



In the spring of 1993, Marty & Bobby Jones set out to put together a Super Late Model spectacular that would rival any pavement race in the country. With ideas from some of the sharpest minds in the business, the **Klash** was born and their dreams realized. The Klash is the prize that hundreds of Midwest Late Model drivers strive to add to their racing resumes. Gary Howe continued to build the Klash so that it's been named one of the top five short track racing events in the nation.

### KALAMAZOO KLASH HONOR ROLL

Date	Fast Time	Winner	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
1993 (I)	Bob Holley (12.994)	Andy Bozell	Mike Vansparrentak
1994 (II)	M. Vansparrentak (13.281)	Andy Bozell	Dave Sensiba
1995 (III)	Gary Howe (12.925)	Brian Cloud	Johnny Benson Jr.
1996 (IV)	Todd Wilcox (12.940)	Bob Holley	Gary Terry
1997 (V)	Rich Jackson (12.680)	Andy Bozell	Ken Scheffler
1998 (VI)	Marty Crawford, Jr. (12.538)	Mike Vansparrentak	Andy Bozell
1999 (VII)	Ken Scheffler (12.511)	Chris Orr	Bob Holley
2000 (VIII)	Joe Bush (12.602)	Todd Currier	Butch Miller
2001 (IX)	Alan Marcott (12.547)	Ken Scheffler	Tom Thomas
2002 (X)	Kurt Spalding (12.611)	Chris Orr	Andy Bozell
2003 (XI)	Brian Campbell (12.678)	Tom Thomas	Fred Campbell
2004 (XII)	Brian Campbell (12.884)	Fred Campbell	Andy Bozell
2005 (XIII)	Fred Campbell (13.129)	Lee Anderson	Fred Campbell
2006 (XIV)	Terry Senneker, Jr. (12.401)	Johnny Benson	Tom Thomas
2007 (XV)	Steve Needles (13.119)	Andy Bozell	Joe Bush
2008 (XVI)	Steve Needles (12.682)	Terry Senneker, Jr.	Joe Bush
2009 (XVII)	Steve Needles (12.646)	Steve Needles	Tom Thomas
2010 (XVIII)	Johnny Benson (12.615)	Rick Sexton	Phil Bozell
2011 (XIX)	Trent Hellenga (12.229)	Phil Bozell	Steve Needles
2012 (XX)	Tyler Roahrig (12.101)	Terry Senneker, Jr.	Tyler Roahrig
2013 (XXI)	Tyler Roahrig (11.841)	Terry Senneker, Jr.	Tyler Roahrig
2014 (XXII)	Terry Senneker, Jr. (11.759)	Terry Senneker, Jr.	Brian Bergakker
2015 (XXIII)	Terry Senneker, Jr. (11.970)	Jeff Ganus	Brian Bergakker
2016 (XXIV)	Terry Senneker Jr. (12.059)	Terry Senneker, Jr.	Tyler Roahrig
2017 (XXV)	Kyle Busch (12.220)	Tyler Roahrig	Kyle Busch
2018 (XXVI)	Steve Needles (12.991)	Tyler Roahrig	Brian Bergakker
2019 (XXVII)	Andy Bozell (12.889)	Tyler Roahrig	Adam Terry
2020 (XXVIII)	Steve Needles (12.846)	Steve Needles	Tyler Roahrig
2021 (XXIX)	Brian Bergakker (12.972)	Tyler Roahrig	Andy Bozell
2022 (XXX)	Tyler Roahrig (12.274)	Phil Bozell	Mark Shook

## KALAMAZOO KLASH – YEARS ONE (I) THROUGH THIRTY (XXX)



The **inaugural Klash** was held August 18, 1993 in front of a record crowd. Among the 51 entries were ARCA champion Tim Steele, ASA stars Butch Miller, Glenn Allen Jr., Joe Shear, Open Wheel Ace Gary Fedewa, and Lane Automotive owner Doug Lane. When the dust settled a new star emerged as Andy Bozell (pictured) chased down and passed fan favorite Mike Vansparrentak to collect the \$10,000 cash prize.

**Klash II** saw another star-studded field that included a Wisconsin hot shoe named Matt Kenseth. The race itself was a classic duel with Andy Bozell and Dave Sensiba swapping the lead eight times before Bozell used a lapped car to fend off a late challenge and collect his second straight 200 lap win.

