feature Hard Charger: Alex Bright (22nd to 7th)

==========

RUMBLIN', STUMBLIN' & WINNIN': GRANT GRABS GRAND GROVE VICTORY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania (June 17, 2022)……"Sprint car racing is supposed to be gnarly. They're supposed to be won on the fence. We love big curbs, rough racetracks and, the more exciting it is for the fans, the more we like it and the better it is."

Henry David Thoreau, T.S. Eliot and Lord Byron have nothing on Justin Grant when it comes to the manner of weaving words into a rich tapestry of linguistic expression to accurately describe the pure excitement of sprint car racing.

Then again, they've never endured the type of ride Grant partook during the final laps of Friday night's $6,000-to-win USAC Eastern Storm round three at Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania's Williams Grove Speedway.

Grant authored a relatively flaw-free driving performance for much of the 30-lap main event on the famed half-mile in which the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship first visited exactly 66 years ago to the day back in 1956.

However, en route to taking the white flag and holding a seemingly comfortable two-plus second margin lead as he encountered the turn three cushion, Grant ran up over the curb, nearly tagged the wall and pulled a reverse wheel stand

with both rear tires kicking sky high like a bucking bronco, leaving the right front tire as the lone piece of Grant's car still making contact with the track surface.

Nonetheless, Grant dug his way out of it and carried on through turn four and the front straightway, taking the signal for one lap to go from the flag stand. Turns one and two were as smooth as can be as was his final trip beneath the famed landmark bridge that overhangs the back straightaway.

But, as Grant tiptoed through turn three on the bottom, he slid up and tagged the cushion in turn four with his right rear tire. Grant stabbed the gas and wriggled his way free like he was caught in a Chinese finger trap. As he shook loose and saw the checkered flag in the distance, smoke began to billow out of the headers of Grant's ride as he chugged to the finish line just three car lengths ahead of the rapidly closing Alex Bright.

For Grant, his long-awaited first series victory since February couldn't have come at a better time. It was the Ione, California native's 30th career USAC National Sprint Car feature win, tying him with Chris Windom for 17th on the all-time list.

Furthermore, Grant's performance in his NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries – LA Poly/Maxim/Kistler Chevy was historic as well, marking his and TOPP Motorsports 22nd victory together as a driver/team in USAC National Sprint Car competition. That moves the Grant/TOPP combo into the top-10 all-time in this category alongside Parnelli Jones/Harlan Fike, Levi Jones/Tony Stewart Racing and Jack Hewitt/Bob Hampshire.

Getting the job done in his backup "T" car to boot, Grant rolled from the pole for the feature after earlier earning a heat race victory with a last lap, last corner pass on the outside of Shane Cottle, which rewarded him with the GSP Quality Driving Performance of the Night award. That right there sent a foreshadowing message to the rest of the 22-car field regarding just the kind of performance that Grant expected of himself.

"I told some of the guys in the pits that I'm setting up to go bang the fence down," Grant remembered. "I'm not running the bottom; I don't care. We're either going to win on the fence or run 20th on the fence."

Grant was a man of his word and put it on the fence often and early, zipping by outside front row starter Matt Westfall on the opening lap while fourth-starting Logan Seavey made a beeline using the topside to climb to third past Ballou and to second ahead of Westfall by lap three.

Up front, Grant was cruising while holding a three-second lead over Seavey at the midway point until Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier and ninth-running Jake Swanson slowed to a stop in turn two to bring out the yellow flag, thus bunching up the field.

While Ballou and Brady Bacon tussled for the third position on lap 17, hard-charging Alex Bright slithered under both on the low line in turn two to move into the top-three after starting all the way back in the 13th position. Grant was steady as he goes with a lead of one second over Seavey with Bright another full second behind Seavey.

As Grant steadily increased his lead to 2.2 seconds by lap 25, 20th running Dallas Hewitt spun backwards and came to a rest against the turn four outside guardrail to bring out the final caution.

On the ensuing restart with six laps remaining, Bright picked off Seavey for the second position on the bottom of turn two while Grant stood on the throttle on the outside lane, briefly making it three-wide between the top-three with the laps dwindling and the pressure mounting.

"I saw Bright down there looking underneath me on the bottom, and I'm like 'oh boy,' and the curb was getting really tough to run," Grant recalled. "You could almost slip through (the cushion) on entry. If I cheated it, I would bang the big

ledge and bike, but if I entered against it, I would blow through it and end up on top of it and I about turned over once in turn one and once in turn four. I kept smashing the right rear off the wall off in turn two, and I bent the wheel about three-quarters of the way in; it was shaking like a son of a gun the rest of the way."

Slightly behind Grant, Seavey answered the message and roared back past Bright for second coming to the line with three laps to go. The see-saw tug-of-war went right back into Bright's hands the very next trip around with two laps left. But, at that moment, Grant had increased his lead to a 1.8 second margin and, seemingly, all was in hand.

But that's why they play the game and that's why the race the races. Grant stumbled on the cushion and become airborne between turns three and four as he rumbled to the white flag but hung on and maintained his sizable lead. It was a relatively no harm, no foul situation for Grant despite losing seven tenths of his lead in the blink of an eye, which was now down to 1.1.

One lap later, it happened again for Grant as he tripped over the curb and fell into the fluff that acted more like quicksand as he carved his way out and, mercifully, got to the checkered flag first, just 0.297 of a second ahead of Bright, Seavey and Bacon with Westfall rounding out the top-five.

The triumph was doubly meaningful for Grant as this was race three of ten for the Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster series in 2022, which honors the life and memory of his father-in-law and one of the mentors throughout his racing career.

"Ol' Bub was the master of going faster," Grant stated. "He helped me a ton to get my packages dialed in. We've incorporated a lot of what he taught me and always tried to beat into my head. It's awesome and it's great to win one of his races. It feels great to finally do a good job representing the family in one of these and get our car back in victory lane."

Alex Bright (Collegeville, Pa.) put on a show as he turned in his best career USAC National Sprint Car feature finish with a 2nd place result in his Hummer Motorsports/Rodota Trucking & Excavating – DriveWFX.com/Maxim/Rider Chevy at the same venue he captured a USAC East Coast Sprint Car win less than two weeks earlier. For the first time in some time, Bright didn't have to worry about setting up his own racecar, which took loads of pressure off his back and allowed him to simply concentrate on the driving aspect where he became the hard charger on this night after starting way back in 13th.

"Everybody kind of made it easy; they all went to the top," said Bright who made his run to the front primarily on the bottom side of the racetrack. "We were working the bottom where I had to be really aggressive and sometimes had to make the car a little wide. I got fired as a crew chief last night, so we had some new guys, Lou and my brother (Brendan) stepped up tonight, and they did a great job. This car was on rails tonight, but I wish we had a few more laps. The top was starting to get treacherous, and Grant was making mistakes, but he ran a great race and I'm happy to come home second."

Fresh off his first Eastern Storm victory two nights earlier at New Jersey's Bridgeport Motorsports Park, Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif) followed it up with a 3rd place result in his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Chevy. The podium finish thrusted Seavey right into the thick of the Eastern Storm title race where he now sits second, five points behind C.J. Leary for the lead with two races to go.

"That was really tricky," Seavey admitted. "You had to slow down so much on entry just to make the corner, then you had a big ol' curb, so you had to get the tires spinning really quickly again. It's amazing that Justin even held onto that thing. I thought that maybe my car was a little bit better than his, but he was just running harder than I was. It looked like he was on the verge of crashing every three or four laps, but he came out with the win. I gave up second there on the restart and I thought there was moisture in the middle of one and two, but it was dirty and dusty, but overall, I'm pretty happy with our speed."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 17, 2022 – Williams Grove Speedway – Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 18th USAC Eastern Storm

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-20.065; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-20.170; 3. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-20.227; 4. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-20.374; 5. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-20.396; 6. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-20.505; 7. Thomas Meseraull, 20m, Dyson-20.533; 8. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-20.569; 9. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, Lotier/Nemeth-20.606; 10. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-20.625; 11. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-20.625; 12. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-20.753; 13. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-20.768; 14. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-20.800; 15. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-20.831; 16. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-20.838; 17. Steven Drevicki, 19, DeGre-20.951; 18. Mark Smith, M1, L & M-21.032; 19. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-21.050; 20. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-21.215; 21. Dallas Hewitt, 18, Keen-21.244; 22. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-21.381; 23. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Thomas Meseraull, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Joey Amantea. 2:57.31

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Steven Drevicki, 2. Alex Bright, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Carmen Perigo, 7. Jadon Rogers. 2:57.51

PIT STOP USA / ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Timmy Buckwalter, 4. Mark Smith, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Charles Davis Jr., 7. Dallas Hewitt. 3:01.39

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (1), 2. Alex Bright (13), 3. Logan Seavey (4), 4. Brady Bacon (7), 5. Matt Westfall (2), 6. Thomas Meseraull (9), 7. Timmy Buckwalter (11), 8. Briggs Danner (10), 9. C.J. Leary (5), 10. Steven Drevicki (8), 11. Jadon Rogers (16), 12. Robert Ballou (3), 13. Emerson Axsom (12), 14. Chase Stockon (15), 15. Shane Cottle (17), 16. Mark Smith (18), 17. Jake Swanson (6), 18. Brandon Mattox (19), 19. Joey Amantea (22), 20. Charles Davis Jr. (14), 21. Carmen Perigo (20), 22. Dallas Hewitt (21). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Justin Grant.

**Korbyn Hayslett flipped during qualifying.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-729, 2-Brady Bacon-708, 3-Robert Ballou-699, 4-C.J. Leary-691, 5-Logan Seavey-670, 6-Chase Stockon-667, 7-Emerson Axsom-650, 8-Matt Westfall-531, 9-Jake Swanson-488, 10-Jadon Rogers-447.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-C.J. Leary-202, 2-Logan Seavey-197, 3-Brady Bacon-197, 4-Briggs Danner-196, 5-Justin Grant-190, 6-Chase Stockon-184, 7-Robert Ballou-178, 8-Thomas Meseraull-172, 9-Matt Westfall-165, 10-Alex Bright-164.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-227, 2-Logan Seavey-216, 3-Robert Ballou-208, 4-Justin Grant-196, 5-C.J. Leary-196, 6-Emerson Axsom-168, 7-Matt Westfall-162, 8-Jake Swanson-149, 9-Chase Stockon-145, 10-Jadon Rogers-123.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Thomas Meseraull-48, 2-Buddy Kofoid-45, 3-Robert Ballou-43, 4-Brady Bacon-42, 5-Justin Grant-35, 6-Jadon Rogers-33, 7-Alex Bright-32, 8-Brenham Crouch-32, 9-Kyle Cummins-29, 10-Mario Clouser-29.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 18, 2022 – Port Royal Speedway – Port Royal, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 18th USAC Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Jake Swanson

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Justin Grant

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Steven Drevicki

Pit Stop USA & Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: C.J. Leary

Feature Hard Charger: Alex Bright (13th to 2nd)

==========

ORANGE CRUSH: SEAVEY STORMS TO PORT ROYAL USAC SPRINT GLORY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Port Royal, Pennsylvania (June 18, 2022)……This is exactly what Logan Seavey pictured when he first became aware of Pennsylvania's Port Royal Speedway.

The Sutter, Calif. native had the intuition that the place was just his style, and that his first ever visit to the venue on this night could very well be a special night indeed.

Port Royal was the track Seavey was most looking forward to competing at on the entire schedule and how Seavey visualized it would unfold is exactly what occurred on Saturday night during the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship portion of Open Wheel Madness at the half-mile dirt oval.

Seavey took control for the entire second half of the feature to place a second checkmark into the USAC Eastern Storm win column this week after previously adding a victory on Wednesday night at New Jersey's Bridgeport Motorsports Park, which ascended him to the top of the Eastern Storm standings and into a tie for the Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster Series point lead alongside Brady Bacon with four of the ten races completed thus far.

"Hammering the guardrail at a big, fast half-mile is tough to beat," Seavey exclaimed following his second victory of the season worth $6,000 in his Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Chevy. "I knew this is a place I'd pick up quickly and I'd enjoy racing at."

The victory by Seavey was the eighth of his USAC National Sprint Car career, tying him for 61st all-time along with Mike Bliss, Chet Fillip, Johnny Rutherford and Joe Saldana.

Seavey started fifth on the grid but immediately dropped to seventh during the opening two circuits before steadily making up ground in the ensuing laps. Pole sitter Briggs Danner galloped out to the early lead and controlled the first two laps

before tagging the cushion at the top of turn two on lap three, which packed his right rear wheel full of mud and forced him to the work area for repairs from which he'd recover from to finish 10th.

Fatheadz Fast Qualifier C.J. Leary had set a torrid pace early in the feature after starting 6th, finding his way to the second spot by the end of lap one and then taking over his role at the head of the pack when Danner had his troubles.

Bacon became the first to issue a challenge to Leary for the lead on lap four but was unable to complete the pass. That opened the door for a suddenly surging Emerson Axsom who shot to the bottom and veered past Bacon for the runner-up position and, subsequently, the race lead on lap six in between turns one and two.

The previous night's winner on the somewhat similar half-mile dirt oval of nearby Williams Grove Speedway was Justin Grant who, while running 7th at Port Royal, slowed with a flat right rear tire on lap six. His car was pushed to the work area where it received extensive help from his crewman Dylan Cook as well as rival Brady Bacon's Dynamics, Inc. Racing crew where it was all hand on deck.

Starting with the lap seven restart, Bacon and Seavey, along with Shane Cottle, zipped by second-running Leary who dropped from second to fifth in no time flat. Bacon closed rapidly on Axsom shortly thereafter and was able to get right to his rear bumper on lap 12 but couldn't make the pass.

The door swung wide open for Seavey at that exact moment, allowing him to rip by Bacon for 2nd with a major slider in turn one. As the new second-place car of Axsom challenged Seavey for the top spot at the halfway point, lap 15, Bacon himself closed in on Axsom for 2nd.

Alex Bright, seemingly out of nowhere for the second-straight night, flew from the 16th starting spot past Bacon for third on the 18th lap and to second on lap 19 by Axsom utilizing a patented Port Royal slide job to accomplish the task at hand. However, Seavey still maintained a sizable, near-straightaway lead over Bright with 10 to go.

Meanwhile, Grant, who restarted last after his blown tire on lap seven, had blown by nearly the entire field as he climbed to fourth on lap 26 with an outside pass of Axsom in turn two, then did even one better on the final lap when he slid Bacon in turn three to secure the third and final spot on the podium.

Up and out ahead of those two was Seavey who made his Port Royal debut an astounding and resounding success as he finished off his first ever appearance at Port Royal with his first trip to victory lane at the scenic venue over Bright, Grant, Bacon and Axsom, while leading by a whopping 5.407 second margin at the finish line.

"I had no idea how big of a lead I had," Seavey acknowledged. "I knew I had good speed, but I didn't feel like I was running that hard. I feel like the harder you run, the more you hit the cushion and it kind of eats you up. I had kind of a different line down there in three and four and I noticed it's pretty flat right up by the wall. I was working that, then I bounced off the wall and turned back down. I was just looking for any kind of grip we could find there. (Crew chief) Ronnie Gardner had this car really, really good."

Alex Bright (Collegeville, Pa.) endured a blown engine early in the night, then swapped engines in his Hummer Motorsports/Rodota Trucking & Excavating – DriveWFX.com/Maxim/Rider Chevy. Bright unearthed the middle groove and found it to his liking as he experienced near déjà vu from the night before. On Friday night at Williams Grove, Bright earned hard charger honors by driving from 13th to 2nd. On Saturday night, he earned hard charger honors by driving from 16th to 2nd, equaling his best career USAC National Sprint Car finish in the process.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) made a miraculous drive to finish 3rd in the feature after pitting for a flat right rear tire on lap seven which was the result of smacking the fence and cutting his tire down. Grant restarted from the tail and blitzed to a



3rd place finish without the aid of a caution, putting on the finishing touches with a last lap pass of Bacon in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries – LA Poly/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

C.J. Leary's Fast Qualifying effort to start the program was the 35th of his USAC National Sprint Car driving career, equaling him with Kevin Thomas Jr. and Rich Vogler in that category for the eighth most all-time.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 18, 2022 – Port Royal Speedway – Port Royal, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 18th USAC Eastern Storm – Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster Race #4

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-18.617; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-19.095; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-19.136; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-19.184; 5. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-19.196; 6. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-19.232; 7. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-19.259; 8. Shane Cottle, 39, Hogue-19.317; 9. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-19.318; 10. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-19.395; 11. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-19.417; 12. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-19.624; 13. Dallas Hewitt, 18, Keen-19.679; 14. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-19.692; 15. Mark Smith, M1, L & M-19.735; 16. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-19.776; 17. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-19.827; 18. Steven Drevicki, 19, DeGre-19.842; 19. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-19.941; 20. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-20.582; 21. Austin Graby, 7, Lotier/Nemeth-20.795.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Alex Bright, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Dallas Hewitt, 7. Jadon Rogers. 2:56.95

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Brian Ruhlman, 5. Shane Cottle, 6. Joey Amantea, 7. Charles Davis Jr. 2:55.19

PIT STOP USA / ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Mark Smith, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Briggs Danner, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Steven Drevicki, 6. Austin Graby, 7. Brandon Mattox. 2:56.70

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Logan Seavey (5), 2. Alex Bright (16), 3. Justin Grant (10), 4. Brady Bacon (3), 5. Emerson Axsom (2), 6. Matt Westfall (12), 7. Robert Ballou (9), 8. Chase Stockon (7), 9. Steven Drevicki (18), 10. Briggs Danner (1), 11. Shane Cottle (8), 12. C.J. Leary (6), 13. Brian Ruhlman (20), 14. Brandon Mattox (13), 15. Joey Amantea (15), 16. Dallas Hewitt (14), 17. Jake Swanson (4), 18. Austin Graby (21), 19. Jadon Rogers (19), 20. Mark Smith (11), 21. Charles Davis Jr. (17). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Briggs Danner, Laps 3-5 C.J. Leary, Laps 6-14 Emerson Axsom, Laps 15-30 Logan Seavey.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-799, 2-Brady Bacon-780, 3-Robert Ballou-758, 4-Logan Seavey-753, 5-C.J. Leary-743, 6-Chase Stockon-720, 7-Emerson Axsom-716, 8-Matt Westfall-593, 9-Jake Swanson-526, 10-Jadon Rogers-474.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Logan Seavey-280, 2-Brady Bacon-269, 3-Justin Grant-260, 4-C.J. Leary-254, 5-Briggs Danner-246, 6-Chase Stockon-237, 7-Robert Ballou-237, 8-Alex Bright-237, 9-Matt Westfall-236, 10-Jadon Rogers-227.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-299, 2-Logan Seavey-299, 3-Robert Ballou-267, 4-Justin Grant-266, 5-C.J. Leary-248, 6-Emerson Axsom-234, 7-Matt Westfall-224, 8-Chase Stockon-198, 9-Jake Swanson-187, 10-Jadon Rogers-150.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Thomas Meseraull-48, 2-Alex Bright-46, 3-Buddy Kofoid-45, 4-Robert Ballou-45, 5-Justin Grant-42, 6-Brady Bacon-42, 7-Jadon Rogers-33, 8-Brenham Crouch-32, 9-Logan Seavey-30, 10-Kyle Cummins-29.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 19, 2022 – Bloomsburg Fair Raceway – Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 18th USAC Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Brady Bacon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Logan Seavey

Pit Stop USA & Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Mark Smith

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Brady Bacon

Feature Hard Charger: Alex Bright (16th to 2nd)

==========

BACON BLAZES BLOOMSBURG, SEAVEY SECURES EASTERN STORM TITLE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania (June 19, 2022)……Brady Bacon finished what he started in USAC Eastern Storm 2022.

The Broken Arrow, Okla. native opened and closed the five-race mini-series in a much familiar manner, winning last Tuesday's opener at Grandview Speedway in wire-to-wire fashion. Bacon ended the busy weekend just the same during Sunday's Eastern Storm finale at Bloomsburg (Pa.) Fair Raceway, rolling to his second triumph of the week where he led the entire non-stop, caution-free, 30-lap duration from start to finish in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Gressman Sanitation – DriveWFX.com/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

In doing so, Bacon became just the third driver to win both the first and last feature in a single Eastern Storm week, joining Levi Jones in 2007 and Robert Ballou in 2015. Bacon's 44th career USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car victory moved him to within one win of Larry Dickson's 45 for fifth on the all-time list.

Bacon's superb performance from start to finish in Bloomsburg's $6,000-to-win feature, however, was not enough to overtake Logan Seavey for the Eastern Storm title. That honor went to the Sutter, Calif. native whose two victories and four overall podium finishes in five appearances secured him his first title in the series by a mere five points over Bacon. Seavey wrapped it up with a solid third-place performance at Bloomsburg.

Rolling from the outside of the front row, Bacon stayed true to the high line early on as pole sitter and one-lap track record holder Chase Stockon worked the middle ground and repeatedly offered a challenge to Bacon's stranglehold of the top spot a couple car lengths in arrears.

On the fifth trip around the 3/8-mile dirt oval, Stockon saw his best opportunity at hand as he pulled even alongside Bacon for the race lead in turn two. Charging down the back straightaway and into turn three, Stockon and Bacon swapped lines as Stockon went topside and Bacon carved through the middle. Reacting to the changeup, Bacon slid himself into turn one on lap six while Stockon trucked through the middle.

As Bacon steadily built his lead to over a second, the ongoing jockeying for position behind him never ceased operations. On the eighth lap, Justin Grant and Seavey were engaged in a fierce tussle for the third position between turns one and two when Seavey jumped over the cushion. The closely following Jake Swanson, running fifth, had no extra room to maneuver and climbed the back of Seavey's tail tank, nearly spelling doom for Seavey's Eastern Storm title chances as well as Swanson's opportunity for his best result of the week. Yet, as it turned out, it was a no-harm, no-foul interaction, and both continued on their merry way running fourth and fifth in the order.

Meanwhile, at the halfway mark of the 30-lap feature, on lap 15, Bacon was in the midst of his trouncing as he held a 1.8 second advantage over Grant, who, on lap 14, had dove under Stockon in turn one then raced ahead at the exit of turn two to steal away second. Seavey spurted ahead of Stockon a lap later on 15 when he out-drag raced Stockon to the entry of turn three to position himself into second.

While Grant was able to close to within six-tenths of leader Bacon with five laps remaining, Bacon remained in solid shape as he put together a succession of qualifying-like laps as he resided alone at the front, rising the final interval to 1.251 second at the finish line to win and place himself at the top of the all-time Eastern Storm win list with six along with Bryan Clauson, Levi Jones and Chris Windom.

"Luckily, we got to the front early," Bacon stated. "Stockon poked a nose there and I stepped it up a little bit. Sometimes you lose them when you should win them, and we'll take this one tonight. We did a lot of crazy stuff to the car to be tight enough and I think it paid off."

A major role in adapting to the track conditions throughout a 30-lap feature involves finding a sufficient amount of bite to propel yourself forward all while keeping an open mind and open eyes on how the surface progresses and changes over time and how, as a driver, you can quickly adapt even though it may be difficult to do so when running alone up front and having no frame of reference to compare to.

"Being in front the whole time, you don't really know of the changes in the track," Bacon explained. "Last time, it kind of moved up then moved back down. I was keeping an eye on the bottom, and it didn't look like it was cleaning up. There weren't a bunch of others running down there enough to get it any more grip, so I just stuck to my guns but, luckily, we have a lot of sidebite, so I could slide across one and two pretty well, I thought. We've tried some different stuff to get our forward bite a little bit better when it's super slick like this and I think we're making some gains on it."

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) collected four top-four finishes during Eastern Storm this past week. He earned a fourth at Grandview, followed by a first at Williams Grove and a third at Port Royal before finishing up second at Bloomsburg while also staying ahead of Bacon in the overall USAC National Sprint Car championship fight in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries – LA Poly/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

"I felt like our car was really good there," Grant said. "I could hook the middle of one and two and drive off the bottom of two and make up some ground. At the end, we had a tire issue, and the thing was shaking like crazy, and things started to

back away for me. Brady is really good at these flat racetracks and I'm typically not very good at these types of racetracks. We made big, big strides on the car and we feel really good about that going into this stretch of the season."

Prior to hot laps, Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) had a head gasket issue on the primary Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Chevy, which required the team to go to the backup machine for the remainder of the night. Seavey promptly put his stamp on a first Eastern Storm championship with a third place finish in the finale at Bloomsburg. Seavey finished the week with authority by snagging wins at both Bridgeport and Port Royal while also adding thirds at Williams Grove and Bloomsburg.

"We came out and I wasn't sure what to expect because I haven't run very great out here in the past," Seavey recounted of his previous Bloomsburg experiences. "I started fourth there and I figured my car was really good in the feature after struggling in the heat race. (Crew chief) Ronnie (Gardner) gave me a great car for the feature. I was trying to figure out where I needed to be on the racetrack. I was able to get by Stockon and I knew that gave me a little bit of a buffer for the Eastern Storm points at least. I started moving around a little bit and, the last two or three laps, I actually found a little bit and closed the gap, but it was way too late by that point. It was another really great run and it's what we needed for our season to keep putting this thing on the podium and we've done that. I'm really happy about our speed leaving here and excited for the rest of the year."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 19, 2022 – Bloomsburg Fair Raceway – Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 18th USAC Eastern Storm

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-15.993; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-16.031; 3. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-16.075; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.202; 5. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.211; 6. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.223; 7. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.314; 8. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-16.332; 9. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-16.636; 10. Thomas Meseraull, 20m, Dyson-16.709; 11. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-16.732; 12. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, Lotier/Nemeth-16.904; 13. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-17.189; 14. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-17.282; 15. Steven Drevicki, 19, DeGre-17.307; 16. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-17.772; 17. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS & PIT STOP USA FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Briggs Danner, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Alex Bright, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Steven Drevicki, 9. Jadon Rogers. 2:11.42 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) & ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Timmy Buckwalter, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. C.J. Leary, 6. Justin Grant, 7. Joey Amantea. 2:17.58

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (2), 2. Justin Grant (3), 3. Logan Seavey (4), 4. Chase Stockon (1), 5. Jake Swanson (6), 6. Briggs Danner (7), 7. Robert Ballou (9), 8. Emerson Axsom (10), 9. Thomas Meseraull (12), 10. C.J. Leary (5), 11. Alex Bright (11), 12. Matt Westfall (13), 13. Joey Amantea (15), 14. Jadon Rogers (16), 15. Steven Drevicki (14), 16. Timmy Buckwalter (8), 17. Brandon Mattox (17). 8:51.95 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Brady Bacon.

**Brandon Mattox & Jadon Rogers flipped during qualifying.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-872, 2-Brady Bacon-858, 3-Logan Seavey-825, 4-Robert Ballou-817, 5-C.J. Leary-795, 6-Chase Stockon-787, 7-Emerson Axsom-771, 8-Matt Westfall-634, 9-Jake Swanson-593, 10-Jadon Rogers-510.

FINAL USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Logan Seavey-352, 2-Brady Bacon-347, 3-Justin Grant-333, 4-Briggs Danner-309, 5-C.J. Leary-306, 6-Chase Stockon-304, 7-Robert Ballou-296, 8-Alex Bright-282, 9-Matt Westfall-268, 10-Jake Swanson-239.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Thomas Meseraull-51, 2-Robert Ballou-47, 3-Alex Bright-46, 4-Buddy Kofoid-45, 5-Justin Grant-43, 6-Brady Bacon-43, 7-Logan Seavey-36, 8-Jadon Rogers-35, 9-Brenham Crouch-32, 10-Chase Stockon-31.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 25, 2022 – Wilmot Raceway – Wilmot, Wisconsin – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – CarIQ Wisconsin Jump Around

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Jake Swanson

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Briggs Danner

Simpson Race Products / Pit Stop USA First Heat Winner: Briggs Danner

Competition Suspension, Inc. / Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Timmy Buckwalter

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Chase Stockon

Feature Hard Charger: Thomas Meseraull (12th to 9th)

==========

DÉJÀ BALLOU: THE MADMAN STRIKES WITH VICTORY AT ANGELL PARK

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Sun Prairie, Wisconsin (June 26, 2022)……Sometimes, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Back in 2015, Robert Ballou's No. 12 carried a new engine into Angell Park Speedway, started ninth and charged his way up through the field to strike victory.

Seven years following that particular triumph in the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship's first trip to the Sun Prairie, Wisconsin oval since 2015, the Rocklin, Calif. native discovered that the song remains the same for all intents and purposes.

Starting from the eighth position on Sunday night, it took Ballou just seven laps to work his way into the top spot past early race leader Davey Ray before going relatively unscathed and relatively unchallenged for the balance of the 30-lap

distance to capture his third series win of the season in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Dragonfly Aviation – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

Ballou's 34th career USAC National Sprint Car feature score moved him to within one win of 12th on the all-time list, which is currently occupied by both Jon Stanbrough and Rich Vogler. In doing so, Ballou won in uninterrupted start-to-finish fashion, taking the checkered flag in a brief 7 minutes and 57.6 seconds during the inaugural KO Klassic / CarIQ Wisconsin Jump Around.

The parallels to Ballou's most recent Angell Park visit were readily apparent even before he hit the 1/3-mile dirt oval for hot laps. In the end, the team left the premises with the same sense of satisfaction the did seven years before. Ballou and crew chief Derrick Bye installed the engine on Friday night for a Midwest Sprint Car Series event at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track and promptly won, setting the theme for the weekend.

"In 2015, I had a brand new engine. In 2022, I got a brand new Don Ott engine," summarized Ballou in relating his last two Angell Park experiences. "This weekend was all about testing. I've changed my whole racecar and changed everything that we've done. We've spent a lot of hours in the shop. My buddy, Tom Harris from England, and I were on the phone all the time trying to get this thing better. He understands the fabrication along with what does what and how. I'm the knucklehead who steers it and says, 'this doesn't work' and 'let's try something different.' I've had something up my sleeve since December and I wanted to try it."

It all worked to fruition on Sunday, just one week after Ballou struggled during USAC's Eastern Storm tour in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, claiming that his experiences felt akin to having a boat anchor tied to his car. This time around, he was the first hard charger to also claim a victory in the very same feature event.

Pole sitter Ray, who's collected numerous Badger Midget victories at Angell Park in his career, slid to the top and into the lead for the first time in USAC National Sprint Car career on the opening lap in turn one as outside front row starter Braydon Cromwell fought to keep in stride with Ray on the bottom.

In the background of the front runners was Ballou, who was on the move in a major way. He surpassed USAC National Sprint Car point leader Justin Grant for third with a low rider maneuver between turns one and two on lap four. Next on Ballou's hit list was Cromwell who hopped atop the third turn cushion, which allowed Ballou to slither underneath for second on lap five.

Ballou stuck to his guns on the low line, and when Ray wrestled with the turn three cushion on lap six, it opened the door for Ballou on the low line to scoot alongside, missing the lead by a sliver of a fingernail at the stripe, with Ray clinging to a .007 second margin.

"I was afraid of how quick it would go away," Ballou admitted. "It's one of those deals that's a flip of the coin. You're either going to be really good at the beginning and awful at the end or it's one out of a hundred where you get lucky and it's good the whole time."

It was "game on" for Ballou who completed his overtake of Ray between turns one and two on the seventh lap, then set sail for the horizon as he put up a four second lead by the midway point while the battles raged on behind him. Ballou continued to negotiate the contiguous throngs of lapped traffic nearing the midway point while Emerson Axsom double-slid Grant and Ray in the first turn on lap 14 to go from fourth to second in the snap of a finger.

Meanwhile, Bacon utilized a similar route as Ballou to take over the third position from Grant at the exit of turn four on the 18th lap. Bacon then cruised the bottom to shoot to second on lap 22, using the lapped car of Brandon Mattox as a sort of pick, then rocketed from bottom to top at the exit of turn four to rip away the position.

Ballou held a near four-second lead when Bacon slotted into second with eight laps remaining. Quickly, though, Bacon knocked Ballou's lead down to 1.7 with only five laps to go. However, Ballou cut through with ease, splitting Terry Babb and William Huck halfway down the back straight on the final lap, then was free and clean to the finish line, winning by a 1.953 second margin over Bacon, who had a right rear tire shred to smithereens on the cool down lap following the checkered flag. Axsom, Grant and C.J. Leary rounded out the top-five.

"I could go pretty much anywhere they would throw the crumbs off the bottom," Ballou explained. "No one had run through there and, those last few laps, I could catch the middle really good. I was pretty tight on the curb getting into three. It's a pretty tricky racetrack; they built this place to run midgets, but with sprint cars, it always puts on a pretty good race."

The last time Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) competed with the USAC National Sprint Cars at Angell Park, he finished second in 2015. On Sunday night, he ran second again to Ballou at Angell Park after starting back in the seventh position in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Gressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy. In three USAC Sprint Car starts at Angell Park, Bacon has now finished 2nd in 2015, 4th in 2014 & 2nd in 2022.

"We were just a little too tight at the beginning to really get up through there like Robert did," Bacon lamented. "We were a little bit better than him at the end, but I was kind of cobbled up in a traffic jam and we couldn't really get into a spot on the track where we needed to be to gain on him enough there at the end."

Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) collected his best USAC National Sprint Car feature finish since winning in February at Ocala, Florida's Bubba Raceway Park. His third place run on Sunday night at Angell Park moved him up a spot in the series points to sixth overall in his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

"I think our car was really good at the start and in the middle (of the race)," Axsom documented. "Once the track developed a curb, we were a little bit tight but my guys gave me a really great car."

Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) set Fatheadz Fast Qualifying time for the night, which was his ninth overall fast time in just 18 combined USAC National Sprint Car and Silver Crown starts. His new track record run 13.765 broke the former mark of 13.796 set by Kevin Thomas Jr. in 2015. Leary's 36th career USAC National Sprint Car fast qualifying time passed Kevin Thomas Jr. and Rich Vogler on the list and tied Bryan Clauson for seventh all-time.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 26, 2022 – Angell Park Speedway – Sun Prairie, Wisconsin – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – KO Klassic – CarIQ Wisconsin Jump Around

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.765; 2. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.869; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.955; 4. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.977; 5. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-14.082; 6. Davey Ray, 14AJ, FattFro-14.100; 7. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.113; 8. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.125; 9. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.132; 10. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.332; 11. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-14.633; 12. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-14.713; 13. Terry Babb, 8D, KCBJ-14.819; 14. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-15.045; 15. John Sluss, 4R, FattFro-15.104; 16. Nathan Crane, 89, Gaertner-15.243; 17. Ryan Marshall, 7, Boyd-15.451; 18. Derek Crane, 19WI, Crane-15.468; 19. Tom Eller, 29OG, Eller-15.688; 20. William Huck, 39, Huck-15.842; 21. Bryce Andrews, 17, Andrews-16.042; 22. Daniel Graumenz, 29J, Johnson-16.114.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Terry Babb, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Nathan Crane, 7. Tom Eller. 2:03.72 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Emerson Axsom, 3. Braydon Cromwell, 4. Brian Ruhlman, 5. Ryan Marshall, 6. Alex Banales, 7. William Huck. 2:03.96

PIT STOP USA & ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Davey Ray, 5. Derek Crane, 6. John Sluss, 7. Bryce Andrews. 2:09.09

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Robert Ballou (8), 2. Brady Bacon (7), 3. Emerson Axsom (5), 4. Justin Grant (4), 5. C.J. Leary (6), 6. Matt Westfall (11), 7. Jadon Rogers (9), 8. Braydon Cromwell (2), 9. Davey Ray (1), 10. Logan Seavey (10), 11. Brandon Mattox (3), 12. Alex Banales (12), 13. Terry Babb (13), 14. Nathan Crane (16), 15. Brian Ruhlman (14), 16. Derek Crane (18), 17. Ryan Marshall (17), 18. John Sluss (15), 19. Bryce Andrews (21), 20. William Huck (20), 21. Tom Eller (19). 7:57.60

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-6 Davey Ray, Laps 7-30 Robert Ballou.

**Daniel Graumenz flipped during qualifying.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-967, 2-Brady Bacon-956, 3-Robert Ballou-918, 4-Logan Seavey-897, 5-C.J. Leary-889, 6-Emerson Axsom-870, 7-Chase Stockon-810, 8-Matt Westfall-718, 9-Jake Swanson-616, 10-Jadon Rogers-593.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-54, 2-Thomas Meseraull-51, 3-Brady Bacon-48, 4-Alex Bright-46, 5-Buddy Kofoid-45, 6-Justin Grant-43, 7-Logan Seavey-39, 8-Jadon Rogers-37, 9-Matt Westfall-36, 10-Brenham Crouch-32.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: July 1-2, 2022 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – IndianaOpenWheel.com Bill Gardner Sprintacular – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Matt Westfall

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Pit Stop USA & Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Brady Bacon

Feature Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (8th to 1st)

==========

TOP GUN: LEARY RIDES THE HIGH LINE TO SPRINTACULAR OPENING NIGHT WIN

2022 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR SEASON REVIEW

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Putnamville, Indiana (July 1, 2022)……In order to become a winner, one cannot simply settle on merely being a follower. One must discover their own path, their own journey, to reach their desired destination.

Such was the case for C.J. Leary who refused to stand pat midway through Friday night's 30-lap Indiana Open Wheel Bill Gardner Sprintacular feature at Putnamville, Indiana's Lincoln Park Speedway.

Following a mid-race caution, the Greenfield, Ind. native made an in-car adjustment and a race-changing under the helmet adjustment, ultimately deciding on a new plan of attack which took him from the bottom of the 5/16-mile dirt oval to the top in the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship and Midwest Sprint Car Series co-sanctioned event.

In quick succession on the lap 15 restart, Leary darted straight to the high line, first gliding around bottom feeding Kevin Thomas Jr. for second, then by race leader Robert Ballou on the 16th lap by mere inches at the line.

That made all the difference and set Leary forth to his second consecutive "Sprintacular" opener victory, repeating his triumphant performance from one year ago in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/Cressman Ford.

The midstream change and refusal to stand pat, paid off for Leary as he gained his second USAC National Sprint Car feature win of the season, which was also the 18th of his career, moving him past Jerry Coons Jr., Jim Hurtubise and Bud Kaeding for 33rd on the all-time list.

"I just went to the top there and started pounding the curb," Leary recalled. "I never heard anyone up there when I was running second and third, but I felt like since there were no points for us tonight, I just needed to move around and try to win the race. I went up there and our car was really good and stable. It's a lot of fun to come out and bang the curb; there's only a handful of guys that can do it. It's super technical."

To clarify, there weren't exactly "no points" available on this evening with 50 points being issued to all licensed USAC National Sprint Car drivers and entrants who signed in on this night regardless of finishing position. But the occasion afforded Leary the opportunity to throw caution to the wind, so to speak, in order to do what needed to be done for him to be standing in victory lane once more.

Leary began his journey from the third position in the 23-car field and briefly fell back to fourth while pole sitter Kevin Thomas Jr. shot out to the early lead in what was his first USAC start of the season. Thomas looked like he hadn't missed a beat until he snagged the turn four cushion on the first lap, which knocked his car askew and dropped him from first all the way back to fourth in no time flat.

That opened the door on the bottom for Leary who cruised the bottom past Chase Stockon, Robert Ballou and Thomas Jr. for the lead at the stripe. Leary's grip of the top spot was short-lived as Ballou nosed underneath moments later in turn one, then edged away at the exit of turn two.

The running order remained unchanged with Ballou ringing the bottom while Leary ran a distant three seconds behind with Thomas reemerging to challenge Leary. On lap 12, Thomas played the limbo line to perfection, overtaking Leary in turns three and four to take over second.

By the time the yellow flag flew for 17th running Mitchel Moles' spin and stop between turns three and four on lap 14, Ballou had ballooned his advantage to a full-straightaway, 4.071 second margin over Thomas while Leary rested a distant third. But now, Ballou's lead was erased heading into the fateful restart which would ultimately tell the tale.

First, Leary disposed of Thomas on the initial lap of his high line excursion on lap 15. Now running second, Leary repeated the same verse and flew around Ballou to lead lap 16 at the line by the miniscule margin of 0.018 sec.

“Robert was really good on the bottom,” Leary acknowledged. “I don’t know if anybody had much for him around the bottom. I made some shock adjustments under that first yellow. I was a little bit better but still wasn’t good enough to beat him on the bottom. Then, I kind of went the other direction on the shocks.”

With the laps waning down to six to go, Leary continued to stretch his way out from Ballou to the tune of 1.3 seconds. With Ballou seeing his winning chances fade into oblivion, he briefly altered his line to the top. After the surging Brady Bacon nearly ripped away second from him, and seeing Leary up his lead to 2.25 sec., Ballou decided enough was enough and traveled back to the bottom to resecure the line.

Leary had everything well under his control up front down the stretch as he crossed the line for his second overall Bill Gardner Sprintacular feature victory by a 3.267 margin all while chaos was breaking loose behind him. One corner from the finish line, second running Ballou clipped the turn four infield tire with his left front, causing him to spin sideways. Caught up in the melee as an innocent bystander was third-place Thomas who plowed in and came to a halt as well.

With two-thirds of the podium knocked out in the blink of an eye, that elevated Bacon second and Kyle Cummins to third while Chase Stockon scored a fourth and Shane Cottle rounded out the top-five.

Bacon’s runner-up result was the Broken Arrow, Okla. racer’s third-straight USAC National Sprint Car podium finish and his fifth consecutive top-five showing in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Gressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy

“Running on a big curb like that, that’s not really our bread and butter, but it’s encouraging that our car is capable of doing that,” Bacon stated. “I just didn’t get a very good start to the race, and I put myself in some bad spots. There were a couple of yellows that fell right after I passed cars, so we had to pass them again. No one was really sure if the top was going to come or not; C.J. was the first one to get up there and do it. We were kind of forced up there; we did okay but I definitely wasn’t as good as him.”

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) was superb in his first USAC National Sprint Car feature start in two-and-a-half months, collecting a third in his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats – Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy.

“I really feel like we had an unbelievable racecar,” Cummins praised. “My dad built this motor yesterday and we put it in today. This thing is a rocket ship. We put on new shocks, put new torsion bars in and Hank and Michelle Byram gave me a great car. Tim Spindler sets it up and my wife takes care of the baby the whole time and she’s a handful.”

Utilizing the MSCS format of group qualifying, Ryan Thomas (Indianapolis, Ind.) recorded his first career USAC National Sprint Car Fatheadz Fast Qualifying award of his career, besting a field of 58 cars.

The 58 cars on hand were the most for a USAC National Sprint Car event since the Western World Championships of 2008 at the defunct Manzanita Speedway in Phoenix, Ariz.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 1, 2022 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – IndianaOpenWheel.com Bill Gardner Sprintacular – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP ONE: 1. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.622; 2. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.842; 3. Brent Beauchamp, 34B, Olson-12.859; 4. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.876; 5. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.884; 6. Jake Scott, 33, Miller-13.008; 7. Seth Parker, 38p, Parker-13.249; 8. Austin Graby, 7, Lotier/Nemeth-13.259; 9. Geoff Ensign, 04, Burton-13.278; 10. Donny Brackett, 4B, Brackett-13.292.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP TWO: 1. Ryan Thomas, 77FR, Wingo-12.439; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.705; 3. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.923; 4. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.956; 5. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.006; 6. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Hayden-13.209; 7. Blake Vermillion, 73, Vermillion-13.334; 8. Collin Ambrose, 36, Ambrose-13.350; 9. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-13.370; 10. Chase Johnson, 2, Yeley/Petty-NT.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP THREE: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.577; 2. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-12.713; 3. A.J. Hopkins, 77, Wingo-12.719; 4. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-12.722; 5. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.834; 6. Travis Berryhill, 77s, Sturgeon-12.962; 7. Todd Hobson, 77AU, Sturgeon-13.215; 8. Cody Trammell, 27T, Densford-13.377; 9. Tony Helton, 87, Miller-13.787; 10. Michael Clark, 8, Clark-NT.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP FOUR: 1. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.635; 2. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-12.768; 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-12.899; 4. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-12.914; 5. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-12.954; 6. Cole Bodine, 57B, DCT/Crow/Bodine-12.989; 7. Kyle Shipley, 17GP, Dutcher-13.119; 8. Max Adams, 17, On The Gass-13.151; 9. Jesse Vermillion, 5v, Vermillion-13.708; 10. Tres Mehler, 5A, Hawkins-13.987.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP FIVE: 1. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.771; 2. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-12.952; 3. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-12.975; 4. Brian Hayden, 2H, Hayden-13.063; 5. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-13.111; 6. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-13.306; 7. Cindy Chambers, 18c, Chambers-13.621; 8. Derek Crane, 19WI, Crane-13.877; 9. Brandon Smith, 11, Smith-14.623.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP SIX: 1. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-12.633; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.025; 3. Jake Swanson, 5T, Daming-13.104; 4. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-13.395; 5. Alec Sipes, 99, Sipes-13.561; 6. Matt McDonald, 5mc, McDonald-13.603; 7. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.660; 8. Ryan Bond, 7R, Czoer-13.829; 9. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-3 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Jason McDougal, 4. Brent Beauchamp, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Donny Brackett, 7. Geoff Ensign, 8. Seth Parker, 9. Austin Graby, 10. Jake Scott. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-3 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Brandon Mattox, 5. Chase Johnson, 6. Blake Vermillion, 7. Ryan Thomas, 8. Ivan Glotzbach, 9. Collin Ambrose, 10. Aric Gentry. NT

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-3 transfer to the feature) 1. Brayden Fox, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. A.J. Hopkins, 6. Cody Trammell, 7. Todd Hobson, 8. Tony Helton, 9. Michael Clark, 10. Travis Berryhill. NT

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-3 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Tye Mihocko, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Kyle Shipley, 5. Zack Pretorius, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Tres Mehler, 8. Jesse Vermillion, 9. Max Adams, 10. Evan Mosley, NT

FIFTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-3 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Dave Darland, 3. Sterling Cling, 4. Koby Barksdale, 5. Gabriel Gilbert, 6. Cindy Chambers, 7. Brandon Smith, 8. Derek Crane, 9. Brian Hayden. NT

SIXTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-3 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Harley Burns, 5. Alex Banales, 6. Matt McDonald, 7. Alec Sipes, 8. Ryan Bond, 9. Hunter Maddox. NT

D-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the C-Main) 1. Seth Parker, 2. Max Adams, 3. Tony Helton, 4. Jake Scott, 5. Ryan Bond, 6. Travis Berryhill, 7. Ivan Glotzbach, 8. Collin Ambrose, 9. Derek Crane, 10. Austin Graby, 11. Michael Clark, 12. Jesse Vermillion. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Geoff Ensign, 2. Cody Trammell, 3. Cole Bodine, 4. Blake Vermillion, 5. Tres Mehler, 6. Ryan Thomas, 7. Donny Brackett, 8. Max Adams, 9. Brandon Smith, 10. Alec Sipes, 11. Cindy Chambers, 12. Seth Parker, 13. Matt McDonald, 14. Jake Scott, 15. Todd Hobson, 16. Tony Helton. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Brandon Mattox, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Koby Barksdale, 5. A.J. Hopkins, 6. Harley Burns, 7. Cody Trammell, 8. Geoff Ensign, 9. Chase Johnson, 10. Cole Bodine, 11. Alex Banales, 12. Gabriel Gilbert, 13. Brent Beauchamp, 14. Blake Vermillion, 15. Zack Pretorius, 16. Kyle Shipley. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (3), 2. Brady Bacon (6), 3. Kyle Cummins (9), 4. Chase Stockon (4), 5. Shane Cottle (12), 6. Tye Mihocko (10), 7. Jake Swanson (18), 8. Justin Grant (16), 9. Logan Seavey (7), 10. Jadon Rogers (14), 11. Matt Westfall (8), 12. Emerson Axsom (21), 13. Sterling Cling (17), 14. Brandon Mattox (20), 15. Mitchel Moles (19), 16. Dave Darland (11), 17. Brayden Fox (2), 18. Robert Ballou (5), 19. Kevin Thomas Jr. (1), 20. Collin Ambrose (23-P), 21. Carson Garrett (15), 22. Jason McDougal (13), 23. Koby Barksdale (22). NT

(P) MSCS Provisional Starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 C.J. Leary, Laps 2-15 Robert Ballou, Laps 16-30 C.J. Leary.

