



# KALAMAZOO 700 YEARS SPEEDWAY

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## TRACK TALK

May 8, 2019

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Week #3. Be There!  
Retro Moment  
Results: Week #2  
Photo Medley

**MAY 10, 2019**  
**Super Lates, Sportsman, Streets & Zoo Stock**



### WEEK #3 – FRIDAY, MAY 10

Two weekly races into Kalamazoo Speedway's 70<sup>th</sup> consecutive season and we have seen some incredibly competitive and close races. This week the Outlaw Super Late Models, Late Model Sportsman, Street Stock and Zoo Stock will sure to bring more of the same. The Outlaw FWD class has the week off after last week's Midwest Compact Touring Series Clash. The race for points and Rookie of the Year are already on. Cheer for your favorite driver in each class from the beginning. Head down to the pits after each race and get to know the drivers and see the cars up close.

We will see you on Friday night!

#### DETAILS: MAY 10 (WEEK #3)

Pits Open	3:30
Pit Pass (12 & up)	\$30
Adults	\$12
Youth 6-12	\$5
Kids 5 & Under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30

## RETRO MOMENT

NASCAR royalty raced at Kalamazoo Speedway on July 12, 1988 pictured in this (uncredited) photo. NASCAR superstars have visited us since then, but never in such a blockbuster of talent.



From left:

**Bob Senneker  
Geoff Bodine  
Bobby Allison  
Kyle Petty  
Cale Yarborough  
Rodney Combs  
Michael Waltrip  
Dale Earnhardt  
Rusty Wallace  
Davey Allison &  
Butch Miller**

## RESULTS: WEEK #2 (MAY 3)

The forecast for Week #2 of the 2019 season was for partly sunny skies. Instead it looked like it could rain at any moment and radar brought out the antacids. Thankfully a few misty raindrops didn't interrupt the evening and the rain held off until after the final checkered flag. The races ran late into the night for the second week in a row; a trend that will be reversed. One hundred forty cars showed up for the Howe Patio & Windows' Big Bucks Night. A lot of cars for four classes! Jack Goodrich offered the Invocation and 10 year old Grace sang the National Anthem.



The Kentucky Derby saw the first horse across the finish line get disqualified and we had the same occurrence in the 20 car **Zoo Stock 'A'** feature on May 3. The feature was plagued with cautions and put out of its misery in lap 13 of the scheduled 25 lap race. Except for the main event of the evening a time limit is placed on all races: one minute per lap. Once the time limit has been reached (25 minutes in this instance), the next caution will end the race as long as the race is official (at or past the halfway point). We also know the Zoo Stocks have a "fast time" lap limit of 16.850. Zip around the track once under that time and the driver is disqualified. Nick Failing crossed the finish line first but ran a 16.817 in the final lap of the 'A' feature – lap 13. Adding insult to injury, the violation wasn't caught until after Nick had been to Victory Lane. Bad form on our part and we're putting a system in place to prevent that from happening again. We appreciate Nick's graciousness. Ross Bergman, who ran a good race and led at one point late in the race, was declared the winner. Placing second was Jordan Brinkert followed by Ed Clawson, Logan Hiemstra, Kyle Knapp, Renae Letts, Rielly Meade, Jared Blanchard, Matt Elsey Jr. and Logan Meade. Regan Powell, who claimed fast time, also dipped under the magic Zoo Stock fast time and was disqualified from his top 10 finish. The 'B' feature, the first race of the night and scheduled to go 15 laps, boasted a field of 24 cars and was also called for time in the 13<sup>th</sup> lap. The race featured a mini slow-motion version of a Talladega style "big one" plus an I-94 winter-special-chain-reaction that brought out the red when the yellow didn't seem to slow things down. CJ French was credited with the 'B' feature win followed by Eric Mepyans, William Porter, Brianna Town and Brenton Montague.





Other than the photo above (white car behind the green 87), CJ French has eluded our cameras. 'A' feature winner Ross Bergman going into tech.



