

## "FIREWORKS ON-TRACK AND OFF AT HICKORY SPEEDWAY"

**Newton, NC....**Fans of fireworks are in for a treat on Saturday, Sept 16th, when Hickory Motor Speedway forecasts fireworks both on and off-track. Four division championships will be determined with their final points races of 2006 during "Gaston Rentals Night at the Races!" and a giant fireworks show by Melrose Pyrotechnics is in store to help celebrate the championships.

Divisions racing include Bojangles' Late Model Stocks, Limited Late Models, Pro-4's, J&J Roofing Street Stocks, plus the Pro-Challenge Series.

The Bojangles' Late Model Stocks go into their final event with four drivers capable of winning the prestigious championship. #29 Andy Loden, of Stanley, NC, leads the points chase going into the event with 758 points, after winning 10 of 18 races. #32 Kevin Leicht is 12 points back in second, followed by #59 Coleman Pressley (only 6 points behind Leicht), and #10 Andy Mercer (4 points behind Pressley). This championship is still very much up for grabs with any of those four drivers still able to take the season-long championship.

Limited Late Models show #10 Andy Mercer leading with 676 points entering their last race of the points season. #44 Matt DiBenedetto is a mere 2 points behind Mercer in second place, with #92 Marc Davis in third spot with 628 points. Mercer and Davis are tied with 6 wins each, while DiBenedetto has yet to win his first race in Limiteds.

Pro-4's championship has already been numerically determined, with #4 Adam Beaver leading the rest of the pack by 72 points. #55 Walter Hoke goes into the event in second place, a mere 2 points ahead of third-place #1 Jacob Lehn. #98 Rob Lewis holds fourth place by 6 points ahead of #75 Allen Huffman.

J&J Roofing Street Stocks division has grown by leaps and bounds this year at Hickory Motor Speedway and has provided some of the most exciting action of the season. #32 Gary Ledbetter Jr. has a 20-point lead over second-place #54 Waylon Flynn, with #03 Kevin Eby in fourth, followed by #64 Marshall Sutton in fifth, with 496 points.

Pro-Challenge return to Hickory Speedway Saturday night with the wide-open, no fear racing that they have become known for. Always a good field of racers and lots of action, this touring series has become a fan favorite.

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## Bagwell Emerges From Hickory Battle with Firecracker 150 Win

*Wilson Still Leads Points Going Into Florence Finale*

**HICKORY, NC (Oct. 7, 2006)** – The ISCARS Dash Touring Series event at Hickory Motor Speedway was aptly named on Saturday night. The Firecracker 150 saw multiple lead changes, lots of rubbing and side by side racing, and a green-white-checked finish that had Danny Bagwell holding off Eric Wilson for his eleventh career win.

Jake Hobgood edged out Johnny Chapman for the pole position by two one-thousandths of a second in his No. 64 Cedar Creek Collision Pontiac, and he led Chapman, Bagwell, Joey Miller, Ned Combs, and the rest of the field into turn one. Soon thereafter, the field was slowed for a spin by Perry Nantz down the front straightaway which brought out the first caution flag of the evening.

The field resumed racing on lap 5 and Johnny Chapman shot to the inside of Jake Hobgood for the lead. By lap 7, the driver of the No. 24 AlarmSouth/US Restoration Pontiac held the point and opened up a buffer between new second place driver Joey Miller and Hobgood.

By lap 15, the top six had broken away from the rest of the field and began to work through slower traffic. An incident on lap 20 brought on by Bryan Pruett's contact with sixth place Scott Weaver in turn four brought out the second caution flag of the night. Weaver later retired with motor problems. Chapman jumped out on the restart to a sizeable five car length advantage until Ned Combs, who started fifth on the evening, spun in turn two on lap 31.

After a quick caution, the field restarted on lap 36 and Chapman again resumed his position at the point. Mike Watts, the defending event winner, had moved up six spots to seventh by this point in the race. Scott Krehling, also on the move with his new chassis from Jake Hobgood, saw his night go up in smoke in the No. 1 Cypress Corporation Pontiac. Fluid on the track brought out the yellow on lap 48.

Green on lap 53 was quickly interrupted by another incident in turns one and two. The cars of Bryan Pruett and Kevin Williams met each other with a severe impact after Pruett looped the No. 99 Butler Farm/Ken Pearson Electric Pontiac. Both drivers walked away from the accident but their rides were done for the evening.

