

“Josh Berry Sweeps ParamountAuto.com Twins”



Photo by: Sherri Stearns

5/16/20 -After two very long months of isolation and concern over the Coronavirus and several weeks of planning between track management, the NCDHHS, and the Catawba County Public Health, racing roared back to life at Hickory Motor Speedway on Saturday night with the running of the ParamountAuto.com Twin 51s. With strict social distancing in effect and Governor Cooper's planned entry into phase two still several days away, America's Most Famous Short Track would run it's first race ever without fans in the stands. The event would have a wide reach as Speed51.com would partner with Hickory Motor Speedway to offer a live pay per view, sending the race to computers, TVs, phones, and tablets across the world.

The Late Models would lead off the night with the first of their ParamountAuto.com Twin 51 lap features and seven past Hickory Motor Speedway Track Champions from 2012-2019 would pace the field. With a stout 27 car field on hand, qualifying would be of the utmost importance. 2014 Hickory Motor Speedway Track Champion, Josh Berry in the #88 would set fast time and take the top spot with Corey Heim in the #78 qualifying second and starting outside of row one. Row two would see Matt Leicht in the #2L and Gage Painter in the #12. Berry and Heim would fuel for the top spot on lap one with Berry pulling ahead after completing the first circuit. Painter would take the high line to move around Leicht for third. Lap 4 would see the caution fly as smoke would billow from the #31 of 2019 Hickory Motor Speedway Track Champion Thomas Beane. Beane would come to put road for repairs under the yellow flag by his pit crew. After a lengthy caution for track cleanup Beane was able rejoin the 27 car field. Berry and Heim would bring the field to the restart. Berry would once again drive to the top spot with Heim close in tow. 2012/2013 Hickory Motor Speedway Track Champion Austin McDaniel in the #12 would use the high side to take third from Painter. Painter would wait patiently and retake the position from McDaniel on lap 13. Berry would set a blistering pace with everyone battling for spots behind him. Painter would work around Heim on lap 25 and set his sights on the leader, Berry.

2015 Hickory Motor Speedway Track Champion Matt Piercy in the #25 would seize an opportunity on lap 30 when he would see McDaniel and Heim battling for position and he would quickly move by the dueling pair, taking third position. McDaniel would move around Heim and look for the next position. Piercy would be slowed with lap traffic allowing McDaniel to draw to his bumper. But as Piercy would clear the traffic, McDaniel would be left to work his way through. Painter would pull to shouting distance of the leader, but Berry would prove too strong and drive on to the win. Painter would finish 2nd and Piercy would finish 3rd. McDaniel would finish 4th and Heim would come home 5th in the strong field of 27 late models.

The 4-Cylinders would be next to hit the track for their 25 lap battle. Brian Mundy in the #1 would start from the point after topping qualifying with Robert Trivette in the #11 to his outside. Mundy would lead the pack to the green flag with Robert Trivette close behind. The caution would wave on lap 4 as Robert Trivette would spin off of turn four. Mundy and the #17 of Curtis Pardue would bring the field back to the green flag for the restart. Randy Canipe in the #09 would also look to battle for the lead. Contact between Robert Trivette and Pardue would send Pardue spinning and bring out the caution on lap 6. Mundy and Canipe would lead the field back to the restart. The caution would quickly fly once again when contact between the #9 of Cody Combs and Pardue would send Combs spinning. Canipe and Mundy would lead the field back to green flag. Canipe would move to the lead with Robert Trivette, Mundy, and Combs giving chase. The caution would fly once again on lap 20 when the leader Canipe would spin. Robert Trivette and Combs would bring the field back to the restart. Combs would pull ahead on lap 21 with Canipe and Robert Trivette battling for second. Combs would overcome his early spin and go on to grab the victory and celebrate with his family in victory lane. Canipe would finish 2nd with Robert Trivette finishing 3rd. Mundy would finish 4th and Ashton Trivette in the #21 would finish 5th.

Round #1 of the Paramount Kia 'Big 10' Racing Challenge for the Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models would be on track next for 50 laps of bumper to bumper action. Josh Kossek in the #44 would start from the pole position and Chase Janes in the #47 would start to his outside. Ashley Huffman in the #5 and Mitch Walker in the #43 would make up row two for the start. Kossek would lead lap 1 but Janes would try the crossover going into turn one on lap 2. The front duo would have a thrilling battle for the top spot when the caution would interrupt their action on lap 4. Landon Huffman in the #71 would spin after contact with the the #88 of Josh Gobble. Both drivers would continue, but go to the rear for the restart. Kossek and Janes would look to continue their thrilling battle, but Walker would decide to join the party. Walker would move inside Janes to make it a three-way battle for the top spot. The caution would fly once again as Andy Holt in the #00 would spin on the front stretch. The restart would see Kossek and Janes back to the point as the caution would quickly fly with debris littering the track after an incident involving L. Huffman and Chris Honeycutt in the #83. Only Huffman would be able to continue. Kossek, Janes, and Walker would all look to make their bid for the top spot. The caution would fly as a car would spin in turn three. Kossek and Janes would once again pace the field to the restart. Kossek would move ahead and begin to knock off some fast laps at the front of the field. Lap 21 would see Walker look under Janes for the position. Going into turn one of lap 22, Ashley Huffman would also look to take the position and dive under Walker and Janes. The caution would fly as Walker would spin. Kossek and Janes would

