Back-2-Back: Grant Climbs His Way Back to the TOPP as USAC Sprint Champ

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

”Racing’s funny.” That’s how Justin Grant reflected on the twists and turns he endured en route to his second consecutive USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National driving Championship in 2023 for TOPP Motorsports.

It’s a team that endured a nearly two-month struggle in the late spring/early summer months which overlapped with a change in team personnel and a period of confidence-shaking woes that found the team as far down as sixth in the standings, 83 points out of the lead, entering mid-summer.

What was not a laughing matter quickly turned into one of the most dominant stretches put together by any team in series history. For the last half of the season, Grant and his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy No. 4 were practically untouchable on their way to the $50,000 championship prize.

With a career-high 11 USAC National Sprint Car victories in 2023, including eight wins in his final 17 starts, Grant (Ione, Calif.) finished out the campaign with 13 straight top-tens to earn the title by a 109-point margin over yearlong challenger Brady Bacon. Grant became the 13th different point leader on September 9, one of a record six different drivers to lead the standings in 2023. The previous record was 12 lead changes among six drivers back in 2012.

In the process, Grant became the 10th driver to capture consecutive USAC National Sprint Car titles, joining Parnelli Jones (1960-61-62), Sheldon Kinser (1981-82), Rick Hood (1984-85), Steve Butler (1986-87-88), Robbie Stanley (1991-92-93), Brian Tyler (1996-97), Levi Jones (2009-10-11), Bryan Clauson (2012-13) and Brady Bacon (2020-21).

“It’s incredible to hear my name rattled off with all of those guys,” an awestruck Grant remarked. “It’s also something that’s not necessarily something flukey or obscure; it’s something that took work and is truly an accomplishment. A few of them were before my time, but obviously, I know of them and what they did, and a few of them are guys that I grew up watching and a few more of them are guys that were the top dogs when I moved to Indiana. Now, to be there with Brady, who is one of the best of our generation, is very cool. The last couple of years getting to battle with Brady has been very rewarding. He’s very good at what he does and is very good at running for championships. It’s taken a lot of work on my end to try and rise to the occasion.”

No championship is easy by any stretch of the imagination and Grant experienced his share of troubles in 2023. A strong beginning was earmarked by back-to-back series wins, including a complete sweep of the night at Tri-State Speedway and a score on the opening night of #LetsRaceTwo at Eldora. One night later at Eldora, Grant got upside down, setting off a string of five 13th place or worse results in a six-race stretch.

“It just seemed like we didn’t have a lot of speed, and the days that we did find some speed, I managed to crash or something, and it just seemed like we couldn’t get anything to go right,” Grant recalled. “I remember thinking that our championship hopes were pretty well squashed. We had kind of thrown it away at this point, and obviously, I’m going to keep doing my job, but I figured it was going to be pretty unlikely.”

When it rains, it pours, and after a push truck got the best of his car while being shoved away for qualifying on the opening night of Eastern Storm at Pennsylvania’s Grandview Speedway, Grant was running mid-pack when Grant felt his confidence slipping away.

"I remember just riding around 10th or 11th one night during Eastern Storm and thinking I don't know if I'll ever win another race again. This might be it. I might not ever win again."

However, a sigh of relief arrived by the end of the week when Grant won on the half-mile of Pennsylvania's Port Royal Speedway. But the positivity proved to be short lived. After an overall tumultuous Eastern Storm, Grant's crew chief, Dylan Cook, made the surprising revelation that he was leaving the team to pursue other opportunities. In the aftermath, in stepped veteran crew chief Jeff Walker, a three-time USAC National Sprint Car entrant champ in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

Grant and Walker's relationship dates all the way back to 2008-09 when Grant, then a recent BCRA Midget champ on the west coast, made the move to the Midwest to work and live with Walker. Grants explains that, back then, Walker taught him much of the knowledge he still uses to this day with Walker possessing the ability to get the best out of Grant and numerous others he's helped along the way.

A particularly rough two-night Macon (Ill.) Speedway outing in July saw Grant involved in crashes on both nights, the first of which sent him veering into the infield, and ultimately, striking a Cadillac Escalade push truck, wedging the nose of his car under its rear bumper. While gone midget racing the following week, Walker was busy at work in the team's Gasoline Alley shop, going through the inventory before calling Grant and alerting him that he'd found some stuff that wasn't quite right. It's a piece of the puzzle that Grant fondly describes as Walker going "full J-Dub."

"I had complained on the way home from Macon – I was more complaining about myself – but I just didn't know if it was me and I just didn't know what was going on. I couldn't feel the racecar. I wasn't sure if I was messed up or something else is messed up or what, but I just felt completely lost with the car. He's like, 'oh, Levi (Jones) and I had this happen one time and he said the same thing that he couldn't feel the racecar. We're going to fix that, and you'll get back to kicking their asses again.' Just having that, whether there was something actually wrong or not, gave me the belief that it wasn't me and that we were going to be good again. Having that just helped me find my way back."

Things seemingly turned on a dime from that point forward. The next race out, Grant stole a last lap victory from Robert Ballou during the USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week opener at Gas City I-69 Speedway and he never slowed down from there on. It was the first of his three wins during Indiana Sprint Week, which saw him collect additional scores at Lawrenceburg Speedway and the Terre Haute Action Track.

However, August marked the most successful and lucrative single weekend of his career when he nailed down three consecutive victories in as many nights at Indiana's Kokomo Speedway to become the first driver in the 12-year history of Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown to sweep his way to three successive feature triumphs in one weekend. His take home pay for Saturday night alone was $44,500, pocketing the base pay of $30,000 while also adding a cool $500 per each lap led.

Grant proceeded to sweep the USAC Sprint season at Gas City with a James Dean Classic triumph in September, then secured a win in what turned out to be the season finale, a $20,000 payday in October's Fall Nationals at Lawrenceburg. In doing so, Grant became the 11th driver to win the final race of his championship season, joining Eddie Sachs (1958), Tommy Hinnershitz (1959), Parnelli Jones (1960), Pancho Carter (1974), Sheldon Kinser (1977 & 1982), Steve Butler (1988), Josh Wise (2006), Levi Jones (2011) and Brady Bacon (2020).

It all started with confidence being re-instilled in Grant. Kevin Birchmeier's TOPP Motorsports team has had Grant in the seat for the past six consecutive seasons, and now their reward includes back-to-back USAC National Sprint Car championships.

"We were able to turn it around just because the team at TOPP Motorsports with Kevin Birchmeier who has always had my back 110 percent," Grant praised. "The more I struggle, the more he's pumping me up. I've driven for a lot of car owners and that's pretty rare. I'm always super grateful for Kevin and it's a different experience driving racecars when you know that the people you're driving for are in your corner no matter what. That allows you to be comfortable and able to work through things to get back to where you need to be. When you're trying to force it back, it never works."

To win a championship with Walker is the reward of a journey that started 15 years ago. Walker helped Grant buy his first passenger car when he was a teenager and when Walker became available after parting ways with Sterling Cling Racing this past summer, Grant swooped him up in a heartbeat. In fact, Walker was set on retirement, insisting that he was finished before the call came from Grant. The initial plan of just helping Grant for a few weeks suddenly transformed into a role for the rest of the season, and now Walker is prepared to chase a third-straight USAC Sprint title with Grant in 2024.

Grant harbors no hard feelings about Cook's exodus from the team and insisted that Cook was doing his job just fine. However, Grant admitted that, on occasion, a little bit of a shakeup and a fresh outlook can re-spark things. And with the combination of TOPP and Walker, Grant felt he was at his best.

"With the environment at TOPP Motorsports, Kevin allows me to be my best and then getting J-Dub involved really made me be my best," Grant said. "I like winning, and I like seeing my name on those all-time lists, but it's extra rewarding to get to do it for an owner like Kevin. Kevin hired me in 2018 after I got released from the Sam McGhee Motorsports car when we lost the championship and has stuck with me ever since, so it's special for me to be able to win races for him and win him championships."

"And being able to win one for Jeff," Grant continued. "He's the one who brought me to the Midwest and taught me a lot of what I know and got me started. He's been in a pretty big lull, so to get him back and be part of him winning races again, and doing all that, feels really, really good. It feels like a little bit of repayment for what he has done for me over the years."

For the fourth consecutive year, and sixth time overall, Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) finished top-two in the series standings on the strength of seven victories. His $20,000 Haubstadt Hustler victory in September at Tri-State gave him his 53rd career USAC National Sprint Car feature win, pushing him up to second all-time in series victories past Tom Bigelow. Additionally, by adding a pair of victories at Macon (Illinois) and at Devil's Bowl Speedway (Texas), Bacon became the new record holder of the most different states won in by a USAC National Sprint Car driver. Bacon now stands alone at 14.

Furthermore, Bacon picked up his second career USAC Indiana Sprint Week championship in 2023, which was highlighted in round three of the series at Lawrenceburg where he was light at the scales in tech inspection after qualifying. The penalty forced him to start from the tail in all proceeding events throughout the evening. In the feature, he managed to make the biggest charge of the entire USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship season when he advanced from his 22nd starting position to finish third.

One year after corralling Rookie of the Year honors, Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) finished third in the standings for Clauson Marshall Newman Racing. The highlight of the season came in June when Axsom won on back-to-back nights in Pennsylvania at Big Diamond Speedway and Williams Grove Speedway, which vaulted him to the Eastern Storm title.

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) equaled his career high with four USAC National Sprint Car wins, including a comeback victory at Ocala, Florida's Bubba Raceway Park, which involved the team blowing their only two engines they brought with them prior to the race. Receiving a third engine just in the nick of time that was driven through the night from Indiana, the Rock Steady Racing team installed the new powerplant under the hood in a hotel parking lot and proceeded to win a $10,000 payday.

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) piloted his Team AZ Racing ride to a career high four wins and a career best fourth place finish in the points. Among his quartet of victories was a last lap pass of Bacon to win a $12,000 top prize at Iowa's Knoxville Raceway.

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) won three series features and was rewarded with a $10,000 top prize for earning the Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment championship. Leary, in his first season with the BGE Dougherty Motorsports team, became the titlist after tallying the most points throughout a 10-race miniseries at 10 different tracks within the USAC National Sprint Car season.

Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) and 2B Racing got hot late in the season, winning twice in September in spectacular fashion with a last lap pass of Shane Cottle for the victory at Indiana's Circle City Raceway followed by a complete sweep of the USAC portion of the 4-Crown Nationals at Ohio's Eldora Speedway where he won a Midget, Sprint and Silver Crown feature on the very same night within the span of a couple hours.

Mitchel Moles (Raisin City, Calif.) won once for Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports in the series debut on the 1/5-mile Macon Speedway in July. During the series' first ever visit to Arkansas' Texarkana 67 Speedway in September, Matt Westfall (Pleasant Hill, Ohio) returned to USAC National Sprint Car victory lane for the first time since 2006. The 17-year, two month and 23-day span between series victories was a new USAC record, surpassing the previous mark of 12 years, 11 months and 4 days between wins by Doug Wolfgang between 1978-1991. In doing so, he also provided veteran car owner Ray Marshall his long-awaited first USAC score.

Daison Pursley (Locust Grove, Okla.) finished 11th in the overall series standings for KO Motorsports to earn USAC National Sprint Car Rookie of the Year honors for the 2023 season, just less than two years after suffering a severe spinal cord injury which required several months of recovery in a hospital and rehabilitation center. Pursley scored a non-points special event victory on Valentine's Day at Florida's Volusia Speedway Park.

Bacon led all series drivers with 262 feature laps led throughout 2023. Bacon also topped all drivers with five fast qualifying times and 25 top-fives in 36 starts while Axsom notched a series-best 29 top-tens. Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) was the heat race master of the season, picking up 12 victories. Meanwhile, five drivers started all 36 feature events, including Axsom, Bacon, Ballou, Grant and Leary.

Chase Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.), who finished eighth in the standings, became just the fifth driver in USAC National Sprint Car history to finish inside the top-10 of the point standings in at least 12 consecutive years dating back to 2012. The only drivers with as many or more consecutive top-five points finishes in the series are Dave Darland (1997-2018), Sheldon Kinser (1974-1987), Levi Jones (2001-2012) and Chris Windom (2010-2021).

With his June victory at Wisconsin's Wilmot Raceway, Brady Bacon and Dynamics, Inc./Hoffman Auto Racing became the winningest driver/entrant combo in series history. The pairing's 41st win together as a team surpassed the long held record of driver Pancho Carter and team owner Steve Stapp who achieved 40 victories with the series between 1973-80.

The 58 cars and drivers on hand for July's series stop at Gas City I-69 Speedway were the most for a USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing event in 18 years. The most recent time the series reached that mark was, ironically, also at Gas City in 2005 when exactly 58 were signed in at Gas City.

Justin Grant's triumph in June at Pennsylvania's Port Royal Speedway also came during a momentous occasion with it being the 2,000th USAC National Sprint Car event ever held dating back to the organization's infancy in 1956.

The racing community grieved the death of competitor Justin Owen (Harrison, Ohio) who succumbed to injuries following a qualifying accident on April 8 at Lawrenceburg (Ind.) Speedway after his car made contact with the outside wall and flipped multiple times in turn three. The 26-year-old Owen was the reigning Lawrenceburg sprint car track champion at the time of his death. Owen's passing was the first in USAC National Sprint Car racing since Don Townsend in a 2005 practice crash at Ohio's Mansfield Motorsports Park. Owen's incident was the first fatal accident with the USAC National Sprint Car division on dirt since Jeff Thickstun at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in 1984.

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STRAIGHT TO THE POINT: SWANSON CONTINUES SCALDING STRETCH AT VOLUSIA

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Barberville, Florida (February 13, 2023)……Points weren't a part of the agenda during Monday night's DIRTcar Nationals opener for the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship at Florida's Volusia Speedway Park.

However, Jake Swanson made it a point to demonstrate that his blazing run to finish line the previous season was still hot to the touch to start the new year in 2023. The Anaheim, Calif. native had closed out 2022 with five podium results in his last seven feature starts, including a victory.

Swanson checked out on the 22-car field from his pole starting position, then saw his substantial four-plus second lead evaporate with a mid-race yellow. He then completely rebuilt his advantage down the stretch en route to a $5,000 payday with his 25-lap feature victory in his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

Even after the yellow, nothing was going to stop Swanson from an exhilarating wire-to-wire performance during Monday night's non-points special event, showing proof that he had no inkling of backing off the proverbial throttle despite admitting that he did accumulate a little bit of rust over the winter months away from the racetrack.

"I still felt like we were pretty good," Swanson said regarding the continuation of his dominance following the lap 17 caution. "I definitely got a little bit sloppy before the yellow and I have some things to clean up on. I love being back in a sprint car but there's a little bit of rust that developed over the winter."

Swanson surged to the point on the opening lap, but in turn three, he hiked up the wheels as he danced atop the curb, forcing second running Chase Stockon to check up slightly right on Swanson's rear bumper. Swanson gathered it up, got back on the saddle and headed forward and forthright.

Behind him, 2022 Volusia winner Thomas Meseraull dove under Stockon to snare second away in turn two on lap two. Swanson, now up 1.965 second, was already surpassing the tail end of the field by lap nine. Swanson cleared with relative ease to put Brandon Mattox a lap down and was able to stretch his interval to an astounding 4.407 seconds nearing the midway point.

Trouble soon hit a pair of frontrunners shortly thereafter. First to fall by the wayside was fifth running Kyle Cummins who had an engine lock up on him on lap 11, forcing him out of the contest. Earlier in the evening, Cummins broke Steve Kinser's 1981 Volusia non-wing sprint car track record of 16.559 seconds, resetting the 42-year-old standard with a time of 16.398.

While Swanson maintained control at the forefront of the field, the jockeying for position among second, third and fourth was hot and heavy in the distance behind him. Stockon made the first move, shooting past Meseraull for second on lap 15 while, moments later, Bacon ripped away third from Meseraull around the outside. On lap 17, the culprit became evident when Meseraull fell off the pace with a flat right rear. He'd make a stop in the Indy Metal Finishing work area for fresh rubber but only managed to return to 15th after restarting from the tail.

For Swanson, the yellow flag meant the erasure of his commanding 4.733 second lead. Yet, it didn't seem to add any obstacles for him on the ensuing restart with nine laps remaining even though the half-mile track surface tried its darnedest to throw a monkey wrench in his plans.

"With that curb, I really had to slow down and make sure not to trip up on it too hard," Swanson explained. "We were getting tripped up and we were definitely getting slowed down, but I was a little better off to hit it too hard - as long as it didn't bite me – than I was to go too slow and let those guys rip around me. We have a lot of good racecars in this deal, so you've got to be on your toes and be pushing 100 percent all of the time."

Swanson never relented on his constant push, all while Robert Ballou fired off a slider in turn two to take third from Bacon on lap 22. With one to go, Ballou picked off one more for good measure, sliding his way into second past Stockon in turn one. Ahead of him, however, with Swanson retaining a 1.6 second lead, he knew there wasn't any time to let up. Not now. Not ever.

"I was more so trying to pay attention to whether anyone was coming," Swanson said. "For the most part, you can kind of hear something coming so I was trying to pay attention to that. I was starting to hear them toward the end as I was getting tripped up more and more on that curb. If I just minimized mistakes, I knew it was going to be hard for them to get by me. We did our jobs and it's a great way to start the season."

Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) made a late-race burst to find his way into second after starting back in the seventh position in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru - Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy, a career best Volusia finish for the 2015 series champ who grabbed a fifth and a fourth in two appearances a year ago. To get there, he made his own line, skating the top on entry and slipstreaming down to the bottom on exit to thrust him into the top-two.

"I was one of the first ones to find (the line) on lap eight or nine, and about four laps later, Brady found it. But if you got tripped up there, you kind of had to do something to protect," Ballou recalled. "We changed just about everything but the driver's seat tonight. I'm just trying to fine-tune and get this thing a little bit better with us being able to run 'H' tires for these first two nights. My balance was off a little bit; we changed and changed and went just a little bit too far. We just got the right corner a little bit too high, and once we lost the fuel load, I was kind of just riding along. Everyone else seemed to bottle up on the curve, but my car was so free, I could pretty much just go anywhere."

Slick to the curb isn't exactly his forte, but outside front row starter Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.) was Swanson's closest challenger throughout the early going. Ultimately, Stockon took a solid third place result in his KO Motorsports/Banded Ag – Dewig Meats – AMSOIL/Flea RC/Fisher Chevy.

"I was somewhat sad to see that caution there after we got into a pretty good rhythm there," Stockon lamented. "I knew we weren't going to be fast enough to catch Jake; he was up there ripping. We were able to get through lapped cars pretty good, and once we got to them, I knew we had a pretty good chance at the podium tonight."

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) struggled for much of the night, qualifying 12th, then followed up by missing the transfer spot for the feature. Yet, ultimately, the reigning USAC National Sprint Car champion found his mojo in the feature, racing from his 14th starting position to take fifth, thus earning him the hard charger award for the night.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: February 13, 2023 – Volusia Speedway Park – Barberville, Florida – Federated Auto Parts DIRTcar Nationals – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track

QUALIFYING: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-16.398; 2. Thomas Meseraull, 20, Dyson-16.466; 3. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-16.501; 4. Brady Bacon, 98, Wedgewood-16.667; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.712; 6. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.723; 7. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-16.735; 8. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.812; 9. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-16.824; 10. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-16.902; 11. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-16.925; 12. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.968; 13. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.969; 14. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-16.972; 15. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.986; 16. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-16.997; 17. Dustin Clark, 75, DCR-17.104; 18. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-17.366; 19. Garrett Aitken, 32, Aitken-17.543; 20. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-17.573; 21. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-17.622; 22. Steve Irwin, 0, Flying Zero-17.695; 23. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-17.826; 24. Joey Amantea, 88J, JPA-17.905; 25. Cameron Smith, 96, Kauffman-18.326; 26. John Mollick, 4J, Clever-18.355; 27. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-18.711; 28. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-20.685.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Jason McDougal, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Garrett Aitken, 8. Steve Irwin, 9. Cameron Smith. 2:18.59

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Tom Harris, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Mitchel Moles, 6. Carson Garrett, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. John Mollick, 9. Dustin Clark. NT

ROD END SUPPLY / T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Justin Grant, 7. Brian Ruhlman, 8. Joey Amantea, 9. Hunter Maddox. 2:17.94

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Daison Pursley, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Garrett Aitken, 5. Joey Amantea, 6. Steve Irwin, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Cameron Smith, 9. Brian Ruhlman, 10. John Mollick, 11. Hunter Maddox. 3:34.33

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Jake Swanson (1), 2. Robert Ballou (7), 3. Chase Stockon (2), 4. Brady Bacon (3), 5. Justin Grant (14), 6. Kevin Thomas Jr. (12), 7. C.J. Leary (11), 8. Emerson Axsom (4), 9. Daison Pursley

(9), 10. Mitchel Moles (10), 11. Jason McDougal (8), 12. Jadon Rogers (17), 13. Matt Westfall (15), 14. Logan Seavey (16), 15. Thomas Meseraull (5), 16. Garrett Aitken (18), 17. Steve Irwin (20), 18. Tom Harris (13), 19. Carson Garrett (19), 20. Joey Amantea (22), 21. Brandon Mattox (21), 22. Kyle Cummins (6). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Jake Swanson.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL EVENT RACE: February 14, 2023 – Volusia Speedway Park – Barberville, Florida – Federated Auto Parts DIRTcar Nationals – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Jason McDougal (17.765)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jason McDougal

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Daison Pursley

Irvin King Hard Charger: Justin Grant (14th to 5th)

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A COMEBACK STORY FOR THE AGES: ROOKIE PURSLEY PREVAILS WITH VOLUSIA VICTORY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Barberville, Florida (February 14, 2023)……Fifteen months ago, Daison Pursley lay in a hospital bed facing an uncertain future.

A violent crash during a midget race at Arizona Speedway in November 2021 left the Locust Grove, Okla. native with a severe spinal cord injury that jeopardized not only his racing career but his physical well-being, the consequences of which still linger to this day.

Fifteen months later, Pursley had overcome the personal setbacks, the physical pain, the strenuous daily rehab regimen and a full laundry list of obstacles in pursuit of returning to the sport he loved and lived for.

For Pursley, it culminated in him facing the task to overcome a field of 21 competitors to earn his greatest triumph yet on his racing comeback journey.

The 18-year-old midget racing standout and newly turned USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship Rookie of the Year contender defied the odds while also defying the challenge presented to him by fellow 18-year-old Emerson Axsom

late in Tuesday night's $10,000-to-win, non-stop, caution free DIRTcar Nationals 30-lap non-points special event feature at Florida's Volusia Speedway Park.

Pursley remembers first-hand how far he's come since that fateful night. He realizes that this is a night to forever cherish – a night he'll forever remember.

"It's pretty unbelievable; this is definitely one I'll remember forever," Pursley exclaimed. "It's crazy to look back at where I was a year ago, watching this stuff on TV. I don't get very emotional, and I don't show my emotions that much. I just kind of stay calm, cool and collected. Later tonight, when I'm getting ready for bed, I bet this one will hit pretty hard."

Starting from the pole position, Pursley led the first 18 laps while clinging with all his might to a narrow lead over Axsom. But only for a bit. Axsom burst his way to the front on the 19th trip, utilizing the bottom of turn two around the 1/2-mile dirt oval.

Just like his fight to return the racetrack, there was no quit in Pursley on this night. As the two front runners worked lapped traffic, Pursley left the bottom for the first time, swinging wide and setting up top on the cushion. There, he found a power surge that pushed him past Axsom for good.

Entering the night, Pursley's entire sprint car career consisted of two starts in both 2021 and 2022, plus one more the previous evening. The first of those five previous opportunities came for KO Motorsports who gave him a chance to wheel a sprint car and also stuck by him through his injury and recovery by providing him a car when he was officially back and ready to wheel the Hutson John Deere – S & C Machine – Peterbilt/Flea RC/J & D Chevy.

"KO Motorsports gave me my first sprint car start and it's so cool to be able to get my first win with them," Pursley said. "It's just crazy to look back at everything, from getting my first USAC Midget win to now getting my first USAC Sprint Car win all within two years. I'm just extremely thankful and blessed to be surrounded by great people like Kent (Schmidt), Flea (Ruzic) and Brian (Davis) and everyone who's a part of this deal. It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to drive such a great piece."

In February of 2022, Pursley remained in an Atlanta, Georgia rehab center where, at night, he passed the time by watching the live stream of the sprint car races at Volusia, yearning for the day he'd get his chance to return to the racetrack himself.

That itch and the desire to go racing once again was relentless for Pursley. Through the guidance of a seven-time USAC National champion, Pursley's goal remained steadfast, and soon enough, that itch would need to be scratched, and ultimately, that dream soon became a realization.

"I took a lot of good things out of something bad that happened to me last year," Pursley explained. "I talked to Levi Jones throughout the whole deal, and as he put it when he texted me, you'll have an itch to go racing again and sometimes that's a good thing when you have to lay in a bed and take a couple months off. I feel like he's right and I definitely have another gear in me to perform and do what's best; I think that's a good thing."

There are a myriad of rhymes and reasons why a common individual wouldn't return after an ordeal such as the one Pursley experienced. But Pursley has demonstrated he's not common in that sense despite the after effects that he feels every day. Overall, Pursley is doing just fine, thank you.

"I feel really good; I don't have any pain and I'm off my medications," Pursley revealed. "My left hand still gives me issues – not inside of the racecar necessarily – but those fine motor things like when I hook up my HANS Device up or put my

RACEceiver in, just those little things that can get annoying. It's something I can live with, and to be honest, I don't even know what a good working left hand feels like anymore. This is my new normal and I think this is where it's going to be at for the rest of my life. I'm just very thankful for the path God put me through and the path he's continuing to put me through is pretty special as well."

Pursley readily admitted that he didn't think he'd be winning in his and the team's first weekend together. However, he was hooked up on the bottom from the word 'go' until encountering lapped traffic at the midway point of the contest. On the 16th lap, Pursley drifted off the bottom in turn one, opening the door for Axsom to slide by for P1. Without hesitation, Pursley punched the throttle and tracked down Axsom on the way to turn three, slicing through the middle between Axsom and the newly lapped car of Cameron Smith.

Three laps later, however, Pursley shot high in turns one and two on the 19th circuit while Axsom stuck the bottom and motored into the race lead. With that said, Axsom was anything but in the clear. A few ticks later, Axsom encountered a triumvirate convoy of tail-end lead lap cars driven three-wide directly in his path by Tom Harris, Joey Amantea and Jadon Rogers.

Just as Axsom attempted to sneak under Harris in three and four, he found himself boxed in near the inner rail. Meanwhile, Pursley took his talents to the top in turn four and ripped around both to secure the race lead with just six laps remaining.

As Axsom reloaded for another run, Pursley possessed a full head of steam on his path to the finish line in a high speed game of "catch me if you can." Pursley had a straightforward mission and he wasn't going to allow himself to be caught on this night as he closed out his victorious run with a 0.697 second margin of victory over Axsom, C.J. Leary, new one-lap track record holder Thomas Meseraull and Monday night Volusia victor Jake Swanson.

Soon after crossing the line, smoke began to billow out of Pursley's ride, but the story had already been written, the checkered had been taken and the check had been cashed. Pursley had officially arrived.

Axsom (Franklin, Ind.), last season's USAC National Sprint Car Rookie of the Year, put up a whale of a fight for the victory, leading six times across the line between laps 19-24 to score a second place finish in his Clauson Marshall Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) overcame near disaster following opening lap contact between him and Robert Ballou on the back straightaway during the feature. Leary put in his best performance so far with BGE Dougherty Motorsports, coming home third in his Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

By virtue of his first and fifth place feature finishes and the accumulation of the most points during the two nights of racing at Volusia, Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) collected the "big gator" as the overall DIRTcar Nationals champion in his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: February 14, 2023 – Volusia Speedway Park – Barberville, Florida – Federated Auto Parts DIRTcar Nationals – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track

QUALIFYING: 1. Thomas Meseraull, 20, Dyson-16.362 (New Track Record); 2. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-16.411; 3. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.423; 4. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-16.485; 5. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-16.497; 6. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-16.506; 7. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-16.588; 8. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-16.668; 9. Brady

Bacon, 98, Wedgewood-16.689; 10. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.698; 11. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.782; 12. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.824; 13. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.829; 14. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-17.018; 15. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-17.140; 16. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-17.212; 17. Garrett Aitken, 32, Aitken-17.223; 18. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-17.261; 19. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-17.274; 20. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-17.542; 21. Cameron Smith, 96, Kauffman-17.596; 22. Steve Irwin, 0, Flying Zero-17.647; 23. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-17.704; 24. Joey Amantea, 88J, JPA-18.010; 25. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-18.134; 26. John Mollick, 4J, Clever-18.403.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Carson Garrett, 3. Thomas Meseraull, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Steve Irwin, 9. Hunter Maddox. 2:17.38 (New Track Record)

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Garrett Aitken, 4. Tom Harris, 5. Jason McDougal, 6. Kevin Thomas Jr., 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Brian Ruhlman, 9. John Mollick. NT

ROD END SUPPLY / T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Justin Grant, 7. Joey Amantea, 8. Cameron Smith. 2:21.46

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (10 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 5. Joey Amantea, 6. Cameron Smith, 7. Brian Ruhlman, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Steve Irwin, 10. John Mollick, 11. Hunter Maddox. 2:57.95 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Daison Pursley (1), 2. Emerson Axsom (3), 3. C.J. Leary (2), 4. Thomas Meseraull (6), 5. Jake Swanson (8), 6. Jason McDougal (5), 7. Brady Bacon (7), 8. Robert Ballou (4), 9. Chase Stockon (12), 10. Matt Westfall (11), 11. Kevin Thomas Jr. (14), 12. Justin Grant (13), 13. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (16), 14. Carson Garrett (9), 15. Logan Seavey (18), 16. Joey Amantea (22), 17. Tom Harris (10), 18. Garrett Aitken (17), 19. Jadon Rogers (19), 20. Cameron Smith (21), 21. Brian Ruhlman (20), 22. Mitchel Moles (15). 9:00.65 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-18 Daison Pursley, Laps 19-24 Emerson Axsom, Laps 25-30 Daison Pursley.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: February 16-17-18, 2023 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XIV – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Jake Swanson (18.304)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

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

Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Irvin King Hard Charger: Joey Amantea (22nd to 16th)

2023 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR SEASON REVIEW

Overall DIRTcar Nationals USAC Sprint Car Champion: Jake Swanson

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HALF-SPIN, FULL WIN: BACON PASSES HEWITT FOR 3RD ALL-TIME WITH OCALA WIN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Ocala, Florida (February 16, 2023)……One lap into Thursday night's Winter Dirt Games XIV USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship season opening feature at Bubba Raceway Park, Brady Bacon's evening was seemingly finished just about as soon it had begun.

At the end of 30 laps, the Broken Arrow, Okla. driver found himself greeted in victory lane by one of the all-time greats, Jack Hewitt, whom Bacon had just surpassed to move to third on the series' all-time career win list.

Bacon's 47th career USAC National Sprint Car feature victory was monumental in several respects. Most notably, he elevated another step up the mountaintop, moving past Hewitt and into a tie with 2002 series titlist Tracy Hines for third all-time in series feature wins.

Best yet, Hewitt was in the audience for the occasion and made his way to victory lane to put his arm around Bacon following his monumental accomplishment, embracing the newest member of the USAC Sprint Car Mount Rushmore in terms of feature triumphs.

"It means a lot," Bacon beamed. "There aren't many organizations that have the list of accomplished drivers like USAC does. Being able to pass a guy like Jack Hewitt and guys like A.J. Foyt, Tony Stewart, Jeff Gordon and Levi Jones on a list like that is something I'm really proud of."

By comparison, Hewitt hit win 46 at the age of 50 in 2001. Bacon, just 33 years old, continues to rewrite the history books, much the same as he did on Thursday night. Hewitt, a National Sprint Car and USAC Hall of Fame inductee in his own right, praised Bacon, noting that at his age, he still has a lot left in the tank to someday catch and pass all-time USAC National Sprint Car winners, Dave Darland (62) and Tom Bigelow (52) on the top rung.

"It's pretty cool," Hewitt exclaimed. "I raced for 29 years to get that many feature wins. Look how young he is; he's got a long way to go. I think (Dave) Darland and the rest of them are in trouble."

Number 47 for Bacon, as it turned out, was a case of misfortune turning into a golden treasure chest as he spun while battling Thomas Meseraull for the fourth position. As he zipped across Meseraull's nose, Bacon's rear tires slipped out from underneath him, sending him sliding completely sideways through the middle of turn four.

With his car visibly locked up and dead in the water, so to speak, Bacon received an unexpected assist from the oncoming Jake Swanson who t-boned the idle Bacon on the left side nerf bar, which nudged Bacon's car just enough to rekindle the engine and drive away with the fourth position still intact.

Bacon steadily moved his way up through the field to third on the lap two restart, to the second spot on lap 21 and finally to the lead on lap 23 by slipping under Axsom between turns one and two in the midst of heavy lapped traffic. From there,

Bacon was untouchable in his Dynamics, Inc./Hagner Debris Removal – Tel-Star – Western Flyer Express/Triple X/Rider Chevy, leading the field for the final eight circuits to the finish line.

“I just got really lucky,” Bacon admitted. “I hate it for the guys I collected there but, luckily, got refired. We’ll take it when we can get it. We actually cracked a header on that, so (the engine) wasn’t running at 100 percent, but it probably helped me by making me commit to the bottom and kept my tires underneath me and we were smart through lapped traffic. I was just hoping to salvage a decent finish because my motor wasn’t running as well as it should’ve; the Rider usually runs pretty good. We were able to sneak around those guys in lapped traffic and get the win. I’m definitely happy to start the year off better than we did last year.”

Last year’s first two races in Ocala saw Bacon collect 16th and 15th place results, respectively, after being involved in three separate incidents throughout the first two nights. This particular night harkened back to 2014 and 2020, when Bacon captured the Ocala opener, then carried on to win the USAC championship. Bacon’s latest performance was the record-tying third opening night USAC Sprint Car win of his career. Bacon is now the fifth driver to win three career season openers, joining Damion Gardner, Don Branson, Larry Dickson and Rich Vogler.

After his early race incident, Bacon closed is on the front two of past Ocala winners C.J. Leary, who led the first nine, while 'Axsom reigned for the next 13 trips between laps 10-22. Throughout the second half of the feature, Axsom was constantly mired in traffic, dealing with having to navigate his way through a double-wide formation that featured Californian Swanson and Englishman Tom Harris side-by-side in front of the leaders.

Bacon punched through to second in much the same way he’d eventually assume the lead, dipping down to the low line in turn one to shoot by and corral the spot. He did just that to Leary for the runner-up spot on lap 21 and once again on lap 23 for the race lead, which proved to be the winning move.

A melee on lap 25 halted the proceedings when Thomas Meseraull (6th) and Daison Pursley (9th) got connected while Kevin Thomas Jr. (8th) came to a complete stop. Pursley remained intact until veering into the infield grass in turn two, the victim of a broken radius rod. All were able to restart and finish the final six laps of the contest.

Meanwhile, Axsom, winner of the 2022 season opener at Ocala, made one last push to the front on the ensuing lap 25 restart. Axsom managed to pull ahead by three car lengths entering turn three while utilizing the high groove. However, each time, Bacon stuck the bottom and was able to fend off and pull away at the exit of turn four to keep Axsom at bay.

In the end, Bacon secured his fifth career Winter Dirt Games feature victory, tying him with Damion Gardner as the winningest driver in the history of the event. Axsom finished second, 1.194 seconds behind. C.J. Leary took third with Justin Grant fourth and Kyle Cummins fifth who was using his third engine this week, this one being delivered to their hotel parking lot at 1:30 in the afternoon after having multiple powerplants expire on them, first during Monday at Volusia Speedway Park and at Wednesday’s practice in Ocala.

Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) led a race-high 13 feature laps in his Clauson Marshall Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy. The 2022 series Rookie of the Year has now finished all four of his Ocala USAC Sprint Car starts on the podium with a 1st, 3rd, 1st and 2nd dating back to the start of 2022. In the process, he nearly became the first driver to collect opening season wins in back-to-back years since Damion Gardner in 2011-12.

For the second straight time this week, C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) finished his feature run in the third position after scoring a third in Tuesday’s non-points special event at Volusia. The 2019 USAC National Sprint Car champ led the opening nine

laps to start off the season in his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

A tumultuous start to the evening turned all right for Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.). The 2015 USAC National Sprint Car champion was forced into a backup car after hot laps due to a mechanical issue, hopped into the secondary car, then drove from his 22nd place starting position to finish 10th in the feature in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy. That performance earned Ballou the night's Irvin King Hard Charger honors as well as the ProSource Hard Work award.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: February 16, 2023 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XIV – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

QUALIFYING: 1. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-13.791; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.842; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.924; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.955; 5. Thomas Meseraull, 20, Dyson-14.004; 6. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.052; 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-14.067; 8. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-14.081; 9. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-14.094; 10. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-14.097; 11. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-14.132; 12. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-14.149; 13. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-14.179; 14. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.257; 15. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.309; 16. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.383; 17. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.467; 18. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-14.478; 19. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-14.673; 20. Cameron Smith, 96, Kauffman-14.674; 21. Joey Amantea, 88J, JPA-14.761; 22. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.836; 23. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-14.903; 24. Steve Irwin, 0, Flying Zero-14.977; 25. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-15.102; 26. Kevin Newton, 16TH, Newton-15.203; 27. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-15.852; 28. Eddie Vancil, 7v, Vancil-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Tom Harris, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Kevin Thomas Jr., 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Hunter Maddox, 9. Jason McDougal. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Thomas Meseraull, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Cameron Smith, 8. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 9. Kevin Newton. 1:57.78

ROD END SUPPLY / T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Brady Short, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. Kyle Cummins, 7. Joey Amantea, 8. Brian Ruhlman, 9. Steve Irwin. 1:56.76

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Joey Amantea, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Hunter Maddox, 7. Steve Irwin, 8. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 9. Kevin Newton, 10. Brian Ruhlman, 11. Cameron Smith, 12. Jason McDougal. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (4), 2. Emerson Axsom (2), 3. C.J. Leary (1), 4. Justin Grant (5), 5. Kyle Cummins (10), 6. Thomas Meseraull (3), 7. Matt Westfall (8), 8. Logan Seavey (12), 9. Chase Stockon (16), 10. Robert Ballou (22), 11. Carson Garrett (14), 12. Mitchel Moles (9), 13. Jake Swanson (6), 14. Kevin Thomas Jr. (11), 15. Daison Pursley (13), 16. Brady Short (17), 17. Joey Amantea (19), 18. Brandon Mattox (20), 19. Hunter Maddox (18), 20. Tom Harris (15), 21. Steve Irwin (21), 22. Jadon Rogers (7). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-9 C.J. Leary, Laps 10-22 Emerson Axsom, Laps 23-30 Brady Bacon.

**Eddie Vancil flipped during qualifying.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-79, 2-Emerson Axsom-73, 3-C.J. Leary-70, 4-Justin Grant-70, 5-Kyle Cummins-62, 6-Thomas Meseraull-61, 7-Matt Westfall-60, 8-Logan Seavey-56, 9-Chase Stockon-53, 10-Robert Ballou-47.

WINTER DIRT GAMES XIV POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-349, 2-Emerson Axsom-340, 3-C.J. Leary-334, 4-Justin Grant-331, 5-Matt Westfall-318, 6-Thomas Meseraull-316, 7-Kyle Cummins-315, 8-Logan Seavey-315, 9-Chase Stockon-304, 10-Mitchel Moles-299.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-12, 2-Chase Stockon-7, 3-Kyle Cummins-5, 4-Logan Seavey-4, 5-Brady Bacon-3, 6-Carson Garrett-3, 7-Joey Amantea-2, 8-Brandon Mattox-2, 9-Justin Grant-1, 10-Matt Westfall-1.

HUGHES RACING / INDIANA MAFIA / FLAMINGO SANDY WINTER DIRT GAMES XIV SPRINT CAR PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-16, 2-Chase Stockon-7, 3-Brady Bacon-5, 4-Kyle Cummins-5, 5-Logan Seavey-5, 6-Brandon Mattox-5, 7-Joey Amantea-4, 8-Justin Grant-3, 9-Carson Garrett-3, 10-Matt Westfall-2.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: February 17-18, 2023 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XIV – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Kyle Cummins (14.227)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Matt Westfall

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

ProSource Hard Work Award: Robert Ballou

Irvin King Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (22nd to 10th)

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THE ENGINE THAT COULD: CUMMINS' 3RD POWERPLANT IS THE CHARM AT WINTER DIRT GAMES

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Ocala, Florida (February 18, 2023)……There was a point in time earlier this week when winning, let alone even competing, seemed unfathomable for Kyle Cummins and the Rock Steady Racing team.

When Cummins pulled into victory lane on Saturday night after capturing the $10,000 top prize at Bubba Raceway Park's Winter Dirt Games XIV finale, the Princeton, Ind. racer knew this one was special and how much of a true testament it was to the all-hands-on-deck effort that put this outcome into the realm of possibility.

After blowing an engine on Monday at Volusia Speedway Park, the team sat out Tuesday's non-points special event race, then grabbed the only other powerplant they had on hand and installed it under the hood for Wednesday's open practice at Bubba's. Two laps into the session, their second and final engine took its last gasp.

Seemingly finished for the weekend and with dreams of a potential USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship buried six feet under with the possibility of missing the first three points races altogether, a lifeline from roughly 12 hours away was delivered just in the nick of time.

Insert fellow competitor Chet Williams who was in Texas on Wednesday when he received a call regarding the engine dilemma that the team found themselves in. Williams finished his half-day drive to Indiana, loaded up the engine into the back of a pickup truck, then, with the help of Jay Harrington, immediately made another 12-hour beeline to an Ocala, Florida hotel parking lot where the engine was delivered, promptly plugged into the No. 3R, and ready to race on Thursday where Cummins proceeded to drive the car to a fifth place finish.

Fast forward two nights later to Saturday and there they were, right back at it with Cummins making the winning pass on Brady Bacon with just four laps remaining to score a hard-earned victory, which might be the understatement of the century, in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Kistler Chevy.

This particular engine certainly has a winning pedigree as it was the same one used by Cummins to win multiple features in 2022 and helped him finally breakthrough for his first career Bubba Raceway Park win after previously finishing second twice and third on three occasions.

"We had some motor failures there at the beginning of week and just some weird dumb luck, like stuff that would never happen and breaking stuff that never breaks, and it wasn't anything on our part," Cummins recalled. "Chet and Jay got a motor from Indiana, then drove all through the night to get down here, which put a little pressure on me to make sure we performed. Our team just worked and worked and worked and worked to get to this point. We just sat back on Wednesday night thinking, 'what do we do now?' We've got one of the fastest cars in the pits and we're just sitting here."

Cummins' victory was the 15th of his USAC National Sprint Car career, tying him with Bobby East, Cory Kruseman and Brian Tyler for 39th all-time. In the process, he moved ahead of Billy Cassella, Lee Kunzman, Chase Stockon and Bruce Walkup.

Thursday night's Ocala feature winner Brady Bacon started from the pole with Cummins along for the ride to the outside of the front row. Bacon held the early upper hand as he slipped out to the early advantage around the 3/8-mile dirt track.

However, the first stoppage of the main event came on lap four when two-time Ocala winner Robert Ballou, running 11th at the time, was knocked out of the race with a broken camshaft. Despite his early retirement from the contest, Ballou's 16 positions advanced throughout the weekend were still tops among all drivers and earned him an $800 bonus as the Flamingo Sandy/Hughes Racing/Indiana Mafia Winter Dirt Games XIV Passing Master.

On the ensuing restart, defending series champion Justin Grant made headway up into the second position as he drove around the outside of Cummins. Undeterred, Cummins fought his way back by Grant a lap later as the two engaged in a

see-saw soiree that consisted of four changes of position between the two in a five-lap span. Grant retook the position briefly on the seventh circuit before Cummins emerged ahead into the runner-up spot once and for all on lap nine.

Cummins managed to pull even with Bacon on lap 11 as the two frontrunners began to work traffic. Bacon escaped by the skin of his teeth as he pulled the wheels up on the high side of turn two in the narrow band between himself, Cummins and the outside wall in order to escape back to the forefront.

Closing in on 10 laps remaining, Bacon's half-second advantage ballooned to 1.5 sec. as the second and third place cars of Cummins and Leary fought to wrestle a path by the lapped car of Tafoya at the exit of turn two.

Traffic had been the name of the game for the head of the pack throughout much of the second half of the affair. However, with the laps dwindling to just six to go, an even heavier load of traffic occupied the lower line that Bacon had utilized for practically the entire duration to that point.

With four to go, Bacon found himself at a crossroads, whether to stick to the bottom or leave it behind for the top. Bacon chose to ride it high into turn one, and, initially, it paid off as he fired off around the outside to put Daison Pursley a lap down. With that said, turn three was another story as Bacon found himself mired in proverbial quicksand multiple lanes off the bottom, which simultaneously opened a door for Cummins to attack. Cummins took an axe to the door similar to Jack Nicholson in The Shining, seemingly shouting "Here's Kyle" as he broke through at the exit of turn four to gain the lead on lap 32.

Despite a bevy of traffic to navigate throughout the next four laps, Cummins weaved through it all with relative ease and precision, closing out a masterful run on what was a tumultuous week to prevail at the checkered flag 0.688 sec. ahead of Bacon with Leary third, Grant fourth and Jason McDougal fifth.

For Cummins, not only was it huge to finally get a win at one of his favorite tracks where a win had eluded him since his debut in 2012, he had to beat a front row starting Bacon, which took everything in Cummins' tank to muster successfully, and he did just that.

"I'm just glad to knock Brady off because normally when he starts on the front row, it's like 'oh my gosh,'" Cummins noted. "Brady is basically the best one here. He was better in open traffic than we were, and once we got to traffic, I was messing with shocks and just holding on."

"(The lapped cars) kind of slowed his pace down just enough," Bacon continued. "I knew they were kind of dirtying up the top a little bit, and the lap before, I was going to go to the top, then he went to the top, so once I got around him in three and four, I was just buzzing around the top as hard as I could run. I was coming to the bottom, and then I got stuck out there again. Then, I was like, 'oh, white flag,' then I thought I better go protect or he'll just drive right back by me. But everything worked out and it's nice to start the season out a lot better than how we started the beginning of the week."

It was almost career win number 48 for Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) who led 31 of the 35 laps en route to a second place finish in his Dynamics, Inc./Tel-Star – Western Flyer Express/Triple X/Rider Chevy. However, he came up just short in his bid to move into sole possession of third place on the all-time USAC National Sprint Car win list. As a consolation, the four-time champion leaves Florida as the series point leader.

"I just saw (Cummins) poking his nose out there and the lapped cars just kept slowing me up," Bacon explained. "Then it got to where I could hardly get my car loaded to go fast because I was going so slow behind them. I just made the decision

(to go to the top) and it was the wrong one at the time when I did it, and he was able to sneak by me. After he did that, then it all kind of fanned out. If I would've stayed on the bottom, I might've been able to hang on but you're a sitting duck in that situation and 35 laps leading from the pole is a long time. I don't know if anybody's won from the pole here and there's a reason for that. It's a tricky place and it's hard to know where you need to be on the racetrack without having somebody in front of you to judge off."

It was another solid podium result for C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) and his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts/DRC/1-Way Chevy. For the third straight feature race this week, Leary brought home a third place finish, first at Volusia and the latter two in Ocala.

"In a split second, it could change you from taking the lead or running third or fourth," the seventh place starting Leary described of the race. "I felt like our car was really good around the bottom, but I just started a little too deep. I knew with Brady and Cummins rolling off the front row, they were both going to be really tough to beat but we were right there with them. With a new team, it's really tough to jell sometimes, and I think out of the box, we've jelled really well. We're all having fun and that's what we're all here for."

A one hour and nine minute delay took place after Kevin Newton rode out a frightening flip down the front straightaway during the semi-feature. The impact of his car with the fence sheared off a wide swath of posts and catch fencing. Newton was able to escape and walk away from the incident while repairs to the fence were made before racing activity recommenced.

During qualifying, Chase Stockon recorded the 32nd fast time of his USAC National Sprint Car career, moving him ahead of three-time champion Sheldon Kinser and into sole possession of 11th on the all-time list. Meanwhile, Stockon's KO Motorsports teammate Jason McDougal set fast time during Thursday's season opener. That became the first instance of two different drivers from the same team setting fast qualifying time during the first two events of the season in 56 years. In 1967, the Ward Dunseth/Paul Leffler team captured the first two fast qualifying awards of the year with Greg Weld in the opener at Pennsylvania's Reading Fairgrounds while Bob Wente time trialed the quickest in race two at Ohio's Eldora Speedway.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL EVENT RACE RESULTS: February 18, 2023 – Bubba Raceway Park – Ocala, Florida – Winter Dirt Games XIV – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

QUALIFYING: 1. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.979; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.076; 3. Jason McDougal, 5m, KO-14.113; 4. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.167; 5. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.206; 6. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-14.215; 7. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.302; 8. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.354; 9. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-14.383; 10. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-14.392; 11. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-14.464; 12. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.473; 13. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.510; 14. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-14.544; 15. Thomas Meseraull, 20, Dyson-14.565; 16. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-14.600; 17. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-14.601; 18. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-14.614; 19. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-14.680; 20. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.704; 21. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-14.756; 22. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.840; 23. Joey Amantea, 88J, JPA-14.847; 24. Kevin Newton, 16TH, Newton-15.191; 25. Cameron Smith, 96, Kauffman-15.192; 26. Steve Irwin, 0, Flying Zero-15.242; 27. Eddie Vancil, 7v, Vancil-16.905.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 9. Cameron Smith. 1:56.24

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Brady Short, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Justin Grant, 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Joey Amantea, 8. Steve Irwin, 9. Hunter Maddox. 1:58.11

ROD END SUPPLY / T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Jason McDougal, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Daison Pursley, 6. Tom Harris, 7. Logan Seavey, 8. Kevin Newton, 9. Eddie Vancil. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (10 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Joey Amantea, 5. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 6. Cameron Smith, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Steve Irwin, 9. Tom Harris, 10. Eddie Vancil, 11. Kevin Newton, 12. Hunter Maddox. NT

FEATURE: (35 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kyle Cummins (2), 2. Brady Bacon (1), 3. C.J. Leary (7), 4. Justin Grant (5), 5. Jason McDougal (4), 6. Emerson Axsom (8), 7. Chase Stockon (6), 8. Matt Westfall (3), 9. Kevin Thomas Jr. (16), 10. Logan Seavey (10), 11. Mitchel Moles (11), 12. Jake Swanson (19), 13. Daison Pursley (12), 14. Carson Garrett (17), 15. Thomas Meseraull (9), 16. Brady Short (15), 17. Jadon Rogers (14), 18. Joey Amantea (21), 19. Tom Harris (23-P), 20. Brandon Mattox (20), 21. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (18), 22. Cameron Smith (22), 23. Robert Ballou (13). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-31 Brady Bacon, Laps 32-35 Kyle Cummins.

**Tom Harris flipped during the semi. Kevin Newton flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-152, 2-C.J. Leary-142, 3-Justin Grant-140, 4-Kyle Cummins-139, 5-Emerson Axsom-136, 6-Matt Westfall-116, 7-Chase Stockon-116, 8-Logan Seavey-103, 9-Thomas Meseraull-102, 10-Mitchel Moles-94.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-12, 2-Chase Stockon-7, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-7, 4-Jake Swanson-7, 5-Kyle Cummins-6, 6-Carson Garrett-6, 7-Joey Amantea-5, 8-C.J. Leary-4, 9-Logan Seavey-4, 10-Brady Bacon-3.

HUGHES RACING / INDIANA MAFIA / FLAMINGO SANDY WINTER DIRT GAMES XIV SPRINT CAR PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-16, 2-Jake Swanson-12, 3-Chase Stockon-9, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-8, 5-Joey Amantea-8, 6-Kyle Cummins-7, 7-C.J. Leary-7, 8-Brady Bacon-6, 9-Carson Garrett-6, 10-Brandon Mattox-6.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 1, 2023 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Chase Stockon (14.219)

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

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

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

ProSource Hard Work Award: Cameron Smith

Irvin King Hard Charger: Kevin Thomas Jr. (16th to 9th)

Flamingo Sandy/Hughes Racing/Indiana Mafia Winter Dirt Games XIV Passing Master: Robert Ballou (16)

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LAWRENCEBURG USAC SPRINTS CANCELED; OWEN SUCCUMBS AFTER QUALIFYING ACCIDENT

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Lawrenceburg, Indiana (April 8, 2023)……Saturday night's USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship event at Indiana's Lawrenceburg Speedway was canceled following an incident involving Harrison, Ohio's Justin Owen after his car made contact with the outside wall and flipped multiple times in turn three.

Owen, a competitor in the sprint car ranks for more than a decade, succumbed to injuries sustained during the incident. The 2022 sprint car track champion at Lawrenceburg Speedway was 26 years old.

Owen's death is the first in USAC National Sprint Car racing since Don Townsend in a 2005 practice crash at Ohio's Mansfield Motorsports Park. Owen's incident was the first fatal accident with the USAC National Sprint Car division on dirt since Jeff Thickstun at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in 1984.

Twenty-nine cars were entered for the event with Mitchel Moles (Raisin City, Calif.) posting the fastest lap during Dirt Draft Hot Laps with a time of 13.792 seconds around the 3/8-mile dirt oval. Owen was second quickest in the field.

Four drivers posted an official qualifying time during the event with Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) the fastest at 13.821 followed by Owen at 14.110, Zach Lamb (Aurora, Ind.) at 14.616 and Keith Sheffer II (Jerome, Mich.) at 15.146.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 8, 2023 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

(29 cars & drivers) Logan Seavey (#2B 2B Racing), Thomas Meseraull (#2E Epperson), Kyle Cummins (#3R Rock Steady), Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), Justin Owen (#4J Fischesser-Owen), Jadon Rogers (#5 Baldwin-Fox), Jason McDougal (#5m KO), Daison Pursley (#5p KO), Chase Stockon (#5s KO), Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou), Nate Carle (#14c Carle), Carson Garrett (#15 BGE Dougherty), C.J. Leary (#15x BGE Dougherty), Nick Bilbee (#17 Bilbee), Geoff Ensign (#17G On The Gass), Kevin Thomas Jr. (#17GP Dutcher), Mitchel Moles (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood), Tayte Williamson (#20 Williamson), Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), Ryan Barr (#21B Barr), Brandon Mattox (#28 Mattox), Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), Sterling Cling (#34

Cling), Joss Moffatt (#37 Felker), Emerson Axsom (#47BC Clauson Marshall), Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), Zach Lamb (#73 Lamb), Devan Myers (#75 Myers), Keith Sheffer II (#86 Sheffer).

**REMAINDER OF PROGRAM CANCELED AFTER QUALIFYING CRASH

**Justin Owen was fatally injured during a qualifying flip.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-162, 2-C.J. Leary-152, 3-Justin Grant-150, 4-Kyle Cummins-149, 5-Emerson Axsom-146, 6-Matt Westfall-126, 7-Chase Stockon-126, 8-Logan Seavey-113, 9-Thomas Meseraull-112, 10-Mitchel Moles-104.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 14, 2023 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Larry Rice Classic

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Mitchel Moles (13.792)

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MOVIN' ON UP: LEARY LANDS LARRY RICE CLASSIC VICTORY AT BLOOMINGTON

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bloomington, Indiana (April 14, 2023)…… C.J. Leary knew exactly where he needed to be throughout Friday night's Larry Rice Classic USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature at Indiana's Bloomington Speedway.

But often times, the game plan requires certain decisive actions in order to remain on the right track and the Greenfield, Ind. native made all the right moves in all the right places to score his 20th career series victory, and second at the 1/4-mile dirt oval in southern Indiana after previously winning on the red clay during the summer of 2020.

Over the offseason, Leary made the switch over from Michael Motorsports to the BGE Dougherty Motorsports team, and within their first three points-paying race starts with the United States Auto Club, they're already celebrating a first victory with their Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts /DRC/1-Way Chevy.

It's imperative to set the tone right from the start, and Leary / BGE Dougherty have done just that so far, claiming victory number one and promptly taking over as the new series point leader all in one fell swoop following Friday night's 30-lap main.

"Everybody on this team has been a lot of fun to work with so far in 2023," Leary exclaimed. "I'm just super pumped to get this first one which, with a new team, is always important."

Leary was the standard bearer straight from the drop of the green flag from his outside front row starting position. Pole sitter Logan Seavey owned the upper hand by a sliver entering turn one on the opening lap when he slipped from the

bottom of the surface and skated toward the middle of the track, losing the top spot to Leary in the process as Leary slithered around the outside of Seavey and into the lead.

Reigning track champion Geoff Ensign, running ninth, stopped on the back straightaway to bring out the evening's first yellow on lap three, and on the ensuing restart, third starting Jake Swanson darted under Seavey in turn two to take over second. Instantly, Swanson was able to break away quickly and immediately began chasing down Leary who held a commanding 1.3 second race lead at the moment.

Leary began to work traffic on lap 10, which allowed Swanson to hack his way to within seven-tenths of a second from Leary's back bumper. Leary voluntarily removed himself from the low line in order to navigate without impedance from a tail end lead lap car, drifting ever higher on the course in order to stave off the challenges levied by the rapidly closing Swanson.

Swanson found himself separated by mere inches from Leary with eight laps remaining, but just as soon as he cranked up the thermostat, Leary demonstrated his modus operandi, stepping out a line wider to charge around the lapped car of Sterling Cling, then immediately slotted back down to the bottom in turn one, creating a one-car buffer between himself and Swanson which provided Leary the freedom to break the game wide open once and for all.

"I knew the bottom was probably going to be the place to be, but I knew that if I got too complacent around the bottom and just followed the lappers, I would probably get overhauled on the top," Leary realized. "I stayed down there as long as I could; I moved up, I moved back down, and I moved back up. I just felt that, if I could clear the lapper then get back to the bottom and get a couple good laps in, then I'd be okay."

Suddenly, the complexion seemingly changed in an instant with four laps remaining after fourth running Brady Bacon's right rear tire came apart, sending the four-time USAC Sprint champ bouncing to a stop atop the turn four cushion, and ultimately sending him to an uncharacteristic 18th place result, which dropped him from the top of the standings down to fourth.

Subsequently, Leary's imposing 1.8 second lead was erased, allowing Swanson and the remainder of the field to bunch up right behind him. However, he embraced the situation in this case although it wouldn't normally be ideal. But this time was different.

"Honestly, I normally don't like to see yellows at the end of a race, but I felt like on an open track, it was going to be hard to beat us," Leary explained.

Correct, he was. Without obstruction and without objection, Leary ran four perfect laps to finish off a stupendous performance, winning by a final margin of 1.477 seconds over Swanson, Seavey, Justin Grant and Emerson Axsom.

For Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.), a runner-up finish was a much needed reset after 13th and 12th place runs to start the points season with the USAC National Sprint Cars down in Florida. Swanson challenged Leary, then he scraped, he clawed, and he delivered his finest performance of the season yet, taking second in his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

"I was intending on going to the top, but the curb was pretty big," Swanson revealed. "I tried it a couple times, biked on it a couple times and it's really easy to get thrown off the racetrack if you get to it too soon. My initial plan on the restart was to just cheat it a little bit and catch it just beyond that real tall area, but it didn't work out that way. I knew the top wasn't

going to make me any time, it was only going to lose me a spot. So I figured I'd make the split-second decision to play defense because I knew we had three to go. I hate that; I don't want to play defense. I want to attack for wins and I think my restart was the reason that it cost me there. I just need make sure that he doesn't trick me."

A rough opening lap pushed Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) back from first to second to, ultimately, third on Friday night in his 2B Racing/Honest Abe Roofing – Benic Enterprises – Goodnight Racing/DRC/Claxton Chevy. Nonetheless, it was still the best performance of the season thus far for Seavey and crew as he scored a third after notching an eighth and a tenth in his first two USAC performances of this season.

"I thought we hit it right by getting the pole, but I just went down into turn one, hit some grease down there and pushed," Seavey explained. "After that, it was going to be really hard to get back by C.J. They were good and the track was really tough to maneuver around other cars with the outcome of the rain and whatnot. Obviously, you'd like to win when you start on the pole. I thought we were in a great spot, but I didn't do a great job there on my part, and that got us into trouble.

To start the night, Kevin Thomas Jr. moved into eighth all-time on the USAC National Sprint Car fast qualifying time list. The 36th fast time of his career passed Rich Vogler and moved him into a tie with Bryan Clauson on the list.

