



KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK August 23, 2017



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THIS FRIDAY: AUGUST 25 AT THE RACES SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT



We started the countdown at the beginning of August and now it's here — the last NASCAR Whelen All-American Series races of 2017.

It's Season Championship Night. September is all "post" season events: the Call of the Wild, the Night of Destruction and the 3-day Super Shoe Nationals. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.



For all but the Outlaw Super Late Models, the feature races will be 5 laps longer. For instance, the Pro Stocks will run a 35-lap feature rather than the usual 30. For the Super Lates it's a 100 lap season finale. No heats will be run, which means that a perfect points night is 150 (fast time [50 points] and the feature [100 points]). That means if any driver leads a division by more than 150 points, we'd already have our season champion. That isn't the case in any of the divisions. Three of the point leaders have a healthy lead; in one division the lead is

a mere 28 points and in one division there's a tie. Regardless of who wins the 2017 championship in each division, there is also a trophy at stake for winning the final race of the season. Do not miss it!

Flip Flop Cyber Stocks' Nick Failing and Tony LoBretto (photo at top of page) go into Friday night with 1224 points each. Really, what are the odds? Points earned in qualifying will give one or the other an advantage and they both will have to contend with a handful of Rent-a-Rides during the 20-lap season finale feature. It should be a great race to start off the Championship Night.



In the **Outlaw Cyber Stocks**, Larry Richardson is up 75 points over Jeremy Young with Nick Layman 127 back. Richardson has a comfortable though not insurmountable lead. This would be a first championship for all three men.

In the **Pro Stocks** Zack Cook (of the racing Sexton family) has a 28 point lead over Greg Brown. Brown finished second in the Pro Stock division last year, a mere 14 points down and isn't aiming to go home in second place again. Both Cook and Brown (pictured on the front page) have the passion and skill so it's anyone's guess on who will accumulate enough points to take the championship. Neither driver will want to start the race in the middle of the pack. Tight pack racing in this division has been the rule all year and it isn't unusual for it to take 15 laps to before real advancement can take place. Kyle Ribble could surprise everyone and turn his 115 point deficit into a championship. Regardless, it will be a must-see race and a first-time champion will emerge. Anything can happen!

In the **Outlaw Super Late Models**, Mark Shook leads Todd Harrington by 144 points. Short of a total collapse on Friday, Shook likely has his second championship sewed up. However, Tom Thomas (-145) is looking to move ahead of Harrington (-144) for second place. Doug True (-245) and Adam Terry's (-211) will race for the 3rd and 4th spots. True was piloting a borrowed car last week following a calamitous incident at the Klash that finished off his #93 for the rest of the season.

In the **Super Stocks**, Buddy Head has all but wrapped up a 5th consecutive championship in the Super Stocks and his 6th overall. His nearest competitor is Cory Pressler (-148) and while it is mathematically possible for Pressler to take the championship, it would require a meltdown of epic proportions on Buddy Head's part. Move back to the 3rd through 6th positions and there will be some hard racing going on. Kenny Head (-204) is currently in the 3rd spot with three drivers on his heels: Keegan Dykstra (-209), and AJ Foote and Nick Pressler both down -228.

Admission for August 25: Adults \$15; 13-15 \$8; 6-12 \$2; 5 and under FREE

THE KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY SEPTEMBER POST-SEASON — IN THE MAKE READY CHUTE



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2017

Saturday, September 2 is the Call of the Wild, the Speedway's Run What Ya Brung night.

One look at the cars and it's evident the rule book will not be enforced!

Which feature a driver races in is totally dependent on

speed, not what kind of car it is. Likely the biggest draw for the Call of the Wild is the 30 minutes comprising the Raceceiver Challenge when the 5 fastest cars from final practice take to the track one at a time and attempt to break the world speed record for a 3/8 mile oval. Last year, Andy Bozell put up a mind numbing world record speed of 9.465 (pictured with track photographer, Woody of racingwoodys). That's 142.631 miles per hour and 209.19 feet per second. Think about it. (Rain date of September 3)



Saturday, September 14 is the fall classic of pure fun and entertainment — the Night of Destruction.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017



SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2017

Sunday, September 24 put on your running shoes. At 2:00 PM sharp the rifle will sound and the 2017 Shotgun Footrace to select your campsite for Super Shoe will start. No early staking! Haven't spent enough time in the gym or managed to quit smoking and aren't sure you can run fast enough to secure your desired location? Bring in a ringer!

Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1. It's the Super Shoe Nationals "31". (Rain dates of October 7-8, 2017)

LAST WEEK AT THE RACES: AUGUST 18

The **Flip Flop Cyber Stocks** lived up to their name and ran "the other way" when the green flag waved for the 18 cars in 15-lap feature. Kevin Sweat (to the right) drove to his first win at Kalamazoo Speedway by catching and passing Tony LoBretto at the halfway point. Denver Sweat (left) finished behind LoBretto followed by Nick Failing and Brandon Sweat (next to dad). Todd Watson, in his first appearance at the Zoo this year was fast qualifier and finished 16th. Grant Lofquist and Tony LoBretto won the heat races. Valerie Bozell was involved in a crash and could not complete the race. The Rent-a-Ride drivers all placed in the top 10 (Larry West [6], Kevin Leeman [9] and Rick Basarabski [10]).



Fast qualifier Pete Doxey (pictured) picked up the **Outlaw Cyber Stock** 20-lap feature starting 16th out of the 17 car field running in the feature. This is Doxey's second win of the season. Taylor Sexton led the race for the first 9 laps before Nick Layman got past her. Doxey was 7th with 7 laps to go and took the lead with 3 to go. Jeremy Young came in second followed by defending champion Dan Rigoni, Nick Layman and point leader Larry Richardson; Sexton finished 6th. Cole Roelofs and Makenna Snyder won the heat races.



Tyler Hufford (pictured with his gang) prevailed over the field of 20 in the 30-lap **Pro Stock** feature, starting in the front row and holding his position against stiff competition. On the 1st lap a three-wide dash for position put John Russell on his side racing down the front stretch and Greg Haynes #81 being demolished. Alan Marcott finished just 0.169 seconds behind Hufford in second place. A hard charging Greg Brown finished third trying to reduce the difference in points between he and points leader Zack Cook (who finished 5th). Kyle Ribble finished 4th. Hufford and Russell won the heat races while Cook was fast qualifier.

Five-time champion Buddy Head (pictured with his parents and wife, Aaron) collected the victory in the field of 16 **Super Stock** drivers in the 30-lap feature. Cory Pressler came in second followed by brother Nick Pressler, four-time track champion Kenny Head and John Long. The 2015 Outlaw Cyber Stock champion Keegan Dykstra came in 6th. Josh Trammel had the early lead with Nick Pressler taking the lead with 23 laps to go. Brother Cory moved into a position to challenge and by the halfway point, Buddy Head had taken the lead and once there, put the pack behind him. The Presslers and Kenny Head battled it out for 2nd through 4th places; even a late race caution didn't faze Buddy Head. Buddy Head set quick time while Phil Bozell and Cory Pressler won the heat races.



Phil Bozell (pictured), unlucky in his first race of the night in the Super Stocks, picked up the win in the 40-lap feature for the **Outlaw Super Late Models** that saw 21 drivers competing. Harrington came in second followed by Doug True, fast qualifier Adam Terry and defending champion Mark Shook. Chris Koslek and Doug Rodanhisler won the heats. The field included 4 drivers who ran their first points races at the Speedway this year: Craig Everage, Rodanhisler and Koslek. Chris Nash qualified and ran in his heat race but didn't make the feature.

A BIT MORE ABOUT KALAMAZOO KLASH XXV

Some of our photos weren't ready when Track Talk was published last week, so we have a few more things to say before we start planning for Kalamazoo Klash XXVI!



Again, thank you to the West Michigan Toyota Dealers for sponsoring Kalamazoo Klash XXV. Pictured at left is Brad Cole, Metro-Toyota (Kalamazoo on Stadium Drive) during the Dealers' Meet & Greet with Kyle Busch in the scoring tower before Tuesday's practice.

We want to offer up a huge thanks to Kyra Donald Racing for the fireworks displayed at the Kalamazoo Klash! Not only was the donation generous but it also added something extra to the 25th running of the Klash.



NASCAR driver Butch Miller, a Michigan native, was the Klash Grand Marshall. Miller ran in the top NASCAR Cup race divisions and was a champion in the (now-gone) American Speed Association stock car series. Pictured below, Miller gives the command to start your engines to Klash drivers from the flag stand.



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Photo credits to A. Fisher and RW Motorsports Marketing