

Mt Lawn Speedway Kicks Off the 2017 Season

Mt Lawn, IN (June 11, 2017) by Gib Chew – The 2017 racing season kicked off at Mt Lawn Speedway on June 11 with exciting racing throughout the evening. On a beautiful evening for racing, Mt Lawn hosted Street Stocks, Van Hoy Oil Thunder Cars, the Pro Compacts, a new division the Factory Stock FWD, the Indiana Champ Karts Series and Indy Fast Karts. Street Drags where fans bring their cars out on the track for a one on one race with another fan and Midwest Oldtimers brought vintage race cars out for a few non-competitive laps around the track as well as displayed for the fans before the racing program.

The racing was furious from the beginning for the Van Hoy Oil Thunder Cars as cars got tangled in the first heat and a crash in the second turn ended the day for fast cars. The feature had tight racing throughout the field and at the front as David McConnell made his way to the front of the field quickly moving from his 17th starting position to third in six laps, second on the eighth lap and the lead on the ninth lap.

Strtaughn's Tony Stewart got hung up in traffic as he came from his 19th starting position take second on the 12th lap. A caution as the cars started the 13th lap closed up the field, and Stewart took the lead on the restart. Although Stewart would lead the remaining laps of the race, McConnell would not give up and chased in Stewart's tire tracks the rest of the race as they wove through lapped traffic one then the other. A flurry of restarts as the race wound down had McConnell and Stewart restarting side by side with Stewart holding off strong challenges each time.

"People say you have to work on a race car every week to keep it running fast." Stewart commented. "This crew works on this car every day, checking to see if bolts are tight, making sure we do not have something small come apart, they make it possible for me to race. Today is my 27th Anniversary and yesterday was my wife's birthday so I want to dedicate this win to her."

McConnell finished second, Shawn Evans third, Bill Clark fourth and Frankie Oaks fifth. McConnell won the Payne's Auto Parts Dash, with Oaks winning the first heat, Brandon Burkhart won the second heat race and AJ Stewart won the third heat.

Despite only a handful of Street Stocks the feature had fireworks as Brandon Mefford and Jason Thompson came together while racing for the lead on the 13th lap of the feature causing Mefford to get loose and eventually spin. Mefford then drove backward on the track toward Thompson, before turning around a pushing Thompson through the long turn under the caution. When the race restarted Thompson got ahead of Ryan Amonett and stayed there to take the win.

"Brandon and I are good friends, and I hate that happened." Thompson stated in Victory Lane, "It means a lot to me to win here at my home track."

Scott Stewart swept the first night of racing for Factory Stock FWD, the newest class of cars at Mt Lawn. Winning the Dash, Heat and Feature for this class. This new class has been developed to permit those desiring to try racing at an absolute minimum cost. The cars are stock in all ways except for the necessary safety additions. Stewart's car had some rule compliance issues but was allowed to compete for one week. Stewart was told in order to race his car again he had to make a few changes.

The Pro Compacts was tight racing from the green flag to the checkered flag with Josh Neal taking the win. Joe Jennings took off in the lead for the first lap from his third row starting position. Chris Jennings came from the sixth row to take the lead on the fifth lap. He would lead until the 22nd lap after lapping much of the field with Neal following along in second much of the race. Rodney Sutton took the lead on the 23rd lap of the 25-lap race. As the cars came out of the short turn drivers pushing for the win started to spin and caused a caution, with many of the leader's cars unable to continue. Neal came through from third unharmed. He took the lead on the restart and held on to win.

Kyle Byrd took second, Andy Jennings third, Adam Lee fourth and Larry Hughes, Jr. fifth. Donald VanValkenburg won the Pro Compacts dash, Neal took one heat race and Nick Warner took the second heat.

As a result of a rule violation in in the pit area after the Pro Compact feature the teams of Nick Warner and Randy Hoppes have been suspended for the next race and have been placed on probation for the remainder of the year.

Chris Peters took the Champ Karts feature with Todd Pickett winning one heat and Nick Keller taking other heat.

The Indy Fast Karts feature was taken by Cody Kennedy with Drake Stancil taking second., Kody Marsec third, Manny Aguilar fourth and Kyle Downey fifth.

The popular Street Drags was won by Jordan West driving a 2002 Jeep Cherokee over Gary Branscum, as West came off the short turn behind and powered past Branscum by a bumper at the line.

The next scheduled event at Mt Lawn is slated for Sunday June 9th.