



KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK June 21, 2017



IN THIS EDITION



WE RACE FRIDAY NIGHT (JUNE 23)

UPCOMING #FASTFRIDAYS

LOOKING BACK:

GARY TERRY "FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS" 125 &
THE PRO/STREET STOCK RUMBLE

WE RACE FRIDAY NIGHT: JUNE 23

Friday night will be packed full of racing. Two types of modifieds PLUS four (4) of the regular weekly racing divisions will be taking to the oval (the Outlaw Super Late Models are taking the night off) AND it's teen night (which means teens 13-15 get in for just 2 bucks). Come on out and catch the action.



4:00 Pits Open

5:00 Qualifying Begins

7:30 Racing Begins



Founded in 1989, the NSTA Top Speed Modified Tour bills itself as the nation's premier touring asphalt modified series. The Tour features open-wheel cars with extra downforce to produce high-speeds and close racing. We haven't hosted the Tour in quite some time, so you won't want to miss it. Drivers from across Michigan, Indiana and Ohio are expected to compete. The Tour was one of six

competing at the Inaugural U.S. Nationals of Short Track Racing at Bristol Motor Speedway on May 23. Tour drivers view Kalamazoo Speedway as a driver's track with fast speeds and multiple grooves of racing. It promises to produce lots of action and side-by-side racing. The modifieds will headline the June 23 program with the Turn One 50.





Sponsored by Turn One High Performance Steering Systems out of Saginaw, the early part of the 2017 season has been dominated by Ohio's Chad Poole. Poole has racked up victories at Anderson

Speedway and South Bend Speedway in Indiana and at the famed Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee. Poole comes to Kalamazoo determined to win his fourth straight race. He'll face stiff competition from a strong field of drivers that includes Lucas Oil Raceway winner Blake Rowe. Former Tour Champions Bob Sibila Jr. and Jonathan Martin are poised to reach victory lane for the first time this season. A talented field of rookies is looking to make names for themselves, among them Michigan's Loren Short and Evan Foster. Several local heroes, including Mike "Bubba Brooks" and Doug True are ready to defend their home turf against the touring stars.

The Perfit Vintage Modified Super Series presented by ARP is made up of open-wheel cars with pre-1948 production car bodies. Formerly the GLOW Modifieds, this Series last visited Kalamazoo Speedway in 2016 and thrilled fans with both their racing and vintage looks.



Along with the modifieds, we've got your favorite cars and drivers ready to get back to racing. With losing two weekly race nights to rain, tight points races in all the divisions make June 23 and the races that follow pivotal for season championships.



Clockwise: Bob Bliss leads the Super Stocks; Health Bronkema and Steve Smith at the front of the Pro Stocks; Doug Nelson (51) and Christian Wymbelt run neck in neck in the Outlaw Cyber Stocks; Phil Novotny found himself precariously perched between two Rent-a-Rides in the Flip Flop Cyber Stocks.

Admission for June 23: Adults \$12; 6-15 \$2; 5 and under FREE
Pit Passes: \$25.00 (NASCAR members) or \$30.00 (non-members)

UPCOMING #FASTFRIDAYS (and other days!)

The 4th of July?? Already? Celebrate part of your 4th of July holiday with us on **Saturday, July 1.**



After a night of thrills, spills, smash 'em ups, monster trucks, bus races, a mini-enduro and all sorts of mayhem we'll fire off one of Kalamazoo Speedway's trademark "light up the night" fireworks show to entertain you and your family. Kids (and their parents) can board a bus before the festivities begin to take a few laps around the track and there will be monster truck rides (board the specially outfitted truck just beyond the pit entry gate).

The program starts at 7:30 sharp. Don't be caught in the long line of latecomers!

Come early! Grab dinner or a snack. Some ice cream or something to drink. Check out what's hot at the gift shop. There's plenty to do and you'll be assured of not missing a moment of the fun.



Less than a week after the 4th of July celebration we return to our regular schedule on **Friday, July 7.** All divisions get back to work. It's motorcycle night; motorcycle drivers get in free and take a few turns around the track during intermission. Before the races begin we'll be hosting the first-ever scooter races for kids.

LOOKING BACK: JUNE 14 RACES



It goes without saying that no one thought a deluge was a fitting addition to the second running of the Gary Terry "Follow Your Dreams" 125. Warm water freely flowed over shoes on the midway (pictured) and 7 inch rivers had to be forded in the parking lot. Somehow it all seemed a rather extreme way to address the heat that plagued everyone earlier and more than a few commented that the evening was strangely entertaining despite being soaked to the skin. Most folks tried to make the best of a most unfortunate situation and we are all truly grateful.

Thank you to our sponsors, GT Products for the featured event and Allstar Performance for the Pro/Street Stock Rumble.



There was no perfect solution when it came to either finishing the feature race on Wednesday night or moving the remaining 113 laps to Thursday. Half the field of drivers advised us they couldn't return on Thursday, so a decision was made to



dry the track and race. Thanks to Kevin (aka Kevin the Posterguy), you can watch the video of the Gary Terry "Follow Your Dreams" 125 by going to the Speedway's Facebook page and looking for Kevin's post. There have been close to 3,000 views already. Check out Kevin's vintage metal posters and other work at Marty Jones Gift Shop on the Speedway midway.

