

KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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TRACK TALK

MAY 22, 2023

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MAY 26 🚩🚩 FOUR WEEKLY CLASSES PLUS THE CROWN VICS

The four weekly classes race on May 26 plus the Crown Vics make their first of three regular season appearances. Remember, the Crown Vics will have their own class at Super Shoe if 16 Crown Vics are signed up by September 8.

The Hutcherson Construction Late Models will be racing for \$2000 to win (the purse sponsored by Hutcherson Construction and Randy's Trucking) and it's a big money night (\$1,000) for the Techworks Trailer Sales Street Stock (the purse sponsored by Performance Plus Auto & Fabrication). The Crown Vics race for a \$400 to win purse and it's a regular weekly pay night for the O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWDs and the Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock.

FRIDAY, MAY 26	
Pits Open	3:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Minor Pit Pass	\$15
Tickets Windows Open	3:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	FREE
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:30 PM

We will see YOU at the races!



JUNE 2 🏁 FOUR WEEKLY CLASSES RACE

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Pits Open	3:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Minor Pit Pass	\$15
Tickets Windows Open	3:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	FREE
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:30 PM

Mark your calendars!

The four weekly classes are back on June 2, all racing for big purses plus the Michiana Vintage Racers will be showing off their stuff. The Hutcherson Construction Late Models return this week to race for their second "Big Money" night (\$1,200 to win) also sponsored by Hutcherson Construction. The Street Stock will be running nose to tail and side by side for their \$2,000 to win purse; Randy's Trucking is covering that purse. The O'Reilly Auto Parts FWDs will be running their 3rd (of six) "Big Money" nights for a \$500 purse, sponsored by Honor Credit Union. Then it's the Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock running for their own \$400 to win purse, also being covered by Randy's Trucking. For those of you who want a look at vintage racing cars, the Michiana Vintage Racers will be running a few parade laps.

MAY 19 🏁 RACE RECAP

With yet another wet forecast looking at us, we made the decision to go for it. It looked like we'd be a little soggy early and we were. We adjusted the practice and qualifying schedules and still got the race program started within minutes of the usual 7:30 PM start time.



The **4J Trucking Modifieds** made their first of four appearances on May 19. Brian Bergakker claimed the fastest time (13.774) in the practice session while Walt Obrinske Jr. ran the fastest in qualifying (13.674, 98.728 mph). Matt



Maurer pulled out the 50-lap win in a hotly contested battle with

Jeff Ganus and Bubba Brooks finishing second and third, respectively. Jon Beach was fourth, followed by Cory Pressler, Todd Currier, Cole Carper, Doug True, Phil Bozell and Tom Rutherford rounding out the top 10. Phil Bozell took the early lead with Bubba Brooks stuck on him like glue. Tom Rutherford got his nose in the mix as well. A late caution tightened up the field and Jeff Ganus was the winner on the restart moving up to second place with 5 to go. A caution with 4 remaining saw Phil Bozell heading to the pits. Rutherford was towed off during that same caution. With a bold restart, Maurer captured the lead with 3 to go; Ganus made a play for the lead, but it was a jubilant Maurer (above) at the checkered over Ganus by 0.171 seconds.

In the **Techworks Trailer Sales Street Stock**, Kyle VanSparrentak was top of the leaderboard during qualifying with a time of 14.765 (91.432 mph). The Street Stock feature was also a great race with two drivers seeking their first win, but we're getting ahead of ourselves. An early caution ended Madison Snyder's race. When all the dust settled it was Zach Westdorp in the lead which he held past the half way point. Alex Sexton, starting 6th, had been driving to the front and took the lead from Westdorp

