

THE MIDWEST RACING CONNECTION

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THE MIDWEST'S SHORT TRACK AUTO RACING AUTHORITY

Minnesota Asphalt Driver of the Year



April 2026

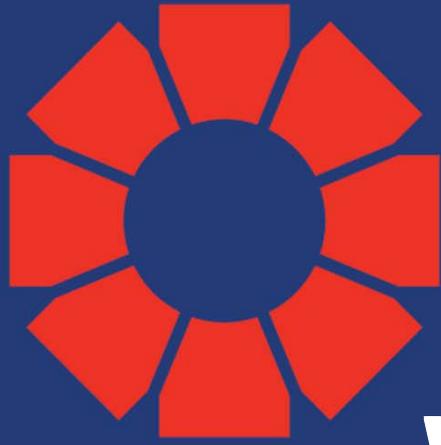
Inside...



Historic Values



Six-Time Snake Charmer

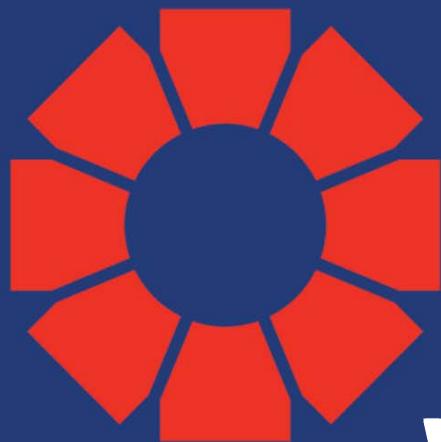


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**Publisher's Note
Racing According to Plan**



Dan Plan

The 2026 season is now the second time in about 10+ years that I did not start out my season by going to Speedweeks. I'm hoping to make it back at some point, but I really don't feel like I missed out on much. I did attend the ISS enduro at Elko on New Year's Day and then took the short drive from the new MRC World Headquarters to the Cedar Lake Arena to check out some indoor motocross action at the end of the month of January. It had been about

**Midwest Motorsports
Expo & More**

40 years since I watched a motocross race and they are pretty entertaining. I'm planning on catching more of these shows next winter.

Without going to Speedweeks, I didn't witness any motorsports events in person, but the streaming events I watched were exceptional. We live in a different world, but it is awesome as a race fan to have so many opportunities to watch streams of races that aren't possible to attend in person.

The month of March I made my second visit to the Midwest Motorsports Expo held at the Mayo Convention Center in Rochester, MN. This event continues to grow each year and provides a good cross-section of racers and fans from the three-state area of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. It's always a good time when you can connect with people you only see during the summer months just before the racing season gets ready to kick off here in the upper-Midwest. On a side note, nearly 2 feet of snow hit the area the day after the expo was over. Additional photos from the Midwest Motorsports Expo can be found on page 17 of this issue.

I did visit 2 race tracks at the end of March, but no racing was taking place. We took a vacation to Memphis, TN to check out Graceland and Beale Street.

Publisher's Note continued on page 4



The Midwest

RACING

Connection

April 2026

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**THE MIDWEST
RACING CONNECTION**



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Publisher's Note continued from page 3

On our trip we took a short venture across the river to West Memphis, AR and visited Riverside International Speedway, also know as "The Ditch." The track crew was on hand preparing the facility for their season opener the following weekend and let me walk around and check the joint out. It looks like a pretty neat place. We also had some spare time on our last day in Tennessee and drove by the old Memphis Motorsports Park. This facility hosted many major events in the past, but shut down in 2022. It is amazing how quickly a place can look in a state of disrepair after just 3 years of inactivity. There was news late last year indicating the IHRA

sanctioning body had purchased the facility and would be hosting events later in 2026. From what I saw in person, they have a lot of work to do. The facility no longer has bleachers and most of the buildings have been vandalized.

And finally, make sure to check out Jason Searcy's column on page 5 of this issue about the Minnesota Asphalt Late Model Driver of the Year. As mentioned in his column, Jason and Dean Reller started this award many years ago with the AutoRacingTracks website in 2004 and continued it on with their radio show SpeedTalk on 1360 and has been a part of The Midwest Racing Connection through today.

Even though I'm now officially a Wisconsin

resident, I'm still pleased when Minnesota drivers do well. The NASCAR Regional point system has been "tweaked" through the years, and I now feel it is a fair comparison on racing performance across the country at NASCAR Weekly tracks. For Jacob to win this championship for a second time is quite an accolade. There are no full-time employees and no stacker/toter home to travel down the road in. Many times this past summer, he got home late at night from LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway or Dells Raceway Park and then had to unload his stuff and put his kids quarter midget stuff in the trailer to race at Little Elko. That's a racer.