That came following a 45-minute delay for rain which doused the surface with moisture just before the completion of hot laps. When the rain ceased, teams returned to the track for another round of hot laps.

The event marked the start of Bloomington Speedway's 100th anniversary season after the venue opened its doors to auto racing back in 1923. It was also the 30th anniversary of the inaugural running of the Larry Rice Classic, which was first run in 1993. Rice was a three-time USAC National driving champion with the midgets (1973) and Silver Crown (1977 & 1981) division and was the color analyst for ESPN's Thunder series during the 1990s and 2000s.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 14, 2023 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Larry Rice Classic

QUALIFYING: 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-11.263; 2. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.278; 3. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-11.280; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.290; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-11.340; 6. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-11.348; 7. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-11.365; 8. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-11.414; 9. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-11.422; 10. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-11.451; 11. Geoff Ensign, 17, On The Gass-11.479; 12. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-11.490; 13. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-11.516; 14. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-11.526; 15. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-11.576; 16. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-11.591; 17. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-11.615; 18. Tim Creech, 31c, Creech-11.626; 19. Alec Sipes, 99, Sipes-11.670; 20. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-11.684; 21. Jordan Kinser, 04, Burton-11.712; 22. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-11.764; 23. Ricky Lewis, 41, Brown-11.768; 24. Damon Fortune, 39, Hoosier Speed/Fortune-11.802; 25. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-11.839; 26. Tayte Williamson, 20, Williamson-11.929; 27. Kevin Newton, 16TH, Newton-11.944; 28. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-11.994; 29. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, GGR-12.113; 30. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-12.186; 31. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-12.309; 32. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-NT; 33. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-NT; 34. Andy Bradley, 86, Hoosier Speed/Fortune-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Jordan Kinser, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Harley Burns, 7. Carson Garrett, 8. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9. Hunter Maddox. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Braxton Cummings, 6. Tayte Williamson, 7. Tim Creech, 8. Koby Barksdale. NT

ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Geoff Ensign, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Brent Beauchamp, 5. Alec Sipes, 6. Emerson Axsom, 7. Kevin Newton, 8. Ricky Lewis. NT

T.J. FORGED FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Sterling Cling, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Brady Short, 5. Dalton Stevens, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Damon Fortune, 8. Gabriel Gilbert. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Dalton Stevens, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Tim Creech, 6. Harley Burns, 7. Carson Garrett, 8. Tayte Williamson, 9. Hunter Maddox, 10. Braxton Cummings, 11. Brandon Mattox, 12. Alec Sipes, 13. Koby Barksdale, 14. Kevin Newton, 15. Damon Fortune. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (2), 2. Jake Swanson (3), 3. Logan Seavey (1), 4. Justin Grant (9), 5. Emerson Axsom (11), 6. Kevin Thomas Jr. (10), 7. Chase Stockon (5), 8. Robert Ballou (8), 9. Mitchel Moles (6), 10. Matt Westfall (17), 11. Daison Pursley (13), 12. Jordan Kinser (20), 13. Brent Beauchamp (15), 14. Jadon Rogers (22), 15. Geoff Ensign (7), 16. Sterling Cling (19), 17. Carson Garrett (23-P), 18. Brady Bacon (4), 19. Harley Burns (21), 20. Kyle Cummins (14), 21. Dalton Stevens (12), 22. Brady Short (16), 23. Tim Creech (18). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

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

**Brandon Mattox flipped during practice. Jadon Rogers flipped during qualifying.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-C.J. Leary-230, 2-Justin Grant-219, 3-Emerson Axsom-205, 4-Brady Bacon-200, 5-Chase Stockon-189, 6-Logan Seavey-182, 7-Kyle Cummins-178, 8-Jake Swanson-174, 9-Matt Westfall-172, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-167.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Robert Ballou-12, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-11, 3-Emerson Axsom-8, 4-Jake Swanson-8, 5-Matt Westfall-8, 6-Jadon Rogers-8, 7-Justin Grant-7, 8-Chase Stockon-7, 9-Kyle Cummins-6, 10-Carson Garrett-6.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 15, 2023 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Spring Showdown

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Jake Swanson (11.245)

Lawrenceburg Speedway 2nd Fastest Qualifier In Memory of Justin Owen: Mitchel Moles

Fast Qualifier: Kevin Thomas Jr. (11.263)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Geoff Ensign

T.J. Forged Fourth Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Hard Charger: Jordan Kinser (20th to 12th)

BWR #29J Race Team 4th Place In Memory of Justin Owen, Darlene Burton & Josh Burton: Justin Grant

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BRING OUT THE BROOM: GRANT SWEEPS USAC/MSCS SPRINTS' SPRING SHOWDOWN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Haubstadt, Indiana (April 15, 2023)……Once upon a time, Justin Grant routinely struggled each time he traveled down to the southwestern edge of Indiana, home of Tri-State Speedway.

Now, those dog days are over, and those dog days are done. Convincingly and affirmatively, he was an absolute machine during Saturday night's 10th running of the Spring Showdown.

Like a train on a track, the Ione, Calif. native was on rails from start to finish, sweeping the entirety of evening's program featuring the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship and the Midwest Sprint Car Series.

Grant set the tone from the outset, qualifying the fastest in the 35-car field, then followed up with an impressive sixth to first drive to win his heat race. To cap off a perfect night, he again powered from sixth to first during the first 11 laps of the 30-lap feature, then fended off a hard-charging Kevin Thomas Jr. to capture his first victory of the year aboard the TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

The "sweeping" performance by Grant was the first of his career and was the first of the USAC season. Jake Swanson had been the most recent individual to achieve the same feat in October of 2022 at Arizona's Cocopah Speedway during the Western World Championships.

Impressively, Grant's sweep was the first such performance on a 1/4-mile dirt track with the USAC National Sprint Cars since Kevin Thomas (no relation to Jr.) did the same 27 years ago in 1996 at Bloomington (Ind.) Speedway. In the entirety of USAC's 68-year history, there have only been three USAC Sprint Car sweeps on a 1/4-mile track with the first of its kind coming in 1995 at Lawrenceburg (Ind.) Speedway and orchestrated by Jack Hewitt.

Grant now owns two career USAC Sprint victories at Tri-State with the first coming during the summer of 2021. Now, he seemingly has the place figured out after heeding the advice of his late father-in-law Bubby Jones in terms of torsion bar selection, shock settings, and executing the feat in a chassis built to Ol Bub's specifications. All of those aspects converged to help Grant become a first-time Spring Showdown victor.

It's been a long way climb to the top of the ladder of success at Tri-State for Grant since those early days of his career, but he's certainly now among the upper crust at The Class Track.

"(Tri-State Speedway promoter) Tom (Helfrich) always laughs every time I pull down here, saying, 'remember, you used to hate it here.' I do remember, vividly. I've really come to love this place and I just have a lot of fun coming here. You don't hardly have to work on your racecar all night and that's easy on us. We just keep dumping fuel in it and keep racing."

Grant's 35th career USAC National Sprint Car feature victory elevated him into a three-way tie for 13th place on the all-time list alongside Jon Stanbrough and Rich Vogler. The performance also thrusted the reigning series championship into the top spot as the new point leader.

Funny enough, it seemed as if there was an omen of sorts for Grant on this particular night. In the first three points races of the USAC National Sprint Car season leading into Tri-State, Grant had finished a consistent 4th, 4th and 4th. Grant, the driver of car number 4, entered race number four hoping to add a first 1st to the equation; that was "four" sure.

Initially, four was the hot number for one of the pre-race favorites. The most recent Tri-State USAC Sprint winner, Jadon Rogers, struck an impressive chord after starting from the outside of the second row. He split between Emerson Axsom and Kevin Thomas Jr. to swipe second, then carried a tremendous drive down the back straightaway and powered past Brady Bacon on the inside to take over the race lead. Rogers was piloting Jeremy Ottinger's No. 4J on this evening after his Baldwin-Fox Racing was damaged during a qualifying flip the previous night at Bloomington.

Rogers quickly constructed a half-straightaway advantage over the field while, simultaneously, Grant was carving a path from his outside row three starting spot, charging past both Thomas and Bacon on lap five to pull his way into the second position.

The lone yellow flag of the feature arrived seven laps into the contest, when 16th running Aric Gentry spun to a stop in turn four. Rogers was up 1.507 seconds before the yellow, but with the advantage completely dissipated due to the caution, Grant was slotted behind Rogers for the restart, then stalked Rogers relentlessly thereafter before lunging under Rogers to grab the lead between turns one and two on the 11th circuit.

Meanwhile, Thomas was making hay in his pursuit to the front, taking second from Rogers just past the halfway mark and then began his approach on Grant who was long gone ahead of the field with the benefit of a 2.6 second lead. However, the great equalizer is traffic, and soon, Grant found himself right smack dab in the middle of it as Thomas ultimately closed to within a half car length of Grant's rear bumper with just five laps remaining.

"I got kind of comfortable there and got to riding, and I think the bottom started slowing down," Grant recalled. "With like five or six (laps) to go, I was kind of thinking that I probably needed to move up a lane. But we were so close to the end, and I also felt like we were still hooking the bottom pretty good, so I figured I'd at least wait until I hear somebody out there."

Soon, somebody was there, and that somebody was Kevin Thomas Jr. who was in position to make a winning move on the final lap.

"There, the last couple of laps, all of a sudden I could hear a motor that sounding like it was running a little harder than the guys I had been lapping," Grant noticed. "I figured we were starting to get some pressure. Lapped traffic was really, really thick but they were also pretty good cars, so it was hard to dispose of them right away and it'd take me a lap or two sometimes to stay off a guy's left rear and get by him."

In turns three and four on the 30th and final lap, Thomas used a drive and his momentum appeared that it may very well lead him past Grant at the line. Yet Grant wasn't about to let that happen to himself with such ease as he drifted off the bottom of turn four to the top of the front straight, thus cutting off the circulation of Thomas' forward momentum toward the line.

Grant's car length margin of victory saw him 0.169 seconds ahead of Thomas at the stripe with Kyle Cummins grabbing third, Rogers fourth and Bacon fifth.

Furthermore, in addition to his perfect night, Grant moved up another level on the USAC National Sprint Car career fast qualifier list. At Tri-State, he notched the 31st of his career, elevating him to 12th all-time ahead of 1974 and 1976 series champ Pancho Carter and now finds himself tied with Sheldon Kinser who captured USAC Sprint titles in 1977-81-82.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) is the only two-time winner in the history of the Spring Showdown in 2013 and 2018. On Saturday night, he very nearly became the first three-time winner of the race in his Michael Dutcher Motorsports/Lifestyle Homes – Griffin's Propane – Parallax/Maxim/Jackson Chevy. Nonetheless, it was still KTJ's best finish of the USAC National Sprint Car season to this point.

"We struggled there a little bit at the beginning," Thomas admitted. "(The engine) stumbled in the middle of the corner because we were turning 8500 RPM on the front stretch then down to 3500. So, we've got a little bit of a stumble with that and that hurt me at the start. I went back to fourth or fifth, but once we got wound up, I felt like we were pretty good if not a little bit better than Justin. I know he had a lot of lapped traffic to deal with, but I felt good there at the end. I'm happy to get back up here on the podium. We've been working extremely hard on it since Florida, and I feel like we've got a good package and it's something we can continuously build off of."

For Kyle Cummins, it was a stark contrast from Friday at Bloomington to Saturday at Tri-State. The night before, Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) pulled off prior to the race's end with a 20th place result at Bloomington. Armed with a new car for Tri-State, the 2021 Spring Showdown winner returned to form, charging from the seventh starting spot to finish third in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Kistler Chevy.

"I thought the bottom was going to be good the whole night, so that's what we set up for," Cummins explained. "It took a little bit to get it scotched up and the track really came back after they did a quick rework. With where we started, I'm happy with where we finished. It seems like it's getting tougher and tougher, and the competition is getting better and better here. There's a handful of people who could win on any night. I've got to give it up for my team after last night and just having a fluke thing with the motor shutting off, an electrical thing. Then we busted our butt to get this car ready for tonight and we got it done."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: April 15, 2023 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Spring Showdown – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

QUALIFYING: 1. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.160; 2. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-13.296; 3. Jadon Rogers, 4J, Ottinger-13.424; 4. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-13.526; 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-13.539; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.631; 7. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.654; 8. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-13.673; 9. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.733; 10. Dustin Beck, 75, Henson/Rupp-13.740; 11. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.742; 12. J.J. Hughes, 76, Hughes-13.778; 13. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-13.785; 14. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.804; 15. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ,

Reinbold/Underwood-13.909; 16. Critter Malone, 7, Seven-13.914; 17. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.966; 18. Kendall Ruble, 17, Ruble-13.989; 19. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-13.994; 20. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.013; 21. Kayla Roell, 5K, KO-14.039; 22. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-14.115; 23. Alec Sipes, 99, Sipes-14.125; 24. Collin Ambrose, 36, Ambrose-14.128; 25. Donny Brackett, 4B, Brackett-14.246; 26. Adyn Schmidt, 38, Williams-14.449; 27. Sam Scott, 7s, Scott-14.540; 28. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-14.573; 29. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.595; 30. Stan Beadles, 84, Beadles-14.644; 31. Cindy Chambers, 18c, DC-14.925; 32. Kurt Gross, 71x, Henson/Rupp-15.068; 33. Nathan Seale, 1s, Seale-15.197; 34. Jeff Pritchett, 2J, Nine-One-One-15.575; 35. Raymond Holden, 2R, Holden-15.686.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Aric Gentry, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Donny Brackett, 7. Kayla Roell, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Nathan Seale. NT

COMPETITION SUSPENSION (CSI) SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Short, 2. Kendall Ruble, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. Dustin Beck, 6. Adyn Schmidt, 7. Carson Garrett, 8. Stan Beadles, 9. Jeff Pritchett. NT

ROD END SUPPLY THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Sam Scott, 7. Alec Sipes, 8. Cindy Chambers, 9. Raymond Holden. NT

T.J. FORGED FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. J.J. Hughes, 5. Critter Malone, 6. Collin Ambrose, 7. Kurt Gross, 8. Dalton Stevens. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Dustin Beck, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Donny Brackett, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Kurt Gross, 7. Critter Malone, 8. Collin Ambrose, 9. Adyn Schmidt, 10. Brandon Mattox, 11. Sam Scott, 12. Dalton Stevens, 13. Stan Beadles, 14. Cindy Chambers, 15. Alec Sipes, 16. Kayla Roell, 17. Jeff Pritchett, 18. Nathan Seale, 19. Raymond Holden. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (6), 2. Kevin Thomas Jr. (2), 3. Kyle Cummins (7), 4. Jadon Rogers (4), 5. Brady Bacon (1), 6. Emerson Axsom (3), 7. Carson Garrett (16), 8. Brady Short (9), 9. Robert Ballou (8), 10. Chase Stockon (10), 11. C.J. Leary (11), 12. Daison Pursley (5), 13. Jake Swanson (12), 14. Logan Seavey (20), 15. J.J. Hughes (14), 16. Matt Westfall (18), 17. Mitchel Moles (17), 18. Donny Brackett (21), 19. Kendall Ruble (19), 20. Dustin Beck (13), 21. Aric Gentry (15), 22. Sam Scott (24-M), 23. Kurt Gross (22), 24. Brandon Mattox (23-U). NT

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

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-10 Jadon Rogers, Laps 11-30 Justin Grant.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-303, 2-C.J. Leary-278, 3-Emerson Axsom-269, 4-Brady Bacon-265, 5-Kyle Cummins-250, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-242, 7-Chase Stockon-234, 8-Logan Seavey-223, 9-Jake Swanson-216, 10-Matt Westfall-204.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Carson Garrett-15, 2-Justin Grant-12, 3-Robert Ballou-12, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-11, 5-Kyle Cummins-10, 6-Logan Seavey-10, 7-Matt Westfall-10, 8-Emerson Axsom-8, 9-Jake Swanson-8, 10- Jadon Rogers-8.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: April 26, 2023 – Texarkana 67 Speedway – Texarkana, Arkansas – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Jadon Rogers (13.304)

Fast Qualifier: Justin Grant (13.160)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Competition Suspension, Inc. Second Heat Winner: Brady Short

Rod End Supply Third Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

T.J. Forged Fourth Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Carson Garrett

Hard Charger: Carson Garrett (16th to 7th)

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OFF THE WALL: GRANT GLIDES TO VICTORY AT ELDORA'S #LETSRACETWO OPENER

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Rossburg, Ohio (May 5, 2023)……Justin Grant knows about the wall.

It can be treacherous. It can bend and break the parts on a racecar. It can ruin a perfectly good evening at the racetrack, and in most cases, it's a place to stay away from.

But there's also the flipside of the wall. Jimmy Bryan busted through the wooden fence to win at the Arizona State Fairgrounds in 1957. Jack Hewitt routinely used Eldora's outside wall to glance off and propel himself down the straightaways to many a victory in his legendary domination of the place. Ross Chastain entertained with a viral video game-like wall ride on the final lap at Martinsville in 2022.

A couple bumps and scrapes here and there for the right rear and the right front against Eldora's concrete was more or less a no-harm, no-foul situation in deterring Grant's ultimate goal during Friday night's #LetsRaceTwo opener for the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship at Rossburg, Ohio's Eldora Speedway in which he netted a $10,000 sum for his victorious efforts.

After all, even with the wall, there didn't seem to be anything that was going to deter the Ione, Calif. native from maintaining his run of success of late at Eldora and on the USAC Sprint trail.

Sixth starting Grant took over the lead from pole sitter Kyle Cummins 10 laps into the 30-lap main event, wrestling away the number one spot before putting the rest of the field in a chokehold for the remainder of the race despite a caution halting the proceedings just five laps from the finish line.

In doing so, Grant became the first repeat winner of the USAC Sprint season as he collected his second straight victory on the series tour as well as his second consecutive score at Eldora in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

Furthermore, his third career #LetsRaceTwo USAC Sprint victory tied him with Robert Ballou and Tyler Courtney for the most in the event's history after previously notching wins in 2015 and 2017. It's his fifth career USAC triumph at the famed half-mile dirt oval, and as Grant can attest, the feeling of accomplishment never subsides when one wins at this place. Not now. Not ever. In any circumstance.

"To be able to win at Eldora Speedway is awesome on any occasion," Grant noted. "I've won here when it's been heavy. I've won here when it's been slick. It's so fun to win when it's just absolutely glass slick against the wall."

Additionally, Grant extended his series point lead to 42 while also moving up one more step on the USAC National Sprint Car career feature win list, scooting himself into sole possession of 13th on the all-time list by surpassing Jon Stanbrough and Rich Vogler. Grant now stands just one victory behind series champions Robert Ballou and Sheldon Kinser for 11th on the list at 37.

Cummins was the first to strike as he shot out to the early lead, but very quickly felt the presence of Grant, who had worked his way from sixth to second by the second go around as he swooped from high to low to gain four positions in quick succession.

By lap nine, Grant was in position to pose the first challenge, sliding past Cummins for the lead in turn four, albeit briefly, as Cummins countered the move and kept Grant in place behind him. But for only a moment. By turn one, Grant fired his next shot and stuck it – not only the position but also the wall. For you see, the concrete wall jumped out and bit him – metaphorically speaking – yet Grant remained with his foot firmly on the throttle and whistled past Cummins on the top side of turns three and four to assume his new position at the head of the field for good.

Halfway through, Grant was methodically slipping his way through lapped traffic with precise ease and ultimately built his lead to more than six seconds running up on the classic Eldora line, so close the wall you could reach out and touch it.

"I love it here on the wall, and we were lapping some really, really good cars," Grant recalled. "So, I thought, boy, we're pretty good here. The ol' 4 car is rolling tonight."

Meanwhile, Brady Bacon began to enter the chat, charging from fifth to third in one fell swoop on lap 17 by slipstreaming the bottom of turns three and four past C.J. Leary and Kevin Thomas Jr.

Despite that, Grant was seemingly on Easy Street, so to speak, hanging a 6.439 second advantage on the board with the laps winding down and a little bit of damage mounting on the leader's car.

"I cleaned the right front off it, and I cleaned the right rear corner off it," Grant explained. "(Crew Chief) Dylan (Cook) said, 'Hey, you were like a half lap ahead.' But when I tried to slow down, that's when I'd hit the fence. I was better off just ringing laps."

Grant was still ripping with five to go when 23rd running Dalton Stevens came to a stop on the back straightaway, establishing the first caution of the night, thus erasing Grant's sizable lead and bunching up the field for one final tantalizing restart.

Shortly after the green, instead of Grant, it was Cummins snagging the turn two wall this time on the lap 26 restart. Bacon capitalized and quickly went on by to move into the runner-up spot behind a somewhat distant Grant. Nonetheless, Grant banged the wall one more time for good measure in turn four but kept it going with Bacon giving chase and cutting down Grant's lead to a handful of car lengths.

Undeterred, Grant distanced himself away from the fray on his way to the white flag, then glided through turns one and two with preciseness before broadsiding the outside turn two wall and promptly elevating all four of his wheels off the ground. Once the car landed back on all fours, Grant straightened it out and pointed it on a path that led directly to victory lane.

Grant's margin of victory was 2.347 seconds at the stripe. Bacon was scored second at the line with Cummins third, Emerson Axsom fourth and Thomas Jr. fifth.

Seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Richard Petty once explained that one of the reasons he drove right up against the wall was because there was less of a distance to travel to the wall before hitting it. Grant's pursuit of victory came in a similar vein as he stuck to his guns on a line he never wavered on, a scenario which he learned from a pair of drivers who rank among the winningest Eldora USAC Sprint drivers of all-time.

"I can kind of run the cheater slider line in three and four sometimes, but I've never really figured out how to run the bottom here," Grant explained. "I watched a lot of Tyler Courtney rolling around here and he's really good here. I just studied the way he runs three and four so well and I slowly started figuring that out, and I feel I've got a pretty good handle on it now. A lot of it is what my father-in-law, Ol' Bub (Bubby Jones), told me about how to run three and four and how to use the pit gate to get down in there."

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) set the tone early by turning the fastest lap times in both Dirt Draft Hot Laps and in Honest Abe Roofing Qualifying (for the 45th time in his career). After failing to transfer through his heat race, Bacon took care of business to win the semi. The four-time USAC Sprint Car champ rolled off ninth in his Dynamics, Inc./A & B Sports Bar Café – Tel-Star Technologies – DriveWFX.com/Triple X/Rider Chevy but steadily worked his way forward to second on the final restart with five laps to go to earn his best #LetsRaceTwo finish since winning in 2018.

"The top just wasn't there all the way around like it normally is here, and our car was a little too tight to bash it like (Justin Grant) could," Bacon said. "But that's how we passed all the cars that we did, by just being able to maneuver around. He tested out the integrity of his equipment there and I thought we might be able to sneak by there. But he was able to get 'er done and we definitely weren't going to be able to catch him running up there."

It was a career-best night at Eldora for Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.). Prior to Friday, his previous best USAC National Sprint Car finish at Eldora was a ninth. On this night, he led the first nine laps and scored a third place result to round out the podium in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

"We've just been coming here more and getting our car better," Cummins said of his rapid Eldora improvement. "To be able to put it on the fence like that, and to trust the car, that's super important. If we hadn't had that yellow, I think we would've finished second. I started to pace once Justin got so far out, but once that yellow came out, I thought, okay, this might be my time to win. Coming off four, I thought I was just going to blow a slider through there, but I smoked the fence, then I got stuck in the fence, then I hit the fence on the back stretch and bent the wheels all up on it. Coming home third

after our best finish here had been ninth, it gives us a lot of confidence after being able to run consistent laps up there and also be pretty fast."

Making his first USAC National Sprint Car feature start since 2019, also at Eldora, Kody Swanson (Kingsburg, Calif.) earned Irvin King Hard Charger honors following his advancement from the 17th starting position to an 8th place finish.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 5, 2023 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – #LetsRaceTwo

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.778; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.848; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.891; 4. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-16.928; 5. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.930; 6. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-16.933; 7. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-17.004; 8. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-17.023; 9. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-17.122; 10. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-17.278; 11. Scotty Weir, 23K, NIKSTE-17.304; 12. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-17.398; 13. Dallas Hewitt, 21, Hewitt-17.452; 14. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-17.502; 15. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-17.513; 16. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-17.522; 17. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-17.658; 18. Kody Swanson, 98, Wedgewood-17.763; 19. Geoff Ensign, 3F, Ensign-17.860; 20. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-17.869; 21. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-17.932; 22. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-18.099; 23. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-18.167; 24. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-18.201; 25. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-18.269; 26. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-18.347; 27. Matt Goodnight, 39G, Goodnight-18.459; 28. Brian Hayden, 2H, Hayden-18.620; 29. Evan Mosley, 27, Barkdull-18.695; 30. Jack James, 99, James-18.757; 31. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-18.793; 32. Tim Creech, 31c, Creech-18.895; 33. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-18.966; 34. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Glotzbach-18.995; 35. Keith Sheffer II, 86, Sheffer-19.336.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Dalton Stevens, 3. Dallas Hewitt, 4. Briggs Danner, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Zack Pretorius, 7. Evan Mosley, 8. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 9. Aric Gentry. 2:14.56

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Kody Swanson, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Jack James, 8. Ivan Glotzbach. 2:15.95

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Geoff Ensign, 6. Scotty Weir, 7. Matt Goodnight, 8. Hunter Maddox, 9. Keith Sheffer II. 2:18.48

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Max Adams, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Ryan Barr, 7. Brian Hayden, 8. Tim Creech. 2:18.83

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Kody Swanson, 3. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Scotty Weir, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Ryan Barr, 8. Matt Goodnight, 9. Zack Pretorius, 10. Brian Hayden, 11. Aric Gentry, 12. Tim Creech, 13. Keith Sheffer II, 14. Evan Mosley, 15. Hunter Maddox, 16. Ivan Glotzbach, 17. Jack James, 18. Geoff Ensign. 3:43.12

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (6), 2. Brady Bacon (9), 3. Kyle Cummins (1), 4. Emerson Axsom (4), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (11), 6. Scotty Weir (12), 7. C.J. Leary (2), 8. Kody Swanson (17), 9. Jake Swanson (7), 10. Mitchel Moles (5), 11. Chase Stockon (20), 12. Dallas Hewitt (14), 13. Robert Ballou (8), 14. Brandon Mattox (22), 15. Briggs Danner (10), 16. Daison Pursley (15), 17. Matt Westfall (3), 18. Logan Seavey (16), 19. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (21), 20. Jadon Rogers (19), 21. Carson Garrett (23-P), 22. Max Adams (13), 23. Dalton Stevens (18). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-9 Kyle Cummins, Laps 10-30 Justin Grant.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-384, 2-Brady Bacon-342, 3-Emerson Axsom-339, 4-C.J. Leary-338, 5-Kyle Cummins-322, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-305, 7-Chase Stockon-276, 8-Jake Swanson-270, 9-Logan Seavey-257, 10-Mitchel Moles-248.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-17, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-17, 3-Chase Stockon-16, 4-Carson Garrett-15, 5-Robert Ballou-12, 6-Brady Bacon-10, 7-Kyle Cummins-10, 8-Logan Seavey-10, 9-Matt Westfall-10, 10-Brandon Mattox-10.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: May 6, 2023 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – #LetsRaceTwo – Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Series Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment Race #1

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Brady Bacon (16.558)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon (16.778)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Matt Westfall

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

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

Irvin King Hard Charger: Kody Swanson (17th to 8th)

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NO MORE SECOND THOUGHTS: LEARY TAKES #LETSRACETWO NIGHT #2 AT ELDORA

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Rossburg, Ohio (May 6, 2023)……C.J. Leary had long yearned to crack the code of what it would take to capture a win during #LetsRaceTwo at Rossburg, Ohio's Eldora Speedway.

Not once, not twice, not thrice, but on four occasions, the Greenfield, Ind. native finished as the runner-up in the event, doing so in 2015, again in 2016, and on both nights in 2019.

On Saturday night at the half-mile dirt oval, Leary uncovered the combination to unlock a long desired, yet elusive piece on his resume, which earned him a $10,000 reward.

The 2019 USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship led all 30 laps this time around to become a two-time winner with the series this season in his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

In doing so, Leary added a third career USAC feature victory at the Big E after earlier scoring a Sprint Car and Silver Crown win in 2017 and 2018, respectively, while also ascending to the top of the 2023 point standings in a dead heat with Friday night Eldora winner Justin Grant who served as Leary's nemesis throughout the first two-thirds of Saturday's main event.

"I knew Justin was going to be the guy to beat," Leary explained. "I chased him here during the 4-Crown last year and he was excellent last night as well. We went back to the drawing board after last night and I think we figured out what the problem was. It's a relief for me; it's been awhile since I've been in victory lane here at the famed Eldora Speedway."

Leary slid backward from his outside front row starting spot and wound up with a disappointing seventh place finish on Friday. On Saturday, he found himself in the exact spot to start with, but he had no intentions of doing anything but getting out front ASAP and remaining there for the entirety.

Throughout the first half of the feature, Leary was the man everyone else had to beat as he swiftly proved his prowess toward the balance of the 24-car field. However, on lap one, trouble ensued as 12th place starting Max Adams barrel-rolled in turn two. Fourteenth place starter Kody Swanson also spun sideways to a stop in an effort to avoid the tumbling Adams. Nonetheless, Adams made a miraculous recovery, restarting the feature from the tail before driving from the last spot on the grid to finish ninth while Swanson took 15th.

Upon the resumption, a three-wide battle for the lead ensued on the back straightaway with Leary splitting down the middle between Chase Stockon and Emerson Axsom to assume the lead. Meanwhile, seventh running Grant had already hustled his way to third by lap five while Leary was beginning to establish himself at the head of the field, leading by nearly two full seconds.

Misfortune also befell four-time USAC National Sprint Car champion Brady Bacon when he dramatically dropped off the pace on lap eight with an apparent stuck throttle. Bacon shut it down and coasted to the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area for a look-see by his crew before, ultimately, returning to the fray and ending up with a disheartening 18th place result.

Soon after, Grant ripped second from Stockon on the ensuing restart, then began his pursuit of Leary and the lead, cutting the interval down to .775 sec. as both drivers rode the polarizing high line. Grant soon became close enough to take a peek to the inside of Leary for the position on lap 15 with major traffic afoot.

The most pivotal turning point of the whole shebang arrived in turn three on lap 19. Zack Pretorius, making his first career Eldora Speedway feature start, got over the cushion and ricocheted into the outside wall, coming to a rest directly into the lane of the oncoming Grant who slammed sideways into Pretorius' parked car. The resulting impact sent Grant flipping directly into the path of Geoff Ensign who banged his roll cage into the bouncing Grant who finally came to a rest on his wheels on the low side of the track, promptly ending his night as he walked off with a 22nd place finish.

"I knew Justin was hot on my trail," Leary remembered. "I didn't know if he hit him because I heard 'yellow' on the radio and the lights immediately went red. I didn't know exactly what happened, but then I saw a replay on the big screen. With half the race over, I felt like if I just hit my marks and ran a good race, it was going to be tough to beat us."

From that point onward, Leary was cruising as he opened up a sizable advantage that nobody was able tighten up down the stretch, with Leary cinching his bid for victory with a 3.380 second margin in his favor at the finish line with Jake Swanson, Chase Stockon, Mitchel Moles and Kyle Cummins following in his wake to round out the top-five.

Taking in the knowledge he gained from working with racers such as Levi Jones, Scotty Weir and even in a wing car with Alex Bowman, Leary learned a few tricks of the trade to being successful at Eldora. For instance, momentum is a driver's best friend, and you absolutely must time your moves just right. And when running the banks, one must always be running downhill.

The cumulative ingredients resulted in Leary's 21st career USAC National Sprint Car win, tying himself with 1967 driving champion Greg Weld for 32nd on the all-time list. Furthermore, Leary's winning effort came in round one of the Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Series Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment, his first career victory in the celebrated mini-series honoring the man who won in USAC Sprint Car competition at Eldora on six occasions between 1977-79.

"It's very special," Leary said of the win. "I didn't know the whole story of Bubby Jones, but I worked with Davey Jones for two or three years and learned a lot about his dad. Last year, I was really excited for these races coming up, but we didn't get to win any of them, so I'm super appreciative to win this one."

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) was a happy man following a runner-up finish in his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy. Swanson topped his previous best Eldora finish of eighth in what was, undisputedly, a night and day difference from his ninth place run 24 hours earlier.

After a dispiriting 11th place result during Friday's #LetsRaceTwo opener, Chase Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.) and the team made a fantastic recovery for the second go-around on Saturday night aboard his KO Motorsports/Banded Ag – Dewig Meats – AMSOIL/Flea RC/Fisher Chevy.

Meanwhile, in a career that has spanned 193 career USAC National Sprint Car feature starts since 2002, Matt Westfall (Pleasant Hill, Ohio) finally broke through for his first career Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier award on Saturday night at Eldora, the same venue in which he notched his first USAC National Sprint Car feature win in 2006. However, Westfall's night went sour soon after with engine problems arising in the heat race, thus forcing him into a backup car which, initially, did not fire. Westfall and the team finally got rolling in the feature, utilizing a provisional to start 24th in the field, then proceeded to advance 12 positions to finish 12th.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 6, 2023 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – #LetsRaceTwo – Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment Race #1

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-15.931; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-15.946; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.003; 4. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-16.153; 5. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.159; 6. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-16.164; 7. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-16.190; 8. Brady Bacon, 69,

Dynamics-16.212; 9. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-16.222; 10. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.224; 11. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-16.273; 12. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-16.305; 13. Kody Swanson, 98, Wedgewood-16.318; 14. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-16.388; 15. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-16.442; 16. Dallas Hewitt, 21, Hewitt-16.475; 17. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.519; 18. Geoff Ensign, 3F, Ensign-16.547; 19. Scotty Weir, 23K, NIKSTE-16.703; 20. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-16.707; 21. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-16.723; 22. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-16.729; 23. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-16.733; 24. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-16.780; 25. Brian Hayden, 2H, Hayden-16.904; 26. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-16.908; 27. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-17.118; 28. Tim Creech, 31c, Creech-17.142; 29. Jack James, 99, James-17.255; 30. Keith Sheffer II, 86, Sheffer-17.258; 31. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Glotzbach-17.305; 32. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-17.321; 33. Matt Goodnight, 39G, Goodnight-17.356; 34. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-17.446; 35. Evan Mosley, 27, Barkdull-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Kody Swanson, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Brian Hayden, 8. Jack James, 9. Matt Goodnight. 2:07.41

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Geoff Ensign, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Keith Sheffer. 2:08.00

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Max Adams, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Scotty Weir, 5. Ryan Barr, 6. Zack Pretorius, 7. Hunter Maddox, 8. Ivan Glotzbach. 2:10.01

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Dallas Hewitt, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Briggs Danner, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Daison Pursley, 6. Tim Creech, 7. Dalton Stevens. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Zack Pretorius, 2. Carson Garrett, 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Keith Sheffer II, 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 7. Logan Seavey, 8. Ryan Barr, 9. Brian Hayden, 10. Brandon Mattox, 11. Tim Creech, 12. Hunter Maddox, 13. Jack James, 14. Matt Goodnight, 15. Ivan Glotzbach. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (2), 2. Jake Swanson (6), 3. Chase Stockon (3), 4. Mitchel Moles (5), 5. Kyle Cummins (4), 6. Carson Garrett (20), 7. Emerson Axsom (1), 8. Kevin Thomas Jr. (11), 9. Max Adams (12), 10. Robert Ballou (9), 11. Briggs Danner (13), 12. Matt Westfall (24-P), 13. Daison Pursley (18), 14. Dallas Hewitt (8), 15. Kody Swanson (14), 16. Jadon Rogers (19), 17. Logan Seavey (23-P), 18. Brady Bacon (10), 19. Geoff Ensign (16), 20. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (21), 21. Keith Sheffer II (22), 22. Justin Grant (7), 23. Zack Pretorius (15), 24. Scotty Weir (17). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

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

**Dalton Stevens flipped during the fourth heat. Max Adams flipped on lap 1 of the feature. Justin Grant flipped on lap 19 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-C.J. Leary-415, 2-Justin Grant-415, 3-Emerson Axsom-397, 4-Kyle Cummins-390, 5-Brady Bacon-374, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-361, 7-Jake Swanson-349, 8-Chase Stockon-348, 9-Mitchel Moles-321, 10-Robert Ballou-292.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-79, 2-C.J. Leary-77, 3-Mitchel Moles-73, 4-Chase Stockon-72, 5-Kyle Cummins-68, 6-Carson Garrett-58, 7-Emerson Axsom-58, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-56, 9-Max Adams-53, 10-Robert Ballou-51.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Carson Garrett-29, 2-Kevin Thomas Jr.-20, 3-Justin Grant-17, 4-Chase Stockon-16, 5-Jake Swanson-12, 6-Robert Ballou-12, 7-Jadon Rogers-11, 8-Brady Bacon-10, 9-Kyle Cummins-10, 10-Logan Seavey-10.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: May 23, 2023 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 53rd Annual Tony Hulman Classic – Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment Race #2

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Matt Westfall (15.702)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Matt Westfall (15.931)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Justin Grant

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Dallas Hewitt

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Zack Pretorius

Irvin King Hard Charger: Carson Garrett (20th to 6th)

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BREAKTHROUGH! BACON WINS FIRST TONY HULMAN CLASSIC AT TERRE HAUTE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Terre Haute, Indiana (May 23, 2023)……Of the scores of races Brady Bacon has won in his career, a victory in the Tony Hulman Classic had been one that had forever eluded him.

The Broken Arrow, Okla. native had accrued 13 starts in the event since 2006, including a pair of runner-up finishes in both 2013 and 2022, a span in which he claimed a total of four USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championships.

When he crossed the finish line first and held the signature rifle in his hands in victory lane following Tuesday night's 53rd annual edition of the event at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Track, Bacon knew this one was special. He'd won twice before with the USAC National Sprint Cars at the famed half-mile in 2014 and 2018, but this win in this particular event stood just a little bit taller in the book of Bacon.

"We've won here a couple times but none of those races are as big as this one," Bacon stated. "The Hulman Classic has such a long history with USAC and sprint car racing in general, and it's always tough to get wins on these historical tracks."

In his 30-lap, wire-to-wire leading performance that rewarded him with a $10,000 top prize, Bacon also moved up another notch on the all-time USAC National Sprint Car feature win list. The 48th of his career elevated him past 2002 series champion Tracy Hines for sole possession of third on the all-time series win list. He now stands just four behind Tom Bigelow (52) for second place and 14 behind leader Dave Darland (62).

Furthermore, of his 48 career USAC National Sprint Car victories, 40 have come in the Hoffman Auto Racing / Dynamics, Inc. No. 69. The 40th score for Bacon and the team on Tuesday at Terre Haute are tied for the most victories between a driver/entrant combo in series history. The pairing now shares top billing with driver Pancho Carter and team owner Steve Stapp, who also achieved 40 victories with the series between 1973-80.

Ironically enough, Bacon's monumental victory came on a night when Stapp, an inductee of the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame, was remembered for his performance in breaking the USAC Sprint Car track record at Terre Haute just a few weeks shy of 60 years ago. In his name, the Stapp family posted a $250 bonus for the night's fastest qualifier, which went to Mitchel Moles.

With the six-car inversion for the main event, Moles rolled off in the sixth starting position while Bacon, the sixth fastest qualifier, began his quest from the pole position in the race, which also served as the second of ten rounds for the Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Series Presented by Spire Sports + Entertainment. Bacon just so happened to capture the inaugural title a year ago, earning a $10,000 prize for placing as the top-point-getter in the miniseries.

The pursuit for Tuesday night's Hulman Classic $10,000 reward began with Bacon taking his Dynamics, Inc./Longworth Properties – Mays Shedd Sales & Service/Triple X/Rider Chevy out to the early lead while inside second row starter Justin Grant moved along the inside rail to challenge Bacon at the front of pack.

The first yellow flag fell just three laps into the race when a pair of Hulman Classic winners found themselves involved in a sudden kerfuffle. Seventh running Kevin Thomas Jr., the 2017 race winner, slowed dramatically on the front straight with a radius rod issue. Robert Ballou, the 2015-15-22 race winner, was running eighth at the time when he became entangled in the incident, and began leaking fuel from the tail tank, knocking him out of the race. Thomas, meanwhile, had his car repaired in the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area, and returned to competition, finishing 12th.

Bacon resumed up front, and by lap 11, was already working lapped traffic. Soon after, Bacon was challenged by Grant, also seeking his first Hulman Classic triumph. Grant tossed a slider in turn one, clearing Bacon, but not the lapped car of Hunter Maddox. Grant ricocheted off the left side of Maddox while Bacon slipped back underneath to retake the lead off turn two.

Bacon felt he had the opportunity to shake Grant, but circumstances didn't exactly allow that. Instead, he took matters into his own hands, twice shooting the gap to narrowly split between a pair of lapped cars occupying the lower and higher lines getting into turns one and three.

"We hit it right tonight and got to start up front," Bacon explained. "I could set my own pace and kind of conserve my stuff a little bit. I just caught that one guy wrong a couple times, then I didn't get a good run to slide him; I just put myself in a bad spot. I probably just wasn't aggressive enough and maybe should've done it and pushed the issue a bit more, but it was still early in the race, and I was still feeling out the pace I needed to be. Thankfully, we were able to stay ahead of them without a collision tonight and hold them off."

Grant reloaded the chamber and went on the attack once more in turns one and two on the 14th circuit. Grant's slider missed, but just as he tailed Bacon, he became stymied behind the lapped car of Carson Garrett, which stifled his pursuit and dropped him back another full two seconds behind Bacon.

The chase Grant levied toward Bacon came to an abrupt halt on lap 21 when the injection broke on Grant's second place running machine, which made the throttle stick on the floor pan. Grant managed to shut the engine off and gathered it up, but the mount lost a butterfly and caused some damage to the powerplant which prevented him from resuming in the race, relegating him to an 18th place result.

As a result of Grant's misfortune, Bacon became a bit fearful of the race pace and its effect on his equipment, and therefore, his chances of victory.

"It made me nervous that I was maybe going too hard on my stuff," Bacon admitted. "Then I started feeling some stuff here and there, which was probably not there and just making me feel a little paranoid."

While Bacon embraced the clear road ahead of him, the tussle behind him became anxious in the waning laps. Moles became a major player when he and Kyle Cummins jockeyed for third on the lap 21 restart. The two made slight contact on Moles' slider attempt in turn one, sending Moles into the third spot. Cummins responded posthaste by grabbing the spot right back a half lap later in turn three.

The duo of Cummins and Moles made a beeline to second and third, respectively, moments later when Cummins slid Jake Swanson in turn one followed by Moles drag racing past Swanson on the back straight for third. On lap 25, Moles nearly collected the turn two outside wall as he attacked Cummins, losing the third position to Swanson who eked by underneath on the back straightaway.

However, it was all to the advantage of Bacon who opened his interval to more than five seconds while the fires of the battle raged on in the distance behind him. Ultimately, Bacon closed out a victorious evening with a 5.971 margin of victory at the checkered flag over Cummins, Swanson, Moles and C.J. Leary, who earned Hard Charger honors after starting back in the 13th spot.

Starting second and finishing second, Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) equaled his best career Tony Hulman Classic finish on Tuesday night as he moved himself up to second in the season long USAC National Sprint Car championship points race in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy. Each of Cummins' last two Hulman Classic starts have resulted in second place finishes in 2021 and 2023.

For Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) this Hulman Classic was his best yet. In his four career Hulman starts, he's finished inside the top-eight in all of them: 4th (2020), 8th (2021), 6th (2022) and 3rd on Tuesday night in his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy. In the process, Swanson retained his position as the frontrunner of the Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster series.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 23, 2023 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 53rd Annual Tony Hulman Classic – Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment Race #2

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-19.738; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-19.916; 3. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-19.964; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-20.004; 5. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-20.156; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-20.175; 7. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-20.333; 8. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-20.393; 9. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-20.482; 10. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-20.532; 11. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-20.629; 12. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-20.697; 13. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-20.723; 14. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-20.800; 15. Sterling Cling, 34, SCR-20.907; 16. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-20.927; 17. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-20.978; 18. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-21.055; 19. Tim Creech, 31c, Creech-21.061; 20. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-21.167; 21. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-21.748; 22. Travis Thompson, 7, Thompson-21.785; 23. Kevin Newton, 16TH, Newton-21.843; 24. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Glotzbach-22.073.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr. 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Carson Garrett, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Travis Thompson. 2:48.88

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Kevin Newton. 2:49.93

T.J. FORGED/CAR IQ THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Max Adams, 6. Hunter Maddox, 7. Ivan Glotzbach, 8. Sterling Cling. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (8 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Daison Pursley, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Brandon Mattox, 4. Ivan Glotzbach, 5. Travis Thompson, 6. Tim Creech, 7. Hunter Maddox, 8. Kevin Newton. 2:55.24

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (1), 2. Kyle Cummins (2), 3. Jake Swanson (5), 4. Mitchel Moles (6), 5. C.J. Leary (13), 6. Max Adams (4), 7. Emerson Axsom (9), 8. Logan Seavey (12), 9. Daison Pursley (11), 10. Chase Stockon (14), 11. Matt Westfall (17), 12. Kevin Thomas Jr. (7), 13. Charles Davis Jr. (8), 14. Carson Garrett (16), 15. Travis Thompson (21), 16. Ivan Glotzbach (22), 17. Hunter Maddox (20), 18. Justin Grant (3), 19. Brandon Mattox (15), 20. Jadon Rogers (19), 21. Tim Creech (18), 22. Robert Ballou (10). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Brady Bacon.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-C.J. Leary-480, 2-Kyle Cummins-465, 3-Emerson Axsom-457, 4-Brady Bacon-452, 5-Justin Grant-450, 6-Jake Swanson-423, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-408, 8-Chase Stockon-397, 9-Mitchel Moles-394, 10-Logan Seavey-340.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-153, 2-Mitchel Moles-146, 3-Kyle Cummins-143, 4-C.J. Leary-142, 5-Chase Stockon-121, 6-Emerson Axsom-118, 7-Max Adams-116, 8-Brady Bacon-110, 9-Kevin Thomas Jr.-103, 10-Carson Garrett-97.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-35, 2-Daison Pursley-34, 3-Carson Garrett-31, 4-Chase Stockon-30, 5-Thomas Meseraull-23, 6-Matt Westfall-23, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-20, 8-Brady Bacon-19, 9-Gavin Miller-17, 10- Logan Seavey-16.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: May 24-25, 2023 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Circle City Salute

NEXT BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT RACE: June 3, 2023 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Avanti Windows & Doors Corn Belt Clash

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Kevin Thomas Jr. (20.125)

Honest Abe Roofing / Steve “Bopper” Stapp Fast Qualifier: Mitchel Moles (19.738)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

T.J. Forged / CarIQ Third Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Daison Pursley

Hard Charger: C.J. Leary (13th to 5th)

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VICTORY SALUTE: SWANSON SWIPES USAC SPRINT WIN AT CIRCLE CITY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Indianapolis, Indiana (May 24, 2023)……Back in late 2020/early 2021, California-born driver Jake Swanson and Team Arizona packed up their lives, their possessions and their racing equipment, then headed east to make Indiana their new home.

Since then, they’ve won USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship points-paying main events in both of their respective home states – in 2021 at California’s Perris Auto Speedway and in 2022 at Arizona’s Cocopah Speedway.

Yet they had never had the good fortune of winning a USAC feature in their newly adopted home state of Indiana.

On Wednesday, during the opening night of the Circle City Salute, Swanson and Team AZ Racing made Circle City Raceway during the Week of Indy feel like home sweet home.

Swanson, originally hailing from Anaheim, Calif., wheeled his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy to the lead on lap 12 past Robert Ballou, then sped away to a convincing 2.114 second margin of victory at the quarter-mile dirt oval to earn his first USAC points race victory of the season.

Back in February, Swanson collected a non-points special event triumph down in Florida at Volusia Speedway Park. Additionally, he entered Wednesday’s event as the most recent sprint car winner at Circle City, taking a local show held at the track in October of 2022.

No combo in the series has been as red hot lately as Swanson and Team AZ with Circle City being the pairing’s third consecutive top-three result following a runner-up finish at Ohio’s Eldora Speedway on May 6 and a third place result this past Tuesday at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track.

Yet, as far as a victory lane celebration in USAC competition, this one has been a long time coming, and the general feeling among the group's brethren is that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

"I'm so pumped for my guys on this race team," Swanson exclaimed. "It's so cool that I've got all these guys from Arizona and we're able to figure out how to win here. We've had help from different guys here and there, but for the most part, it's Mike and Craig (Burkhart) and I week-in and week-out. We're going to make it on stubbornness, and we finally have. It feels really good to finally check that off the list, and now we can just keep racking them up."

Swanson began his quest from the fourth starting spot in the 30-lap main event, giving chase to pole sitter Robert Ballou who spurted out to the early lead. However, the feature's only stoppage came amid trouble on lap two as 13th running Kevin Thomas Jr. flipped over in turn three, necessitating a red flag. Thomas and his Michael Dutcher-owned No. 17GP spent time in the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area before returning to the fray, finishing a distant 19th.

On the resumption, Swanson immediately began making his presence felt, sliding first-time USAC National Sprint Car feature starter Rylan Gray for the second spot on the fourth lap before taking aim at Ballou.

Swanson's next shot fired saw him swipe the lead from Ballou momentarily in turn four on lap 11. However, Ballou was cognizant of Swanson's trajectory up the racetrack and promptly cut back under to retake the lead by the time the two reached the stripe separated by a mere car length.

The next time around on lap 12 found a different set of circumstances to navigate, however. In turn three, 21st running Ricky Lewis occupied the top groove that Ballou had been attached to thus far. Nonetheless, with Lewis there, Ballou was forced to jump down low, and as he slid up the surface across the nose of Lewis, Swanson launched off the cushion midway through turns three and four and shot to the bottom of four to make it three-wide with both Swanson and Ballou splitting around each side of Lewis with Swanson edging Ballou by a single chrome horn. Swanson slid up in front of Ballou on entry to turn one a moment later with Swanson's rear bumper and Ballou's front bumper grazing each other before Swanson took off for good.

"I was kind of biding my time," Swanson said of his pursuit of Ballou. "I didn't want to show him where I was; I wanted to strike and not even let him know that I was coming. Unfortunately, I did that. He was able to get through the rough down there better than I was, but we were so much better through the black and everywhere else. We were really good. Even though he knew we were there, I knew he had such a train of lapped cars in front of him that, as long as we were smart, we'd be able to pull it off and I knew it was going to be a good race between us."

From that point forward, Swanson was adamant that the only meaningful race for position was going to occur behind him. On lap 13, Cummins swept past Ballou for the second spot in turn three. Ballou knew it was coming, turned down under Cummins to edge ahead at the exit of turn four when contact between Ballou's right rear tire and Cummins' left front sent Cummins on a near collision course with the outside wall. Miraculously, Cummins expertly got his car whoa'd down and turned a full 75 degrees back to the left before resuming without any wall contact and without losing a single position.

Ultimately, Cummins picked off Ballou for second with an outside turn two pass on lap 17 while Bacon slipped under Ballou on lap 21 in a cloud of heavy traffic in turn four. Honest Abe Fast Qualifier Justin Grant soon performed likewise, driving by Ballou for the fourth position on lap 25 while Ballou slotted back into fifth.

Up front, however, it was all Swanson who accumulated his third career USAC National Sprint Car feature victory over Kyle Cummins, Brady Bacon, Justin Grant and Robert Ballou rounding out the top-five.

With his runner-up finish, Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) took over the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship point lead by five markers over C.J. Leary who finished seventh. For Cummins, it's his seventh top-five finish in eight USAC starts this season and his second runner-up result in as many nights. In his last 21 USAC starts dating back to last year, Cummins owns 20 top-tens and 17 top-fives in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) followed up Tuesday night's feature victory at Terre Haute with a solid third place finish on Wednesday at Circle City. In four career USAC National Sprint Car starts at Circle City dating back to the 2021 season, Bacon has now finished 2nd, 3rd, 3rd and 4th in his Dynamics, Inc./A & B Sports Bar Café – Tel-Star Technologies – DriveWFX.com/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 24, 2023 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Circle City Salute

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.205; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.253; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.351; 4. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.398; 5. Rylan Gray, 81G, Gray-12.483; 6. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-12.612; 7. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.614; 8. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.626; 9. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.643; 10. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-12.660; 11. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-12.676; 12. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-12.689; 13. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-12.699; 14. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.709; 15. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-12.738; 16. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-12.774; 17. Scotty Weir, 24, Simon-12.779; 18. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.781; 19. Thomas Meseraull, 2E, Epperson-12.919; 20. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-12.963; 21. Tye Mihocko, 2H, Hayden-12.967; 22. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.977; 23. Ricky Lewis, 41, Brown-12.992; 24. Tyler Hewitt, 118, Evans-13.032; 25. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-13.037; 26. Kevin Newton, 16TH, Newton-13.110; 27. Sterling Cling, 34, SCR-13.205; 28. Jackson Slone, 16, Borzio/Slone-13.313; 29. Kayla Roell, 5K, KO-13.410; 30. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Glotzbach-13.574.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Charles Davis Jr., 6. Emerson Axsom, 7. Chase Stockon, 8. Koby Barksdale, 9. Jackson Slone, 10. Brandon Mattox. 2:09.22

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Scotty Weir, 5. Rylan Gray, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Gabriel Gilbert, 8. Kayla Roell, 9. Ricky Lewis, 10. Kevin Newton. 2:13.69

T.J. FORGED/CAR IQ THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Tye Mihocko, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Tyler Hewitt, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Ivan Glotzbach, 10. Logan Seavey. 2:15.26

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Tyler Hewitt, 7. Ricky Lewis, 8. Kayla Roell, 9. Kevin Newton, 10. Koby Barksdale, 11. Jackson Slone, 12. Gabriel Gilbert, 13. Sterling Cling, 14. Ivan Glotzbach, 15. Brandon Mattox. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Jake Swanson (4), 2. Kyle Cummins (3), 3. Brady Bacon (5), 4. Justin Grant (6), 5. Robert Ballou (1), 6. Mitchel Moles (8), 7. C.J. Leary (12), 8. Chase Stockon (10), 9. Daison Pursley (16), 10. Carson Garrett (7), 11. Emerson Axsom (17), 12. Rylan Gray (2), 13. Logan Seavey (9), 14. Charles Davis Jr. (14), 15. Scotty

Weir (18), 16. Thomas Meseraull (19), 17. Jadon Rogers (15), 18. Matt Westfall (11), 19. Kevin Thomas Jr. (13), 20. Tye Mihocko (20), 21. Tyler Hewitt (22), 22. Ricky Lewis (21). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-11 Robert Ballou, Laps 12-30 Jake Swanson.

**Kevin Thomas Jr. flipped on lap 2 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Kyle Cummins-543, 2-C.J. Leary-538, 3-Brady Bacon-527, 4-Justin Grant-522, 5-Jake Swanson-502, 6-Emerson Axsom-499, 7-Mitchel Moles-457, 8-Chase Stockon-450, 9-Kevin Thomas Jr.-440, 10-Robert Ballou-387.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-41, 2-Justin Grant-37, 3-Chase Stockon-32, 4-Carson Garrett-31, 5-Thomas Meseraull-26, 6-Matt Westfall-23, 7-Brady Bacon-21, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-20, 9-C.J. Leary-19, 10-Jake Swanson-17.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: May 25, 2023 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Circle City Salute

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Justin Grant (12.101)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Justin Grant (12.205)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Carson Garrett

T.J. Forged / Car IQ Third Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Chase Stockon

Hard Charger: Daison Pursley (16th to 9th)

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WORKINGMAN'S DELIGHT: CUMMINS GETS THE JOB DONE AT USAC'S CIRCLE CITY SALUTE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Indianapolis, Indiana (May 25, 2023)……One night after assuming the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship point lead for the first time in seven seasons, Kyle Cummins made sure to cement his status as the series' top dawg at the moment on Thursday night at Indianapolis, Indiana's Circle City Raceway.

The Princeton, Ind. native once again demonstrated the type of roll he's been on of late, taking over the race lead just five laps into the 40-lap contest before going on to capture his second $10,000 main event victory of the series season in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

To give you an indication of the success Cummins has accrued of late, consider this screenshot. It was his eighth top-five finish in nine USAC starts this season, and his third consecutive top-two finish in as many nights this week. In his last 22 USAC starts dating back to last year, Cummins owns 21 top-tens and 18 top-fives.

It's a highly envious start for anybody chasing the series' title, but for Cummins, it's a quest he remains unsure of pursuing due to his day-to-day duties as the owner of NewTech Precision Group, a machine shop in his hometown of Princeton, Ind. While the season long championship race isn't exactly top of mind in the Month of May, it does bring a curious scenario for Cummins to now face all thanks to his early season success that has put him at the top of the heap.

"We don't even know if we're running the whole series yet," Cummins admitted. "We just came out to run some races, and so far, it's been going pretty good," Cummins understatedly explained. "It's a long season, and with my job, it makes it super stressful and super hard to be able to come out here and race. But to knock off two seconds and a first this week, it kind of makes me itch a little bit thinking about (running for the championship)."

In extending his series point lead to 22 markers, Cummins also moved up another notch on USAC's National Sprint Car career feature win list. He 16th series victory moved him to 37th all-time alongside Damion Gardner and Jud Larson. In winning, he surpassed the victory totals of Bobby East, Cory Kruseman and Brian Tyler.

Cummins started his race from the outside of the front row, but for the second night in a row at Circle City's quarter-mile dirt oval, it was Ballou spurting out to the early race lead form the pole position as he squeezed his way past Cummins to escape with the top spot.

However, the first stoppage of the evening came on lap two when the red flag was displayed for 21st running Sterling Cling who flipped over in turn one, heavily damaging the front end of the frame and knocking him out of the contest just as things we're getting underway. Fortunately, the Arizonian managed to climb out and walk away unscathed.

Upon the resumption, Cummins went right back to work, sliding Ballou for the position in turn three on lap four, then negating a crossover move by Ballou at the turn four exit to win a drag race to the line at the conclusion of lap four, a position he'd never officially relent despite numerous challenges from the reigning champ.

Grant, the defending USAC National Sprint Car titlist, punched his ticket for second when he slid his way past Ballou with a turn one maneuver on the ninth lap. A few ticks later, Wednesday night's Circle City winner Jake Swanson jumped to third, utilizing a slide job on Ballou on the 13th lap.

Just prior to midway, the caution were switched on for a lap 14 incident involving 11th running Kevin Thomas Jr., which also stopped the 15th place car driven by Chase Stockon. Thomas soldiered on to finish 16th. Meanwhile, 18th starting Stockon was relegated to the tail, and he promptly drove his way back through the field to take seventh, earning hard charger honors for his plus-11 performance.

On the ensuing restart, Cummins was under the attack levied by Grant. First things first, Grant slid past Cummins in turn one immediately after the green flag was displayed. Cummins countered back under to stave off the challenge from Grant who then reloaded with another slide job attempt in turn one on lap 16 only to see Cummins charge back by. Grant's third

try in a two-lap span wasn't the charm over in turn three as he was unable to clear while Cummins continued on his merry way as the undisputed race leader.

On laps 18 and 20, the song remained the same as Cummins had an answer for every kitchen sink Grant threw at him in turn one, consistently and routinely crossing over and zipping back past Grant to retain the lead. However, any chance Grant had of dethroning Cummins came to an ugly and abrupt end on lap 25 when Grant tagged the outside wall with his right rear and flipped over several times in turn two. Grant was able to return to action but only managed a 13th place result.

Cummins was locked into the lead and unwavered from there on out without any ounce of a threat from his nearest challenger. Cummins carried on to score a 1.734 second margin of victory and pad his wallet with a $10,000 top prize. Jake Swanson finished second with Brady Bacon third, Emerson Axsom fourth and Matt Westfall fifth.

Cummins' most notorious challenger came via Grant who bowed out early due to an accident. As the class of the field, Cummins led the final 37 laps en route to victory, a triumph which he earned by taming both the confines and any challenge posed to him from the field of 22 throughout the 40-lap distance.

"That was a very technical race," Cummins admitted. "When Justin was throwing me sliders there, it was kind of like the heat race. It was pretty exciting until he got turned over there. To come out on top at a track like this is huge; it can just eat your lunch at any moment. But now we're 10 grand richer."

It's been "Consistent City" for Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) at Circle City. One night after winning the feature, he came home second in his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

In his last four USAC National Sprint Car starts, Swanson hasn't strayed from the podium, finishing 2nd, 3rd, 1st and 2nd. As a result, he elevated himself from fifth to fourth in series points.

