

2022 TOP TEN 🏁🏁 OUTLAW FWD

It's Part Two of the five part series celebrating the top 10 drivers from each 2022 weekly class. Again, our congratulations and thanks to all the Outlaw FWD drivers who raced at Kalamazoo Speedway in 2022.

OUTLAW FWD TOP TEN 🏁🏁 10 point races run; heats run on 8 nights									
Rank	Car #	Race #	Name	Points	Fast Time	Heat	Feature	Top 5	Top 10
10	16	4	Gordon Hopson	371		1			3
9	94	4	Dale Leonard	455				2	3
8	27	6	Matt Elsey	467					2
7	54	6	Kenny Wright	658				1	4
6	9	7	John Munro	848		1		4	6
5	27	8	Dave Leonard Jr.	1137	1	1	2	6	8
4	16	9	Dan Rigoni	1200			1	5	8
3	5	10	Nick Layman	1216		1		6	8
2	27	10	Matthew Elsey Jr.	1433	7	5	5	8	9
1	0	10	Will Slaughter	1441	2	1	1	8	10

Number of drivers in the class who earned points in 2022: 45

When's the last time that three #27 cars finished in the top 10?

Matthew Elsey Jr. set a new class track record now that he wasn't hemmed in by a speed limit. Elsey Jr. graduated from the Zoo Stock during qualifying on April 29 (his third consecutive season to graduate) having won the Zoo Stock A feature on April 23. He also won the September 10 FWD class feature (Super Shoe Tune Up) as well as a heat race (same event). Elsey Jr. was the class Rookie of the Year.

Dave Leonard Jr. won the non-point April 23 feature (the National Compact Touring Series joined the class for that night). He also took fast time in the Zoo Stock class on April 23 and then broke the speed limit in the feature being the first 2022 driver to be bumped from the Zoo Stock.

Will Slaughter finished in the top 5 at the Super Shoe Tune Up (September 10) and also won a heat race (same date) plus won the NCTS feature at the American Speed US Nationals leased event.

Matt Elsey placed in the top 5 for the April 23 race and won the B feature for the FWD's at Super Shoe.

Kenny Wright organized the Dare to Be Different Race for Autism on April 23.

Dan Rigoni won the championship in 2016.

Top 10 drivers who attended the Awards Party are pictured on the next page.

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From left to right: Kenny Wright (with son Hunter), Matthew Elsey Jr., Matt Elsey, Dan Rigoni and Nick Layman



Repeat Track Champion, Will Slaughter. Slaughter won his first track championship in 2021.

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ZOO KARES FOR KIDS

Though no longer owning Kalamazoo Speedway, the Howe family has continued Zoo Kares for Kids, this year providing 70 families with gifts and/or gift cards plus stocking the pantry shelves for both the Otsego Middle and High Schools. On behalf of the Howe Family, thank you to everyone who had a part in making this year's Zoo Kares for Kids so successful.

Photo provided by Colby Geer, Howe Patio & Windows



RECAP NOVEMBER EVENTS

A winter storm dumped more than a foot of snow on the area in the middle of November, wiping out the November 19 AutoMODIFIED drift event. Not content to end the season on that note, the event promoter rescheduled the event to November 27. It rained for part of the event and the sprays of water added an interesting touch. But, drivers came out and, amazingly, some fans came out with their blankets and umbrellas! One new fan drove an hour to watch! AutoMODIFIED's Slidewayz at the Zoo will be back with a full season (Saturday events) in 2023. Watch for their schedule early next year.



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The 3rd Annual Bad Santa event lucked out in terms of weather on November 26. It stopped snowing, then stopped raining and the heavy snow from the previous week's winter storm melted leaving only a small amount of snow remaining on the front stretch. The Bad Santa Enduro started with a solid field of 68 cars and at the end of the 100 laps it was Corey Kitter (right), Dylan Stovall, Nick Jenema, Mike Ely and Steve Emmans as the top five finishers. Amanda Weatherwax won the Santa's Little Helper event. About 300 fans (our favorite fan photo below) came out to watch.



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Photos, except as noted, by A. Fisher

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