restart side by side. Kossek would pull ahead and the battle would be for second on back. The caution would quickly fly as contact between Ashley Huffman, Zachary Dabbs in the #23, and the #2 of Colby Gibson would see an airborne car and crumpled fenders. None of the cars involved would be able to continue. Kossek would drive back to the lead on the restart with Janes close in tow. A single car spin in turn three would bring out the caution on lap 27. Kossek and Janes would move back to the top two spots after the restart. Tony Black in the #05 and Kristen Wallace in the #12 would move up to third and fourth. Wallace would make a great save coming off turn four but as a result lose two positions to L. Huffman and Max Price in the #22. Kossek would put his hot rod on cruise control in the lead until the caution would fly on lap 43 for a spin in turn two. The top five on the restart would be Kossek, Janes, Black, L. Huffman, and Price. Kossek and Janes would slug it out for the top spot, but Kossek would pull ahead. Kossek would go on to take the win. Janes would finish 2nd and Black would take 3rd. Landon Huffman would battle back after early spin and finished 4th and Price came home 5th.

The Street Stocks would fire up next for their 30 lap rumble. The #21 of Drew Cox, 2019 Hickory Motor Speedway Street Stock Track Champion, would take the top spot in qualifying with Mark Whitten in the #77 to his outside. As the green flag waved Cox would take the early lead with Whitten close in tow. The battle for third would be hard fought between Kevin Eby in the #03 and Trey Buff in the #48. Marshall Sutton in the #64 and Ethan Johnson in the #2 would battle throughout the race for fifth. Cox would drive on to take the win. Whitten would hold on for 2nd and Eby would finish 3rd. Buff would come home in 4th while Sutton would add to his amazing career total of top fives with 5th.

Race two of the ParamountAuto.com Twin 51s for the Late Models would be next up to hit the track. After a ten car invert from the finishing order of race one Mason Ludwig in the # 12L and Charlie Watson in the #9 would make up row one. Row two would see the #15 of Ryan Millington and the #5 of Dexter Canipe Jr. Ludwig and Watson would battle door to door for the top spot as the green would fly. Ludwig would take the point and bring Millington with him to second. Millington would nose ahead of a Ludwig for the top spot on lap 7, but Ludwig would move quickly back to the front. Lap 11 would see Corey Heim in the #78 move to the front as Ludwig would refuse to give up the spot and nose back ahead. Millington would finally make the pass for the lead on lap 13. First race winner Josh Berry in the #88 would make his way to the front by lap 17. Caution would fly with a two car spin in turn four, and the restart would see the top five being Berry, Millington, Matt Piercy in the #25, Gage Painter in the #12, and Heim. Berry would jump back to the top spot and bring Piercy to second. Painter would battle to the outside of Millington to take third at the halfway point. Painter would pressure Piercy for the second spot and take the position on lap 31. Piercy and Millington would do battle for third as McDaniel would move around Heim for fifth. Multiple battles were all over the racetrack. The caution would fly on lap 34 with a spin by Mitch Walker in the #29 and Bob Saville in the #8. The restart would see the top five as Berry, Painter, Piercy, Millington, and McDaniel. Berry would nose ahead of Painter while Piercy and Millington would battle furiously for third. Millington would move ahead for the spot with ten laps to go. The top four would go single file with a side by side battle for fifth between Heim and McDaniel. Berry would prove to be too strong on the night and double up with the ParamountAuto.com Twin 51 victories. Painter would Gran his second runner-up finish on the night with Millington finishing 3rd. Piercy would finish 4th and Heim would grab his second 5th place finish on the night.

