

KALAMAZOO **SPEEDWAY**

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IN THIS DOUBLE EDITION

- ❖ **SUPER SHOE XXXVI – RECAP!**
- ❖ **OCTOBER 14 – OPEN DRIFTING**

TRACK TALK

October 2, 2023



SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1 ❖❖ SUPER SHOE XXXVI ❖❖ RECAP

Three days of cars on the track. Hundreds of campers. Sunny and warm (very warm) weather!

With the format changes to this year's Super Shoe, there were four fast-time trophies given out. Sixteen heat races. Ten feature winners. Four hundred and fourteen laps of pure racing!

More photos will be available on the Kalamazoo Speedway website (multi-media navigation bar) over the weekend. We'll publish more photos in next week's e-newsletter.

PRACTICE & QUALIFYING

Ryan Crocker was the fastest in the optional Friday practice session for the 37 **FWD-DOT** cars that showed up to get a few extra laps in; Crocker clocked a 15.900. In the **FWD-Outlaw**, it was Matthew Elsey Jr., putting up a 14.655 lap time. A good enough time to put him at the top of the all-time leaderboard for the FWD class. Ben Wilcox last broke the record in 2021 with a time of 14.777. In the **RWD-Stock** class it was Jeremy Young at the top of the leaderboard with a time of 13.560. Adam Terry took the honors in the **RWD-Not Stock** class with a time of 12.944. Mike "Bubba" Brooks holds the RWD record with a time of 12.565 (2013).

Qualifying was held on Saturday, September 30. Ryan Crocker was on top of the 50 cars strong leaderboard for the **FWD-DOT** class putting up a time of 16.151. Matthew Elsey Jr., claimed fast time over 30 competitors in the **FWD-Outlaw** class with a time of 14.800. Brock Ganus was the fastest **RWD-Stock** class driver with a time of 13.386 over the field of 27 drivers. Adam Terry was at the top of the 46 driver leaderboard for the **RWD-Not Stock** class posting a time of 12.922.



Clockwise: Fast-Time Drivers (Qualifying)

Ryan Crocker (FWD – DOT); Matthew Elsey Jr. (FWD – Outlaw); Adam Terry (RWD – Not Stock) and Brock Ganus (RWD – Stock)

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FWD – DOT HEAT WINNERS



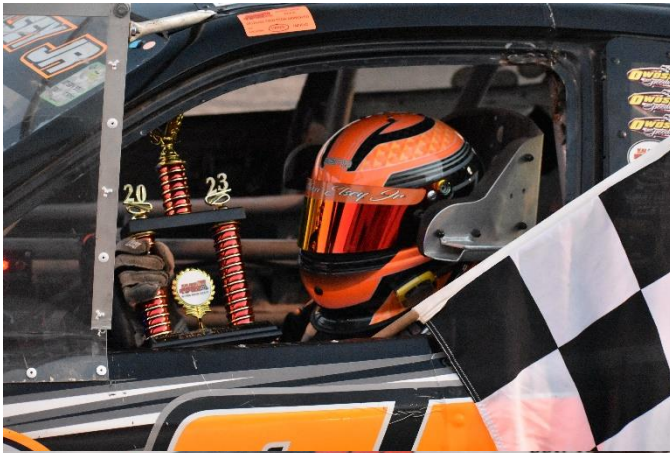
Clockwise: FWD – DOT Class (Heat Races)

Rielly Meade (with dad, Tim), Red Green,
Terry Kline, Ryan Hufford and Bo Brady.

FWD – OUTLAW HEAT WINNERS

Photos are on the next page.

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Clockwise: FWD – Outlaw Class (Heat Races)
Matthew Elsey Jr.; Tyler Casper and Stephen Emmans

RWD – STOCK HEAT WINNERS



Clockwise: RWD – Stock (Heat Races)
Brock Ganus took Heat #1 but skipped Victory Lane; Jesse VanAvery Sr. and Tim Horvath.

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RWD – NOT STOCK HEAT WINNERS



Clockwise: RWD – Not Stock (Heat Races)
Jacob Maynard; Josh Trammel; Greg Studt;
Ryan Smith and Ken Kirby.



C FEATURES

Some of the heat races felt like features they were so hotly contested. And those driving in the features came out to do the same.

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The Super Shoe XXXVI C features were run on Saturday night; the 20-lap **FWD-DOT** feature kicking off the features. Calvin Kelley, starting 13th, took the lead with 15 laps remaining. John Rupe passed Kelley with 12 laps left only to get into the wall with 7 laps to go. At the checkered it was Calvin Kelley (right) with the victory followed by Brianna Brady, Payton Mullins, Ryan Hufford, Duane Crum, Mike Mulgrew, Mariah Edwards all on the lead lap. Finishing in 8th place was Jamie Merrifield (-1), Shawn Provost (-5) and John Rupe who pulled out a top 10 finish (-7).



In the 20-lap, **RWD-Not Stock C** feature, Nick Walthorn captured the early lead. Jesse VanAvery Jr. relieved him of the lead and while Walthorn tried to regain the lead, it was VanAvery at the line for the win, pictured to the left, in Victory Lane. Following him over the line and finishing on the lead lap were Nick Walthorn in the runner-up position, Michael Langdon, Louis Davis and Ryan Smith. Dale Cronenwett, Stephanie Bradley and Andrea Miller crossed the line next, each down a lap. Chuck Pankow (-2) and Curtis Vitali (-9) wrapped up the top 10.

B FEATURES

All the A and B features were run on Super Shoe Sunday under sunny, hot skies, not feeling like October at all!