**Klash III** featured NASCAR stars Ken Schrader and Johnny Benson Jr. Gary Howe started things off setting a fast time of 12.925. Schrader charged from his 13<sup>th</sup> starting spot in the Sweet Manufacturing house car to the lead at the halfway break. Perhaps the real story was local driver, Brian Cloud, who had worked his way from 16<sup>th</sup> to second place, setting up an upset finish. With less than 50 laps to go and Schrader fading, Cloud (right) made his move to win his first ever feature at Kalamazoo Speedway.



Ken Schrader was back in 1996 to compete in **Klash IV** along with the addition of a “B” feature won by Plainwell's Donnie Brest. On a day that was plagued by rain, the skies opened up during the half-way break and pushed the completion of the race to the following day. On Thursday, half-way leader Bob Holley picked up where he left off as he led a caution-free second half to win over Gary Terry and Bob Senneker.

After disappointing runs the previous two years Andy Bozell was back in form dominating **Klash V** leading 197 of the 200 laps to score his 3rd win in five starts. Rich Jackson had fast time with a 12.680, and Joe Bush won the ‘B’ feature.



In 1998 **Klash VI** reached legendary status. It began with the two youngest entrants in the field, Ginger Phillips, 19, the first female to compete in the event and Adam Petty, 18, a fourth generation descendant of racing royalty. Andy Bozell started in the front row and traded the early lead with Port City house car teammates Fred Campbell and Dave Sensiba, but the real show of the first half was the charge through the field by last row starters Mike Eddy and Butch Miller. In the second half, Bozell emerged from the pack and built a comfortable lead. With three laps to go a caution bunched up the field and set the stage for what is now known as "The Pass". On the restart Bozell

quickly built a four car length lead and appeared to be headed for his fourth Klash win. Taking the white flag two lengths behind Bozell, Mike Vansparrentak made a bold charge to the outside of the track and exited turn two alongside of the leader. As the crowd shot to their feet, Vansparrentak pulled even off of turn four and nosed ahead at the line to take the win by less than two feet.

A standing room only crowd was on hand for **Klash VII** along with a field large enough to require the event's first ‘C’ feature. The race itself came down to a three-way battle between former speedway champions: Fred Campbell, Bob Holley and Chris Orr. With less than 40 laps remaining Orr made a slick move from third to the lead and held off Holley for the biggest win of his career.

Over 80 entrants packed the pits for **Klash VIII** and the second biggest upset in Klash history was the outcome. Todd Currier started in the 14<sup>th</sup> position and shot into the top 5 behind leader Bob Holley at the mid-race break. The final segment saw Holley trading the lead with Rick Sexton before Butch Miller took charge on lap 138. With tire wear becoming a problem for Miller, Currier, now of seven cylinders, slipped past with 18 laps to go to score the \$15,000 first prize.

**Klash IX** could be described with one word: HOT! Mired in a record breaking heat wave, race day air temperatures pushed 100 degrees. John Delarye started from the pole and led all 100 laps of the first half to head into the half-way break ahead of Jeff Bozell and Fred Campbell. In the second half Delarye's domination would continue until lap 171 when the word "HOT" became a description for Delarye's engine. Under caution on lap 194 the smoke from Delarye's car turned to fire, ending the 2<sup>nd</sup> most dominating run in Klash history. Ken Scheffler took over the top spot and held off Tom Thomas and last row starter Chad Blount for the win.

**Klash X** was held in July with a record \$80,000 purse. Front row starters Andy Ponstein and Billy Shannon traded the lead for the first 32 laps before Shannon was able to pull away and lead until lap 150 when Shannon's dreams went up in tire smoke as he spun off turn four. That set up a classic duel to the finish between two Klash champions: Andy Bozell and Chris Orr. Bouncing off the wall on lap 166, Orr was able to recover to earn his second Klash win.

**Klash XI** was a tale of two races. The first half of the race was marred by several crashes and spins. The crashing continued early in the second segment eliminating former winners Chris Orr and Todd Currier as well as Tim DeVos, Kenny Warner and Billy Shannon. As the race reached the late stages, Tom Thomas and Fred Campbell swapped the lead a couple of times with Thomas prevailing for his first Klash victory.



