



KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK July 26, 2017



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FRIDAY, JULY 28 AT THE RACES

- 🏁 All Divisions Race
- 🏁 Orrin B. Hayes "Outlaw CJ" Jeep Night
- 🏁 Teen Night (13-15 year olds get in for \$2)

The countdown to Season Championship Night begins. Whether it's racing for the love of racing, trying to secure a share of the points fund that goes to the top 10 in each division, winning just ONE feature in 2017 or going for the Season Championship, the Outlaw Super Late Models, Super Stocks, Pro Stocks, Outlaw Cyber Stocks



and the Flip Flop Cyber Stocks/Rent-a-Rides will be racing on Friday night.

Come on out and support your favorite drivers before the long off-season starts! Friday night is the **Orrin B. Hayes "Outlaw CJ" Jeep Night** so we'll have Jeeps taking a few laps around the track during intermission. Jeep drivers get in free! Plus it's **Teen Night** (13-15 year olds get in for 2 bucks).

Admission for Friday, July 28: Adults \$12; 6-15 \$2; 5 and under FREE

Not an Outlaw CJ! →
But great in the Spectator Drags!



UPCOMING #FASTFRIDAYS (and other days!)

Friday, August 4: All divisions are racing! There are only two nights of divisional racing left before Season Championship Night on Friday, August 25. All five divisions race plus it's the return of the truck and SUV **Spectator Drags!** Do YOU have what it takes?



Wednesday, August 9, it's **Kalamazoo Klash XXV** featuring Kyle Busch, sponsored by the West Michigan Toyota dealers. Practice is free to the public and runs from 5:30 – 8:30 PM on **Tuesday, August 8**. Pit passes are \$20 for Tuesday. A two day pass is \$55; skip the lines when you arrive

on Wednesday! **Wednesday, August 9** is race day. Hot laps begin at 1:30 PM and racing starts at 7:00. There are a few tickets left for the Exclusive Trackside Experience with Kyle Busch for August 9. Tickets are \$100 each and include seating on the party deck for the race (no taping blankets!), an autograph session with Kyle Busch, dinner and a limited edition T-Shirt.



LOOKING BACK: July 20

A big thank you to Auto Value Parts Stores for sponsoring the July 20 night of racing featuring the King of the Wing National Sprintcar Series making their first ever trip to Kalamazoo Speedway. The sponsors were 100 strong on the party deck and lent a hand to this landmark night; young Bryce helped out in the flag stand with Lindsey, Mike and Dylan doing a ride-a-long in the pace car.



The **King of the Wing** Sprints put on a crowd-pleasing show of speed and passing. Drivers who we usually only read about were present coming from all the compass points of the US plus Canada. Kyle Edwards (Tennessee) led things off by setting a quick time of 10.634. John Geisler (Idaho), Jason Blonde (Michigan) and Troy DeCaire (Florida) won the heat races. During the feature, a spin caused a caution one lap in and a race leader flamed out in a later lap. DeCaire moved to the lead shortly after the restart and dominated the race from then forward. Despite the field coming back together with a couple of late race cautions, DeCaire was so

dominant in the 40-lap feature that he sprinted out to a comfortable lead each time and took the checkered flag. The race marked the 1st Annual Gordy Hubbard Memorial Race. Jason Blonde, Jason Conn (British Columbia), Derek Snyder (Michigan) and Tristen Spiers (Oregon) rounded out the top five.

Mark Shook, fresh off winning the **Outlaw Super Late Model** feature on July 14, powered his way through the field to take the 40-lap feature. Five laps into the race Todd Harrington, second in points coming into the race (-72), found himself in the wall and leaving on a wrecker. Bozell took the lead before the race was half over with Tyler Heeney and Doug True challenging. At the half way point, Bozell continued his lead with Matt Frazier, Heeney, True and Tom Thomas on his tail. Five laps later Mark Shook, having moved to the 4th position, was challenging the leaders. True wrested the lead from Bozell and Shook set his sights on True. Bozell went into the wall on lap 7 and was done for the night with Shook taking the lead on the restart. Shook held on



with True, Frazier, Adam Terry and Thomas rounding out the top five. Heeney finished a solid 6th and Rick Senneker, back after leading the July 7 race only to depart with engine trouble late in the race, claimed the 7th spot. Thomas and Bozell won the heat races. Harrington had quick time (13.015). Shook extended his points lead over Thomas (-116), Harrington (-123), Terry (-153) and True (-214).

The **Super Stocks** also raced for season championship points in their 30-lap feature. Buddy Head experienced none of the car trouble he experienced last week when he nearly missed the feature and like Shook, repeated his trip to Victory Lane. Head claimed fast time of 13.750 and Adam VanAvery and Keegan Dykstra won the heats. It was not a good night for drivers coming into the race second in points. Dykstra, like Harrington, had success early in the evening and left the race on the back of a wrecker with 8 laps completed. Head came from the tail of the field to take the lead from Nick Pressler with about a third of the race left. The Pressler brothers battled for second and third with Nick Pressler edging out Cory at the wire. Kenny Head and Adam VanAvery battled it out for their final standing in the top 5 with Head prevailing there. Buddy Head maintains his comfortable points lead over Cory Pressler (-141), Keegan Dykstra (-163), AJ Foote (-177) and Nick Pressler (178). The West Michigan Toyota Dealers are sponsoring the Super Stocks this year and Victory Lane was placed in front of their backstretch wall sign for a sporty and different look.



