



# KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK May 10, 2017

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## IN THE MAKE READY CHUTE – FRIDAY, MAY 12

**FRIDAY, MAY 12.** The pits open at 4:00 and racing follows at 7:30 PM. It's another full night of racing for the five NASCAR Whelen All-American Series divisions. The crowd pleasing SUV/Truck Spectator Drag Races will entertain us during intermission. Do you have what it takes to race your street legal truck or SUV around the oval? A maximum of 16 entrants race two at a time (one lap) with the winner advancing out of each round. Then it's the best two of three runs for the final two cars. The winner takes home \$200 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher pockets \$100. Come on, you know you want to!

Friday night is Student Night: K-12 students get in FREE. If you're a high school student, plan on showing your school ID unless you look like you're 12 (an attribute rarely appreciated in high school but will come to be appreciated later in life). Six drivers will be racing for the \$500 bonus offered by Kasten Insulation Blasting & Coatings for any first-time Rent-a-Ride driver who wins the "A" feature.

**Admission for May 12:** Adults \$12, K-12 students FREE – High School Students Need School ID 5 and under FREE

**Pit Passes:** \$25.00 (NASCAR members) or \$30.00 (non-members)

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SPONSORS



As regular readers know, Kalamazoo Klash XXV and the Gary Terry "Follow Your Dreams" 125 are part of the Sweet Manufacturing Outlaw Super Late Model Series. Sweet Manufacturing has established a \$20,000-point fund to draw more racers to six marquee events at five tracks. Kalamazoo is fortunate to host two of the six races. This is a great opportunity for drivers and we salute Sweet Manufacturing's generosity for initiating and promoting this series.

The **West Michigan Toyota dealers** are the title sponsor for Kalamazoo Klash XXV featuring Kyle Busch in both the Klash and the ARCA/CRA Super Series. Toyota is also the 2017 sponsor for the Whelen All-American Series Super Stock division. We are grateful to the West Michigan Toyota dealers for making it possible to bring Kyle Busch back to Kalamazoo Speedway.



- 🍷 **Metro Toyota**
- 🍷 **Toyota of Grand Rapids**
- 🍷 **Sunshine Toyota**
- 🍷 **Kool Toyota**
- 🍷 **Crown Toyota**
- 🍷 **Toyota of Muskegon**

## LOOKING BACK: WEEK TWO (MAY 5)

Track officials are going to grow old before their time! Weather forecasts for every pre-season practice and every race night have been gloomy. Clamors for cancelling race nights start! Then the forecast, thankfully and miraculously, clears! We've had close to 100 cars for the 1<sup>st</sup> two race nights. Thanks to the drivers and the fans for joining us! We will see you Friday!

Sixteen cars raced for the checkered flag in the 15-lap **Flip Flop Cyber Stock** feature with 15 year old young Valerie Bozell (pictured in Victory Lane) ending the night with another feature win on her resume. Bozell won two features in 2016 plus holds the track lap speed record in this division. Fans saw the safety truck get a workout during the time the Flip Flops were on the track with more than a little bashing and banging going on. Grant Lofquist (driving the car Lane Head drove last year), Joe Failing, Tony LoBretto and Nick Failing rounded out the top five finishers. Chris Rose Jr., a Rent-a-Ride driver, finished his night with a solid sixth place finish. Bozell is the point leader after two events over Nick Failing (-23), Joe Failing (-28), LoBretto (-41) and Lofquist (-70). LoBretto and Lofquist won the heat races. Coupling the new weekly drivers in the division and the high number of Rent-a-Ride drivers, the Flip Flop Cyber Stocks ran traditional heat races rather than the Australian Pursuits. Valerie Bozell was fast qualifier with a time of 17.368.



Larry Richardson came out on top of a rousing late race duel with Nick Layman to win the 20-lap **Outlaw Cyber Stock** feature. Layman earned his second place finish ahead of Jeremy Young, Ryan Hufford and opening night winner Sean Elkins. Ten cars battled it out for the win. Richardson has the point lead over Layman (-18), Justin Hardy (-19), Elkins (-33) and Young (-40). Richardson captured fast time (15.623) and Layman won the Australian Pursuit race (taking the place of the traditional heat races for Friday night).