**Klash XII** was a classic duel between two legendary Michigan short track racers. Andy Bozell along with outside pole sitter Fred Campbell ran inches apart the entire race. Campbell (left) was finally able to pull away and add the Klash to a long list of career wins.

Mother Nature was extremely unkind to race fans attending **Klash XIII** in 2005. Rain delays turned the race into a two-day umbrella opening contest and demolished several race cars during a sudden shower that hit in the middle of Wednesday night's "C" feature.

The rest of the event had to be moved to the following night. Under threatening skies, Lee Anderson took the lead early and held a comfortable margin past the halfway point. Fred Campbell challenged for the lead late, but the rain made another appearance and the race was called off 16 laps short of the 200-lap distance. Lee Anderson was declared the winner and Team Gentry left town with \$20,000 and a pile of trophies.

The running of **Klash XIV** brought out the big guns as the \$25,000 top prize lured in many short track stars. Scott Bloomquist was in the middle of a record breaking season in dirt short track wins. Bloomquist would be making his first asphalt start since 1992. Johnny Benson Jr., in the middle of one of his most successful Craftsman Truck Series seasons, returned to one of his old favorite short tracks. Local favorites geared up for battle; however, at the conclusion of the Klash, the out-of-towners took home the top 5 spots, with Benson Jr. taking home the \$25K prize, followed by Tom Thomas, Phil Massuch, Leroy Magoon, and John Delarye. The star studded "B" feature had some big names in the short track ranks, as John Gregga scored the win over such drivers as Scott Hantz, Fred Campbell, Phil Bozell and Chris Orr. Terry Senneker Jr. was the fast qualifier (12.401) out of nearly 70 Late Models attempting to make the field.



**Klash XV** became the highest paying asphalt short track race in the nation paying an unprecedented \$30,157 to the winner of that year's spectacle. After 60 plus cars qualified for the historic show, Steve Needles added quick time (13.119) to his young resume. The local drivers vowed not to let the out-of-towners take home the big prize this year and true to his prediction, Andy Bozell scored his 4<sup>th</sup> Klash win, claiming his single highest payday ever. Joe Bush was second, followed by Needles, Kenny Head and Dave Sensiba. Showing the caliber of this event, Johnny VanDoorn won the "B" feature followed by driving ace Tim DeVos.



**Klash XVI** would become one of the greatest Klash races ever as 2006 Late Model champion Terry Senneker Jr. drove from the 18<sup>th</sup> starting position to take the lead with one lap to go in the first segment of the race. After a three-car inversion for the final segment put Joe Bush on the pole, the stage was set for an epic battle between Bush and Senneker. The two would trade the lead back and forth before Senneker took the lead for good with only 19 laps to go. Bush held on for second ahead of Phil Massuch, Tom Thomas and Brian Bergakker. Buddy Head won the "B" Feature while Steve Needles was quick time (12.682) for the second year in a row.



Steve Needles posted fast time for the third year in the row at **Klash XVII** with a 12.646 lap. Caleb Bisacky took the early lead and held on until lap 28 when Brandon Lyons charged by. Just twelve laps later former Klash winner Tom Thomas overtook Lyons and held point until Needles caught and passed him with 16 laps left in the first segment. Needles hung on to win the first segment in front of Thomas, Joe Bush and Terry Senneker Jr. The start of the final segment was a spirited duel with Senneker emerging on top and driving away from the field until a spin on lap 115. That spin gave Needles the lead back earning him his first Klash trophy.

**Klash XVIII** started with many people considering Rick Sexton a long shot to take the checkered flag, but at the end of the 150 lap race he was the man with the hardware and the big check in victory lane. Sexton finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the first segment and then hit the inversion perfectly to start on the pole for the second segment. Sexton held off several challenges from Phil Bozell who held on to finish second ahead of Trent Hellenga, four-time Klash winner Andy Bozell and Tom Thomas. Johnny Benson Jr. set quick time earlier in the day with a lap of 12.615 while Corey Ryman won the Last Chance race.



