

The 2011 racing season action begins for the 60th consecutive season at the Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars this Saturday.



For immediate release

(Newton, NC – March 16, 2011) The 2011 NASCAR Whelen All-American Series action begins for the 60th consecutive season of stock car racing at Hickory Motor Speedway, this Saturday, March 19 fueled by the Hickory Daily Record.

It is sure to be an interesting season for competitors in the Bojangles Late Model division. With 2009 and 2010 Track Champion, Andy Mercer, moving on to run the UARA-Stars Late Model tour full time in 2011, it leaves one to wonder which talented Late Model driver will take over and possibly dominate the division in 2011.

Dexter Canipe Jr. and Jesse LeFevers will be back to run a full season, after finishing third and sixth respectively in Late Model points in 2010. Limited Late Model Rookie of the Year, Austin McDaniel will be moving up to the Late Model division and hopes to make a name for himself after his stellar performance in 2010. Grant Wimbish will be coming back to Hickory Motor Speedway full time in 2011, after winning the 2010 track championship at Tri-County Speedway, just up the road from Hickory. After finishing fifth in points in 2010, Candace Muzny will be back to run a partial season at the legendary short track. Running a partial season will make it difficult for Muzny to capture a championship, but she should still be a tough competitor.

It will be anyone's guess who will be on top on Championship Night with the talented list of drivers scheduled to make appearances during the season. Along with the above mentioned names drivers such as Ashley Huffman, Katie Hagar, Josh Wright, Keith Bumgarner and many more it will definitely be an exciting, entertaining and interesting racing season for Hickory Motor Speedway fans.

Along with twin 35-lap features for the Bojangles Late Models, the night will feature five more divisions of racing with appearances by the Limited Late Models, Super Trucks, Street Stocks, the Wrench Rag 4-Cylinders and Hobby Stocks. Grandstands open at 5 p.m., with qualifying immediately following. An On-Track Autograph Session will begin at 6 p.m. and racing action will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$8 for teens and seniors. In honor of Hickory Motor Speedway's 60th Anniversary season, the track will be allowing children 12 and under into the races at no charge.

For more information please visit: www.hickorymotorspeedway.com, or follow us on facebook and twitter.

About Hickory Motor Speedway:

Known as the Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars, Hickory Motor Speedway celebrates its 60th season of stock car racing in 2011. Opening the gates in 1951, Hickory Motor Speedway is the oldest professional sporting venue in Catawba County, and has been credited as the longest continually operating motor speedway in the country. Producing drivers like Ned and Dale Jarrett, Bobby Isaac, Harry Gant, Ralph Earnhardt and Dennis Setzer, it's easy to see why Hickory Motor Speedway is filled with such rich stock car racing history and has earned the title of, Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars.

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