

NATIONAL

ISSUE 19 ★ VOLUME 56 ★ SEPTEMBER 25, 2015



www.NHRA.com

DRAGSTER



IN(DY)FINITE HERO

BECKMAN AND TEAM SWEEP INDY;
COMPLETE EVENT COVERAGE INSIDE

HOW TO RACE
WITH TOMMY PHILLIPS

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

by Jim Luikens

Rick Snavely had only competed in one NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series event prior to Indy this year, and that was at the fall Las Vegas national event last year. Despite his limited previous participation, the Big Go proved to be a memorable event for Snavely. The final qualifying results gave a hint of what was to come when he qualified third with a 5.863 at 257.97 mph. During eliminations, Snavely recorded top speeds of 257.53, 258.07, 257.14, and another 257.53 in his final-round victory over Mike Janis.

The previous top speed recorded this year in Pro Mod was 255.68 mph by Troy Coughlin Sr., and all of Snavely's runs handily exceeded that. In fact, Snavely's 258.07-mph run moved him very close to Melanie Troxel's 258.71-mph national speed record for the class. Troxel's record was set under the less-restrictive 2011 Pro Mod rules, so that makes Snavely's accomplishments even more notable.

One spot ahead of Snavely on the qualifying sheet was **Sidnei Frigo** in second place. After competing in various other NHRA eliminators over the years, Frigo was making his NHRA Pro Mod debut in a beautiful white '15 Corvette. On race day, a .211 light in the first round against Jim Whiteley ended Frigo's day early. Ironically, the other new car to debut was the equally beautiful white '15 Corvette of Danny Rowe.

At the top of the qualifying chart was **Khalid alBalooshi** in his supercharged '69 Camaro. His 5.845-second low e.t. held up for the overall low e.t. of the meet as well. Unfortunately for alBalooshi, he broke before staging in the third round, which ended his race day. Team crew chief Frank Manzo was

trying to add his first Indy victory as a crew chief to the 12 that he had already won as a driver in Top Alcohol Funny Car.

Indiana's **Michael Biehle II** had a fine outing at Indy. The 5.878-second run from his '13 Mustang was good enough for fifth place on the final qualifying sheet. On race day, Biehle defeated Rowe in the first round before falling to eventual event runner-up Janis in the second round. Biehle stated that he would like to run more NHRA events, but the NHRA grading system can be hard to overcome for people like him.



Sidnei Frigo

Incidentally, Biehle, who is currently the 2015 National Muscle Car Association (NMCA) Pro Mod points leader, went on to credit crew chief Jaime Miller and crewmembers Parker Green and Ryan Rakestraw for part of his team's improved performance level this year. Biehle would like to run the NHRA fall Las Vegas national event and hinted strongly that he had a '67 Mustang under construction. He is especially

appreciative of all the help that his parents and his two sisters have provided to his racing career.

A surprise entrant in Pro Mod this year at Indy was Louisiana's **Richie Stevens**. Stevens was driving the Dave's RV Camaro and qualified a strong sixth, the highest of any of the nitrous-assisted entries in the field. On race day, Stevens recorded the quickest reaction time of eliminations, a .005, in the first round but could not run the number and was defeated by Steve Matussek.

It was announced at Indy that J&A Service extended its series entitlement sponsorship for the NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series for the 2016 season. As part of its series sponsorship, J&A Service will provide a \$200,000 purse that pays the national champion \$50,000 and the series runner-up \$20,000. Each individual event winner will earn \$10,000, and the event runners-up will claim \$3,000 each. The NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series is supported by the Real Pro Mod Association, a group of NHRA Pro Mod Series team owners who work closely with NHRA on many initiatives to maintain the series. **ND**



Danny Rowe

PRO MOD

1. Khalid alBalooshi, Los Angeles, Calif. ('69 Camaro) . . . **5.845, 245.09**
2. Sidnei Frigo, Ball Ground, Ga. ('15 Corvette) **5.851, 252.71**
3. Rick Snavely, Los Angeles, Calif. ('69 Camaro) **5.863, 257.97**
4. Troy Coughlin Sr., Delaware, Ohio ('15 Corvette) **5.869, 252.19**
5. Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('13 Mustang) **5.878, 253.28**
6. Richie Stevens, New Orleans, La. ('68 Camaro) **5.878, 242.50**
7. Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('14 CTS-V) **5.882, 247.66**
8. Troy Coughlin Jr., Delaware, Ohio ('14 Corvette) **5.886, 252.57**
9. Clint Satterfield, Albuquerque, N.M. ('68 Firebird) **5.894, 250.32**
10. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('15 Camaro) **5.895, 246.80**
11. Steve Matussek, Olathe, Kan. ('68 Camaro) **5.905, 247.25**
12. Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('15 Corvette) **5.913, 246.48**
13. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('13 Camaro) **5.913, 245.09**
14. Bill Glidden, Whiteland, Ind. ('10 Mustang) **5.916, 241.28**
15. Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('69 Chevelle) **5.924, 244.69**
16. Don Walsh, Wixom, Mich. ('14 Camaro) **5.940, 250.74**

ALTERNATES: Mike Knowles - 5.940, 237.25; Mike Castellana - 5.952, 240.38; Kevin Fiscus - 5.962, 246.44; Billy Harper - 5.968, 241.45; Pete Farber - 5.971, 244.87; Shane Molinari - 5.975, 249.58; Chip King - 5.988, 238.81; Jeff Naiser - 5.990, 240.51; Harold Martin - 6.002, 241.24; Bob Rahaim - 6.005, 243.90; Dan Stevenson - 6.012, 242.93; Kenny Lang - 6.024, 243.24; Doug Winters - 6.028, 240.12; Gerry Capano - 6.064, 235.97; Jimmy Widener - 6.077, 233.76; Jim Bell - 6.110, 240.08; Jay Payne - 6.126, 238.09.

PRO MOD CHAMPION RICK SNAVELY

