

‘ Bumgarner paces 100 lapper ’

July 28th, 2025

For Immediate Release:

Sweltering heat and great racing greeted those in attendance at America's Most Famous Short Track, Hickory Motor Speedway, on Saturday for Unifour Concrete Night at the Races.

The Baby Grands made another appearance at the famed oval for a 25 lap feature. Jake Tretow in the #9 would pace qualifying and start from the pole position with Justin Gareis in the #53 to his outside. Tyler Ledbetter in the #4 and Derek Lemke in the #21 would make up row two for the start. Before the start the field, would be reset with a full field invert. Joshua Shine in the #08 and Joseph Dunn in the #60 would now make up the front row. Shine would pull to the early lead with Dunn giving chase. Gareis and Tretow would quickly move to the front, moving around Shine and Dunn for the top two spots. Gareis would face a constant challenge from Tretow for the top spot. Tretow would make the pass, but face the same pressure from Gareis for the point position. Gareis would make the pass as Tretow would start to fade. Gareis would drive on to take the win. Ledbetter would finish 2nd with Tretow dropping to 3rd. Shine would take 4th while Lemke would come home in 5th.

Next up would see the Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models hit the track for 50 laps Round #8 of the Paramount Kia "BIG 10" Chase for the Championship. Helio Meza in the #27 would top time trials and start from the top spot with Hudson Sharp in the #15 to his outside. Row two would see Aiden King in the #5 and Reilly Doyle in the #23 side by side for the start. After several laps of side by side racing Sharp would pull to the lead with King following to second. Meza would stay on the bumper of King, who was shadowing the leader Sharp. Meza would begin to pressure King for second. King would maintain the position and look to pressure Sharp for the top spot. King would make the pass on Sharp for the lead and bring Meza with him to second. Meza would immediately begin to pressure King for the top spot. The caution would fly on lap 27 for a spin on the front stretch by the #05 of Hannah Bell. King and Meza would lead the field back to the restart. King would pull to the lead with Meza giving chase. Sharp would come to pit road with a mechanical issue and see Doyle move up to third. King and Meza would have a great battle for the win over the closing twenty laps. With two laps to go Meza would make the pass on King for the top spot. Meza would lead the final two laps to take the win. King would finish 2nd while Doyle would grab 3rd. Billy Jack Lester in the #97 would take 4th while Bell would bounce back from the early spin to round out the top five in 5th.

The NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series Leapfrog Lawncare and Landscaping Late Models would roll off next for 100 laps. Michael Bumgarner in the #97 would pace qualifying and start from the pole position with Blayne Harrison in the #99 to his outside. Helio Meza in the #27 and Akinori Ogata in the #14 would make up row two for the start. Bumgarner would pull to the early lead with Harrison giving chase. Ogata would move to third and pressure

Harrison for second. Ogata would see Kaeden Ballos in the #19 put the pressure on him for the third position. Ballos would make the pass on Ogata and give chase to Harrison. Billy Snodgrass in the #99 would move around Meza for the fifth position. Snodgrass would continue moving forward and move around Ogata for fourth. Meza would move around Ogata for fifth. The halfway point would see Bumgarner, Harrison, Snodgrass, Ballos, and Meza as the top five. Meza would pull to pit road on lap 80 with mechanical issues. Bumgarner would prove too strong and drive on to take the win. Harrison would finish 2nd with Ballos taking 3rd. Snodgrass would grab 4th and Anthony Bello in the #51 would come home in 5th.

The Carolina Pro Late Models would hit the track next for 75 laps of racing action. Sheflon Clay in the #15 would top time trials, but start from the rear after winning two in a row. Dexter Canipe III in the #5 would start from the top spot with Enrique Ferrer in the #8 to his outside. Row two would see Juan Pablo Vallarta in the #711 and Toro Rodriguez in the #8 side by side for the start. Canipe would pull to the early lead with Ferrer giving chase. Clay would work his way up to third early in the race. Clay would make the pass on Ferrer for the second position on lap 12 and set his sights on the leader. The caution would fly on lap 15 for a spin involving the #45 of Xavier Diaz. The restart would see Canipe and Clay at the front of the field. The lead duo of Canipe and Clay would hook up nose to tail in hopes of driving away from the field to settle the win between themselves. Canipe, Clay, Ferrer, Diaz, and Vallarta would make up the top five at halfway. Canipe would set the pace and start to create some room between himself and Clay. Vallarta would be the hard charger late in the race, picking up several spots in the closing laps. Canipe would drive on to take the win. Clay would finish 2nd with Vallarta jumping up to 3rd. Ferrer would take 4th while Diaz would come home in 5th.

