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ON TOP OF THE WORLD

CAPPS DOMINATES EAST COAST; SAMPEY STARS IN ENGLISHTOWN

FROM LITTLE CARS TO BIG-TIME SUCCESS

NHRA'S JR. DRAGSTER PROGRAM HAS PRODUCED HUNDREDS OF WINNING DRIVERS IN THE "BIG CAR" RANKS



NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

Bill Glidden entered the 47th annual NHRA Summernationals as the defending NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series event champion. Last year, he won this event in his Nitrous Mustang, but this time he was making his debut behind the wheel of Harry Hruska's Precision Turbo Camaro. Things got off to a rather unceremonious start during Friday's first round of qualifying when Glidden had to be pushed off the starting line without making a run.

That non-run left him 25th, and last, on the first qualifying sheet with no time. Things picked up later Friday evening with a 6.590-second elapsed time, but even that only advanced Glidden to 21st and left him still unqualified after two rounds of qualifying. Finally, in Saturday morning's third and final round of qualifying, he ran a 5.940, which bumped him into the field and up to 13th on the final sheet.

Successively quicker runs in eliminations of 5.920, 5.902, and 5.893 carried Glidden to the final round for the second year in a row. There he fell to Troy Coughlin Sr., but Glidden's five straight quicker runs up to that point showed that the new team is jelling quickly. He did set top speed at 257.68 mph, and combined with two event top



Chip King

speeds earlier in the season by Jonathan Gray, that means that the Hruska Camaro has run the top speed at three of the four 2016 NHRA Pro Mod events held thus far.

One of the real surprises of this event had to be the second-round no-show by **Rickie Smith**, who has made NHRA Pro Mod racing his personal sandbox this year. He suffered a parts failure that prevented him from staging for the second round of eliminations; however, his final-round appearances at the three previous events provided enough momentum for him to retain the points lead following Englishtown despite his early departure from eliminations.

Smith did take away a little joy from Englishtown with the fine performance by **Khalid alBalooshi** in his team car. alBalooshi qualified 12th and defeated Steven Whiteley in the first round before falling to Glidden in a very close race

in the next round. Despite running only three races so far, alBalooshi is a strong sixth in points with a third-round effort and two second-round finishes.

Jim Whiteley's continuous improvement was a pleasant surprise. He had DNQ'd at the first three events but was the winner in Houston when he was inserted into the field as an alternate. In Englishtown, he qualified on the bubble but went all the way to the semifinals, where he lost a very close race to Glidden.

Chip King and **Gerry Capano** showed nice improvements. King

qualified ninth after DNQing at the last two races, and Capano qualified for his second straight race after missing the first two in 2016. Both bowed out in the first round of eliminations, but it was nice to see them run well and make the field.

The **Danny Rowe** Racing team entered the event with their drivers seeded second and third in points. Both qualified well, but **Danny Rowe** bowed out in round one when a centerline infraction ended his weekend early. However, team driver **Steve Matussek** advanced to the semifinals, where he met his demise at the hands of Coughlin. Both Rowe Racing drivers left Englishtown in the top five in points.

Justin "Big Chief" Shearer of Crow Mod fame was rather conspicuous on the Englishtown starting line all weekend. It was unclear exactly what that meant, but no one left E-town without the knowledge that he was there. Perhaps he'll show up later this season with his own Firebird or, possibly, driving for an existing NHRA Pro Mod team. **NHRA**



Khalid alBalooshi

PRO MOD

- Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('15 Corvette) **5.823, 249.35**
- Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('15 Camaro) **5.843, 250.27**
- Steve Matussek, Olathe, Kan. ('68 Camaro) **5.845, 250.13**
- Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('15 Corvette) **5.860, 248.07**
- Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('14 CTS-V) **5.889, 247.75**
- Mike Castellana, Muttontown, N.Y. ('15 Corvette) **5.899, 246.08**
- Troy Coughlin Sr., Delaware, Ohio ('15 Corvette) **5.908, 254.52**
- Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('67 Mustang) **5.913, 254.18**
- Chip King, Semora, N.C. ('69 Daytona) **5.917, 245.14**
- Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('13 Camaro) **5.935, 246.21**
- Von Smith, Oak Ridge, Tenn. ('16 Corvette) **5.937, 245.40**
- Khalid alBalooshi, Doha, Qatar ('69 Camaro) **5.940, 246.39**
- Bill Glidden, Whiteland, Ind. ('15 Camaro) **5.941, 249.16**
- Eric Latino, Whitby, Ont. ('69 Camaro) **5.941, 248.11**
- Gerry Capano, Greenville, Del. ('63 Corvette) **5.953, 241.54**
- Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('69 Chevelle) **5.966, 245.18**

ALTERNATES: Doug Winters - 5.973, 242.93; Chuck Little - 5.977, 238.22; Kevin Fiscus - 5.997, 245.81; Jim Bell - 6.103, 215.44; Kenny Lang - 6.194, 239.10; Clint Satterfield - 6.220, 239.14; Pete Farber - 6.308, 237.21; Dan Stevenson - 6.348, 211.00; Ruben Tetsoskhvili - 6.794, 150.56.

PRO MOD CHAMPION
TROY COUGHLIN SR.

DISQ.-C/LINE ROWE (.029)	5.946-243.15 J. WHITELEY (.043)	NO-SHOW R. SMITH	7.904-118.70 R. SMITH (.175)
9.228-97.49 J. WHITELEY (.037)	5.923-244.38 J. WHITELEY (.047)	5.875-254.66 COUGHLIN (.015)	BROKE CAPANO
5.921-251.63 BIEHLE (.036)	7.959-123.13 BIEHLE (.090)	5.846-256.50 COUGHLIN (.070)	6.006-232.67 COUGHLIN (.037)
5.941-244.16 KING (.101)	7.320-137.92 GLIDDEN (.061)	5.878-255.29 COUGHLIN (.049)	6.012-216.41 JANIS (.100)
5.976-244.74 RAHAIM (.046)	5.902-240.81 GLIDDEN (.008)	6.119-241.24 MATUSEK (.056)	5.949-244.12 MATUSEK (.029)
5.920-240.94 GLIDDEN (.038)	5.893-257.68 GLIDDEN (.026)	10.012-87.36 MATUSEK (.042)	5.926-246.93 LATINO (.053)
7.095-170.00 S. WHITELEY (.063)	5.941-245.27 ALBALOOSHI (.095)	8.005-121.08 V. SMITH (.063)	5.934-245.99 CASTELLANA (.040)
5.958-244.65 ALBALOOSHI (.077)			5.904-244.83 V. SMITH (.024)

LOW E.T.: 5.823 - ROWE
TOP SPEED: 257.68 - GLIDDEN