**Jesse Vermillion flipped during the D-Main.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1017, 2-Brady Bacon-1006, 3-Robert Ballou-968, 4-Logan Seavey-947, 5-C.J. Leary-939, 6-Emerson Axsom-920, 7-Chase Stockon-860, 8-Matt Westfall-768, 9-Jake Swanson-666, 10-Jadon Rogers-643.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-54, 2-Brady Bacon-52, 3-Justin Grant-51, 4-Thomas Meseraull-51, 5-Alex Bright-46, 6-Buddy Kofoid-45, 7-Jadon Rogers-41, 8-Logan Seavey-39, 9-Emerson Axsom-39, 10-Matt Westfall-36.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 2, 2022 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – IndianaOpenWheel.com Bill Gardner Sprintacular – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Ryan Thomas

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Ryan Thomas

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

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

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Brayden Fox

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Mitchel Moles

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Jason McDougal

Feature Hard Charger: Jake Swanson (18th to 7th)

==========

GRANTACULAR! GRANT SPEEDS TO SPRINTACULAR SCORE AT LINCOLN PARK

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Putnamville, Indiana (July 2, 2022)……Justin Grant wasn't asking for much during Saturday night's Bill Gardner Sprintacular finale at Putnamville, Indiana's Lincoln Park Speedway.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Grant had qualified fantastically, but his feature result of eighth hadn't come close to fulfilling his wishes, dreams and desires.

After qualifying a personally unsatisfying 16th on Saturday night, all the Ione, Calif. racer sought was a complete reversal of his fortunes from the night before.

What's old is new. What's red is blue. And what seemed like a foreshadowing omen turned out to be untrue.

As it turned out, this was going to be Justin Grant's night and he was just fine with that.

Mired back in eighth for the start of the 40-lap feature co-sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series at the 5/16-mile dirt oval, Grant marched his way forward to the point on the 17th lap as he whistled past Kyle Cummins on the inside of turn three to assume the lead and carried onward to a $10,000 victory in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

Grant's third series triumph of the season is his 31st overall in USAC National Sprint Car competition, moving him past Chris Windom and into a tie for 16th all-time alongside Tyler Courtney on the all-time list.

Oh, how things can change from not only night-to-night but from within a span of just a few hours. Grant rebounded to win his heat race following a quote/unquote "temper tantrum" after his qualifying run, then solidified his successful evening by leading the final 24 laps while extending his point lead in the USAC Sprint Car National Championship title race to its biggest margin of the season at 46.

"The racetrack just changes so much here from the beginning of the night to the end of the night, and what it takes to be fast here in qualifying isn't necessarily what it takes to be good in the feature," Grant explained. "Last night, I felt like we were really good in qualifying, then we weren't so good in the feature. Tonight, it was kind of vice versa. Luckily, I was able to pull myself out of my 'pout' and got the job done in the heat race."

Furthermore, the end result marked a homecoming of sorts for Grant and his team, harkening back to where it all began for the duo on this same Sprintacular weekend four years ago.

"I'd never won a USAC race at Putnamville," Grant revealed. "The only race I'd won here was an MSCS show in 2018. It was my first ever win with TOPP Motorsports and it's good to win again."

Previous night's Lincoln Park winner C.J. Leary bolted to the early lead from his pole starting position to lead by a car length at the line over high-side surging Kyle Cummins who started from the outside of row two. Cummins shot around the outside of Leary at the exit of turn two on lap two to briefly hold the lead until the yellow flag was displayed for 16th starting Jake Scott who spun in turn two.

Reverting to the last completed lap. Leary was positioned back in front of Cummins to lead the whopping 26-car field to the restart, forcing Cummins to show his work once more. This time, Cummins alternated his path on the restart, firing away and blasting under Leary for the lead in turn three just moments into the lap two restart.

Cummins stretched his legs out to a full-straightaway lead by lap 13, to 3.406 seconds, as he started working lapped traffic. Meanwhile, Grant slid past series Rookie Mitchel Moles for the third spot in turns three, slotting right in behind second-running Leary.

A lap later, Austin Graby (24th) and Jake Scott (23rd) knocked bumpers in between turns one and two with Graby getting the worst end of the ordeal, sliding sideways to a stop between turns one and two. The ensuing restart set Grant up to make a big run on Leary for second, digging off the bottom on the back straightaway.

It wasn't long before Grant took the fight right to Cummins, getting a drive in turns three and four to pull even in a side-by-side drift with Cummins prevailing for the time being on lap 14. Grant reloaded and squeezed the trigger entering turn three on lap 17, sliding by Cummins on the inside in what ultimately proved to be the winning move.

Cummins posed a threat to chase Grant back down but jumped the turn four cushion on the 18th lap, causing him to lose momentum as well as valuable ground, which backed him up to a 1.378 second deficit behind Grant.

A tick later, the yellow flag flew as Kevin Thomas Jr. (11th), Brady Bacon (12th) and Dave Darland (14th) all tangled and stopped between turns one and two. Brandon Mattox (15th) also got caught up in the incident, which knocked out his front end and forced him to the sidelines along with Darland who had won his first USAC heat race in 15 months earlier in the program.

The story nearing the halfway mark of the race was 11th starting Logan Seavey who dipped under Cummins in turn four on the lap 19 restart and grabbed the second spot. Axsom followed suit and rolled the bottom to third on lap 22 past Cummins in turns three and four. Cummins then stumbled on the cushion in turns one and two and got punched in the rear bumper by Moles as a result, slowing both down just enough to allow Jason McDougal to take advantage as he zipped under both for fourth on the 23rd circuit.

Grant remained up a second over Seavey as the leaders entered lapped traffic. Grant, Seavey and Axsom remained loyal to the bottom of the racing surface in one and two while Axsom was the lone adventurer on the bottom in three and four but was unable to make much headway until four laps remaining when an inadvertent yellow was called when 13th running Tye Mihocko shot sideways off course in turn four on lap 37.

A hefty high/low battle took place on the ensuing restart as Grant rode the high line through turns three and four to a car length ahead of the bottom-dwelling Seavey at the line. However, Grant clamped down and locked the bottom up as he shot to the low line in turn one just across the nose of Seavey. Nearby was Axsom who glided past Seavey for the runner-up spot around the infield tire marker while coming to the white flag.



But still out front was Grant who became $10,000 richer as he crossed under flagman Tom Hansing's twin checkers by a 0.690 second margin over Axsom, Seavey, McDougal and Cummins.

Grant's path around Lincoln Park down the stretch was unique in nature as he chose its best characteristics, high on one end and low on the flip side of the speedway, providing him the best of both worlds in pursuit of victory.

"There were definitely two different ends there," Grant reflected. "Toward the end, in three and four, even though it was on the curb, it slowed down so much. I knew, as long as I didn't bang it off four and get messed up and I didn't miss it off two, I would probably be all right unless somebody got the top cleaned off. It was so tricky up there I figured I'd at least hear them up there before I saw them. There early, it was all about shutting it down, idling the bottom of one and two and then getting back up on the pipe and smashing the curb in three and four. Toward the end, the whole race slowed down."

Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) climbed from his ninth starting position to finish second as he snuck by Seavey coming to the white flag. It's the leading series Rookie's second podium finish in his last three USAC National Sprint Car feature starts and his best result since winning in February in Ocala, Fla. in his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

"I kind of committed to the bottom there and I think we were just as good as Logan up top," Axsom explained. "Grant was kind of in his own zip code up on the cushion, which is pretty typical. I just felt like it was better to go where he wasn't. if I could try to gain anywhere, it was on the bottom of three and four. I felt like it was definitely on the bottom of one and two. It kind of fanned out in three and four but I committed to the bottom because that's where no one else was. We all worked really hard last night to figure out what we needed to be better. Obviously, it paid off and I'm glad it did."

Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) raced his way from all the way back in the 11th starting position to finish an impressive third, which earned him hard charger honors for the race. Seavey has performed admirably of late, finishing seven-straight inside the top-ten and five of his last seven inside the top-three aboard the Baldwin-Fox Racing/Fox Paving – AMSOIL/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

"We're trying to get a little bit better, and we are getting a lot better," Seavey acknowledged. "After coming from 11th there and driving up to second, I thought I had a chance at the lead at the end. I tried to tighten myself up a lot by committing to the bottom, and as soon as I opened my entry, I saw Emerson and he nudged me off the bottom. Then, I did lose third there for a second to Jason (McDougal) too. But all in all, it was a great night for us."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 2, 2022 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – IndianaOpenWheel.com Bill Gardner Sprintacular – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.944; 2. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.040; 3. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.043; 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-13.047; 5. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.067; 6. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-13.074; 7. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.148; 8. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.165; 9. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.167; 10. Brian Hayden, 2H, Hayden-13.185; 11. Max Adams, 17, On The Gass-13.243; 12. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.263; 13. Jake Scott, 33, Miller-13.287; 14. Jake Swanson, 5T, Daming-13.333; 15. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-13.348; 16. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.371; 17. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.424; 18. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.469; 19. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-13.482; 20. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-13.507; 21. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-13.511; 22. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-13.540; 23. Cole Bodine,



57B, DCT/Crow/Bodine-13.551; 24. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.563; 25. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.610; 26. Kyle Shipley, 17GP, Dutcher-13.636; 27. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-13.660; 28. Travis Berryhill, 77s, Sturgeon-13.661; 29. Ryan Bond, 7R, Czoer-13.687; 30. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-13.690; 31. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-13.719; 32. Chase Johnson, 2, Yeley/Petty-13.737; 33. Collin Ambrose, 36, Ambrose-13.748; 34. Travis Thompson, 7T, Thompson-13.770; 35. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.770; 36. Alec Sipes, 99, Sipes-13.784; 37. Todd Hobson, 77AU, Sturgeon-13.793; 38. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.823; 39. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-13.829; 40. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.852; 41. Geoff Ensign, 04, Burton-13.877; 42. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Hayden-13.982; 43. Derek Crane, 19WI, Crane-14.098; 44. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-14.114; 45. Donny Brackett, 4B, Brackett-14.170; 46. Austin Graby, 7, Lotier/Nemeth-14.204; 47. Cody Trammell, 27T, Densford-14.271; 48. Tony Helton, 87, Miller-14.339; 49. Tres Mehler, 5A, Hawkins-14.488; 50. Broc Hunnell, 8, Smith/Robertson-14.493; 51. Brandon Smith, 11s, Smith-14.754; 52. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-14.803.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Tye Mihocko, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Jake Scott, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Todd Hobson, 9. Geoff Ensign, 10. Ryan Bond, 11. Collin Ambrose, 12. Tres Mehler, 13. Donny Brackett. 2:13.81

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Zack Pretorius, 3. Brent Beauchamp, 4. Brian Hayden, 5. Brayden Fox, 6. Kyle Shipley, 7. Logan Seavey, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Austin Graby, 10. Broc Hunnell, 11. Travis Thompson, 12. Shane Cottle, 13. Ivan Glotzbach. NT

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Dave Darland, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Cole Bodine, 4. Harley Burns, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Evan Mosley, 7. Max Adams, 8. Gabriel Gilbert, 9. Cody Trammell, 10. Brandon Smith, 11. Derek Crane, 12. Jason McDougal, 13. Alex Banales. 2:19.49

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Brandon Mattox, 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 6. Koby Barksdale, 7. Carson Garrett, 8. Travis Berryhill, 9. Chase Johnson, 10. Alec Sipes, 11. Aric Gentry, 12. Tony Helton, 13. Hunter Maddox. 2:18.73

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Evan Mosley, 2. Todd Hobson, 3. Sterling Cling, 4. Alec Sipes, 5. Alex Banales, 6. Carson Garrett, 7. Gabriel Gilbert, 8. Ivan Glotzbach, 9. Travis Thompson, 10. Cody Trammell, 11. Austin Graby, 12. Aric Gentry, 13. Broc Hunnell, 14. Brandon Smith, 15. Tony Helton, 16. Derek Crane, 17. Collin Ambrose, 18. Geoff Ensign, 19. Tres Mehler, 20. Chase Johnson. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Jason McDougal, 6. Jake Scott, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Brayden Fox, 9. Jadon Rogers, 10. Travis Berryhill, 11. Max Adams, 12. Kyle Shipley, 13. Koby Barksdale, 14. Alec Sipes, 15. Evan Mosley, 16. Sterling Cling, 17. Todd Hobson, 18. Ryan Bond. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (8), 2. Emerson Axsom (9), 3. Logan Seavey (11), 4. Jason McDougal (12), 5. Kyle Cummins (4), 6. Shane Cottle (14), 7. Robert Ballou (5), 8. Mitchel Moles (3), 9. Jake Swanson (7), 10. C.J. Leary (1), 11. Brady Bacon (15), 12. Brian Hayden (2), 13. Tye Mihocko (18), 14. Jadon Rogers (23-U), 15. Cole Bodine (19), 16. Kevin Thomas Jr. (13), 17. Brent Beauchamp (22), 18. Jake Scott (16), 19. Zack Pretorius (17), 20. Austin Graby (26-U), 21. Carson Garrett (24-M), 22. Harley Burns (21), 23. Dave Darland (10), 24. Brandon Mattox (20), 25. Chase Stockon (6), 26. Aric Gentry (25-M). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 C.J. Leary, Laps 2-16 Kyle Cummins, Laps 17-40 Justin Grant.

(U) represents a USAC provisional feature starter. (M) represents an MSCS provisional feature starter.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1095, 2-Brady Bacon-1049, 3-Robert Ballou-1029, 4-Logan Seavey-1020, 5-Emerson Axsom-995, 6-C.J. Leary-989, 7-Chase Stockon-895, 8-Matt Westfall-778, 9-Jake Swanson-720, 10-Jadon Rogers-678.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-58, 2-Brady Bacon-56, 3-Robert Ballou-54, 4-Thomas Meseraull-51, 5-Logan Seavey-47, 6-Emerson Axsom-46, 7-Alex Bright-46, 8-Buddy Kofoid-45, 9-Jadon Rogers-41, 10-Matt Westfall-36.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: July 8-9-10, 2022 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – USAC Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Sterling Cling

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Chase Stockon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Dave Darland

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: Justin Grant

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

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Harley Burns

Feature Hard Charger: Logan Seavey (11th to 3rd)

==========

BALLOU'S MAGIC 8 BALL RESULTS IN GOOD FORTUNE AT HUSET'S USAC NATIONALS

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Brandon, South Dakota (July 8, 2022)……An eighth place starting spot proved to be no hindrance for Robert Ballou's methodical procession to victory during Friday night's USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship portion of the Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals.

Doing just that is old hat to the Rocklin, Calif. native. After all, he had performed the same trick just less than two weeks earlier when he captured a similar eighth-to-first triumph at Wisconsin's Angell Park Speedway.

Ballou's fourth victory of the year has already produced his most prolific year in terms of victories since the 2016 season, a fine return to form for the 2015 champ who moved up one more notch on the all-time USAC National Sprint Car feature win list. Ballou's 35th career series victory elevated him to 12th all-time alongside Jon Stanbrough and Rich Vogler.

Rapidly maneuvering to the front, Ballou went unheeded once he reached the top of the pylon as he collected a 0.992 second victory over series point leader Justin Grant.

Finding the Brandon, South Dakota 1/3-mile dirt oval to be a bit of a bugaboo in his career with his past two showings at Huset's resulting in a pair of finishes outside the top-10. Ballou displayed complete mastery of the course as he moved up from his outside fourth row starting position to take the lead a lap before the midway point of the 30-lap feature.

"This place is really tricky," Ballou noted of Huset's. "It's got a really good lane around the bottom in turns one and two, but not as much in three and four. It's slick to a curb, which a non-wing sprint car will eat up. Thanks to the track guys for blading the top off. I wasn't brave enough to go up there in one and two. I saw it kept growing."

With a track that's tricky and a car that's finicky, the perfect mix between the two ingredients made for a superb performance in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru - Dragonfly Aviation - Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

"We got the thing better," Ballou revealed. "This car is finicky. It's kind of like an angry woman. We're just trying to figure out what it likes."

Outside front row starter Ryan Bernal (Hollister, Calif.), in his USAC National Sprint Car season debut, soared around the outside of Thomas Meseraull in turn four to lead the initial lap of the feature. However, Meseraull, making his first start of the year for the Yeley-Petty team, stuck the bottom and cruised right on by to retake his spot at the head of the field.

The feature's lone red flag arrived on lap six when 16th running Xavier Doney received some major airtime as he flipped at the entrance to turn one. Doney walked away unscathed, although the damage to his racecar required a tow back to the pits.

After shearing a path from eighth to fourth in the first five laps, following the lap six restart, the race became Ballou's show as he went right back to work and immediately picked off both Jadon Rogers and Bernal on the bottom of turns three and four go fourth-to-second in the blink of an eye.

Standing a full second behind race leader Meseraull when he assumed second, Ballou inched his way closer to his back bumper as the front of the field encroached upon the tail end. Meseraull was first to dip his toes in as he approached 21st running Alex Schriever. Meseraull lost just a touch of his momentum as he entered turn one on the high line behind Schriever, which cleared a path on the bottom for Ballou to scoot by both with relative ease and he was off on his merry way.

With 10 laps remaining, Ballou was full sail to the wind with a 1.615 second lead over Meseraull as he parted the sea through traffic with precision in the waning laps. Back behind Ballou, Rogers slipped over the turn two cushion and lost the third spot to Grant as he sped by in turn three on lap 23. A lap later, Brady Bacon followed suit past Rogers for fourth entering turn three.

Grant ultimately tracked down Meseraull for the second position on lap 27 in turn two, and the two briefly scraped sidewalls before Grant slipped away into the runner-up spot.

Ballou was all by his lonesome up front, right where he preferred to be, as he collected another convincing victory over Grant, Meseraull, Bacon and a season-best performance by Rogers in fifth.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) equaled his best career USAC National Sprint Car finish at Huset's with a runner-up finish after starting back in the ninth position aboard his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP

Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy. Grant also tacked on the night's GSP Quality Driving Performance Award following his heat race run from sixth to second.

Thomas Meseraull (San Jose, Calif.) led 13 laps en route to a third-place result in his Yeley-Petty Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Glenn Styres Racing/Twister/Claxton Chevy. The third place finish was his best with the series since February's season opener in Ocala, Fla.

For the second time of his USAC National Sprint Car career, Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) became a Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier. Also, for the second time, he set a new one-lap track record in the process. He also established a new record in May of this year at Missouri's I-70 Motorsports Park.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 8, 2022 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – USAC Nationals

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP ONE: 1. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.464 (New Track Record); 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.596; 3. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.634; 4. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.691; 5. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.691; 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-12.721; 7. Eric Schulz, 38, Franks/Grein-13.281; 8. Tony Rustad, 105, Rustad-NT.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP TWO: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.467; 2. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.470; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.518; 4. Ryan Bernal, 17w, Wood-12.747; 5. Wyatt Burks, 11w, Burks-12.945; 6. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley/Petty-13.146; 7. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-13.167; 8. Chad Frewaldt, 4F, Frewaldt-13.466; 9. Doug Martens, 17, Thompson-15.889.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP THREE: 1. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.571; 2. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.655; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.671; 4. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-12.741; 5. Zach Daum, 5d, Daum-12.866; 6. Cam Schafer, 97, G & S-12.969; 7. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-13.288; 8. Alex Schriever, 0, Davis-13.564; 9. Clinton Bruns, 7, Bruns-13.662.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Eric Schulz, 8. Tony Rustad. 2:12.07

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Ryan Bernal, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Wyatt Burks, 6. Mitchel Moles, 7. Braydon Cromwell, 8. Chad Frewaldt. NT

PIT STOP USA & ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Zach Daum, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Cam Schafer, 6. Xavier Doney, 7. Alex Schriever, 8. Alex Banales, 9. Clinton Bruns. 2:13.00

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Robert Ballou (8), 2. Justin Grant (9), 3. Thomas Meseraull (1), 4. Brady Bacon (10), 5. Jadon Rogers (3), 6. C.J. Leary (6), 7. Ryan Bernal (2), 8. Mitchel Moles (13), 9. Emerson Axsom (7), 10. Matt Westfall (5), 11. Jake Swanson (11), 12. Logan Seavey (12), 13. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (15), 14. Zach Daum (4), 15. Wyatt Burks (16), 16. Alex Banales (18), 17. Braydon Cromwell (20), 18. Clinton Bruns (25), 19. Eric Schulz (21), 20. Cam Schafer (17), 21. Alex Schriever (22), 22. Brandon Mattox (14), 23. Xavier Doney (19), 24. Tony Rustad (24), 25. Chad Frewaldt (23). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Ryan Bernal, Laps 2-14 Thomas Meseraull, Laps 15-30 Robert Ballou.

**Xavier Doney flipped on lap 6 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1145, 2-Brady Bacon-1099, 3-Robert Ballou-1079, 4-Logan Seavey-1070, 5-Emerson Axsom-1045, 6-C.J. Leary-1039, 7-Chase Stockon-895, 8-Matt Westfall-828, 9-Jake Swanson-770, 10-Jadon Rogers-728.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-65, 2-Brady Bacon-62, 3-Robert Ballou-61, 4-Thomas Meseraull-51, 5-Logan Seavey-47, 6-Emerson Axsom-46, 7-Alex Bright-46, 8-Buddy Kofoid-45, 9-Jadon Rogers-41, 10-Matt Westfall-36.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: July 9-10, 2022 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – USAC Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Mitchel Moles

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Emerson Axsom

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Pit Stop USA/Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Zach Daum

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Justin Grant

Feature Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (8th to 1st)

==========

"THE GREATEST THING:" BERNAL BREAKS THROUGH AT HUSET'S FOR FIRST USAC SPRINT WIN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Brandon, South Dakota (July 9, 2022)……Ryan Bernal had been waiting for this moment to come for more than a decade.

Eleven years since his 2011 debut, the part-time racer from Hollister, Calif. finally reached that seemingly distant realm that had long eluded him throughout his first 41 career USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship starts coming into Saturday's second night of the Huset's Speedway USAC Nationals in Brandon, S.D.

Start number 42 turned out much differently for the 2013-14 USAC Western Classic Sprint Car champ and the USAC West Coast 360 Sprint Car series' all-time winningest driver.

Following a disastrous late-race incident which eliminated the top-two drivers in the field from competition with 10 laps remaining, Bernal was thrust into the limelight and decided that, after 11 years, he wasn't going to wait around any longer.

Bernal capitalized on race leader Robert Ballou's rare misstep in turn four, which allowed Bernal to slip under and lead the remaining seven laps of the main event to score his long-awaited first career USAC National Sprint Car feature triumph.

His 61 total USAC feature wins rank inside the top-25 all time, but without a USAC national win, his personal portfolio wasn't quite as complete as he'd have liked to be. That special night finally arrived for Bernal as he took his Matt Wood Racing/Elk Grove Ford – NOS Energy Drink – FK Rod Ends/Spike/Stanton Chevy to the biggest racing moment of his career, a night he won't soon forget.

"This is, by far, the greatest thing that's happened to me in racing," Bernal exclaimed. "It's been such a long time coming. I'm just glad it finally happened. I hope you enjoyed that because that was the most special win of my career."

The victory was sort of a surprise to Bernal, although his pedigree says otherwise, as he became the second first-time USAC National Sprint Car winner of the season, joining Emerson Axsom in that company while also providing the event's promoter, Matt Wood, his first career USAC National Sprint Car victory as well. It was Wood's first USAC national win as an entrant since Shane Golobic captured the 2016 National Midget opener at the Southern Illinois Center in Du Quoin.

"I've been trying for so damn long. You guys really don't realize what this win means to me," Bernal stated as he channeled Al Unser Jr. following his Indianapolis 500 victory in 1992. "We have no business being here; we really don't. I'm a part-time racer who's racing with a couple of wing guys, but Matt Wood gave us a great opportunity to come out here with great equipment."

Bernal started fifth on the grid and hovered around the fifth and sixth spot for the first two-thirds of the event while outside front row starter Mitchel Moles had the field covered throughout the 30-lap feature. However, pole sitter Xavier Doney initially assumed control of the race, leading the first lap of his USAC National Sprint Car career on the opening circuit before Moles ripped around the outside to take over the top spot at the exit of turn four at the end of lap two.

Moles tore into the field as he opened up a convincing four-second advantage after slicing into the heart of lapped traffic. Fourth-starting Jadon Rogers attempted to keep pace with Moles as he cut through the narrow gap left open between the lapped car of Chad Frewaldt and Doney midway down the back straightaway to slot into the second position on lap 12.

Six laps later, 14th running Braydon Cromwell shredded a right rear tire right in front of race leader Moles on the back straight, forcing Moles to check up and dive to the inside to narrowly avoid catastrophe. It was the only sign of slowing up the USAC National Sprint Car Rookie displayed all race long while constructing a whopping 5.663 second lead before the lap 18 yellow.

At the time, three of the first four positions were held by drivers seeking their first career USAC National Sprint Car feature wins with Moles first, Rogers second and Doney fourth with only the previous night's winner, Robert Ballou, intermingling himself with the young crop in the third spot. Notably absent from the list at the moment was Bernal who sat back in sixth.

Once the green flag redropped, Moles resumed his thorough waxing of the field and, with 10 to go, was already up 1.5 seconds over second-running Rogers and, as the class of the field, appeared well on his way to notching victory number one. Not so fast my friend.

On lap 21, the entire face of the event turned on a dime as Moles got into turn three over the edge of the cushion, then climbed the outside wall, sending him into a series of flips. As Moles bounced down the racetrack, second-running Rogers shot to the bottom, but became the innocent victim instead when his right rear tire just barely clipped Moles' front bumper, sending Rogers into a dueling tumble alongside Moles.

Heavy damage to both cars prevented any sort of return for either driver, but both individuals walked away unscathed but heartbroken with the realization that a first USAC victory was not in the cards on this evening. However, for Bernal, it signaled new life.



"When the red came out, it was super unfortunate to see that happen," Bernal observed. "But when that red came out and seeing that those guys were out, I looked at my guys in the infield and said, 'this is ours.'"

Now running fourth on the restart, Bernal shot through the middle on the lap 21 restart to steal third from the bottom-running Grant, then cleared Bacon for second around the outside, beating him to the stripe by a foot before setting course for Ballou and the race lead.

Ballou jumped the turn four cushion with seven to go, allowing Bernal to zip by underneath. Ballou came right back at Bernal and slid back past him entering turn one moments later before Bernal countered back underneath to secure the spot while bringing Grant and Bacon along in tow to second and third, respectively, while Ballou fell to fourth.

Up front, it was all Bernal's show for the remainder of the 30-lap frame around the 1/3-mile dirt oval as the veteran racer capped a topsy-turvy affair with a 1.576 margin of victory over Grant, Bacon, Ballou and Logan Seavey.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) made a spirited charge from 12th to 2nd, earning his second consecutive runner-up result after also securing a 2nd place finish the previous night at Huset's. The current USAC National Sprint Car point leader's third career second place finish at the track put him first overall in the combined event points for the weekend entering Sunday's finale in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

After running fourth one night ago, Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) did one spot better on Saturday night's feature by scoring a 3rd place result after starting 7th in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Cressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 9, 2022 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – USAC Nationals

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP ONE: 1. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.004; 2. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.016; 3. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.026; 4. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-13.058; 5. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-13.164; 6. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.239; 7. Zach Daum, 5d, Daum-13.290; 8. Wyatt Burks, 11w, Burks-13.524.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP TWO: 1. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.825; 2. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.826; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.927; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.933; 5. Ryan Bernal, 17w, Wood-13.106; 6. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley/Petty-13.154; 7. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.227; 8. Chad Frewaldt, 4F, Frewaldt-14.027.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING GROUP THREE: 1. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.921; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.923; 3. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-13.180; 4. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-13.752; 5. Eric Schulz, 38, Franks/Grein-13.857; 6. Cam Schafer, 97, G & S-13.881; 7. Clinton Bruns, 7, Bruns-14.134; 8. Alex Schriever, 0, Davis-14.143.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Zach Daum, 4. Brandon Mattox, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Wyatt Burks, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Braydon Cromwell. 2:15.37

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Ryan Bernal, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Alex Banales, 6. Mitchel Moles, 7. Thomas Meseraull, 8. Chad Frewaldt. 2:16.59

PIT STOP USA & ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 4. Xavier Doney, 5. Alex Schriever, 6. Eric Schultz, 7. Clinton Bruns, 8. Cam Schafer. 2:20.44

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Ryan Bernal (5), 2. Justin Grant (12), 3. Brady Bacon (7), 4. Robert Ballou (9), 5. Logan Seavey (6), 6. Jake Swanson (8), 7. Thomas Meseraull (19), 8. Xavier Doney (1), 9. Emerson Axsom (10), 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (3), 11. C.J. Leary (11), 12. Braydon Cromwell (17), 13. Matt Westfall (13), 14. Brandon Mattox (14), 15. Alex Banales (18), 16. Wyatt Burks (21), 17. Eric Schulz (16), 18. Alex Schriever (20), 19. Chad Frewaldt (24), 20. Clinton Bruns (23), 21. Cam Schafer (22), 22. Mitchel Moles (2), 23. Jadon Rogers (4), 24. Zach Daum (15). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Xavier Doney, Laps 2-20 Mitchel Moles, Laps 21-23 Robert Ballou, Laps 24-30 Ryan Bernal.

**Mitchel Moles & Jadon Rogers flipped on lap 21 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1195, 2-Brady Bacon-1149, 3-Robert Ballou-1129, 4-Logan Seavey-1120, 5-Emerson Axsom-1095, 6-C.J. Leary-1089, 7-Chase Stockon-895, 8-Matt Westfall-878, 9-Jake Swanson-820, 10-Jadon Rogers-778.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-75, 2-Thomas Meseraull-67, 3-Robert Ballou-66, 4-Brady Bacon-66, 5-Buddy Kofoid-56, 6-Logan Seavey-48, 7-Emerson Axsom-47, 8-Alex Bright-46, 9-Jadon Rogers-41, 10-Matt Westfall-36.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 10, 2022 – Huset's Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – USAC Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Jadon Rogers

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Emerson Axsom

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Ryan Bernal

Pit Stop USA/Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Jadon Rogers

Feature Hard Charger: Thomas Meseraull (19th to 7th)

==========

NO MORE HEARTBREAK: MOLES MOTORS TO FIRST USAC SPRINT WIN AT HUSET'S

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Brandon, South Dakota (July 10, 2022)……Mitchel Moles had found an unwelcomed companion in heartbreak at Huset's Speedway over the past two seasons.

The true USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship Rookie from Raisin City, Calif. was hellbent on slaying that narrative Sunday night during the $12,000-to-win finale during the second running of the USAC Nationals in Brandon, S.D.

At the conclusion of the 2021 opening night midget feature at Huset's, Moles went third to first on the final lap and was a turn away from victory when the yellow flag was displayed for a spun car, thus denying him his initial win. Two nights prior, in Friday's midget opener, Moles led a race-high 19 laps before losing the lead, tagging the wall and flipping.

In Saturday's sprint car feature, Moles was the class of the field until he smacked the wall and flipped on his own while leading with 10 laps remaining, denying him yet again from that seemingly elusive taste of a first USAC national triumph. He entered the final night of the USAC Nationals with 39 total laps led between the two series this weekend, most among all drivers in the event.

Then there was Sunday night, a 40-lap race in which Moles dominated from start-to-finish yet was met with a flurry of late-race cautions that forced him to endure umpteen restart opportunities versus the series' top veterans, including defending race winner C.J. Leary, throughout the final laps.

Nobody said it would be easy, but even fewer said it would be as daunting of a task as Moles discovered it to be down the stretch after he rolled off from the pole position in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy during what was just his seventh career USAC National Sprint Car feature start.

"I think I won that race like three times there," Moles exclaimed after withstanding a bevy of restarts in the waning laps en route to victory. A night after Ryan Bernal capitalized on Moles' misfortune to earn his first career USAC National Sprint Car feature triumph, it was Moles' turn to experience the same reward.

In fact, back-to-back Bernal and Moles victories marked the first time since 2016 that first-time USAC National Sprint Car feature winners emerged in consecutive races. Six seasons ago, nearly to the day, Brent Beauchamp scored at Bloomington Speedway for his first series win followed the next day by first-time victor Carson Short at Tri-State Speedway, both occurring during Indiana Sprint Week.

An invert of 12 placed the top-12 overall in USAC Nationals event points inverted in the first six rows of the feature. Thus, Moles, 12th in the standings, drew the pole starting position, an important aspect that Moles was happy to be the benefactor of.

"Track position was key in this one and drawing the 12 was lucky on our end."

Moles jumped to the early lead for the second-straight night at the drop of the green while fourth-starting Thomas Meseraull muscled his way to second past outside front row's Matt Westfall on the back straight on lap five. However, Meseraull's early surge ended abruptly on lap 11 when he spun sideways between turns one and two, then nailed the infield berm, which stopped him in his tracks. He'd restart on the tail and race back to an eighth-place finish.

While Moles went virtually untouched in the lead, a three-car tussle for second waged on between Eddie Tafoya Jr. Jake Swanson and Emerson Axsom for third, fourth and fifth. On lap 16, Swanson smashed the outside front straight wall with his right rear tire, forcing him to the work area under yellow with damage to the Jacob's Ladder. Swanson returned and made his way back through the pack to a solid ninth-place result.

Moles worked traffic nearing 10 laps remaining, threading the needle with a bold move in turn one as Axsom hounded him a foot away from his rear bumper. Negotiating the lapped car of Clinton Bruns on lap 30, Leary reeled in Axsom for second and stormed underneath for the position in three and four but still remained eight-tenths back.

Then came the succession of yellow flag periods, starting on lap 33 with Logan Seavey (8th) slowing in the middle of the track with a right rear tire problem. Leary took a shot at Moles in turns three and four on the lap 34 restart, sliding side-by-side alongside through the corner, but Moles escaped with the lead in his possession.

Brandon Mattox (16th) slows to a stop in turn three with a right rear tire issue on lap 38 while Bruns (19th) slowed on the front straight in a ball of flame on the final lap and Bernal (6th) crashed into the outside wall on the first green-white-checkered attempt, forcing Moles to start over from scratch time and time again in order to keep the rabid pack behind him on each subsequent resumption of action.

Nonetheless, none of it rattled Moles, and on take two for the green-white-checkered, Moles knew what was coming and expected Leary to deliver the heat. Leary managed to pull even with Moles entering turn one as soon as the green dropped, but Moles thwarted Leary in this round, which came a month-and-a-half after Leary tracked down then first-time series starter Moles for the lead and the win in May at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track.

This time, however, played out differently for Moles as he fended off Leary to claim the top prize ahead of Leary, Axsom, Brady Bacon and Robert Ballou.

“I felt like C.J. was eventually going to drop a bomb and that was his hope there on the restart,” Moles recalled thinking prior to the last restart. “These guys on this team gave me a great racecar and I can’t thank them enough for everything they do.”

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) came up one spot short of repeating his Huset’s final night victory from 2021, charging from ninth to bring home second in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/Chevy. This all came after the team made wholesale changes to the car overnight, including a swap from a Ford to a Chevy engine underneath the hood.

Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) read it right on this night following back-to-back ninth-place results on nights one and two. He earned his best career Huset’s finish of third to round out the podium in his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

Meanwhile, Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) advanced from 12th to 5th to collect an extra $10,000 as the overall weekend point champion for the sprint car portion of the USAC Nationals in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru - Dragonfly Aviation - Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 10, 2022 – Huset’s Speedway – Brandon, South Dakota – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – USAC Nationals

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood), 2. Braydon Cromwell (#4x Cromwell), 3. Wyatt Burks (#11w Burks), 4. Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), 5. Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), 6. Logan Seavey (#5 Baldwin-Fox), 7. Jadon Rogers (#14 Engler), 8. Chad Frewaldt (#4F Frewaldt). NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (#51T Tafoya), 2. Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou), 3. C.J. Leary (#77m Michael), 4. Emerson Axsom (#47BC Clauson Marshall Newman), 5. Alex Banales (#5x Baldwin-Fox), 6. Zach Daum (#5d Daum), 7. Eric Schulz (#38 Franks-Grein), 8. Clinton Bruns (#7 Bruns). NT

PIT STOP USA & ROD END SUPPLY THIRD QUALIFYING RACE: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Xavier Doney (#74 Doney), 2. Thomas Meseraull (#2 Yeley-Petty), 3. Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), 4. Brandon Mattox (#28 Mattox), 5. Ryan Bernal (#17w Wood), 6. Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), 7. Alex Schriever (#0 Davis), 8. Cam Schafer (#97 G & S). 2:10.63

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Mitchel Moles (1), 2. C.J. Leary (9), 3. Emerson Axsom (6), 4. Brady Bacon (10), 5. Robert Ballou (12), 6. Xavier Doney (14), 7. Justin Grant (11), 8. Thomas Meseraull (4), 9. Jake Swanson (7), 10. Matt Westfall (2), 11. Wyatt Burks (18), 12. Jadon Rogers (13), 13. Braydon Cromwell (17), 14. Logan Seavey (5), 15. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (3), 16. Chad Frewaldt (23), 17. Alex Schriever (21), 18. Ryan Bernal (8), 19. Brandon Mattox (16), 20. Clinton Bruns (22), 21. Eric Schulz (19), 22. Cam Schafer (20), 23. Zach Daum (15), 24. Alex Banales (24). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Mitchel Moles.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1245, 2-Brady Bacon-1199, 3-Robert Ballou-1179, 4-Logan Seavey-1170, 5-Emerson Axsom-1145, 6-C.J. Leary-1139, 7-Matt Westfall-928, 8-Chase Stockon-895, 9-Jake Swanson-870, 10-Jadon Rogers-828.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Thomas Meseraull-81, 2-Justin Grant-79, 3-Brady Bacon-78, 4-Robert Ballou-73, 5-Buddy Kofoid-61, 6-Emerson Axsom-50, 7-Logan Seavey-50, 8-Kaylee Bryson-49, 9-Alex Bright-46, 10-Jadon Rogers-42.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 22, 2022 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th Annual NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Brady Bacon

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Eddie Tafoya Jr.

Pit Stop USA/Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Xavier Doney

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Mitchel Moles

Feature Hard Charger: Xavier Doney (14th to 6th)

==========

THE BOTTOM LINE: COTTLE A LAST LAP WINNER AT GAS CITY'S INDIANA SPRINT WEEK KICK OFF

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Gas City, Indiana (July 22, 2022)……Shane Cottle certainly possesses a flair for the dramatics at Gas City I-69 Speedway.

Three years after winning his first career USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week feature with a last lap pass at the 1/4-mile dirt oval, the Kansas, Ill. veteran did the deed once again in Friday night's ISW opener.

Three years earlier, Cottle charged from the 18th starting position en route to victory. On this night, he got a bit of a head start, but not by much, rolling off from the 10th position, and started picking his way through the field one-by-one all the way down to the last drop.

Running second to leader Justin Grant on the green-white-checkered restart, Cottle utilized his patented maneuver on the low line to race past Grant for good, leading only a single lap in the process, but it just so happened to be the money lap.

In the end, Cottle churned out his second career Indiana Sprint Week feature victory, and the first during Indiana Sprint Week for the Hodges Motorsports/Hodges Automotive - JB Henderson - Ortega's Appliance/DRC/J & D Chevy team.

Just how much is Cottle part of the racing fabric at Gas City? Of his nine career USAC national feature victories, six of them have come at Gas City – four sprint and two midget. And just like those instances, Cottle's display on Friday night was quite reminiscent of his past five wins there, running a line that seems as if it was tailor-made just for him.

"I love running the bottom here," exclaimed Cottle, the 2004 and 2009 Gas City sprint car track champion. "I've won a lot of races around here just like that."

Furthermore, the 50-year-old Cottle joined an exclusive club with his triumph. He became the seventh driver over the age of 50 to win a USAC National Sprint Car main event, putting him in the same company as Bob Kinser (54), Terry Pletch (52), Dean Shirley (51), Hank Lower (51), Dave Darland (51) and Jack Hewitt (50).

While Cottle's modus operandi at the start of the 30-lap feature was to carve his way into contention with precision from the outside of the fifth row, but far out ahead in the distance in the early going was pole sitter Robert Ballou who firmly established the point as he slid up in front of outside front row's Grant in between turns one and two on the opening lap.

Ballou held serve throughout the majority of the first half as he took ownership of the bottom line while Grant attempted to diamond off the corners – high on entry and low on exit. On lap 14, the payoff finally came to Grant. Briefly. Grant beat Ballou to the bottom of turn three and held it down around the infield tires to beat Ballou to the stripe.

A tick of the watch later at the start/finish line, Ballou readjusted, then shot down to the bottom of one and slipped in front of Grant, which included in a meeting of the chrome horns with slight bumper-to-bumper contact between Ballou's rear bumper and Grant's front bumper, resulting in Ballou's reestablishment of the lead a lap before the caution was signaled due to a cone lying in the middle of the front straightaway.

Upon the lap 16 resumption, Grant shadowed Ballou for a lap before resuming his diamond-studded pattern once more, and on this occasion, the move stuck, and Grant assumed control of the pace with just 14 laps remaining. Meanwhile, Ballou pushed wide and fell back to more than a second behind Grant, but that's when the whole complexion of the clean and green event fell into another dimension.

With 11 laps to go, Ballou found himself in a heated dogfight between himself, Brady Bacon and C.J. Leary for the second position. In turn two, Leary initially lost ground when he monster-trucked the infield turn two tires, sending himself airborne before continuing onward behind Ballou and Bacon.

A lap later, Bacon edged ahead on the outside of Ballou midway down the back straightaway when, suddenly, the two drivers clipped wheels – Ballou's right rear and Bacon's left rear – which sent Bacon spiraling like a football and flipping four times before landing on all fours with his nose flush against the outside guardrail. Bacon was none-too-pleased by the circumstances, and power walked across the infield from turn three to turn one to confront Ballou and discuss things over, animatedly, as the standing room only crowd roared in the backdrop of the heated situation that was unfolding.

Things got feisty when racing resumed on the lap 21 restart when Grant, Ballou and the emerging Cottle stood tall, three-wide in turn three. In response, Cottle skated by Ballou on the bottom for second while Grant eked out to a five car length lead over the next couple of laps. Soon after, on lap 25, it was Leary's turn to take the final step up to the podium as he clawed underneath Ballou to overtake the third position in turn one.

With Grant seemingly home free after racing under the white flag indication one lap to go, the battle raged on for third when, all of a sudden, carnage struck again. While racing to the white flag, Ballou and Leary collided at the exit of turn four, reminiscent of Ballou's earlier incident with Bacon, with Leary receiving the worst end of the deal as he belted the outside guardrail along the front straightaway nose-first before flipping on his lid and spinning like a top on his head.

Leary popped out of his heavily damaged racecar and made a beeline to the opposite side of the track in turn three to do an impromptu meet-and-greet with Ballou, Kung Fu style, as it turned out. Leary took a run at Ballou and delivered a swift kick to Ballou who was still strapped in his racecar under the red flag condition. After falling on his back to the track's surface in his first kick attempt, Leary delivered another blow to Ballou's upper body with his left foot before being escorted away from the scene by USAC officials.

As it turned out, the physical fighting on the racetrack was merely a prelude for the fight that was just about to be displayed on the track. Right away, Cottle put it up front as he slid up in front of Grant on the bottom of turn one. Grant made a valiant comeback through the middle of turns three and four to edge Cottle at the line by a sliver. Delivering the same bill of goods as he did a lap earlier, Cottle put a clamp on the top spot when he bolted back underneath Grant for the lead in turn one on the "overtime" lap 31.

Following a hop, a skip and a jump down the back straightaway one final time, Cottle closed out yet another come-from-deep victory in his USAC career by a 0.265 second margin over Grant, Mitchel Moles, Ballou and Chase Stockon.

Without that final stoppage that arrived when Grant was one-third of the way through his final lap and on the path to certain victory, Cottle felt that chances were slim-to-nil for a miracle without the aid of what resulted following the Ballou and Leary altercation.

"I got to trying too hard," Cottle acknowledged. "I missed my marks and Grant would get out on me, then I'd catch back up with him a little bit. But before that last red there, I didn't have anything for Justin. But we made a couple adjustments and now, here we are."

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) led half of the race and came just one lap shy of winning the USAC Indiana Sprint Week opening race for the second straight season. Instead, he settled for a close second, albeit in a performance in which he extended his USAC National Sprint Car point lead to a season-high 73 points in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

"I just didn't do a very good job on the last restart," Grant lamented. "I don't know if the top got dustier on the restart or if I just didn't do a very good job, but I just didn't have the grip I'd had up there before, and Shane was able to fill the hole. It's tough to lose the ones that you feel you had a car to win with."

