



KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK October 4, 2017



Pictured, the start of the Super Shoe Nationals XXXI, won 75 laps later by Jeff Ganus.

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With the final checkered flag having waved for 2017, Track Talk moves to its monthly schedule for the off-season. Look for Track Talk the 2nd Wednesday of the month until next April.

SUPER SHOE WEEKEND

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Friday, September 29. Fall was in the air! And so was smoke from the campfires keeping everyone warm with Jack Frost threatening to pay a visit. The unrelenting heat of the previous week was gone leaving crisp fall weather with temperatures in the 40's and 50's at night. But we couldn't complain – no rain!



Cars took to the track at 3:00 PM on Friday for two of the four rounds of group qualifying. The schedule allowed for a couple of sessions for latecomers before calling it a night at 10:00 PM.

Saturday, September 30. (Part I) Rounds three and four of qualifying ran from 10:45 – 3:40 with the following results. Paul Bittle captured fast time in the first session but crashed in a subsequent session ending his Super Shoe weekend.

QUALIFYING – TOP 10 (SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2017)

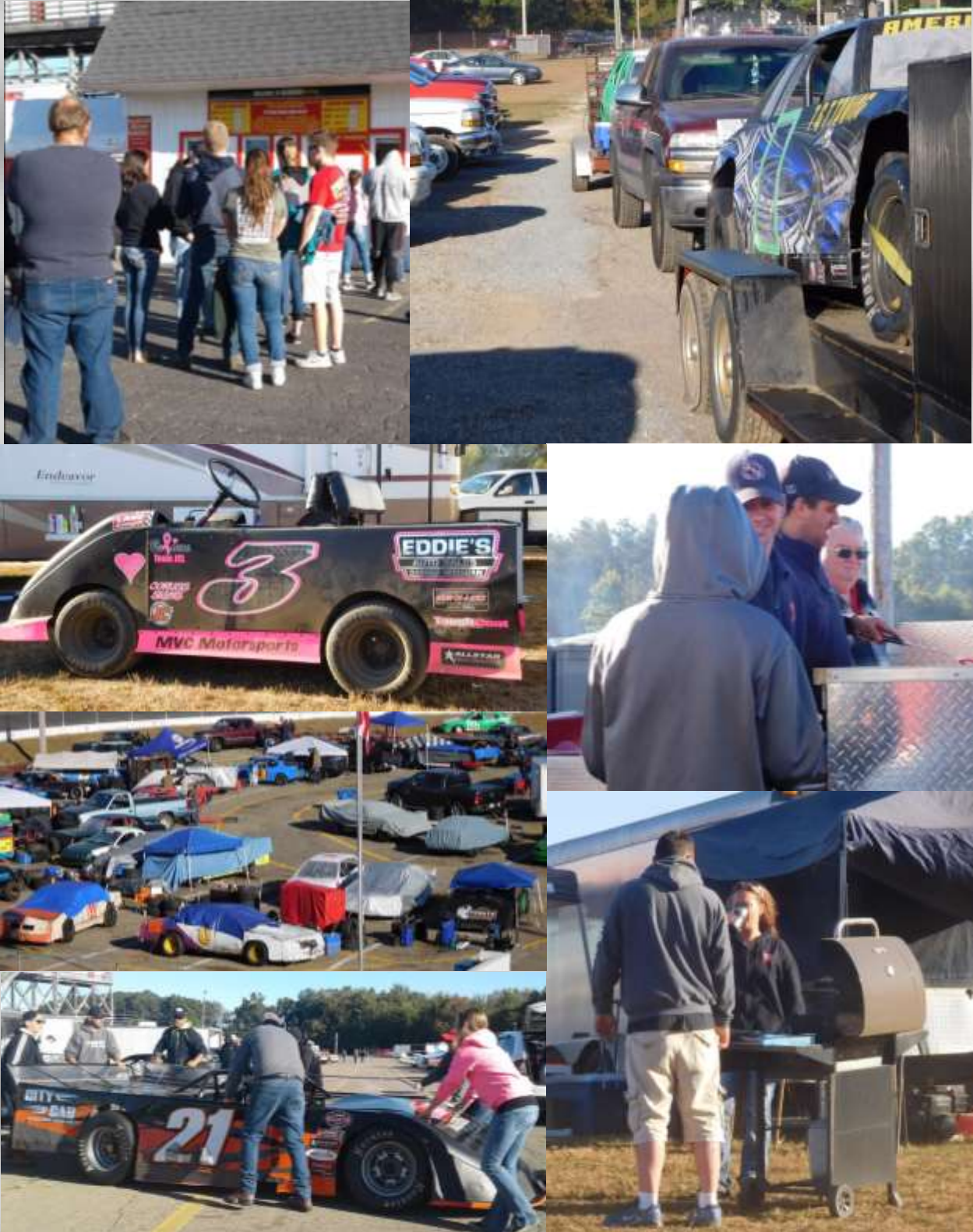
Rank	Front Wheel Drive		Rear Wheel Drive	
	Driver	Lap Time	Driver	Lap Time
1	Paul Bittle	15.150	Matt Frazier	12.614
2	Dan Rigoni	15.230	Mark Shook	12.667
3	Todd Metz Jr.	15.237	Carson Hovevar	12.822
4	Tyler McGhan	15.303	Brian Ross	12.895
5	Jeff Sayles	15.305	Billy Shannon	12.921
6	Jeremy Young	15.368	Jeff Ganus	12.952
7	Dave Leonard Jr.	15.504	Brandon Zachary	12.921
8	Tim Pletz	15.592	Dustin Lundgren	13.013
9	Ricky LaDuke	15.635	Corey Lyman	13.016
10	Cole Roelofs	15.665	Andrew DeVreese	13.030

