

KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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TRACK TALK

August 21, 2021

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 27 AUTO VALUE NON-WING SPRINTS

RACE DAY INFORMATION AUTO VALUE SPRINTS AUGUST 27, 2021

Ticket Windows Open	3:00 PM
Pit Passes (12 years and up)	\$30
Junior Pit Passes (11 and under)	\$15
Adult General Admission	\$18
Youth General Admission (6-12)	\$5
Kids 5 & Under (all seats)	FREE
Pits Open	3:00 PM
Qualifying	5:00 PM
Racing Starts	7:30 PM

We close out the month of August (what?? already??) with the return of the Auto Value Non-Wing Sprints. This is the final weekly race night before Season Championships are settled on Friday, September 3.

Like you, we were expecting the Super Winged Sprints to be the headliner on August 27; however, the Series Director advised that car counts would be far superior with the non-wing sprints. As much as we'd like to have the winged sprints on hand, it isn't much of an event with a half dozen cars when the Series can offer three times that many by bringing in the non-wings. Joining the Auto Value Non-Wing Sprints are the Template Late Models, Street Stock and the Zoo Stock.

Championships are at stake. Don't miss the action.

SEPTEMBER 3 SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT

We can barely believe it's the end of August and now we're talking September and Season Championship Night? The champion in all classes is undecided. Todd Harrington leads defending champion Adam Terry by 12, rookie (and 2017 Street Stock champion) Zack Cook by 30 and Doug True by 48. Will it be Nick Pressler in the Template Late Models or Chris Shannon (-10). Defending champion Buddy Head is 153

points out with two races remaining. Greg Brown, 2018 Street Stock champion, moved into the point lead the last time the class raced. Matt Weenink sits back 12 and defending champion Brandon Zachary is down by 98; the Streets also have two races to determine the champion. Will Slaughter has the largest lead of any driver in any class with a 75-point lead over dominant Dave Leonard Jr. and Drew Losey (-100). Tyler McGhan has the point lead in the Zoo Stock. Matthew Elsey Jr. is down by 54 in that class with Aaron Anderson down 126.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Night of Destruction tickets may be purchased **by phone** starting on August 23. Tickets are not available at the ticket windows or Howe Patio. We're starting early so the phone lines aren't swamped! Purchasing by phone is not an automated process, a person will assist you in purchasing your tickets.

Next week, look for the rules and payout for the Super Shoe Tune Up (Saturday, September 11) on the home page of the website. The post will be named, you guessed it, Super Shoe Tune Up.

Madhouse restarts will be used for the weekly classes on August 27. Those cones don't look like they weigh much but there's actually quite a bit of heft to them. Pictured, Colby Geer, front stretch pit steward, getting another madhouse workout at the Klash.



KLASH RECAP 🚩🚩 AUGUST 18, 2021

There are a few races every season that are just plain electric and the power of the engines literally vibrates throughout the venue. The Kalamazoo Klash is one of those. True the purse makes a driver take notice and there is a certain prestige that's attached to the race. It certainly hasn't hurt for the Klash to be named one of the top five short track events in the nation by two national magazines. But it's something else. You can sense it in the pits and you can sense it in the stands. It's a race for serious race fans and drivers. And rather like any big affair, the thought and preparation is extensive and then it's over in what feels like an instant. Kalamazoo Klash XXIX is now history, winners have trophies to commemorate their achievements, and we all turn our eyes to Kalamazoo Klash XXX.



Twenty-nine drivers showed up to race in the **Template Late Models 75**. Billy Shannon was third fastest during the practice and collected fast time during single car qualifying (13.696). Car owner, Donnie Brest, and Shannon combined forces to roll the dice for the inversion. Their combined effort yielded an 11 and a collective groan from the pair. Add the roll of the dice to six and that put Shannon in the last row to start the feature. That's Shannon pictured (next page, top left) with Gary Howe, Speedway Promoter. Middle left: Donnie Brest and Billy Shannon toss the dice.

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(and hot) laps. Speedway Promoter and Nick Pressler (above), and on the next page, being interviewed by Matt McKenzie plus Pressler with his #10.

Ten cars ran in the 25-lap Last Chance race; Billy Yates led for the initial laps. Jesse VanAvery Sr. made the pass nine laps in and took the checkered flag. The top four (VanAvery Sr., Ryan Stutz, Eric McGlothlen and Zack Cook) advanced to the feature. VanAvery Sr. is pictured in the third photo down.

The 22 Template Late Models lined up for their 75-lap feature and the track's PA system went dead. Biggest Template race of the year and the race is run with only the cheers from the crowd and the noise from the cars on the track. It would appear that the power drain created by some of our media guests temporarily sentenced the Speedway's PA system to silent running. The Speedway called for immediate assistance in getting our voice back; however, restoration wasn't in time for the race.