In what was one of the finest Indiana Sprint Week debuts in recent history, Mitchel Moles (Raisin City, Calif.) set fast time during Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying, then raced to a third place finish in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

"I'm not really good at these rough little bullrings," Moles pointed out. "To run third here tonight, I feel like that's pretty good. I just struggle running the bottom. Cottle went by me, and I could see how good he was running it. I wasn't nearly that good, so I just stuck it on the fence and did what we know how to do. I ripped the curb and tried not to fall off turn two. Cottle, he's like the man to beat here, and Grant's pretty good everywhere, so if we can be near those guys, we'll be all right this week."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 22, 2022 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.927; 2. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-11.951; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.965; 4. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-11.984; 5. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-12.007; 6. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.008; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.023; 8. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.029; 9. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.087; 10. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-12.120; 11. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley/Petty-12.127; 12. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.128; 13. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.246; 14. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-12.264; 15. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.306; 16. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-12.307; 17. Cole Bodine, 57B, DCT/Crow/Bodine-12.314; 18. Chad Boespflug, 2B, 2B Racing-12.324; 19. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.355; 20. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-12.396; 21. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-12.438; 22. Jake Swanson, 5T, Daming-12.486; 23. Corey Smith, 66s, CS-12.504; 24. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.508; 25. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-12.525; 26. Colten Cottle, 57, Hazen-12.603; 27. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-12.620; 28. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-12.639; 29. Jack Hoyer, 11H, Hoyer-12.642; 30. Dustin Ingle, 2DI, Ingle-12.658; 31. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-12.708; 32. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-12.710; 33. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-12.747; 34. Max Adams, 79B, Goodnight-12.755; 35. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-12.765; 36. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-12.789; 37. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-12.804; 38. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-12.835; 39. Frankie Guerrini, 63, Guerrini-12.899; 40. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-12.911; 41. Kyle Shipley, 17GP, Dutcher-12.999; 42. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.038; 43. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.053; 44. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-13.117; 45. Travis Thompson, 7T, Thompson-13.134; 46. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-13.235; 47. Brayden Clark, 42G, Clark/Jackson-13.267; 48. Jack James, 99, James-13.396; 49. Rylan Gray, 81G, Gray-13.450; 50. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-13.471; 51. Stan Beadles, 84, Beadles-13.591; 52. Austin Graby, 7, Lotier/Nemeth-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Jack Hoyer, 5. Brody Roa, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Kyle Shipley, 8. Dalton Stevens, 9. Brayden Fox, 10. Koby Barksdale, 11. Rylan Gray, 12. Travis Thompson, 13. Brent Beauchamp. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Scotty Weir, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Tye Mihocko, 6. Chad Boespflug, 7. Colten Cottle, 8. Max Adams, 9. Sterling Cling, 10. Dustin Ingle, 11. Brandon Mattox, 12. Matt Goodnight, 13. Troy Carey. 2:03.61

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Thomas Meseraull, 6. Carson Garrett, 7. Frankie Guerrini, 8. Xavier Doney, 9. Harley Burns, 10. Brayden Clark, 11. Corey Smith, 12. Stan Beadles. NT

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Briggs Danner, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Braydon Cromwell, 6. Kevin Thomas Jr., 7. Zack Pretorius, 8. Ryan Barr, 9. Alex Banales, 10. Jack James, 11. Dave Darland, 12. Shane Cottle. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Max Adams, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Koby Barksdale, 4. Harley Burns, 5. Sterling Cling, 6. Zack Pretorius, 7. Braydon Cromwell, 8. Kyle Shipley, 9. Brody Roa, 10. Matt Goodnight, 11. Rylan Gray, 12. Ryan Barr, 13. Brayden Clark, 14. Jack James, 15. Travis Thompson, 16. Troy Carey, 17. Stan Beadles, 18. Frankie Guerrini. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Tye Mihocko, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Brent Beauchamp, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Cole Bodine, 6. Chad Boespflug, 7. Brayden Fox, 8. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9. Xavier Doney, 10. Dalton Stevens, 11. Koby Barksdale, 12. Dave Darland, 13. Max Adams, 14. Colten Cottle, 15. Harley Burns, 16. Alex Banales, 17. Dustin Ingle, 18. Corey Smith. 2:35.27

FEATURE: (31 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Shane Cottle (10), 2. Justin Grant (2), 3. Mitchel Moles (6), 4. Robert Ballou (1), 5. Chase Stockon (5), 6. Kyle Cummins (17), 7. Scotty Weir (12), 8. Tye Mihocko (16), 9. Jake Swanson (20), 10. Emerson Axsom (7), 11. Briggs Danner (8), 12. Brent Beauchamp (11), 13. Logan Seavey (15), 14. Jadon Rogers (9), 15. Thomas Meseraull (13), 16. Jason McDougal (14), 17. Jack Hoyer (22), 18. Cole Bodine (18), 19. Matt Westfall (21), 20. Chad Boespflug (19), 21. C.J. Leary (3), 22. Brady Bacon (4). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-13 Robert Ballou, Lap 14 Justin Grant, Laps 15-16 Robert Ballou, Laps 17-30 Justin Grant, Lap 31 Shane Cottle.

**Austin Graby flipped during practice. Kyle Shipley flipped during qualifying. Kevin Thomas Jr. flipped during qualifying. Brady Bacon flipped on lap 21 of the feature. C.J. Leary flipped on lap 29 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1319, 2-Robert Ballou-1246, 3-Brady Bacon-1231, 4-Logan Seavey-1214, 5-Emerson Axsom-1196, 6-C.J. Leary-1171, 7-Chase Stockon-963, 8-Matt Westfall-960, 9-Jake Swanson-923, 10-Jadon Rogers-871.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-76, 2-Mitchel Moles-76, 3-Justin Grant-74, 4-Chase Stockon-68, 5-Robert Ballou-67, 6-Kyle Cummins-61, 7-Scotty Weir-58, 8-Tye Mihocko-53, 9-Jake Swanson-53, 10-Emerson Axsom-51.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Thomas Meseraull-92, 2-Buddy Kofoid-80, 3-Justin Grant-79, 4-Brady Bacon-78, 5-Robert Ballou-73, 6-Logan Seavey-73, 7-Kaylee Bryson-61, 8-Emerson Axsom-50, 9-C.J. Leary-46, 10-Cannon McIntosh-46.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Kyle Cummins-11, 2-Jake Swanson-11, 3-Shane Cottle-9, 4-Tye Mihocko-8, 5-Scotty Weir-5, 6-Jack Hoyer-5, 7-Mitchel Moles-3, 8-Logan Seavey-2, 9-Matt Westfall-2.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 23, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Mitchel Moles

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

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

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: Briggs Danner

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Brady Bacon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Tye Mihocko

Hard Work Award: Jack Hoyer

Feature Hard Charger: Kyle Cummins (17th to 6th)

==========

TOP OF THE LINE: LEARY MOVES UP TO COLLECT CIRCLE CITY'S USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK DEBUT

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Indianapolis, Indiana (July 25, 2022)……C.J. Leary spent the majority of Monday night's USAC NOS Energy Indiana Sprint Week debut at Circle City Raceway tooling around the bottom in pursuit of Brady Bacon.

With five laps remaining, the Greenfield, Ind. native stood at a crossroads, whether to be a follower or whether to step out of line and forge a new path forward.

Leary chose the latter once he heard the engine of surging Justin Grant just within earshot to his outside. It took a good three laps for Leary to wind it up on the top before finally surging past the bottom-rolling Bacon with three laps to go to bring home his sixth career Indiana Sprint Week feature victory, tied with Jay Drake, Danny Smith and Kevin Thomas Jr. for sixth all-time.

"That's the way to win a race right there," Leary exclaimed. "I followed Brady on the bottom, and I felt like I was a bit better than him down there. I heard Justin ripping the top there late, and I went up to the top and banged the boards."

The third win of Leary's USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship season in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/Chevy was the 19th overall of his career, moving him to within two of 1967 series champion Greg Weld for 32nd all-time.

Victory couldn't have come at a more opportune time for the 2019 USAC Indiana Sprint Week champion. After Friday night's much ballyhooed kerfuffle – a commotion that began with Leary getting upside down on his way to the white flag at Gas City – Leary and the Michael Motorsports team spent several manhours piecing together their wrecked racecar, which was still sans a number on the right side of the tail tank on Monday night.

It was a bit of a difference in approach for Leary and Michael, which ultimately resulted in just what Leary was striving for all along, to win and to put himself back into contention for another Indiana Sprint Week title.

"After Friday night, I felt like all we could do is to come out here and try to win races," Leary stated. "I felt like our Sprint Week title chances might have been over, but if we just keep knocking off some wins, maybe we'll crawl back into this thing."

Leary started his run from eighth but had already found his way to fifth by the end of lap one as he utilized the middle groove of the 1/4-mile dirt oval located on the southeast side of Indianapolis. Meanwhile, it was USAC East Coast Sprint Car star Briggs Danner who was the force up front as he led the opening seven circuits.

After initially stealing the lead away from Danner just before the yellow, Bacon had to give it back on lap seven when Scotty Weir snagged the cushion with his right rear tire and stopped at the top of turn four, forcing out a yellow which reverted the running order to the previous scored lap. Nonetheless, Bacon picked up the baton and ran with it, carving out a lane on the bottom to slide past Danner in between turns three and four at the completion of lap eight.

Leary continued to chomp away on the bottom and slipped underneath Danner for the second position on lap 12, then nearly beat Bacon to the line for the lead, missing out by a foot on both lap 12 and 13. Thereafter, Leary fell into line behind Bacon who led a methodical procession around the infield tires.

The feature's only red flag was waved when seventh running Kyle Cummins encountered a flat left front tire as he dipped into the turn three cushion and toppled over on lap 24. Brent Beauchamp (12th), Mitchel Moles (14th) and Brody Roa (16th) also piled into the altercation and stopped. Suffering heavy damage to his ride, Cummins was finished for the evening.

Grant, who started his race all the way back in 12th, slid into the conversation as he did just that to pass Danner for third in between turns one and two on lap 24. Showcasing that the top lane was now wide-open for business, Grant chomped down the gap between he and the front two of Bacon and Leary in a hurry while Danner banged the cushion and collected contact from another car late, which sent him careening all the way back to 14th in the final running order.

But with five laps to go, Leary sensed Grant to his right and moved up accordingly to occupy the line for himself while leader Bacon stayed firm, eyes forward and eyes on the prize. Bacon's lead visibly and rapidly dwindled in the ensuing laps until Leary whisked past Bacon with a difference of mere inches separating the two at the line, just after the sound of Grant's powerplant became sort of a bat signal that indicated that it was time to move up, something that Bacon did not experience while being a little bit further up the road by his lonesome.

"When you're leading, you're kind of a sitting duck," Leary explained. "I've been in Brady's shoes plenty of times. I've won races that way and lost races that way. It's what makes it super competitive. It's Indiana Sprint Week."

Afterword, Leary then was able to stretch away from Bacon over the next two laps, ultimately to the tune of 0.538 sec. while Grant shot around Bacon off the final corner for a buzzer beater moment to score second with Bacon third, Chase Stockon fourth and Stockon's KO Motorsports' teammate Jason McDougal rounding out the top-five.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) became the new Indiana Sprint Week point leader after ripping his way through the field from his outside sixth row starting spot, then made a spirited charge at the end to earn a valuable runner-up result in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) led a race-high 20 laps and commanded the race with as late as three laps to go before settling for a third place result in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Cressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy. It was a solid points night, however, for the four-time USAC National Sprint champ as he moved from 15th to 8th in the latest Indiana Sprint Week points.

For the first time since Richard Griffin in 1997, a driver has recorded three consecutive fast times to start Indiana Sprint Week. Mitchel Moles (Raisin City, Calif.) set Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying time with a new Circle City Raceway USAC National Sprint Car track record of 12.005. It was the third fast qualifying time of his Indiana Sprint Week career and the third fast qualifying time of his USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car career.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 25, 2022 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.005 (New Track Record); 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.191; 3. Ryan Timms, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.247; 4. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-12.262; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.288; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.318; 7. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.370; 8. Briggs

Danner, 5G, Heffner South-12.372; 9. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-12.374; 10. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.414; 11. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.465; 12. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-12.478; 13. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.481; 14. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-12.493; 15. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.593; 16. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.609; 17. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.743; 18. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley/Petty-12.756; 19. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.794; 20. Rylan Gray, 81G, Gray-12.813; 21. Ricky Lewis, 41, Stensland/Halley-12.818; 22. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-12.846; 23. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-12.875; 24. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.891; 25. Max Adams, 2B, 2B Racing-12.892; 26. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-13.009; 27. Matt McDonald, 5mc, McDonald-13.062; 28. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-13.088; 29. Travis Berryhill, 77s, Sturgeon-13.102; 30. Cole Bodine, 57B, DCT/Crow/Bodine-13.104; 31. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.115; 32. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.125; 33. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-13.195; 34. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.196; 35. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-13.204; 36. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.233; 37. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.351; 38. Frankie Guerrini, 63, Guerrini-13.358; 39. Kyle Shipley, 17GP, Dutcher-13.370; 40. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-13.383; 41. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-13.563; 42. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-17.134; 43. Jack James, 99, James-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Mitchel Moles, 6. Travis Berryhill, 7. Max Adams, 8. Jadon Rogers, 9. Alex Banales, 10. Ricky Lewis, 11. Troy Carey. 2:06.49

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Scotty Weir, 4. Dalton Stevens, 5. Cole Bodine, 6. Carson Garrett, 7. Gabriel Gilbert, 8. Braydon Cromwell, 9. Thomas Meseraull, 10. Justin Grant, 11. Frankie Guerrini. 2:06.03 (New Track Record)

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Ryan Timms, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Tye Mihocko, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Kyle Shipley, 10. Matt McDonald, 11. Jack James. 2:07.57

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Briggs Danner, 3. Brody Roa, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Brent Beauchamp, 6. Xavier Doney, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Rylan Gray, 9. Ryan Barr, 10. Zack Pretorius. 2:12.64

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi-feature) 1. Cole Bodine, 2. Brandon Mattox, 3. Zack Pretorius, 4. Sterling Cling, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. Kyle Shipley, 7. Ryan Barr, 8. Braydon Cromwell, 9. Troy Carey, 10. Alex Banales. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Brent Beauchamp, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Dave Darland, 6. Matt McDonald, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Jadon Rogers, 9. Travis Berryhill, 10. Rylan Gray, 11. Xavier Doney, 12. Sterling Cling, 13. Ricky Lewis, 14. Gabriel Gilbert, 15. Max Adams, 16. Cole Bodine. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (8), 2. Justin Grant (12), 3. Brady Bacon (4), 4. Chase Stockon (7), 5. Jason McDougal (3), 6. Matt Westfall (16), 7. Shane Cottle (22), 8. Jake Swanson (5), 9. Robert Ballou (10), 10. Ryan Timms (6), 11. Dave Darland (18), 12. Matt McDonald (20), 13. Brandon Mattox (23-P), 14. Briggs Danner (2), 15. Kevin Thomas Jr. (1), 16. Emerson Axsom (9), 17. Brent Beauchamp (14), 18. Logan Seavey (19), 19. Brody Roa (21), 20. Dalton Stevens (17), 21. Mitchel Moles (11), 22. Kyle Cummins (13), 23. Scotty Weir (15). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-7 Briggs Danner, Laps 8-27 Brady Bacon, Laps 28-30 C.J. Leary.

**Frankie Guerrini flipped during the first heat. Kyle Cummins flipped on lap 24 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1428, 2-Brady Bacon-1331, 3-Robert Ballou-1331, 4-C.J. Leary-1278, 5-Logan Seavey-1274, 6-Emerson Axsom-1268, 7-Chase Stockon-1061, 8-Matt Westfall-1040, 9-Jake Swanson-1010, 10-Jadon Rogers-904.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-183, 2-Chase Stockon-166, 3-Robert Ballou-152, 4-Mitchel Moles-146, 5-Shane Cottle-143, 6-Jake Swanson-140, 7-C.J. Leary-139, 8-Brady Bacon-132, 9-Jason McDougal-127, 10-Emerson Axsom-123.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Thomas Meseraull-92, 2-Justin Grant-89, 3-Buddy Kofoid-80, 4-Brady Bacon-79, 5-Robert Ballou-74, 6-Logan Seavey-74, 7-Kaylee Bryson-61, 8-Shane Cottle-58, 9-C.J. Leary-53, 10-Emerson Axsom-50.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-24, 2-Matt Westfall-12, 3-Kyle Cummins-11, 4-Jake Swanson-11, 5-Justin Grant-10, 6-Tye Mihocko-8, 7-Matt McDonald-8, 8-C.J. Leary-7, 9-Dave Darland-7, 10-Scotty Weir-5.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 26, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Chase Stockon

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Mitchel Moles

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

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: Emerson Axsom

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Shane Cottle

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Mitchel Moles

Hard Work Award: Shane Cottle

Feature Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (22nd to 7th)

==========

TUG OF WAR: GRANT LEADS LAST & LAUGHS BEST TO PREVAIL AT KOKOMO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (July 26, 2022)……Beginning with the midway point of Tuesday night's 30-lap USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week feature at Kokomo Speedway, Justin Grant saw the race lead slip from his grip three different times.

However, the Ione, Calif. driver belied that fact with three answers of his own amid his resurgence to the lead to prevail in a near racelong tug-of-war with Robert Ballou, then fended off a late burst from Kyle Cummins in the final laps to earn his first victory of Indiana Sprint Week 2022 following runner-up results in each of the first two features run to date.

The lap-after-lap barrage of lead changes resulted in seven swaps of the number one spot between Grant and Ballou in a riveting 12-lap span during the middle portion of the event.

The exchanging of the lead that many times within a 30-lap feature tied an all-time Indiana Sprint Week record for the most lead changes in a single feature event, equaling the mark of seven set during the rounds at Lincoln Park in 2001 and Bloomington in 2016.

The last hurrah of the evening's continuous changing of the guard went Grant's way on this night, leading the final nine laps to score an Indiana Sprint Week feature victory for the second consecutive season at Kokomo, the third driver to accomplish the feat following Jon Stanbrough in 2006-07 and Thomas Meseraull in 2017-18.

Grant's sixth career Indiana Sprint Week feature triumph moved him into a tie for sixth all-time alongside Jay Drake, C.J. Leary, Danny Smith and Kevin Thomas Jr. Furthermore, Grant's 32nd career USAC National Sprint Car feature win moved him past Tyler Courtney and into 15th all-time beside 1973 champ Rollie Beale.

"Champ" is the title Grant has first and foremost on his mind as he extended his Indiana Sprint Week lead to 43 with four races remaining and his overall USAC National Sprint Car lead to a season-high 109.

This victory is also held in high regard by Grant as he became the first-two-time feature winner of the inaugural 10-race Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster series in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy, a series which honors the memory of his late father-in-law whose family was well-represented at Kokomo afterward, standing in unison with Grant in victory lane at a place that Grant has achieved several of his most spectacular moments.

"I love winning any race at Kokomo, let alone a Sprint Week show," Grant exclaimed. "Everybody brings the intensity; Sprint Week at Kokomo is as cool as it gets. It's a Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster race and those feel really good to win. All the Jones family is here, and all my in-laws are here running around. It feels good to win for them."

Additionally, no driver has mastered Kokomo Speedway since its reconfiguration in 2005 more often than Grant who picked up his 25th career win on the 1/4-mile dirt oval, surpassing both Dave Darland and Jon Stanbrough for first all-time.

"That's really, really special. Now I'm going to try to not cry up here and look like Kody Swanson," Grant stated with a hearty laugh. "When I first moved to Indiana, I worked for (car owner) Jeff Walker and Kokomo was where we came every Sunday. I'd come up here and watch Dave Darland and Jon Stanbrough just wax guys night-in and night-out. To win one race at a track those guys have won at is really special, but to be the all-time winner, I don't know if I have words for that."

Grant began his race from the fourth starting spot while Ballou, from the outside of the front row, carried the initial advantage throughout the first one-third of the event after spurting around the outside of pole sitter Mitchel Moles to take the lead on the opening lap.

While Ballou jumped away to a full second advantage by lap seven, Grant was in the midst of prying underneath Moles to take over the second spot with a bottom-swiping move in turn four.

On lap nine, the now third-running Moles found trouble as he biked his way on entry of turn one, slammed the outside wall and 180'd his way to a stop, heavily damaging both the front and rear end of his ride, and putting him out of the race.

Grant dug deep on the bottom when the race resumed on lap nine and continuously edged closer to Ballou before finally clearing him for the lead off the bottom of turn four on lap 11. After a turn three spin by 12th running Jason McDougal, Ballou fired back on the lap 13 restart and missed Grant by a foot at the line on both the 14th and 15th laps, signaling the ignition of one of the finest duels ever witnessed at Kokomo.

Ballou's persistence paid off as he enveloped the low line to bring him ahead to the lead by a scant 0.002 sec. margin over Grant at the line. Grant returned the favor by snagging the lead back for himself on lap 17 before Ballou see-sawed back to the front once more by the exact same 0.002 sec. margin he demonstrated just two laps earlier. That also proved to be short-lived for Ballou as Grant went topside to clear Ballou for the lead once more on lap 19.

Facetiously speaking, Grant was able to settle in for laps 19 and 20 as Ballou hung within a car length in arrears. On lap 21, Ballou answered the bell again as he edged ahead on the bottom to lead by a half car length at the stripe over Grant.

Grant, with no panic in his psyche, promptly kept his foot in it on top and found enough oomph to motor past Ballou with a car length to spare at the line on lap 22. Though Ballou kept close tabs during the ensuing laps, remaining within a car length, Grant denied Ballou's bid to make another run at him for the win.

The Grant/Ballou cascade ended for good as the frontrunners entered lapped traffic on lap 25. Leader Grant separated himself from Ballou while Cummins flat drove around the outside of Ballou to garner second on lap 26.

Coming to the white flag, Cummins, like a blanket, basically covered Grant's rear bumper in turn three. Cummins, however, stumbled atop the cushion, costing him an opportunity to make a move for the next half lap. Giving it one last go in turn three, Grant diamonded turns three and four, which successful kept the ironclad Cummins at bay, as Grant completed his fifth career USAC National Sprint Car feature win at Kokomo by 0.155 sec. over Cummins, Ballou, C.J. Leary and Brady Bacon (from 13th).

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) nearly ran down Grant for the win, coming just a tad over a car length short in his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats - Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy. After an uncharacteristic crash the previous night at Circle City Raceway, the team switched engines overnight, but Cummins lamented the fact that he might have went to the top too early during the feature. Cummins wound up with a season-best second for his best run during Indiana Sprint Week at Kokomo since winning in 2016. His heat race performance from sixth to first, meanwhile, earned him the GSP Quality Driving Performance of the Night.

Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) led five different times for a total of 13 laps en route to a third-place finish in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru - Dragonfly Aviation - Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy, which is his best result of this edition of Indiana Sprint Week thus far.

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) obliterated Kokomo's USAC National Sprint Car track record with a time of 12.284 seconds during Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying. That broke the eight-year-old record of 12.405 held by Dave Darland since 2014. Leary's eighth fast qualifying time of the USAC National Sprint Car season was also the 37th of his career, tying him with Larry Dickson for sixth all-time.

After his heat race flip in turn four, Jake Swanson was transported to an area hospital. His CT scan came back good with no broken bones. However, he did require a few stitches on his face.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 26, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week / Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster Race #5

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.284 (New Track Record); 2. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.534; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.578; 4. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.602; 5. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-12.627; 6. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.656; 7. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.661; 8. Jack Hoyer, 11H, Hoyer-12.689; 9. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.710; 10. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.752; 11. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-12.753; 12. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.759; 13. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-12.777; 14. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-12.785; 15. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.804; 16. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-12.835; 17. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-12.898; 18. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.953; 19. Thomas Meseraull, 2, Yeley/Petty-12.967; 20. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-12.973; 21. Ryan Timms, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.022; 22. Brent Beauchamp, 34B, Olson-13.042; 23. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.060; 24. Jake Swanson, 5T, Daming-13.068; 25. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-13.120; 26. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.123; 27. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-13.134; 28. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.140; 29. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-13.212; 30. Parker Frederickson, 34F, Frederickson-13.216; 31. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-13.236; 32. Cole Bodine, 57c, DCT/Crow/Bodine-13.256; 33. Todd Hobson, 77AU, Sturgeon-13.295; 34. Travis Berryhill, 77s, Sturgeon-13.308; 35. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-13.319; 36. Max Adams, 2B, 2B Racing-13.335; 37. Colten Cottle, 57, Hazen-13.403; 38. Critter Malone, 7, Seven-13.485; 39. Corey Smith, 66s, CS-13.817; 40. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-13.920; 41. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.934; 42. Jack James, 99, James-14.123; 43. Cooper Welch, 2w, Welch-14.291; 44. Andrew Cockman, 0c, Cockman-14.902.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Ryan Timms, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Tye Mihocko, 5. Scotty Weir, 6. Xavier Doney, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Todd Hobson, 9. Briggs Danner, 10. Colten Cottle, 11. Sterling Cling.

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Brent Beauchamp, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Carson Garrett, 8. Parker Frederickson, 9. Travis Berryhill, 10. Jack James, 11. Critter Malone.

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Thomas Meseraull, 6. Dave Darland, 7. Dalton Stevens, 8. Brody Roa, 9. Corey Smith, 10. Tom Harris, 11. Cooper Welch. 2:11.35

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Jason McDougal, 4. Cole Bodine, 5. Jack Hoyer, 6. Braydon Cromwell, 7. Max Adams, 8. Zack Pretorius, 9. Troy Carey, 10. Andrew Cockman, 11. Jake Swanson. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi-feature) 1. Max Adams, 2. Brody Roa, 3. Brandon Mattox, 4. Travis Berryhill, 5. Corey Smith, 6. Tom Harris, 7. Troy Carey, 8. Jack James, 9. Cooper Welch, 10. Andrew Cockman, 11. Todd Hobson. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Scotty Weir, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Briggs Danner, 4. Jack Hoyer, 5. Dave Darland, 6. Brent Beauchamp, 7. Brody Roa, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Braydon Cromwell, 10. Xavier Doney, 11. Max Adams, 12. Brandon Mattox, 13. Parker Frederickson, 14. Zack Pretorius, 15. Carson Garrett, 16. Thomas Meseraull, 17. Dalton Stevens, 18. Travis Berryhill. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (4), 2. Kyle Cummins (3), 3. Robert Ballou (2), 4. C.J. Leary (6), 5. Brady Bacon (13), 6. Emerson Axsom (5), 7. Ryan Timms (9), 8. Jadon Rogers (8), 9. Chase Stockon (7), 10. Briggs Danner (16), 11. Kevin Thomas Jr. (17), 12. Logan Seavey (11), 13. Cole Bodine (22), 14. Matt Westfall (20), 15. Shane

Cottle (18), 16. Brent Beauchamp (19), 17. Tye Mihocko (21), 18. Jack Hoyer (12), 19. Jason McDougal (15), 20. Mitchel Moles (1), 21. Scotty Weir (10), 22. Dave Darland (14), 23. Brandon Mattox (23-P). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-10 Robert Ballou, Laps 11-15 Justin Grant, Lap 16 Robert Ballou, Lap 17 Justin Grant, Lap 18 Robert Ballou, Laps 19-20 Justin Grant, Lap 21 Robert Ballou, Laps 22-30 Justin Grant.

(P) represents a provisional starter

**Critter Malone flipped during qualifying. Sterling Cling flipped during the first heat. Chase Stockon flipped after the checkered flag during the third heat. Jake Swanson flipped during the fourth heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1509, 2-Robert Ballou-1400, 3-Brady Bacon-1396, 4-C.J. Leary-1351, 5-Emerson Axsom-1334, 6-Logan Seavey-1317, 7-Chase Stockon-1115, 8-Matt Westfall-1081, 9-Jake Swanson-1020, 10-Jadon Rogers-961.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-264, 2-Robert Ballou-221, 3-Chase Stockon-220, 4-C.J. Leary-212, 5-Kyle Cummins-199, 6-Brady Bacon-197, 7-Emerson Axsom-189, 8-Shane Cottle-183, 9-Mitchel Moles-176, 10-Briggs Danner-166.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-92, 2-Thomas Meseraull-92, 3-Brady Bacon-87, 4-Buddy Kofoid-80, 5-Robert Ballou-74, 6-Logan Seavey-74, 7-Shane Cottle-61, 8-Kaylee Bryson-61, 9-C.J. Leary-55, 10-Matt Westfall-54.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-27, 2-Matt Westfall-18, 3-Justin Grant-13, 4-Kyle Cummins-12, 5-Tye Mihocko-12, 6-Jake Swanson-11, 7-C.J. Leary-9, 8-Brady Bacon-9, 9-Cole Bodine-9, 10-Matt McDonald-8.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-364, 2-Justin Grant-347, 3-Logan Seavey-342, 4-Robert Ballou-336, 5-C.J. Leary-321, 6-Emerson Axsom-300, 7-Matt Westfall-265, 8-Chase Stockon-252, 9-Jadon Rogers-207, 10-Jake Swanson-197.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 27, 2022 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week / Dorsett Automotive Classic

NEXT BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER RACE: July 29, 2022 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week / Sheldon Kinser Memorial

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: C.J. Leary (12.465)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary (12.284)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Ryan Timms

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: Kyle Cummins

Chalk Racing Products Heat Race Bonus: Ryan Timms, Jadon Rogers, Chase Stockon & Kyle Cummins

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Kyle Cummins

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Scotty Weir

Bryan Clauson's Racers For Autism Bonus Bucks: Justin Grant

Hard Work Award: Cole Bodine

Feature Hard Charger: Cole Bodine (22nd to 13th)

==========

MIDNIGHT SPECIAL! MOLES ROLLS TO AN INDIANA SPRINT WEEK FIRST AT LINCOLN PARK

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Putnamville, Indiana (July 28, 2022)……Just minutes before the clock struck midnight, Mitchel Moles put the finishing touches on a magical evening during Thursday night's round five of USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week at Putnamville's Lincoln Park Speedway.

However, this was no Cinderella story as the Raisin City, Calif. native moved to the front of the pack on lap two and led the final 29 laps to score his first career Indiana Sprint Week victory, and his second win thus far during an impressive USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship Rookie season.

Following a lengthy rain delay that plagued the early portion of the night, Moles slipped by Jadon Rogers on the bottom, then switched his method of operation from the low line to the high groove and back to the bottom in search of a path to victory.

Despite briefly losing the lead to a surging Brady Bacon two laps from the finish, a yellow flag reprieve positioned Moles back up front where he went unheeded for the final two trips around the 5/16-mile dirt oval following a green-white-checkered scenario.

Known for a wide-open, pound the cushion style, Moles utilized nuance and balance on this night, doing so in somewhat unfamiliar territory throughout the 30-lap distance. In the end, though, he wound up in what has become a familiar destination in the month of July – victory lane – as he's collected his first three USAC national series triumphs in the past 20 nights (2 sprint and 1 midget).

"That's probably the first race I've ever won on the bottom to be honest with you," Moles admitted. "I've never been a bottom feeder guy. Jadon was bumping me on the rear bumper telling me to get going. I'm glad I could at least pick up the pace a little. He didn't hit me on the last restart, so maybe I was doing it wrong the whole time."

For the second-straight season, it was the same team celebrating victory following the Indiana Sprint Week round at Lincoln Park. Last year, it was Tanner Thorson scoring his first Indiana Sprint Week win and, this year, it came to be Moles driving the Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy to glory.

Moles possessed a prime view from outside the front row for the start, and it didn't take long for him to move to the top of the leaderboard. Pole sitter Rogers patrolled the bottom for the opening lap, but at the start of lap two, Rogers left an opening of daylight underneath. Moles stuck his nose in and remained side-by-side with Rogers for the entire length of the back straightaway. Entering turn three, Moles was able to scoot along the bottom and into the lead as Rogers swung out wide and dropped to second.

Just after midway, Moles altered his course and began to venture to the high line. Three-straight laps of Rogers pulling even-steven with Moles, but not quite make the pass stick, was enough to convince Moles to get himself back to the bottom.

"About halfway through, I was like, 'you know what, I'm going to try the top,'" Moles recalled. "So, I tried the top, but he was a little better on the bottom, so I went back down. I think what won me the race was getting back down to the bottom. I didn't want to leave the door open for somebody to try and stick it in there."

Moles continued to be hounded by Rogers throughout the majority of the distance, clutching a single car length lead all the way into the late stages when a blanket could be thrown over the entire top-six of Moles, Rogers, Shane Cottle, Brady Bacon, C.J. Leary and Justin Grant.

While Moles and Rogers maintained an unrelenting presence on the low line, Bacon took the show to the topside. Running fourth with three to go, Bacon disposed of Cottle for third in turn two on lap 28, then hustled forward and was on the verge of pouncing on the two front runners. Coming to two to go, Moles was tapped on the rear bumper by Rogers at the exit of turn four while Bacon carried a head of steam to make it nearly three-wide at the start/finish line, all three within a single car length.

Moments later, Bacon charged around the outside of both Rogers and Moles to go third to first successfully in succession between turns one and two to take ownership of the lead. Bacon clamped down and swept to the bottom of turn three in front of Moles to seemingly lock up the top spot.

However, just as soon as Bacon put himself atop the leaderboard, the yellow flag was displayed for Kevin Thomas Jr. (8th) and Robert Ballou (10th) who tangled and stopped in turn two. The caution negated Bacon's maneuvers and relegated him back to third. The running order reverted to the last completed lap while Moles landed a pardon and was positioned back into the lead for the green-white-checkered resumption on lap 29.

Obtaining a second breath of fresh air, Moles put the lock on this one as he spurted away from Rogers on the restart, controlling the final two circuits with a five car length advantage. Moles crossed under the checkered with no imminent pressure being applied, reigning triumphant with a 0.706 second margin of victory over Rogers, Bacon, Cottle and Grant, who advanced from the 14th starting position and maintained his healthy Indiana Sprint Week championship point lead.

Jadon Rogers (Worthington, Ind.) turned in his most impressive performance of the USAC National Sprint Car season. After leading a single lap, his second place finish tied the best result of his career with the series in his Engler Family/Engler Machine & Tool – AMSOIL – Sherrill's Pest Control/DRC/SPEC Chevy. He also previously finished as the runner-up at Haubstadt, Indiana's Tri-State Speedway in both 2020 and 2021.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) nearly had it. In fact, he did have it momentarily. He raced from third to first coming to the white flag, but the pass was negated due to a yellow. Nonetheless, Bacon equaled his best finish of 2022 Indiana Sprint Week with a third-place result in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Cressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 28, 2022 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.848; 2. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.903; 3. Max Adams, 37, Felker-12.903; 4. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-12.911; 5. Ryan Timms, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.934; 6. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.990; 7. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-12.996; 8. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.006; 9. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-13.009; 10. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-13.040; 11. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.062; 12. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-13.074; 13. Brent Beauchamp, 34B, Olson-13.086; 14. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.108; 15. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.113; 16. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.137; 17. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-13.140; 18. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.148; 19. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-13.181; 20. A.J. Hopkins, 04, Burton-13.184; 21. Geoff Ensign, 9, Sylvia-13.202; 22. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-13.270; 23. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-13.285; 24. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-13.291; 25. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.322; 26. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-13.337; 27. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.387; 28. Kyle Shipley, 17GP, Dutcher-13.391; 29. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-13.395; 30. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-13.399; 31. Scotty Weir, 2B, 2B Racing-13.401; 32. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-13.415; 33. Matt McDonald, 5mc, McDonald-13.434; 34. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.484; 35. Braydon Cromwell, 4x, Cromwell-13.494; 36. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.496; 37. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.520; 38. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.594; 39. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-13.655; 40. Brian Hayden, 2H, Hayden-13.687; 41. John Sluss, 4R, FattFro-13.716; 42. Shane Cockrum, 66, Amati-13.825; 43. Travis Thompson, 7, Thompson-13.894; 44. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-13.908; 45. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-13.937; 46. Kyle Cummins, 2, Yeley/Petty-13.950; 47. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-14.055; 48. Michael Clark, 8, Clark-14.099; 49. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Hayden-14.345; 50. Allen Howard Jr., 4u, AJR-14.423; 51. Rylan Gray, 81G, Gray-NT; 52. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-NT. (Anton Hernandez also in the Yeley-Petty #2).

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Dave Darland, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Brent Beauchamp, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Ryan Timms, 7. Geoff Ensign, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Matt McDonald, 10. Harley Burns, 11. John Sluss, 12. Troy Carey, 13. i1 Ivan Glotzbach. 2:15.85

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Tye Mihocko, 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Justin Grant, 7. Shane Cockrum, 8. Brady Short, 9. Gabriel Gilbert, 10. Zack Pretorius, 11. Kyle Cummins, 12. Allen Howard Jr. 2:13.54

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brayden Fox, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Max Adams, 6. Dalton Stevens, 7. Scotty Weir, 8. Alex Banales, 9. Xavier Doney, 10. Braydon Cromwell, 11. Travis Thompson. 2:10.54

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. A.J. Hopkins, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Kyle Shipley, 6. Briggs Danner, 7. Brody Roa, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Tom Harris, 10. Brian Hayden, 11. Hunter Maddox, 12. Michael Clark. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi-feature) 1. Brody Roa, 2. Scotty Weir, 3. Brandon Mattox, 4. Xavier Doney, 5. Sterling Cling, 6. Zack Pretorius, 7. Braydon Cromwell, 8. Kyle Cummins, 9. Shane Cockrum, 10. John Sluss, 11. Hunter Maddox, 12. Travis Thompson, 13. Troy Carey, 14. Ivan Glotzbach, 15. Allen Howard Jr., 16. Michael Clark, 17. Matt McDonald. 2:13.51

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Ryan Timms, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Kyle Shipley, 7. Max Adams, 8. Brody Roa, 9. Tom Harris, 10. Brady

Short, 11. Xavier Doney, 12. Dalton Stevens, 13. Alex Banales, 14. Scotty Weir, 15. Brandon Mattox, 16. Harley Burns, 17. Gabriel Gilbert, 18. Geoff Ensign. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Mitchel Moles (2), 2. Jadon Rogers (1), 3. Brady Bacon (6), 4. Shane Cottle (3), 5. Justin Grant (14), 6. C.J. Leary (5), 7. Briggs Danner (12), 8. Brent Beauchamp (15), 9. Ryan Timms (13), 10. Dave Darland (7), 11. Chase Stockon (21), 12. Emerson Axsom (16), 13. Tye Mihocko (10), 14. Matt Westfall (11), 15. Mario Clouser (20), 16. Brayden Fox (8), 17. Kyle Shipley (22), 18. Logan Seavey (18), 19. Robert Ballou (17), 20. Kevin Thomas Jr. (4), 21. Jason McDougal (19), 22. A.J. Hopkins (9). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Jadon Rogers, Laps 2-30 Mitchel Moles.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1569, 2-Brady Bacon-1471, 3-Robert Ballou-1431, 4-C.J. Leary-1411, 5-Emerson Axsom-1379, 6-Logan Seavey-1350, 7-Chase Stockon-1158, 8-Matt Westfall-1125, 9-Jadon Rogers-1035, 10-Jake Swanson-1020.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-324, 2-C.J. Leary-272, 3-Brady Bacon-272, 4-Chase Stockon-263, 5-Mitchel Moles-253, 6-Robert Ballou-252, 7-Shane Cottle-249, 8-Emerson Axsom-234, 9-Briggs Danner-222, 10-Kyle Cummins-209.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-101, 2-Thomas Meseraull-92, 3-Brady Bacon-90, 4-Buddy Kofoid-80, 5-Robert Ballou-74, 6-Logan Seavey-74, 7-Shane Cottle-61, 8-Kaylee Bryson-61, 9-C.J. Leary-55, 10-Emerson Axsom-54.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-27, 2-Justin Grant-22, 3-Matt Westfall-18, 4-Chase Stockon-13, 5-Kyle Cummins-12, 6-Brady Bacon-12, 7-Tye Mihocko-12, 8-Briggs Danner-11, 9-Jake Swanson-11, 10-Brent Beauchamp-10.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 29, 2022 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week / Sheldon Kinser Memorial – Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster Race #6

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Chase Stockon (12.708) & Mitchel Moles (12.797)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon (12.848)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Dave Darland

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Tye Mihocko

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Brayden Fox

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: A.J. Hopkins

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Chase Stockon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Matt Westfall

Bryan Clauson's Racers For Autism Bonus Bucks:

Hard Work Award: Kyle Shipley

Feature Hard Charger: Chase Stockon (21st to 11th)

==========

THE MIDDLE MAN: CUMMINS GOES 10TH TO 1ST TO SCORE AT BLOOMINGTON

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bloomington, Indiana (July 29, 2022)……Following one of the most disenchanting outings of his career the night before, Kyle Cummins flipped the script on his journey to victory Friday night during round six of USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week at Bloomington Speedway.

On Thursday, the Princeton, Ind. native set fast qualifying time during an aborted rain-interrupted qualifying session, then discovered an engine issue that prematurely ended his night before the requalifying session. Forced to find another ride to finish out the night, Cummins came up short of a transfer spot to the feature and missed the show, thus abruptly ending his Indiana Sprint Week title aspirations.

One night later, the storyline was written differently despite a rocky start which saw Cummins get wiped out in his heat, forcing him to race his way into the main event through the semi-feature. Starting 10th in A-Main, Cummins streaked to fourth by lap five and held steady for the majority of the 30-lap distance in the Sheldon Kinser Memorial / Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster series race number six.

However, on a late-race restart with 13 laps to go, Cummins tried a different approach, cutting a path through the middle of the 1/4-mile red clay oval from fourth to third to second to first in a five-lap successive span that thrusted him into the lead and, ultimately, victory for the first time during this USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship season aboard his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats - Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy.

Cummins became the third driver over the past five nights to hit six career Indiana Sprint Week feature victories after Justin Grant and C.J. Leary recently elevated themselves to sixth on the all-time list earlier in the week. Furthermore, Cummins' 11th career USAC National Sprint Car triumph moved him to 48th all-time alongside Daron Clayton, Elmer George, Tommy Hinnershitz and Greg Leffler.

But this one, with the deck seemingly stacked against them following a crash that hurt their car on Monday at Circle City and engine difficulties at Lincoln Park, Cummins and the Rock Steady crew wholly and truly earned this one, even though it may have come the hard way.

"The crew has been sleeping three or four hours a night, so this is pretty special," Cummins revealed. "We've driven back to North Vernon (Indiana) four nights in a row after destroying a car and switching motors. Carl Thomas gave us this motor last week just in case we needed it. I really didn't want to have to use it. I called him yesterday and he didn't hesitate to let us run it. We owe everything to him because we wouldn't be here. This is his motor and it's the only one we have left."

Starting from the outside of row five, Cummins had his work cut out for him with the top-three in Indiana Sprint Week points residing one, two and three in the running order right from the drop of the green. Pole sitter and defending Indiana Sprint Week Bloomington winner Brady Bacon skipped out to the early lead, utilizing the top shelf in turns one and two and the bottom in turns three and four to build up a 1.764 second lead in the first five laps with Leary and Grant in tow.

Bacon led a high-wire act when the time came to take on his first hurdle of the feature event just after the midway point as he raced around the outside of lapped traffic while Leary made up substantial ground, slicing Bacon's advantage from a full second to just a pair of car lengths while Grant and Cummins resided in close quarters just behind in third and fourth.

Behind the top-four, Robert Ballou was on the surge, breaking into the top-five underneath Mitchel Moles on the 18th lap. However, moments later, Ballou's car bounced several times on entry into turn three before being tapped by the trailing Moles, which sent Ballou flipping over.

As a result, Ballou's right rear tire was flattened, which dropped him to 17th in the final tally while Fatheadz Fast Qualifier Moles continued onward but fell to eighth in the final tally.

The ensuing restart was truly Cummins' time to rise and shine as he placed his No. 3R right smack dab in the middle of the racetrack and powered by Justin Grant for third on lap 18, then by Leary for fourth on lap 19 all while using the road less traveled.

"After Justin's and my deal in the heat race, he had one coming," Cummins remarked. "So, I was trying a way to where I could at least get third and I just told him, 'I'm not going to take anybody out,' but I was at least going to make him think about it. When I dove in down there, the bottom stuck, so I was like, 'it's not too bad.'"

Following his disposal of Grant and Leary, Cummins began edging rapidly toward Bacon who denied him just barely at the stripe on laps 20 and 21, but on the back stretch on lap 22, Cummins got a drive that propelled him into the top spot by the time he reached turn three to secure his spot on the top rung.

"I feel like that was the Brady Bacon line and I passed him doing it," Cummins exclaimed. "I thought for sure Brady was going to go to the bottom, and I just got low enough. The track was just different, and I'm not used to running the middle. I didn't know what I was doing the last five or six laps."

A yellow flag on lap 24 found Logan Seavey, who had worked from 23rd to 8th after opting to use a provisional, jumping over the cushion between turns one and two. As he tried to recover and keep his head above the proverbial water, his car was clipped by the ninth-running ride of Jadon Rogers. Seavey slowed to a stop, but restarted and finished 18th.

Nobody had anything to throw at Cummins following the final restart with seven laps to go as Cummins pulled away for a commanding 1.973 second margin of victory over Bacon. Grant slid his way past Leary with three laps remaining to round out the podium in third. Leary grabbed fourth while Jason McDougal made a hard-charging performance from his 16th starting position to finish fifth.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) admitted his car just wasn't quite good enough to run the middle like Cummins did in his ascent to victory. Nonetheless, Bacon came oh-so-close to breaking into the win column once again as he led a race-high 21 laps en route to a second place finish in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Cressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy. The runner-up finish was Bacon's best result of Indiana Sprint Week 2022 thus far after previous finishes of third, fifth and third in his previous three starts leading into Bloomington.

