



KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK August 15, 2018



INSIDE THIS SPECIAL KLASH EDITION

- FRIDAY, AUGUST 17 – STOCK FIVE NIGHT
- NEXT UP AT THE ZOO
- KALAMAZOO KLASH XXVI



FRIDAY AUGUST 17: STOCK FIVE NIGHT ■ AUTOGRAPHS ■ BACKPACK GIVEAWAYS

Pits Open	3:30
Pit Pass (12 & up)	\$30
Autographs	6:30 – 7:10
Adults	\$12
Youth 6-12	\$5
Kids 5 & Under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30

All five classes race in the last night of weekly racing before Season Championship Night. Point races are very tight in several classes with the lead switching from week to week.

In addition to great racing, this Friday is also autograph night and the annual Back-2-School Backpack Giveaway. Join us in the pits (no charge from 6:30 to 7:10) to meet up with your favorite drivers and check how to nab one of the 100 backpacks.



The unexpected is always just around the corner, don't miss any of the remaining season action. We will see you at the races.

NEXT UP AT KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24



STOCK FIVE NIGHT SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT

All Classes Race

100 Lap Finale for the Outlaw Super Late Models

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Rain date September 2



CALL OF THE WILD

From the Outlaw Super Late Models to the Zoo Stocks, drivers try to break the world speed record PLUS there'll be plenty of "no set-up rules" feature racing.

The 4th Annual World Series for Compacts will make up their event from July 20 (rained out).



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

PIT PARTY AT THE ZOO

Join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our drivers in 2018. Food, music and fun from 7:00 – midnight. \$20 before 9 for party food and awards; \$10 after 9:00 for live entertainment from the Bronk Bros.

AUGUST 8 AT THE RACES – KALAMAZOO KLASH XXVI

Fifty-nine drivers and their crews started arriving and setting up by 10:00 in the morning and everyone had a long list of things to get done before practice started at 1:30.



By 1:00 drivers were set-up and in the drivers' meeting. In the yellow shirts, (clockwise) Gary Howe, Shawn McLaughlin, Rick Beebe and Jason Seltzer make sure the drivers have the information they need to have a successful race night.



With practice and qualifying complete, fans streamed into the infield to chat with the drivers, snag some autographs and get a few photos.



Right, Kevin Sauer (driver of the Star Wars #24 and co-owner of the South Bend Motor Speedway) signs an autograph for a fan; below Steve Needles signs a hero card for one of his fans.



Clockwise: Jeff Ganus strikes a pose for a fan; Adam Terry makes a youngster feel special; it's all in the family with Phil and Andy Bozell; fans get back to their seats as race time approaches; tent city in the infield; Billy Shannon shares a smile with a fan; Tyler Roahrig looking pretty relaxed before the race.



AWARDS

Steve Needles (left) had the fastest qualifying time for the Outlaw Super Late Models (12.991 seconds and 103.918 MPH). Brian Campbell (right) did the same for the ARCA/CRA Super Series with a time of 13.061 (103.361 MPH) around the 3/8 mile high-banked oval. Both drivers are pictured with the ARCA/CRA announcer Andrew Hayn, a former Kalamazoo Speedway announcer.



KALAMAZOO KLASH 'B' FEATURE

Based on qualifying times, the top 20 automatically lock into the Klash. With a high car count, that put 17 drivers into the 'B' Feature for the Klash, the first feature event of the evening. Jacob Maynard and Nick Pressler scratched. Matt Frazier was awarded the provisional to the main event for top points in the Kalamazoo Speedway Outlaw Super Late Model class of drivers who did not qualify for the top 20. That left 14 vying for the win and the \$1,000 payout sponsored by Duco Performance and fishbucklake.com. Austin Maynard (right) and Jack Landis brought the field to green for the 30-lap feature. Brian Maxim spun and brought out the first caution with 18 laps remaining. Maynard took the lead on the restart with Landis moving to the lead with 14 to go. Chris Garrett brought out the caution with 11 laps to go when he went into the wall. Maynard led following the restart over Landis and Matt Corliss. Corliss took the second spot from Landis with 10 to go. On the final lap, Albert Francis and Kevin Sauer came together making the 30 lap feature 31. Matt Corliss and Maynard battled for the lead with Maynard taking the checkered flag. Corliss finished second followed by Jack Landis, TK Whitman and Dennis Strickland. Maynard had the option to race in the main event and forego the payout but chose to keep his trophy and the \$1,000.

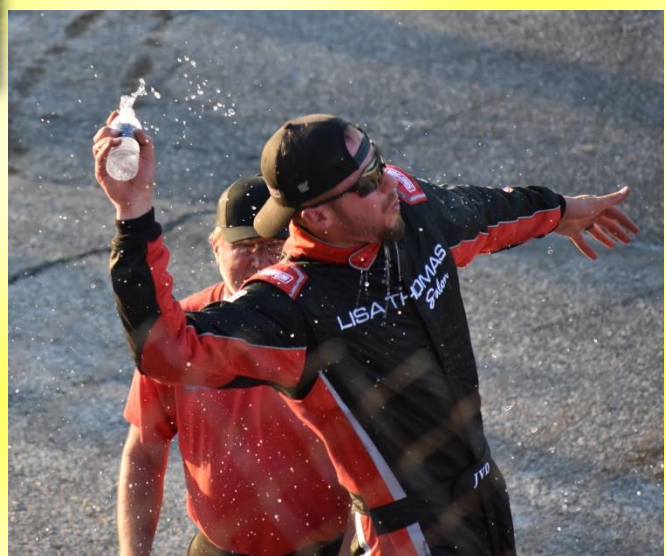


Below, Austin Maynard lines up in the make ready chute for the Kalamazoo Klash 'B' feature. Bottom, Jack Landis and Austin Maynard lead the field to the green flag to start the race.



