



CARRIER JR SURVIVES LATE RALLY TO CAPTURE BUCKEYE LATE MODEL DIRT WEEK OPENER AT ATOMIC SPEEDWAY

FASTRAK Companies International / Buckeye Late Model Dirt week – By Wesley Outland

CHILLICOTHE, OH – The atmosphere was ecstatic and electric in Waverly, Ohio for the mid-week kick off Thursday night show that was the 4th Annual Buckeye Late Model Dirt Week sanctioned by the ULTIMATE Mid-Ohio Valley and Battle of the Bluegrass Super Late Model Series co-sanctioning the first race at Atomic Speedway. 32 Super Late Models rang the bell for the opening race for \$3000 to win and \$400 to start. When the dust settled after a full moon Thursday gala it was the #10 Eddie Carrier Jr. to survive a late charge by #71 Rod Conley and #42 Chris Garnes after the bad misfortunes for #11 Jared Hawkins to officially get the Ohio speed week into high gear.

The evening would get underway before sunset in front of a stellar crowd, #6T Tim Dohm (2014 FASTRAK World Champion) set the bar into action turning a 13.397 second lap around the 3/8th mile for VP Racing Fuels QUICKTIME Qualifying. Bad luck would hit the young lady in the #27 Kryptonite chassis of Lauren Longbrake from Columbus, OH after the brace on the right front broke causing her car to hit the yuke tire and the retaining wall in turn three, red flag would halt qualifying for ten minutes.

The field would be set with three 10 lap heat races won by #71 RJ Conley, #10 Eddie Carrier Jr. and #28 Tyler Carpenter. The top 6 fast qualifiers competed in a 8 lap MONEY Dash as \$122.50 went to the driver of #11 Jared Hawkins and a racing fan in the crowd that had the winning ticket in the unique interaction for the fans to be part of the show. With the top 6 locked into the A-Main from qualifying and 12 drivers transferred from the heat races. #12 Doug Drown from Wooster, OH would suffer bad luck exiting turn three losing the left rear tire and parts flying off his car ending his evening. The remaining field would be stacked in a 12 lap last chance showdown taking the top 4 finishers. In this race we saw the return of young Lauren Longbrake that crashed out during qualifying, missed her heat race and then rallied in the B-main to just miss making the 40 lap feature by one spot. Drivers with Provisionals to be locked in suffered severe damage unable to answer the call including Drown and 3rd Heat winner Tyler Carpenter suffered engine failures ending his opportunity 9th for the feature. That allowed #511 Chris Lockhart and Longbrake to transfer into the show.

The race would get underway after the spectacular 4 wide salute with fireworks hyping the crowd ready for the green flag to unfurl, Hawkins would get the early jump on the field but Tim Dohm and the Conley's in their Rocket chassis we're hot on their tails in the early going. The first caution would fly

when #24 James Morey spun off turn two. On the restart Hawkins would take off but go back to yellow again on lap 7 when contact happened on the restart as the #c9 Steve Casebolt from Richmond, IN stalling entering the top of turn 2. The yellow would fly again after the #71's of Rod Conley and RJ Conley door slammed each other collecting also #32 Chad Stapleton. On the restart a sequence of more yellows would halt the action a total of 7 times during the duration of the event.

All the while Jared Hawkins would continue to sail away from the field opening up an interval of almost 5 seconds at one time and quickly maneuvering around lap traffic. The climax moment of the race was the 6th caution when #71 RJ Conley would tangle hard into the turn three wall with #6 Travis Carr, the end result was Conley protesting his position which forced series and track officials to put him on the tow truck sending him to the pit area ending his night.

With Hawkins still out in front Conley, Dohm and a fantastic performance by #42 Chris Garnes from Ripley, WV starting 17th in the feature to come strong to the front producing a charge to try and spoil the upset with furious racing at times four-five wide at different times around the high banked 24 degree racing surface. Also, great drives through the field was made by #12 Ryan Montgomery and #44 Mark Frazier defending Atomic Speedway super late model champion performed great drives as well. Lap 31 with 9 laps to go Hawkins would blow a right rear tire after hitting something forcing his great night to end in disappointment giving the lead to Carrier Jr. The race would commence with the final charge by Conley and Garnes making every effort to run down "The Salt Rock Express" from West Virginia. Garnes during the last sprint to the finish would drive up the cushion way on the top side to try to pull a shocking finish and was up to Conley at the checkered flag. Eddie Carrier Jr. would even run down the back marker cars again to hold off the pack as Carrier would take opening night of the 4th Annual Buckeye Late Model Dirt Week at Atomic Speedway with the crowd applauding him with a standing ovation and roaring crescendo.

