

LODEN DOMINATES YELLOW FEVER PLAUGED WHELEN NIGHT AT THE RACES.

By
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Andy Loden and his # 29 machine dominated the BOJANGLES LATE MODEL STOCKS 100 lap portion of WHELEN NIGHT AT THE RACES, racing to a 3.2 second victory over #31 Kyle Grissom while leading all 100 laps from his 2 nd place starting spot. Loden lapped all but 3 cars and survived the malady affecting much of the field...the outbreak of Yellow Fever.

It began at the completion of lap 1 when contact among competitors right behind the leaders created a melee that, after the smoke had cleared, had affected nine cars. Five of those racers had to park their machines or return later many laps down. Finished for the night in the first caution were #20 Brice Bonnett, #7 Paul Adams, and #21 Brian Connor. Connor entered the event 2 nd in Late Model Points standings. While the wreck will drop him back in points, this year Connor has had the strongest car under him in many seasons and promises to rebound quickly.

Two more cautions on laps 18 and 25 thinned the field even further. The wreck on lap 25 ended the night for #89 David Latour Jr. and #47 Patrick Molesworth. Then on lap 56, there was yet another incident that affected the top 5.



Mack Little III had steadily made his way from 11 th starting position and, just after claiming 3 rd spot, blew his engine entering turn 3. The resulting oil caused him to slid high and collect the 4 th place competitors of # 43 Jessie Lefevers and, #33 Patrick McVay running 5 th . This ended solid runs for Little and Lefevers, both of whom had to retire their machines.

The victory was Loden's third of the season as he bested Grissom in 2 nd , #19 Kyle Moon (with missing drivers door sheet metal) rebounded for 3 rd , Patrick McVay also brought his #33 machine home to 4 th and, rookie #37 A.J. Lane who has been a standout in sprint cars in Michigan, finished 5 th in his first attempt at stock car racing. Loden also claimed a custom-designed Whelen signature trophy for his win.

"It {the car} started off real good and finished real good." Loden stated after the race. "That's what we've been struggling with and I guess we got that turned around."

In ADVANCE AUTO PARTS SUPER TRUCKS action, #3 Dexter Canipe Jr. led all 35 laps from the pole and held off 10th place starter Keith Bumgarner in the # 97 truck to claim the feature win. Finishing behind them was #45 Kenneth Pardue in 3 rd , #36 Thomas Hartensveld was 4 th and, Dana White brought home his #0 truck in 5 th .

In one of the evening's most exciting races, Waylon Flynn #55 held off #44 Jarrit Johnson in a spirited duel to claim the Limited Late Model feature. The duel over the final 20 laps featured side by side as well as sideways action between the two competitors, bringing the fans to their feet. #99 Andrew Carlson came home 3 rd while, #49 Kyle Bauknecht was 4 th and, Jon Vivo in his #13 machine rounded out the top 5.

In another spirited race, Todd Harrington in his #21 machine held off #16 Randy Freeze to win the Pro 4 feature. Their battle was decided with 2 laps to go as Freeze, racing hard to pass Harrington, nearly lost control of his machine in turn 2. #55 Walter Hoke came home 3 rd, while #09 Randy Canipe was 4 th, and #17 Curtis Pardue rounded out the top 5.



All of us here at Hickory Motor Speedway thank you fans for coming out to WHELEN NIGHT AT THE RACES and, we invite you back this Saturday night April 28th for USG NIGHT AT THE RACES. The night will feature BOJANGLES LATE MODEL STOCKS, Limited Late Models, Pro 4's, Street Stocks and Hobby Stocks features.

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



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