Keith Wilfong put drivers on notice that winning last week's feature was not a fluke by driving from deep in the starting lineup to finish ahead of the other 15 cars in the 30-lap **Pro Stock** feature. The pack stayed tight through the midpoint of the race providing the kind excitement this division offers each and every week. Zack Cook ran an impressive second ahead of Greg Brown, fast qualifier Kyle Ribble (14.668) and Brad VanAvery. Bob Miller and Cook won the Australian Pursuits. Wilfong holds a very slim point advantage over Brown (-4), Cook (-17), Ribble (-20) and Miller (-41).



The **Super Stocks** have new energy and are emerging as a race to watch this year! Following in last week's footsteps, the 18 Super Stock drivers brought us a great 30-lap feature race. Nick Pressler (pictured with car owner, James Brown) drove to victory lane for the second week in a row with five-time champion Buddy Head finishing as the runner-up ahead of fast qualifier Keegan Dykstra (13.544), Adam VanAvery and 4-time track champion Kenny Head. Seventeen year old Matt Maurer made his first appearance of the year and

finished a credible 10<sup>th</sup>. Eric McGlothlen entered the night as the points leader but retired from the race before the midpoint and finished 16<sup>th</sup>. Buddy Head hasn't found himself in victory lane in 2017, but he ended the night with a narrow points lead over Pressler (-8), Dykstra (-15), Kenny Head (-19) and McGlothlen (-46). Buddy Head and AJ Foote won the Australian Pursuit races.

Adam Terry (pictured with dad, Chris) made an outside pass on a late race double file restart to take the lead and never look back to pick up the win in the **Outlaw Super Late Model** 40-lap feature. Terry's win over Matt Frazier, Todd Harrington, Tom Thomas and Doug True resonated with the crowd as fans and family flooded the track to offer their congratulations. True and Rick Senneker (6<sup>th</sup> place) were back after a crash in the Intimidator 100 that ended their opening nights on the hook of a wrecker. Mark Shook was fast qualifier (12.718); Matt Frazier and Jeff Bozell won the Australian Pursuit races. Defending champion Shook now holds a slim point lead over Frazier (-3), Terry (-11), Thomas (-16) and Harrington (-20).



## PARADE OF THE QUARTER MIDGETS



The quarter midgets from the Little Kalamazoo Speedway took a few turns around the track on Friday night. One of the drivers, seven year old Hunter Looney, started racing at the Little Kalamazoo Speedway last year as a six year old. Proud dad Terry Lombardi is pictured along with Looney and his Incredible Hulk #17. Drivers may practice as young as 4 1/2 but cannot race competitively until they reach the age of five. These midget machines can reach up to 40 mph on a track only slightly longer than 1/10 of a mile. Recent graduates to the "big" track include Taylor Sexton and Makena Snyder.

## RENT-A-RIDES ARE BACK FOR THE SEASON

The Rent-a-Rides took to the track for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2017 with five drivers (below) joining the field with the Flip Flop Cyber Stocks. The drivers noted the mandatory Wednesday orientation/practice was a great way to acclimate to the car and the track. A few pre-race jitters were in evidence but the Rent-A-Ride drivers were ready to take to the oval and their friends and family were in a skybox cheering them on. On May 12 a full field of 6 Rent-a-Rides will be participating. Says track owner, Gary Howe, after the Flip Flop Cyber Stocks division completed their race, "I don't know if our 12 Rent-a-Ride cars are going to be enough this year after the shellacking the cars took tonight".



From the left: Jason Carter, Chris Rose Jr., Chris Rose Sr., Zach Rose & Colin Latislaw



Individuals 18 and over can "Rent-a-Ride" for an authentic racing experience on an authentic track. The Speedway provides the car (equipped with an automatic transmission), a mid-week orientation/practice session, all in-car safety equipment, pit passes for the driver and the 2 driver-provided crew members, a safety/crew chief plus commemorative photos. On race day the driver qualifies the car during the hot lap session, races in a heat race and competes in the 15-lap feature race in the entry level Flip Flop Cyber Stock division.

The cost is an all-inclusive \$295. Flyers are available at the ticket window or call Kenny at the Speedway office (269) 692-2423.



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