The Midwest Compact Touring Series held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Clash on Friday night and the **Outlaw FWDs** ran with them. The rule package was governed by the Compact Series so this was a non-points event for our drivers. Gabe Carr took fast time cracking the 14 second mark (14.937). Forty-one drivers qualified for the race, 13 raced in the 20-lap 'B' feature and 24 lined up for the 35-lap 'A' feature. Tom Gossar was out to the early lead in the 'A' feature. Paul Bittle charged into the lead with 28 remaining and extended his lead into the next time zone. Defending Outlaw FWD track champion, Jason Essex, moved up to third place before smoking out his competition (and not in a good way) as he headed for the pits for the second week in a row. At the end it was Bittle, Carr, Gossar, Todd Metz, Chad Gray, Jeff Sayles, Adam Van Avery, Wayne Stack, Todd Metz Sr. and Ryan Hollister. A pumped Ryan Diamond won the 'B' feature followed by Will Slaughter, John Munro, Valerie Bozell and Faith Schuch.







Paul Bittle (left) wins the Midwest Compact's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Clash and Ryan Diamond won the 'B' feature.

Thirty **Street Stocks** qualified with Kyle Ribble taking fast time (14.790) for the second week in a row. Steve Smith won the 20-lap Last Chance race with Kyle Santora, Bug Schisler and Danny Oxford also advancing to the feature. Zack Cook made it two in a row by winning the 35-lap feature and pocketing \$1,000. Mike Zordan led until 17 to go when Cook passed him and proceeded to out distance the field. Defending champion Greg Brown moved his way through the field up to 4<sup>th</sup> place. With 12 to go Zach Westdorp caught Cook and Kyle Ribble joined him in swarming Cook. Ribble was able to pace Cook but not pass him. With some edge of your seat wobbling down the final stretch, it was Cook over Ribble by 0.146 seconds. Westdorp came in third followed by Brown and Brandon Zachary. Mike Zordan was sixth, followed by Josh Zordan, Barry Jenkins, Steve Smith and Heath Bronkema.



Steve Smith (left) won the Last Chance Race and Zack Cook (pictured with fiancée Ashley) won the 'A' feature for the second week in a row.



Like the Street Stocks, the **Late Model Sportsman**, in the 40-lap marquee event of the night, put up a competitive and intense race. Lane Head jumped out to the early lead with the 32 of Chris Garrett picking up the pursuit and taking the lead with 26 laps to go; Head taking it right back. While the two of them were fighting for the lead, Jon Beach was gaining. Meanwhile Buddy Head was moving up through the field; to 7<sup>th</sup> with 16 to go and 5<sup>th</sup> with 13 left. With 10 to go it was Garrett, Beach, Lane Head and Chris Shannon. Drivers raced for position during the last 10 laps with Garrett taking the win followed by Beach, Buddy Head, Keegan Dykstra and Lane Head. Chris Shannon came in 6<sup>th</sup> followed by Jeff Bozell, Ryan Minton, Keith Wilfong and Ryan Stutz. Buddy Head took quick time (13.677).



Chris Garrett wins the 40-lap Late Model Sportsman feature.



## PHOTO MEDLEY

Kalamazoo Speedway has six women under the age of 20 racing this year. One is making her debut this year, one ran a partial season last year and others have put in a full season or more. Add any four of the drivers' ages together and the sum doesn't equal the 70 years the track has been in operation! If we've missed anyone it's because we don't have a driver's form yet.



**Makenna Long (Street Stock) our youngest female driver at 14; Makenna Snyder (Sportsman and Outlaw FWD).**



Clockwise (youngest to oldest): Taylor Imus (Street Stock); Valerie Bozell (Outlaw FWD); Camille Lewis (Outlaw FWD); Taylor Sexton (Street Stock).



**FAST FAMILY FUN FOR 70 YEARS.**  
**We will see you at the races.**