"We were close," Swanson lamented. "I think Kyle was really good last night too and I think at different parts of the racetrack and at different times of the race, we might've been better, and at other times, he was better. But tonight, he pretty well had us covered. Either way, we're on the podium again and I can't say enough about my race team for giving me a car that's capable of being up front every single week."

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) has been a top-five machine throughout his career, and Thursday night was no exception in his Dynamics, Inc./A & B Sports Bar Café – Tel-Star Technologies – DriveWFX.com/Triple X/Rider Chevy. He has yet to do wrong in USAC National Sprint Car competition at Circle City. In five career series starts, Bacon has finished 2nd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd and 4th. On this particular night, he drove to a third place result after starting eighth.

"We just had our car really tight, and I just couldn't run the top very well," Bacon documented. "I saw them poking their nose down there, so I thought I better go down there and protect, but I found that the middle worked best for me. This is just one of those survival nights; you've just got to get through it – a workingman's night I guess you could say."

In Honest Abe Roofing Qualifying, Justin Grant recorded his 33rd career fast time in USAC National Sprint Car competition. In doing so, he surpassed Chase Stockon for 11th all-time. Next on the list for Grant is Rich Vogler, who currently stands 10th all-time with 35.

2023 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: May 25, 2023 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Circle City Salute

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.255; 2. Thomas Meseraull, 2E, Epperson-12.284; 3. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-12.287; 4. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.329; 5. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.404; 6. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.447; 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 17GP, Dutcher-12.541; 8. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-12.613; 9. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-12.645; 10. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.648; 11. Tyler Hewitt, 118, Evans-12.666; 12. Tye Mihocko, 2H, Hayden-12.669; 13. Rylan Gray, 81G, Gray-12.699; 14. Matt McDonald, 5m, McDonald-12.714; 15. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-12.724; 16. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.754; 17. Koby Barksdale, 16K, Knight-12.762; 18. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.884; 19. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-12.934; 20. Jake Scott, 33, Miller-12.967; 21. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-12.996; 22. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.997; 23. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-13.004; 24. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-13.037; 25. Kayla Roell, 5K, KO-13.058; 26. Jadon Rogers, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.074; 27. Ricky Lewis, 41, Brown-13.105; 28. Scotty Weir, 24, Simon-13.107; 29. Sterling Cling, 34, SCR-13.110; 30. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, GGR-13.264; 31. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Glotzbach-14.343; 32. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Rylan Gray, 6. Koby Barksdale, 7. Kayla Roell, 8. Sterling Cling. 2:11.24

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. Thomas Meseraull, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Matt McDonald, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Gabriel Gilbert. 2:14.52

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Carson Garrett, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Ricky Lewis, 7. Ivan Glotzbach, 8. Tyler Hewitt. NT

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Jake Scott, 5. Tye Mihocko, 6. Scotty Weir, 7. Brent Beauchamp, 8. Brandon Mattox. 2:20.90

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Tye Mihocko, 4. Rylan Gray, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Sterling Cling, 7. Koby Barksdale, 8. Ricky Lewis, 9. Tyler Hewitt, 10. Gabriel Gilbert, 11. Brent Beauchamp, 12. Ivan Glotzbach, 13. Scotty Weir, 14. Matt McDonald, 15. Kayla Roell. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kyle Cummins (2), 2. Jake Swanson (3), 3. Brady Bacon (8), 4. Emerson Axsom (7), 5. Matt Westfall (9), 6. Daison Pursley (14), 7. Chase Stockon (18), 8. Thomas Meseraull (5), 9. C.J. Leary (17), 10. Mitchel Moles (15), 11. Logan Seavey (19), 12. Tye Mihocko (12), 13. Justin Grant (6), 14. Robert Ballou (1), 15. Rylan Gray (13), 16. Kevin Thomas Jr. (11), 17. Jadon Rogers (21), 18. Dave Darland (20), 19. Carson Garrett (4), 20. Charles Davis Jr. (10), 21. Jake Scott (16), 22. Sterling Cling (22). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-3 Robert Ballou, Laps 4-40 Kyle Cummins.

**Matt McDonald flipped during the semi. Sterling Cling flipped on lap 2 of the feature. Justin Grant flipped on lap 25 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Kyle Cummins-621, 2-Brady Bacon-599, 3-C.J. Leary-589, 4-Jake Swanson-579, 5-Justin Grant-572, 6-Emerson Axsom-568, 7-Mitchel Moles-507, 8-Chase Stockon-506, 9-Kevin Thomas Jr.-478, 10-Robert Ballou-428.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-49, 2-Chase Stockon-43, 3-Justin Grant-37, 4-Carson Garrett-31, 5-C.J. Leary-27, 6-Matt Westfall-27, 7-Brady Bacon-26, 8-Thomas Meseraull-26, 9-Logan Seavey-24, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-20.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: June 2-3, 2023 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Avanti Windows & Doors Corn Belt Clash

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Kevin Thomas Jr. (12.255)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Justin Grant (12.255)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Matt Westfall

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Chase Stockon

Hard Charger: Chase Stockon (18th to 7th)

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HARD KNOX: CORN BELT CLASH NIGHT 1 RAINED OUT

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Knoxville, Iowa (June 2, 2023)……Continuous rainfall throughout late afternoon forced cancellation of Friday night's Avanti Windows & Doors Corn Belt Clash at Iowa's Knoxville Raceway.

Thirty-one drivers and cars were entered for the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship event, co-sanctioned by the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association.

The Corn Belt Clash resumes on Saturday, June 3, with a complete event for the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship, culminating in a 30-lap feature paying $12,000-to-win. Knoxville Championship 410 Sprint Cars will be on hand Saturday.

On Saturday night, the front gates open at 6pm Central and hot laps at 6:30pm followed immediately by qualifying and racing. General admission tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for ages 13-19, $10 for ages 6-12 and free for ages 5 & under. Reserved tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for ages 13-19, $15 for ages 6-12 and free for ages 5 & under. Pit passes are $30.

Advance tickets are on sale at www.KnoxvilleRaceway.com.

The event can be watched LIVE on FloRacing at https://flosports.link/3Kdc2na.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 2, 2023 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Avanti Windows & Doors Corn Belt Clash – Co-Sanctioned by the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association

DRIVERS & TEAMS IN ATTENDANCE: (31) Justin Zimmerman (#1 D-Up), Don Droud Jr. (#1m Burch), Chase Johnson (#2 Yeley), Logan Seavey (#2B 2B Racing), J.J. Yeley (#2J Yeley), Kyle Cummins (#3R Rock Steady), Justin Grant (#4 TOPP), Daison Pursley (#5p KO), Chase Stockon (#5s KO), Isaac Chapple (#6 Chapple-Hall), Logan Calderwood (#6c Calderwood), Ben Woods (#11B B & R), Wyatt Burks (#11w Burks), Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou), Doug Sylvester (#12x Sylvester), Carson Garrett (#15 BGE Dougherty), C.J. Leary (#15x BGE Dougherty), Max Adams (#17GP Dutcher), Mitchel Moles (#19AZ Reinbold-Underwood), Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), Matt Mitchell (#37 Mitchell), Wesley Smith (#44 Smith), Charles Davis Jr. (#47 Davis), Emerson Axsom (#47BC Clauson Marshall), Brian Ruhlman (#49 Ruhlman), Eddie Tafoya Jr. (#51T Tafoya), Jonathan Hughes (#67 Hughes), Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics), Vinny Ward (#82 Ward) & Dalton Stevens (#99x Stevens).

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Kyle Cummins-621, 2-Brady Bacon-599, 3-C.J. Leary-589, 4-Jake Swanson-579, 5-Justin Grant-572, 6-Emerson Axsom-568, 7-Mitchel Moles-507, 8-Chase Stockon-506, 9-Kevin Thomas Jr.-478, 10-Robert Ballou-428.

USAC WHOLESALE BATTERIES MIDWEST WINGLESS RACING ASSOCIATION POINTS: 1-Braydon Cromwell-770, 2-Wyatt Burks-760, 3-Brad Wyatt-725, 4-Chad Winfrey-665, 5-Chris Parkinson-655, 6-Justin Johnson-555, 7-Zach Clark-525, 8-Buddy Parker-445, 9-Kory Schudy-445, 10-Chad Goff-400.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-49, 2-Chase Stockon-43, 3-Justin Grant-37, 4-Carson Garrett-31, 5-C.J. Leary-27, 6-Matt Westfall-27, 7-Brady Bacon-26, 8-Thomas Meseraull-26, 9-Logan Seavey-24, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-20.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 3, 2023 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Avanti Windows & Doors Corn Belt Clash – Co-Sanctioned by the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association

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CORN BELT HERO! SWANSON SCORES LAST LAP TRIUMPH AT KNOXVILLE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Knoxville, Iowa (June 3, 2023)……Jake Swanson set the tone early on during Saturday night's Avanti Windows & Doors Corn Belt Clash at Iowa's Knoxville Raceway.

To start things off, the Anaheim, Calif. native set quick time during qualifying, then made the show with a last lap pass to grab the fourth and final transfer spot in his heat race.

During the feature, he led for less than a quarter mile, but it just so happened to be the money lap worth $12,000 as he chased down Brady Bacon in turn three on the 30th and final circuit to capture his second points-paying USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature of the season in his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

For Swanson, he's now won three of his four career USAC National Sprint Car features on half-mile dirt ovals. This one was certainly a memorable affair, having come in front of a crowd of racing royalty on National Sprint Car Hall of Fame induction weekend at one of the most famed dirt tracks in the world.

"I'm so pumped to get Team AZ to winner's circle at Knoxville," Swanson exclaimed. "I'm so pumped to add my name to a list of winners that is just unbelievable. I'm so thankful to have the people behind me that I do and I'm so thankful to be winning USAC races."

Swanson rolled off from the sixth position as front row combatants C.J. Leary and Kyle Cummins took turns trading places at the front of the field where it was polesitter Leary ably nipped Cummins at the line by a single car length on each of the first two laps.

Cummins took charge on the third go-around as he hit the bottom of turn one and slid up in front of Leary by the time the pair hit turn two within the shadow of the museum's facade. Leary got Cummins back briefly in turn three, but Cummins shot down underneath to secure the lead for the time being.

In the meantime, fifth-starting Bacon took second from Leary on lap six with a turn one slider, then began his pursuit of Cummins, whose lead rapidly dwindled as Bacon chopped his way into contention. With a big run on the back straightaway, Bacon breezed by Cummins to take over the helm on lap eight.

Almost instantly, Bacon upped his lead to a half-straight as he caught the back of the field at the race's halfway point. As he worked lapped traffic, Bacon swiftly sliced his way through to increase his lead to 4.313 seconds with only nine laps to go.

However, the feature's lone yellow flag was displayed on lap 22 when 23rd running Logan Calderwood stopped at the top of turn four, resetting the deck for the final stretch run.

Back behind the front two, reigning series champion Justin Grant swiped the third spot on the restart from Leary. As Leary cut under and the two drifted side-by-side through turn two, space was tight, resulting in contact and wound up with Grant's left rear wheel hiked in the air. As Grant came to, Mitchel Moles brushed his right side tires off Grant's left side sidewalls. Grant regathered himself but dropped all the way down to 15th in the running order at, seemingly, the snap of a finger.

The biggest beneficiary was Swanson who took fourth from Grant, then tracked down Leary with an outside turn two move for the third spot on lap 24. He followed up with an undercut of Cummins on lap 26 for second in turn three.

At that moment, Bacon was in full control, a full two seconds ahead with just four laps remaining and even held a similarly steady 1.5 second lead with just two to go. However, the tide shifted quickly, with Bacon experiencing tire trouble and Swanson soon found himself right on Bacon's bumper on the final lap.

In turn three, Swanson made the winning move, darting to the bottom and sliding across Bacon's nose, and sticking his right rear in the rubber before finishing off the final corner to score a "look-what-I-found" victory. How do you do?

"I knew that the rubber was coming but I didn't think I was going to have a shot to win the thing," Swanson admitted. "The rubber came really hard and really fast, and I didn't expect that, but we sure capitalized on it."

Perhaps it was a premonition. Perhaps just a gut feeling. But the way the final laps unfurled, it was as if it was all part of the team's plan to strike when others found disarray.

"I was just so tight into (the cushion), and I just had to be really ginger with it because I smashed it a couple times in turns three and four and the thing biked up," Swanson explained. "The whole time, I was like 'man, I wish I could talk to my crew chief right now.' Then, sure enough, the turn of events took place, and I couldn't believe that we were so good in the rubber. It was all a testament to Mike's (Burkhart) choices. I think he knew all this was coming."

Although it was easy to get jumbled up on the treacherous cushion, quick thinking was the remedy for Swanson to counteract what very well could've put him into the guardrail and sullied his shot.

"It was really tricky," Swanson related. "You kind of had to short slide, and it got a little sketchy there before the rubber. There was a fine line between powering around the outside of it and not, so you really had to make the right choices. Otherwise, you were going to get stuffed up into the wall. It was just the way the race was, and I don't think anyone could do much about it. I was just trying to be smart and save my racecar for the end and I'm glad I did."

For the bulk of the race, it looked like Bacon had it in the bank. But after leading a race-high 21 laps, the Broken Arrow, Okla. driver fell just two turns shy of his record-extending fifth career USAC National Sprint Car win at Knoxville. Instead, he was forced to settle for a second place finish on this night, which was his fifth-straight top-two result at Knoxville in his Dynamics, Inc./Tel-Star Technologies – DriveWFX.com – Fatheadz Eyewear/Triple X/Rider Chevy. As a consolation prize, Bacon became the new series point leader, surpassing Cummins who was running fifth on the final lap but fell to 14th with a tire issue.

This night marked the best performance of Mitchel Moles' USAC National Sprint Car season. In the Raisin City, California native's first Knoxville appearance, he brought home a third place result after charging all the way from seventh in the final eight laps in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

Chase Johnson's first run with the USAC National Sprint Cars at Knoxville paid off. For his hard charging performance from 19th to 7th in the feature, Penngrove, California's Johnson collected a $2,000 bonus courtesy of Avanti Windows & Doors.

Meanwhile, Johnson's Yeley Racing teammate, J.J. Yeley, made his first USAC National Sprint Car feature start since 2009 Indiana Sprint Week at Kamp Motor Speedway. The Phoenix, Arizona driver's Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature victory on Saturday night was his first triumph in a last chance race with the series since the July 19, 2003 round of Indiana Sprint Week at Lincoln Park Speedway.

Swanson's fourth career points paying USAC National Sprint Car feature win moved him to 102nd all-time alongside Rob Chaney, Cary Faas, Jesse Hockett, Van Johnson, Steve Kinser, Michael Lewis, Ralph Liguori, Don Nordhorn, Lee Osborne, Red Riegel, Ken Schrader, Al Smith and Danny Smith.

Furthermore, Swanson recorded his eighth career Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifying time with the USAC National Sprint Cars on Saturday night at Knoxville. That tied him for 57th all-time with Bubby Jones, Kelly Kinser, Pat O'Connor and Hunter

Schuerenberg. Ironic it is that on this night, Swanson also captured his first Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment feature event win. Swanson now leads the points after three rounds of the 10-race miniseries by a 16-point margin over Mitchel Moles.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 3, 2023 – Knoxville Raceway – Knoxville, Iowa – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Avanti Windows & Doors Corn Belt Clash – Co-Sanctioned by the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Racing Association

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-19.642; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-19.667; 3. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-19.868; 4. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-19.938; 5. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-19.960; 6. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-19.983; 7. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-19.985; 8. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-19.992; 9. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-20.014; 10. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-20.065; 11. Riley Kreisel, 91, DKR-20.135; 12. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-20.142; 13. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-20.200; 14. J.J. Yeley, 2J, Yeley-20.272; 15. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-20.293; 16. Justin Zimmerman, 1, D-Up-20.308; 17. Wyatt Burks, 11w, Burks-20.350; 18. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-20.390; 19. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-20.405; 20. Isaac Chapple, 6D, Chapple/Hall-20.412; 21. Chase Johnson, 2, Yeley-20.456; 22. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-20.461; 23. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-20.549; 24. Wesley Smith, 44, Smith-20.709; 25. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-20.978; 26. Don Droud Jr., 1m, Burch-21.158; 27. Jonathan Hughes, 67, Hughes-21.399; 28. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-21.668; 29. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-21.806; 30. Ben Woods, 11B, B & R-21.904; 31. Vinny Ward, 82, Ward-22.368; 32. Doug Sylvester, 12x, Sylvester-22.638.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Chase Johnson, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Wyatt Burks, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Dalton Stevens, 8. Brian Ruhlman. 2:54.94

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. J.J. Yeley, 6. Don Droud Jr., 7. Ben Woods, 8. Logan Calderwood. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Matt Mitchell, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Riley Kreisel, 5. Charles Davis Jr., 6. Vinny Ward, 7. Jonathan Hughes, 8. Daison Pursley. 2:55.63

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Wesley Smith, 2. Justin Zimmerman, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Max Adams, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 7. Doug Sylvester, 8. Isaac Chapple. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. J.J. Yeley, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Charles Davis Jr., 4. Logan Calderwood, 5. Daison Pursley, 6. Dalton Stevens, 7. Logan Seavey, 8. Wyatt Burks, 9. Don Droud Jr., 10. Vinny Ward, 11. Ben Woods, 12. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 13. Doug Sylvester, 14. Jonathan Hughes, 15. Brian Ruhlman. 4:14.99 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Jake Swanson (6), 2. Brady Bacon (5), 3. Mitchel Moles (7), 4. C.J. Leary (1), 5. Emerson Axsom (3), 6. Matt Westfall (12), 7. Chase Johnson (19), 8. Justin Zimmerman (17), 9. Daison Pursley (10), 10. Riley Kreisel (13), 11. Robert Ballou (16), 12. Wesley Smith (9), 13. Carson Garrett (8), 14. Kyle Cummins (4), 15. Justin Grant (2), 16. Charles Davis Jr. (21), 17. J.J. Yeley (15), 18. Matt Mitchell (18), 19. Chase Stockon (14), 20. Logan Seavey (23-P), 21. Dalton Stevens (22), 22. Max Adams (11), 23. Logan Calderwood (20). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 C.J. Leary, Laps 3-8 Kyle Cummins, Laps 9-29 Brady Bacon, Lap 30 Jake Swanson.

**Daison Pursley flipped during the third heat. Isaac Chapple flipped during the fourth heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-676, 2-Kyle Cummins-665, 3-Jake Swanson-660, 4-C.J. Leary-658, 5-Emerson Axsom-634, 6-Justin Grant-612, 7-Mitchel Moles-579, 8-Chase Stockon-534, 9-Matt Westfall-489, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-478.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-234, 2-Mitchel Moles-218, 3-C.J. Leary-211, 4-Brady Bacon-187, 5-Kyle Cummins-187, 6-Emerson Axsom-184, 7-Matt Westfall-152, 8-Chase Stockon-149, 9-Max Adams-144, 10-Carson Garrett-142.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-50, 2-Chase Stockon-43, 3-Justin Grant-37, 4-Logan Seavey-37, 5-Matt Westfall-35, 6-Carson Garrett-31, 7-Brady Bacon-29, 8-C.J. Leary-27, 9-Thomas Meseraull-26, 10-Jake Swanson-23.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: June 13, 2023 – Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm / Jesse Hockett Classic

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Emerson Axsom (19.632)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Jake Swanson (19.642)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Carson Garrett

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: C.J. Leary Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Wesley Smith

Avanti Windows & Doors $500 Final Transfer Spot Bonus: Jake Swanson, Brady Bacon, Riley Kreisel & Max Adams

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

HARF Semi-Feature 2nd Place Finisher In Honor of Jeff van Winkle: Chase Stockon

Avanti Windows & Doors $416 Transfer Bonus: J.J. Yeley, Chase Stockon, Charles Davis Jr., Logan Calderwood, Daison Pursley & Dalton Stevens

Avanti Windows & Doors $2,000 Hard Charger Bonus: Chase Johnson (19th to 7th)

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A GRANDVIEW FROM THE TOP: SWANSON SCORES USAC EASTERN STORM OPENER

2023 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania (June 13, 2023)……Right now, Jake Swanson is on a roll unlike he's ever experienced in sprint car racing.

And it's led him straight to the top of the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship point standings for the first time in his career.

Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) led all 40 laps of Tuesday night's Jesse Hockett Classic at Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania's Grandview Speedway, fighting off a furious charge by Emerson Axsom during the final laps of the opening round of USAC Eastern Storm.

For Swanson, it's now his third USAC National Sprint Car victory in his last four starts, and his sixth consecutive result on the podium, with three wins, a pair of seconds and a third to his credit during that time frame in his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

Swanson is now in the driver's seat as the early point leader of the six-race Eastern Storm series and stands atop the overall USAC National Sprint Car standings by a single point over Kyle Cummins.

Swanson is a big fan of where he and the team currently stand, especially after surpassing his personal USAC National Sprint Car win total with three triumphant appearances in his last four outings. By comparison, he'd won just twice in his first 127 series starts.

"I can get used to this; this is pretty unreal," Swanson exclaimed. "I'm just so pumped to be able to win USAC National Sprint Car races. We've worked really, really hard for this, and it feels good to be able to go anywhere and be in the hunt. As long as we do our jobs and everyone pulls together, we're always going to be there and in position, and if the cards fall right, they fall right, and that's what they did tonight."

Swanson started from the pole position of the main event at the 1/3-mile dirt oval and quickly bolted out to the early lead, constructing a commanding half-straightaway advantage over outside front row starter Thomas Meseraull just five laps into the event.

Catching the tail end of the field, Swanson initially scurried his way through with precision but nearly found trouble as he drifted high toward the wall in turn four on the 17th lap as he worked three-wide around the outside of Max Adams and Logan Seavey. Swanson successfully put both drivers a lap down but saw his two second lead instantly dwindle to under a second.

The biggest mover throughout the first half of the contest was Brady Bacon, winner of five of the past six USAC National Sprint Car outings at Grandview dating back to 2017. On this night, he had steadily worked his way from 16th to 9th throughout the first 18 laps, but lap 19 was a different story. The four-time USAC National Sprint Car champ's run of Grandview good fortune made an about-face on him as he slowed to a halt with a right rear tire issue. Bacon, the 2014 Eastern Storm titlist, had his right rear changed by his Dynamics, Inc. crew in the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area, and restarted at the tail, but was only able to climb back to 14th, his first non-top-10 finish with the series at Grandview in 11 previous starts dating back to 2007.

Now with a clear track out in front of him, Swanson and second-running Meseraull broke away from the rest of the field for the start of the second half of the main. However, seventh starting Emerson Axsom began to paint himself into the

picture, rolling the bottom from sixth to third in a two-lap span past Briggs Danner, Justin Grant and Chase Stockon, all previous Grandview winners in some form or fashion.

Axsom ultimately reeled in Meseraull and edged his way past for the runner-up spot on lap 30, just in the nick of time prior to a turn two melee which involved several drivers running in and around the top-10. Matt Westfall (11th) had the misfortune of flipping over in turn two on lap 31, the result of an incident ahead of him which saw Grant (7th) stop with a flat right rear and Danner (8th) perform a complete 360-degree spin while Mitchel Moles (13th) suffered front end damage. Westfall climbed out and walked away while Danner, Grant and Moles all restarted at the tail.

Once again, the coast was clear ahead of Swanson for the final 10-lap sprint. However, things weren't as cut and dry behind him. Axsom was present at Swanson's rear bumper to mount the biggest challenge he'd faced all race long. Swanson nearly slipped over the edge and onto the shelf on the high side of turn two on the lap 31 restart, rooster-tailing the outside wall with Keystone State soil but was able to dig himself out and prevent Axsom from capitalizing on the slightly ajar door, but Swanson now knew Axsom was there.

"It's tough being the leader sometimes because you kind of feel like you're a sitting duck," Swanson explained. "I knew he was making the bottom work, but I didn't feel like I could do it right. I figured I'd protect on the initial start and then see if I saw him. Once we got to racing, if I could watch him down there, and maybe stay out front, I might try it. But the top was working so well. As long as I didn't overdrive it, it was really easy to blow through because it was so thin. I definitely didn't want to stab the back bumper into the fence and give away the lead. I tried to run below it, and it was actually a little bit better below it in the cleaned off area. Once you get over the shelf, it wants to suck you up into the fence. But with a little bit of patience, it paid off."

Axsom pulled even with Swanson on both ends of the track but was unable to get enough pull at the exit of turns two and four to propel him ahead. Axsom altered the game plan in his pursuit of Swanson shortly thereafter with five laps remaining, switching to the high line in turns one and two, while maintaining his presence on the low line in turns three and four.

Swanson ably kept Axsom at arm's length for the balance of the distance, never letting Axsom encroach within three car lengths in the waning laps to prevail at Grandview by a 0.743 second margin. Axsom brought it home second with Robert Ballou making a late-race surge to third. Timmy Buckwalter, making his first series start since Eastern Storm in 2022, took fourth while Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier Kyle Cummins grabbed fifth in what was his first Eastern Storm appearance since 2015.

Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) made a valiant effort to advance from seventh to second in the feature in his Clauson Marshall Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy. He pulled even with Swanson for the lead multiple times late and tried to show him a nose in order to goad him into making a mistake or to change lanes. But in the end, Axsom still managed to equal his best result of the USAC National Sprint Car season after also finishing second in February's season opener at Florida's Bubba Raceway Park.

Describing his start to the USAC National Sprint Cars as "horrific," Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) got his Eastern Storm off to a rocking start with a podium run at Grandview. The two-time Eastern Storm champ turned in his best finish of the season in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy. His 10th to third charge equaled his best career Grandview finish with the USAC National Sprints, which he also achieved in 2011 and 2021.

In four of his past five Eastern Storm feature starts, Alex Bright (Collegeville, Pa.) has been crowned the hard charger. In 2022, he went 22nd to 7th at Bridgeport, 13th to 2nd at Williams Grove and 16th to 2nd at Port Royal. On Tuesday at Grandview, he did it again with a 22nd to 10th run aboard his Heffner Racing Enterprises/Lelands.com – DriveWFX.com – Frozen Farmer/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) picked up Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifying honors, while also earning an extra $350 courtesy of Clever Girl Winery. Cummins' 11th career fast time with the series tied him with Jim McWithey and George Snider for 46th all-time.

Meanwhile, Swanson's fifth career USAC National Sprint Car victory moved him to 85th all-time alongside Larry Cannon, Dana Carter, Derek Davidson, Gene Lee Gibson, Jeff Gordon, Chuck Gurney, Shane Hmiel, Kevin Huntley, Frankie Kerr, Kelly Kinser, Eddie Leavitt, Jim Mahoney, Andy Michner, Johnny Parsons, Bill Puterbaugh, Tanner Thorson and Cole Whitt.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 13, 2023 – Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm / Jesse Hockett Classic

HONEST ABE ROOFING/CLEVER GIRL WINERY QUALIFYING: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.662; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.715; 3. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.746; 4. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-13.776; 5. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-13.813; 6. Thomas Meseraull, 20, Dyson-13.895; 7. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.932; 8. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-13.996; 9. Timmy Buckwalter, 20T, Lotier/Hummer-14.052; 10. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-14.055; 11. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.059; 12. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-14.060; 13. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.065; 14. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-14.122; 15. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-14.125; 16. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-14.131; 17. Steven Drevicki, 19, DeGre-14.147; 18. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.181; 19. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.182;

20. Anton Hernandez, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.195; 21. Bobby Butler, 5B, Butler-14.217; 22. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-14.311; 23. Alex Bright, 27, Heffner-14.329; 24. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-14.405; 25. Ricky Lewis, 41, Brown-14.632; 26. Patrick Chilmonik, 1, Chilmonik-14.684; 27. Kyle Moody, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-14.706; 28. Jason Cherry, 67c, Cherry-15.817; 29. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-NT; 30. Isaac Chapple, 6, Chapple/Hall-NT; 31. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Steven Drevicki, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Timmy Buckwalter, 4. Briggs Danner, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Bobby Butler, 7. Ricky Lewis. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. C.J. Leary, 6. Charles Davis Jr., 7. Patrick Chilmonik. 2:27.27

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Alex Bright, 7. Kyle Moody. 2:27.84

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Anton Hernandez, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Matt Mitchell, 6. Jason Cherry, 7. Joey Amantea. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Bobby Butler, 4. Matt Mitchell, 5. Alex Bright, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Ricky Lewis, 8. Joey Amantea, 9. Charles Davis Jr., 10. Kyle Moody, 11. Jason Cherry, 12. Max Adams. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Jake Swanson (1), 2. Emerson Axsom (7), 3. Robert Ballou (10), 4. Timmy Buckwalter (12), 5. Kyle Cummins (6), 6. Daison Pursley (17), 7. Thomas Meseraull (2), 8. Shane Cottle (15), 9. Chase Stockon (4), 10. Alex Bright (22), 11. Steven Drevicki (8), 12. Carson Garrett (18), 13. Matt Mitchell (11), 14. Brady Bacon (16), 15. C.J. Leary (13), 16. Justin Grant (5), 17. Mitchel Moles (9), 18. Anton Hernandez (20), 19. Briggs Danner (3), 20. Max Adams (23-P), 21. Logan Seavey (19), 22. Matt Westfall (14), 23. Charles Davis Jr. (24-P), 24. Bobby Butler (21). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Jake Swanson.

**Matt Westfall flipped on lap 31 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-737, 2-Kyle Cummins-736, 3-Brady Bacon-714, 4-Emerson Axsom-709, 5-C.J. Leary-695, 6-Justin Grant-654, 7-Mitchel Moles-616, 8-Chase Stockon-589, 9-Robert Ballou-547, 10-Daison Pursley-532.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-77, 2-Emerson Axsom-75, 3-Robert Ballou-72, 4-Kyle Cummins-71, 5-Timmy Buckwalter-67, 6-Daison Pursley-60, 7-Thomas Meseraull-60, 8-Shane Cottle-56, 9-Chase Stockon-55, 10-Steven Drevicki-49.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-74, 2-Logan Seavey-53, 3-Justin Grant-44, 4-Chase Stockon-43, 5-Carson Garrett-37, 6-Bryant Wiedeman-35, 7-Matt Westfall-35, 8-Thomas Meseraull-34, 9-Gavin Miller-33, 10-Brady Bacon-31.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 14, 2023 – Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Swedesboro, New Jersey – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Thomas Meseraull (13.524)

Honest Abe Roofing / Clever Girl Winery Fast Qualifier: Kyle Cummins (13.662) Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Steven Drevicki

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: C.J. Leary Hard Charger: Alex Bright (22nd to 10th)

Top 360 c.i. Finishing Driver: Bobby Butler (24th)

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A BIG DIAMOND GEM: AXSOM SHINES AT EASTERN STORM

2023 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Pottsville, Pennsylvania (June 15, 2023)……One of Emerson Axsom's stated goals when he signed on as a driver for Clauson Marshall Racing was to keep the legacy of Bryan Clauson going.

On Thursday night at Pottsville, Pennsylvania's Big Diamond Speedway, Axsom lived up to his word, not only following in BC's footsteps by becoming an Eastern Storm winner, but also by winning on what would've been BC's 34th birthday.

Bryan, who perished in a 2016 racing accident, remains the only three-time Eastern Storm titlist in 2012-13-16. Now, in 2023, Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) has ascended to the top of the Eastern Storm point standings by virtue of his win in the Clauson Marshall Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

It's a win that's not only rewarding for himself personally, but also for the Clauson family, from Bryan's father, to his mother and his sister.

"It's a pretty cool win," Axsom exclaimed. "I'm really happy to get it for this team and for Tim, Diana and Taylor. I'm sure it means a lot to them, and I'm really happy I could do that for them."

Axsom's triumph was his first of the USAC season following three runner-up finishes in a little over a one-week span between the NOS Energy Drink Midget National Championship and the AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship.

It was also Axsom's fourth career USAC National Sprint Car feature score, tying him for 103rd all-time alongside Rob Chaney, Cary Faas, Jesse Hockett, Van Johnson, Steve Kinser, Michael Lewis, Ralph Liguori, Don Nordhorn, Lee Osborne, Red Riegel, Ken Schrader, Al Smith and Danny Smith.

The 30-lap feature around the 3/8-mile – the first USAC Eastern Storm at Big Diamond in 11 seasons – followed suit after all three heat races and the semi-feature were caution-free affairs, by also going non-stop from green to checker in 8 minutes,

44.44 seconds, just eight seconds shy of the track record distance set by Chris Windom in 2012.

Max Adams, amid his first ever visit to the state of Pennsylvania this week, shot out to the early lead after starting from the pole position. However, outside second row starter Thomas Meseraull was initially the prime mover, powering into the second spot on lap two while utilizing the bottom of turns three and four, bringing Briggs Danner along with him to third as Axsom slipped back to fourth.

Meseraull nearly lost everything he'd gained in turn two on the third circuit, performing a half-spin in turn two, forcing Danner to check up to avoid contact, which in turn, allowed Axsom to freely sprint underneath to third. It was happenstance that sent Axsom to the bottom as an avoidance maneuver, and in turn, altered the course of his race as he followed Meseraull to the front with Meseraull taking over the lead by scooting under Adams in turns three and four on the sixth lap with Axsom just behind, moving into the runner-up slot.

"The first couple of laps, I was ripping the top," Axsom explained. "I got in pretty high (in turn three), but I still felt like it was low. But with the way it banks off, if you get a little bit too high, you'll end up in the fence. I felt it take rubber on the bottom of turn four, so there wasn't really an option to move around down there. Thomas was running the top, so I was just going to go where he wasn't."

This mindset came into fruition in the forthcoming laps with Axsom patrolling the bottom while Meseraull maintained a different approach, rolling along on the low line in turns three and four while remaining top side in turns one and two as he continuously fought to stave off the ever-increasing pressure from Axsom.

Finally, on lap 21, Axsom pounced with his winning move, jetting into the lead on the back straightaway to the inside of Meseraull, a plan put into formation simply by using a bit of reverse psychology and by simply doing the opposite of the hand that Meseraull showed.

“It was rubbering up off turn four, which made turns one and two the only place to really make a pass,” Axsom revealed. “Wherever the guy in front of me went, I tried to do the opposite, then tried to get down in three and four and just pick them off that way.”

The top-two of Axsom and Meseraull promptly broke away from the rest of the pack with third-running Justin Grant more than three seconds back. Axsom began to work traffic with five laps to go but wasn’t deterred one iota as he swept through with ease, positioning a multitude of lapped cars between himself and Meseraull as the laps wound down.

At the finish line, Axsom was 2.107 seconds better than his nearest competition as the 2022 USAC National Sprint Car Rookie of the Year scored a resounding victory over Thomas Meseraull, Justin Grant, Briggs Danner and Shane Cottle.

Meseraull, who in two previous Big Diamond appearances in 2008 and 2021 finished no better than 13th, earned by far his best result at the track, leading a race-high 15 laps and finishing as the runner-up in his Chris Dyson Racing/Concord American Flagpole – Racer Magazine/Maxim/Ott Chevy. For the San Jose, Calif. native, it was his best series finish since a second place run at South Dakota’s Huset’s Speedway in September of 2021.

No drama. That’s all Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) wanted on Thursday night at Big Diamond, and he got exactly what he ordered. The reigning USAC National Sprint Car champion finished third in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy. Grant had finished 13th or worse in five of his last six series starts, and his podium finish represents his best showing since winning at Ohio’s Eldora Speedway on May 5, nearly six weeks ago.

Daison Pursley (Locust Grove, Okla.) set two brand new USAC National Sprint Car track records in what was his first visit to Big Diamond Speedway. Initially, he earned Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifying time honors for the first time in his USAC Sprint Car career with a lap of 14.785 seconds, breaking the two-year-old mark set by Timmy Buckwalter in 2021 at 14.924. Pursley, the current leading Rookie of the Year contender with the series, then went on to earn an Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts Semi-Feature victory, finishing the 12-lap distance in record time at 3:19.45.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 15, 2023 – Big Diamond Speedway – Pottsville, Pennsylvania – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-14.785 (New Track Record); 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.980; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-15.017; 4. Thomas Meseraull, 20, Dyson-15.086; 5. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-15.104; 6. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-15.139; 7. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-15.177; 8. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-15.274; 9. Timmy Buckwalter, 20T, Lotier/Hummer-15.275; 10. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-15.341; 11. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-15.369; 12. Steven Drevicki, 19, DeGre-15.381; 13. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-15.410; 14. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-15.422; 15. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-15.427; 16. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-15.491; 17. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ,

Reinbold/Underwood-15.550; 18. Anton Hernandez, 5, Baldwin/Fox-15.555; 19. Alex Bright, 27, Heffner-15.622; 20. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-15.647; 21. Kyle Moody, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-15.755; 22. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-15.775; 23. Mario Clouser, 6, Clouser-15.840; 24. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-15.896; 25. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-15.950; 26. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-16.022; 27. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-16.072; 28. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-16.341; 29. Jason Cherry, 67c, Cherry-17.908.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Alex Bright, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Kyle Cummins, 8. Carmen Perigo, 9. Tom Harris, 10. Charles Davis Jr. 2:05.55

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Shane Cottle, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. Max Adams, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Robert Ballou, 7. Brady Bacon, 8. Mario Clouser, 9. Matt Mitchell, 10. Jason Cherry. 2:08.05

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Anton Hernandez, 2. Carson Garrett, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Timmy Buckwalter, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Steven Drevicki, 7. Joey Amantea, 8. Kyle Moody, 9. Logan Seavey. 2:10.95

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Daison Pursley, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Steven Drevicki, 6. Kyle Moody, 7. Carmen Perigo, 8. Tom Harris, 9. Charles Davis Jr., 10. Joey Amantea, 11. Logan Seavey, 12. Mario Clouser, 13. Jason Cherry, 14. Matt Mitchell. 3:19.45 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Emerson Axsom (2), 2. Thomas Meseraull (4), 3. Justin Grant (6), 4. Briggs Danner (3), 5. Shane Cottle (7), 6. Daison Pursley (10), 7. Robert Ballou (14), 8. Jake Swanson (5), 9. Matt Westfall (8), 10. Anton Hernandez (9), 11. Kyle Cummins (11), 12. Timmy Buckwalter (12), 13. Chase Stockon (13), 14. Mitchel Moles (18), 15. C.J. Leary (16), 16. Max Adams (1), 17. Brady Bacon (20), 18. Steven Drevicki (15), 19. Kyle Moody (21), 20. Carson Garrett (17), 21. Alex Bright (19), 22. Carmen Perigo (22). 8:44.44

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-5 Max Adams, Laps 6-20 Thomas Meseraull, Laps 21-30 Emerson Axsom.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-794, 2-Emerson Axsom-786, 3-Kyle Cummins-780, 4-Brady Bacon-745, 5-C.J. Leary-734, 6-Justin Grant-728, 7-Mitchel Moles-658, 8-Chase Stockon-633, 9-Robert Ballou-600, 10-Daison Pursley-597.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-152, 2-Thomas Meseraull-135, 3-Jake Swanson-134, 4-Robert Ballou-125, 5-Daison Pursley-125, 6-Shane Cottle-122, 7-Justin Grant-116, 8-Kyle Cummins-115, 9-Timmy Buckwalter-111, 10-Briggs Danner-99.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-78, 2-Logan Seavey-53, 3-Justin Grant-47, 4-Chase Stockon-43, 5-Carson Garrett-37, 6-Thomas Meseraull-36, 7-Bryant Wiedeman-35, 8-Matt Westfall-35, 9-Brady Bacon-34, 10-Gavin Miller-33.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 16, 2023 – Williams Grove Speedway – Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Daison Pursley (14.727)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Daison Pursley (14.785)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Matt Westfall

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Shane Cottle

T.J. Forged / Car IQ Third Heat Winner: Anton Hernandez

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Daison Pursley

Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (14th to 7th)

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BACK FOR MORE: AXSOM GETS ANOTHER USAC EASTERN STORM SCORE AT THE GROVE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania (June 16, 2023)……Once you pop, you can't stop.

The old Pringles ad campaign very well may apply to the trend Emerson Axsom finds himself on following his second consecutive USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature win on Friday night during the third event of the 16th edition of USAC Eastern Storm at Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania's Williams Grove Speedway.

After finding victory lane for the first time this season during the 12th event of the series' campaign on Thursday at Big Diamond Speedway, it took just 24 more hours for the Franklin, Ind. native to score again in his Clauson Marshall Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

This time, Axsom's fifth career USAC National Sprint Car main event triumph came at the half-mile dirt oval known as The Grove, tying him for 85th on the all-time series win list alongside Larry Cannon, Dana Carter, Derek Davidson, Gene Lee Gibson, Jeff Gordon, Chuck Gurney, Shane Hmiel, Kevin Huntley, Frankie Kerr, Kelly Kinser, Eddie Leavitt, Jim Mahoney, Andy Michner, Johnny Parsons, Bill Puterbaugh, Jake Swanson, Tanner Thorson and Cole Whitt.

"It's pretty cool to win here," Axsom exclaimed. "It's a pretty historic place and it's pretty gnarly. I'm just glad to get it done tonight."

In turn, Axsom's victory pushed his Eastern Storm point lead to 25 following finishes of second, first and first in his initial three outings this weekend. Furthermore, the win propelled Axsom past Jake Swanson and into the overall USAC National Sprint Car point lead for the first time since February of 2022.

Starting outside the front row, in the early going, Axsom was on the constant chase of pole sitter and versatile veteran racer Timmy Buckwalter. Axsom took a peek to the inside of Buckwalter for the top spot twice on laps four and five, narrowly missing the lead by a car length each time at the start/finish line before slotting back into line and continuing his quest.

Axsom found himself in the hunt along with a bevy of USAC East Coast Sprint Car talent as the race neared the midway point, running second with a slew of Pennsylvanians surrounding him – Buckwalter (Douglassville) running first with Briggs Danner (Allentown) third and Alex Bright (Collegeville) fourth as each of the trio looked to become the first Keystone State native to capture a USAC National Sprint Car feature victory since Frankie Kerr in 1999.

However, one key piece in the triumvirate, fourth-running Bright, soon found trouble in a spectacular incident that lit up the nighttime sky. Bright spun in turn two, doing a complete 360-degree spin with his front wheels pointed to the clouds as he stood on the throttle in an attempt to save it.

However, just as Bright got pointed himself in the right direction, sixth place Robert Ballou plowed into the back of Bright, punching a sizable hole in Bright's tail tank, causing a waterfall of methanol to gush out and ignite flames that enveloped the back end of the car. Knowing where the fire and rescue teams were located, Bright made the heady move to drive to turn one and stop directly in front of them where the crew extinguished the flames as Bright jumped out and escaped.

The incident necessitated a red flag, and knocked a trio of contenders out of contention, ending Bright and Ballou's evenings completely while stifling Brady Bacon's race as he spun to a stop to avoid the initial catastrophe. After running seventh, Bacon was forced to start at the tail of the field before driving back to a 13th place result.

Sitting second following the lap 13 restart, Axsom made a commitment that would ultimately take him to the front.

"This place isn't really my style," Axsom admitted. "We were really good on the bottom, but tonight, we were a little bit free. When I was running the bottom, I felt myself hanging a little bit. I told myself I had to get up and bang the curb or use something to lean on; there wasn't a whole lot. I watched Mitchel (Moles) run the top down in turns three and four, then pull it back down in one and two, so I figured it was going to be like that for a while. I just waited until someone showed me that in one and two when it smoothed out, because earlier, it was really rough. Once it cleaned off, and got a bit smoother, I was able to carry my momentum."

Indeed, it worked out for Axsom. On lap 17, he rode the high line and eked out the move by squeezing between Buckwalter and the outside turn four guardrail to take over the race lead. In the ensuing laps, Axsom broke out to a 1.7 second lead and seemed well in command with only 10 circuits remaining in the 30-lapper.

Enter Daison Pursley. In his first Williams Grove appearance, the 14th place starting driver had hustled his way to the front, swiping second from Buckwalter with an outside maneuver in turn four on the 23rd lap to grab second. Pursley was hauling but had nearly two full seconds of ground to make up with the sands in the hourglass nearing emptiness.

However, Pursley gave it all it's worth, cutting three tenths off Axsom's advantage on lap 25 and another six tenths off on lap 26 to close to within a second. Another two tenths were shaved off on lap 27, and by lap 28, Pursley was right on Axsom's rear bumper and contesting for the win, which immediately got Axsom's full attention.

"Honestly, I was riding and looking a bit over my left shoulder," Axsom explained. "I didn't know if it was 25 laps or 30, but once I saw it was 30, I figured I better get back up on the wheel just in case somebody got a run. Luckily, I did because I saw Daison make an attempt into three there."

On the final lap, four car lengths separated the two recent high school graduates of Axsom and Pursley as they hustled down the back straightaway. With one bullet left in the chamber, Pursley drove himself into turn three deeper than any other individual had all night, pulling his front wheels even with Axsom's rear axle. Axsom successfully staved off the

pressure and smoothly contoured turns three and four to defeat Pursley by two car lengths and a margin of 0.238 sec. Buckwalter grabbed third, Justin Grant fourth and Thomas Meseraull fifth.

In his victory, Axsom became the first driver to win two-straight USAC Eastern Storm features on consecutive nights since Chris Windom in 2018. Windom used those victories to propel himself to the Eastern Storm title. It's a feat Axsom would love to repeat now that he stands atop the points following finishes of second, first and first during the first three rounds.

Additionally, Axsom scored his first career victory in a Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment feature event, a feat he chalks up to getting a bit more comfortable on the bigger, higher speed tracks that make up the bulk of the 10-race miniseries schedule, including Friday's fourth round at Williams Grove.

"A lot of times, at these Master of Goin' Faster races, we're not very good just because they're half-miles or really technical places that the veterans would be good at," Axsom said. "Last year, we struggled at a lot of those tracks. Here recently, it seems we have a better handle on them. Everything's kind of working out, and we've been in the right position the past couple of nights to get it done. So, we're going to try to keep that ball rolling."

Daison Pursley (Locust Grove, Okla.) started 14th and charged all the way to a runner-up result just a couple car lengths behind Axsom at the line. That's Pursley's best career finish in a USAC National Sprint Car points race in his KO Motorsports/Hutson John Deere – S & C Machine – Peterbilt/Flea RC/J & D Chevy. Pursley won a non-points special event with USAC this past February at Florida's Volusia Speedway Park.

Timmy Buckwalter (Douglassville, Pa.) also notched his best career USAC National Sprint Car finish, scoring a third, besting his previous best career performance with the series, a fourth place run on Tuesday at Grandview Speedway in his Lotier-Hummer Motorsports/Rodota Trucking & Excavating – The Bagel Rack/Triple X/Rider Chevy. The 2018 USAC National Sprint Car co-Rookie of the Year led a race-high 16 laps and also collected a bonus from Gene Franckowiak for leading lap seven of the feature in memory of Bryan Clauson.

Three brand new USAC National Sprint Car track records were set on Friday night at Williams Grove. In Honest Abe Qualifying, Thomas Meseraull lowered the former one-lap mark set by Kevin Thomas Jr. in 2018. Meseraull's run of 19.016 seconds was his first fast time with the series since August of 2020 at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway.

In heat race action, Brady Bacon surpassed Jerry Coons Jr.'s five-year-old eight-lap record by three seconds with a time of 2:39.14. In the 12-lap Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts semi-feature, Mitchel Moles surpassed one of the longest held records in the USAC history books. Moles' time of 4:14.26 wiped out Tom Bigelow's longstanding time for the distance of 4:51.11, set nearly 50 years ago in 1973.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 16, 2023 – Williams Grove Speedway – Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Thomas Meseraull, 20, Dyson-19.016 (New Track Record); 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-19.252; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-19.281; 4. Alex Bright, 27, Heffner-19.284; 5. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-19.299; 6. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-19.305; 7. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-19.316; 8. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-19.385; 9. Timmy Buckwalter, 20T, Lotier/Hummer-19.397; 10. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-19.412; 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2x, 2B Racing-19.420; 12. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-19.443; 13. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-19.483; 14. Max

Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-19.489; 15. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-19.558; 16. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-19.578; 17. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-19.584; 18. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-19.656; 19. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-19.735; 20. Mario Clouser, 6, Clouser-19.736; 21. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-19.754; 22. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-19.769; 23. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-19.795; 24. Preston Lattomus, 23B, Lattomus-19.907; 25. Steven Drevicki, 19, DeGre-19.957; 26. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-19.975; 27. Anton Hernandez, 5, Baldwin/Fox-20.053; 28. Kyle Moody, 5x, Baldwin/Fox-20.154; 29. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-20.172; 30. Jason Cherry, 67c, Cherry-21.324; 31. Dave Axton, 2, Axton-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Timmy Buckwalter, 3. Thomas Meseraull, 4. Briggs Danner, 5. Joey Amantea, 6. Steven Drevicki, 7. Carson Garrett, 8. Tom Harris. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Charles Davis Jr., 3. Justin Grant,

4. Max Adams, 5. Matt Mitchell, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Daison Pursley, 8. Jason Cherry. 2:39.14 (New Track Record)

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Mitchel Moles, 6. Kevin Thomas Jr., 7. Anton Hernandez. 2:41.70

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mario Clouser, 2. Alex Bright, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Preston Lattomus, 7. Kyle Moody. 2:43.13

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Matt Mitchell, 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 6. Joey Amantea, 7. Tom Harris, 8. Carson Garrett, 9. Steven Drevicki, 10. Preston Lattomus, 11. Matt Westfall, 12. Kyle Moody, 13. Jason Cherry. 4:14.26 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Emerson Axsom (2), 2. Daison Pursley (14), 3. Timmy Buckwalter (1), 4. Justin Grant (5), 5. Thomas Meseraull (6), 6. Briggs Danner (3), 7. Mitchel Moles (11), 8. C.J. Leary (9), 9. Jake Swanson (18), 10. Chase Stockon (13), 11. Matt Mitchell (12), 12. Mario Clouser (8), 13. Brady Bacon (10), 14. Joey Amantea (22),15. Max Adams (17), 16. Kyle Cummins (19), 17. Logan Seavey (16), 18. Matt Westfall (23-P), 19. Charles Davis Jr. (20), 20. Kevin Thomas Jr. (15), 21. Alex Bright (4), 22. Robert Ballou (7), 23. Shane Cottle (21). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-16 Timmy Buckwalter, Laps 17-30 Emerson Axsom.

**Anton Hernandez flipped while lining up for the third heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-861, 2-Jake Swanson-847, 3-Kyle Cummins-817, 4-Justin Grant-800, 5-C.J. Leary-791, 6-Brady Bacon-790, 7-Mitchel Moles-718, 8-Chase Stockon-679, 9-Daison Pursley-666, 10-Robert Ballou-631.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-227, 2-Thomas Meseraull-205, 3-Daison Pursley-194, 4-Justin Grant-188, 5-Jake Swanson-187, 6-Timmy Buckwalter-182, 7-Briggs Danner-161, 8-Robert Ballou-156, 9-Kyle Cummins-152, 10-Shane Cottle-151.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-287, 2-Mitchel Moles-278, 3-C.J. Leary-268, 4-Emerson Axsom-259, 5-Brady Bacon-232, 6-Kyle Cummins-224, 7-Daison Pursley-209, 8-Chase Stockon-195, 9-Max Adams-182, 10-Matt Westfall-179.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-90, 2-Logan Seavey-53, 3-Justin Grant-48, 4-Chase Stockon-46, 5-Thomas Meseraull-37, 6-Carson Garrett-37, 7-Bryant Wiedeman-35, 8-Matt Westfall-35, 9-Brady Bacon-34, 10-Emerson Axsom-33.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 17, 2023 – Port Royal Speedway – Port Royal, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Mitchel Moles

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Thomas Meseraull (19.016)

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

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Mario Clouser

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

Hard Charger: Daison Pursley (14th to 2nd)

Gene Franckowiak 7th Lap Leader in Memory of Bryan Clauson: Timmy Buckwalter

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GRANT PALACE: JG SPRINTS TO PORT ROYAL USAC EASTERN STORM SCORE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Port Royal, Pennsylvania (June 17, 2023)……Leading up to Saturday night's event at Port Royal (Pa.) Speedway, Justin Grant felt he was getting right back to where he needed to be in the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship hunt.

After an unsavory trend of five finishes of 13th or worse in a six-race stretch that reached from early May and endured into the beginning of USAC Eastern Storm earlier this week, Grant settled in with a ship-steadying third place result on Thursday at Big Diamond followed by a fourth on Friday at Williams Grove.

On Saturday, during the penultimate round of Eastern Storm at Port Royal's half-mile dirt oval, Grant came full circle back to victory lane for the first time in more than six weeks in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

"It feels like forever since we won a race," Grant exclaimed. "I had a blast running against the wall; that's my jam. I was happy up there, but I think I bent the wheel up with two to go there and it was shaking. But it was good to bring it home."

For the Ione, Calif. native, it was his fourth career Eastern Storm score and the 37th overall in his USAC National Sprint Car career, tying him for 11th all-time alongside fellow series champions Robert Ballou and Sheldon Kinser.

Grant's latest triumph also came during a momentous occasion with it being the 2,000th USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship event ever held dating back to the organization's infancy in 1956.

Rolling off third on the grid, Grant gave chase to early race frontrunners Emerson Axsom and Brady Bacon. Axsom, winner of the two most recent series races at Big Diamond and Williams Grove, jetted out to the initial lead from the pole position and was gunning to become the first driver to win three consecutive Eastern Storm features since Robert Ballou in 2015.

By lap four, Axsom had already positioned himself as the commander by a 1.369 second margin. Meanwhile, Grant was in hot pursuit and ably powered past Bacon for the second spot on the bottom of turns three and four on lap five.

From there on, Grant began inching his way forward toward Axsom, gradually sneaking up on the race leader, and eventually, had stripped his deficit to within a second as the race neared the halfway mark of the 30-lap venture. Axsom's lead shrank even further moments later, to a mere two car lengths with Grant reeling him in on the high side while Axsom occupied the middle groove.

On lap 16, Grant propelled himself into the race lead, utilizing the top side to fly around the outside of Axsom for the top spot in the narrow alley between Axsom's right side wheels and the outside wall at the exit of turn four.

Axsom didn't burn out nor did he fade away in the ensuing aftermath after dropping to second in the pecking order. On a restart following the stoppage of first time USAC National Sprint car feature starter and 19th running Ed Aikin on lap 18, Axsom caught his second wind and made a resurgence at the forefront of the pack.

On the lap 18 restart, Axsom used the bottom/middle byways to advance past the high-riding Grant in turn two and retake the spot. The two waged an epic side-by-side battle that lasted the duration of two entire laps around The Speed Palace with Axsom in front before Grant picked his way back past Axsom to reclaim his place at the top of the leaderboard with a back straight pass that led him to the stripe a mere half car length ahead of Axsom at the conclusion of lap 20.

Grant's resurgence came by the virtue of a bit of patience, at least initially, and later paid its share of dividends when Grant needed something to get ahold of in the final stanza.

"We finally got the top cleaned off up there," Grant noted. "I was riding around, and just kept looking, waiting for it to clean up to where we could get up there right against the wall."

Riding clean rather than dirty, Grant began to edge away from Axsom, building his interval to three-quarters of a second with the checkered flag finally within his reach. Grant grasped the warm embrace of victory for the third time overall during the 2023 USAC National Sprint Car season by a 0.841 second margin with Axsom second, Daison Pursley third, Bacon fourth and Chase Stockon fifth.

Additionally, the Port Royal round had a bit of an extra incentive for Grant as it was round five of the Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment event, a 10-race series honoring Grant's father-in-law, and a series in which he is the defending champion.

"These races are all about big racetracks and about sacking up and getting it done," Grant explained of the miniseries. "We've been terrible; I don't think we've even finished one so far this year. To get in victory lane for the family and everybody is awesome and I'm just grateful."

Axsom's second place result in his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy essentially locked up the Eastern Storm title for the Franklin, Ind. racer who now owns a 31-point advantage entering Sunday's finale at Kutztown, Pennsylvania's Action Track USA. With Sunday's event being an appearance points only event, all Axsom must do is push off for hot laps and the title is all his. Axsom's Eastern Storm record thus far has been impeccable with a pair of wins at Big Diamond and Williams Grove, plus runner-up finishes at both Grandview and now Port Royal.

For Daison Pursley (Locust Grove, Okla.), it was yet another stirring, hard-charging effort, one that moved him up to second in the Eastern Storm points in his KO Motorsports/Hutson John Deere – S & C Machine – Peterbilt/Flea RC/J & D Chevy. Pursley's charge on this evening in his debut Port Royal run took him from 10th to 3rd in the main event. Earlier in the evening, the recent high school grad set fast time during Honest Abe Roofing Qualifying and also won the semi-feature, setting a new 10-lap track record in the process of 3:39.34.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 17, 2023 – Port Royal Speedway – Port Royal, Pennsylvania – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm – Open Wheel Madness

HONEST ABE ROOFING/LAUVER'S CONCESSIONS QUALIFYING: 1. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-18.834; 2. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-18.960; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-18.979; 4. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-19.074; 5. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-19.079; 6. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-19.090; 7. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-19.175; 8. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-19.181; 9. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-19.256; 10. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-19.298; 11. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-19.301; 12. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-19.305; 13. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-19.388; 14. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-19.416; 15. Steven Drevicki, 19, DeGre-19.446; 16. Mario Clouser, 6, Clouser-19.455; 17. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-19.465; 18. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-19.550; 19. Shane Cottle, 74x, Hodges-19.552; 20. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-19.561; 21. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-19.765; 22. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2x, 2B Racing-19.805; 23. Alex Bright, 27, Heffner/Hummer-19.830; 24. Preston Lattomus, 23B, Lattomus-19.892; 25. Ed Aikin, 7, Aikin-20.119; 26. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-20.145; 27. Jason Cherry, 67c, Cherry-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Briggs Danner, 3. Mario Clouser, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Ed Aikin, 8. Kevin Thomas Jr., 9. Shane Cottle. 2:38.14

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Carson Garrett, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Justin Grant, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Charles Davis Jr., 8. Joey Amantea, 9. Alex Bright. 2:44.77

T.J. FORGED / CAR IQ THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Steven Drevicki, 2. Max Adams, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Tom Harris, 7. Matt Mitchell, 8. Preston Lattomus. 2:49.15

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (10 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Daison Pursley, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Alex Bright, 4. Charles Davis Jr., 5. Preston Lattomus, 6. Ed Aikin, 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 8. Tom Harris, 9. Joey Amantea, 10. Matt Mitchell. 3:39.34 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (3), 2. Emerson Axsom (2), 3. Daison Pursley (10), 4. Brady Bacon (1), 5. Chase Stockon (11), 6. Steven Drevicki (8), 7. Kyle Cummins (7), 8. Mitchel Moles (6), 9. Jake Swanson (5), 10. Briggs Danner (12), 11. Matt Westfall (18), 12. Robert Ballou (4), 13. Logan Seavey (14), 14. Carson Garrett (15), 15. Charles Davis Jr. (13), 16. Kevin Thomas Jr. (19), 17. C.J. Leary (9), 18. Mario Clouser (16), 19. Preston Lattomus (21), 20. Max Adams (17), 21. Ed Aikin (22), 22. Alex Bright (20). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-15 Emerson Axsom, Laps 16-17 Justin Grant, Laps 18-19 Emerson Axsom, Laps 20-30 Justin Grant.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-933, 2-Jake Swanson-902, 3-Kyle Cummins-877, 4-Justin Grant-876, 5-Brady Bacon-857, 6-C.J. Leary-828, 7-Mitchel Moles-777, 8-Chase Stockon-743, 9-Daison Pursley-740, 10-Robert Ballou-677.

USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-299, 2-Daison Pursley-268, 3-Justin Grant-264, 4-Jake Swanson-242, 5-Kyle Cummins-212, 6-Briggs Danner-211, 7-Chase Stockon-209, 8-Thomas Meseraull-205, 9-Robert Ballou-202, 10-Mitchel Moles-198.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-342, 2-Mitchel Moles-337, 3-Emerson Axsom-331, 4-C.J. Leary-305, 5-Brady Bacon-299, 6-Kyle Cummins-284, 7-Daison Pursley-283, 8-Chase Stockon-259 9-Justin Grant-254, 10-Matt Westfall-223.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-97, 2-Logan Seavey-54, 3-Chase Stockon-52, 4-Justin Grant-50, 5-Matt Westfall-42, 6-Carson Garrett-38, 7-Thomas Meseraull-37, 8-Bryant Wiedeman-35, 9-Brady Bacon-34, 10-Emerson Axsom-33.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 18, 2023 – Action Track USA – Kutztown, Pennsylvania – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Hot Laps Fastest Driver: Mitchel Moles (18.786)

Honest Abe Roofing / Lauver's Concessions Fast Qualifier: Daison Pursley (18.834)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

T.J. Forged / Car IQ Third Heat Winner: Steven Drevicki

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Daison Pursley

Hard Charger: Daison Pursley (10th to 3rd)

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ROCK STEADY! CUMMINS CLOSES USAC EASTERN STORM TAB WITH A WIN AT ACTION TRACK USA

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kutztown, Pennsylvania (June 18, 2023)……Upon first observation on early Sunday afternoon, Kyle Cummins crewman Brian Karraker remarked that Kutztown, Pennsylvania's Tri-State Speedway looked like a "Mini Haubstadt."

