

RACE REPORT – FINALE WEEKEND

Four championships were separated by eight points or less headed into the final night of racing at Scotia Speedworld for the popular Weekly Racing Series. One of the biggest Friday night crowds of the season looked on to witness who would be crowned as champ in the six divisions we run on Friday nights!

SOJOURN SIGNS BANDOLEROS

How many times in the past few years have we seen battles on track between Lower Sackville's Brad Eddy and Prospect Road's DJ Casey? These on track tilts have been back and forth between the two but as the largest field of Bandoleros (fifteen) rolled into Scotia Speedworld on Finale Friday, Eddy would hold a small seven point advantage into combat. Casey told me pre-race that all he could do is go out and win and hope for the points to fall into place behind him. One half of that came true as DJ Casey ended up doubling down on Friday night, taking victory in the heat and the feature. Brad Eddy also did what he had to do and that was to keep the #8 in sight during the evening as he finished on the back bumper of Casey on both occasions, winning the championship by four points to become the fourth different track champion in as many years in the class!

Last season's champ Dylan Blenkhorn finished up 2009 with a third place finish in the feature and in the points as "Miss Rawdon Rocket" Emily Meehan posted a solid fourth place finish right behind the top three in the feature. Scotia Speedworld's "Southern Superstar" Ryan Mackintosh (Amherst) finished fifth as he was chasing points in the "National Qualifying" event for the Bandoleros on Friday.

Joining Casey as a heat race winner was Meehan, who is expected to move to fifth in the final points with her finishes on Friday. Shubenacadie's Braden Langille will be honored as Rookie of the Year in the class at the season ending banquet on October 24th at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro.

MILLER TIRE LIGHTNING

Some say the Miller Tire Lightning class was one of the most competitive classes week in and week out between the top running drivers. This week was no different as it came down to a spirited battle between Timberlea's Trevor Smith and Cole Harbour's Dan Michaud Jr. By just starting the event, Michaud Jr. clinched the 2009 Miller Tire Lightning championship so he had nothing to lose by going for the win. Smith on the other hand has been running a part time season, so winning was also the game plan for the #133 Oval Outlaw Racing Neon. The two weaved their way through lapped traffic, even going three wide past slower cars! They battled side by side until the checkered flag when Michaud Jr. edged out Smith for the victory! They were chased to the line by former champ Russell Smith Jr. (Lakeside), Dan Smith (Sackville) and John Poan (Hantsport). Following the feature, Russell Smith Jr. and Dan Michaud Jr. put on a smoke show on the back straight to celebrate their seasons!

The 2009 Rookie of the Year in the class is Jordan Smith (Lakeside). He took a heat win along with Jeff Turple. The field also included Adam King, who hauled his #007 Lightning car from Port Hastings to compete on Friday! Stay tuned to ScotiaSpeedworld.ca for full point finishes in the Lightning class!

MILLER TIRE THUNDER

Picking up where he left off one week ago, Kennetcook's Dave Matthews piloted his Chapman Auto Body Honda Civic back to Victory Lane. Matthews quickly made his way to the front of the field and held off division champ Derek MacCallum for the win. MacCallum, Lower Sackville, only had to start the main feature to win his second straight Thunder car crown. Northern Beaverbank's Tim Tanner capped off a solid season with a third place finish as David Hibbs (Sackville) and Kyle Gammon (Middle Sackville) rounded off the top five. It was incredible for Gammon to even make his heat race, let alone the feature as he blew the motor out of the Hella's Diner Civic in practice but the Boulton Racing Team took charge and changed the motor in time for the heat race!

Winning heats on Finale Friday for the Thunder cars were Robbie Watts (Lucasville), Stephen Lively (Shubenacadie) and Jeremy Hallett (Rawdon). Many of "the best 4-cylinder drivers in Atlantic Canada" will set their sights on the Atlantic Canadian Stock Car Championships at the CENTRE For Speed in New Brunswick and the Thunder Invitational at Lake Doucette Motor Speedway in October to take on the other drivers in the region!

LOCKHART TRUCK CENTRE HOBBY STOCK

In the Hobby Stocks it came down to the Ritchie brothers vying for the crown. Gordon struck first in the #26 Ritchies Renovations ¼-ton truck by finishing one spot in front of brother Wayne in the heat. Even though Wayne started in front of Gordon in the feature, it didn't take long for the Silver Truck to start slicing through the field, eventually taking the lead in the race and doing what he had to do to lock up the championship! Gordon, from Antrim, beat Ben Sheehy (Stewiacke) to the line for the 25-lap feature win over Ritchie Moore (Bedford), Terry Moore (Shubenacadie) and Mark Wilson (Lantz) in the top five.