PART II of DOUBLEHEADER WEEK: July 21

In the morning the weather looked like it would be favorable but warm. By 3:00 there were storms forming across Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois, threatening an arrival time much earlier than had been predicted. Better safe than sorry, the race events were rearranged and it was a night of features only. The sky looked mighty menacing a few times and numerous time a few raindrops escaped from the dark clouds to make track officials anxious, but not enough fell to impact racing. Rain hit in surrounding areas but left the track dry until close to 30 minutes after the final flag flew.

There is a significant amount of crossover in the Cybers/Midwest Compacts but if a driver has been racing at the Zoo, we're claiming editor's prerogative and calling them OURS.



The **Midwest Compact Touring Series** "A" 30-lap feature saw the Zoo's Paul Bittle (right) drive away with a fast time of 15.435. Bittle charged through the field in the feature but was only able to claim the 3rd place finish in the end. The race went green to lap 25 when Jake Albright spun and Don Rufener plowed into him. Both were able to power away on their own but were done for the night. That lap proved difficult to get beyond and after a couple of restarts, Corey Woods resumed his place in the lead and maintained it through the end of the race. "Our" Woods (pictured) was followed by Bo Hoelscher, Bittle, Curtis Gray (with a

nice recovery from a bobble late in the race) and our Pete Doxey.



In the 15-lap **“B” feature** the 8 car field spread out fairly quickly with the Zoo’s Adam VanAvery and Will Slaughter making a last lap dash to the checkered. VanAvery won that battle followed by Slaughter, Ryan Osborne, Scott Hopson and our Kenny Wright.

The **Zoo Cybers vs Burg Stocks 20 lap “A” feature** fielded 18 cars. The 38 of Adam VanAvery, having just won the Midwest Compact Touring Series “B” feature, stayed put in Victory Lane causing fans to wonder if he needed a push or whether he needed a couple more moments to savor his victory, but as it turns out, he was a contender in this feature and was waiting for the signal from track officials to join the field. He started in the front row with the Zoo’s Tony LoBretto. A complete restart was needed when a dance between Zach Moon and Ryan Osburne broke out. Osburne was done for the night and Moon went on to finish 7th. Paul Bittle (fast qualifier at 15.978) used the caution to dart into the pits for some fast adjustments. Midwest Compact Touring Series “A” feature winner, Corey Woods, got a push into the pits and was done for the night. Bittle, starting last, had moved up to 6th place in the matter of a few laps; the trip to the pits during the caution clearly having been effective. Tyler McGhan put up a tough challenge on Bittle, but Bittle prevailed. LoBretto finished 14th in the car that Josh Nyberg is such a storm trooper in. McGhan finished a strong second, followed by Don Rufener III, Danny Payne and our Ryan Hufford.



In the 15-lap **“B” feature**, the Zoo’s Brandon French and Kevin Kester shared a little kiss at the finish line during the 1st lap, and while the race stayed green, neither driver finished the race. Matt Elsey (center) took the checkered flag followed by Elsey’s car owner and driver in her own right, Christina Rantz, TJ Decker, Curtis Towne and Bryan Sawyer.



The **GT Products Pro Stock Bash** started veteran



Brent Hook and Wil Raber in the front row of the 21 cars that started the 35-lap feature. Point leader Zack Cook and Greg Brown (-4) started side-by-side in 10th and 9th, respectively. As usual the Pro Stock race was intense and the field remained a hard pack as drivers waited for their moment to advance. Ten laps into the feature Hook still led and Cook and Brown were mired in the pack with nowhere to go. With 12 laps in the books, both finally broke free and were on the move. Brown had moved up to 5th but was tagged with a 3-car incident that brought out the caution. Zach Westdorp kept his head and Bob Miller was towed from the field. With 15 laps to go and clean up underway, a few more sprinkles reminded us of who really was in charge of this race. But again, the sprinkles didn’t amount to anything and the race went green again. On the restart, Heath Bronkema spun through no fault of his own and the caution came out again. And then again when Josh Roberts didn’t make it out of turn 4. Cook passed Hook with



less than 10 to go and held the lead through the checkered. Good sports Brown and Barry Jenkins made the trip to Victory Lane to offer their congratulations. Hook finished second followed by Wil Raber, Barry Jenkins and Keith Wilfong. Brown managed a 6th place finish. Zack Cook took quick time at 14.746. Cook extended his lead over Brown (-26), Ribble (-97), Wilfong (-108) and Jenkins (-179).

THE ZOO MAKES THE NEWS

The August Speedway Illustrated Magazine has a “Flashback” article on the 2006 Kalamazoo Klash won by Johnny Benson Jr. Cool pics and article! The purse was a smooth \$25,000 (!) and the race drew 73 Outlaw Super Late Models.

LAB RESULTS

In a tech report recently posted on the Speedway website, Gary Howe (Speedway owner/promoter) repeated the prohibition of any form of tire alteration, whether through chemical soaking or siping (both of which soften the tire). A random check of two drivers’ tires was conducted following the July 14th Outlaw Super Late Model feature. The top 5 finishing cars all had tires that passed the Durometer check. The Blue Ridge Labs’ report for both of the submitted tire samples is available on the website. There were NO issues noted. Howe notes that the Speedway will continue to monitor compliance for the remainder of the year.



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