



KALAMA 700 YEARS SPEEDWAY

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TRACK TALK

May 15, 2019

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MAY 17, 2019 – ALL CLASSES RACE
Ben Beeler Memorial Trophy Night by Send Out Cards



WEEK #4 – FRIDAY, MAY 17

Those who braved the chilly temperatures last Friday were treated to some exceptional racing. This week all five classes compete and we expect that same level of outstanding race action. The kind of action that is making Kalamazoo Speedway's 70th consecutive season worthy of the milestone. Now we just need Ma Nature to bump up the temps a little. Though we are grateful to have had dry skies; we'd lost one practice and three races by this week last year.

Come on out this Friday night for Ben Beeler Memorial Trophy Night by Send Out Cards.

We will see you at the races!

DETAILS: MAY 10 (WEEK #3)

Pits Open	3:30
Pit Pass (12 & up)	\$30
Adults	\$12
Youth 6-12	\$5
Kids 5 & Under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30

RETRO MOMENT

From the 1987 Kalamazoo Speedway Banquet. On the right, Bobby Jones (left) with Mike VanSparrentak and Marty Jones. (uncredited photos)



'87 Champs - Mike VanSparrentak, Bob Curry & Charlie Dunshee



RECAP: WEEK #3 (MAY 10)

A shout out to all who came out to race, crew or watch the races in spite of the cold temperatures (that unfortunately the forecasters got right). Thanks to Jack Goodrich for giving the Invocation and singing our National Anthem.

The **Zoo Stock** class was the largest of the night with 28 cars. Grant Lofquist took fast time (16.867). For the second year in a row, Collin Whitfield graduated to the Outlaw FWD class when he dipped below the 16.850 time set for the class. It took three tries for the 16 cars in the 'A' feature to complete the first lap but things settled down, for the most part, after that. Kyle Knapp took a hard hit to the wall and was done for the evening as were David Yale and Brad Currier all before the first lap was completed. Rookie Charles Anderson and CJ French (last week's 'B' feature winner) led the field to green for the third restart of the 25-lap race with the audience cheering in good humor that the race was underway. Though there was some bumper pool going on early in the race, the race stayed green before the third caution flew three laps into the race, this time for debris. Anderson and French traded off the lead and with 18 to go the cars were 4-wide and racing. French's night ended after 12 solid laps as he limped into the pits under green. Jordan Brinkert moved into the lead over Anderson with 16 laps remaining. Logan Hiemstra moved into second with 15 to go while Rielly Meade made his way to third 5 laps later. Meade moved past Hiemstra with seven to go and into the top spot with a handful of laps remaining much to the jubilation of his cheering section along the front stretch. Hiemstra finished second followed by Brinkert, Lofquist and former track champion Brock Sweeter. It was all rookies in the second half of the top 10: Justin Bozell, Jared Blanchard, Matt Elsey Jr. (the Speedway's youngest driver this year), Anderson and Ross Bergman. Meade was racing in honor of his nephew who attended the Victory Lane celebration in his infant seat. Renae Letts won the 13-car, 15-lap 'B' feature followed by Wes Allen, rookie Bryson Hosner, Colin Bozell (driving a Brock Sweeter car for the evening) and Don Porter. Leading the points chase with three races complete is Brinkert, Meade, Bergman, Blanchard and Lofquist.



Renae Letts (left) won the 'B' feature and Rielly Meade won his first feature of the season (seen accepting a congratulatory handshake in Victory Lane).

Capturing fast time (14.749) for the third time in a row, Kyle Ribble also won his first feature of the season over 23 other competitors. Kevin Sweat took the early lead of the 35-lap **Street Stock** feature. With five laps in, Bug Schisler led followed by Sweat, Greg Brown, Brandon Zachary, Heath Bronkema and Shane Miller. Defending champion Brown's car seemed to fade and he finished the race a frustrating 15th. With 20 to go, Zachary was in the lead, Schisler second followed by Miller, Barry Jenkins and Kyle Ribble who had moved up from deep in the pack. Miller moved into second place with 18 to go. A couple of cautions (spin and a disabled car) compacted the field with Zachary getting off to a solid start each time. Miller made a move on Zachary but couldn't get around him. Ribble moved around Miller with Cook surging and moving into the 4th position. With 9 remaining the leader board switched up with Ribble moving into the lead, Zachary dropping to second with Cook, Miller and Schisler in pursuit. Two more cautions made it interesting. Cook was coming on strong moving into second with a goal of making it three wins in a row. Zachary wasn't about to let Cook keep second and at the checkered it was Ribble, Zachary, Cook, Miller and Mike Brooks. Barry Jenkins finished sixth followed by Colin Bozell, Schisler, Sweat and Doug Gallandt (recovering from an earlier spin). With three races complete Ribble tops the chase for points followed by Cook, Brandon Zachary, Bozell and Jenkins.



