

KALAMAZOO SPEEDWAY

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TRACK TALK

May 13, 2024

IN THIS EDITION

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FRIDAY, MAY 17: THE FOUR WEEKLY CLASSES RACE.

Friday, May 17	
Pits Open	3:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	3:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	FREE
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30 PM

THE FOUR weekly classes return to race for points. Point fund dollars come into play for the Top 5 in each class and bonus money for those 6th and back who don't miss a race. Be here for the AFC Metal Supply Late Models, Honor Credit Union Limited Late Models and the Techworks Trailers Street Stock. The O'Reilly Auto Parts FWD - Outlaws race for a \$750 to win purse and the Spartan Insulation FWD - DDTs race for a \$500 to win purse.

REMINDER

Front Wheel Drives! Get a **SOLID** tow strap, hook or chain (that won't break) attached to the front and rear of your cars where a wrecker can quickly and safely hoist the car if it needs to be towed.

Drivers electing to start at the tail of the field are **NOT** exempt from breaking out.

Madhouse restarts for the Rear Wheel Drive classes.

Thank you for patronizing our 2024 class sponsors!



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!!!

It'll be hopping at the Zoo over the Memorial Day weekend. Leading off the weekend will be the Speedway's Friday night racing when the Modifieds return. On Saturday, the AutoMODIFIED leased program returns with Open Drifting and then on Sunday, Great Lakes Racing Promotions has leased the track for a 200 lap Enduro. All the details are below.

FRIDAY, MAY 24: THE MODIFIEDS RETURN.

Friday, May 24	
Pits Open	2:30 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	2:30 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$18
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$5
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:30 PM



KICKING OFF the weekend are the 4J Modifieds returning to Kalamazoo Speedway on Friday, May 24 with their \$2,500 to win purse. Also on the program, the Techworks Trailers Street Stock and the O'Reilly Auto Parts Front Wheel Drives - Outlaws and the Spartan Insulation DOTs will be racing. Let's go racing!



MAY 25: OPEN DRIFTING (leased event).

THE AutoMODIFIED Drift Club returns this weekend for its 5th event of the young season.

Ticket windows (pits and grandstands) open at noon; the track is hot from 2:00 - 9:00 PM. Adult grandstand tickets are \$5; 12 and under are free. General pit passes are \$20; ride-a-longs are available! Rain in the forecast? No worries! Drifting is a rain or shine event. Experienced and new drifters are always welcome.



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MAY 26: MEMORIAL DAY MAYHEM (leased event).

Sunday, May 26	
Pits Open	3:00 PM
Adult Pit Pass (13+)	\$35
Youth Pit Pass	\$15
Ticket Windows Open	3:00 PM
Adult Grandstand	\$15
Youth Grandstand (6-12)	\$5
Kids 5 & under	FREE
Racing Starts	7:00 PM

Great Lakes Racing Promotions is bringing fans a Memorial Day program to honor our veterans with a 200 lap Enduro, a monster truck, a few of the drift drivers showing off their stuff plus for anyone with a street legal vehicle, come on down and try your hand in the Spectator Drags. And what would a Memorial Day celebration be without a few fireworks to cap off the night?

This event was an addition to the schedule and as a leased event is not part of the seasonal skybox package. Seasonal boxholders who want to attend may do so for \$100 plus we'll add a skybox for one AutoMODIFIED drift night. Just purchase admission tickets (\$5 for adults; 12 and under FREE) for the number of guests using the box. Persons who aren't seasonal renters may rent a box on May 26 for \$200. Call 269.355.4628 with questions or to rent.



MAY 10: RACING RECAP



Let's get right to it! Dillon Rose made it two in a row, qualifying at the top of the pack of the **Spartan**

Insulation Front Wheel Drive DOT's. He bested his time of last week with a 16.221 (83.225 MPH). Heat races were added to the program this week, Brenden Keene, Bo Brady and Scott Elsey won the 6-lap heats (photos on next page). In a hotly contested 15-lap 'B' feature, John Rupe (right) was the winner, having started at the tail of the line-up and battled to get around Bentley Foote with only the white flag lap to go. Foote was the runner-up with newcomer Nate Bennett receiving the 3rd Place medal. Josh Forney was fourth followed by Mike Mulgrew, Jonathon Jacobs, and Brandon Darrow.



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Front Wheel Drive – DQT Heat winners: (top row) Brenden Keene (left), Bo Brady and Scott Elsey (row 2 left) and in Victory Lane (row 2 right) for his feature win.



The 20-lap 'A' feature sported 18 drivers. A couple of melees in the first quarter of the race led to five drivers being retired for the night, including powerhouse Desmond Watkins. Terry Kline led the first few laps before Scott Elsey drove to the lead. The #29 of Dan Rigoni made a valiant effort to pass Elsey and despite it looking like he was going to get around him on a couple of occasions, it was Scott Elsey making it two in a row. Dan Rigoni was the runner-up in his first appearance of the year, followed by Dillon Rose, Jeremiah Bouma and Duane Greene III rounding out the top five. The second half of the order was led off by Anthony Foote, then Ryan Diamond, Terry Kline, Gunner Gale and Andrew Randt. Scott Elsey is the point leader (480) followed by Bo Brady (466) and Dillon Rose (397).



