2023 USAC EAST COAST SPRINT CAR SEASON REVIEW

Danner For Two! 2023 USAC East Coast Sprint Car Review

By: Richie Murray – USAC Media

It was a season in which Briggs Danner embarked on a yearlong journey with a new team. But in the end, the result was precisely the same with the Allentown, Pa. driver collecting his second consecutive USAC Rapid Tire East Coast Sprint Cars Presented By Capitol Custom Trailers championship in 2023.

After earning top series honors in 2022, the title-winning duo of Danner and Curt Michael/Heffner Racing Enterprises parted ways during the offseason, and soon, a connection was made between Danner and the Hogue Racing Enterprises team based out of Medford, N.J.

Danner used a string of consistency to reach the top, featuring a pair of wins, plus a series-high 12 top-fives and 13 top-tens in 14 feature starts throughout the season. As good fortune would have it, three years after winning his first ever start behind the wheel of a sprint car, Danner earned his second straight championship at the very same venue – New Jersey's Bridgeport Motorsports Park.

Initially, the 2023 plans didn't include chasing after another USAC East Coast title. In fact, he didn't even know if sprint car racing would be a part of the equation with uncertainty surrounding his status at the beginning of the new year. But soon, a deal was struck between Danner and Hogue, and sure enough, success came along for the ride.

"Change is scary, " the Briggs Danner Racing Facebook page stated in a post. "Especially if you didn't see it coming and could not prepare for it. But we knew instantly upon meeting the Hogue family that Briggs would be in good hands."

However, the first victory for the pairing had to wait until late spring. Throughout the first six events, the team was held winless. Nonetheless, with six consecutive top-five results in those same six races, a firm grip atop the point standings had been established. With that, their day of glory was not far away, although the final race before their first official victory lane appearance may have been their biggest "win" of the year when all was said and done.

During June's Bill Gallagher Memorial at Pennsylvania's Williams Grove Speedway, an engine issue developed on Danner's Hogue No. 39 just as the night was getting underway. Seemingly out of luck and out of competition for the night, fellow competitor Ed Aikin came to the rescue and offered up his backup car for Danner to compete in. Danner didn't disappoint, ultimately charging from his 21st starting position to finish third, thus salvaging the night and keeping secure his newfound championship aspirations.

Danner, back home in the Hogue ride, reigned victorious in the subsequent rounds at Pennsylvania's Bedford Speedway and Delaware International Speedway, and from there on, was in total command of the driver points entering the season finale in late October at Bridgeport.

However, one pressing matter remained – the USAC East Coast Sprint Car entrant championship. Hogue Racing Enterprises was on the hunt for its first title, but due to their absence from competition on the night Danner wheeled Aikin's car, the team didn't quite hold as much of a command in the entrant standings. For Danner, getting the entrant championship for Hogue was even more imperative than winning his own crown.

"The entrant championship mattered more to us than the driver's points because the 39 team took us in, welcomed us with open arms and warm hearts, " Danner said. "We raced; we rode the highs and lows of racing together as a team; we made priceless memories; we shared stories; we laughed; we cultivated friendships; and we had so much fun along the way. There are many types and levels of wins in this game of life and in the sport of racing. Win, lose, or draw on Saturday, we already felt like we won. We are truly blessed."

By racing his way up from the seventh position to second in the final race of the season, Danner clinched both the driver title for himself and the entrant title for Hogue. It's a proud achievement for all after entering the 2023 calendar year not knowing that they would be teamed up together, let alone standing tall as the series champions.

"There are no adequate words to express how elated we are and how proud we are to win both the driver and entrant championships for the Hogue family, our amazing sponsors/partners and all our fans who have supported us all season, " Danner stated. "It takes a village, and it was truly a team effort and accomplishment in our first season together."

Steven Drevicki (Reading, Pa.) returned to form in 2023, finishing as the runner-up in the point standings. The three-time series champion also grabbed a pair of feature wins in May at Pennsylvania's Grandview and Clinton County Speedways, his first series victories in nearly two full years.

Joey Amantea (Mount Pocono, Pa.) turned in several fine showings to earn a career-best third-place finish in the standings, returning to victory circle for the second-straight season with the series in the penultimate round at Delaware International Speedway in October.

Bobby Butler (Milford, N.J.) was highly impressive with four podium finishes on the season en route to earning Rookie of the Year honors for 2023. Further demonstrating his exceptionality, in June during Eastern Storm against the USAC AMSOIL Sprint Car National Championship regulars at Grandview, Butler possessed the lone 360 c.i. engine in the 31-car field to transfer into the feature.

Sharing honors as the winningest drivers of the USAC East Coast Sprint Car season were 2021 series champion Alex Bright and Kenny Miller III, both of whom earned three victories apiece.

Bright (Collegeville, Pa.) took an April round at Williams Grove for the Hummer Motorsports team. When Heffner and Rookie driver Steven Snyder Jr. parted company in the spring, Bright was named as the new driver for the team and promptly won his first outing for them at Williams Grove in June. A horrific flip during July in USAC National Sprint Car competition at Lawrenceburg (Ind.) Speedway sidelined Bright for the next three months. Bright returned to action and won his second start back in the season finale at Bridgeport.

Meanwhile, Miller (Morgantown, Pa.) made nine starts in part-time duty with the series by winning three times himself in April at Delaware's Georgetown Speedway, in August at Pennsylvania's Lincoln Speedway and again one week later at Virginia's Winchester Speedway.

Single time winners with the series included a popular victory by series veteran Carmen Perigo in July at Pennsylvania's Action Track USA. At Winchester in May, teenager Preston Lattomus (Lewes, Del.) scored a victory for the second year in a row with the series. In August's return to Action Track USA, Timmy Buckwalter (Douglassville, Pa.) returned to the USAC East Coast Sprint Car win column for the first time since 2019 in a rough-and-tumble feature on the 1/5-mile which featured six different lead changes.

Danner and Drevicki tied for the series lead with 13 top-tens each in 14 feature starts. Danner led all drivers with seven heat race wins while also extending his all-time series record of feature wins to 24. Four drivers started all 14 feature events during the 2023 season, including Butler, Danner, Drevicki and J.T. Ferry (Drums, Pa.).

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2023 USAC EAST COAST SPRINT CAR STATISTICS

STAT LEADERS

Driver Champion: Briggs Danner

Rookie of the Year: Bobby Butler

Most Wins: 3-Alex Bright & Kenny Miller III

Most Laps Led: 87-Kenny Miller III

Most Top-Fives: 12-Briggs Danner

Most Top-Tens: 13-Briggs Danner & Steven Drevicki

Most Heat Race Wins: 7-Briggs Danner

Most Feature Starts: 14-Bobby Butler, Briggs Danner, Steven Drevicki & J.T. Ferry

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DRIVER POINT STANDINGS

1	960	Briggs Danner, Allentown, Pennsylvania
2	893	Steven Drevicki, Reading, Pennsylvania
3	784	Joey Amantea, Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania
4	723	Bobby Butler, Milford, New Jersey
5	722	J.T. Ferry, Drums, Pennsylvania
6	608	Ed Aikin, Lincoln University, Pennsylvania
7	593	Preston Lattomus, Lewes, Delaware
8	555	Mike Thompson, Newtown, Pennsylvania
9	541	Bruce Buckwalter Jr., Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
10	503	Carmen Perigo, Stoystown, Pennsylvania
11	487	Austin Graby, Lebanon, Pennsylvania
12	447	Jason Cherry, Blandon, Pennsylvania
13	396	Chris Allen Jr., Old Bridge, New Jersey
14	320	Christian Bruno, Deptford, New Jersey
15	302	Billy Ney, Reading, Pennsylvania
16	249	Kyle Spence, Bear, Delaware
17	226	Aidan Borden, Jackson, New Jersey
18	218	Dalton Herrick, McDonough, New York
19	215	David Swanson, Yardville, New Jersey
20	209	Scott Frack, Gilbertville, Pennsylvania

21	186	Jonathan Swanson, Yardville, New Jersey
22	174	Lee Kauffman, Hellam Township, Pennsylvania
23	159	Steven Snyder Jr., Rising Sun, Maryland
24	130	Michael Smith, Red Lion, Pennsylvania
25	91	Patrick Chilmonik, Milford, New Jersey
26	61	Tim Stallings, York, Pennsylvania
27	49	Brian Nornhold, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania
28	38	Mick D'Agostino, Taunton, Massachusetts
29	18	Tim Hogue, Medford, New Jersey

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FEATURE WINNERS

Apr 7: Georgetown Speedway - Georgetown, DE

WINNER: Kenny Miller III (Kenny Miller #23m)

Apr 14: Williams Grove Speedway - Mechanicsburg, PA

WINNER: Alex Bright (Hummer Motorsports #20)

May 13: Grandview Speedway - Bechtelsville, PA

WINNER: Steven Drevicki (DeGre Engineering #19)

May 19: Clinton County Speedway - Mill Hall, PA

WINNER: Steven Drevicki (DeGre Engineering #19)

May 27: Winchester Speedway Winchester, VA

WINNER: Preston Lattomus (Michael Lattomus #23B)

Jun 2: Williams Grove Speedway - Mechanicsburg, PA

WINNER: Alex Bright (Heffner Racing Enterprises)

Jun 9: Bedford Speedway - Bedford, PA

WINNER: Briggs Danner (Hogue Racing Enterprises #39)

Jun 30: Delaware International Speedway - Delmar, DE

WINNER: Briggs Danner (Hogue Racing Enterprises #39)

Jul 12: Action Track USAKutztown, PA

WINNER: Carmen Perigo (John Stehman #21)

Aug 5: Lincoln Speedway - Abbottstown, PA

WINNER: Kenny Miller III (Kenny Miller #23m)

Aug 12: Winchester Speedway - Winchester, VA

WINNER: Kenny Miller III (Kenny Miller #23m)

Aug 20: Action Track USA - Kutztown, PA

WINNER: Timmy Buckwalter (Hummer Motorsports #20)

Oct 21: Delaware International Speedway - Delmar, DE

WINNER: Joey Amantea (JPA Racing #88J)

Oct 28: Bridgeport Motorsports Park - Swedesboro, NJ

WINNER: Alex Bright (Heffner Racing Enterprises)

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FEATURE WINS

3-Alex Bright (Apr 14 at Williams Grove Speedway, Jun 2 at Williams Grove Speedway & Oct 28 at Bridgeport Motorsports Park)

3-Kenny Miller III (Apr 7 at Georgetown Speedway, Aug 5 at Lincoln Speedway & Aug 12 at Winchester Speedway)

2-Briggs Danner (Jun 9 at Bedford Speedway & Jun 30 at Delaware International Speedway)

2-Steven Drevicki (May 13 at Grandview Speedway & May 19 at Clinton County Speedway)

1-Carmen Perigo (Jul 12 at Action Track USA)

1-Joey Amantea (Oct 21 at Delaware International Speedway)

1-Preston Lattomus (May 27 at Winchester Speedway)

1-Timmy Buckwalter (Aug 20 at Action Track USA)

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FEATURE LAPS LED

87-Kenny Miller III

67-Alex Bright

33-Carmen Perigo

32-Steven Drevicki

27-Briggs Danner

25-Joey Amantea & Preston Lattomus

18-Tommy Kunsman

15-Ed Aikin

12-Christian Bruno

11-Timmy Buckwalter

5-J.T. Ferry

3-Steven Snyder Jr.

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FEATURE FINISHES

12-Briggs Danner

9-Joey Amantea

7-Steven Drevicki

6-Alex Bright

5-Kenny Miller III

4-Bobby Butler, Preston Lattomus & Carmen Perigo

3-Ed Aikin & Christian Bruno

2-Chris Allen Jr., Bruce Buckwalter Jr., Timmy Buckwalter & Kyle Spence

1-J.T. Ferry, Tommy Kunsman, Billy Pauch Jr., Steven Snyder Jr. & Mike Thompson

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FEATURE FINISHES

13-Briggs Danner & Steven Drevicki

11-Joey Amantea & J.T. Ferry

9-Bobby Butler

8-Preston Lattomus & Kenny Miller III

7-Alex Bright & Carmen Perigo

6-Ed Aikin, Chris Allen Jr. & Bruce Buckwalter Jr.

5-Mike Thompson

4-Christian Bruno & Kyle Spence

3-Austin Graby & Timmy Buckwalter

2-Tommy Kunsman, Billy Ney & Steven Snyder Jr.

1-Aidan Borden, Jason Cherry, Scott Frack, Dalton Herrick, Brenden Hires, Billy Pauch Jr., Brett Rose, Dale Schweikart, David Swanson & Jonathan Swanson

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HEAT RACE WINS

7-Briggs Danner

5-Carmen Perigo

4-Joey Amantea

3-Timmy Buckwalter & Steven Drevicki

2-Alex Bright, Christian Bruno, Bobby Butler & Kenny Miller III

1-Bruce Buckwalter Jr., Tommy Kunsman, Preston Lattomus, Steven Snyder Jr. & Mike Thompson

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FEATURE STARTS

14-Bobby Butler, Briggs Danner, Steven Drevicki & J.T. Ferry

13-Mike Thompson

12-Ed Aikin, Joey Amantea, Bruce Buckwalter Jr. & Austin Graby

11-Jason Cherry

10-Preston Lattomus

9-Kenny Miller III

8-Alex Bright & Carmen Perigo

7-Chris Allen Jr. & Billy Ney

6-Aidan Borden

5-Christian Bruno, Scott Frack, Dalton Herrick, David Swanson & Jonathan Swanson

4-Lee Kauffman, Tommy Kunsman, Brett Rose, Michael Smith & Kyle Spence

3-Timmy Buckwalter, Troy Fraker, Brenden Hires & Steven Snyder Jr.

2-Patrick Chilmonik & Gary Huston

1-Chris Allen Sr., Josh Beamer, Richy Carnathan, Mick D'Agostino, Heidi Hedin, George Loux, Brian Nornhold, Billy Pauch Jr., Dale Schweikart & Tim Stallings

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SEMI-FEATURE WINS

2-Aidan Borden

1-Scott Frack, Austin Graby, Billy Ney & Mike Thompson

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GEORGETOWN'S USAC EAST COAST OPENER GOES TO KENNY MILLER III

By: Nick Fillman – USAC East Coast Sprint Cars

Georgetown, Delaware (April 7, 2023)……Morgantown, Pennsylvania's Kenny Miller lll returned to Rapid Tire Service USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series Presented by Capitol Renegade victory lane on Friday night at Delaware's Georgetown Speedway.

Miller utilized a restart after the event's only caution flag of the feature to cruise to a dominant win to kick off the 2023 season and pick up his first series win since his Rookie season in 2020.

Steven Snyder Jr. and Delaware native Preston Lattomus led the 17-car field to green for the opening USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series feature event of the year with the rookie Snyder Jr. taking the early event lead. Briggs Danner quickly dove to the bottom side of the speedway to move into the second-place position with Joey Amantea quickly returning the favor to take second back as the field completed lap one.

Amantea and Danner were locked side-by-side in a wheel-to-wheel battle for the runner-up position with Kyle Spence, Kenny Miller lll, Allen and Drevicki all close together battling for positions early in the feature event.

The first and only yellow flag of the event flew on lap three for Austin Graby who spun to a stop on the high side of turn three leading to a restart with Rookie Snyder Jr. leading the way with hungry drivers Joey Amantea and Briggs Danner waiting for their shot at the race lead.

Snyder Jr. took off on a great restart as the field dove into the now 90 feet wide turns one and two, protecting himself from Amantea's slide job attempt. Snyder Jr. drifted too wide at the exit of turn two and slipped off the banking, with Danner following Snyder Jr. over the banking and both drivers losing wholesale positions.

Amantea now assumed the race lead over Kyle Spence and Kenny Miller lll, with Dinner and Snyder Jr trying to get back by Steven Drevicki and Christopher Allen for position and work into the top three.