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Talkin' Racin' with Jason



Jason D. Searcy

Jacob Goede from Carver (MN) has been named the 2025 MN Asphalt Driver of the year. Goede was the obvious choice after climbing to the

2025 MN Asphalt Driver of the Year



2025 NASCAR Division 1 National Champion Jacob Goede and crew following a practice session during Midwest Tour Gandrud 250 at Wisconsin International Raceway (Doug Hornickel photo)



Dan Plan photo



Dan Plan photo

peak of NASCAR local racing by winning the Division I National title for the second time, (also previously in 2019).

The top Minnesota Asphalt driver of the year has been chosen 18 times and Jacob Goede has won it 5 times; 2014, 2015, 2019, 2021 and now in 2025. Tim Brockhouse is the only other driver who has won this award more than once, he won it in 2016 and 2020. This accolade began with the now defunct AutoRacingTracks website in 2004 and was continued on by Speed Talk on 1360 radio in 2009 and then published in the Midwest Racing Connection ever since.

“Thanks for this award! 2025 was a great year capturing the LaCrosse Fairgrounds Late Model Championship and the NASCAR Weekly Series National title,” said Goede. “We were able to capture multiple wins at all 3 NASCAR sanctioned tracks we participated at, including 5 wins at Elko in the 5 nights we participated. Everyone heavily involved in the racing community knows the work it takes, the commitment, and the sacrifices you sometimes need

to make to compete at the highest level and it feels pretty awesome to have it all work out and make it worth it. This is probably the last award from 2025, which I’m sure most will be glad to see. The 2026 season will be here before we know it, and the current plan is similar to 2025. Full time competition at LaCrosse, but come back to Elko when schedule allows. Also plan to dabble with the Superlate, starting with the Icebreaker in April and hopefully the Joe Shear Classic at Madison in May,” said Goede.

Previous winner of the MN Asphalt Driver of the year:

- 2004- Dan Fredrickson
- 2009- Adam Royle
- 2010- Brent Kane
- 2011- Chad Walen
- 2012- Jonathan Eilen
- 2013- Ricky Martin
- 2014- Jacob Goede
- 2015- Jacob Goede
- 2016- Tim Brockhouse
- 2017- Conrad Jorgenson
- 2018- Baiden Heskett
- 2019- Jacob Goede
- 2020- Tim Brockhouse
- 2021- Jacob Goede
- 2022- William Sawalich
- 2023- Julie Jorgenson
- 2024- Ty Fredrickson
- 2025- Jacob Goede

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2026 RACE SCHEDULE

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FRI, APR 3
OPEN PRACTICE
(6-9 PM) \$30 PER CAR & DRIVER. ALL CARS WELCOME.
ADULT NA STONT NA PITS \$10

FRI, APR 10
OPEN PRACTICE
(6-9 PM) \$30 PER CAR & DRIVER. ALL CARS WELCOME.
ADULT NA STONT NA PITS \$10

SAT, APR 11
CLS WEEKLY RACING
PRESENTED BY BERNICK'S PEPSI!
UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & LATE MODELS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

THE LEGENDARY OPENER! (APRIL 15-18)

WED, APR 15
OPEN PRACTICE
(6-9 PM) \$30 PER CAR & DRIVER. ALL CARS WELCOME.
ADULT NA STONT NA PITS \$10

THU, APR 16
FULL RACE PROGRAM
PURE STOCKS, STREET STOCKS, HORNETS, UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, AND UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

FRI, APR 17
FULL RACE PROGRAM
USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & LATE MODELS
ADULT \$25 STONT \$12 PITS \$35

SAT, APR 18
FULL RACE PROGRAM
USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & LATE MODELS
ADULT \$30 STONT \$15 PITS \$35

FRI, APR 24
OPEN PRACTICE
(6-9 PM) \$30 PER CAR & DRIVER. ALL CARS WELCOME.
ADULT NA STONT NA PITS \$10

SAT, APR 25
CLS WEEKLY RACING
PRESENTED BY FASTENAL!
UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS, USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & LATE MODELS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

SAT, MAY 2
SPRING OPEN WHEEL SPECTACULAR
UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, BATHING OUTLAW MINI-MODS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, MODIFIEDS, & VINTAGE CARS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

