

Speedway has new winners

By MIKE HUGHES

Several new faces appeared in victory lane Saturday evening at Elmwood Park Speedway as three of the four divisions saw first time winners this season.

The 20-lap IMCA Modified feature was more of a survival contest than a motor race as only 6 cars of the 17 that started were running at the finish. The race was marred by several cautions with each one claiming at least one driver. Norton's Steve Reedy led the opening lap, but gave way to Chris Bragg of Springtown, Texas, on lap 2. But Oberlin's David Murray powered to the front from his tenth starting position on lap 3 and pulled away from the field. Even through caution periods, Murray was able to pull away on the restarts. But Murray had problems on lap 18 and pulled to the pits, giving the lead to Stockton's Chad Sterling. Sterling went on to score his first win of the season at Norton. He was followed by Bragg, Don Hagan, Travis Eggleston and Milo Lippelmann. The only other car running at the finish was Marty Clark, who was 8 laps down. Heat race winners included Bragg, Murray, and Tim Watts.

Another first time winner at Norton this year was J.R. McCreery, also of Stockton. McCreery took the lead on lap 4 from Lenora's Jay Hackmeister in the IMCA Stock Car main event. The lone caution of the race came on lap 6 when Kelly Ford looped his car in turn 2. McCreery was able to hold on to the checkers over a fast closing Josh Hudson. Hackmeister held to third, followed by Jason Rogers and Randy Clydesdale. Nathan Glendening, Clydesdale and Ford won the three heat races.

Wade Wagenblast of Deshler, Neb., picked up his second win of the season at Elmwood Park in the IMCA Hobby Stock class. Justin Wagner of Culbertson, NE, led the opening lap but Kensington's Cory Struckhoff took command on lap 2. This race also had only one caution, coming on lap 7 when Barry Schoen coasted to a stop on the track. Struckhoff was able to hold off Wagenblast 2 more laps until Wade drove to the point on lap 8 and went on to beat Struckhoff to the finish. Wagner, Kale Shank and Kelly Karnopp rounded out the top five. Heat race winners were Bret Hagan and Wagenblast.

In the closest finish of the night, Rhona Annon & Josh Wonderly was able to beat Wes & Chuck Eagleburger to the finish line by a foot to win the Cruiser main event. Annon & Wonderly, who have finished in the bridesmaid position more than once this season, inherited the lead on the tenth lap of the 12-lap feature when leaders Jeremy Jensen & Rick Touslee pulled to the infield during a caution period. The Norton duo were able to hang on the final three laps for the win. Jeff Kleen & Mark Goebel finished third. Heat race winners were Jensen & Touslee and Gary Rannebeck & Jason Albrecht.

O'Brien's Bar & Grill of Norton was the evening's race sponsor. The second night of fair racing action takes place Sunday evening, August 1, for the 2nd Annual Bud Shootout, sponsored by Western Beverage of Norton. This is a special events race for both IMCA Stock Cars and IMCA Modifieds. The IMCA Hobby Stocks and Cruisers will also be in action. Then the regular four classes return to the oval Saturday evening, August 14.

RESULTS

IMCA Hobby Stocks

Heat 1: 1. Bret Hagan, 2. Kelly Karnopp, 3. Brady Schoen, 4. Dustin McClurg.

Heat 2: 1. Wade Wagenblast, 2. John Annon, 3. Kale Shank, 4. Cory Struckhoff

Feature: 1. Wagenblast, 2. Struckhoff, 3. Justin Wagner, 4. Shank, 5. Karnopp, 6. Annon, 7. Brady Schoen, 8. Hagan, 9. Garrett Brown, 10. Adam Balthazor, 11. McClurg, 12. Brandon Naasz, 13. Robert Rutherford, 14. Laura Hinger, 15. Barry Schoen (DNS).

IMCA Stock Cars

Heat 1: 1. Nathan Glendening, 2. J.R. McCreery, 3. Don Walker, 4. Dan Lauer.

Heat 2: 1. Randy Clydesdale, 2. Jason McCartney, 3. Jason Schoenberger, 4. Tyler Hahn.

Heat 3: 1. Kelly Ford, 2. Josh Hudson, 3. Jay Hachmeister, 4. Kenny Schmidt.

Feature: 1. McCreery, 2. Hudson, 3. Hachmeister, 4. Jason Rogers, 5. Clydesdale, 6. Jason Davis, 7. Glendening, 8. Schoenberger, 9.

McCartney, 10. Walker, 11. Ford, 12. Lauer, 13. Schmidt, 14. Phil Hinger, 15. Michael Zajic, 16. Hahn (DNF), 17. Joe Kasson (DNF), 18. Bruce Eskew (DNS).

IMCA Modifieds

Heat 1: 1. Chris Bragg, 2. Jeff Walters, 3. Rick Schwab, 4. Travis Eggleston.

Heat 2: 1. David Murray, 2. Doug Holzmeister, 3. Steve Reedy, 4. Marty Clark.

Heat 3: 1. Tim Watts, 2. Chad Sterling, 3. Jim Arnold, 4. Don Hagan.

Feature: 1. Sterling, 2. Bragg, 3. Hagan, 4. Eggleston, 5. Milo Lippelmann, 6. Murray (DNF), 7. Brad Wagoner (DNF), 8. Arnold (DNF), 9. Steve Reedy (DNF), 10. Doug Shearer (DNF), 11. Troy Bayne (DNF), 12. Clark, 13. Schwab (DNF), 14. Blake Smith (DNF), 15. Watts (DNF), 16. Walters (DNF), 17. Holzmeister (DNF), 18. Brian Calhoun (DNS), 19. Roger Boland (DNS).

Cruisers

Heat 1: 1. Jensen/Touslee, 2. Kleen/Goebel, 3. W. Eagleburger/C. Eagleburger, 4. Thomas/Thomas.

Heat 2: 1. Albrecht/Rannebeck, 2. Carter/Carter, 3. Hockemeier/Ellis, 4. Annon/Wonderly.

Feature: 1. Annon/Wonderly, 2. W. Eagleburger/C. Eagleburger, 3. Kleen/Goebel, 4. Persinger/Graham, 5. Thomas/Thomas, 6. Hockemeier/Ellis, 7. Wentz/Bailey, 8. Marietta/Thomas, 9. Jensen/Touslee, 10. Horn/Horn (DNF), 11. Albrecht/Rannebeck, 12. Sisk/Sisk (DNF), 13. Carter/Carter (DNF), 14. Eagleburger/Eagleburger (DNF), 15. Jensen/Marriman (DNS).

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Pd. Adv. by Susan Thomson, Treasurer for Troy Thomson

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Foster kids attend camp

Five foster children, served by the Saint Francis Hays Foster Care Homes office, joined more than 60 other campers from across the state at KidzKamp 2004 near Junction City.

The Saint Francis Academy hosted the free camp for St. Francis foster children between the ages of 10 and 13.

Many campers tried things for the first time, from archery to canoeing to horseback riding. KidzKamp came complete with water games, swimming, art projects, a movie night, talent show and scavenger hunt.

The Saint Francis Academy provides foster care services throughout western Kansas. In addition, it sponsors foster families, offer family services, treatment centers and other community services.



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