That was a welcome comparison for the Rock Steady Racing crew and Cummins, who shares a piece of the record for most USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature victories (6) at Haubstadt, Indiana's Tri-State Speedway, and possesses upwards of 30 career main event scores.

On the contrary, Cummins had never competed in a sprint car at Action Track USA, nor had the majority of the field on hand for Sunday's USAC Eastern Storm finale. Nonetheless, Cummins was keen on making the place his own home away from home following a tumultuous Eastern Storm, which featured just one finish inside the top-five during the first four rounds of competition.

The Princeton, Ind. racer, however, finished strong in his return to Eastern Storm for the first time since 2015. Notching Honest Abe Fast Qualifying honors to begin the night, Cummins followed up by tracking down 2023 Eastern Storm champion Emerson Axsom 16 laps from the finish line to make history in becoming the first ever USAC National Sprint Car feature winner at Action Track USA.

The 40-lap series debut at the 1/5-mile dirt oval went green-to-checker with nary a single caution and served as the site for Cummins' first career Eastern Storm score and the 17th of his USAC National Sprint Car career, tying him with Jerry Coons Jr., Jim Hurtubise and Bud Kaeding for 34th place on the all-time list.

Cummins and his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy became the third three-time winning combination on the USAC National Sprint Car tour this season, joining Jake Swanson and Justin Grant.

Starting sixth on the tight confines, Cummins had to stand up in the seat and go to work immediately at the drop of the green flag with laps regularly being clicked off at just a tick over 10 seconds a clip.

Up front, Axsom, remarkably making a front row start for the fourth consecutive night, was the early race leader as he sped away while playing with house money, so to speak. Sunday's event paid 50 appearance points to all competitors toward both the overall USAC National Sprint Car standings as well as the Eastern Storm tally, regardless of their finishing position. As a result, when Axsom pushed off for hot laps at Action Track USA, he clinched the Eastern Storm title.

With that said, Axsom remained focused on finishing the grueling week with gusto by posting yet another feature victory to put an exclamation mark on his phenomenal week. Axsom set sail ahead, leading comfortably for the first 20 laps, which unfolded in rapid-fire succession.

Cummins, meanwhile, was hustling and bustling as he surged under Justin Grant for the fourth spot in turns one and two on lap nine. On the 13th go-around, Cummins found a quality drive off the bottom of three and four to swipe the third position from C.J. Leary. One lap later, Cummins powered his way into second under Alex Bright, the top contender in the field utilizing a 360 c.i. engine against the majority 410 field.

Cummins had found the right formula, and with a slight adjustment on his shocks amid the flurry of activity surrounding him, he had positioned himself in a prime position with half the race complete and half the race left to go.

“I didn’t feel like I was as good middle to top,” Cummins explained. “These boys put the super-tune on it and had me just tight enough to where I could run the middle. I didn’t feel great because I was just a little too tight, but everyone’s car was going away just a little bit. I grabbed a handful of shock halfway through the race, and that thing was digging unbelievably in both corners. I could get it whoa’d up and turned without spinning out, but it was kind of close a couple times.”

On the 24th lap, race leader Axsom had caught up with the tail-end lead lap cars of Billy Pauch Jr. and Carmen Perigo who ran two-wide in their own personal battle for position. As Axsom tried to navigate, Cummins pounced, backing his No. 3R into turns one and three to get a run on Axsom off the corners which brought him within a whisker of leading at the line. By turn two of lap 25, Cummins was completely clear of Axsom and rode the bottom line straight to a lead he wouldn’t and didn’t relent.

From that point forward, the race was on for second as Leary made a valiant effort to return to contention. On lap 36, the low-line-riding Leary and Axsom banged wheels, knocking both askew briefly at the exit of turn four. However, Leary quickly recovered and drove right back by Axsom for the position one lap later on the 37th circuit to secure the runner-up spot.

Back to the front, Cummins was closing out a mightily impressive performance, winning by a 3.03 second margin over Leary, Axsom, Robert Ballou and Grant.

Cummins was beyond thrilled to close out the week of Eastern Storm on a winning note after starting out with a promising fifth place run on Tuesday at Grandview. An 11th at Big Diamond, a 16th at Williams Grove and a 7th at Port Royal followed during the ensuing nights before returning to the promised land to finish an up-and-down return to the east for Cummins and crew.

“It was tough for us all to come out and leave work, and we’re super behind,” Cummins explained of his dilemma of balancing racing and his self-owned business back home. “We started off decent the first night but struggled through the week. We had some failures throughout the week, and we had something we found that kept binding us up. But tonight, everything was clean and clear, and we can go home $6,0000 richer.”

For many, the experience of racing a sprint car at Action Track USA was a blast after a sense of trepidation was in the air entering the event from fans and competitors alike. In a 40-lap feature that went straight through without a single incident in a mere 7:16.25, the event was a rousing success, most notably for Cummins and his personal, firsthand experience.

“This is a sweet racetrack,” Cummins exclaimed. “When you go to the big tracks, and your car is all over the place, it’s pretty sketchy. We’re not the best on the big tracks, but we can kind of hold our own. I like these little bullrings where you hit the cushion, bounce around and your car is all over the place. That’s kind of our setup.”

Like Cummins, C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) endured a week of frustration with a string of uncharacteristic finishes of 15th, 15th, 8th and 17th leading into the Action Track USA finale. However, Leary was able to leave Eastern Storm with his head held high following a second-place result at Action Track USA in his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) completed Eastern Storm nearly flawlessly with a championship in hand following five consecutive podium finishes boosted by a pair of wins at Big Diamond and Williams Grove, two more runner-up results at

Grandview and Port Royal, and culminating in a third place run at Action Track USA in his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 18, 2023 – Action Track USA – Kutztown, Pennsylvania – 1/5-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Eastern Storm

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-10.406 (New Track Record); 2. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-10.554; 3. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-10.634; 4. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-10.637; 5. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-10.672; 6. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-10.683; 7. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-10.685; 8. Tom Harris, 84, Harris-10.700; 9. Alex Bright, 27, Heffner/Hummer-10.709; 10. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-10.710; 11. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-10.714; 12. Carmen Perigo, 21, Stehman-10.748; 13. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-10.748; 14. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-10.772; 15. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-10.787; 16. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-10.790; 17. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-10.938; 18. Timmy Buckwalter, 7, LNB-10.941; 19. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-11.010; 20. Preston Lattomus, 23B, Lattomus-11.226; 21. Billy Pauch Jr., 27H, Heffner-11.304.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Joey Amantea. 1:48.07 (New Track Record)

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Charles Davis Jr., 4. Preston Lattomus, 5. Tom Harris, 6. Mitchel Moles, 7. Briggs Danner. 1:50.01

T.J. FORGED / CAR IQ THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Carmen Perigo, 3. Alex Bright, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Billy Pauch Jr., 7. Timmy Buckwalter. 1:50.22

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kyle Cummins (6), 2. C.J. Leary (3), 3. Emerson Axsom (1), 4. Robert Ballou (7), 5. Justin Grant (4), 6. Alex Bright (2), 7. Logan Seavey (5), 8. Chase Stockon (9), 9. Brady Bacon (16), 10. Jake Swanson (8), 11. Daison Pursley (11), 12. Mitchel Moles (12), 13. Joey Amantea (19), 14. Charles Davis Jr. (14), 15. Carmen Perigo (15), 16. Billy Pauch Jr. (21), 17. Briggs Danner (10), 18. Tom Harris (13), 19. Matt Westfall (17), 20. Preston Lattomus (20), 21. Timmy Buckwalter (18). 7:16.25 (New Track Record)

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-24 Emerson Axsom, Laps 25-40 Kyle Cummins.

**Tom Harris flipped during the second heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-983, 2-Jake Swanson-952, 3-Kyle Cummins-927, 4-Justin Grant-926, 5-Brady Bacon-907, 6-C.J. Leary-878, 7-Mitchel Moles-827, 8-Chase Stockon-793, 9-Daison Pursley-790, 10-Robert Ballou-727.

FINAL USAC EASTERN STORM POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-349, 2-Daison Pursley-318, 3-Justin Grant-314, 4-Jake Swanson-292, 5-Kyle Cummins-262, 6-Briggs Danner-261, 7-Chase Stockon-259, 8-Robert Ballou-252, 9-Mitchel Moles-248, 10-Timmy Buckwalter-232.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-97, 2-Logan Seavey-57, 3-Chase Stockon-53, 4-Justin Grant-51, 5-Matt Westfall-47, 6-Brady Bacon-44, 7-Carson Garrett-38, 8-Thomas Meseraull-37, 9-Bryant Wiedeman-35, 10-Robert Ballou-34.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 24, 2023 – Wilmot Raceway – Wilmot, Wisconsin – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Kyle Cummins (10.406)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

T.J. Forged / Car IQ Third Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Irvin King Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (16th to 9th)

Top 360 c.i. Feature Finisher: Alex Bright (6th)

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DYNAMIC DUO: BACON & HOFFMAN BECOME USAC SPRINTS' WINNINGEST COMBO AT WILMOT

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Wilmot, Wisconsin (June 24, 2023)……There are but a select few combinations in life that turn out to be a perfect match. There's peanut butter and jelly, pizza and breadsticks and Paul McCartney and John Lennon, just to name a few.

However, over the years, Brady Bacon and the Dynamics, Inc./Hoffman Auto Racing team have become just as synonymous with each other.

With their victory on Saturday night at Wisconsin's Wilmot Raceway, Bacon and the Dynamics/Hoffman team became the winningest driver/entrant combo in USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship history. The pairing's 41st win together surpassed the long held record of driver Pancho Carter and team owner Steve Stapp who achieved 40 victories with the series between 1973-80.

Additionally, the triumphant performance allowed them to dig out of an uncommon rut. The word "slump" hasn't been used in a sentence to describe Bacon's performances very often throughout his illustrious career. Perhaps ever.

But that's just what transpired for the Broken Arrow, Okla. native during the recent Eastern Storm series where the four-time USAC National Sprint Car titlist strung together three consecutive finishes outside the top-13.

As soon as the series' tour of Pennsylvania concluded, wholesale changes were made mentally for himself and mechanically to the Dynamics, Inc./A & B Sports Bar Café – Tel-Star Technologies – DriveWFX.com/Triple X/Rider Chevy, to prepare himself for the official 2023 Bacon reboot starting at Wilmot.

With newly fresh equipment and a newly fresh perspective, Bacon returned to familiar form in the series' first visit to the 3/8-mile dirt oval in 11 seasons, leading on two separate occasions for a total of 11 laps with the final winning maneuver coming via a turn four outside pass of Emerson Axsom on lap 21 of 30 to take the lead and score the victory.

It was a welcome change of pace for Bacon, whose third victory of the series season netted him his 49th career USAC National Sprint Car feature win, moving him to within three of Tom Bigelow for second all-time and to within 13 of Dave Darland for the all-time lead in that category.

"We went back to square one," Bacon explained. "This is a new car we just brought out, fresh everything, and talked to some old friends and got our heads back on straight so we could come out and do what we're supposed to do."

Bacon knows the drill and he's been grinding for more than a decade straight on the USAC trail. He's cognizant of the fact that you can't just glide in and accomplish what you want to without a sharpened focus on each and every detail in every aspect of the team.

"It was a lot of work this week with a short turnaround after being gone for seven days, but sometimes you've got to do what you've got to do," Bacon admitted. "It's not always easy. You've just got to stay calm and know that what you do is the right thing. You've just got to do all the right things right. We might've been missing stuff and maybe became complacent. We've got to get back to doing the basics correctly and execute."

Bacon began the 30-lap main event from the inside of row three while series point leader Emerson Axsom earned a front row starting position for an astonishing fifth consecutive race. Axsom rolled from the pole to the initial lead, but the race immediately turned into a classic high/low tussle between Axsom on the bottom and Ballou up top.

Axsom was able to nip Ballou at the stripe by a narrow single car length margin at the end of laps one and two, but Ballou managed to get the high side working to his liking and propelled himself to the lead by mere inches on both laps three and four. Axsom then dug in on the bottom and fought back to beat Ballou at the stripe by a half-car length on lap five.

The first stoppage of the night came on lap 10 due to a turns one and two spin by 19th running Matt VanderVere, who was making a valiant comeback effort to racing competition following a battle with cancer.

Soon after, Bacon began to find his stride. He burst into the second spot by diving under Ballou in turn three on lap 12 to steal the position. Moments later, Ballou's car became way sideways and subsequently lost substantial ground to Bacon who took off in pursuit of Axsom.

Axsom remained up front by four car lengths over Bacon at the halfway point. However, Bacon began to surge forward on the top shelf, pulling nearly even with Axsom in turns three and four on lap 17. Just as Bacon was setting up a possible pass to overtake Axsom, the caution flag was displayed for VanderVere (19th) who spun to a stop just in front of the leaders in turns three and four to bring out the yellow.

That's when things officially got spicy between Axsom and Bacon. First, Bacon made a charge around the outside of Axsom to lead by mere inches on lap 18. At that point, Bacon's initial time up front was short lived, however, as Axsom slid Bacon back to lead laps 19-20. Yet Bacon was just waiting in the wings to strike another blow on lap 21 as he blitzed right back by Axsom on the outside of turn four to lead lap 21. From that point forward, Bacon pulled the rope on the guillotine and immediately distanced himself from Axsom, building up a sizable lead of more than a half straightaway with just three laps remaining.

"I caught him just as he was going to start having to move around," Bacon explained of his pursuit of Axsom. "I was pretty confident on where I could run to counter whatever he did. He threw some stuff at us, and we were able to get by him and then just didn't make any mistakes even though the cushion was pretty treacherous."

Just when all seemed certain to be set in stone, fifth place running Kyle Cummins biked on the turn one cushion with just three laps remaining, sending him into a spin through the middle of turn two. The trailing car of Jake Swanson came within a whisker of clipping the idle Cummins, but narrowly averted disaster and moved up another spot in the running order. The same couldn't be said for Cummins, who dropped down to 14th at the finish, and as a result, fell two positions to fifth in the season long championship points race.

On the final restart with three laps to go, Bacon remained untouched, blazing away for a 1.458 second margin of victory over Axsom and Ballou. Logan Seavey took fourth to earn his best series finish since a third at Bloomington (Ind.) Speedway in mid-April. Jake Swanson came home fifth in the feature after earlier capturing a new one-lap track record and Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifying honors for the ninth time in his career with the series, tying him for 52nd all-time with Ballou, Eddie Leavitt, Mitchel Moles, Johnny Rutherford and Josh Wise.

For Axsom, it was yet a stellar podium finishing performance for he and his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy. It was also yet another top-three result for the

Franklin, Ind. racer after leading a race-high 17 laps en route to a second place finish. In fact, in his six most recent USAC National Sprint Car starts, the series point leader has finished 2nd-1st-1st-2nd-3rd-2nd.

"I knew (Brady) was up there, but I got lucky with a restart right when he showed me a nose," Axsom recited. "I think I went to the bottom on the first corner just because I knew it takes a minute to build your momentum, especially with how dirty the top was. I knew you had to build momentum and speed to build grip up there. I tried to hold them off as long as I could and moved around as much as I could and tried to play defense for a minute, but he was just really good tonight. But I felt like we were close once I figured out the top. He had it figured out, so I had to jump up there and try to steal it from him."

Wisconsin has been very, very good to The Mad Man. In his past five USAC National Sprint Car starts in the Badger State, Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) hasn't finished outside the top-three. Since his 2015 USAC National Sprint Car championship run, he's compiled finishes of 2nd-2nd-1st-1st in Wisconsin races, and on Saturday, he added a 3rd after leading two early laps in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

"We've been trying some things in order to make this racecar better because I've pretty much sucked this year, but we're headed back in the right direction," a candid Ballou acknowledged. "I noticed it was slicking off, but we were just a little too free and too stood up on the right rear. It was good for the heat race but not quite good enough. I pretty much had to commit to the top just so I had something to lean against. I never even went to the bottom, so I don't know if I slowed down if it'd been okay. Based on the way I felt, I don't think it would've. Hopefully, this is a step in the right direction, and we'll be putting our best foot forward from here on out."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: June 24, 2023 – Wilmot Raceway – Wilmot, Wisconsin – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.980 (New Track Record); 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.084; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.145; 4. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-14.210; 5. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.214; 6. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-14.236; 7. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-14.253; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.288; 9. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-14.300; 10. Mario Clouser, 6, Clouser-14.405; 11. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-14.470; 12. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-14.574; 13. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.616; 14. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.722; 15. Geoff Ensign, 17, On The Gass-14.859; 16. Clayton Rossman, 21, Hajduk-14.956; 17. Allen Hafford, 38, Hafford-15.187; 18. Matt VanderVere, 10v, Vandervere-15.294; 19. Austin DeBlauw, 65, DeBlauw-15.426; 20. Greg Alt, 22, Alt-15.839; 21. Dan Wade, 15, Wade-16.101; 22. Jordan Paulsen, 4p, Paulsen-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Daison Pursley, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Mario Clouser, 6. Clayton Rossman, 7. Greg Alt. 2:28.55

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Max Adams, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Allen Hafford, 7. Dan Wade. 2:27.85

T.J. FORGED / CAR IQ THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, all transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Geoff Ensign, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Matt VanderVere, 7. Austin DeBlauw. 2:27.72 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (5), 2. Emerson Axsom (1), 3. Robert Ballou (2), 4. Logan Seavey (3), 5. Jake Swanson (6), 6. Matt Westfall (8), 7. Mitchel Moles (4), 8. Daison Pursley (10), 9. C.J. Leary (12), 10. Justin Grant (11), 11. Geoff Ensign (15), 12. Chase Stockon (9), 13. Mario Clouser (13), 14. Kyle Cummins (7), 15. Allen Hafford (17), 16. Greg Alt (19), 17. Dan Wade (20), 18. Clayton Rossman (16), 19. Matt VanderVere (18), 20. Max Adams (14), 21. Austin DeBlauw (21). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Emerson Axsom, Laps 3-4 Robert Ballou, Laps 5-17 Emerson Axsom, Lap 18 Brady Bacon, Laps 19-20 Emerson Axsom, Laps 21-30 Brady Bacon.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-1055, 2-Jake Swanson-1022, 3-Brady Bacon-986, 4-Justin Grant-976, 5-Kyle Cummins-970, 6-C.J. Leary-931, 7-Mitchel Moles-888, 8-Daison Pursley-846, 9-Chase Stockon-840, 10-Robert Ballou-798.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-99, 2-Logan Seavey-58, 3-Matt Westfall-54, 4-Chase Stockon-53, 5-Justin Grant-52, 6-Brady Bacon-48, 7-Carson Garrett-38, 8-Thomas Meseraull-37, 9-Bryant Wiedeman-35, 10-Robert Ballou-34.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: June 25, 2023 – Angell Park Speedway – Sun Prairie, Wisconsin – 1/3-Mile Dirt Track – Kevins' Klassic

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Brady Bacon (14.195)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Jake Swanson (13.980)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Matt Westfall

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

T.J. Forged / Car IQ Third Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (5th to 1st)

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NIFTY 50! BACON REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE AT LINCOLN PARK'S SPRINTACULAR

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Putnamville, Indiana (July 3, 2023)……Only a select few individuals have been fortunate enough to win a USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature event in their career.

Just three have accomplished the feat Brady Bacon achieved on Monday night at Putnamville, Indiana's Lincoln Park Speedway as the Broken Arrow, Okla. racer earned his 50th career USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature victory.

Tom Bigelow was the first to reach win number 50 at Winchester (Ind.) Speedway in 1980. Prior to Bacon, Dave Darland was the most recent to hit 50 at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track in 2014. Bacon currently stands third all-time in USAC National Sprint Car victories behind those two all-time greats – two behind Bigelow's 52 and 12 behind all-time leader Darland at 62.

Bacon's performance during the ninth annual Bill Gardner Sprintacular was, perhaps, his finest and most dominant of the season on the USAC Sprint trail. From beginning to end, Bacon was never once challenged up front, leading all 40 laps to earn a $10,000 grand prize in his Dynamics, Inc./A & B Sports Bar Café – Tel-Star Technologies – DriveWFX.com/Triple X/Rider Chevy.

After a tumultuous Eastern Storm in mid-June in which he struggled throughout much of a five-race stretch, Bacon has responded in kind by winning each of his last two feature starts after scoring one in Wilmot, Wis. a week earlier. In doing so, he became the first four-time winner of the USAC National Sprint Car points season, and you might say, he's officially back to the Bacon we're accustomed to seeing.

"We've had things not go our way a lot this year, so it looks like things are finally starting to turn around; we'll definitely take it," Bacon unabashedly stated. "We got back to basics after struggling in Pennsylvania, then we got a win in Wisconsin and now this one here. It feels good getting back to doing what we know we're supposed to be doing."

It was a race that seemingly didn't want to happen, at least initially. The first three attempts at putting the Sprintacular into the books was interrupted by a power outage on Friday due to storms on Thursday, followed by more weather-plaguing issues on Saturday and Sunday. Ultimately, the one to seemingly put an end to the event just as soon as it finally got going on Monday was the Macho Man himself, Brady Bacon, ultimately making the fourth day the charm.

Starting from the pole, Bacon instantly burst into the lead past fellow front row starter Kevin Thomas Jr. Meanwhile, seventh place running Thomas Meseraull was stuck in the muck through the heavily saturated infield that was rendered muddy following the recent storms that had infiltrated the area. Meseraull eventually throttled out of it, but found himself dead last, 24th place, when he returned to the racing surface.

By lap six, Bacon could already claim a full straightaway lead and was beginning to dip his toes into lapped traffic a full two seconds ahead of Thomas Jr. However, a yellow flag on lap 17 brought a halt to the race when sixth running Carson Garrett stopped between turns one and two, thus erasing Bacon's commanding 2.513 second lead due to the caution.

From lap one of Dirt Draft Hot Laps, in which he was the fastest overall, Bacon knew what a stout ride he had, and he initially had a gameplan for the feature. With that said, on occasion, the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, and Bacon had to adjust on the fly.

“I feel like we had a really good car all night,” Bacon acknowledged. “We went out late (in qualifying), which kind of hurt us, but we won our heat, then we actually made the invert and started on the pole. I had a pretty good plan for at least a lap, then I could just feel how the track was and where my tire was air-wise and tried to keep it spun up. It was pretty chunky getting into (turn) three there and I felt my beadlock bottom out a couple of times with low air, so I tried to avoid that. We kind of had a little more grace on where we could run on the track with low air, but then once it got speed, I was struggling down the front straightaway a little bit and just had to make adjustments to see what felt fast.”

When racing resumed, Bacon instantly re-opened his lead to a half-straightaway while a shuffle for position commenced for second. Amidst it all, Justin Grant, the reigning Sprintacular winner from 2022, slipped under Thomas Jr. for the spot between turns three and four on the 18th circuit.

However, Brandon Mattox (20th) slowed to a stop atop turns three and four on lap 29 to bring out the yellow. Once again, Bacon's substantial 2.055 second lead was evaporated by the caution. Furthermore, under yellow, Emerson Axsom saw his streak of six consecutive top-three finishes cease to be. After advancing from 16th to ninth, he pulled into the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area under the caution with a flat left rear tire before returning to finish 15th, his worst result of the campaign thus far and only his second finish outside the top-10 in 17 series starts this year.

On the lap 29 restart, Jake Swanson made his move to enter the top-three as he dipped under in the second turn to steal the spot away as Thomas Jr. slid wide. Shortly after, the final yellow flag of the night was displayed when Garrett spun sideways in turn two while running 15th on the 35th lap.

As for Bacon, he was on cruise control up top. To get to where he felt he needed to be on the surface, it took patience and excellence. And as he’s shown time and time again, he possesses both traits in droves.

“I figured the top was eventually going to come in but I kept looking up there and it was still dirty,” Bacon explained. “I felt like I could keep more speed and didn’t have to run the cushion, just up on the bank. Then I saw it cleaned off up there, so I figured I probably needed to get all the way up there. I made a couple mistakes at the end, but I guess we had enough of a cushion, they couldn’t really pounce on me.”

Bacon was forced to endure one last restart with six laps remaining, but as had been the case throughout, it did not deter the four-time USAC National Sprint Car champ as he quickly distanced himself from all takers and stretched his lead to 1.777 sec. as he crossed the finish line for the fourth time in his career with the series at the 5/16-mile dirt oval, and for the second time during Sprintacular following a previous victory in 2020.

Justin Grant grabbed second at the finish line with Jake Swanson third, C.J. Leary fourth and Kyle Cummins fifth.

Behind them, the pre-Independence Day fireworks show was in full force as 20th running Brian Hayden shot-putted himself and his ride over the banking in turns three and four with a self-inflicted maneuver that sent him flipping several times.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) has been steady and solid in his four most recent Sprintacular final night starts since 2020, earning a 3rd, a 2nd and a 1st followed by another runner-up result on Monday night in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

“I could catch that moisture off turn two and stay in it down the back stretch and pick guys off there, which usually, we’re pretty good at doing here,” Grant revealed. “I could hook the bottom really well, but I couldn’t really run the curb very well. We were good around the bottom I felt like and we had a really good racecar, but those guys were just a little bit better than we were tonight.”

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) thrusted himself back into the USAC National Sprint Car point lead by virtue of his third-place finish aboard his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy. In all, the podium result was his 13th consecutive top-10 feature finish, best in the series at the moment.

“(Kevin Thomas Jr.) got in a little bit too shallow in (turn) one, and there’s standing water down there,” Swanson detailed of his pass for third place. “If you touch it with the left front, it’ll shove the nose and I was able to capitalize on that. It was definitely tricky getting into turn three. I biked up quite a few times, like big bikes. I was like, ‘whoa, we might write this one off.’ At the end of the day, it was good, and we were solid. Obviously, we’re happy with the points we gained tonight, content I’d say, but we’re always hungry for more. (Car owner) Mike (Burkhart) and I are already talking about how we can be better.”

In Honest Abe Qualifying, Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) wheeled the 2B Racing machine to its first fast qualifying time with the USAC National Sprint Cars in nearly 13 years. The last time the ride was atop the speed chart in time trials in 2010, it also occurred at Lincoln Park Speedway. That night, Bryan Clauson was at the wheel.

Kayla Roell made her USAC debut feature appearance by virtue of a provisional starting spot courtesy of the Midwest Sprint Car Series, who co-sanctioned the event. Roell (Dillsboro, Ind.) became just the sixth woman to start a USAC National Sprint Car feature. In that department, the Midwest Mini Sprint Association standout joined Katlynn Leer (4 starts), Jordan Weaver (2), Shauna Hogg (1), Sheila Rankin (1) and Cindy Chambers (1).

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 3, 2023 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – 9th Annual Bill Gardner Sprintacular – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-12.399; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.820; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.860; 4. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-12.906; 5. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.983; 6. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.033; 7. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-13.058; 8. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.121; 9. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.132; 10. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-13.167; 11. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.173; 12. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-13.207; 13. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.236; 14. Travis Thompson, 7, Thompson-13.238; 15. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.244; 16. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.344; 17. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-13.344; 18. Thomas Meseraull, 2E, Epperson-13.356; 19. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.407; 20. Brian Hayden,

2H, Hayden-13.425; 21. Tye Mihocko, 24p, Paul-13.438; 22. Geoff Ensign, 17, On The Gass-13.460; 23. Matt McDonald, 5m, McDonald-13.526; 24. Brent Beauchamp, 34, Olson-13.624; 25. Kevin Newton, 16TH, Newton-13.668; 26. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-13.779; 27. Jake Scott, 33, Miller-13.812; 28. Kyle Johnson, 99J, Johnson-13.827; 29. Jadon Rogers, 14, 4J Motorsports-13.878; 30. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-13.918; 31. John Sluss, 4R, RayPro-13.918; 32. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Glotzbach-13.964; 33. Kobe Simpson, 21K, Simpson-14.029; 34. Alec Sipes, 19, Hayward-14.045; 35. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-14.134; 36. Kayla Roell, 5K, KO-14.174; 37. Evan Mosley, 27, Barkdull-14.385; 38. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-15.047; 39. Justin Meneely, 100, Meneely-15.324.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Tye Mihocko, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Max Adams, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Kevin Newton, 9. Evan Mosley, 10. Kobe Simpson. 2:10.86

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Thomas Meseraull, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Geoff Ensign, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Alec Sipes, 7. Hunter Maddox, 8. Travis Thompson, 9. Harley Burns, 10. Gabriel Gilbert. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Brandon Mattox, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Mitchel Moles, 6. Matt McDonald, 7. Jake Scott, 8. Aric Gentry, 9. John Sluss, 10. Justin Meneely. 2:13.08

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brent Beauchamp, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Brayden Fox, 4. Carson Garrett, 5. Daison Pursley, 6. Brian Hayden, 7. Kayla Roell, 8. Kyle Johnson, 9. Ivan Glotzbach. 2:19.10

C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. John Sluss, 2. Kayla Roell, 3. Alec Sipes, 4. Aric Gentry, 5. Kobe Simpson, 6. Ivan Glotzbach, 7. Evan Mosley, 8. Justin Meneely. 2:25.87

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Daison Pursley, 6. Brian Hayden, 7. Jake Scott, 8. Jadon Rogers, 9. Travis Thompson, 10. Alec Sipes, 11. Aric Gentry, 12. Hunter Maddox, 13. John Sluss, 14. Kayla Roell, 15. Harley Burns, 16. Kevin Newton, 17. Kyle Johnson, 18. Matt McDonald. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (1), 2. Justin Grant (3), 3. Jake Swanson (6), 4. C.J. Leary (5), 5. Kyle Cummins (7), 6. Kevin Thomas Jr. (2), 7. Chase Stockon (14), 8. Robert Ballou (17), 9. Brent Beauchamp (9), 10. Logan Seavey (10), 11. Mitchel Moles (11), 12. Daison Pursley (12), 13. Max Adams (18), 14. Brayden Fox (15), 15. Emerson Axsom (16), 16. Geoff Ensign (22), 17. Carson Garrett (4), 18. Tye Mihocko (21), 19. Kayla Roell (24-P), 20. Brian Hayden (20), 21. Brandon Mattox (19), 22. Matt Westfall (13), 23. Aric Gentry (23-P), 24. Thomas Meseraull (8). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Brady Bacon.

**Brian Hayden flipped on lap 40 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-1096, 2-Emerson Axsom-1093, 3-Brady Bacon-1064, 4-Justin Grant-1049, 5-Kyle Cummins-1036, 6-C.J. Leary-998, 7-Mitchel Moles-937, 8-Chase Stockon-894, 9-Daison Pursley-889, 10-Robert Ballou-854.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-99, 2-Chase Stockon-60, 3-Logan Seavey-58, 4-Matt Westfall-54, 5-Justin Grant-53, 6-Brady Bacon-48, 7-Robert Ballou-43, 8-Carson Garrett-38, 9-Thomas Meseraull-37, 10- Jake Swanson-36.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: July 7-8, 2023 – Macon Speedway – Macon, Illinois – 1/5-Mile Dirt Track – Top Gun Weekend

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Brady Bacon (12.726)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Logan Seavey (12.399)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Thomas Meseraull

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Brent Beauchamp

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

Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (17th to 8th)

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MAVERICK OF MACON! MOLES ROLLS TO PHOTO FINISH USAC SPRINT CAR VICTORY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Macon, Illinois (July 7, 2023)……On this very same weekend a full year earlier, Mitchel Moles got to experience the elation of winning a first career USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature.

One year later, on this same early July weekend, the Raisin City, Calif. racer felt both the relief and the thrill of victory 34 races after his most recent series win.

This one, in Friday night's series debut at Illinois' Macon Speedway, was certainly among the most dramatic scenarios in which he could break through for his first series triumph of the 2023 season.

Moles raced around the outside of Carson Garrett and into the lead on the first lap of a green-white-checkered finish, then fended off Garrett on the bottom and a (literally) high-flying Kyle Cummins on the outside to win by a half-car length.

Yeah, about Cummins. Right behind the front two was the hard-charging, rim-rider who flipped the length of the front straightway while making a bid for the win on the top side, crossing the line third as he was airborne following contact with the outside wall.

The event, billed as Top Gun weekend at the 1/5-mile dirt oval, certainly delivered the drama and captivating theater that would've made Goose, Maverick and the Iceman proud of their starring roles in this particular production.

In doing so, Moles ended the merry-go-round of six different multi-time series winners who had traded victories back- and-forth throughout the initial 17 events of the year. Moles carved his way through the glut to put one on the board in his Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports/AME Electrical – Mesilla Valley Transportation/Spike/Stanton Chevy.

Moles' victory margin of 0.093 sec. was the closest in the series since Jake Swanson's photo finish over Kevin Thomas Jr. on the opening night of the Oval Nationals at California's Perris Auto Speedway in November of 2021.

Rolling off fourth for the 40-lap feature, Moles initially tucked in behind pole sitter/race leader Jake Swanson as well as Cummins and Garrett during the early stages before things became a little "off the rails" in several aspects early on.

Trouble on lap three involved Justin Grant (8th), Emerson Axsom (13th), Mitchell Davis (14th) and Brandon Mattox (18th), all of whom stopped in turn two. Grant's car received the worst punishment of the four. With his front end knocked out, Grant veered into the infield and struck a Cadillac Escalade push truck, wedging the nose of his car under the rear bumper of the passenger vehicle. All drivers were okay, but Grant's ride and the push truck had most certainly seen better days.

The mayhem continued on the first attempt at a lap three restart when race leader Swanson spun following contact from Cummins, sending Swanson into a 180-degree whip around at the entry to turn one. Swanson did not continue onward in the event while Cummins assumed the race lead.

After another two-car spin involving Mitchell Davis and Brandon Mattox on the next try at a lap three restart, more chaos ensued and involved sixth-running Brady Bacon who smacked his right rear tire off the outside wall in turn two, sending him upside down. The trailing Chase Stockon got into the flipping Bacon while Mario Clouser rode over Stockon's left rear tire and got a bit of airtime before landing on all fours. However, both Stockon and Clouser kept going while Bacon walked away uninjured, but out of the race.

Things finally settled into a racy groove thereafter with Cummins constructing a full-straight lead by lap eight while Moles was ripping the high side to much delight, charging around the outside of Garrett for the second spot on lap nine. It didn't take long for Moles to track down Cummins whose lead shrunk to a car length in lapped traffic. Moles managed to briefly squeeze by for the lead on lap 16 on the back straightaway, but Cummins narrowly split the middle off turn four between Moles and the lapped car of Davis to reassume the lead.

With traffic high, low, here, there and everywhere on the tight confines, Moles capitalized to take over the lead when Cummins found himself mired behind 14th running Robert Ballou on lap 21. Cummins fought back to reclaim the top spot by a car length at the line, but Moles stayed with it and rocketed around the high side of turn one to move back to the front.

The order among the top-three remained unchanged throughout the latter half of the contest until second-running Cummins drifted sideways at the top of turn two. Garrett pounced, driving under Cummins to take over the runner-up spot from Cummins yet remaining more than a half second behind Cummins with just four laps remaining.

However, time is merely a social construct, and Garrett ate up the ground in short order, surging on the bottom of turns three and four to race by Moles for the lead on lap 38. A mere moments later, sixth-place Logan Seavey slowed to a stop

to bring out the caution. The 38th lap counted and was officially in the books, putting Garrett in the captain's chair headed for the restart with two laps to go and his first career USAC victory on the line.

When Jake Croxton's green flag was displayed for the lap 39 restart, Garrett stuck to the bottom while Moles and Cummins went topside into turn one. Going three-wide through turns three and four with Cummins slotting into the middle, Moles edged ahead of Garrett by a whisker at the stripe to lead lap 39.

Navigating the back straightaway for one final time, Moles opted to swap lines from the top to the bottom entering turn three, swinging down across the nose of Garrett. As the front two putted around the bottom, Cummins took an absolute flier through turns three and four up against the wall and appeared to have the momentum to make it a three-wide photo finish.

Simultaneously, as Moles took the checkered flag by a half car length over Garrett, Cummins flipped end-over-end against the outside wall down the front straightaway, all while still scoring a third-place result. Meanwhile, Max Adams grabbed his best career USAC finish of fourth while Kevin Thomas Jr. returned from a heat race flip to round out the top-five.

With the hectic and frenetic pace of a sprint car race at a place like Macon Speedway, it's hard to imagine "taking it easy" would have any role in the nomenclature of a race-winning driver. However, Moles acknowledged that he was doing exactly that while leading late in the going.

"I felt like I handled the situation pretty well," Moles stated. "I was taking it really easy because I didn't want to knock the right rear wheel off this thing like I almost did a few times. (Garrett) just snuck up on me. I saw how one and two was really bad on the bottom, but three and four was so good, he'd just make up all that ground right there."

Although he lost the lead late, it was his late push that elevated him into a triumphant celebration once again – one that was a long time coming.

"Once I hammered it in there on the restart and got by him, I went through three and four and ripped the top," Moles explained. "He came back, and we were about even, and I was like, 'man, I've got to try and clear him and cut to the bottom,' and that's what I did. I knew Kyle would be coming around the outside so I just tried to get it to the finish line as fast as I could, and it all worked out."

Through the trials and tribulations of an absence from victory lane for the duration of the first half of the year, Moles and the Reinbold-Underwood team put it all together on this night from start to finish, with Moles becoming the first Californian to win a USAC feature at Macon since three-time National Midget champion Jimmy Davies did so in 1960.

"I just feel like everybody's stuff is getting so much better," Moles acknowledges. "We've been working so hard. I've been destroying stuff and (the crew) has been busting their asses. (Car owner) Andy (Reinbold) hasn't given up on me, neither has (Andy's wife) Tammy."

Missed it by that much. Littleton Colorado's Carson Garrett came within a few feet of scoring his first USAC National Sprint Car win. Still, the runner-up result was his best career USAC finish, surpassing his sixth place run at Ohio's Eldora Speedway in May of this year in his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete – Leary Shock Technology/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

"Honestly, I don't have very many laps up front," admitted Garrett, who led his first lap in USAC competition on this night at Macon. "I feel like we nailed the setup tonight. I was just trying to stick the line that I had run the majority of the race. I

tried kind of everywhere. (Turns) three and four were really good, and I figured on that restart if (Moles or Cummins) got in front, whoever was there was just going to have to protect."

Kyle Cummins took the "Top Gun" theme quite literally on the final lap. His bid for the win ended dramatically with him enduring a wild ride down Macon's front straightaway. The Princeton, Ind. driver flipped, and in mid-air, mind you, crossed the line in third place, albeit upside down in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

"First of all, to Jake Swanson, I feel terrible about that. We just got in there, and I was all over the brakes. I just clipped him, and he was just enough sideways. I take full responsibility for that. I hate to do that to him. At least it wasn't a full points race for him. I would've felt gutted if that was the case. I probably didn't deserve to win after that," Cummins apologized following the event, which paid 50 appearance points to all licensed competitors toward the season-long championship standings regardless of finishing position.

"I made some shock adjustments there and I was worse," Cummins continued. "Then we had that yellow and I set a different approach to it. That's when my car came to life. Mitchel messed up and he went down, and I was like, if I hold it to the floor, I might win. But I kind of jumped the wall there a little bit. But it was close. Coming off four, I thought I had him and I thought I had enough momentum. We've got a lot of torn up parts. That was a brand new rearend, and there were a lot of brand-new components on that car."

On Monday at Putnamville, Indiana's Lincoln Park Speedway, the 2B Racing number 2B picked up its first Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifying award in 13 years in USAC National Sprint Car competition. It took just four more nights to pick up the next as Logan Seavey took top time trial honors at Macon with a 10.230 second lap. In fact, no qualifying lap has ever had a shorter duration than Seavey's lap, breaking the record of 10.406 seconds set by Kyle Cummins just less than three weeks earlier at another 1/5-mile – Action Track USA in Kutztown, Pa.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 7, 2023 – Macon Speedway – Macon, Illinois – 1/5-Mile Dirt Track – Top Gun 40

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-10.230 (New Track Record); 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-10.323; 3. Zach Daum, 5d, Daum-10.335; 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-10.423; 5. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-10.455; 6. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-10.480; 7. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-10.493; 8. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-10.496; 9. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-10.509; 10. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-10.647; 11. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-10.706; 12. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-10.709; 13. Shane Cottle, 77K, Leer-10.721; 14. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-10.737; 15. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-10.779; 16. Mitchell Davis, 56, Davis-10.852; 17. Mario Clouser, 6, Clouser-10.857; 18. Mitch Wissmiller, 29, RNB-10.969; 19. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-11.051; 20. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-11.089; 21. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-11.178; 22. Logan Faucon, 52F, Faucon-11.229; 23. Steve Thomas, 20, Thomas-11.235; 24. Daylan Chambers, 8D, KCBJ-11.295; 25. James Lyerla, 11, JL-11.412; 26. Chase Howard, 13, Howard-11.466; 27. Eric Shelton, 70, Shelton-11.541; 28. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-11.713; 29. Patrick Budde, 90, Budde-11.786; 30. Cory Bruns, 8, Smith/Robertson-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Mario Clouser, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Shane Cottle, 7. James Lyerla, 8. Patrick Budde. 1:46.58 (New Track Record)

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. Chase Howard, 6. Logan Faucon, 7. Mitch Wissmiller. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Max Adams, 2. Emerson Axsom, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Zach Daum, 6. Steve Thomas, 7. Eric Shelton. 1:47.42

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Mitchell Davis, 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 6. Troy Carey, 7. Daylan Chambers. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Logan Faucon, 4. James Lyerla, 5. Chase Howard, 6. Troy Carey, 7. Patrick Budde, 8. Steve Thomas, 9. Eric Shelton, 10. Zach Daum, 11. Daylan Chambers, 12. Shane Cottle. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Mitchel Moles (4), 2. Carson Garrett (2), 3. Kyle Cummins (3), 4. Max Adams (10), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (11), 6. Matt Westfall (17), 7. Emerson Axsom (13), 8. Daison Pursley (12), 9. Chase Stockon (8), 10. C.J. Leary (7), 11. James Lyerla (20), 12. Mario Clouser (16), 13. Logan Faucon (19), 14. Logan Seavey (6), 15. Robert Ballou (14), 16. Mitchell Davis (15), 17. Brandon Mattox (18), 18. Jake Swanson (1), 19. Brady Bacon (5), 20. Justin Grant (9). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Jake Swanson, Laps 3-21 Kyle Cummins, Laps 22-37 Mitchel Moles, Lap 38 Carson Garrett, Laps 39-40 Mitchel Moles.

**Daylan Chambers flipped during the fourth heat. Kevin Thomas Jr. flipped during the fourth heat. Brady Bacon flipped on lap 3 of the feature. Kyle Cummins flipped on lap 40 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-1146, 2-Emerson Axsom-1143, 3-Brady Bacon-1114, 4-Justin Grant-1099, 5-Kyle Cummins-1086, 6-C.J. Leary-1048, 7-Mitchel Moles-987, 8-Chase Stockon-944, 9-Daison Pursley-939, 10-Robert Ballou-904.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-103, 2-Matt Westfall-65, 3-Chase Stockon-60, 4-Logan Seavey-58, 5-Justin Grant-53, 6-Brady Bacon-48, 7-Robert Ballou-43, 8-Emerson Axsom-40, 9-Carson Garrett-38, 10-Thomas Meseraull-37.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 8, 2023 – Macon Speedway – Macon, Illinois – 1/5-Mile Dirt Track – Top Gun 50

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Chase Stockon (10.542)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Logan Seavey (10.230)

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

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Justin Grant

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Max Adams

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Brandon Mattox

Hard Charger: Matt Westfall (17th to 6th)

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MACON BACON: THE MACHO MAN TURNS IT AROUND WITH TOP GUN 50 TRIUMPH

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Macon, Illinois (July 8, 2023)……A mere 24 hours after he and his car sat upside down up in a crumpled heap following a meeting with the turn two outside wall, Bacon returned to his natural state during Saturday night's Top Gun 50 at Illinois' Macon Speedway.

His natural state of late, and pretty much throughout the entirety of his illustrious career, has been victory lane, and that's exactly where he put his Dynamics, Inc./A & B Sports Bar Café – Tel-Star Technologies – DriveWFX.com/Triple X/Rider Chevy, escaping a duel with C.J. Leary before taking command on lap 18 and going on to capture the 50-lap main that put $10,000 in his pocket.

The Broken Arrow, Okla. native has now been the victor in three of his past four USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship starts, which has pushed his win tally on the season to a series-leading five and his overall win total to 51, placing him just one behind Tom Bigelow for second on the all-time series win list.

Speaking of states, Bacon also set a new USAC National Sprint Car record for the number of different states he's won a feature in. Illinois marked the 13th different state Bacon has won a series feature in following previous scores in Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Kansas.

Saturday was quite the comeback story for Bacon. While running sixth on lap three of Friday's feature at Macon, he smacked his right rear tire off the outside wall in turn two, which promptly sent him upside down and out of the race. It was an uncharacteristic mistake for the four-time USAC National Sprint Car champ, which led to an even more rare 19th place finish.

"It was a little slicker on exit last night, and it just caught me off guard," Bacon explained of this accident. "I didn't think I was going that fast. But once I got up on the flat, I knew it was over long before it happened. But we fixed it and made sure we got everything tuned right. We had a really good car last night, but I just made a mistake. That happens sometimes. Fortunately, it didn't cost us any points."

Bacon's speaking of the fact that Friday's Macon event paid 50 appearance points across the board to all licensed series drivers and entrants regardless of finishing position – no more, no less. The points scenario was exactly the same on Saturday as well and it's where Bacon started from the pole position in what was the first 50-lap USAC National Sprint Car feature since Eldora Speedway's 50th anniversary race 11 years earlier in 2012.

However, early on, the place to be was seemingly up top on the cushion. There, outside front row starter Leary got a step on Bacon at the start and nipped Bacon at the line by roughly an inch or two to lead the opening lap and remained a resident of the top spot for the initial 10 circuits.

A one-two-three tussle became a three-wide hustle between Leary, Logan Seavey and Bacon on the 11th lap. Leary grooved up top while Bacon split through the middle, but it was Seavey who hooked the bottom to edge ahead of both at the line by a wheel.

Seavey's lead proved to be short-lived, however. As he slid into turn one, he drifted up the banking of the 1/5-mile dirt oval, opening the door for both Bacon and Leary to shoot past underneath. The trio was seemingly synched together with all three in perfect three-part harmony formation on the back straight before Leary and Bacon rearranged themselves in the first two positions while Seavey slotted into third.

Soon after, 14th running Shane Cottle slowed dramatically on the front straight right in front Leary who had just begun to sink his teeth into traffic when the yellow flag was displayed.

Bacon took full advantage after he positioned himself right behind Leary on the restart, grabbing the top spot with a drive off the bottom of turn two on lap 14. Leary, however, retaliated a lap later by executing a diamond maneuver to get under Bacon in turn two on lap 15. Bacon gritted his teeth, and once again, dug in and powered his way past Leary off turn four to assume the first position as Leary checked up just before the flag stand on the 18th go-around.

"I just knew it was all about getting down the straightaway," Bacon hypothesized. "You've got to have your tires underneath you. I figured the top was going to be faster. I think we all thought it was going to be faster for at least a good portion of the race. I got underneath (Leary) on a restart, and kind of blocked Logan from filling the hole. I noticed he was struggling to get off the corner, and if I could just keep my tires underneath me, I could beat him down the straightaway. After that, I knew that if I hit the bottom on exit, it was going to be really hard for someone to drive around me."

Beyond the top-three, Kyle Cummins began to make a surge as he drove past Seavey for fourth on lap 21, then spurted past reigning series titlist Justin Grant with an inside move in turns three and four on lap 31. Grant soon found his evening cut short while running fourth on lap 36 as he connected his right rear tire with the cushion between turns three and four, sending him flipping over, and relegating him to a 16th place result.

Bacon's lead margin regularly hovered around 2.0-2.5 seconds prior to the stoppages as the race transformed into a bottom-dominant affair up front aside from Friday night Macon winner Mitchel Moles who put on a thrill show on the high side to advance from seventh to fourth during the final four laps.

"We got to moving around a little bit when I was catching lapped traffic, trying to prepare myself for what I was going to do," Bacon demonstrated. "Luckily, we had some cautions and got some free track, but still, I was worried. Like the late model race (on Thursday), during the 100 laps, the track moved from the top to the bottom maybe three or four times. I was worried about the top being cleaned off and someone pounding the fence and passing me. But I was okay with that. I was going to stick to my guns. I've lost races sticking to the bottom, but we won this one, so I'll take it."

Up front, Bacon was untouchable as he closed out his triumphant moment with a feature victory, 1.516 second ahead of runner-up C.J. Leary with Kyle Cummins third, Mitchel Moles fourth and Logan Seavey fifth.

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) led a total of 15 laps during three different stints in the first 17 laps of the feature in his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's/DRC/1-Way Chevy. One night earlier, his teammate, Carson Garrett, scored a runner-up finish. One night later, C.J. matched the feat with the team's second consecutive second place finish in as many nights at Macon.

"Our car was just too good, too early," Leary admitted. "I felt really good those first 10 laps. Even at halfway, I still felt pretty good. I think Brady had the better car at the end and just drove away. I tried everything I could; I banged the boards, moved around and tried to diamond it. I Just had a second-place car. I felt like we had a really good car last night too, but then we had a tire go down. We've got some good momentum rolling into Indiana Sprint Week. I just wish we could've put it in victory lane, but that's how the cookie crumbles sometimes."

It turned out to be a much more traditional third place finish for Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) who finished on his wheels this time around. The night before, he also scored a third but that one came as he crossed the stripe while airborne. On Saturday, he landed safely to round out the podium in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy, which was the same car that he won with at Action Track USA just three weeks earlier. For Cummins, it was his ninth top-three result in 19 USAC National Sprint Car starts this season.

"We were really tight at the beginning," Cummins acknowledged. "I thought, man, if this goes top-dominant, we're going to be struggling. I started peeling off a little bit, then it seemed like when that caution came out, everybody went to the bottom. There at the end, my car was really good. I passed C.J. there right before the yellow, which got him back in front of me. Then I just couldn't do anything with him. We were right there. I just wish we could've gotten around C.J. and see what Brady had. It didn't seem like he pulled out like he had been earlier before. All in all, it was way better than last night, and we don't have to work all night just to get the car in the trailer."

Furthermore, Cummins reset the record for the quickest lap in USAC National Sprint Car history. Cummins set a new Macon Speedway USAC National Sprint Car track record on Saturday with a blistering time of 10.085 seconds during Honest Abe Roofing Qualifying, which now stands as the quickest lap ever turned in the series' 68-year history, surpassing the 10.230 second lap Seavey registered one night earlier at Macon. For Cummins, that was his 13th career fast qualifying time with the USAC National Sprint Cars, tying him with Bobby East and Bruce Walkup for 37th all-time.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 8, 2023 – Macon Speedway – Macon, Illinois – 1/5-Mile Dirt Track – Top Gun 50

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-10.085 (New Track Record); 2. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-10.103; 3. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-10.127; 4. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-10.134; 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-10.169; 6. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-10.336; 7. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-10.350; 8. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-10.454; 9. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-10.467; 10. Shane Cottle, 77K, Leer-10.470; 11. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-10.507; 12. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-10.528; 13. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-10.539; 14. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-10.619; 15. Mario Clouser, 6, Clouser-10.633; 16. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-10.658; 17. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-10.765; 18. Todd Hobson, 5T, Daming-10.791; 19. Mitch Wissmiller, 29, RNB-10.869; 20. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall-10.874; 21. Zach Daum, 5d, Daum-10.886; 22. Mitchell Davis, 56, Davis-10.888; 23. Chase Howard, 13, Howard-11.059; 24. Colten Cottle, 8D, KCBJ-11.174; 25. Steve Thomas, 20, Thomas-11.273; 26. Logan Faucon, 52F, Faucon-11.294; 27. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-11.294; 28. Patrick Budde, 90, Budde-11.363; 29. Eric Shelton, 70, Shelton-11.415.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Zach Daum, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Carson Garrett, 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Steve Thomas, 8. Eric Shelton. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Mitchell Davis, 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Todd Hobson, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Logan Faucon. 1:47.52

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitch Wissmiller, 2. Mario Clouser, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Troy Carey, 7. Chase Howard. NT

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Colten Cottle, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Max Adams, 7. Patrick Budde. 1:51.49

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Max Adams, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Chase Stockon, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Chase Howard, 9. Troy Carey, 10. Logan Faucon, 11. Steve Thomas, 12. Patrick Budde. 2:06.35 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (50 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (1), 2. C.J. Leary (2), 3. Kyle Cummins (6), 4. Mitchel Moles (5), 5. Logan Seavey (4), 6. Emerson Axsom (9), 7. Carson Garrett (12), 8. Robert Ballou (16), 9. Mario Clouser (15), 10. Zach Daum (18), 11. Max Adams (14), 12. Kevin Thomas Jr. (10), 13. Daison Pursley (3), 14. Mitchell Davis (19), 15. Todd Hobson (17), 16. Justin Grant (7), 17. Jake Swanson (11), 18. Colten Cottle (20), 19. Mitch Wissmiller (8), 20. Shane Cottle (13). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-10 C.J. Leary, Lap 11 Logan Seavey, Laps 12-13 C.J. Leary, Lap 14 Brady Bacon, Laps 15-17 C.J. Leary, Laps 18-50 Brady Bacon.

**Eric Shelton flipped during the first heat. Justin Grant flipped on lap 36 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Jake Swanson-1196, 2-Emerson Axsom-1193, 3-Brady Bacon-1164, 4-Justin Grant-1149, 5-Kyle Cummins-1136, 6-C.J. Leary-1098, 7-Mitchel Moles-1037, 8-Chase Stockon-994, 9-Daison Pursley-989, 10-Robert Ballou-954.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-103, 2-Matt Westfall-65, 3-Chase Stockon-60, 4-Logan Seavey-58, 5-Justin Grant-53, 6-Robert Ballou-51, 7-Brady Bacon-48, 8-Emerson Axsom-43, 9-Carson Garrett-43, 10-Thomas Meseraull-37.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 21, 2023 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Mitchel Moles (10.360)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Kyle Cummins (10.085)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Mitch Wissmiller

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (16th to 8th)

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PHOTO FINISH! GRANT OPENS USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK WITH LAST LAP WIN AT GAS CITY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Gas City, Indiana (July 21, 2023)……Justin Grant had been in this very position before during the Gas City I-69 Speedway round of USAC Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing.

In this very same scenario one year ago, the Ione, Calif. native had the victory ripped away from him during the final laps, forcing him to settle for a runner-up finish.

On Friday night during the 2023 ISW opener, Grant turned the tables and met an entirely different fate in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

This time, after the lead slipped from his fingers with one lap remaining, Grant fought back and refused to loosen his grip. In turns three and four, Grant found himself boxed in behind a lapped car but managed to break free past Ballou to beat him to the line by mere inches, exactly .005 of second ahead at the stripe in one of the closest Indiana Sprint Week finishes in the 36-year history of the series.

Grant, the reigning Indiana Sprint Week champion, had recently been in a self-admitted slump of late after finishes of 16th and 20th in early July at Macon (Ill.) Speedway. Furthermore, one night earlier during a USAC Silver Crown run at Winchester (Ind.) Speedway, the engine under Grant's car's hood experienced an issue, which sent Grant to the sidelines for the remainder of the event.

This circumstance ended Grant's all-time record of 239 consecutive USAC National feature starts across all three divisions which had been intact since July of 2020.

Now, possessing a brand-new streak of one start and one win, Grant has returned to the top, earning his 38th career USAC National Sprint Car feature triumph, which surpassed Robert Ballou and Sheldon Kinser for 11th place on the all-time series win list.

"It's no secret I've been struggling," Grant admitted. "Everybody kept telling me that my luck was going to turn around. I just keep telling them that I needed to do a better job. I've just been getting myself in bad positions and bad places and not executing like I need to execute in a racecar. But I finally felt like myself again tonight."

Grant began his 30-lap venture from the outside of the front row and held the early advantage on the high line alongside pole sitter Colten Cottle. However, the action ceased just moments later in turn three on the opening lap when fast qualifier

and sixth place running Brayden Fox biked and flipped. He was able to climb out of his car unscathed but highly disappointed with a damaged racecar.

Upon the resumption, Grant promptly pulled out to a half-straight lead over C. Cottle by lap eight when a violent two car crash ensued on the front straightaway. Fifth running Larry Kingseed Jr. and sixth place C.J. Leary connected with each other, resulting in both cars simultaneously somersaulting into turn one. Both drivers managed to step out from the wreckage under their own power, though both cars were finished for the evening.

By lap 10, Grant had reestablished his dominance up front as the leader while a tug-of-war for second raged on. Running second and third, respectively at the time, both Colten Cottle and Robert Ballou bounced through turns three and four. Once the door opened, Brady Bacon burst past underneath both drivers to advance and escape from fourth to second.

Bacon's time in second was relatively brief as Ballou raced back to the runner-up spot on lap 13 after the two exchanged the position multiple times with back-and-forth slide jobs on both ends of the racetrack.

Grant pushed his lead to 1.6 sec. by the 20th lap, but heavy lapped traffic loomed just a few car lengths ahead with less than 10 laps to go. At that point, Ballou clamped down on Grant for the lead with seven remaining and were separated by a car length as they worked within each other's shadow on the bottom, nose-to-tail under traffic.

"Right as we were starting to catch the big pack of lappers there, I was starting to hear somebody," Grant diagrammed. "I just heard somebody back there running more throttle, then a couple guys got tangled up off four, so I snuck through there and got into one and two pretty good. I think I got a little bit of a break there. I didn't hear anybody, and then when I tried to circle that guy in three and four, I thought I had a little more room than I actually had."

One could say that it was at that exact moment when Grant received Ballou's undivided attention.

"It was 29 laps of riding around and riding around, and then it was, 'oh boy, we better get to racing here,'" Grant recalled. "The heart rate definitely jacked up there on lap 29. There at the end, I tried to circle that lapped car on the outside, and it was 'oh, that isn't good.'

That lapped car was Geoff Ensign, and amid Grant and Ballou's approach toward Ensign, Ballou knew it was go-time and carved out a path on the bottom of turns three and four to assume the lead by .009 second and a wheel ahead of Grant at the stripe with the white flag signaling above, signifying one lap to go.

On the 30th and final lap, the trio choo-choo'd in a straight-line exiting turn two. However, Ballou set up wide in turns three and four to work around the outside of Ensign while Grant remained committed to the bottom. With a bit of rolling momentum, Grant tapped the rear bumper of Ensign off turn four and followed his path for the final 50 feet.

That little bit of oomph from Grant was just barely enough to propel him ahead of Ballou's high side momentum, with Grant beating him to the line in by just a few inches in one of the greatest finishes in series history, which served as Grant's seventh career Indiana Sprint Week victory, tying him with Bryan Clauson for the fifth most all-time.

Robert Ballou came home a close second with Brady Bacon third, Mitchel Moles fourth and Kevin Thomas Jr. fifth.

Friday's victory was special for Grant in a personal way as well. Earlier this month, legendary car owner Jeff Walker was brought on board to serve as crew chief for Grant. It was Walker who provided Grant with his first opportunity in sprint car

racing all those years ago. Now, Grant was able to deliver a big win in his new but familiar surroundings consisting of Grant and Walker.

“I’m really grateful for my old buddy, my old pal, Jeff Walker coming back and crew chiefing for me again,” Grant said. “It’s pretty cool for me. Jeff was the first guy to hire me, and now I’ve gotten to hire him. We’re having a lot of fun racing, and it feels good to get in victory lane.”

Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) made a charge from his 12th starting position to take the lead on the white flag lap. At the checkered, he came up just inches short of his first USAC National Sprint Car win of the season in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

“I knew I had to be getting near the end and I knew I had the best car from lap one,” Ballou attested. “You don’t just start 12th and charge to the front right away in seven laps. When we got to lapped traffic, I knew it was now or never. Sometimes you follow the lapped car, and you get your doors blown off around the outside. I knew the top wasn’t very good there, and I didn’t get a good enough run off the middle to get back to the top. I also had a tough battle with the 69 car. He likes to throw elbows, so if he wants to play hardball, we’re more than ready.”