But the show must go on and the green flag waved. Jeff Bozell took the early lead from the pole position; the inversion of 17 working out in excellent fashion for him. Ten laps into the race, it was Bozell in the lead followed by Mike Ammerman, Nick Pressler and Mike Brooks. Pressler got around Ammerman but a caution with 62 laps remaining reset the field with Pressler back to third place. Bozell got a good jump on the restart and Pressler regained his earlier second place position. It took Pressler a handful of laps to get around Bozell, but he did so with 56 laps showing on the board. Pressler put up a substantial lead while drivers behind him worked to get through the field and mount a challenge. With 39 laps remaining the madhouse restart put Pressler and Bozell at the head of the pack. Pressler and Austin Maynard got the jump on Bozell. Maynard's position was only temporary as Bozell soon reclaimed second place. Mike Brooks and Buddy Head moved up the leaderboard with Head moving ahead of Brooks. Cole Allers was making a move of his own and got around Brooks. Pressler crossed the finish line 3.063 seconds ahead of second place finisher Jeff Bozell. Bozell was followed by Buddy Head, Cole Allers and Mike Brooks. Dylan Stovall led the second half of the order followed by Eric McGlothlen (who raced his way into the event via the Last Chance race), Chris Shannon, Austin Maynard and Kenny Head. All finished on the lead lap. Pressler did a masterful job of holding off his competition and keeping out of trouble for 75 long



The 22 drivers who ran in Kalamazoo Klash XXIX. Previous Klash victories are noted in parenthesis. Terry Senneker Jr. holds the record with five Klash wins to his credit. Back row: JR Roahrig, Hayden Sprague, Trevor McCoy, Monte Tolan, Scott Hantz, Jamison Russell, Andy Bozell (4), Zack Cook, Matt Frazier, Steve Needles (2), Kyle Crump. Front row: Tyler Roahrig (3), Brian Bergakker, Andrew Brest, Todd Harrington, Shawn Amor, Phil Bozell (1), Doug Rodanhisler, Mark Shook, Doug True, Adam Terry, Craig Everage.

Drivers not making the big dance and not pictured: Marty Crawford, A.J. Foote, Buddy Gray, Rob Hardy, Paul Jakubik, Patrick Kirkendall, Kevin Sauers, Kevin Stewart.



Thirty Outlaw Super Late Models showed up to race in **Kalamazoo Klash XXIX**. Three-time Klash runner-up Brian Bergakker was fast qualifier in single lap qualifying with a time of 12.972. Bergakker (left with Speedway Promoter, Gary Howe and on the next page) threw the dice one at a time and hit a one and a two for an inversion of 9.

Rob Hardy led the initial lap of the 10 car Last Chance race. Jamison Russell moved around Hardy and led for 9 laps before Matt Frazier got around him with 12 laps remaining. Despite several cautions, Frazier prevailed with Russell, Scott Hantz and Doug Rodanhisler all advancing.



Kyle Crump and Adam Terry led the field to green, the inversion putting them in the front row for Kalamazoo Klash XXIX. The field took the green and within seconds the red flag was out. Tight racing caused a pile-up that took JR Roahrig, Andrew Brest, Shawn Amor, Doug True, Jamison Russell and Scott Hantz out of the race. Todd Harrington and Brian Bergakker were also impacted: Bergakker was towed into the pits and Harrington made it to the pits under his own power. Each returned to the field before the restart. Bergakker moved up through the field to reach the 7th position before retiring with 53 laps remaining. Harrington's night was over with 97 laps remaining.