FULL RESULTS - ATOMIC SPEEDWAY 7/26/18 "4TH ANNUAL BUCKEYE LATE MODEL DIRT WEEK"

- 1 - Eddie Carrier Jr
- 2 - Rod Conley
- 3 - Chris Garnes
- 4 - Tim Dohm
- 5 - Ryan Montgomery
- 6 - Mark Frazier
- 7 - Chad Stapleton
- 8 - Austin Mills
- 9 - Shannon Thornsberry
- 10 - Lauren Longbrake
- 11 - Larry Holbrook
- 12 - Jeromy Misel
- 13 - Jared Hawkins
- 14 - James Morey
- 15 - RJ Conley
- 16 - Travis Carr
- 17 - Jason Montgomery
- 18 - Walker Arthur
- 19 - Kenny Howell
- 20 - Austin Burns

21 - Blake Naylor
22 - Steve Casebolt
23 - Chris Lockhart
24 - Delmas Conley

Car Count: 30

VP Racing Fuels Fast Qualifier: Tim Dohm 13.397

Feature Winner: Eddie Carrier Jr

Hard Charger: Chris Garnes, Started 17th

Steel Block Bonus: Chris Lockhart

Heat 1 Winner: RJ Conley

Heat 2 Winner: Eddie Carrier Jr

Heat 3 Winner: Tyler Carpenter

Fast Dash Winner: Jared Hawkins

HEAT 1

1) RJ Conley; 2) Ryan Montgomery; 3) Rod Conley; 4) Shannon Thornsberry; 5) Chris Garnes; 6) Jeromy Misel; 7) Chris Lockhart; 8) Gary Turner

HEAT 2

1) Eddie Carrier Jr; 2) Delmas Conley; 3) Austin Mills; 4) Mark Frazier; 5) Travis Carr; 6) Austin Burns; 7) Jeff Warnick; 8) Josh Francis

HEAT 3

1) Tyler Carpenter; 2) Jason Montgomery; 3) Walker Arthur; 4) Larry Holbrook; 5) Blake Naylor; 6) James Morey; 7) Mike Maresca; 8) Cody Mahoney

FAST DASH

1) Jared Hawkins; 2) Steve Casebolt; 3) Tim Dohm; 4) Chad Stapleton; 5) Kenny Howell; 6) Doug Drown

VP RACING FUELS QUALIFYING - #6T Tim Dohm 13.397; #C9 Steve Casebolt 13.542; #11 Jared Hawkins 13.560; #32 Chad Stapleton 13.588; #21H Kenny Howell 13.592; #12D Doug Drown 13.601; #17 Shannon Thornsberry 13.658; #10 Eddie Carrier Jr 13.678; #28 Tyler Carpenter 13.692; #12M Ryan Montgomery 13.728; #71 Delmas Conley 13.728; #23 Walker Arthur 13.775; #71C RJ Conley 13.795; #1AM Austin Mills 13.824; #7MM Mike Maresca 13.885; #71R Rod Conley 13.888; #44 Mark Frazier 13.903; #21 Jason Montgomery 13.933; #42 Chris Garnes 13.961; #22 Austin Burns 14.233; #L19 Larry Holbrook 14.274; #J52 Jeromy Misel 14.356; #6C Travis Carr 14.484; #91S Blake Naylor 14.546; #27 Lauren Longbrake 14.697; #69 Jeff Warnick 14.916; #24 James Morey 15.080; #511 Chris Lockhart 15.597; #81 Josh Francis 15.741; #23M Cody Mahoney; DNS #6 Gary Turner

The NEXT event continues for the 4th Annual Buckeye Late Model Dirt Week Friday July 27th for a \$3000 to win show paying \$400 to start for Round #2 at Moler Raceway Park in Williamsburg, Ohio.

For more information about the 4th Annual Buckeye Dirt Late Model Week, go to the series website located at: www.buckeyedirtweeks.com as well as on all social media networks, including Facebook at "Buckeye Late Model Dirt Week" and on Twitter using the hashtag: #BuckeyeLMDirtWeek

For more information on the ULTIMATE Battle of the Bluegrass Super Late Model Series visit www.ultimatesupers.com/BOBHome.html . ULTIMATE Battle of the Bluegrass is also on Twitter at @UBoBluegrass and on Facebook at ULTIMATE Battle of the Bluegrass Super Late Model Series.

The ULTIMATE Battle of the Bluegrass Super Late Model Series would like to recognize their series partners for the 2018 season which include: American Racer, Hoosier Race Tires, VP Race Fuels, VP Racing Lubricants, Arizona Sport Shirts, DirtonDirt.com, RockAuto.com, Simpson, and Thomas Clarke Performance Web Design