

Fan Appreciation Night at Mt Lawn Brings Large Crowd and Thrilling Racing

New Castle, IN (July 10, 2016 Gib Chew) – In front a packed grandstand of fans, Ryan Amonett, Chris Jennings, Jameson Owens and Dustin Kares all won features on Fan Appreciation Night at Mt Lawn Speedway on July 10th. The night had hard racing throughout the field in all the divisions with Big Wheel races, and fan Street Drags around the track in their street cars kept the fans entertained and in their seats all evening.

In the street stock division, Fred Hopkins jumped out to the early lead in the feature, with Mt Lawn veteran and Knightstown native, Jeff Lane overtaking him on the 17th lap. But Ryan Amonett, who was Fast Qualifier and won the Trophy Dash, came from his eleventh starting spot to take the lead on the 22nd lap. Amonett worked his way to the front through heavy traffic, following Lane who started just ahead of him, then fought tight racing as he lapped cars, sometimes running three wide as he raced to the win. Lane also picked his way through and found himself in three wide racing as the cars being lapped were racing for position amongst themselves in packs of four cars making for exciting racing in an event that only had three cautions in 50 laps. New Castle's Fred Hopkins finished third Second generation drivers Brandon Mefford, son of the late William Mefford who raced at MT Lawn for many years finished fourth and Colby Lane, Jeff Lane's son rounded out the top five.

"It was great to be racing in front of such a large crowd." Amonett stated following the race. "Seeing that many people in the stands really made it special to me. I love being out here, and thanks to the fans for coming out to watch us: the New Castle native continued.

The thirty lap Van Hoy Oil Thunder Car Feature was also full of action as Fast Qualifier, Indianapolis driver Jameson Owens, started last in the field of 17 cars drove through traffic to take the lead on the 11th lap, and fight off a hard charging Kevin Claborn of Cambridge City and Dustin Sapp also of Indianapolis. Claborn took the Trophy Dash after Straugn's Tony Stewart and Owens spun while trying to catch Claborn who had jumped out to the lead.

Kennard's own Alan Lambert jumped out to the early lead in the feature, with Rushville's Chris Bolyard running second. Sapp passed Lambert on the fourth lap and held on as Owens and Hopkins worked their way the front Sapp was unable to hold off Owens as he over took him. Sapp then held off Hopkins for several laps before he fell back to third on the 18th lap to finish there holding off Stewart who finished fourth and Cambridge City's Jim Walker who came home fifth.

The Sunnyside Motors Compact Division was swept by the Jennings of Richmond as Andy Jennings won the Trophy Dash and Fast Qualifier, Chris Jennings, took the feature after avoiding a spin on the 16th lap. New Castle's Derek Morris took the early lead in the Compact Feature and was overtaken by another second generation driver Markelville's Tom Gossar, Jr on the third lap. Gossar gave up his lead to Brian Slavey, from New Castle, who ran in front until the 17th lap when Jennings took over. The racing was tight for the 16 car field from the first to last. Second place went to Donald VanValke, Indianapolis, after he slipped around Andy Jennings on the 21st lap of the 25 lap race. Andy Jennings finished third, Gossar, fourth and Derek Morris, New Castle fifth.

"It was on rails," Jennings commented after the race. "I have been trying to win here for a long time and I am glad I finally did. It is great to see all the people here tonight."

Dustin Kares took the Faskart feature over Kyle Downey and Cody Malyran. Joe Sullivan held the lead on the first lap with Kares overtaking him passing on the outside coming out of the short turn on the seventh lap of the 15 lap race. As Kares ran in front, Downey and Malyran battled for

second as Downey held onto second Malyran tried high and low to find a way around but could not pass as the race wound down. Sullivan finished fourth and Chuck McGinnis was fifth.

Fan Appreciation Night also included opportunities for the fans to get involved. An autograph session was held on the track with fans coming onto the track and drivers waiting by their cars to talk to fans and sign many pictures, hats, shirts and even some body parts as one young fan had several drivers sign his arm. It also featured Big Wheel Races for the kids with Miles Razor winning the 3-4 year old division, Zavier Dickson was second and Bo Rabinstin third. Lydia Razor took home the win in the 5-6 year old age group, with Conner Claywell second and Leon Guffton in third. The 7-8 year old group had Dakota Claywell first, Kaile Haggard second and McKenna Whitton third.

The Ford Focus of Chris Morris was the winner in the Street Drags beating out Jeremal Lake;s Sebring. 11 brave fans brought their street cars out onto the track, where they raced in a single elimination bracket to find the fastest among the group. The cars racing included two trucks, a couple of Focus, a 2010 and a 1979 Camero, a Mustang, a couple Chryslers a BMW and a Hearse.

Mt Lawn owner and promoter Rick Sweigart told this reporter "Mt Lawn has been in the Sweigart family since my Grandfather built the track in 1934 and we sincerely appreciate the tremendous driver and fan support we have received this year.

The next event at Mt Lawn Speedway, will be on August 7th, as the Street Stocks will take to the track for the renowned Raintree 100. Also racing on the 7th will be the Van Hoy Oil Thunder Cars and Sunnyside Motors Compacts. To learn more about us or to see pictures of the action follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or go to www.mtlawn.com.