Kyle Ribble has racked up fast time in each week of the young season and added his first feature win. Victory Lane was full of his supporters.

The **Late Model Sportsman** 35-lap feature is the kind of race you want to see when you come out to the track and think “I should have been there!” if you missed it. The best race of the night in a lot of folks’ minds. The buzz was the #59 that made a few fast appearances last year plus 12-time track champion Andy Bozell in the driver’s seat equaled a trip to Victory Lane. The odds went up when Bozell took fast time with a 13.606. Chris Garrett and former champion Keegan Dykstra led the race to green with Austin Maynard and Jeff Bozell in the second row. With five laps down it was still Garrett and Dykstra in the one – two positions. The 59 was in eighth place. Both Jeff Bozell and Dykstra set to swarming Garrett. After a caution for a smoking car, Garrett was out fast with Andy Bozell rocketing up to the third position. Misfortune struck for Dykstra and another driver in Turn 2 forcing Dykstra out of the race. With 20 laps to go, never-count-him-out-seven-time-champion Buddy Head was making one of his patented surges from the back and moved into the fifth position. Garrett continued to hold off the 59 but whispers of what lap Bozell would put him away were getting louder. With 15 to go, Buddy Head had moved up to fourth with Jeff Bozell ahead of him. After only the third caution of the night, Head was charging and moved up into the third position and then around Andy Bozell for second a few laps later. Leading from green to checkered, Garrett worked all night for the win and made it two in a row. At the flag it was Garrett at the top of the 22-driver field, followed by Buddy Head, Andy Bozell, Chris Shannon and Jeff Bozell. Aj Foote, August Maynard, Dylan Stovall, Keith Wilfong and Ryan Stutz comprised the second half of the top 10. After three races it’s Buddy Head at the top of the leaderboard followed by Chris Shannon, Chris Garrett, Jeff Bozell and Keegan Dykstra.



Chris Garrett wins the 40-lap Late Model Sportsman feature for the second consecutive time this season.

Sixteen **Outlaw Super Late Models** braved the weather to race in their 40-lap feature. Andrew Brest took fast-time (12.942). Rick Senneker and Jesse VanAvery led the field to green with Senneker taking the lead for the first few laps. Defending track champion Todd Harrington moved into the top position with five laps in and wasn't of a mind to give it up. Four-time track champion Brandon Lyons got around Rick Senneker for second with about 25 to go. A couple of cautions gave drivers a chance to shake it up. Harrington maintained his lead followed by Lyons, Craig Everage, Senneker and two-time track champion Mark Shook. It was the battle of the 57s as Shook got around Senneker for fourth. Lyons dogged Harrington but it was Harrington's night. Lyons was second followed by Shook, Everage and Doug True. Senneker was sixth followed by Andrew Brest, Kevin Sauer, Adam Terry and Bill Tomlinson. With two races in the bag, it's Shook at the top of the points followed by Terry, Brest, Harrington and True.



Kevin Barthel

PHOTO MEDLEY

We were missing a few drivers for the family photos and the young (men) teen drivers on May 10 so we're including a few of the shots that have caught our attention so far this season and will circle back to the teens and families next week.



Left: Zoo Stock driver Roger Zimmerman is flanked by his crew members, Rex Allen and Bill Halstead. Right: There aren't many drivers who can say they coordinate their sunglasses with the color scheme of their car, but Outlaw Super Late Model driver Doug True has managed.



Friday night lights at the Season Opener in the infield pits.



**FAST FAMILY FUN FOR 70 YEARS.
We will see you at the races.**