Kenny Miller lll worked by Spence, then was able to throw a tight slide job on the bottom side of the speedway and complete the pass of Amantea for the lead on lap seven of the feature event.

Miller quickly drove away from the field leaving Amantea to fall into the clutches of Kyle Spence who was able to enter lower than Amantea entering the corners but still was not able to get by the former feature winner. Meanwhile, Briggs Danner had worked back by Allen, and Drevicki, and now drew in on the battle for second and third as he worked to the back bumper of Spence for third.

By the halfway point of the feature, it became evident that the low line of the speedway was the way to go with the high line being just a bit too dirty to get a hold of. The track began to lay rubber on the bottom, but the battle for second through sixth remained red hot.

With only one groove to battle in, Spence continued to pressure Amantea into making a mistake, with Danner attempting to do the same to Spence, and behind them Steven Drevicki and Steven Snyder Jr had drawn in on the battle for the top five as well.

Around the five to go mark, Kenny Miller lll was gone. Miller had amassed a near three-quarter track lead over the rest of the top five. Spence pressured Amantea who made a mistake entering turns one and two and missed the rubber line allowing him to move into second. Danner tried to move under Amantea for the spot as well, but Amantea was able to shut the door at the exit of corner two.

For the remaining laps it was smooth sailing up front for Kenny Miller lll as he cruised to his third career victory, and first since 2020 at the Georgetown Speedway over Kyle Spence, Joey Amantea, Briggs Danner, and Steven Drevicki.

The win for Kenny Miller lll has been a long time coming, with multiple runs inside the top three and top five since his last feature event victory. Miller is also no stranger to winning on the slick while in the state of Delaware. Miller's first career win came at the Delaware International Speedway in the fall of 2020 during his rookie year, and most recent being at Big Diamond in October of 2020. While Miller still will not be full time with the series in 2023, he has proven again that the team is here to compete for wins and is more than capable of getting the job done.

Kyle Spence is yet another driver who is looking to crack through for his first career win as well. Spence has finished in the top three on more than one occasion and will be doing a lot more sprint car racing in 2023. While not full time with the series either, Spence will dabble here and there with the Betts Racing 22, when not piloting a 600cc sprint, or his winged 358 sprint car for Shane Smith.

Joey Amantea was fast all night long and ran a great race on the slick surface. Amantea is the driver with the least amount of rust to knock off compared to the rest of the field as he competed in Florida with the USAC National Tour in February. Amantea has a busy schedule planned but is committed and focused on trying to collect the USAC East Coast Championship.

Briggs Danner had an amazing heat race run aboard the Hogue Racing 39 entry in the new combo's debut. Danner had faded all the way to sixth in his head race from the runner up position but battled back and picked up the heat race in convincing fashion. Danner appeared to have a faster car than Spence and Amantea in the late stages of the feature event, but with the narrow rubber strip on the bottom of the speedway, there was not much room for error, nor room to make a move for position without a mistake. Danner tried multiple times to work the high line of the speedway in on the exit of turn four, but was unable to get the job done, and settled for a respectable top four run.

Steven Drevicki on Friday night was the 358 engine that could. Drevicki revealed that the team is utilizing their back up 358 engine as their regular 360 power plant is still awaiting parts and be finished and picked up for use. That did not stop the three-time series champion from winning heat race number one, in a last lap, last corner pass for the win. Drevicki came home with a solid top five run. He explained that the 358 engine is just missing that little bit of horsepower compared to the 360's, to get off the corners and at the end of the straightaways, but Drevicki looked strong as usual despite the slight disadvantage.

Up next in the busy month of April for the USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series is the first trip of the season to the Williams Grove Speedway, next Friday night, April 14th. Following that is what will now be the first stop of the year at the Bridgeport Motorsports Park on April 22nd, before wrapping up the month with a double header at the Bedford Speedway on April 28th, and the Port Royal Speedway on April 29th.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: April 7, 2023 – Georgetown Speedway – Georgetown, Delaware

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (4), 2. Kyle Spence (#22 Betts) (5), 3. Kenny Miller lll (#23m Miller) (7), 4. Steven Snyder Jr. (#27 Heffner) (6), 5. Chris Allen Jr.

(#71 Allen) (8), 6. J.T. Ferry (#18 Ferry) (2), 7. Aidan Borden (#7B Borden) (1), 8. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (9), 9. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (3). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (2), 2. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (3), 3. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (6), 4. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (1), 5. Christian Bruno (#17 Bruno) (5), 6. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (7), 7. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (8), 8. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (4). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kenny Miller III (7), 2. Kyle Spence (5), 3. Joey Amantea (3), 4. Briggs Danner (4), 5. Steven Drevicki (8), 6. Steven Snyder Jr. (1), 7. Preston Lattomus (2), 8. Chris Allen Jr. (9), 9. Christian Bruno (10), 10. Bobby Butler (6), 11. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (16), 12. J.T. Ferry (11), 13. Aidan Borden (13), 14. Jason Cherry (17), 15. Ed Aikin (12), 16. Austin Graby (14), 17. Mike Thompson (15). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-3 Steven Snyder Jr., Laps 4-6 Joey Amantea, Laps 7-25 Kenny Miller III.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Kenny Miller III-76, 2-Kyle Spence-74, 3-Joey Amantea-70, 4-Briggs Danner-69, 5-Steven Drevicki-66, 6-Steven Snyder Jr.-60, 7-Preston Lattomus-59, 8-Chris Allen Jr.-53, 9-Christian Bruno-50, 10-Bobby Butler-48.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: April 14, 2023 – Williams Grove Speedway – Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

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BRIGHT SCORES THIRD CONSECUTIVE USAC EAST COAST WIN AT WILLIAMS GROVE

By: Nick Fillman – USAC ECSC

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania (April 14, 2023)…….Alex Bright of Collegeville, PA held off a last lap slide job attempt from defending series champion Briggs Danner to collect his third straight victory at the Williams Grove Speedway dating back to the 2022 season.

Series Rookie J.T. Ferry and Alex Bright lead the field to green following the redraw for the front eight positions of the field. Bright immediately got the drop on the young rookie, beating Ferry to the high side of the speedway and rocketing to the race lead. Bobby Butler followed through on the outside of the speedway from fourth to second, with Briggs Danner and Steven Snyder Jr also making moves early on the high side of the speedway.

Within the opening five circuits of the speedway, the high line was the place to be with just about every driver blasting the cushion around the top of the track, with entry into the corners being the major passing opportunity. Danner made his move around early third place runner Christian Bruno to move into the podium spot and try to reel in runner up Bobby Butler, who was keeping pace with Bright for the race lead. On lap seven of the feature event, with Danner closing in on Butler, Steven Snyder Jr made his move around the outside of JT Ferry to take over the fifth-place spot.

Plenty of action occurred all around the high side of the speedway as drivers regularly traded slide jobs throughout the field. With the exception of leader Bright, the rest of the top four began to close in on each other as the field worked their way to the half way mark of the feature event. Meanwhile, just outside the top five, intense racing occurred between Christopher Allen, JT Ferry, Bruce Buckwalter Jr, Mike Thompson, and Carmen Perigo Jr who regularly traded positions back and forth with slide jobs at each end of the speedway for positions inside the top ten.

With only a handful of laps to go, Bright had a commanding lead over Bobby Butler, who was holding off challenges from Briggs Danner for third. Christian Bruno held strong in fourth with Steven Snyder Jr pressuring him for the fourth-place spot.

As Bright worked his way by the flag stand to complete lap fourteen, some smoke began to show from the car as he entered turn one and two, and down the back straightaway. When Bright entered turn three heavy smoke bellowed from the number 20 machine and continued down the front stretch of the speedway. Evidently, a large amount of fluid had been laid down by Bright in turns three and four with Butler getting over the cushion and nearly hitting the wall. Unfortunately, some other drivers were not as lucky. Mike Thompson, Bruce Buckwalter Jr, and Carmen Perigo all made contact with each other and got into the turns three and four wall, Buckwalter going upside down in the middle of the corner. While all three would be ok, only Carmen Perigo would be able to rejoin the feature event.

The ensuing restart was picture perfect from Bright as he pulled away from Butler and Danner out front. Danner pressured Butler even more now for the second-place spot, drawing even with Butler on lap sixteen. Steven Snyder Jr made a mistake on the same lap getting above the cushion trying to work his way around Bruno for fourth, with Chris Allen narrowly avoiding contact with Snyder Jr for position. Both drivers were able to recover and not lose any positions in the hectic moment.

On lap 16 Danner worked his way by Butler for second and drew his sights on Bright for the race lead with only four laps to go and clear track ahead of them. Bright had a slight lead, but Danner was rapidly closing in on the former series champion.

Danner worked his way to the inside of Bright for the race lead on lap seventeen of the feature event, entering turn one, but Bright was able to continue to get great drive off the corners and hold off Danner for the feature event lead. Danner pulled a veteran move and sat behind Bright for the next lap, waiting to make his move until the final lap.

As the duo made their way under the flag stand for the white flag, Danner dove deep to the bottom side of turns one and two to attempt yet another slide job for the race lead. In a veteran move, Bright grabbed a foot full of brake, turned the car down the track underneath Danner and kept the race lead down the back stretch. Bright dove low in turn three to protect himself from the slider attempt from Danner, with Danner trying to work the low side of the speedway off the fourth turn. It would not be enough as Alex Bright went on to score his first feature event win of the season, and third in a row at Williams Grove. Danner came home a close second, with Bobby Butler, Christian Bruno, and Steven Snyder Jr rounding out the top five.

In what was a bit of a surprise, Alex Bright and the Hummer Motorsports team entered the pit area of the Williams Grove Speedway, and the complexion of the night's event immediately took a turn. The un-wrapped no.20 machine unloaded in the pit area with no wrap, but as fast as ever. Following a runner up heat race finish, and a feature event win, Bright explained that the decision to compete Friday was only made just the day before from car owner Robert Hummer. Despite the short notice and decision, Bright and team were as fast as ever and picked up where they left off. Bright explained further that a new job would prevent him from racing as freely in prior years, but he will continue to pop in here and there. Look for the potent Bright and Hummer team to return in two weeks at the Port Royal Speedway on April 29th.

Briggs Danner continued his smooth and steady ways on Friday as he and the Hogue Racing team continue to build their notebook and rapport through the season. Danner scored the runner up finish in his heat race and nearly completed slide job for the win in the feature event. One thing is certain, a first win for the new combination is not far off and could come at any moment.

After a solid top ten run last week at Georgetown, Bobby Butler came out swinging at the Williams Grove Speedway. Butler was flying in hot laps, laying down some impressive laps with a lot of eyes being drawn to the 5B entry. Butler scored the heat race win in convincing fashion and was in contention all night long. While Bright may have had a decent lead over Butler during the feature event, he was always within striking distance should Bright have made a mistake or had an issue. Butler gave Danner all he could handle as well, as Butler found himself sandwiched between two series champions for the majority of the event. What may have been an intimidating position for some, Butler managed it with ease and finished a strong third.

Christian Bruno scored a convincing heat race win as he held off a hard charging Briggs Danner. Bruno started the night off in the third-place position and ran in the top three for a handful of laps. The 600 sprint star really gets around the central PA half mile ovals well, and Friday night was no different.

Steven Snyder Jr. finished out the top five and grabbed his first career top five finish in a sprint car. Snyder Jr was able to get a well taught lesson in hot laps as he followed former series Champion Alex Bright. Snyder Jr used those lessons perhaps to hold off Bright who tried a slide job for the heat win in heat three with Snyder getting the better of Bright in that instance and scored the win. Snyder Jr started off in seventh and finished in fifth, while battling hard to try and get around a close 600 sprint foe Christian Bruno for fourth. Overall, in the second ever event for the rookie, a top five run with the company around the driver is a strong accomplishment.

While not in the top five, Preston Lattomus had an amazing run through the field from the semi feature and starting 17th to finishing in the seventh position. It was an impressive run for the sophomore driver.

A strong field of 26 drivers entered the pit area on Friday night at the Williams Grove Speedway with many drivers making their season debuts, and three drivers making their first career starts. Former Central PA winged drivers Brian Nornhold and Tim Stallings made their first starts along with CRSA Winged driver Dalton Herrick from McDonough, New York. Unfortunately, all three did not make the feature event through the Semi, with Herrick showing plenty of speed to get into future feature events.

The night was unfortunately scene to a handful of hard nights for three series drivers. Tommy Kunsman appeared to have an engine let go while leading his heat race, leaving him unable to start the remainder of the night. Bruce Buckwalter Jr suffered a flip on lap fourteen of the feature, ending an extremely strong run for the Mechanicsburg, PA driver. The scariest incident of the night happened in hot laps for last week's third place driver Joey Amantea. Amantea entered turn one on the opening lap and the car went straight through the corner and into the wall, sending Amantea for a series of flips. Luckily, Amantea was physically fine but was not able to compete for the rest of the evening.

Up next for the series is the first trip of the season to the always entertaining Bridgeport Speedway on April 22nd, followed by a double header on April 28th and 29th at the Bedford Speedway.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: April 14, 2023 – Williams Grove Speedway – Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (1), 2. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (4), 3. Chris Allen Jr. (#71 Allen) (8), 4. Kyle Spence (#22 Betts) (5), 5. Jonathan Swanson (#17J Swanson) (3), 6. Billy Ney (#83s Ney) (9), 7. Dalton Herrick (#29 Herrick) (6), 8. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (7), 9. Brian Nornhold (#35 Nornhold) (2). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Christian Bruno (#17 Bruno) (4), 2. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (7), 3. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (1), 4. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (3), 5. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (5), 6. David Swanson (#117 Swanson) (6), 7. Troy Fraker (#12w Fraker) (9), 8. Tommy Kunsman (#21K Kunsman) (2). NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Steven Snyder Jr. (#27 Heffner) (2), 2. Alex Bright (#20 Hummer) (5), 3. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (3), 4. Carmen Perigo (#21 Stehman) (8), 5. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (7), 6. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (6), 7. Lee Kauffman (#96 Kauffman) (1), 8. Tim Stallings (#28 Stallings) (4). NT

ALSO AT THE TRACK: Joey Amantea (#88J JPA)

SEMI: (8 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Billy Ney (1), 2. Preston Lattomus (7), 3. Steven Drevicki (3), 4. David Swanson (2), 5. Lee Kauffman (6), 6. Tim Stallings (9), 7. Brian Nornhold (10), 8. Troy Fraker (5), 9. Dalton Herrick (4). NT

FEATURE: (20 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Alex Bright (2), 2. Briggs Danner (6), 3. Bobby Butler (4), 4. Christian Bruno (3), 5. Steven Snyder Jr. (7), 6. Chris Allen Jr. (5), 7. Preston Lattomus (17), 8. J.T. Ferry (1), 9. Kyle Spence (10), 10. Steven Drevicki (18), 11. Austin Graby (11), 12. Jason Cherry (14), 13. Carmen Perigo (12), 14. Billy Ney (16), 15. Jonathan Swanson (13), 16. David Swanson (19), 17. Lee Kauffman (20), 18. Mike Thompson (8), 19. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (9), 20. Ed Aikin (15). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-20 Alex Bright.

**Bruce Buckwalter Jr. flipped on lap 14 of the feature.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-143, 2-Steven Snyder Jr.-126, 3-Kyle Spence-125, 4-Bobby Butler-120, 5-Christian Bruno-119, 6-Chris Allen Jr.-114, 7-Preston Lattomus-112, 8-Steven Drevicki-112, 9-J.T. Ferry-97, 10-Joey Amantea-80.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM RACE: April 21, 2023 – Delaware International Speedway – Delmar, Delaware

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DREVICKI RETURNS TO USAC EAST COAST VICTORY LANE AT GRANDVIEW

By: Nick Fillman – USAC ECSC

Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania (May 13, 2023)……After a near two-year hiatus from Rapid Tire Services USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series Presented by Capitol Renegade victory lane, Steven Drevicki returned to the top of the podium to pick up his first Grandview Speedway win with the series in dominating fashion.

