



TRACK TALK

JUNE 19, 2023

IN THIS EDITION

- 🏁 JUNE 24 RED, WHITE & BOOM
- 🏁 JUNE 30 RACE PROGRAM
- 🏁 CIRCLE OF LIFE – RODNEY RUSSELL
- 🏁 RESULTS OF TIRE TESTING
- 🏁 JUNE 16 MOD RECAP
- 🏁 JUNE 17-18 DRIFT RECAP



JUNE 24 🏁 RED, WHITE & BOOM NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION!!!

SATURDAY, JUNE 24	
Pits Open	1:00 PM
Participant Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Ticket Windows Open	11:00 AM
Adult Grandstand	\$25
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$10
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:00 PM
We will see YOU on June 24	

The September Night of Destruction may have earned the name the title of Legendary, but the much newer Red, White & Boom Night of Destruction is looking to create some legend of its own boasting extreme motorsports athlete Travis Pastrana (and he's bringing friends!), 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! And what's our celebration of the 4th of July without a huge FIREWORKS display?

Travis Pastrana, as many of you know, is 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. We will see YOU on June 24.

Infield Pit Party from 4:00 – 6:30 PM. Face Painting! Grab Bags! Sprinklers! Sign you name on the track! Music! Lugnut (the mascot)! Music! Games! Dunk Tank! Free bus rides around the track!



JUNE 30 🏁
FRONT WHEEL DRIVE NIGHT

June 30 we're putting on a fun night for just the front wheel drive cars. Our O'Reilly Auto Parts Outlaw FWD will run with the National Compact Touring Series plus our Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock will be racing. The Touring Series will race for a \$3,000 to win purse and the Zoo Stock for a \$1,000 to win purse. Fan also get a bonus and adults get in for \$10 on June 30. Kids 12 and under are FREE. Come on out and join us.



We will see YOU at the races!

FRIDAY, JUNE 30	
Pits Open	3:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Minor Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	3:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$10
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	FREE
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Program Starts	7:30 PM

TRACK TALK

TRACK TALK

TRACK TALK

CIRCLE OF LIFE

Kalamazoo Speedway learned the Rodney Russell II, 37, had passed away suddenly from a reported heart attack on Friday, June 16 casting a somber mood on opening ceremonies. In 2023, Russell drove the familiar red #11 having won the checkered flag in his class, the Outlaw FWDs only the week before and a 3rd place finish in a highly competitive race on May 5.

Below, Russell's #11 and (upper right) in Victory Lane on May 5 and (below right) in Victory Lane for his June 9 first place finish.



RESULTS OF TIRE TESTING 🏁 JUNE 9

It doesn't escape many in the pit area when track officials cut out a chunk of a driver's tire to send in for testing under the track's tire program. And it doesn't escape notice on whose tire is the subject of such attention. On June 9 it was Buddy Head's tire. We should not presume "guilt" until the lab results are returned. The Blue Ridge Lab says the tire conformed to the benchmark for Hoosier tires. So now we all know. Please remember that Kalamazoo Speedway will not tolerate tire soaking or tampering and may test tires randomly or for cause.

JUNE 16 🏁 RACE RECAP

The 4JTrucking Modifieds returned for their 2nd of 4 races this season and the Engine Pro Vintage Modifieds made their first of two appearances. Joining the mods were the Hutcherson Construction Late Models and the Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock.



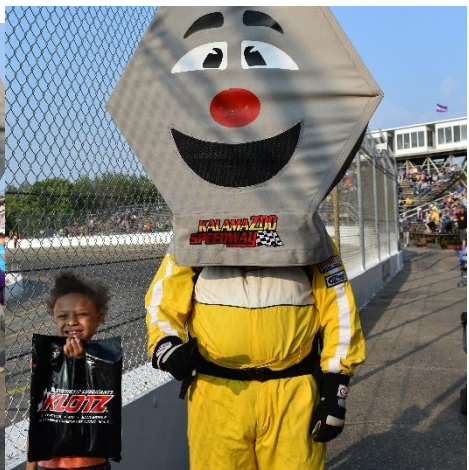
Starting off the night Jack Goodrich offered the invocation with special mention to Rodney Russell II. Ten Zoo Stock lined up with the pole position empty and circled the track, one car dropping off each lap to honor Rodney.

TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK

Brian Bergakker turned the fastest lap in practice for the **4J Trucking Modifieds**. When it came time for qualifying (done in groups of four), it was Walt Obrinske Jr., at the top position on the scoring tower with a time of 13.838 seconds (97.557 MPH). The #58 of Ron Maynard and #4 of Matt Maurer engaged in an early shootout for position when the 50-lap race went green. Maurer, who won the May 19 Modified feature, took the lead three laps into the race and put up what appeared to be an insurmountable lead while the rest of the field sorted out. Bubba Brooks (who had the small deck party cheering him on) moved into second place at about the half way point. Jeff Ganus moved up to third with Brian Bergakker and Tom Rutherford also in the top five with 15 to go. Caution with 19 remaining eliminated the very large lead that Maurer commanded. Maurer pulled ahead after the caution but Bubba Brooks wrested the lead from him with five to go. A caution very late in the race sent Brooks to the tail of the field. At the checkered it was Matt Maurer (upper right), followed by runner-up Brian Bergakker (winner of the Intimidator 100 last week), Matt Dimit, Walt Obrinske Jr., and Ron Maynard in the top five. Doug True came in sixth, then Jon Beach, Cole Carper, Bubba Brooks and Brad Springer, all on the lead lap. Above, the top 3 finishers pose for a photo, from left to right: Brian Bergakker, Matt Maurer and Matt Dimit.



First time visitor to the track, Tony Van Allen, brought a sharp looking modified (left) and gift bags (compliments of Tony's Towing) for the kids. Given he was racing, the Kalamazoo Speedway mascot, Lugnut, handed out the goody bags on his behalf.



TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK

The **Engine Pro Vintage Modifieds** were also on hand with Dave Sensiba (a familiar name to Kalamazoo Speedway) putting up the fastest time in practice (15.080). He followed that with the fastest time in qualifying with a 14.980 (90.120 MPH). Heat #1 was won by Brian Beukema; Dave Sensiba took the second heat. At this point, Dave Sensiba was going for a perfect night with only the 25-lap feature remaining. And he did just that. Brian Beukema had the early lead before Sensiba moved ahead of him with 19 laps remaining. Bob Martin was the runner-up, Duane DeBonte was third followed by Haden Horvath and Johnny Montgomery. Todd Cowan led off the second half of the top ten followed by Brian Beukema, Don Smith, Mike Duendag and Gene First.



Above, from left to right: Bob Martin, Dave Sensiba and Duane DeBonte.

Below (clockwise): Heat winners Dave Sensiba and Brian Beukema; Dave Sensiba and friends in Victory Lane and a close up of Sensiba's car showing Sensiba's versatility over his racing career.



TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK

The **Hutcherson Construction Late Models** put on a great show as has been typical all year. Buddy Head had the fastest time in practice at 14.335. Bill Tomlinson (right) took a substantial amount of ribbing with good humor when he drove to a fast-time of 14.114 (95.650 MPH) over the 21 car field. Eric McGlothlen took Heat #1 while Matthew Elsey Jr. took Heat #2 (adding a Victory Lane trip to yet a third class in 2023 this year). In the 35-lap \$1,200 to win feature (purse sponsored by Hutcherson Construction), Chris Munson jumped out to the lead; quite a substantial lead at several points. Jared Blanchard and newcomer Keegan Sobilo from New Baltimore made runs at the leader. Eric McGlothlen and Kenny Head joined the top five and all were packed and racing for position. First McGlothlen then Head got around Sobilo. And then the great equalizer, the caution, flew with 7 laps remaining. McGlothlen was off to a masterful restart and took the lead when another caution flew. Blanchard led the last lap; however, and got the lead back. Again, McGlothlen used the restart to his advantage and both he and Kenny Head got around Blanchard. Jeff Bozell, meanwhile, had taken advantage of the cautions and used some smart racing of his own to move into the third position with just three laps to go. Jared Blanchard bounced off the wall but kept going, losing a few positions in the process. At the checkered it was Eric McGlothlen, Kenny Head, Jeff Bozell, Isaac Ross and Billy Shannon in the top five. Luke Krick led off the second half of the top 10 followed by Keegan Sobilo, Jared Blanchard, Lon Putnam and Taylor Sexton. Luke Krick maintains the point lead by a slim 10 points over Jeff Bozell.