In the O'Reilly Auto Parts Front Wheel Drives – Outlaws, it was Matthew Elsey Jr. with fast time, his second, 15.007 (89.958). All 11

of the Outlaws ran in a single heat race, creating a 6-lap mini feature. Dave Leonard Jr. (right) is the driver who visited Victory Lane. In the 20-lap feature, it was three-wide down the front stretch on lap one with pack racing until the field sorted itself out. With 18 laps remaining, Matt Elsey had the lead with Dave Leonard Jr. and Matthew Elsey Jr. trailing. A couple of cautions a few laps later saw Elsey Jr. taking the lead and at the checkered it was



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Elsley, Jr. keeping his undefeated feature streak going. (below left). Matt Elsley was the runner up followed by Tyler May, Charles Anderson and Dave Leonard Jr. who pulled off the track with 2 laps remaining having blown an engine. Bryan Gales led off the second half of the order followed by Eric Mepyans, Seth Smith, Amanda Weatherwax and Mason Metzger. Dave Leonard Jr. is ahead in the point totals (432), followed by Matthew Elsley Jr. (409) and Matt Elsley (388).



Bring on the **Techworks Trailer Street Stock!** Nick Pressler was the top qualifier with a 14.919 (90.489 MPH). Nick Marcott (directly below) and Danny Oxford took the 8-lap heat races.



In the 19-car, Howe Patio & Windows \$1,000 to win 35-lap feature, Ryan Westfall was the leader for the first five laps with Danny Oxford driving to the lead for the next five. Jeff Town then took a turn at the lead, then Nick Pressler pulled into the lead. At about 15 laps to go, Alex Sexton, starting 12th, moved to the lead and put an end to lead changes. Kyle VanSparrentak made a push to the front as did Ricky LaDuke and Kyle Ribble, but it was Sexton's night and Sexton's checkered flag, making it two in a row. Nick Pressler was the runner-up, Ricky LaDuke was third followed by Kyle VanSparrentak and Kyle Ribble. Brandon Zachary led off the second half of the order followed by Nick Marcott, Danny Oxford, Gabe Sheppard and Mike Gain. Alex Sexton (426) (right with sister, Taylor) is the point leader for the second week running over Kyle VanSparrentak (413) and Ricky LaDuke (389).



The **Honor Credit Union Limited Late Models** saw twice the number of cars this week. Twelve-year-old Bryce Bozell was on top of the leaderboard for qualifying with a time of 13.141 (102.732 MPH) Cody Hawn (below left) winning the heat ace (like the FWDs, the heat was a mini-feature).



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Michael "Bubba" Brooks led much of the 20-lap feature before Cody Hawn pulled ahead. Lee Slaton, joining the class for the first time, was in a hard crash resulting in his departure with less than a handful of laps remaining. Bryce Bozell's #883 suffered a blown engine in his heat race. Dad, Phil, ran home to grab the #883 Late Model. Bozell joined the field with 4 laps remaining and finished the race. For inquiring minds, track officials will be taking a closer look at this unusual anomaly. First-time winner Cody Hawn took the checked flag; Louis Miller was the runner-up. John Trammel also medaled followed by Michael "Bubba" Brooks and Mason May (also making his first appearance) rounding out the top five. Bob Bliss placed 9th in his first start of the season. Cody Hawn takes over the point lead (420) followed by Bryce Bozell (417) and Louis Miller (397).



Billy Shannon was the fastest qualifier in the **AFC Metal Supply Late Models**, his second, with a time of 13.805 (97.791 MPH). Two 8-lap heats were won by Jerry Pierman (below) and Jorden Brinkert (right).



In the 30-lap feature, an early caution set the stage for Jared Blanchard to take the lead. Jerry Pierman got around Blanchard with 25 laps remaining and from there it was must see racing as the lead switched between the two for the next 12 laps. Blanchard was sent to the tail with 11 laps remaining and Pierman commanded the lead.

Meanwhile the rest of the field was in pursuit. Billy Shannon took the lead with seven laps remaining and won his second feature of the season. Jerry Pierman was the runner-up followed by Kenny Head, Chris Garrett and Rick Senneker rounding out the top five. Jared Blanchard headed up the second half of the order following by Bill Tomlinson, Taylor Sexton, Jorden Brinkert and Ken Kirby, all on the lead lap. Jerry Pierman holds the point lead by a single point (448) followed by Billy Shannon (447) and Kenny Head (413). Photos on next page.

Late Model feature winner Billy Shannon.



We try to get a photo of the Top Three in each feature; this has proved elusive but we thought we'd include the ones we were able to capture.

Below, Jerry Pierman (runner-up), Billy Shannon and Kenny Head in the Late Models.



In the Front Wheel Drives - DOT (from left), Dan Rigoni (runner up), Scott Elsey and Dillon Rose.

The Street Stock medalists were Ricky LaDuke, Alex Sexton and Nick Pressler (runner up).



In the Limited Late Models it was Josh Trammell, Cody Hawn and Louis Miller (runner up).



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Photos A. Fisher

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