

Drivers, start your engines!

Green flag opens season

Elmwood Speedway welcomes 90+ drivers

By Mike Hughes
Special Contributor

Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton kicked off the 2008 season with the annual Frostfest with more than 90 drivers showing up to compete.

Russell's Mark Zorn took advantage of his outside pole starting position in the 25-lap IMCA Modified feature to take the lead at the drop of the green, followed by Grant Junghans, Dan Carl and Gary Kline. By lap 10, David Murray Jr. worked his way to second behind Zorn, trailed by Junghans, Matt Rucker and polesitter Dan Carl. The lone caution of the race came on lap 15 when Scott Smith stalled and came to a stop in turn 2. Zorn led the field back to green, but Carl used the high line to pass Rucker and Murray and move to second. While Zorn ran the bottom, Carl got around Zorn on lap 20, and the veteran from North Platte, Neb. held on the final 5 laps to claim the win and the \$1,000 winner's check. Zorn finished second, followed by Murray, Corey Lagroon, and Rucker. Heat race winners were Barry Maupin, Lagroon, Gary Kline, Carl, and Jordan Grabouski, while Marty Clark and Chris Burke were first to the wire in the two B-features.

Tim Bergand made the long drive from Iowa worthwhile as he captured the IMCA Stock Car main event. Terry Cunningham took the lead on the opening lap, trailed by Bergand, heat 3 winner Cory Struckhoff, and Justin Bussell. Cautions on laps 7 and 9 kept the field close but Cunningham continued to lead at the halfway mark of the 20-lap race, only to be passed one lap later by Bergand. Bergand led the final 9 laps for the victory, followed by heat 4 winner Bryan Lariviere, heat one winner Lloyd Meeske, Cunningham, and Travis Sherfick. Bergand won the other heat race, while Tracy Holloway was first to the checkers in the B-feature.

Hometown driver Kelly Karnopp won an exciting 15-lap IMCA Hobby Stock feature. The race started on a bad note when polesitter Aaron Koch stuffed the guardrail in turn 4 on the opening lap. On the restart, Frank McClurg took the top spot, followed by Jim Buss, Jerry Hudson and B.J. Dauer. Buss took over the lead on lap 3, only to be passed by Dauer on lap 6. Dauer's run came to an

end on lap 11 when he went up in smoke, giving the lead back to Buss. Hudson then took the lead on the following lap, followed by Karnopp. But Hudson developed problems and fell back, giving Karnopp the lead on lap 13, which he held to the finish. Buss finished second, followed by Austin Davis, McClurg, and Hudson. Hudson and Dauer were victorious in the two heat races.

Alex Loveless of Lincoln was the only driver to defend his Frostfest championship. After winning the 4-cylinder Young Gun heat race, Loveless started seventh in the 8-car field and powered his way to the top spot on the opening lap of the 10-lap feature, followed by Robert McAfee and Bob Loveless. McAfee brought out the lone caution on lap 3 when he hit the guardrail in turn 4. Loveless pulled away on the restart to take top honors, followed by Dalton Dolan and Royal Fisher at the checkers.

The next race at Elmwood Park Speedway will take place Sunday evening, April 6, at 6 p.m. with the regular four divisions in competition.

RESULTS

IMCA Hobby Stocks

Heat 1: 1. Jerry Hudson, 2. Jim Buss, 3. Ricky Runnion, 4. Aaron Koch.

Heat 2: 1. B.J. Dauer, 2. Austin Davis, 3. Kelly Karnopp, 4. Jeremy Wagner.

Feature: 1. Karnopp, 2. Buss, 3. Davis, 4. Frank McClurg, 5. Hudson, 6. Wagner, 7. Runnion, 8. Troy Robinson, 9. Daniel Hilsabeck, 10. Colton Clausen, 11. Dauer (DNF), 12. Rhett Kingsbury (DNF), 13. Koch (DNF), 14. Michael Thummel (DNS).

IMCA Stock Cars

Heat 1: 1. Lloyd Meeske, 2. Wheat Lippelmann, 3. Dustin McClurg, 4. Angel Munoz.

Heat 2: 1. Tim Bergand, 2. Terry Cunningham, 3. Justin Bussell, 4. Shawn Bigham.

Heat 3: 1. Cory Struckhoff, 2. Travis Sherfick, 3. Randy Tipton, 4. Arnold Williams.

