

KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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TRACK TALK


JUNE 12, 2023

IN THIS EDITION

- 🏁 JUNE 16 RACE PROGRAM
- 🏁 JUNE 24 RED, WHITE & BOOM
- 🏁 MARRIAGE PROPOSAL!
- 🏁 JUNE 9 RECAP
- 🏁 JUNE 17-18 DRIFT EVENT



JUNE 16 🏁 THE MODS RETURN!

 The 4J Trucking Modifieds are back to race for a \$2,500 to win purse. Also appearing are the Engine Pro Vintage Modifieds (see the June 5 newsletter for more about this group). AND two of our weekly classes round out the program: the Hutcherson Construction Late Models and the Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock.

The Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock are running their 3rd of six "Big Money" nights; the purse sponsored by Howe Patio & Windows and the Late Models will run their 3rd of six "Big Money" nights; the purse sponsored by Hutcherson Construction.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16	
Pits Open	2:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Minor Pit Pass	\$15
Tickets Windows Open	2:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$18
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$5
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:30 PM

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 **ENGINE PRO**
Vintage Modifieds 

We will see YOU at the races!

**SPARTAN
INSULATION**
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JUNE 24 🍷 THE RED, WHITE & BOOM NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION!!!

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

Pits Open	1:00 PM
Participant Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Tickets Windows Open	11:00 AM
Adult Grandstand	\$25
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$10
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:00 PM

Mark your calendars!

It's almost here!!! The annual Red, White & Boom Night of Destruction! We've got quite the program lined up: Extreme motorsports athlete Travis Pastrana, Scarecrow, the drifting crew, a burnout contest where fans pick the winner, stacker car races, the tough truck contest, bus race, trailer race, chain race, and an exhibition by the Kalamazoo Bandit Big Rigs in anticipation of the August 5 truck race! FIREWORKS!!! Persons wanting to participate in the show should check out the Red, White & Boom post (June 13)

Many of you know of special guest Travis Pastrana, an American professional motorsports competitor and stunt performer who's won X Games gold medals and was the 11th place finisher at this year's Daytona 500. And he's bringing friends from the Nitro Circus! Do Not Miss This Event!



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A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL!!



Paul Koeller asked if he could propose to Macey Dierks at the start of the June 9 race program and we enthusiastically said yes! It's a challenge to get someone out on the front stretch under pretense but we managed and Paul was able to surprise Macey with a heartfelt proposal and a lovely ring. Macey said "yes". We wish the happy couple all the best!

JUNE 9 🏁 THE INTIMIDATOR 100 RECAP

Features. Features. Features. Just like Super Shoe Sunday! Under awesome weather, a great Landscape Forms Intimidator 100 was run for the Outlaw Super Late Models with similarly competitive races run by the Late Models, Street Stock and Outlaw FWDs.

Let's start our recap with the **O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWD**. Matthew Eelsey Jr. qualified in the top spot of the 17 drivers who showed up to race with a 15.092 (89.451 MPH). Ira Hosner led the first lap of the 25-lap feature. Bryan Gates led until 19 laps remained when Rodney Russell II (starting 14th in the red #11 car) drove into the lead. Matthew Eelsey Jr., as he'd done all year, raced out to the lead with 16 laps remaining but then developed mechanical issues and retired to the pits for repairs before rejoining the field. Dave Leonard Jr. (in the #33) gave Russell a run for his money as did Jake Doxey (#70) but in the end it was Rodney Russell II (below left) taking the checkered flag for his first win of the season. Dave Leonard Jr. (center below right) was the runner-up followed by Jake Doxey (on the left), Nick Layman and Caitlin Tomlinson; all finishers in the top five. Bryan Gates was at the top of the second half of the order followed by Nolan Gross, Chris Elwell, Nick Ruimveld then Matthew Eelsey Jr. 10 laps down in the 10th position. The remaining seven drivers, like Eelsey Jr., experienced an evening that didn't go according to plan. Matthew Eelsey Jr. has the point lead.

Intimidator 100 Sponsor

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Jeremy Young was the fastest driver (15.131 seconds) in the **Techworks Trailer Sales Street Stock** practice session. Kyle VanSparrentak was the fastest in qualifying (15.057, 89.659 MPH). This was the 3rd (of six) "Big Money" nights sponsored by Performance Plus Auto & Fabrication. Jeff Town and Chad VanSparrentak led the 20-car field to green in the 35-lap feature. Jeff Town led the first few laps before a caution that ended his night. Chad VanSparrentak took over the lead with Gabe Carr and Austin Maynard in hot pursuit. Ricky LaDuke, who started in the 8th starting position had worked his way up and was challenging Maynard with 25 laps remaining. The #68 of Kyle VanSparrentak, starting in the 11th position had made it into the top five by that time with Kyle Ribble also in the mix. Ricky LaDuke looked like he was going to get by Maynard, but Maynard's car was stronger through turns 3 and 4 and he hung on for his first win of the season. In the runner-up position was defending champion Ricky LaDuke, followed by Kyle VanSparrentak, Kyle Ribble and Jeremy Young wrapping up the top five. Alex Sexton led off the second half of the order followed by Colin Bozell, Zach Westdorp, Curtis Towne, and Chad VanSparrentak. Kyle VanSparrentak has the point lead.



