

May 25, 2024 - Elko, MN

By Jason D Searcy

The 59th season opener at Elko Speedway was Saturday night over the Memorial Day weekend.

A huge holiday weekend crowd watched #19 Jake Ryan from Elko (MN) win the first Interim HealthCare Staffing Late Model feature event. Rookie Late Model driver #10 Danny Mann led the first lap until a caution occurred, on the restart ASA Midwest tour rookie of the year #81 Bryan Syer-Keske grabbed the top spot. Veteran driver #75 Joel Theisen took over the lead for numerous laps but then dropped from the field with a problem during the next caution period.

Jake Ryan took advantage off the restart, battled with #52 fast-timer Chad Walen for a few laps and then went on to win the 25 lap race by about 3 car lengths. Jake Ryan finished his 2023 campaign second place in the point standings and is looking to better his final points positioning by one this year. Chad Walen finished second, 9-time Champion #41 Donny Reuvers was third, #32 Jeremy Wolff fourth and Syer-Keske finished fifth of the 17 cars in attendance.



The second NASCAR sanctioned Late Model feature was won by #50 Steve Anderson Jr from Farmington (MN), it was his second feature win of his career. Rookie Late Model driver #8 Colin Stocker, a two-time Bando and Legends champion at ELKO led

the race early but was then passed by Anderson who passed him on the inside on lap #3 and held on the rest of the way for the win. Chad Walen finished second again, Jake Ryan was third, Jeremy Wolff fourth and Stocker held on to score a Top-5 finish during this caution less race.



Chad Walen set a new Elko Speedway Late Model track record during qualifying, he set the fast time with a lap of 14.442, it bested a time of 14.462 set by Jake Ryan in 2023. The Late Model fast qualifier each week receives a \$500 bonus sponsored by Interim HeathCare Staffing.



The NASCAR sanctioned Thunder Car division had #99 Brent Kane from Lonsdale (MN) win his 130th feature event in race #1 of the night. Kane took the lead off the start and never relinquished it, even though a caution late in the race tightened the field, Kane still won by 0.97 seconds. It is the 25th year of racing for Brent Kane and his crew. Julie Jorgenson #83 finished second, #29 Tommy Sorem was third, #41 Ben Gannon fourth and #16 Jim Omeara III scored a Top-5 finish in his first ever Thunder Car race.



The second 20 lap Thunder Car race had #9 Adam Wiebusch from Jordan (MN) winning by 0.455 seconds. He took the lead on lap one and held on for the win after a late race restart, it was his return to racing after taking 2023 off. Tommy Sorem finished second, Brent Kane was third, Julie Jorgenson fourth and Ben Gannon fifth of the 10 cars competing in the Thunder Car division.



The INEX sanctioned Legends division had #66 Tristan Swanson from Elko (MN) winning both 20 lap feature events and was the fast timer in qualifying with a time of

15.603 seconds. Casey Traxler #13 led the first portion of the first race until Swanson took over, a late race caution caused a green-white-checkers situation at the end but Swanson still won by 3.399 seconds. Riley Goodwin #27 finished second, #3 Dirk Henry was third, #75 Baiden Heskett fourth and Traxler finished fifth of the 18 cars competing.



The second feature had Casey Traxler lead lap one and Dirk Henry take over on lap two, Swanson made his pass for the lead on lap 3 and never gave up the top spot. There was one caution period with 3 laps remaining, but Swanson prevailed and won by 0.548 seconds over a hard charging 14-year-old driver #12 Ayrton Brockhouse, who finished second place. Baiden Heskett was third, Dirk Henry fourth and Riley Goodwin finished fifth.



With his two wins on opening night racing for Prusak racing #66 Tristan Swanson is picking up where he left off in 2023 when he won 9 of the 12 races he competed in.

The NASCAR sanctioned Power Stocks always are crowd pleasers, this night was no exception with #57 Jesse Fischer from Eagan (MN) pulled off a late-race pass to win the first feature event. Fischer took the lead from the green flag but was passed by defending Champion #83 Julie Jorgenson on lap 3 of 20. Fischer had his revenge when he retook the lead passing Jorgenson with three laps remaining and held on to win by 2.112 seconds. Jorgenson finished second, #62 Tom Doten was third, #14 Brock Westermayer fourth and #3 Jimmie Jorgenson was fifth of the 13 cars competing.



The second Power Stock feature had 15-year-old #14 Clayton Dorner take the early lead, he was quickly passed by #08 Mike Stoer from Prior Lake (MN) who drove all the way to the finish without being challenged, he won by 1.719 seconds. Stoer had a division leading 5 wins last year and is starting out strong again in 2024. Jesse Fischer finished second, Julie Jorgenson had to make some impressive moves to avoid a wreck early in the race and finished third, Tom Doten was fourth and Jimmie Jorgenson finished 5th again.



The INEX sanctioned Bandolero division was swept by #9 TJ Moon who traveled all the way from Fayetteville (NC) to race at Elko Speedway Saturday night. TJ Moon took a big lead early in the first 12 lap event and never looked back, he held on through three cautions and won by 4.089 seconds. Bentley Thompson #22 finished second, #9 Jacob Bradley was third of the 14 cars entered in the race.



The second Bando feature had #32 Colton Roe Pershall lead the first lap and then TJ Moon passed him on the inside of corner #1 on the second lap to take the lead.

Bentley Thompson challenged TJ Moon for much of the race but could never quite muster up enough speed to pass him as both lead cars weaved through lapped traffic. TJ Moon was the winner by a margin of 0.262 seconds Bentley Thompson finished second and Christopher Flynn #5 was third.



Legendary Monster Truck BigFoot appeared and crushed cars at Elko Speedway during the opening night Eve of Destruction.



The truck was driven by Josh Baumgartner from Litchfield (MN), this is the 24th updated version in the line of BigFoot vehicles.



Thunder 4X4 also appeared and did a great freestyle show, it was driven by Jim Bendzick from New Prague (MN).

The Drifters did competition style tandem drifting during Eve of Destruction and spectator drags were won by Austin Matta from Shakopee (MN) with his 1996 Nissan 240, 800 horsepower car.





Two national world champions competed against each other during the Timberworks Lumberjacks performance on the concourse during intermission.



Kung Fu Panda played at Elko Drive-in following the race night.

All results are unofficial at this point, check ElkoSpeedway.com for updates

Up next at Elko Speedway will be another Eve of Destruction on Saturday June 15th, with racing in all 5 divisions and lots of other entertainment, spectator gates open at 4:30pm, action begins at 5:15pm.

Elko Speedway is a NASCAR sanctioned 3/8th mile high banked asphalt track with stadium seating located just 30 minutes south of the Twin Cities in Elko-New Market MN. Get more information at ElkoSpeedway.com