Justin Grant's consistency has been paramount throughout Indiana Sprint Week. The Ione, California native's third place run was his fifth top-five in five starts this week behind the wheel of his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy. Now, he carries a 49-point cushion in the Indiana Sprint Week standings entering Saturday night's series finale at Tri-State Speedway in Haubstadt.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 29, 2022 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week / Sheldon Kinser Memorial – Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster Race #6

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.039; 2. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-11.248; 3. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-11.303; 4. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-11.306; 5. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-11.344; 6. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-11.488; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-11.492; 8. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-11.534; 9. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-11.547; 10. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-11.550; 11. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-11.591; 12. Jordan Kinser, 04, Burton-11.592; 13. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.607; 14. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-11.612; 15. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-11.632; 16. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-11.646; 17. Travis Berryhill, 77s, Sturgeon-11.661; 18. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-11.712; 19. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-11.738; 20. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-11.749; 21. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-11.812; 22. Brandon Morin, 98, Morin-11.835; 23. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-11.854; 24. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-11.867; 25. Davey Ray, 14AJ, FattFro-11.877; 26. Shane Cockrum, 66, Amati-11.922; 27. Todd Hobson, 77AU, Sturgeon-11.962; 28. Kyle Shipley, 17GP, Dutcher-11.963; 29. Tye Mihocko, 2E, Epperson-11.991; 30. Max Adams, 37, Felker-12.039; 31. Mario Clouser, 2, Yeley/Petty-12.046; 32. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-12.081; 33. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-12.161; 34. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-12.188; 35. Scotty Weir, 2B, 2B Racing-12.206; 36. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.241; 37. Geoff Ensign, 9E, Sylvia-12.292; 38. Cindy Chambers, 18c, DC-12.391; 39. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-12.439; 40. Dustin Griffitts, 9, Griffitts-12.857; 41. Allen Howard Jr., 4u, AJR-13.073; 42. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-NT; 43. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-NT; 44. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Davey Ray, 6. Brayden Fox, 7. Allen Howard Jr., 8. Travis Berryhill, 9. Tye Mihocko, 10. Brent Beauchamp, 11. Geoff Ensign. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Carson Garrett, 3. Max Adams, 4. Brandon Morin, 5. Shane Cockrum, 6. Xavier Doney, 7. Tom Harris, 8. Briggs Danner, 9. Cindy Chambers, 10. Chase Stockon, 11. Sterling Cling. NT

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Todd Hobson, 6. Kyle Cummins, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Scotty Weir, 9. Mario Clouser, 10. Troy Carey. NT

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Dalton Stevens, 2. Koby Barksdale, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Brody Roa, 7. Harley Burns, 8. Jordan Kinser, 9. Kyle Shipley, 10. Dustin Griffitts. NT

C-MAIN: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi-feature) 1. Brody Roa, 2. Tom Harris, 3. Brayden Fox, 4. Xavier Doney, 5. Cindy Chambers, 6. Dustin Griffitts, 7. Troy Carey. 1:50.97

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Brandon Mattox, 4. Jordan Kinser, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Brody Roa, 7. Logan Seavey, 8. Shane Cockrum, 9. Brayden Fox, 10. Brent Beauchamp, 11. Tom Harris, 12. Davey Ray, 13. Kyle Shipley, 14. Mario Clouser, 15. Harley Burns, 16. Todd Hobson, 17. Travis Berryhill, 18. Xavier Doney. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kyle Cummins (10), 2. Brady Bacon (1), 3. Justin Grant (4), 4. C.J. Leary (2), 5. Jason McDougal (16), 6. Kevin Thomas Jr. (8), 7. Chase Stockon (9), 8. Mitchel Moles (6), 9. Jadon Rogers (7), 10. Emerson Axsom (15), 11. Dalton Stevens (3), 12. Shane Cottle (18), 13. Brandon Mattox (12), 14. Matt Westfall (22),



15. Briggs Danner (11), 16. Brody Roa (21), 17. Robert Ballou (14), 18. Logan Seavey (23-P), 19. Brandon Morin (17), 20. Carson Garrett (5), 21. Max Adams (20), 22. Koby Barksdale (19), 23. Jordan Kinser (13). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-21 Brady Bacon, Laps 22-30 Kyle Cummins.

**Tye Mihocko flipped during the first heat. Xavier Doney flipped during the semi. Robert Ballou flipped on lap 18 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1639, 2-Brady Bacon-1544, 3-C.J. Leary-1480, 4-Robert Ballou-1466, 5-Emerson Axsom-1427, 6-Logan Seavey-1380, 7-Chase Stockon-1219, 8-Matt Westfall-1165, 9-Jadon Rogers-1089, 10-Jake Swanson-1020.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-394, 2-Brady Bacon-345, 3-C.J. Leary-341, 4-Chase Stockon-324, 5-Mitchel Moles-313, 6-Shane Cottle-295, 7-Robert Ballou-287, 8-Kyle Cummins-286, 9-Emerson Axsom-282, 10-Briggs Danner-256.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-102, 2-Thomas Meseraull-92, 3-Brady Bacon-90, 4-Buddy Kofoid-80, 5-Robert Ballou-74, 6-Logan Seavey-74, 7-Shane Cottle-67, 8-Matt Westfall-62, 9-Kaylee Bryson-61, 10-Emerson Axsom-59.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-33, 2-Matt Westfall-26, 3-Justin Grant-23, 4-Kyle Cummins-21, 5-Chase Stockon-15, 6-Brady Bacon-12, 7-Tye Mihocko-12, 8-Jason McDougal-11, 9-Briggs Danner-11, 10-Jake Swanson-11.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-437, 2-Justin Grant-417, 3-C.J. Leary-390, 4-Logan Seavey-372, 5-Robert Ballou-371, 6-Emerson Axsom-348, 7-Chase Stockon-313, 8-Matt Westfall-305, 9-Jadon Rogers-261, 10-Jason McDougal-204.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 30, 2022 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: C.J. Leary (11.200)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Mitchel Moles (11.039)

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

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: Dalton Stevens

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Dalton Stevens

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Chase Stockon

Bryan Clauson's Racers For Autism Bonus Bucks: Kyle Cummins

Hard Work Award: Matt Westfall

Feature Hard Charger: Jason McDougal (16th to 5th)

==========

BALLOU BAGS TRI-STATE FINALE, GRANT GRABS USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK TITLE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Haubstadt, Indiana (July 30, 2022)……Robert Ballou and Justin Grant spent the majority of Saturday night's 35th annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week finale at Tri-State Speedway dueling for a feature victory.

In many cases, one driver prevails while the other walks away with empty handed disappointment that is absent the fanfare and glory.

However, in this particular instance, both exited the stage at the conclusion of the night sharing the limelight of a performance well worth the accolades.

Rocklin, California's Ballou fended off the competition to become the sixth different feature winner of Indiana Sprint Week during its six event run.

After 13 years of trying, Ione, California's Grant was rewarded as the Indiana Sprint Week champion for the first time in his career, rounding out his efforts with six consecutive top-five results in the series and capping the week with a third at Tri-State.

Ballou led all 30 laps from start to finish after beginning his race from the outside of the front row, then kept Grant at bay for the first 20 laps before successfully withstanding the pressure applied to him from six-time Tri-State USAC National Sprint Car victor Kyle Cummins.

For Ballou, the Indiana Sprint Week triumph was his first since taking the finale at Lincoln Park Speedway five years earlier in 2017. It was also a homecoming of sorts for Ballou who, in 2014, won his initial ISW feature in which he utilized his own No. 12. On this night, he rode the 12 to the pinnacle once again in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru - Dragonfly Aviation - Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

"Hard work and perseverance pays off," Ballou noted of the collective effort from the driver, crew and sponsors that makes winning big races like this a possibility for him. "I kind of fine-tuned my racecar and threw an audible yesterday by going back to what we used to do all the time. We just finally got our groove going tonight. I wish I would've thrown an audible about six nights ago and things may have been a little better, but hindsight is 20/20."

On the other hand, Grant ran second just a short distance behind Ballou for the first 21 laps of the main event before Cummins ran past with the baton to become Ballou's new challenger for the final nine laps.

Making his Indiana Sprint Week debut in 2010, Grant had finished inside the top-five of the ISW standings three consecutive years in 2019-20-21 before finally knocking down the barrier in convincing fashion behind the wheel of his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy with a 61-point cushion over

runner-up C.J. Leary, which is the most lopsided title race in the series since Bryan Clauson's 70-point interval eight years earlier in 2014.

"It feels incredible to finally get it done," Grant exclaimed. "To add my name to all the huge names on that trophy, it feels like my name is a little out of place on there, but I'm happy to have it. Hats off to the guys. It's a long week and it's a lot of work. I can't say enough good things about (right hand crewman) Dylan Cook. He works his tail off for me and, 99 percent of the time, it's just him and me on the car. He's got a big, big workload and he handles it incredibly well."

TOPP Motorsports car owner Kevin Birchmeier (Rochester, Ind.) has also been on the waiting list for the ultimate Indiana Sprint Week glory as a champion for several years following a bevy of close calls and valiant efforts. He, like his driver Grant, weathered the storm and the forks in the road over the years to prevail with a first ISW title. By virtue of being the car entrant champ for the week, he earned the traditional rocking chair presented and constructed by master craftsman John Youngs.

Entering the feature, Grant was playing with house money, so to speak, after clinching the Indiana Sprint Week title following the heat races. To top it off, Grant started the feature from the pole alongside outside front row starter Ballou who spurted out to the early lead as he and Grant separated themselves by six car lengths from the rest of the field in the early going.

Ballou began to wander into traffic 11 laps into the contest and, in doing so, even gained a couple more lengths on Grant. However, moments later, 17th running Kendall Ruble flipped between turns one and two. He climbed from his car under his own power, but heavy damage to the front end and left rear of his machine signaled an end to the Tri-State regular's evening.

Grant zipped right to Ballou's rear bumper following the lap 11 restart and pulled even for the lead to the inside of Ballou exiting turn four on lap 14. Meanwhile, third starting Thomas Meseraull, debuting with KO Motorsports on this night after an abrupt split with the Yeley-Petty Racing a few nights earlier, had charged by Logan Seavey for third, then began to rope in the top-two.

Simultaneously, Tri-State favorite Kyle Cummins made his patented elevation toward the front as he navigated his way into the top-five just before halfway, then nipped his way under Seavey for fourth on lap 15 and slipped under Meseraull for third on the 17th lap at the exit of turn four.

Meseraull attempted to slide Cummins back moments later in turn two, but got just a tad sideways, resulting in the trailing Cummins ramping over Meseraull's left front wheel. Meseraull promptly spun and collected sixth-running Kevin Thomas Jr., forcing both to stop. Meseraull exited the competition with a 21st place result while Thomas returned and managed to get back to 12th.

Ballou pulled out to a 1.6 second lead with 10 to go, but the familiar sight of the red number 3R began to emerge at the forefront as he shot by Grant for second place at the exit of turn two with eight laps remaining but still had quite a bit of ground to chomp up in such a short amount of time.

The timely caution arrived to aid Cummins' pursuit of Ballou in the form of a turn four slide and stop by first-time USAC National Sprint Car starter Dustin Beck who came to a halt with just two laps remaining. That erased Ballou's 1.2 second lead over Cummins and now placed the pair nose-to-tail coming to the green-white-checkered finish and, by that point in time, Ballou knew full well what he was working with.



"I knew that my racecar was really good," Ballou noted. "I wanted to go up to the top the whole race, but I moved up to the middle, and then Justin (Grant) showed me a nose. I'm pretty good on the bottom and I've seen a lot of races where Kyle (Cummins) got a good run and slingshots past you on the last lap."

Once the green flag dropped, Ballou pedaled away from Cummins who remained in constant hot pursuit a mere two car lengths in arrears throughout the final two trips around the 1/4-mile dirt oval. Cummins was unable to make substantial headway and Ballou was unrelenting and unwavering at the moment as he became the first five-time series feature winner of the 2022 season.

Ballou's 0.431 second victory was the 36th of his USAC National Sprint Car career, which surpassed both Jon Stanbrough and Rich Vogler on the all-time list, and moved him into a tie for 11th all-time alongside Kevin Thomas Jr. Cummins took second in the final feature rundown with Grant third, Chase Stockon fourth and Logan Seavey fifth.

After enduring his fair share of ups and downs throughout Indiana Sprint Week, Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) finished the week with a bang. One night after prevailing at Bloomington Speedway, he came home as the runner-up at Tri-State to finish seventh in the final ISW standings in his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats - Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy.

In Fatheadz Qualifying earlier in the evening, Mitchel Moles' electric performances continued as the Indiana Sprint Week Rookie turned in his fifth fast qualifying time in seven tries throughout the week. As it turned out, it was the second best qualifying performance in Indiana Sprint Week history, trailing only the six fast times earned by Richard Griffin in 1997.

Meanwhile, Shane Cottle was treated and released after flipping end-over-end high into the turn three billboards on his qualifying attempt.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 30, 2022 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 35th USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.442; 2. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.516; 3. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.599; 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5K, KO-13.726; 5. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.728; 6. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.801; 7. Briggs Danner, 5G, Heffner South-13.838; 8. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.845; 9. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.870; 10. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.910; 11. J.J. Hughes, 76, Hughes-13.911; 12. Kendall Ruble, 17, Ruble-13.961; 13. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.977; 14. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-13.991; 15. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-14.083; 16. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-14.129; 17. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-14.161; 18. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.176; 19. Shane Cockrum, 66, Amati-14.232; 20. Dustin Beck, 75, Henson-14.242; 21. Critter Malone, 7, Seven-14.315; 22. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-14.320; 23. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-14.329; 24. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-14.348; 25. Garrett Aitken, 32, Aitken-14.359; 26. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-14.379; 27. Xavier Doney, 5R, KO-14.400; 28. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.444; 29. Todd Hobson, 77AU, Sturgeon-14.472; 30. Max Adams, 37, Felker-14.481; 31. Sam Scott, 7s, Scott-14.486; 32. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.559; 33. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-14.650; 34. Donny Brackett, 4B, Brackett-14.674; 35. Travis Berryhill, 77s, Sturgeon-14.929; 36. Dylan Moan, 17D, Moan-14.967; 37. Eddie Vancil, 7v, Vancil-14.996; 38. Stan Beadles, 84B, Beadles-15.009; 39. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-15.245; 40. Allen Howard Jr., 4u, AJR-15.624; 41. Chris Robling, 23, Kolehouse/Scott-15.634; 42. Ryan Bond, 7R, Czoer-15.737; 43. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-NT; 44. Jerry Petty, 2, Yeley/Petty-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Critter Malone, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Brody Roa, 7. Garrett Aitken, 8. Koby Barksdale, 9. Todd Hobson, 10. Eddie Vancil, 11. Chris Robling. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Tom Harris, 7. Aric Gentry, 8. Donny Brackett, 9. Stan Beadles, 10. Ryan Bond, 11. Max Adams. 2:15.04

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Shane Cockrum, 4. Xavier Doney, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. J.J. Hughes, 7. Briggs Danner, 8. Sam Scott, 9. Travis Berryhill, 10. Troy Carey. 2:16.79

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Dustin Beck, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Dalton Stevens, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Allen Howard Jr., 8. Dylan Moan, 9. Kendall Ruble, 10. Brady Short. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi-feature) 1. Sam Scott, 2. Donny Brackett, 3. Koby Barksdale, 4. Travis Berryhill, 5. Troy Carey, 6. Allen Howard Jr., 7. Chris Robling, 8. Stan Beadles, 9. Eddie Vancil, 10. Max Adams. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Briggs Danner, 2. J.J. Hughes, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Kendall Ruble, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Brody Roa, 7. Dalton Stevens, 8. Tom Harris, 9. Garrett Aitken, 10. Koby Barksdale, 11. Donny Brackett, 12. Carson Garrett, 13. Travis Berryhill, 14. Sam Scott, 15. Brandon Mattox, 16. Brady Short, 17. Aric Gentry, 18. Todd Hobson. 2:50.86

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Robert Ballou (2), 2. Kyle Cummins (5), 3. Justin Grant (1), 4. Chase Stockon (8), 5. Logan Seavey (4), 6. C.J. Leary (10), 7. Brady Bacon (15), 8. Mitchel Moles (6), 9. Jason McDougal (12), 10. Critter Malone (20), 11. Emerson Axsom (11), 12. Kevin Thomas Jr. (7), 13. Jadon Rogers (16), 14. Shane Cockrum (18), 15. Briggs Danner (9), 16. Brody Roa (17), 17. Matt Westfall (22), 18. Xavier Doney (21), 19. Dustin Beck (19), 20. J.J. Hughes (13), 21. Thomas Meseraull (3), 22. Kendall Ruble (14). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Robert Ballou.

**Shane Cottle flipped during qualifying. Eddie Vancil flipped during the C-Main. Kendall Ruble flipped on lap 11 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1709, 2-Brady Bacon-1598, 3-C.J. Leary-1546, 4-Robert Ballou-1542, 5-Emerson Axsom-1473, 6-Logan Seavey-1449, 7-Chase Stockon-1288, 8-Matt Westfall-1199, 9-Jadon Rogers-1127, 10-Jake Swanson-1020.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-464, 2-C.J. Leary-403, 3-Brady Bacon-399, 4-Chase Stockon-393, 5-Mitchel Moles-374, 6-Robert Ballou-367, 7-Kyle Cummins-364, 8-Emerson Axsom-328, 9-Jason McDougal-306, 10-Shane Cottle-305.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-102, 2-Brady Bacon-98, 3-Thomas Meseraull-92, 4-Buddy Kofoid-80, 5-Robert Ballou-75, 6-Logan Seavey-74, 7-Shane Cottle-67, 8-Matt Westfall-67, 9-Kaylee Bryson-61, 10-Emerson Axsom-59.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-33, 2-Matt Westfall-31, 3-Kyle Cummins-24, 4-Justin Grant-23, 5-Brady Bacon-20, 6-Chase Stockon-19, 7-Jason McDougal-14, 8-C.J. Leary-13, 9-Tye Mihocko-12, 10-Briggs Danner-11.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: August 25-26-27, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Sprint Car Smackdown XI Presented by Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Thomas Meseraull (13.474)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Mitchel Moles (13.442)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: Thomas Meseraull

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Matt Westfall

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

Bryan Clauson's Racers For Autism Bonus Bucks: Robert Ballou

Hard Work Award: Matt Westfall

Feature Hard Charger: Critter Malone (20th to 10th)

==========

GRANT OPENING: REIGNING SMACKDOWN CHAMP LEADS OFF WITH KOKOMO TRIUMPH

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 25, 2022)……Justin Grant made it copiously clear that we're in the midst of the JG era at Indiana's Kokomo Speedway.

During Thursday night's Elliott's Custom Trailers & Cars Sprint Car Smackdown XI opener, the Ione, Calif. native prevailed over a rapidly closing, and 22nd place restarting, Kyle Cummins to win his fifth USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature start in his past six starts at Kokomo's quarter-mile dirt oval.

Five wins in a six-race span equals the all-time high water mark for USAC Sprint Car success at Kokomo. The venue's winningest driver, Dave Darland, also captured five during a six-race timeframe in 2013-14.

Part of that run for Darland included consecutive Smackdown championships, an encore performance of which Grant is vying to recreate at the conclusion of this weekend.

Meanwhile, Rochester, Ind. based TOPP Motorsports extended its record as the winningest team in Smackdown history with its sixth victory in totality – two with Tyler Courtney and now four with Grant.

Furthermore, Grant moved into sole possession of 15th on the all-time USAC National Sprint Car driver win list with his 33rd career triumph, elevating him ahead of 1973 series titlist Rollie Beale.

Despite leading all 30 laps, Grant still feels there's plenty left in the tank and much more to be found in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy over the next two nights.

"Unfortunately, I feel like we've got a bit of work to do," Grant admitted. "We held on, and we won, but the big (track) rework helped us. It was pretty wide open through the middle, and we were maybe a little tight, not thinking it was going to hang around as long as it did."

Yet Grant's prevailing moment came in a narrow victory over the evening's most undeterred driver, Cummins, who experienced early success only to have been snake bitten by the toughest of tribulations just prior to the green flag for the start of the feature.

During the pace laps, Cummins right rear tire went flat, forcing him to dip into the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area for fresh rubber before returning to an entirely new outlook – one that required him to start at the tail of the field after originally being slated to start sixth.

Up front, Grant maintained control of the proceedings throughout the first half of the contest, maintaining a three to four car length edge over second-running Robert Ballou before disposing the tail end of the lead lap cars to up the ante to the tune of 1.3 seconds.

By that time, Cummins had already barged into the top-ten by lap 12 and had slotted into the seventh position when the yellow flag was displayed on the 16th lap for fourth running Brady Bacon who slowed to a crawl between turns three and four with a flat right rear tire. He'd ultimately return with a new right rear but managed just an 11th at the checkered.

Now without the threat of traffic looming ahead in the near future, Grant stepped out to a comfortable advantage as he remained undaunted at the head of the class.

At the same time, Cummins' real nice story quickly turned into him becoming a real potential threat on the lap 16 restart when he picked off Jadon Rogers for sixth in turn one, Emerson Axsom for fifth in turn three, then Anton Hernandez for fourth the next time around in turns one and two. With 11 laps remaining Cummins slid under Jason McDougal for third on the bottom of turn three and only had the top two left to track down.

With only a single caution to aid him in his pursuit at the midway point, Cummins kept his hands firmly on the shovel as he dug a path right to the bumper of Ballou in turn one with three to go while Ballou simultaneously closed the gap between himself and Grant to less than a car length.

Cummins sped around the outside of Ballou in turn four with a mighty stride to nip him at the stripe for second coming to the white flag. With a half-second of ground to make up, Cummins nearly tracked him down in the final lap.

Nonetheless, all the work Grant had put into his craftwork following the mid-race restart gave him enough of an edge to withstand Cummins' Hail Mary on the 30th and final circuit. Ultimately, Grant edged Cummins by a 0.266 second margin for his fifth series victory of the year and the sixth of his career at Kokomo, equaling him with Tyler Courtney for third all-time on the track's USAC Sprint Car win list behind Darland's nine and Tony Elliott's eight.

Grant felt the heat from the flamethrowers Cummins was heaving at the finish, and while fully enthused about the win and partially dissatisfied with the overall performance, Grant feels an obligation to find more within in order to remain at the forefront of the competition throughout the balance of the weekend.

"Ol' Cummins is getting around this place really good anymore; he went to the tail there and darn near got back to us," Grant exclaimed. "We've still got some work to do, but we'll get it figured out. We've got a lot of data and a lot of notes from this place. We'll be all right come Saturday."

What more can you say about Kyle Cummins? After suffering a flat right rear tire before the start of the feature, Cummins restarted 22nd and carved through to the finish a close second in his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats - Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Cummins Chevy. In the process, the Princeton, Ind. native collected the GSP North America Quality Driving Performance of the Night Award after setting Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying Time, winning his heat race and, in the feature, came home one spot shy of becoming the first driver to "sweep" the night with the series since Tyler Courtney at Ohio's Eldora Speedway three years earlier in 2019.

"Sitting back there, I was thinking, 'this kind of sucks,' but it might put a show on for the fans because I knew we had a really good car," Cummins related. "It actually helped out switching the tire because we probably would've been too tight starting in the back. I wish we could've had a couple more laps. That would've been pretty cool going out and winning from the tail, but it shows we've got a pretty good car and we want this one badly."

Robert Ballou's Smackdown return was magnificent as he finished in the third position aboard his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru - Dragonfly Aviation - Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy. He returned to the Smackdown podium for the first time since 2020 after an opening night accident sidelined him for the rest of the weekend a year ago during Smackdown's opening night.

"My racecar was too tight," Ballou revealed. "I didn't expect it to stay really wet for that long. I couldn't maneuver and do what I wanted to do. We'll look at some video tonight and try to get a better grasp on it. I'm a pain in the butt as far as what I want to feel, but I just didn't have what I wanted tonight. We're just going to have to sharpen our pencils a little bit and go back to the drawing board. Hopefully, we'll get a little bit better for these guys."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 25, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Sprint Car Smackdown XI Presented by Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.617; 2. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.648; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.649; 4. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.652; 5. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.666; 6. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.712; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.718; 8. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.731; 9. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-12.747; 10. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.757; 11. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.758; 12. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.770; 13. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-12.794; 14. Thomas Meseraull, 2E, Epperson-12.816; 15. Tim Creech, 2c, Creech-12.896; 16. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.916; 17. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-12.927; 18. Anton Hernandez, 2B, 2B Racing-12.951; 19. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.967; 20. Cole Bodine, 57B, DCT/Crow/Bodine-12.987; 21. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-13.018; 22. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-13.052; 23. Jack Hoyer, 11, Hoyer-13.079; 24. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-13.153; 25. Riley Kreisel, 2, Yeley/Petty-13.158; 26. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.159; 27. Parker Frederickson, 34F, Frederickson-13.217; 28. Tyler Hewitt, 57, Hazen-13.253; 29. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.272; 30. Corey Smith, 66s, CS-13.332; 31. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-13.369; 32. Alex Banales, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-13.382; 33. Tayte Williamson, 20T, Williamson-13.410; 34. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-13.424; 35. Larry Kingseed Jr., 59, Powell-13.451; 36. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.472; 37. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-13.535; 38. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-13.622; 39. Cooper Welch, 2w, Welch-13.849; 40. Jack James, 99, James-13.915; 41. Paul White, 1, White-NT (Time of 13.535 disallowed to an illegal right rear tire).

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Tom Harris, 6. Dave Darland, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Alex Bright, 9. Riley Kreisel, 10. Tayte Williamson, 11. Paul White. 2:10.08

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Anton Hernandez, 2. Max Adams, 3. Thomas Meseraull, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Emerson Axsom, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Corey Smith, 9. Korbyn Hayslett. 2:10.96

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Jack Hoyer, 6. Parker Frederickson, 7. Tim Creech, 8. Dustin Clark, 9. Larry Kingseed Jr., 10. Cooper Welch. 2:10.88

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Cole Bodine, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Scotty Weir, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Carson Garrett, 8. Alex Banales, 9. Tyler Hewitt, 10. Jack James. 2:11.97

COUNTRY JOSH CONDER C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi-feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Dustin Clark, 3. Tayte Williamson, 4. Alex Bright, 5. Larry Kingseed Jr., 6. Korbyn Hayslett, 7. Jack James, 8. Paul White, 9. Cooper Welch, 10. Alex Banales, 11. Dalton Stevens. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Scotty Weir, 6. Alex Bright, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Jack Hoyer, 9. Carson Garrett, 10. Parker Frederickson, 11. Tom Harris, 12. Sterling Cling, 13. Corey Smith, 14. Dustin Clark, 15. Tim Creech, 16. Tayte Williamson, 17. Riley Kreisel. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (2), 2. Kyle Cummins (6), 3. Robert Ballou (1), 4. Jason McDougal (4), 5. Emerson Axsom (10), 6. Jadon Rogers (9), 7. C.J. Leary (7), 8. Thomas Meseraull (16), 9. Chase Stockon (11), 10. Mitchel Moles (5), 11. Brady Bacon (3), 12. Jake Swanson (17), 13. Anton Hernandez (8), 14. Scotty Weir (21), 15. Mario Clouser (18), 16. Max Adams (20), 17. Logan Seavey (14), 18. Matt Westfall (12), 19. Dave Darland (13), 20. Cole Bodine (19), 21. Alex Bright (22), 22. Kevin Thomas Jr. (15), 23. Brandon Mattox (23-P). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter.

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Justin Grant.

**Dalton Stevens flipped during qualifying. Alex Banales flipped during the C-Main.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1784, 2-Brady Bacon-1647, 3-Robert Ballou-1615, 4-C.J. Leary-1602, 5-Emerson Axsom-1540, 6-Logan Seavey-1485, 7-Chase Stockon-1338, 8-Matt Westfall-1227, 9-Jadon Rogers-1190, 10-Jake Swanson-1065.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-117, 2-Thomas Meseraull-108, 3-Brady Bacon-98, 4-Buddy Kofoid-85, 5-Robert Ballou-75, 6-Logan Seavey-75, 7-Kaylee Bryson-71, 8-Emerson Axsom-70, 9-C.J. Leary-68, 10-Shane Cottle-67.

SMACKDOWN PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Alex Bright-14, 2-Carson Garrett-11, 3-Scotty Weir-10, 4-Thomas Meseraull-8, 5-Emerson Axsom-5, 6-Jake Swanson-5, 7-Kyle Cummins-4, 8-Max Adams-4, 9-Jadon Rogers-3, 10-Mario Clouser-3.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: August 26-27, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Sprint Car Smackdown XI Presented by Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Clinton Boyles/Carbon Safety Technologies Most Wheel Pack Laps: Chase Stockon (19)

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Mitchel Moles (12.590)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Kyle Cummins (12.617)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Anton Hernandez

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: C.J. Leary

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Kyle Cummins

Country Josh Conder C-Main Winner: Carson Garrett

Hoosier Tire C-Main First Non-Transfer: Larry Kingseed Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Emerson Axsom

Hoosier Tire Semi-Feature First Non-Transfer: Brandon Mattox

ProSource Hard Work Award: Alex Bright

Feature Hard Charger: Thomas Meseraull (16th to 8th)

==========

LIKE NIGHT & DAY: KTJ MAKES TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO VICTORY LANE AT SMACKDOWN NIGHT TWO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 26, 2022)……The difference was night and day for Kevin Thomas Jr. during Friday's Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown night two at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway.

In one sense, the Cullman, Ala. racer captured the second round of Smackdown for the second consecutive year – last year's running being held in the daytime – while this year's was held under the lights.

On the other hand, the juxtaposition of KTJ's Thursday night result compared to Friday's was just as stark as the contrast between the sun and the moon itself.

Pulling to the infield with smoke pouring out from under the hood 24 hours earlier was replaced by a joyous relief in victory lane for Thomas and his BGE Dougherty Motorsports team for the first time in USAC competition aboard their Altoz – Schaeffer Oil – Hornbeck Concrete/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

An overnight engine change cured the ails for the team as Thomas raced to the lead around the outside of Jake Swanson on lap 11 and led the remainder of the 30-lap distance to score his first USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship triumph of the season in the unlikeliest of manners.

“I think I just ran 30 laps on the top,” a surprised Thomas interjected. “That was pretty fun; I hadn’t done that in a while.”

Thomas’ 37th career USAC National Sprint Car victory proved historic as he officially entered the top-ten in terms of career series victories and now stands tied with three-time series champion Sheldon Kinser in the series’ upper echelon.

Winning never gets old, and Thomas embraces each one to the fullest. However, possibly none meant more to him at this juncture than this one, which proved to be a longtime coming for the driver who had only finished inside the top-ten once throughout his first eight USAC National Sprint Car feature starts this season.

“I was over losing so much; man, it feels good to be back,” Thomas sighed with an air of accomplishment. “For the past month, we’ve been contemplating when it was going to turn around. But these guys just don’t quit. I’m usually pretty persistent and I get a little ramped up but, man, I was down. I hadn’t been that down in a long time. Whether it was a winged car, a non-winged car, midget or a damn golf cart for all I care, it’s been frustrating.”

Over that two-month stretch, Thomas had seen his fair share of heartache and heartburn with a variety of twists and turns that had taken its mental toll and had become jarringly wearing ever since the team/driver combination connected to start the summer months back in June.

“I’m so happy for these guys,” Thomas exclaimed. “We got a win during one of our first nights out at Haubstadt (with the Midwest Sprint Car Series). I’ve junked a car since then, hurt some engines, done some stupid stuff and flipped in qualifying. I’ve done everything except be spectacular for these guys. There have been a lot of downs, but tonight, we finally got an up.”

Thomas started third in the field of 22, while outside front row starter Swanson jetted out to the opening lap lead as pole sitter Emerson Axsom and Thomas swarmed side-by-side amid a tussle for the second position.

After 15th running Chase Stockon slowed to a stop on lap nine, Swanson reignited the torch to pick up the lead right from where he left off. Thomas, however, tracked him down and made a beeline for the bottom in turn three on lap nine, only to witness Swanson rebuff by driving right back by while holding a car length advantage at the stripe. Thomas reloaded on the high line and rode the momentum around Swanson a lap later on the back straightaway to secure the position.

Just a short clip later, the surging Kyle Cummins, who had earlier picked up Fatheadz Fast Qualifying honors for the second consecutive night, snagged the outside retaining wall in turn two with his right rear tire as he chased the rear bumper of Swanson. The chance meeting of rubber to concrete for Cummins allowed C.J. Leary to slip under for the third position.

In the meantime, Thomas gained ample separation from Swanson with the aid of two lapped cars (Dave Darland and Anton Hernandez) occupying the space between with a 0.890 difference among the two front runners being the margin on lap 23 when past Smackdown prelim winners Thomas Meseraull (11th) and Logan Seavey (12th) tangled in turn two, resulting in a caution.

The incident served as no deterrent for Thomas who immediately reestablished control on the restart with eight laps to go, refocused with a clear vision of the cushion, and remained unbothered by any sense of a challenge as he put the clamp on his long-awaited return to USAC victory lane by 0.774 second margin over Swanson, Leary, Cummins and Axsom.

Exactly one month ago to the day, Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) was laid up in a hospital bed following a vicious crash at the very same Kokomo quarter-mile dirt oval. One month later, to the day, he turned in his best USAC National Sprint

Car performance at Kokomo with a runner-up finish in his Team AZ Racing/Stratis Construction - Lucas Oil - RSS Industries/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

“I’m just absolutely stoked to be able to come back like that,” Swanson shared. “To be racing so soon is awesome and I wish, if I had some more laps, I would’ve known to move up there a little bit sooner. I could tell the bottom was wearing out and the top was probably where the race ended up. Maybe I should’ve gone up and tried it, but I was worried it was going to leave the door open.”

An engine swap paid off for C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) as the 2019 USAC National Sprint Car driving champion rounded out the podium with a third place result in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/Chevy.

The top-eight drivers in combined points from Thursday and Friday’s programs locked themselves into Saturday night’s three-lap King of the Hill races featuring two cars going head-to-head in a bracket style tourney, with the winner advancing each time, will go on to determine the top-eight starting positions for that night’s feature event, with the winner of all three rounds securing the pole position for Saturday night’s 40-lap main event.

Locked into both the King of the Hill and feature events on Saturday are Princeton, Indiana’s Cummins (688 points), C.J. Leary (666), Broken Arrow, Oklahoma’s Jason McDougal (646), Franklin, Indiana’s Emerson Axsom (642), Ione, California’s Justin Grant (638), Anaheim, California’s Swanson (634), Rocklin, California’s Robert Ballou (634) and Broken Arrow, Oklahoma’s Brady Bacon (632).

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 26, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Sprint Car Smackdown XI Presented by Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.715; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.726; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.857; 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-12.901; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.916; 6. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.929; 7. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.935; 8. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.938; 9. Thomas Meseraull, 2E, Epperson-12.957; 10. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.963; 11. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.977; 12. Logan Seavey, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.985; 13. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.052; 14. Scotty Weir, 4p, Pedersen-13.064; 15. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.073; 16. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.087; 17. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.110; 18. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-13.115; 19. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-13.162; 20. Anton Hernandez, 2B, 2B Racing-13.163; 21. Mario Clouser, 6, EZR-13.256; 22. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-13.260; 23. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.289; 24. Parker Frederickson, 34F, Frederickson-13.318; 25. Larry Kingseed Jr., 59, Powell-13.357; 26. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.372; 27. Keith Sheffer II, 86, Sheffer-13.382; 28. Jack Hoyer, 11, Hoyer-13.390; 29. Tim Creech, 2c, Creech-13.391; 30. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-13.396; 31. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.401; 32. Cole Bodine, 57B, DCT/Crow/Bodine-13.485; 33. Corey Smith, 66s, CS-13.495; 34. Alex Bright, 20, Hummer-13.520; 35. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-13.535; 36. Tyler Hewitt, 57, Hazen-13.631; 37. Paul White, 1, White-13.639; 38. Riley Kreisel, 2, Yeley/Petty-13.640; 39. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-13.666; 40. Cooper Welch, 2w, Welch-14.170; 41. Derek Crane, 19WI, Crane-14.205; 42. Jack James, 99, James-14.233; 43. Tayte Williamson, 20T, Williamson-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jason McDougal, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Justin Grant, 6. Larry Kingseed Jr., 7. Tim Creech, 8. Paul White, 9. Corey Smith, 10. Derek Crane, 11. Mario Clouser. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Scotty Weir, 6. Tom Harris, 7. Korbyn Hayslett, 8. Alex Bright, 9. Riley Kreisel, 10. Jack James, 11. Zack Pretorius. NT

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Sterling Cling, 7. Dustin Clark, 8. Max Adams, 9. Tayte Williamson, 10. Keith Sheffer II, 11. Dalton Stevens. 2:16.55

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Anton Hernandez, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Parker Frederickson, 8. Jack Hoyer, 9. Tyler Hewitt, 10. Cooper Welch. 2:15.58

COUNTRY JOSH CONDER C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi-feature) 1. Alex Bright, 2. Cole Bodine, 3. Dustin Clark, 4. Corey Smith, 5. Tyler Hewitt, 6. Riley Kreisel, 7. Cooper Welch, 8. Derek Crane, 9. Jack James, 10. Paul White, 11. Brandon Mattox. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Max Adams, 4. Scotty Weir, 5. Parker Frederickson, 6. Korbyn Hayslett, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Cole Bodine, 9. Alex Bright, 10. Jack Hoyer, 11. Tom Harris, 12. Mario Clouser, 13. Tim Creech, 14. Dustin Clark, 15. Zack Pretorius, 16. Larry Kingseed Jr., 17. Corey Smith. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (3), 2. Jake Swanson (2), 3. C.J. Leary (5), 4. Kyle Cummins (6), 5. Emerson Axsom (1), 6. Brady Bacon (7), 7. Jason McDougal (10), 8. Robert Ballou (12), 9. Justin Grant (15), 10. Mitchel Moles (4), 11. Matt Westfall (11), 12. Jadon Rogers (14), 13. Max Adams (19), 14. Dave Darland (18), 15. Thomas Meseraull (13), 16. Anton Hernandez (20), 17. Korbyn Hayslett (21), 18. Parker Frederickson (22), 19. Carson Garrett (9), 20. Logan Seavey (8), 21. Chase Stockon (17), 22. Scotty Weir (16). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-10 Jake Swanson, Laps 11-30 Kevin Thomas Jr.

**Mario Clouser flipped during the first heat. Dalton Stevens flipped during the third heat. Paul White flipped during the C-Main.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1834, 2-Brady Bacon-1710, 3-C.J. Leary-1678, 4-Robert Ballou-1667, 5-Emerson Axsom-1604, 6-Logan Seavey-1516, 7-Chase Stockon-1366, 8-Matt Westfall-1274, 9-Jadon Rogers-1236, 10-Jake Swanson-1140.

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SMACKDOWN XI POINTS: (Top-8 locked into Saturday's feature) 1-Kyle Cummins-688, 2-C.J. Leary-666, 3-Jason McDougal-646, 4-Emerson Axsom-642, 5-Justin Grant-638, 6-Jake Swanson-634, 7-Robert Ballou-634, 8-Brady Bacon-632.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-123, 2-Thomas Meseraull-108, 3-Brady Bacon-99, 4-Buddy Kofoid-85, 5-Robert Ballou-79, 6-Logan Seavey-75, 7-Kaylee Bryson-71, 9-C.J. Leary-70, 8-Emerson Axsom-70, 10-Shane Cottle-67.

SMACKDOWN PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Alex Bright-21, 2-Max Adams-11, 3-Carson Garrett-11, 4-Scotty Weir-10, 5-Justin Grant-8, 6-Thomas Meseraull-8, 7-Parker Frederickson-8, 8-Cole Bodine-8, 9-Kyle Cummins-6, 10-Korbyn Hayslett-6.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 27, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Sprint Car Smackdown XI Presented by Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Clinton Boyles/Carbon Safety Technologies Most Wheel Pack Laps: Cole Bodine (29)

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Mitchel Moles (12.808)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Kyle Cummins (12.715)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jason McDougal

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Carson Garrett

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat: Logan Seavey

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Emerson Axsom

Country Josh Conder C-Main Winner: Alex Bright

Hoosier Tire C-Main First Non-Transfer: Tyler Hewitt

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Justin Grant

Hoosier Tire Semi-Feature First Non-Transfer: Sterling Cling

ProSource Hard Work Award: Parker Frederickson

Feature Hard Charger: Justin Grant (15th to 9th)

==========

BEATDOWN AT SMACKDOWN: CUMMINS COLLECTS $35,000 USAC WIN AT KOKOMO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 27, 2022)……For the past 10 years, the term "Smackdown" served as a noun that was utilized to refer to the annual three-race weekend held in the month of August at Indiana's Kokomo Speedway.

On Saturday night, Kyle Cummins fully demonstrated "Smackdown" as a verb, crushing the field in a 40-lap romp that rewarded him with a total prize of $35,000 for a night's worth of work in winning the Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown XI main event.

Starting from the outside of the front row, the Princeton, Ind. native punched out to a substantial lead that continuously grew throughout the duration, ultimately cruising underneath flagman Tom Hansing's checkered more than four seconds ahead of the competition on the quarter-mile dirt oval in his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats - Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

After multiple runner-up finishes on the final night of Smackdown in 2019-20 and a pair of preliminary night victories in his career, at long last, Cummins had finally grabbed the brass ring and the victory belt as a first-time Smackdown champion.

“This is by far the biggest win of my career,” Cummins exclaimed. “We finally got one of these. I didn’t know if I ever would. Now I can strike that off the list and I won’t have to endure that pressure again.”

Cummins led the race from start to finish after earlier being defeated his front row nemesis, C.J. Leary, in the final round of King of the Hill – a series of two-car, three-lap, head-to-head dashes to determine the pole. That was very nearly the least of his worries when, during his first round matchup, Cummins nearly bit it as he biked at the entry to turn three but saved it and continued on to survive and advance in the tournament.

“I about dumped it during King of the Hill and all I was thinking was, “Hank’s going to kill me,” Cummins explained, referring to his car owner, Hank Byram. “I was really uncomfortable in hot laps and (in King of the Hill). We just put some fresh bars on it, just thinking maybe one was dead, and it was a completely different racecar again.”

Cummins more than made up for his prior transgressions in a main event that saw the final 39 laps go uninterrupted without a yellow or red. The base $15,000 winner’s share was supplemented by a bevy of sponsors for each of the 40 laps at $500 bucks a clip, adding an extra $20,000 to the festivities.

Pulling no punches and leaving nothing to chance, Cummins bagged all of the bonus money while becoming the fourth driver to lead all 40 laps of the Smackdown A-Main along with Dave Darland (2013), Justin Grant (2018) and Tyler Courtney (2019).

There was no question that Cummins had his mind on the money and the money on his mind from the word “go.” That provided him with double the objective to get to the front of the field early and remain there as often as possible.

“Literally, on the first lap, I was like, ‘500,’ Cummins admitted. “I was thinking, how many more can I lead? On that red (flag), I was thinking I might get in my head here and fall back.”

A flip by 23rd running Brandon Mattox after he dug in and barrel rolled in turn one on lap two proved to be the only stoppage of the feature. Mattox walked away under his own power, but the car was towed away on the hook.

Just prior to the halfway mark, Cummins had elevated his lead to a full-straightaway, and by the time there were but 10 laps remaining, his lead had ballooned to over four seconds with the top-three of Cummins, Leary and Jake Swanson separated by a half-lap all with Cummins maneuvering high, middle and low to work his way through traffic.

“A couple times, just the way that the car was coming out of the corner, it just forced me down there,” Cummins recalled. “Instead of blowing the corner, I just went for it. There were a couple laps where I didn’t hit the top good enough and a lapped car pulled away from me. I saw someone to the inside of me and I thought that was second place, so I thought, ‘okay, the bottom’s got to be where it’s at.’ I moved around back and forth, and it seemed like anywhere I went, the car was great.”

Meanwhile, Brady Bacon had draped himself all over the tail tank of Swanson for the third position before swinging low past the high-riding Swanson in wheels-up fashion down the front straightaway to secure the position at the stripe with four laps to go.

With Thursday’s 22nd to 2nd theatrics and Friday’s unsatisfying and unfulfilled result, Cummins displayed straight, pure, 100% dominance on Saturday as he finished off a masterpiece performance with a substantial 4.088 second margin of victory over Leary, Bacon and Jake Swanson with Robert Ballou rounding out the top-five.



"I thought we had a great thing Thursday, then Friday, with the way the track was, we had a third or fourth place car and I couldn't get anything done," Cummins recapped. "I was kind of bummed out going into tonight, and then I just put my faith in these guys to make some changes and get thing comfortable again. The first night and a half, it was on kill. Tonight, the car was unbelievable."

Cummins' second series triumph of the season was the 12th of his USAC National Sprint Car career, equaling him with Eric Gordon for 12th on the all-time feature win list.

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) capped the evening with his best career Smackdown final night feature result, finishing as the runner-up in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/Chevy. Leary's second place performance was his fourth podium finish in nine career Smackdown championship night starts.

"I was hoping for a late caution because I felt like our car was getting better," Leary pined. "At the start of the race, the thing was so tight; it was wheels up and the left rear was up. After King of the Hill, we made some small adjustments, but we put a full load of fuel in it, and we weren't in drag race mode anymore. We just have to keep putting those notes in the notebook and just get better for next time. We really want to win this thing."

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) made a fantastic surge from eighth to third to round out the podium in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Cressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy. Wildly, it marked his best career finish on the final night of Smackdown and he now possesses six top-five finishes in 10 Smackdown finale starts.

"I'm pretty pleased with how good our car was," Bacon praised. "We passed a lot of good cars to get to third, but there was just too much real estate to make up without a caution there at the end. We usually kind of struggle on the last night here, but this year the role was kind of reversed. I wish we could've had a caution to see what we had but Kyle was going to be pretty tough to beat regardless."

Max Adams (Loomis, Calif.) traveled from 20th to 13th in the feature to collect Irvin King Hard Charger honors. The 13th place finish is Adams' best Smackdown final night result in three career starts.

From across the shore and into his first USAC National Sprint Car feature start in three seasons, Banbury, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom's Tom Harris raced from eighth to fourth in the semi-feature to earn the GSP North America Quality Driving Performance of the Night and his first berth into a Smackdown final night feature lineup.