Kyle VanSparrentak, Ricky LaDuke, Austin Maynard



In the **Hutcherson Construction Late Models**, Billy Shannon put up the fastest lap in practice (14.220) and Buddy Head was at the top of the scoring tower in qualifying with a time of 13.948 (96.788 MPH). Jordan Brinkert led the first few laps of the 20-car, 40-lap feature before Taylor Sexton moved into the lead and held off challengers. Luke Krick (starting 8th) wanted the checkered flag more than usual as it was his birthday. Kenny Head (starting 14th) wanted the flag to honor his step-son, Ben Raber who passed away 5 years ago to the day. Buddy Head, well, he always wants the win, it doesn't matter the day. Krick moved past Sexton with 16 laps remaining. Kenny Head came on strong throughout the race. Buddy Head tried but just couldn't get around Krick. Luke Krick got his birthday wish, multi-time track champion Buddy Head was the runner-up with 4-time track champion Kenny Head finishing third ahead of Rick Senneker and Chris Shannon. Lane Head finished in the sixth position, followed by Jeff Bozell, Taylor Sexton, Bill Tomlinson and Nathan Koester, in his first start at Kalamazoo Speedway this season. Luke Krick has the point lead over defending champion Billy Shannon (towed off the oval early in the race) by 16.



On the next page, Luke Krick in Victory Lane (left) and the top three finishers on the right (Kenny Head, Luke Krick and Buddy Head).

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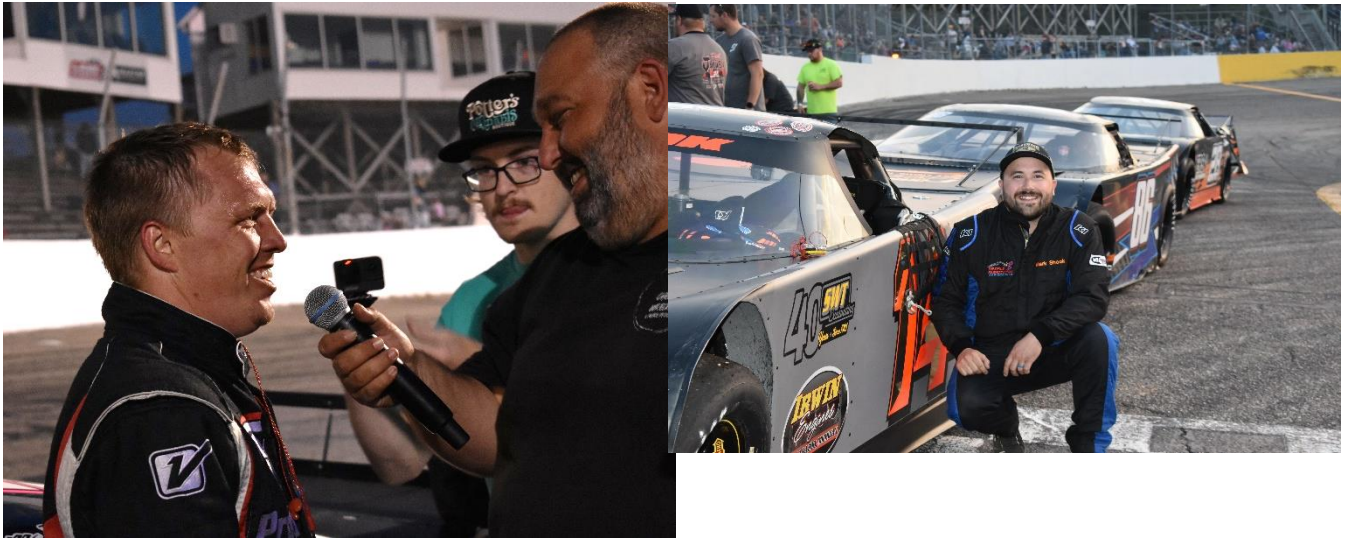


And then it was time for the 20 Outlaw Super Late Models to run the 23rd Intimidator 100, sponsored by Landscape Forms. Mark Shook was the fastest in practice with a lap speed of 12.719. Brian Bergakker took fast-time in single-car qualifying with a speed of 12.567 (106.140 MPH). Bergakker had someone else throw the dice for the inversion (roll of two dice plus six) resulting in his starting 17th in the field. This was no single file, no lead change sort of race. Early in the race, it was the #44 Landscape Forms sponsored car of Zack Cook commanding the lead. Two time Outlaw champion Todd Harrington, Rick Senneker and former champion Adam Terry followed Cook while the race was still early. Terry got around Senneker 20 laps into the race and Harrington got around Cook with 67 laps remaining. Adam Terry had the lead by the half way point and put up a substantial lead. With 35 laps remaining the yellow flew. Adam Terry was back out to the lead on the restart with Harrington on his tail and the #19 of TK Whitman pursuing. Brian Bergakker appeared in the top five following the caution and started picking off the competition. With three-quarters of the race complete Bergakker had only Terry ahead of him. Terry had a substantial lead but Bergakker began cutting into it, making the pass with 10 laps remaining. Caution flew late in the race for debris in turn one but Bergakker took the green with a strong restart. At the checkered it was Brian Bergakker, Adam Terry and former champions Mark Shook, Phil Bozell and Andy Bozell. The second half of the order started with Todd Harrington followed by TK Whitman, Buddy Gray, Matt Frazier and Monte Tolan wrapping up the top 10. Driver introduction photos (and other photos) may be found on the Kalamazoo Speedway website (multi-media tab).



Above left, Brian Bergakker in Victory Lane, right with family and his #12 car above. On the next page, runner-up Adam Terry (right) and 3rd place finisher, Mark Shook (left).

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JUNE 17-18 🏁 AUTOMODIFIED COMPETITION DRIFT WEEKEND

Gates open at noon each day. Tech runs at 1:00 PM with the track going hot at 2:00 PM both days. Practice runs from 2:00 – 4:00 PM with competitions starting at 4:00 PM. Any remaining time following the competition portion of the event will be used for open drifting (until 9:00 PM). Non-driver pit passes are \$20 per day. Spectator admission is \$5.00; no charge for kids 12 and under.



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Photos A. Fisher

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