Timmy Buckwalter and Drevicki were scheduled to start on the front row of the 25-lap feature event, in a rematch of heat race number two on the night. Unfortunately for Buckwalter, the Heffner Racing 27 machine would not fire for the feature event, even with a stop in the work area. The misfortune for Buckwalter turned into an opportunity for Ed Aikin as he would assume the pole position of the feature event.

On the initial drop of the green flag, Drevicki swept to the high side of the Speedway and attempted to take the lead from Aikin. Aikin led lap one, with Drevicki getting by on lap two to begin his quest for the feature event victory. Briggs Danner quickly worked around the 20 of Alex Bright, and pressured Aikin early on for the runner up position.

The top-four early in the feature focused on the bottom side of the speedway, with Drevicki uncharacteristically working the high line all the way around the speedway. Eventually the rest of the field caught on and began to work their way up the speedway, as Briggs Dinner utilized a diamond line working from high to low, to maneuver around Ed Aikin for the runner up spot near the lap ten mark of the feature. Bright quickly followed along and picked up the final podium spot from Aikin, as both began their work to try and reel in the leader Drevicki who had amassed a near halftrack lead over the rest of the field.

As the feature neared the half way mark, Drevicki was the leader comfortably over Danner, Bright, Aikin, and a ferocious battle at the tail end of the top five between Tommy Kunsman, Bruce Buckwalter, Joey Amantea, and Chris Allen. But with lapped traffic quickly arriving, the race within the race would soon take place.

Drevicki began encountering lapped cars and started picking them off left and right, smoothly and steadily, with Danner not letting Drevicki get away. Briggs Danner pulled off a daring move, going three wide between the two lapped cars down the front straight away in his quest to try and pick off the leader of Drevicki.

As the laps continued to click off, Drevicki began to slow up behind some of the lapped traffic, allowing Danner to close in more and more with each passing lap. The caution flag would fly however on lap seventeen for an incident between Jason Cherry and third place runner Alex Bright. Both drivers were able to re-fire, but at the rear of the field.

On the ensuing restart, Drevicki was side by side with Danner as the two dove off the banking in turns one and two, with Drevicki maintaining the race lead as they worked into turns three and four. Unfortunately, the caution flag flew yet again, as a multi car pileup took place when Chris Allen and Tommy Kunsman made contact entering turn three. Kunsman, Allen, Buckwalter, Amantea, Bobby Butler, Mike Thompson, and Jonathan Swanson all made contact, but somehow only Allen and Swanson were stopped on the speedway. Allen and Swanson returned to the feature event, while Bobby Butler and Mike Thompson exited the speedway and did not return.

Again, Drevicki was faced with a restart where he would get away slightly from Danner, as the field completed lap 18. As the leaders made their way through turns three and four, the features only red flag occurred as Aidan Borden went for a massive flip and collected Billy Ney and Mike Thompson. Borden hopped to the top of the car but was helped to the ambulance and taken to the hospital for evaluation. Billy Ney returned to action. While under red, Alex Bright suffered a flat right rear tire. Bright and team changed tires and returned for the ensuing restart.

What would be the final restart of the night was a perfect one for Drevicki as he got the jump on Danner and pulled away in the remaining seven laps of the feature event. Danner could not stay with Drevicki this time around as he felt pressure for second from Ed Aikin. Tommy Kunsman held strong for fourth, with Amantea blasting the high side of the speedway late to finish with a top five run.

The win for Drevicki was his first in nearly two years as his last victory came in the summer of 2021 at the Williams Grove Speedway. Drevicki, still utilizing his 358-power plant aboard his new RPM Chassis was smooth as silk from start to finish. From his heat race win, to gliding through lapped traffic, Drevicki was on rails and returned to victory lane after a lengthy hiatus.

Briggs Danner is continuing to have a banner year, despite not cracking into victory lane. Danner coming off a second-place finish at Williams Grove has had speed in all three events so far and showed speed at the Eldora Speedway last weekend. While the team has yet to pick off their first win together, they are knocking on the door each and every night.

Post race, Ed Aikin explained that he nearly pulled off before the feature event began as well! Aikin pushed off for the feature event and quickly realized he had little to no brakes in his number 7 entry but could not throw away the opportunity to start on the pole of the feature event. Aikin did his best despite the issue, running the bottom and top of the speedway for a strong top three finish, nearly getting around Danner for second in the closing laps.

Tommy Kunsman suffered engine issues last time out at the Williams Grove Speedway while leading his heat race. With a fresh engine installed, the most recent midget winner at the Grandview Speedway, looked right at home running at the front of the field all night long following a heat race victory and starting seventh in the feature. While Kunsman could not quite mount a podium run, the team showed abundant speed on Saturday night and picked up their first top five of the season.

Rounding out the top five in a big rebound was Joey Amantea. Following a destroyed car in hot laps due to part failure at Williams Grove, Amantea was back in action on Saturday and lived up to his reputation of ripping the high side of any speedway. Amantea mounted a late charge in the feature event following his involvement in the lap 17 restart pile up. Amantea had no w-link on the car for the remainder of the feature but battled his way to a top five feature event finish.

While the series had a great showing of 28 cars at the Grandview Speedway, with multiple drivers making their season and series debuts, the night was unfortunately plagued with bad accidents.

Richy Carnathan was the first to go for a tumble in turns three and four in heat race number one. Preston Lattomus was battling hard with Briggs Danner for the third and final redraw spot in that same heat race when he hopped a wheel and went for a big flip in turn three, collecting rookie Patrick Chilmonik.

The final incident of the evening came in the feature where Aidan Borden went for a massive flip in turns three and four as well. Borden was transported to a local hospital for evaluation, after some complaints of discomfort. Aidan was awake and alert prior to being transported and was able to get most of the way out of his car under his own power. We are sending our well wishes and healing thoughts to Aidan at this time.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: May 13, 2023 – Grandview Speedway – Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (1), 2. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (2), 3. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (9), 4. Aidan Borden (#7B Borden) (6), 5. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (8), 6. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (7), 7. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (3), 8. Patrick Chilmonik (#1 Chilmonik) (4), 9. Richy Carnathan (#64 Carnathan) (5), 10. Brett Rose (#45 Rose) (10). NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (1), 2. Timmy Buckwalter (#27 Heffner) (4), 3. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (6), 4. Billy Ney (#83s Ney) (3), 5. David Swanson (#117 Swanson) (2), 6. Scott Frack (#39x Frack) (5), 7. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (7), 8. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (9), 9. Brian Nornhold (#35 Nornhold) (8). NT

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Tommy Kunsman (#21K Kunsman) (1), 2. Alex Bright (#20 Hummer) (8), 3. Christian Bruno (#17 Bruno) (3), 4. Chris Allen Jr. (#71 Allen) (6), 5. Jonathan Swanson (#17J Swanson) (5), 6. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (2), 7. Michael Smith (#76 Savage) (4), 8. Lee Kauffman (#96 Kauffman) (7), 9. Gary Huston (#44 Huston) (9). NT

SEMI: (10 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Mike Thompson (1), 2. Scott Frack (2), 3. J.T. Ferry (5), 4. Michael Smith (6), 5. Austin Graby (8), 6. Jason Cherry (3), 7. Lee Kauffman (9), 8. Brian Nornhold (11), 9. Gary Huston (12), 10. Brett Rose (13), 11. Preston Lattomus (4), 12. Richy Carnathan (10), 13. Patrick Chilmonik (7). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Steven Drevicki (2), 2. Briggs Danner (4), 3. Ed Aikin (1), 4. Tommy Kunsman (5), 5. Joey Amantea (8), 6. Chris Allen Jr. (12), 7. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (6), 8. Austin Graby (19), 9. Jonathan Swanson (11), 10. J.T. Ferry (18), 11. Billy Ney (7), 12. Scott Frack (13), 13. Jason Cherry (17), 14. David Swanson (14), 15. Michael Smith (15), 16. Alex Bright (3), 17. Aidan Borden (10), 18. Bobby Butler (9), 19. Mike Thompson (16). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Lap 1 Ed Aikin, Laps 2-25 Steven Drevicki.

HARD CHARGER: Austin Graby (19th to 8th)

**Aidan Borden flipped on lap 18 of the feature.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-216, 2-Steven Drevicki-190, 3-Chris Allen Jr.-174, 4-Bobby Butler-151, 5-Joey Amantea-144, 6-J.T. Ferry-142, 7-Christian Bruno-135, 8-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-134, 9-Ed Aikin-134, 10-Austin Graby-129.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: May 19, 2023 – Clinton County Speedway – Mill Hall, Pennsylvania

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DREVICKI DOUBLES UP WITH WIN AT CLINTON COUNTY

By: Nick Fillman - USAC ECSC

Mill Hall, Pennsylvania (May 19, 2023)……For the second time in as many weeks, Steven Drevicki went back to Rapid Tire Services USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series Presented by Capitol Renegade victory lane. This time, it was the first of his career at Clinton County Speedway for his first multi-win season since 2020.

Following heat race action, and the first points inversion line up of the season, Ed Aikin and J.T. Ferry led the field to green at Clinton County for the 25-lap feature event, and it was immediately evident what kind of feature the fans would be treated to. J.T. Ferry edged out Aikin to the line in a fierce side by side battle for the first five laps of the feature event as the two traded slide jobs up and down the speedway on each end of the track.

Ferry had a great line through the middle of the speedway, sometimes utilizing the high line, but Aikin had a great handling car and could cut down to the bottom side of the speedway and utilize the shorter radius, and moisture to the bottom, to motor side by side, and nearly take the lead from Ferry on multiple occasions.

As the leaders battled for position lap after lap, fourth starting Steven Drevicki quickly dispatched third place starter Joey Amantea and separated himself from the intense battle for fourth and fifth between Alex Bright and Briggs Danner.

The caution flag flew on lap four of the feature event with a jingle at the tail end of the field as more tough luck fell upon Mike Thompson as he appeared to suffer a broken rear end. With the car coasting to a stop, evasive action was taken by many cars, with Lee Kauffman, Jason Cherry, and Michael Smith all making contact at the rear of the field. Smith and Cherry ended up stuck together in corner one, leading to the caution flag flying. Of the four cars involved, only Cherry rejoined the field, with Smith failing to make repairs with enough time in the work area.

On the following restart, Drevicki began his pressure of the lead duo, with Steven Snyder showing muscle and passing both of Bright and Danner to move into fourth and try to reel in Drevicki and the leaders.

Ferry and Aikin had amassed a decent lead in their duel over Drevicki, with Aikin finally getting the power down off corner number four to take the lead away from Ferry officially on lap seven of the feature event.

Unfortunately, the first and only red flag of the feature event flew on lap seven of the feature event, as Steven Snyder Jr. got too low on the bottom side of turns one and two, caught the inside wall, and went for a series of flips in turn two. The rookie driver was okay but was done for the rest of the feature event.

The ensuing restart saw Aikin tear away from Ferry, but only for a lap or two, as Ferry and now Drevicki battled with Drevicki utilizing a diamond maneuver down the banking of the speedway to get by Ferry and try to catch leader Aikin for the race lead.

Meanwhile, further back in the pack, Kenny Miller lll, Alex Bright, Briggs Danner, and Carmen Perigo were locked in battle, with Miller moving into the top five behind Bright with Danner falling to sixth.

Drevicki was relentless, hounding the rear bumper of Aikin in an incredible, and clean race for the lead. Aikin was running a unique line through corners three and four, allowing the car to drift wide, with Drevicki keeping the car glued to the bottom, but not getting the best grip to get the race lead. As those two dueled, J.T. Ferry again drew into the picture closing in and making it a near three car battle for the lead.

With the top three glued together, Alex Bright, Briggs Danner, who had moved back by Miller for fifth, and Kenny Miller lll had begun to catch the leaders, and were nearly in the same corner as the lead trio shaping up what could have been a possible six car race for the lead.

Drevicki finally got the bite he needed off corner four and took the race lead on lap 19 of the feature event. As the duo entered corner one, they both swung wide, trying to get a run down the banking under Drevicki down the back straight away. Drevicki kept his car extra tight to the bottom, and despite the huge run Aikin had, he was not able to get under Drevicki for the lead.

The caution flag flew once again on lap 20, as Dalton Herrick spun off the banking of turns three and four. Drevicki nailed the restart with Aikin and Ferry battling again for the runner up spot and the rest of the top five remaining the same. The

caution flag flew yet again on lap 22, as Herrick went for the same spin off the banking in three and four, drawing an end to his night.

Even with a three-lap dash to the finish, Drevicki nailed the restart and pulled away somewhat from Aikin to collect his second win of the season, and second in two weeks. Aikin held off J.T. Ferry for second, with Bright and Danner rounding out the top five.

Steven Drevicki has announced to the rest of the field that he is back and back in a big way. Consistent early runs in the first two events of the season followed by back-to-back wins aboard his new RPM chassis have Drevicki back to his old ways. Drevicki and the team got their 360 engine back from the builder on Thursday afternoon at 3:30 and were back in victory lane by 10pm the following night. Drevicki and his ability to be smooth and steady on the bottom of the track were on full display for two straight weeks and could be on display as the series head to another slow and small bull ring in Winchester, VA next week.

Ed Aikin, like Drevicki, finds himself on the podium for two straight weeks as well! Aikin came home in a strong third last weekend at Grandview, and this week showed the same speed leading the bulk of the feature event, before falling just short in the end. What words did Aikin have about the night? “That Drevicki is just too damn good on the bottom.” But for the second straight week, nothing for the veteran driver to be disappointed in as he knocks on the door of a series win even more.

If there is a track on the USAC East Coast Series trail that J.T. Ferry wants to win at more than any other, it is Clinton County Speedway. Ferry, the owner of some winged 600 sprint victories at the track, considers the oval his home track. Ferry struggled in his series debut at the speedway last season, but proved he not only belonged Friday night, but belonged at the front of the field. Ferry led laps early and battled hard and clean with Aikin and Drevicki at the front of the field. Possibly a sign of things to come for the talented rookie as he hunts down his first career USAC East Coast victory.

Last season in the series’ first ever visit to Clinton County, Alex Bright was victorious in dominating fashion. The former series champion suffered engine issues that night that actually benefited the driver on his way to victory. As jokes abound in the pit area about the mag and engine issues, Bright proved this time around that he can get around the speedway with a fully working machine. Bright picked up a dominant heat one win and came home with a solid top five run.

Rounding out the top five was defending series champion Briggs Danner. Danner and the Hogue Racing team have come out of the box firing on all cylinders, racking up top-five finishes, but have yet to find victory lane. Danner has been fast in everything he has driven this season picking up Four SpeedSTR wins at Bloomsburg and Action Track USA. The pair picked up a heat race win on Friday night but just could not get around the cars in front of them in the feature event. Danner had lost a few spots in the feature event toward the half way point, but the car appeared to come in for the young driver at the tail of the feature event. The team leaves the Clinton County Speedway as the series points leader and will try again to get win number one of the season.