Day One photos.



Clockwise (like the Flip Flop Cyber Stocks!): Golf Cars Plus carts were in high demand; Woof!; some of the 189 cars onsite Friday night are lined up ready to qualify (FWD followed by the RWD); Will Slaughter is the first driver to need a tow during Super Shoe XXXI (and was done for the weekend); drivers listen to Gary Howe over the PA during the drivers' meeting; AJ Foote Racing golf cart (we are impressed!!!)

Day Two (Saturday) started early and ended about 11:00 PM.



Clockwise: Drivers who arrived early Saturday morning buying their pit passes; early arrivals were stretched all the way to the front gates; Alamo Fire & Rescue cooks breakfast for hungry campers; campers getting an early start to the morning; Billy Shannon's crew starts its prep for the day; infield cars waiting for their drivers to get on with the day; we found another decked out golf cart and heard Jake Hopwood also sported one of these very cool carts!

Saturday, September 30. (Part II) And after 4 rounds of qualifying, the heat races started at 4:30. The FWD cars were up first (6 laps) and went caution free until the 3rd heat, finishing with 6 of the 10 heats going caution free. The RWD cars (8 laps) didn't make it out of Heat 1 without the yellow waving and finally hit their stride by Heat 5; in the end going 6 for 11 caution free. The scoreboard cracked under the pressure of the fast-pace Gary Howe set for the night but got straightened out. A number of drivers suffered the dreaded curse of exceeding their breakout time (going faster than their adjusted qualifying speed) and were penalized for it.

HEAT RACES – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Heat	Front Wheel Drive		Rear Wheel Drive	
	Driver	Lap Time	Driver	Lap Time
1	Blake Piper	18.953	John Culp	16.303
2	Andrew Peters	18.331	Steve Roden	15.704
3	Andy Sutton	18.006	Steve Potter	15.277
4	Brian Sawyer	17.245	Steve Smith	14.930
5	Ed Clawson	17.057	Sie Sharp	14.957
6	Tod Watson	16.485	Scott Gary	14.921
7	Scott Elsey	16.542	Brandon Maynard	14.474
8	Chad Overbeek	16.435	Tim Craig	14.084
9	Doug Smith	16.044	Bob Bliss	14.146
10	Wayne Stack	15.629	Nick Stremme	13.431
11	N/A		Nick Pressler	12.897

The fastest lap time posted by the winner of each heat was, in most instances, not the fastest lap posted during the heat. It was a good night to be named Nick or Steve in the Rear Wheel Drive heats.

Saturday, September 30. (Part III) And still there was more!! Next up? The last chance races for the B, C and D features, the features themselves followed on Super Shoe Sunday. The last chance race for the Super Shoe Nationals (“A” Feature) ran on Sunday, but is included in the chart below. All last chance races were 15 laps. The top 4 finishers in each division advanced to their respective feature race. All participants not advancing to their respective feature were eligible to run in the 3rd Annual “Jason’s Great Toilet Bowl Race” on Sunday.

RWD LAST CHANCE RACES – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Last Chance D	Steve Roden	Last Chance B	Ken Lollar
	Carlos Pizarro		Nathan Eli
	Josh Van Dusen		Brandon Maynard
	John Culp		Greg Studt
Last Chance C	Tom McGhee	Last Chance A	Nick Stremme
	Curtis Vitali		Marc Casey
	Todd Hall		Brandyn Ross
	Steve Smith		Travis Schlabach

Kalamazoo Speedway hosted two track owners at Super Shoe. Driving the #28 was Tom McGhee (Galesburg Speedway) and the #24 of Kevin Sauer (South Bend Motor Speedway).