With 26 positions advanced over the course of the mains throughout the three nights of Smackdown, reigning USAC East Coast Sprint Car champion Alex Bright (Collegeville, Pa.) was rewarded with the ProSource Passing Master award for the weekend.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 27, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Sprint Car Smackdown XI Presented by Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-3 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon (#5s KO), 2. Kevin Thomas Jr. (#15K BGE Dougherty), 3. Anton Hernandez (#2B 2B Racing), 4. Mario Clouser (#6 EZR), 5. Scotty Weir (#4p Pedersen), 6. Jack Hoyer (#11 Hoyer), 7. Sterling Cling (#34 Cling), 8. Dustin Clark (#75 DCR), 9. Jack James (#99 James), 10. Corey Smith (#66s CS). 2:11.16

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-3 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), 2. Jadon Rogers (#14 Engler), 3. Logan Seavey (#5 Baldwin-Fox), 4. Cole Bodine (#57B DCT-Crow-Bodine), 5. Max

Adams (#17GP Dutcher), 6. Tom Harris (#84 Harris), 7. Alex Bright (#20 Hummer), 8. Larry Kingseed Jr. (#59 Powell), 9. Cooper Welch (#2w Welch). 2:12.48

PIT STOP USA / ROD END SUPPLY THIRD QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-3 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood), 2. Thomas Meseraull (#2E Epperson), 3. Dave Darland (#36D Darland/Curb-Agajanian), 4. Korbyn Hayslett (#1H Hayslett), 5. Brandon Mattox (#28 Mattox), 6. Tim Creech (#2c Creech), 7. Tyler Hewitt (#57 Hazen), 8. Carson Garrett (#15 BGE Dougherty), 9. Paul White (#1 White), 10. Parker Frederickson (#34F Frederickson). 2:14.23

BILL & SANDY WEVER KING OF THE HILL FIRST QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #1 Kyle Cummins (#3R Rock Steady) defeats #8 Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics). 40.137

BILL & SANDY WEVER KING OF THE HILL SECOND QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #4 Emerson Axsom (#47BC Clauson Marshall Newman) defeats #5 Justin Grant (#4 TOPP). 41.283

BILL & SANDY WEVER KING OF THE HILL THIRD QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #3 Jason McDougal (#5s KO) defeats #6 Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ). 39.848

BILL & SANDY WEVER KING OF THE HILL FOURTH QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #2 C.J. Leary (#77m Michael) defeats #7 Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou). 40.134

BILL & SANDY WEVER KING OF THE HILL FIRST SEMIFINAL: (3 laps) #1 Kyle Cummins defeats #4 Emerson Axsom. 39.835

BILL & SANDY WEVER KING OF THE HILL SECOND SEMIFINAL: (3 laps) #2 C.J. Leary defeats #3 Jason McDougal. 39.543 (New Track Record)

BILL & SANDY WEVER KING OF THE HILL FINAL: (3 laps) #2 C.J. Leary defeats #1 Kyle Cummins. 39.586

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Mario Clouser, 2. Cole Bodine, 3. Max Adams, 4. Tom Harris, 5. Scotty Weir, 6. Alex Bright, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Jack Hoyer, 9. Tim Creech, 10. Tyler Hewitt, 11. Larry Kingseed Jr., 12. Carson Garrett, 13. Sterling Cling, 14. Dustin Clark, 15. Paul White, 16. Cooper Welch, 17. Jack James, 18. Korbyn Hayslett. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kyle Cummins (2), 2. C.J. Leary (1), 3. Brady Bacon (8), 4. Jake Swanson (6), 5. Robert Ballou (7), 6. Kevin Thomas Jr. (12), 7. Justin Grant (5), 8. Emerson Axsom (4), 9. Jason McDougal (3), 10. Thomas Meseraull (14), 11. Logan Seavey (16), 12. Mitchel Moles (11), 13. Max Adams (20), 14. Jadon Rogers (13), 15. Matt Westfall (10), 16. Chase Stockon (9), 17. Tom Harris (21), 18. Cole Bodine (19), 19. Dave Darland (17), 20. Anton Hernandez (15), 21. Mario Clouser (18), 22. Alex Bright (24-P), 23. Brandon Mattox (23-P), 24. Scotty Weir (22). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter.

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Kyle Cummins.

**Parker Frederickson flipped during the third qualifier. Korbyn Hayslett flipped during the semi. Brandon Mattox flipped on lap 2 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1886, 2-Brady Bacon-1774, 3-C.J. Leary-1745, 4-Robert Ballou-1725, 5-Emerson Axsom-1653, 6-Logan Seavey-1557, 7-Chase Stockon-1397, 8-Matt Westfall-1307, 9-Jadon Rogers-1271, 10-Jake Swanson-1201.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-123, 2-Thomas Meseraull-112, 3-Brady Bacon-104, 4-Buddy Kofoid-85, 5-Robert Ballou-81, 6-Logan Seavey-80, 7-Kaylee Bryson-71, 8-C.J. Leary-70, 9-Emerson Axsom-70, 10-Shane Cottle-67.

FINAL SMACKDOWN PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Alex Bright-26, 2-Max Adams-20, 3-Carson Garrett-14, 4-Thomas Meseraull-12, 5-Tom Harris-11, 6-Scotty Weir-10, 7-Cole Bodine-9, 8-Justin Grant-8, 9-Kevin Thomas Jr.-8, 10-Parker Frederickson-8.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 16, 2022 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Clinton Boyles/Carbon Safety Technologies Most Wheel Pack Laps: Mario Clouser (26)

TI22 Fastest Qualifying Race Hot Laps Driver: Thomas Meseraull

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: C.J. Leary (12.781)

Simpson Race Products First Qualifier Winner: Chase Stockon

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Qualifier Winner: Matt Westfall

Pit Stop USA / Rod End Supply Third Qualifier Winner: Mitchel Moles

Bill & Sandy Wever & The Grandkids King of the Hill Champion: C.J. Leary

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Tom Harris

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Mario Clouser

Country Josh Conder Last Semi Transfer: Scotty Weir

Hoosier Tire Semi-Feature First Non-Transfers: Alex Bright & Brandon Mattox

ProSource Hard Work Award: Tom Harris

Feature Hard Charger: Max Adams (20th to 13th)

==========

KTJ CIRCLES VICTORY, FIGHTS OFF BACON TO WIN AT CIRCLE CITY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 16, 2022)……Kevin Thomas Jr. has been at this game for a while now, making his USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship debut 13 years ago in 2009.

But more precisely, in reality, he's been at his current particular game for less than three months.

Since then, he's been in the midst of the various stages of growth, from learning how to jell with a new team, how to adjust to the new equipment and how to adapt and thrive in the new surroundings, all of which have been part of the attributes he's had to acquaint and reacquaint himself with in his return to USAC racing.

After Friday night's 30-lapper at Indianapolis, Indiana's Circle City Raceway, it's no reach to say that the Cullman, Ala. native is back in his element and has officially hit his stride after picking up his second series victory in his last three feature starts.

The box score reads that Thomas led all 30 laps. Tis true. However, the last two laps were anything but a cake walk as, on each of the final two laps over in turns three and four, challenger Brady Bacon was able to edge ahead, forcing Thomas to crack the whip and race his way back around off the final corner and slip back past like a grease covered fishing worm.

Thomas made one final escape to victory on the 30th and final circuit around the outside to defeat Bacon and his brethren by a 0.465 second margin at the stripe in his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Schaeffer Oil – Hornbeck Concrete/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

The team's second USAC victory with Thomas, after earlier scoring in August at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway, was the 38th career series victory for Thomas, which surpassed three-time champion Sheldon Kinser for sole possession of 10th on the all-time win list and now stands just two behind two-time titlist Gary Bettenhausen for ninth.

It's a far cry from Thomas and team's performances throughout their first eight USAC starts since debuting in early July, which saw just one top-ten result in that span. Now they stand at the top and they have no plans of making it stop.

"I feel like we've just got our program figured out," Thomas stated. "We jumped right into (Indiana) Sprint Week, and everybody had their arms in the air saying, 'what is he doing?' It's a new team. I'm just happy for these guys and being able to contend for wins and also to get wins. Here in the last few races, things have been going our way."

Thomas' first two USAC Sprint Car appearances at Circle City over the past two years included a pair of starting positions in the front two rows, both of which saw him ultimately slide out of contention – to 8th in 2021 and to 15th this past July. A little fine-tuning on the 15K has done some wonders and has Thomas back in a position where he feels like the 2021 edition of KTJ once more – the one that recorded a career-high nine series wins a year ago.

"We've struggled here in the past to where we just couldn't get through the slick," Thomas explained. "(The crew) has given me the opportunity to do whatever I need to do. I keep this car in my shop, and they throw some voodoo at it if it needs it. We just massaged it and got it back to where I felt like the 9K was. It's a very similar racecar and I'm very comfortable in it now."

Thomas jumped away to the early lead from his outside front row starting position as the field fanned out five-wide at one point in turn four in the fight for second. Emerging from the fracas was pole sitter Matt Westfall and emerging fifth-place starter Emerson Axsom who swapped the runner-up spot relentlessly with Westfall routinely crossing over to retain the upper hand on exit.

The first yellow of the evening fell on lap five when point leader and 10th running Justin Grant got corked up off turn four and performed a 180-degree loop before coming to a rest backwards on the front straight with a knocked-out front end. Grant's machine went away to the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area on the hook, but ultimately restarted, albeit seven laps down when he finished the race in the 23rd and final position, ending his streak of 18 consecutive top-ten finishes with the series dating back to a 15th place result at New Jersey's Bridgeport Motorsports Park in June.

Meanwhile, Robert Ballou (12th) attempted to evade the trouble ahead and wound up in the infield with the front wheels pointed to the sky but managed to remain on the throttle and keep it rolling without foul. He resumed without missing a beat and wound up as the biggest mover of the main event, starting 15th and finishing 6th.

The surge was on for Bacon just before the midway point as he discarded Westfall with an inside move on lap 13 to slot into second. Yet, he still had a plentiful amount of ground to make up for, a full second in fact, right at the halfway mark with 15 laps down and 15 to go.

As Thomas entered lapped traffic with 10 laps remaining, Bacon pulled his chair up to within a car length of the lead. However, a lap later, Bacon slid high in turn three and, moments later, Thomas cleared the lapper of J.J. Hughes to gain a full second of crucial separation between he and Bacon with just a handful of laps left.

But it was all for naught as, on lap 26, Geoff Ensign (16th) slowed to a stop on the back straight to bring out the final caution. Thomas' 1.385 second gap was gone and the two lapped cars that separated he and Bacon were now vamoosed, meaning Bacon was now going to be right on the tail of Thomas with a four-lap trophy dash being all that remained.

Two initial strategies came into play over the final course with Thomas up top and Bacon down low. With the white flag in sight, Bacon pulled a car length ahead of Thomas in between turns three and four. Bacon only allowed himself to slide up to the middle and not all the way across to the top while Thomas kept his foot in it and retook Bacon as the two rounded the fourth turn.

As the pair crossed under the white flag, Thomas altered course and took a page from Bacon's playbook by stealing the bottom of turn one. Bacon had no choice but to follow suit through turns one, two and the back straight. There, Thomas diverted back to the high side, leaving the bottom all to Bacon.

Nonetheless, the momentum proved to be the key as Bacon edged ahead once more but couldn't stick the landing as Thomas sped around Bacon one final time to reach the finish line first ahead of Bacon, Thomas Meseraull, July Circle City winner C.J. Leary and Matt Westfall.

"I was struggling in one and two," Thomas recalled. "There was a lip about three-quarters of the way up that I was able to use, but it just started going away. The harder you run it, the more apt you are to miss it, and there on that last restart, I kind of got in there a little hot and missed it. I felt good going into three and four, so I felt confident over there, but on the last lap, Brady always runs everybody clean, and I knew he wasn't going to wipe both of us out. He's going to play it smart but he's also going to give it everything he's got for the win."

Bacon's close second place finish did pay its dividends in the grand scheme. Coupled with Grant's last place finish, Bacon sliced his deficit in the USAC National Sprint Car championship race from 112 to 63.

While he came just shy of checking off a USAC win for the first time in nearly three months, Bacon did earn his sixth runner-up finish of the season in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Cressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

"I hadn't really slid across the track yet, so I didn't really know what it was going to do," Bacon admitted. "The first one probably would've been clear had I gone ahead and went, but the second one was not as good I didn't feel like. I probably should've gone a little harder on the first one, but knowing Justin was going to be 23rd was a little bit in the back of my head and I didn't need to be 22nd. We probably gave up a shot at a win there – I'm not saying he wouldn't have gotten around me, but he might've put me in bad spot and still won the race. I probably had him cleared enough to go ahead and stick it in there, but I wasn't quite sure until it was already over. I was like, 'ah, I probably had him.'"

Meseraull (San Jose, Calif.) made a late rally on the topside to go from fifth to third during the final two laps in his Epperson Racing/Epperson Painting – PPG Paints/DRC/Claxton Chevy. His third place result tied his best finish of the USAC National Sprint Car season after also rounding out the podium in February at Florida's Bubba Raceway Park and in July at South Dakota's Huset's Speedway. To boot, he's now finished on the podium with three different teams: Dyson Racing (Fla.), Yeley Racing (S.D.) and Epperson Racing (Circle City).

Chase Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.) overcame getting buried early on in the night during qualifying and in his heat race all while debuting a brand new Flea RC Chassis featuring front coils. Stockon hustled from ninth to fourth in the semi-feature to transfer into the feature event, which earned him the GSP North America Quality Driving Performance of the Night.

After losing his track record earlier in the session, Mitchel Moles (Raisin City, Calif.) roared back to regain the record during Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying with a time of 11.819 seconds. For Moles, it was his sixth fast time with the series in his last 10 tries.

Moles was one of three drivers to set new track records throughout the evening. Additionally, Jadon Rogers (Worthington, Ind.) set the new standard during his 10-lap heat race with a time of 2:04.23. Likewise, Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) established the new 12-lap mark during his semi-feature victory at 2:39.26.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 16, 2022 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Presented By Mastin & Cain

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.819 (New Track Record); 2. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-11.876; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.885; 4. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-11.919; 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-11.977; 6. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.068; 7. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-12.090; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.102; 9. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-12.117; 10. Jake Swanson, 5T, Daming-12.137; 11. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.153; 12. Daison Pursley, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-12.172; 13. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.215; 14. Anton Hernandez, 2B, 2B Racing-12.260; 15. Thomas Meseraull, 2E, Epperson-12.341; 16. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.342; 17. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-12.366; 18. Matt McDonald, 5mc, McDonald-12.371; 19. Kyle Shipley, 0G, Shipley-12.406; 20. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-12.407; 21. J.J. Hughes, 76, Hughes-12.417; 22. Geoff Ensign, 17, On The Gass-12.454; 23. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-12.469; 24. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.473; 25. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.565; 26. Ryan Thomas, 77, Wingo-12.669; 27. Derek Crane, 19WI, Crane-12.717; 28. Allen Howard Jr., 4u, AJR-13.324; 29. Colin Grissom, 00, Grissom-13.328; 30. Robert Brown Jr., 13, Brown-14.190.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Mitchel Moles, 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Geoff Ensign, 8. Kyle Shipley, 9. Brandon Mattox, 10. Allen Howard Jr. 2:04.23 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Anton Hernandez, 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Koby Barksdale, 7. Zack Pretorius, 8. Gabriel Gilbert, 9. Ryan Thomas, 10. Colin Grissom. 2:05.95

PIT STOP USA/ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Matt McDonald, 5. Daison Pursley, 6. Max Adams, 7. J.J. Hughes, 8. Derek Crane, 9. Robert Brown Jr., 10. Chase Stockon. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Max Adams, 3. Kyle Shipley, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. J.J. Hughes, 6. Koby Barksdale, 7. Geoff Ensign, 8. Zack Pretorius, 9. Ryan Thomas, 10.

Brandon Mattox, 11. Gabriel Gilbert, 12. Derek Crane, 13. Colin Grissom, 14. Robert Brown Jr., 15. Allen Howard Jr. 2:39.26 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (2), 2. Brady Bacon (4), 3. Thomas Meseraull (8), 4. C.J. Leary (3), 5. Matt Westfall (1), 6. Robert Ballou (15), 7. Mitchel Moles (6), 8. Emerson Axsom (5), 9. Jadon Rogers (9), 10. Jason McDougal (14), 11. Jake Swanson (13), 12. Logan Seavey (10), 13. Daison Pursley (19), 14. Koby Barksdale (16), 15. Max Adams (12), 16. Chase Stockon (21), 17. Anton Hernandez (7), 18. Kyle Shipley (17), 19. Brandon Mattox (23-P), 20. Matt McDonald (22), 21. J.J. Hughes (18), 22. Geoff Ensign (20), 23. Justin Grant (11). NT

(P) represents a provisional starter.

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

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1915, 2-Brady Bacon-1852, 3-C.J. Leary-1814, 4-Robert Ballou-1787, 5-Emerson Axsom-1711, 6-Logan Seavey-1602, 7-Chase Stockon-1429, 8-Matt Westfall-1372, 9-Jadon Rogers-1325, 10-Jake Swanson-1246.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-128, 2-Thomas Meseraull-117, 3-Brady Bacon-106, 4- Kaylee Bryson-93, 5-Buddy Kofoid-90, 6-Robert Ballou-90, 7-Logan Seavey-83, 8-C.J. Leary-70, 9-Emerson Axsom-70, 10-Matt Westfall-69.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 17, 2022 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 15th Haubstadt Hustler

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Emerson Axsom (11.963)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Mitchel Moles (11.819)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Anton Hernandez

Pit Stop USA / Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Jake Swanson

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Chase Stockon

Feature Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (15th to 6th)

==========

IRON JADON: ROGERS RUNS FREE TO FIRST USAC SPRINT WIN AT HAUBSTADT HUSTLER

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

2022 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

Haubstadt, Indiana (September 17, 2022)……For more than 67 seasons, countless individuals have clutched onto the dream of winning a first career USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature race.

Some are able to realize that dream but, for most, it remains but a fleeting notion that is never fully seized.

Now imagine that, in the quest of that first victory, you are put in the position to slay multiple giants to achieve the dream.

Only, this wasn't a dream anymore for Jadon Rogers, it was reality.

Saturday night at Tri-State Speedway's 15th annual Haubstadt Hustler, the Worthington, Ind. native became a first-time USAC feature winner, leading all but one of the 40 laps in his Engler Family/Engler Machine & Tool – AMSOIL – Sherrill's Pest Control/DRC/SPEC Chevy.

But, in the process of his $12,000 score, the 20-year-old Rogers had to withstand a barrage from the two winningest USAC Sprint Car drivers of all-time at the southwestern Indiana quarter-mile dirt oval – Kevin Thomas Jr. and Kyle Cummins.

Close calls have been a way of life over the past three seasons of USAC competition for Rogers with three runner-up finishes, two of which have come at Tri-State. One in particular came in the spring of 2021 when Cummins denied him his first win by passing him with four laps remaining.

Now, on this night, Rogers could breathe a sigh of relief. He is a USAC winner. Finally.

"We've been too close so many times," an exasperated Rogers recounted. "It took forever, but now it feels so rewarding. I've been racing for a long time, since I was five, and my dream has been to race to where I could make a living off it. Engler Machine and Tool gave me that chance. My dad (Kyle Rogers) is always at Engler's late and it's just never-ending with this crew. There's not many of us."

The event was co-sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series and, as a bit of a twist from the norm, their format was utilized on this evening. Rogers earned his way into the redraw by capturing a victory in his heat race. There, he drew a "1" pill, signifying his starting position on the pole for the night's feature.

Meanwhile, Thomas lined up fourth for the feature while Cummins started from slot seven. Between the two drivers, they had won each of the past three USAC National Sprint Car features and possessed wins in nearly half of the Haubstadt Hustler that had ever been run. Score: Thomas four, Cummins two.

Rogers spurted out to the early lead with outside front row starter C.J. Leary and Thomas in tow. However, Thomas didn't have to wait much longer as he slipped under Leary to take over second off turn four just five laps into the run.

By lap 14, Thomas had reached Rogers' rear bumper and gave chase as Rogers swiped in-between and swung over, under, sideways, down through the competition, yet still wasn't able to keep Thomas from pulling even in turn two.

Following a double Carson caution on lap 20 when both Carson Garrett (13th) and Carson Short (16th) stopped on opposite ends of the racetrack, Jason McDougal jumped into the fray at the front as he went to the top and drove by Thomas at the exit of turn four.

McDougal's time in the adjacent catbird seat came and went in a near calamity in turn three on lap 27 as he nearly sideswiped the dramatically slowing lapped car of first-time USAC starter Adyn Schmidt. Although McDougal avoided contact, his slip off the bottom opened a lane for Thomas to maneuver past in order to retake second.

Thomas showed a nose under Rogers in turn one on the lap 28 restart. Rogers denied him and swiftly powered away until turn three when he nearly tripped up and became misshapen in turn three, turning himself full lock sideways, yet still managed to keep Thomas at bay. But for only a moment longer.

The next sequence is one that won't soon be forgotten. On lap 36, Thomas slung his ride into turn one under Rogers for the race lead. Now three-wide coming out of turn two, Rogers found himself the meat in an unhealthy sandwich with the lapped car of Stan Beadles just to his right, forcing Rogers to lift, which allowed Thomas to skate on by for the lead.

"I felt like I couldn't catch a break," Rogers lamented. "I got out front and I felt like I was really good, but then I saw KTJ and, as we got into lapped traffic, he really put the pressure on me and got by me."

But it was the best of times and the worst of times for Thomas as, moments later, Rogers pulled alongside him at the exit of turn four. No contact was made as Thomas swung wide and nailed the outside concrete wall with his right rear but continued across the line in the lead with a flattened tire, forcing him to a halt in turn two. His only lap led was his last lap of the race as he exited and did not return, dropping out with an 18th place result.

It was time to cue the band as Cummins restarted third but ducked under McDougal for the second spot in turn two on the lap 36 restart. However, a succession of stoppages due to a Brady Short stall on lap 38 and a three-car tangle between Carson Garrett, Kendall Ruble and Matt Westfall in turn one put the onus on Rogers to deliver restart-after-restart flawlessly.

The latter restart came after Rogers stumbled in turn four coming to the green, which hooked he and Cummins together momentarily, then slid the door open for Cummins to capitalize. But less than a half-lap later, another restart came about and, on the final one, Rogers aced the exam.

"I just knew I had to stay calm," Rogers explained. "I was nervous before the race started, pacing back and forth in the infield. I got a good restart and then some cars in the back bottled up and we had to do it all over again. But my last restart was pretty good."

That it did as, for the first time all night, Rogers became relieved by the absence of the nipping at his heels from the constant chase of the Hound of the Baskervilles. Rogers took it from there and cemented victory by a 0.978 second margin over Cummins, McDougal, fast qualifier Chase Stockon and Brady Bacon.

It doesn't matter. It may seem inconsequential. But Rogers is unsure of how it may have played out in a scenario where he didn't have the good fortune of pulling the "1" in the redraw. However, he put himself in the envious position by winning his heat race and the rewards he reaped because of it became anything but inconsequential.

"I don't know if we would've beaten them had we started behind them," Rogers acknowledged. "They're good everywhere they go but we got our heat race win, we got the draw and sometimes it's better to be lucky than it is to be the best one out there."

You could almost hear the sound of the Jaws theme during the final laps. However, Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) came just short of his third Haubstadt Hustler victory. Nonetheless, his runner-up result became his sixth top-two finish in his last seven USAC National Sprint Car feature starts in his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats - Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

"We were super tight, and the longer the race went, the more the fuel kind of came off, but the track kept making it tighter and tighter," Cummins commentated. "On the next to last restart, I was fully committed to run it down in there, but he

was still there, and I couldn't slide him. I knew that was our chance to win. I think it probably makes up for a couple years ago. I think we passed him with a few laps to go, but he got it done this time."

Rogers, in turn, became the fourth first-time USAC National Sprint Car feature winner of the 2021 season, joining Emerson Axsom (Bubba Raceway Park), Ryan Bernal (Huset's Speedway) and Mitchel Moles (Huset's Speedway).

Jason McDougal (Broken Arrow, Okla.) returned to the podium in USAC National Sprint Car competition for the first time since the season opener in Ocala while piloting his KO Motorsports/Hutson John Deere – S & C Machine – Chrome Dome/Flea RC/J & D Chevy. His result equaled his best career Haubstadt Hustler performance of third during his first start in 2018.

Issues plagued Chase Stockon's KO Motorsports ride early on in the night with the car being pushed around the track several times without any sign of power. Just in the nick of time, the crew got the wiring repaired and got Stockon back on track where he simultaneously earned Dirt Draft Hot Laps fast time as well as Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying honors. It was Stockon's 30th career fast time with the USAC National Sprint Cars, moving him into 12th all-time alongside Pancho Carter and Justin Grant. Stockon subsequently finished a solid fourth in the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 17, 2022 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 15th Haubstadt Hustler – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR FIRST QUALIFYING GROUP: 1. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.008; 2. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.208; 3. Collin Ambrose, 36, Ambrose-13.510; 4. Kendall Ruble, 17, Ruble-13.780; 5. Critter Malone, 7, Seven-13.799; 6. Stan Beadles, 84, Beadles-14.033; 7. Sam Scott, 7s, Scott/Kolehouse-14.163; 8. John Ivers, 55, Thomas-14.183.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR SECOND QUALIFYING GROUP: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.118; 2. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-13.141; 3. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.359; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.394; 5. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-13.572; 6. Dustin Beck, 75, Henson-13.590; 7. Adyn Schmidt, 38, Williams-14.080; 8. Brandon Smith, 23s, Scott/Kolehouse-14.778.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR THIRD QUALIFYING GROUP: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-12.983; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.265; 3. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.340; 4. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.559; 5. Daison Pursley, 67, Kunz/Curb-Agajanian-13.587; 6. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-13.829; 7. Donny Brackett, 4B, Brackett-13.956; 8. Andy Bradley, 39, Hoosier Speed-14.554.

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR FOURTH QUALIFYING GROUP: 1. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.929; 2. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-13.253; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.324; 4. Carson Short, 13, Brown-13.639; 5. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.890; 6. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.911; 7. Nathan Seale, 1s, Seale-14.990.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jason McDougal, 2. Kendall Ruble, 3. Collin Ambrose, 4. Carson Garrett, 5. Stan Beadles, 6. John Ivers, 7. Critter Malone, 8. Sam Scott. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Emerson Axsom, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Brady Short, 5. Aric Gentry, 6. Dustin Beck, 7. Adyn Schmidt, 8. Brandon Smith. NT

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Daison Pursley, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Andy Bradley, 8. Donny Brackett. NT

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Carson Short, 7. Nathan Seale. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Daison Pursley, 2. Aric Gentry, 3. Stan Beadles, 4. Dustin Beck, 5. Carson Short, 6. Adyn Schmidt, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Logan Seavey, 9. Brandon Smith, 10. Sam Scott, 11. Andy Bradley, 12. Nathan Seale, 13. John Ivers, 14. Donny Brackett. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Jadon Rogers (1), 2. Kyle Cummins (7), 3. Jason McDougal (3), 4. Chase Stockon (8), 5. Brady Bacon (10), 6. C.J. Leary (2), 7. Justin Grant (15), 8. Emerson Axsom (6), 9. Mitchel Moles (12), 10. Robert Ballou (11), 11. Carson Garrett (13), 12. Daison Pursley (17), 13. Matt Westfall (16), 14. Kendall Ruble (5), 15. Collin Ambrose (9), 16. Dustin Beck (20), 17. Brady Short (14), 18. Kevin Thomas Jr. (4), 19. Stan Beadles (19), 20. Carson Short (21), 21. Adyn Schmidt (22), 22. Brandon Mattox (23-U), 23. Aric Gentry (18), 24. Brandon Smith (24-M). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-34 Jadon Rogers, Lap 35 Kevin Thomas Jr., Laps 36-40 Jadon Rogers.

(U) represents a USAC provisional feature starter. (M) represents an MSCS provisional feature starter.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1965, 2-Brady Bacon-1902, 3-C.J. Leary-1864, 4-Robert Ballou-1837, 5-Emerson Axsom-1761, 6-Logan Seavey-1652, 7-Chase Stockon-1479, 8-Matt Westfall-1422, 9-Jadon Rogers-1375, 10-Jake Swanson-1246.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-495, 2-Justin Grant-469, 3-C.J. Leary-445, 4-Robert Ballou-414, 5-Emerson Axsom-397, 6-Logan Seavey-382, 7-Chase Stockon-374, 8-Matt Westfall-342, 9-Jadon Rogers-331, 10-Jason McDougal-268.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-136, 2-Thomas Meseraull-117, 3-Brady Bacon-111, 4- Kaylee Bryson-93, 5-Robert Ballou-91, 6-Buddy Kofoid-90, 7-Logan Seavey-83, 8-Matt Westfall-72, 9-Kyle Cummins-71, 10-C.J. Leary-70.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 22, 2022 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 4th James Dean Classic

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Chase Stockon (12.929)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Chase Stockon (12.929)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jason McDougal

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

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Daison Pursley

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Adyn Schmidt

Feature Hard Charger: Justin Grant (15th to 7th)

==========

SECOND WIND: KTJ FINDS A NEW PATH TO VICTORY AT GAS CITY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Gas City, Indiana (September 22, 2022)……Kevin Thomas Jr. and Logan Seavey have had their moments at Indiana's Gas City I-69 Speedway before, chiefly recalling the last lap 2020 Indiana Sprint Week tangle which saw Seavey get the upper hand.

More than two years later, during Thursday night's USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship event at the quarter-mile dirt oval, it was KTJ's turn to get the best of the duel.

Thomas led the opening 20 circuits of the 30-lap feature before giving way to Seavey. Out of necessity, Thomas went where Seavey wasn't – on the bottom – and found a second wind as he raced back into the lead and straight to victory lane for the third time in his last five series starts.

KTJ's performance made him the first repeat winner of the James Dean Classic in his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Schaeffer Oil – Hornbeck Concrete/DRC/1-Way Chevy. The Cullman, Ala. native also captured the inaugural event in 2018.

Thomas' feature score was the 39th of his USAC National Sprint Car career, moving him to within one shy of 1969 and 1971 series champion Gary Bettenhausen's mark of 40, which stands ninth on the all-time list.

It was a major turn of the tables from Thomas' last Gas City appearance in July during Indiana Sprint Week when he flipped during qualifying, then proceeded to miss the feature.

"I was a little gun-shy during qualifying," Thomas acknowledged regarding his first visit since that time. "I didn't want to go flying through the air again. That's for sure."

However, despite an 11th place qualifying run, Thomas' good fortune paid dividends this time around after he transferred through his heat race while five others missed the cut, moving him to the pole for the night's main event.

Thomas broke loose to a commanding lead throughout the opening laps of the feature and, by lap five, possessed a two second advantage over the field while outside front row starter Seavey slotted comfortably into second.

"About 10 laps in, I felt really good, especially with that little bit of water that they laid down," Thomas noted of the brief track work prior to the feature. "I was pretty comfortable and was able to use quite a bit of throttle. But, in about two laps, it went from pretty grippy underneath it to dead slick. It took me a little bit to figure how to maneuver."

As the track transformed itself, by halfway, the tide of fortunes began to change rapidly. Thomas' lead was cut from two seconds to one second to a half-second all within the span of two laps when all had just seemed hunky-dory for Thomas with just a third of the race remaining.

"Getting into (turn) three when it's a big curb like that is just weird," Thomas explained. "I always feel like I lose the right front and I can't ever make a good corner. Like one and two, I felt all right, but coming off two, I couldn't ever figure out if I needed to move down or follow the cushion all the way around."

Seavey's surge pushed him to breeze by Thomas entering the bottom of turn three with 10 laps to go. As Seavey skated from high to low and back to higher ground, Thomas stuck to his new guns on the bottom and blazed a path right back by Seavey two laps later to secure the lead right back for himself.

It was a situation all brought about by happenstance for Thomas and, as luck would have it, it turned out it was where he needed to be all along and where he had no intentions of leaving once he found his comfort zone.

"By luck, Logan got by me, and I went down to the bottom to just to see," Thomas pointed out. "I had really good grip there and, especially, coming down the back stretch, I felt like I could shortcut that entry into three and maybe try to make something happen there. I was searching everywhere."

With two to go, Seavey was able to pull even momentarily in turn two alongside the bottom-feeding Thomas. Thomas slid the final car on the lead lap, driven by Max Adams, getting into turn three. As Thomas slid off the bottom and to the top, Adams stayed to the low side even keel with Thomas down the front straightaway. Instead of moving off the low line to get around Adams, Thomas stuck his car behind Adams, appearing to initially lose a scant amount of valuable ground. However, Seavey got a little too close to the edge off the top of turn two and saw his chance at a win wither away.

Thomas raced under and past Adams once more in turns three and four on the last lap and finished off a satisfying performance with a 0.720 second margin of victory over Seavey, fast qualifier Kyle Cummins, Robert Ballou (from 11th) and Justin Grant (from 14th).

For Seavey (Sutter, Calif.), who split with the Baldwin-Fox team last week and is finishing out the season for car owner Dwight Cheney, it was his best series result since winning at Port Royal (Pa.) Speedway in June. In turn, he gave the Dwight Cheney/Racing Optics – Steel-Co USA – Barnes Systems/DRC/Claxton Chevy it's best ever run in USAC National Sprint Car competition with a runner-up finish just five days after failing to transfer to the feature at Indiana's Tri-State Speedway.

Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) continued his personal tear by recording his eighth consecutive top-four finish with the USAC National Sprint Cars, setting quick time, winning his heat from sixth and notching a third-place result in his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats - Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 22, 2022 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 4th James Dean Classic

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-11.585; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-11.627; 3. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-11.717; 4. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.778; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-11.799; 6. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-11.829; 7. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.873; 8. Colten Cottle, 57, Hazen-11.875; 9. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-11.960; 10. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-11.975; 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-11.990; 12. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-11.999; 13. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-12.002; 14. Thomas Meseraull, 2E, Epperson-12.034; 15. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-12.042; 16. Anton Hernandez, 2B, 2B Racing-12.046; 17. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-12.052; 18. Geoff Ensign, 44, Ensign-12.056; 19. Kyle Shipley, 0G, Shipley-12.075; 20. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.106; 21. Scotty Weir, 24, Simon-12.154; 22. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-12.154; 23. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.178; 24. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-12.217; 25. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.223; 26. Colin Grissom, 00, Grissom-12.265; 27. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.314; 28. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-12.345; 29. Corey Smith, 66s, CS-12.347; 30. Ricky Lewis, 41, Stensland/Halley-12.438; 31. Alec Sipes, 99, Sipes-12.460; 32. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-12.540; 33. Dustin Ingle, 2DI, Ingle-12.611; 34. Larry Kingseed Jr., 59, Powell-12.636; 35. Steve Irwin, 0, Flying Zero-12.698; 36. Kevin Newton, 16TH, Newton-12.739.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Scotty Weir, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Evan Mosley, 8. Corey Smith, 9. Dustin Ingle. 2:06.42

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brent Beauchamp, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Geoff Ensign, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Emerson Axsom, 7. Larry Kingseed Jr., 8. Colin Grissom, 9. Ricky Lewis. NT

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Max Adams, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Jason McDougal , 7. Kyle Shipley, 8. Steve Irwin, 9. Alec Sipes. NT

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Harley Burns, 5. Anton Hernandez, 6. Colten Cottle, 7. Gabriel Gilbert, 8. Zack Pretorius, 9. Kevin Newton. 2:06.49

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Colten Cottle, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Anton Hernandez, 9. Ricky Lewis, 10. Evan Mosley, 11. Larry Kingseed Jr., 12. Steve Irwin, 13. Gabriel Gilbert, 14. Alec Sipes, 15. Kevin Newton, 16. Kyle Shipley, 17. Colin Grissom, 18. Dustin Ingle, 19. Zack Pretorius, 20. Corey Smith. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. (1), 2. Logan Seavey (2), 3. Kyle Cummins (6), 4. Robert Ballou (11), 5. Justin Grant (14), 6. Mitchel Moles (4), 7. C.J. Leary (5), 8. Emerson Axsom (13), 9. Brent Beauchamp (8), 10. Brady Bacon (3), 11. Jake Swanson (10), 12. Thomas Meseraull (16), 13. Jason McDougal (9), 14. Geoff Ensign (18), 15. Shane Cottle (15), 16. Jadon Rogers (20), 17. Colten Cottle (12), 18. Max Adams (17), 19. Chase Stockon (7), 20. Scotty Weir (19), 21. Matt Westfall (22), 22. Harley Burns (21). 7:04.41

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-20 Kevin Thomas Jr., Laps 21-22 Logan Seavey, Laps 23-30 Kevin Thomas Jr.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2030, 2-Brady Bacon-1950, 3-C.J. Leary-1928, 4-Robert Ballou-1903, 5-Emerson Axsom-1811, 6-Logan Seavey-1726, 7-Chase Stockon-1512, 8-Matt Westfall-1446, 9-Jadon Rogers-1413, 10-Jake Swanson-1291.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-146, 2-Thomas Meseraull-122, 3-Brady Bacon-111, 4-Robert Ballou-98, 5-Buddy Kofoid-97, 6-Kaylee Bryson-93, 7-Logan Seavey-83, 8-Kyle Cummins-76, 9-Emerson Axsom-75, 10-Matt Westfall-73.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 24, 2022 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 40th 4-Crown Nationals Presented By NKTELCO

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Anton Hernandez (11.837)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Kyle Cummins (11.585)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brent Beauchamp

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Robert Ballou

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Kyle Cummins

ProSource Hard Work Award: Matt Westfall

Feature Hard Charger: Justin Grant (14th to 5th)

==========

CLOUD NINE: GRANT GETS 50TH USAC NATIONAL TRIUMPH IN 4-CROWN SPRINT

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Rossburg, Ohio (September 24, 2022)……On a milestone night, Justin Grant became the 26th driver to reach 50 USAC national feature victories as he checked off his second career 4-Crown Nationals USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship victory on Saturday night at Rossburg, Ohio's Eldora Speedway.

The Ione, Calif. native, who won the 2016 4-Crown race, took over the lead on the fifth lap of the 30-lap feature from Jason McDougal and finished it off in fashion by becoming the first driver to reach six series victories on the season to remain afloat with an 80-point lead in his pursuit of a first career USAC National Sprint Car driving title.

Grant's fourth overall USAC National Sprint Car victory at Eldora came in the 300th USAC national open wheel points paying event ever held at Eldora, and in doing so, Grant reaped the rewards with a $10,000 payday for a rim-riding performance on one the most famed dirt tracks in the land in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

"Eldora Speedway is so awesome," Grant exclaimed. "It's on the fence. It's high stakes. It's high risk. It's high reward. I was having an absolute blast out there. I've really kind of struggled the last couple of years at Eldora and I about wrote myself off during 4-Crown here last year."

Grant flipped during a hot lap run at the 4-Crown in 2021, but there were no such qualms this time around as he earned his 34th career USAC National Sprint Car triumph, which sits just one notch below Jon Stanbrough and Rich Vogler for 13th all-time.

The only hindrance came early on and, by chance, during a red flag period in the preceding USAC NOS Energy Drink Midget National Championship feature, Grant was able to communicate from the track to the pits that a few changes needed to be made to the sprint car.

"We rolled into Eldora with our normal (set-up)," Grant revealed. "(We thought) it would be slick, and we'd go ahead and tighten up. I was way too tight in qualifying and way too tight in the heat race. So, we left it alone. During that red in the midget feature, I pulled down to the fence, and I was yelling for (crew chief) Dylan Cook, saying, "tighten it up, it's slick, it's slick!" He got it tightened up and got the motor detuned on it and gave me one heck of a hot rod. I can't thank him enough. He works his absolute tail off. I had kind of lost my way on set up here a little bit lately and I've had Dan Drinan coming with me the last couple of nights just to give me another set of eyes to get us back on track."

Every win is meaningful for Grant, but this particular one especially, as he became the first driver to win three Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster races in 2022 – a 10-race miniseries within the USAC National Sprint Car schedule. Jones was Grant's father-in-law who won six USAC National Sprint Car features at Eldora, including the first of his career in 1977.

"It's special to win every one of these, but to win a Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster race at Eldora, this is as cool as sprint car racing gets for me," Grant prided. "I'm on cloud nine."

Grant started his race from the third position, but in the beginning, the point was controlled by pole sitter McDougal who scooted along the bottom to lead the opening lap while Grant shot along the outside to slot into second.

The first sign of trouble came on lap three when Dallas Hewitt (16th) tagged the turn four wall and flipped several times. Robert Ballou, who had already advanced from 22nd to 18th in the first two laps, got collected into the incident, and he too flipped heavily, ending both drivers nights prematurely with both walking away under their own power.

A side-by-side battle commenced up front once racing resumed as Grant raced around the outside of McDougal for the lead on the back straight on lap five. Meanwhile, Brady Bacon was hauling on the high line as he doubled up on lap seven to move from fifth to third past Jake Swanson and Shane Cottle. A full circuit later, on lap eight, Bacon continued to pour it on as he powered around the outside of McDougal for the runner-up spot.

However, Bacon still stood roughly two seconds behind leader Grant as the surging C.J. Leary began to apply pressure to Bacon for third after starting back in eighth. With five to go, Leary made it happen as he slide jobbed Bacon for the second spot in turn one and promptly began to go to work to track down Grant.

Leary shaved Grant's advantage in half, down to a second, as Grant worked lapped traffic and even gave a patented Jack Hewitt-esque kiss of the right rear tire off the outside wall in turn three as he came back to the white flag.

Grant remained in total control and completed the quest by racing under the checkered flag 0.644 sec. ahead of Leary at the finish line with Bacon third, McDougal fourth and Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier Chase Stockon rounding out the top-five.

Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) came one spot shy of his second career 4-Crown USAC National Sprint Car win in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/Chevy. However, he was able to secure his third career top-two result in the event after winning in 2017 and finishing as the runner-up in 2018.

Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) took the final spot on the podium in his Dynamics, Inc./Cobalt Civil – Fatheadz Eyewear – Cressman Sanitation/Triple X/Rider Chevy. His third-place tally was his best in the event since finishing second back in 2017.

Chase Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.) set the fastest qualifying time for the 31st time in his USAC National Sprint Car career on Saturday night at Eldora. That moved him into a tie for 11th all-time with Sheldon Kinser while surpassing the 30 of Pancho Carter and Justin Grant.

Meanwhile, Grant joined an elite crew of drivers who've earned at least 50 career USAC national series feature victories: A.J. Foyt (159), Rich Vogler (134), Mel Kenyon (111), Dave Darland (106), Tracy Hines (91), Gary Bettenhausen (82), Bryan Clauson (81), Tom Bigelow (81), Bob Wente (79), Jack Hewitt (76), Pancho Carter (70), Parnelli Jones (69), Bob Tattersall (63), Dave Steele (60), J.J. Yeley (60), Sleepy Tripp (59), Tyler Courtney (57), Bobby East (56), Bobby Unser (56), Mario Andretti (56), Roger McCluskey (55), Brady Bacon (54), Don White (53), Larry Dickson (52) and Chris Windom (52).

2022 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR SEASON REVIEW

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 24, 2022 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 40th 4-Crown Nationals Presented By NKTELCO

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.032; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.051; 3. Geoff Ensign, 5, Baldwin/Fox-16.066; 4. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-16.104; 5. Isaac Chapple, 52, Chapple-16.184; 6. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.194; 7. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.221; 8. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-16.237; 9. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-16.276; 10. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-16.278; 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-16.316; 12. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-16.335; 13. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.339; 14. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-16.340; 15. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-16.341; 16. Dallas Hewitt, 18, Keen-16.391; 17. Anton Hernandez, 2B, 2B Racing-16.460; 18. Dustin Clark, 75, Clark-16.488; 19. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-16.500; 20. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-16.529; 21. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-16.567; 22. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.576; 23. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-16.618; 24. Jack James, 99J, James-16.683; 25. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-16.705; 26. Keith Sheffer II, 86, Sheffer-16.720; 27. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-16.747; 28. Nathan Moore, 48, Moore-16.749; 29. Corey Smith, 66s, CS-16.982; 30. Lee Underwood, 24L, Underwood-16.984; 31. Larry Kingseed Jr., 59, Powell-17.002; 32. Alex Bright, 37, Felker-17.062; 33. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-17.089; 34. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-17.130; 35. Chris Windom, 19, Hayward-17.216; 36. Chris Phillips, 6, Phillips-17.235; 37. Gage Etgen, 99, Etgen-17.269; 38. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-17.339; 39. Chad Ruhlman, 49c, Ruhlman-17.584; 40. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Anton Hernandez, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Braxton Cummings, 6. Isaac Chapple, 7. Evan Mosley, 8. Corey Smith, 9. Korbyn Hayslett, 10. Gage Etgen. 2:11.97

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Dustin Clark, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Carson Garrett, 7. Lee Underwood, 8. Keith Sheffer II, 9. Hunter Maddox, 10. Matt Goodnight. 2:11.68

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Geoff Ensign, 6. Brian Ruhlman, 7. Chris Windom, 8. Larry Kingseed Jr., 9. Ryan Barr, 10. Chad Ruhlman. 2:09.23

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Jason McDougal, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Dallas Hewitt, 7. Alex Bright, 8. Chris Phillips, 9. Jack James, 10. Nathan Moore. 2:13.44

C-MAIN: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Korbyn Hayslett, 2. Larry Kingseed Jr., 3. Chris Windom, 4. Alex Bright, 5. Lee Underwood, 6. Chad Ruhlman, 7. Hunter Maddox, 8. Chris Phillips, 9. Matt Goodnight. 2:19.32

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Carson Garrett, 3. Geoff Ensign, 4. Isaac Chapple, 5. Dallas Hewitt, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Chris Windom, 8. Braxton Cummings, 9. Brian Ruhlman, 10. Ryan Barr, 11. Korbyn Hayslett, 12. Evan Mosley, 13. Corey Smith, 14. Jack James, 15. Larry Kingseed Jr., 16. Nathan Moore, 17. Keith Sheffer II. 3:32.07

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (3), 2. C.J. Leary (8), 3. Brady Bacon (5), 4. Jason McDougal (1), 5. Chase Stockon (6), 6. Shane Cottle (4), 7. Mitchel Moles (9), 8. Matt Westfall (2), 9. Kevin Thomas Jr. (14), 10. Kyle Cummins (12), 11. Geoff Ensign (10), 12. Logan Seavey (20), 13. Emerson Axsom (13), 14. Anton Hernandez (18), 15. Brandon Mattox (21), 16. Carson Garrett (16), 17. Jake Swanson (7), 18. Jadon Rogers (15), 19. Dustin Clark (19), 20. Isaac Chapple (11), 21. Dallas Hewitt (17), 22. Robert Ballou (22). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-4 Jason McDougal, Laps 5-30 Justin Grant.

