



TRACK TALK

January 23, 2025

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AWARDS PARTY PHOTOS!

Almost 250 drivers, families and crew showed up at the Lions Club in Paw Paw for the Awards Party to celebrate driver achievements from the 2024 race season. Good food, good company and a lively DJ made the night! Gary Howe offered some opening comments (and trivia questions); Kenny Head and Joel Areaux were the masters of ceremony for the Mini-Wedge presentations and Jason Seltzer took the lead for the Top 10 presentations of the Speedway's weekly race program.



MINI-WEDGE PROGRAM

Season Standings – Top 5

JUNIOR CLASS

1. Brooklyn Pierman
2. Kash Tremble
3. Jaydyn Christle
4. Kate Maurer
5. Blake Pletz

SENIOR CLASS

1. Colby Brownlee
2. Abby Maurer
3. Hunter Pierman
4. Elena Rutherford
5. Ryan Westfall



Top left: Gary Howe offering his opening remarks. At left: the youth drivers from the Mini-Wedge Program were well represented:

Elena Rutherford, Sophia Slaughter, Eli Rutherford, Kash Tremble, Ayden McKee, Brooklyn Pierman, Blake Pletz, Abby Maurer, Hunter Pierman, Kate Maurer, Colby Brownlee & Jaydyn Christle



At left: Joel Areaux handles the introductions and Kenny Head hands out the trophies. Abby Maurer placed second in the Senior Mini-Wedge Class.

Below: Jason Seltzer and FWD Outlaw Champion, Matthew Elsey, Jr. interact.



Street Stock Top 10: Kyle VanSparrentak (Champion), Alex Sexton, Kyle Ribble, Mike Gain (Rookie of the Year), Gabe Sheppard, Kenny Head II, Mason Montgomery, Gary Howe (photo bombing), Danny Oxford and Blake Hybels. Individual posters will be published in the February edition of Track Talk.



Limited Late Models Top 5: Bryce Bozell (Champion), Cody Hawn, Mason May's designee, Bob Bliss & Louis Miller. Individual posters will be published in the February edition of Track Talk.



Late Model Top 10 Drivers: Billy Shannon (Champion), Jerry Pierman, Chris Garrett, Jared Blanchard, Bill Tomlinson, Taylor Sexton & Kenny Head. Individual posters will be published in the February or March edition of Track Talk.

FWD DOT

Next up are the FWD DOT Top 10. Each driver received a poster with a personal photo, their 2024 car and a few statistics to remember the season by.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| 1. Scott Elsey | 1769 | 6. Anthony Foote | 1333 |
| 2. Bo Brady | 1552 | 7. Jeremiah Bouma | 1080 |
| 3. Dillon Rose | 1542 | 8. CJ French | 960 |
| 4. Desmond Watkins | 1522 | 9. Austin McKee | 921 |
| 5. Gunner Gale | 1511 | 10. Ethan Emerson | 900 |

Ethan Emerson
FWD DOT - 2024
10th Place



Top 5: 1 Top 10: 5
Point Races: 12 of 13

KALAMAZOO
SPEEDWAY
est. 1950

Austin McKee
FWD DOT - 2024
9th Place



Top 5: 1 Top 10: 6
Point Races: 11 of 13

KALAMAZOO
SPEEDWAY
est. 1950

CJ French
FWD DOT - 2024
8th Place



Top 5: 1 Top 10: 5
Point Races: 9 of 13

Super Shoe FWD Outlaw Top 10 'B' feature

KALAMAZOO
SPEEDWAY
est. 1950

Jeremiah Bouma
FWD DOT - 2024
7th Place



Features: 1 Heats: 1
Top 5: 4 Top 10: 5
Point Races: 11 of 13

KALAMAZOO
SPEEDWAY
est. 1950

Anthony Foote
FWD DOT - 2024
6th Place



Top 5: 4 Top 10: 8
Point Races: 13 of 13

KALAMAZOO
SPEEDWAY
est. 1950

Gunner Gale
FWD DOT - 2024
5th Place



Fast Time: 3
Top 5: 5 Top 10: 11
Point Races: 13 of 13
Fast time non-point race & top 5 finish

KALAMAZOO
SPEEDWAY
est. 1950



Drivers who weren't in the Top 5 and who raced in every point race received a Race Warrior check for making every race. Anthony Foote (FWD DOT) and Amanda Weatherwax (FWD Outlaw) placed in the Top 10 and never missed a race. Placing out of the Top 10 was Bentley Foote, who also received a poster and a check. Congratulations!



