

Rain brings the Show to an Early, but Exciting End!

By: Jill Frischmann

Hickory Motor Speedway News

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Photos by: Legacy Video & Photography



(June 13, 2009 -- Newton, NC) It was a great night for racing at the World's Most Famous Short Track, Hickory Motor Speedway, as Bojangles presented Church Appreciation Night. Fans experienced a faith filled night at the races with fellowship, music and a brief message. Fans received a special treat as several local pastors competed in the Faster Pastor Golf Cart Race with Eric Hollar from Bethel Lutheran Church coming home the victor, taking the checkers during the feature Faster Pastor Golf Cart race. The NASCAR Whelen All-American Series also made an appearance as the Bojangles Late Models, Advance Auto Parts Limited, and the Hickory Street Stocks hit the track. The Red Baron Race Parts Hobby Stocks fell victim to Mother Nature as the rain hit during lap 32 of the Bojangles Late Model Race, forcing track officials to call the event.

The Bojangles Late Models had an amazing start as 23 cars made up the field for the 50 feature event. The event was cut short as the rain moved in allowing the drivers to complete only 32 laps. The field was filled with regular Hickory drivers and visitors, some from as far away as Japan. The different experience levels of the drivers on the track known as the

Birthplace of the NASCAR Stars made for interesting racing during the feature. At the start the #29 of Ryan Gifford, Richard Childress Developmental Driver, slowly slid back from his second place starting position falling to sixth by lap three. During the first 10 laps it was a tight battle for eight as the #57 of Grant Wimbish and the #7 of Ashley Huffman ran door to door fighting for the position. Wimbish pulled ahead, grabbed the spot and continued to work his way up through the field.

The #10 of pole sitter Andy Mercer was dialed in as he had gained a quarter track lead over the field, a lead that was continuing to grow with each lap. On lap 32 Gifford got into the back of the #88 of Dexter Canipe Jr. sending Canipe Jr. spinning as the field headed out of turn four bringing out the first and only caution of the feature. Just as the caution flag waved the skies opened up and the rain began to fall. Due to the duration of the rain, track conditions were lost and the feature event was called as over 50 percent of the laps were completed. Mercer claimed the top spot, leaving the #51 of Chris Lawson, the #25 of David Wilson, the #43 of Jesse LeFevers and the #33 of James Goff to finish in the top five.

The Advance Auto Parts Limiteds put on quite a show as they circled the asphalt during their 35 lap event. The #5 of Dexter Canipe Jr. jumped into the lead early in race leaving hot shoe, the #17 of Kyle Mansch to ride around for the rest of the event in second. On lap 16 the #33 of Cory Joyce began to put the pressure on the #45 of Kenneth Pardue as he looked for his opportunity to take over the third place position. Joyce stayed glued to Pardue's bumper as the field sailed around the track. On lap 20 Joyce got under the bumper of Pardue's sending Pardue spinning as they headed into turn four, bringing out the first caution.





At the restart the Advance Auto Parts Limiteds had the opportunity to experience the new double file restart, just implemented by the NASCAR Sprint Cup. From the restart several drivers made contact, crinkling some sheet metal but without major incident. Pardue experienced more issues after the restart as he spun out again, this time with no help, as the field entered turn one on lap 21 bringing out the second and final caution. Joyce rallied back from being put to the back of the pack after the first caution. Joyce made his way back into the top five with three laps to go and settled into fourth with only two laps remaining. Canipe Jr. was able to hold onto the lead grabbing the checkers leaving Mansch, the #8 of Mark McIntosh, Joyce and the #28 of Mark Johnson to round out the top five.

The Hickory Street Stocks kept the action going as they hit the track for 30 laps of racing action. The #5 of Mike Newton got the excitement started on the first lap as he spun out heading into turn four bringing out the first caution. From the restart the #03 of Kevin Eby was glued to the back bumper of pole sitter, the #88 of Josh Burchette, as he looked for his opportunity to move into the lead. The #99 of Jonathan Smith was on a role

as he slid into the third place position on lap eight, looking to continue his charge to the front of the pack. The second caution fell on lap nine when the #15 of Waylon Flynn experience mechanical issues and came to a stop in turn three.

With ten laps to go Smith was tight on the bumper of Eby who was already battling Burchette for the lead. Smith was able to take over Eby on lap 21 as they headed into turn four moving into second. With only six laps remaining Smith got up alongside Burchette and the two began to run side by side. Only five laps remained when Smith maneuvered around Burchette to take the lead and pull away from the field. With only two laps to go Eby pulled down under Burchette moving into second leaving Burchette to settle for third. The #64 of Marshall Sutton came home fourth and Newton completed the top five.