Up next for the Rapid Tire, USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series, presented by Capitol Renegade is a trip far south to the Winchester Speedway in Winchester, Virginia. A stop that was at first a challenge to some has now become a date circled on many drivers’ calendars. Following the stop to Winchester, comes the biggest race on the series schedule, the Bill Gallagher memorial on June 2nd, paying $5, 000 to the winner.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: May 19, 2023 – Clinton County Speedway – Mill Hall, Pennsylvania

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Alex Bright (#20 Hummer) (4), 2. Kenny Miller III (#23m Miller) (6), 3. Billy Ney (#83s Ney) (2), 4. Josh Beamer (#85 Beamer) (5), 5. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (8), 6. Dalton Herrick (#29 Herrick) (7), 7. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (1), 8. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (3). NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (1), 2. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (4), 3. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (7), 4. Carmen Perigo (#21 Stehman) (5), 5. Tommy Kunsman (#21K Kunsman) (2), 6. Lee Kauffman (#96 Kauffman) (6), 7. Gary Huston (#44 Huston) (8), 8. Michael Smith (#76 Savage) (3). NT

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (1), 2. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (3), 3. Steven Snyder Jr. (#27 Heffner) (5), 4. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (4), 5. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (2), 6. 78-Dale Schweikart (7), 7. Derek Swartz (#48 Swartz) (6). NT

SEMI: (10 laps, top-five transfer, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Austin Graby (4), 2. Lee Kauffman (2), 3. Mike Thompson (7), 4. Dale Schweikart (3), 5. Michael Smith (8), 6. Derek Swartz (6), 7. Dalton Herrick (1), 8. Gary Huston (5). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Steven Drevicki (4), 2. Ed Aikin (1), 3. J.T. Ferry (2), 4. Alex Bright (6), 5. Briggs Danner (5), 6. Kenny Miller III (7), 7. Carmen Perigo (11), 8. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (12), 9. Dale Schweikart (19), 10. Joey Amantea (3), 11. Josh Beamer (10), 12. Jason Cherry (13), 13. Austin Graby (16), 14. Bobby Butler (15), 15. Tommy Kunsman (14), 16. Billy Ney (8), 17. Dalton Herrick (21), 18. Steven Snyder Jr. (9), 19. Mike Thompson (18), 20. Michael Smith (20), 21. Lee Kauffman (17). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-4 J.T. Ferry, Lap 5 Ed Aikin, Lap 6 J.T. Ferry, Laps 7-19 Ed Aikin, Laps 20-25 Steven Drevicki.

**Mike Thompson flipped during the first heat. Steven Snyder Jr. flipped on lap 7 of the feature.

HARD CHARGER: Dale Schweikart (19th to 9th)

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-282, 2-Steven Drevicki-267, 3-J.T. Ferry-212, 4-Ed Aikin-208, 5-Joey Amantea-195, 6-Bobby Butler-190, 7-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-188, 8-Chris Allen Jr.-174, 9-Austin Graby-168, 10-Jason Cherry-162.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: May 27, 2023 – Winchester Speedway – Winchester, Virginia

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REDEMPTION! LATTOMUS SCORES AT WINCHESTER

By: Nick Fillman – USAC ECSC

Winchester, Virginia (May 27, 2023)……Preston Lattomus of Lewes, Delaware scored his second ever Rapid Tire USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series Presented by Capitol Renegade Series victory at the Winchester Speedway in dominating fashion.

Lattomus finished second in the event last September, in a close duel with Briggs Danner, and was able to reverse the result on Saturday night.

Mike Thompson and Preston Lattomus lead the field to green for the 25-lap feature event, with Lattomus getting the better of Thompson down the back straightaway and taking the early race lead. Briggs Danner quickly dispatched Ed Aikin and Joey Amantea in the opening circuit and drew in on the rear of Bruce Buckwalter Jr for the runner up spot.

An extremely slick surface, with the bottom lane being the one and only lane for racing, left the field strung out quickly, with cars nose to tail battling for positions waiting for the driver in front of them to make a mistake and capitalize for position.

Preston Lattomus set a torrid pace quickly jumping out to a half-track lead over the bulk of the field. Bruce Buckwalter Jr held strong for second over Briggs Danner and Joey Amantea early, with Amantea taking advantage of a slight bobble by Danner to move into second around the lap ten mark.

As the field closed in on the half way point of the feature event, Lattomus had begun to encounter lapped traffic, but still maintained his half-track lead. Joey Amantea was trying every move he had to try and work to the underside of Bruce Buckwalter Jr for the runner up spot, with Briggs Danner not far behind. Ed Aikin led the battle for fifth ahead of Drevicki, Perigo, and Bobby Butler.

Lattomus continued to pick up lapped cars and keep his large lead over Buckwalter when the first and only caution flag of the feature event flew on lap seventeen for dual issues from a slowing Troy Fraker and Brett Rose. Fraker was able to retire and rejoin at the tail of the field.

The ensuing restart for Lattomus was perfect as he shot away from Buckwalter and the rest of the field. With lap eighteen being completed at the line, Amantea dove to the bottom of the speedway and put the elbows up and out and moved Buckwalter out of the for the runner up spot. Buckwalter regained his speed, but after losing another position to Briggs Danner, fell to fourth.

Amantea tried all he could to reel in Lattomus for the feature event lead, even drawing to within two to three car lengths with four laps to go, but Lattomus again, pulled away and put a large gap on the field.

Preston Lattomus went unchallenged for the remainder of the event and scored his second career victory over Joey Amantea, Briggs Danner, Bruce Buckwalter Jr. and Ed Aikin.

While Lattomus missed last week's action at the Clinton County Speedway as they were rebuilding cars, and preparing a new Capitol Renegade trailer, the team opted to bring their 358 powered RPM chassis that they utilize for winged racing at Williams Grove and other area speedways. The lesser horsepower certainly helped on Saturday night in the slick, but Scott McClaren had Lattomus hooked up and cruising for the team's second career win. Lattomus has been fast all season long, continuing the strength that the team showed to close out the 2022 season following their first career win at Lincoln.

Joey Amantea is a driver who is not a fan of slick tracks but drove a very smart race on Saturday night at Winchester. The young and ambitious driver fought tooth and nail with both Briggs Danner and Bruce Buckwalter Jr throughout the feature event, and was rewarded with a strong runner up finish, and will continue to move back up the points standings following a DNQ at Williams Grove in April.

Briggs Danner entered the night as the most recent winner at the Winchester Speedway, and will leave the speedway at the series points leader, continue to top three and top five the rest of the field. Danner and the team are still searching for their first series win and have been all over the top five attempting to do so. There is no doubt that Danner and team will break through into series victory lane once again, and perhaps it will come at the biggest race of the season next week at Williams Grove.

Bruce Buckwalter is a small track specialist. Three great runs in the month of May for Buckwalter culminated with a top four run at Winchester on Saturday. While we are sure Bruce would rather have finished in the second position, possibly if not for the contact with Amantea, the veteran open wheel driver ended the month of May with a solid top five run.

Rounding out the top five was another veteran driver who has been on a tear of top five runs, was Ed Aikin. Coming off a top third place at Grandview, and a second at Clinton County, Ed came into the Winchester Speedway looking for another solid run. After nearly scoring a heat race win in a fierce battle with Carmen Perigo Jr, Aikin ran a solid race and came home with yet another top five. The first feature win for Aikin sure feels like it's closer than ever for the veteran driver.

Up next for the series is the biggest event of the season at the Williams Grove Speedway on Friday, June 2nd. The second annual Bill Gallagher Memorial will pay $5, 000 to the winner in honor of the legendary car owner. A stop to the Bedford Speedway on June 9th, and the Delaware International Speedway on June 30th will end another busy month for the series, with the annual USAC National "Eastern Storm" sandwiched in the middle of the month.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: May 27, 2023 – Winchester Speedway – Winchester, Virginia

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (6), 2. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (4), 3. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (1), 4. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (8), 5. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (5), 6. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (7), 7. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (3), 8. Brett Rose (#45 Rose) (9), 9. Lee Kauffman (#96 Kauffman) (2). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Carmen Perigo (#21 Stehman) (4), 2. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (3), 3. Dalton Herrick (#29 Herrick) (1), 4. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (6), 5. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (8), 6. David Swanson (#117 Swanson) (7), 7. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (2), 8. Troy Fraker (#12w Fraker) (5). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Preston Lattomus (2), 2. Joey Amantea (4), 3. Briggs Danner (6), 4. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (3), 5. Ed Aikin (5), 6. Steven Drevicki (9), 7. Mike Thompson (1), 8. Carmen Perigo (7), 9. Bobby Butler (11), 10. J.T. Ferry (10), 11. Austin Graby (13), 12. David Swanson (12), 13. Dalton Herrick (8), 14. Jason Cherry (14), 15. Troy Fraker (16), 16. Brett Rose (15), 17. Lee Kauffman (17). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Preston Lattomus.

HARD CHARGER: Briggs Danner (6th to 3rd)

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-354, 2-Steven Drevicki-326, 3-Ed Aikin-273, 4-Joey Amantea-269, 5-J.T. Ferry-259, 6-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-255, 7-Bobby Butler-239, 8-Austin Graby-211, 9-Preston Lattomus-199, 10-Jason Cherry-199.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: June 2, 2023 – Williams Grove Speedway – Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

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BRIGHT SCORES SECOND CONSECUTIVE GALLAGHER MEMORIAL AT WILLIAMS GROVE

By: Nick Fillman – USAC EC

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania (June 2, 2023)……For the second year in a row, Alex Bright collected the biggest paycheck of the season in the "Bill Gallagher 5G Memorial" at Williams Grove Speedway, pocketing a cool $5, 000.

This time however, the win came in his first start aboard the Heffner Racing Enterprises 27 Machine.

Tommy Kunsman and Christian Bruno were scheduled to bring the field to green for the 30-lap feature event, but, with an unfortunate mechanical error on pole sitter Tommy Kunsman's entry that saw him exit the speedway just prior to the green flag, Carmen Perigo led the field to green alongside Bruno.

Christian Bruno jumped out to the early feature event lead, heading to the high side of the speedway where only a handful of drivers were running early in the feature event, with Chris Allen getting a great start and moving into second over Perigo.

With a number of drivers having issues, the lineup was left jumbled with Alex Bright starting a bit higher up than his scheduled 13th place position. From there, Bright quickly moved into the top-three of the event by the completion of lap three.

Speaking of lineup changes, Briggs Danner and the Hogue Racing team appeared to have an engine failure or at least significant issue in their heat race, leaving the car unable to start the feature event. After some strenuous talks between owners Tim and Fran Hogue, Ed Aikin gave up the seat, and starting position of his number seven entry, to Danner for the feature event, leading to Danner starting dead last in the feature event.

Aside from Bruno, and Joey Amantea, Briggs Danner was the only driver that was truly making the high side of the speedway work. Two, three, and even four wheels above the cushion was the norm for the defending series champion as he picked up cars left and right early in the feature event. Danner quickly moved from 21st to 13th in the first six laps of the feature and cracked into the top ten on lap ten.

Meanwhile up front, Bruno continued to lead but was starting to fall back to runner up Alex Bright. Bright was slowly gaining on the leader, with Bruno making slight contact with the outside wall around the lap eleven mark. From there, unfortunately, for the second time in as many events, Bruno suffered engine woes that allowed Bright to catch and pass Bruno for the lead off turn four to complete lap thirteen.

The feature events first caution flag flew on lap thirteen as well for Brian Nornhold who slowed to a stop on the back stretch, trying to enter the pit area. Bright was the new leader over Chris Allen, Carmen Perigo, Austin Graby, and Steven Drevicki.

The restart went well for Bright who began to put distance between himself and Allen for the top spot, while Briggs Danner continued to run the top better, faster, and harder than anyone else in the field, making his way into sixth by lap seventeen.

In another spirited battle, Austin Graby and Steven Drevicki battled side by side, lap after lap, with Graby continuing to get the best of Drevicki on corner exit, but only slightly. The two were locked in a fierce battle for most of the night's feature event, but it was allowing drivers like Allen and Perigo to pull away, while drawing Bruce Buckwalter ever closer into the mix.

As the leaders all continued to run the bottom, Danner continued to blast away on the high side, dispatching Amantea, Thompson, Buckwalter, and Drevicki, moving into the top five by lap twenty-one.

On lap 21 the night second caution flag flew as Tim Stallings pulled a 360 on the bottom side of the speedway in turns three and four.

Unaware of the speed and pace that Danner was setting on the high side, the leaders all continued to run the bottom of the speedway, which was equal with Danner for a number of laps. Austin Graby and Danner ran side-by-side for multiple laps, with Drevicki drawing in almost three wide with them. Eventually the high side of the speedway, and the speed with which Danner could enter the corner proved to be too much for Graby, as Danner took fourth on lap 25.

The yellow flag again flew on lap 25 as Troy Fraker slowed to a stop on the exit of corner two with a flat right rear tire, ending a solid top 15 run for the veteran driver.

A five-lap dash to the finish was up next with Bright continuing to lead the way over Allen, Perigo, Danner, Graby and Drevicki.

Bright was able to secure yet another great restart and pull away from Allen and Perigo, with Danner now battling side by side with Perigo for the number three spot. Meanwhile, Drevicki had finally worked his way by Graby and brought close friend Bruce Buckwalter along with him into the top five.

Danner maneuvered his way to the high side around Perigo on lap 26 and began to try and hustle his way toward the lead duo as they had amassed a quarter straightaway lead.

Drevicki and Perigo continued to battle, with both drivers missing the bottom side of the speedway, but only slightly, which allowed Bruce Buckwalter to have a massive run on the bottom side and pick off both drivers for fourth with only a handful of laps left to go.

Just as it seemed that Bright would be able to close out his feature event after taking the white flag, Austin Graby shredded a right rear tire in turns one and two, bringing out the caution flag and a one lap dash to the finish.

On the restart, Bright was able to get away from Allen who could not pose a threat to Bright for the race lead, with Danner trying to get around Allen on the high side in turns one and two, but dropping to the bottom in three and four, Drevicki tried as he could to get around Buckwalter for the fourth spot, as the checkers flew for Alex Bright picking up his second win of the season, second and Williams Grove, and second straight Bill Gallagher Memorial.

Alex Bright scored the win in his second Bill Gallagher Memorial event, driving for car owner Mike Heffner, who was responsible for purchasing the entire Gallagher team following his passing in 2021. Last year, crew chief, series owner and former Gallagher driver Curt Michael did not pick up the win. This year's victory was very important to Curt and the entire Heffner team. The new pairing of Bright and Heffner has been seen before in prior years of ARDC competition and is now back for the remainder of the USAC East Coast season, and the upcoming Eastern Storm events. The pairing seemed to struggle in the heat race with Bright missing out on the points inversion, but they were able to have a good enough set up to get the job done in the feature.

The runner up with yet another great run this season was New Jersey's Chris Allen. Allen is a former runner up in points with the series and has been fast in every event the team has entered this season. While missing the last two events due to work commitments, Allen and the team did not skip a beat on Friday at The Grove and picked up a solid runner up effort.

Without a doubt the story of the night was Briggs Danner and his incredible run through the field aboard Ed Aikin's No. 7 entry, a car he had never sat in before and had no laps in prior to the feature event. Danner drove the car like he'd been in it for years and stormed through the field to an incredible top three run. Had there been a bit more time, and perhaps a bit more moisture in the track, who knows what the ending of the feature event could have been. While Danner will accumulate season long driver points for the night, the Hogue Racing team will not. But as the team explained, they still do not plan to run full time for points in 2023.

Fourth place with another great run was Bruce Buckwalter Jr. The Mechanicsburg, PA driver had a great run on the bottom side of the speedway and showed plenty of speed over our last few events. Buckwalter made some late charges to pick off a handful of cars that were in front of him, to come home with an impressive fourth place effort. Buckwalter also put up $100 of hard charger money along with Joey Amantea Racing crew chief, Brian Zyck. Buckwalter is also integral to the series in his providing of all signs and checks for victory lane celebrations and is a welcomed driver to the USAC East Coast pit area.

Rounding out the top five and continuing his bounce back season was Steven Drevicki. A former two-time winner at Williams Grove, Drevicki had a solid heat race, nearly tracking down and passing Briggs Danner with the team's engine woes. Drevicki ran a smart and patient race battling hard with Austin Graby and Carmen Perigo lap after lap. Drevicki is a smart and clean driver, who with the position he was put in for multiple laps decided against making contact with the other drivers for position. The three-time series champion continues to keep Danner within striking distance for the series point title as the season rolls on.

While thankfully the series stopped our string of bad crashes and wrecks for now, the night was unfortunately plagued with engine issues for multiple drivers. Unfortunately coming to the checkered flag in his heat race, last week's winner Preston Lattomus saw an engine go up in smoke down the front straightaway with a small oil fire that was quickly extinguished.

