



THE NOTEBOOK: REPORT CARD NIGHT

July 9, 2009

THUNDERS BEST IN SHOW

If this statement wasn't evident before Friday night, it is clear in my mind and the minds of the people who stuck it out in the stands on Report Card Night – we have THE BEST four cylinder drivers in the MARITIMES at Scotia Speedworld! Not knocking any of the other drivers who run Thunder and Lightning type cars on the weekends throughout this great region in Canada but try doing it on a tight 3/10-mile oval in heavy fog. So heavy, that the condensation is building up on your windshield and you can barely see two feet in front of you. Race in those conditions and only bring out one caution in 25-laps for a parts failure? That, my racing friends, takes a lot of talent on behalf of each and every of the 26 drivers on track to keep that race going. My hat is off to you all.

Whether it be a slick track under heavy fog or a fast track under ideal conditions, Sackville's Derek MacCallum knows how to end up in victory lane after the races. Last season's champ and now current point leader of the division ran away from the likes of Dave Matthews, Scott O'Neill, and the rest of the field through the fog on Friday, claiming his first feature win of '09. His nearest rival coming into the event, Kyle Gammon had problems all night, eventually ending sixteen laps into the event as Gammon was pushing hard to get back to the front. Expect Boulton Racing to be in top shape this week as the field goes green Friday for more Weekly Racing Series action at Scotia Speedworld!

TOP RUNNERS MISS OUT ON HIGH GRADES ON REPORT CARD NIGHT

If you were a top runner in the point standings in the Miller Tire Lightning class last Friday, chances are you were struggling to finish the 20-lap main feature on track. Each of the top four drivers in points heading into the event (Russell Smith Jr., Dan Michaud Jr., Jorden Smith and Cody Singer) had problems which forced them back to the Strictly Hydraulics Pit Area under green during the event. That opened the door for a driver who has been itching for a Main Feature win this season – Kevin Robar. Robar put his Pontiac into victory lane, topping another Lightning veteran Brian Parrott.

With the win, Robar moves to third in points, fifteen markers behind point leader Russell Smith Jr., but only one point in front of Dan Smith. Smith, in turn sits one point in front of Jamie Dillman. They will resume racing this Friday as Dan Michaud Jr., will attempt to race away with the points lead – after all, he's only one point out of first!

WHY WERE THE SPORTSMAN CARS OFF THIS PAST WEEK?

Finally this week, we have the real answer why the C&R Auto Supply Sportsman cars were off last week. When patrolling the pits on Saturday during the Forbes 100 action, Kirk Ryan stopped me to give me the answer. "Whatever they say is wrong," said Kirk as he took the time to break away from working with the Harvey Racing #80 and #60 teams on Saturday. "The real reason we were off was for everyone to take more time to celebrate my first win," the driver of the #2 Eric Noble Trucking Grand Prix said with a smile!

Just a couple of stalls down sat The Roofing Connection #97 Dodge with two top Sportsman drivers turning wrenches on the John Flemming car; Carmen Comeau and Tony Leonard. Comeau has been dealing with mechanical problems on his #92 Wedgeport Lobster Chevrolet. "We're hoping we can get the thing hooked up and get it into victory lane before the end of the year," said the Meteghan driver, who finished second last season during a main feature. When the conversation switched to Ryan's first triumph in the division, Leonard's voice came from the left rear of the Dodge he was working on and added "That first win is so hard to get."

With two first time winners at Scotia Speedworld's Weekly Racing Series already putting their names into the record books (Ryan in the Sportsman and Trevor Smith in the Lightning division) early in '09 it could be a sign of things to come for those looking to get that first main feature win of their racing careers.

Maybe we will see a first time winner on Friday? Only way to find out is to be there! Until then, keep the hammer down and we'll see you at the track!