**Dallas Hewitt & Robert Ballou flipped on lap 3 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2107, 2-Brady Bacon-2027, 3-C.J. Leary-2003, 4-Robert Ballou-1933, 5-Emerson Axsom-1852, 6-Logan Seavey-1770, 7-Chase Stockon-1583, 8-Matt Westfall-1501, 9-Jadon Rogers-1447, 10-Jake Swanson-1328.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-154, 2-Thomas Meseraull-129, 3-Brady Bacon-113, 4-Robert Ballou-98, 5-Buddy Kofoid-97, 6-Kaylee Bryson-97, 7-Logan Seavey-91, 8-Kyle Cummins-78, 9-C.J. Leary-76, 10-Emerson Axsom-75.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-572, 2-Justin Grant-546, 3-C.J. Leary-520, 4-Chase Stockon-445, 5-Robert Ballou-444, 6-Emerson Axsom-438, 7-Logan Seavey-426, 8-Matt Westfall-397, 9-Jadon Rogers-365, 10-Jason McDougal-334.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 30, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Let's Just Race Presented By Schroeder Products

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Brady Bacon (15.782)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Chase Stockon (16.032)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Emerson Axsom

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Mitchel Moles

Feature Hard Charger: Logan Seavey (20th to 12th)

Rosewood Machine & Tool Precision Move of the Race: Logan Seavey

==========

LET'S JUST WIN: CUMMINS REPEATS WITH USAC SPRINTS AT KOKOMO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (September 30, 2022)……"Here at Kokomo, it doesn't feel easy, but it seems like the car is just on kill."

The same could be said for both man and machine of late on the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship tour, but especially at Indiana's Kokomo Speedway for Kyle Cummins and his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats - Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

In Friday night's Let's Just Race Presented By Schroeder Products, the Princeton, Ind. driver displayed his prowess of Kokomo's 1/4-mile dirt oval, racing into the lead at the halfway point despite initially feeling he didn't quite have enough mustard to defeat Jake Swanson.

"I kept telling (the crew) I was too tight, too tight," Cummins revealed. "Plus, the track was way slicker than I thought. On the first couple laps, I was just holding on. I probably just didn't drive hard enough to really get the car running."

However, a lap 10 red flag changed Cummins' portrait to landscape even though, at first, he wasn't as confident as he would've liked, but that outlook turned on a dime as soon as the green flag came back out.

"I thought, on that red, that Jake's got this," Cummins admitted. "It was going to be hard to pass him. (His crew) came down and told him to watch the top. So, I knew if he went to the top, we were not going to have anything for him. It was good to take a moment just to think about what was going on, where I was going to have to pass him and how my car was going to be. I just made a couple shock adjustments, and I didn't touch it from there on out."

When all was said and done after he cleared Swanson for good, Cummins was a feature winner for the third time during the 2022 USAC National Sprint Car season and for the 13th time in his career, moving him past Eric Gordon and into a tie for 46th on the all-time win list alongside Steve Chassey.

Earlier this month, Cummins wrapped up the Kokomo Speedway track championship and has been on a tear on the USAC trail. He's finished inside the top-five in nine of his last 10 USAC National Sprint Car feature starts, including 13 of 18 in overall totality throughout 2022.

Furthermore, Cummins became the first driver to record five top-five USAC National Sprint Car feature finishes in a single season at Kokomo Speedway following a 1st, 2nd, 2nd and 4th at the track already this year.

Rewarded with the pole starting position for the 30-lap feature, it seemed as if it was Cummins' race to lose at that point. However, outside front row starter Stockon showed some fierce moxie to grab the initial lead. By lap three, Cummins found himself relegated back to the third spot as Swanson worked his way around in turns three and four to slot in behind leader Stockon.

Following three laps of near dead heats at the stripe, Swanson finally slashed his way underneath Stockon and into the race lead on lap six.

Trouble befell National Sprint Car Hall of Famer Dave Darland on the 10th lap when he became a victim of circumstance after Harley Burns (20th) slipped sideways at the exit of turn four, collecting the 21st running Darland who was sent forth on a spectacular end-over-end flip down the front straightway, which he promptly walked away from under his own power.

Like a little wind-up toy, Cummins got keyed up on the ensuing restart, initially fending off Emerson Axsom – celebrating his 18th birthday on this night – to his inside all while ripping the top to stay directly in touch with the leaders. On the 13th lap, Cummins' second wind began to breathe new life into him as he slide jobbed Stockon in turn three for the second position.

Cummins tracked down Swanson instantaneously and, by lap 15, had surpassed him with a slider in turns one and two. However, Swanson kept his foot in it and escaped around the outside. One lap later, Cummins reloaded and refired once

more, ultimately clearing Swanson. Nonetheless, Swanson crossed over, then attempted to return the favor to Cummins in turn three, but swung wide at the exit of turn four, allowing Cummins to race back by and wave goodbye, for the most part.

With seemingly all in hand and victory within his grasp, Cummins' 1.1 second lead and road to victory came to an abrupt halt on the final lap when the yellow flag was displayed for a turn four tangle involving C.J. Leary and Anton Hernandez who were tussling for the ninth spot. However, the two locked wheels, and Hernandez received the short end of the stick as he spun backwards down the front straightaway. Hernandez restarted but managed just a 15th place result.

Riding the rim on the green-white-checkered restart, Cummins went scot-free into the horizon over the final two laps, pushing forth to a 0.633 second advantage at the checkered flag over Swanson, Stockon, Axsom and Fatheadz Fast Qualifier Mitchel Moles.

Cummins' performance couldn't be matched on this evening at Kokomo, and neither was his machinery, which has no comparisons on the track and in the pit area, and is a different animal in contrast to all the equipment that he went toe-to-toe with.

"This is a Mach-1 Chassis," Cummins explained. "No one else has a Mach-1 Chassis. I'm glad they're not buying them. It isn't good on sales for constructor Mark (Smith), but this thing is just killer. I've never been in a racecar that's like this one. It's just unbelievable."

Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) led nine laps and tied his best career Kokomo Speedway USAC National Sprint Car finish of second in his Team AZ Racing/Stratis Construction - Lucas Oil - RSS Industries/DRC/Claxton Chevy. His runner-up result was nearly uncanny to his Kokomo performance on August 26 where he also scored a second after leading 10 laps. In the end, he came up just one spot short again of garnering a first Kokomo USAC victory.

"Once you're in the lead, you're kind of a sitting duck," Swanson pointed out. "I feel like I lost the race here at Smackdown that way. The bottom wore out and, maybe if I had more laps, I would've known to move up. I tried to make sure I knew when to move up by watching both lines and seeing when the top was coming in. I felt the bottom starting to fade a little bit and the top was getting cleaned off. I jumped up there, but it was no match for the 3R car. He's really good here. To run second to him is cool and, obviously, we want to beat him and we're not going to stop until we do."

September in Kokomo is a time to remember for Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.). He finished third in the main event aboard his KO Motorsports/Banded Ag - Dewig Meats - AMSOIL - Superior Tank & Trailer/Flea RC/Fisher Chevy, which marked his best USAC National Sprint Car result at Kokomo since the most recent previous series race held at the track during the month of September. That came about in 2020 where he also ran third.

"It's been awhile since we've put together some good runs with USAC," Stockon exhaled. "It seems like every time we do, we have something go wrong. The car was pretty maneuverable, but we just had a few things we should've changed to make the car a little bit better. With that said, we were able to search around a little bit there and try to hunt those two down. Kyle and Jake had really fast racecars tonight and we're very fortunate to run third to them."

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) flipped during his heat race, which, consequently, had its ill effects on the remainder of his night at the track. The incident resulted in a stuck lifter in his car's engine, which forced the team to watch from the sidelines. Thomas had won with USAC at Kokomo as recently as this past August.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 30, 2022 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Let's Just Race Presented By Schroeder Products

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.306; 2. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-12.366; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.698; 4. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.703; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.710; 6. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.711; 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 15K, BGE Dougherty-12.726; 8. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-12.745 9. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.801; 10. Anton Hernandez, 2B, 2B Racing-12.803; 11. Thomas Meseraull, 2E, Epperson-12.826; 12. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.830; 13. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.852; 14. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.900; 15. Jack Hoyer, 57, Hazen-12.954; 16. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-12.958; 17. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-12.992; 18. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-13.006; 19. Geoff Ensign, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.031; 20. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-13.075; 21. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-13.122; 22. Corey Smith, 66s, CS-13.240; 23. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-13.272; 24. Evan Mosley, 27, Mosley-13.285; 25. Ricky Lewis, 41, Stensland/Halley-13.321; 26. Larry Kingseed Jr., 59, Powell-13.333; 27. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-13.368; 28. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.524; 29. Brian Hayden, 2H, Hayden-13.550; 30. Travis Thompson, 7, Thompson-13.611; 31. Kevin Newton, 16TH, Newton-13.625; 32. Keith Sheffer II, 86, Sheffer-13.642.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Justin Grant, 6. Dave Darland, 7. Larry Kingseed Jr., 8. Travis Thompson. 2:12.54

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Anton Hernandez, 6. Corey Smith, 7. Hunter Maddox. 2:11.18

PIT STOP USA THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Geoff Ensign, 4. Jack Hoyer, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Harley Burns, 7. Keith Sheffer II, 8. Kevin Thomas Jr. NT

ROD END SUPPLY FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Max Adams, 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Ricky Lewis, 6. Zack Pretorius, 7. Brian Hayden. 2:13.75

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Anton Hernandez, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Harley Burns, 5. Zack Pretorius, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Larry Kingseed Jr., 8. Ricky Lewis, 9. Corey Smith, 10. Brian Hayden, 11. Keith Sheffer II, 12. Travis Thompson, 13. Hunter Maddox. 2:43.01

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kyle Cummins (1), 2. Jake Swanson (4), 3. Chase Stockon (2), 4. Emerson Axsom (3), 5. Mitchel Moles (6), 6. Brady Bacon (12), 7. Jadon Rogers (8), 8. Justin Grant (15), 9. Logan Seavey (9), 10. Robert Ballou (16), 11. Thomas Meseraull (7), 12. C.J. Leary (5), 13. Geoff Ensign (21), 14. Max Adams (10), 15. Anton Hernandez (13), 16. Zack Pretorius (18), 17. Jack Hoyer (17), 18. Brandon Mattox (20), 19. Harley Burns (19), 20. Jason McDougal (11), 21. Matt Westfall (14), 22. Dave Darland (22). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-6 Chase Stockon, Laps 7-15 Jake Swanson, Laps 16-30 Kyle Cummins.

**Evan Mosley flipped during qualifying. Kevin Thomas Jr. flipped during the third heat. Dave Darland flipped on lap 10 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2160, 2-Brady Bacon-2089, 3-C.J. Leary-2054, 4-Robert Ballou-1982, 5-Emerson Axsom-1921, 6-Logan Seavey-1824, 7-Chase Stockon-1654, 8-Matt Westfall-1530, 9-Jadon Rogers-1507, 10-Jake Swanson-1406.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-165, 2-Thomas Meseraull-129, 3-Brady Bacon-119, 4-Robert Ballou-104, 5-Buddy Kofoid-97, 6-Kaylee Bryson-97, 7-Logan Seavey-93, 8-Kyle Cummins-78, 9-Matt Westfall-77, 10-C.J. Leary-76.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: October 1, 2022 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – Fall Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Chase Stockon (12.718)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: Mitchel Moles (12.306)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Logan Seavey

Pit Stop USA Third Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Rod End Supply Fourth Heat Winner: Max Adams

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Justin Grant

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Brandon Mattox

Racer's Trade Show & Swap Meet Feature Hard Charger: Geoff Ensign (21st to 13th)

==========

CHERRY ON TOP: CUMMINS' $10,000 FALL NATIONALS TRIUMPH COMPLETES USAC WEEKEND SWEEP

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Lawrenceburg, Indiana (October 1, 2022)……On the eve of the Lawrenceburg (Ind.) Speedway Fall Nationals, Kyle Cummins firmly stated that Lawrenceburg is the place where he really wanted to get one.

On Saturday night, the Princeton, Ind. native got the one that had eluded him for so long as he slid into the lead on a restart just after the halfway mark and carried onward to a $10,000 top prize in the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship's final Midwest event of the season.

His fourth win of the season was his second of the weekend, sweeping both events over the past two nights at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway and Lawrenceburg in his Rock Steady Racing/Ultimate Predator Boats – Mid-America Safety Solutions/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

Cummins has now laid claim to dominance at Haubstadt, Indiana's Tri-State Speedway and Kokomo in addition to USAC victories at Indiana's Lincoln Park Speedway, Bloomington (Ind.) Speedway and now Lawrenceburg, which, out of all of them, Cummins admitted meant the most to him for one simple reason – it scares him to death, quote unquote.



"For me personally, this is the biggest win of my career," an unabashed Cummins stated. "Those (other) places don't intimidate me but going into turn three here does. To win here and win $10,000, it just proves we can win anywhere we go."

Full disclosure – Cummins hasn't exactly gone winless at Lawrenceburg in his career. He did collect a victory in a local, non-sanctioned show at the track in 2015. However, this was his first with USAC, which elevated him to 14 career series wins, passing Steve Chassey and tying him with Billy Cassella, Lee Kunzman, Chase Stockon and Bruce Walkup for 42nd on the all-time list.

Cummins started the 30-lap main from the outside of the front row and immediately engaged in a see-saw battle for the lead with pole sitter Logan Seavey throughout the first pair of laps with Seavey fending off and crossing over Cummins' relentless assault.

About as quickly as it began, the race churned to a halt on the second lap when 13th starting Saban Bibent became sideways in turn two and collected Keith Sheffer II, Tripp Gerrald and J.J. Hughes. Hughes got the worst end of the deal, which sent him flipping over. He, Bibent and first-time USAC starter Gerrald were all unable to restart. Sheffer managed to restart and finish 16th.

Seavey stretched his lead out in the immediacy of the lap three restart to boast a half-straight advantage over Cummins as both rode the path of the treacherous high line at the head of the field.

Back behind Seavey, the battle raged on for second between Cummins and Grant. Grant slid past in turn three on lap 15, but Cummins countered the move and retook the spot. Grant tried to throw one in turns one and two a half-lap later to no avail, allowing Cummins to pull away from Seavey, yet remained a full two seconds behind leader Seavey.

A yellow flag on lap 17 came about when sixth running C.J. Leary slowed with a flat right rear tire, relegating him to the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area for fresh rubber where he returned to finish 12th.

Insanity ensued on the resumption as Cummins stumbled atop the turn cushion, allowing Grant to drive under Cummins for the second position. That, in turn, caused a chain reaction which forced fourth-running Meseraull to check up behind Cummins. Behind those two, Anton Hernandez (5th) and Mitchel Moles (6th) ruffled each other's feathers, sending Hernandez sideways as he dropped like an anchor and subsequently lost eight positions.

However, 12th place Max Adams' misfortune was a massive break for both Cummins and Hernandez after Adams spun into the infield and stopped in turn three to bring out the yellow. Due to the incident, the running order reverted to the last completed lap, sending Cummins' back to second and Hernandez to sixth for the next restart.

Survive, advance, overcome and conquer. That was the name of the game for Cummins as he wrestled his mind on how to navigate each end of a tricky Lawrenceburg Speedway.

"I could run one and two all day long around the top but, getting into three, I don't know what it is but I'm just not good," Cummins admitted. "I'm uncomfortable, I was hitting the fence and I was trying a couple different lines. Seavey and Grant are the best, they can just bust it in there; they're fearless up there. I started slowing down getting into three just a little bit more but stayed a little higher and it seemed to work out."

Those were the two main culprits Cummins faced in his venture while sandwiched in second between leader Seavey and third-running Grant as they confronted yet another lap 17 restart. This one proved to be a charm for Cummins as he flicked the wheel and took the low line to slide up in front of Seavey and take over possession of the race lead.



"When Justin (Grant) got around me, that lit a fire into me a little bit," Cummins noted. "I tried to turn up and got stuck on the cushion a little bit. I'm glad we had that yellow and came back, but Logan didn't get as good of a start. At that point, I knew that was it."

The ride up front nearly became short-lived for Cummins as he drifted over the turn two cushion on lap 21. That allowed Seavey to gain on him and use the momentum to drift past Cummins in turn three to briefly take ownership of the number one spot before Cummins pitched his car sideways and drove down the turn four banking to retake the lead.

From that point forward, Cummins spurted away from Seavey but had loads of traffic to handle. Cummins successfully completed a daring slide job of Jadon Rogers in turns one and two with two to go that saw Cummins' lead sliced by a full second, down to just a tick over a half second.

But that's all the space Cummins needed as he finished off yet another remarkable performance, winning by a 0.797 second margin over Seavey, Grant and hard charger Mitchel Moles (10th to 4th) with Brady Bacon rounding out the top-five. Bacon now leads the Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster Series Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment standings by 19 markers entering the 10th and final race of the mini-series on November 5 at Perris (Calif.) Auto Speedway.

Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) led a race-high 16 laps before going on to finish second in his Dwight Cheney/Racing Optics – Steel-Co USA – Barnes Systems/DRC/Claxton Chevy, his best career performance in his third Fall Nationals start. Seavey came oh-so-close again to grabbing the first USAC National Sprint Car feature win for car owner Cheney. Together, they also finished as the runner-up two weeks ago at Indianapolis, Indiana's Circle City Raceway.

"I felt good the first time I went to the top on that first restart; I got a good launch," Seavey recalled. "The second time, I took off more in the slick and I got spinning a little bit. I had two options. Either protect and let him get a big run down the back stretch and slide me in three or try to get going and get my momentum up as quickly as possible. Obviously, I made the wrong decision. It would've been better to protect myself in one and two and let him slide me in three and four. There was so much moisture in the middle, he just went right back by me. I made the wrong decision on that restart and gave it to him."

The universe was nearly in order for Seavey as he looked to return to USAC National Sprint Car victory lane for the first time since June's Eastern Storm championship run, but it was not to be for the 2021 USAC Indiana Sprint Week Lawrenceburg victor.

"We were both pounding the fence there in three and four, which was about as intimidating as I've ever seen it here," Seavey continued. "You get in there and you slide until you hit the wall and hold on from there. I thought all the stars were aligning for us to finally get a win tonight, but we just didn't quite get there. Just a little mistake on the restart is all it takes here when you're racing against really good guys."

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) made it seven career top-five finishes at the Fall Nationals, but it was his first since 2019 in the seat of his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy. In the process, Grant gained seven points on Bacon toward the USAC Sprint Car National Championship, which now has him up by 78 points with five races remaining.

"That darn yellow there at the end," Grant lamented. "I got Kyle on the restart there, then he did the same thing to Seavey. I couldn't even keep track of what was going on; it was a handful. You could blow through the cushion, and it could trip you up. We were running around there at a pretty high rate of speed, trying to hang on and keep the thing out of the fence. It was a lot of fun and I felt like we had a really good racecar, but we caught the yellow wrong there and then just got in the scrum on the restart and had to fend that off. By then, Kyle was off and running."

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.), meanwhile, set quick time during Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying with a lap at 13.926 seconds. That was the 38th fast qualifying time of his USAC National Sprint Car career, which moved him past 1968-70-75 series champion Larry Dickson and into sole possession of sixth all-time. Furthermore, it was Leary's series-leading ninth fast time of the season with the series, which is the most in a single season since C.J. himself recorded 11 in 2019.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: October 1, 2022 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – Fall Nationals

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-13.926; 2. Thomas Meseraull, 2E, Epperson-14.013; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.093; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.143; 5. Anton Hernandez, 2B, 2B Racing-14.168; 6. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.202; 7. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-14.208; 8. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.215; 9. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.320; 10. Saban Bibent, 98, Wedgewood-14.326; 11. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-14.385; 12. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17, Dutcher-14.445; 13. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.465; 14. J.J. Hughes, 76, Hughes-14.539; 15. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.566; 16. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-14.578; 17. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.641; 18. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-14.687; 19. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-14.706; 20. Tripp Gerrald, 4G, Gerrald-14.914; 21. Keith Sheffer II, 86, Sheffer-14.960; 22. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-15.418.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Justin Grant, 5. C.J. Leary, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Saban Bibent, 8. Brandon Mattox. 2:00.04

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Max Adams, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Anton Hernandez, 6. J.J. Hughes, 7. Tripp Gerrald. 2:00.03

PIT STOP USA / ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Jason McDougal, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Mitchel Moles, 7. Keith Sheffer II. 2:02.47

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kyle Cummins (2), 2. Logan Seavey (1), 3. Justin Grant (4), 4. Mitchel Moles (10), 5. Brady Bacon (11), 6. Anton Hernandez (3), 7. Thomas Meseraull (5), 8. Chase Stockon (8), 9. Robert Ballou (12), 10. Max Adams (14), 11. Emerson Axsom (7), 12. C.J. Leary (6), 13. Jake Swanson (18), 14. Jadon Rogers (19), 15. Matt Westfall (16), 16. Keith Sheffer II (21), 17. Brandon Mattox (22), 18. Kevin Thomas Jr. (15), 19. Jason McDougal (9), 20. Saban Bibent (13), 21. Tripp Gerrald (20), 22. J.J. Hughes (17). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-16 Logan Seavey, Laps 17-30 Kyle Cummins.

**J.J. Hughes flipped on lap 2 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2232, 2-Brady Bacon-2154, 3-C.J. Leary-2103, 4-Robert Ballou-2032, 5-Emerson Axsom-1970, 6-Logan Seavey-1898, 7-Chase Stockon-1711, 8-Matt Westfall-1569, 9-Jadon Rogers-1545, 10-Jake Swanson-1448.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-166, 2-Thomas Meseraull-129, 3-Brady Bacon-125, 4-Robert Ballou-107, 5-Buddy Kofoid-97, 6-Kaylee Bryson-97, 7-Logan Seavey-93, 8-Kyle Cummins-79, 9-Matt Westfall-78, 10-C.J. Leary-76.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-637, 2-Justin Grant-618, 3-C.J. Leary-569, 4-Chase Stockon-502, 5-Logan Seavey-500, 6-Robert Ballou-494, 7-Emerson Axsom-487, 8-Matt Westfall-436, 9-Jadon Rogers-403, 10-Jason McDougal-367.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: October 28-29, 2022 – Cocopah Speedway – Somerton, Arizona – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 55th annual Chapman Chevrolet of Yuma Western World Championships Presented by Yuma Insurance and Avanti

NEXT BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER RACE: November 5, 2022 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 26th Oval Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Mitchel Moles (14.022)

Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary (13.926)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Pit Stop USA / Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Jason McDougal

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Anton Hernandez

Feature Hard Charger: Mitchel Moles (10th to 4th)

==========

"THE WAIT" IS LIFTED: AXSOM WINS FIRST USAC SPRINT RACE IN 8 MONTHS AT WESTERN WORLD NIGHT #1

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Somerton, Arizona (October 28, 2022)……More often than not, the most preferred method of ending a drought isn't one that involves heading straight into the desert.

However, Emerson Axsom found the arid surroundings of southwestern Arizona quite replenishing on Friday night during the 55th Annual Chapman Chevrolet of Yuma Western World Championships Presented by Yuma Insurance & Avanti at Somerton's Cocopah Speedway.

For Axsom (Franklin, Ind.), it had been more than eight months since he last visited victory lane with the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship, scoring wins in two of the first three rounds during February's Winter Dirt Games at Ocala, Florida's Bubba Raceway Park.

Eight months later, the leading Rookie of the Year contender found himself in an envious position within the USAC National Sprint Car ranks during the series' first ever visit to Cocopah Speedway, starting on the outside of the front row and proceeding to lead all 30 laps of the main event co-sanctioned by USAC CRA aboard his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

Including the two early season wins, Axsom has been consistent, reeling off 14 top-fives and 27 top-tens in 35 feature starts while routinely residing inside the top-five in series points. Axsom knew that it was only a matter of time before they could experience that winning feeling once again.

Entering Western World, the pondering of Axsom's mind as to exactly when "the wait" would be lifted off his shoulders was punctuated by the question, "Why not me?"

"I feel like we've had so much speed this season and not a lot of luck, just Rookie mistakes," Axsom explained. "We've had a shot to win a lot of these races, but I feel like I needed a little bit of luck. I felt like if anyone deserves it, maybe it's me."

Western World has treated Clauson Marshall Newman Racing beautifully in recent years. With Tyler Courtney in the driver's seat, the team captured final night victories in three consecutive seasons between 2018-2020. With Axsom stepping into the role this year, he's picked up the baton successfully to carry on the team's Western World prosperity, doing so in the driver and team's first year working together.

"We haven't had the wins, but it's not like the speed hasn't been there," Axsom noted. "We've been up front basically all year and been really consistent especially for a first year group. This is our first year working together so I feel like it's been a pretty solid year for my first full sprint car season and for all of us working together."

Axsom bolted out of the gate and into the lead as he blazed a trail around the outside of pole sitter Matt Westfall on the opening lap, firmly finding a line up top in turns one and two and on the bottom of three and four.

Brady Bacon initially closed up the gap on Axsom and found himself within a car length of the race lead on lap five when he drifted into the outside wall on exit, which promptly allowed Jake Swanson to charge underneath to rip the second spot away a single circuit later.

The feature's initial yellow flag came with seven laps completed as Logan Seavey came to a halt on the back straightaway while running 12th. After a touch up in the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area, the reigning Western World champion restarted 24th and came all the way through to finish an impressive ninth, all things considered.

Under caution, Bacon's right rear tire looked visibly wonky, to use a technical term. When racing resumed, it was only a matter of time before his rubber gave way, which it finally did on lap 12 while running third. With the tire completely flat and his ride slowing dramatically, Bacon detoured to the Work Area where he was fitted with fresh rubber.

Bacon's subsequent 10th place result severely hampered his chances at a fifth career USAC National Sprint Car title, losing 15 points in the process to eventual fifth place finisher Justin Grant who extended his lead to 93 markers with four events remaining.

Swanson was now the nearest challenger to Axsom's hold of the lead and made a run on the topside of turn two on the lap 12 restart to show his might. However, he got tight on the cushion and nearly tagged the wall, causing him to lose several car lengths in his pursuit of Axsom.

Simultaneously, Westfall slotted back into third as he slipped under Grant for the third spot entering turn three. But, up front, Axsom built his lead to a full two seconds over Swanson as he moved up a lane off the low line to put the cars of Verne Sweeney, Logan Williams and Matt Mitchell a lap down.

From there, Axsom went untouched for the remaining handful of dwindling laps to post a 1.936 second margin of victory with Jake Swanson second and Matt Westfall third. Robert Ballou picked off Justin Grant with a move underneath off turn four with four laps remaining to take over fourth at the line. Grant rounded out the top-five.

Seemingly inching closer to a first win of the 2022 USAC season is Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) who took the home state ride from fifth to second in the feature. The run marked his third runner-up result of the USAC National Sprint Car season and the second in his last three feature starts in the seat of the Team AZ Racing/Beaver Stripes – RSS Industries – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

"I felt like I was making it work up there and I might have a shot, but it got to a point where it was so thin up there, I started smashing the wall," Swanson recalled. "I didn't want to end up like Brady with a flat right rear, but I tried as hard as I could. I don't know, maybe if I would've backed the corner up and made up a little more ground the first couple laps, I might've been able to get around him. At that point, it was track position. (Emerson) was really good in the black, but I think we know exactly what to do to be just a little bit better tomorrow."

For Matt Westfall, it was his best performance in 10 years. The Pleasant Hill, Ohio native earned his best USAC National Sprint Car finish since April of 2012 at Ohio's Eldora Speedway. That night a decade ago, he finished third. On this night, in his first trip to Cocopah, he grabbed another third at the wheel of his Ray Marshall Motorsports/Buckeye Machine – Hempy Water/DRC/Gressman Chevy.

"On the start, the tires didn't fire all that well and I got behind and fell to fifth," Westfall replayed. "When Brady had that flat tire, it helped us out as we got back to third, and we ended up having a good run."

While establishing the USAC National Sprint Car track record at Cocopah, C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) officially entered the upper crust alongside the best qualifiers in the history of the sport. His Fatheadz Fast Qualifying time was the 39th of his USAC National Sprint Car career, tying him with Levi Jones for fifth on the all-time list.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: October 28, 2022 – Cocopah Speedway – Somerton, Arizona – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 55th Annual Chapman Chevrolet of Yuma Western World Championships Presented by Yuma Insurance & Avanti

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR / WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-16.509 (New Track Record); 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.540; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.774; 4. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-16.847; 5. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.873; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.910; 7. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-16.990; 8. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-17.022; 9. Kyle Cummins, 2J, Yeley/Petty-17.037; 10. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-17.173; 11. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-17.212; 12. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-17.213; 13. Tommy Malcolm, 5x, Napier-17.285; 14. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-17.339; 15. Chase Johnson, 2i, Yeley/Petty-17.351; 16. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-17.358; 17. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-17.365; 18. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-17.375; 19. Austin Williams, 2, Williams-17.416; 20. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-17.426; 21. Austin Grabowski, 72, Grabowski-17.458; 22. Chris Bonneau, 15, Bonneau-17.468; 23. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-17.522; 24. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-17.526; 25. Logan Williams, 5w, McCarthy-17.541; 26. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-17.549; 27. Matt McCarthy, 28m, McCarthy-17.570; 28. Ricky Lewis, 41, Stensland/Halley-17.579; 29. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-17.652; 30. Justin Zimmerman, 1J, D-Up-17.764; 31. Tye Mihocko, 8, Ream-18.003; 32. Nate Schank, 1$, Schank-18.030; 33. Mike Martin, 16, Martin-18.158; 34. Jeremy Jonas, 54, Pardo-18.205; 35. Jake Neal, 214, Kracht-18.386; 36. Wayne Siddle, 007, Siddle-19.344; 37. Jim Vanzant, 3v, Vanzant-NT; 38. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-NT; 39. Verne Sweeney, 98, Tracy-NT; 40. Shon Deskins, 20, SDR-NT (Time of 17.667 disallowed due to missing the scales)

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS / FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Brody Roa, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Tommy Malcolm, 6. Logan Williams, 7. Austin Grabowski, 8. Mike Martin, 9. Logan Calderwood. 2:17.26

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) / BILLSJERKY.NET SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Damion Gardner, 5. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 6. Chris Bonneau, 7. Justin Zimmerman, 8. Jeremy Jonas, 9. Verne Sweeney, 10. Logan Seavey. 2:14.24

PIT STOP USA / IN MEMORY OF JIM & CHET GARDNER THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Austin Williams, 3. R.J. Johnson, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Mitchel Moles, 6. Chase Johnson, 7. Matt McCarthy, 8. Shon Deskins, 9. Tye Mihocko. 2:16.13

ROD END SUPPLY / LASERWORX MANUFACTURING FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Sterling Cling, 5. Cody Williams, 6. Ricky Lewis, 7. Nate Schank, 8. Wayne Siddle, 9. Matt Mitchell. 2:14.08 (New Track Record)

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS / FACTORY WRAPS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Chase Johnson, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 5. Tommy Malcolm, 6. Logan Williams, 7. Justin Zimmerman, 8. Chris Bonneau, 9. Austin Grabowski, 10. Logan Calderwood, 11. Mike Martin, 12. Nate Schank, 13. Verne Sweeney, 14. Matt McCarthy, 15. Jeremy Jonas, 16. Jake Neal, 17. Wayne Siddle, 18. Cody Williams, 19. Ricky Lewis. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Emerson Axsom (2), 2. Jake Swanson (5), 3. Matt Westfall (1), 4. Robert Ballou (13), 5. Justin Grant (4), 6. C.J. Leary (6), 7. Kyle Cummins (7), 8. Mitchel Moles (10), 9. Logan Seavey (18), 10. Brady Bacon (3), 11. Kevin Thomas Jr. (9), 12. R.J. Johnson (12), 13. Chase Johnson (16), 14. Charles Davis Jr. (8), 15. Brody Roa (17), 16. Tommy Malcolm (14), 17. Damion Gardner (15), 18. Sterling Cling (20), 19. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (22), 20. Matt Mitchell (23-P), 21. Logan Williams (21), 22. Verne Sweeney (24-P), 23. Austin Williams (19), 24. Jadon Rogers (11). NT

(P) represents a USAC CRA provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Emerson Axsom.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2297, 2-Brady Bacon-2204, 3-C.J. Leary-2170, 4-Robert Ballou-2100, 5-Emerson Axsom-2045, 6-Logan Seavey-1946, 7-Chase Stockon-1711, 8-Matt Westfall-1639, 9-Jadon Rogers-1575, 10-Jake Swanson-1528.

NEW AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1146, 2-Austin Williams-954, 3-Matt Mitchell-946, 4-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-929, 5-Tommy Malcolm-838, 6-Logan Williams-792, 7-Brody Roa-780, 8-Cody Williams-755, 9-Charles Davis Jr.-740, 10-Matt McCarthy-647.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-172, 2-Thomas Meseraull-131, 3-Brady Bacon-125, 4-Robert Ballou-116, 5-Logan Seavey-107, 6-Kaylee Bryson-103, 7-Buddy Kofoid-100, 8-Kyle Cummins-94, 9-C.J. Leary-84, 10-Cannon McIntosh-81.

WESTERN WORLD PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-11, 2-Logan Seavey-11, 3-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-10, 4-Jake Swanson-8, 5-Justin Zimmerman-7, 6-Verne Sweeney-7, 7-Mike Martin-5, 8-Chase Johnson-4, 9-C.J. Leary-3, 10-Kyle Cummins-3.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE: October 29, 2022 – Cocopah Speedway – Somerton, Arizona – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 55th Annual Chapman Chevrolet of Yuma Western World Championships Presented by Yuma Insurance & Avanti

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Kevin Thomas Jr. (16.942)

Fatheadz Eyewear / Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary (16.509)

Simpson Race Products / FlowDynamics First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Competition Suspension, Inc. / BillsJerky.net Second Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Pit Stop USA / In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Third Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Rod End Supply / Laserworx Manufacturing Fourth Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts / Factory Wraps Semi Winner: Mitchel Moles

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Logan Williams

In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Feature Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (13th to 4th)

Wildwood Disc Brakes Lucky 13: Chase Johnson

==========

HOME SWEEP HOME: SWANSON DELIVERS WESTERN WORLD PERFECTION FOR TEAM AZ AT COCOPAH

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Somerton, Arizona (October 29, 2022)……Perhaps it was an omen. Perhaps he had a statement to make. Perhaps it was simply his moment. Perhaps it was all of the above.

But one night following a second-place qualifying run and a runner-up finish in the feature, Jake Swanson made certain that he was "the one" in all aspects during Saturday night's 55th Annual Chapman Chevrolet of Yuma Western World Championships Presented by Yuma Insurance & Avanti.

One couldn't help but wonder if it was a harbinger of things to come when the Anaheim, Calif. native kicked open the door at the forefront of Saturday's program at Arizona's Cocopah Speedway by setting a new track record during Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying.

As it soon became abundantly clear, Swanson's evening was just getting started.

Swanson turned up the wick with a last turn, last lap pass to win his heat race after starting sixth, then followed through by once again charging from sixth to first in the feature, overtaking Robert Ballou for the lead with 13 laps remaining in the 30-lapper to score a complete sweep of the night in his Team AZ Racing/Beaver Stripes – RSS Industries – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

The complete dominance displayed by Swanson in all phases – from qualifying to his heat race and to the feature – was the first such sweep in USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship competition since Tyler Courtney did so during the 4-Crown Nationals at Ohio's Eldora Speedway in September of 2019.

To boot, the second USAC National Sprint Car victory of Swanson's career was his most lucrative thus far with a $10,000 payday and, by doing so, he came through by delivering a dream come true for the Arizona-based Team AZ operation, which finally achieved one of its prized aspirations – winning in their home state at the Western World.

It's a long way from the sort of season that Swanson described as "chaos" at certain points this summer due to injury, bad luck and misfortune running roughshod over the team in USAC competition during 2022.

"It's just been non-stop work and there's been no time for any sort of relaxation. I've got a little cold and it turned into a weeklong thing because I couldn't ever just rest," Swanson explained. "I'm just thankful for the opportunity to be able to do this. It's been such a blessing moving to the Midwest (to race more often and for a living) and I didn't really think I'd ever get the chance. I felt like I was too old. I didn't really think it was going to happen but then COVID came, and it was one of those decisions where we jumped on it, went all-in and just hoped it would pan out."

Not only was it a winning performance for Swanson, but it was also a riveting dissection of the 24-car field which witnessed him make all the right moves at all the right times throughout the non-stop, caution-free affair which presented Swanson with his second new track record of the night, this one for the distance of 30 laps.

"My job is so easy when I have such a fast racecar; holy cow," Swanson exclaimed. "This thing has just been on rails. I was rolling out there starting six and I'm like, man, I've got some good guys up here in front of us. I still felt like, as long as I do my job, this car can win the race. I've just got to make it happen."

While Swanson had an eagle eye view of the front of the pack proceedings from his outside row three starting position of the USAC National and USAC CRA co-sanctioned event, pole sitter Ballou stepped away to the early race lead while, in between Ballou and Swanson, a bit of high speed, close-quarters jockeying was at full intensity right from the get-go.

As C.J. Leary darted down the back straightaway right up against the outside wall, the squeeze play was on as Damion Gardner refused Leary access to have free reign to the fourth spot. The ensuing moment put Leary in the pinch position as he bounced his right rear tire off the concrete and lost quite a bit of ground. Leary caught up to Gardner in turn four and the resulting bumper-to-bumper contact sent Gardner slashing sideways across traffic all while retaining his position as Leary slid back to eighth.

Ballou maintained his steady presence on the bottom line for the first third of the race while Friday night winner Emerson Axsom stepped up to the top with a resurgent Leary and Swanson right in tow. However, Swanson was quickly gaining a full head of steam and slid under Leary in turn three to grab the third spot on lap 10.

Swanson soon made a bid for second as he peeked under Axsom for second in turn three on the very next lap before falling back into line and reloading. Swanson utilized his ammo to ultimately breeze past Axsom for second, then completed the pass exiting turn four on lap 13.

Riding the rim like the hero of a paperback novel, Swanson challenged Ballou to an all-out duel just after the midway point with the pair of native Californians riding two-wide down the back straight on the 18th circuit. Digging in, Swanson put the hammer to the nail and rode the wave around the outside of Ballou to complete the pass, and his quest for the lead, off turn four.

"I was worried about the racetrack kind of getting single file and I wanted to get to the lead as soon as I could and make sure I had track position when I needed it," Swanson noted. "I don't think it would've mattered, though. We still would've been able to drive to the front."

Meanwhile, moments later, Ballou became the one who got burned in a three-way script. Enter number two, which was Leary, who flew around the outside to gain second from Ballou on lap 21, then reeled in Swanson in a hurry and was now within a handful of car lengths outside the lead as the frontrunners work heavy traffic.

Just when Leary seemed poised to strike on lap 24, he tagged the turn two wall in his pursuit of Swanson to reach the head of the class. That caused Leary to lose a substantial enough amount of ground to prevent him from formulating another attack, although he reloaded and was poised to return.

Leary lured his way back into the race for the lead on the final lap and was a mere single car length behind Swanson in turn two when Leary drifted over the top of the cushion, unceremoniously ending his one last chance to take a shot at Swanson.

Though two-wide traffic loomed ahead for Swanson in turns three and four on the final go-around, he was able to navigate swiftly and decisively to clean sail his way into the books as a Western World champion with Leary .816 of a second behind in the runner-up spot. Axsom nipped Ballou at the line for third by a nose with Ballou fourth in the order and Brady Bacon fifth.

Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) overcame an adventurous first lap in which he free-fell from fourth to eighth. He then gathered it up to advance all the way back to a second place result in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

“On the start there, I gave up some ground and I had a run-in with the 1 car,” Leary recalled. “We were so good at the end there and I was going to race Jake really hard. I was hoping to get a run at him in lapped traffic but, overall, it was a good weekend.”

A successful first Western World is in the books for Axsom (Franklin, Ind.). A night after winning the Western World opener, he raced by Ballou on the final lap to take third by inches at the finish line. It's Axsom’s first run of back-to-back podium finishes since February of this season aboard his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

“Once you find a good package for something, you just stick to it and fine-tune,” Axsom said of the blueprint for CMNR’s success throughout the weekend. “I felt like, at the end, we were really coming alive to get Robert at the line. I think it was getting a little abrasive in turn one and, if there was a little bit more time, maybe we would’ve had a shot.”

Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.), meanwhile, pocketed up more than $1,100 in bonus bucks for his hard-charging performances during Western World weekend. Seavey passed 26 total cars across both nights to earn the Western World ProSource Passing Master Award. Furthermore, Seavey’s run from 21st to 6th in Saturday’s feature race earned him the coveted Lafond Jar of Change, which made up more than $900 of Seavey’s bonuses courtesy of fan donations.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: October 29, 2022 – Cocopah Speedway – Somerton, Arizona – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 55th Annual Chapman Chevrolet of Yuma Western World Championships Presented by Yuma Insurance & Avanti

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR / WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.127 (New Track Record); 2. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-16.291; 3. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-16.342; 4. Tommy Malcolm, 5x, Napier-16.347; 5. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-16.388; 6. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-16.410; 7. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-16.413; 8. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.416; 9. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.490; 10.

Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.494; 11. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-16.539; 12. Justin Zimmerman, 1J, D-Up-16.655; 13. Matt McCarthy, 28m, McCarthy-16.697; 14. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-16.699; 15. Chris Bonneau, 15, Bonneau-16.717; 16. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-16.719; 17. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-16.730; 18. Chase Johnson, 2i, Yeley/Petty-16.738; 19. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-16.752; 20. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.772; 21. Kyle Cummins, 2J, Yeley/Petty-16.807; 22. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-16.840; 23. Verne Sweeney, 98, Tracy-16.870; 24. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-16.898; 25. Logan Williams, 5w, McCarthy-16.938; 26. Shon Deskins, 20, SDR-16.990; 27. Mike Martin, 16, Martin-17.004; 28. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-17.030; 29. Austin Grabowski, 72, Grabowski-17.079; 30. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-17.146; 31. Ricky Lewis, 41, Stensland/Halley-17.174; 32. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-17.223; 33. Jeremy Jonas, 54, Pardo-17.371; 34. Austin Williams, 2, Williams-17.439; 35. Jake Neal, 214, Kracht-17.670; 36. Wayne Siddle, 007, Siddle-18.972; 37. Nate Schank, 1$, Schank-19.096.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS / FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Matt McCarthy, 6. Logan Williams, 7. Austin Grabowski, 8. Jeremy Jonas, 9. Nate Schank, 10. Mitchel Moles. 2:19.357

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) / BILLSJERKY.NET SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Brody Roa, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Chase Johnson, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Shon Deskins, 8. Logan Calderwood, 9. Austin Williams. 2:20.935

PIT STOP USA / IN MEMORY OF JIM & CHET GARDNER THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. R.J. Johnson, 2. Cody Williams, 3. Damion Gardner, 4. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 5. Chris Bonneau, 6. Verne Sweeney, 7. Ricky Lewis, 8. Jake Neal, 9. Mike Martin. 2:24.291

ROD END SUPPLY / LASERWORX MANUFACTURING FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Matt Mitchell, 6. Justin Zimmerman, 7. Tommy Malcolm, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Wayne Siddle. 2:23.146

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS / FACTORY WRAPS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Tommy Malcolm, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. Matt Mitchell, 4. Justin Zimmerman, 5. Chase Johnson, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Chris Bonneau, 8. Shon Deskins, 9. Verne Sweeney, 10. Austin Williams, 11. Sterling Cling, 12. Logan Williams, 13. Logan Calderwood, 14. Mike Martin, 15. Nate Schank, 16. Jake Neal, 17. Wayne Siddle, 18. Jeremy Jonas, 19. Austin Grabowski, 20. Ricky Lewis, 21. Matt McCarthy. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Jake Swanson (6), 2. C.J. Leary (4), 3. Emerson Axsom (3), 4. Robert Ballou (1), 5. Brady Bacon (13), 6. Logan Seavey (21), 7. R.J. Johnson (7), 8. Mitchel Moles (12), 9. Justin Grant (8), 10. Kyle Cummins (20), 11. Matt Westfall (22), 12. Damion Gardner (5), 13. Charles Davis Jr. (9), 14. Matt Mitchell (16), 15. Brody Roa (15), 16. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (2), 17. Chase Johnson (18), 18. Kevin Thomas Jr. (17), 19. Tommy Malcolm (11), 20. Verne Sweeney (24-P), 21. Cody Williams (14), 22. Justin Zimmerman (19), 23. Logan Williams (23-P), 24. Jadon Rogers (10). 9:45.759 (New Track Record)

(P) represents a USAC CRA provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-17 Robert Ballou, Laps 18-30 Jake Swanson.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2351, 2-Brady Bacon-2268, 3-C.J. Leary-2245, 4-Robert Ballou-2168, 5-Emerson Axsom-2115, 6-Logan Seavey-2007, 7-Chase Stockon-1711, 8-Matt Westfall-1685, 9-Jake Swanson-1612, 10-Jadon Rogers-1604.

NEW AMSOIL USAC/CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1195, 2-Matt Mitchell-983, 3-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-965, 4-Austin Williams-964, 5-Tommy Malcolm-870, 6-Brody Roa-820, 7-Logan Williams-815, 8-Charles Davis Jr.-785, 9-Cody Williams-785, 10-Matt McCarthy-657.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-172, 2-Brady Bacon-133, 3-Thomas Meseraull-131, 4-Logan Seavey-122, 5-Robert Ballou-116, 6-Kyle Cummins-104, 7-Kaylee Bryson-103, 8-Buddy Kofoid-100, 9-Matt Westfall-92, 10-C.J. Leary-86.

FINAL WESTERN WORLD PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Logan Seavey-26, 2-Jake Swanson-18, 3-Matt Westfall-16, 4-Robert Ballou-14, 5-Kyle Cummins-13, 6-Brady Bacon-11, 7-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-11, 8-Nate Schank-10, 9-Mitchel Moles-8, 10-Chase Johnson-9.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACES: November 3-4-5, 2022 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 26th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Emerson Axsom (16.123)

Fatheadz Eyewear / Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: Jake Swanson (16.127)

Simpson Race Products / FlowDynamics First Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Competition Suspension, Inc. / BillsJerky.net Second Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Pit Stop USA / In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Third Heat Winner: R.J. Johnson

Rod End Supply / Laserworx Manufacturing Fourth Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts / Factory Wraps Semi Winner: Tommy Malcolm

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Matt Westfall

In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Feature Hard Charger: Logan Seavey (21st to 6th)

Wildwood Disc Brakes Lucky 13: Charles Davis Jr.

Western World ProSource Passing Master Champion: Logan Seavey (26)

LaFond Jar of Change: Logan Seavey

==========

THIS ONE'S FOR TED: BACON'S TRIUMPH A SPECIAL ONE AT OVALS OPENER

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Perris, California (November 3, 2022)…… When Brady Bacon stands on the throttle, everybody soon takes notice.

In a similar manner, the same could be said for Brady's grandfather, Ted Bacon. When Ted spoke, everyone listened.

Sadly, the words of the Bacon family's racing patriarch fell silent on Tuesday morning when Ted passed away.