Briggs Danner and team suffered their engine issues while leading heat one that lead to the pairing of Danner and Aikin, while Tommy Kunsman Jr may have had a broken rocker under pace laps for the feature event leading to a DNS. For the second time in as many races, Christian Bruno suffered engine issues, this time while leading the event. While it did not look like the issues were visibly as bad as at the Grandview Speedway, it was still a tough break for the driver looking for his first career win.

Up next for the Rapid Tire Services, USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series, presented by Capitol Renegade is the first trip of the season to the historic Bedford Fairgrounds on Friday June 9th, before the USAC National Sprint series begins their "Eastern Storm" for the middle of the month.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: June 2, 2023 – Williams Grove Speedway – Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Briggs Danner (#7A Aikin) (7), 2. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (8), 3. Tommy Kunsman (#21K Kunsman) (3), 4. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (1), 5. Alex Bright (#27 Heffner) (6), 6. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (4), 7. Troy Fraker (#12w Fraker) (5), 8. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (2). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Christian Bruno (#17 Bruno) (3), 2. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (5), 3. Chris Allen Jr. (#71 Allen) (4), 4. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (2), 5. Billy Ney (#83s Ney) (7), 6. David Swanson (#117 Swanson) (1), 7. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (6). NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (3), 2. Carmen Perigo (#21 Stehman) (5), 3. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (7), 4. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (1), 5. Tim Stallings (#28 Stallings) (4), 6. Dalton Herrick (#29 Herrick) (6), 7. Brian Nornhold (#35 Nornhold) (2). NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Alex Bright (12), 2. Chris Allen Jr. (5), 3. Briggs Danner (21), 4. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (9), 5. Steven Drevicki (8), 6. Joey Amantea (6), 7. Carmen Perigo (3), 8. J.T. Ferry (11), 9. Dalton Herrick (17), 10. David Swanson (16), 11. Jason Cherry (20), 12. Mike Thompson (4), 13. Bobby Butler (15), 14. Tim Stallings (14), 15. Billy Ney (13), 16. Austin Graby (10), 17. Troy Fraker (18), 18. Christian Bruno (2), 19. Brian Nornhold (19). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-12 Christian Bruno, Laps 13-30 Alex Bright.

CONTINGENCY AWARD WINNERS:

$200 Hard Charger: Briggs Danner (21st to 3rd)

$200 Hard Luck Award: Tommy Kunsman

$225 Last Car Running: Billy Ney

$100 Heat Winners: Briggs Danner, Christian Bruno & Mike Thompson

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-426, 2-Steven Drevicki-391, 3-Joey Amantea-330, 4-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-321, 5-J.T. Ferry-313, 6-Ed Aikin-290, 7-Bobby Butler-279, 8-Chris Allen Jr.-247, 9-Austin Graby-247, 10-Jason Cherry-241.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: June 9, 2023 – Bedford Speedway – Bedford, Pennsylvania

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DANNER BREAKS THROUGH FOR FIRST WIN OF USAC EC SEASON AT BEDFORD

By: Nick Fillman – USAC ECSC

Bedford, Pennsylvania (June 9, 2023)……Briggs Danner, the 2022 champion, and current point leader out of Allentown, Pa. broke into Rapid Tire Services USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series presented by Capitol Renegade victory lane for the first time of the 2023 season on Friday night at Bedford (Pa.) Speedway.

Billy Ney and Carmen Perigo led the field to green for the 25-lap feature event on an extremely wet and fast Bedford Speedway following two different rounds of rains prior to the beginning of racing action.

Carmen Perigo was the early race leader after a drag race to the line over Billy Ney, with Steven Drevicki moving by positions and drawing in on race leader Perigo. Briggs Danner was also quickly on the move from the middle of the pack after the inversion, being highest in points, moving into third by the completion of lap one, and into the runner up spot by lap three.

Drevicki drew in on the back of Perigo and took the race lead down the back straightaway on the completion of lap three, and officially becoming the race leader on lap four. Drevicki was bringing Danner along with him, as Danner quickly moved passed Perigo for second on lap three as well and began to pressure Drevicki for the race lead.

The high side of the speedway was very quick early with Drevicki using the bottom side of the speedway to try and hold off Danner, who was able to blast around the outside of Drevicki for the race lead on lap six. Danner immediately tried to turn and burn and quickly put distance on Drevicki and the rest of the field, but Drevicki did not let Danner get too far away.

Behind the lead duo, Carmen Perigo and Mike Thompson battled hard for the third-place position while Bobby Butler, who was possibly the fastest car on the speedway, tried to claw his way back into the top five.

Butler moved his way into the top five by lap ten and drew in on the hard battle for fourth between Thompson and Perigo. Thompson was able to clear Perigo and move away from the battle for a number of laps, while Butler eventually worked his way passed Perigo for fourth.

Up front, Danner was setting a lightning-fast pace and was beginning to pick off a few lapped cars at the tail end of the field as the clean and green feature was quickly winding down. Drevicki was still within a reasonable distance if Danner made any mistakes in lapped traffic while, further back, Thompson and Butler battled hard for the third-place position with only a handful of laps to go.

Around five to go, Danner encountered a hard-fought battle for position that was three wide at times between Billy Ney, Ed Aikin and J.T. Ferry who battled for sixth through eight. This allowed Drevicki to move even closer, at times even being in the same corner as the race leader. Danner wisely was able to pick his way around the cars battling for position and begin to stretch his lead over Drevicki as the final few laps clicked off.

Try as he might, Drevicki could not catch and pass Danner for the race lead as Briggs Danner dominated the feature for his first win of the 2023 season. Drevicki finished with a strong runner up, with Bobby Butler getting around Mike Thompson for the final spot on the podium, and Carmen Perigo Jr completing the top five.

Briggs Danner and the Hogue Racing team have been fast all season long, and their first win was only a matter of time. After last year's dominant performance in nearly every feature event, some may have been surprised that it took seven races for the team to get their collective first win. However, they have been all over the podium all season long, working, and building to get their first win. Danner and team have definitely now found something for the rest of the season and nabbed their first win before heading into a very busy stretch of racing with the USAC National Sprint Series for their upcoming Eastern Storm.

Steven Drevicki has two wins on the season and should Danner have had any issues on Friday night, Drevicki would have been more than ready to pounce. The three-time series Champion has been back and better than ever so far this season, and Friday night was no different. Drevicki, like Danner, kicked off a massive stretch of racing Friday as the team headed west to the BOSS Series race on Saturday at the Mercer Speedway where Drevicki finished ninth. Drevicki now sets his sights on another BOSS race before Eastern Storm with the USAC National Series as well.

Third place in a hard-fought effort went to Milford, NJ's Bobby Butler. Butler has been gaining speed back into their program after a hot start, since moving back to the maxim chassis that he was so comfortable and fast in last season. Butler overcame a starting position penalty and stormed through the field for a podium run. Butler definitely had more of his rocket speed that he had at the tail end of the 2022 season, and a win with the series is without a doubt on the horizon.

Mike Thompson has been steadily building back his 2023 season over a big run of bad luck. Thompson and the team initially struggled to even complete a feature event early on in the season but have begun to turn things around. Thompson had a solid effort on Friday and put on a great show battling with Carmen Perigo and Bobby Butler for spots inside the top ten in the second half of the feature event. Thompson and team have seemingly found the spark they had during the 2022 season and appear to be back on track in '23.

Rounding out the top five, in what is the team's closest race of the season, was Carmen Perigo Jr. Perigo started on the front row of the feature event on Friday and led the opening three laps. Perigo has been good so far with the series in 2023, with four top five runs in five starts. While Perigo has not yet won with the series, it feels as though it could still come at any moment. Speaking of wins, Perigo won his fourth BOSS series event of the season on Saturday night, and like Danner, Drevicki, and a number of others, will be competing in many of this week's USAC National Series "Eastern Storm" events.

Even though he did not finish in the top five of the feature event, the most impressive run of Friday night may have come from Reading, PA's Billy Ney. Ney had a rough 2022 season, but so far has been able to finish every single feature event with the series. Ney led most of his heat race on Friday night and was locked in a three wide battle for the lead with Danner and Ed Aikin in his heat. Ney started on the pole of the feature event, and while he may not have led a lap, Ney finished a career best sixth place on Friday night. An extremely impressive run for the team who loves non wing sprint car racing and just wants to run well.

Up next for many drivers in the series will be competing in events during the annual USAC National "Eastern Storm" across Pennsylvania and New Jersey next week. The USAC East Coast Series will officially be off for two weeks, and return to action on Friday, June 30th at the Delaware International Speedway.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: June 9, 2023 – Bedford Speedway – Bedford, Pennsylvania

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Carmen Perigo (#21 Stehman) (3), 2. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (2), 3. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (5), 4. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (4), 5. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (6), 6. Troy Fraker (#12w Fraker) (1). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (6), 2. Billy Ney (#83s Ney) (2), 3. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (5), 4. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (1), 5. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (4), 6. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (3). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Briggs Danner (8), 2. Steven Drevicki (7), 3. Bobby Butler (4), 4. Mike Thompson (3), 5. Carmen Perigo (2), 6. Billy Ney (1), 7. J.T. Ferry (10), 8. Ed Aikin (5), 9. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (6), 10. Austin Graby (9), 11. Troy Fraker (11), 12. Jason Cherry (12). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-3 Carmen Perigo, Laps 4-5 Steven Drevicki, Laps 6-25 Briggs Danner.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-504, 2-Steven Drevicki-465, 3-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-372, 4-J.T. Ferry-369, 5-Bobby Butler-349, 6-Ed Aikin-344, 7-Joey Amantea-330, 8-Austin Graby-294, 9-Mike Thompson-288, 10-Jason Cherry-283.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: June 30, 2023 – Delaware International Speedway – Delmar, Delaware

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FIRST IN THE FIRST STATE! DANNER WINS AT DELAWARE INTERNATIONAL

By: Nick Fillman – USAC ECSC

Delmar, Delaware (June 30, 2023)……Briggs Danner of Allentown, Pa. picked up his second straight win with the USAC Rapid Tire Services East Coast Sprint Car Series presented by Capitol Renegade at the Delaware International Speedway on Friday night in epic fashion holding of a last lap, last corner driver from Alex Bright.

Tommy Kunsman and Christian Bruno lead the field to green for the 25-lap feature event, with Kunsman getting the best of Bruno on the initial start. Kunsman took the lead into corners one and two with Bruno trying to rip the high side of the speedway and stay close with Kunsman down the back stretch.

Alex Bright quickly dropped the nose to the inside of Bruno early as the pair began to battle early on lap one and down the back straight away on lap two. In three and four, with Kunsman out front, Bright was able to roll around the outside of Bruno for second, with Amantea following in the tire tracks of Bright and moving by Bruno for third.

Meanwhile behind the lead trio, fierce battles for position raged on with Bobby Butler and Briggs Daner battling hard for the last spot inside the top five, Steven Drevicki, Ed Aikin, and Chris Allen were nearly three-wide for position, with Kyle Spence, who had fallen back a few positions since the initial drop of the green.

As Bobby Butler and Briggs Danner battled hard for position, Joey Amantea began to put pressure on the runner up Alex Bright as the duo tried to reel in Tommy Kunsman who had a marginal lead over the rest of the podium runners. Amantea stayed glued to the tail tank of Bright, as for multiple laps as they were not gaining on Kunsman but were not necessarily falling back either. Behind that battle, Kyle Spence battled three wide with Chris Allen and Ed Aikin as Spence appeared to have one of the fastest cars on the track and was trying to work his way into the top five.

As the field closed in on the halfway point with Kunsman having a four to five car lead over Bright, Joey Amantea began to defend his third-place position from Briggs Danner. Danner made the move to the outside of Amantea for third at the halfway mark, with Amantea battling back down the back straightaway and making slight contact with Danner in three and four. Amantea would take the position back, as Danner tapped the outside wall, but only slightly entering turn one. The pair would battle back and forth for a handful of laps before Danner took the position over on lap fifteen.

While Danner and Amantea battled for third, Alex Bright closed in on Tommy Kunsman for the race lead as Kunsman began to encounter lapped traffic. As Kunsman navigated to the outside of Brett Rose to complete lap fifteen, Bright drew side by side with Kunsman at the line, with Kunsman retaining the race lead.

Danner had quickly turned up the heat on the lead pairing, as he quickly dispatched Amantea after securing third, and drew in on the leaders. At lap seventeen, the three leaders were all within the same corner as each other and remained that way for a full lap.

On lap eighteen, Danner attempted a slide job into turns one and two on Alex Bright for second. Bright was undeterred and blasted the high side on the cushion out of two and took the race lead from Kunsman down the backstretch. As the leaders entered turn three, Bright had the lead but pushed wide, with Kunsman missing the rubber patch on the bottom as well. Danner did not miss the rubber, and in a daring three wide move, passed both Kunsman and Bright for the race lead and became the official race leader on lap nineteen.

Behind the leaders, Joey Amantea held fourth, Christian Bruno held fifth, but a hungry pack of drivers were chasing him down as Kyle Spence moved by Bobby Butler and Steven Drevicki and was quickly closing in on Bruno. Chris Allen then moved into battle with Drevicki and Bobby Butler in another highly entertaining four car battle for position.

Alex Bright appeared to have the better car in turns one and two as he utilized the cushion to get massive runs down the back straightaway into turn three, but Danner was better through the middle of three and off of four and held a one to two car length advantage as the last handful of laps clicked away.

With two laps to go, Bright was not letting Danner get away but could not get the bite he needed to get around Danner for the race lead as they came to the white flag. Bright gave it everything he had down the back stretch for the final time and drew in on the tail tank of Danner for the race lead, Danner rolled the bottom well, as did Bright as the two came off the corner side by side and down to the line! In an amazing finish and drag race to the line, Briggs Danner was able to hold off Bright by a margin of just .049 seconds!

It seems as though Danner and the Hogue Racing team have hit their stride in the month of June. A win at the Bedford Speedway in the series last event, with an extremely impressive Eastern Storm run, culminated with a second win with the series at Delaware International to end the month. Danner has now added to his points lead and looks even more poised to go back-to-back as a champion with the series. As an added note for the Danner team and family, Briggs grandfather, David Miller, was celebrating a birthday on Friday night and received an awesome present from Briggs as the pair got to celebrate in victory lane.

Alex Bright and the Heffner Enterprises South team started out their pairing with a bang, winning in their first event together at the Williams Grove Speedway. Since then, it has been an up and down run with the team going through some hardships during Eastern Storm. But the team did not quit and battled all week long, and even the week leading up to the show at Delaware International. From a bare frame on Wednesday, to nearly picking up the win on Friday at Delaware International, the team seems to be starting to mesh. One more East Coast series race for the team is on the horizon, before they head west to compete with the USAC National Sprint Cars during Indiana Sprint week at the end of June.

Third place belonged to Joey Amantea who had fought hard all night long and was rewarded with a solid podium run. Amantea ran toe to toe with the two best the series has to offer and did not back down from the challenge. Amantea explained that at the end of the feature event, he simply had no more right rear tire to challenge the leaders and settled in for a podium run. Like Bright, Amantea and the team will also head west at the end of July for a run at Indiana Sprint Week with the USAC National Series.

Fourth place was a welcome sight for Christian Bruno in their return to action with the series. Bruno and the team have had a tumultuous year suffering a pair of engine failures, despite having a great deal of speed. Engine builder for the team, and a part time series driver, Mark Bitner worked out a deal to allow Bruno and team to borrow his DRC Chassis entry for Friday night's show at Delmar, and the team was rewarded with a top five run. Bruno looked smooth and steady all night long, just as he has all season. Look for the Bruno team to have the family-owned entry back in action in two weeks at Action Track USA.