Heat 4: 1. Bryan Lariviere, 2. Nathan Glendening, 3. Jay Hachmeister, 4. Jason Rogers.

B-Feature (top 8 transfer): 1. Tracy Holloway, 2. Rogers, 3. Michael Dancer, 4. Jason Davis, 5. Kent Lower, 6. Williams, 7. Jared Remus, 8. Jason McCartney, 9. Robert Rutherford, 10. Adam

Balthazor, 11. Jason Smidt, 12. Michael Zajic, 13. Brant Beam, 14. Brendon Eilts, 15. Holloway (DNF), 16. Zach Hilzer (DNF), 17. Thomas Nelson Jr. (DNF), 18. Jesse Taylor (DNF), 19. Munoz (DNS).

A-Feature: 1. Bengard, 2. Lariviere, 3. Meeske, 4. Cunningham, 5. Sherfick, 6. Bussell, 7. Dancer, 8. Davis, 9. Struckhoff, 10. Glendening, 11. McClurg, 12. Lippelmann, 13. Tipton, 14. Williams, 15. Lower, 16. Rogers, 17. Hachmeister, 18. Bigham (DNF), 19. McCartney (DNF), 20. Remus (DNF).

IMCA Modifieds

Heat 1: 1. Barry Maupin, 2. Scott Smith, 3. Jeremy Zorn, 4. Marty Clark.

Heat 2: 1. Corey Lagroon, 2. Matt Rucker, 3. Rodger Peck, 4. Chris Burke.

Heat 3: 1. Gary Kline, 2. Mark Zorn, 3. David Murray Jr., 4. Joe Cleveland.

Heat 4: 1. Dan Carl, 2. Brandon Blochinger, 3. Lance Borgman, 4. Brian Calhoon.

Heat 5: 1. Jordan Grabouski, 2. Grant Junghans, 3. Chad Sterling, 4. Josh Hudson.

B-Feature #1 (top 3 transfer): 1. Clark, 2. Cleveland, 3. Mike Lunow, 4. Hudson, 5. Mike Peter-silie, 6. Mitch Kline, 7. Brandon Hagan, 8. Doug Shearer, 9. Wade Wagenblast, 10. Danny Keller (DNF), 11. Chad Wulf (DNF), 12. George Tyler (DNF).

B-Feature #2 (top 3 transfer): 1. Burke, 2. Brett Behrends, 3. Clay Bontrager, 4. Rick Schwab, 5. Tyler Hahn, 6. Hunter Hembree, 7. Brooke Eilts, 8. Heath Myers, 9. Wes O'Bannon (DNF), 10. John Fabrizio (DNF), 11. Calhoon (DNS).

A-Feature: 1. Carl, 2. M. Zorn, 3. Murray, 4. Lagroon, 5. Rucker, 6. Junghans, 7. Grabouski, 8. G. Kline, 9. Lunow, 10. Cleveland, 11. Burke, 12. Blochinger, 13. Borgman, 14. Sterling, 15. J. Zorn, 16. Behrends, 17. Clark, 18. Peck, 19. Smith (DNF), 20. Maupin (DNF), 21. Bontrager (DNF).

4-cylinder Young Guns

Heat: 1. Alex Loveless, 2. Dalton Dolan, 3. Royal Fisher, 4. Robert McAfee.

Feature: 1. A. Loveless, 2. Dolan, 3. Fisher, 4. Bob Loveless, 5. Art Herzog, 6. Andrew Soderlund, 7. Rosie Werth, 8. McAfee (DNF).

Blue Jay Boosters set meeting

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will hold its Spring Sports kick-off meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited.

Speaking about the upcoming seasons will be Norton track coach Jason Jones and golf coach David Stover.

You do not have to be a member of the club to attend the meetings.



Huskies, Trojans named All-League

The Cheyenne Conference selected its All-League basketball teams and chose Alison Cole, Joni Hilburn and Megan Cole from the Northern Valley squad.

Alison Cole was chosen to the first team as she was the league leader in scoring with a 21 point average plus she was at the top in rebounding. Alison was chosen for her total game as the coaches realized that she was not only a threat offensively but also on defense



as she had numerous blocks or altered shots.

Joni Hilburn impressed the league's coaches with her ability to find the open shooter and her spunkiness on defense as she was chosen to the league's second team.

Megan Cole was also chosen to the second team for her ability to create turnovers with her defense. Plus, when she was "on" she was a threat every time down the floor and she needed to be guarded.