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) finished a solid third in his Dynamics, Inc./Bullseye Pest Control – Daredevil Brewing – Tel-Star Technologies/Triple X/Rider Chevy. The result put him firmly in the Indiana Sprint Week points race right off the bat while also moving him up to second in the season long USAC National Sprint Car points.

“We were a little bit better than Robert for a while, but some people are harder to pass than others,” Bacon shot back. “We could’ve moved him out of the way like he probably would’ve done to me, but we’ll keep that in our pocket for when we can win a race. I didn’t think we had a car to win tonight. I just got a little shy with the rough earlier in the night. Toward the end of the feature, we just didn’t have enough drive. A lot of people had some trouble tonight, but we survived, so we’ll take it.”

The 58 cars and drivers on hand were the most for an Indiana Sprint Week event in 18 years. The most recent time the series reached that mark was in 2005 when, ironically, exactly 58 were signed in at Gas City.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 21, 2023 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Brayden Fox, 53, Fox-11.639; 2. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-11.715; 3. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-11.740; 4. Alex Bright, 27, Heffner-11.756; 5. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.771; 6. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-11.779; 7. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-11.797; 8. Colten Cottle, 57, Hazen-11.805; 9. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-11.809; 10. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-11.825; 11. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.853; 12. Harley Burns, 16, Burns-11.856; 13. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-11.917; 14. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-11.930; 15. Tim Creech, 31, Creech-11.931; 16. Geoff Ensign, 3F, Ensign-11.950; 17. Cole Bodine, 57B, Bodine-11.961; 18. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-11.965; 19. Larry Kingseed Jr., 21, Kingseed-11.966; 20. Saban Bibent, 98, Wedgewood-11.972; 21. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-11.973; 22. Thomas Meseraull, 23K, NIKSTE-11.991; 23. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-12.034; 24. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-12.058; 25. Tayte Williamson, 20, Williamson-12.091; 26. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-12.102; 27. Jadon Rogers, 14, 4J Motorsports-12.106; 28. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-12.106; 29. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.123; 30. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-12.133; 31. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-12.171;

32. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.173; 33. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.181; 34. Dustin Ingle, 2DI, Ingle-12.214; 35. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-12.224; 36. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-12.245; 37. Matt Goodnight, 39, Goodnight-12.247; 38. Colin Grissom, 00, Grissom-12.277; 39. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-12.295; 40. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-12.309; 41. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-12.318; 42. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-12.320; 43. Rylan Gray, 06, Gray-12.334; 44. Marcus Smith, 28s, Smith-12.336; 45. Evan Mosley, 27m, Barkdull-12.354; 46. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-12.354; 47. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-12.365; 48. Brayden Clark, 42G, Jackson/Clark-12.421; 49. Kobe Simpson, 21K, Simpson-12.508; 50. Scott Evans, 118, Evans-12.514; 51. Justin Zimmerman, 1, D-Up-12.583; 52. Devan Myers, 75, Myers-12.599; 53. Travis Thompson, 7, Thompson-12.637; 54. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-12.824; 55. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-12.850; 56. Travis Millar, 93AU, Millar-13.054; 57. Noah Whitehouse, 00w, Whitehouse-13.190; 58. Jack James, 99, James-NT

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Brayden Fox, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Chase Stockon, 7. Cole Bodine, 8. Charles Davis Jr., 9. Evan Mosley, 10. Braxton Cummings, 11. Travis Thompson, 12. Noah Whitehouse, 13. Tayte Williamson, 14. Kobe Simpson, 15. Matt Goodnight. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Thomas Meseraull, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Stevie Sussex, 6. Kyle Cummins, 7. Max Adams, 8. Joey Amantea, 9. Brent Beauchamp, 10. Daison Pursley, 11. Dustin Ingle, 12. Dalton Stevens, 13. Colin Grissom, 14. Scott Evans. 2:01.78

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Larry Kingseed Jr., 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Tim Creech, 6. Mitchel Moles, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Zack Pretorius, 9. Sterling Cling, 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 11. Logan Calderwood, 12. Rylan Gray, 13. Justin Zimmerman, 14. Troy Carey. 2:05.55

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Colten Cottle, 2. Xavier Doney, 3. Geoff Ensign, 4. Alex Bright, 5. Harley Burns, 6. Dave Darland, 7. Travis Millar, 8. Brayden Clark, 9. Ryan Barr, 10. Devan Myers, 11. Marcus Smith, 12. Saban Bibent, 13. Shane Cottle, 14. Brandon Mattox. NT

THE FROLIC BAR & GRILL D-MAIN: (8 laps, top-2 transfer to the C-Main) 1. Brayden Clark, 2. Evan Mosley, 3. Sterling Cling, 4. Justin Zimmerman, 5. Kobe Simpson, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Devan Myers, 8. Travis Millar, 9. Travis Thompson, 10. Noah Whitehouse, 11. Troy Carey, 12. Scott Evans. 1:42.39

STEEL-IT C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Dustin Ingle, 2. Brandon Mattox, 3. Colin Grissom, 4. Ryan Barr, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Zack Pretorius, 7. Dalton Stevens, 8. Dave Darland, 9. Evan Mosley, 10. Charles Davis Jr., 11. Matt Goodnight, 12. Logan Calderwood, 13. Brayden Clark, 14. Rylan Gray, 15. Eddie Tafoya Jr. 2:11.42

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Max Adams, 5. Braxton Cummings, 6. Shane Cottle, 7. Cole Bodine, 8. Jake Swanson, 9. Harley Burns, 10. Brandon Mattox, 11. Joey Amantea, 12. Tim Creech, 13. Ryan Barr, 14. Colin Grissom, 15. Stevie Sussex, 16. Saban Bibent, 17. Tayte Williamson, 18. Dustin Ingle. 2:36.19

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (2), 2. Robert Ballou (12), 3. Brady Bacon (3), 4. Mitchel Moles (14), 5. Kevin Thomas Jr. (9), 6. Kyle Cummins (11), 7. Emerson Axsom (5), 8. Colten Cottle (1), 9. Logan Seavey (19), 10. Matt Westfall (10), 11. Shane Cottle (22), 12. Braxton Cummings (15), 13. Alex Bright (4), 14. Geoff Ensign (17), 15. Jadon Rogers (21), 16. Jake Swanson (23-P), 17. Xavier Doney (20), 18. Chase Stockon (24-P), 19. Max Adams (13), 20. Carson Garrett (16), 21. Larry Kingseed Jr. (8), 22. C.J. Leary (7), 23. Thomas Meseraull (18), 24. Brayden Fox (6). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-28 Justin Grant, Lap 29 Robert Ballou, Lap 30 Justin Grant.

**Mitchel Moles flipped during qualifying. Brandon Mattox flipped during the fourth heat. Shane Cottle flipped during the fourth heat. Stevie Sussex flipped during the semi. Brayden Fox flipped on lap 1 of the feature. Larry Kingseed Jr. & C.J. Leary flipped on lap 8 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-1255, 2-Brady Bacon-1235, 3-Jake Swanson-1227, 4-Justin Grant-1225, 5-Kyle Cummins-1196, 6-C.J. Leary-1129, 7-Mitchel Moles-1100, 8-Robert Ballou-1028, 9-Chase Stockon-1021, 10-Daison Pursley-999.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PRESENTED BY HONEST ABE ROOFING POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-76, 2-Robert Ballou-74, 3-Brady Bacon-71, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-66, 5-Mitchel Moles-63, 6-Emerson Axsom-62, 7-Kyle Cummins-60, 8-Colten Cottle-57, 9-Logan Seavey-53, 10-Matt Westfall-50.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-116, 2-Logan Seavey-78, 3-Matt Westfall-70, 4-Justin Grant-62, 5-Robert Ballou-61, 6-Chase Stockon-60, 7-Brady Bacon-48, 8-Mitchel Moles-45, 9-Emerson Axsom-43, 10- Carson Garrett-43.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-17, 2-Robert Ballou-12, 3-Mitchel Moles-11, 4-Logan Seavey-10, 5-Evan Mosley-10, 6-Travis Millar-10, 7-Jadon Rogers-9, 8-Jake Swanson-8, 9-Colin Grissom-8, 10-Ryan Barr-7.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 22, 2023 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Max Adams (11.680)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Brayden Fox (11.639)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: C.J. Leary

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Larry Kingseed Jr.

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Colten Cottle

The Frolic Bar & Grill D-Main Winner: Brayden Clark

Steel-It C-Main Winner: Dustin Ingle

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

Hard Work Award: Shane Cottle

Green APU First Lap Leader: Justin Grant

J & J Trucking Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (22nd to 11th)

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FROM DESPAIR TO WINNING WITH A SPARE: LEARY SCORES BIG AT KOKOMO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (July 22, 2023)……After enduring a vicious flip during the previous night's feature that wiped out their primary ride, C.J. Leary and BGE Dougherty Motorsports turned to a car that had been sitting on jackstands for the past three years and had never seen a racetrack, let alone even touched the ground.

With body panels adorned in the look Leary sported during the 2020 season when he drove the family-owned No. 30, the Greenfield, Ind. native and his Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts/DRC/1-Way Chevy hit the ground running during Saturday night's Darland Classic at Kokomo Speedway.

Starting fifth on the grid, Leary became the third and final driver to race into first place when race leader Brady Bacon stumbled upon the turn two cushion with six laps remaining, opening the door for Leary to drive past and earn his seventh career USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented By Honest Abe Roofing victory, moving him into a tie for fifth all-time alongside Bryan Clauson and Justin Grant.

Leary, who captured the Indiana Sprint Week title in 2019, also moved inside the top-30 in all-time USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature victories. His 22nd career triumph moved him ahead of 1967 series champion Greg Weld and into a four-way tie for 29th all-time alongside Rick Hood, Bubby Jones and Sammy Sessions.

Clawing his way back from the depths of despair following a massive feature crash on Friday night at Gas City I-69 Speedway to the joy of achieving his third USAC win of the season, and first since early May, Leary was overjoyed with the result of his hard work coming to fruition.

"Man, this is huge," Leary exclaimed. "I'm sick, I'm worn out, and the last night really put a hurt on me. Last night was unfortunate and I feel like we had a good car; it just happened so fast. We stayed up all night last night building this thing. This car has never been raced, and tonight's the first night on it. We built this thing new in 2020 and it's just been sitting."

It didn't sit idle for long during feature time, however, although Leary initially fell back two spots to seventh in the early going before settling into a groove. Meanwhile, up front, outside front row starter Jake Swanson rang around the topside to lead the opening two laps before third-starting Bacon took over the lead on lap three when Jake Swanson nearly turned over on the turn three cushion. Kyle Cummins also scooted past, slotting into second as Swanson dropped to third.

Cummins soon tracked down and caught up with Bacon on lap seven, and just as he was making his bid for the lead off the exit of turn four, it turned out to be all for naught as 19th running Braxton Cummings spun around to a stop in turn two.

When action got back underway, soon, a battle for fourth had developed between Swanson and Mitchel Moles, both of whom resided in the top-two of the Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment standings entering Kokomo, which served as round six of ten for the season long miniseries.

However, the battle for position between the two soon became among the most spectacular incidents of the entire USAC season. As Swanson worked a lower line, Moles occupied the high road as he attempted to work his way around Swanson. Exiting turn four on lap eight, real estate was at a premium as the two came together on the front straight. Moles' car then ramped up the wall and tore down layers of catch fencing.

Severe damage was immediately evident on Moles' machine with much of the front half of the car shredded into pieces along the 1/4-mile dirt oval's surface. Moles climbed away from the wreckage while Swanson was beset by a flat right rear tire. Swanson returned with fresh rubber but only managed to work his way back to a 16th place finish.

Sitting sixth at the time of the incident, under the red flag, C.J.'s father, past USAC Midget and Silver Crown Rookie of the Year driver Chuck Leary, was there on the scene to assist C.J. But, as it turned out, all C.J. needed was a different plan of attack.

"Under the red, my dad came up to the fence and asked me what I needed," C.J. recalled. "I'm like, 'I don't know.' I just didn't think we were that good. I really hadn't cowboy'd up or went four in the fluff that hard. Honestly, I felt like the 3R was probably the best car."

Soon after the lap eight restart, trouble became evident with the right front shock tower on the 3R of Cummins as his front wheels constantly dangled, creating quite a tumultuous ride for the winner of the last two USAC Sprint Car features at Kokomo dating back to August of 2022. Ultimately, the night's Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier became a non-factor as he was plagued with his car's ongoing mechanical issues, ultimately finishing 19th.

On that same lap eight restart, the suddenly surgent Carson Garrett was showcasing his presence, driving under Cummins on the restart for second, then slid past Bacon for the lead in turn two on lap 10. Bacon was initially able to fend off Garrett by driving back under in turn two to retain the spot, but Garrett came right back on the bottom on lap 11 to take over up front.

Bacon found the diamond line over in turns three and four and charged back into the lead past Garrett on lap 17. Leary followed suit and mimicked the same such pattern to race past his teammate for second on the 18th trip.

Leary carved into Bacon's lead during the ensuing laps, and with six to go, was in a prime spot when Bacon's right rear tire ricocheted off the turn two cushion, which kicked him sideways and scrubbed his momentum. Leary, with a full head of steam, freight-trained his way under Bacon and into the lead.

From that point forward, total control belonged to Leary who opened up the gap to 1.413 seconds by race's end as he captured his second career Indiana Sprint Week feature win at Kokomo, also doing so in 2020. Brady Bacon grabbed second with Carson Garrett third, Emerson Axsom fourth and Logan Seavey fifth.

Sooner or later, one of these days, Brady Bacon is going to win one of these darned things. On this night, the Broken Arrow, Okla. native collected his eighth career runner-up finish in USAC National Sprint Car competition at Kokomo Speedway, just missing out on his first triumph after leading a race-high 16 laps in his Dynamics, Inc./Hartley Brothers Farms – Tel-Star

Technologies/Triple X/Rider Chevy. The 2016 Indiana Sprint Week champion did, however, rise to the top spot in the ISW standings by virtue of his performance.

Carson Garrett (Littleton, Colo.) led his first career Indiana Sprint Week laps midway through the Kokomo feature en route to his best career ISW finish of third in his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete – Leary Shock Technology/DRC/1-Way Chevy. His previous best Indiana Sprint Week finish was 20th.

In qualifying, Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) recorded his 14th career fast qualifying time with the USAC National Sprint Cars. That moved him into 34th all-time alongside Billy Cassella, Tyler Courtney and Damion Gardner.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 22, 2023 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing – Darland Classic

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.924; 2. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-12.957; 3. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.005; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.006; 5. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-13.023; 6. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.056; 7. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.075; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.112; 9. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.116; 10. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-13.145; 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-13.147; 12. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-13.172; 13. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.205; 14. Trey Osborne, 6T, Osborne-13.283; 15. Alex Bright, 27, Heffner-13.298; 16. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.347; 17. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-13.399; 18. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.405; 19. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-13.439; 20. Brent Beauchamp, 34B, Olson-13.468; 21. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.470; 22. Tyler Hewitt, 118, Evans-13.511; 23. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-13.517; 24. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.528; 25. Geoff Ensign, 17, On The Gass-13.535; 26. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-13.537; 27. Dustin Ingle, 2DI, Ingle-13.558; 28. Jadon Rogers, 14, 4J Motorsports-13.563; 29. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-13.638; 30. Tim Creech, 31, Creech-13.644; 31. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-13.659; 32. Saban Bibent, 98, Wedgewood-13.661; 33. Brayden Clark, 42G, Jackson/Clark-13.663; 34. Colten Cottle, 57, Hazen-13.663; 35. Parker Frederickson, 34F, Frederickson-13.667; 36. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-13.683; 37. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-13.707; 38. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-13.737; 39. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.745; 40. Noah Whitehouse, 00, Whitehouse-13.748; 41. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-13.751; 42. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-13.773; 43. Kobe Simpson, 21K, Simpson-13.773; 44. Travis Millar, 93AU, Millar-13.795; 45. Cole Bodine, 57B, Bodine-13.816; 46. Justin Zimmerman, 1, D-Up-13.822; 47. Rylan Gray, 06, Gray-13.901; 48. Larry Kingseed Jr., 59, Powell-13.992; 49. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-14.070; 50. Tyler Kendall, 20, Kendall-14.079; 51. Devan Myers, 75, Myers-14.098; 52. Jack James, 99, James-14.382; 53. Tyler Miller, 67, Miller-15.277; 54. Bryar Schroeter, 21s, Schroeter-15.300.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Zack Pretorius, 5. Stevie Sussex, 6. Dave Darland, 7. Geoff Ensign, 8. Brayden Clark, 9. Xavier Doney, 10. Logan Calderwood, 11. Dalton Stevens, 12. Cole Bodine, 13. Troy Carey, 14. Tyler Miller. 2:13.79

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Tyler Hewitt, 6. Charles Davis Jr., 7. Colten Cottle, 8. Tim Creech, 9. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 10. Ryan Barr, 11. Tyler Kendall, 12. Justin Zimmerman, 13. Bryar Schroeter, 14. Trey Osborne. 2:15.68

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Alex Bright, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Parker Frederickson, 8. Braxton Cummings, 9. Kobe Simpson, 10. Rylan Gray, 11. Sterling Cling, 12. Devan Myers, 13. Dustin Ingle. 2:15.57

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Brent Beauchamp, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Joey Amantea, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Max Adams, 9. Travis Millar, 10. Saban Bibent, 11. Jack James, 12. Noah Whitehouse, 13. Larry Kingseed Jr. NT

THE FROLIC BAR & GRILL D-MAIN: (8 laps, top-2 transfer to the C-Main) 1. Rylan Gray, 2. Tyler Kendall, 3. Justin Zimmerman, 4. Devan Myers, 5. Troy Carey, 6. Tyler Miller, 7. Bryar Schroeter. 1:54.62

STEEL-IT C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Joey Amantea, 2. Braxton Cummings, 3. Saban Bibent, 4. Cole Bodine, 5. Colten Cottle, 6. Brayden Clark, 7. Parker Frederickson, 8. Ryan Barr, 9. Rylan Gray, 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 11. Kobe Simpson, 12. Dalton Stevens, 13. Sterling Cling, 14. Logan Calderwood, 15. Travis Millar, 16. Tyler Kendall. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Geoff Ensign, 3. Stevie Sussex, 4. Braxton Cummings, 5. Trey Osborne, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Joey Amantea, 8. Alex Bright, 9. Dave Darland, 10. Dustin Ingle, 11. Max Adams, 12. Xavier Doney, 13. Charles Davis Jr., 14. Jadon Rogers, 15. Tyler Hewitt, 16. Cole Bodine, 17. Tim Creech, 18. Saban Bibent. 2:55.86

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. C.J. Leary (5), 2. Brady Bacon (3), 3. Carson Garrett (1), 4. Emerson Axsom (8), 5. Logan Seavey (7), 6. Robert Ballou (12), 7. Justin Grant (11), 8. Shane Cottle (20), 9. Kevin Thomas Jr. (13), 10. Daison Pursley (17), 11. Stevie Sussex (10), 12. Brent Beauchamp (18), 13. Chase Stockon (9), 14. Braxton Cummings (22), 15. Brandon Mattox (15), 16. Jake Swanson (2), 17. Matt Westfall (16), 18. Geoff Ensign (21), 19. Kyle Cummins (6), 20. Trey Osborne (14), 21. Zack Pretorius (19), 22. Mitchel Moles (4). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-2 Jake Swanson, Laps 3-10 Brady Bacon, Laps 11-16 Carson Garrett, Laps 17-24 Brady Bacon, Laps 25-30 C.J. Leary.

**Mitchel Moles flipped on lap 8 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-1324, 2-Brady Bacon-1312, 3-Justin Grant-1283, 4-Jake Swanson-1264, 5-Kyle Cummins-1233, 6-C.J. Leary-1210, 7-Mitchel Moles-1134, 8-Robert Ballou-1090, 9-Chase Stockon-1066, 10-Daison Pursley-1043.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PRESENTED BY HONEST ABE ROOFING POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-148, 2-Robert Ballou-136, 3-Justin Grant-134, 4-Emerson Axsom-131, 5-Logan Seavey-119, 6-Kevin Thomas Jr.-118, 7-C.J. Leary-112, 8-Carson Garrett-101, 9-Mitchel Moles-97, 10-Kyle Cummins-97.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-400, 2-C.J. Leary-386, 3-Jake Swanson-379, 4-Brady Bacon-376, 5-Mitchel Moles-371, 6-Daison Pursley-327, 7-Kyle Cummins-321, 8-Justin Grant-312, 9-Chase Stockon-304, 10-Robert Ballou-267.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-123, 2-Logan Seavey-80, 3-Matt Westfall-70, 4-Robert Ballou-67, 5-Justin Grant-66, 6-Chase Stockon-60, 7-Brady Bacon-49, 8-Emerson Axsom-47, 9-Mitchel Moles-45, 10-Carson Garrett-43.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-29, 2-Braxton Cummings-24, 3-Robert Ballou-20, 4-Joey Amantea-19, 5-Mitchel Moles-15, 6-Logan Seavey-15, 7-Daison Pursley-15, 8-Geoff Ensign-13, 9- Cole Bodine-13, 10-Travis Millar-12.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 23, 2023 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Daison Pursley (13.190)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Kyle Cummins (12.924)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Logan Seavey

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Carson Garrett

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

The Frolic Bar & Grill D-Main Winner: Rylan Gray

Steel-It C-Main Winner: Joey Amantea

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Brandon Mattox

Hard Work Award: Braxton Cummings

Green APU First Lap Leader: Jake Swanson

J & J Trucking Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (20th to 8th)

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OUTWIT, OUTPLAY, OUTLAST: GRANT WINS A WILD ONE AT THE BURG

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Lawrenceburg, Indiana (July 23, 2023)……With five laps remaining, hopes of winning were fleeting for Justin Grant during Sunday night's third round of USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented By Honest Abe Roofing at Lawrenceburg Speedway.

Yet that's precisely when the Ione, Calif. native was able to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

After leading the initial 23 laps of the 30-lap feature, Grant could only watch as C.J. Leary passed by and pulled away from him with just a handful of laps remaining.

But then, a crazy thing little thing happened, which actually kind of went along with the theme of the night. Just when you thought you had this race figured out, suddenly, it turned on a dime. Seemingly he only thing one could expect throughout was the unexpected.

As Leary began to distance himself from Grant on lap 26, Leary got bitten by the third turn, which chewed him and spit him out, sending him flipping over several times and denying him the glory on this evening one night after winning at Kokomo Speedway.

Re-enter Grant as the leader, and this time, he was unshaken, unstirred and untouchable as he closed out The Burg with his second Indiana Sprint Week victory during the first three nights of the event, scoring dubs at both Gas City I-69 Speedway and at Lawrenceburg.

Grant's fifth win of the USAC National Sprint Car season equaled him with Brady Bacon as the winningest series driver in 2023. Furthermore, Grant's 39th career series victory moved him inside the top-10 all-time in that regard, knotting him up with Kevin Thomas Jr. for the 10th most wins in series history.

And this one came at the place where it all started. It's where Grant earned his very first career USAC National Sprint Car feature triumph during Indiana Sprint Week at Lawrenceburg in 2012. Grant's Burg score was his fifth overall series win at the track and his third during ISW at the southeastern Indiana oval after previous winning moments in 2012 and 2019.

Grant now stands fifth overall in career Indiana Sprint Week wins with eight, moving past Bryan Clauson and Leary, ironically, for sole possession of the position in the all-time rankings. Furthermore, Grant extended his lead as the winningest sprint car driver ever at Lawrenceburg's 3/8-mile dirt oval.

It was inarguably an inauspicious beginning to the night's main event with an hour-long rain delay hitting the speedway just as the cars were pushed off for the start of the feature the first time. When Mother Nature cleaned up her act, the event proceeded, but not for long as it turned out.

On the initial attempt at the green, wheel-to-wheel contact between second row starters Jake Swanson and Alex Bright sent Bright launching into a combination of eight flips and somersaults down the front straightaway. After taking careful precautions during the extrication, Bright was placed on a stretcher and even waved to the crowd while being loaded into the ambulance. Bright received lung contusions and a broken wrist in the aftermath of the vicious incident and vowed to return as soon he's healed up.

On the complete restart, Grant shot out to the lead from his outside front row starting position and remained at the forefront for the majority of the contest. By lap 10, Grant had caught lapped traffic, allowing second-running Carson Garrett to close in and cut Grant's advantage in half to just a few car lengths.

At the halfway mark, Garrett showed his nose for the first time to Grant as the pair dueled for the lead in turn one on lap 16. Garrett ricocheted off the back straightaway wall in his pursuit of Grant for the lead on lap 20, but Grant escaped the clutches and extended his lead to a half-straight.

That kickstarted an unfathomable flurry of misfortune for several contenders at the front of the field, starting with Garrett on lap 23, who slammed the outside wall and grinded to a halt, the victim of a flat right rear tire that went down at the entry to turn three. The incident ended Garrett's night with a 21st place result.

On the ensuing lap 25 restart, third-running Leary made a most spectacular move as he committed himself to the top shelf and charged around the outside of Swanson for second in turn two, then split down to the bottom of turns three and four to rip the lead away from Grant in an incredible third to first surge. It was a time that Grant remembered as the moment in which he felt the race might've slipped away.

"I was kind of sliding myself and I felt like I was making pretty good speed there, sliding myself and then C.J. slid me," Grant recalled. "I felt like I really messed up because I felt we were the better car there and I was coming back to him. Fortunately for us and unfortunately for him, he got into that hole."

Just as Grant foreshadowed, moments later, the race went from being the best of times for Leary to the worst of times as he dug in with his right rear tire in turn three and flipped over, erasing him out of the lead and the win in a fraction of a second. The crash also ended Leary's pursuit of a complete sweep after earlier setting quick time in Honest Abe Roofing qualifying and scoring a victory in the first heat race.

Under the red flag, Grant's wife, Ashley, signaled from the front row of the grandstands to the new race leader how Leary was able to get such a run on him, and to be on the lookout for a similar maneuver from another driver on the upcoming restart, of which there were aplenty on this night.

"Lawrenceburg, with its long, slick front straightaway, it's hard not to get slid into one," Grant explained. "You want to slide yourself, but then it gets to a place where you almost have to decide which end do I want to get slid on? I know I can get slid in one and two and get back to them in three and four. I messed it up once, but we got a break."

However, the roller coaster of emotions and the carousel of calamity continued with fourth running Robert Ballou moments later with three laps remaining as his left side wheels biked up on the bottom of turn three, resulting in him barrel-rolling four times up to the outside wall before landing on all four wheels with a crashed racecar. He walked away, but the incident relegated him back to an 18th place result.

On the final restart, Grant decided to end this one once and for all, withstanding and dispelling the pressure from Swanson during the final stretch to win by a 0.486 second margin over Swanson.

Brady Bacon charged from his 22nd starting spot to take third, inserting himself on the podium with a last lap pass of Kevin Thomas Jr. on the back straight. Thomas took fourth while Daison Pursley scurried up a couple more spots on the final restart to finish fifth.

A rocky start to Indiana Sprint Week for Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) resulted in a pair of 16th place finishes at Gas City and Kokomo. But the third race was finally the charm as he grabbed his best result since winning six weeks ago during the Eastern Storm opener at Pennsylvania's Grandview Speedway on June 13. At Lawrenceburg, he collected a runner-up result in his Team AZ Racing/Racing For Autism Awareness – Apache Transport/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

All's well that ends well was the motto for Bacon's adventurous evening at Lawrenceburg. The Broken Arrow, Okla. driver initially timed in third quickest during qualifying, but was deemed underweight at the scales, which disallowed his time and forced him to start at the tail for all proceeding events throughout the night. Bacon then proceeded to race from ninth

to fourth in his heat race and from 22nd to 3rd in the feature to earn J & J Trucking / B & A Seal Coating Hard Charger honors aboard his Dynamics, Inc./Longworth Equipment – Mays-Shedd Sales & Service/Triple X/Rider Chevy. It wasn't a win but might as well have been as it helped preserve his lead atop the Indiana Sprint Week standings.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 23, 2023 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-13.312; 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-13.477; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.531; 4. Alex Bright, 27, Heffner-13.592; 5. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.600; 6. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.626; 7. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.702; 8. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.720; 9. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-13.732; 10. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-13.743; 11. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.765; 12. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-13.765; 13. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.825; 14. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.829; 15. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.846; 16. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-13.849; 17. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.982; 18. Saban Bibent, 98, Wedgewood-14.010; 19. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-14.044; 20. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-14.139; 21. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-14.153; 22. Nate Carle, 14c, Carle-14.170; 23. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-14.193; 24. Travis Millar, 93AU, Millar-14.222; 25. Justin Zimmerman, 1, D-Up-14.246; 26. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-14.404; 27. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-14.439; 28. Tyler Hewitt, 118, Evans-14.505; 29. Kobe Simpson, 21K, Simpson-14.526; 30. Tayte Williamson, 20, Williamson-15.038; 31. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-15.151; 32. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-NT; 33. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-NT; 34. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-NT; 35. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-NT (Time of 13.507 disallowed after being underweight at the scales).

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Joey Amantea, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Justin Zimmerman, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Kobe Simpson. 1:56.09

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Carson Garrett, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Saban Bibent, 6. Max Adams, 7. Tayte Williamson, 8. Braxton Cummings, 9. Nate Carle. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Dalton Stevens, 7. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 8. Troy Carey. 2:01.08

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Alex Bright, 3. Travis Millar, 4. Xavier Doney, 5. Stevie Sussex, 6. Tyler Hewitt, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Ryan Barr. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Emerson Axsom, 3. Max Adams, 4. Sterling Cling, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Braxton Cummings, 7. Stevie Sussex, 8. Logan Seavey, 9. Justin Zimmerman, 10. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 11. Tayte Williamson, 12. Tyler Hewitt, 13. Nate Carle, 14. Kobe Simpson, 15. Troy Carey, 16. Dalton Stevens. 3:10.49

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (2), 2. Jake Swanson (4), 3. Brady Bacon (22), 4. Kevin Thomas Jr. (5), 5. Daison Pursley (11), 6. Mitchel Moles (7), 7. Joey Amantea (18), 8. Xavier Doney (14), 9. Emerson Axsom (15), 10. Chase Stockon (9), 11. Max Adams (12), 12. Matt Westfall (10), 13. Logan Seavey (23-P), 14. Brandon Mattox (17), 15. Sterling Cling (16), 16. Shane Cottle (19), 17. Travis Millar (20), 18. Kyle Cummins (13), 19. Robert Ballou (8), 20. C.J. Leary (6), 21. Carson Garrett (1), 22. Braxton Cummings (21), 23. Alex Bright (3). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-23 Justin Grant, Laps 24-25 C.J. Leary, Laps 26-30 Justin Grant.

**Logan Calderwood flipped during practice. Alex Bright flipped on lap 1 of the feature. C.J. Leary flipped on lap 26 of the feature. Robert Ballou flipped on lap 28 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1381, 2-Emerson Axsom-1373, 3-Justin Grant-1361, 4-Jake Swanson-1340, 5-Kyle Cummins-1266, 6-C.J. Leary-1247, 7-Mitchel Moles-1197, 8-Robert Ballou-1123, 9-Chase Stockon-1117, 10-Daison Pursley-1106.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PRESENTED BY HONEST ABE ROOFING POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-217, 2-Justin Grant-212, 3-Kevin Thomas Jr.-190, 4-Emerson Axsom-180, 5-Robert Ballou-169, 6-Mitchel Moles-160, 7-C.J. Leary-149, 8-Shane Cottle-134, 9-Carson Garrett-132, 10-Kyle Cummins-130.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-129, 2-Logan Seavey-80, 3-Matt Westfall-70, 4-Brady Bacon-68, 5-Justin Grant-67, 6-Robert Ballou-67, 7-Chase Stockon-60, 8-Emerson Axsom-53, 9-Mitchel Moles-46, 10- Shane Cottle-46.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-32, 2-Brady Bacon-30, 3-Joey Amantea-30, 4-Braxton Cummings-28, 5-Logan Seavey-26, 6-Robert Ballou-22, 7-Daison Pursley-21, 8-Mitchel Moles-20, 9-Emerson Axsom-15, 10-Travis Millar-15.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 24, 2023 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: C.J. Leary (13.432)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary (13.312)

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

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Matt Westfall

Hard Work Award: Brady Bacon

Green APU First Lap Leader: Justin Grant

J & J Trucking / B & A Seal Coating Hard Charger: Brady Bacon (22nd to 3rd)

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CIRCLE K FOR KYLE: CUMMINS REPEATS CIRCLE CITY SUCCESS AT ISW ROUND 4

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Indianapolis, Indiana (July 24, 2023)……"I love this place."

Kyle Cummins isn't shy in sharing his fondness for Circle City Raceway, and it was quite evident to see why during Monday night's fourth round of USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented By Honest Abe Roofing.

In the sixth ever visit by the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship to the 1/4-mile dirt oval on the southeast side of Indianapolis, Indiana, not only did the Princeton, Ind. native become the first two-time feature winner at the track, he also became the first driver to win back-to-back series events at the venue after previously scoring a victory in May of this year.

Starting his 30-lap pursuit from the fifth position, Cummins raced his way into the lead with a turn one slider on leader Xavier Doney with 11 laps remaining to earn his fourth USAC National Sprint Car main event triumph of the season and the 18th of his career, surpassing Jerry Coons Jr., Jim Hurtubise and Bud Kaeding for sole possession of 34th all-time.

Cummins' first USAC win in more than five weeks also was the seventh of his Indiana Sprint Week career, moving him up to sixth place on the all-time list, tying himself with Bryan Clauson and C.J. Leary. His seven ISW wins have come at five different racetracks since his initial score in 2016, but this particular one was of utmost importance as much as it was needed after opening the first three nights of Indiana Sprint Week with results of 6th, 19th and 18th.

"I love this place," Cummins exclaimed. "You've got to run hard, then you've got to be easy. You just need the cushion a little bit and be really nice with the throttle. This is a big win for our team. We've struggled for the past two months."

Additionally, Cummins and his Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy delivered the 25th USAC National Sprint Car entrant win for car owner Hank Byram and Rock Steady Racing, boosting the Dupont, Ind. based team to 20th all-time alongside National Sprint Car Hall of Fame inductee Bob Hampshire.

The front row of the feature showcased two young talents, both of whom were vying for their first career USAC National Sprint Car feature victories. Doney delivered the first punch, driving to the lead from his pole starting position while outside front row starter Carson Garrett slotted into second.

Soon after, Garrett went on the attack and posed the first challenge to Doney for the lead. On the fourth lap, Garrett took off to the outside, pulling even with Doney as the pair crossed the start/finish line with both touching wheels. The resulting contact required Garrett to recalibrate, and he began to re-pursue Doney on the low line.

On lap six, Garrett was able to slide past Doney for the position in lap three. However, seemingly expecting the maneuver, Doney tapped the brakes and pointed his car's nose toward the bottom of turn four to drive past Garrett and retain the lead for the time being. That is, until lap eight when Garrett tried again and succeeded with a turn two slide job that put him at the forefront of the 22-car field.

Garrett's lead was relatively short-lived, however, after performing a half-spin in turn two on lap 10, which allowed Doney to race back by into the lead while Garrett free-fell all the way to fifth as Doney, Cummins, Logan Seavey and Brady Bacon all blitzed by to capitalize on the Garrett stumble.

The feature's lone red flag was displayed on lap 15 when eighth running Mitchel Moles flipped atop the outside wall between turns one and two. Moles was able to walk away, albeit gingerly, as the Circle City USAC one-lap track record holder saw his race conclude prematurely.

When action resumed, Doney established a solid restart which provided him with a healthy cushion in the lead as the race passed the midway point. All along, from lap one, Cummins was right there with the leaders. On lap 20, he was ready to pounce, sliding Doney in turns one and two. Doney returned fire by sliding Cummins a half-lap later in turn three. Cummins was ready and countered back underneath in turn four to repossess the number one spot from Doney with a mere 10 laps to go.

"He was hitting his marks perfectly," Cummins said of Doney. "One time, he got a little sideways, and I thought it might be my only chance, but I didn't think I was going to fully slide him. I went to the middle, and I didn't hear him, so I was like, 'well, maybe he tried to turn down.' So, I got to the cushion. If he would've ran around, he would've just taken back the lead."

Lurking in the shadows was Indiana Sprint Week point leader Bacon who rode the bottom past Doney for second on the 21st circuit, and it appeared as if the final 10-lap tussle was going to become a heavyweight, high/low match between him and Cummins.

However, on lap 23, in one of the more unexpected turn of events you'll ever witness, Bacon proceeded to clip an infield tire with his left front in turns three and four, which slid him into a stall and stop. The incident proved costly as it dropped Bacon from a possible victory down to 16th in the running order. It also cost him his lead in both the overall USAC Sprint Car National Championship as well as the Indiana Sprint Week title race, a lead in which he now shares with Justin Grant, who finished 11th at Circle City.

Cummins wasn't going to allow himself to be detained by his competitors as he raced away from the field on the restart. Instead, the battles ensued behind him with Seavey swiping third from Doney with an outside back straightaway pass on lap 24. Meanwhile, Shane Cottle was putting on a patented Shane Cottle-like performance, surging on the low line to fourth after starting back in 12th.

Seavey's conquest continued with a slider on Doney for second as the field came to the white flag on lap 29 before nipping him at the stripe for the spot with one lap remaining.

Up further ahead, Cummins wasn't going to be denied on his journey to victory lane, winning by a 2.453 second margin over Seavey. Cottle grabbed third at the finish line with new USAC National Sprint Car point leader Emerson Axsom fourth and Doney finishing a career best fifth after leading a race-high 17 laps.

Logan Seavey (Sutter, Calif.) earned his best finish of the USAC National Sprint Car season with a second-place performance in his 2B Racing/Honest Abe Roofing – Benic Enterprises – Goodnight Racing/DRC/Claxton Chevy. It was his first finish on the podium with the series since scoring a third in April of this year at Bloomington (Ind.) Speedway.

Shane Cottle (Kansas, Ill.) once again earned J & J Trucking Hard Charger honors, doing so for the third time in four Indiana Sprint Week starts in this year's edition. On this night, he officially traveled 12th to third for his best finish of the USAC National Sprint Car season. He was running ninth with as few as 10 laps to go and was still sixth with six to go before making his surge to the podium in his Epperson Racing/Epperson Painting – PPG Paints/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

C.J. Leary drew a "74" during the pre-race pill draw, which made him the last driver to make an Honest Abe Roofing Qualifying attempt of the night. Despite that, Leary posted the fastest time of all for the second night in a row with a time of 11.990 seconds. In his first 21 appearances of the 2023 USAC National Sprint Car season, the Greenfield, Ind. driver had zero fast times. In his last two appearances, he has two. It's the 43rd fast qualifying time of his career, putting him just two behind Brady Bacon for fourth all-time.

Four drivers got upside down throughout the event with Tayte Williamson flipping down the back straight in hot laps. Matt McDonald left the ballpark by clearing the outside wall in turns one and two on his qualifying run. Dalton Stevens tipped his ride after he clipped an infield tire during the fourth heat race. Moles was the last one to get on his lid with lap 15 incident during the feature. All drivers were able to walk away.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 24, 2023 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-11.990; 2. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.106; 3. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.139; 4. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.144; 5. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-12.149; 6. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.162; 7. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.169; 8. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-12.212; 9. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-12.229; 10. Xavier Doney, 74, Doney/Lawson-12.244; 11. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-12.296; 12. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-12.300; 13. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.340; 14. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-12.348; 15. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.371; 16. Geoff Ensign, 3F, Ensign-12.376; 17. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.379; 18. Rylan Gray, 06, Gray-12.485; 19. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-12.490; 20. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-12.519; 21. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-12.521; 22. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.543; 23. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-12.551; 24. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-12.566; 25. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-12.571; 26. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-12.573; 27. Kyle Shipley, 0G, Shipley-12.596; 28. Kobe Simpson, 21K, Simpson-12.699; 29. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-12.737; 30. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.756; 31. John Sluss, 4R, RayPro-12.774;; 32. Travis Millar, 93AU, Millar-12.793; 33. Trey Osborne, 6T, Osborne-12.893; 34. Matt McDonald, 5m, McDonald-13.223; 35. Justin Zimmerman, 1, D-Up-13.270; 36. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-13.545; 37. Tayte Williamson, 20, Williamson-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Sterling Cling, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. C.J. Leary, 7. Max Adams, 8. Trey Osborne, 9. Eddie Tafoya Jr. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Xavier Doney, 4. Charles Davis Jr., 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Joey Amantea, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Rylan Gray, 9. Justin Zimmerman. 2:09.48

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Daison Pursley, 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Stevie Sussex, 6. Justin Grant, 7. Kyle Shipley, 8. John Sluss, 9. Troy Carey. 2:11.70

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Brent Beauchamp, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. Braxton Cummings, 5. Geoff Ensign, 6. Kobe Simpson, 7. Travis Millar, 8. Dalton Stevens. 2:13.01

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Brandon Mattox, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Joey Amantea, 7. Geoff Ensign, 8. Stevie Sussex, 9. Kyle Shipley, 10. Trey Osborne, 11. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 12. Max Adams, 13. Rylan Gray, 14. Justin Zimmerman, 15. Kobe Simpson, 16. Troy Carey, 17. John Sluss, 18. Travis Millar. 2:46.53

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kyle Cummins (4), 2. Logan Seavey (3), 3. Shane Cottle (12), 4. Emerson Axsom (8), 5. Xavier Doney (1), 6. Carson Garrett (2), 7. Robert Ballou (10), 8. Jake Swanson (5), 9. C.J. Leary (9), 10. Daison Pursley (16), 11. Justin Grant (11), 12. Chase Stockon (13), 13. Joey Amantea (21), 14. Matt Westfall (22), 15. Brent Beauchamp (17), 16. Brady Bacon (6), 17. Brandon Mattox (15), 18. Braxton Cummings (19), 19. Kevin Thomas Jr. (20), 20. Sterling Cling (18), 21. Charles Davis Jr. (14), 22. Mitchel Moles (7). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-7 Xavier Doney, Laps 8-9 Carson Garrett, Laps 10-19 Xavier Doney, Laps 20-30 Kyle Cummins.

**Tayte Williamson flipped during practice. Matt McDonald flipped during qualifying. Dalton Stevens flipped during the fourth heat. Mitchel Moles flipped on lap 15 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-1442, 2-Brady Bacon-1423, 3-Justin Grant-1408, 4-Jake Swanson-1397, 5-Kyle Cummins-1341, 6-C.J. Leary-1302, 7-Mitchel Moles-1228, 8-Robert Ballou-1184, 9-Chase Stockon-1162, 10-Daison Pursley-1156.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PRESENTED BY HONEST ABE ROOFING POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-259, 2-Brady Bacon-259, 3-Emerson Axsom-249, 4-Robert Ballou-230, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-220, 6-Kyle Cummins-205, 7-C.J. Leary-204, 8-Shane Cottle-204, 9-Logan Seavey-202, 10-Carson Garrett-195.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-135, 2-Logan Seavey-81, 3-Matt Westfall-78, 4-Robert Ballou-70, 5-Brady Bacon-68, 6-Justin Grant-67, 7-Chase Stockon-61, 8-Emerson Axsom-57, 9-Shane Cottle-55, 10-Mitchel Moles-46.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-42, 2-Joey Amantea-42, 3-Brady Bacon-35, 4-Logan Seavey-29, 5-Braxton Cummings-29, 6-Robert Ballou-27, 7-Daison Pursley-27, 8-Mitchel Moles-22, 9-Emerson Axsom-19, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-17.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 26, 2023 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing – Don Smith Classic

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Brady Bacon (12.142)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary (11.990)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Carson Garrett

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

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

Hard Work Award: Matt Westfall

Green APU First Lap Leader: Xavier Doney

J & J Trucking Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (12th to 3rd)

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1 OF 10: GRANT SCORES 40TH CAREER USAC SPRINT WIN AT TERRE HAUTE

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Terre Haute, Indiana (July 26, 2023)……You can count on two hands the number of drivers who have had the good fortune of earning at least 40 career USAC National Sprint Car feature victories.

On Wednesday night at the Terre Haute Action Track, Justin Grant became the 10th individual to join the exclusive 40-win club in USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship competition, a highwater mark reached by a select few over the course of the 68-year history of the series.

The Ione, Calif. native was the class of the field in the 30-lap Don Smith Classic feature which served as round five of USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented By Honest Abe Roofing, prospering through several challenges levied by Brady Bacon and Jake Swanson before taking over for good on lap 10 in a race that featured as many twists and turns as a ride at Six Flags.

Fittingly, Grant now possesses a series-leading six flags of the checkered variety throughout the USAC National Sprint Car season. His latest Terre Haute victory made him just the fifth driver in series history to earn six or more wins in three consecutive seasons, joining Dave Darland (2012-14), Bryan Clauson (2012-14), Tracy Hines (1999-2001) and Gary Bettenhausen (1968-70), the man who Grant tied for ninth all-time on USAC's all-time National Sprint Car win list.

Furthermore, Grant came into the event tied with Bacon for the Indiana Sprint Week championship lead but exited the stage with an eight-point edge three races from the finish line as he attempts to repeat his crown in the eight-race Hoosier State series aboard his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

Grant's third win of the week thus far has moved him up to fifth all-time in terms of career Indiana Sprint Week victories with eight, trailing only Dave Darland (20), Jon Stanbrough (16), Cory Kruseman (12) and J.J. Yeley (9).

The initial attempt at a green flag was waved off when it was deemed that pole sitter Jake Swanson jumped the start. A new rule put into place for 2023 penalized Swanson one row and moved inside second row starter Grant to the outside of the front row. However, it was new pole starter Bacon who pounced early to grab the lead on lap one.

Major trouble came on lap two when 18th running Joey Amantea flipped wildly at the entry to turn one after already advancing four positions by the completion of lap one. The trailing Ricky Lewis narrowly avoided contact with Amantea and spun backwards to a stop against the outside guardrail. Amantea ultimately walked away from the incident.

The early penalization didn't deter Swanson as he swooped into the lead on the lap two restart with a major run off turn two past Bacon. Third-running Grant attempted to slide Swanson in turn three but split the difference and slotted into second. Grant tried again in turn three on lap four, sliding across the nose of Swanson, who was prepared and reacted accordingly by cutting back under to retake the lead.

On the lap 10 restart following seventh-running Logan Seavey's stoppage for a new right rear tire, Grant found his way to the lead, changing his plan of execution by blowing around the outside of Swanson for the top spot on the back straight.

While Swanson and Bacon traded barbs back-and-forth for the runner-spot as the race pressed through the midway point, Grant capitalized and ran his lead up to a 2.314 second margin until Seavey once again slowed to a stop with issues with his right rear, this time the culprit was a mud-packed wheel. The crew cleared the mud out and returned him to the action where he managed to crack 10th place at the checkered.

Grant was just about to hit lapped traffic at the time of the yellow, but instead, the caution bunched up the field for a restart with 13 laps remaining. That's where Swanson made a sudden burst to run alongside Grant for the lead on the lap 18 restart, but Grant successfully fended off the challenge. Swanson's misfire at Grant opened the door for Bacon to close in and overtake Swanson for the second spot in turn one on lap 19.

On lap 24, Grant now had company with Bacon hot on his trail just three car lengths behind when trouble nearly enveloped Grant with a major Huffy bike on the turn two cushion. Mere moments later, the same exact spot caught third-running Swanson who snagged the cush and barrel rolled multiple times before coming to a rest. Swanson climbed out and walked away but was done for the evening after leading eight laps.

After very nearly junking it, so to speak, it was at that point that Grant admittedly needed a little guidance and reassurance to settle down during the red flag period, a moment in which Grant felt relieved in more ways than one.

"I was starting to make mistakes, especially down in turns one and two," Grant recalled. "I knew I had a little more in the tank if I needed it in three and four, but I was maybe running the entry into one and two too hard. I would actually get on top of the curb, then it grabbed the floor pan and tried to turn me over. Under that red, (crew chief Jeff Walker) came out, and he's like, 'buddy, calm down. We're fine. As long as we don't make any mistakes, we're not going to lose this race. Just settle down.'"

Grant's reassurance was challenged immediately when Bacon attempted to slide Grant for the lead on the lap 24 restart, but Grant made a narrow escape around the outside of turn two to maintain his stranglehold on the position. Bacon's maneuver turned out to be to the benefit of Kevin Thomas Jr. who drifted by Bacon for second place a half lap later in turns three and four.

Bacon nearly found complete disaster in turns one and two on lap 25, getting all but the right front tire off the ground before landing back on all fours, which sent him free-falling all the way back to eighth. Miraculously, Bacon jumped back on the horse and was able to make up four of those spots in the final laps to bring it home fourth.

In the end, however, it was all Grant who widened his lead to 4.898 seconds by the time he hit the finish line for an $8,000 prize ahead of Kevin Thomas Jr., C.J. Leary, Brady Bacon and Emerson Axsom.

With that said, the wildest moment of the race didn't happen until after the winner had crossed the finish line. Running seventh as he came off the fourth and final turn with the checkered flag in sight, Robert Ballou's car suddenly veered hard left without warning. Just after crossing the stripe, Ballou's car slammed the inside wall, then somersaulted violently. Ballou climbed out immediately but still came out with a ninth-place result and a severely damaged machine after early setting the fastest time in both Dirt Draft Hot Laps and Honest Abe Roofing Qualifying before winning Simpson Race Products Heat One.

Back to Grant, who reconnected with famed car owner and wrench, Jeff Walker, beginning with the second weekend of July. Since then, the two have clicked remarkably well, and now find themselves atop the Indiana Sprint Week points. It was the Walker connection that Grant had been intertwined with during his introduction to sprint cars all those years ago.

"J-Dub and I working together again is so much fun," Grant said. "Everything I know about sprint cars started with J-Dub. We speak the same language and that's so huge. I trust him, and the car is fantastic almost every night. We've had some really good racecars, and we're just having a ton of fun."

It was about as technical of a Terre Haute surface that Grant's ever seen and admitted that it was certainly on the tricky side this time around. But a half-mile dirt oval is akin to a home for Grant who has won three of the seven half-mile USAC Sprint Car events held thus far in 2023. In fact, 14 of his 40 career series wins have come on the halves, and it's a place where the 32-year-old feels that as the speeds rise, everything else seemingly slows down.

"I think they're just big enough and things happen slow enough – and I'm old – and it slows everything down enough that I'm just more comfortable," Grant relayed. "I've done this a long time and the speed doesn't really bother me. It's just a bit slower and a bit more open, and you've got more time to make things happen. It's almost easier to pass guys when they make mistakes."

Kevin Thomas Jr. put together his best run in Dwight Cheney's No. 42 since joining the team last month. On this night at Terre Haute, the Cullman, Ala. native raced from his seventh starting position to finish second in his Cheney Racing/Racing Optics – Native Spirits Tequila – SteelCo USA – CCR Sports/DRC/Ott Chevy.

C.J. Leary recovered to round out the podium after suffering a broken left shock that knocked him out of his heat race to begin the night. The Greenfield, Ind. racer got back on track with a semi-feature win, then charged from eighth to finish third in the feature at the wheel of his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

Shane Cottle (Kansas, Ill.) once again earned J & J Trucking Hard Charger honors for the fourth time in five nights thus far throughout Indiana Sprint Week. At Terre Haute, he advanced from his 17th starting spot to finish seventh and has now recorded an astonishing 52 total passes for position during the week.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 26, 2023 – Terre Haute Action Track – Terre Haute, Indiana – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing – Don Smith Classic

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-20.289; 2. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-20.372; 3. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-20.541; 4. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-20.549; 5. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-20.626; 6. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-20.710; 7. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-20.749; 8. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-20.847; 9. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-21.075; 10. Tye Mihocko, 5, Wilson-21.081; 11. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-21.106; 12. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-21.114; 13. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-21.238; 14. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-21.249; 15. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-21.251; 16. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-21.272; 17. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-21.353; 18. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-21.401; 19. Travis Thompson, 7, Thompson-21.411; 20. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-21.422; 21. Ricky Lewis, 41, Brown-21.492; 22. Justin Zimmerman, 1, D-Up-21.584; 23. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-21.588; 24. Max Adams, 17GP, Dutcher-21.650; 25. Travis Millar, 93AU, Millar-21.705; 26. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-21.799; 27. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-21.801; 28. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-21.823; 29. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-21.848; 30. Geoff Ensign, 17, On The Gass-21.868; 31. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-22.065; 32. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-22.129; 33. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-22.218; 34. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-22.394.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Sterling Cling, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Ricky Lewis, 7. Travis Millar, 8. Logan Calderwood, 9. Matt Westfall. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Shane Cottle, 4. Tye Mihocko, 5. Justin Zimmerman, 6. Geoff Ensign, 7. Dalton Stevens, 8. Troy Carey, 9. Logan Seavey. 2:50.42

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Briggs Danner, 4. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 5. Travis Thompson, 6. Charles Davis Jr., 7. Braxton Cummings. 2:52.95

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Daison Pursley, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Joey Amantea, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Max Adams, 7. Hunter Maddox, 8. C.J. Leary. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. C.J. Leary, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Ricky Lewis, 4. Brandon Mattox, 5. Charles Davis Jr., 6. Chase Stockon, 7. Justin Zimmerman, 8. Dalton Stevens, 9. Matt Westfall, 10. Travis Millar, 11. Braxton Cummings, 12. Max Adams, 13. Hunter Maddox, 14. Logan Calderwood, 15. Troy Carey, 16. Travis Thompson. 4:19.96

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (3), 2. Kevin Thomas Jr. (7), 3. C.J. Leary (8), 4. Brady Bacon (2), 5. Emerson Axsom (10), 6. Kyle Cummins (4), 7. Shane Cottle (17), 8. Mitchel Moles (5), 9. Robert Ballou (6), 10. Logan Seavey (13), 11. Matt Westfall (22-P), 12. Daison Pursley (18), 13. Carson Garrett (9), 14. Tye Mihocko (11), 15. Charles Davis Jr. (14), 16. Sterling Cling (16), 17. Ricky Lewis (23), 18. Chase Stockon (20), 19. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (19), 20. Jake Swanson (1), 21. Brandon Mattox (15), 22. Briggs Danner (12), 23. Joey Amantea (21). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Brady Bacon, Laps 2-9 Jake Swanson, Laps 10-30 Justin Grant.

**Joey Amantea flipped on lap 2 of the feature. Jake Swanson flipped on lap 24 of the feature. Robert Ballou flipped on lap 30 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-1506, 2-Brady Bacon-1492, 3-Justin Grant-1485, 4-Jake Swanson-1427, 5-Kyle Cummins-1408, 6-C.J. Leary-1373, 7-Mitchel Moles-1290, 8-Robert Ballou-1244, 9-Daison Pursley-1202, 10-Chase Stockon-1190.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PRESENTED BY HONEST ABE ROOFING POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-336, 2-Brady Bacon-328, 3-Emerson Axsom-313, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-295, 5-Robert Ballou-290, 6-C.J. Leary-275, 7-Kyle Cummins-272, 8-Shane Cottle-262, 9-Mitchel Moles-253, 10-Logan Seavey-248.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-141, 2-Logan Seavey-84, 3-Matt Westfall-78, 4-Robert Ballou-70, 5-Justin Grant-69, 6-Brady Bacon-68, 7-Shane Cottle-65, 8-Chase Stockon-63, 9-Emerson Axsom-62, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-49.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-52, 2-Joey Amantea-46, 3-Brady Bacon-38, 4-Daison Pursley-33, 5-Robert Ballou-32, 6-Logan Seavey-32, 7-Braxton Cummings-29, 8-Mitchel Moles-27, 9-Kevin Thomas Jr.-25, 10-Emerson Axsom-25.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 27, 2023 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Robert Ballou (19.947)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Robert Ballou (20.289)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

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

Hoosier Auto Race Fans Last Semi Transfer In Memory of Rich Vogler: Chase Stockon

Hard Work Award: Joey Amantea

Green APU First Lap Leader: Brady Bacon

J & J Trucking Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (17th to 7th)

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LIVIN' AFTER MIDNIGHT: SWANSON ROCKS LINCOLN PARK FOR FIRST USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK WIN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Putnamville, Indiana (July 27, 2023)……Twenty-four hours after lying upside down in a heap of disappointment with a destroyed racecar, Jake Swanson and Team AZ Racing were back on their feet, so to speak, on Thursday night at Putnamville, Indiana's Lincoln Park Speedway.

Armed with another car from the team's stable that was prepared on blazing hot Thursday afternoon through a combination of blood, sweat and tears – but mostly sweat – the Anaheim, Calif. native 180'd from the previous night's Terre Haute disappointment to win his first career USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented By Honest Abe Roofing feature event.

The timeline of events that transpired between the events at Terre Haute and Lincoln Park are a microcosm of the tug-of-war of emotions the team has experienced. In the six Indiana Sprint Week events contested thus far, Swanson has three finishes of 16th or worse, plus a 2nd, an 8th and now a victory in his Team AZ Racing/Racing For Autism Awareness – Apache Transport/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

Wednesday's Terre Haute round was undoubtedly the team's most discouraging moment of the week thus far, crashing and writing off a racecar while running third after leading eight laps.

However, Thursday's triumphant performance turned out to be the team's most rewarding, which arrived after the clock had already struck midnight due to a two-plus hour rain delay that doused the 5/16-mile dirt oval with excessive moisture. Together, everyone achieved more, and finally, they were rewarded with their initial Indiana Sprint Week victory.

"We crashed last night at Terre Haute, and it was all on me," Swanson admitted. "I was just trying too hard, and these guys have worked their (tails) off trying to get a car back together and get this thing ready. Tonight, we struggled with brake problems, and (the crew) just continued to work through the heat. I think they sweated through about three t-shirts each."

Swanson started the 30-lap, $8,000-to-win main event from the outside of the front row but quickly gained the upper hand on the opening lap as he scooted around the outside of pole sitter Logan Seavey to grab the lead while Seavey slotted into second with Kevin Thomas Jr. closing in from the third position.

The top-three remained in formation as lapped traffic loomed for the frontrunners on lap 10. With Swanson slightly roadblocked, that allowed Seavey and Thomas Jr. to chop down a 1.5 second deficit. One lap later, on the 11th circuit, Thomas found the inside edge to swipe second place from Seavey on the bottom of turns three and four.

Thomas Jr. rapidly ascended toward the forefront of the field and managed to pull even with Swanson for the race lead on the 13th lap. As Thomas Jr. and Swanson surrounded Hunter Maddox to put him a lap down, Thomas Jr. suddenly began to slow dramatically and pulled to the infield after the engine simply lost power, ending his bid for s first USAC win of 2023 and car owner Dwight Cheney's first ever USAC score.

With Thomas Jr. out of the picture, it still wasn't quite clear sailing for Swanson. Seavey suddenly found a resurgence and began to chase down Swanson and had closed to within a car length of the lead by lap 18. With 11 laps to go, however, the merry-go-round came to a halt when 10th running Mitchel Moles spun sideways in turn four, then was clipped by the trailing car driven by Briggs Danner, resulting in a knocked-out front end for Moles and a 21st place feature result.

Under the yellow, second running Seavey abruptly exited the racetrack, like Thomas Jr., also experiencing a sudden loss of power under the hood that promptly ended the team's night. That moved Ballou up to the second spot behind Swanson

for the restart where he promptly took several peeks to the inside of Swanson with as he clamped down right on Swanson's back bumper.

Current Indiana Sprint Week point leader and defending champ Justin Grant shuffled to the third spot with a slick move under Chase Stockon on the lap 20 restart. Brady Bacon, second in the ISW standings, followed suit past Stockon for fourth on lap 22. Bacon continued to surge and snagged the third spot when Grant slipped up the surface in turn four on the 27th lap.

All the while, up front, it was a race between the resilient Swanson and Ballou, both of whom endured major incidents the night before at Terre Haute and who had both experienced their fair share of tumultuous trials and tribulations throughout the grueling week.

Swanson's ride was smooth and easy like an (early) Friday morning as he kept Ballou at arm's length throughout the final 10 laps to thwart the pressure, winning by a 0.344 second margin for his fourth points-paying USAC National Sprint Car victory of his career and his sixth overall, tying him for 76th all-time alongside Chad Boespflug, Kevin Briscoe, Shane Cottle, Jac Haudenschild, Jason McCord, Jan Opperman, Tom Sneva, George Snider and Dick Tobias.

Coming home second was Robert Ballou with Brady Bacon third, Justin Grant fourth and Chase Stockon fifth.

Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) equaled both his best Indiana Sprint Week and USAC National Sprint Car performance of the season with a second-place result in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy. The 2015 Indiana Sprint Week champ also finished as the runner-up during last Friday's ISW opener at Gas City I- 69 Speedway.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) remained in close quarters in pursuit of his first Indiana Sprint Week championship since 2016. Bacon gained a pivotal position from Grant just three laps from the finish line to earn a third-place result in his Dynamics, Inc./Apex Spa Service – Tel-Star Technologies /Triple X/Rider Chevy. Bacon now sits just four points behind Grant in the ISW title race with two races remaining on Friday at Bloomington Speedway and on Saturday at Tri-State Speedway.

A rare feat occurred during the Honest Abe Roofing Qualifying session when Brady Bacon and Mitchel Moles posted identical fast times of 12.370 seconds. Based on the tiebreaker of each driver's fastest "other lap," Bacon received the nod as the quickest qualifier. For Bacon, it was his 46th career fast qualifying time in USAC National Sprint Car competition, which ranks fourth all-time behind Tom Bigelow (65), Dave Darland (62) and Tracy Hines (60).

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 27, 2023 – Lincoln Park Speedway – Putnamville, Indiana – 5/16-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.370; 2. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.370; 3. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.372; 4. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-12.378; 5. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.473; 6. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.534; 7. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-12.557; 8. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-12.616; 9. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-12.617; 10. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-12.639; 11. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.688; 12. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-12.710; 13. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.757; 14. Sterling Cling, 34, Cling-12.768; 15. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-12.772; 16. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.776; 17. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-12.780; 18. Ricky Lewis, 41, Brown-12.796; 19. Geoff Ensign, 3F, Ensign-12.846; 20. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-

12.854; 21. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-12.861; 22. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-12.899; 23. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.920; 24. Jordan Kinser, 04, Burton-12.935; 25. Jadon Rogers, 14, 4J Motorsports-12.968; 26. Jake Scott, 33, Miller-12.979; 27. Todd Hobson, 5T, Daming-12.990; 28. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-13.015; 29. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-13.035; 30. Ivan Glotzbach, i1, Glotzbach-13.091; 31. Todd Moule, 26, Moule-13.107; 32. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-13.111; 33. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.131; 34. Tye Mihocko, 5, Wilson-13.170; 35. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-13.178; 36. Brent Beauchamp, 34B, Olson-13.292; 37. Evan Mosley, 27, Barkdull-13.313; 38. Tim Creech, 31, Creech-13.330; 39. Alec Sipes, 19, Hayward-13.355; 40. Logan Calderwood, 6, Calderwood-13.387; 41. Rylan Gray, 06, Gray-13.583; 42. Travis Millar, 93AU, Millar-13.710; 43. Tayte Williamson, 20, Williamson-13.743; 44. Kyle Johnson, 99J, Johnson-13.841; 45. Tony Helton, 87, Miller-14.290; 46. Johnny Ivers, 55, Ivers/Thomas-14.316; 47. Justin Meneely, 100, Meneely-14.757; 48. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-15.030; 49. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-NT; 50. Justin Zimmerman, 1, D-Up-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Justin Grant, 3. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Brady Bacon, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Daison Pursley, 8. Dalton Stevens, 9. Rylan Gray, 10. Zack Pretorius, 11. Johnny Ivers. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Stevie Sussex, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Tye Mihocko, 5. Ricky Lewis, 6. Jake Scott, 7. Tim Creech, 8. Sterling Cling, 9. Ivan Glotzbach, 10. Travis Millar, 11. Justin Meneely, 12. Mitchel Moles. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Todd Hobson, 7. Dave Darland, 8. Alec Sipes, 9. Todd Moule, 10. Tayte Williamson, 11. Troy Carey, 12. Geoff Ensign. 2:14.19

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Jordan Kinser, 4. Brent Beauchamp, 5. Kyle Johnson, 6. Hunter Maddox, 7. C.J. Leary, 8. Carson Garrett, 9. Logan Calderwood, 10. Tony Helton, 11. Emerson Axsom, 12. Braxton Cummings. NT

STEEL-IT C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Ivan Glotzbach, 2. Dalton Stevens, 3. Zack Pretorius, 4. Tim Creech, 5. Dave Darland, 6. Alec Sipes, 7. Travis Millar, 8. Rylan Gray, 9. Tony Helton, 10. Tayte Williamson, 11. Evan Mosley, 12. Todd Moule, 13. Troy Carey, 14. Logan Calderwood, 15. Kyle Johnson, 16. Justin Meneely. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Carson Garrett, 5. Hunter Maddox, 6. Briggs Danner, 7. Daison Pursley, 8. Emerson Axsom, 9. Ricky Lewis, 10. Sterling Cling, 11. Tim Creech, 12. Zack Pretorius, 13. Dalton Stevens, 14. Jake Scott, 15. Geoff Ensign, 16. Todd Hobson, 17. Brandon Mattox. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Jake Swanson (2), 2. Robert Ballou (8), 3. Brady Bacon (10), 4. Justin Grant (5), 5. Chase Stockon (4), 6. Kyle Cummins (6), 7. Carson Garrett (15), 8. Charles Davis Jr. (7), 9. Jadon Rogers (19), 10. Brent Beauchamp (22), 11. Briggs Danner (13), 12. Shane Cottle (20), 13. Emerson Axsom (23-P), 14. Matt Westfall (9), 15. C.J. Leary (14), 16. Stevie Sussex (17), 17. Daison Pursley (24-P), 18. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (16), 19. Hunter Maddox (12), 20. Logan Seavey (1), 21. Mitchel Moles (11), 22. Jordan Kinser (18), 23. Kevin Thomas Jr. (3), 24. Tye Mihocko (21). NT

(P) represents a provisional feature starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Jake Swanson.

**Daison Pursley flipped during the first heat. Mitchel Moles flipped during the second heat. Hunter Maddox flipped while lining up for the fourth heat. Braxton Cummings flipped during the fourth heat. Emerson Axsom flipped during the fourth heat. Justin Meneely flipped during the C-Main. Brandon Mattox flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1566, 2-Justin Grant-1555, 3-Emerson Axsom-1543, 4-Jake Swanson-1504, 5-Kyle Cummins-1473, 6-C.J. Leary-1408, 7-Mitchel Moles-1321, 8-Robert Ballou-1319, 9-Chase Stockon-1255, 10-Daison Pursley-1231.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PRESENTED BY HONEST ABE ROOFING POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-406, 2-Brady Bacon-402, 3-Robert Ballou-365, 4-Kyle Cummins-337, 5-Kevin Thomas Jr.-326, 6-Emerson Axsom-323, 7-C.J. Leary-310, 8-Shane Cottle-308, 9-Carson Garrett-291, 10-Jake Swanson-287.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-141, 2-Logan Seavey-84, 3-Matt Westfall-78, 4-Robert Ballou-76, 5-Brady Bacon-75, 6-Shane Cottle-73, 7-Justin Grant-70, 8-Chase Stockon-63, 9-Emerson Axsom-62, 10-Carson Garrett-51.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-66, 2-Brady Bacon-46, 3-Joey Amantea-46, 4-Robert Ballou-39, 5-Daison Pursley-33, 6-Logan Seavey-32, 7-Braxton Cummings-29, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-28, 9-Brent Beauchamp-28, 10-Emerson Axsom-27.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 28, 2023 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing – Sheldon Kinser Memorial

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

USAC & Lincoln Park Speedway First Car on Track: Mitchel Moles

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Brady Bacon (12.587)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon (12.370)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Matt Westfall

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Steel-It C-Main Winner: Ivan Glotzbach

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

Hard Work Award: Brent Beauchamp

Green APU First Lap Leader: Jake Swanson

J & J Trucking Hard Charger: Brent Beauchamp (22nd to 10th)

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DOWN, BUT NOT OUT: AXSOM BLOOMS AT SHELDON KINSER MEMORIAL

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Bloomington, Indiana (July 28, 2023)……Dejected and disappointed, yet not defeated, Emerson Axsom still had a ton to race for when he arrived at Bloomington Speedway for Friday night's penultimate round of USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented By Honest Abe Roofing.

For all intents and purposes, the Franklin, Ind. racer saw his shot at an Indiana Sprint Week championship crumble a night earlier at Lincoln Park Speedway when he missed out on transferring to the feature, and thus, had to use a provisional, which did not allow him to earn feature points toward the eight-race series title race.

Driving with desire, and a fire in the belly, at Bloomington's Sheldon Kinser Memorial, Axsom recorded his first career Indiana Sprint Week triumph, while extending his lead in another concurrent miniseries for USAC National Sprint Car racing, the 10-race Bubby Jones Master of Going Faster series Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment.

Axsom grabbed the reins of his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy, then chased down racelong leader Briggs Danner on lap 15 before patrolling the final 16 laps to earn his third feature victory of the USAC season, all while having a little bit of the night before on his mind.

"Honestly, I'm still upset about last night," Axsom admitted. "Not that it was anybody's fault, we just didn't run very well. I told my guys last night that if I have anything to do with it, we're going to win tonight. I just wanted to win really badly, and I've been wanting to win a Sprint Week race all week. We've been fast; we just haven't been able to qualify to put us up front. It's hard to pass these guys because they're so good."

The arch of Axsom mimics Jake Swanson, who simultaneously captured both his first Indiana Sprint Week win and his sixth career USAC National Sprint Car victory on Thursday at Lincoln Park. Axsom achieved exactly the same on Friday at Bloomington with his sixth career series score moving him to 76th on the all-time series win list alongside Chad Boespflug,

Kevin Briscoe, Shane Cottle, Jac Haudenschild, Jason McCord, Jan Opperman, Tom Sneva, George Snider, Jake Swanson and Dick Tobias.

Axsom's performance is now the next chapter in a long line of successes for the Clauson family at Bloomington. Bryan Clauson owns the record for most Bloomington USAC National Sprint Car driving victories with five on the 1/4-mile red clay between 2009-16, plus a USAC National Midget dub in 2013. Clauson Marshall Racing also nabbed back-to-back USAC Midget victories between 2018-19 with Tyler Courtney at the wheel.

But on Friday night, it was Axsom's turn to kick a shine. Starting from the third position, Axsom was already challenging for the lead by lap two. Axsom first scooted underneath Chase Stockon off turn four to slot into second at the conclusion of the opening lap, then came within a car length of Danner for the race lead on the second go-around.

However, just as Axsom was in position to, perhaps, race into the lead, he hit the muck at the very bottom of turn one and was unable to get the car to turn. Sliding up the track, Axsom left the bottom open for Stockon to reemerge in second.

On lap five, fourth running Mitchel Moles' tumultuous Indiana Sprint Week continued when his car fell dramatically off the pace, forcing him to the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area as the yellow flag was displayed. Moles ultimately returned to the tail and advanced his way to a 14th place finish.

When racing resumed, it was go time for Axsom who made a successful bid for second under Stockon, taking the spot on the back straight on the lap five restart. However, at that moment, Danner had stepped away to a half-straightaway advantage as the leader.

Meanwhile, Justin Grant and Brady Bacon entered the fray with a four-point separation in their quests for the Indiana Sprint Week championship. Bacon gained a crucial spot on the 10th lap when Grant skated up the racetrack in turns one and two, allowing Bacon to jet away on the outside to take away the fifth position.

Back up front, traffic loomed for Danner, and as soon as he caught it, he was extensively mired. His 1.5 second interval vanished in a heartbeat just before the midway point, and on lap 15, Axsom flashed by on the inside to take over the lead. Moments later in turn four, Danner snagged the cushion, knocking him sideways, which cost him more than a second, and practically ended his window of opportunity to win his first career USAC National Sprint Car feature.

For Axsom, though, he had a pretty good feeling that he was in good shape moving forward.

"It was a real fine line between the greasy, the slick and the monster curb off two and four," Axsom explained. "I knew that if I could just stay even with the lapped cars, nobody would get by me. I didn't really know if anybody was catching me, but I knew if I stayed even with the car below me, it was enough that nobody was going to be able to do anything. I knew that as long as I didn't mess up big on the top, I'd be all right."

On lap 22, Bacon gained further ground to move into fourth as the 2022 Bloomington Indiana Sprint Week winner got caught up on the turn four cushion as Bacon raced by underneath to further pad his Indiana Sprint Week point lead to eight markers.

Axsom was untouchable at the front of the field, however, and finished off the evening by crossing the finish line 3.753 seconds ahead of the competition. Danner collected a runner-up finish by a narrow half car length margin ahead of Stockon while Bacon grabbed fourth and Kyle Cummins rounded out the top-five.

Sitting fifth in the Indiana Sprint Week standings, 75 points out of the lead, Axsom is fully aware that his shot at title with the series is over. However, he's thinking "big picture," which has him in good shape in multiple ongoing series. He's second in the overall USAC National Sprint Car standings, just 19 behind Bacon, and currently leads the Bubby Jones points by a 28-point margin.

"Our Sprint Week isn't over," Axsom related, "but obviously, last night really hurt us. The national title is still there and that's our main goal anyway. Hopefully, this gets us back to where we need to be."

Briggs Danner (Allentown, Pa.) equaled his best career USAC National Sprint Car finish with a second-place result in his Hogue Racing Enterprises/Boulevard Truck Repair – E. Schneider & Sons/DRC/Rider Chevy. Danner previously scored a second at Grandview Speedway in 2022. His second place run at Bloomington was the best finish ever by a native

Pennsylvanian in an Indiana Sprint Week event. Frankie Kerr previously was the best with a fourth at Bloomington in 1991 while Steve Surniak finished fifth at Paragon Speedway in 1998.

Chase Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.) tied his best result of the 2023 USAC National Sprint Car campaign with a third-place finish in his KO Motorsports/Banded Ag – Superior Tank & Trailer – Dewig Meats – AMSOIL/Triple X/Fisher Chevy. The podium run at Bloomington came on the heels of a fifth place finish the previous night at Lincoln Park. It's the 2020 Indiana Sprint Week champion's first back-to-back top-five finishes with the series since September of 2022.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) pocketed $400 for his Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifying performance at Bloomington. It was his second consecutive quick time with the series, the sixth time he's timed in as the fastest in back-to-back fashion during his USAC Sprint Car career. Overall, it was the 47th fast time of his career with the series, fourth all-time, and his third Indiana Sprint Week fast time at Bloomington, doing so in perfectly spaced four-year increments in 2015, 2019 and 2023.

Shane Cottle has been a hard-charging machine throughout Indiana Sprint Week. For the fifth time in seven races throughout the week, the Kansas, Ill. driver has earned J & J Trucking Hard Charger honors. At Bloomington, he advanced from 21st to 13th and has now passed a total of 82 cars thus far during ISW. To put it all into perspective, his closest competition has passed 49 cars during Indiana Sprint Week.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: July 28, 2023 – Bloomington Speedway – Bloomington, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing – Sheldon Kinser Memorial

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.244; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-11.247; 3. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-11.304; 4. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-11.356; 5. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-11.372; 6. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-11.373; 7. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-11.378; 8. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-11.428; 9. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-11.432; 10. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-11.446; 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-11.457; 12. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-11.459; 13. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-11.475; 14. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-11.484; 15. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-11.506; 16. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-11.511; 17. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-11.544; 18. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-11.546; 19. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-11.560; 20. Tayte Williamson, 20, Williamson-11.583; 21. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-11.587; 22. Geoff Ensign, 17, On The Gass-11.619; 23. Jordan Kinser, 04, Burton-11.661; 24. Travis Millar, 93AU, Millar-11.679; 25. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-11.694; 26. Alec Sipes, 19, Hayward-11.698; 27. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-11.746; 28. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-11.788; 29. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-11.880; 30. Justin Zimmerman, 1, D-Up-11.948; 31. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-11.998.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 3. Mitchel Moles, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Brent Beauchamp, 6. Joey Amantea. 2:00.92

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Briggs Danner, 3. Geoff Ensign, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. Robert Ballou, 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Alec Sipes, 8. Justin Zimmerman. 2:00.86

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Matt Westfall, 5. Shane Cottle, 6. C.J. Leary, 7. Troy Carey, 8. Jordan Kinser. 1:57.08

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Travis Millar, 6. Tayte Williamson, 7. Hunter Maddox. 2:00.30

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Brent Beauchamp, 6. Justin Zimmerman, 7. Travis Millar, 8. Troy Carey, 9. Joey Amantea, 10. Alec Sipes, 11. Tayte Williamson, 12. Dalton Stevens. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Emerson Axsom (3), 2. Briggs Danner (1), 3. Chase Stockon (2), 4. Brady Bacon (6), 5. Kyle Cummins (5), 6. C.J. Leary (12), 7. Justin Grant (7), 8. Robert Ballou (13), 9. Jake Swanson (11), 10. Charles Davis Jr. (8), 11. Carson Garrett (9), 12. Daison Pursley (16), 13. Shane Cottle (21), 14. Mitchel Moles (4), 15. Kevin Thomas Jr. (15), 16. Matt Westfall (17), 17. Geoff Ensign (20), 18. Brandon Mattox (10), 19. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (19), 20. Brent Beauchamp (14), 21. Logan Seavey (18), 22. Justin Zimmerman (22). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-14 Briggs Danner, Laps 15-30 Emerson Axsom.

**Dalton Stevens flipped during qualifying. Hunter Maddox flipped during the heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1638, 2-Emerson Axsom-1619, 3-Justin Grant-1615, 4-Jake Swanson-1559, 5-Kyle Cummins-1539, 6-C.J. Leary-1469, 7-Robert Ballou-1372, 8-Mitchel Moles-1364, 9-Chase Stockon-1325, 10-Daison Pursley-1275.

USAC NOS ENERGY DRINK INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PRESENTED BY HONEST ABE ROOFING POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-474, 2-Justin Grant-466, 3-Robert Ballou-418, 4-Kyle Cummins-403, 5-Emerson Axsom-399, 6-C.J. Leary-371, 7-Kevin Thomas Jr.-366, 8-Shane Cottle-346, 9-Jake Swanson-342, 10-Carson Garrett-340.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-476, 2-Brady Bacon-448, 3-C.J. Leary-447, 4-Jake Swanson-434, 5-Mitchel Moles-414, 6-Kyle Cummins-387, 7-Chase Stockon-374, 8-Justin Grant-372, 9-Daison Pursley-371, 10-Robert Ballou-320.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-145, 2-Logan Seavey-84, 3-Robert Ballou-81, 4-Shane Cottle-81, 5-Matt Westfall-79, 6-Brady Bacon-77, 7-Justin Grant-70, 8-Emerson Axsom-64, 9-Chase Stockon-63, 10-C.J. Leary-51.

USAC INDIANA SPRINT WEEK PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Shane Cottle-82, 2-Brady Bacon-49, 3-Joey Amantea-46, 4-Robert Ballou-45, 5-Daison Pursley-37, 6-Logan Seavey-33, 7-Emerson Axsom-31, 8-Kevin Thomas Jr.-30, 9-Braxton Cummings-29, 10-Mitchel Moles-28.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: July 29, 2023 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 36th Annual USAC NOS Energy Drink Indiana Sprint Week Presented by Honest Abe Roofing

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Shane Cottle (11.528)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon (11.244)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Brandon Mattox

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Carson Garrett

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Justin Grant

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

Hard Work Award: Justin Zimmerman

Green APU First Lap Leader: Briggs Danner

J & J Trucking Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (22nd to 13th)

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GRANT OPENING! JG WINS 3RD STRAIGHT SMACKDOWN OPENER AT KOKOMO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 24, 2023)……When Smackdown begins, Justin Grant wins.

Over the past three seasons, that just seems to be the order of business on the opening night of the three-night event annually held during the month of August at Indiana's Kokomo Speedway.

After notching back-to-back Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown opening night victories in 2021 and 2022, the Ione, Calif. driver once again found victory lane on Thursday night, becoming the first driver win three-straight Smackdown openers.

This time around, Grant was the force from start to finish in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MVP Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy, leading all 30 laps to earn his season-leading seventh USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature win of the year.

Grant's fifth overall Smackdown victory (prelims & final nights combined) places him in a three-way tie for the most all-time alongside Dave Darland and Tyler Courtney. Furthermore, the win was Grant's seventh in USAC National Sprint Car competition at Kokomo, which now trails only the two undisputed Kokomo Speedway kings – Dave Darland (9) and Tony Elliott (8).

Additionally, Grant's victory at Kokomo was the 41st of his USAC National Sprint Car career, which moved him past 1969 and 1971 series championship Gary Bettenhausen on the all-time list. Grant now stands tied with 2012-13 series champ Bryan Clauson for eighth all-time and just one behind Pancho Carter, the 1974 and 1976 titlist, for seventh on the list.

Grant started on the outside of the front row for the main event alongside pole sitter Kyle Cummins. It was a row of Smackdown mastery as, between the two, the pair had won each of the past two Smackdown finales and the past three Smackdown openers. As a matter of fact, a year ago, the opening night Smackdown feature came down to the wire between the same two individuals.

Things quickly came to a halt on lap one as a stack-up occurred in turn two, entangling Logan Seavey, Matt Westfall, Trey Osborne, Dave Darland and Colten Cottle, all of whom stopped. Osborne and Cottle incurred the most misfortune as both did not return.

When the race finally did resume with a complete restart, Grant was like a Concorde among hang gliders as he shot ahead to lead the opening lap several car lengths ahead of Cummins while Brady Bacon slid into third ahead of C.J. Leary on the bottom of turn one on lap two.

Halfway through, Grant reached the tail end of the field while carrying a solid 0.766 second lead. At that point, Bacon was hovering over Cummins' shoulder for second. Grant played offense in traffic as he took to the top of turn four to fly by Korbyn Hayslett, Westfall and Rylan Gray in one fell swoop as he escaped the approaching duo of Cummins and Bacon to reconstruct his lead from a few car lengths to a half-straightaway with only 10 laps to go.

With the competition running high, middle and low out in front of him, Grant had to be on high alert, looking left, right and down the middle as if playing a game of Whack-a-Mole. Making decisions quickly and pouncing rapidly is the name of the game, and fortunately for Grant, his car was hooked up and he was able to make all the right moves at all the right times in all the right places.

"I had to run a bunch of different lanes but (car chief) Jeff Walker and I had this car so good," Grant stated. "I could run above the cushion; I could run through the slick; I could run the bottom; I could run the top; I could just do anything. The only concern I had was how high the car was going to wheelie on the straightaways."

When everything's clicking, as it did in the case for Grant, it opens up options instead of leaving a driver with a one-track mind when making split-second decisions at a place in which laps are clicked off at a rate of every 13 seconds.

"With traffic being the way it was and with the track being the way it was, it allowed me to have so many options where it looked like a lot of guys maybe didn't have those options," Grant explained. "We were able to cut through those lapped cars at a really good pace. I didn't feel like I had to be super aggressive, but I had a car that was good to enough to allow me to jump into every hole I needed to and clear guys when I needed to. It was a whole lot of fun."

With seven to go on lap 24, Bacon scooched on the bottom of turn three, dead even with Cummins before taking the second position. However, with just a handful of trips around the 1/4-mile remaining, Bacon found himself still a full two seconds behind the leader.

Grant never relented down the stretch, lapping all but the first nine finishers at closing time as he crossed under the checkered flag 2.007 seconds ahead of Brady Bacon, who finished as the runner-up. Robert Ballou grabbed third with Carson Garrett fourth and Jadon Rogers rounded out the top-five with a miraculous high-side run from 23rd to 5th after taking a provisional starting position.

Cummins had been running third with just two laps remaining when he began to slow dramatically, dropping through the field before finishing 10th in the final rundown, the victim of a nozzle line that came off.

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) made a late race move to grab a second-place result in his Dynamics, Inc./Alumitech Products – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts/Triple X/Rider Chevy. In doing so, he padded his overall USAC National Sprint Car point lead while earning his ninth career second place finish with the series at Kokomo, where he came one spot away from winning his and his team's first at the track.



“I thought we had a good car in open track,” Bacon said. “While I was racing Kyle, he got past a gaggle of lapped cars, and that kind of held us up after that. So, he got a little breathing room. We could move around on the top or the bottom and wherever we needed to go. It just wasn’t meant to be once again."

Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) endured a night in which he kicked off as the fastest qualifier, then got caught up in a heat race accident only to recover by driving from the tail to a transfer spot. Then, he was forced to change the engine just before the feature yet still managed to persevere and finish on the podium in his Ballou Motorsports/Suburban Subaru – Berks Western Telecom/Triple X/Ott Chevy.

“We were in the back changing motors,” Ballou revealed. “We had a motor that dropped oil pressure pretty severely, but it was still running well. It was quick time and ran through that heat race, so it did what it needed to do. (Engine builder) Don Ott recommended we change it, so we put another motor in. This is actually the Farney’s motor we used just to get us through. I was a knucklehead as we just had one delivered today but I didn’t bring it. So, we put this thing in and obviously it got us to where we needed to be. I wasn’t sure where to go on gear because we haven’t run that thing in so long and we missed it a little bit.”

It was a successful Smackdown debut for reigning USAC East Coast Sprint Car champ and current point leader Briggs Danner (Allentown, Pa.) as his first career start in the event netted a $300 bonus as the feature's J & J Trucking Hard Charger after advancing from 16th to 8th. To clarify, although Jadon Rogers passed 18 cars in his move from 23rd to 5th, he was ineligible for official hard charger honors due to taking a provisional.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 24, 2023 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown XII

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.900; 2. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.918; 3. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-12.942; 4. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.944; 5. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.960; 6. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-12.963; 7. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.969; 8. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-12.976; 9. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.987; 10. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.996; 11. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.013; 12. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.031; 13. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-13.036; 14. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-13.038; 15. Trey Osborne, 6T, Osborne-13.071; 16. Chance Crum, 26, Rudeen-13.102; 17. Kayla Roell, 5K, KO-13.102; 18. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-13.145; 19. Ricky Lewis, 41, Brown-13.163; 20. Colten Cottle, 57, Hazen-13.178; 21. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-13.179; 22. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-13.179; 23. Rylan Gray, 81G, Gray-13.185; 24. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.198; 25. Cole Bodine, 57B, Bodine-13.218; 26. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.272; 27. Nate Schank, 1, Schank-13.282; 28. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.301; 29. Geoff Ensign, 17, On The Gass-13.316; 30. Jadon Rogers, 17GP, Dutcher-13.326; 31. Sterling Cling, 34, SCR-13.348; 32. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-13.362; 33. Wyatt Burks, 11w, WBR-13.407; 34. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-13.456; 35. Riley Kreisel, 2, Yeley-13.478; 36. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-13.531; 37. Larry Kingseed Jr., 21, Kingseed-13.593; 38. Kobe Simpson, 21K, Simpson-13.620; 39. Brayden Clark, 42G, Jackson/Clark-13.705; 40. Dustin Ingle, 2DI, Ingle-13.722; 41. Devan Myers, 75, Myers-13.785; 42. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-13.987; 43. Jack James, 99, James-13.995; 44. Bryar Schroeter, 21s, Schroeter-14.509; 45. Jack Hoyer, 5, Baldwin/Fox-18.748; 46. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-NT (Time of 12.909 disallowed after his car weighed light at the scales).

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Shane Cottle, 2. Daison Pursley, 3. Justin Grant, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. Kayla Roell, 6. Wyatt Burks, 7. Geoff Ensign, 8. Devan Myers, 9. Jack Hoyer, 10. Cole Bodine, 11. Larry Kingseed Jr., 12. Emerson Axsom. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Joey Amantea, 2. Korbyn Hayslett, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Jake Swanson, 7. Kevin Thomas Jr., 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Jadon Rogers, 10. Kobe Simpson, 11. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 12. Troy Carey. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Rylan Gray, 2. Trey Osborne, 3. Ricky Lewis, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Sterling Cling, 8. Nate Schank, 9. Brayden Clark, 10. Jack James, 11. Riley Kreisel. NT

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett, 2. Colten Cottle, 3. Max Adams, 4. Dave Darland, 5. Chance Crum, 6. Zack Pretorius, 7. Dustin Ingle, 8. Bryar Schroeter, 9. Stevie Sussex, 10. Mitchel Moles, 11. Chase Stockon. NT

THE FROLIC BAR & GRILL C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Sterling Cling, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Wyatt Burks, 5. Riley Kreisel, 6. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 7. Stevie Sussex, 8. Kobe Simpson, 9. Devan Myers, 10. Troy Carey, 11. Jack Hoyer, 12. Dustin Ingle, 13. Brayden Clark, 14. Jack James, 15. Bryar Schroeter, 16. Larry Kingseed Jr. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Briggs Danner, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Cole Bodine, 7. Jadon Rogers, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Kayla Roell, 10. Sterling Cling, 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 12. Nate Schank, 13. Chance Crum, 14. Emerson Axsom, 15. Geoff Ensign, 16. Wyatt Burks, 17. Zack Pretorius, 18. Mitchel Moles. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (2), 2. Brady Bacon (4), 3. Robert Ballou (5), 4. Carson Garrett (6), 5. Jadon Rogers (23-P), 6. C.J. Leary (3), 7. Shane Cottle (8), 8. Briggs Danner (16), 9. Joey Amantea (9), 10. Kyle Cummins (1), 11. Emerson Axsom (24-P), 12. Chase Stockon (12), 13. Logan Seavey (11), 14. Jake Swanson (14) 15. Ricky Lewis (18), 16. Max Adams (7), 17. Cole Bodine (20), 18. Matt Westfall (13), 19. Rylan Gray (10), 20. Korbyn Hayslett (22), 21. Dave Darland (21), 22. Daison Pursley (15), 23. Trey Osborne (17), 24. Colten Cottle (19). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Justin Grant.

**Emerson Axsom flipped during the first heat. Mitchel Moles flipped during the fourth heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1715, 2-Justin Grant-1691, 3-Emerson Axsom-1662, 4-Jake Swanson-1596, 5-Kyle Cummins-1587, 6-C.J. Leary-1531, 7-Robert Ballou-1447, 8-Mitchel Moles-1374, 9-Chase Stockon-1371, 10-Daison Pursley-1305.

SPRINT CAR SMACKDOWN XII PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Kevin Thomas Jr.-22, 2-Briggs Danner-9, 3-Jack Hoyer-7, 4-Jadon Rogers-6, 5-Carson Garrett-5, 6-Cole Bodine-5, 7-Sterling Cling-5, 8-Devan Myers-5, 9-Brady Bacon-4, 10-Robert Ballou-4.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-145, 2-Logan Seavey-95, 3-Shane Cottle-84, 4-Robert Ballou-83, 5-Matt Westfall-83, 6-Brady Bacon-79, 7-Justin Grant-76, 8-Chase Stockon-69, 9-Emerson Axsom-66, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-54.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: August 25-26, 2023 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown XII

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Clinton Boyles/Carbon Safety Technologies Most Wheel Pack Laps: Chase Stockon

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Justin Grant (12.942)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Robert Ballou (12.900)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Shane Cottle

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Joey Amantea

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Rylan Gray

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Carson Garrett

The Frolic Bar & Grill C-Main Winner: Jadon Rogers

Hoosier Tire First C-Main Non-Transfer: Riley Kreisel

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Chase Stockon

Hoosier Tire First Semi Non-Transfer: Jadon Rogers

ProSource Hard Work Award: Dave Darland

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: Justin Grant

J & J Trucking Hard Charger: Briggs Danner (16th to 8th)

Clinton Boyles Top Local Driver: Ricky Lewis (15th)

Collin Grissom Smackdown Rookie Move of the Night: Joey Amantea

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SMACKDOWN ON REPEAT: GRANT GOES BACK-TO-BACK AT KOKOMO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 25, 2023)……Justin Grant. Justin Grant.

No, you're not seeing double. In fact, what you're actually seeing is a repeat.

The recurring theme thus far throughout Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Smackdown XII has been the success of the Ione, Calif. native who captured his second USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature victory in as many nights on Friday at Indiana's Kokomo Speedway.

Grant advanced from his fourth starting position to take over the lead from racelong leader Jadon Rogers just before the midway point following an exchange of slide jobs at each end of the 1/4-mile dirt oval between the pair. Grant then led the final 17 circuits to pick up yet another monumental triumph behind the wheel of his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

The sixth career Smackdown win (prelims & final nights combined) of Grant's career made him the winningest driver in the event's 12-year history. Additionally, the win was Grant's eighth overall in USAC National Sprint Car competition at Kokomo, tying him for second all-time with Tony Elliott and now trails only Dave Darland (9) for the most ever.

In becoming only the second driver to score wins on the opening two nights of Smackdown (Kyle Cummins in 2020), Grant also set a new career high in terms of single-season USAC National Sprint Car victories with eight, surpassing his former highwater mark of seven in 2021.

Grant's 42nd career USAC National Sprint Car main event win moved him up another notch on the all-time series win list to seventh all-time. In doing so, he moved past Bryan Clauson (41) and into a tie with 1974 and 1976 series champion Pancho Carter. Grant now stands just three victories behind 1968-70-75 series titlist Larry Dickson's mark of 45, which currently ranks sixth all-time.

Since teaming up with car chief Jeff Walker in early July, Grant has won five of 11 USAC National Sprint Car starts this season. Confidence in himself and with his ride is at an all-time high for Grant who feels as if he can go anywhere at any time in any place on the track in order to complete the task despite the physical nature of the 30-lap journey.

"This car has been a rocket," Grant exclaimed. "No matter where I go, it's just really, really good. Jeff Walker and I are working really well together. But I'm going to have to get some AC and maybe some more food tomorrow if we're going to do 40 laps. I'm in pretty good shape, but I was starting to fall out of the seat at the end there. It was pretty physical tonight, and it was hot."

With a much better view from the front on this night in comparison to Thursday's program, Jadon Rogers took off from the pole position to assume the point in the early going. Twenty-four hours earlier, Rogers made a spectacular high side charge in the feature from 23rd to 5th.

The first and only yellow flag of the feature was displayed on lap five when Smackdown Rookie Trey Osborne slowed to a stop on the front straightaway. Earlier in the evening, Osborne scored his first career heat race victory in USAC competition. However, after starting eighth in the feature, he'd have to settle for a 23rd place result.

When action resumed, Rogers' race lead was under attack from Briggs Danner and C.J. Leary who took the battle three-wide through turn four. Rogers thwarted the challenge by maintaining his high side momentum. However, doing much the same behind the trio was another driver doing much the same – Justin Grant.

Using the opposite approach, Brady Bacon had the bottom line working to his liking, and on lap 12, he took two-for-one as he slipped under both Leary and Danner in turn one to slot into third.

Just before the halfway point, the race for the lead officially became a free-for-all. Grant took his initial stab on the 13th lap when he slid by Rogers in turn three. However, Rogers countered off the turn four banking to lead the lap, but immediately, Grant reloaded by sliding Rogers into turn one.

Rogers mashed stood on the pedal and slid across the nose of Grant at the entry to turn three only to have Grant cross over to beat Rogers to the line by a car length on lap 14. Rogers fired one more shot from the musket, briefly retaking the lead in turn one, but by the back straight, Grant had re-cleared and re-taken the top spot, and for good, in a scenario and moment when both himself and his car shine on like crazy diamonds.

“Typically, when a racetrack has a really fast cushion, I’m not necessarily that great at it,” Grant admitted. “I’m okay at it, but as it starts to slow up, and it gets technical and tricky and gets some spots where you’ve got to start picking and choosing, that’s when I feel like I can shine, and I’ve got a racecar that shines when it’s like that. I wait for it to get technical, then I go to work.”

Bottom feeding Bacon ultimately corralled second from Rogers on lap 17 and set forth toward Grant. At the same time, Shane Cottle was putting on a passing clinic of epic proportions as the 21st place starting driver got by Rogers for third on lap 18 – the 18th driver he’d passed in a mere 18 laps.

Cottle ascended as far as second place with eight laps remaining but soon became stifled by a continuous row of lapped cars which aligned themselves on the bottom. Bacon moved up to the middle groove and reclaimed second a lap later, which also forced Cottle to leave the comfort zone of the bottom as well.

The race to the top of the pylon was in total control under the reign of Grant who finished off the night with a 2.197 second margin of victory over Brady Bacon, Shane Cottle, Jadon Rogers and Kyle Cummins.

Grant is a showman by nature; therefore, he wholeheartedly confesses to enjoying the thrill of being both fast and spectacular, a cocktail that he fully endorses.

“I’m a racecar driver and I like to think that I’m the guy to beat every time, no matter what,” Grant stated. “But I certainly have an extra boost of confidence when it’s like that and I love doing it. I love doing it for all the fans. Watching a guy lead a race is really cool when he might crash for no reason. So, I think it’s cool when it’s like that. I love putting on a show and doing what I can.”

Brady Bacon (Broken Arrow, Okla.) collected a runner-up finish for the second night in a row in his Dynamics, Inc./Alumitech Products – Elliott’s Custom Trailers & Carts/Triple X/Rider Chevy. For the 10th time in his USAC National Sprint Car career at Kokomo Speedway, Bacon finished as the runner-up, and to this day, remains on the hunt for his own first USAC Sprint Car win at the track as well as the Dynamics/Hoffman Auto Racing team as well.

“We were definitely faster on the bottom,” Bacon noted. “But when we got to lapped traffic, they were all on the bottom. So, I pretty much had to get in line at the top, follow them around and try not to crash up there. It was pretty gnarly in turn three and the cushion got so big and so low, you couldn’t really get a good approach to it getting into turn one. We got tight a couple times but kept a decent speed up there.”

Some individuals equate running the bottom to having a job. Not so for Shane Cottle (Kansas, Ill.) who makes it a way of life. Cottle advanced from his 21st starting spot to finish third, earning J & J Trucking Hard Charger honors and a $300

bonus in his Epperson Racing/Epperson Painting – PPG Paints/DRC/Claxton Chevy. Amazingly, for Cottle, it's his sixth hard charger award in the past nine series races.

"They went out and worked the bottom, which fit right into my wheelhouse," Cottle said of the quick track prep work session prior to the feature. "The Epperson crew did an awesome job tonight. Tony Jarrett and Logan, they put up the money for this, and like I said during Indiana Sprint Week, I like that Jarrett money."

Eight drivers locked themselves into Saturday night's $30,000-to-win Smackdown feature as well as the King of the Hill duels at Kokomo by virtue of accumulating the most combined points during Thursday and Friday's programs: Justin Grant, Brady Bacon, C.J. Leary, Robert Ballou, Kyle Cummins, Shane Cottle, Briggs Danner and Logan Seavey.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 25, 2023 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown XII

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Ricky Lewis, 41, Brown-12.774; 2. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.800; 3. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.889; 4. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.935; 5. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-12.953; 6. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-12.978; 7. Sterling Cling, 34, SCR-12.996; 8. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.007; 9. Jadon Rogers, 17GP, Dutcher-13.035; 10. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-13.052; 11. Dave Darland, 36D, Darland/Curb-Agajanian-13.092; 12. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.094; 13. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.106; 14. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-13.131; 15. Jack Hoyer, 5, Baldwin/Fox-13.174; 16. Riley Kreisel, 2, Yeley-13.181; 17. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-13.200; 18. Trey Osborne, 6T, Osborne-13.204; 19. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.219; 20. Kevin Thomas Jr., 42, Cheney-13.247; 21. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-13.250; 22. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.278; 23. Cole Bodine, 57B, Bodine-13.290; 24. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-13.295; 25. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.317; 26. Stevie Sussex, 77s, Sturgeon-13.345; 27. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-13.345; 28. Rylan Gray, 81G, Gray-13.364; 29. Chance Crum, 26, Rudeen-13.420; 30. Geoff Ensign, 17, On The Gass-13.425; 31. Colten Cottle, 57, Hazen-13.438; 32. Kobe Simpson, 21K, Simpson-13.460; 33. Wyatt Burks, 11w, WBR-13.533; 34. Nate Schank, 1, Schank-13.660; 35. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-13.669; 36. Dustin Ingle, 2DI, Ingle-13.690; 37. Larry Kingseed Jr., 21, Kingseed-13.704; 38. Kayla Roell, 5K, KO-13.712; 39. Joey Amantea, 88J, Amantea-13.733; 40. Devan Myers, 75, Myers-13.854; 41. Brayden Clark, 42G, Jackson/Clark-13.890; 42. Troy Carey, 45N, Carey-13.986; 43. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-14.109; 44. Jack James, 99, James-14.205; 45. Bryar Schroeter, 21s, Schroeter-14.267.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Ricky Lewis, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Korbyn Hayslett, 5. Max Adams, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Chance Crum, 8. Wyatt Burks, 9. Brayden Clark, 10. Larry Kingseed Jr., 11. Bryar Schroeter, 12. Carson Garrett. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Trey Osborne, 2. Emerson Axsom, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Briggs Danner, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Stevie Sussex, 8. Geoff Ensign, 9. Nate Schank, 10. Kayla Roell, 11. Troy Carey. 2:15.04

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Cummins, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Dave Darland, 4. Cole Bodine, 5. Joey Amantea, 6. Sterling Cling, 7. Jack Hoyer, 8. Colten Cottle, 9. Brandon Mattox, 10. Zack Pretorius, 11. Eddie Tafoya Jr. 2:16.58

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Kevin Thomas Jr., 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Dustin Ingle, 7. Rylan Gray, 8. Devan Myers, 9. Riley Kreisel, 10. Jack James, 11. Kobe Simpson. NT

THE FROLIC BAR & GRILL C-MAIN: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Colten Cottle, 2. Wyatt Burks, 3. Brandon Mattox, 4. Joey Amantea, 5. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 6. Kayla Roell, 7. Kobe Simpson, 8. Dustin Ingle, 9. Brayden Clark, 10. Jack James, 11. Bryar Schroeter, 12. Devan Myers, 13. Troy Carey, 14. Nate Schank, 15. Larry Kingseed Jr. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Stevie Sussex, 5. Sterling Cling, 6. Chase Stockon, 7. Jack Hoyer, 8. Geoff Ensign, 9. Carson Garrett, 10. Joey Amantea, 11. Brandon Mattox, 12. Riley Kreisel, 13. Wyatt Burks, 14. Colten Cottle, 15. Zack Pretorius, 16. Rylan Gray, 17. Max Adams, 18. Chance Crum. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (4), 2. Brady Bacon (7), 3. Shane Cottle (21), 4. Jadon Rogers (2), 5. Kyle Cummins (5), 6. Logan Seavey (10), 7. C.J. Leary (1), 8. Jake Swanson (9), 9. Briggs Danner (3), 10. Ricky Lewis (6), 11. Robert Ballou (14), 12. Chase Stockon (12), 13. Matt Westfall (16), 14. Emerson Axsom (19), 15. Daison Pursley (15), 16. Sterling Cling (11), 17. Cole Bodine (20), 18. Dave Darland (13), 19. Carson Garrett (23-P), 20. Stevie Sussex (22), 21. Kevin Thomas Jr. (17), 22. Korbyn Hayslett (18), 23. Trey Osborne (8). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-13 Jadon Rogers, Laps 14-30 Justin Grant.

**Troy Carey flipped during the C-Main. Chance Crum flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1790, 2-Justin Grant-1772, 3-Emerson Axsom-1704, 4-Kyle Cummins-1657, 5-Jake Swanson-1654, 6-C.J. Leary-1589, 7-Robert Ballou-1494, 8-Chase Stockon-1411, 9-Mitchel Moles-1374, 10-Daison Pursley-1340.

SPRINT CAR SMACKDOWN XII PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Kevin Thomas Jr.-22, 2-Shane Cottle-19, 3-Joey Amantea-17, 4-Carson Garrett-14, 5-Brady Bacon-11, 6-Justin Grant-10, 7-Briggs Danner-10, 8-Robert Ballou-8, 9-Emerson Axsom-8, 10-Cole Bodine-8.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-145, 2-Shane Cottle-102, 3-Logan Seavey-99, 4-Robert Ballou-86, 5-Matt Westfall-86, 6-Brady Bacon-84, 7-Justin Grant-79, 8-Emerson Axsom-71, 9-Chase Stockon-69, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-54.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: August 26, 2023 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown XII

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Clinton Boyles/Carbon Safety Technologies Most Wheel Pack Laps: Chase Stockon

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Logan Seavey (12.817)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Ricky Lewis (12.774)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Brady Bacon



Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Trey Osborne

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Kyle Cummins

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Justin Grant

The Frolic Bar & Grill C-Main Winner: Colten Cottle

Hoosier Tire First C-Main Non-Transfer: Eddie Tafoya Jr.

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

Hoosier Tire First Semi Non-Transfer: Jack Hoyer

ProSource Hard Work Award: Stevie Sussex

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: Jadon Rogers

J & J Trucking Hard Charger: Shane Cottle (21st to 3rd)

Clinton Boyles Top Local Driver: Ricky Lewis (10th)

Collin Grissom Smackdown Rookie Move of the Night: Trey Osborne

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SMACKDOWN SWEEP! GRANT GRABS $44,500 WEEKEND FINALE AT KOKOMO

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Kokomo, Indiana (August 26, 2023)……"This weekend's been a dream. I feel like I'm going to wake up tomorrow and it's going to be Wednesday."

The dream was most certainly a reality for Justin Grant during Saturday night's Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown XII finale at Kokomo (Ind.) Speedway.

But for every other driver who faced off against him during the past three nights at the quarter-mile dirt oval, the Ione, Calif. native was a nightmare.

Grant's prowess over during the Thursday-Friday-Saturday stretch at Kokomo was no illusion as he reeled off three consecutive victories in as many nights to become the first driver in the 12-year history of Smackdown to sweep to three successive feature triumphs in a single weekend.

The take home pay for Grant after leading the final 29 laps on Saturday night totaled $44,500, pocketing the base pay of $30,000 while also adding a cool $500 per each lap led in his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – MPV Express – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

When Grant migrated from his native California to take up residence in Indiana more than a decade ago, Kokomo Speedway became one of his adopted homes. Now, all these years later, he's tied with the great Dave Darland as the winningest driver in USAC National Sprint Car competition at Kokomo with Saturday night's run being the ninth of his career.

In total, seven of his nine career Kokomo USAC Sprint Car victories have come during Smackdown weekend, three of which have occurred on championship night in 2018, 2021 and 2023, making him just the third three-time Smackdown champion following Dave Darland (2013-14-15) and Tyler Courtney (2017-19-20). But few have been sweeter than his latest and none more lucrative.

"It feels amazing," Grant exclaimed. "Kokomo Speedway is where I got my start and it's where I cut my teeth. This event has always meant the world to me. The success I've been able to have here is just incredible and it feels incredible to be standing in victory lane here anytime."

In the entire 68-year history of USAC National Sprint Car racing, few have captured three-straight USAC National Sprint Car features in a three-day-or-less span. In 1979, Steve Chassey won three in two days, all at Indiana's Winchester Speedway. In 2002, Cory Kruseman reeled off three consecutive at Gas City, Lincoln Park and Tri-State Speedways during Indiana Sprint Week. Levi Jones had been the most recent to achieve the feat during Eastern Storm in 2010 Grandview, Lincoln and New Egypt Speedways.

Furthermore, Grant's latest win was his 43rd in USAC National Sprint Car competition, moving him past 1974 and 1976 series champion Pancho Carter and into sole possession of seventh place on the all-time list.

After Thursday and Friday night's back-to-back Kokomo triumphs, Grant was the odds-on favorite to do it again on Saturday night. He kicked things off right by gliding through the Bill & Sandy Wever & The Grandkids King of the Hill two- car, three-lap duels, which earned him the pole position for the 40-lap grand finale.

Despite that fact, it was outside front row starter C.J. Leary who broke out front and grasped the initial lead, beating Grant to the line by a wheel at the completion of lap one. In fact, throughout the first 10 circuits, Grant remained completely draped over Leary while applying consistent pressure. Grant stayed true to the top while Leary dabbled on the bottom in turns three and four for much of the first quarter of the main event.

But on lap 12, and with traffic looming ahead of him just a single lap away, Grant felt the time was now as he got his momentum wound up on the high side and dove to the bottom of turn one, taking Leary for the top spot.

Grant immediately worked traffic like he was on the autobahn and all others were in a school zone as he constructed his lead to one, then to two and then three full seconds by the time the race reached the halfway mark on lap 20. But without any spotters or rearview mirrors, in sprint car racing, the ambition is to remain pushing and to keep pushing until the lap counter runs out.

"I felt like I really hadn't had any pressure," Grant revealed. "I got caught up behind lapped cars and I never heard anybody or felt pressure. I knew we had a really good racecar and I felt like we had a good lead. I didn't want to get lulled into contentment because we had been so good all weekend. I was still pushing pretty hard."

Meanwhile, Bacon, who had finished second on each of the two preliminary nights, grabbed second when he raced past Leary in turn four for the runner-up spot on lap 23. Cummins tagged along and ripped third from Leary in the thick of

lapped traffic on lap 30. By lap 32, Cummins had flashed into second as he drove topside around Bacon to slot into the "place" spot with just eight laps remaining.

Leary's troubles mounted and he began to drop through the field, running fifth before slowing to a halt on lap 37 with just three laps remaining. By that point in time, Grant had lapped all but the first eight drivers in the 22-car field and held a staggering 8.415 second lead. Leary ultimately returned to finish the feature, restarting on the tail end of the lead lap and finishing eighth.

For Grant, the stoppage was a gamechanger. When all seemed locked up and the ink on the headlines was nearly completely dry, Cummins and the rest of the field received a reprieve and a new lease on life. For Grant, however, it was much to his chagrin.

"I was bummed to see that yellow," Grant said. "I was like, 'dang, three to go, come on!' I wasn't too worried about it, but then I went in on the restart and just completely botched one and two, oh boy!"

Grant skittered straight up atop the cushion between turns one and two on the lap 38 restart, allowing Cummins to get himself within striking distance of Grant at the exit of turn two. Grant took an entry into three somewhat through the middle in order to avoid a slider attempt from Cummins. However, Cummins saw a possible opportunity and went after Grant, sliding side-by-side in turn four wheel-to-wheel without giving an inch, or a single lift, in the pursuit of Smackdown glory.

"I was driving down into three and four and Kyle was sliding across after I all but gave this race away in one and two, so I knew I had better get it back over here (in three and four)," Grant explained. "I snuck right around him, and I thought my left rear (tire) was going to get over his right rear there. There's $30,000 on the line; it's worth it to take a chance here and there."

Just as that "was the meal" Kenny Bania had on an episode of Seinfeld, that "was the move" for both Grant and Cummins alike. Grant staved off the final effort from Cummins to score the biggest payday of his racing career by a 0.886 second margin over Cummins, Logan Seavey, Brady Bacon and Robert Ballou.

"I can't say enough about my guys," Grant praised. "This racecar is incredible. We spent some time on Dan Pace's dyno last week getting ready to come here and make sure our motors were top notch. There are so many people who played a part in getting me here and allowing me to be successful."

Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) took his shot at the win on the final restart but came up just short of winning his second straight Smackdown aboard his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy. In his past five Saturday night Smackdown starts since 2019, Cummins has now finished inside the top-two in four of them.

"It's a lot of money to win, but I'm not going to take him out," Cummins said of his late-race duel with Grant. "He was there, and I was trying, trying, and I was like, 'nope, he's got it.' I was hoping he was going to make a mistake and he kind of did, but I was just a little too far back. It was hard to make a move when he had enough momentum coming off both corners. I was good on momentum getting through, but I couldn't get down the straightaways as quickly as he could. We were kind of mired back in fourth or fifth there just trying, but as the race went on, my car definitely got better. Before the yellow, I kept looking and trying to find him. I didn't know where he was at, but I felt like if we got a yellow, we had a chance. I was clicking off some pretty good laps there."

It was hands down the best Smackdown of Logan Seavey's career as far as Saturday night finales go. That's the story for the Sutter, Calif. racer who finished third in the feature after starting eighth. That earned him his best career Smackdown Saturday night finish in what was his sixth start in the event behind the wheel of his 2B Racing/Honest Abe Roofing – Benic Enterprises – Goodnight Racing/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

"When you're racing with guys like that, you've got to jump at the first opportunity you see to make passes," Seavey explained. "I had to capitalize really quick there early when a few guys were kind of searching and I knew where I was going. I got to fourth or fifth there pretty quickly and was happy with my car. I made a few passes there toward the end to get to third, which is really good. I felt like I could race with Kyle there a little bit, but Justin was in another league tonight."

Briggs Danner (Allentown, Pa.) performed terrifically all weekend in his first career Smackdown appearance. The best run of them all for the reigning USAC East Coast Sprint Car champ and current point leader, however, came on Saturday night as he finished sixth. In doing so, he was named the 2023 Smackdown Rookie of the Year, which rewarded him with a $1,000 bonus.

Smackdown XII also served as the kickoff for the inaugural USAC NOS Energy Drink Hoosier Trifecta in which USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship competitors will be racing for major prizes across three marquee events in the state of Indiana in August, September and October.

Up next in the three-race series is the $20,000-to-win Haubstadt Hustler at Tri-State Speedway on Saturday, September 16. Another $20,000 winner's share is posted for the Fall Nationals at Lawrenceburg Speedway, set to go on Saturday, October 7.

Winning all three Trifecta events in 2023 would net a driver a bonus of up to $30,000. The top driver finishing all three races in second place or better will receive a $20,000 payout. The top driver finishing all three races in third place or better will receive a $10,000 payout.

At the end of the three races during the USAC NOS Energy Drink Hoosier Trifecta, a driver could earn a potential $100,000-plus prize when all is said and done.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: August 26, 2023 – Kokomo Speedway – Kokomo, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Sprint Car Smackdown XII

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Garrett (#15 BGE Dougherty), 2. Max Adams (#5x Adams), 3. Emerson Axsom (#47BC Clauson Marshall Newman), 4. Trey Osborne (#6T Osborne), 5. Colten Cottle (#57 Hazen), 6. Dustin Ingle (#2DI Ingle), 7. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (#51T Tafoya), 8. Tyler Miller (#67 Miller). 2:13.96

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers (#17GP Dutcher), 2. Matt Westfall (#33m Marshall), 3. Stevie Sussex (#77s Sturgeon), 4. Cole Bodine (#57B Bodine), 5. Dave Darland (#36D Darland/Curb-Agajanian), 6. Kobe Simpson (#21K Simpson), 7. Nate Schank (#1 Schank), 8. Larry Kingseed Jr. (#21 Kingseed). 2:12.67

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Ricky Lewis (#41 Brown), 2. Chase Stockon (#5s KO), 3. Sterling Cling (#34 SCR), 4. Korbyn Hayslett (#1H Hayslett), 5. Geoff Ensign (#17 On The Gass), 6. Devan Myers (#75 Myers), 7. Bryar Schroeter (#21s Schroeter), 8. Jack Hoyer (#5 Baldwin-Fox). 2:13.65

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-2 transfer to the feature) 1. Jake Swanson (#21AZ Team AZ), 2. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA), 3. Daison Pursley (#5p KO), 4. Rylan Gray (#81G Gray), 5. Riley Kreisel (#2J Yeley), 6. Brayden Clark (#42G Jackson-Clark), 7. Brandon Mattox (#28 Mattox), 8. Jack James (#99 James). NT

FIRST BILL & SANDY WEVER & THE GRANDKIDS KING OF THE HILL QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #1 Justin Grant (#4 TOPP) defeats #8 Logan Seavey (#2B 2B Racing)

SECOND BILL & SANDY WEVER & THE GRANDKIDS KING OF THE HILL QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #5 Kyle Cummins (#3R Rock Steady) defeats #4 Robert Ballou (#12 Ballou)

THIRD BILL & SANDY WEVER & THE GRANDKIDS KING OF THE HILL QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #3 C.J. Leary defeats #6 Shane Cottle (#2E Epperson)

FOURTH BILL & SANDY WEVER & THE GRANDKIDS KING OF THE HILL QUARTERFINAL: (3 laps) #7 Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) defeats #2 Brady Bacon (#69 Dynamics)

FIRST BILL & SANDY WEVER & THE GRANDKIDS KING OF THE HILL SEMIFINAL: (3 laps) #1 Justin Grant defeats #5 Kyle Cummins

SECOND BILL & SANDY WEVER & THE GRANDKIDS KING OF THE HILL SEMIFINAL: (3 laps) #3 C.J. Leary defeats #7 Briggs Danner

BILL & SANDY WEVER & THE GRANDKIDS KING OF THE HILL FINAL: (3 laps) #1 Justin Grant defeats #3 C.J. Leary

LUGS LAWN CARE SERVICE C-MAIN: (8 laps, top-2 transfer to the semi) 1. Brandon Mattox, 2. Nate Schank, 3. Larry Kingseed Jr., 4. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 5. Bryar Schroeter, 6. Jack James, 7. Tyler Miller. 1:52.15

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Trey Osborne, 3. Stevie Sussex, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. Cole Bodine, 6. Geoff Ensign, 7. Korbyn Hayslett, 8. Colten Cottle, 9. Rylan Gray, 10. Dave Darland, 11. Brayden Clark, 12. Dustin Ingle, 13. Brandon Mattox, 14. Devan Myers, 15. Nate Schank, 16. Sterling Cling, 17. Kobe Simpson. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (1), 2. Kyle Cummins (3), 3. Logan Seavey (8), 4. Brady Bacon (5), 5. Robert Ballou (6), 6. Briggs Danner (4), 7. Jadon Rogers (10), 8. C.J. Leary (2), 9. Shane Cottle (7), 10. Jake Swanson (12), 11. Ricky Lewis (11), 12. Emerson Axsom (17), 13. Daison Pursley (20), 14. Carson Garrett (9), 15. Joey Amantea (16), 16. Geoff Ensign (22), 17. Matt Westfall (14), 18. Trey Osborne (18), 19. Cole Bodine (21), 20. Stevie Sussex (19), 21. Max Adams (13), 22. Chase Stockon (15). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-11 C.J. Leary, Laps 12-40 Justin Grant.

**Kobe Simpson flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1851, 2-Justin Grant-1842, 3-Emerson Axsom-1743, 4-Kyle Cummins-1724, 5-Jake Swanson-1697, 6-C.J. Leary-1638, 7-Robert Ballou-1552, 8-Chase Stockon-1434, 9-Daison Pursley-1377, 10-Mitchel Moles-1374.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-152, 2-Logan Seavey-104, 3-Shane Cottle-102, 4-Robert Ballou-87, 5-Matt Westfall-86, 6-Brady Bacon-85, 7-Justin Grant-79, 8-Emerson Axsom-76, 9-Chase Stockon-69, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-54.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 7, 2023 – Devil's Bowl Speedway – Mesquite, Texas – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – Co-Sanctioned by the ASCS Elite Non-Wing Sprints

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Clinton Boyles/Carbon Safety Technologies Most Wheel Pack Laps: Colten Cottle (38)

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Brady Bacon (12.807)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Carson Garrett

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Ricky Lewis

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Jake Swanson

Bill & Sandy Wever & The Grandkids King of the Hill Champion: Justin Grant

Lugs Lawn Care Service C-Main Winner: Brandon Mattox

Hoosier Tire First C-Main Non-Transfer: Larry Kingseed Jr.

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Emerson Axsom

Hoosier Tire First Semi Non-Transfer: Korbyn Hayslett

ProSource Hard Work Award: Geoff Ensign

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: C.J. Leary

J & J Trucking Hard Charger: Daison Pursley (20th to 13th)

Clinton Boyles Top Local Driver: Ricky Lewis (11th)

Collin Grissom Smackdown Rookie Move of the Night: Briggs Danner

Smackdown ProSource Passing Master: Shane Cottle

Smackdown Rookie of the Year: Briggs Danner

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LONE STAR MILESTONE! BACON MOVES TO 2ND WITH USAC SPRINT WIN #52 AT DEVIL'S BOWL

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Mesquite, Texas (September 7, 2023)……For Brady Bacon, Devil's Bowl Speedway was sort of like a Kokomo of the south. Both are tracks he'd competed at extensively but had long come up empty handed in the win column after an extensive number of runner-up finishes.

Not anymore.

The Broken Arrow, Okla. driver led all 30 laps on Thursday night at the 4/10-mile in Mesquite, Texas, prevailing following a late-race duel with Robert Ballou to earn a milestone victory in the first USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature held in the Lone Star State since 1985 – 38 years ago.

The triumph was the 52nd of Bacon's USAC National Sprint Car career, tying him for second all-time with 1978 series champion Tom Bigelow. Now only Dave Darland stands ahead of Bacon with 62 career victories.

With Bacon sharing the spot with Bigelow, it's also interesting to note that both currently reside in the same city even though both originally hail from other states – Wisconsin for Bigelow and Oklahoma for Bacon.