Rounding out the top five making his first start with the series since April at Williams Grove was Kyle Spence. Spence started eighth after the points inversion as the show on Friday at Delmar was only his third of the season. Spence put on a show battling with Ed Aikin, Chris Allen, Drevicki and Bobby Butler throughout the feature event as he had fallen back early but regained his composure and went on a charge into the top five.

Should there have been any cautions in the feature event, Spence may have had something to say about other positions inside the top five. Spence has been busy this season running with the wings on in 358 sprint action at multiple central Pennsylvania tracks, including the Lincoln Speedway where Spence picked up a win so far. Spence also made a start with the All Star Circuit of Champions 410 series and selected other 410 shows. Look for Spence to continue his speed each and every time he is in action with the series throughout the year.

Up next for the series is the first stop of the season to the always entertaining Bull Ring at the Kutztown Fairgrounds, Action Track USA on Wednesday, July 12th for the series only event for the Month of July.

As a note to the readers and viewers, with two laps to go, Tommy Kunsman spun and did a 360 in corner one. I was able to see this and announced a yellow over the PA that should have been. Unfortunately, none of our officials, nor our flagger

saw the incident and a yellow was not called. This was a product of human error, and all drivers and teams that may have had their positions affected were talked to.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: June 30, 2023 – Delaware International Speedway – Delmar, Delaware

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Alex Bright (#27 Heffner) (2), 2. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (4), 3. Kyle Spence (#22 Betts) (6), 4. Tommy Kunsman (#21K Kunsman) (8), 5. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (9), 6. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (1), 7. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (10), 8. Brett Rose (#45 Rose) (3), 9. Michael Smith (#76 Savage) (5), 10. Kenny Miller III (#23m Miller) (7). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (3), 2. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (6), 3. Christian Bruno (#17 Bruno) (5), 4. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (1), 5. Chris Allen Jr. (#71 Allen) (7), 6. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (8), 7. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (4), 8. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (9), 9. Billy Ney (#83s Ney) (2), 10. Chris Allen Sr. (#SR71 Allen) (10). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Briggs Danner (7), 2. Alex Bright (3), 3. Joey Amantea (4), 4. Christian Bruno (2), 5. Kyle Spence (8), 6. Steven Drevicki (9), 7. Bobby Butler (5), 8. Chris Allen Jr. (10), 9. Tommy Kunsman (1), 10. Kenny Miller III (19), 11. Preston Lattomus (12), 12. Ed Aikin (11), 13. J.T. Ferry (6), 14. Mike Thompson (14), 15. Austin Graby (13), 16. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (16), 17. Michael Smith (17), 18. Brett Rose (15), 19. Billy Ney (18), 20. Chris Allen Sr. (20). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-18 Tommy Kunsman, Laps 19-25 Briggs Danner.

HARD CHARGER: Kenny Miller lll (19th to 10th)

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-581, 2-Steven Drevicki-524, 3-J.T. Ferry-411, 4-Bobby Butler-408, 5-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-404, 6-Joey Amantea-402, Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin)-386, 8-Austin Graby-329, 9-Mike Thompson-325, 10-Chris Allen Jr.-300.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: July 12, 2023 – Action Track USA – Kutztown, Pennsylvania

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PERIGO WINS FIRST USAC EAST COAST FEATURE AT ACTION TRACK USA

Kutztown, Pennsylvania (July 12, 2023)……In order to achieve his first USAC East Coast Sprint Car victory on Wednesday night, Carmen Perigo not only had to fend off two of the most successful drivers in series' history, but he had to battle a deflating right rear tire too.

But the Stoystown, Pa. throttle-jockey held on to claim the popular triumph at Championship Energy Action Track USA at Kutztown, Pennsylvania's Action Track USA.

Some longtime race fans in attendance called it, "the best Sprint Car race I've seen this year" as the non-wing 360 sprinters presented a terrific 30-lap Iron Cowboy Classic that was sponsored by E. Schneider & Sons Scrap Metal Processing and Recycling.

Twenty cars took the green with Perigo quickly buzzing past pole sitter Preston Lattomus to lead lap one. Briggs Danner (started 8th) and Alex Bright (started 12th) were slicing their way through the pack on the racy bullring. Danner fought his way to fourth, then engaged in a highly entertaining three-way scuffle for second with Lattomus and Chris Allen Jr.

The trio was dicing with lapped traffic and one another as Perigo scampered to a commanding half-lap lead. The first 20 tours went clean and green before a caution wiped out Perigo's huge advantage, and allowed Danner, who prevailed in that three-car dogfight, to restart right behind the leader.

Bright became a factor on the restart, sliding Lattomus for third in turns three and four. Driving the Heffner Racing Enterprises, Curt Michael wrenched No. 27, Bright made Danner his next victim, moving to the runner-up slot with a nice slider in one and two.

The second yellow flag of the race flew with just four circuits remaining. As the race went green once again, Bright and Danner battled fiercely for second, throwing haymaker slide jobs at each other while staying within striking distance of race leader Perigo.

"I looked at the scoreboard under that second caution and saw the numbers 27 and 39 and thought, 'oh no, not them, ' but I should have expected them to be a factor, I guess, " laughed Perigo in victory lane. "And I could feel my right-rear going soft with about two to go. I think I bounced it off the wall a little too often."

Danner wrestled the runner up position back from Bright and set sail after Perigo. The third (and final) caution came with two to go, giving Danner one more shot at the leader. Danner hung with Perigo on the restart, then went for the slider in turns three and four on the last trip around the clay. He drove Perigo up the banking, but the chauffeur of the No. 21 held his ground as they banged wheels and Perigo's soft right-rear kissed the concrete one more time.

Perigo won the drag race to the checkered flag by a mere 0.335 seconds over Danner with Bright fading a bit at the end but holding on for third place money. Joey Amantea and Allen completed the top-five.

"Yeah, we banged wheels and got a little physical, but we were both going for the win, " explained Perigo afterward. "And I knew Briggs would lift a bit and give me room to straighten out after the contact. He's a really good and really clean driver and it was fun racing with him like that."

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: July 12, 2023 – Action Track USA – Kutztown, Pennsylvania

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Timmy Buckwalter (#20 Hummer) (2), 2. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (8), 3. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (3), 4. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (6), 5. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (7), 6. Scott Frack (#39x Frack) (9), 7. Gary Huston (#44 Huston) (5), 8. Heidi Hedin (#3H Hedin) (1), 9. Christian Bruno (#17 Bruno) (4). NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (1), 2. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (4), 3. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (8), 4. Aidan Borden (#7B Borden) (7), 5. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (6), 6. Lee Kauffman (#96 Kauffman) (5), 7. Patrick Chilmonik (#1 Chilmonik) (3), 8. Brett Rose (#45 Rose) (2). NT

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Carmen Perigo (#21 Stehman) (1), 2. Chris Allen Jr. (#71 Allen) (4), 3. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (5), 4. Alex Bright (#27 Heffner) (6), 5. Kenny Miller III (#23m Miller) (8), 6. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (7), 7. Dalton Herrick (#29 Herrick) (2), 8. Brenden Hires (#X Hires) (3). NT

SEMI: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Scott Frack (1), 2. Bobby Butler (3), 3. Dalton Herrick (6), 4. Brenden Hires (9), 5. Gary Huston (4), 6. Patrick Chilmonik (5), 7. Brett Rose (8), 8. Heidi Hedin (7), 9. Lee Kauffman (2). NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Carmen Perigo (2), 2. Briggs Danner (8), 3. Alex Bright (12), 4. Joey Amantea (5), 5. Chris Allen Jr. (3), 6. Timmy Buckwalter (9), 7. Steven Drevicki (7), 8. Kenny Miller III (15), 9. J.T. Ferry (6), 10. Mike Thompson (10), 11. Brenden Hires (19), 12. Scott Frack (16), 13. Dalton Herrick (18), 14. Preston Lattomus (1),

15. Bobby Butler (17), 16. Aidan Borden (11), 17. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (13), 18. Ed Aikin (4), 19. Austin Graby (14), 20. Gary Huston (20). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-30 Carmen Perigo.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-655, 2-Steven Drevicki-584, 6-Joey Amantea-469, 3-J.T. Ferry-463, 4-Bobby Butler-444, 5-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-437, Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin)-419, 9-Mike Thompson-373, 10-Chris Allen Jr.-365, 10-Carmen Perigo-359.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: August 5, 2023 – Lincoln Speedway – Abbottstown, Pennsylvania

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MILLER SCORES SECOND OF USAC EAST COAST SEASON AT LINCOLN

By: Nick Fillman – USAC East Coast Sprint Cars

Abbottstown, Pennsylvania (August 5, 2023)……Kenny Miller lll of Morgantown, Pa. was able to score his second Rapid Tire Services, USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series, Presented by Capitol Renegade victory on Saturday night at the Lincoln Speedway. Miller was the victor in a hotly contested future event over a persistent Steven Drevicki, and a fast-closing Briggs Danner.

Kenny Miller lll and Preston Lattomus led an all 23 front row for the 25-lap feature event at the Lincoln Speedway, with Miller getting the best of Lattomus on the initial start. Carmen Perigo quickly moved his way to the outside of the speedway and was able to move around Lattomus for the runner up spot, with Steven Drevicki rolling the bottom to perfection and moving inside the top five early on.

Miller was up front and running on the bottom side of the speedway, as Carmen Perigo was utilizing a very high entry into the corners, before cutting down the banking to the bottom side and staying right with Miller for the race lead as the field completed the open pair of laps. Drevicki continued to close in on Lattomus for third, with JT Ferry completing the top five as drivers battled tooth and nail for positions throughout the field.

Unfortunately, the red flag would fly on lap three as Christopher Allen Jr would go for a hard tumble down the front stretch after making contact with the Scott Frack machine. Mike Thompson was also collected in the incident that necessitated the red flag, while Austin Graby, Jonathan Swanson, and Bruce Buckwalter Jr were collected in a different incident as the field was slowing for the red flag.

The night would be done for all drivers but Mike Thompson, who was able to complete repairs and rejoin at the back of the field for the remaining 22 laps of feature event action. While the field was about to come back to the green flag, trouble struck another competitor inside the top ten, as Tommy Kunsman quickly darted off the speedway and nosed into the trailer, abruptly ending his evening.

The field was able to get back to green and complete one lap, before the caution flag flew again on lap four, for another spin on the speedway. With the quick yellow completed, the field stacked up and was ready to go for the final 21 laps of the feature event.

Miller nailed his restart and began to pull away slightly from Perigo who was not about to quit on running the high side of the speedway utilizing his diamond maneuver to get a run down the banking and off the corners. Drevicki quickly moved by Lattomus for the third spot, with Briggs Danner now making moves around the outside of Kyle Spence, JT Ferry, and beginning his battle with Preston Lattomus for the final spot inside the top five.

Most drivers continued to run around the bottom side of the speedway with the exception of a handful of drivers. Try as he might, Perigo was beginning to lose ground on race leader Kenny Miller lll and was allowing Steven Drevicki to draw in closer and closer, before Drevicki was able to make the pass to the bottom side of the speedway and take over second around the halfway mark of the feature event. Around that same time, Briggs Danner was able to dispatch Preston Lattomus for fourth and set his sights on Perigo for third.

Further back in the top ten, Joey Amantea refused to let the high side die, and ran the groove in virtually by himself, making passes to the outside of multiple drivers as he marched his way toward the front of the field. Amantea was locked in a fierce battle with JT Ferry for the seventh position for multiple laps before working around Ferry. Amantea, and Kyle Spence then found themselves locked in a battle for position as they closed in on Preston Lattomus for the final position inside the top five.

Up front, Drevicki was glued to the rear bumper of race leader Kenny Miller lll. Drevicki was much faster getting into the first and second corners, but Miller had a great drive on the exit of two and four and would stabilize the slight advantage that he had over the three-time series champion. Danner had separated himself from Carmen Perigo and the battle for third and was stuck in a bit of a no man's land gap. He was gaining on the leaders but was not yet able to be in contention for either of the top two positions.

Meanwhile, further back in the top ten, Joey Amantea was finally able to roll around the outside of Preston Lattomus, and then Kyle Spence to take over the fifth-place position. Spence had switched his lane from the bottom to the high side, and was turning quick laps with Amantea, trying to reel in the front four cars as the laps began to dwindle.

With just five laps to go, Drevicki continued to hunt Miller for the race lead, not giving him an inch. Drevicki repeatedly dropped the nose to the inside of Kenny Miller but did not make any contact with the race leader as they fought nearly wheel to wheel on multiple occasions for the race lead.

Try as he might, Steven Drevicki could not get a good enough clean run to the extreme bottom side of the speedway as Kenny Miller lll went on to score the victory with Drevicki in tow. Briggs Danner finished a close third, with Carmen Perigo Jr and Joey Amantea completing the top five.

The win for Kenny Miller lll is the fourth of his career and marks the second time the driver has won two events in the same season since his series debut in 2020. Miller has a busy work schedule outside of racing that takes him all over the country, so events are limited for the talented driver from Morgantown, PA. The team's recent addition of a 600 sprint back to their fleet, with opportunities for Miller to stay fresh on Wednesday nights at Action Track USA, has no doubt helped keep Miller fresh and ready to compete for more victories.

After competing at one of Steven Drevicki's least favorite tracks last time out, Drevicki was on familiar territory on Saturday night as a former winged 358, and USAC East Coast winner at the Lincoln Speedway. Drevicki recorded a runner up finish to Briggs Danner in a loaded heat race number two and continued his big rebound season. Drevicki finished just one spot ahead of Danner, which will keep the points gap at a manageable margin heading into next week at Winchester.

Briggs Danner continued his consistency and came home with a solid podium effort. The former series champion was busy while the series was away, competition during Indiana Sprint Week with the USAC National Series, where he recorded a runner up finish after leading many laps of the feature at the Bloomington Speedway. Look for Danner to compete next week in the full Xtreme Midget Series events in Eastern PA and New Jersey.

Coming off his first career USAC East Coast Win at Action Track USA, Carmen Perigo also continued his massive year, picking up a heat race win, and battling for the race lead early on. Perigo's diamond line unfortunately faded for the Stoystown, PA driver who has six non-wing sprint car victories on the season. In the end, Perigo was still able to complete another solid night of action coming home inside the top five.

Joey Amantea was one of three USAC East Coast Drivers to head west to Indiana Sprint week, where he recorded solid runs, including some inside the top ten among the world's best. Amantea was able to win a thrilling heat race three, blasting the high side of the speedway around Ed Aikin late in the going, and utilized the same moves to complete a top

five run after falling back early. Amantea also appeared to have a soft left rear tire for much of the feature event, but it did not stop the young driver from battling hard for position.

Up next for the USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series is the second of two visits to the banks of the Winchester Speedway in Winchester, Virginia on August 12th, before finishing off the month at the always entertaining Action Track USA on Sunday, August 20th.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: August 5, 2023 – Lincoln Speedway – Abbottstown, Pennsylvania

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Carmen Perigo (#21 Stehman) (6), 2. Kenny Miller III (#23m Miller) (9), 3. Michael Smith (#76 Savage) (1), 4. Patrick Chilmonik (#1 Chilmonik) (3), 5. Scott Frack (#39x Frack) (7), 6. Aidan Borden (#7B Borden) (8), 7. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (4), 8. Lee Kauffman (#96 Kauffman) (2), 9. Gary Huston (#44 Huston) (5). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (1), 2. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (3), 3. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (5), 4. Kyle Spence (#22 Betts) (4), 5. Chris Allen Jr. (#71 Allen) (7), 6. Jonathan Swanson (#17J Swanson) (2), 7. Brett Rose (#45 Rose) (8), 8. David Swanson (#117 Swanson) (9), 9. Tim Stallings (#28 Stallings) (6). NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (5), 2. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (1), 3. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (3), 4. Tommy Kunsman (#21K Kunsman) (8), 5. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (2), 6. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (6), 7. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (7), 8. Austin Graby (#7G Granby) (9), 9. George Loux (#48G Loux) (4). NT

SEMI: (8 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Aidan Borden (1), 2. Bobby Butler (3), 3. Jonathan Swanson (2), 4. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (6), 5. Austin Graby (9), 6. Brett Rose (5), 7. George Loux (12), 8. Lee Kauffman (7), 9. David Swanson (8), 10. Jason Cherry (4), 11. Gary Huston (10), 12. Tim Stallings (11). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kenny Miller III (1), 2. Steven Drevicki (7), 3. Briggs Danner (8), 4. Carmen Perigo (3), 5. Joey Amantea (6), 6. Kyle Spence (11), 7. Preston Lattomus (2), 8. J.T. Ferry (5), 9. Aidan Borden (17), 10. Bobby Butler (16), 11. Mike Thompson (15), 12. Ed Aikin (4), 13. Jason Cherry (21), 14. Michael Smith (9), 15. Patrick Chilmonik (10), 16. Tommy Kunsman (12), 17. Scott Frack (13), 18. Chris Allen Jr. (14), 19. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (19), 20. Jonathan Swanson (18), 21. Austin Graby (20). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Kenny Miller III.