SAT, MAY 9
SCHOOL BUS SPECIAL
MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, & SCHOOL BUS RACES!
(5/16 RAIN DATE)
ADULT \$25 STONT \$15 PITS \$30

SAT, MAY 16
CLS WEEKLY RACING
PRESENTED BY ST. CROIX CASINOS!
UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & LATE MODELS. RAIN DATE FOR BUS RACES
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

SAT, MAY 23
PACK THE TRACK NIGHT AND COOK MEMORIAL
FREE GRANDSTAND ADMISSION!
FULL RACE OF USRA LATE MODELS, MICRO SPRINTS, PRO STOCKS, & MIDWEST LEGEND CARS
ADULT FREE STONT FREE PITS \$30

SAT, MAY 30
CLS WEEKLY RACING
PRESENTED BY TJADER & HIGHSTROM!
UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS, UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & LATE MODELS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

SAT, JUNE 6
CLS WEEKLY RACING
PRESENTED BY HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS INC.!
KIDS NIGHT (16 & UNDER FREE!)
USRA LATE MODELS, UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, & MODIFIEDS
ADULT \$20 STONT FREE PITS \$30

27th ANNUAL MASTERS (JUNE 11-13)
USMTS MODIFIEDS & CLS LATE MODELS!
7PM START TIME. COMPLETE SHOW EACH NIGHT!

THU, JUN 11
MASTERS DAY 1
COMPLETE SHOWS
\$3K TO WIN USMTS MODIFIEDS, \$3K TO WIN CLS LATE MODELS, & USRA LATE MODELS
ADULT \$30 STONT \$15 PITS \$35

FRI, JUN 12
MASTERS DAY 2
COMPLETE SHOWS
\$5K TO WIN USMTS MODIFIEDS, \$5K TO WIN CLS LATE MODELS, & USRA LATE MODELS
ADULT \$35 STONT \$17 PITS \$40

SAT, JUN 13
MASTERS DAY 3
COMPLETE SHOWS
\$12K TO WIN USMTS MODIFIEDS, \$12K TO WIN CLS LATE MODELS, & USRA LATE MODELS
ADULT \$45 STONT \$22 PITS \$45

SAT, JUN 20
CLS WEEKLY RACING
PRESENTED BY WESTFIELDS HOSPITAL & CLINIC!
UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, UMSS WINGED SPRINTS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, & MODIFIEDS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

12th ANNUAL WORLD OF OUTLAW SHOWDOWN (JUN 26-27)
7PM START TIME. COMPLETE SHOW EACH NIGHT!

FRI, JUN 26
WORLD OF OUTLAW SPRINT CARS DAY 1
PLUS HUGE FIREWORKS DISPLAY
COMPLETE SHOW FOR 410 OUTLAWS AND UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS
ADULT \$40 STONT \$20 PITS \$40

SAT, JUN 27
WORLD OF OUTLAW SPRINT CARS DAY 2
COMPLETE SHOW FOR 410 OUTLAWS AND UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS
ADULT \$45 STONT \$22 PITS \$45

SAT, JULY 4-NO RACING

MONTH OF MONEY (JULY 11 & 18)
BIG MONEY SHOWS FOR OUR LOCAL RACERS!

SAT, JUL 11
MONTH OF MONEY
PRESENTED BY BLAINE BROTHERS!
UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS, USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, \$5,000 TO WIN PRO STOCKS, & \$5,000 TO WIN MODIFIEDS
ADULT \$30 STONT \$15 PITS \$35

SAT, JUL 18
MONTH OF MONEY
PRESENTED BY CALIBER COLLISION!
PRO STOCKS, \$2,500 TO WIN USRA LATE MODELS & \$10,555 TO WIN MARDER MEMORIAL LATE MODELS
ADULT \$35 STONT \$17 PITS \$40

SAT, JUL 25
JERRY RICHERT MEMORIAL
FEATURING IRA 410 SPRINT CARS
UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, WISCONSIN WINGLESS SPRINTS, & UMSS WING SPRINT CARS. ALL CARS WITH EXTRA PAY
ADULT \$35 STONT \$17 PITS \$40

39th ANNUAL USA NATIONALS (JULY 30-AUG 1)
\$100,000 TO WIN LATE MODELS!
7PM START TIME.