"It means a lot; Tom's a friend of mine and lives in Winchester (Indiana) as well," Bacon noted after piloting his Dynamics, Inc./Smiley's Racing Products – Hobson Family – Tel-Star Technologies/Triple X/Rider Chevy to a sixth USAC National Sprint Car win of the season.

A win at Devil's Bowl's famed fast dirt oval is especially special to Bacon as well. More than a decade ago, Bacon competed regularly with the American Sprint Car Series (ASCS) and the Sprint Bandits Tour 'N Topless series, finishing second place on numerous occasions before his breakthrough all those years later.

"Winning at Devil's Bowl is pretty big for me," Bacon exclaimed. "This place was a little bit like Kokomo for me earlier in my career. I ran second a bunch to a lot of really good guys like Jason Johnson, Gary Wright, Shane Stewart and Brian Brown. We could never quite get the job done with the wing here, so I'm glad to finally get it done with the non-wing car. I actually ran second in a non-wing car here about 13 years ago too and I haven't been back since. I'm glad to get it done."

Bacon established the point early from his pole starting position, leading the opening lap before 18th starting Dalton Stevens slipped over the turn one banking and coasted to a stop on lap two to bring out the first yellow.

Once again establishing the lead on the restart using the bottom side of the racetrack, the race was halted again on lap four when eighth running Charles Davis Jr. flipped violently down the back straightaway in a wicked tumble after clipping a turn two infield tire. The veteran Arizonian was able to climb out and walk away.

Under yellow, sixth running C.J. Leary's car refused to refire for the lap four restart, making laps around the track connected to the front bumper of a push vehicle, but wasn't able to power on its own, signaling an unexpected and disappointing conclusion to the race for the 2019 series champ.

On the restart, the major mover was Robert Ballou as he slid past Jake Swanson in turn one for the second position on lap five as Justin Grant also followed en route to third. Meanwhile, Bacon had opened up a 1.359 second gap over Ballou as the race leader before heat race winner and 12th running Justin Zimmerman experienced a flat left rear tire in the middle of the pack on lap 13 as the field scrambled high and low to successfully avoid contact.

The first driver to really make headway somewhere other than the bottom of the racetrack was USAC CRA Sprint Car point leader Brody Roa who took to the high side on the lap 13 restart and proceeded to drive all the way up to third. As Roa made a bid for second on the outside of Ballou between turns three and four on lap 17, Ballou caught wind of Roa's notion and decided to move to the top as well.

The high side suited Ballou well over the next several laps as he seemingly slashed a tenth of a second from the bottom-rolling Bacon's lead with each ensuing lap. Closing in on the stripe with two laps to go, Ballou pulled even on the outside of Bacon in turns three and four. Out of the corner of his eye, Bacon saw Ballou's nose, and in a split-second, said sayonara to the bottom and slid to the top of the front straightaway to steal Ballou's line away.

Moments later, entering turn one nose-to-tail, Ballou spun off the edge of turn one, ending his run his run at a first USAC National Sprint Car victory of the season. Ballou restarted at the tail thereafter and drove from 18th to 14th in the final two laps.

Bacon had an inkling somebody behind him was going to make a run toward him up top, and just as soon he spotted it, he was prepared to make his move.

"I knew the bottom was going to be tough to beat in turns one and two," Bacon explained. "It was getting pretty slow, but we were getting close to the end of the race, so I thought, 'well, somebody's going to have to beat me on the top.' He poked his nose out there and I saw it and I knew it was time to move up. I got a good enough run to get in front of him and he kind of gave me a little tap getting down the front straightaway. I don't know if he wasn't expecting me to go to the top in front of him – probably not. I was ready for that move if I needed to do it."

The final two laps were a bit less hectic for Bacon as he cruised to a 1.151 second victory. Meanwhile, a hardscrabble scramble for second on back was sorting itself out with Jake Swanson and Kyle Cummins making valiant late race runs to position themselves second and third at the line, respectively. Jadon Rogers equaled his best finish of the USAC season with a fourth while Justin Grant rounded out the top-five with a solid fifth but also saw his three-race winning streak with the series come to an end.

On paper, Jake Swanson started second and finished second in his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy. But it wasn't anywhere near that easy. No sir. The Anaheim, Calif. native fell back to seventh as late as with only seven laps to go but managed to charge back up through the pack to score a second-place result.

For much of the feature, Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) ran either just outside the top-10 or just inside the top-10. The last 10 laps were a different story, however, as he picked the field off one-by-one to break into the top-five late, then on the lap 28 restart, he went fifth to third to grab a podium finish in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy.

Mired back in the 21st starting spot, the only way to go was forward for Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.), and he did that aplenty by advancing 13 spots to finish eighth and earn hard charger honors for the evening.

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) was the best of the bunch in a tumultuous Honest Abe Roofing Qualifying session. His lap of

16.237 seconds broke the one-lap USAC track record at Devil's Bowl of 16.626 held by Richard Summers since May of 1985. Qualifying, however, was marred by four separate ugly and violent incidents which sent drivers Anthony Nicholson, Kobe

Simpson, Josh Hanna and J.J. Yeley flipping several times on their time trial runs. All four drivers' nights were ended due to the crashes, but all four were able to walk away.

Thursday's race at Devil's Bowl was just the fifth USAC National Sprint Car event held in the state of Texas. A.J. Foyt (1959), Don Branson (1960) and Parnelli Jones (1960) all scored USAC Midwest Sprint Car victories at Meyer Speedway in Houston. Rick Hood (1985) captured a win at Devil's Bowl. All four drivers are both USAC National Sprint Car champions and members of the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame, a club that Bacon is certainly on his way to belonging to as well.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 7, 2023 – Devil's Bowl Speedway – Mesquite, Texas – 4/10-Mile Dirt Track – Co-Sanctioned by the ASCS Elite Non-Wing Sprint Car Series

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-16.237 (New Track Record); 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.289; 3. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-16.305; 4. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.309; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.314; 6. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.319; 7. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-16.372; 8. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.385; 9. J.J. Yeley, 2, Yeley-16.414; 10. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-16.420; 11. Brody Roa, 17R, Dunkel-16.468; 12. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.527; 13. Anthony Nicholson, 16, Nicholson-16.536; 14. Justin Zimmerman, #1, D-Up-16.549; 15. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2J, Yeley-16.565; 16. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-16.588; 17. Jadon Rogers, 17GP, Dutcher-16.632; 18. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-16.659; 19. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-16.686; 20. Kyle Jones, 11, Melton-16.752; 21. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-16.853; 22. A.J. Bender, 21, Bender-16.866; 23. Paul White, 1, Wade-16.920; 24. Jack Hoyer, 5, Baldwin/Fox-16.922; 25. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-16.931; 26. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-16.957; 27. Jason Howell, 44, Sturgeon-17.324; 28. Josh Hanna, 82, Hanna-17.686; 29. Bryan Debrick, 10, Debrick-17.717; 30. Kobe Simpson, 21K, Simpson-NT; 31. Chase Parson, 57, Parson-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 6. Paul White, 7. Jason Howell. 2:16.88

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kyle Jones, 2. Brody Roa, 3. Jack Hoyer, 4. Justin Grant, 5. Mitchel Moles, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Bryan Debrick. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Brady Bacon, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Matt Westfall, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Chase Parson. 2:17.90

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Zimmerman, 2. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 3. Chase Stockon, 4. Robert Ballou, 5. A.J. Bender, 6. Dalton Stevens. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Matt Westfall, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. Dalton Stevens, 6. Brandon Mattox, 7. Jason Howell, 8. A.J. Bender, 9. Paul White, 10. Bryan Debrick, 11. Chase Parson. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (1), 2. Jake Swanson (2), 3. Kyle Cummins (13), 4. Jadon Rogers (8), 5. Justin Grant (5), 6. Brody Roa (14), 7. Kevin Thomas Jr. (16), 8. Emerson Axsom (21), 9. Mitchel Moles (11), 10. Kyle Jones (10), 11. Logan Seavey (4), 12. Chase Stockon (12), 13. Matt Westfall (15), 14. Robert Ballou (3), 15. Daison Pursley (17), 16. Jack Hoyer (20), 17. Brandon Mattox (19), 18. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (22), 19. Dalton Stevens (18), 20. Justin Zimmerman (7), 21. C.J. Leary (6), 22. Charles Davis Jr. (9). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Brady Bacon.

**Anthony Nicholson flipped during qualifying. Kobe Simpson flipped during qualifying. Josh Hanna flipped during qualifying. J.J. Yeley flipped during qualifying. Charles Davis Jr. flipped on lap 4 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Brady Bacon-1928, 2-Justin Grant-1910, 3-Emerson Axsom-1798, 4-Kyle Cummins-1795, 5-Jake Swanson-1771, 6-C.J. Leary-1673, 7-Robert Ballou-1595, 8-Chase Stockon-1479, 9-Mitchel Moles-1425, 10-Daison Pursley-1411.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-169, 2-Logan Seavey-105, 3-Shane Cottle-102, 4-Emerson Axsom-95, 5-Justin Grant-92, 6-Matt Westfall-88, 7-Robert Ballou-87, 8-Brady Bacon-85, 9-Chase Stockon-69, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-63.

TEXAS & ARKANSAS SWING PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-13, 2-Kyle Cummins-12, 3-Brody Roa-10, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-10, 5-Jadon Rogers-6, 6-Jack-Hoyer-4, 7-Eddie Tafoya Jr.-4, 8-Brady Bacon-3, 9-Justin Zimmerman-3, 10-C.J. Leary-3.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES: September 8-9, 2023 – Texarkana 67 Speedway – Texarkana, Arkansas – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Wingless Short Track Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Robert Ballou (16.285)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary (16.237)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Charles Davis Jr.

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Kyle Jones

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Justin Zimmerman

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

ProSource Hard Work Award: Eddie Tafoya Jr.

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: Brady Bacon

Hard Charger: Emerson Axsom (21st to 8th)

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17 YEARS IN THE MAKING! WESTFALL IS A USAC SPRINT CAR WINNER AGAIN AT TEXARKANA

2023 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Texarkana, Arkansas (September 9, 2023)……Seventeen years, two months and twenty-three days.

That was the wait Matt Westfall endured between his first and second career USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship feature victories.

The dash in the years between his 2006 triumph at Ohio's Eldora Speedway and Saturday night's score at Arkansas' Texarkana 67 Speedway was filled with countless hours of traveling the country chasing everything from sprint cars to midgets to Silver Crown cars to late models to modifieds to SpeedSTRs and nearly everything else in between.

However, the feeling of joy he experienced to finally put a cap on the gap between USAC win number one and two was both satisfying and gratifying for the 46-year-old Pleasant Hill, Ohio native who led all 30 laps in his Ray Marshall Motorsports/Buckeye Machine – Hempy Water/DRC/Gressman Chevy.

"It's unbelievable," Westfall exclaimed. "When I won my first one back in '06, I told my dad I could retire. We've been going up and down the road the last couple years with USAC and we got going really good at the end of last year. Then they came out with a new tire this year and I've struggled ever since. We went back to the main gameplan, and it worked out tonight."

Not only did Westfall pocket a $10,000 Wingless Short Track Nationals payday, but it also came in the series debut at the 1/4-mile dirt oval as well as the first USAC race in The Natural State in a decade. Westfall also provided fellow Ohioan Ray Marshall, who has fielded cars in the series since 2010, his first USAC victory as a car owner.

In the process, Westfall also set a new USAC record for years between national feature victories. Westfall broke the USAC National Sprint record of 12 years, 11 months and 4 days between wins by Doug Wolfgang from 1978-1991. The previous longest interval between USAC National victories of any kind was a record owned by Arnie Knepper in the midgets, as he picked up wins 13 years, 2 months and 8 days apart from one another in a span lasting from 1970-1983.

Starting third, Westfall wasted no time leapfrogging the front row of Robert Ballou and Brody Roa on the initial lap. Both Ballou and Roa went topside while Westfall stuck his wheels as far on the bottom of the racing surface as humanly possible.

Westfall nailed it, driving by Roa immediately before surpassing pole sitter Ballou at the exit of turn four to beat him to the line by a car-length-and-a-half ahead at the end of lap one. By lap five, Westfall was a full two seconds ahead of the field with an equation of car, driver and track working in unison with perfect three-part harmony.

C.J. Leary slotted into second after driving underneath Ballou for the runner-up spot on lap three after starting fifth on the grid. A handful of laps later, Ballou had to contend with Brady Bacon for third, the same pair which went toe-to-toe for the win in the latter stages of the feature two nights earlier at Devil's Bowl Speedway in Texas.

This time around, Bacon slid Ballou on the ninth go-around for third before Ballou returned to the spot a half-lap later in turn three with a similar maneuver of his own. On lap 10, Bacon stuck the landing when he went topside around Ballou on the back straight before hitting the bottom to take away Ballou's line in turn three. As Bacon headed back to the outside off the turn four exit, so too did Ballou, clipping his right rear tire against Bacon's left front. Two laps later, Bacon kept the topside momentum up and surpassed Ballou on the back stretch to take over the position on lap 13.

By then, Westfall's lead was beginning to become more and more insurmountable with each arriving moment. Westfall's four second advantage put him a full straightaway ahead of Leary in the second position nearing the halfway point and up

to five seconds with just eight laps remaining with no one in the proximity of his area code or even his zip code for that matter.

Suddenly, the dynamics changed on lap 23 when third running Bacon caught the cushion between turns one and two, popping his car up into the air before making a 90-degree right hand turn which nosed him into the outside wall before completing a 360 twirl and coming to a stop.

An attempt was made to push Bacon away to refire, but instead, veered him straight left into the infield due to a disconnected draglink. Bacon was escorted back to the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area for repairs, making it back on track just in time before, ultimately, finishing 15th. The unsightly finish for Bacon took him off the top line of the season long USAC National Sprint Car championship standings where he now sits second behind Justin Grant.

The erasure of Westfall's big lead was only temporary, as once the race restarted, he picked up right where he left off, in trouncing mode, spurting away from Leary et al as he perused the bottom directly into victory lane by a 1.576 second margin over C.J. Leary, Chase Stockon, Justin Grant and Mitchel Moles.

Westfall knew right what he wanted to do from the get-go, going straight to the low side of the racetrack and never once abandoning it throughout the 30-lap distance. While Westfall is accustomed to taking this particular path, on this night, it's an avenue he saw as early as his heat race and then made that his home for the main event.

"In the heat race, we went down there on the bottom," Westfall recalled. "You keep watching all these young kids who just blow through it, and they can't stick the bottom. I was pretty happy with how the car was for us and I've got to thank Ray Marshall for everything he does for me. This is really cool."

Following an early race issue which knocked him out of Thursday's series race and relegated him to a last place finish, C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) returned to form at Texarkana, finishing second in his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts/DRC/1-Way Chevy.

Chase Stockon (Fort Branch, Ind.) began his quest from the 10th position. He steadily moved up through the pack, and by the end, he had netted himself a third-place result in his KO Motorsports/Banded Ag – Superior Tank & Trailer – Dewig Meats – AMSOIL/Triple X/Fisher Chevy. The finish equaled his best USAC performance of the season.

Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) finished sixth in the feature and retained his lead of the Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment standings by 13 points over Leary with two races remaining in the 10-race miniseries.

Sixteenth starting Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) advanced six positions in the feature to finish 10th, providing him a surge to the top of the ProSource Passing Master standings for the Texas/Arkansas swing weekend, which encompassed Thursday's race at Devil's Bowl Speedway and Saturday's round at Texarkana 67 Speedway. Cummins passed a total of 19 cars throughout the entirety of the two programs.

Kyle Jones (Kennedale, Texas), making just his second career USAC National Sprint Car start, earned hard charger honors for the night by advancing from 21st to 13th. Meanwhile, fellow Texan, Justin Zimmerman (Athens, Texas), was the recipient of the ProSource Hard Work Award as the slowest qualifying driver to transfer into the feature.

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) recorded the 10th Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifying time of his USAC National Sprint Car career, moving him into the top-50 all-time alongside Sonny Ates, Jim Hurtubise and Thomas Meseraull.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 9, 2023 – Texarkana 67 Speedway – Texarkana, Arkansas – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – Wingless Short Track Nationals

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-14.311 (New Track Record); 2. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-14.397; 3. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-14.493; 4. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-14.708; 5. Jack Hoyer, 5, Baldwin/Fox-14.741; 6. Brody Roa, 17R, Dunkel/BR-14.744; 7. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-14.757; 8. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-14.758; 9. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-14.793; 10. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.809; 11. Cody Gardner, G6, Gaines-14.924; 12. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-15.016; 13. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2J, Yeley-15.060; 14. Charles Davis Jr., 47, Davis-15.076; 15. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-15.089; 16. Paul White, 1, Wade-15.124; 17. Jason Howell, 44, Sturgeon-15.165; 18. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 51T, Tafoya-15.196; 19. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-15.213; 20. Jadon Rogers, 17GP, Dutcher-15.262; 21. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-15.306; 22. Kyle Jones, 11, Melton-15.323; 23. A.J. Bender, 21, Bender-15.334; 24. Chase Parson, 57, Parson-15.476; 25. Bryan Debrick, 10, Debrick-15.494; 26. Justin Zimmerman, #1, D Up-15.495; 27. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-15.515; 28. Dalton Stevens, 99x, Stevens-15.529; 29. Christian Moore, 6, Moore-15.707; 30. Chase Howard, 13, Howard-15.771; 31. Gary Floyd, 72, Sturgeon-15.814.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Chase Stockon, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Jake Swanson, 4. Daison Pursley, 5. Jason Howell, 6. Jack Hoyer, 7. Bryan Debrick, 8. Christian Moore. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Brody Roa, 4. Eddie Tafoya Jr., 5. Justin Zimmerman, 6. Kyle Jones, 7. Chase Howard, 8. Charles Davis Jr. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Kyle Cummins, 3. Robert Ballou, 4. Brady Bacon, 5. Cody Gardner, 6. A.J. Bender, 7. Brandon Mattox, 8. Gary Floyd. 2:35.06 (New Track Record)

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Jadon Rogers, 4. Paul White, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Chase Parson, 7. Dalton Stevens. 2:40.09

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Jack Hoyer, 3. Cody Gardner, 4. Justin Zimmerman, 5. Jason Howell, 6. Kyle Jones, 7. A.J. Bender, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Chase Parson, 10. Christian Moore, 11. Gary Floyd, 12. Chase Howard, 13. Bryan Debrick, 14. Dalton Stevens. 3:08.44 (New Track Record)

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Matt Westfall (3), 2. C.J. Leary (5), 3. Chase Stockon (10), 4. Justin Grant (7), 5. Mitchel Moles (8), 6. Emerson Axsom (9), 7. Jake Swanson (6), 8. Robert Ballou (1), 9. Cody Gardner (14), 10. Kyle Cummins (16), 11. Paul White (17), 12. Daison Pursley (13), 13. Kyle Jones (21), 14. Brody Roa (2), 15. Brady Bacon (4), 16. Logan Seavey (12), 17. Jason Howell (18), 18. Jack Hoyer (11), 19. Jadon Rogers (20), 20. Eddie Tafoya Jr. (19), 21. Kevin Thomas Jr. (15), 22. Justin Zimmerman (22). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Matt Westfall.

**Charles Davis Jr. flipped during the second heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-1979, 2-Brady Bacon-1970, 3-Emerson Axsom-1861, 4-Kyle Cummins-1845, 5-Jake Swanson-1835, 6-C.J. Leary-1752, 7-Robert Ballou-1650, 8-Chase Stockon-1551, 9-Mitchel Moles-1491, 10-Daison Pursley-1455.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-170, 2-Logan Seavey-105, 3-Shane Cottle-102, 4-Emerson Axsom-98, 5-Justin Grant-95, 6-Matt Westfall-90, 7-Robert Ballou-87, 8-Brady Bacon-85, 9-Chase Stockon-76, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-63.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-539, 2-C.J. Leary-526, 3-Jake Swanson-498, 4-Brady Bacon-490, 5-Mitchel Moles-480, 6-Chase Stockon-446, 7-Justin Grant- 441, 8-Kyle Cummins-437, 9-Daison Pursley-415, 10-Matt Westfall-375.

FINAL TEXAS & ARKANSAS SWING PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Kyle Cummins-19, 2-Emerson Axsom-17, 3-Brody Roa-12, 4-Kevin Thomas Jr.-11, 5-C.J. Leary-10, 6-Justin Zimmerman-10, 7-Chase Stockon-9, 8-Kyle Jones-9, 9-Matt Westfall-8, 10-Justin Grant-8.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 15, 2023 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Robert Ballou (14.447)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Jake Swanson (14.311)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chase Stockon

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Justin Grant

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Mitchel Moles

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

ProSource Hard Work Award: Justin Zimmerman

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: Matt Westfall

Hard Charger: Kyle Jones (21st to 13th)

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LAST LAP, LAST TURN HERO: SEAVEY SCORES PHOTO FINISH USAC SPRINT WIN AT CIRCLE CITY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 15, 2023)……Throughout the first 31 races of the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship season, Logan Seavey had led just one single, solitary lap.

During Friday night's feature at Indianapolis, Indiana's Circle City Raceway, all the Sutter, Calif. native led was about 10 feet or so to pull off his first series victory of the year in his 2B Racing/Honest Abe Roofing – Benic Enterprises – Goodnight Racing/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

Shane Cottle, who had taken over the lead on lap 19 of the 30-lap main event, appeared to have the race in his grasp until roughly four laps to go. That's when Seavey began to make some headway on Cottle who had pegged himself to the bottom groove.

Lap after lap, Seavey got a little bit closer, until he found himself trailing Cottle by a single car length at the line on the white flag lap. Seavey dug in, and at the exit of turn four on the 30th and final lap, finally emerged ahead of Cottle, just moments before the two crossed the finish line with Seavey out front.

Seavey's one car length margin of victory was calculated at a 0.142 second interval over Cottle, the second closest finish of the series season behind only Mitchel Moles' 0.093 second score over Carson Garrett in July at Macon (Ill.) Speedway.

Already a four-time NOS Energy Drink National Midget winner and twice a Silver Crown victor in 2023, Seavey's National Sprint Car win made him the first driver this season to earn victories in all three of USAC's national divisions.

Furthermore, Seavey provided his 2B Racing team with its first USAC National Sprint Car feature triumph since a May 18, 2012, win by driver Bobby East at Bloomington (Ind.) Speedway more than 11 years ago.

Overall, it was Seavey's ninth career USAC National Sprint Car win, moving him to 57th on the all-time list and into a tie with Mario Andretti, Pat O'Connor, Hunter Schuerenberg and Robbie Stanley. But this one at Circle City was certainly among the most satisfying.

"I was just watching the laps click down with seven or eight to go and I really wasn't gaining on him," Seavey recalled. "I knew that the harder I ran, the slower I'd go. I just talked to myself a little bit and made sure I hit my marks rather than overdrive it. There were a few laps where I was turning down off four and it was okay, but I knew that in order to run him down earlier, I had to get up there and pound it."

Prior to this night, Seavey's best performance of the USAC National Sprint Car season came via a runner-up result in July at the very same place – Circle City Raceway. Although it had been his best run to this point in the year, Seavey felt he left one on the table. He was determined not to let that happen this time around.

"The last time I was here, I got myself a little bit out of balance in the middle of the race and I felt like I gave one away," Seavey admitted. "This time, I wanted to make sure my car was going to stay good against the cushion so I could run it as hard as I could, but man, it was tough."

To boot, Seavey's car was one he had not driven before. The chassis is a nine-year-old DRC built in 2014 that has been driven occasionally by Scotty Weir on the local level at Gas City (Ind.) I-69 Speedway. It was originally owned by Baldwin Brothers Racing but was later sold to Lou Gagliardi's team and driven by Dustin Smith. When Gagliardi sold his equipment a couple years ago, 2B Racing team owner Scott Benic purchased the car. But that's only where the story begins.

Benic had the car powder coated and sold it to Australian driver Travis Millar, who raced it during this summer's USAC Indiana Sprint Week series. At the conclusion of ISW, Millar sold the car back to Benic and the 2B Racing team made the machine their backup car. After not running up to their expectations last weekend, the car with a long, winding history was

upgraded to the primary ride for Seavey at Circle City. Thanks to the car affectionately nicknamed “Barney,” the old dinosaur put Seavey and 2B Racing back in victory lane.

Carson Garrett started first and ran first for the initial six laps of the feature until outside front row starting Seavey made a flourish into the lead with a full head of steam as he charged around the outside of Garrett to lead lap seven by a foot with Cummins, winner of the last two USAC Sprint Car races this season at Circle City, right on their heels back in third.

Seventh running Jadon Rogers spun to a stop in turn three on lap eight to bring out the yellow. Sixth starting Cottle had held steady in sixth until the caution, but the emperor soon found his new groove along the bottom of the 1/4-mile dirt oval as he marched his way up to fourth three laps later.

After clipping the turn four infield tire on lap 14, Cottle lost substantial ground in his quest. However, he soon received a reprieve due to the misfortune of those just in front of him. On lap 17, Garrett (2nd) and Cummins (3rd) headed for the same piece of real estate entering turn one. Cummins climbed Garrett's left side wheels, resulting in Garrett spinning to a stop as Cummins continued onward.

Seavey's 1.154 second lead was eradicated with the stoppage, and the beneficiary soon after was Cottle. In one fell swoop, Cottle drove under both Cummins and Seavey to advance from third to first on lap 19. With five to go, Cottle’s seemingly healthy lead stood at more than a full second until Seavey tracked him down to earn his first series win since June of 2022 at Port Royal (Pa.) Speedway.

The confidence and swagger for Seavey and the 2B Racing team has rekindled of late after what has been a trying season that has had the team outside of the top-10 in the series point standings all year long. But the team stuck with it, and finally, good fortune was theirs in the end.

“These guys are doing everything they can to make this car good for us,” Seavey praised. “We’ve had some good runs and we’ve also struggled a lot too. Scott (Benic), Derek (Claxton), Matt (Meeks), Kevin Newton and everyone who works on this thing has put in the time and effort and has not given up. There have been a lot of nights where we were all just looking at each other not knowing what we were doing wrong. They brought in a new car this week and it drove really good all day. Hopefully, we can keep this speed up for the rest of the year.”

For Shane Cottle (Kansas, Ill.), it was a frustrating end to what was a spectacular performance which saw him nearly win his first USAC feature of the season. But just like the end of his USAC Silver Crown run at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in August, his winning expedition was ripped away in the waning laps by Seavey. Nonetheless, Cottle earned Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifying honors to open the night, then drove his Epperson Racing/Epperson Painting – PPG Paints/DRC/Claxton Chevy to a season-best second place result.

“I don’t know what I could’ve done differently,” Cottle lamented. “I was good around the bottom, and I kept hearing him for about two or three laps. All I could do was just keep hitting my marks. He was just better than I was. It’s just one of them deals.”

Mired back in the 14th starting spot, Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) had a long road to hoe on his way to a third-place result in his Ballou Motorsports/The Boss Builder’s Outlet Super Store – Dragonfly Aviation/Twister-X/Ott Chevy. That effort of 11 positions gained earned Ballou hard charger honors for the evening.

"You've just got to go where they're not, so I picked the middle land," Ballou explained. "At the beginning, they were kind of dicing around the bottom. I went a lane above them and got by some guys that are normally really difficult to pass. I think I must've caught them by surprise. The seas kind of parted, so I moved to the middle, and we were okay until about 10 to go and I just kind of lost a little drive. These top-five to 10 guys are extremely tough. They've got really good crews; they've got really good engines; and they've got their package together. I've been just a tick off all season and we're finally starting to creep around to where I think we're almost in a stride."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 15, 2023 – Circle City Raceway – Indianapolis, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-12.133; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-12.159; 3. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-12.176; 4. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-12.183; 5. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-12.184; 6. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-12.234; 7. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-12.260; 8. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-12.321; 9. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-12.367; 10. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-12.392; 11. Trey Osborne, 6T, Osborne-12.414; 12. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-12.465; 13. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.470; 14. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.481; 15. Jadon Rogers, 17GP, Dutcher-12.503; 16. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.515; 17. Brent Beauchamp, 11, Beauchamp-12.616; 18. Kody Swanson, 77, Wedgewood-12.626; 19. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-12.659; 20. Frankie Guerrini, 63, F & F-12.752; 21. Thomas Meseraull, 23, NIKSTE-12.839; 22. Jack Hoyer, 5, Baldwin/Fox-12.849; 23. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-12.870; 24. John Sluss, 4R, RayPro-12.958; 25. Scott Hampton, 51, Slinkard-12.963; 26. Devan Myers, 75, Myers-12.987; 27. Chance Crum, 26, Rudeen-12.999; 28. Bryar Schroeter, 21s, Schroeter-13.156; 29. Gabriel Gilbert, 10G, Gilbert-13.293; 30. Wes Pinkerton, 21, Hajduk-13.545.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Matt Westfall, 2. Shane Cottle, 3. Jake Swanson, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Emerson Axsom, 6. Mitchel Moles, 7. Bryar Schroeter, 8. Scott Hampton, 9. Jack Hoyer, 10. Chase Stockon. 2:10.14

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Brent Beauchamp, 2. Justin Grant, 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Brandon Mattox, 6. Frankie Guerrini, 7. Gabriel Gilbert, 8. Hunter Maddox, 9. Trey Osborne, 10. Devan Myers. 2:11.70

T.J. FORGED / CAR IQ THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Jadon Rogers, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Carson Garrett, 5. Kody Swanson, 6. Thomas Meseraull, 7. Daison Pursley, 8. Chance Crum, 9. John Sluss. 2:11.46

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Daison Pursley, 3. Thomas Meseraull, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Trey Osborne, 6. Chance Crum, 7. Jack Hoyer, 8. Frankie Guerrini, 9. Hunter Maddox, 10. Bryar Schroeter, 11. John Sluss, 12. Gabriel Gilbert, 13. Devan Myers, 14. Scott Hampton. NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Logan Seavey (2), 2. Shane Cottle (6), 3. Robert Ballou (14), 4. Kyle Cummins (4), 5. Brady Bacon (11), 6. Matt Westfall (7), 7. Justin Grant (5), 8. Mitchel Moles (15), 9. Emerson Axsom (19), 10. C.J. Leary (3), 11. Thomas Meseraull (20), 12. Brent Beauchamp (9), 13. Chance Crum (22), 14. Jake Swanson (10), 15. Daison Pursley (12), 16. Chase Stockon (17), 17. Brandon Mattox (16), 18. Jack Hoyer (21), 19. Kody Swanson (18), 20. Trey Osborne (13), 21. Jadon Rogers (8), 22. Carson Garrett (1). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-6 Carson Garrett, Laps 7-18 Logan Seavey, Laps 19-29 Shane Cottle, Lap 30 Logan Seavey.

**Scott Hampton flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2043, 2-Brady Bacon-2034, 3-Kyle Cummins-1916, 4-Emerson Axsom-1911, 5-Jake Swanson-1876, 6-C.J. Leary-1803, 7-Robert Ballou-1721, 8-Chase Stockon-1583, 9-Mitchel Moles-1544, 10-Logan Seavey-1494.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-170, 2-Emerson Axsom-108, 3-Logan Seavey-106, 4-Shane Cottle-106, 5-Robert Ballou-98, 6-Justin Grant-95, 7-Brady Bacon-91, 8-Matt Westfall-91, 9-Chase Stockon-77, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-63.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 16, 2023 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Haubstadt Hustler – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Brady Bacon (12.351)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Shane Cottle (12.133)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Matt Westfall

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Brent Beauchamp

T.J. Forged / Car IQ Third Heat Winner: Jadon Rogers

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

Kenny Baldwin Hard Work Award: Chance Crum

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: Carson Garrett

Hard Charger: Robert Ballou (14th to 3rd)

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$20 GRAND MACHO MAN! BACON HURRIES TO HAUBSTADT HUSTLER WIN

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Haubstadt, Indiana (September 16, 2023)……Tri-State Speedway has been very, very good to Brady Bacon in 2023.

In April, the Broken Arrow, Okla. native earned his first World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car win at the track, and on Saturday night, he raced to a first career Haubstadt Hustler victory in the richest event ever held at the Haubstadt, Indiana dirt oval worth $20,000.

The 16th running of the event, co-sanctioned by the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship and the Midwest Sprint Car Series, came down to a duel between Bacon and four-time Haubstadt Hustler victor Kevin Thomas Jr. en route to Bacon's 40-lap triumph at a track he's admittedly struggled at in the past and hadn't won a USAC race at since the spring of 2015.

Wheeling his Dynamics, Inc./4-Wide Salute Podcast – Tel-Star Technologies – DriveWFX.com/Triple X/Rider Chevy, Bacon's victory was a major milestone, providing him with his 53rd career USAC National Sprint Car feature win and giving him sole possession of second place on the all-time list ahead of 1978 series champion Tom Bigelow. Now, Bacon trails only Dave Darland's record of 62 series wins, which sits number one all-time.

Utilizing the MSCS format of group qualifying, a four-car heat race invert and a redraw for position to set the feature lineup, the USAC National Sprint Car points race was on hiatus for the evening with every licensed driver and entrant with the series receiving 50 appearance points across the board regardless of finishing position. For four-time USAC champion Bacon, it was a nice change of pace amidst the pressurized title race of which he trails Justin Grant by nine with only five events left to go.

"It was kind of nice," Bacon admitted. "It's been pretty stressful I'm sure for him and me both to get through each night, but tonight, I finally got to try something different, and obviously, it paid off. It's the biggest race here and at a place where we have admittedly struggled in the past. It was good to me earlier this year with my first World of Outlaws win and this is a pretty special one tonight. It's been a lot of years since I've last won here in a non-wing sprint car."

Bacon started from the pole position and immediately engaged in a tumultuous opening lap scuffle with outside front row starter Robert Ballou. As Bacon worked the middle line and Ballou the outside, the two came together at the exit of turn four, smacking wheels together as they crossed the stripe to complete lap one. To begin lap two, chrome-to-chrome contact was on the docket between Ballou's front bumper and Bacon's rear bumper which sent Bacon sideways in turn one. However, Bacon mashed the gas and was able to escape unscathed after the early race attack from Ballou.

By lap 10, Bacon had entered lapped traffic with a full second lead over Ballou. However, on lap 13, Ballou's car suddenly lost power, knocking him out of the race and relegating him to watching the rest of the race from the infield with an unsavory 22nd place result.

Dustin Beck was the beneficiary of Ballou's misfortune with the former modified standout and Tri-State Speedway regular moving up to second in only his fourth career USAC feature start. He split through traffic and kept pace with Bacon for the lead, albeit about five car lengths back as the race neared the midway point.

Trouble hit fourth running Justin Grant on the 20th lap when he suddenly slowed with a broken tie-rod. He was able to make it back to the Indy Metal Finishing Work Area for repairs and returned to the tail of the field for the restart before going on to race his way back to an eighth-place result.

On the race's resumption, ninth starting Kevin Thomas Jr. darted into the second position when Beck slid high in turn two on the 22nd lap. Now down a half-straightaway to Bacon for the lead, it was "game on" for the stalwarts of the sport who own a whopping 92 USAC National Sprint Car features between the two.

The gap was closed even further at the front of the field on lap 24 when the caution flag was displayed after Carson Short and Jadon Rogers found calamity in the corner amid a tussle for the seventh spot. The two drivers connected wheels in turn two with Short nearly getting upside before landing on all fours and stopping with extensive damage to his car, ending

his fantastic charge from the 17th starting position. Three laps later, Rogers slowed to bring out the caution, prematurely ending the defending Haubstadt Hustler champion's reign.

Down the stretch, the unflappable Bacon kept Thomas Jr. at arm's length. For the most part. With five laps remaining, Bacon had his rhythm disrupted when he went low off turn four to overtake the lapped car of Andy Bradley. In doing so, Bacon's car slipped completely sideways. Second running Thomas Jr. closed in and made slight contact with the rear of Bacon's machine, but both managed to continue without harm or foul.

With three laps to go, third-running Beck was in the camera frame, running just a few car lengths from the tail tank of Thomas Jr. However, he soon skated up the track in turn two and caught the outside wall, resulting in the loss of a full-straightaway of ground.

Moments later, 16th running Kayla Roell walked away from a wild flip in turn one, ending her first Haubstadt Hustler run on lap 38. For the feature, she was behind the wheel of KO Motorsports teammate Daison Pursley's backup car after earlier trouble in her primary ride.

At the front of the field, Bacon had a bit of anxiousness, but at this point in his career, he'd seen it all and was prepared for the final stretch run at a major payday.

"I was a little concerned because I was actually tight," Bacon remembered. "Sitting under the red, I was worried that my tire was going to go down a little bit. I just drove it as hard as I could, and I knew if I could get a couple laps in, the bottom gets slower, and you can get your momentum going on the top."

On Bacon's rear bumper for the late-race restart was Kevin Thomas Jr., one of the best in the business and a driver who's tied for the all-time lead in USAC National Sprint Car victories (6) at the venue known as The Class Track.

"On the green-white-checker, he's one of the best here, and I just tried to not make any mistakes," Bacon explained. "I was getting kind of sloppy there catching a lapped car and about spun out. Once we could get rolling on the top, I felt really good. I've never been that good on the top here like that. I was struggling a little bit in lapped traffic, which is usually where I'm good at on the bottom. I just had a lot of speed on the top."

That's where Bacon stayed for the remaining two laps, never straying from the high line. Thomas Jr. was able to pull even with Bacon for a fleeting moment in turn four on the final lap, but Bacon's momentum propelled him ahead to the win by a 0.289 second margin.

Thomas Jr. ran second ahead of Dustin Beck in third with Mitchel Moles fourth and Kyle Cummins fifth, who earned hard charger honors after officially starting 15th, but dropped to as far back as 22nd after an opening lap skirmish into the infield sent him nearly all the way back to the tail.

Kevin Thomas Jr. (Cullman, Ala.) made his first USAC run in Kevin Newton's No. 16 a successful one as he turned in his best finish of the USAC season to finish second, his sixth career top-two Haubstadt Hustler finish aboard the Honest Abe Roofing – Benic Enterprises/DRC/Claxton Chevy.

"I felt like we were pretty equal there," Thomas Jr. said of he and Bacon's late-race battle. "On the long runs, I could search around. He was leading, so it's hard to move around. He was running the top there and it was a little lippy on the edge of wanting to push. The way you run this track is very inconsistent as a driver. But he's one of the best at being consistent. I

gave it everything I've got, but I think I maybe needed a little bit of lapped traffic and some more laps. I mean, they gave us 40, so how much more can you ask for?"

Dustin Beck (Petersburg, Ind.) recorded his best career USAC National Sprint Car result in a fine drive in the seat of his Henson-Rupp/Royal Express Car Wash – Clark's Commercial Services/Maxim/SPEC Chevy. The finish came on the heels of his best performance in a sprint car just two weeks earlier with a similar third place run in MSCS competition at Tri-State.

"I actually podiumed for the first time here two weeks ago and that really hasn't sunk in yet either," Beck revealed. "This is definitely a confidence builder. I think we can run with these guys, and we've hit on something lately that's working, so I'm confident now running here."

In Honest Abe Roofing Qualifying, Mitchel Moles (Raisin City, Calif.) posted his 10th career fast time in USAC National Sprint Car competition. That moved him to 50th place all-time alongside Sonny Ates, Jim Hurtubise, Thomas Meseraull and Jake Swanson.

Tenth place finishing driver C.J. Leary reached a milestone with his 400th career USAC National Sprint Car feature start, becoming just the ninth driver to reach the mark. Dave Darland holds the all-time record of 797 starts ahead of Tracy Hines (484), Brady Bacon (473), Robert Ballou (470), Chris Windom (470), Jon Stanbrough (448), Tom Bigelow (447) and Chase Stockon (440).

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 16, 2023 – Tri-State Speedway – Haubstadt, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Haubstadt Hustler – Co-Sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-13.123; 2. Adyn Schmidt, 12s, Schmidt-13.201; 3. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-13.209; 4. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-13.250; 5. Kevin Thomas Jr., 16, Newton-13.288; 6. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-13.309; 7. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-13.320; 8. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.345; 9. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-13.353; 10. Dustin Beck, 75, Henson/Rupp-13.360; 11. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-13.381; 12. Stephen Schnapf, 39, Hoosier Speed/Fortune-13.414; 13. Kendall Ruble, 17, Ruble-13.445; 14. J.J. Hughes, 76, Hughes-13.463; 15. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.478; 16. Andy Bradley, 86, Hoosier Speed/Fortune-13.539; 17. Kayla Roell, 5K, KO-13.581; 18. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-13.658; 19. Brady Short, 61m, Edwards-13.688; 20. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.754; 21. Sam Scott, 7s, Scott-13.755; 22. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-13.772; 23. Donny Brackett, 4B, Brackett-13.886; 24. Carson Short, 84, Beadles-13.900; 25. Jadon Rogers, 17GP, Dutcher-13.971; 26. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-13.985; 27. Michael Daugherty, 3.14, Daugherty-14.050; 28. Aric Gentry, 10, Gentry-14.077; 29. Jeff Pritchett, 2J, Nine-One-One-14.170; 30. Johnny Ivers, 55, Ivers/Thomas-14.198; 31. Allen Howard Jr., 4u, AJR-14.230; 32. Kevin Newton, 16TH, Newton-14.552; 33. Raymond Holden, 2R, Holden-14.934.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kendall Ruble, 2. Mitchel Moles, 3. Kevin Thomas Jr., 4. Emerson Axsom, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Sam Scott, 7. Kayla Roell, 8. Jeff Pritchett, 9. Raymond Holden. NT

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Dustin Beck, 2. J.J. Hughes, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Adyn Schmidt, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Logan Seavey, 7. Matt Westfall, 8. Johnny Ivers. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Justin Grant, 3. C.J. Leary, 4. Kyle Cummins, 5. Brady Short, 6. Michael Daugherty, 7. Allen Howard Jr., 8. Donny Brackett. NT

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Stephen Schnapf, 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Andy Bradley, 5. Carson Short, 6. Aric Gentry, 7. Jake Swanson, 8. Kevin Newton. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Carson Short, 2. Jadon Rogers, 3. Brady Short, 4. Logan Seavey, 5. Chase Stockon, 6. Matt Westfall, 7. Jake Swanson, 8. Sam Scott, 9. Jeff Pritchett, 10. Allen Howard Jr., 11. Johnny Ivers, 12. Aric Gentry, 13. Raymond Holden, 14. Michael Daugherty. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Brady Bacon (1), 2. Kevin Thomas Jr. (9), 3. Dustin Beck (3), 4. Mitchel Moles (5), 5. Kyle Cummins (15), 6. J.J. Hughes (6), 7. Kendall Ruble (4), 8. Justin Grant (7), 9. Carson Garrett (10), 10. C.J. Leary (11), 11. Logan Seavey (20), 12. Chase Stockon (21), 13. Daison Pursley (12), 14. Emerson Axsom (13), 15. Brady Short (19), 16. Adyn Schmidt (14), 17. Kayla Roell (23-P), 18. Andy Bradley (16), 19. Jadon Rogers (18), 20. Carson Short (17), 21. Matt Westfall (22), 22. Robert Ballou (2), 23. Stephen Schnapf (8). NT

(P) represents an MSCS provisional starter

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Brady Bacon.

**Aric Gentry flipped during the semi. Kayla Roell flipped on lap 38 of the feature.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2093, 2-Brady Bacon-2084, 3-Kyle Cummins-1966, 4-Emerson Axsom-1961, 5-Jake Swanson-1926, 6-C.J. Leary-1853, 7-Robert Ballou-1771, 8-Chase Stockon-1633, 9-Mitchel Moles-1594, 10-Logan Seavey-1544.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-170, 2-Logan Seavey-115, 3-Emerson Axsom-108, 4-Shane Cottle-106, 5-Robert Ballou-98, 6-Justin Grant-95, 7-Matt Westfall-92, 8-Brady Bacon-91, 9-Chase Stockon-86, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-70.

BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-Emerson Axsom-574, 2-C.J. Leary-569, 3-Brady Bacon-560, 4-Mitchel Moles-541, 5-Jake Swanson-508, 6-Kyle Cummins-495, 7-Justin Grant- 490, 8-Chase Stockon-485, 9-Daison Pursley-452, 10-Matt Westfall-398.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 21, 2023 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – James Dean Classic

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Mitchel Moles (13.123)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Mitchel Moles (13.123)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Kendall Ruble

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Dustin Beck

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Elliott's Custom Trailers & Carts Semi Winner: Carson Short

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: Brady Bacon

Hard Charger: Kyle Cummins (15th to 5th)

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STRAIGHT TO THE POINT: GRANT SPRINTS TO JAMES DEAN CLASSIC WIN AT GAS CITY

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Gas City, Indiana (September 21, 2023)……Throughout Thursday night's James Dean Classic at Indiana's Gas City I-69 Speedway, Justin Grant experienced the fluctuating feeling of a season-long USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship battle swaying in the balance.

During the heat races, his point lead vanished for a brief moment when Brady Bacon scored a victory. Shortly thereafter, Grant regained a grip on the lead when he answered with his very own heat race win.

With all that said, there was absolutely no fluctuation whatsoever in the feature from the eighth lap onward. As soon as Grant assumed the point, he gained total command of the race at hand and control of the big picture in terms of the series point lead by scoring his 10th series win of the season aboard his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

The performance turned in by Grant was one for the record books as he became just the 11th driver in the series' 68-year history to reach double-digit feature victories in a single USAC National Sprint Car season, joining Tom Bigelow (14 in 1977), Robert Ballou (13 in 2015), J.J. Yeley (13 in 2003), Larry Dickson (12 in 1968), Pancho Carter (12 in 1976), Bubby Jones (11 in 1979), Tyler Courtney (11 in 2018), Larry Dickson (10 in 1970), Pancho Carter (10 in 1977) and Jay Drake (10 in 2000).

Grant officially owns the bragging rights for USAC National Sprint Car racing at Gas City in 2023, already staking claim as the winner of the Indiana Sprint Week round in July. Furthermore, Grant posted his second career James Dean Classic victory, previously doing so in 2020.

The 44th USAC National Sprint Car win of Grant's career now moves him to within one of 1968-70-75 series champion Larry Dickson (45 wins) for sixth place on the all-time list.

Starting seventh in the 22-car field, Grant had some strenuous work to perform in the 30-lap span. Initially, Shane Cottle bolted to the lead from his outside front row starting position on lap one. However, Cottle's lay of the land was short-lived as third-starting Robert Ballou split between Cottle and pole starter Emerson Axsom in turn one on lap two to position himself at the forefront of the field.

Following a yellow flag for a spin by 22nd running Rylan Gray between turns one and two on lap six, Bacon was the newest riser through the pack as he flashed around the outside of Emerson Axsom for second place on the restart.

Quickly, though, it became readily apparent that Grant came to play. First, he hit the alley between Axsom and Bacon in turn four on lap seven to escape from fourth to second. Less than a lap later, Grant was in the lead as he blazed by Ballou midway down the back straight to surge into the lead on lap eight.

Immediately, Grant launched away to a near full-straightaway lead as the race neared the halfway mark, more than three seconds ahead with 15 laps remaining as Ballou, Axsom and Bacon fought like bulldogs on a porkchop for the second spot.

In traffic, Grant was unattainable as his lead ballooned to five seconds with 10 laps to go. But funny enough, as his lead continuously expanded lap after lap, Grant truly believed that more and more pressure was mounting from the second-place car of Axsom. As it turned out, it was just a mirage in the form of another lapped car.

“While I was working lapped traffic, I kept seeing a black and white car kind of poking down there; I thought it was Axsom,” Grant revealed. “I thought I had mega pressure in lapped traffic the whole time, so I had no idea we were that good. It was so slick around here, but I knew our car was really, really good. I was kind of worried about somebody getting the bottom rolling.”

Meanwhile, behind him, Matt Westfall was crawling the bottom with perfection to edge his way up to the third spot past Ballou on lap 24 after beginning his race from mid-pack in the 22-car starting field.

However, Grant’s lead was erased on lap 25 when Daison Pursley (14th) performed a 360-degree spin in turn four which necessitated a caution. Nonetheless, it wasn’t enough to deter Grant who stepped away from the pack over the final six laps while riding the rim as the trailing Axsom and Westfall rolled the bottom in their pursuit.

In the end, Grant was too much to handle as he earned a 1.408 second margin of victory over Emerson Axsom, Matt Westfall, Robert Ballou and Brady Bacon. With Bacon finishing fifth and Grant first, Grant’s series point lead increased to 15 markers with four races remaining. But in this pressure cooker, the night sweats never cease when thinking about the championship.

“With Brady, the pressure is never off,” Grant acknowledged. “He’s a really good racecar driver; he always finds a way; and he keeps his cool. He’s just so, so hard to beat. It’s an honor to compete with him in this deal. I’ve had to become a lot better of a racecar driver because of him. It’s fun to go toe-to-toe with him and he’s as good as it gets. When we can come out on top, it feels really, really good and really rewarding.”

Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) had gone seven consecutive USAC National Sprint Car starts without a top-five result in his Clauson Marshall Newman Racing/Driven2SaveLives – ZMax Race Lubricants/Spike/Kistler Chevy. On this night, he ended that streak with a runner-up result.

Patience is a virtue and Matt Westfall (Pleasant Hill, Ohio) possesses that in droves. At Gas City, he took to the low side and picked his way from his 12th starting spot to a third-place result in his Ray Marshall Motorsports/Buckeye Machine – Hempy Water/DRC/Gressman Chevy. His plus-nine performance earned him hard charger honors for the evening.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 21, 2023 – Gas City I-69 Speedway – Gas City, Indiana – 1/4-Mile Dirt Track – James Dean Classic

2023 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-11.712; 2. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-11.792; 3. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-11.829; 4. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-11.841; 5. Jack Hoyer, 11, Hoyer-11.906; 6. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-11.944; 7. Shane Cottle, 2E, Epperson-11.959; 8. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-11.962; 9. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-11.965; 10. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-11.991; 11. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-11.992; 12. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-12.010; 13. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-12.050; 14. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-12.089; 15. Chance Crum, 26, Rudeen-12.114; 16. Jadon Rogers, 17GP, Dutcher-12.121; 17. Harley Burns, 16B, Burns-12.134; 18. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3R, Rock Steady-12.135; 19. Isaac Chapple, 6, Chapple/Hall-12.146; 20. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-12.146; 21. Saban Bibent, 98, Wedgewood-12.168; 22. Colten Cottle, 57, Hazen-12.202; 23. Rylan Gray, 06, Gray-12.209; 24. Jackson Slone, 16, Borzio/Slone-12.236; 25. Sterling Cling, 34, SCR-12.250; 26. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-12.288; 27. Thomas Meseraull, 23, NIKSTE-12.314; 28. Geoff Ensign, 3F, Ensign-12.360; 29. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-12.481; 30. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-12.488; 31. Wes Pinkerton, 21, Hajduk-12.548; 32. Dustin Ingle, 2DI, Ingle-12.556.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Emerson Axsom, 3. Harley Burns, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Jack Hoyer, 6. Matt Mitchell, 7. Saban Bibent, 8. Brandon Mattox. 2:06.47

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Kevin Thomas Jr., 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Matt Westfall, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Logan Seavey, 6. Thomas Meseraull, 7. Colten Cottle, 8. Wes Pinkerton. NT

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Jake Swanson, 3. Rylan Gray, 4. Shane Cottle, 5. Isaac Chapple, 6. Dustin Ingle, 7. Chance Crum, 8. Geoff Ensign. NT

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Zack Pretorius, 2. Max Adams, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Chase Stockon, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Sterling Cling, 7. Daison Pursley. NT

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Logan Seavey, 2. Daison Pursley, 3. Chance Crum, 4. Jadon Rogers, 5. Thomas Meseraull, 6. Isaac Chapple, 7. Dustin Ingle, 8. Jack Hoyer, 9. Brandon Mattox, 10. Geoff Ensign, 11. Saban Bibent, 12. Colten Cottle, 13. Matt Mitchell, 14. Wes Pinkerton. 2:44.36

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (7), 2. Emerson Axsom (1), 3. Matt Westfall (12), 4. Robert Ballou (3), 5. Brady Bacon (6), 6. Max Adams (4), 7. Kevin Thomas Jr. (8), 8. Logan Seavey (10), 9. Jadon Rogers (17), 10. C.J. Leary (15), 11. Mitchel Moles (14), 12. Carson Garrett (13), 13. Jake Swanson (5), 14. Harley Burns (18), 15. Daison Pursley (11), 16. Chance Crum (16), 17. Isaac Chapple (19), 18. Chase Stockon (22), 19. Zack Pretorius (9), 20. Rylan Gray (20), 21. Shane Cottle (2), 22. Thomas Meseraull (21). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Shane Cottle, Laps 2-7 Robert Ballou, Laps 8-30 Justin Grant.

**Jackson Slone flipped during qualifying. Sterling Cling & Daison Pursley flipped during the fourth heat.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2171, 2-Brady Bacon-2156, 3-Emerson Axsom-2035, 4-Jake Swanson-1974, 5-Kyle Cummins-1966, 6-C.J. Leary-1901, 7-Robert Ballou-1840, 8-Chase Stockon-1665, 9-Mitchel Moles-1640, 10-Logan Seavey-1602.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-171, 2-Logan Seavey-124, 3-Emerson Axsom-108, 4-Shane Cottle-106, 5-Justin Grant-101, 6-Matt Westfall-101, 7-Robert Ballou-98, 8-Brady Bacon-92, 9-Chase Stockon-90, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-71.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: September 23, 2023 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 41st 4-Crown Nationals Presented By NKTELCO

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Jake Swanson (11.911)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon (11.712)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Brady Bacon

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Kevin Thomas Jr.

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Justin Grant

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Zack Pretorius

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

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: Shane Cottle

Hard Charger: Matt Westfall (12th to 3rd)

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3 WINS, 1 FAIRYTALE NIGHT: SEAVEY SWEEPS USAC PORTION OF ELDORA'S 4-CROWN NATIONALS

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Rossburg, Ohio (September 23, 2023)……In a season in which he's already captured a Chili Bowl victory, a USAC Indiana Midget Week title and even posted two USAC National feature wins in one day, Logan Seavey managed to top himself once more.

The Sutter, Calif. native scored not one, not two but three USAC National feature wins on Saturday night during the 41st running of the 4-Crown Nationals Presented By NKTELCO at Rossburg, Ohio's Eldora Speedway.

Seavey clicked off an avalanche of successive feature victories, first earning a 25-lap USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget main, followed by a wire-to-wire 30-lap USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship triumph and a dominating 50-lap USAC Silver Crown triumph to cap the night.

In doing so, he joined an exclusive list of three drivers who've been able to achieve the monumental task and turn a Saturday night in western Ohio into a fairytale night.

Jack Hewitt swept all three USAC wins during the 1998 4-Crown Nationals and added a UMP Modified win to boot. Kyle Larson followed suit by knocking out three consecutive USAC wins on 4-Crown night in 2011.

On this particular night, Seavey collected $10,000 for each feature victory, totaling $30,000 in all. But to put together one of the greatest nights of racing in the 68-year history of the United States Auto Club, well, that's priceless.

"This is probably one of the coolest nights of my life," Seavey basked in the moment. "I'm just driving three good racecars and I can do whatever I want, wherever I want with them. It's just one of those nearly perfect nights. You just have to be driving great racecars and I've got three incredible racecars."

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FEATURE

With the first crown in his pocket, at this point in the night, Seavey felt his confidence brewing going into feature number two.

"After last night, I knew we had some work to do with our midget and we got that way better," Seavey explained. "After we won the midget race, I was really, really excited knowing that my sprint car was on the pole. I knew that thing was going to drive good."

As it turned out, Seavey was right on the mark with that remark as he immediately stepped out in front to command the USAC Sprint Car field. However, the major breaking story at the moment was the tumultuous night for Brady Bacon.

On lap six, Bacon suffered an engine woe that forced him to the pits and a 22nd place finish, dropping him from 15 points out of the championship lead to 66 behind Grant with just three races remaining. With that said, it was just the latest in a nightmarish evening for Bacon, starting with methanol splashing into his eye during a pit mishap, which caused his eye to swell shut. To add insult to injury, during his qualifying run, Bacon tagged the turn four wall and flipped, forcing him into a backup ride.

Back up front, Seavey never relented control as he maintained roughly a one second lead throughout the duration, although Grant was able draw closer than anyone else with 10 laps to go until smacking the outside turn one wall with his right rear tire.

At that point, Seavey worked lapped traffic with ease and coasted to victory lane in his 2B Racing/Honest Abe Roofing – Benic Enterprises – Goodnight Racing/DRC/Claxton Chevy. The nine-year old chassis dubbed "Barney" for its proximity in age to the era of dinosaurs, guided the 2B team with Scott Benic at the helm to their first 4-Crown victory since Levi Jones popularized the term "four-in-the-fluff" in 2005.

Justin Grant (Ione, Calif.) was 1.131 sec. behind Seavey at the finish line in second with Emerson Axsom (Franklin, Ind.) third, Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) fourth and Briggs Danner (Allentown, Pa.) fifth. Daison Pursley (Locust Grove, Okla.) scored hard charger honors with an 18th to 10th run in his first 4-Crown sprint car experience.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: September 23, 2023 – Eldora Speedway – Rossburg, Ohio – 1/2-Mile Dirt Track – 41st 4-Crown Nationals Presented By NKTELCO

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-16.390; 2. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-16.402; 3. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-16.415; 4. Mario Clouser, 6, Clouser-16.453; 5. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-16.464; 6. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-16.497; 7. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-16.507; 8. Thomas Meseraull, 23, NIKSTE-16.508; 9. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B

Racing-16.690; 10. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-16.716; 11. Paul Dues, 87, Dues-16.872; 12. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-16.897; 13. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-16.916; 14. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-16.927; 15. Kody Swanson, 3R, Rock Steady-16.938; 16. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-17.030; 17. Jadon Rogers, 17GP, Dutcher-17.063; 18. Hunter Maddox, 24m, Maddox-17.152; 19. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-17.166; 20. Keith Sheffer II, 86, Sheffer-17.305; 21. Chance Crum, 26, Rudeen-17.394; 22. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-17.408; 23. Korbyn Hayslett, 1H, Hayslett-17.435; 24. Ryan Barr, 21B, Barr-17.462; 25. Brian Ruhlman, 49, Ruhlman-17.523; 26. Zack Pretorius, 9z, Pretorius-17.530; 27. Nick Bilbee, 17, Bilbee-17.549; 28. Kevin Thomas Jr., 16TH, Newton-17.637; 29. Braxton Cummings, 71B, Cummings-17.651; 30. Matt Mitchell, 37, Mitchell-17.748; 31. Saban Bibent, 98, Wedgewood-17.763; 32. Dallas Hewitt, 6, Miller-17.854; 33. Jack James, 99, James-18.014; 34. Tayte Williamson, 20, Williamson-18.456; 35. Curt Elliott, 28, Elliott-18.803; 36. Jason Cherry, 67c, Cherry-19.256; 37. Sterling Cling, 34, SCR-NT; 38. Evan Mosley, 20T, Thomas-NT.

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Robert Ballou, 2. Chance Crum, 3. Logan Seavey, 4. C.J. Leary, 5. Briggs Danner, 6. Jadon Rogers, 7. Brian Ruhlman, 8. Braxton Cummings, 9. Jack James.

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. Matt Westfall, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Jake Swanson, 5. Matt Mitchell, 6. Mitchel Moles, 7. Zack Pretorius, 8. Hunter Maddox, 9. Sterling Cling, 10. Tayte Williamson.

T.J. FORGED THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Korbyn Hayslett, 2. Chase Stockon, 3. Daison Pursley, 4. Paul Dues, 5. Kody Swanson, 6. Nick Bilbee, 7. Saban Bibent, 8. Curt Elliott, 9. Max Adams. NT

CAR IQ FOURTH HEAT: (8 laps, top-4 transfer to the feature) 1. Emerson Axsom, 2. Kevin Thomas Jr., 3. Brady Bacon, 4. Thomas Meseraull, 5. Mario Clouser, 6. Dallas Hewitt, 7. Ryan Barr, 8. Jason Cherry, 9. Keith Sheffer II. NT

C-MAIN: (6 laps, top-4 transfer to the semi) 1. Saban Bibent, 2. Dallas Hewitt, 3. Sterling Cling, 4. Tayte Williamson, 5. Jason Cherry, 6. Jack James, 7. Curt Elliott.

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (12 laps, top-6 transfer to the feature) 1. Mitchel Moles, 2. Kody Swanson, 3. Briggs Danner, 4. Mario Clouser, 5. Brian Ruhlman, 6. Max Adams, 7. Hunter Maddox, 8. Tayte Williamson, 9. Saban Bibent, 10. Braxton Cummings, 11. Sterling Cling, 12. Zack Pretorius, 13. Dallas Hewitt, 14. Jadon Rogers, 15. Keith Sheffer II, 16. Ryan Barr, 17. Nick Bilbee, 18. Matt Mitchell.