Closing out the night's festivities would be the Carolina Crate Modifieds for 62 laps. After a redraw for starting positions Carter McMurray in the #40 would start from the pole position with Eric Zeh in the #34 to his outside. Chris Hettinger in the #71 and Dale Ogburn in the #1 would make up row two for the start. McMurray would pull to the early lead with Zeh giving chase. Ogburn would pressure Zeh for second. Cody Norman in the #12 would move up to fourth position. Hettinger would begin to pressure Jaxson Casper in the #47 for fifth position. The caution would fly on lap 19 for a spin in turn four involving Ogburn. The restart would see McMurray and Zeh at the front of the field. McMurray would pull to the lead with Zeh and Norman side by side for second. Norman would make the pass on Zeh for second. Hettinger would pressure Zeh for third. McMurray, Norman, Zeh, Hettinger, and Casper would make up the top five at halfway. The caution would fly on lap 32 for a spin involving the #52 of Brooklyn Newman and the #01 of Brian Weber. McMurray and Norman would lead the field back to the restart. McMurray would rocket back to the lead with Norman giving chase. The #98 of Sean McElearney would move up to the third position. Ogburn would move around Zeh for fourth. The caution would fly on lap 59 for a spin on the frontstretch by Hettinger. McMurray and Norman would bring the field back to the green flag. The caution would fly quickly as Norman would end the night after contact into the backstretch wall. The restart would see McMurray and McElearney at the front of the field. McMurray would win the restart battle and lead the final four laps to take the win. McElearney would finish 2nd with Zeh grabbing 3rd. Ogburn would take 4th and Casper would come home in 5th.

The CARS Tour returns this Saturday night, August 2nd, for the much anticipated Throwback Classic presented by Flo Racing. This marquee event will be one of the highest purse events of its kind paying \$50,000 to the winner of the Late Model event and \$30,000 to the winner of the Pro Late Model event.

Saturday, August 9th, we will have 84 Lumber Night at the Races presented by Hickory Sealing & Striping.

Saturday, August 16th, the SunDown Audio Competition cranks up the volume at America's Most Famous Short Track.

Saturday, August 23rd, will see NAPA Night at the Races presented by Clearwater Electric. The Bobby Isaac Memorial presented by Paramount Auto Group will come to town on Saturday, August 30th.

For more info check us out at www.hickorymotorspeedway.com, Facebook, Twitter, or call 828-464-3655.

Official Hickory Motor Speedway Results 7/26/25

Leapfrog Landscaping Late Models:

- 1 #97 – Michael Bumgarner
- 2 #7 – Blayne Harrison
- 3 #19 – Kaeden Ballos
- 4 #99 – Billy Snodgrass
- 5 #51 – Anthony Bello
- 6 #14 – Akinori Ogata
- 7 #27 – Helio Meza

Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models:

- 1 #27 – Helio Meza
- 2 #5K – Aiden King
- 3 #23 – Reilly Doyle
- 4 #97 – Billy Jack Lester
- 5 #05 – Hannah Bell
- 6 #57 – Hunter Deshautelle
- 7 #15 – Hudson Sharp

Carolina Crate Modifieds:

- 1 #40 – Carter McMurray

- 2 #98 – Sean McElearney
- 3 #34 – Eric Zeh
- 4 #1 – Dale Ogburn
- 5 #47 – Jaxson Casper
- 6 #25 – Mitchell Wright
- 7 #52 – Brooklyn Newman
- 8 #62 – Joe Federico
- 9 #12 – Cody Norman
- 10 #71 – Chris Hettinger
- 11 #01 – Brian Weber
- 12 #86 – Joshua Eddy

Carolina Pro Late Model Series:

- 1 #5 – Dexter Canipe III
- 2 #15 – Sheflon Clay
- 3 #711 – Juan Pablo Vallarta
- 4 #8 – Enrique Ferrer
- 5 #45 – Xavier Diaz
- 6 #8 – Toro Rodriguez

Baby Grand Nationals:

- 1 #53 – Justin Gareis
- 2 #4 – Tyler Ledbetter
- 3 #9 – Jake Tretow
- 4 #08 – Joshua Shine
- 5 #21 – Derek Lemke
- 6 #60 – Joseph Dunn