In August 2015, powerhouse driver, Jeff Ganus, earned a coveted spot on the Kalamazoo Klash trophy. He finished second to Tyler Roahrig at the 2016 Intimidator 100 in April. May brought a horrific motorcycle accident that put him in the hospital. Early reports were grim but within a day, family advised Kalamazoo Speedway he was antsy to get out of the hospital and mend his fractured foot. Mending he did and while starting the 2016 Kalamazoo Klash, he retired early. This year Ganus returned to the Speedway for the Lane Automotive “Tri-Segment” 75, winning Segment 1 and ultimately finishing second to Mark Shook. Now Ganus has added another race to his envious resume by winning the second running of the Gary Terry “Follow Your Dreams” 125.

The race started out under threatening skies and a hope the race would finish before the storm hit. This was not to be and the caution flag was thrown 12 laps in as Harold Fair Jr spun out due to deteriorating track conditions. When the race resumed nearly three hours later, Adam Terry and Ganus led the rest of the pack. The rain not only powerwashed the track, it also cooled it down, changing the character of the surface. With periodic spits of rain, it was no wonder that drivers made every lap count once the rain delay ended. Would the race go the distance? Twenty-five laps in Ganus was in the lead followed by Terry, Mark Shook, Fair Jr and Steve Needles. In another 25 laps, the leaderboard had changed with Ganus still in the lead and Shook, Andy Bozell, Needles and Tyler Roahrig battling it out. A disappointed Terry left the race with mechanical issues shortly after that mark. Roahrig made fast work of his competition and set his sights on Ganus. Ganus and Roahrig (fast qualifier) played cat and mouse through the rest of the race, Roahrig capitalizing on making up ground through turn 2 and Ganus shooting through turns 3 and 4. Roahrig made a play in the final lap and finished mere feet out of victory lane. Mark Shook and Andy Bozell had their own race for third and fourth places going on with Shook prevailing in that duel. David Stremme moved steadily through the field and finished fifth.

Ganus had nothing but heartfelt praise for Roahrig in Victory Lane saying Roahrig was awesome and he was glad to finally prevail over the 24. Roahrig told Speed 51, “He did a pretty good job keeping me behind him, but wasn’t blocking by any means. It was a good, hard but clean race and that’s all I can ask for.”



From top: Jeff Ganus celebrates winning the 2017 Gary Terry “Follow Your Dreams” 125

Shawn McLaughlin, Co-Race Director, presents Tyler Roahrig with the fast qualifier trophy.

David Stremme and Grand Marshall, Ashley Stremme, reigning Mrs. USA

The Pro Stock/Street Stock Rumble was punctuated by cautions and black clouds that did not bode well for later. Still, no one took cover. There was intense racing going on! With 12 laps of the 50 complete, Keith Wilfong and Greg Brown led over Matt Corliss, Buddy Head (fast qualifier driving Greg Haynes' 81) and Tyler Hufford. With 14 laps remaining it was Corliss, Head, Wilfong, Brown and veteran Brent Hook. After a caution with three laps to go, the field was compacted and at the start of the final lap Head was in front with Corliss, Wilfong, Hufford and Brown. Head and Corliss are two tough competitors and weren't going to give an inch coming out of the 4th turn heading to the finish line. They made contact which continued down the front stretch and over the finish line with Corliss crossing first. Wilfong held on to third followed by Tyler Hufford, Hook, Brown, John Foote, Jr., Will Raber, Shane Miller and Zach Westdorp.

Brad VanAvery won the Pro/Street Stock "B" feature.



Tech Talk

Finally! The Fox Spec Shocks are on the shelves at Lane Automotive. As regular readers know, Kalamazoo Speedway has been working with Fox Shocks and Lane Automotive to develop a high-quality spec shock suitable for any top tier class of pavement racecars. The Fox developed shock is a premium aluminum threaded bodied rebound adjustable shock that is sealed and cannot be opened for re-valving or tampering. This shock sells for \$249.99 at Lane Automotive and is comparable to shocks that range from \$450 to \$1,000 per corner. Kalamazoo Speedway, Fox and Lane Automotive view this option as a major cost cutting tool in the battle against the runaway costs.

Kalamazoo Speedway will be offering a 50 pound weight break as well as a 2% left side weight break for teams that choose to run on these shocks. Super Lates and Super Stocks will have better than half the season to run this spec shock if they so choose. The effective date for the weight breaks will be Friday (June 23) for the Super Stocks and July 7 for the Outlaw Super Late Models.

Drivers trying out the shock will be the test pilots with the larger question being whether a spec shock rule in 2018 would be suitable for Kalamazoo Speedway, or other short tracks in the tri state area that have expressed interest. Please contact the Speedway office with any questions. Specific part numbers are listed on the Speedway website.



THE PLACE TO BE FOR FAST, CLEAN, FAMILY FUN!

Photographs by A. Fisher, NSTA Top Speed Modifieds
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for most of the Gary Terry "Follow Your Dreams" 125 and the
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