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Logan Seavey (1), 2. Justin Grant (5), 3. Emerson Axsom (7), 4. C.J. Leary (6), 5. Briggs Danner (11), 6. Robert Ballou (8), 7. Jake Swanson (13), 8. Thomas Meseraull (2), 9. Matt Westfall (3), 10. Daison Pursley (18), 11. Chase Stockon (4), 12. Chance Crum (19), 13. Carson Garrett (20), 14. Mitchel Moles (15), 15. Paul Dues (14), 16. Kody Swanson (16), 17. Korbyn Hayslett (9), 18. Mario Clouser (10), 19. Brian Ruhlman (21), 20. Kevin Thomas Jr. (22), 21. Max Adams (12), 22. Brady Bacon (17). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Logan Seavey.

**Mitchel Moles flipped during qualifying. Brady Bacon flipped during qualifying. Keith Sheffer II flipped during the semi.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2251, 2-Brady Bacon-2185, 3-Emerson Axsom-2107, 4-Jake Swanson-2031, 6-C.J. Leary-1973, 5-Kyle Cummins-1966, 7-Robert Ballou-1903, 8-Chase Stockon-1717, 9-Mitchel Moles-1679, 10-Logan Seavey-1678.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-179, 2-Logan Seavey-126, 3-Emerson Axsom-112, 4-Justin Grant-106, 4-Shane Cottle-106, 6-Matt Westfall-101, 7-Robert Ballou-100, 8-Brady Bacon-92, 9-Chase Stockon-90, 10-Kevin Thomas Jr.-73.

NEXT USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: October 7, 2023 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Fall Nationals

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Brady Bacon (16.269)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: C.J. Leary (16.390)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Robert Ballou

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Justin Grant

T.J. Forged Third Heat Winner: Korbyn Hayslett

Car IQ Fourth Heat Winner: Emerson Axsom

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

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: Logan Seavey

Hard Charger: Daison Pursley (18th to 10th)

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$20 GRAND GRANT! JG POCKETS A PAYDAY AT LAWRENCEBURG'S FALL NATIONALS

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

Lawrenceburg, Indiana (October 7, 2023)……Justin Grant has characterized Indiana's Lawrenceburg Speedway as a second home to him throughout his racing career.

He's won numerous races at the 3/8-mile dirt oval, including the first feature victory of his USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship career in 2012, but none have been more lucrative than the $20,000 payday he pocketed on Saturday night during the 16th running of the Fall Nationals.

Just as he did that night more than a decade ago, the Ione, Calif. native capped the evening with a hat shake, saluting the fans while holding his helmet out of the top of the roll cage during his ceremonial victory lap.

On a night in which he became the 10th driver to achieve 400 career USAC National Sprint Car feature starts, Grant raced away to the most dominant score of the 2023 season, lapping all but the top-seven finishers in a 6.756 second shellacking behind the wheel of his TOPP Motorsports/NOS Energy Drink – Bow Foundation – TOPP Industries/Maxim/Kistler Chevy.

His win total on the 2023 USAC National Sprint Car season now stands at 11, the most since Tyler Courtney achieved the same amount during the 2018 season. Grant's 45th career USAC National Sprint Car victory also moved him into a tie for sixth all-time alongside 1968-70-75 series champion Larry Dickson.

It's been quite a run for Grant over his last 17 USAC National Sprint Car feature starts, winning eight times in that timeframe with the series, and the Fall Nationals triumph arrives on the heels of last weekend's $20,039 Driven2SaveLives BC39 USAC NOS Energy Drink Midget National Championship victory at The Dirt Track at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

"I'm so blessed to be able to get into these absolute hot rods every night," Grant exclaimed. "Everything I've jumped into lately has been the fastest car on the racetrack. This car was on absolute rails tonight. (Jeff Walker) had us dialed in and I could run wide open even when it was up against the wall; I had grip, and I was stable. The thing has been unreal, and I didn't feel like I was as on top of my game as I'd like to be. I was a little behind the racecar, but fortunately, we've been so good and that makes my job easy."

Despite winning his heat race, the initial satisfaction of the victory was soon clouded by a sudden issue that had the team scrambling to make wholesale changes to remedy the situation.

"After the heat race, the car shut off coming to the checkered," Grant explained. "Running down the back stretch, it shut off, then came back on. We couldn't figure out what was wrong with it, so we changed ignitions, we changed steering gears, we changed cam spuds and the fuel pump, and we were back there thrashing from the time the heat race was over. We were still putting the body back on when the eight-minute horn went off for the feature."

Rolling off from the seventh starting position, Grant had some digging to do to work his way to the front while Robert Ballou led the initial eight laps from the pole position. Meanwhile, Grant was already hustling as he made his way up to fourth by lap four with a two-for-one pass on the bottom of turns three and four to slip by Max Adams and Jake Swanson.

The yellow flag was displayed on lap six when 17th running Saban Bibent suffered a flat right rear tire, then slapped the outside turn one wall. He was finished for the evening as was eighth place running Brady Bacon who pulled off during the caution with a driveline issue.

Grant entered the race with a 66-point lead in the USAC National Sprint Car championship fight over Bacon. But with Bacon's mechanical issue and subsequent 19th place result, the thoughts of any kind of points racing or conservatism for Grant went out the window.

"When Brady fell out, I thought, well, that's a freebie. I can go out and make $20 grand, and if I crash trying, then it's no harm, no foul," Grant mused. "It actually made me drive the thing a little harder probably because I didn't have to worry about it. I could just go out and bash, and in the worst-case scenario, we come out of here how we went in. It was a good opportunity for us to go try and make some money."

Shortly after the ensuing restart, second running Thomas Meseraull turned the volume up to 11. He slid Ballou for the lead in turn one on lap seven and proceeded to lead the next half-lap until he tagged the outside wall with his right rear tire, sending him helicoptering down the racetrack before coming to a rest. The incident eliminated Meseraull from the race and ended his opportunity for a $30,000 payday, which would've included a $10,000 bounty that was up for grabs to a driver outside the top-12 in USAC national sprint car points who could win the event.

Grant had moved into third with a low-side pass of C.J. Leary in turns three and four just before the red flag, and with the exodus of Meseraull, Grant lined up second behind Ballou for the seventh sojourn. Two laps later, on the ninth of 30 circuits, Grant found the lead when he again streamed to the bottom of turn three before sliding up right across the nose of Ballou exiting turn four and beat him to the line by a single car length.

From there, it was curtains for the rest of the field as Grant stretched his lead to more than three seconds by the halfway mark at lap 15 and soon found himself back inside the top-10 by virtue of lapping 10th running Kyle Cummins followed by Emerson Axsom in ninth, and ultimately, eighth-place Mitchel Moles with five laps remaining.

In the end, Grant became a six-time USAC National Sprint Car winner at Lawrenceburg, just one behind Dave Darland for the all-time lead. Just shy of a half-lap behind Grant at the finish line were Robert Ballou in the runner-up spot followed by Jake Swanson in third, Logan Seavey in fourth and Jadon Rogers fifth after starting back in 12th.

Grant's victory came in the final race of Dave and Kim Rudisell's 17-year tenure as the promoters of Lawrenceburg Speedway, who on Saturday night served as the race organizers of their 40th USAC National Sprint Car event at the track, which ranks eighth all-time.

"Thanks to the Rudisells for all they've done here," Grant stated. "This place has been like a second home to me over the years. It's sad to see them go, but I'm grateful and thankful for everything they've done for Indiana non-wing racing. We hate to see them go, but we understand."

Robert Ballou (Rocklin, Calif.) equaled his best USAC finish of the year with his third runner-up result in his Ballou Motorsports/The Boss Builder's Outlet Super Store – Dragonfly Aviation/DRC/Ott Chevy. Utilizing a new DRC chassis, Ballou led the first eight laps of the feature and earned his best Fall Nationals finish since winning the first two editions of the event in 2007-08.

Jake Swanson (Anaheim, Calif.) returned to the podium for the first time in exactly one month to earn his best career Fall Nationals finish aboard his Team AZ Racing/Apache Transport – Stratis Construction – USW Cat Construction/DRC/1-Way Chevy. In two USAC starts at Lawrenceburg this season, Swanson finished on the podium both nights, also scoring a second in July.

Reigning Fall Nationals winner Kyle Cummins (Princeton, Ind.) had a night that began tumultuously with engine trouble in hot laps. Armed with a backup, the car proceeded to sputter in qualifying and struggled in the heat before the team tuned it up closer to their liking. Starting 21st, Cummins raced to the 10th spot, earning hard charger honors in his Rock Steady Racing/Avanti Windows & Doors – Tim Mason REMAX/Mach-1/Stanton Chevy. The night was also made special with it being the first race ever attended by his two-week-old son, Krew Cummins.

C.J. Leary (Greenfield, Ind.) also walked away with heavier pockets after driving his BGE Dougherty Motorsports/Altoz – Hornbeck Concrete - Highsmith Guns - Elliott's/DRC/1-Way Chevy to a sixth-place finish. Leary earned the Bubby Jones Master of Goin' Faster Series Presented By Spire Sports + Entertainment championship, a 10-race miniseries throughout the USAC National Sprint Car season. In the final tally, Leary captured the crown by 10 markers over Emerson Axsom.

USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS: October 7, 2023 – Lawrenceburg Speedway – Lawrenceburg, Indiana – 3/8-Mile Dirt Track – 16th Fall Nationals

2023 USAC National Sprint Car Season Review

HONEST ABE ROOFING QUALIFYING: 1. Brady Bacon, 69, Dynamics-13.637; 2. C.J. Leary, 15x, BGE Dougherty-13.695; 3. Logan Seavey, 2B, 2B Racing-13.765; 4. Thomas Meseraull, 23, NIKSTE-13.770; 5. Jake Swanson, 21AZ, Team AZ-13.823; 6. Max Adams, 5x, Adams-13.839; 7. Robert Ballou, 12, Ballou-13.912; 8. Justin Grant, 4, TOPP-14.010; 9. Carson Garrett, 15, BGE Dougherty-14.012; 10. Jadon Rogers, 17GP, Dutcher-14.037; 11. Kevin Thomas Jr., 24, LSR-14.083; 12. Saban Bibent, 98, Wedgewood-14.100; 13. Joss Moffatt, 5J, Moffatt-14.158; 14. Emerson Axsom, 47BC, Clauson Marshall Newman-14.169; 15. Briggs Danner, 39, Hogue-14.207; 16. Chance Crum, 26, Rudeen-14.223; 17. Mitchel Moles, 19AZ, Reinbold/Underwood-14.246; 18. Sterling Cling, 34, SCR-14.383; 19. Garrett Abrams, 32, Abrams-14.383; 20. Chase Stockon, 5s, KO-14.395; 21. Daison Pursley, 5p, KO-14.474; 22. Nick Bilbee, 17, Bilbee-14.712; 23. Brandon Mattox, 28, Mattox-14.729; 24. Rylan Gray, 06, Gray-14.738; 25. Kyle Cummins, 3R, Rock Steady-15.703; 26. Matt Westfall, 33m, Marshall-NT; 27. Nate Carle, 14c, Carle-NT (Time of 14.470 disallowed due to illegal tire).

SIMPSON RACE PRODUCTS FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Chance Crum, 2. Robert Ballou, 3. Thomas Meseraull, 4. Nick Bilbee, 5. Jadon Rogers, 6. Brady Bacon, 7. Joss Moffatt, 8. Kyle Cummins, 9. Garrett Abrams. 1:53.99

ROD END SUPPLY SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Justin Grant, 2. C.J. Leary, 3. Emerson Axsom, 4. Mitchel Moles, 5. Jake Swanson, 6. Chase Stockon, 7. Nate Carle, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Kevin Thomas Jr. NT

T.J. FORGED/CAR IQ THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature) 1. Briggs Danner, 2. Logan Seavey, 3. Carson Garrett, 4. Max Adams, 5. Sterling Cling, 6. Daison Pursley, 7. Saban Bibent, 8. Rylan Gray. 1:56.80

ELLIOTT'S CUSTOM TRAILERS & CARTS SEMI: (10 laps, top-7 transfer to the feature) 1. Brady Bacon, 2. Saban Bibent, 3. Kyle Cummins, 4. Garrett Abrams, 5. Daison Pursley, 6. Chase Stockon, 7. Nate Carle, 8. Brandon Mattox, 9. Rylan Gray, 10. Joss Moffatt. 2:28.18

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Justin Grant (7), 2. Robert Ballou (1), 3. Jake Swanson (3), 4. Logan Seavey (5), 5. Jadon Rogers (12), 6. C.J. Leary (6), 7. Briggs Danner (8), 8. Mitchel Moles (15), 9. Emerson Axsom (14), 10. Kyle Cummins (21), 11. Nick Bilbee (20), 12. Carson Garrett (11), 13. Chase Stockon (18), 14. Sterling Cling (16), 15. Daison Pursley (19), 16. Garrett Abrams (17), 17. Max Adams (2), 18. Thomas Meseraull (4), 19. Brady Bacon (10), 20. Saban Bibent (13), 21. Nate Carle (22), 22. Chance Crum (9). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-8 Robert Ballou, Laps 9-30 Justin Grant.

**Matt Westfall flipped during qualifying. Joss Moffatt flipped during the semi. Thomas Meseraull flipped on lap 7 of the feature.

FINAL USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS: 1-Justin Grant-2329, 2-Brady Bacon-2220, 3-Emerson Axsom-2159, 4-Jake Swanson-2101, 5-C.J. Leary-2040, 6-Kyle Cummins-2011, 7-Robert Ballou-1977, 8-Chase Stockon-1755, 9-Logan Seavey-1750, 10-Mitchel Moles-1733.

FINAL BUBBY JONES MASTER OF GOIN' FASTER PRESENTED BY SPIRE SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT POINTS: 1-C.J. Leary-636, 2-Emerson Axsom-626, 3-Brady Bacon-595, 4-Mitchel Moles-595, 5-Jake Swanson-578, 6-Justin Grant-568, 7-Kyle Cummins-540, 8-Chase Stockon-523, 9-Daison Pursley-486, 10-Robert Ballou-472.

USAC NATIONAL PROSOURCE PASSING MASTER POINTS: 1-Daison Pursley-186, 2-Logan Seavey-144, 3-Justin Grant-119, 4-Emerson Axsom-117, 5-Shane Cottle-106, 6-Matt Westfall-105, 7-Robert Ballou-100, 8-Chase Stockon-95, 9- Brady Bacon-92, 10-Mitchel Moles-85.



CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

Dirt Draft Fastest Hot Laps Driver: Brady Bacon (13.805)

Honest Abe Roofing Fast Qualifier: Brady Bacon (13.637)

Simpson Race Products First Heat Winner: Chance Crum

Rod End Supply Second Heat Winner: Justin Grant

T.J. Forged/Car IQ Third Heat Winner: Briggs Danner

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

Green APU Green Flag Challenge First Lap Leader: Robert Ballou

Hard Charger: Kyle Cummins (21st to 10th)

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2023 USAC AMSOIL NATIONAL SPRINT CAR STAT LEADERS

Driver Champion: Justin Grant

Entrant Champion: TOPP Motorsports

Most Feature Wins: 11-Justin Grant

Top Rookie in Points: 11th-Daison Pursley

Most Laps Led: 262-Brady Bacon

Most Top-Fives: 25-Brady Bacon

Most Top-Tens: 29-Emerson Axsom

Most Fast Qualifying Times: 5-Brady Bacon

Most Heat Race Wins: 12-Robert Ballou

Most Feature Starts: 36-Emerson Axsom, Brady Bacon, Robert Ballou, Justin Grant & C.J. Leary

Biggest Charge of the Year: Jul 23: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Brady Bacon (22nd to 3rd)

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2023 USAC National Sprint Car Driver Points

Pos.	Pts.	Driver, Hometown
1	2329	Justin Grant, Ione, California
2	2220	Brady Bacon, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
3	2159	Emerson Axsom, Franklin, Indiana
4	2101	Jake Swanson, Anaheim, California
5	2040	C.J. Leary, Greenfield, Indiana
6	2011	Kyle Cummins, Princeton, Indiana
7	1977	Robert Ballou, Rocklin, California
8	1755	Chase Stockon, Fort Branch, Indiana
9	1750	Logan Seavey, Sutter, California
10	1733	Mitchel Moles, Raisin City, California
11	1660	(R) Daison Pursley, Locust Grove, Oklahoma
12	1630	Matt Westfall, Pleasant Hill, Ohio
13	1373	Carson Garrett, Littleton, Colorado
14	1335	Kevin Thomas Jr., Cullman, Alabama
15	921	Jadon Rogers, Worthington, Indiana
16	892	Shane Cottle, Kansas, Illinois
17	770	Briggs Danner, Allentown, Pennsylvania
18	766	Max Adams, Loomis, California
19	633	Thomas Meseraull, San Jose, California
20	623	Brandon Mattox, Terre Haute, Indiana
21	528	Charles Davis Jr., Buckeye, Arizona
22	436	(R) Joey Amantea, Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania
23	335	Sterling Cling, Tempe, Arizona
24	322	Eddie Tafoya Jr., Chino Hills, California

25	319	Brent Beauchamp, Fairland, Indiana
26	262	Mario Clouser, Auburn, Illinois
27	221	Brady Short, Bedford, Indiana
28	211	(R) Rylan Gray, Greenfield, Indiana
29	205	(R) Dalton Stevens, Scurry, Texas
30	164	(R) Xavier Doney, Odessa, Missouri
31	153	Kody Swanson, Kingsburg, California
32	148	(R) Zack Pretorius, Yorktown, Indiana
33	143	(R) Tom Harris, Banbury, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom
34	110	(R) Kayla Roell, Dillsboro, Indiana
35	110	(R) Kevin Newton, Farmersburg, Indiana
36	109	Cole Bodine, Rossville, Indiana
37	98	Dallas Hewitt, Troy, Ohio
38	95	Jason McDougal, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
39	95	(R) Travis Millar, Wandin North, Victoria, AU
40	92	(R) Ivan Glotzbach, Fillmore, Indiana
41	88	J.J. Hughes, Jasper, Indiana
42	76	(R) Saban Bibent, Cincinnati, Ohio
43	70	(R) Ryan Barr, Piqua, Ohio
44	60	(R) Devan Myers, Delphi, Indiana
45	44	Brian Hayden, Fillmore, Indiana
46	10	Critter Malone, Pittsboro, Indiana

(R) represents a USAC National Sprint Car Rookie

2023 USAC National Sprint Car Entrant Points

Pos.	Pts.	Entrant, Location
1	2329	TOPP Motorsports, Rochester, Indiana (#4)

2	2220	Dynamics Inc., Milford, Ohio (#69)
3	2159	Clauson Marshall Newman Racing, Fishers, Indiana (#47BC)
4	2105	Rock Steady Racing, Dupont, Indiana (#3R)
5	2101	Team AZ Racing, Brownsburg, Indiana (#21AZ)
6	2040	BGE Dougherty Motorsports, Evansville, Indiana (#15x)
7	1977	Ballou Motorsports, Tipton, Indiana (#12)
8	1755	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5s)
9	1750	2B Racing, Marion, Indiana (#2B)
10	1733	Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports, Gilbert, Arizona (#19AZ)
11	1660	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5p)
12	1630	Ray Marshall Motorsports, Forest, Ohio (#33m)
13	1383	Michael Dutcher Motorsports, Cicero, Indiana (#17GP)
14	1373	BGE Dougherty Motorsports, Evansville, Indiana (#15)
15	770	Epperson Racing, Camby, Indiana (#2E)
16	770	Hogue Racing Enterprises, Westampton, New Jersey (#39)
17	623	Brandon Mattox Racing, Cory, Indiana (#28)
18	566	Cheney Racing, Arcadia, California (#42)
19	556	Baldwin-Fox Racing, West Lafayette, Indiana (#5)
20	528	Charles Davis Jr., Buckeye, Arizona (#47)
21	436	JPA Racing, Cresco, Pennsylvania (#88J)
22	338	Scott Adams, Marion, Indiana (#5x)
23	335	Sterling Cling Racing, Franklin, Indiana (#34)
24	322	Eddie Tafoya, Chino Hills, California (#51T)
25	307	Chris Dyson Racing, Poughkeepsie, New York (#20)
26	262	Mario Clouser Motorsports, Chatham, Illinois (#6)
27	261	On the Gass Racing, Advance, Indiana (#17)
28	221	Randy Edwards, Evansville, Indiana (#61m)

29	205	Stevens Racing Holdings, Ennis, Texas (#99x)
30	173	Lauren Beauchamp, Needham, Indiana (#11)
31	166	Wedgewood Motorsports, Lebanon, Ohio (#98)
32	164	Doney-Lawson Racing, Odessa, Missouri (#74)
33	161	Hodges Motorsports, Albuquerque, New Mexico (#74x)
34	158	Gray Brothers, Greenfield, Indiana (#06)
35	148	Jeff Pretorius, Yorktown, Indiana (#9z)
36	143	Tom Harris Motorsport, Tipton, Indiana (#84)
37	140	Kevin Newton, Farmersburg, Indiana (#16TH)
38	127	Paul Hazen, Columbia City, Indiana (#57)
39	112	Brian Hayden Racing, Fillmore, Indiana (#2H)
40	110	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5K)
41	109	4J Motorsports, Mooresville, Indiana (#14)
42	109	Kevin Bodine, Rossville, Indiana (#57B)
43	95	KO Motorsports, Owensville, Indiana (#5m)
44	95	Travis Millar, Wandin North, Victoria, AU (#93AU)
45	92	Ivan Glotzbach, Fillmore, Indiana (#i1)
46	88	John Hughes, Indianapolis, Indiana (#76)
47	88	Jennifer Hewitt, Fletcher, Ohio (#21)
48	70	Barr Family, Piqua, Ohio (#21B)
49	60	Devan Myers, Bringhurst, Indiana (#75)
50	10	Seven LLC, Pittsboro, Indiana (#7)

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2023 USAC National Sprint Car Rookie Points

Pos.	**Pts.**	**Driver, Hometown**

1	1660	Daison Pursley, Locust Grove, Oklahoma
2	436	Joey Amantea, Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania
3	211	Rylan Gray, Greenfield, Indiana
4	205	Dalton Stevens, Scurry, Texas
5	164	Xavier Doney, Odessa, Missouri
6	148	Zack Pretorius, Yorktown, Indiana
7	143	Tom Harris, Banbury, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom
8	110	Kayla Roell, Dillsboro, Indiana
9	110	Kevin Newton, Farmersburg, Indiana
10	95	Travis Millar, Wandin North, Victoria, AU
11	92	Ivan Glotzbach, Fillmore, Indiana
12	76	Saban Bibent, Cincinnati, Ohio
13	70	Ryan Barr, Piqua, Ohio
14	60	Devan Myers, Delphi, Indiana

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2023 USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Feb 13: (SE) Volusia Speedway Park – Barberville, FL

WINNER: Jake Swanson (Team AZ Racing #21AZ)

Feb 14: (SE) Volusia Speedway Park – Barberville, FL

WINNER: Daison Pursley (KO Motorsports #5p)

Feb 16: Bubba Raceway Park - Ocala, FL

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Feb 18: Bubba Raceway Park - Ocala, FL

WINNER: Kyle Cummins (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

Apr 14: Bloomington Speedway - Bloomington, IN



WINNER: C.J. Leary (BGE Dougherty Motorsports #15x)

Apr 15: (MS) Tri-State Speedway - Haubstadt, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

May 5: Eldora Speedway - Rossburg, OH

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

May 6: Eldora Speedway - Rossburg, OH

WINNER: C.J. Leary (BGE Dougherty Motorsports #15x)

May 23: Terre Haute Action Track - Terre Haute, IN

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

May 24: Circle City Raceway - Indianapolis, IN

WINNER: Jake Swanson (Team AZ Racing #21AZ)

May 25: Circle City Raceway - Indianapolis, IN

WINNER: Kyle Cummins (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

Jun 3: (MW) Knoxville Raceway - Knoxville, IA

WINNER: Jake Swanson (Team AZ Racing #21AZ)

Jun 13: (E) Grandview Speedway - Bechtelsville, PA

WINNER: Jake Swanson (Team AZ Racing #21AZ)

Jun 15: (E) Big Diamond Speedway - Pottsville, PA

WINNER: Emerson Axsom (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #47BC)

Jun 16: (E) Williams Grove Speedway - Mechanicsburg, PA

WINNER: Emerson Axsom (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #47BC)

Jun 17: (E) Port Royal Speedway - Port Royal, PA

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jun 18: (E) (A) Action Track USA - Kutztown, PA

WINNER: Kyle Cummins (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

Jun 24: Wilmot Raceway - Wilmot, WI

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Jul 3: (MS) Lincoln Park Speedway - Putnamville, IN

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Jul 7: (A) Macon Speedway - Macon, IL

WINNER: Mitchel Moles (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)

Jul 8: (A) Macon Speedway - Macon, IL

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Jul 21: (I) Gas City I-69 Speedway - Gas City, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jul 22: (I) Kokomo Speedway - Kokomo, IN

WINNER: C.J. Leary (BGE Dougherty Motorsports #15x)

Jul 23: (I) Lawrenceburg Speedway - Lawrenceburg, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jul 24: (I) Circle City Raceway - Indianapolis, IN

WINNER: Kyle Cummins (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

Jul 26: (I) Terre Haute Action Track - Terre Haute, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Jul 27: (I) Lincoln Park Speedway - Putnamville, IN

WINNER: Jake Swanson (Team AZ Racing #21AZ)

Jul 28: (I) Bloomington Speedway - Bloomington, IN

WINNER: Emerson Axsom (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #47BC)

Aug 24: Kokomo Speedway - Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway - Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway - Kokomo, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Sep 7: Devil's Bowl Speedway – Mesquite, TX



WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Sep 9: Texarkana 67 Speedway – Texarkana, AR

WINNER: Matt Westfall (Ray Marshall Motorsports #33m)

Sep 15: Circle City Raceway - Indianapolis, IN

WINNER: Logan Seavey (2B Racing #2B)

Sep 16: (MS) (F) Tri-State Speedway - Haubstadt, IN

WINNER: Brady Bacon (Dynamics, Inc. #69)

Sep 21: Gas City I-69 Speedway - Gas City, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

Sep 23: Eldora Speedway - Rossburg, OH

WINNER: Logan Seavey (2B Racing #2B)

Oct 7: Lawrenceburg Speedway - Lawrenceburg, IN

WINNER: Justin Grant (TOPP Motorsports #4)

---------- KEY DEFINITIONS ----------

(SE) represents a non-points, special event

(P) represents a program featuring practice only

(F) represents an event awarding feature points only

(MS) represents an event co-sanctioned by the Midwest Sprint Car Series

(AE) represents an event co-sanctioned by ASCS Elite Non-Wing

(MW) represents an event with the USAC Wholesale Batteries Midwest Wingless Association Sprint Cars

(E) represents an Eastern Storm event

(A) represents an event awarding appearance points only

(I) represents an Indiana Sprint Week event

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2023 USAC AMSOIL SPRINT CAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP STATISTICS

2023 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR SEASON REVIEW

FEATURE WINS

11-Justin Grant (Apr 15 at Tri-State Speedway, May 5 at Eldora Speedway, Jun 17 at Port Royal Speedway, Jul 21 at Gas City I-69 Speedway, Jul 23 at Lawrenceburg Speedway, Jul 26 at the Terre Haute Action Track, Aug 24 at Kokomo Speedway, Aug 25 at Kokomo Speedway, Aug 26 at Kokomo Speedway, Sep 21 at Gas City I-69 Speedway & Oct 7 at Lawrenceburg Speedway)

7-Brady Bacon (Feb 16 at Bubba Raceway Park, May 23 at the Terre Haute Action Track, Jun 24 at Wilmot Raceway, Jul 3 at Lincoln Park Speedway, Jul 8 at Macon Speedway, Sep 7 at Devil's Bowl Speedway & Sep 16 at Tri-State Speedway)

4-Kyle Cummins (Feb 18 at Bubba Raceway Park, May 25 at Circle City Raceway, Jun 18 at Action Track USA & Jul 24 at Circle City Raceway)

4-Jake Swanson (May 24 at Circle City Raceway, Jun 3 at Knoxville Raceway, Jun 13 at Grandview Speedway & Jul 27 at Lincoln Park Speedway)

3-Emerson Axsom (Jun 15 at Big Diamond Speedway, Jun 16 at Williams Grove Speedway & Jul 28 at Bloomington Speedway)

3-C.J. Leary (Apr 14 at Bloomington Speedway, May 6 at Eldora Speedway & Jul 22 at Kokomo Speedway)

2-Logan Seavey (Sep 15 at Circle City Raceway & Sep 23 at Eldora Speedway)

1-Mitchel Moles (Jul 7 at Macon Speedway)

1-Matt Westfall (Sep 9 at Texarkana 67 Speedway)

NON-POINTS SPECIAL EVENT WINS:

1-Daison Pursley (Feb 14 at Volusia Speedway Park)

1-Jake Swanson (Feb 13 at Volusia Speedway Park)

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FEATURE LAPS LED

262-Brady Bacon

253-Justin Grant

111-Emerson Axsom

105-C.J. Leary



102-Kyle Cummins & Jake Swanson

44-Logan Seavey

31-Robert Ballou

30-Matt Westfall

23-Jadon Rogers

18-Mitchel Moles

17-Xavier Doney

16-Timmy Buckwalter

15-Carson Garrett & Thomas Meseraull

14-Briggs Danner

12-Shane Cottle

5-Max Adams

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TOP-FIVE FEATURE FINISHES

25-Brady Bacon

23-Justin Grant

20-Kyle Cummins

17-Emerson Axsom

13-C.J. Leary & Jake Swanson

11-Robert Ballou

9-Logan Seavey

8-Mitchel Moles

7-Kevin Thomas Jr.

5-Jadon Rogers & Chase Stockon

4-Shane Cottle



3-Briggs Danner, Carson Garrett, Daison Pursley & Matt Westfall

2-Timmy Buckwalter & Thomas Meseraull

1-Max Adams, Dustin Beck, Xavier Doney & Jason McDougal

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TOP-TEN FEATURE FINISHES

29-Emerson Axsom

28-Justin Grant & C.J. Leary

27-Kyle Cummins

26-Brady Bacon

24-Robert Ballou & Jake Swanson

20-Mitchel Moles

18-Logan Seavey & Chase Stockon

14-Daison Pursley & Kevin Thomas Jr.

13-Matt Westfall

10-Carson Garrett

9-Shane Cottle & Briggs Danner

8-Jadon Rogers

6-Thomas Meseraull

4-Max Adams

2-Joey Amantea, Brent Beauchamp, Alex Bright, Timmy Buckwalter, Charles Davis Jr. & Xavier Doney

1-Dustin Beck Mario Clouser, Colten Cottle, Zach Daum, Steven Drevicki, Cody Gardner, Anton Hernandez, J.J. Hughes, Chase Johnson, Kyle Jones, Riley Kreisel, Ricky Lewis, Jason McDougal, Brody Roa, Kendall Ruble, Brady Short, Kody Swanson, Scotty Weir & Justin Zimmerman

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FAST QUALIFYING TIMES

5-Brady Bacon

4-Kyle Cummins & C.J. Leary

3-Justin Grant & Jake Swanson

2-Robert Ballou, Mitchel Moles, Daison Pursley & Logan Seavey

1-Shane Cottle, Brayden Fox, Ricky Lewis, Jason McDougal, Thomas Meseraull, Chase Stockon, Kevin Thomas Jr. & Matt Westfall

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HEAT RACE / QUALIFYING RACE WINS (Presented by Simpson Race Products, Rod End Supply, T.J. Forged & Car IQ)

12-Robert Ballou

11-Justin Grant

10-Mitchel Moles

9-Emerson Axsom

8-Brady Bacon & Kyle Cummins

7-Carson Garrett, C.J. Leary & Matt Westfall

6-Chase Stockon

5-Charles Davis Jr. & Kevin Thomas Jr.

4-Jadon Rogers

3-Jake Swanson

2-Brent Beauchamp, Shane Cottle, Steven Drevicki & Thomas Meseraull

1-Max Adams, Joey Amantea, Dustin Beck, Mario Clouser, Colten Cottle, Chance Crum, Briggs Danner, Geoff Ensign, Rylan Gray, Korbyn Hayslett, Anton Hernandez, Dallas Hewitt, Kyle Jones, Larry Kingseed Jr., Ricky Lewis, Brandon Mattox, Trey Osborne, Zack Pretorius, Kendall Ruble, Logan Seavey, Brady Short, Wesley Smith, Mitch Wissmiller & Justin Zimmerman

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SEMI WINS

5-Mitchel Moles

3-Brady Bacon, Daison Pursley, Chase Stockon & Kevin Thomas Jr.

2-C.J. Leary, Brandon Mattox, Jake Swanson & Logan Seavey

1-Emerson Axsom, Robert Ballou, Kyle Cummins, Carson Garrett, Zack Pretorius, Jadon Rogers, Carson Short, Matt Westfall & J.J. Yeley

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D-MAIN WINS

1-Brayden Clark & Rylan Gray

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C-MAIN WINS

1-Joey Amantea, Saban Bibent, Colten Cottle, Ivan Glotzbach, Dustin Ingle, Brandon Mattox, Jadon Rogers & John Sluss

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FEATURE STARTS

36-Emerson Axsom, Brady Bacon, Robert Ballou, Justin Grant & C.J. Leary

35-Daison Pursley, Logan Seavey, Chase Stockon & Jake Swanson

34-Kyle Cummins & Matt Westfall

33-Mitchel Moles

31-Carson Garrett

27-Kevin Thomas Jr.

20-Jadon Rogers

19-Max Adams



16-Shane Cottle

15-Briggs Danner

14-Brandon Mattox

13-Charles Davis Jr. & Thomas Meseraull

9-Joey Amantea

8-Geoff Ensign & Eddie Tafoya Jr.

7-Brent Beauchamp, Alex Bright & Sterling Cling

6-Mario Clouser

5-Ricky Lewis, Tye Mihocko, Trey Osborne & Brady Short

4-Timmy Buckwalter, Chance Crum, Braxton Cummings, Rylan Gray, Dalton Stevens, Stevie Sussex, Kody Swanson & Justin Zimmerman

3-Cole Bodine, Colten Cottle, Dave Darland, Xavier Doney, Steven Drevicki, Tom Harris, Korbyn Hayslett, Jack Hoyer, Hunter Maddox, Matt Mitchell, Zack Pretorius & Scotty Weir

2-Dustin Beck, Harley Burns, Tim Creech, Mitchell Davis, Brayden Fox, Aric Gentry, Anton Hernandez, Dallas Hewitt, J.J. Hughes, Kyle Jones, Jordan Kinser, Preston Lattomus, Carmen Perigo, Brody Roa, Kayla Roell & Kendall Ruble

1-Garrett Abrams, Ed Aikin, Greg Alt, Saban Bibent, Nick Bilbee, Donny Brackett, Andy Bradley, Bobby Butler, Logan Calderwood, Nate Carle, Isaac Chapple, Zach Daum, Austin DeBlauw, Paul Dues, Logan Faucon, Cody Gardner, Ivan Glotzbach, Kurt Gross, Allen Hafford, Brian Hayden, Tyler Hewitt, Todd Hobson, Jason Howell, Steve Irwin, Chase Johnson, Larry Kingseed Jr., Riley Kreisel, James Lyerla, Jason McDougal, Travis Millar, Kyle Moody, Billy Pauch Jr., Clayton Rossman, Brian Ruhlman, Adyn Schmidt, Stephen Schnapf, Jake Scott, Sam Scott, Keith Sheffer II, Carson Short, Cameron Smith, Wesley Smith, Travis Thompson, Matt VanderVere, Dan Wade, Paul White, Mitch Wissmiller & J.J. Yeley

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2023 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR FAST QUALIFIERS

Feb 16: Bubba Raceway Park – Jason McDougal

Feb 18: Bubba Raceway Park – Chase Stockon

Apr 14: Bloomington Speedway – Kevin Thomas Jr.

Apr 15: Tri-State Speedway – Justin Grant

May 5: Eldora Speedway – Brady Bacon

May 6: Eldora Speedway – Matt Westfall

May 23: Terre Haute Action Track – Mitchel Moles

May 24: Circle City Raceway – Justin Grant

May 25: Circle City Raceway – Justin Grant

Jun 3: Knoxville Raceway – Jake Swanson

Jun 13: Grandview Speedway – Kyle Cummins

Jun 15: Big Diamond Speedway – Daison Pursley

Jun 16: Williams Grove Speedway – Thomas Meseraull

Jun 17: Port Royal Speedway – Daison Pursley

Jun 18: Action Track USA – Kyle Cummins

Jun 24: Wilmot Raceway – Jake Swanson

Jul 3: Lincoln Park Speedway – Logan Seavey

Jul 7: Macon Speedway – Logan Seavey

Jul 8: Macon Speedway – Kyle Cummins

Jul 21: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Brayden Fox

Jul 22: Kokomo Speedway – Kyle Cummins

Jul 23: Lawrenceburg Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jul 24: Circle City Raceway – C.J. Leary

July 26: Terre Haute Action Track – Robert Ballou

July 27: Lincoln Park Speedway – Brady Bacon

July 28: Bloomington Speedway – Brady Bacon

Aug 24: Kokomo Speedway – Robert Ballou

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway – Ricky Lewis

Sep 7: Devil's Bowl Speedway – C.J. Leary

Sep 9: Texarkana 67 Speedway – Jake Swanson

Sep 15: Circle City Raceway – Shane Cottle

Sep 16: Tri-State Speedway – Mitchel Moles



Sep 21: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Brady Bacon

Sep 23: Eldora Speedway – C.J. Leary

Oct 7: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Brady Bacon

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GREEN APU GREEN FLAG CHALLENGE FEATURE FIRST LAP LEADERS

Jun 3: Knoxville Raceway – C.J. Leary

Jun 13: Grandview Speedway – Jake Swanson

Jun 15: Big Diamond Speedway – Max Adams

Jun 16: Williams Grove Speedway – Timmy Buckwalter

Jun 17: Port Royal Speedway – Emerson Axsom

Jun 18: Action Track USA – Emerson Axsom

Jun 24: Wilmot Raceway – Emerson Axsom

Jul 3: Lincoln Park Speedway – Brady Bacon

Jul 7: Macon Speedway – Jake Swanson

Jul 8: Macon Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jul 21: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Justin Grant

Jul 22: Kokomo Speedway – Jake Swanson

Jul 23: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Justin Grant

Jul 24: Circle City Raceway – Xavier Doney

July 26: Terre Haute Action Track – Brady Bacon

July 27: Lincoln Park Speedway – Jake Swanson

July 28: Bloomington Speedway – Briggs Danner

Aug 24: Kokomo Speedway – Justin Grant

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway – Jadon Rogers

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway – C.J. Leary

Sep 7: Devil's Bowl Speedway – Brady Bacon

Sep 9: Texarkana 67 Speedway – Matt Westfall

Sep 15: Circle City Raceway – Carson Garrett

Sep 16: Tri-State Speedway – Brady Bacon

Sep 21: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Shane Cottle

Sep 23: Eldora Speedway – Logan Seavey

Oct 7: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Robert Ballou

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HARD CHARGER OF THE RACE

Feb 16: Bubba Raceway Park – Robert Ballou (22nd to 10th)

Feb 18: Bubba Raceway Park – Kevin Thomas Jr. (16th to 9th)

Apr 14: Bloomington Speedway – Jordan Kinser (20th to 12th)

Apr 15: Tri-State Speedway – Carson Garrett (16th to 7th)

May 5: Eldora Speedway – Kody Swanson (17th to 8th)

May 6: Eldora Speedway – Carson Garrett (20th to 6th)

May 23: Terre Haute Action Track – C.J. Leary (13th to 5th)

May 24: Circle City Raceway – Daison Pursley (16th to 9th)

May 25: Circle City Raceway – Chase Stockon (18th to 7th)

Jun 3: Knoxville Raceway – Chase Johnson (19th to 7th)

Jun 13: Grandview Speedway – Alex Bright (22nd to 10th)

Jun 15: Big Diamond Speedway – Robert Ballou (14th to 7th)

Jun 16: Williams Grove Speedway – Daison Pursley (14th to 2nd)

Jun 17: Port Royal Speedway – Daison Pursley (10th to 3rd)

Jun 18: Action Track USA – Brady Bacon (16th to 9th)

Jun 24: Wilmot Raceway – Brady Bacon (5th to 1st)

Jul 3: Lincoln Park Speedway – Robert Ballou (17th to 8th)

Jul 7: Macon Speedway – Matt Westfall (17th to 6th)

Jul 8: Macon Speedway – Robert Ballou (16th to 8th)

Jul 21: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Shane Cottle (22nd to 11th)

Jul 22: Kokomo Speedway – Shane Cottle (20th to 8th)

Jul 23: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Brady Bacon (22nd to 3rd)

Jul 24: Circle City Raceway – Shane Cottle (12th to 3rd)

July 26: Terre Haute Action Track – Shane Cottle (17th to 7th)

July 27: Lincoln Park Speedway – Brent Beauchamp (22nd to 10th)

July 28: Bloomington Speedway – Shane Cottle (22nd to 13th)

Aug 24: Kokomo Speedway – Briggs Danner (16th to 8th)

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway – Shane Cottle (21st to 3rd)

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway – Daison Pursley (20th to 13th)

Sep 7: Devil's Bowl Speedway – Emerson Axsom (21st to 8th)

Sep 9: Texarkana 67 Speedway – Kyle Jones (21st to 13th)

Sep 15: Circle City Raceway – Robert Ballou (14th to 3rd)

Sep 16: Tri-State Speedway – Kyle Cummins (15th to 5th)

Sep 21: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Matt Westfall (12th to 3rd)

Sep 23: Eldora Speedway – Daison Pursley (18th to 10th)

Oct 7: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Kyle Cummins (21st to 10th)

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DIRT DRAFT FASTEST HOT LAPS DRIVER

Feb 16: Bubba Raceway Park – Kyle Cummins

Feb 18: Bubba Raceway Park – Chase Stockon

Apr 8: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Apr 14: Bloomington Speedway – Jake Swanson

Apr 15: Tri-State Speedway – Jadon Rogers

May 5: Eldora Speedway – Brady Bacon

May 6: Eldora Speedway – Matt Westfall

May 23: Terre Haute Action Track – Kevin Thomas Jr.

May 24: Circle City Raceway – Justin Grant

May 25: Circle City Raceway – Kevin Thomas Jr.

Jun 3: Knoxville Raceway – Emerson Axsom

Jun 13: Grandview Speedway – Thomas Meseraull

Jun 15: Big Diamond Speedway – Daison Pursley

Jun 16: Williams Grove Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Jun 17: Port Royal Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Jun 18: Action Track USA – N/A

Jun 24: Wilmot Raceway – Brady Bacon

Jul 3: Lincoln Park Speedway – Brady Bacon

Jul 7: Macon Speedway – Chase Stockon

Jul 8: Macon Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Jul 21: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Max Adams

Jul 22: Kokomo Speedway – Daison Pursley

Jul 23: Lawrenceburg Speedway – C.J. Leary

Jul 24: Circle City Raceway – Brady Bacon

July 26: Terre Haute Action Track – Robert Ballou

July 27: Lincoln Park Speedway – Brady Bacon

July 28: Bloomington Speedway – Shane Cottle

Aug 24: Kokomo Speedway – Justin Grant

Aug 25: Kokomo Speedway – Logan Seavey

Aug 26: Kokomo Speedway – Brady Bacon

Sep 7: Devil's Bowl Speedway – Robert Ballou

Sep 9: Texarkana 67 Speedway – Robert Ballou

Sep 15: Circle City Raceway – Brady Bacon

Sep 16: Tri-State Speedway – Mitchel Moles

Sep 21: Gas City I-69 Speedway – Jake Swanson

Sep 23: Eldora Speedway – Brady Bacon

Oct 7: Lawrenceburg Speedway – Brady Bacon

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2023 USAC NATIONAL SPRINT CAR DRIVER & TEAM ROSTER:

A

GARRETT ABRAMS/Rushville, IN (Garrett & Tony Abrams #32)

MAX ADAMS/Loomis, CA (Max & Scott Adams #5x) & (Michael Dutcher Motorsports #17GP)

ED AIKIN/Lincoln University, PA (EA Motorsports #7)

GARRETT AITKEN/Paris, IL (Greg Aitken #32)

GREG ALT/Watertown, WI (Alt Motorsports #22)

JOEY AMANTEA/Mt. Pocono, PA (JPA Racing #88J)

COLLIN AMBROSE/Owensboro, KY (Lynn Ambrose #36)

EMERSON AXSOM/Franklin, IN (Clauson Marshall Newman Racing #47BC)

DAVE AXTON/Port Byron, NY (Dave Axton #2)

B

BRADY BACON/Broken Arrow, OK (Dynamics, Inc. #69) & (Wedgewood Motorsports #98)

ROBERT BALLOU/Rocklin, CA (Ballou Motorsports #12)

KOBY BARKSDALE/Norman, OK (Knight Racing #16K)



RYAN BARR/Piqua, OH (Barr Family #21B)

STAN BEADLES/Owensville, IN (Beadles Racing #84)

BRENT BEAUCHAMP/Fairland, IN (Lauren Beauchamp #11) & (Jeff Olson #34)

DUSTIN BECK/Petersburg, IN (Henson-Rupp #75)

A.J. BENDER/San Diego, CA (Rich Bender #21)

SABAN BIBENT/Cincinnati, OH (Wedgewood Motorsports #98)

NICK BILBEE/Indianapolis, IN (Bilbee Motorsports #17)

COLE BODINE/Rossville, IN (Kevin Bodine #57B)

DONNY BRACKETT/Fort Branch, IN (Tony Brackett #4B)

ANDY BRADLEY/Bloomington, IN (Hoosier Speed-Fortune #86)

ALEX BRIGHT/Collegeville, PA (Heffner Racing Enterprises #27) & (Heffner-Hummer Motorsports #27)

CORY BRUNS/Lincoln, IL (Judy Smith & Tony Robertson #8)

TIMMY BUCKWALTER/Douglassville, PA (LNB Motorsports #7) & (Lotier-Hummer Motorsports #20T)

PATRICK BUDDE/Bartelso, IL (Patrick Budde #90)

WYATT BURKS/Topeka, KS (Wyatt Burks Racing #11w)

HARLEY BURNS/Brazil, IN (Harley Burns #16)

BOBBY BUTLER/Milford, NJ (Butler Motorsports #5B)

C

LOGAN CALDERWOOD/Goodyear, AZ (Rex Calderwood #6)

TROY CAREY/Tullamore, New South Wales, AU (Troy Carey Motorsports #45N)

NATE CARLE/West Harrison, IN (Jeff Carle #14c)

CINDY CHAMBERS/Bloomington, IN (DC Motorsports #18c)

DAYLAN CHAMBERS/Bowling Green, IN (KCBJ Motorsports #8D)

ISAAC CHAPPLE/Willow Branch, IN (Chapple-Hall Racing #6)

JASON CHERRY/Blandon, PA (Jason Cherry Racing #67c)

PATRICK CHILMONIK/Milford, NJ (Patrick Chilmonik #1)



BRAYDEN CLARK/Tipton, IN (Roy Jackson-Mark Clark #42G)

DUSTIN CLARK/Washington, IN (Dustin Clark Racing #75)

STERLING CLING/Tempe, AZ (Sterling Cling Racing #34)

MARIO CLOUSER/Auburn, IL (Mario Clouser Motorsports #6)

COLTEN COTTLE/Kansas, IL (KCBJ Motorsports #8D) & (Paul Hazen #57)

SHANE COTTLE/Kansas, IL (Epperson Racing #2E), (Hodges Motorsports #74x) & (Joe Leer #77K)

TIM CREECH/Greenfield, IN (Tim Creech #31)

CHANCE CRUM/Snohomish, WA (Rudeen Racing #26)

BRAXTON CUMMINGS/Bedford, IN (Bub & Amanda Cummings #71B)

KYLE CUMMINS/Princeton, IN (Rock Steady Racing #3R)

D

BRIGGS DANNER/Allentown, PA (Hogue Racing Enterprises #39)

DAVE DARLAND/Lincoln, IN (Dave Darland Racing-Curb-Agajanian #36D)

MICHAEL DAUGHERTY/Evansville, IN (Michael Daugherty #3.14)

ZACH DAUM/Pocahontas, IL (Daum Motorsports #5d)

CHARLES DAVIS JR./Buckeye, AZ (Charles Davis Jr. #47)

MITCHELL DAVIS/Auburn, IL (Mitchell Davis #56)

AUSTIN DeBLAUW/Ventura, CA (DeBlauw Racing #65)

BRYAN DEBRICK/Bedford, TX (Bryan Debrick #10)

XAVIER DONEY/Odessa, MO (Doney-Lawson Racing #74)

STEVEN DREVICKI/Reading, PA (Greg Fitzpatrick-DeGre Engineering #19)

DON DROUD JR./Lincoln, NE (Mark Burch Motorsports #1m)

PAUL DUES/Minster, OH (Dues Racing #87)

E

CURT ELLIOTT/Fletcher, OH (Curt Elliott #28)



GEOFF ENSIGN/Sebastopol, CA (Ensign Motorsports #3F) & (On The Gass Racing #17)

SCOTT EVANS/Rhome, TX (Scott & Kristen Evans #118)

F

LOGAN FAUCON/Elkhart, IL (Scott & Kay Faucon #52F)

GARY FLOYD/San Angelo, TX (Tammy Sturgeon #72)

DAMON FORTUNE/Terre Haute, IN (Hoosier Speed-Fortune #39)

BRAYDEN FOX/Avon, IN (Fox Brothers Racing #53)

PARKER FREDERICKSON/Kokomo, IN (Parker Frederickson #34F)

G

CODY GARDNER/Little Rock, AR (Tiny Gaines #G6)

CARSON GARRETT/Littleton, CO (BGE Dougherty Motorsports #15)

ARIC GENTRY/Robards, KY (Larry Gentry #10)

GABRIEL GILBERT/Greenwood, IN (Gabriel Gilbert Racing #10G)

IVAN GLOTZBACH/Fillmore, IN (Ivan Glotzbach #i1)

MATT GOODNIGHT/Winchester, IN (Goodnight Racing #39)

JUSTIN GRANT/Ione, CA (TOPP Motorsports #4)

RYLAN GRAY/Greenfield, IN (Gray Brothers #06) & (Gray Brothers #81)

COLIN GRISSOM/Anderson, IN (Colin Grissom #00)

KURT GROSS/Washington, IN (Henson-Rupp #71x)

FRANKIE GUERRINI/San Rafael, CA (F & F Racing #63)

H

ALLEN HAFFORD/Beach Park, IL (Hafford Motorsports #38)

SCOTT HAMPTON/Greenfield, IN (Slinkard Motorsports #51)

JOSH HANNA/Tyler, TX (Josh Hanna #82)



TOM HARRIS/Banbury, Oxfordshire, UK (Tom Harris Motorsport #84)

BRIAN HAYDEN/Fillmore, IN (Brian Hayden Racing #2H)

KORBYN HAYSLETT/Troy, OH (Kim & Dave Hayslett #1H)

TONY HELTON/Cloverdale, IN (Jeff Miller #87)

ANTON HERNANDEZ/Arlington, TX (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5)

DALLAS HEWITT/Troy, OH (Jamie Miller #6m) & (Jennifer Hewitt #21)

TYLER HEWITT/Marion, IN (Scott & Kristen Evans #118)

TODD HOBSON/Clyde, Victoria, AU (Joe Daming #5T)

RAYMOND HOLDEN/Evansville, IN (Holden Motorsports #2R)

ALLEN HOWARD JR./Terre Haute, IN (AJR Motorsports #4u)

CHASE HOWARD/Nesbit, MS (Ronny Howard #13)

JASON HOWELL/Azle, TX (Tammy Sturgeon #44)

JACK HOYER/Frankfort, IN (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5) & (Chris Hoyer #11)

J.J. HUGHES/Jasper, IN (John Hughes #76)

JONATHAN HUGHES/Knoxville, IA (Jay Hughes #67)

I

DUSTIN INGLE/Lima, OH (Dustin Ingle Racing #2DI)

STEVE IRWIN/Fenton, MI (Flying Zero Racing #0)

JOHNNY IVERS/Vincennes, IN (Ivers-Thomas Racing #55)

J

JACK JAMES/Harlan, IN (Jack James #99)

CHASE JOHNSON/Penngrove, CA (Yeley Motorsports #2)

KYLE JOHNSON/Greencastle, IN (Mike Johnson #99J)

KYLE JONES/Kennedale, TX (Mike Melton #11)

K

TYLER KENDALL/Connersville, IN (Matt Kendall #20)

LARRY KINGSEED JR./Castalia, OH (Larry Kingseed #21) & (Powell Racing #59)

JORDAN KINSER/Bloomington, IN (Jerry Burton #04)

RILEY KREISEL/Warsaw, MO (Yeley Motorsports #2J) & (DKR Motorsports #91)

L

ZACH LAMB/Aurora, IN (Zach Lamb #73)

PRESTON LATTOMUS/Lewes, DE (Michael Lattomus #23B)

C.J. LEARY/Greenfield, IN (BGE Dougherty Motorsports #15x)

RICKY LEWIS/Camarillo, CA (Dave Brown #41)

JAMES LYERLA/Hillsboro, IL (JL Motorsports #11)

M

HUNTER MADDOX/Bloomington, IN (Hunter Maddox #24m)

CRITTER MALONE/Pittsboro, IN (Seven LLC #7)

BRANDON MATTOX/Terre Haute, IN (Brandon Mattox Racing #28)

MATT McDONALD/Brownsburg, IN (Darrell McDonald #5m)

JASON McDOUGAL/Broken Arrow, OK (KO Motorsports #5m)

JUSTIN MENEELY/Brazil, IN (Meneely Motorsports #100)

THOMAS MESERAULL/San Jose, CA (Epperson Racing #2E), (Chris Dyson Racing #20) & (NIKSTE LLC #23K)

TYE MIHOCKO/Peoria, AZ (Brian Hayden Racing #2H), (Dave Wilson #5) & (Jamie Paul #24p)

TRAVIS MILLAR/Wandin North, Victoria, AU (Travis Millar #93AU)

TYLER MILLER/Kokomo, IN (Tyler Miller Motorsports #67)

MATT MITCHELL/Yorba Linda, CA (J.W. Mitchell Motorsports #37)

JOSS MOFFATT/Columbus, IN (Moffatt Racing #5J) & (A.J. Felker Racing #37)

MITCHEL MOLES/Raisin City, CA (Reinbold-Underwood Motorsports #19AZ)



JOHN MOLLICK/Toronto, OH (Scott Clever #4J)

KYLE MOODY/Lewisberry, PA (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5x)

CHRISTIAN MOORE/Bullard, TX (Joe Moore #6)

EVAN MOSLEY/Lapel, IN (Steve Thomas #20T) & (Chris Barkdull #27)

TODD MOULE/Heathcote, Victoria, AU (Tony Moule #26)

DEVAN MYERS/Delphi, IN (Devan Myers #75)

N

KEVIN NEWTON/Farmersburg, IN (Kevin Newton #16TH)

ANTHONY NICHOLSON/Lakeland, TN (Nicholson Motorsports #16)

O

TREY OSBORNE/Columbus, OH (Trey Osborne #6T)

JUSTIN OWEN/Harrison, OH (Fischesser-Owen Racing #4J)

P

CHASE PARSON/Abilene, TX (Parson Racing #57)

BILLY PAUCH JR./Frenchtown, NJ (Heffner Racing Enterprises #27H)

JORDAN PAULSEN/Trevor, WI (Jordan Paulsen #4p)

CARMEN PERIGO/Stoystown, PA (John Stehman #21)

WES PINKERTON/Reynolds, IN (Hajduk Motorsports #21)

ZACK PRETORIUS/Yorktown, IN (Jeff Pretorius #9z)

JEFF PRITCHETT/Evansville, IN (Nine-One-One Motorsports #2J)

DAISON PURSLEY/Locust Grove, OK (KO Motorsports #5p)

R

BRODY ROA/Garden Grove, CA (Tom & Christy Dunkel #17R)

KAYLA ROELL/Dillsboro, IN (KO Motorsports #5K)

JADON ROGERS/Worthington, IN (4J Motorsports #4J), (Baldwin-Fox Racing #5), (4J Motorsports #14) & (Michael Dutcher Motorsports #17GP)

CLAYTON ROSSMAN/Wadsworth, IL (Hajduk Motorsports #21)

KENDALL RUBLE/Vincennes, IN (Jerry Ruble #17)

BRIAN RUHLMAN/Clarklake, MI (Brian Ruhlman #49)

S

NATE SCHANK/Santa Rosa, CA (Janis Schank #1)

ADYN SCHMIDT/Haubstadt, IN (Adam Schmidt #12s) & (Chet Williams #38)

STEPHEN SCHNAPF/Newburgh, IN (Hoosier Speed-Fortune #39F)

BRYAR SCHROETER/Kokomo, IN (Bryar Schroeter #21s)

JAKE SCOTT/Morgantown, IN (Jeff Miller #33)

SAM SCOTT/Patoka, IN (Sam Scott #7s)

NATHAN SEALE/Fort Branch, IN (Nathan Seale Racing #1s)

LOGAN SEAVEY/Sutter, CA (2B Racing #2B)

KEITH SHEFFER II/Jerome, MI (Sheffer Racing #86)

ERIC SHELTON/Decatur, IL (Paul Shelton #70)

KYLE SHIPLEY/El Mirage, AZ (Kyle Shipley #0G)

BRADY SHORT/Bedford, IN (Randy Edwards #61m)

CARSON SHORT/Marion, IL (Beadles Racing #84)

KOBE SIMPSON/Bonham, TX (Kevin Simpson #21K)

ALEC SIPES/Springville, IN (Hayward Motorsports #19) & (Alec Sipes #99)

JACKSON SLONE/Noblesville, IN (Borzio-Slone #16)

JOHN SLUSS/Indianapolis, IN (Team RayPro #4R)

CAMERON SMITH/Spring Grove, PA (Lee Kauffman #96)

MARCUS SMITH/Tracy, CA (Marcus & Mark Smith #28s)

WESLEY SMITH/Nixa, MO (Bryan Smith #44)



DALTON STEVENS/Scurry, TX (Stevens Racing Holdings #99x)

CHASE STOCKON/Fort Branch, IN (KO Motorsports #5s)

STEVIE SUSSEX/Tempe, AZ (Tyler Sturgeon Racing #77s)

JAKE SWANSON/Anaheim, CA (Team AZ Racing #21AZ)

KODY SWANSON/Kingsburg, CA (Rock Steady Racing #3R), (Wedgewood Motorsports #77) & (Wedgewood Motorsports #98)

DOUG SYLVESTER/Ottumwa, IA (Doug Sylvester #12x)

T

EDDIE TAFOYA JR./Chino Hills, CA (Eddie Tafoya Sr. #51T)

KEVIN THOMAS JR./Cullman, AL (Yeley Motorsports #2J), (2B Racing #2x), (Rock Steady Racing #3R), (Kevin Newton #16), (Michael Dutcher Motorsports #17GP), (Landon Simon Racing #24) & (Cheney Racing #42)

STEVE THOMAS/Ludlow, IL (Steve Thomas #20)

TRAVIS THOMPSON/Brazil, IN (Travis Thompson #7)

V

EDDIE VANCIL/Olney, IL (Eddie Vancil #7v)

MATT VANDERVERE/Burlington, WI (VanderVere Racing #10v)

W

DAN WADE/Wilmot, WI (Dan Wade #15)

VINNY WARD/Springfield, IL (Tom Ward #82)

SCOTTY WEIR/Marion, IN (NIKSTE LLC #23K) & (Landon Simon Racing #24)

MATT WESTFALL/Pleasant Hill, OH (Ray Marshall Motorsports #33m)

PAUL WHITE/Temple, TX (Greg Wade #1)

NOAH WHITEHOUSE/Greenfield, IN (Scott Whitehouse #00w)

TAYTE WILLIAMSON/Rushylvania, OH (Brent Williamson #20)

MITCH WISSMILLER/Saybrook, IL (RNB Motorsports #29)



BEN WOODS/Newton, IA (B & R Motorsports #11B)

Y

J.J. YELEY/Phoenix, AZ (Yeley Motorsports #2) & (Yeley Motorsports #2J)

Z

JUSTIN ZIMMERMAN/Athens, TX (D-Up Racing #1)