



# KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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## INSIDE THIS EDITION

OPEN PRACTICES – APRIL 11 & 18  
TOP TEN – 2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN  
HOWE WINS 2019 PROMOTER OF THE YEAR

## TRACK TALK

February 12, 2020



Late Model Sportsman drivers line up to qualify on May 10, 2019.

**FIRST OPEN PRACTICE OF 2020 – 59 DAYS!  
Saturday Open Practices: April 11 & 18**

### TOP 10: 2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN

Part IV of the five-part series highlights the Top 10 - 2019 Late Model Sportsman drivers. The class saw 59 drivers participate in 12 point races. Two additional races were cancelled (one due to rain and one due to heat). Drivers ranged in age from 16 to 70 and came from Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, Kent, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties plus the class drew a couple of handfuls of competitors from Indiana. From the Super Stocks in 2018 to the Late Model Sportsman in 2019, the class will endure another name change in 2020 when they become the Template Bodied Late Models. A mouthful and awesome (!) we still have two classes called “Late Models”.

**Keith Wilfong** finished in 10th place in the final standings after competing for years in the Street Stocks. Wilfong was one of three drivers in the Top 10 to run in both the Late Model Sportsman and Raber’s Rumble for the Street Stocks on May 31 (Buddy Head and Kenny Head were the other two.) **Andy Bozell** raced fewer nights than the rest of the Top 10 and placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the final standings running in just seven races; winning one feature and placing in the Top 5 in all seven. Somehow we would expect nothing less. **Ryan Stutz** entered a couple of races at the tail end of the 2018 season

and got serious in 2019, running full-time. He earned an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish and Rookie of the Year. **Keegan Dykstra** (2015 Outlaw FWD track champion) won the 'A' feature on August 16; he didn't have the season he was hoping for but the win took some of the sting out of that. He placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the final class standings. Like Wilfong, **Jeff Bozell** was also a newcomer to the class for the 2019 season. Bozell had a long run in the Outlaw Super Late Models and placed 6<sup>th</sup>, finishing in the Top 10 for half of his races.

In his second year of racing in the class, **Dylan Stovall**, 19, cracked the Top 5 in the standings and was this year's Most Improved Driver. **Kenny Head** (four-time track champion) put up a couple of fast times, finished in the Top 10 eight times but encountered some bad luck along the way as well. Still, he pulled off a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the final accounting. **Chris Shannon** had a solid season and was a contender each time he was out on the track. He won a feature and placed in the Top 5 six times. **Chris Garrett** raced in every race and finished in the Top 10 in all 12 races, in the Top 5 for 10 of them. Combined that put Garrett in the #2 spot in the final standings. **Buddy Head** did it again. He earned his 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive and 8<sup>th</sup> overall track championship. In 2020 he has the opportunity to tie Andy Bozell's record of 8 consecutive track championships. Head was at the top of the point standings every week, winning five features and finishing in the Top 5 in each race.

The Late Model Sportsman class boasts highly skilled and competitive drivers who gave fans "must see" racing every week. Don't miss them this year.

FAST TIME	2
HEAT WIN	1
FEATURE WIN	5
TOP 5	12
TOP 10	12
POINT RACES	12 OF 12
POINTS	1660

**BUDDY HEAD**  
**SEASON CHAMPION**  
**2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN**

**KALAMA 700 SPEEDWAY**  
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FAST TIME	—
HEAT WIN	1
FEATURE WIN	4
TOP 5	10
TOP 10	12
POINT RACES	12 OF 12
POINTS	1445

**CHRIS GARRETT**  
**RUNNER UP**  
**2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN**





FAST TIME	2
HEAT WIN	2
FEATURE WIN	1
TOP 5	6
TOP 10	8
POINT RACES	11 OF 12
POINTS	1201


**CHRIS SHANNON**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**  
**2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN**








FAST TIME	2
HEAT WIN	—
FEATURE WIN	—
TOP 5	4
TOP 10	8
POINT RACES	12 OF 12
POINTS	1228

**KENNY HEAD**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> PLACE**  
**2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN**



FAST TIME	—
HEAT WIN	—
FEATURE WIN	—
TOP 5	2
TOP 10	8
POINT RACES	12 OF 12
POINTS	1223

**DYLAN STOVALL**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> PLACE**  
**2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN**  
**MOST IMPROVED DRIVER**

FAST TIME	—
HEAT WIN	—
FEATURE WIN	—
TOP 5	2
TOP 10	6
POINT RACES	12 OF 12
POINTS	1194

**JEFF BOZELL**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> PLACE**  
**2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN**





FAST TIME	—
HEAT WIN	1
FEATURE WIN	1
TOP 5	5
TOP 10	8
POINT RACES	11 OF 12
POINTS	1169

**KEEGAN DYKSTRA**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> PLACE**  
**2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN**








FAST TIME	—
HEAT WIN	—
FEATURE WIN	—
TOP 5	—
TOP 10	8
POINT RACES	12 OF 12
POINTS	1110



**RYAN STUTZ**  
8<sup>TH</sup> PLACE  
2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN  
ROOKIE OF THE YEAR






FAST TIME	4
HEAT WIN	—
FEATURE WIN	1
TOP 5	7
TOP 10	7
POINT RACES	7 OF 12
POINTS	1006

**ANDY BOZELL**  
9<sup>TH</sup> PLACE  
2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN

FAST TIME	—
HEAT WIN	—
FEATURE WIN	—
TOP 5	—
TOP 10	6
POINT RACES	12 OF 12
POINTS	942

**KEITH WILFONG**  
10<sup>TH</sup> PLACE  
2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN



There were two drivers who didn't make the Top 10 but were Race Warriors joining Buddy Head, Chris Garrett, Kenny Head, Dylan Stovall, Jeff Bozell, Ryan Stutz and Keith Wilfong in racing in each point race: Bill Tomlinson made each race not only in this class (11<sup>th</sup> place) but also in the Outlaw Super Late Models (10<sup>th</sup> place). Makena Snyder, 16, in her first season at Kalamazoo Speedway, made every point race this season finishing in the 14<sup>th</sup> position. She also competed in the Outlaw FWD class but a crash impacted her pulling off double Race Warrior award.



**BILL TOMLINSON**  
11<sup>TH</sup> PLACE

2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN  
RACE WARRIOR: 12 FOR 12 POINT RACES




**MAKENA SNYDER**  
14<sup>TH</sup> PLACE

2019 LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN  
RACE WARRIOR: 12 FOR 12 POINT RACES



## 2019 PROMOTER OF THE YEAR – GARY HOWE

Hands-on Kalamazoo Speedway owner/promoter, Gary Howe, has been recognized by the Michigan Speedway Promoter's Association (MSPA) for his leadership in short-track racing for the second year in a row. Howe was recently honored as the 2019 Dick Beebe Memorial Promoter of the Year for the sixth time since purchasing the track in 2001. Howe serves on the Board of the MSPA. Congratulations to Gary Howe on a well-deserved honor.

While Howe won't be able to claim "owner" of the track much longer, he'll continue as the promoter for 2020 and is currently in negotiations for continuing as the track promoter for additional years. We think that'd be a good thing for Kalamazoo Speedway and a good thing for short-track racing.



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