ARCA/CRA SUPER SERIES 125

Harold Fair Jr. jumped out to an early and commanding lead in the 125 lap ARCA/CRA Super Series race. With 115 laps to go, it was Fair Jr., Josh Brock, Kyle Crump, Austin Kunert, Johnny VanDoorn and Carson Hocevar. VanDoorn made quick work of Kunert with Hocevar following while Fair Jr.'s lead continued to grow. With 71 to go, VanDoorn moved into second place spot as Hocevar moved into the third spot. VanDoorn took the lead at about the halfway point with Hocevar behind him to take second place. Hocevar had the lead briefly with less than 40 to go but made contact with Steve Dorner with 36 remaining; VanDoorn made the most of the opportunity and regained the lead. Hocevar gave VanDoorn a run for his money but in the end of the caution-free race it was VanDoorn, Hocevar, Josh Brock, Travis Braden and Fair Jr. Celebrating with a burnout (below) he said "to finally win it [the race] is awesome". VanDoorn has made 5 previous attempts to win this race, coming in second to Kyle Busch in 2014, 3rd in 2016 and the runner-up again last year to Travis Braden. Below: The 125 starts, VanDoorn celebrating and Carson Hocevar getting ready to climb into his car for his run at the trophy.

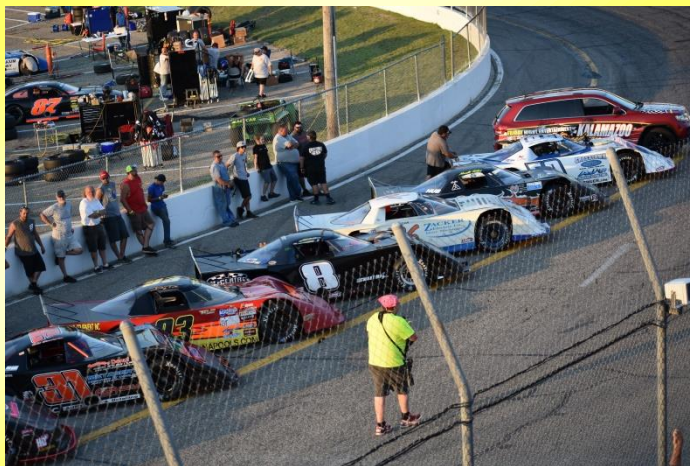


KALAMAZOO KLASH XXVI

Some driver's days ended before the final race. Rick Senneker didn't make it out of practice discovering his new engine, in his sporty new car, had sustained more damage than realized in a multi-car pile-up during the feature on July 27. For 21 other drivers, cars were lined up on the track as each driver was introduced and went up into the grandstands to throw out an autographed hat. If that driver won Klash XXVI, the person who caught the toss won \$100. An inversion of 14 put quick time winner Steve Needles in the 14th starting position and Brandon Lyons on the pole with Monte Tolan beside to him.

Phil Bozell took the early lead from the 4th starting position and held the lead until Jeff Ganus passed him with 87 laps remaining. Todd Harrington had moved into the third position with the #25 of JR Roahrig and the #24 of Tyler Roahrig bringing up the tail of the top 5. The Roahrigs had been moving up toward the front of the pack but now they were gunning. The laps ticked off while Ganus held on to his lead. The #25 moved up behind Phil Bozell for third with the #24 remaining in the 5th position. With 50 laps to go, the senior Roahrig got the better of Bozell and set his sights on Ganus. The #24 followed his dad around Bozell with under 48 laps remaining. Although the #25 caught Ganus he couldn't get around him. Nine laps later both Roahrigs were all over Ganus. 37 laps to go proved to be a pivotal lap. JR Roahrig got around Ganus and, caution free to this point, the race had its first caution when a lapped car spun on the front stretch taking two top contenders, JR Roahrig and Jeff Ganus, out of the race. When the race resumed, Tyler Roahrig and Phil Bozell led the field to green. Roahrig took the lead and Brian Bergakker moved around Bozell into second. With 30 laps remaining, it was Roahrig, Bergakker, Bozell, Needles, Adam Terry and Lyons. With 17 to go the second and last caution of the race came out when Bozell and Needles made contact. Needles retired to the pits and Bozell retained his position near the front of the pack. Bergakker and Roahrig led the field back to green with Bergakker getting a fast start and taking the lead for several laps before Roahrig went into the lead. Terry moved into the third spot. At the checkered it was Tyler Roahrig taking his second consecutive Klash joining only Andy Bozell and Terry Senneker Jr, in winning consecutive Klashes. Senneker Jr. holds the record for most Klash wins (5) and most consecutive (3). In his post-race interview Roahrig was pumped with the win calling it a "really kick ass race". He gave props to his competition and thanked the fans for coming out saying he loves to race at Kalamazoo because the grandstands are always full and hinted he may be back for Season Championship night.

Below: Cars lined up for driver introductions and Brian Bergakker on his way back into the infield after tossing out his autographed hat into the crowd.



Clockwise: Pace laps; JR Roahrig and Jeff Ganus' race ended with 37 laps to go; Chris (left) and Adam Terry of GT Products hold the Kalamazoo Klash winner's check in front of the trophies. Tyler Roahrig in Victory Lane.



Kevin Barthel



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