

## **For Immediate Release:**

### **Stewart Takes Founders Days 100 at Mt Lawn Speedway**

**New Castle, IN (September 11, 2016) by Gib Chew** – Straughn's own Tony Stewart held off Dustin Sapp of Indianapolis as they wove through lapped traffic to win the Founder's Day 100 for the Van Hoy Oil Thunder Cars at Mt Lawn Speedway at the track's season finale. Brandon Mefford kept Jeff Lane at bay to take the Big O Tires Street Stock feature, Austin Kares won the Super Kart Feature and Adam Lee was the Sunnyside Motors Compact winner.

Along with the exciting racing Mt Lawn honored many of those who make the races possible inducting 2 new members to the Mt Lawn Hall of Fame. Steve Davis of New Castle and LJ Lines of Lewisville were the 2016 inductees. Davis has been building cars to race at Mt Lawn since 1957 after starting to build drag racing cars in 1950. He has owned many track championships and built cars for many of the most well know drivers in the area. "I am honored." Steve commented. "I just want everyone to realize that I did not do this alone, it takes a lot of people to get one of these cars ready, and I have had a lot of help over the years." When asked who his favorite driver was Steve smiled and replied, "All of them were my favorite driver, when didn't tear my car up." Lines began his racing career in 1960 driving his own Flying Stock. From there he drove his own Semi Late Model built with the help of Mt Lawn Hall of Famer Jim Hardy. LJ then drove the famous yellow 57 Chevy #76 late Model owned and built by Hardy. He eventually got hooked up with Davis and the pair competed in Late Models and Modifieds. Lines has won 4 Raintree 100 titles and numerous track championships at Mt Lawn and Anderson Speedway.

The State Farm Street Drags were won by Nick Pollett.

Kicking off the racing festivities the Sunnyside Motors Compacts featured a tight race between New Castle's Lee and Richmond's Andy Jennings. Lee and Jennings battle through most of the race with Jennings out in front. As the cars entered the first turn on the white flag lap, Lee and Jennings tangled with Lee on the inside and Jennings ending up against the long turn wall and Lee in the lead. Lee held on at the green-white-checker restart with Tom Gossar, Jr, Markleville, finishing second and Brian Slavey from New Castle finishing third. Gossar took the trophy dash. Andy Jennings is the 2016 Season Champion for the Sunnyside Motors Compacts.

The Super Kart feature had close racing with Austin Kares out running through the field to take the lead with three to go and holding off Drake Stencil as Stencil marched through the field to take second on the last lap coming from fifth place just four laps earlier. Kenny Raney was third, Cody Rinehart fourth and Cody Kennedy fifth. Kares also won his heat race; Chuck McGinnis won the other heat race.

Ryan Amonett, New Castle, IN, seemed to have the car to beat in the early going of the Big O Tires Street Stocks feature, but he was taken off the track with an oil leak on the 11<sup>th</sup> lap. Navigating through several early spins on the track (several cautions in the first 13 laps) race winner Brandon Mefford, Spiceland, IN, took the lead on the 12<sup>th</sup> lap and raced to the win in the 50 lap race. Knightstown's Jeff Lane chased him for much of the race but could not catch him as Mefford won. Markel, Indiana's Jake Hinton took third, Bremen, IN native JJ Schafer came home fourth and Anderson's Jake Owens was fifth. Kevin Claborn won the Street Stock Trophy Dash.

"I wish my Dad (William Mefford) could have been here to see this. I miss him. I could not have done it without Timothy, my sponsors and friends and family." Mefford remarked. "I was kind of worried when Jeff Lane got behind me, but I could pull him out of the short turn, so I stayed out front and just ran hard all the way."

Lane was crowned the Season Champion with his second place finish. "It's always nice to win a championship. Tonight I was slow through the short turn and could not catch Brandon."

The marquee event of the night was the Van Hoy Oil Thunder Cars Founders Day 100 in remembrance of Dr. George W. Sweigart and George A. Sweigart. . The race featured 22 cars to start and close racing action. Markleville's Randy Hoppes jumped from his fourth row starting spot to take the lead on the first lap. Frankie Oakes from Cambridge City tracked Hoppes down and passed him on a restart on the 11<sup>th</sup> lap, following Claborn breaking an axel on the front stretch and taking Shawn Evans, Kennard, up into the wall in the first turn. Jameson Owens from Indianapolis, took the lead on a restart on the 15<sup>th</sup> lap after Dale Harper's machine found the wall. Owens held the lead until Stewart passed him on a restart on the 33<sup>rd</sup> lap.

From there Stewart stayed in the lead with Owens right on his tail until lap 54 when he got slowed up by lapped traffic and Owens snuck by Stewart. Stewart came storming back on lap 56 to take the lead for good. Both Owens and then Dustin Sapp pushed Stewart as he was never able to drive away from them. Sapp finished second, Owens third as the only three cars on the lead lap. Jim Walker finished fourth and Stewart's son AJ Stewart finished fifth. With the win Stewart also took the Season Championship.

"I have to thank my family, my sponsors, Van Hoy Oil for making this possible." Stewart stated. "I knew if I came out and won the race then I won the championship, and to win over drivers like Claborn, Sapp and Owens makes this that much more fun, they are tough guys to beat, and they really push me to be my best."

“It was a great night.” Track promoter Rick Sweigart stated. “We had a good year, big crowds back at the track, and over 20 Thunder Cars tonight. Thank you to everyone who came out this year and made this possible.” We are very hopeful of returning in 2017.

The Founder’s Day 100 was the last race of the year at Mt Lawn. Future plans will be announced on the website: [www.mtlawn.com](http://www.mtlawn.com) and on Facebook and Twitter.