The Renegades would close out the historic event with their 20 lap slugfest. Gary Ledbetter in the #8 would start from the top spot with Justin Austin in the #4 to his outside for the green flag. Ledbetter would drive to the early lead. Robbie Hollifield in the #51 would move to second. Joseph Hodges in the #1 would move to third and pressure Hollifield. The two would bring out a caution on lap 15 with contact in turn one that would send Hollifield spinning. Both drivers would have to restart from the rear of the field. Ledbetter and Austin would lead the field to the green flag on the restart. Ledbetter and Austin would go door to door with Ledbetter moving back to the point. Ledbetter would hold on for the win with Austin finishing 2nd. Spencer Dickinson in the #6 would finish 3rd, Zach Mullins would finish 4th, and Hollifield would bounce back to finish 5th.

Hickory Motor Speedway will to be back in action again next week and will once again work with the NCDHHS and the Catawba County Public Health to do so in a safe and proper manner. More details will be released this week. The May 23 rd event will again be a Pay Per View with a special

FAN APPRECIATION PACKAGE

.Cost of the event will be a Special One Time Price for all fans of only 14.99

Contact www.Speed51.com to purchase the May 23 rd event.

Hickory Motor Speedway Results 5/16/20

Late Model – Twin Feature 1

- 1 #88 - Josh Berry
- 2 #12– Gage Painter
- 3 #25 – Matt Piercy
- 4 #12M – Austin McDaniel
- 5 #78 – Corey Heim
- 6 #2L – Matt Leicht
- 7 #5 – Dexter Canipe Jr.

- 8 #15 - Ryan Millington
- 9 #9 – Charlie Watson
- 10 #12L – Mason Ludwig (r)
- 11 #22 – Grayson Cullather
- 12 #95H – Jacob Heafner
- 13 #8 – Connor Mosack
- 14 #81 – Sam Butler (r)
- 15 #00 – Shane Lee
- 16 #14M – Vince Midas
- 17 #77 – Logan Jones
- 18 #1P – Nolan Pope
- 19 #28H – Chris Hudspeth
- 20 #8S – Bob Saville
- 21 #31 – Thomas Beane
- 22 #29 – Mitch Walker
- 23 #14 – Connor Jones
- 24 #2 – Braden Rogers
- 25 #19 – Jessie Cann
- 26 #57 – Bill Petroff
- 27 #15D – Bryson Dennis

Late Model – Twin Feature 2

- 1 #88 – Josh Berry
- 2 #12 – Gage Painter
- 3 #15 – Ryan Millington
- 4 #25 – Matt Piercy
- 5 #78 – Corey Heim
- 6 #12M – Austin McDaniel
- 7 #5 – Dexter Canipe Jr.
- 8 #12L – Mason Ludwig (r)
- 9 #81 – Sam Butler (r)
- 10 #9 – Charlie Watson
- 11 #95 – Jacob Heafner
- 12 #1P – Nolan Pope
- 13 #8 – Connor Mosack
- 14 #14M – Vince Midas

- 15 #22 – Grayson Cullather
- 16 #77 – Logan Jones
- 17 #2 – Braden Rogers
- 18 #00 – Shane Lee
- 19 #29 – Mitch Walker
- 20 #31 – Thomas Beane
- 21 #8S – Bob Saville
- 22 #2L – Matt Leicht
- 23 #14 – Connor Jones
- 24 #19 – Jessie Cann
- 25 #57 – Bill Petroff
- 26 #28H – Chris Hudspeth – DNS
- 27 #15D – Bryson Dennis - DNS

Limited Late Model

- 1 #44K – Josh Kossek
- 2 #47 – Chase Janes
- 3 #05 – Tony Black
- 4 #71 – Landon Huffman
- 5 #22 – Max Price
- 6 #12 – Kristen Wallace
- 7 #32 – Josh Stark
- 8 #00H – Andy Holt
- 9 #43 – Mitch Walker
- 10 #88 – Joshua Gobble
- 11 #5 – Ashley Huffman
- 12 #23 – Zachary Dabbs
- 13 #2 – Colby Gibson
- 14 #50 – Todd Midas
- 15 #83 – Chris Honeycutt

Street Stocks

- 1 #21 – Drew Cox
- 2 #77 – Mark Whitten
- 3 #O3 – Kevin Eby
- 4 #48 – Trey Buff
- 5 #64 – Marshall Sutton

6 #2 – Ethan Johnson

7 #9 – Jon Austin

8 #3 - Kayla Eby

4 Cylinders

1 #9 – Cody Combs

2 #11 – Robbie Trivette

3 #09 – Randy Canipe

4 #6 – Brian Mundy

5 #21 – Ashton Trivette

6 #17 – Curtis Pardue

Renegades

1 #8 – Gary Ledbetter

2 #4 – Justin Austin

3 #6 – Spencer Dickinson

4 #72 – Zachary Mullins

5 #51 – Robbie Hollifield

6 #27 – Ben Campbell

7 #1 – Joseph Hodges

8 #73 – Kyle Boice

9 #81 – Matthew Chambers