



All five weekly classes ran at Kalamazoo Speedway for the first time since opening night back in April. It was autograph night and close to 150 backpacks were handed out to our younger fans thanks to the generosity of our race teams and staff. The talented Michael Dunn-Haley and Ben Schultz, Nightmare Racing, put on a drifting exhibition to get the racing portion of the night started. We'll be seeing them again at upcoming events.

The Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock put up a few surprises with Joe Carlin (16.759) qualifying at the top of the 32 car field. Previous feature winners Ryan Diamond (also the Zoo Stock point leader) and Summer Velasquez put up lap times faster than the 16.750 permitted in the class and now are contenders in the Outlaw FWD class. Tim Sigourney, with previous heat races under his belt as well as being towed from the field a couple of times this season, won the 15-lap B feature. Cody Warren won the 20-lap A feature followed by Rielly Meade, Logan Meade, Chet Terry and Charles Anderson. Logan Meade is new the point leader.

Matthew Elsey, Jr., put up fast time in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWD (15.087). Dave Leonard Jr., fought off all challenges to win the 25-lap feature. Will Slaughter was the runner-up, followed by Matthew Elsey Jr., Chris Harman and Dan Rigoni. Slaughter retains the point lead over Elsey Jr. (-26).

The Techworks Street Stock's Jeremy Young qualified at the top of the 22 car field (14.988). Ricky LaDuke won the 30-lap feature amidst stiff competition from the remaining top five, Danny Oxford, Colin Bozell, Matt Weenink and Jeremy Young. Ricky LaDuke extended his point lead over Jeremy Young to 47.

It's an unusual night when the Landscape Forms Outlaw Super Late Models don't command center stage, but this was one of those nights with the Hutcherson Grand Slam Finale on the program. Nonetheless, the Outlaws were in the house and though in fewer numbers than usual, it was a solid field and a good race. Todd Harrington, the point leader going into tonight's race, was fast qualifier (12.513). Matt Frazier won the 35-lap feature followed across the line by Doug True, Craig Everage, Rick Senneker and Paul Jakubik. Despite Harrington's fast start, he wasn't able to finish the race and with no margin for error, Rick Senneker is the new point leader by a slim 3 points over Harrington.

In the Hutcherson Construction Template Late Models, it was the Hutcherson Grand Slam finale after weeks of drivers securing their places in the select field of 12 and emotions were running higher than usual. A series of unrelated events took out a number of contenders and suspensions will likely result from a late race crash. Buddy Head and Dylan Stovall had been running neck and neck trading the lead for 17 laps when, with 11 laps remaining, they crashed, also taking out Jared Blanchard who was running 3rd at the time. Among other things, this race will be remembered as an example of "never give up". Suddenly 21 year old Taylor Sexton found herself in the lead with 16 year old Nate Koester trailing. Lucas Krick was in 3rd having pitted under caution following an earlier track incident. The final 11 laps of the race was a shootout with Koester taking the lead and the checkered flag for his first win at Kalamazoo Speedway; he'd raced at Little Kalamazoo Speedway for the previous 5 years. Taylor Sexton was the runner-up followed by Lucas Krick, Lon Putnam and Ken Papesh all on the lead lap. Honorable mention goes to A.J. Foote, involved in an earlier track incident, who pitted and returned to the race with his hood secured with what looked like straps of electrical tape. This was not a point race.

On Friday, August 19 the Outlaw Super Late Models, Template Late Models, Outlaw FWD and the Zoo Stock return to point racing as the regular season winds down. For expanded news and photos of the August 12 races, upcoming events and other news, catch the Kalamazoo Speedway e-newsletter, Track Talk, on August 15.