After the long cleanup and red flag, the field resumed action on lap 59 and Jake Hobgood was quick on the button, latching onto the back bumper of Johnny Chapman and challenging for the lead in turn three. Hobgood got inside of Chapman, even touching the No. 24, but Hobgood allowed Chapman to save the machine and regrouped for another attempt. Caution on lap 64 for Bert Belter's spin put a brief hiatus on the battle for the lead until the lap 68 restart, when Chapman jumped out to another sizeable advantage over Hobgood.



Danny Bagwell is all smiles after winning the "ISCARS Firecracker 150"



Eric Wilson, the winner of the season opening event at Hickory, lingered in the top five most of the night and started to work his way towards the front around lap 76 when he passed a fading Joey Miller before the halfway break on lap 79. Despite a relatively calm first half of the event, the intensity picked up after the lap 84 restart as Chapman jumped out to the lead once again.

While the lead lap cars worked to get around the slower machine of Wally Leatherwood, Jake Hobgood began to get down to business. Hobgood nosed into Chapman and got under the leader, taking the top spot himself in the No. 64 Pontiac. Hobgood pulled out to around a six car length lead, one of the largest of the night for any leader, by lap 95.

With Eric Wilson beginning to rumble in third, he, Chapman, and the rest of the top five chased down Hobgood by lap 100 for a five way battle for the lead. It was a hint of what was to come after the lap 102 caution for Randy Humphrey, Danny Keaton, and Matt Johnson. Johnson's B&D Quick Stop/CMG Autosports Pontiac was handling better on corner entry than Humphrey's Pontiac and caused him to misjudge, getting into the No. 93 in turn three and caused Humphrey to spin, blocking the racetrack for Danny Keaton. Humphrey and Johnson continued, Keaton was done for the evening after contact with both the wall and Humphrey.

The green came out once again on lap 108, and once more, the temperature rose up front among the leaders. Returning the favor from earlier, Johnny Chapman nudged Jake Hobgood out of the groove and led lap 111, but the No. 64 was too strong on the top of the racetrack. After battling side-by-side, Hobgood retained the top spot.

On lap 118, Danny Bagwell made his way by the ill-handling car of Joey Miller to assume fourth position. Miller opened the door when he drove deep into turn three and saved his machine from spinning, although he continued to drop through the field. Three laps later, Eric Wilson and Johnny Chapman got into it, again opening the door for Bagwell to take over the third spot.

The leaders continued to swap paint and rub fenders for the top spot until all five almost took each other out in turn number four. Evasive maneuvers by Eric Wilson and Jake Hobgood saved the top five from all returning home on a wrecker on lap 124.

A lap later, Wally Leatherwood spun out of turn four and sprinkled some water on the fire for the win. That battle, however, resumed with heated fury after the lap 129 restart as Chapman jumped out to the lead and looked like he may have had the car to beat for the win. Jake Hobgood, who was in second, started to slide around on the racetrack, opening the door for both Bagwell and Wilson to bypass him on lap 132, leaving the South Carolina driver in fourth spot as the field closed in on the checkers.

Bagwell caught Chapman with twelve laps to go and put intense pressure on the race leader. Visibly slower than Bagwell but having track position, Chapman began to noticeably change his line in the closing laps to compensate for his car's inability to turn in the middle of the corner. On lap 144, Bagwell was able to position himself beside Chapman and force Chapman's error in turn three. The No. 10 Torbert Trucking/Five Brothers Produce Mercury took the top spot and seemed to be on cruise control to victory until lap 148 when a spin on the frontstretch by Mike Watts and the No. 17 Mercury brought out the final caution of the night.

The green came out on lap 153 and Eric Wilson spun the tires on the No. 4 Huntington House/John Boy & Billy Pontiac while trying to get a jump on Bagwell. Wilson drove his car hard on the outside groove for two laps trying to run down the leader. Closing onto his bumper in turn three of the final lap, Wilson looked low but was unable to make a move on Bagwell who took home his second win of the season and 11th all-time.

"The car was great tonight and really ran well. I got lucky getting around Eric and had to race Johnny real hard for the lead, but it is definitely fun when you can run that hard and especially when you win," said Bagwell in victory lane. "The bad part is that Eric finished right behind us, so we've still got about a 50 point gap to make up at Florence, but we still got our second win of the season, so I'm proud of my guys for that."

"That was the best racing I've been involved with in quite a long time and it was a lot of fun. I'm glad Danny won, he's a lot of fun to drive against, and it just shows what can happen when you get aggressive," said Wilson after chasing Bagwell to the line. "I saw him in my mirror for 120 laps and in the last 30 laps he got aggressive and came after us. He was a bit more aggressive than I was and got around us in some of the traffic and the beating and banging that was going on. We ought to be able to go to Florence and keep our nose clean and win us a championship, so we're happy with second."

