

KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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TRACK TALK

JULY 31, 2023

IN THIS EDITION

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AUGUST 5 🏁 SEMI-TRUCKS RETURN TO KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5	
Pits Open	Noon
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	Noon
Adult Grandstand	\$25
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$10
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:00 PM

We will see YOU on August 5!

August already???

That means it's time for the Kalamazoo Speedway Big Rigs to thunder around the 3/8 oval at Kalamazoo Speedway. And that's not all, the Techworks Trailer Sales Street Stock, O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWD, Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock and the Crown Vics share the card. The Street Stock, Outlaw FWD and Zoo Stock will all be racing for \$1,000 to win in the non-point features.

This Saturday. 7:00 PM. We will see you there!



AUGUST 11 🏁 WEEKLY RACING 🏁 AUTOGRAPH & BACKPACK NIGHT

The four weekly classes hit the track, but before that, it's autograph night and backpack giveaway night. We'll be inviting everyone into the infield pits to meet their favorite drivers, get autographs and, for kids 12 and under, not only do they get in free for the night, but they can also take a backpack home with them for the upcoming school year. Drivers, as always, we'll gratefully accept any backpacks or school supplies you'd like to donate to add to those we are purchasing. Thank you!

The Hutcherson Construction Late Model class races for \$1,200 to win (sponsored by Hutcherson Construction), the O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWD race for \$500, sponsored by Honor Credit Union, and the Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock for \$400 to win (sponsored by Howe Patio & Windows). The Techworks Trailer Sales Street Stock race for their regular weekly purse.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

Pits Open	3:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	3:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	FREE
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Autographs/Backpacks	6:35 – 7:15
Racing Starts	7:30 PM

Mark your calendars!!!



AUGUST 12 🏁 OPEN DRIFTING



On Saturday, August 12, it's another day of open drifting at the track brought to you by AutoMODIFIED. If you haven't checked them out, they'll be holding two Saturday events in August: August 12 and August 26. Drift events are rain or shine. It's only \$5 for adults to watch; 12 and under are free. Thinking you might want to be a driver? A \$20 pit pass will get you into the pits to view the cars and talk to the drivers; all of whom are more than happy to offer help.



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JULY 21 🏁 RACE RECAP

Hot, humid and, depending on which forecast was your personal favorite, we were going to get wet. We believed we'd stay dry. The first two predictions (hot and humid) were true, and the storm didn't roll in until after midnight. Bring on the racing! Lounsbury Excavating was back on the deck for their annual staff day, Honor Credit Union (sponsor of the "big money" purse for the Outlaw FWDs), and John Jackson, and other members of the Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club, were up on the midway meeting fans. Thanks to everyone who came out in the heat.

The **Hutcherson Construction Late Models** put on a green to checkered top-notch feature. But we're getting ahead of ourselves. In the practice session, Billy Shannon posted the fastest time (14.278 seconds). In qualifying it was Lucas Krick (14.230, 94.870 MPH) whose reward was to start last in the feature. Jeff Bozell led the first lap of the 35-lap feature. Kenny Head (who qualified second fastest) and started fourth in the line-up, rounded Bozell to take the lead and put up a formidable lead. Lucas Krick cracked the top five with 22 laps left in the feature; two laps later he'd moved into second with Head having posted a 2.5 second lead that appeared insurmountable. With 8 laps remaining Krick had lessened the gap but there didn't appear to be enough laps remaining for the #9 of Krick to catch the #26 of Head. Like Michigan weather---wrong! Head took the white flag with the lead and Krick had jaws dropping as he passed Head and took the checked flag with a 0.231 second lead. Kenny Head, the winner of last week's feature was the runner-up, followed by Jeff Bozell, Taylor Sexton, Billy Shannon, Rick Senneker, Keegan Sobilo, Bill Tomlinson, Patrick Kirkendall and Jordan Brinkert comprising the top 10. Krick (below) extended his 6 point lead going into tonight to 26: Billy Shannon (-26), Jeff Bozell (-34) and Kenny Head (-41).