Outlaw Super Late Model point leader Phil Bozell charged through the field in **Klash XIX** to win his first Klash. Former Klash winner Steve Needles finished second ahead of Johnny Benson Jr., JR Roahrig and fast qualifier Trent Hellenga. Needles' teammate, Terry Senneker Jr., finished 6<sup>th</sup> ahead of Tom Thomas, Mike Luberd, Billy Shannon and Jeff Bozell. Chris Koslek and Todd Harrington won the Last Chance races. Trent Hellenga took quick time (12.229).

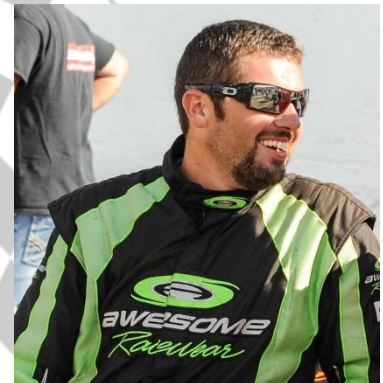
**Klash XX** saw young Jamison Russell take the lead before being overtaken by Phil Bozell in the Lane Automotive and Sweet Manufacturing 150 lap feature. Fast qualifier Tyler Roahrig (12.101) wrestled the lead from Bozell before being overtaken by Terry Senneker Jr. in the closing laps of the first segment. Senneker took command of the second segment winning his second Klash over Roahrig, Tom Thomas, Andy Bozell and Brian Bergakker.



Terry Senneker Jr. picked up the win in **Klash XXI** becoming the first driver to win the Klash back-to-back since Andy Bozell did it 19 years ago. Senneker started deep in the pack and methodically worked his way to the front. He finished the first segment in second position and a four-car inversion placed him third on the grid for the final segment. It didn't take him long to get to the front and pick up the \$10,000 purse. Tyler Roahrig finished an impressive second place ahead of former Klash winner Phil Bozell, Brian Ross and four-time Klash winner Andy Bozell. Ross Meeuwsen was the fastest of the qualifiers with a lap of 11.826 seconds while John Chapman won the "B" feature.

Despite Jeff Ganus and Brian Bergakker collecting wins in the first two segments of **Klash XXII**, Terry Senneker Jr. picked up the third and final segment, resulting in a \$10,000 payday and his 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive and 4<sup>th</sup> Kalamazoo Klash title. Senneker's victory tied him with 12-time track champion Andy Bozell for the most wins in the nation's premier Outlaw Super Late Model event. Bergakker finished second ahead of JR Roahrig, Steve Needles and Tom Thomas. Senneker was the fastest (11.759) of the qualifiers while Corey Ryman won the Last Chance race. NASCAR Sprint Cup Superstar Kyle Busch won the ARCA/CRA Super Series event but retired early with mechanical issues in the Klash.

Jeff Ganus wanted to leave Kalamazoo Speedway and head home after practice for **Klash XXIII**. A few hours later he was celebrating one of the biggest wins of his career on the front stretch of the fastest 3/8 oval in the world. Ganus held off a hard-charging Brian Bergakker on a restart with less than 10 laps to go. Jack Landis, NASCAR two-time Camping World Truck Series champion Matt Crafton, and 12-time track champion Andy Bozell rounded out the top five. Terry Senneker Jr. had quick time (11.970) but ran into mechanical issues dashing his quest for a 5<sup>th</sup> Klash win. Ali Kern won the ARCA/CRA Super Series race.



**Klash XXIV** boasted hot racing and hot temperatures. With over 6000 in attendance, history was made as Terry Senneker Jr. won an unprecedented 5<sup>th</sup> Kalamazoo Klash (from the tail of the field when he voluntarily accepted the \$1000 Shotgun Challenge offered the fast qualifier [12.059]). Justin Schroeder prevailed in the Last Chance race. Early in the Klash a tangle left 8 cars, including Senneker, motionless in turn three. Senneker



avoided mishap by stopping just short of the melee. Harold Fair Jr., led at lap 37 with Senneker's #37 on his bumper. Andy Bozell (also a 4 time Klash winner and looking to make it 5) was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. With about 30 laps to go, a caution lined Roahrig and Senneker up with Roahrig flying out to the lead. With 15 to go another caution flew and Roahrig took the inside lane for the restart. Senneker jumped out to the lead only to have the caution wave again. Senneker took the inside on the restart, the lead and the checkered. Roahrig finished second to Senneker for a third time, followed by Brandon Lyons, Brian Bergakker and Bozell. Brian Campbell won the ARCA/CRA Super Series race with Erik Jones posting fast time (12.732).