Cheyenne Conference All League Teams

First Team

Alison Cole, So., Northern Valley

Rachel Belisle, Sr., Palco Bailey Gehring, Sr., Palco Shelly Kemper, Sr., Logan JoAnn Yoxall, Sr., Kensington

Second Team

Peggi Benoit, Sr., Palco Megan Cole, So., Northern Valley Joni Hilburn, Sr., Northern Valley

JayDee Hudson, Sr., Kensington

Ashley Lutters, Sr., Western Plains

Honorable Mention

Shelby Haug, So., Western Plains; Shaley Van Loenen, Sr., Logan; Savannah Sammons, Sr., Logan

Eight going to state archery shoot

By DICK BOYD

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Ten Norton County girls and boys competed in archery in the 2008 Northwest Kansas Regional 4-H Shooting Sports Match on Saturday, March 1 at the Ellis County Fairgrounds in Hays and eight qualified for the state shoot, which will be held in September at a location yet to be announced.

Austin Hager placed first in recurve archery in the age 12 group with a 156 x 240 score. Marc Miller was right behind him with a 153 for second place.

In the age 14 and above category, Norton County had the top three placers. Kyle Edgett, age 17, was first with a 141 score, followed by Diedre Kramer, age 15, 134 and Chase Braun, age 17, 132 with 1 bull's eye.

Norton County also won the top three places in open archery, ages 10 and 11. Alec Otter, 10,

placed first with a 170 and one bull's eye, followed by Andrew McMullen, 10, 168 and Adrienne Hager, 10, 167.

Austin Hager and Marc Miller also competed in open archery, ages 12 to 13, and also qualified for the state shoot in this event by placing first and third, respectively. Hager scored a 218 and Miller a 197.

Kyle Edgett, Chase Braun and Diedre Kramer also qualified for state competition in two events by placing first, third and fourth, respectively, in open archery, ages 14 and up. Edgett shot a 222, Braun a 213 and Kramer a 209.

All youngsters competing in divisions that were 14 years of age or younger shot 12 arrows from 20 meters and 12 from 30 meters. Those in 14 and above shot 12 arrows from 30 meters and 12 arrows from 40 meters.

The young marksmen will com-

pete in two age groups in the state shoot, 14 and under known as juniors and 14 and over entitled seniors.

Adrienne Hager and Andrew McMullen also competed in recurve, ages 10-11. Hager won the division with a 92 and one bull's eye and McMullen placed seventh with a 41, neither having a good enough score to qualify for state competition.

Shelbi McKenna, age 12, competed in two events but did not qualify for the state shoot. She placed fifth in recurve with a score of 99 and first in Olympic archery with a score of 127.

Andrew Otter, 14, competed in recurve, 14 and over. He finished in sixth place with an 83 but did not qualify for the state shoot.

John Baker is the head coach of the Norton archery team and his assistant coaches are Rick McKenna and Mary Vanover.

Norton grad key player at Tabor

By DICK BOYD

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Seth Mills, a junior from Norton, is a key player on defense for the Tabor College football team.

During the 2007 season, the 5-foot-10-inch, 190 pound free safety was a defensive starter despite playing through a shoulder injury for most of the season.

Mills made 42 solo tackles with 19 assists and 4 for loss. He also had 2 interceptions and 3 passes broken up. "We are excited about what Seth Mills contributes to our program," said Mike Gottsch, Tabor head football coach.

"He is committed to the goals and challenges of our team.

"As a defensive starter, while

playing through a shoulder injury, he contributed in an important way. We are dependent upon his leadership and I, along with our staff, are looking forward to his steady progress through the spring."

Tabor College is a four-year liberal arts college located in Hillsboro.

Annon earns All-American

By DICK BOYD

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James Annon, a junior from Norton at Fort Hays State University, completed his 2007-2008 season with an All-American finish on Saturday, March 15 in the NCAA Division II National Wrestling Championships in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Annon, one of four Tiger wrestlers competing in the national tournament, outperformed his teammates when he finished in fifth place at 141 pounds to complete an excellent 25-11 season.

He fell in the first round to defending national champion Kyle Evans of Central Oklahoma before winning three straight matches.

A loss to Nebraska-Kearney's Jeff Rutledge, who he defeated earlier this season, sent Annon to the fifth place match where he defeated Travis Elg of Minnesota State University-Mankato 6-4 to win the national medal and earn All-American status.

James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Annon, Norton.

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