FWD OUTLAW

- | | |
|----------------------|------|
| 1. Matthew Elsey Jr. | 1883 |
| 2. Matt Elsey | 1700 |
| 3. Scott Gates | 1607 |
| 4. Tyler May | 1393 |
| 5. Charles Anderson | 1323 |
| 6. Amanda Weatherwax | 1247 |
| 7. Mason Metzger | 1169 |
| 8. Dave Leonard Jr. | 1056 |
| 9. Wayne Stack | 803 |
| 10. Drew Hosner | 780 |



Drew Hosner
FWD Outlaw - 2024
10th Place



Top 5: 2 Top 10: 4
Point Races: 8 of 13
FWD DOT 'A' feature winner



Wayne Stack
FWD Outlaw - 2024
9th Place



Top 5: 5 Top 10: 5
Point Races: 6 of 13



Dave Leonard Jr.
FWD Outlaw - 2024
8th Place



Fast Time: 3 Heats: 1
Top 5: 7 Top 10: 7
Point Races: 8 of 13



Mason Metzger
FWD Outlaw - 2024
7th Place



Top 5: 3 Top 10: 10
Point Races: 10 of 13



Amanda Weatherwax
FWD Outlaw - 2024
6th Place



Top 10: 9
Point Races: 13 of 13
Super Shoe Heat Race Win
Super Shoe Top 10 'B' Feature



Charles Anderson
FWD Outlaw - 2024
5th Place



Top 5: 3 Top 10: 10
Heats: 2
Point Races: 13 of 13





MICHIGAN AUTO RACING FAN CLUB AWARDS BANQUET

On January 18, 2025, the Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club held their annual awards banquet and several of our drivers were honored. Bryce Bozell, Brooklyn Pierman and Colby Brownlee were honored for their 1st place finishes in their respective classes (Limited Late Model, Mini-Wedge Junior Class and Mini-Wedge Senior Class), plus Andy Bozell received the President's Award for his career achievements. AND, Louis Noakes (Top Row Racing Media) received the Media Award for 2024. Congratulations to all the drivers and Louis on their well-deserved recognition.



Photos follow on the next page.



Clockwise: Colby Brownlee (Mini-Wedge Senior Class Champion); Andy Bozell (President's Award), Bryce Bozell (Weekly Class Limited Late Model Champion) and cousin/grandson (and racer in his own right) Mason Metzger; Louis Noakes (Top Row Racing Media), with John Jackson, MARFC President Media Award winner (photo compliments of MARFC); Brooklyn Pierman, Mini-Wedge Junior Champion with parents (dad was this year's runner-up in the Late Model Top 10).

DRIVER PROFILES

Check out the growing number of driver spotlights. Profiles may be located on the Kalamazoo Speedway Facebook page and on the Kalamazoo Speedway website (Multimedia navigation bar at the top of the homepage, click Driver Profiles on the drop down window). Tyler May's profile follows as an example of what you'll find for each driver who submits a profile:



DRIVER
SPOTLIGHT



Driver Profile: Tyler May
Hometown: Union, Michigan
Track(s): Kalamazoo Speedway, M40 Speedway
Racing Class: Outlaw FWD, Street Stock
Years Racing: 1 (Rookie Season)
Team: Leonard Racing

Background:

Tyler May's journey into racing began with inspiration from his grandfather, Bruce Leonard, a local legend at Kalamazoo Speedway. Watching his grandfather race and bring the family together sparked a passion for the sport that never faded. At 30, Tyler finally made the leap, purchasing his first race car and committing to a dream decades in the making.