The Hickory 4 Cylinders gave the fans some action packed racing as they headed out to the track for their 25 laps of glory. It didn't take long for the caution flag to wave as the #9 of Shane Canipe connected with a group of his fellow drivers, cutting a tire as the field come down the front stretch on lap one. The second caution of the event flew only ten laps in as the #21 of Todd Harrington and the #9 of Randy Canipe made contact heading out of turn four. On lap 23 the third and final caution came out as the #07 of Matt Laws came to a stop in turn three. There were two laps to go at the restart, Beaver continued with his lead over the field leaving the #16 of Michael Tucker and the #99 of Matt Elledge to duke it out for second. Tucker and Elledge ran the last two laps side by side but it was Tucker who inched ahead at the finish line grabbing second leaving Elledge to settle for third. The #18 of Devon Haun and the #98 of Rob Lewis completed the top five respectively.



Be sure to join us next Saturday, June 20 th for Paramount Auto Group Night at the Races featuring the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series. The night will include appearances by the Advance Auto Parts Limiteds, the Bad Boy Mower Super Trucks, the Hickory Street Stocks and a 100 lap special event feature for the Bojangles Late Models. Grandstands open at 5PM with qualifying immediately following. An On Track Autograph Session will take place at 6PM and feature racing action begins at 7PM.

For more information about the event please visit www.hickorymotorpseedway.com or call

828-464-3655. Remember if you're not here you're missing out!

Pole Award Winners

Bojangles Late Models: 10 – Andy Mercer – 15.408 seconds

Advance Auto Parts Limiteds: 17 – Kyle Mansch – 16.239 seconds

Hickory Street Stocks: 88 – Josh Burchette – 17.174 seconds

Hickory 4 Cylinders: 4 – Adam Beaver – 16.581 seconds

Tommy Johnson's Performance Parts Warehouse Hard Charger Winners

Bojangles Late Models: 6 – Cole Miktuk

Advance Auto Parts Limiteds: 8 – Mark McIntosh

Hickory Street Stocks: 99 – Jonathan Smith

Hickory 4 Cylinders: 16 – Michael Tucker

Red Baron Race Parts Hobby Stocks: Did not compete due to rain

Official Race Results

LATE MODEL STOCKS

1. 10 Andy Mercer
2. 51 Chris Lawson
3. 25 David Wilson
4. 43 Jesse LeFevers
5. 33 James Goff
6. 6 Cole Miktuk
7. 57 Grant Wimbish
8. 51 Josh Wimbish
9. 7 Ashley Huffman
10. 5 Brennan Poole
11. 2 Ty Dillon
12. 99 Mike Darne
13. 22 Toby Parese
14. 83 Okinora Ogata
15. 54 Kaleb Pressley
16. 88 Dexter Canipe Jr.
17. 29 Ryan Gifford
18. 12 Caitlin Shaw

19. 59 Coleman Pressley
20. 35 Chris Lewis
21. 48 James Fox
22. 36 Neil Meredith
23. 01 JR Allen

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LIMITED LATE MODEL

1. 5 Dexter Canipe Jr.
2. 17 Kyle Mansch
3. 8 Mark McIntosh
4. 33 Cory Joyce
5. 28 Mark Johnson
6. 21 Monty Cox
7. 45 Kenneth Pardue
8. 32 Justin Sorrow
9. 14 Brandon Cox
10. 08 Jay Payne
11. 6 Brandon Hudnall
12. 24 Taylor Doggett
13. 15 Josh Wright
14. 07 Tyler Church
15. 7 Jason Smith

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STREET STOCKS

1. 99 Jonathan Smith
2. 03 Kevin Eby
3. 88 Josh Burchette
4. 64 Marshall Sutton
5. 5 Mike Newton
6. 4 Shane McKee
7. 15 Waylon Flynn
8. 7 Gary Ledbetter

9. 32 Jeremy Harrell

4 CYLINDERS

1. 4 Adam Beaver
2. 16 Michael Tucker
3. 99 Matt Elledge
4. 18 Devon Haun
5. 98 Rob Lewis
6. 31 Melvin Tucker
7. 1 Randy Berry
8. 07 Matt Laws
9. 21 Todd Harrington
10. 09 Randy Canipe
11. 9 Shane Canipe

HOBBY STOCK

Rained Out

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