In the green to checkered 20-lap, **FWD-DOT** feature, Terry Kline started in the front row and held off a hard charging and persistent Bo Brady for the win; both drivers having won their respective heat races. When Tyler McGhan waved the checkered flag, it was Terry Kline (right) with the win, Red Green II was the runner-up, Bo Brady finished third followed by Jesse Hard III, Kodee Thompson, Keith Adams, Joel Areaux, Bailey Pauwels, Christian Haisley and Chris Pauwels all on the lead lap.



Johnny Wood took the lead in the 20-lap, **FWD-Outlaw** feature and held off all challengers until contact with another car put him into the wall and out of the race. Brandon French (next page) passed Ervin Brown to take the lead with six laps remaining and with tough competition, French took the win. Brown was the runner-up, followed by Christina Rantz, Dinah Jean, Keith Hentschel, Amanda Weatherwax and Stephen Emmans finishing on the lead lap. Johnny Wood, Marq Eaton and Brad Ingle wrapped up the top 10.

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Brandon French. FWD – DOT B feature winner.

Devin Beer, from neighboring Indiana, took the lead in the **RWD-Stock 'B'** feature with Tim Horvath in pursuit. For several laps Horvath attempted to get around Beer but couldn't complete the pass until 8 remaining when he dove to an inside pass and drove to the checkered flag. Josh Van Dusen was the runner-up followed by Shonda Harbin. Wes Allen finished down one, Devin Beer (-5) for the top five.

Tim Horvath (right) didn't think he'd be able to make Super Shoe XXXVI, then car owner Chris Terry asked him to drive. Now he's the Super Shoe B feature winner (and won his heat earlier).

The final B feature was a 30-lap, **RWD-Not Stock**, 19 car affair. Greg Studt took the early lead with Matt Sullivan moving to the lead and staying there until almost the white flag lap when Jared Blanchard (bottom right) took the lead and the checkered flag. Blanchard charged through the field from the tail. Matt Sullivan was the runner-up followed by Greg Studt, Ken Kirby, Trenten Vogts, Jeremy Vanderhoof, Nolan Woods, Lonnie York, Brian Kirksey and Jeremy Cronenwett (-1).



SUPER SHOE NATIONALS

And then it was time for the Super Shoe National titles for the 4 classes.



First up, the 25-lap **FWD-DOT** class. Scott Elsey was a man on a mission after unsuccessfully vying for this year's Zoo Stock season championship. Elsey (left) took the lead a few laps into the race and drove to the win with plenty in the field trying to take the lead from him. Bryson Hosner was the runner-up (0.422 seconds behind) followed by John Reames, Nick Failing, Lonnie Green II, John Gonzales, Ryan Diamond, Mike Currier, Ryan Crocker and Rielly Meade rounding out the top 10 (all on the lead lap).

With the fast times Matthew Elsey Jr. (right) put up in both the practice session and qualifying it surprised no one that Elsey Jr., shot out to the lead in the 30-lap, **FWD-Outlaw** feature 8 laps into the race. Elsey Jr., started at the tail (of the 17 car field), and put up a lead of almost three-quarters of the track. Racing for position behind the leader, Dave Leonard Jr. (-11.821 seconds behind) and Nick Failing (13.793 behind) were the runner-up and 3rd place finishers. John Neal, Dale Leonard, Tyler Casper, Sheldon Lindlag, Leland Riddle, Eric Mepyans finished -1 with Chris Elwell finishing in 10th place -2.



In the **RWD-Stock**, the 35-lap feature saw Jesse VanAvery Sr. take lap one while the field sorted itself out. After a series of cautions, VanAvery had a strong restart but Colin Bozell had flown through the field and moved into the lead with 32 laps remaining. Brock Ganus, having started 18th, did some flying of his own and by lap 30 was the leader. Jeremy Young, starting 17th, moved through the field behind Ganus. At the checkered, it was Brock Ganus, Jeremy Young, Toby Montgomery, Colin Bozell and Nick Stremme (-1) in the top 5. The second half of the order started Danny Oxford (-2), Jesse VanAvery Sr. (-3), Ryan Westfall (-3), Rob Hardy (-4) and Adam VanAvery (-4).

And then we were to the final race of the 2023 season. The 50-lap Super Shoe Nationals for the **RWD-Not Stock**. What a race and finale to the season. Josh Trammel led the early laps with the #24 of Jacob Maynard (starting in 11th place) going under Trammel to take the lead with 44 laps remaining. Adam Terry positioned himself in the runner-up position and try as he did, couldn't get around Maynard. Then Maynard starting smoking, was flagged and retired from the race finishing 1 lap down. Adam Terry (right with family) took the checkered flag and is the 2023 Super Shoe Nationals champion. Nick Pressler was the runner-up, Corey Ryman placed third followed by Billy Shannon and Cory Pressler, all on the lead lap. Jacob Maynard (-1) led off the second half of the order, followed by Louis Miller (-2), Chris Garrett (-2), Josh Trammel (-2) and Brian Teske (-2) wrapping up the top ten.



Congratulations to every driver who participated in Super Shoe XXXVI and to the fast-time, heat and feature winners!

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OCTOBER 14 DRIFTING (LEASED EVENT)



Mark your calendars for the final three AutoMODIFIED open drift events for 2023. The first of the three is October 14 (followed by October 28 and November 11). The track goes hot from 2:00 PM through 9:00 PM (which includes some drifting under the lights). Pit passes are \$20 for non-drivers. Drivers are always happy to talk about their car and their sport—and some offer ride-a-longs. Drifting is a rain or shine event. Grandstands are \$5 for adults; no charge for 12 and under.



Fast, Family Fun for 73 Years

photos by A. Fisher

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