Clockwise: Last chance race winners Steve Roden (D Feature), Tom McGhee (C Feature), Nick Stremme (A Feature) and Ken Lollar (B Feature).

Saturday, September 30. (Part IV) The temperatures got pretty chilly (46) by the end of the night when the FWD Features B – F (!!) features finished competing.



Clockwise: F Feature (15 laps) Tony Mayhew; E Feature (15 laps) Matt Searles; C Feature (20 laps) Tod Watson; D Feature (20 laps) Devin Danley.



The B Feature was slated for 20 laps but was plagued with cautions and exceeded the race time limit. Having reached the halfway point, the race was called with 13 laps complete when another caution flag flew. Case Roelofs took home the win.

Super Shoe Sunday, October 1. Features, Features, Features!

The Remix Barbershop Quartet sang our National Anthem and Jason Seltzer offered the Invocation. With that, Super Shoe Sunday was ready for action.

<https://www.facebook.com/remixbarbershopquartet/>



This might possibly be our favorite photo of a camper!

Corey Woods won the 3rd Annual “Jason’s Great Toilet Bowl Race”. Scheduled for 15 laps, Woods was declared the winner with 12 laps completed due to the race exceeding its set time limit (multiple cautions).





Fast time honors went to Paul Bittle (FWD) and Matt Frazier (with Gary Howe). Bittle's photo is from his 2016 FWD "A" Feature win. As noted earlier, he had to withdraw due to a crash in qualifying after he secured the fastest qualifying time.



Clockwise: RWD Feature D (25 laps) was won by Steve Potter; Bob Schisler won the time shortened C Feature (16 laps); Terry Lombardi won the 40-lap B Feature.

The 8th Annual FWD Super Shoe Nationals was won by Todd Metz Jr. in the 25 lap "A" Feature; 17 cars competed. Doug Smith led much of the race with Metz, who had been charging hard, taking the lead on a late race caution. In second place was Smith followed by Tyler McGhan, Jeremy Young and Dan Rigoni.



The final race of the afternoon was the 31st running of the Super Shoe Nationals. Twenty-one cars competed in the 75 lap finale to the 2017 season. Matt Maurer led for the first 7 laps. Maurer and Rich Boal put up quite the dual before Boal managed to pull ahead. Once Jeff Ganus got the lead, he didn't give it up. Mark Shook chewed up the rest of the field, but was no match for Ganus. Ganus had more than a half-track lead over Shook and didn't look to be giving up an inch of it.



TEAM SPRIT CUSTOM TRAILERS AND TECHWORKS TRAILER SALES



We have a winner! Oscar Heritz (a 30-year spectator at Kalamazoo Speedway) was the lucky winner of all the entrants vying for a chance to win the 26' enclosed hauler generously donated by Team Spirit Custom Trailers and Techworks Trailer Sales. All proceeds go to the Zoo Kares for Kids program to offer kids (and their families) a memorable Christmas. Pictured in the middle of the photo on the right is Al Heritz, the winner's son. On Heritz' right are Walt Obrieski and spouse (Techworks Trailer Sales) and on his left are Mike Stutzman and his spouse (Team Spirit Custom Trailers). Thank you!

AWARDS BANQUET – OCTOBER 28

**Western Michigan University
Bernhard Center – 1903 West Michigan Avenue**

6:00 Light Refreshments
7:00 Dinner and Awards



Drivers, crew, fans and staff are invited to celebrate the achievements of the 2017 season. Champions, as well as the 2nd – 10th place point finishers, will be honored in each division. As always there will be a bundle of special and sponsor awards.

Join up with the racing family one more time before winter hits.

Tickets (\$40 each) are now on sale. Call (269) 692-2423 or send a check to make your reservations. (321 16th Street Otsego, MI 49078)

KALAMAZOO HAUNT PARK (Complete details at www.hauntpark.com)

This non-Speedway sponsored seasonal event is back for 2017. The Extreme House of Terror joins the attractions this year and is billed as the Haunt Park's most horrifying experience yet. Consistently ranked one of the 10 best haunts in Michigan, check it out if you're into this sort of thing. We can hear the screams all the way to the road; we're telling you now, there will be no first-hand reviews of this attraction!

Haunt Park kicks off its 2017 season on Saturday, October 7 with **four** amazing attractions. Bring a non-perishable food item for donation to a local food bank on opening night and receive \$5 off a VIP Super Combo ticket or \$5 off the purchase of a VIP FearFull Night Combo ticket plus a free Haunt Park T-shirt.

The Haunt Park will be open Saturday, October 7 for the 1st weekend and then Friday and Saturday through the last weekend of the month when a Sunday date has been added. And, of course, Halloween night on Tuesday, October 31.



FAST FAMILY FUN!

www.kalamazoospeedway.com