"I had a handful, I did. It was good in the first half but we didn't make enough changes at halftime and that hurt us a bit in the long run," said Johnny Chapman, who ended up third after leading a large portion of the event. "Jake got into me a little bit and I thought it was a little too early in the race, but I'm a tough competitor, and he is too, so we just rubbed a little bit and that's the way racing goes. I always want to come here to my home track and win, and that just didn't happen tonight, but we'll get them next time"

The ISCARS Dash Touring drivers close out their season at South Carolina's Florence Motor Speedway on October 28. Despite challenges from Danny Bagwell and Jake Hobgood, Eric Wilson will attempt to claim his first series championship with the rest of the field clawing to get a piece of the glory before the 2006 season is over.

For more information on ISCARS, visit [www.iscarsonline.com](http://www.iscarsonline.com), and be sure to catch the latest episode of ISCARS Full Throttle on local Comcast, America One, and Cox Communications affiliates. If those providers aren't available, current and archived shows are always available around the clock at [www.theautochannel.com](http://www.theautochannel.com).

**ISCARS****Hickory Motor Speedway****Firecracker 150****Race Date: Saturday, October 7, 2006**

<b>FIN</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Driver</b>	<b>Hometown</b>		<b>Laps</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	3	10	Danny Bagwell	Cordova, AL	5 Bros./Torbert Trucking/Stops, Inc.	Mercury	155 Running
2	6	4	Eric Wilson	Hickory, NC	Huntington House/John Boy & Billy	Pontiac	155 Running
3	2	24	Johnny Chapman	Stoney Point, NC	US Restoration/AlarmSouth	Pontiac	155 Running
4	1	64	Jake Hobgood	Winnsboro, SC	Cedar Creek Collision	Pontiac	155 Running
5	7	33*	Chris Chapman	Taylorsville, NC	AlarmSouth/Conover Construction	Pontiac	155 Running
6	10	7	Mark Howard	Randleman, NC	Win a John Boy & Billy Harley Davidson	Pontiac	155 Running
7	4	19	Joey Miller	Wilmington, NC	Discount House Carpet & Vinyl	Pontiac	155 Running
8	9	66*	Matt Johnson	N. Wilkesboro, NC	B&D Quick Stop/CMG Autosports	Pontiac	155 Running
9	5	9	Ned Combs	Newton, NC	Duragloss Car Care Products	Mercury	155 Running
10	11	93	Randy Humphrey	Cornelius, NC	Fatheadz.com/Joe Gibbs Racing Oil	Pontiac	155 Running
11	13	17	Mike Watts	Davidson, NC	Patterson's/Corporate Image/Chuck G Fabrication	Mercury	155 Running
12	18	62	Waldo Leatherwood	Waynesville, NC	Leatherwood Construction Service	Pontiac	148 Running
13	16	88*	Perry Nantz	Mooresville, NC	Bobby Jones Racing	Mercury	147 Running
14	17	01*	Bert Belter	Calera, AL	Stops, Inc./Fastrack	Mercury	146 Accident
15	20	11	Danny Keaton	Charlotte, NC	Maintenance Equipment	Pontiac	102 Accident
16	12	20	Davis Myers	Batesburg, SC	Sponsor Needed	Pontiac	100 Engine
17	22	00*	Kevin Williams	Bridgewater, MA	Atocha.com	Pontiac	55 Accident
18	19	99*	Bryan Pruet	Weaverville, NC	Butler Farm/Ken Pearson Electric	Pontiac	50 Accident
19	14	1	Scott Krehling	Naples, FL	Cypress Corp.	Pontiac	48 Engine
20	15	53*	Joey Jones	Fredericksburg, VA	Jones Site Work/James River Equipment	Pontiac	44 Engine
21	8	2	Scott Weaver	Shelby, NC	Weaver Racecars	Pontiac	41 Engine
22	21	90*	Darren Holler	Catawba, NC	Eastwood Homes	Pontiac	34 Accident

\*Denotes Rookie of the Year Contender

**6 Lead Changes Among 3 Drivers: Johnny Chapman - 104 (7-87, 111, 123-144), Hobgood - 40 (1-6, 88-110, 112-122), Bagwell - 11 (145-155)****10 Cautions and 1 Red Flag for 43 Laps: 2-5, 21-25, 32-36, 49-53, 55-59, 65-68, 79-84, 103-108, 126-129, 148-153****Polesitter: Jake Hobgood 15.735 seconds/83.051 mph****Rookie of the Race: Chris Chapman**[Close Window](#)