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and then proceeded to open a substantial lead. Meanwhile Jeff Town had been steadily moving forward from his 9th place starting position. Town wrested the lead from Sexton with 9 laps remaining and held the lead until 4 to go when Sexton got around him and led for another couple of laps. Town got around Sexton but caution flew putting 3 laps back on the board and Sexton back into the lead. With 2 to go, it was Town and at the checkered it was Town over Sexton. Both men drove arguably their best races ever at Kalamazoo Speedway. While eyes were glued to Sexton and Town, there was plenty of great racing going on behind the leaders. Following Town and Sexton over the finish line, it was Andrew Rutherford, Ricky LaDuke and Kyle VanSparrentak in the top five. Curtis Towne piloted Buddy Head's Street Stock and finished sixth followed by Zach Westdorp, Jeremy Young, Kyle Ribble, and young Blake Hybels wrapping up the top 10 in the 21 car 35-lap feature.



The **O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWD** class run for their second Big Money purse of this young season; the \$500 to win purse sponsored by Honor Credit Union. Matthew Eley Jr. took fast time with a time of 14.858 (90.860), almost as fast at the top Street Stock qualifier. In the 20-lap feature, Tom Smith (starting third) and Will Slaughter (starting 8th) darted to the front of the pack. Slaughter took the lead 2 laps into the race. Ira Hosner broke out and still managed a 5th place finish. Slaughter, Eley Jr., Dave Leonard Jr. and Nick Layman contended for the lead. Smith departed the race with 8 laps remaining following a caution. As is no surprise, Slaughter, Eley Jr. and Leonard Jr fought for the win. Tonight it was Will Slaughter over Eley Jr. by 0.87 seconds with Leonard Jr. about a half a second behind the leader. Nick Layman came in fourth followed by Hosner rounding out the top five. Next up was Drew Hosner, Dillon Rose (who was bumped to the Outlaws after dipping below the Zoo Stock speed cap), Bryan Gates and Tom Smith. Wayne Stack was unable to start the race.



Mason May topped the scoreboard for the **Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock** with a time of 16.779, 80.458 mph. The Zoo Stock ran heat races for the first time this season with CJ French, Daniel Abercrombie and Keegan Letts taking the checkered flag. Dillon Rose dropped below the Zoo Stock top lap speed of 16.700 and was disqualified from his heat. This year, he can sit out two features and return to the Zoo Stock class. Austin McKee (left) won the 'B' feature, Keegan Letts was the runner-up and Brandy Emerson was third. Eighteen Zoo Stock drivers lined up for the 'A' feature. Jimmy Hammann's night ended

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early in the race. Elsey Jr. passed Jeff Bozell with 18 laps remaining of the 20-lap feature. Elsey Jr. held the lead with Daniel Abercrombie and CJ French pressuring. Abercrombie got around him at the half-way point. While the battle for the lead was going on, former champion Rielly Meade had been moving through the field from his 12th place start. Abercrombie led until 3 laps remaining but at the checkered it was Meade (right), Abercrombie, Gunner Gale, Jordan Brinkert and Matt Elsey finishing in the top five. Mason May led the second half of the top 10 with Eric Mepyans, Desmond Watkins, Charles Anderson Jr. and Logan Meade.



MAY 20 🏁 OPEN DRIFTING RECAP

The second AutoMODIFIED event of the season was held on Saturday, May 20. Thirty-one cars showed up and enthusiastic fans were in the stands catching the action. A fun way to spend a Saturday. Adult grandstand tickets run \$5.



NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

It's still early in the short track season as most tracks have only raced two or three events, but we're already seeing rowdy drivers & crew acting out in the pits. We are taking these matters seriously and believe that if all local tracks stand behind the suspensions issued by other tracks, we can make an impact on misconduct. Kalamazoo Speedway will be standing behind two suspensions issued at other tracks:

I-96 Speedway on 5-12-23

Duane "Bub" Green and James Cantrell are suspended from racing at Kalamazoo Speedway for the 2023 race season.

Springport Speedway on 5-20-23

Daniel Abercrombie Sr. and Daniel Abercrombie Jr. are suspended from racing at Kalamazoo Speedway for the next three Zoo Stock events.



Photos A. Fisher

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