Two days later, Brady strapped into a sprint car and ultimately pulled into victory lane on the opening night of the 26th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals at California's Perris Auto Speedway.

It's the same drill Brady had performed 44 previous times in his USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship career, but this one carried extra significance. This one was for Grandpa Ted.

"It's bittersweet," Brady admitted. "You never want to lose anybody, but he wasn't doing well with not being able to do everything he wanted to do. He was on the go all the time, and not being able to do that wasn't ideal for him."

When posed the question of what his grandfather would've said to him had he witnessed his victorious performance on Thursday night, Brady theorized that Ted would've remarked something short and sweet along the lines of, "Ahh, pretty good."

Succinct and straight to the point. Just like Ted's words of praise, Brady approached the start of the Oval Nationals in a highly familiar fashion.

Brady reached the front of the field just six laps in, then raced away to his first USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature victory since June 19 – a span of 24 races and roughly four-and-a-half months – in his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Cressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

Brady's fourth career Perris feature victory was his 45th overall in USAC National Sprint Car competition, tying him for fifth all-time with 1968-70-75 series champion, Larry Dickson.

Grandpa Ted was a supermodified standout in his heyday during the 1970s-80 who competed against contemporaries like Emmett Hahn, Harold Leep and Mike Peters at dirt tracks from Dewey, Oklahoma to Hutchinson, Kansas. Yet his grandson Brady's feat sure would've been something he'd have been proud of, and something he'd have had no reservations telling Brady what was on his mind.

"He was hardnosed, and he'd tell you what he thought regardless of whether you had a dollar or 10 million or if you were five-foot tall or seven-foot tall. He didn't care. He always liked to have a good time, did things his way and that was the only way. That's what we always used to say. There's Ted's way and the wrong way."

Brady and the Dynamics, Inc. team unloaded with a fast piece right from the get-go, first by recording the best lap during Wednesday night's open practice. Starting sixth in the 30-lap feature, Brady wasted little time in showing that they were up to the task.

Methodically marching up through the field one-by-one, Brady picked off one spot per lap throughout the first five circuits. On the fifth lap, Bacon used a drive to wedge a path into the lead entering turn three in front of Robert Ballou. However, Ballou defied the change of position for a moment as he turned down underneath Bacon to regain the position.

Bacon's second try became the second verse, different from the first, as he roared past on the back straightaway on lap six to take over, retain and maintain the lead from there on out.

With the lap count dwindling to six laps remaining, Bacon controlled the remote, dialing up a 3.609 second lead over second-running Max Adams, who was in the midst of his best career USAC National Sprint Car run.

But things can change in a hurry as evidenced by fourth place Jake Swanson who tagged the outside wall with his right rear tire in turn four, which sent him into a spin-cycle, airborne 360. Swanson's car was straightened out only due to the fifth-running car of Justin Grant who hit the front left of Swanson's car squarely. Back on the gas, Swanson found himself as a passenger with the front end knocked out, thus sending him on a beeline to the left that stopped him in his tracks about a foot from the inside front straightaway wall. Nonetheless, the 2021 "Ovals" opening night winner's victory defense was finished while Grant continued on.

Once more, Bacon scooted away on the lap 26 restart over Adams. Meanwhile, Ballou and Grant exchanged a bevy of sliders in a duel for third with Ballou escaping back into the spot just prior to the yellow flag for Kyle Edwards (21st) who climbed the turn four wall, knocking him out of the contest.

Adams subsequently slipped above the cushion in turn two on the lap 28 restart, handing over two pieces of real estate to Ballou and Grant who promptly zoomed past. Grant surpassed Ballou for second at the entry to turn three with the white flag being waved just ahead on the horizon. Meanwhile, Leary streamed a path past Adams along the inside berm in turns three and four to gain fifth.

Just then, Brody Roa (6th) whipped against the turn four wall and was subjected to a similar fate as Swanson just a handful of laps earlier with Roa pirouetting along the outside wall before beaching his front wheels atop the turn four concrete, forcing yet another in a barrage of restarts that Brady was forced to endure down the stretch.

"I was getting nervous with all those restarts at the end," Brady relayed. "I just felt like something was going to happen – a tire going down or me messing up on the start and opening the door for somebody to slide me. But luckily, that didn't happen."

Foreshadowing, Bacon hit the "Esc" key to distance himself from the fray without another obstruction in his path during the green-white-checkered finish which sent the four-time USAC National Sprint Car driving champion to another Perris victory while closing the gap on his deficit in the championship race from 83 points to 76 behind Grant who grabbed runner-up honors 0.959 sec. behind Bacon at the line.

"Anything's still possible with the points as well, but that would require some misfortune from some other people," Bacon stated, regarding the final two races of the year this weekend. "I'd never wish that on anybody, but we'll just try to do the best we can, and if something like that were to happen, we would be in a position to capitalize."

In fact, the top-four in USAC National Sprint Car points ran first, second, third and fourth. Leary rounded out the podium in third while Ballou landed fourth. Reigning Oval Nationals champion Kevin Thomas Jr. mounted an excellent charge from 13th to fifth to round out the top-five.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) made a superb late-race bolt to the forefront of the field, advancing from fifth to second over the final seven laps to finish in the runner-up spot in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy, and now stands on the cusp of what we hopes is a first career series championship with just two races remaining.

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) set quick time and turned in a solid result to score a third place feature finish in his Michael Motorsports/Kodiak Products – Gray Auto – Highsmith Guns – DMI/DRC/1-Way Chevy. It's the 2019 USAC National Sprint Car champion's fifth consecutive top-five feature result at Perris dating back to 2019.

During Fatheadz Eyewear qualifying, Leary moved into sole possession of fifth all-time in terms of career fast qualifying times with the USAC National Sprint Cars. The 40th of Leary's career moved him into sole possession of fifth all-time ahead

of five-time series titlist Levi Jones. Furthermore, his 11 quick times in 2022 are the third most in a single season, equaling his own mark in 2019 and trailing only Kevin Thomas Jr.'s 15 in 2018 and Tom Bigelow's 14 in 1978.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: November 3, 2022 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 26th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR / WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-16.347; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.459; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.461; 4. Jason McDougal, 22AZ, Team AZ-16.559; 5. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.583; 6. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.606; 7. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-16.646; 8. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-16.647; 9. Max Adams, 73, Ford-16.661; 10. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-16.717; 11. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-16.786; 12. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-16.786; 13. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.801; 14. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-16.830; 15. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-16.836; 16. Austin Williams, 2, Williams-16.877; 17. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.901; 18. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-16.965; 19. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-16.972; 20. Chris Bonneau, 15, Bonneau-16.977; 21. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-17.005; 22. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-17.010; 23. Danny Sheridan, 12A, Allen-17.071; 24. Ricky Lewis, 41, Stensland/Halley-17.126; 25. Tommy Malcolm, 5x, Napier-17.159; 26. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-17.168; 27. Austin Grabowski, 72, Grabowski-17.175; 28. Daniel Whitley, 3F, Finkenbinder-17.176; 29. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-17.245; 30. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-17.321; 31. Matt McCarthy, 28m, McCarthy-17.358; 32. Verne Sweeney, 98, Tracy-17.366; 33. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-17.407; 34. Logan Williams, 5w, McCarthy-17.422; 35. A.J. Bender, 21, Bender-17.471; 36. Jake Neal, 214, Kracht-17.489; 37. Chase Johnson, 8m, May-17.569; 38. Troy DeGaton, 39T, DeGaton-18.050; 39. Nate Schank, 1$, Schank-18.063; 40. Dan Taylor, T5, Taylor-18.243.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS / FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Max Adams, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Justin Grant, 5. C.J. Leary, 6. R.J. Johnson, 7. Tommy Malcolm, 8. Logan Seavey, 9. Chase Johnson, 10. Kyle Edwards. 2:47.24

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) / BILLSJERKY.NET SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brody Roa, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Eddie Tafoya, 6. Chris Gansen, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Logan Calderwood, 9. Logan Williams, 10. Troy DeGaton. 2:50.96

PIT STOP USA / IN MEMORY OF JIM & CHET GARDNER THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Emerson Axsom, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Cody Williams, 5. Damion Gardner, 6. A.J. Bender, 7. Danny Sheridan, 8. Austin Grabowski, 9. Nate Schank, 10. Matt McCarthy. 2:51.69

ROD END SUPPLY / LASERWORX MANUFACTURING FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Mitchell, 2. Austin Williams, 3. Jason McDougal, 4. Ricky Lewis, 5. Chris Bonneau, 6. Verne Sweeney, 7. Daniel Whitley, 8. Jake Neal, 9. Dan Taylor, 10. Sterling Cling. NT

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi-feature) 1. Verne Sweeney, 2. A.J. Bender, 3. Logan Williams, 4. Chase Johnson, 5. Nate Schank, 6. Kyle Edwards, 7. Jake Neal, 8. Troy DeGaton. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS / FACTORY WRAPS SEMI: (12 laps, top-8 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Tommy Malcolm, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Damion Gardner, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 7. R.J. Johnson, 8. Chase Johnson, 9. Chris Gansen, 10. Austin Grabowski, 11. Logan Williams, 12. A.J. Bender, 13. Logan Calderwood, 14. Matt McCarthy, 15. Danny Sheridan, 16. Daniel Whitley, 17. Verne Sweeney, 18. Chris Bonneau. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (6), 2. Justin Grant (3), 3. C.J. Leary (11), 4. Robert Ballou (2), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (13), 6. Max Adams (1), 7. Emerson Axsom (14), 8. Jadon Rogers (16), 9. Logan Seavey (19),



10. Jason McDougal (4), 11. Damion Gardner (12), 12. Matt Westfall (15), 13. Cody Williams (17), 14. Austin Williams (18), 15. Ricky Lewis (21), 16. Brody Roa (9), 17. Tommy Malcolm (22), 18. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (20), 19. R.J. Johnson (23), 20. Chris Gansen (25-P), 21. Kyle Edwards (26-P), 22. Jake Swanson (8), 23. Chase Johnson (24), 24. Mitchel Moles (5), 25. Charles Davis Jr. (10), 26. Matt Mitchell (7). NT

(P) represents a USAC CRA provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-5 Robert Ballou, Laps 6-30 Brady Bacon.

**Sterling Cling flipped during the fourth heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2425, 2-Brady Bacon-2349, 3-C.J. Leary-2319, 4-Robert Ballou-2235, 5-Emerson Axsom-2174, 6-Logan Seavey-2054, 7-Matt Westfall-1730, 8-Chase Stockon-1711, 9-Jadon Rogers-1655, 10-Jake Swanson-1643.

AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1237, 2-Matt Mitchell-1014, 3-Austin Williams-1006, 4-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-993, 5-Tommy Malcolm-902, 6-Brody Roa-859, 7-Cody Williams-827, 8-Logan Williams-825, 9-Charles Davis Jr.-816, 10-Matt McCarthy-667.

OVERALL OVAL NATIONALS POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-146, 2-Justin Grant-138, 3-C.J. Leary-138, 4-Robert Ballou-131, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-128, 6-Max Adams-126, 7-Emerson Axsom-121, 8-Jason McDougal-117, 9-Jadon Rogers-111, 10-Logan Seavey-106.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-173, 2-Brady Bacon-138, 3-Logan Seavey-132, 4-Thomas Meseraull-131, 5-Robert Ballou-116, 6-Kyle Cummins-104, 7-Kaylee Bryson-103, 8-Buddy Kofoid-100, 9-Matt Westfall-95, 10-C.J. Leary-94.

OVAL NATIONALS PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Chase Johnson-12, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-10, 3-Logan Seavey-10, 4-C.J. Leary-9, 5-Emerson Axsom-9, 6-Tommy Malcolm-9, 7-R.J. Johnson-9, 8-Brady Bacon-8, 9-Jadon Rogers-8, 10-A.J. Bender-7.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACES: November 4-5, 2022 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 26th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Jason McDougal (16.584)

Fatheadz Eyewear / Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary (16.347)

Shawn McDonald Sixth Fastest Qualifier: Robert Ballou

Simpson Race Products / FlowDynamics First Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Competition Suspension, Inc. / BillsJerky.net Second Heat Winner: Brody Roa

Pit Stop USA / In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Third Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Rod End Supply / Laserworx Manufacturing Fourth Heat Winner: Matt Mitchell

C-Main First Non-Transfer: Nate Schank

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

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Cody Williams

In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Feature Hard Charger: Logan Seavey (19th to 9th)

Shawn McDonald Sixth Place Feature Finisher: Max Adams

Wildwood Disc Brakes Lucky 13: Cody Williams

==========

THE MADMAN COMETH: BALLOU SWIPES LATE-RACE VICTORY AT OVALS NIGHT TWO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Perris, California (November 4, 2022)……During a red flag period 10 laps into Friday night's feature event at California's Perris Auto Speedway, Robert Ballou was feeling confident.

Sitting third at the time, the Rocklin, Calif. native felt that he had a good enough car to, at least, run second.

With that said, he wasn't quite sold on whether another Oval Nationals prelim victory was within the realm of possibility on this night.

In that particular moment, Ballou felt that then-race leader Kevin Thomas Jr. was the class of the field after checking out to a considerable lead in the early stages.

However, that's why they run the races, and the balance of the 30-lap distance from that point forward ultimately painted a completely different picture in Ballou's favor.

In fact, it was pure artistry from one of the best to ever do it on the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship tour and, despite the earlier estimation, Ballou wasn't going to go down without a fight.

"(C.J.) Leary got under me one lap (with 10 laps to go), but I was too tight to run down there then," Ballou explained. "I tried to get my shocks a little bit better to where I could hold it down around the bottom and not get tight. It was really tough, but then Brady (Bacon) shot right by me, and I'm like, the 69 isn't getting by me tonight and I sat up in the seat."

Running as deep as fourth with just 10 laps remaining, Ballou found a sudden burst that put him right back into the thick of the hunt. It came just as he foretold during the earlier stoppage, that he would be a player for the win once the fuel load began to burn off.

"I feel like we're better than (second-running Emerson) Axsom," Ballou stated during the early-race red flag. "But as the fuel load burns off, and with me being a fat guy, my car should be a little bit faster where a guy like him might slow down a little bit. I feel that we've got the car to at least run second, but (Thomas) has pretty much checked out by the looks of it."

As it turned out, Ballou was just checking in on lap 20. Ballou charged under Brady Bacon for third on the back straight with nine to go. One lap later, Ballou glided his way into second with a turn one slide past Emerson Axsom to put him

within a full two seconds of Thomas who seemingly held a commanding lead with the sands in the hourglass collecting piling up.

Finding his way into his front-running position by utilizing the bottom side of the racetrack, Thomas cut a swath of land for his own use by entering turns one and three on the bottom, then letting his car sweep to the top at the exit of turns two and four.

But with two laps until the bell tolled for thee, Thomas faced a bout of traffic. Charging into turn one hot on the heels of the 24th place car of Chris Gansen, Thomas was forced to alter his line on the bottom, skating his ride up the track a tad earlier in the corner than he had all race long.

The loss of momentum for Thomas was all Ballou needed to dig his talons in on the low line and drive his way past on the back straight to rise to the top of the leaderboard once and for all and for good.

Ballou negotiated turns three and four splendidly, scraping the infield berm with his left front wheel along the way as he dipped under Gansen who cleared a courteous path for the frontrunners by swinging wide on the front straightaway just as the white flag was being presented.

Ballou, Thomas and now Leary entered the final lap separated by a single car length between each driver. Ballou gained some much obliged separation from Thomas on the backside of the half-mile dirt oval, carrying onward to a 0.632 second victory in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru - Dragonfly Aviation - Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

Thomas collected a second place result after leading a race-high 27 laps while Jake Swanson made a last lap, last corner surge to beat Leary to the line by a single car length for the third position. Thursday night's Oval Nationals opening night winner Brady Bacon rounded out the top-five with a fifth-place result.

Emerson Axsom, who led the opening lap, was the sixth place finisher and scored the best finish among Oval Nationals Rookies in the field.

But Ballou was the main man on this evening as he punched his ticket for series victory number 37, which tied him with Sheldon Kinser for 11th on the all-time USAC National Sprint Car feature win list.

Ballou's sixth series victory of the year equals him with Justin Grant as the season's winningest driver, making it his most successful and winningest campaign since his 2015 championship year, which just so happened to be the last time in which he was victorious at Perris.

That is, until Friday night. That's when Ballou found something even more than he knew he had, which resulted in his fifth career USAC triumph at Perris after taking advantage of the situation at hand.

"When you're out front, you don't know where to go, especially on a long green. I just saw him sliding out," Ballou recalled of Thomas' lap 29 misfortune.

Three-time and defending Oval Nationals champion Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) nearly provided Michael Dutcher Motorsports with its first USAC National Sprint Car feature win since February of 2015 at Florida's East Bay Raceway Park, which came with Thomas behind the wheel of his Lifestyle Homes – Griffin's Propane – ProSource/Maxim/Chevy.

"We just got a little bit free at the end," Thomas acknowledged. "I lost brakes with about eight or 10 laps to go. I'm kind of bummed, but we've been making a lot of gains on this thing. I've never won a prelim night feature here, but as long as we're locked in, tomorrow's what we care about. We've made some great strides on what we need to do and some different little things we need to change. It's about getting acclimated with these guys again and just getting comfortable.

Once we do that, the car has speed and we've just got to work a few little bugs out. Dutch and the guys work really hard on it, he takes very good care of his equipment and takes a lot of pride in it."

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) put together a redeeming third-place performance on Friday night at Perris. After a crash into the turn four wall the night before, Swanson zipped by Leary on the last lap to grab the final spot on the podium in his Team AZ Racing/Beaver Stripes – RSS Industries – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy. It was Swanson's third stop in the top-three during his last four USAC National Sprint Car feature starts.

"I think we needed a 40-lapper there," Swanson admitted. "It was just getting faster and faster the more the track opened up and we were able to pass. I felt like we were really fast, but it was just a matter of getting the room to get by. We were on C.J.'s tail tank there at the end and we're able to make something happen. C.J. did a good job, but he just got a little bit crossed up there racing with (Thomas). I was working the middle and trying to make it work early, but it wasn't really working for me. Brady was able to do it then I think I finally figured it out by the end."

Leary set Fatheadz Eyewear Fast Qualifying time for the 41st time of his USAC National Sprint Car career Friday night at Perris. For the Greenfield, Ind. driver, it was his second fast time in as many nights and his 12th of the series season. Oddly enough, it also marked the fifth time Leary and Swanson have qualified first and second during a USAC event this year (4 Sprint & 1 Silver Crown).

Two drivers got upside down during the evening, first being Mitchel Moles who tipped over and caught a brief flame during the semi-feature.

Daniel Whitley, making his first career USAC National Sprint Car feature start, flipped into the catchfence on lap 10 and never came back down, at least for a little while. His Ted Finkenbinder-owned ride became lodged in the fence between three and four, prompting a nearly 25-minute red flag to corral the car and make fence repairs. Both Moles and Whitley walked away from their respective incidents.

Six drivers are locked into Saturday night's 40-lap Oval Nationals feature event by virtue of their accumulated point totals throughout Thursday and Friday's programs: Brady Bacon (275), C.J. Leary (274), Robert Ballou (271), Kevin Thomas Jr. (268), Justin Grant (258) and Emerson Axsom (244). The group of six will also participate in the Super Six Dash to determine the first three rows of starting spots for the main event.

Meanwhile, Justin Grant's eighth place feature finish garnered him a 66-point lead over Bacon entering the final race of the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship season. An appearance in Saturday's racing program will clinch a first career USAC National Sprint Car title for Grant and TOPP Motorsports.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: November 4, 2022 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 26th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR / WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 77m, Michael-16.477; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.519; 3. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-16.660; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.700; 5. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.716; 6. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.742; 7. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.771; 8. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-16.779; 9. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-16.785; 10. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-16.801; 11. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.826; 12. Austin Williams, 2, Williams-16.842; 13. Max Adams, 73, Ford-16.897; 14. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-16.964; 15. A.J. Bender, 21, Bender-17.009; 16. Logan Williams, 5w, McCarthy-17.027; 17. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-17.031; 18. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-17.058; 19. Austin Grabowski, 72, Grabowski-17.065; 20. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-17.085; 21. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-17.119; 22. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-17.137; 23.

Daniel Whitley, 3F, Finkenbinder-17.147; 24. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-17.193; 25. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-17.193; 26. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-17.271; 27. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-17.284; 28. Tommy Malcolm, 5x, Napier-17.333; 29. Matt McCarthy, 28m, McCarthy-17.537; 30. Chris Bonneau, 15, Bonneau-17.546; 31. Nate Schank, 1$, Schank-17.628; 32. Ricky Lewis, 41, Stensland/Halley-17.729; 33. Troy DeGaton, 39T, DeGaton-17.742; 34. Jake Neal, 214, Kracht-17.801; 35. Gary Marshall Jr., 23, Bellegante-18.391; 36. Jason McDougal, 22AZ, Team AZ-NT; 37. Chase Johnson, 8m, May-NT; 38. Kyle Edwards, 39E, Edwards-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS / FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Charles Davis Jr., 3. Max Adams, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. R.J. Johnson, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Matt McCarthy, 8. Troy DeGaton, 9. Mitchel Moles. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) / BILLSJERKY.NET SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Cody Williams, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Brody Roa, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 6. Matt Mitchell, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Jake Neal, 9. Chris Bonneau. 2:51.78

PIT STOP USA / IN MEMORY OF JIM & CHET GARDNER THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Austin Grabowski, 3. Daniel Whitley, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. A.J. Bender, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Chris Gansen, 8. Nate Schank, 9. Gary Marshall Jr. 2:50.93

ROD END SUPPLY / LASERWORX MANUFACTURING FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Damion Gardner, 2. Austin Williams, 3. Logan Williams, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Justin Grant, 6. Ricky Lewis, 7. Logan Calderwood, 8. Tommy Malcolm, 9. Chase Johnson. 2:55.40

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS / FACTORY WRAPS SEMI: (12 laps, top-8 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. A.J. Bender, 4. Tommy Malcolm, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 7. R.J. Johnson, 8. Ricky Lewis, 9. Mitchel Moles, 10. Sterling Cling, 11. Chris Gansen, 12. Matt McCarthy, 13. Logan Calderwood, 14. Chase Johnson, 15. Nate Schank, 16. Jake Neal, 17. Gary Marshall Jr., 18. Troy DeGaton, 19. Matt Mitchell. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Robert Ballou (4), 2. Kevin Thomas Jr. (1), 3. Jake Swanson (5), 4. C.J. Leary (6), 5. Brady Bacon (8), 6. Emerson Axsom (2), 7. Matt Westfall (3), 8. Justin Grant (11), 9. Cody Williams (7), 10. Max Adams (13), 11. Damion Gardner (9), 12. R.J. Johnson (22), 13. Austin Williams (12), 14. Tommy Malcolm (23), 15. Logan Seavey (10), 16. Jadon Rogers (16), 17. Brody Roa (20), 18. Logan Williams (15), 19. Mitchel Moles (25-N), 20. Charles Davis Jr. (19), 21. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (17), 22. A.J. Bender (14), 23. Matt Mitchell (26-C), 24. Chris Gansen (27-C), 25. Ricky Lewis (24), 26. Daniel Whitley (21), 27. Austin Grabowski (18). NT

(N) represents a USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car provisional starter

(C) represents a USAC CRA provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Emerson Axsom, Laps 2-28 Kevin Thomas Jr., Laps 29-30 Robert Ballou.

**Mitchel Moles flipped during the semi. Daniel Whitley flipped on lap 10 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2481, 2-Brady Bacon-2415, 3-C.J. Leary-2391, 4-Robert Ballou-2311, 5-Emerson Axsom-2234, 6-Logan Seavey-2094, 7-Matt Westfall-1787, 8-Jake Swanson-1719, 9-Chase Stockon-1711, 10-Jadon Rogers-1687.

AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1286, 2-Austin Williams-1050, 3-Matt Mitchell-1037, 4-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-1017, 5-Tommy Malcolm-938, 6-Brody Roa-894, 7-Cody Williams-881, 8-Logan Williams-858, 9-Charles Davis Jr.-846, 10-Matt McCarthy-677.

TOP-SIX IN OVAL NATIONALS POINTS: (Locked into Saturday's feature) 1-Brady Bacon-275, 2-C.J. Leary-274, 3-Robert Ballou-271, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-268, 5-Justin Grant-258, 6-Emerson Axsom-244.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-176, 2-Brady Bacon-141, 3-Logan Seavey-132, 4-Thomas Meseraull-131, 5-Robert Ballou-119, 6-Kyle Cummins-104, 7-Kaylee Bryson-103, 8-Buddy Kofoid-100, 9-C.J. Leary-96, 10-Matt Westfall-95.

ALL COAST CONSTRUCTION TONY JONES HARD CHARGER POINTS: 1-R.J. Johnson-14, 2-Tommy Malcolm-14, 3-C.J. Leary-10, 4-Logan Seavey-10, 5-Brady Bacon-8, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-8, 7-Jadon Rogers-8, 8-Emerson Axsom-7, 9-Ricky Lewis-4, 10-Justin Grant-4.

OVAL NATIONALS PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tommy Malcolm-26, 2-R.J. Johnson-23, 3-Chase Johnson-16, 4-Brady Bacon-14, 5-Ricky Lewis-14, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-13, 7-C.J. Leary-13, 8-Emerson Axsom-10, 9-Logan Seavey-10, 10-Jadon Rogers-9.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE: November 5, 2022 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 26th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Damion Gardner (16.860)

Fatheadz Eyewear / Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary (16.477)

Shawn McDonald Sixth Fastest Qualifier: Robert Ballou

Simpson Race Products / FlowDynamics First Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Competition Suspension, Inc. / BillsJerky.net Second Heat Winner: Cody Williams

Pit Stop USA / In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Third Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Rod End Supply / Laserworx Manufacturing Fourth Heat Winner: Damion Gardner

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts / Factory Wraps Semi Winner: Justin Grant

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Daniel Whitley

In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Feature Hard Charger: R.J. Johnson (22nd to 12th)

Shawn McDonald Sixth Place Feature Finisher: Emerson Axsom

Wildwood Disc Brakes Lucky 13: Austin Williams

==========

BACON BANKS 20-GRAND AT OVALS, GRANT GRABS USAC SPRINT TITLE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

2022 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR SEASON REVIEW

Perris, California (November 5, 2022)……For Brady Bacon, winning four of the six Oval Nationals preliminary night features that have been held at California's Perris Auto Speedway since 2019 was a nice feather to have in his cap.

However, the biggest prize of them all had eluded the 32-year-old driver for, quite literally, half his life.

Thirteen starts and sixteen years since his "Ovals" debut in 2006, Bacon had waited patiently for his time to finally arrive on championship night of the Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals.

There was no more time spent in the waiting room for the Broken Arrow, Okla. native on Saturday night's 26th running of the marquee event as Bacon had no room to wait any longer.

Starting fourth, Bacon tore around the outside of Friday night prelim winner Robert Ballou to take over third on lap four. When pole sitter Justin Grant drifted off the bottom in turn four on lap eight, again, Bacon was there to capitalize.

On the 11th circuit, Bacon took his ride to the front of the field, launching down the back straight and blowing past Axsom for the race lead, then carrying onward to score one of his largest paydays with a $20,000 score aboard his Dynamics, Inc./Fatheadz Eyewear – Cressman Sanitation – DriveWFX – Tel-Star/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

For the four-time USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National champion, it was a long time to wait for a coveted "Ovals" win, and it was a long time coming. But, when all was said and done, this one was finally his, ending years and years of oh-so-closes and almosts.

"It feels good to finally get this one," Bacon exhaled. "It seems like we always miss it a little bit for the Saturday night feature here."

There was no such consternation this time around for Bacon, who had previously logged five top-five finishes on the final night of the "Ovals" throughout his career, bested with a third in 2017. Bacon led the final 30 laps to record his second feature victory in a three-night span.

Bacon's latest triumph was the 46th of his USAC National Sprint Car career, moving him past three-time champion Larry Dickson and into a tie for fourth on the all-time list alongside USAC and National Sprint Car Hall of Famer Jack Hewitt.

The evening was a lucrative one for Bacon as he not only pocketed $20,000 for his Oval Nationals main event win but also added a $10,000 bonus as the champion of the 10-race Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster series Presented by Spire Sports + Entertainment.

"This race is pretty important for our season financially," Bacon explained. "If things faltered, or if I had a problem, it could've been a $20,000 loss. I was kind of nervous about that all day. Obviously, the goal was to win this race and now I've got a $40,000 swing the other way."

Bacon didn't exactly get away scot-free once he initially established himself as the race leader. Nearing the middle stages of the 40-lap feature, Axsom didn't go away quietly as he kept pace with Bacon and, at times, was able to pull even in the fight for the lead.

On lap 17, calamity ensued in turn three when car of newly crowned 10-time AMSOIL USAC CRA Sprint Car champion Damion Gardner (10th) slowed suddenly. In a desperate attempt to avert the scene of the wreckage, Max Adams (13th), Tommy Malcolm (14th) and Daniel Whitley (17th) all tangled and stopped.

Meanwhile, Gardner made an excursion to the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area, wounded with a flat right rear tire, which was promptly swapped out for new rubber that returned him to the race. Gardner eventually dropped out soon after and

finished 22nd. Oval Nationals Rookie Daniel Whitley was pushed away as well until his right front wheel decided to go solo and rolled aimlessly on the track through turns three and four.

Thereafter, the biggest mover and shaker instantly became Jake Swanson. The seventh starting driver grazed the bottom, and when Ballou drifted up a full lane at the exit of turn four on lap 20, that left the door open for Swanson to scoot under Ballou for third at the halfway mark. Swanson then took on Axsom and shot underneath in turn three with three laps remaining to slot into second.

At that point, Bacon had race officials with Sharpies in hand preparing to endorse his name on the mega-sized victory lane check. His lead stood at four-plus seconds with little obstruction along the way, sans a singular pack of lapped cars that caused little to no hiccups on Bacon's warpath of dominance on both ends of the half-mile dirt oval.

"We kind of had a little mixture," Bacon noted on the team's car setup. "We had turns three and four from Thursday night and one and two from Friday night, so we did a combination on the car. It was something that worked pretty well, and even though I was making mistakes on top, I didn't think anyone else could do it a whole lot better than me."

He was right. Nobody did it better than Bacon in any facet down the stretch as he went on to collect a monumental win for his team and himself after a trying week that took its emotional toll. Brady's grandfather, Ted, passed away on Tuesday morning and the team has been competing with heavy hearts ever since. Brady soldiered on to win not once, but twice in three nights at the Oval Nationals.

"It was a sweet win we had, especially after the hard week we've had," Bacon acknowledged. "We definitely had a smoother week than we normally have here so, hopefully, he was helping us out and we'll take it. It sure is a good way to top off the season."

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) and his late-race effort earned him his best career Oval Nationals result. He swept by Axsom with three laps to go on his way to scoring a second place finish, besting his previous top Oval Nationals Saturday night performance of sixth one year earlier in 2021. Swanson finished the 2022 USAC National Sprint Car season on a high note with four podium finishes in his last five starts, including a 2nd, 1st, 3rd and 2nd in his Team AZ Racing/Beaver Stripes – RSS Industries – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

"I'm glad we started seventh even though I wish we would've been in the Super Six and be able to start up there with those guys," Swanson stated. "But starting seventh was the best case scenario for us tonight and we were able to methodically work the bottom and work our way up through those guys. By the time I got to second, Brady was already checked out. I didn't even know how hard he was running it or where he was running it. I felt like I was all by myself out there. At some point, I'm going to win one of these eagle (trophies). I love this place too much and I plan on doing it. Hopefully, it will be in the near future."

It was a highly impressive debut for Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) who led the first 10 laps of his first career Oval Nationals start en route to a third place result in his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Products/Spike/Kistler Chevy. Axsom ended the season as the top-Rookie finisher in the USAC National Sprint Car standings, which was part of the learning curve, among other things, that played a role in his result which rounded out the podium.

"I think a lot of it was experience and we also had a tire delaminate," Axsom revealed. "It was a tough deal, but obviously, Brady and Jake are really good here. My guys gave me a really great car. That's probably about the best I've felt all year, but it's a little disappointing with the tire. This is the biggest race for us, and I wanted to win."

C.J. Leary came home fourth while Robert Ballou took home fifth. Landing just outside the top-five was sixth place finisher Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.). By firing off for wheel pack/engine heat at the beginning of the evening, Grant clinched his first career USAC National Sprint Car driving championship after more than a decade-plus of close calls and heartbreaks. Grant earned a $50,000 reward as the series' newest king. It's his second overall USAC National title after capturing the Silver Crown championship in 2020. Meanwhile, he drove Rochester, Ind.-based TOPP Motorsports to its first series entrant crown.

Jadon Rogers (Worthington, Ind.) was the man of the move throughout his debut weekend at Perris. He advanced more positions across the past three nights of feature racing than any other driver with 21 cars passed. On Saturday, he traveled 21st to 8th, which clinched him a $1,000 bonus as the All Coast Construction Tony Jones Oval Nationals Hard Charger.

No driver passed more cars throughout the entirety of Oval Nationals than Tommy Malcolm (Corona, Calif.) who advanced 26 positions during the weekend, which encompassed heat races, C-Mains, the Super Six Dash, semi-feature and feature events. The effort worked in his favor as he came out on top of the ProSource Oval Nationals Passing Master award.

During Fatheadz Eyewear Qualifying, Mitchel Moles (Raisin City, Calif.) became the most successful Rookie qualifier in USAC National Sprint Car history. Moles' eighth quick time in his first year of series competition surpassed Tanner Thorson's former record of seven from 2021. Wildly enough, both drivers achieved the feat while driving for the same team – the Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: November 5, 2022 – Perris Auto Speedway – Perris, California – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 26th Heimark Anheuser Busch Budweiser Oval Nationals

FATHEADZ EYEWEAR / WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY QUALIFYING: (Top-6 in Oval Nationals points did not qualify) 1. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.222; 2. Damion Gardner, 1, Alexander-16.483; 3. Cody Williams, 44, Williams-16.517; 4. Max Adams, 73, Ford-16.587; 5. Daniel Whitley, 3F, Finkenbinder-16.613; 6. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.634; 7. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.641; 8. Austin Grabowski, 72, Grabowski-16.643; 9. Brody Roa, 91R, BR-16.722; 10. Jason McDougal, 22AZ, Team AZ-16.777; 11. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-16.814; 12. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-16.824; 13. R.J. Johnson, 51, Johnson-16.825; 14. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-16.834; 15. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-16.857; 16. Tommy Malcolm, 5x, Napier-16.971; 17. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-16.987; 18. Ricky Lewis, 41, Stensland/Halley-16.993; 19. Logan Williams, 5w, McCarthy-16.998; 20. Chase Johnson, 8m, May-17.042; 21. Jadon Rogers, 14, Engler-17.042; 22. Austin Williams, 2, Williams-17.066; 23. Logan Seavey, 42, Cheney-17.086; 24. Chris Gansen, 4G, Gansen-17.101; 25. A.J. Bender, 21, Bender-17.116; 26. Chris Bonneau, 15, Bonneau-17.118; 27. Matt McCarthy, 28m, McCarthy-17.126; 28. Jake Neal, 214, Kracht-17.237; 29. Troy DeGaton, 39T, DeGaton-17.537; 30. Gary Marshall Jr., 23, Bellegante-18.108.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS / FLOWDYNAMICS FIRST QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. R.J. Johnson, 2. Tommy Malcolm, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Max Adams, 6. Jason McDougal, 7. Austin Williams, 8. A.J. Bender, 9. Logan Williams, 10. Jake Neal. 2:52.22

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) / BILLSJERKY.NET SECOND QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Austin Grabowski, 3. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 4. Damion Gardner, 5. Daniel Whitley, 6. Matt Mitchell, 7. Logan Seavey, 8. Chase Johnson, 9. Chris Bonneau, 10. Troy DeGaton. 2:51.40

PIT STOP USA / IN MEMORY OF JIM & CHET GARDNER THIRD QUALIFIER: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Ricky Lewis, 3. Brody Roa, 4. Sterling Cling, 5. Cody Williams, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Logan Calderwood, 8. Chris Gansen, 9. Matt McCarthy, 10. Gary Marshall Jr. 2:49.19

SUPER SIX DASH: (6 laps, determines the first three rows of the feature starting lineup) 1. Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), 2. Emerson Axsom (#47BC Clauson Marshall Newman), 3. Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou), 4. Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (#17GP Dutcher), 6. C.J. Leary (#77m Michael). 1:40.24

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS / FACTORY WRAPS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Max Adams, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Cody Williams, 5. Daniel Whitley, 6. Jason McDougal, 7. Austin Williams, 8. A.J. Bender, 9. Matt Mitchell, 10. Chris Gansen, 11. Matt McCarthy, 12. Logan Williams, 13. Chris Bonneau, 14. Chase Johnson, 15. Gary Marshall Jr., 16. Jake Neal, 17. Logan Calderwood, 18. Troy DeGaton. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (4), 2. Jake Swanson (7), 3. Emerson Axsom (2), 4. C.J. Leary (6), 5. Robert Ballou (3), 6. Justin Grant (1), 7. Kevin Thomas Jr. (5), 8. Jadon Rogers (21), 9. Matt Westfall (8), 10. Mitchel Moles (16), 11. Brody Roa (10), 12. R.J. Johnson (13), 13. Charles Davis Jr. (12), 14. Cody Williams (22), 15. Logan Seavey (20), 16. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (15), 17. Tommy Malcolm (11), 18. Sterling Cling (18), 19. Jason McDougal (24), 20. Austin Williams (25-P), 21. Max Adams (19), 22. Damion Gardner (9), 23. Daniel Whitley (23), 24. Ricky Lewis (14), 25. Austin Grabowski (17). NT

(P) represents a USAC CRA provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-10 Emerson Axsom, Laps 11-40 Brady Bacon.

FINAL USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2536, 2-Brady Bacon-2485, 3-C.J. Leary-2452, 4-Robert Ballou-2369, 5-Emerson Axsom-2298, 6-Logan Seavey-2127, 7-Matt Westfall-1833, 8-Jake Swanson-1786, 9-Jadon Rogers-1736, 10-Chase Stockon-1711.

FINAL AMSOIL USAC CRA SPRINT CAR POINTS: 1-Damion Gardner-1309, 2-Austin Williams-1073, 3-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-1048, 4-Matt Mitchell-1047, 5-Tommy Malcolm-967, 6-Brody Roa-935, 7-Cody Williams-916, 8-Logan Williams-868, 9-Charles Davis Jr.-883, 10-Matt McCarthy-687.

FINAL BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOING FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-707, 2-Justin Grant-673, 3-C.J. Leary-630, 4-Robert Ballou-552, 5-Emerson Axsom-551, 6-Logan Seavey-533, 7-Chase Stockon-502, 8-Matt Westfall-482, 9-Jadon Rogers-452, 10-Jason McDougal-392.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-176, 2-Brady Bacon-144, 3-Logan Seavey-137, 4-Thomas Meseraull-131, 5-Robert Ballou-119, 6-Kyle Cummins-104, 7-Kaylee Bryson-103, 8-Buddy Kofoid-100, 9-C.J. Leary-98, 10-Matt Westfall-95.

FINAL ALL COAST CONSTRUCTION TONY JONES HARD CHARGER POINTS: 1-Jadon Rogers-21, 2-Logan Seavey-15, 3-R.J. Johnson-15, 4-Tommy Malcolm-14, 5-C.J. Leary-12, 6-Cody Williams-12, 7-Brady Bacon-11, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-8, 9-Jake Swanson-7, 10-Emerson Axsom-7.

FINAL OVAL NATIONALS PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Tommy Malcolm-26, 2-Jadon Rogers-25, 3-R.J. Johnson-25, 4-Brady Bacon-19, 5-Logan Seavey-17, 6-Jake Swanson-16, 7-Cody Williams-16, 8-Chase Johnson-16, 9-C.J. Leary-15, 10-Ricky Lewis-14.

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Max Adams (16.989)

Fatheadz Eyewear / Woodland Auto Display Fast Qualifier: Mitchel Moles (16.222)

Shawn McDonald Sixth Fastest Qualifier: Jake Swanson

Simpson Race Products / FlowDynamics First Heat Winner: R.J. Johnson

Competition Suspension, Inc. / BillsJerky.net Second Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Pit Stop USA / In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Third Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts / Factory Wraps Semi Winner: Max Adams

GSP Quality Driving Performance: Brody Roa

In Memory of Jim & Chet Gardner Feature Hard Charger: Jadon Rogers (21st to 8th)

Shawn McDonald Sixth Place Feature Finisher: Justin Grant

Wildwood Disc Brakes Lucky 13: Charles Davis Jr.

