



NATIONAL DRAG RACER

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FOR JUNIOR...

ELLIS SCORES EMOTIONAL WIN
FOR STRICKEN TEAM OWNER



• COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE COUNTDOWN-
OPENING NHRA CAROLINA NATIONALS



NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

For the second time this season, Bob Rahaim and Mike Castellana met in the championship round of an NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Series race. After losing to Castellana in Bristol when he crossed the centerline, Rahaim was able to reverse that outcome and come away the winner at the NHRA Carolina Nationals. This race also was only the second all-nitrous final of the season, with the match in Bristol between these two racers being the first.

Of the eight Pro Mod races that have been contested this season, nitrous-equipped cars won exactly half of them, with the blower and turbo cars splitting the remaining four equally. Nearly the same split applies to the eight runners-up; the nitrous contingent has another four representatives followed by three turbo-assisted cars. **Danny Rowe** has the only runner-up so far this year for the blower boys, and that came in Gainesville in the season-opening race.

In a surprise announcement just after the Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals, it was revealed that **Bill Glidden** and Harry Hruska decided to go their separate ways. In the short time that they were together, Glidden drove the Precision Turbo & Engine Camaro to two final rounds, recording a win and

a runner-up, as well as two top speeds of the meet.

In their first race since the split, neither team did particularly well. Glidden returned to the wheel of his familiar '10 Mustang, and he could only muster a best elapsed time of 6.442 seconds, which left him 22nd on the final qualifying sheet. **Dan Stevenson**, the new driver of the Hruska Camaro, had a best elapsed time of 9.220, which left him 29th on the final order.

The only racer listed below Stevenson on the final sheet was 30th-ranked **Gerry Capano**. Capano actually recorded a 9.220-second elapsed time as well but lost the tiebreaker when he notched a slower speed than Stevenson. This was the second race on his new-to-him '69 Camaro, which has proved to be hard to tame for Capano and tuner Howard Moon.

A team that had its finest outing so far in NHRA competition was the GALOT Racing team of **Todd Tutterow**



Jerry Capano

and **Kevin Rivenbark**. Tutterow advanced all the way to the final four after defeating **Khalid alBalooshi** in a very close first-round race, 5.888 to 5.896, and Steven Whiteley in round two. Tutterow met his match in the third round when his 5.918-second elapsed time was barely eclipsed by Mike Castellana's 5.893.

Meanwhile, Rivenbark

defeated **Von Smith** in the first round to advance to the second round, where he fell to Rahaim in another close race, 5.940 to 5.975. By the way, GALOT is an acronym for "Get a Load of This."

Troy Coughlin

Sr. was a surprise first-round victim of Castellana. Coughlin's 5.874-second clocking was barely outpowered by Castellana's 5.861-second run. Coughlin's early exit, combined with Rahaim's win, was enough to knock Coughlin back to third in points as Rahaim went around him into second place in final points following the race.

Rickie Smith bowed out in the second round, but his impressive points tally from the start of the season was enough for him to maintain the points lead with just two races to go in 2016. It appears that the season title will be decided between Smith, Rahaim, and Coughlin.

The 2016 NHRA Pro Mod tour will roll on to St. Louis, where Pro Mod competitors will contest their third race in the last four weeks.



Dan Stevenson

PRO MOD

1. Von Smith, Kingston, Tenn. ('16 Corvette) 5.820, 248.29
2. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('15 Camaro) 5.830, 250.00
3. Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('14 CTS-V) 5.840, 248.07
4. Steve Matussek, Olathe, Kan. ('68 Camaro) 5.841, 249.26
5. Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('16 Corvette) 5.857, 247.29
6. Khalid alBalooshi, Marina Del Ray, Qatar ('68 Camaro) 5.860, 247.70
7. Troy Coughlin, Delaware, Ohio ('15 Corvette) 5.865, 252.80
8. Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('15 Corvette) 5.876, 246.21
9. Chip King, Roxboro, N.C. ('70 Charger) 5.883, 244.60
10. Mike Castellana, Muttontown, N.Y. ('15 Corvette) 5.889, 244.21
11. Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('69 Camaro) 5.895, 244.60
12. Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('67 Mustang) 5.903, 251.58
13. Pete Farber, Baldwinville, Mass. ('69 Daytona) 5.907, 246.57
14. Eric Latino, Whitby, Ont. ('69 Camaro) 5.926, 246.08
15. Jay Payne, Ontario, Calif. ('14 Camaro) 5.943, 245.00
16. Kevin Rivenbark, Wallace, N.C. ('15 Corvette) 5.950, 241.24

ALTERNATES: Jonathan Gray - 5.963, 251.58; Robert Patrick Jr. - 5.975, 242.98; Jim Whiteley - 5.987, 242.76; Chuck Little - 6.001, 242.06; Mike Knowles - 6.011, 238.93; Kenny Lang - 6.026, 243.90; Clint Satterfield - 6.050, 242.84; Shane Molinari - 6.175, 247.88; Doug Winters - 6.194, 237.00; Bill Glidden - 6.442, 173.72; Sidnei Frigo - 6.544, 159.97; Jim Bell - 6.806, 210.01; Dan Stevenson - 9.220, 146.11; Gerry Capano - 9.220, 101.76.