THU, JULY 30
NATIONALS DAY 1
FULL PROGRAM FOR \$10K TO WIN WORLD OF OUTLAW LATE MODELS AND CLS LATE MODELS
ADULT \$35 STONT \$17 PITS \$40

FRI, JUL 31
NATIONALS DAY 2
TIME TRIALS, HEATS, & DASH FOR WORLD OF OUTLAW LATE MODELS & CLS LATE MODELS COMPLETE SHOW
ADULT \$40 STONT \$20 PITS \$40

SAT, AUG 1
NATIONALS DAY 3
WOO SEMIS, LCQ & 100 LAP \$100,000 TO WIN EVENT & COMPLETE SHOW OF CLS LATE MODELS
ADULT \$45 STONT \$22 PITS \$50

SAT, AUG 8
SITTIN PRETTY TRUCK & CAR SHOW

SAT, AUG 15
CLS WEEKLY RACING
PRESENTED BY CROWN LIFT TRUCKS!
USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & LATE MODELS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

SAT, AUG 22
CLS WEEKLY RACING
PRESENTED BY BYE, GOFF & ROHDE!
MIDWEST LEGENDS, UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODS, PRO STOCKS, & LATE MODELS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

SAT, AUG 29
CLS SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP & FAN APPRECIATION DAY!
FREE CORN ON THE COBB & T-SHIRT!
USRA LATE MODELS, UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & LATE MODELS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

SAT, SEPT 5-NO RACING

SAT, SEPT 12
\$10,000 TO WIN
MIDWEST MODIFIEDS
UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, AND UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS
ADULT \$25 STONT \$12 PITS \$35

21st ANNUAL LEGENDARY 100 (SEPT 16-19)

WED, SEPT 16
OPEN PRACTICE
(6PM-9PM) \$30 PER CAR & DRIVER. ALL CARS WELCOME.
ADULT NA STONT NA PITS \$10

THU, SEPT 17
FULL RACE PROGRAM
PURE STOCKS, STREET STOCKS, HORNETS, UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, & UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

FRI, SEPT 18
FULL RACE PROGRAM
USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & LATE MODELS
ADULT \$30 STONT \$15 PITS \$35

SAT, SEPT 19
FULL RACE PROGRAM
USRA LATE MODELS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MODIFIEDS, & \$10,000 TO WIN LATE MODELS
ADULT \$35 STONT \$17 PITS \$40

SAT, SEPT 26
MONSTER X TRUCK TOUR
ADULT \$NA STONT \$NA PITS \$NA

SAT, OCT 3
FALL FUN DAY #1
ARRIVE AND DRIVE DURING THE DAY WITH A FULL PROGRAM OF UMSS TRADITIONAL SPRINT CARS, UMSS WINGED SPRINT CARS, USRA LATE MODELS, VINTAGE CARS, PRO STOCKS, & MIDWEST MODIFIEDS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

SAT, OCT 10-NO RACING

SAT, OCT 17
FALL FUN DAY #2
FULL RACE PROGRAM OF LATE MODELS, MODIFIEDS, PRO STOCKS, MIDWEST MODIFIEDS, & USRA LATE MODELS
ADULT \$20 STONT \$10 PITS \$30

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Racing Nuggets



PJ "Jacklyn" Nuttleman

It's a ritual that never fails to stress everyone in our household out: the preparation for a big race. This time, it was The Rattler 250. There was obviously a LOT of pressure on everyone for this outing. After the debacle that was the Snowball Derby, in which a big purse slipped through the team's fingers, everyone was feeling the pressure to perform and not make any mistakes. I think Toby did about 18 different bolt checks, and that was before the car was ever loaded up to head to South Alabama Speedway!

Open practice was on Wednesday and Thursday prior to The Rattler. Ty Majeski had a NASCAR Truck race in Darlington on Friday. The Rattler 250 was scheduled for Saturday. Talk about a jammed schedule, particularly when you factor in the drive to Darlington Raceway from South Alabama Speedway, which is about eight hours—one way.



Nuttleman Boys photo



Nuttleman Boys photo

Six-Time Snake Charmer

So, after practice on Thursday, Majeski climbed into his rental car with Riley Stenjem, who was spotting at The Rattler for him, and the pair began the drive to Darlington for the NASCAR Truck race on Friday. Toby stayed back because he wanted to change the gears in the car. A decision that proved to be noteworthy, as he discovered metal shavings in the rearend. That is never a good sign.

As you might imagine, any time there is something that needs to be changed on a race car that has already been practiced and feel-in-the-seat ready, it can send ripples through anybody's confidence level. And that is exactly what happened to Toby.

