

NATIONAL

ISSUE 14 ★ VOLUME 56 ★ JULY 17, 2015



www.NHRA.com

DRAGSTER

RICHIE RICHIE

Crampton's third win of season boosts sophomore sensation to third in points



Coverage: NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

by Jim Luikens

Top Fuel already had its version of "The Run" (Tony Schumacher at the 2007 Auto Club NHRA Finals), as did Top Alcohol Dragster (Bill Reichert, 2010 Houston), and now Pro Mod has its version: Bob Rahaim's jaw-dropping 5.798 during the third and final round of qualifying in Bristol.

Persistent weather delays had pushed the final qualifying round for the NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series into the evening on Saturday night. Despite battling 3,600-foot air conditions, Rahaim, who had been the No. 2 qualifier after both the first and second sessions, improved to that 5.798-second elapsed time on his final qualifying run.

The historic run was only Rahaim's seventh on his new 908-cid Reher-Morrison nitrous engine. He was quick to credit his team: Brad Morgan (engine), Chris Bell (chassis), Brandon Switzer (co-crew chief), Scott Wolter (clutch), Jimmy Fleenor (shop and transportation), Kristin Rahaim (tires), Debbi Eberhardt (cooking), and Jennifer Rahaim (general car duties) for his success. Rahaim left Bristol a strong second place in the standings.

If Rahaim's 5.798 was "The Run," then the third and final qualifying session in Bristol should be known as "The Session." Weather delays pushed the final session to late in the twilight, and that only served to improve (relatively) the conditions. Run after run saw nearly every driver's best performance of the weekend and a fast-dropping bump spot.

It was a full field of 30 Pro Mod entries that tried to qualify for the 16 starting spots. The parity between the three power adders



Rahaim, near lane, earned his opportunity to race for a trophy by getting by Troy Coughlin Sr. in the semi's, 5.896 to 5.947.

that we've seen so far this season continued in Bristol as each of the three different power-adder choices held down the top-three spots on the final qualifying sheet. Despite the fact that only three nitrous-assisted cars made the field in total, two of them made their way to the final for an all-nitrous battle.

With the completion of the Bristol event, the Pro Mod series reached the halfway point of its season. Three of the first five events were won by nitrous-assisted cars, and the turbocharger and supercharger contingent recorded one win each.

Five different winners and five different runners-up have made up the five final rounds contested to date in 2015. So far there have been no duplicate winners or runners-up, but Rahaim, Donnie Walsh, and Billy Glidden have each notched both a win and a runner-up.

Kevin Fiscus recorded low e.t. of eliminations in the first round of racing at 5.915, and Troy Coughlin Sr. notched both the first and second top speeds of eliminations. Danny Rowe had the best reaction time of eliminations with a .010 light, which he recorded during his first-round win.

Eric Dillard drove Willard Kinzer's '11 Nissan 350Z at this event. His 5.935-second elapsed time in qualifying was good enough to boost him up into the top half of the field

for race day. However, his day on Sunday would prove to be a short one as he crashed in the first round while racing Troy Coughlin Jr. Noteworthy is the fact that the Kinzer/Dillard Nissan was the only imported car in the field.

The Will Kinzer Foundation for Autism Research in association with the Autism Society of East Tennessee was the presenting sponsor of the NHRA J&A Service event at Bristol Dragway. The Kinzer Foundation was set up to spread awareness of autism, a disease that affects more than 2 million people in the United States and tens of millions worldwide and to aid families with the financial burden of autism treatment.

Margaret Stanley of the Autism Society of East Tennessee said, "We serve 36 counties in east Tennessee, and with one in 68 kids being diagnosed with autism, the need for support and services here in east Tennessee is huge. We appreciate any opportunity we get to interact with the public and tell them about what autism is, why it's important to get involved, and what we do."

Sunday's weather required that the race schedule be modified to accommodate live TV. Even though the Pro classes were already completed, NHRA kept the camera crew on duty so that the Pro Mod final round could



be recorded for its airing later this year. **AD**

First-round action included Eric Dillard, far lane, losing control of his car early in the run. Then, Troy Coughlin Jr., near lane, had his own troubles near the top end and hit the wall. However, Coughlin was able to get the win light and return for round two.

PRO MOD

1. Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('15 Corvette) 5.798, 245.54
2. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('13 Camaro) 5.854, 243.55
3. Don Walsh, Wixom, Mich. ('14 Camaro) 5.864, 253.33
4. Troy Coughlin Sr., Delaware, Ohio ('15 Corvette) 5.869, 250.92
5. Bill Glidden, Whiteland, Ind. ('10 Mustang) 5.914, 242.71
6. Kevin Fiscus, Jacksonville, Fla. ('12 Mustang) 5.914, 242.98
7. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('15 Camaro) 5.918, 245.09
8. Eric Dillard, Bell Ground, Ga. ('11 350Z) 5.935, 247.34
9. Troy Coughlin Jr., Delaware, Ohio ('13 Corvette) 5.942, 247.34
10. Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('69 Chevelle) . . . 5.948, 239.70
11. Khalid alBalooshi, Los Angeles, Calif. ('69 Camaro) . . . 5.949, 242.71
12. Pete Farber, Baldwinville, Mass. ('69 Daytona) 5.949, 244.16
13. Clint Satterfield, Albuquerque, N.M. ('68 Firebird) . . . 5.952, 247.29
14. Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('68 Camaro) 5.954, 244.34
15. Kenny Lang, Grande Pointe, Man. ('69 Camaro) 5.968, 242.23
16. Steve Matussek, Olathe, Kan. ('68 Camaro) 5.983, 243.50

ALTERNATES: Jim Bell - 5.986, 237.42; Gerry Capano - 5.992, 237.17; Mike Knowles - 6.006, 240.12; Jeff Naiser - 6.023, 240.34; Eric Latino - 6.027, 239.78; Doug Winters - 6.042, 236.63; Harold Martin - 6.049, 229.24; Shane Molinari - 6.065, 245.99; Mike Castellana - 6.067, 235.64; Steven Whiteley - 6.070, 239.53; Chip King - 6.071, 236.55; Jay Payne - 6.072, 237.88; Dan Stevenson - 6.102, 237.84; Willard Kinzer - 6.375, 239.82.

PRO MOD CHAMPION RICKIE SMITH

