

Johnson Breaks Through, Bumgarner Continues Winning Streak at Hickory Motor Speedway

April 18, 2026

For Immediate Release:

Another night of exciting short-track competition unfolded Saturday at Hickory Motor Speedway as six divisions took to the track in front of an enthusiastic crowd. With championship battles beginning to take shape and several drivers adding to their season résumés, fans were treated to a full evening of racing action at America's Most Famous Short Track.

The Paramount Auto Group Limited Late Models opened the racing program with a competitive feature that saw Mark Johnson earn his first victory of the season. Johnson and the No. 28 team put together a strong performance from start to finish, securing the top spot ahead of Cody DeMarmels, who continued his impressive season with a runner-up finish. Paityn Feyen added another podium result in third, while Sally Mott and Ben Mack completed the top five after solid outings.

The Late Models once again featured a stacked field of contenders, but the outcome remained familiar. Michael Bumgarner continued his strong start to the season by driving the No. 97

machine to victory. Former track champion Thomas Beane crossed the line in second after a consistent run near the front, while Skyler Chaney earned a third-place finish. Aiden King and Helio Meza rounded out the top five in another highly competitive Late Model feature.

The Heritage Finance Company Street Stocks returned to action with Cody DeMarmels extending his momentum from previous events. DeMarmels raced to victory in the No. 30 machine, leading a talented group of competitors. Trey Buff followed in second, while Marshall

Sutton secured a third-place finish. Kyle Divanna and Clint Almquist completed the top five after battling throughout the event.

The Leapfrog Lawncare & Landscaping Super Trucks produced a brief but competitive feature, with Michael Bumgarner adding another victory to his evening. Jacob Hayes finished second after keeping pace with the leader, while Dustin Little Jr. completed the podium in third. The win marked Bumgarner's second trip to victory lane of the night and further highlighted his versatility across multiple divisions.

The Renegades division delivered one of its most competitive races of the season as Justin Austin powered the No. 1 machine to victory. John Vassh Jr. finished second, while Ethan Perdue earned a strong third-place result. Veteran driver Steve Smart crossed the line fourth, followed by Matthew Chambers in fifth. The race featured close competition throughout the field and provided plenty of excitement for fans in attendance.

The Best Mortgage LLC Mini Stocks rounded out the evening's racing action. Shane Canipe captured the victory in the No. 1 machine after a strong performance, holding off Michael Tucker and Chuck Wall. AJ Sanders finished fourth, while Shane Hodges completed the top five in a race that showcased the depth of talent within the division.

As the season continues to progress, drivers across every division are beginning to establish themselves in the championship chase. With new winners emerging and familiar names continuing to find success, Hickory Motor Speedway remains one of the premier destinations for short-track racing in the Southeast.

For more information on upcoming events, visit **hickorymotorspeedway.com** or call **(828) 464-3655**.