Below (clockwise): Eric McGlothlen won heat #1 and the feature. Jeff Bozell, Eric McGlothlen and Kenny Head (the top 3 finishers). Matthew Elsey Jr. won heat #2, showing the number 11 in honor of Rodney Russell.



TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK

And that leaves the **Spartan Insulation Zoo Stock**. Thirty Zoo Stock raced for the Howe Patio & Windows \$400 purse. Matthew Elsey Jr. was the top qualifier with a time of 16.808 (80.319 MPH). Scott Elsey, Terry Kline and Travis Petto won the heat races. Following in brother Bentley Foote's footsteps (no pun intended), Anthony Foote, 12, won the B feature. The celebration that followed in the Foote camp rather consumed Victory Lane. The runner-up in the race was Brock Sweeter and 3rd place was earned by Bubba Warren, 16. Sweeter is no stranger to winning but this was Bubba Warren's first trip to Victory Lane at the Speedway. Hannah Zwart looked strong in the race and had her sights on the checkered but she broke out (went too fast based on qualifying time) and was penalized.

In the 'A' feature, Daniel Abercrombie was the early leader before Scott Elsey charged to the lead with 12 of the 20-lap remaining. Several drivers, Rielly Meade, Charles Anderson, Gunner Gale and Abercrombie made a run but at the end it was Scott Elsey for his second feature win of the year. Rielly Meade was the runner-up, followed by Charles Anderson Jr., Gunner Gale and Daniel Abercrombie. Mason Metzger led off the second half of the order followed by Eric Mepyans, Mason May, C.J French and Terry Kline. Matthew Elsey Jr. maintains the point lead.

Below (clockwise): Heat winner Scott Elsey, heat winner Terry Kline, heat winner Travis Petto and Chad Vandenberg joins Anthony Foote in Victory Lane.



Next page (clockwise): the Anthony Foote celebration; Scott Elsey and the top three 'A' feature finishers (Charles Anderson, Scott Elsey and Rielly Meade).

TRACK TALK TRACK TALK TRACK TALK



JUNE 17-18 🏁 AUTOMODIFIED COMPETITION DRIFT WEEKEND

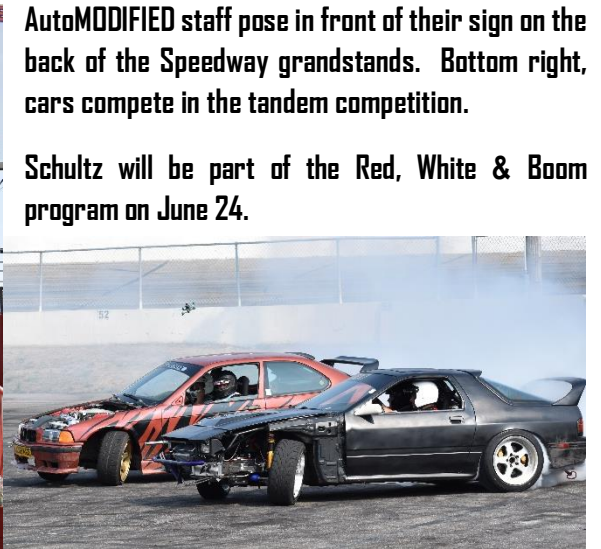
The **AutoMODIFIED** sponsored drift event wrapped up the weekend. Their next event is July 1 for open drifting. Gates

open at noon, tech runs at 1:00 PM with the track going hot at 2:00 PM. Non-driver pit passes are \$20 per day. Spectator admission is \$5.00; no charge for kids 12 and under.

Tandem competition winners: Michael Sedam (3rd place) in a 5.0L Mustang, Cody Logan (2nd place) in an LS BMW and Ben Schultz in the LS 240sx took 1st prize. Sedam and Schultz have been featured in drift exhibitions at the Speedway. In the singles competition, Ben Schultz took 3rd place (same car), second place went to Charles Wilson in a SN95 Mustang, and 1st place went to Zach Agy in a Nissan Skyline. Agy made his drift debut last year at Kalamazoo Speedway and has quickly mastered the sport plus received a nice Father's Day present in the form of the win and prize money. Bottom left, the

AutoMODIFIED staff pose in front of their sign on the back of the Speedway grandstands. Bottom right, cars compete in the tandem competition.

Schultz will be part of the Red, White & Boom program on June 24.



Photos credits: White tough truck photo by M. Elsey Jr. Travis Pastrana publicity shot. A. Fisher.