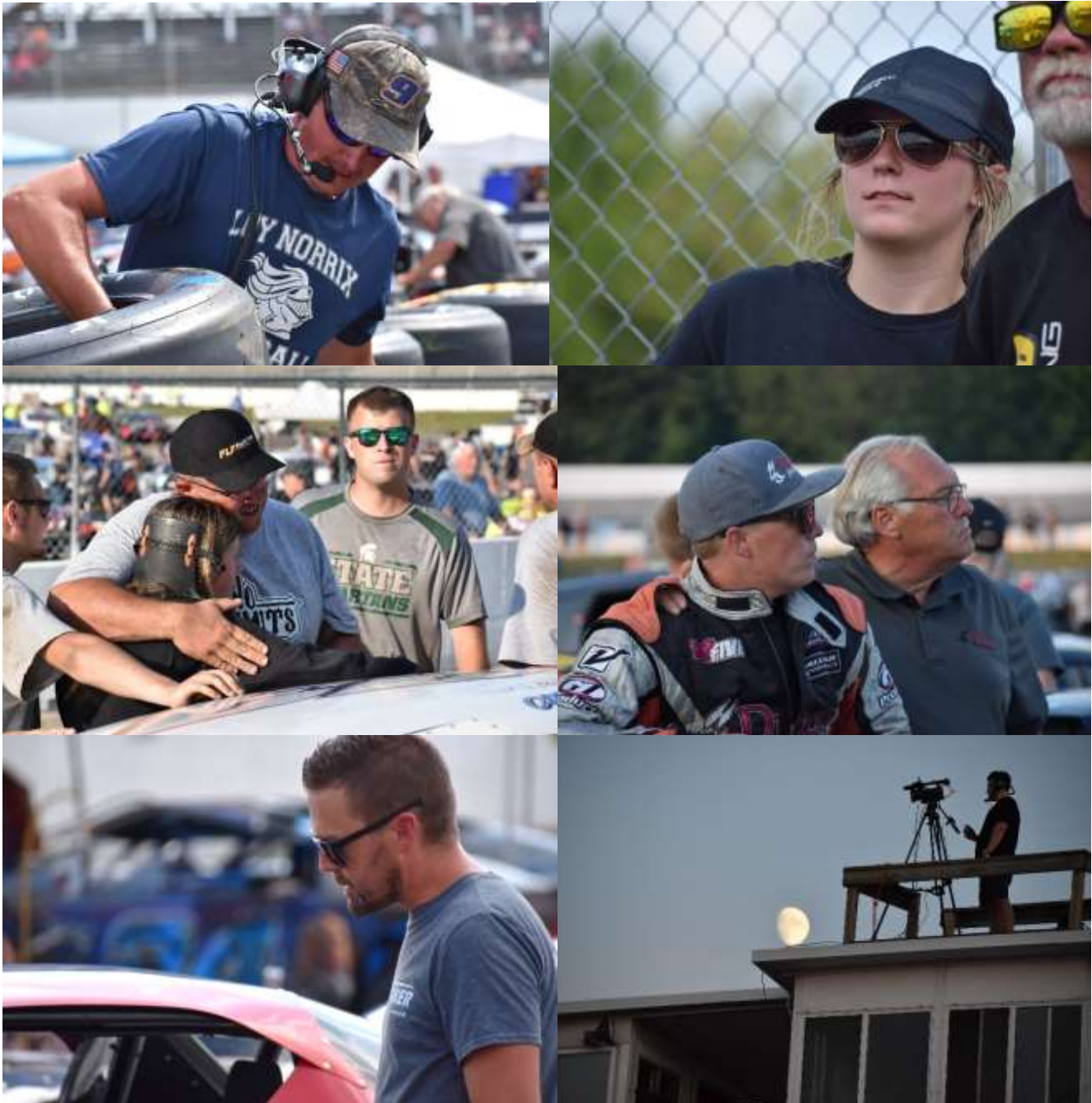
Tyler Roahrig made his move early and claimed the lead over Kyle Crump 18 laps into the race. With an even 100 laps remaining the running order of the top 5 was Roahrig, Crump, Adam Terry, Phil Bozell and Andy Bozell. While Roahrig lapped the field with 91 laps showing on the board, others behind were lining up to make a run. Phil Bozell and Andy Bozell continued their forward progress and Steve Needles was on the move having passed Adam Terry and getting around Mark Shook. With 45 laps complete it was Roahrig, Crump, Phil Bozell, Andy Bozell, Steve Needles, Mark Shook and Brian Bergakker. Andy Bozell got around Phil Bozell and then passed Crump for second place. Caution came out with 40 laps to go and the first madhouse restart of the race put Andy Bozell and Roahrig at the head of the double file restart. Roahrig got the jump and while Bozell, going for his fifth Klash win, was right there with Roahrig for much of the remainder of the race, he could not get around him.

At the finish line it was Tyler Roahrig claiming his fourth Klash win over Andy Bozell by 0.195 seconds. Phil Bozell came in third followed by Steve Needles, Mark Shook, Kyle Crump and Zack Cook all on the lead lap. Adam Terry and Matt Frazier finished one lap down with Monte Tolan rounding out the top 10 three laps down. Left, Tyler Roahrig is pictured with Speedway Promoter Gary Howe and with his #24.

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Clockwise: Nathaniel Roberts marking tires in the impound area; Paige Roberts, Template driver from Fort Wayne, IN; Adam Terry and Chris Terry; the moon over the skybox caught our eye; Terry Senneker, Jr. (five-time Klash winner); Makena Snyder and dad, Bob Snyder, share a moment before the race.

MINI WEDGE SCHEDULE CHANGE AT KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

The Howe Patio & Windows Mini-Wedges have established their tentative schedule at Kalamazoo Speedway for the remainder of the season. All races are in the infield.

Sunday, August 22	Gates open:	Noon
Sunday, August 29	Practice:	12:45 PM
Sunday, September 5	Racing:	1:30 PM
September 12	\$35 a car	
	Admission is free	

Photos by A. Fisher

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