**Chris Allen Jr. flipped on lap 3 of the feature.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-727, 2-Steven Drevicki-658, 3-Joey Amantea-535, 4-J.T. Ferry-518, 5-Bobby Butler-490, 6-Ed Aikin-465, 7-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-464, 8-Carmen Perigo-428, 9-Mike Thompson-418, 10-Chris Allen Jr.-396.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: August 12, 2023 – Winchester Speedway – Winchester, Virginia

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MILLER GOES BACK-TO-BACK WITH WINCHESTER VICTORY

By: Nick Fillman – USAC ECSC

Winchester, Virginia (August 12, 2023)……For the second week in a row, Kenny Miller lll was able to collect the checkered flags in Rapid Tire, USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series, presented by Capitol Renegade action, this time at the Winchester Speedway holding in a fierce duel with Carmen Perigo.

Kenny Miller lll and Preston Lattomus lead the field to green for the feature event at Winchester, with Miller getting the best of Lattomus and quickly moving to the race lead, with Perigo dropping to the bottom side of Lattomus and securing the runner up spot early.

Miller was out front with Perigo in second who was immediately glued to the rear bumper of the 23 machine out front. Lattomus had settled into third, with Bobby Butler and Joey Amantea completing the top five. While further back in the pack, Briggs Danner had quickly rolled the outside of the speedway and moved into sixth and pressured Amantea for fifth from his tenth starting spot.

Carmen Perigo pestered to the inside of Kenny Miller through the opening six laps of feature action, not being able to get a full run to the inside of Miller to secure the race lead, before the first caution flag of the feature flew on lap six as Brett Rose and Jason Cherry went for a spin in turns three and four.

The ensuing restart saw Miller and Perigo sprint away from the rest of the field as Bobby Butler continued to pressure Preston Lattomus for the final podium position. Miller was out front and running a unique line out of the corner, allowing Perigo to dive to the bottom of the speedway and get under Miller for several laps as they went side by side for the race lead multiple times.

Perigo tried lap after lap to get to the inside, and then to the outside of Miller before the caution flag flew again on lap 14 of the feature event for Brett Rose who went for a spin in turn one.

The restart with eleven laps to go again saw Miller and Perigo pull away from the field and continue their battle for the lead, as again, Bobby Butler put the pressure on Lattomus for third. Further back, Steven Drevicki began to come to life, picking off JT Ferry, then diving to the bottom side of Briggs Danner and beginning to make a charge toward the top five.

On lap 16 of the feature event, Perigo created a massive run out of turn two and down the back stretch and dove to the bottom of Miller in turn three. Both drivers skated up the track and slight contact was made. Both went above the cushion and were able to collect themselves before diving back down the banking and continuing their battle.

Meanwhile, Bobby Butler was able to get to the underside of the speedway and pass Preston Lattomus for the third spot with only a handful of laps remaining as the entire top five was all in the same corner for a pair of laps after the Perigo and Miller contact.

As things settled in for the final five laps, Kenny Miller was able to put a large gap on Perigo for the race lead and went on to secure his second win in a row, and third win of the season. Carmen Perigo was able to come home in third, with Bobby Butler, Joey Amantea getting by Preston Lattomus for fourth, with Lattomus rounding out the top five.

When racetracks get slick, it seems to benefit Kenny Miller and his team come feature time. All three of Miller's wins this season have come when the track has been smooth and slick, starting at Georgetown at the beginning of the season, and continuing into August at Winchester. With his third win of the season, Miller now has eclipsed his one season win record of two, and for the first time ever has won back-to-back feature events. Miller is still busy with his traveling work schedule, but the team has shown now more than ever that they are a threat for the win each night.

Try as he might, a win at the Winchester Speedway did not happen yet again for Carmen Perigo Jr. As the whole pit area is aware, and Miller even said in his interview, he knew that Perigo would run clean for the race lead, and a hip check type move for the lead likely wouldn't happen. It did, all but by accident, as Perigo tried everything he could to take the race lead away. Ultimately Perigo settled for second, after putting up a fight for the bulk of the race.

If there was a driver who needed a podium finish more than anyone in the pit area it was Bobby Butler. The driver has had a frustrating season and again switch cars for competition to try and change his luck. Switching back to his Triple X chassis,

and despite a flat trailer tire on the way to the track, Butler had a strong and smooth run to a podium finish that was needed for the team.

Joey Amantea collected another smooth and steady top five run. Amantea has had plenty of consistent speed this season and has not been pushing the car past what it is capable of in recent feature events. Despite the solid runs after a shaky start to the season, the driver is still not satisfied with not being able to crack into victory lane. Look for Amantea and the team to continue to push harder and harder with only a few shows left.

Preston Lattomus completed the top five, after dropping a pair of positions late in the feature event. Lattomus scored an entertaining heat win in heat one blasting to the high side of the speedway passing Joey Amantea and Steven Drevicki late in the going to score the win. Lattomus and team were the winners at Winchester earlier this season and were trying to repeat the fate this time around. Unfortunately, things didn't quite work out how they would have liked but were still rewarded with a top five run on a difficult Winchester Speedway surface.

Up next for the Rapid Tire Services, USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series, is a return visit to the bullring and high banks of Action Track USA in Kutztown, Pennsylvania on Sunday, August 20th. This will no doubt be a can't miss show for any sprint car fan on the east coast!

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: August 12, 2023 – Winchester Speedway – Winchester, Virginia

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (6), 2. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (2), 3. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (1), 4. Brett Rose (#45 Rose) (4), 5. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (3), 6. George Loux (#48G Loux) (5), 7. Lee Kauffman (#96 Kauffman) (7). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Carmen Perigo (#21 Stehman) (1), 2. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (3), 3. Kenny Miller III (#23m Miller) (4), 4. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (6), 5. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (5), 6. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (2). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kenny Miller III (1), 2. Carmen Perigo (3), 3. Bobby Butler (4), 4. Joey Amantea (6), 5. Preston Lattomus (2), 6. Steven Drevicki (7), 7. Briggs Danner (10), 8. J.T. Ferry (5), 9. Jason Cherry (12), 10. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (9), 11. George Loux (11), 12. Lee Kauffman (13), 13. Brett Rose (8). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Kenny Miller III.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-783, 2-Steven Drevicki-719, 3-Joey Amantea-603, 4-J.T. Ferry-572, 5-Bobby Butler-561, 6-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-511, 7-Carmen Perigo-503, 8-Ed Aikin-465, 9-Preston Lattomus-421, 10-Mike Thompson-418.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: August 20, 2023 – Action Track USA – Kutztown, Pennsylvania

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DICK TOBIAS CLASSIC BELONGS TO BUCKWALTER

By: Nick Fillman - USAC ECSC

Kutztown, Pennsylvania (August 20, 2023)……Timmy Buckwalter of Douglasville, PA was able to break back into Rapid Tire, USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series victory lane for the first time since 2019, when paired with the late Bill Gallagher.

Austin Graby and Kenny Miller lll led the field to green for the 30 Lap, Dick Tobias Classic at Action Track USA and immediately the action was on! Drivers battling two and three wide throughout the field and all over the speedway. Kenny Miller had utilized his outside front row starting spot to take the lead, with J.T. Ferry glued to the tail tank of the leader.

Miller was using the high side of the speedway, with Ferry running about a half a lane lower, and continually poking his nose to the inside of Miller for the race lead. Timmy Buckwalter was quickly on the moving passing cars on the extreme high side of the speedway, while Briggs Danner had fallen back a few positions from his seventh-place position.

As the field continued to battle tooth and nail for every position around lap ten, Scott Frack and Bruce Buckwalter Jr made contact, Left rear to Right rear, down the back straightaway. This sent Buckwalter's car flying into the air as the car dug into the speedway and began to flip. While in the process of flipping, Mike Thompson had nowhere to go and contacted the flipping Buckwalter machine with, with both coming to a rest against the outside wall in turn three. Luckily both drivers were able to get out of the car by themselves, but both suffered heavy frame damage from the accident.

On the ensuing restart, the intensity level was turned all the way up as the battle at the front of the field for the race lead quickly took shape. Timmy Buckwalter was utilizing the extreme high side of the speedway, fully in the cushion, with Kenny Miller utilizing the middle of the speedway. J.T. Ferry continued to look low, with Steven Drevicki making it a four wide battle for the lead as he was on the bottom of the Speedway and Briggs Danner quickly drew into the mix as well.

As the halfway mark in the feature came, Buckwalter worked around the outside of Ferry, and Drevicki and took over the runner up spot, with Danner working under Ferry for fourth. Buckwalter began to trade slide jobs with Kenny Miller for the race lead on either end of the speedway, while Steven Drevicki worked beneath both drivers in third, battling three wide for the lead. Buckwalter was able to take the lead from Miller on lap seventeen and lap nineteen. Miller was able to take the lead back from Buckwalter as the duo completed lap twenty.

As the lead duo worked down the front stretch into turn one, Buckwalter and Miler make contact battling toward the bottom side of the speedway. The subsequent contact sent Miller up the racetrack and collected third place runner Briggs Danner, fourth place Steven Drevicki, and sixth place J.T. Ferry who all came to a stop in turn one. Miller making hard contact with the wall, along with Danner, while Drevicki came to rest over the left rear of Danner with the front end in the air. Unfortunately, the feature event for Miller and Danner ended, with Drevicki and Ferry pushing off and tagging the rear of the field.

The ensuing restart drew Joey Amantea to the tail tank of Timmy Buckwalter as the field went green and through turns one and two. Amantea got a big run down the back straightaway into three and four and slid Buckwalter for the lead at the exit of four and took the lead at the line on lap twenty-one. Again, as the leaders entered turn one, Buckwalter and Amantea contacted Amantea then getting into the wall and getting upside down.

Another restart came with just nine laps to go. This time, Christian Bruno moved into the challenger spot, with Bobby Butler rounding out the top three for the final segment of the feature. Buckwalter nailed the restart and separated himself from Bruno for a handful of laps before Bruno mounted a charge on the high side and drew within a few car lengths of the race leader. The charge was not enough as Timmy Buckwalter went on to score the Dick Tobias Classic victory at Action Track USA.

The combination of Paul Lotier and Hummer Motorsports has been fast since their late pairing just before Eastern Storm in June. Strong runs, including a podium run after leading multiple laps at the Williams Grove Speedway were the highlight of the week, and for the team. The win on Sunday was the second of the season for Hummer Motorsports, and the first since April 14th at Williams Grove with Alex Bright. However, the drought for Buckwalter goes back much further with his last win coming for late car owner Bill Gallagher in June of 2019 at the Big Diamond Speedway. Not only did Buckwalter score the USAC East Coast win, but he also completed the clean sweep of the night winning the SpeedSTR feature and 600 Sprint feature all on the same night.

Christian Bruno came home with his best career finish on Sunday night at Action Track USA in his return to the series with his own family car. The team attempted to compete at the first Action Track event in July, but engine issues forced the

team to scratch from the program. Bruno has been fast when the car runs at full song and has proved time and time again he is capable of competing at the front of the field. A third-place finish at the Delaware International Speedway in June driving for Mark Bitner was the best result of the season for the driver until Sunday night. In another repeat of fate, Bruno wound up finishing second to Timmy Buckwalter in the 600 sprint feature and was able to cap off his second straight 600 Championship at Action Track USA.

Yet again, it looks as though things could be turning the corner for Bobby Butler. Back-to-back top three results have been a welcome improvement for the Milford, NJ driver, as he continues to try and score his first career win. Obviously, the finish was a result of some unfortunate circumstances at the front of the field, but that is a part of racing and could be part of the luck changing for Butler!

Preston Lattomus capped off a busy three-day weekend of action on Sunday at Action Track USA and was rewarded with a top five finish. Lattomus has had an up and down season but still has had plenty of consistency during the season. Lattomus had the wings on top on Friday and Saturday in 358 Sprint car competition, before removing the tops for Sunday at Kutztown. Lattomus competed in double duty action as he piloted the teams 600 sprint as well, making both feature events.

Rounding out the top five with a return to the series was Billy Pauch Jr. Pauch made his first start of 2023 aboard the Lesko Motorsports 16 entry. While Pauch Jr has had a quite year on the Modified side of things, he has still found time to compete in other divisions when time allows. The start on Sunday was his first of the season with USAC East Coast, while he did make one start with the USAC National Series also at Action Track aboard the Heffner Racing 27 entry.

Pauch led much of his heat race early in the night, before relinquishing his top three spot, but qualifying for the feature. Pauch kept his nose clean and was able to collect a top five effort in his first start of the season, from his 12th place starting spot. Pauch was scheduled to make more starts with the series than one this year, but unfortunately, things did not work out. Perhaps, we can see more of the talented driver in our remaining events, time will tell.

Sunday marked the end of summer racing for the series, as our next scheduled event takes place at the Delaware International Speedway on Friday, September 22nd, before heading north, but only slightly, on September 29th to the Georgetown Speedway. Following the Delaware trip comes the second annual Sprintoberfest at the Bridgeport Speedway, where exact details have not been ironed out as to which day or days the series will be in action.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: August 20, 2023 – Action Track USA – Kutztown, Pennsylvania

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Timmy Buckwalter (#20 Hummer) (4), 2. Scott Frack (#39x Frack) (2), 3. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (5), 4. Christian Bruno (#17 Bruno) (7), 5. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (6), 6. Aidan Borden (#7B Borden) (3), 7. Heidi Hedin (#3H Hedin) (1), 8. Lee Kauffman (#96 Kauffman) (8). NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (6), 2. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (5), 3. Austin Graby (#7G Granby) (2), 4. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (#83 Buckwalter) (4), 5. Billy Ney (#83s Ney) (7), 6. Patrick Chilmonik (#1 Chilmonik) (1), 7. Dalton Herrick (#29 Herrick) (3). NT

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kenny Miller III (#23m Miller) (2), 2. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (4), 3. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (6), 4. Billy Pauch Jr. (#16 Lesko) (1), 5. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (5), 6. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (7), 7. Brenden Hires (#2 Danner) (3). NT

SEMI: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Aidan Borden (1), 2. Brenden Hires (6), 3. Ed Aikin (3), 4. Dalton Herrick (5), 5. Heidi Hedin (4), 6. Patrick Chilmonik (2), 7. Lee Kauffman (7). NT

FEATURE: (30 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Timmy Buckwalter (8), 2. Christian Bruno (10), 3. Bobby Butler (3), 4. Preston Lattomus (15), 5. Billy Pauch Jr. (12), 6. Austin Graby (1), 7. Billy Ney (14), 8. Scott Frack (9), 9. Ed Aikin (18), 10. Brenden Hires (17), 11. Dalton Herrick (19), 12. Aidan Borden (16), 13. Steven Drevicki (6), 14. J.T. Ferry (4), 15. Heidi Hedin

(20), 16. Joey Amantea (5), 17. Kenny Miller III (2), 18. Briggs Danner (7), 19. Bruce Buckwalter Jr. (11), 20. Mike Thompson (13). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-16 Kenny Miller III, Lap 17 Timmy Buckwalter, Lap 18 Kenny Miller III, Lap 19 Timmy Buckwalter, Lap 20 Kenny Miller III, Lap 21 Joey Amantea, Laps 22-30 Timmy Buckwalter.