Toby's been wearing a continuous glucose monitor for many months. It's been quite telling to see how certain foods and activities impact his glucose levels. Let me tell you, STRESS is a monstrous factor in how your blood glucose reacts in your body. Just watching his glucose level (I have it paired with my phone so I can monitor it as well), I could tell exactly when he was experiencing stress. It was obvious that it wasn't food, because it was a gradual climb that just kept climbing. I saw that happening on Friday, which matched up to when he told me he was working on that rear end. His glucose stayed elevated for most of Saturday, even though he didn't eat much. Stress is an evil bitch to our bodies.

When the race was about to start on Saturday, I had to take my mother to church. I felt like my brother-in-law, Bruce Nuttleman, as I had the race streaming (but muted) in my coat pocket during the service. Bruce notoriously had the Badger football game in his ear DURING HIS WEDDING. I'm not kidding.

I glanced at my phone once and saw that Majeski was passing a couple of cars on the outside from his 10th-place starting position. I decided that God would not be pleased or show favor on the team if I were disrespecting His house while I was supposed to be engaged in the service. I didn't pull the phone out

of my pocket again until the end of church services.

When I was able to watch the race, they were not even 50 laps in, and Majeski was up to 6th place. The race was crazy, as it seemed that every time someone got into 5th place, they would run into trouble. There were A LOT of right front flat tires taking contenders out. I anticipated that would not be the case for Majeski because I knew that Toby didn't run aggressive camber in his front end, which a lot of teams seem to do.

Colin Allman, who set the fastest time in qualifying, was putting on a clinic at the front of the field. On one hand, I pondered whether Majeski had enough to reach the front and ultimately take the top spot. On the

Racing Nuggets continued on page 9



Nuttleman Boys photo

Racing Nuggets continued from page 8

other hand, I was happy for Colin because he had worked hard on his car's setup with Ty and Toby to get it to corner optimally. It would be a good win for Toby's business if Colin won as well.

Here's a little nugget that most don't know or want to admit: Roll speed makes cars perform VERY well. Toby is damn good at getting the most roll speed out of the cars he builds. It makes the engine look like it's got a lot of snort, but in reality, the driver is just able to get on the throttle sooner, thanks to swift roll speed through the turns.

There was a bad accident on the front stretch around lap 113. It ended up collecting Minnesota's Weston Marthaler. That was an ugly incident, but I'm glad all drivers were able to walk away from it uninjured. There was a massive clean-up needed after that incident, so UARA officials decided to

make it the halfway point break of the race. As a fan watching the stream, I appreciated that decision because it kept the program moving.

The camera panned to the Majeski pit, and I saw all hands-on deck with the hood up. There were some pretty big adjustments being made, and Toby's glucose monitor was on the rise again. It had steadily been climbing the entire race.

On the restart, Allman was the leader and chose the inside. Majeski to his right. The green flag dropped, and Majeski was able to pull ahead of Allman, but the pair were nose-to-tail, with Allman making attempts to get back under Majeski. It was a great battle. A stressful one to watch for Toby, too, based on his glucose monitor, which was now skyrocketing well over 200.

Truthfully, Allman had the better car. Majeski just managed to get by him and hold him off. Nonetheless, it was a side-by-side finish at the checkered flag with Majeski taking the win and the \$50,050.50 prize.

And almost immediately, Toby's glucose levels dropped and leveled out around 98. Isn't that wild?!

The takeaways from the event for me, in no specific order: Roll speed is king when it comes to racing. Aggressive camber is a risk that is rarely worth the reward. Majeski is all-in to support short track racing. (I don't know many who would've spent 8 hours driving one way, back and forth to Darlington and South Alabama Speedway.) And finally, stress can be brutal on our bodies, as evident from Toby's glucose monitor. Maybe he needs a stress squishy ball or a little calming goat to pace beside him during races?

At any rate, I'm glad the 2026 race season is roaring back to life. We will start to see many of our local tracks in the Midwest have their season openers and early special events this month. And THAT is music to my ears!



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2026 SCHEDULE

1

Sat, Apr 18

49th Spring Classic
Grundy Co. Speedway

2

Fri, May 22

Late Model Special
Madison Int'l Speedway

3

Fri, June 5

Clash at the Downs XII
Hawkeye Downs

4

Sat, July 18

Hawkeye Hoosier Classic
Hawkeye Downs

5

Fri, Aug 7

Union 464 Night
Madison Int'l Speedway

6

Fri, Sept 18

65th Bettenhausen Memorial
Grundy Co. Speedway

7

Sat, Sept 26

61st National Short
Track Champs
Dells Raceway Park

8

Sat, Oct 10

57th Oktoberfest
LaCrosse Speedway



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8AM

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Vendors: 15x20 swap space – \$20 - Vendor set up 7am

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Racing History



Dale P. Danielski

A recent story on the great year Larry Schuler had in 1976 brought back memories for this writer of that year as well.

