



THE NOTEBOOK: KIDDIE RIDES NIGHT

RYAN SCORES FIRST SPORTSMAN WIN

At the start of the evening, Kirk Ryan piloted his Sportsman car around the race track with a full load of kids for Kiddies Rides at Scotia Speedworld. After all, it took Kirk a lot of work to get the car to the track following a hard impact which dealt the Enfield driver a week of costly work. "It cost a few hundred to fix the car after the wreck, hopefully she holds together," Ryan said as he rolled the car through technical inspection prior to the pre-race festivities.

Just over five hours later, he stood on the front straightaway, not because of misfortune but because he had got up on the wheel of car #2 and piloted the car around the outside groove of Scotia Speedworld and put the Eric Noble Trucking Pontiac into victory lane for the first time ever in Sportsman competition. "This is my first win in this car and in this class and it means a lot to me," Ryan said in victory lane to a cheer of the crowd who stayed around to see the eventful 25-lap event. "I want to thank the fans who stuck out through all this fog. We had a tough week last week and a lot of drivers had a tough week this week and the fans stuck through it, thank you," commented Ryan as he acknowledged the fans gathered to listen to the post-race interview.

The quote of the year thus far also came from Ryan's victory interview. When asked about if he saw the competition coming from behind in his rear view mirror, he responded "I wouldn't know, I don't have one!"

FATHER BEATS SON AND FIELD FOR FIRST FEATURE WIN OF 2009

In the season opener for the Lockhart Truck Center Hobby Stock division, it was Brandon Watson from Windsor Junction taking home the main feature win. Last week, Gordon Ritchie made history by piloting his truck from Antrim to victory lane as the first ¼-ton truck to win in the division. Though both ran strong on Kiddies Night, it wasn't meant to be as Bryan Watson, father of Brandon, took his Watson's Flooring #9 car to the top of the leaderboard after 25-laps in the main feature.

It wasn't easy though as it looked to be another Hobby vet in the catbird seat for his first win of the season as Shubenacadie's Terry Moore had his #40 up front for many laps before being taken over by the elder Watson. With Gordon Ritchie having to pilot his truck from the rear and Wayne Ritchie recording his second straight runner up finish, it should create a tight points battle heading into the long summer stretch of races in 2009. Who will finish on top Friday night on Report Card Night? The only way to find out is to be there!

GAMMON GOES TWO-FOR-TWO IN THUNDER

Anytime you have thirty-six race cars show up to compete in one division at Scotia Speedworld on any given night, you know that you are in for one heck of a show, not only in the feature itself, but in qualifying to get into that main feature! The competition was fast and furious not only in those bubble spots to qualify for the main event but in the front as well and in that area it came down to one group of drivers dominating the race – the Boulton Racing Team!

Tim Tanner and Kyle Gammon, two drivers with many seasons under their belt between the two of them both won heat races on the evening while a driver who returned from an absence at the track ran strong. Rob Crawford is a former Hobby Stock standout and with his son Brandon wheeling the #78 Boston Pizza Sackville Honda, he hopped into the #68 Daynite Signs car usually driven by Ross Parks for

Continued...

the evening and ran solid all night.

During the main event, Tanner led many laps up front in his May Garden/Pothier Motors Civic before being ran down by Derek MacCallum in the True North Diner Civic. Trying to stay in front of Derek, Tanner drove the car hard each lap, eventually slipping up in turn three in the late stages and that opened the door for the defending champion to make his move. That didn't last for very long though as the #98 Hella's Diner Civic made his move for the lead and the win as Kyle Gammon won his second straight feature in 2009, which will extend his points lead going into this Friday night! Strong top five runs were turned in as well by Tylor Hawes and Ross Harvie, who will look to back up those great runs on Friday evening!

DE JA VU FOR CASEY

DJ Casey had quite the race two weeks ago. Casey had nearly won his first event of 2009 but had to battle Brad Eddy at the end of the event with Brad outlasting DJ with a pass with a handful of laps to go.

This week though was a bit different. The crew from Prospect Road just finished putting a motor in the Never Greener #8 Bandolero entry on Thursday evening. They knew they had a strong piece when DJ pulled away and won his heat race with Eddy chasing him down. The feature was much of the same, though Eddy was mired in traffic for much of the feature. Though the traffic proved tough for the top runners, cautions aided their cause and they eventually caught Casey as they caught the yellows. Eddy and Casey battled side by side before Eddy inched out and pulled away by a mere couple of car lengths to take the win over the '06 track champ.

Three features – three wins for the Lower Sackville team primarily sponsored by Sojourn Signs in 2009. We will have to wait for a couple of weeks to see if he can make it four but he is closing in on something that he has yet to achieve at Scotia Speedworld – a track championship!

LEGENDS TO RUN TWO FEATURES THIS WEEKEND

The Legends had nearly thirty cars the last time they hit the track for their weekly show and it was a very competitive field of drivers taking green, eventually being won by Pictou's Scott MacLean. With many drivers having a legitimate shot at winning the feature every time the cars are on the track, expect the closest and most exciting features of the weekend to come out of the Legends division!

Saturday will be round two of the Maritime Legends Tour, which is lead by Justin MacNeill. The Bedford driver dodged late cautions back in May, including a wild wreck which featured Jeff Atkinson barrel-rolling down the front straightaway coming to the white flag. The Legends will run fifty-laps in the under card for the Forbes 100 CARQUEST Maritime Pro Stock Tour race on Saturday evening.

The prelude to the tour race will take place on Friday night as the Weekly Racing Series Legend cars take the track. With Falmouth's Matt Moore and Porters Lake's Ray Cox Jr. tied for the points lead and many drivers within striking distance after two events, the racing will be intense for the race win as well as in the point standings as drivers will try to sweep up a few extra points for the '09 championship hunt!

For stories on the Miller Tire Lightning cars and a preview of the Forbes 100 Maritime Pro Stock Tour race, visit my column on MaritimeProStockTour.com!

Until the double header this weekend, keep the hammer down and we'll see you at the track!