

LODEN AND RAIN PREVAIL AT HICKORY

By
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Andy Loden dominated the BOJANGLES LATE MODEL STOCKS feature Saturday night during the 321 LAWNMOWER NIGHT AT THE RACES at Hickory Motor Speedway. Mother Nature then stormed in to claim the rest of the night, forcing the cancellation of the features for the ADVANCE AUTO PARTS SUPER TRUCKS, the Limited Late Models, Street Stock and Hobby Stock competitors.

With skies darkening with clouds, pole sitter Andy Loden in his #29 machine started alongside #53 Duncan Molesworth, then took the lead and checked out to a 2 second margin on the field. On lap 14, #31 Kyle Grissom wrestled 2nd place away from Molesworth and assumed the task of chasing down Loden.

Grissom steadily dwindled Loden's lead until the 2nd caution on lap 29 when the cars of #3 David Currier Jr. and, #89 David Latour Jr. spun after making contact in turn 2. The restart saw Grissom tacked onto the rear of Loden's bumper until the yellow flag waved again on lap 33, when three wide racing between #19 Kyle Moon, #07 Chrissy Wallace, and #35 Chris Lewis resulted in contact, sending the Lewis car spinning in turn 3. Then on the final restart, all in attendance witnessed something of an unusual nature.



Loden known by the nickname, "High Line Loden", drove his car down to the bottom groove and kept it there. This stymied Grissom's advance and, Loden began to put distance on the field again. With sprinkling rain falling over the final 3 laps of the 50 lap feature, Loden was able to take the checkered flag by a margin of over a second on Grissom who finished 2nd, #21 Brian Conner in 3rd, # 43 Jessie Lefevers came home 4th , and Patrick McVay in his #33 machine rounded out the top 5.

"I was able to run the bottom, the whole race." Loden stated in Victory Lane. "That's hard to believe."

Loden had barely gotten the words out of his mouth when Mother Nature assumed control, forcing everyone to seek shelter. Track officials watched the weather for an hour hoping to get a break but none was forthcoming.

With his second feature win of the season, Loden padded his points lead to 14 points over Brian Conner who moved up into 2nd place. Duncan Molesworth slipped back into 3rd trailing by only 18 points.



All of us here at Hickory Motor Speedway thank you for attending 321 LAWNMOWER NIGHT AT THE RACES and invite you back this Saturday night for WHEELLEN NIGHT AT THE RACES. The BOJANGLES LATE MODEL STOCKS will face their first 100-lap contest of the season at America's Most Famous Short Track.

We'll see you Saturday at Hickory Motor Speedway. The Birthplace of The NASCAR Stars.

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