

“THE THUNDER ROARED ON JULY 4TH AT HESSTON SPEEDWAY”

By Christy Miller

Thunder by the Lake roared as the Three State Flyers invaded Pennsylvania's Toughest Bullring. The new and improved Hesston Speedway held its first appearance of the Super Late Model division on Sunday, July 4th. A total of 111 teams and over 2100 fans were in attendance for the 5 division event.

The street stock division was the first event on the grid. 19 cars made up 2 heat events w/ Dave Brown (#1) and Tim Brindle (#45) taking top honors. The top 4 finishers in each heat redrew for their feature starting position. Bill Henney (#50) and Brian Duffy (#38) set the pace on the front row as the green dropped. Henney took the lead w/ Duffy close behind. Lap 5 brought the first yellow as Jesse Snyder (#22x), Ryan Sager (#22), and Greg Moore (#97) got tangled in turn 4. On the restart, it was Henney, Duffy, and Brown with the 12th place starter of Khi Swanger (#88) up to 5th. The yellow came again on lap 6 with Moore losing the grip in turn 4. Henney restarted the field again as Duffy trailed closely. Swanger had made his way 4th. On lap 7, smoke began to show from Swanger as he slowed on turn 4. Henney brought the field to the green again with Duffy and Brown trying to gain ground. By lap 11, Henney had a 3 car length lead as the caution appeared in turn 4 for Alex Boozel (#182). As Henney restarted the field, Duffy began put the pressure on him as Jesse Snyder (#22x) spun in turn 4. On the last restart, Duffy gave it his best but could not make the pass. Henney took the checkered with Duffy, Brown, Rich Swope (#7) and Brindle respectively.

Lap Leaders - Henney (#50): 1-20

Cautions - 7: Laps 5, 6, 6, 7, 9, 11, 17

The Super Late Models put on a spectacular show for the first time in 2010. There were 28 teams in the pits waiting it out to battle for \$3k. In hot laps, Michael Altobelli (#79) seemed to have motor trouble as he dropped fluid on the front stretch. He would retire for the night. Tim Wilson (#3), Devin Friese (#12), Jim Yoder (#27), and Jack Pencil (#14) took top honors in the heat events. Friese won the 8-lap dash. As the field made a 4-wide salute, there was not a fan in their seat. Hats were off and hands waved as the 27 car pack made a pace lap. Friese and Yoder set the pace as the field came to the green to begin the 35-lap event. Yoder jumped out to the lead. The battle was for the 2nd spot between Friese, Brian Booze (#b2), and Wilson as Pencil looked on. On lap 8, it was still Yoder, Friese, Booze, Wilson, and Pencil with DJ Meyers (#70j) coming on strong. By lap 9, Yoder hit the lap traffic of Tim Grey (#91) and Mike Mort (#m1). The first yellow waved as Mort spun in turn 4. Yoder restarted the field with Friese and Booze trailing. Meyers began to battle Pencil for the 5th spot. On lap 14, Jeremy Miller (#1m) slowed and headed pitside off turn 2. Meyers made the pass by Wilson for the 4th spot on lap 16. Pencil drove under Wilson off turn 4 to regain the 5th position. Yoder, still in the lead, had again hit lap traffic of Mort on lap 20. With Friese 2nd and Booze 3rd, Meyers was still gaining ground. Meyers made the pass by Booze for the 3rd spot on lap 25. With 5 to go, it was bumper to bumper as Yoder worked to keep the lead. Friese and Meyers were closing in due to lap traffic. On lap 31, Brad Kling (#11) slowed in turn 4 bringing out the yellow. Kling retired for the night. Yoder remained your leader on the restart as Meyers worked on Friese but could not complete the pass. Booze was 4th with Wilson and Pencil racing hard for 5th. With his hand out the window, Yoder claimed the victory. Friese, Meyers, Booze, and Pencil rounded out the top 5.

Lap Leaders - Yoder (#27) 1-35

Cautions - 2: Laps 11, 31

Another great night of limited late model racing took place as 26 drivers were on the grid for Showdown #2. Heat winners were Andy Friese (#82), Grant Adams (#64), and Bobby Beard (#81s). The top 3 in each heat event redrew for their starting positions. Randy Wible (#35) and Friese lead the field to the green. Wible got the lead and never looked back. By lap 3, Wible had an 8 car length lead over Friese and Rance Garlock (#19g). Dave Leidy (#21a) spun in turns 1&2 which brought out the first caution on lap 6. On the restart, it was Wible, Friese, and Garlock with the 9th place starter of Tim Smith, Jr. (#39) up to 6th.