Hoosier Auto Racing Fans Governor's Bonus Third Place Feature Finisher: Emerson Axsom

All Coast Construction Tony Jones Hard Charger: Jadon Rogers

ProSource Oval Nationals Passing Master: Tommy Malcolm

Dean Thompson Oval Nationals Points Champion: Brady Bacon

==========

2022 USAC AMSOIL NATIONAL SPRINT CAR STAT LEADERS

Driver Champion: Justin Grant

Entrant Champion: TOPP Motorsports #4

Rookie of the Year: Emerson Axsom

Most Wins: 6-Brady Bacon, Robert Ballou & Justin Grant

Most Laps Led: 224-Brady Bacon

Most Top-Fives: 27-Brady Bacon

Most Top-Tens: 37-Justin Grant

Most Fast Qualifying Times: 12-C.J. Leary

Most Heat Race Wins: 11-Brady Bacon



Most Feature Starts: 39-Emerson Axsom, Brady Bacon, Robert Ballou, Justin Grant & C.J. Leary

Biggest Charge of the Year: (+15) by Shane Cottle on Jul 25 at Circle City Raceway & by Logan Seavey on Oct 29 at Cocopah Speedway

==========

2022 USAC National Sprint Car Driver Points

Pos.	Pts.	Driver, Hometown
1	2536	Justin Grant, Ione, California
2	2485	Brady Bacon, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
3	2452	C.J. Leary, Greenfield, Indiana
4	2369	Robert Ballou, Rocklin, California
5	2298	(R) Emerson Axsom, Franklin, Indiana
6	2127	Logan Seavey, Sutter, California
7	1833	Matt Westfall, Pleasant Hill, Ohio
8	1786	Jake Swanson, Anaheim, California
9	1736	Jadon Rogers, Worthington, Indiana
10	1711	Chase Stockon, Fort Branch, Indiana
11	1480	(R) Mitchel Moles, Raisin City, California
12	1423	Jason McDougal, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
13	1410	Kyle Cummins, Princeton, Indiana
14	1074	Kevin Thomas Jr., Cullman, Alabama
15	1039	Brandon Mattox, Terre Haute, Indiana
16	988	Thomas Meseraull, San Jose, California
17	892	Shane Cottle, Kansas, Illinois
18	697	Max Adams, Loomis, California
19	632	Briggs Danner, Allentown, Pennsylvania
20	569	(R) Alex Banales, Lafayette, Indiana
21	454	Charles Davis Jr., Buckeye, Arizona

22	431	Alex Bright, Collegeville, Pennsylvania
23	332	Cole Bodine, Rossville, Indiana
24	327	(R) Xavier Doney, Odessa, Missouri
25	322	Brent Beauchamp, Fairland, Indiana
26	314	Sterling Cling, Tempe, Arizona
27	280	Mario Clouser, Auburn, Illinois
28	248	Zach Daum, Pocahontas, Illinois
29	242	Carson Short, Marion, Illinois
30	238	Shane Cockrum, Benton, Illinois
31	220	(R) Kyle Shipley, Phoenix, Arizona
32	218	Wyatt Burks, Topeka, Kansas
33	216	(R) Ricky Lewis, Camarillo, California
34	210	(R) Buddy Kofoid, Penngrove, California
35	208	Brady Short, Bedford, Indiana
36	189	Steven Drevicki, Reading, Pennsylvania
37	187	Tanner Thorson, Minden, Nevada
38	186	Dallas Hewitt, Troy, Ohio
39	172	(R) Harley Burns, Brazil, Indiana
40	156	(R) Jack Hoyer, Frankfort, Indiana
41	153	Brian Hayden, Fillmore, Indiana
42	143	(R) Brayden Fox, Avon, Indiana
43	129	Nick Bilbee, Indianapolis, Indiana
44	127	Dustin Clark, Washington, Indiana
45	95	(R) Braxton Cummings, Bedford, Indiana
46	91	(R) Daison Pursley, Locust Grove, Oklahoma
47	89	(R) Brandon Morin, Jasonville, Indiana
48	88	Landon Simon, Tipp City, Ohio
49	74	Kendall Ruble, Vincennes, Indiana
50	64	Chad Boespflug, Hanford, California

51	62	Davey Ray, Davenport, Iowa
52	55	(R) Saban Bibent, Cincinnati, Ohio
53	33	Kent Schmidt, Owensville, Indiana
54	26	Carmen Perigo, Stoystown, Pennsylvania
55	10	(R) Nate McMillin, Rosedale, Indiana

(R) represents a USAC National Sprint Car Rookie

2022 USAC National Sprint Car Entrant Points

Pos.	Pts.	Entrant, Location
1	2536	TOPP Motorsports, Rochester, Indiana (#4)
2	2485	Dynamics Inc., Milford, Ohio (#69)
3	2452	Michael Motorsports, Chino Valley, Arizona (#77m)
4	2369	Ballou Motorsports, Tipton, Indiana (#12)
5	2298	Clauson Marshall Newman Racing, Fishers, Indiana (#47BC)
6	1833	Ray Marshall Motorsports, Forest, Ohio (#33m)
7	1736	The Engler Family, Princeton, Indiana (#14)
8	1711	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5s)
9	1667	Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports, Gilbert, Arizona (#19AZ)
10	1647	Baldwin-Fox Racing, West Lafayette, Indiana (#5)
11	1574	Team AZ Racing, Brownsburg, Indiana (#21AZ)
12	1336	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5m)
13	1302	Rock Steady Racing, Dupont, Indiana (#3R)
14	1039	Brandon Mattox Racing, Cory, Indiana (#28)
15	731	Michael Dutcher Motorsports, Cicero, Indiana (#17GP)
16	658	Epperson Racing, Camby, Indiana (#2E)
17	632	Heffner Racing Enterprises South, Hellertown, Pennsylvania (#5G)
18	611	Hodges Motorsports, Albuquerque, New Mexico (#74x)
19	569	Baldwin-Fox Racing, West Lafayette, Indiana (#5x)
20	455	Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports, Columbus, Indiana (#67)

21	454	Charles Davis Jr., Buckeye, Arizona (#47)
22	421	Hummer Motorsports, Belvidere, New Jersey (#20)
23	416	2B Racing, Marion, Indiana (#2B)
24	351	Chris Dyson Racing, Poughkeepsie, New York (#20m)
25	314	Sterling Cling Racing, Franklin, Indiana (#34)
26	311	Lotier-Nemeth Motorsports, Douglassville, Pennsylvania (#7)
27	295	Doney-Lawson Racing, Odessa, Missouri (#74)
28	281	Hogue Racing Enterprises, Westampton, New Jersey (#39)
29	270	Eberhardt-Zirzow Racing, Greenfield, Wisconsin (#6)
30	248	Daum Motorsports, Pocahontas, Illinois (#5D)
31	248	DCT Racing-Lynn Crow-Kevin Bodine, Rossville, Indiana (#57B)
32	238	Amati Racing, Marion, Illinois (#66)
33	218	Wyatt Burks Racing, Topeka, Kansas (#11w)
34	217	Lauren Beauchamp, Needham, Indiana (#11)
35	208	Randy Edwards, Evansville, Indiana (#61m)
36	189	DeGre Engineering, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania (#19)
37	162	Harley Burns Racing, Brazil, Indiana (#16)
38	153	RCM Motorsports, Marion, Illinois (#21x)
39	153	Brian Hayden Racing, Fillmore, Indiana (#2H)
40	143	Fox Brothers Racing, Avon, Indiana (#53)
41	129	Bilbee Motorsports, Martinsville, Indiana (#17N)
42	127	Dustin Clark Racing, Washington, Indiana (#75)
43	125	Jerry Burton, Bloomington, Indiana (#04)
44	117	Landon Simon Racing, Avon, Indiana (#24)
45	114	DCT Racing-Lynn Crow-Kevin Bodine, Rossville, Indiana (#57c)
46	112	On the Gass Racing, Advance, Indiana (#17)
47	110	Tyler Sturgeon Racing, Indianapolis, Indiana (#77s)
48	95	Bub & Amanda Cummings, Bedford, Indiana (#71B)
49	89	Brandon Morin Racing, Jasonville, Indiana (#98)

50	88	Scott Adams, Marion, Indiana (#5A)
51	75	Jennifer Hewitt, Fletcher, Ohio (#21)
52	74	Jerry Ruble, Vincennes, Indiana (#17K)
53	67	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5K)
54	41	Tibbits-Stensland-Halley Motorsports, Bright, Indiana (#43)
55	26	Stehman Motorsports, Halifax, Pennsylvania (#21p)
56	10	Kenny McMillin, Rosedale, Indiana (#24)

==========

2022 USAC National Sprint Car Rookie Points

Pos.	Pts.	Driver, Hometown
1	2298	(R) Emerson Axsom, Franklin, Indiana
2	1480	(R) Mitchel Moles, Raisin City, California
3	569	(R) Alex Banales, Lafayette, Indiana
4	327	(R) Xavier Doney, Odessa, Missouri
5	220	(R) Kyle Shipley, Phoenix, Arizona
6	216	(R) Ricky Lewis, Camarillo, California
7	210	(R) Buddy Kofoid, Penngrove, California
8	172	(R) Harley Burns, Brazil, Indiana
9	156	(R) Jack Hoyer, Frankfort, Indiana
10	143	(R) Brayden Fox, Avon, Indiana
11	95	(R) Braxton Cummings, Bedford, Indiana
12	91	(R) Daison Pursley, Locust Grove, Oklahoma
13	89	(R) Brandon Morin, Jasonville, Indiana
14	55	(R) Saban Bibent, Cincinnati, Ohio
15	10	(R) Nate McMillin, Rosedale, Indiana

==========

2022 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

2022 USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Feb 17: Ocala, FL - Bubba Raceway Park

WINNER: Emerson Axsom (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #47BC)

Feb 18: Ocala, FL - Bubba Raceway Park

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Feb 19: (F) Ocala, FL - Bubba Raceway Park

WINNER: Emerson Axsom (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #47BC)

Apr 16: Atomic Speedway | Chillicothe, OH

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

May 12: (W) Lakeside Speedway | Kansas City, KS

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

May 14: (W) I-70 Motorsports Park | Odessa, MO

WINNER: Robert Ballou (Ballou Motorsports #12)

May 20: Terre Haute Action Track | Terre Haute, IN

WINNER: C.J. Leary (Michael Motorsports #77m)

May 22: Terre Haute Action Track | Terre Haute, IN

WINNER: Robert Ballou (Ballou Motorsports #12)

Jun 14: (E) Grandview Speedway | Bechtelsville, PA

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Jun 15: (E) Bridgeport Motorsports Park | Swedesboro, NJ

WINNER: Logan Seavey (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5)

Jun 17: (E) Williams Grove Speedway | Mechanicsburg, PA

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jun 18: (E) Port Royal Speedway | Port Royal, PA

WINNER: Logan Seavey (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5)

Jun 19: (E) Bloomsburg Fair Raceway | Bloomsburg, PA

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Jun 26: Angell Park Speedway | Sun Prairie, WI

WINNER: Robert Ballou (Ballou Motorsports #12)

Jul 1: (M) (A) Lincoln Park Speedway | Putnamville, IN

WINNER: C.J. Leary (Michael Motorsports #77m)

Jul 2: (M) Lincoln Park Speedway | Putnamville, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jul 8: (A) Huset's Speedway | Brandon, SD

WINNER: Robert Ballou (Ballou Motorsports #12)

Jul 9: (A) Huset's Speedway | Brandon, SD

WINNER: Ryan Bernal (Matt Wood Racing #17w)

Jul 10: (A) Huset's Speedway | Brandon, SD

WINNER: Mitchel Moles (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports)

Jul 22: (I) Gas City I-69 Speedway | Gas City, IN

WINNER: Shane Cottle (Hodges Motorsports #74x)

Jul 25: (I) Circle City Raceway | Indianapolis, IN

WINNER: C.J. Leary (Michael Motorsports #77m)

Jul 26: (I) Kokomo Speedway | Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jul 28: (I) Lincoln Park Speedway | Putnamville, IN

WINNER: Mitchel Moles (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)

Jul 29: (I) Bloomington Speedway | Bloomington, IN

WINNER: Kyle Cummins (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

Jul 30: (I) Tri-State Speedway | Haubstadt, IN

WINNER: Robert Ballou (Ballou Motorsports #12)

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway | Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway | Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (BGE Dougherty Racing #15K)

Aug 27: (F) Kokomo Speedway | Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Kyle Cummins (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

Sep 16: Circle City Raceway | Indianapolis, IN

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (BGE Dougherty Racing #15K)

Sep 17: (M) (A) Tri-State Speedway | Haubstadt, IN

WINNER: Jadon Rogers (The Engler Family #14)

Sep 22: Gas City I-69 Speedway | Gas City, IN

WINNER: Kevin Thomas Jr. (BGE Dougherty Racing #15K)

Sep 24: Eldora Speedway | Rossburg, OH

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Sep 30: (F) Kokomo Speedway | Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Kyle Cummins (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

Oct 1: Lawrenceburg Speedway | Lawrenceburg, IN

WINNER: Kyle Cummins (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

Oct 28: (C) Cocopah Speedway | Somerton, AZ

WINNER: Emerson Axsom (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #47BC)

Oct 29: (C) Cocopah Speedway | Somerton, AZ

WINNER: Jake Swanson (Team AZ Racing #21AZ)

Nov 3: (C) Perris Auto Speedway | Perris, CA

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Nov 4: (C) Perris Auto Speedway | Perris, CA

WINNER: Robert Ballou (Ballou Motorsports #12)

Nov 5: (C) (F) Perris Auto Speedway | Perris, CA

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

---------- KEY DEFINITIONS ----------

(M) represents an event co-sanctioned by MSCS

(E) represents an Eastern Storm event

(I) represents an Indiana Sprint Week event

(C) represents an event with the USAC CRA AMSOIL Sprint Cars

(F) represents a race awarding feature points only

(A) represents a race awarding appearance points only

==========

2022 USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP STATISTICS

FEATURE WINS

6-Brady Bacon (Apr 16 at Atomic Speedway, May 12 at Lakeside Speedway, Jun 14 at Grandview Speedway, Jun 19 at Bloomsburg Fair Raceway, Nov 3 at Perris Auto Speedway & Nov 5 at Perris Auto Speedway)

6-Robert Ballou (May 14 at I-70 Motorsports Park, May 22 at the Terre Haute Action Track, Jun 26 at Angell Park Speedway, Jul 8 at Huset's Speedway, Jul 30 at Tri-State Speedway & Nov 4 at Perris Auto Speedway)

6-Justin Grant (Feb 18 at Bubba Raceway Park, June 17 at Williams Grove Speedway, Jul 2 at Lincoln Park Speedway, Jul 26 at Kokomo Speedway, Aug 25 at Kokomo Speedway & Sep 24 at Eldora Speedway)

4-Kyle Cummins (Jul 29 at Bloomington Speedway, Aug 27 at Kokomo Speedway, Sep 30 at Kokomo Speedway & Oct 1 at Lawrenceburg Speedway)

3-Emerson Axsom (Feb 17 at Bubba Raceway Park, Feb 19 at Bubba Raceway Park & Oct 28 at Cocopah Speedway)

3-C.J. Leary (May 20 at the Terre Haute Action Track, Jul 1 at Lincoln Park Speedway & Jul 25 at Circle City Raceway)

3-Kevin Thomas Jr. (Aug 26 at Kokomo Speedway, Sep 16 at Circle City Raceway & Sep 22 at Gas City I-69 Speedway)

2-Mitchel Moles (Jul 10 at Huset's Speedway & Jul 28 at Lincoln Park Speedway)

2-Logan Seavey (Jun 15 at Bridgeport Motorsports Park & Jun 18 at Port Royal Speedway)

1-Ryan Bernal (Jul 9 at Huset's Speedway)

1-Shane Cottle (Jul 22 at Gas City I-69 Speedway)

1-Jadon Rogers (Sep 17 at Tri-State Speedway)

1-Jake Swanson (Oct 29 at Cocopah Speedway)

==========

FEATURE LAPS LED

224-Brady Bacon

200-Robert Ballou

144-Justin Grant



107-Mitchel Moles

106-Kevin Thomas Jr.

93-Emerson Axsom & Kyle Cummins

60-Logan Seavey

40-Jadon Rogers

35-C.J. Leary

32-Thomas Meseraull & Jake Swanson

30-Chase Stockon

17-Briggs Danner

8-Ryan Bernal

6-Davey Ray

4-Jason McDougal

2-Carson Short

1-Mario Clouser, Shane Cottle & Xavier Doney

==========

TOP-FIVE FEATURE FINISHES

27-Brady Bacon

24-Justin Grant

22-Robert Ballou

20-C.J. Leary

15-Emerson Axsom

14-Kyle Cummins

13-Chase Stockon

11-Logan Seavey

9-Jake Swanson

7-Jason McDougal

6-Mitchel Moles



5-Kevin Thomas Jr.

4-Shane Cottle

3-Thomas Meseraull, Jadon Rogers & Matt Westfall

2-Alex Bright, Briggs Danner, Buddy Kofoid & Tanner Thorson

1-Ryan Bernal

==========

TOP-TEN FEATURE FINISHES

37-Justin Grant

33-Brady Bacon

32-Robert Ballou

31-Emerson Axsom & C.J. Leary

22-Logan Seavey

21-Chase Stockon

19-Kyle Cummins, Mitchel Moles & Jake Swanson

17-Jason McDougal

16-Jadon Rogers

14-Matt Westfall

12-Thomas Meseraull

9-Kevin Thomas Jr.

8-Shane Cottle

7-Briggs Danner

4-Max Adams

3-Alex Bright, Buddy Kofoid, Carson Short & Ryan Timms

2-Brent Beauchamp, Ryan Bernal, Mario Clouser, Xavier Doney, Steven Drevicki, Tye Mihocko & Tanner Thorson

1-Nick Bilbee, Timmy Buckwalter, Dustin Clark, Shane Cockrum, Braydon Cromwell, Dave Darland, Anton Hernandez, R.J. Johnson, Critter Malone, Davey Ray, Eddie Tafoya Jr., Scotty Weir & Cody Williams

==========

FAST QUALIFYING TIMES (Presented by Fatheadz Eyewear)

12-C.J. Leary

8-Mitchel Moles

4-Jake Swanson

3-Emerson Axsom, Kyle Cummins & Chase Stockon

1-Brady Bacon, Robert Ballou, Justin Grant, Buddy Kofoid & Ryan Thomas

==========

HEAT RACE / QUALIFYING RACE WINS (Presented by Simpson Race Products, Competition Suspension Inc., Pit Stop USA & Rod End Supply)

11-Brady Bacon

10-Jadon Rogers & Chase Stockon

9-Robert Ballou & C.J. Leary

7-Thomas Meseraull, Jake Swanson & Kevin Thomas Jr.

5-Emerson Axsom, Kyle Cummins, Charles Davis Jr., Justin Grant, Jason McDougal & Logan Seavey

4-Mitchel Moles

3-Shane Cottle

2-Briggs Danner, Dave Darland, Brayden Fox, Anton Hernandez, R.J. Johnson & Matt Westfall

1-Max Adams, Brent Beauchamp, Ryan Bernal, Nick Bilbee, Timmy Buckwalter, Wyatt Burks, Mario Clouser, Zach Daum, Xavier Doney, Steven Drevicki, Damion Gardner, Carson Garrett, A.J. Hopkins, Ricky Lewis, Brandon Mattox, Tye Mihocko, Matt Mitchell, Brandon Morin, Brody Roa, Kyle Shipley, Brady Short, Carson Short, Mark Smith, Dalton Stevens, Eddie Tafoya Jr., Tanner Thorson, Ryan Timms & Cody Williams

==========

SEMI WINS

3-Justin Grant & Mitchel Moles



2-Emerson Axsom, Robert Ballou, C.J. Leary, Logan Seavey & Jake Swanson

1-Max Adams, Cody Baker, Wyatt Burks, Mario Clouser, Shane Cockrum, Kyle Cummins, Briggs Danner, Charles Davis Jr., Tommy Malcolm, Tye Mihocko, Daison Pursley, Chase Stockon, Scotty Weir & Matt Westfall

==========

C-MAIN WINS

2-Max Adams & Brody Roa

1-Alex Banales, Cole Bodine, Alex Bright, Dustin Clark, Xavier Doney, Geoff Ensign, Carson Garrett, Korbyn Hayslett, Evan Mosley, Sam Scott, Verne Sweeney & Josh Turner

==========

D-MAIN WINS

1-Seth Parker

==========

DASH WINS

1-Kyle Cummins & Justin Grant

==========

FEATURE STARTS

39-Emerson Axsom, Brady Bacon, Robert Ballou, Justin Grant & C.J. Leary

38-Logan Seavey & Matt Westfall

36-Jadon Rogers

32-Jake Swanson

30-Chase Stockon



27-Jason McDougal & Mitchel Moles

26-Brandon Mattox

21-Kyle Cummins

20-Kevin Thomas Jr.

19-Thomas Meseraull

17-Shane Cottle

13-Max Adams

12-Charles Davis Jr.

11-Briggs Danner

10-Alex Banales

9-Alex Bright & Dave Darland

8-Brody Roa & Eddie Tafoya Jr.

7-Anton Hernandez & Scotty Weir

6-Brent Beauchamp, Cole Bodine, Mario Clouser, Xavier Doney & Carson Garrett

5-Wyatt Burks, Shane Cockrum, Zach Daum, Steven Drevicki, Damion Gardner, Dallas Hewitt, R.J. Johnson, Tommy Malcolm & Tye Mihocko

4-Joey Amantea, Timmy Buckwalter, Sterling Cling, Braydon Cromwell, Geoff Ensign, Chad Frewaldt, Korbyn Hayslett, Ricky Lewis, Matt Mitchell, Brady Short, Carson Short, Austin Williams & Cody Williams

3-Koby Barksdale, Ryan Bernal, Clinton Bruns, Harley Burns, Austin Graby, Jack Hoyer, J.J. Hughes, Chase Johnson, Buddy Kofoid, Cam Schafer, Alex Schriever, Eric Schulz, Landon Simon, Wesley Smith, Tanner Thorson, Ryan Timms & Logan Williams

2-Collin Ambrose, Dustin Beck, Nick Bilbee, Dustin Clark, Braxton Cummings, Brayden Fox, Chris Gansen, Aric Gentry, Austin Grabowski, Brian Hayden, Matt McDonald, Brandon Morin, Zack Pretorius, Daison Pursley, Kendall Ruble, Brian Ruhlman, Kory Schudy, Kyle Shipley, Mark Smith, Dalton Stevens, Verne Sweeney & Daniel Whitley

1-Bryce Andrews, Terry Babb, Cody Baker, Keith Baxter, Stan Beadles, Brian Beebe, A.J. Bender, Saban Bibent, J.D. Black, Chad Boespflug, Isaac Chapple, Zach Clark, Colten Cottle, Derek Crane, Nathan Crane, Josh Davis, Kyle Edwards, Tom Eller, Parker Frederickson, Tripp Gerrald, Tom Harris, A.J. Hopkins, Chase Howard, William Huck, Steve Irwin, Jordan Kinser, Critter Malone, Michael Markey, Ryan Marshall, Evan Mosley, Chris Parkinson, Carmen Perigo, Davey Ray, Tony Rustad, Adyn Schmidt, Kent Schmidt, Jake Scott, Keith Sheffer II, John Sluss, Brandon Smith, Chad Tye, Mitch Wissmiller, Rece Wommack & Justin Zimmerman

==========

2022 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR FAST QUALIFIERS

Feb 17: Bubba Raceway Park – Justin Grant

Feb 18: Bubba Raceway Park – Buddy Kofoid

Apr 16: Atomic Speedway – C.J. Leary

Apr 29: Bloomington Speedway – Jake Swanson

May 12: Lakeside Speedway – Robert Ballou

May 14: I-70 Motorsports Park – Emerson Axsom

May 20: Terre Haute Action Track – C.J. Leary

May 22: Terre Haute Action Track – C.J. Leary

Jun 14: Grandview Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jun 15: Bridgeport Motorsports Park – C.J. Leary

Jun 17: Williams Grove Speedway – Jake Swanson

Jun 18: Port Royal Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jun 19: Bloomsburg Fair Raceway – Jake Swanson

Jun 26: Angell Park Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jul 1: Lincoln Park Speedway – Ryan Thomas

Jul 2: Lincoln Park Speedway – Chase Stockon

Jul 8: Huset's Speedway – Emerson Axsom

Jul 9: Huset's Speedway – Emerson Axsom

Jul 22: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Jul 24: Lawrenceburg Speedway - Mitchel Moles

Jul 25: Circle City Raceway – Mitchel Moles

Jul 26: Kokomo Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jul 28: Lincoln Park Speedway – Brady Bacon

Jul 29: Bloomington Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Jul 30: Tri-State Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway – Kyle Cummins

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway – Kyle Cummins

Sep 16: Circle City Raceway – Mitchel Moles



Sep 17: Tri-State Speedway – Chase Stockon

Sep 22: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Kyle Cummins

Sep 24: Eldora Speedway – Chase Stockon

Sep 30: Kokomo Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Oct 1: Lawrenceburg Speedway – C.J. Leary

Oct 28: Cocopah Speedway – C.J. Leary

Oct 29: Cocopah Speedway – Jake Swanson

Nov 3: Perris Auto Speedway – C.J. Leary

Nov 4: Perris Auto Speedway – C.J. Leary

Nov 5: Perris Auto Speedway – Mitchel Moles

==========

GSP QUALITY DRIVING PERFORMANCE OF THE NIGHT

Feb 17: Bubba Raceway Park – Brady Short

Feb 18: Bubba Raceway Park – Buddy Kofoid

Feb 19: Bubba Raceway Park – Braxton Cummings

Apr 16: Atomic Speedway – Robert Ballou

Apr 29: Bloomington Speedway – Braxton Cummings

May 12: Lakeside Speedway – Zach Clark

May 14: I-70 Motorsports Park – Brian Beebe

May 20: Terre Haute Action Track – Mitchel Moles

May 22: Terre Haute Action Track – Brandon Mattox

Jun 14: Grandview Speedway – Thomas Meseraull

Jun 15: Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Briggs Danner

Jun 17: Williams Grove Speedway – Justin Grant

Jun 18: Port Royal Speedway – Brady Bacon

Jun 19: Bloomsburg Fair Raceway – Briggs Danner

Jun 26: Angell Park Speedway – Brady Bacon



Jul 1: Lincoln Park Speedway – Jason McDougal

Jul 2: Lincoln Park Speedway – Harley Burns

Jul 8: Huset's Speedway – Justin Grant

Jul 9: Huset's Speedway – Jadon Rogers

Jul 10: Huset's Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Jul 22: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Brady Bacon

Jul 24: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Thomas Meseraull

Jul 25: Circle City Raceway – Shane Cottle

Jul 26: Kokomo Speedway – Kyle Cummins

Jul 28: Lincoln Park Speedway – Chase Stockon

Jul 29: Bloomington Speedway – Dalton Stevens

Jul 30: Tri-State Speedway – Matt Westfall

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway – Kyle Cummins

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway – Emerson Axsom

Aug 27: Kokomo Speedway – Tom Harris

Sep 16: Circle City Raceway – Chase Stockon

Sep 17: Tri-State Speedway – Adyn Schmidt

Sep 22: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Kyle Cummins

Sep 24: Eldora Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Sep 30: Kokomo Speedway – Brandon Mattox

Oct 1: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Anton Hernandez

Oct 28: Cocopah Speedway – Logan Williams

Oct 29: Cocopah Speedway – Matt Westfall

Nov 3: Perris Auto Speedway – Cody Williams

Nov 4: Perris Auto Speedway – Daniel Whitley

Nov 5: Perris Auto Speedway – Brody Roa

==========

HARD CHARGER OF THE RACE

Feb 17: Bubba Raceway Park – Buddy Kofoid (18th to 5th)

Feb 18: Bubba Raceway Park – Shane Cottle (21st to 10th)

Feb 19: Bubba Raceway Park – Tanner Thorson (14th to 2nd)

Apr 16: Atomic Speedway – Jadon Rogers (15th to 8th)

May 12: Lakeside Speedway – Xavier Doney (18th to 11th)

May 14: I-70 Motorsports Park – Justin Grant (8th to 3rd)

May 20: Terre Haute Action Track – Robert Ballou (13th to 3rd)

May 22: Terre Haute Action Track – Dustin Clark (19th to 9th)

Jun 14: Grandview Speedway – Emerson Axsom (20th to 10th)

Jun 15: Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Alex Bright (22nd to 7th)

Jun 17: Williams Grove Speedway – Alex Bright (13th to 2nd)

Jun 18: Port Royal Speedway – Alex Bright (16th to 2nd)

Jun 19: Bloomsburg Fair Raceway – Thomas Meseraull (12th to 9th)

Jun 26: Angell Park Speedway – Robert Ballou (8th to 1st)

Jul 1: Lincoln Park Speedway – Jake Swanson (18th to 7th)

Jul 2: Lincoln Park Speedway – Logan Seavey (11th to 3rd)

Jul 8: Huset's Speedway – Robert Ballou (8th to 1st)

Jul 9: Huset's Speedway – Thomas Meseraull (19th to 7th)

Jul 10: Huset's Speedway – Xavier Doney (14th to 6th)

Jul 22: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Kyle Cummins (17th to 6th)

Jul 25: Circle City Raceway – Shane Cottle (22nd to 7th)

Jul 26: Kokomo Speedway – Cole Bodine (22nd to 13th)

Jul 28: Lincoln Park Speedway – Chase Stockon (21st to 11th)

Jul 29: Bloomington Speedway – Jason McDougal (16th to 5th)

Jul 30: Tri-State Speedway – Critter Malone (20th to 10th)

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway – Thomas Meseraull (16th to 8th)

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway – Justin Grant (15th to 9th)

Aug 27: Kokomo Speedway – Max Adams (20th to 13th)

Sep 16: Circle City Raceway – Robert Ballou (15th to 6th)

Sep 17: Tri-State Speedway – Justin Grant (15th to 7th)

Sep 22: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Justin Grant (14th to 5th)

Sep 24: Eldora Speedway – Logan Seavey (20th to 12th)

Sep 30: Kokomo Speedway – Geoff Ensign (21st to 13th)

Oct 1: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Mitchel Moles (10th to 4th)

Oct 28: Cocopah Speedway – Robert Ballou (13th to 4th)

Oct 29: Cocopah Speedway – Logan Seavey (21st to 6th)

Nov 3: Perris Auto Speedway – Logan Seavey (19th to 9th)

Nov 4: Perris Auto Speedway – R.J. Johnson (22nd to 12th)

Nov 5: Perris Auto Speedway – Jadon Rogers (21st to 8th)

==========

DIRT DRAFT HOT LAPS FASTEST DRIVER

Feb 17: Bubba Raceway Park – Buddy Kofoid

Feb 18: Bubba Raceway Park – Jason McDougal

Feb 19: Bubba Raceway Park – Buddy Kofoid

Apr 16: Atomic Speedway – Justin Grant

Apr 29: Bloomington Speedway – Brady Bacon

May 12: Lakeside Speedway – Robert Ballou

May 14: I-70 Motorsports Park – Justin Grant

May 20: Terre Haute Action Track – Shane Cottle

May 22: Terre Haute Action Track – Mitchel Moles

Jun 14: Grandview Speedway – Chase Stockon

Jun 15: Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Logan Seavey

Jun 17: Williams Grove Speedway – Briggs Danner

Jun 18: Port Royal Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jun 19: Bloomsburg Fair Raceway – Brady Bacon



Jun 26: Angell Park Speedway – Matt Westfall

Jul 1: Lincoln Park Speedway – Ryan Thomas

Jul 2: Lincoln Park Speedway – Sterling Cling

Jul 8: Huset's Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Jul 9: Huset's Speedway – Jadon Rogers

Jul 10: Huset's Speedway – Brady Bacon

Jul 22: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Kevin Thomas Jr.

Jul 24: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Logan Seavey

Jul 25: Circle City Raceway – Chase Stockon

Jul 26: Kokomo Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jul 28: Lincoln Park Speedway – Chase Stockon

Jul 29: Bloomington Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jul 30: Tri-State Speedway – Thomas Meseraull

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Aug 27: Kokomo Speedway – C.J. Leary

Sep 16: Circle City Raceway – Emerson Axsom

Sep 17: Tri-State Speedway – Chase Stockon

Sep 22: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Anton Hernandez

Sep 24: Eldora Speedway – Brady Bacon

Sep 30: Kokomo Speedway – Chase Stockon

Oct 1: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Oct 28: Cocopah Speedway – Kevin Thomas Jr.

Oct 29: Cocopah Speedway – Emerson Axsom

Nov 3: Perris Auto Speedway – Jason McDougal

Nov 4: Perris Auto Speedway – Damion Gardner

Nov 5: Perris Auto Speedway – Max Adams

==========

2022 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR DRIVER & TEAM ROSTER:

A

MAX ADAMS/Loomis, CA (2B Racing #2B), (Scott Adams #5A), (On The Gass Racing #17), (Michael Dutcher Motorsports #17GP), (A.J. Felker Racing #37), (Josh Ford Motorsports #73) & (Goodnight Racing #79B)

GARRETT AITKEN/Paris, IL (Greg Aitken #32)

JOEY AMANTEA/Mt. Pocono, PA (Joe Amantea #88J)

COLLIN AMBROSE/Owensboro, KY (Lynn Ambrose #36)

BRYCE ANDREWS/Kenosha, WI (Robert Andrews #17)

EMERSON AXSOM/Franklin, IN (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #47BC)

B

TERRY BABB/Decatur, IL (KCBJ Motorsports #8D)

BRADY BACON/Broken Arrow, OK (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

CODY BAKER/Lone Jack, MO (Tribble-Hall Racing #9) & (Tribble-Hall Racing #38)

ROBERT BALLOU/Rocklin, CA (Ballou Motorsports #12)

ALEX BANALES/Lafayette, IN (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5x)

KOBY BARKSDALE/Norman, OK (Tom Knight #16K)

RYAN BARR/Piqua, OH (Barr Racing #21B)

KEITH BAXTER/Chillicothe, OH (Keith Baxter #1B)

STAN BEADLES/Owensville, IN (Beadles Racing #84)

BRENT BEAUCHAMP/Fairland, IN (Lauren Beauchamp #11) & (Jeff Olson #34)

DUSTIN BECK/Petersburg, IN (Terry Henson #75)

BRIAN BEEBE/Oak Grove, MO (Jerry Nussbaum #37)

ROBERT BELL/Colfax, IA (Robert Bell #71)

A.J. BENDER/San Diego, CA (Kim & Richard Bender #21)

RYAN BERNAL/Hollister, CA (Matt Wood Racing #17w)

TRAVIS BERRYHILL/American Canyon, CA (Tyler Sturgeon Racing #77s)



SABAN BIBENT/Cincinnati, OH (Wedgewood Motorsports #98)

NICK BILBEE/Indianapolis, IN (Bilbee Motorsports #17)

JASON BILLUPS/Holt, MO (Jason Billups #2)

J.D. BLACK/Grain Valley, MO (J.D. Black #7JR)

COLE BODINE/Rossville, IN (DCT Racing-Lynn Crow-Kevin Bodine #57B) & (DCT Racing-Lynn Crow-Kevin Bodine #57c)

CHAD BOESPFLUG/Hanford, CA (2B Racing #2B)

RYAN BOND/Haubstadt, IN (Jim Czoer #7R)

CHRIS BONNEAU/Phoenix, AZ (Chris Bonneau #15)

DONNY BRACKETT/Fort Branch, IN (Tony Brackett #4B)

ANDY BRADLEY/Bloomington, IN (Hoosier Speed #39)

ALEX BRIGHT/Collegeville, PA (Hummer Motorsports #20) & (A.J. Felker Racing #37)

ROBERT BROWN JR./Memphis, TN (Robert Brown Jr. #13)

CLINTON BRUNS/Little Rock, IA (Clinton Bruns #7)

TIMMY BUCKWALTER/Douglassville, PA (Lotier-Nemeth Motorsports #7)

WYATT BURKS/Topeka, KS (Wyatt Burks Racing #11w)

HARLEY BURNS/Brazil, IN (Harley Burns #16)

TYLER BURTON/Independence, MO (Charlie Burton #03)

C

LOGAN CALDERWOOD/Goodyear, AZ (Rex Calderwood #6)

TROY CAREY/Tullamore, NSW (Troy Carey Motorsports #45N)

CINDY CHAMBERS/Bloomington, IN (DC Motorsports #18c)

ISAAC CHAPPLE/Willow Branch, IN (Isaac Chapple Racing #52)

BRAYDEN CLARK/Tipton, IN (Mark Clark & Roy Jackson #42G)

DUSTIN CLARK/Washington, IN (Dustin Clark Racing #75)

MICHAEL CLARK/Brazil, IN (Michael Clark #8)

ZACH CLARK/Olathe, KS (C & C Motorsports #26)

STERLING CLING/Tempe, AZ (Sterling Cling Racing #34)

MARIO CLOUSER/Auburn, IL (Yeley-Petty Racing #2) & (Eberhardt-Zirzow Racing #6)



ANDREW COCKMAN/Elkhart, IN (Len Cockman #0c)

SHANE COCKRUM/Benton, IL (Amati Racing #66)

COLTEN COTTLE/Kansas, IL (Paul Hazen #57)

SHANE COTTLE/Kansas, IL (Hogue Enterprises #39) & (Hodges Motorsports #74x)

DEREK CRANE/Racine, WI (Derek Crane #19WI)

NATHAN CRANE/Waukegan, IL (George Gaertner #89)

TIM CREECH/Greenfield, IN (Tim Creech #2c)

BRAYDON CROMWELL/Lone Jack, MO (Mike Cromwell #4x) & (Rick Smith #90)

®BRAXTON CUMMINGS/Bedford, IN (Bub & Amanda Cummings #71B)

KYLE CUMMINS/Princeton, IN (Yeley-Petty Racing #2) & (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

D

BRIGGS DANNER/Allentown, PA (Heffner Racing Enterprises South #5G)

DAVE DARLAND/Lincoln, IN (Dave Darland/Curb-Agajanian Racing #36D)

ZACH DAUM/Pocahontas, IL (Daum Motorsports #5d)

JOSH DAVIS/Chillicothe, OH (Josh Davis #8D)

CHARLES DAVIS JR./Buckeye, AZ (Charles Davis Jr. #47)

TROY DeGATON/Live Oak, CA (Troy DeGaton #39T)

SHON DESKINS/Phoenix, AZ (Shon Deskins Racing #20)

XAVIER DONEY/Odessa, MO (Doney-Lawson Racing #74) & (KO Motorsports #5R)

STEVEN DREVICKI/Reading, PA (Greg Fitzpatrick #19s)

E

DAKOTA EARLS/Independence, MO (Jason Earls #15E)

KYLE EDWARDS/Fountain Valley, CA (Gordon Edwards #39E)

TOM ELLER/Pleasant Prairie, WI (Tom Eller #29OG)

GEOFF ENSIGN/Sebastopol, CA (Jerry Burton #04), (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5), (David Sylvia #9), (On The Gass Racing #17) & (Geoff Ensign #44)

GAGE ETGEN/Celina, OH (Gage Etgen Racing #99)

F

MICHAEL FISCHESSER/Cincinnati, OH (Michael Fischesser #4F)

BRAYDEN FOX/Avon, IN (Fox Brothers Racing #53)

PARKER FREDERICKSON/Kokomo, IN (Parker Frederickson #34F)

CHAD FREWALDT/Kansas City, KS (Kyle Lewis Racing #2x) & (Chad Frewaldt #4F)

G

DICKIE GAINES/Mitchell, IN (Jason Soudrette Racing #44)

CHRIS GANSEN/Verdemont Heights, CA (Gansen Engineering Motorsports #4G)

DAMION GARDNER/Concord, CA (Mark Alexander #1)

CARSON GARRETT/Littleton, CO (BGE Dougherty Motorsports #15)

ARIC GENTRY/Robards, KY (Larry Gentry #10)

TRIPP GERRALD/Dallas, GA (Tom Gerrald #4G)

GABRIEL GILBERT/Greenwood, IN (Gabriel Gilbert #10G)

IVAN GLOTZBACH/Fillmore, IN (Brian Hayden Racing #i1)

MATT GOODNIGHT/Winchester, IN (Goodnight Racing #39)

AUSTIN GRABOWSKI/Riverside, CA (Austin Grabowski #72)

AUSTIN GRABY/Lebanon, PA (Lotier-Nemeth Motorsports #7)

JUSTIN GRANT/Ione, CA (TOPP Motorsports #4)

DANIEL GRAUMENZ/New Munster, WI (Ralph Johnson #29J)

RYLAN GRAY/Greenfield, IN (Gray Racing #81G)

DUSTIN GRIFFITTS/Bloomington, IN (Bob Griffitts #9)

COLIN GRISSOM/Anderson, IN (Colin Grissom #00)

FRANKIE GUERRINI/San Rafael, CA (Frankie Guerrini #63)

H

TOM HARRIS/Banbury, Oxfordshire, UK (Tom Harris Motorsport #84)

AUSTIN HAWKINS/Bridgeport, IL (Austin Hawkins #5A)



BRIAN HAYDEN/Fillmore, IN (Brian Hayden Racing #2H)

KORBYN HAYSLETT/Troy, OH (Hayslett Racing #1H)

TONY HELTON/Cloverdale, IN (Jeff Miller #87)

ANTON HERNANDEZ/Arlington, TX (Yeley-Petty Racing #2) & (2B Racing #2B)

DALLAS HEWITT/Troy, OH (Todd Keen #18) & (Jennifer Hewitt #21)

TYLER HEWITT/Marion, IN (Paul Hazen #57)

TODD HOBSON/Clyde, VIC (Tyler Sturgeon Racing #77AU)

A.J. HOPKINS/Brownsburg, IN (Jerry Burton #04) & (Wingo Brothers Racing #77)

CHASE HOWARD/Olive Branch, MS (Ronny Howard #13)

ALLEN HOWARD JR./Terre Haute, IN (AJR Motorsports #4u)

JACK HOYER/Frankfort, IN (Chris Hoyer #11H), (Paul Hazen #57) & (DCT Racing-Lynn Crow-Kevin Bodine #57c)

WILLIAM HUCK/Mukwonago, WI (William Huck #39)

J.J. HUGHES/Jasper, IN (John Hughes #76)

BROC HUNNELL/Eolia, MO (Judy Smith & Tony Robertson #8)

I

DUSTIN INGLE/Lima, OH (Dustin Ingle #2DI)

STEVE IRWIN/Fenton, MI (Flying Zero Racing #0)

JOHN IVERS/Vincennes, IN (Carl Thomas #55)

J

JACK JAMES/Harlan, IN (Jack James #99)

CHASE JOHNSON/Penngrove, CA (Yeley-Petty Racing #2) & (May Motorsports #8m)

JUSTIN JOHNSON/Parkville, MO (Justin Johnson #27)

R.J. JOHNSON/Laveen, AZ (Ricky Johnson #51)

JEREMY JONAS/El Paso, TX (Evan Pardo #54)

K

JEREMY KERZMAN/Great Eagle, MN (Kerzman Racing #3K)



LARRY KINGSEED JR./Castalia, OH (Jerry Powell #59)

JORDAN KINSER/Bloomington, IN (Jerry Burton #04)

BUDDY KOFOID/Penngrove, CA (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #67) & (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19)

RILEY KREISEL/Warsaw, MO (Yeley-Petty Racing #2)

L

MARK LANE/Grain Valley, MO (Mark Lane #33L)

C.J. LEARY/Greenfield, IN (Michael Motorsports #77m)

CASEY LEWALLEN/Lake Lotawana, MO (Casey Lewallen #55L)

RICKY LEWIS/Oxnard, CA (Stensland-Halley Motorsports #41) & (Tibbits-Stensland-Halley Motorsports #43)

M

HUNTER MADDOX/Bedford, IN (Hunter Maddox #24m)

TOMMY MALCOLM/Corona, CA (Dino Napier #5x)

CRITTER MALONE/Pittsboro, IN (Seven LLC #7)

MICHAEL MARKEY/Hanover, PA (Mick Wasitowski #3x)

RYAN MARSHALL/Union Grove, WI (Eddie & Debbie Boyd #7)

GARY MARSHALL JR./Pomona, CA (John Bellegante #23)

DOUG MARTENS/Pipestone, MN (Harlow Thompson #17)

MIKE MARTIN/Yuma, AZ (Mike Martin Racing #16)

BRANDON MATTOX/Terre Haute, IN (Brandon Mattox Racing #28)

MATT McCARTHY/Riverside, CA (John & Tammy McCarthy #28m)

MATT McDONALD/Brownsburg, IN (Matt McDonald #5mc)

JASON McDOUGAL/Broken Arrow, OK (KO Motorsports #5m) & (Team AZ Racing #22AZ)

NATE McMILLIN/Rosedale, IN (Kenny McMillin #24)

TRES MEHLER/Oblong, IL (Austin Hawkins #5A)

THOMAS MESERAULL/San Jose, CA (Yeley-Petty Racing #2), (Epperson Racing #2E), (KO Motorsports #5K), (Chris Dyson Racing #20m) & (Tyler Sturgeon Racing #77s)

TYE MIHOCKO/Phoenix, AZ (Epperson Racing #2E) & (Bob Ream Jr. #8)



MATT MITCHELL/Yorba Linda, CA (J.W. Mitchell Motorsports #37)

DYLAN MOAN/Bridgeport, IL (Dylan Moan #17D)

JOSS MOFFATT/Columbus, IN (Moffatt Racing #5J)

MITCHEL MOLES/Raisin City, CA (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)

NATHAN MOORE/Kaufman, TX (Joe Moore #48)

BRANDON MORIN/Jasonville, IN (Brandon Morin Racing #98)

EVAN MOSLEY/Lapel, IN (Aaron Mosley #27)

N

JAKE NEAL/Omaha, NE (Brian Kracht #214)

KEVIN NEWTON/Farmersburg, IN (Kevin Newton #16TH)

P

BUDDY PARKER/Gardner, KS (Weld-Parkinson Motorsports #93)

SETH PARKER/West Terre Haute, IN (Seth Parker #38p)

CHRIS PARKINSON/Gladstone, MO (Chris Parkinson #65)

CARMEN PERIGO/Stoystown, PA (John Stehman #21)

JERRY PETTY/Litchfield Park, AZ (Yeley-Petty Racing #2)

CHRIS PHILLIPS/Plainfield, IN (Chris Phillips #6)

ZACK PRETORIUS/Yorktown, IN (Jeff Pretorius #9z)

DAISON PURSLEY/Locust Grove, OK (Keith Kunz-Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #67)

R

DAVEY RAY/Davenport, IA (FattFro Motorsports-Team RayPro #14AJ)

BRODY ROA/Garden Grove, CA (BR Performance #91R)

CHRIS ROBLING/Petersburg, IN (Kolehouse Motorsports-Scott Racing #23)

JADON ROGERS/Worthington, IN (The Engler Family #14)

KENDALL RUBLE/Vincennes, IN (Jerry Ruble #17)

BRIAN RUHLMAN/Clark Lake, MI (Brian Ruhlman #49)



CHAD RUHLMAN/Bemus Point, NY (Brian Ruhlman #49c)

TONY RUSTAD/Pipestone, MN (Tony Rustad #105)

S

CAM SCHAFER/Little Canada, MN (G & S Motorsports #97)

NATE SCHANK/Santa Rosa, CA (Nate Schank #1$)

ADYN SCHMIDT/Haubstadt, IN (Chet Williams #38)

KENT SCHMIDT/Owensville, IN (KO Motorsports #5K)

ALEX SCHRIEVER/Hartford, SD (Jeff Davis Enterprises #0)

KORY SCHUDY/Springfield, MO (Jon Sawyer #28K)

ERIC SCHULZ/Sioux Falls, SD (Kent Franks & Miles Grein #38)

JAKE SCOTT/Morgantown, IN (Jeff Miller #33)

SAM SCOTT/Patoka, IN (Scott-Kolehouse Motorsports #7s)

NATHAN SEALE/Fort Branch, IN (Nathan Seale #1s)

LOGAN SEAVEY/Sutter, CA (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5) & (Dwight Cheney #42)

KEITH SHEFFER II/Jerome, MI (Sheffer Racing #86)

DANNY SHERIDAN/Santa Maria, CA (Robbie & Gaye Allen #12A)

KYLE SHIPLEY/Sun City, AZ (Kyle Shipley #0G) & (Michael Dutcher Motorsports #17GP)

BRADY SHORT/Bedford, IN (Randy Edwards #61m)

CARSON SHORT/Marion, IL (Epperson Racing #2E), (Robert Brown Jr. #13) & (RCM Motorsports #21x)

WAYNE SIDDLE/Tucson, AZ (Wayne Siddle #007)

LANDON SIMON/Tipp City, OH (Landon Simon Racing #24)

ALEC SIPES/Bloomfield, IN (Alec Sipes #99)

JACKSON SLONE/Noblesville, IN (Josh Slone #16)

JOHN SLUSS/Indianapolis, IN (FattFro Motorsports-Team RayPro #4R)

BRANDON SMITH/Mason City, IL (Brandon Smith #11) & (Scott-Kolehouse Motorsports #23s)

COREY SMITH/Russiaville, IN (CS Motorsports #66s)

MARK SMITH/Sunbury, PA (L & M Motorsports #M1)

WESLEY SMITH/Billings, MO (Wesley Smith Racing #44)



DALTON STEVENS/Scurry, TX (Dale Stevens #99x)

CHASE STOCKON/Fort Branch, IN (KO Motorsports #5s)

JAKE SWANSON/Anaheim, CA (Joe Daming #5T) & (Team AZ Racing #21AZ)

VERNE SWEENEY/Lomita, CA (Ken Tracy #98)

T

EDDIE TAFOYA JR./Chino Hills, CA (Eddie Tafoya Sr. #51T)

DAN TAYLOR/Reily, OH (Dan Taylor #T5)

RYAN THOMAS/Indianapolis, IN (Wingo Brothers Racing #77FR)

KEVIN THOMAS JR./Cullman, AL (BGE Dougherty Motorsports #15K), (Michael Dutcher Motorsports #17) & (Michael Dutcher Motorsports #17GP)

TRAVIS THOMPSON/Brazil, IN (Travis Thompson #7T)

TANNER THORSON/Minden, NV (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)

RYAN TIMMS/Oklahoma City, OK (Keith Kunz/Curb-Agajanian Motorsports #67)

CODY TRAMMELL/Bloomington, IN (Gary Densford #27T)

JOSH TURNER/Osseo, MI (Josh Turner Racing #4T)

CHAD TYE/Independence, MO (Tye Motorsports #88)

U

LEE UNDERWOOD/Troy, OH (Lee Underwood #24L)

V

EDDIE VANCIL/Olney, IL (Eddie Vancil #7v)

JIM VANZANT/Prescott, AZ (Jim Vanzant #3v)

BLAKE VERMILLION/Greencastle, IN (Vermillion Racing #73)

JESSE VERMILLION/Greencastle, IN (Vermillion Racing #5v)

W

DUSTIN WEBBER/Bethel, OH (Dustin Webber #9)



SCOTTY WEIR/Marion, IN (2B Racing #2B), (Scott Pedersen #4p) & (Landon Simon Racing #24)

COOPER WELCH/Sheridan, IN (Chris Welch #2w)

MATT WESTFALL/Pleasant Hill, OH (Ray Marshall Motorsports #33m)

PAUL WHITE/Temple, TX (White Motorsports #1)

DANIEL WHITLEY/Ferndale, CA (Finkenbinder Motorsports #3F)

AUSTIN WILLIAMS/Yorba Linda, CA (Rip Williams #2)

CODY WILLIAMS/Corona, CA (Cody Williams #44)

LOGAN WILLIAMS/Yorba Linda, CA (John & Tammy McCarthy #5w)

TAYTE WILLIAMSON/Rushylvania, OH (Brent Williamson #20)

CHRIS WINDOM/Canton, IL (Hayward Motorsports #19)

MITCH WISSMILLER/Saybrook, IL (RMB Motorsports #29)

RECE WOMMACK/Falkner, MS (Wommack Racing #33)

Z

JUSTIN ZIMMERMAN/Athens, TX (D-Up Racing #1J)