**Klash XXV** celebrated 25 years and welcomed Kyle Busch back to the Klash. While 5-time Klash champion Terry Senneker was sidelined earlier in the week, Senneker Performance provided the #51 piloted by Busch. Dennis Strickland won the Last Chance race and made the most of it by finishing 7<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Ganus (2015 Klash champion) and Steve Needles (2009) headed up the field when the race went green. Needles took the early lead before Ganus passed him. The race was plagued by 7 cautions including a pileup in Turn 1 following the 3<sup>rd</sup>



restart trying to complete the 15<sup>th</sup> lap. Ganus led much of the rest of the race as other heavy hitters were advancing through the field behind him. At the halfway point, it was Ganus, Brian Ross, Busch, Andy Bozell, Brandon Lyons and Tyler Roahrig. Busch moved up to the #2 spot with 44 laps remaining; Roahrig was in 4<sup>th</sup>. With 40 to go the caution was thrown. On the restart Roahrig made a bold move making contact with Busch before completing the pass to secure second place. Roahrig went to the lead with 33 laps remaining and Busch set his sights on catching him. It appeared that Busch was going to get around Roahrig to take the lead but Roahrig managed to hold him off. At the finish line, Roahrig won his first Klash with less than a second to spare over second-place finisher Busch. They were followed by Ganus, Andy Bozell (1993-94, 1997, 2007) and Brian Bergakker. Travis Braden had fast time (12.880) and the win for the ARCA/CRA Super Series race.

Past Klash champions returned to the Speedway for the 25<sup>th</sup> running of this premier event.



**Back row:** Brian Cloud (1995), Andy Bozell (1993-94, 1997, 2007), Mike Vansparrentak (1998), Todd Currier (2000), Bob Holley (1996), Fred Campbell (2004), Ken Scheffler (2001), Chris Orr (1999, 2002)

**Front row:** Jeff Ganus (2015), Tom Thomas (2003), Steve Needles (2009), Phil Bozell (2011), Terry Senneker (2008, 2012-14, 2016), Rick Sexton (2010)

**Not pictured** Lee Anderson, deceased (2005), Johnny Benson Jr. (2006)

Phil Bozell took the early lead at **Klash XXVI** and held it until Jeff Ganus passed him with 87 laps remaining. The laps ticked off as Ganus maintained the lead. Caution free to this point, 37 laps to go proved pivotal. JR Roahrig got around Ganus and a lapped car spun on the front stretch taking both Roahrig and Ganus out of the race. When the race resumed, Tyler Roahrig and Phil Bozell led the field to green. Roahrig took the lead and Brain Bergakker moved around Bozell into second. With 17 to go the second and last caution of the race came out when Bozell and Needles made contact. Bergakker





and Roahrig led the field back to green with Bergakker getting a fast start and taking the lead for several laps before Roahrig wrested it from him with 13 laps remaining. 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 holds the record for most Klash wins (5) and most consecutive (3). Bergakker crossed the line two seconds behind followed by Adam Terry, Bozell and Brandon Lyons. Austin Maynard won the "B" feature. Brian Campbell took quick time (13.061) and Johnny VanDoorn finally got his win in the ARCA/CRA Super Series race.

Four-time Klash winner Andy Bozell posted fast time 12.889 in **Klash XXVII**. Kevin Sauer won the "B" feature and gave up his winnings to run in the main event. Adam Terry took the early lead and with 65 laps remaining had a commanding lead over the rest of the field while notables such as Andy Bozell, Tyler Roahrig and Steve Needles were all jockeying for position behind him. A red flag stop with 34 laps to go set up a déjà vu of the Intimidator 100 with Adam Terry and Tyler Roahrig (Terry prevailing). Terry took the outside with Roahrig on the inside for the restart. Unlike the Intimidator 100, Roahrig got the jump on Terry and won his 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Klash (matching Terry Senneker's feat from 2012-2014). Adam Terry was the runner-up followed by Phil Bozell, Steve Needles and JR Roahrig. Kyle Crump won the ARCA/CRA race (and also ran in the Klash). Brian Campbell took fast time (13.058).