Ricky LaDuke was the fastest in practice (15.195) and qualifying (15.050, 89.701 MPH) in the **Techworks Trailer Sales Street Stock**. In a rather caution plagued 30-lap feature, Norm Overhiser took the early lead, with Chad VanSparrentak leading for a few laps before brother, Kyle VanSparrentak, relieved him of the lead. Ricky LaDuke positioned himself behind the leader. The two frontrunners outpaced the field while Dave Leonard Jr., Kyle Ribble, Alex Sexton, Danny



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Oxford and Jeremy Young raced for position behind them. LaDuke took the lead with 12 laps remaining and went on to victory. Kyle VanSparrentak was the runner-up followed by Kyle Ribble, Dave Leonard Jr., and Alex Sexton in the top five. The second half of the top 10 lead off with Danny Oxford followed by Jeremy Young, Jerry Ballard, Norm Overhiser and Chad VanSparrentak, all on the lead lap. Kyle VanSparrentak continues his point lead over Ricky LaDuke (-56) and Kyle Ribble (-94).



Keith Ribble, Kyle VanSparrentak and Ricky LaDuke

In the **O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWDs**, Matthew Eelsey Jr. was the fastest qualifier with a time of 15.253, 88.507 MPH) Nick Layman led for the first 13 laps of the 25-lap feature. Dan Rigoni was driving toward Wayne Stack who was behind Layman. Layman had a large lead on the field but drivers behind him were winding up for their own runs when the yellow flew. One of Drew Hosner's tires took off down the front stretch leaving the #1 behind. Layman again jumped out to a big lead when the field went back to green only to have Matthew Eelsey Jr. move to the lead with 11 remaining. Eelsey Jr. proceeded to put up a substantial lead over the rest of the field and at the finish it was Eelsey Jr., finishing first, followed by Dan Rigoni (pictured below with Eelsey, Jr.), Will Slaughter, Bryson Hosner (all on the lead lap) followed by Bryan Gates (down a lap), Nick Layman, Wayne Stack and Drew Hosner in the uncharacteristically small 8-driver field. With the win, Eelsey Jr., has won his first championship at Kalamazoo Speedway. His lead of 323 points over his nearest competitor in the class is impossible to bridge with only two point races in the class remaining. There is plenty of opportunity behind him for drivers to race for their final standing in the top 10.



Mason Metzger (11) was fast qualifier in the **Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock** with a time of 16.720, 80.742 MPH. In the green to checkered 'B' feature, Terry Kline was the victor followed by Anthony Foote (12), Brandy Emerson, Don Teadt and Noah Thompson all finishing on the lead lap of the 15-lap feature. In the 20-lap 'A' feature, Cory Kruzal, starting on the pole, took the lead and kept it until the midpoint of the race when Rielly Meade drove to the lead. Scott Eelsey, Matthew Eelsey Jr., Matt Eelsey and CJ French were in the top 5 at that point looking for a win. Meade put up a comfortable lead while the field sorted out behind him. At the finish line it was Rielly Meade, Scott Eelsey, Matthew Eelsey Jr. having edged out dad, Matt Eelsey, and CJ French in the top 5. The second half of the order started with Mason May followed by Charles Anderson, Eric Mepyans, Jimmy Hammann, and Nick Ruimveld in the top 10. Matthew Eelsey Jr. retains the point lead over Scott Eelsey (-37), CJ French (-74) and Mason May (-84).

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Clockwise: Anthony Foote, Terry Kline and Brandy Emerson ('B' feature); Terry Kline and friend; Rielly Meade ('A' feature) and Matthew Elsey Jr., Scott Elsey and Rielly Meade 'A' feature.



PEOPLE WATCHING

Clockwise: John Jackson, President of the Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club presented Tim Tinney (who works the pit gate) with a gift from the Fan Club and Lounsbury Excavating staff enjoy a staff outing.



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Clockwise: Deb Swigart is our hostess for deck parties and takes tickets when not working a deck; Taylor Sexton (Late Model driver); Desmond Watkins (Zoo Stock driver); Zach Westdorp (Street Stock driver) had a rough night; Keegan Sobilo (Late Model driver) waits in the make ready chute for his feature and Dakara Williams (Zoo Stock driver) watches step-dad, Dan Rigoni, qualify in the Outlaw FWDs.



Fast, Family Fun for 73 Years

photos by A. Fisher

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