The number 121. That is the number of Late Model Features won by just three drivers that year. Not a typo, three short track racers here in our backyard recorded that number

during the 1976 racing season which didn't leave a lot left for their competitors.

So let's head into our Nations Bicentennial celebration year with a recap. Dave Watson pulled out the win at Capital Super Speedway, Oregon, WI., April 11th. Joe Shear, Tom Reffner and John Ziegler followed. Dave Watson in the Fred Nielsen Camaro took the opening 30 lap feature at the Lake Geneva Raceway, Lake Geneva, WI., April 17th. He also set fast time and won the 3rd heat race. He probably would have won the dash too if they had had one! Dave Watson took his second feature victory at the Lake Geneva Raceway, May 1st. Following Watson

Historic Values

HISTORY THAT NO LONGER REPEATS ITSELF

were Vaughan Gerke, Steve Lurvey and Conrad Morgan. Dave Watson took the opening feature race at La Crosse Interstate Speedway, West Salem, WI., May 12th. Rich Somers and Tom Reffner were next. Tom Reffner won the feature at State Park Speedway, Wausau, WI., May 14th in a make up race from Thursday night's rain out. Marv Marzofka, Jim Back and Jim Hornung were next. Larry Schuler took the Grundy County Speedway, Morris, IL., opener on May 14th. Following Schuler in the 23 lapper were Ed Hoffman and Tom Musgrave. Larry Schuler took his 2nd win at the Illiana Motor Speedway, Schererville, IN., May 16th. The 23 year old Schuler in the Al's Garage Camaro outdistanced Ed Hoffman and "Dynamite" Dave Evans for the win. Dave Watson won again at the Capital Super Speedway, May 14th. John Ziegler and Joe Shear chased him at the finish. Tom Reffner won his 3rd feature of the season at State Park Speedway. Mike Miller and Jim Back followed. Larry Schuler won his 2nd main event at Wisconsin International Raceway, Kaukauna, WI., May 27th. Conrad Morgan and Axel Dahlburg followed him in vain to the finish line. Tom Reffner swept the Dr. Pepper 150 at La Crosse Interstate Speedway, June 6th. Reffner won the first 50 lap feature over Bill Oas and also captured the 50 lap finale over Jerry Makara, Joe Shear and Bob Senneker. Larry Schuler made it three features at Wis. Int. Raceway, June 3rd. Tony Strupp and Roger "The Bear" Regeth tried to keep pace but failed. Tom Reffner's AMC Nash took top honors at La Crosse Interstate Speedway, June 2nd. Tom Reffner in his new 1974 Javelin won another feature at State Park Speedway, June 3rd. Larry Schuler socked the Illiana Motor Speedway stox on June 5th. It was a solid victory for Larry Schuler in the Red race at Wis. Int. Raceway June 13th as he wheeled his low slung, 1976 Camaro to the 50 lap victory over Dick Trickle and Mike Miller. Nearly

7,000 fans witnessed the action. Larry Schuler sweeps Illiana racing card, June 12th. Larry Schuler sweeps in Late Model action at Wis. Int. Raceway, June 10th. Larry Schuler continues win streak at Grundy County Speedway, June 11th. It was his 5th consecutive win there. Tom Reffner ousted Dick Trickle, Mike Miller and Marv Marzofka for his 5th win at State Park Speedway, June 10th. Dave Watson once again topped Late Model action at Lake Geneva Raceway, June 19th. Tom Reffner swept action at Lax. Int. Spwy, June 23rd. Larry Schuler captured his 17th main event of the season at Illiana Motor Speedway, June 26th. Larry Schuler overtook Bob Strait for the main event win at Grundy County Speedway, June 25th. Larry Schuler chalked up another win at Illiana Motor Speedway, July 3rd. Tom Reffner's Rambler did it again, winning the feature at Lax, Int. Spwy, June 30th. Larry Schuler won his 7th straight main event at Grundy County Speedway, July 2nd. The nights action was recorded and described by John Mckarns. Dave Watson returned to victory lane at Capital Super Speedway, July 2nd. Tom Reffner won one of the 25 lap features during mid-season night at State Park Speedway, July 3rd. As written by Dale P. Danielski, Tom Reffner won the "Spirit of 76" main event at the Golden Sands Speedway, July 4th. Dave Watson won the Late Model portion of the events held at Lake Geneva Raceway, July 4th. Larry Schuler couldn't be beaten at Waukegan Speedway, Waukegan, IL., July 5th. Schuler outpaced Ray Young, and Tom Jones for the 100 lap win. Dave Watson whipped his foes in feature action July 3rd at Lake Geneva Raceway. In the last two years, Tom Reffner has won every special event at Lax. Int.