The 2020 Klash (**Klash XXVIII**) was run in June of 2021 due to the track being closed for the season in 2020 (COVID). Steve Needles will have his name engraved twice for 2020 on the permanent Klash trophy: once for fast-time (12.846) and once for the Kalamazoo Klash XXVIII victory, his second (the first in 2009). With earning fast-time for Klash XXVIII, Needles claimed five fast-times in the 28-year running of the Klash; more than any other driver. Going into Friday night's Klash, Needles was tied with Terry Senneker, Jr. with four fast-times. Shawn Amor took the early lead and held it for the first quarter of the 100-lap Klash before departing the race with mechanical issues. Monte Tolan picked up the lead until caution hit with 64 laps remaining. Doug True used the caution to take the lead on the restart. Needles set about chipping into True's sizable lead and with about 37 laps remaining Needles passed True. Caution flew with 35 remaining and both Needles and Roahrig made the most of the restart outpacing the rest of the field with Needles commanding the clear lead. Roahrig gained some ground and no one wants to have Roahrig on their tail as the laps wind down in a big race, but it was Needles' night and he crossed the line with 0.453 seconds to spare over Roahrig. Phil Bozell was third followed by Doug True and Brian Bergakker rounding out the top five.



There are a few races every season that are just plain electric and the power of the engine literally vibrates the venue. Kalamazoo Klash is one of those races. It's a race for serious race fans and drivers. Three-time Klash runner-up Brian Bergakker was fast qualifier (12.972) for **Klash XXIX**. Matt Frazier won the Last Chance race with Jamison Russell, Scott Hantz and Doug Rodanhisler all advancing. Within seconds of the green flag start, the red was out. Tight racing caused a pile-up that took Jr Roahrig, Andrew Brest, Shawn Amor, Doug True, Jamison Russell and Scott Hantz out of the race. Todd Harrington and Brian Bergakker retired to the pits (Bergakker on the end of a wrecker) and both returned to the field before the restart.

Tyler Roahrig made his move early and claimed the lead over Kyle Crump 18 laps into the race. A caution with 40 laps remaining set up the first madhouse restart of the race putting Andy Bozell and Tyler Roahrig at the head of the double file restart. Roahrig got the jump and while Bozell, going for his fifth Klash win,



was right there with Roahrig for much of the remainder of the race, he couldn't make the pass. Roahrig claimed his 4<sup>th</sup> Klash win over Andy Bozell by 0.195 second. Phil Bozell came in third followed by Steve Needles, Mark Shook rounding out the top 5. Billy Shannon drove to fast-time in the Template Late Models with a time of 13.696. Nick Pressler did a masterful job of holding off his competition and keeping out of trouble for 75 long laps.

**Klash XXX** in 2022 sported a \$12,000 to win purse with a healthy \$1,200 to start purse. Tyler Roahrig captured fast time (12.274). Both Tyler Roahrig and Andy Bozell were racing to tie Terry Senneker Jr.'s record 5 Klash wins. Andy Bozell took the early lead and led until 40 laps remained when Phil Bozell made the pass. Phil Bozell increased his lead over the field to 2.7 seconds when the announcer remarked with nine laps remaining that a rocket would literally be needed to catch him. And then the caution flew with seven laps remaining. Mark Shook, looking for his first Klash win had one phenomenal restart and shot into second place. He ran upside of Bozell but couldn't get around him. At the line it was Phil Bozell winning his second Klash, Shook was the runner-up, followed by Tyle Roahrig, Brian Bergakker and Adam Terry. With rain having wiped out Raber's Street Stock Rumble the previous night, it was run as part of the Klash event. Kyle Ribble took fast time (14.814); Keith Wilfong won the 20-lap Last Chance Race with Terence Hesters also advancing. Colin Bozell won the 50 lap feature. In the Template Late Models, Billy Shannon was fast qualifier (13.754). Jeff Ganus won the 15-car 25-lap Last Chance race followed by Chris Shannon. Both advanced to the 75-lap feature. Jeff Ganus' tire was sending out smoke signals and all wondered how long the car could hang on. Long enough. Ganus, using the same drive he used in the Last Chance race, took the checkered flag for the feature.

