

Fast track ignites final push for season titles

By Jon Schmidt

Cooler temperatures and added moisture from Mother Nature added up to one Thomas County Speedway track Sunday night.

Once again, fans were treated to two and three-wide racing throughout most of the evening. It set the stage for some epic point battles when championship night arrives on Sunday, Aug. 18.

The Econos saw their sixth different winner of the season.

Ray West jumped out to an early lead and was able to hold on to it the entire race. For seven laps, there was a great side-by-side battle for second between Rocky Baalman and Alex West.

With two laps left on the back stretch, Alex West rolled several times bringing out the red flag. The race finished with a green, white, checkered finish. Top four were West, Eric Clayville, Ryan Baalman and Ron Baalman.

The Hobby Stocks put on a great show from start to finish.

Matt Giesenhagen jumped out to the lead with the cars behind him racing two and three wide. The first couple of laps, Giesenhagen had to hold off Kurt Kennedy and Jake Blackhart. Season points leader Richard Boon was charging hard up the field until he got too high on the turn 3 and 4 wall.

On the restart, Tyrel "Young Gun" Smith and Cody "Bam Bam" Graham were on the coattails of Giesenhagen.

With only four laps left, Graham spun his car which put him to the rear of the field.

Smith was able to take advantage of the late restart and pass Giesenhagen coming out of turn two. With the misfortunes of Boon and Graham, Colton Pfeifer left the track with a two point lead.

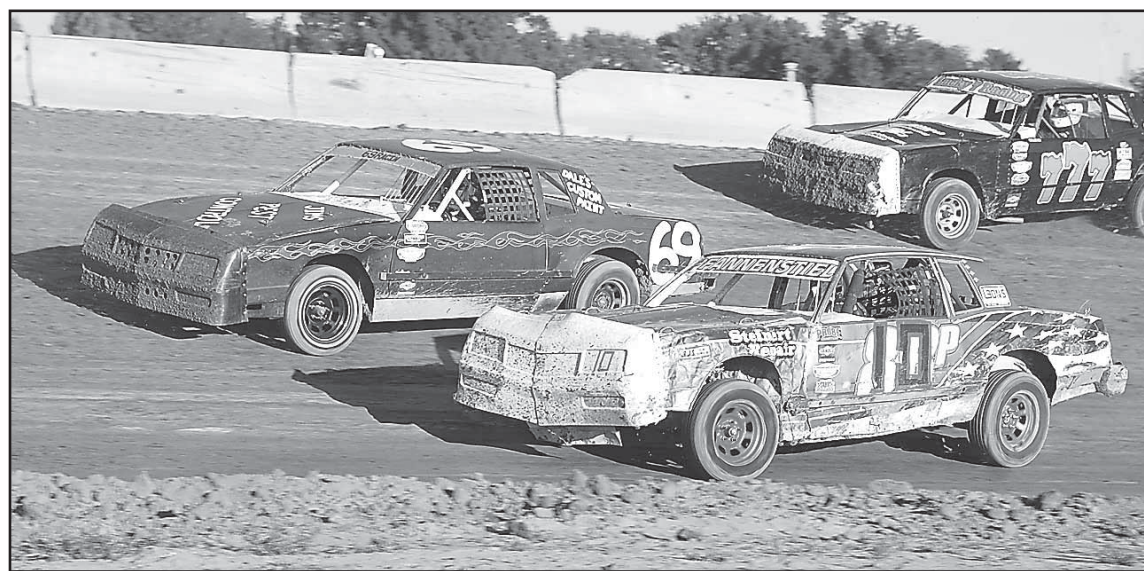
Top four for the Hobby Stocks were Smith, Giesenhagen, Blackhart and Pfeifer.

In the Sport Mods, Warren Harkness and Cody Pancake led the field to green. After two laps, Daniel Gottschalk took over the lead. He quickly pulled away while "The Moneyman" Clay Money and Andy Barton worked their way through the field.

Towards the end of the race, Money was reeling in Gottschalk but simply ran out of laps. Top four in the Sport Mods were Gottschalk, Money, Barton and Pancake.

Brent Moss led the Stock Cars to the flag stand to start the feature.

With the added moisture to the track, the cars were able to race on multiple grooves. On lap three, Jeff "The Gambler" Tubbs was able to get around Moss and Mike



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Matt Giesenhagen (69) and Cody "Bam Bam" Graham (10) showed how close competition has been all season during this recent showdown of the fastest Hobby Stocks. Below, the Modifieds have been just as intense as little separates Adam Morris (8) and Darren "The Culligan Man" DeLoach (21). Those two drivers placed second and third during Sunday's main event at Thomas County Speedway with Morris taking second. The season points title chases will be decided when racing concludes on Sunday, August 18.

Meyer for the lead.

"The Flying Farmer" Jason Rogers and "The Catfish" B.J. Wagoner followed his line to break into the top three. Rogers and Wagoner did what they could to reel in Tubbs during the caution-free feature.