Racing Career:

Starting his rookie season in an outlaw FWD, Tyler focused on building seat time and mastering the fundamentals. As the season progressed, he moved up to the street stock class, eager

to take on new challenges. His determination paid off, earning him Rookie of the Year honors at both Kalamazoo Speedway and M40 Speedway—an impressive feat for a first-year racer.

Favorite Memory:

Tyler's favorite moments come from seeing his family and friends united in the stands, cheering him on with smiles and excitement. Racing is more than just a sport to Tyler—it's a way to bring people together and create lasting memories.

Racing Philosophy:

Tyler's biggest challenge is his own competitiveness. He strives for continuous improvement, knowing that progress takes time and effort. He stays grounded by focusing on enjoying the ride, avoiding racing politics, and embracing the thrill of going fast.

Pre-Race Ritual:

Snacking before hitting the track is a must for Tyler. "You can't get hangry out there, or you'll make bad decisions!" he jokes.

Biggest Influence:

Bruce Leonard, his grandfather and lifelong idol, remains the driving force behind Tyler's love for the sport. His family's legacy at Kalamazoo Speedway is a source of pride, and Tyler is determined to keep the Leonard name alive in racing.

Support Team:

Tyler's racing efforts are backed by a dedicated crew that includes his wife, who serves as his pit chief and keeps him fueled with snacks and drinks. His brother James is his go-to helper, always ready to lend a hand no matter the hour. Cousins Dave Leonard Sr. and Jr. provide invaluable support with setups and driving tips, while his friend Chris Treacher is another key member of the team.

Community Spirit:

For Tyler, the racing community is like a second family. The mutual support between drivers and teams—whether sharing tools or offering advice—makes the sport even more rewarding.

Achievements:

- **Rookie of the Year:** Kalamazoo Speedway
- **Rookie of the Year:** M40 Speedway

Ultimate Goal:

Tyler dreams of racing at the highest level—NASCAR. He's committed to becoming a well-rounded driver who inspires others to pursue their passions, proving that with dedication and hard work, anything is possible.

Sponsors:

Tyler is grateful for the support of his sponsors, including:

- Kelly Bronkema, Coldwell Banker Realty
- The Rusted Wrench Mechanics Shop
- Jeff and Jill Balcom, Repicci's Italian Ice and Gelato

Off the Track:

When he's not racing, Tyler spends time in his shop or with his wife, ensuring a balance between his passion for racing and quality time with family.

Dream Track:

Bristol Motor Speedway tops Tyler's bucket list as his dream track to race at, combining the history and thrill of short-track racing on a grand stage.

Tyler May is a rising star in the local racing scene, fueled by family legacy, competitive drive, and an unwavering commitment to the sport. With his eyes set on the future, his journey is only beginning.

COUNTDOWN TO 2025 SEASON



MARK THOSE CALENDARS!

Saturday, March 22
Open Drifting
AutoMODIFIED opens their 3rd season

Saturday, April 12
Open Practice
Get those cars tuned up!

Friday, April 19
Season Opener
\$2000 to win Late Model '35
\$2000 to win Street Stock '35
Annual Race for Autism for FWDs

2024 SPONSORS

Thank you to our 2024 sponsors and marketing partners! We look forward to working with everyone in 2024 and welcome any new companies that would like to become part of the Kalamazoo Speedway marketing family. Call 269.355.4628 and we'll be happy to talk with you.



2025 RULES

There have been a few rule tweaks: Tires for all classes, the no soak tire procedure and body specs for Street Stock (rake and trucks). They will be posted on the Speedway website no later than Friday, January 24.



Photo credits: Thank you to Gabe Ruple (AutoMODIFIED) for taking photos at the Awards Party, MARFC photos compliments of Louis Noakes (Top Row Racing Media); driver poster photos/posters by track photographer B. Fisher.