Historic Values continued on page 15



Historic Values continued from page 14

Spwy. He did it again here July 11th in winning the Skogen IGA 20 lap and 36 lap features. Tom Reffner bested Marv Marzofka here on Bobby Allison night to win the feature July 7th at Lax. Int. Spwy. Bobby Allison was again on hand, but it was Tom Reffner winning the 25 lap feature at State Park Speedway, July 8th. Larry Schuler won his 6th consecutive main at Illiana Motor Speedway, July 10th. It was also Schuler's 22nd win of the season. Larry Schuler in his "Junkyard Dog" Camaro won the feature at Grundy County Speedway, July 9th. Tom Reffner won both 50 lap features at Dells Motor Speedway, Wis. Dells, WI., July 10th. As written by upstart scribe, Dale P. Danielski, Tom Reffner won the 30 lap feature at Golden Sands Speedway, July 6th. Dave Watson took Mid-season Championship honors at Lake Geneva Raceway, July 10th. Tom Reffner scored a last lap victory at Lax. Int. Spwy, July 14th. Tom Reffner won his 20th feature of the season at Golden Sands Speedway, July 13th. Tom Reffner won his 9th feature at State Park Speedway, July 15th. Dave Watson was the White race winner July 18th at Wis. Int. Raceway. He took the 55 lap win over John Ziegler and Doug Strasburg. Dave Watson scored another sweep in winning at Lake Geneva Raceway, July 17th. Larry Schuler was Mid-season champ at Illiana Motor Speedway, July 17th. The Bounty is still on Larry Schuler after he won his 9th feature at Grundy County Speedway, July 16th. So, have you figured out the three drivers that hogged the limelight winning those features in 1976? Dave Watson scored a sweep of Late Model action at Capital Super Speedway, July 16th. Dave Watson whizzed to victory at Capital Super Speedway, July 23rd. Tom Reffner capitalized on Marv Marzofka's fading brakes to win the feature at State Park Speedway, his 10th on the season there. Tom Reffner won the 50 lap feature at State Park Speedway, July 24th on a day that Indianapolis 500 participant Janet Guthrie paid a visit. Dave Watson won his 4th straight feature at Lake Geneva Raceway, July 24th. Two more Grundy County Speedway main event wins brought Larry Schuler's total on the season to 27. Larry Schuler reached 28 feature wins on the season with his 10th main event win at Illiana Motor Speedway, July 24th. Larry Schuler won his 5th feature of the season at Wis. Int. Raceway, July 22nd. Larry was wide awake in winning unlike another time racing at WIR when he fell asleep and crashed the wall. Tom Reffner beat Dave Watson by inches in winning the feature at Lax. Int. Spwy, July 21st. Dave Watson won his 5th consecutive feature at Lake Geneva Raceway, July 31st. Jerry Kemperman couldn't stop Larry Schuler from winning again at Grundy County Speedway, July 30th. Tom Reffner won his 4th feature of the year at Golden Sands Speedway, July 27th. Larry Schuler swept the Late Model program at Wis. Int. Raceway, July 29th. Roger "The Bear" Regeth was growling behind him but finished 2nd. The "Rudolph Rambler", Tom Reffner kept rolling, winning the 50 lap feature at Capital Super Speedway, August 1st. Dave Watson