Wagoner will enter the race with a seven point lead over Tubbs in the track championship battle. Tubbs will also be looking to wrap up the Great Plains Dirt Track Central Stock Car Series championship.

Top four in the Stock Cars Sunday night were Tubbs, Rogers, Wagoner and Meyer.

In the last feature of the night, fans were treated to two and three wide racing the entire 12 laps of IMCA Modifieds.

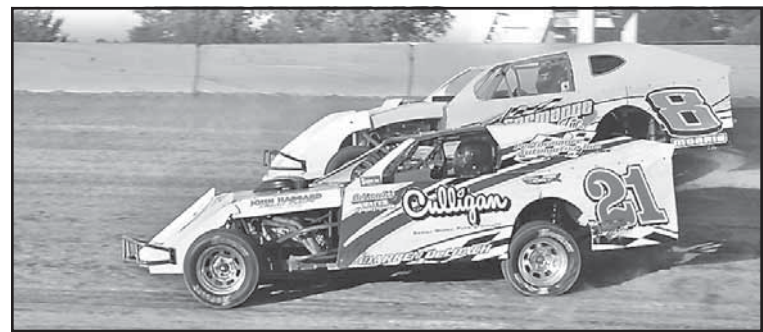
"Sweet" Wheat Lippelmann had to fend off Todd Schwarz and "The Culligan Man" Darren DeLoach.

Charging hard from the last place starting spot was point leader Mike "The Natural" Wadel.

Wadel was finally able to take over the race just shortly after the halfway mark.

Behind Wadel was three and almost four-wide racing for the second spot.

With two laps remaining, Adam



Morris was able to settle into the second spot and tried his best to catch the leader.

Wadel and Morris will be competing in a close point battle for the season as well entering cham-

ampionship night.

Many fans stayed in the stands to watch to set of trains compete around the track.

Special thanks to Ron's Automotive for providing the trains.

What roadblocks await Broncos, Chiefs?

By R.B. Headley

Colby Free Press
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A neighbor's pickup spontaneously burst into flames and melted an entire side of my car the same autumn that Kansas City made its last NFL playoff appearance (2010).

Semi-trucks delivered bad news during the Denver Broncos' last Super Bowl-winning season. I was walking along peacefully, thinking about my beloved Minnesota Yikes!-ings playing legend John Elway's Broncos that year (1998) when suddenly, inexplicably, a gust of wind blew my favorite Yikes! hat directly into the semi's path.

The Yikes! promptly made history as football's first 15-1 team to

fall short of a Super Bowl.

So understand how the Broncos and Super Bowl or Chiefs making playoffs aren't top priorities for some couch potatoes.

Yet many believe it could happen. Many more in this area would love to see it happen, but an entire regular season must be conquered first. Here are some huge games:

Week 1: Baltimore Ravens at Broncos. Are you ready for a rematch of last year's playoff epic, where the eventual Super Bowl champs ruined Denver's Super Bowl plans?

Week 2: Dallas Cowboys at Chiefs; Broncos at New York Giants. What an early double-header. Chiefs could really build some confidence in home opener, while Broncos' battle means brothers Peyton vs. Eli Manning.

Peyton has won every previous meeting.

Week 3: Chiefs at Philadelphia Eagles. We know new K.C. coach Andy Reid would love to beat his former employers in Philly, but it's a Thursday night game and short week after playing Dallas. Look out.

Week 5: Broncos at Dallas. Both teams play a lot of NFC East foes early. If Denver wants to get the AFC's best record, road games like this one will be crucial.

Week 7: Houston Texans at Chiefs; Broncos at Indianapolis Colts. Peyton returns to old stomping grounds in Indy. Both these opponents were AFC playoff teams last season.

Week 8: Washington Redskins at Broncos. Mike Shanahan and Robert Griffin III in town?

Worth a three-hour drive to the "nosebleed" section.

Week 11: Chiefs at Broncos. Chiefs have won two of last three at Denver.

Week 12: Broncos at New England. Peyton due to win on Brady's turf. Star receiver Wes Welker also returns as a Bronco.

Week 13: Broncos at Chiefs. Imagine the scene if K.C.'s still in the hunt by Thanksgiving weekend.

Week 14: Chiefs at Washington Redskins.

Week 16: Colts at Chiefs; Broncos at Texans.

Week 17: Chiefs at Chargers; Broncos at Raiders. AFC West rivals love to spoil everything in these regular-season finales.

Students can get free physicals on Aug. 15

Family Center for Health Care in Colby is offering free sports physicals to all Thomas County Schools from 4 to 7 p.m. Aug. 15 at 310 E. College Drive.

Students will be seen from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and out of town students from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

For information, please contact this Colby clinic at 462-6184.

Trouble chases star QB

NEW YORK (AP) — An East Coast autograph broker told ESPN on Tuesday that he paid Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Johnny Manziel \$7,500 for autographs.

The broker also provided cell-

phone videos that showed Manziel signing autographs.

The NCAA has been investigating whether Manziel accepted money for signing autographs, a violation that could lead to the quarterback being ruled ineligible.

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