Smith was working the high side as he watched Friese and Garlock battle for 2nd. By lap 12, Wible hit lap traffic as the battle for the 2nd-5th spots heated up. Smith was putting the pressure on Garlock for 3rd on lap 19. Wible now had a ½ track lead with Smith now working on Friese for the 2nd spot. The yellow waved w/ 3 laps to go as Dave Dunkle (#1) slowed in turn 4. Wible set the pace on the restart with Smith trying the high side. Friese, Garlock, and Beard were battling for position as Beard lost the handle in turn 4. Wible lead the field to the green for the last time. Smith drove hard to the high side to battle for the top spot. Wible marched to the line for his 1st ever Limited Late Model victory. Smith, Friese, Garlock, and Adams rounded out the top 5.

Lap Leaders - Wible (#35) 1-25

Cautions - 3: Laps 6, 21, 23

The hobby stock division at Hesston Speedway has some of the best competition in the area. The heat victories were claimed by Brad McGinnis (#13) and Curtis Guyer (#7). McGinnis and Derek Graybill (#01) lead the other 14 drivers to the green. McGinnis got the early lead as Terry Norris (#73) trailed closely behind. Norris took the lead on lap 6 but the yellow waved. McGinnis was put back in the top spot for the restart. It did not take long for Norris to reclaim the lead. On lap 7, Jim Dearmitt (#121) spun in turn 1&2. Norris restarted the field with McGinnis, Graybill, Jake Gongloff (#10) and Chad Gambol (#13x) respectively. Lou Wannyn (#77) and Curtis Guyer (#7) got tangled in turns 3&4 which brought out the yellow. The green flew again with McGinnis trailing Norris. Wannyn again lost the handle and found himself on the pitside of the turn 4 barrier. As Norris, McGinnis, and Graybill restarted the field, there is a tough battle mounting for the 4th & 5th positions. Gongloff, Gambol, and Joe Dearmitt (#21) were three wide in turns 3&4. Tyler Ritchey (#3) was up to the 6th position but brought out the caution on lap 17. Norris paced the field to the green for the last time and came home with the victory. McGinnis, Gongloff, Dearmitt, and Graybill rounded out the top 5.

Lap Leaders - McGinnis (#13) 1-6; Norris (#73) 7-20

Cautions - 5; Laps 6, 7, 7, 9, 17

The 4-cylinder mini stock class arrived to compete for the highest payday in Hesston history, \$1k. Dave Leidy (#21a), Ed Williamson (#24e), and Kevin Thomas (#3c) were victorious in the heat events. The 20-lap feature began as Williamson and Dave Friedrich (#66f) brought the field to the green flag. Williamson took command but the yellow arrived on lap 1 for Jeremy Ott (#10) spinning in turn 4. A complete restart was in order as Williamson again led the field. John Stoll, Jr. (#11s) and Leidy trailed closely. Ronnie Buck (#8) gained ground to pressure Leidy for 3rd. On lap 6, the yellow returned as Norm Beam (#14) and Eric Seibert (#00) spun in turn 4. On the restart, Williamson and Stoll pulled away from the field. Buck makes the pass by Leidy for the 3rd spot. Siebert slowed on the front stretch bringing out the caution on lap 7. Williamson again restarted the field with Stoll still trailing. As Leidy tried to hold onto the 4th spot, he lost the grip and spun in turn 4. Leidy retired for the night. It was Williamson and Stoll with Buck waiting to make his move. Williamson could feel the heat from Stoll as the two would touch several times. Williamson took the checkered but was disqualified due to technical issues. The official victorian was Stoll with Buck, Thomas, Matt Williamson (#17w), and Gary Newell (#0) rounding out the top 5.

Lap Leaders - Williamson (#24e) 1-20

Cautions - 5; Laps 1, 6, 7, 9, 17

Please join us on Saturday, July 17th as the FastTrak Late Models will compete for \$1k to win with a 30-lap event. Please check us out at www.HesstonSpeedway.com and always remember, "Go Fast, Turn Left, and... Hang On 'til the Checkered Flies".