finished right behind in 2nd. Tom Reffner won the 20 lap feature at Lax. Int. Spwy, July 28th. It took Larry Schuler until the last lap to sweep to victory at Illiana Motor Speedway, July 31st. Dave Watson winged it to an impressive win in the ARTGO Classic at Grundy County Speedway, August 8th, winning both 50 lap features. The event featured the three wingest drivers of short track racing during the year with Tom Reffner finishing 3rd in both mains and Larry Schuler crashing early in the first 50. Larry Schuler won the 7th feature of the year at Wis. Int. Raceway, August 5th. This win came in the Wally Jors Memorial race. Dave Watson took his win total to six in a row at Lake Geneva Raceway, August 7th. Tom Reffner won his first regular feature win having won special events previously at Dells Motor Speedway, August 7th. Larry Schuler ran his win total to 33 with a victory at Grundy County Speedway, August 6th. Tom Reffner ran the low groove to with the feature at State Park Speedway, August 5th. Larry Schuler swept the program at Illiana Motor Speedway, August 7th. Tom Reffner won the Spirit of 76 main event at Paul's Golden Sands Speedway, August 10th, his 31st of the year. Larry Schuler extended his mastery of Grundy County Speedway winning his 35th feature of 1976 August 13th. Tom Reffner aced the field at Lax. Int. Spwy, August 11th, on Dave Marcis night. Larry Schuler captured his 13th feature win at Illiana Motor Speedway, August 14th. Dave Watson won the Blue race and with it the RWB series title at Wis. Int. Raceway, August 22nd. Larry Schuler won the feature at Grundy County Speedway, August 20th. Schuler's sweep at Illiana Motor Speedway, August 21st gave him 38 feature wins on the season. Larry Schuler lost at Illiana Motor Speedway, August 28th as he blew the engine in his race car. Ed Hoffman got the win. Dave Watson was the wizard winning the

feature at Lake Geneva Raceway, August 28th. Tom Reffner won one of the qualifying features at the Minnesota State Fair event, Falcon Heights, MN., September 5th. Larry Schuler won the championship night feature at Grundy County Speedway, September 5th. It was Schuler's 40th main win for the season. Number 41 feature win of the season for Larry Schuler came September 11th at Illiana Motor Speedway. Dave Watson raised his victory total to 13 at Lake Geneva Raceway, September 11th. Dave Watson won the ARTGO special event at Grundy County Speedway September 12th. Tom Reffner took the Capital Super Speedway Championship race September 10th. The race saw all three of our prolific winners in the race with Dave Watson placing 3rd and Larry Schuler 4th.

Dave Watson won the National Short Track Championship 200 at Rockford Speedway, September 26th. Dave Watson won the first 100 lap main at the Hartford Speedway, Hartford, MI., October 10th. Tom Reffner won the World Cup 400 at I-70 Speedway, Odessa, MO., and the \$10,000 that went with it to win, October 17th. Reffner immediately left the track and drove to Alabama and bought all Bobby Allison's AMC stuff. It was Reffner's 37th feature win of the season.

And speaking of which, the final feature win totals for our three stars of 1976, found Larry Schuler with 43, Dave Watson with 41 and the Reffner total of 37. Will we ever see a total like that between just three drivers? NO!

Photos by Dale: Tom Reffner #88 1976. Dave Watson # 73. Larry Schuler #30.

Questions, comments, opinions and other information should now be directed to Starmaker Multimedia 314 3rd Avenue South, Onalaska, WI. 54650. 608-518-2478 or to dale@starmakermultimedia.com

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THE MIDWEST RACING CONNECTION

Midwest Motorsports Expo Photo Gallery

The month of March once again featured the annual Midwest Motorsports Expo, hosted at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota. Racers and fans had the opportunity to check out the numerous vendors in addition to doing some off-season bench racing.



THE MIDWEST RACING CONNECTION

Red Cedar Speedway Car Show Photo Gallery

For many years, the Red Cedar Racing Association has hosted a pre-season car show to kick off the season at Red Cedar Speedway. This years event once again drew many racers and fans from across the region for a weekend of entertainment.



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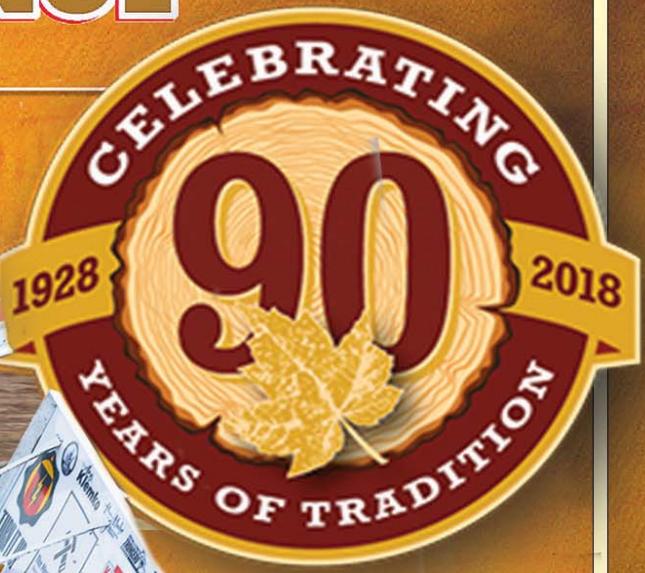
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