

NATIONAL

ISSUE 23 ★ VOLUME 56 ★ NOVEMBER 20, 2015



www.NHRA.com

# DRAGSTER

## WINNING HAND

BOURGEOIS' THIRD STRAIGHT WIN CLINCHES COMP CHAMPIONSHIP



**NHRA TOYOTA NATIONALS**  
CHAMPS WERE CROWNED, POINTS BATTLES  
TIGHTENED AT HIGH-STAKES VEGAS RACE

**HOLIDAY BUYERS GUIDE**  
THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AS YOU  
FOCUS ON THAT OTHER CHRISTMAS TREE

# NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

by Jim Luikens

**T**roy Coughlin Sr. is the 2015 NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series champion. Just like in 2012, Coughlin came from behind on the final day of the season to secure the title. He did not win a series event in 2015 but did score two runner-ups, which tied him with Pete Farber for the lead in runner-ups this season. Coughlin also recorded four top speeds of the event, the best by anybody in the series. Amazingly, he has a notched a first-, second-, second-, and first-place finish in his last four seasons of Pro Mod competition.

**Mike Janis** finished second this year, just 14 points out of first place. For Janis, it was another year-end disappointment as a strong year went away on the final day of the season. For his part, Janis won Norwalk and was runner-up at Indy. He also recorded two No. 1 qualifying positions and two low e.t.s of the event. At the championship banquet, his son, Mike Jr., was named Crew Chief of the Year.

Michigan's **Bob Rahaim** finished the season in third place. He started the year strong by winning the opening event in Gainesville and followed with a runner-up in Bristol. He also was the No. 1 qualifier in Bristol and recorded low e.t. of the event in Bristol and Norwalk. At the banquet, he was named Most Improved Driver.

To no virtually no one's surprise, **Troy Coughlin Jr.** was named Rookie of the Year. Despite not qualifying in Las Vegas, T.J. already had recorded three top speeds of the event for the year and trailed only his father as the top speed king of the year.

Ten different drivers won the 10 Pro Mod events this season. This is an amazing statistic when you consider that there are



Ray Martin

three different engine formulas that are legal in the eliminator. Nearly as impressive is that eight different drivers recorded runner-up finishes. Only Farber and Coughlin Sr. were able to double up on runner-ups.

Thirty drivers were in Las Vegas attempting to qualify for one of the 16 starting spots. The bump spot to make the field was a near-record 5.948 seconds. Only the 5.940 record bump in Indy this year was quicker, and that was recorded in more favorable air conditions.

**Don Walsh** provided the thrill of the weekend when his 5.774 at 259.66 mph during the final qualifying session set low e.t. and the top speed not only of the event but for the whole year. On his ledger, he also

has a win in Houston and a runner-up in Englishtown to go along with his three No. 1 qualifiers, three low elapsed times, and two top speeds of the event. He finished fifth in the final points tally for the year.

Alaska's **Ray Martin** was the only new participant at the closing event of the year, and he was driving Jim Whiteley's former entry, a '53 Corvette. Despite not qualifying in Las Vegas, Martin is looking forward to running the entire series next year.

A total of 43 drivers earned points in 2015. With new drivers, amazing engine parity, ever-increasing fan interest, and a returning title sponsor, the future looks very bright for the NHRA Pro Mod Series in 2016 and beyond. **ND**

## PRO MOD

1. Don Walsh, Wixom, Mich. ('14 Camaro) . . . . . **5.774, 259.66**
2. Rick Snavelly, Los Angeles, Calif. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.845, 257.83**
3. Khalid alBalooshi, Los Angeles, Calif. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.847, 246.89**
4. Sidnei Frigo, Ball Ground, Ga. ('15 Corvette) . . . . . **5.848, 252.10**
5. Troy Coughlin Sr., Delaware, Ohio ('15 Corvette) . . . . . **5.871, 252.66**
6. Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('14 CTS-V) . . . . . **5.876, 246.12**
7. Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('15 Corvette) . . . . . **5.876, 240.85**
8. Pete Farber, Baldwinville, Mass. ('69 Daytona) . . . . . **5.890, 245.72**
9. Eric Latino, Port Perry, Ont. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.896, 245.58**
10. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('13 Camaro) . . . . . **5.907, 244.12**
11. Dan Stevenson, Lisle, Ill. ('13 Camaro) . . . . . **5.915, 244.74**
12. Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('15 Corvette) . . . . . **5.921, 243.99**
13. Robert Patrick Jr., Fredericksburg, Va. ('12 Mustang) . . . . . **5.922, 242.58**
14. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('15 Camaro) . . . . . **5.931, 244.25**
15. Chip King, Semora, N.C. ('70 Charger) . . . . . **5.931, 240.51**
16. Jeff Naiser, Houston, Texas ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.948, 239.95**

**ALTERNATES:** Troy Coughlin Jr. - 5.949, 250.46; Mike Castellana - 5.958, 239.82; Steve Matussek - 5.966, 244.43; Billy Harper - 5.970, 239.87; Kevin Fiscus - 5.980, 247.07; Jim Whiteley - 5.988, 241.58; Clint Satterfield - 6.000, 246.17; Kenny Lang - 6.036, 240.89; Jim Bell - 6.039, 243.24; Bill Glidden - 6.045, 239.02; Shane Molinari - 6.050, 243.72; Gerry Capano - 6.164, 211.33; Ray Martin - 6.196, 228.07; Jay Payne - 6.204, 238.30.

**PRO MOD CHAMPION**  
**KHALID ALBALOOSHI**

5.876-216.83 <b>WALSH (.064)</b>	9.989-97.86 (FOUL) <b>WALSH (-.357)</b>	5.886-254.14 <b>SNAVELY (.057)</b>	5.837-257.09 <b>SNAVELY (.135)</b>
6.372-218.37 <b>NAISER (.025)</b>	5.967-242.98 <b>FARBER (.057)</b>	5.911-247.97 <b>SNAVELY (.050)</b>	5.952-236.71 <b>KING (.149)</b>
5.933-244.12 <b>FARBER (.068)</b>	5.891-245.67 <b>FARBER (-.054)</b>	6.043-241.50 <b>RAHAIM (.105)</b>	6.001-217.91 <b>RAHAIM (.181)</b>
5.971-240.94 <b>LATINO (.039)</b>	5.942-244.43 <b>FARBER (.043)</b>	5.854-245.76 <b>ALBALOOSHI (.069)</b>	6.860-142.63 <b>JANIS (.037)</b>
5.902-249.72 <b>FRIGO (.053)</b>	5.973-223.10 <b>FRIGO (.021)</b>	5.833-246.98 <b>ALBALOOSHI (.057)</b>	5.829-247.16 <b>ALBALOOSHI (-.108)</b>
6.968-149.40 <b>PATRICK (.083)</b>	DISQ.-C/LINE <b>COUGHLIN SR. (.034)</b>	5.860-246.35 <b>ALBALOOSHI (.054)</b>	5.944-244.03 <b>SMITH (.018)</b>
5.867-248.02 <b>COUGHLIN SR. (.021)</b>	5.867-252.85 <b>COUGHLIN SR. (.035)</b>	5.926-244.92 <b>S. WHITELEY (.040)</b>	5.861-245.72 <b>S. WHITELEY (.030)</b>
5.964-241.93 <b>ROWE (.047)</b>			5.893-245.94 <b>STEVENSON (.043)</b>

**LOW E.T.: 5.774 - WALSH**  
**TOP SPEED: 259.66 - WALSH**