**Bruce Buckwalter Jr. flipped on lap 10 of the feature. Joey Amantea flipped on lap 21 of the feature.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-817, 2-Steven Drevicki-763, 3-Joey Amantea-640, 4-Bobby Butler-633, 5-J.T. Ferry-613, 6-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-541, Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin)-514, 8-Carmen Perigo-503, 9-Preston Lattomus-486, 10-Mike Thompson-445.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: September 22, 2023 – Delaware International Speedway – Delmar, Delaware

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AMANTEA NOTCHES SECOND USAC EAST COAST WIN AT DELAWARE

By: Nick Fillman – USAC ECSC

Delmar, Delaware (October 21, 2023)……Joey Amantea of Mount Pocono, Pa. was able to score his second career Rapid Tire Services, USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series, presented by Capitol Renegade victory in dominating fashion in the series rescheduled event at the Delaware International Speedway.

David Swanson and Alex Bright lead the field to green on a windy night at the Delaware International Speedway, with Bright getting the drop on Swanson for the feature event lead early on. Kenny Miller, Joey Amantea and Briggs Danner were quick on the move as well moving up inside the top five from their points inversion starting positions. Amantea working around the outside of Swanson, Miller and Danner to take the runner up spot by lap two of the feature event.

The first caution flag of the event occurred after the completion of lap two as Bobby Butler slowed with issues in the fourth turn. Butler was pushed to the work area, but the team was not able to complete the repairs in time to rejoin the field.

On the ensuing restart a five-car breakaway took place at the front of the field, with Amantea heavily applying the pressure to Bright for the race lead. First to the bottom side of the speedway on lap three, then the high side on lap four, before moving to the bottom side of Bright down the back straightaway and securing the race lead on lap five. In the same move and corner that Amantea secured the race lead, Kenny Miller was able to take second away from Bright, shuffling him to third, with Danner and Drevicki locked in a hard battle for fourth and fifth.

Amantea immediately began to pull away from the field with Miller in tow. Briggs Danner quickly found himself to the inside of the speedway and around Bright for third with Drevicki eventually moving by and beginning to pull in on Danner as the field raced toward the half way point.

At the half way point of the feature event Amantea began to encounter more lapped cars as he had a sizable lead over Miller who was all by himself in second, with Drevicki all but pushing the Hogue Racing entry of Briggs Danner around the speedway working to the high and low side of the speedway lap after lap trying to get around the series points leader, and the man he is chasing in points.

The second and final caution flag of the event came on lap fifteen when Brenden Hires slowed to a stop on the outside of turn three, with David Swanson also resting against the inside wall at the exit of turn two. While under caution, Jonathan Swanson also slowed with issues at the exit of turn there as well.

Amantea nailed the restart and took off from the field and began to rebuild the sizable lead he had just had on the rest of the field. In the closing laps of the feature event, Amantea held his lead over Kenny Miller lll, Briggs Danner who remained under heavy fire from Steven Drevicki, and Preston Lattomus who had moved around Alex Bright for the final spot inside the top five.

Try as they might, nobody could catch Joey Amantea for the race lead as he went on to collect his second career victory with Kenny Miller lll, Briggs Danner, Steven Drevicki, and Preston Lattomus rounding out the top five.

The win for Amantea came a bit later in the season than the driver and team had hoped for. However, it was all but inevitable that the team would score a victory with the amount of racing the JPA Racing team has undertaken. Starting with a trip to Florida, BOSS Series Races, Eastern Storm, Indiana Sprint week, and a handful of winged 410 starts, the team has really begun to stretch their legs and compete nightly for victories.

Perhaps what was the most telling of all in the feature event Saturday night, is the ability of Amantea to secure the win in the slick. Amantea is never afraid to hammer the high side of the speedway and blast a cushion if available, but it was a swap of roles as the patience and technique of running the car on the bottom of the speedway proved paramount for the junior year driver.

Kenny Miller lll continued his blossoming career with the series in 2023, picking up another top five finish. Miller has scored three victories on the tour this season and he is 50% on the season in top-five runs and seven of eight in top-tens. Look for Miller to be a threat next week at the Bridgeport Motorsports Park where he scored a “non-winners” race victory last season.

Briggs Danner continued his consistency with the Hogue Racing team, as they have been busy between USAC East Coast and National Series competition. With a lengthy break of 62 days between our last events, the Danner and Hogue team stayed busy with trips to the Midwest at Gas City, Eldora, and the Lawrenceburg Speedway with impressive results. Additionally, Danner scored an ARDC Midget Victory just one week prior to the series resumption of action at the Linda’s Speedway. By virtue of holding off Drevicki for the third spot, Danner was able to add four more points to his driver points lead and break the tie for the lead in the entrant points with just one race remaining.

Steven Drevicki did everything he possibly could to get around Briggs Danner for third on Saturday night, working to the high side, the low side, and the middle trying to get the best run to complete the pass. Drevicki was not able to secure the position but did not let anyone else go by and potentially allow the gap between himself and Danner to grow any further. Heading into the series final event, Drevicki is more than mathematically able to win both the owner and driver championships and become the series’ first four time series champion.

Rounding out the top five with a solid run in his home state was Preston Lattomus. The Lewes, DE driver was another with the series that stayed busy in the long break between events thanks to the weather man, competing both near and far in National Midget action, including at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the BC39. In his return to series action Lattomus used his patience behind the wheel to advance forward and pass former series champion Alex Bright for the final spot in the top five.

While the result may not have been what the team was looking for, it was great to see Alex Bright and the Heffner Enterprises South team make their return to not only USAC East Coast action, but sprint car competition in general. Bright suffered injuries in a horrific crash at the Lawrenceburg Speedway during Indiana Sprint Week in July and has been on the mend since then. Bright was able to finish third and make the points inversion, starting out the outside front row of the feature event. Bright was able to lead five laps of the feature event, before fading in the feature event.

The series now turns its attention to the season finale at the Bridgeport Motorsports Park on Saturday, October 27th, with an unsanctioned “Non-Winners” Race on Friday night. A driver and owners champion will be crowned as Briggs Danner and Steven Drevicki are separated by 58 Points on the Drivers Points side, and only four, on the Owners points side.

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: October 21, 2023 – Delaware International Speedway – Delmar, Delaware

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Kenny Miller III (#23m Miller) (6), 2. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (3), 3. David Swanson (#117 Swanson) (1), 4. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (2), 5. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (8), 6. Jonathan Swanson (#17J Swanson) (7), 7. Brenden Hires (#2 Danner) (4), 8. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (5).

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps, top-5 transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (1), 2. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (3), 3. Alex Bright (#27 Heffner) (4), 4. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (6), 5. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (5), 6. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (7), 7. Brett Rose (#45 Rose) (2). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Joey Amantea (6), 2. Kenny Miller III (3), 3. Briggs Danner (8), 4. Steven Drevicki (7), 5. Preston Lattomus (10), 6. Alex Bright (2), 7. J.T. Ferry (4), 8. Mike Thompson (9), 9. Ed Aikin (12), 10. Brett Rose (14), 11. Jason Cherry (15), 12. Jonathan Swanson (11), 13. David Swanson (1), 14. Brenden Hires (13), 15. Bobby Butler (5). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-4 Alex Bright, Laps 5-25 Joey Amantea.

FEATURE HARD CHARGER: Joey Amantea (6th to 1st)

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-889, 2-Steven Drevicki-831, 3-Joey Amantea-715, 4-Bobby Butler-673, 5-J.T. Ferry-670, 6-Ed Aikin-563, 7-Preston Lattomus-548, 8-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-541, 9-Carmen Perigo-503, 10-Mike Thompson-498.

NEXT USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE: October 27-28, 2023 – Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Swedesboro, New Jersey

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BRIGHT SHINES IN USAC EAST COAST FINALE AT BRIDGEPORT

By: Nick Fillman – USAC ECSC

Swedesboro, New Jersey (October 28, 2023)……In only his second start since returning to action from a horrific crash and injury in July, Alex Bright was able to conquer the high banks of the Bridgeport Motorsports Park in dominating fashion. The in for Bright and the Heffner Racing Enterprises South team was their second of the season and came in the season finale of the Rapid Tire Services, USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series, presented by Capitol Renegade.

Alex Bright and Mike Thompson lead the field to green for the final event of the 2023 season, which came in the series one and only completed event at the Bridgeport Motorsports Park.

Bright immediately shot to the race lead and dispatched Mike Thompson, while Joey Amantea and Kenny Miller were quick to work to the front of the field as well. By virtue of missing the inversion spot for the feature, Briggs Danner started in the ninth-place position and was quickly trying to make moves to the high side of the speedway in his march forward. At the same time, his closest competitor for both the driver and owner championships, Steven Drevicki started just ahead of Danner as the pair began to pick off cars.

Bright was enjoying a half-track lead over the rest of the top five which saw Kenny Miller lll move into the second-place position, with Joey Amantea, Briggs Danner, and a battle for fifth between Timmy Buckwalter and Steven Drevicki. Danner was glued to the rear bumper of Amantea for the final spot on the podium but was unable to get the position away from

Amantea early on. Timmy Buckwalter eventually moved to the high side of the speedway and moved passed Drevicki for the final position inside the top five.

As the field quickly approached and got to the half way point of the feature event, Bright had made his way to lapped traffic at the back of the field and began to negotiate the lapped cars. Kenny Miller held on to second as Joey Amantea and Biggs Danner waged war for the third spot, lap after lap, for nearly four laps before Danner was able to move by Amantea for the final podium spot.

With ten laps to go, Alex Bright had closed in on a fight for position at the tail end of the top ten, featuring three wide battles for position between Preston Lattomus, Ed Aikin, and JT Ferry. This allowed Kenny Miller lll and Briggs Danner to draw in ever more on Bright for the race lead, but laps were quickly evaporating from the score board.

With Bright continuing to battle the lapped cars in front of him, Danner had moved by Kenny Miller lll and secured the second spot. The hunt was on as Danner began to eat into the lead that Bright had over the rest of the field with only a handful of laps remaining.

Meanwhile, Joey Amantea had reeled in Kenny Miller for third as the pair began to battle side by side for position, with the rest of the top seven: Timmy Buckwalter, Steven Drevicki, and Mikey Thompson all running equidistant to each other as the feature event drew to a close.

Despite the charge by Danner, and Bright continuing to battle with lapped cars for position, getting as close as being in the same set of corners was all Danner could muster in the season finale. Alex Bright went on to collect win number three of the season over Danner, a photo finish for third going to Kenny Miller, Joey Amantea and Timmy Buckwalter completing the top five.

One week removed from the teams return to action, a second to sixth run at the Delaware International Speedway, Alex Bright and the Heffner Enterprises South Team hit on all cylinders Saturday night and scored the convincing win. Bright has been no stranger to victory lane at Bridgeport, nor has Curt Michael and the Heffner team. Both of whose experience was on full display Saturday night. It is only fitting that the first victory for Bright and team, comes at track that is of eerie size, and shape as the venue Bright suffered his horrific crash. Perhaps a conquering of any last reservations that the veteran driver may have had, and a great way to close a season and build for the future.

While Briggs Danner came just one spot short of victory in the feature event Saturday, he and the Hogue Racing Enterprises team were victorious in the yearlong battle for driver and owner points. The new pairing found victory lane twice, in back-to-back weeks on their way to the title, and with a convincing nine to two drive Saturday night, proved that they were without a doubt the team to beat in 2023.

Kenny Miller lll capped off a break out season with the USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series on Saturday night, with yet another podium run, thus concluding a five top five, eight top ten, and three victory season in only night events for the Morgantown, PA family team. While we certainly encourage Kenny to continue with his career outside of racing, thoughts of what “could have been” will linger through the series of what the team may have been able to do in a full season of action.

Joey Amantea rounded out the 2023 campaign for the USAC East Coast Series where he did much of the 2023 season, inside the top five. The sophomore driver had an ambitious schedule for the season, which no doubt helped not only the driver, but the team grow as a whole. Amantea battled hard in the feature with Briggs Danner for position, before a right rear tire began to deflate, forcing Amantea to drop back a pair of positions.

Rounding out the top five on the ninth was one time feature winner in 2023, Timmy Buckwalter. The pairing of Paul Lotier and Robert Hummer was one of great success starting with Eastern Storm in June and continuing throughout the season. Buckwalter scored a convincing heat race victory on Saturday night but was unable to draw any further into the top five in the green to checker feature event. Perhaps with another caution flag, Buckwalter could have had something else to say about the feature event. Look for the Lotier/Hummer team to head to the Charlotte World Finals this week with the wings on top, and possibly more events in 2024.

With the final checkered flag thrown of 2023, the Rapid Tire Services, USAC East Coast Sprint Car Series, presented by Capitol Renegade would like to thank all the drivers, teams and fans for their support of the 2023 campaign! We are already looking forward to next year, and have some exciting bookings planned, some of which have already been announced like our return to New York on July 4th weekend of 2024 which will feature first time events at the Utica Rome and Fonda Speedway's!

USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS RACE RESULTS: October 28, 2023 – Bridgeport Motorsports Park – Swedesboro, New Jersey

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Joey Amantea (#88J JPA) (2), 2. Patrick Chilmonik (#1 Chilmonik) (1), 3. Ed Aikin (#7 Aikin) (4), 4. Kenny Miller III (#23m Miller) (10), 5. Briggs Danner (#39 Hogue) (9), 6. Austin Graby (#87 Graby) (3), 7. Jonathan Swanson (#17J Swanson) (6), 8. Aidan Borden (#7B Borden) (7), 9. Jason Cherry (#67 Cherry) (8), 10. Richy Carnathan (#64 Carnathan) (5). NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps, all transfer to the feature, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Timmy Buckwalter (#20 Hummer) (2), 2. Steven Drevicki (#19 Drevicki) (4), 3. Alex Bright (#27 Heffner) (6), 4. Mike Thompson (#11 Thompson) (5), 5. Bobby Butler (#5B Butler) (7), 6. J.T. Ferry (#18T Ferry) (8), 7. Preston Lattomus (#23B Lattomus) (9), 8. Scott Frack (#39x Frack) (1), 9. Mick D'Agostino (#91 D'Agostino) (3), 10. Gary Huston (#44 Huston) (10). NT

FEATURE: (25 laps, starting positions in parentheses) 1. Alex Bright (1), 2. Briggs Danner (9), 3. Kenny Miller III (3), 4. Joey Amantea (5), 5. Timmy Buckwalter (7), 6. Steven Drevicki (6), 7. Mike Thompson (2), 8. J.T. Ferry (12), 9. Bobby Butler (10), 10. Preston Lattomus (14), 11. Austin Graby (11), 12. Ed Aikin (4), 13. Mick D'Agostino (18), 14. Scott Frack (16), 15. Jason Cherry (17), 16. Richy Carnathan (19), 17. Jonathan Swanson (13), 18. Gary Huston (20), 19. Aidan Borden (15), 20. Patrick Chilmonik (8). NT

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-25 Alex Bright.

FEATURE HARD CHARGER: Briggs Danner (9th to 2nd)

FINAL USAC RAPID TIRE EAST COAST SPRINT CARS PRESENTED BY CAPITOL CUSTOM TRAILERS POINTS: 1-Briggs Danner-960, 2-Steven Drevicki-893, 3-Joey Amantea-784, 4-Bobby Butler-723, 5-J.T. Ferry-722, 6-Ed Aikin-608, 7-Preston Lattomus-593, 8-Mike Thompson-555, 9-Bruce Buckwalter Jr.-541, 10-Carmen Perigo-503.