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DRAGSTER



DOUBLE TROUBLE

JEG COUGHLIN JR. MAKES HISTORY WITH SEVENTH DIFFERENT ELIMINATOR WIN AS HE AND TODD FRANTZ DOUBLE AT JEGS NORTHERN SPORTSNATIONALS



NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

by Jim Luikens

Danny Rowe wasted no time in putting his '15 Corvette in the winner's circle at the NHRA Carolina Nationals. After debuting his new car at the previous NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series event, the prestigious Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals at Indianapolis, he drove the Corvette right into victory lane in Charlotte. In the final, Rowe barely edged out first-time Pro Mod finalist Eric Latino, 5.941 to 5.950.

With his victory, Rowe became the eighth different winner in the eight NHRA Pro Mod races that have been contested so far this season. Additionally, there have been seven different runners-up so far this year, with Troy Coughlin Sr. being the only two-time runner-up.

Latino attributed his success in Charlotte to focus and consistency by all of his team members. He especially wanted to recognize Rob and Ann Sporning for their contributions to his very first final-round appearance. Unlike some of the Pro Mod competitors who race full time, Latino owns a business and races as much as his busy schedule permits.

Latino and his team were one of the busiest teams in Charlotte. On Saturday, they hosted 65



Clint Satterfield

employees and their families from Kooks Headers, of nearby Statesville, N.C. Kooks Headers is one of the team's sponsors, and its founder, "Pop" Kooks, passed away recently. Latino and his team wanted to recognize "Pops" for all of his contributions to the performance industry.

On Sunday morning, the Latino team also held a memorial for its late chassis tuner, Joe Lepone. A number of Lepone's family members as well as many members of the Pro Stock and Pro Mod communities gathered to remember the fine racer and tuner. Lepone will always be remembered as a driver for Bill "Grumpy" Jenkins, and a portrait of Lepone in one of "Grumpy's" Toys was signed by all present and given to Lepone's wife, Cynthia.

Mike Janis defeated Coughlin in the first round in Indianapolis and carried a 52-point lead in the championship chase into Charlotte. Interestingly, those same two racers were again

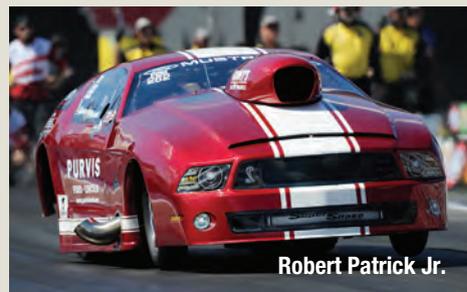
paired up in the first round in Charlotte, and this time Coughlin emerged victorious over Janis, who encountered starting-line difficulties.

Coughlin's jubilation was short-lived, though; a second-round defeat at the hands of Latino limited Coughlin's points gain for the day to just six points. Worse yet, he suffered a devastating top-end fire that, according to Coughlin, did an estimated \$200,000 worth of damage to his '15 Corvette. A new front end, extensive rewiring and re-plumbing, and repairs to the driver's door will all be required before the car can take

the track again. Fortunately for Coughlin, he has a good group of fabricators, weldors, and carbon-fiber guys on his team that could address the repairs quickly.

Sleeping at the starting line seemed to be the order of the day for Pro Mod racers in Charlotte. In an eliminator that usually sees a double-oh light or two at every race, Coughlin recorded a .028 in the first round of eliminations for the best reaction time of the day. Coughlin also nailed the second-best reaction time of the day with his .040 in the second round.

By comparison, Clint Satterfield (.104) and Khalid alBalooshi (.167) both notched wins with reaction times that began with a .1, and Chip King (.201) and Pete Farber (.289) had reaction times that began with a .2 in losing efforts. Janis recorded the single-worst reaction time of eliminations in the first round on Saturday. However, his broken car no doubt contributed to his 6.852-second reaction time.



Robert Patrick Jr.

Robert Patrick Jr. and Chuck Little made their NHRA Pro Mod season debuts in Charlotte, and series regulars Don Walsh, Rickie Smith, and Mike Castellana fell short of making the big show. **AD**

PRO MOD

1. Khalid alBalooshi, Los Angeles, Calif. ('69 Camaro) . . . **5.859, 247.70**
2. Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('15 Corvette) **5.885, 247.66**
3. Steve Matusek, Olathe, Kan. ('68 Camaro) **5.886, 248.52**
4. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('13 Camaro) **5.887, 244.78**
5. Troy Coughlin Jr., Delaware, Ohio ('14 Corvette) **5.894, 254.62**
6. Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('14 CTS-V) **5.895, 247.93**
7. Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('15 Corvette) **5.916, 247.47**
8. Clint Satterfield, Albuquerque, N.M. ('68 Firebird) **5.918, 248.34**
9. Pete Farber, Baldwinville, Mass. ('69 Daytona) **5.923, 246.71**
10. Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('69 Chevelle) **5.927, 245.85**
11. Chip King, Semora, N.C. ('70 Charger) **5.932, 242.28**
12. Eric Latino, Port Perry, Ont. ('69 Camaro) **5.939, 244.29**
13. Troy Coughlin Sr., Delaware, Ohio ('15 Corvette) **5.945, 252.19**
14. Bill Glidden, Whiteland, Ind. ('10 Mustang) **5.946, 240.89**
15. Dan Stevenson, Lisle, Ill. ('13 Camaro) **5.961, 245.81**
16. Mike Knowles, Grand Junction, Colo. ('67 Mustang) **5.971, 243.24**

ALTERNATES: Robert Patrick Jr. - 6.003, 245.45; Don Walsh - 6.006, 246.12; Jay Payne - 6.023, 241.54; Gerry Capano - 6.031, 237.17; Doug Winters - 6.041, 237.92; Rickie Smith - 6.057, 244.74; Kenny Lang - 6.058, 236.46; Shane Molinari - 6.066, 245.85; Mike Castellana - 6.125, 237.71; Chuck Little - 8.874, 117.72.

PRO MOD CHAMPION DANNY ROWE