Wayne Ritchie (Coldstream) finished sixth in the feature en route to his 2009 Rookie of the Year title in the division. His brother will also become the first truck to ever win a championship at Scotia Speedworld! Wilson and Vernon Brown (Antrim), driving another ¼-ton truck, won the heat races on the evening! The awards for the Hobby Stocks, along with the rest of the Weekly Racing Series Divisions will be handed out October 24th at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro.

LEGENDS

What a year it has been for J.R. Fitzpatrick! The Cambridge, Ontario driver has been on a whirlwind season racing Trucks and Nationwide vehicles part-time for Kevin Harvick Incorporated along with a part time run in the NASCAR Canadian Tire Series, including a win earlier this month at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve! Friday night, Fitzpatrick stepped behind the wheel of the Billy Keeping #3 CAT Rental Store Legend ride and didn't disappoint. Fitzpatrick

started on the pole of the 25-lap feature and led flag to flag to take a convincing win! Fitzpatrick took the victory by beating Lantz's Steve Pye, who had a fast car and was coming to the front to challenge Fitzpatrick near the end of the event. Point leader Scott MacLean (Pictou) finished third, one position up on Justin MacNeill (Bedford) which was good enough for the 2009 Weekly Racing Series Legends championship! Rookie of the year Neil Stewart (Truro) finished in the fifth position in the feature.

Falmouth's Matt Moore and Pye won heats while Salisbury's, New Brunswick Kyle Campbell won a wild first heat which saw leader Fitzpatrick and others spin in an oil soaked fourth corner! Twenty-seven cars started the main feature on the evening, one of the biggest Legend fields of the season!

C&R AUTO SUPPLY SPORTSMAN

Terry Roma has said in the past he doesn't think about points. Jeff Dillman said last week he had one thing in mind on Finale Friday – championship! Both raced in the 25-lap finale on Friday night in front of a crowd who waited to see if we would have a new Sportsman champion or if Roma would repeat.

Oakfield's Darren Wallage has had a breakout season. He has won the C&R Auto Supply 100 at Scotia Speedworld along with the NAPA 100 win at Riverside International Speedway and second in the points at that track to boot. While that point battle will be decided this Friday, Wallage had winning on his mind this week as he doubled down on the final night of the season at Scotia, taking the win in the heat and the feature on Finale Friday! Championship contender Jeff Dillman, who has also had a breakout season by winning two features including the 15th Annual Shriner's Classic finished second with Cape Sable Island's Colby Smith also appearing on the podium in his #77. Pre-race point leader Terry Roma (West Chezzetcook) finished fourth with Aaron Boutilier finishing in the fifth spot after twenty five laps.

With Dillman gaining four points on Roma in the heat, combined with the four points he gained in the feature, he successfully gained the eight points he needed to tie for the championship lead. In a situation where we have a tie in points, the position goes to the competitor who has the most feature wins. With Dillman having one more feature win than Roma, Dillman won the tie-breaker and the 2009 C&R Auto Supply Sportsman Championship, one year after winning the Rookie of the Year in the division!

MARITIME LEAGUE OF LEGENDS

In their fifty lap event on Saturday afternoon it was the #38 Canadian Gaming Services Legend entry of Darren Sherwood of Berry Mills, NB winning the main feature. Sherwood had to hold off a hungry field of drivers in their second last race of the season for the Maritime League of Legends. Point leader Ian Mollins (Berry Mills, NB) grabbed second while Justin MacNeill (Bedford) took away the final podium position. Scotia Speedworld's Weekly Racing Series champ Scott MacLean (Pictou) and J.R. Fitzpatrick (Cambridge, ON) rounded off the top five.

Port LaTour's Jeff Atkinson and Sherwood won the heat races, completing the double down for the #38. The Maritime League of Legends complete their season this Friday night at Riverside International Speedway! For further information on the event and the series, point your web browser towards maritimelegends.ca!

CARQUEST PRO STOCK TOUR

Former Sportsman champ Shawn Turple (Enfield) came into the Parts for Trucks 200 season finale for the CARQUEST Pro Stock Tour needing to finish fifth to take his first Pro Stock championship regardless of what anyone else did on the afternoon. He did just that by finishing in the five hole on Saturday to take the crown and the \$10,000 check! Donald Chisholm of Antigonish led the most laps of the race but was passed in the late going by Shawn Tucker (Fredericton), who went on to win his fourth Pro Stock feature of the season and second at Scotia Speedworld! Tucker bested Mike Stevens (Riverview, NB) who nearly wrestled away the lead from Tucker on the high line but settled for second in the end. Chisholm, John Flemming (Halifax) and Turple rounded out the top five.

For more CARQUEST Tour info, visit maritimeprostocketour.com!

Though the season at Scotia Speedworld is done on track, that doesn't mean we're done online. Tim's Corner will be rocking all offseason while news on 2010 will be pumped out as available on ScotiaSpeedworld.ca!

Until next time, keep the hammer down and we'll see you at the track!