2005 USAC SOUTHWEST SPRINT CAR SEASON REVIEW

Josh Pelkey of Phoenix, Ariz. led all 40 laps of the inaugural Roger McCluskey Classic USAC Southwest Sprint Car race at the brand-new USA Race Park in Tucson, Ariz. January 1.

Pelkey drove the Joe Moriarty Total Seal Pistons Buckley/Ott to victory on the 3/8-mile dirt oval in the first race at the new facility, which drew a capacity crowd.

Trailing Pelkey at the checkered flag were Damion Gardner, Charles Davis Jr., Rick Williams and Tony Elliott. Fast qualifier Cory Kruseman failed to finish the 40-lap race, while Kevin Kierce and Tim West escaped injury in separate flips during the race.

Brandon Lane and Mike Rux Jr. also escaped injury in flips during qualifying. The race was the first ever for USAC on New Year's Day.

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USAC SOUTHWEST SPRINT CAR RACE RESULTS: December 31, 2004-January 1, 2005 – USA Raceway – Tucson, Arizona – Roger McCluskey Classic – Non-Points Special Event

QUALIFYING: (held on December 31) 1. Cory Kruseman, 21k, Ellis-17.68; 2. Damion Gardner, 50, Chaffin-18.60; 3. Jesse Hockett, 2J, VKCC-18.72; 4. Mike Martin, 17, Masseth-18.75; 5. Charles Davis Jr., 8az, Smiley-18.83; 6. Josh Pelkey, 52x, Moriarty-19.11; 7. Rick Ziehl, 20z, Ziehl-19.21; 8. Rick Williams, 6, Williams-19.23; 9. Ronnie Clark, 33x, Clark-19.26; 10. Jeremy Sherman, 77, Bryan-19.26; 11. Jon Taylor, 93, Taylor-19.27; 12. Jerry Coons Jr., 3w, Wooldridge-19.29; 13. Tony Elliott, 94, Morales-19.39; 14. Jon Stanbrough, 97x, Norman-19.41; 15. Ron Kratz, 45, Kratz-19.44; 16. Jay Ervine, 33, Tuttle-19.55; 17. Jimmy Scott, UFO, Scott-19.66; 18. Tom Stansberry, 75, Stansberry-19.67; 19. Dave Burns, 52, Burns-19.74; 20. Tim West, 7D7, West-19.83; 21. Davey Bateman, 96, Bateman-19.83; 22. Keith Rauch, 33c, Hanley-19.92; 23. Kevin Kierce, 2, Kierce-19.97; 24. John Evans, B1, Evans-20.00; 25. Jim Richardson, 8x, Richardson-20.05; 26. Chuck Buckman Jr., 4m, Buckman-20.13; 27. Brandon Lane, 97, Lane-20.17; 28. John Williams, 26, Williams-20.31; 29. Jerry Johnston, 5D, Johnston-20.32; 30. Ben Astenius, 23, Astenius-20.33; 31. Don Sink, 2k, Sink-21.01; 32. Mike Rux Jr., 22, Rux-NT.

DASH FOR CASH: (10 laps – held on December 31) 1. Josh Pelkey, 2. Damion Gardner, 3. Cory Kruseman, 4. Charles Davis Jr., 5. Mike Martin, 6. Jesse Hockett. NT

FIRST HEAT: (10 laps – held on January 1) 1. Charles Davis Jr., 2. Tony Elliott, 3. Cory Kruseman, 4. Davey Bateman, 5. Ronnie Clark, 6. Jim Richardson, 7. Jimmy Scott, 8. Jerry Johnston. NT

SECOND HEAT: (10 laps – held on January 1) 1. Jeremy Sherman, 2. Tom Stansberry, 3. Josh Pelkey, 4. Chuck Buckman Jr., 5. Keith Rauch, 6. Ben Astenius, 7. Jon Stanbrough, 8. Damion Gardner. NT

THIRD HEAT: (10 laps – held on January 1) 1. Rick Ziehl, 2. Kevin Kierce, 3. Brandon Lane, 4. Jesse Hockett, 5. Jon Taylor, 6. Ron Kratz, 7. Dave Burns, 8. Don Sink. NT

FOURTH HEAT: (10 laps – held on January 1) 1. Jerry Coons Jr., 2. Rick Williams, 3. Tim West, 4. John Evans, 5. Mike Martin, 6. Jay Ervine, 7. John Williams. NT

SEMI: (12 laps – held on January 1) 1. Damion Gardner, 2. Jon Stanbrough, 3. Keith Rauch, 4. Mike Martin, 5. Jon Taylor, 6. Dave Burns, 7. Jim Richardson, 8. Jimmy Scott, 9. Ron Kratz, 10. Jerry Johnston, 11. John Williams, 12. Ronnie Clark, 13. Jay Ervine, 14. Ben Astenius. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps – held on January 1) 1. Josh Pelkey, 2. Damion Gardner, 3. Charles Davis Jr., 4. Rick Williams, 5. Tony Elliott, 6. Jerry Coons Jr., 7. Chuck Buckman Jr., 8. Ton Stansberry, 9. Brandon Lane, 10. Davey Bateman, 11. Rick Ziehl, 12. Mike Martin, 13. John Evans, 14. Tim West, 15. Jon Stanbrough, 16. Jeremy Sherman, 17. Keith Rauch, 18. Cory Kruseman, 19. Kevin Kierce, 20. Jesse Hockett. NT

**Brandon Lane flipped during qualifying. Mike Rux Jr. flipped during qualifying. Kevin Kierce flipped on lap 12 of the feature. Tim West flipped on lap 31 of the feature.

FEATURE LAP LEADERS: Laps 1-40 Josh Pelkey.