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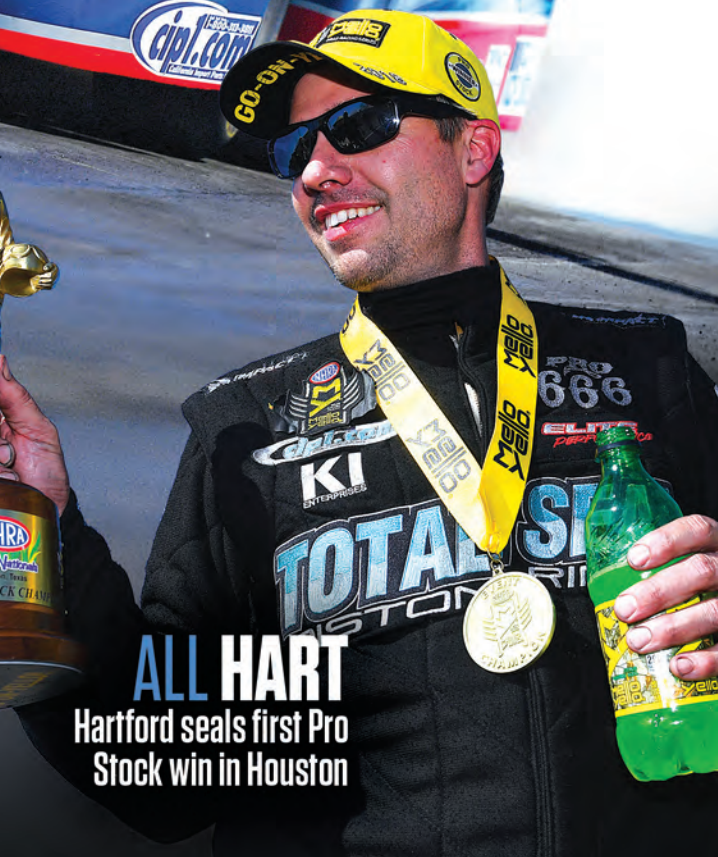


SPRING FORWARD

COMPLETE COVERAGE OF HOUSTON, CHARLOTTE
EVENTS AS SEASON HITS HIGH GEAR



ALL HART
Hartford seals first Pro Stock win in Houston



NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

The story/non-story of the E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series presented by J&A Service portion of the NGK Spark Plugs NHRA Four-Wide Nationals was **Rick Hord**. During Friday's second qualifying session, Hord and his Corvette went 5.771 seconds at 260.91 mph. After many years and many attempts, this became the first 260-mph run by a doorslammer in NHRA history. Needless to say, that pass earned Hord's car a teardrop. Every mechanical portion of his car passed, and all seemed well.

However, after viewing Hord's data from that run, NHRA asked for a printed copy of that same information. Hord balked and said that was where he drew the line. The end result was that Friday's pass was disallowed, but Hord was allowed two more attempts on Saturday to make Sunday's starting field. He fell short on both attempts and did not make the field. Both Hord and NHRA are eager to address this situation, and a solution is expected to be reached shortly.

A couple of other unusual events also occurred during Charlotte qualifying. Race winner **Jose Gonzalez** qualified on Friday and then had to fly home for a family business meeting. He assured everyone that he would be back for Saturday's qualifying sessions, and he was.

Meanwhile, **Clint Satterfield**,



Brandon Snider

one of Pro Mod's most faithful participants, had his high school daughter's graduation scheduled for Saturday of the same weekend. His plan was to qualify on Friday, fly home to New Mexico on Saturday, and then return to North Carolina on Sunday for eliminations. When Satterfield failed to qualify on Friday, that made the return trip unnecessary.

Chad Green continues to recover from his Gainesville crash. Driving a Camaro that he obtained from Rickie Smith, Green qualified eighth in Charlotte with a fine 5.879-second pass. However, on race day, Green was eliminated in the first round when his car got loose.

Brandon Snider became the newest member of the NHRA Pro Mod Series in Houston, where he failed to qualify. Things went much better for him at zMAX Dragway as he qualified for the field and then went all the way to his first final round in only his second NHRA race.

Currently, the NHRA Pro Mod Series is at an all-time high for drama and excitement. That's

expected to continue to ramp up as the season progresses with the arrival of other big-time drivers. Lizzy Musi has been very open about her intentions to join the series later this season. Along with her are several other high-profile drivers, including, possibly, a well-known name from the recent past that is currently not racing.

A total of 36 racers have competed so far this season in the NHRA Pro Mod Series; of those, 17 are supercharged cars, 13 are turbocharged cars, and only six are nitrous cars. Despite those lopsided numbers, it's the nitrous car of Smith that's leading the very tight points race

with Snider capping the top 15 in the points standings.

Additionally, those 36 cars are evenly split between the late-model Camaro body and all the "historic" body styles. One interesting note is that there were two '63 Corvettes in the starting field. The '63 Corvette body was one of the Pro Mod staples for a long time, and it's nice to see a new resurgence.

Although the NHRA Pro Mod contingent now have nearly a month off until their next race in Topeka, they have a very neat event following close on Topeka's heels. The very next weekend, the Real Pro Mod Association, which supplies the cars and drivers for the NHRA Pro Mod Series, has arranged an optional event at Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis. The event features no entry fee, free testing, and a \$20,000 purse to race for on Saturday night. Because this event is on Memorial Day weekend, I've even heard that there might be some free Indianapolis 500 tickets for the event's participants.



Chad Green

PRO MOD

1. Khalid alBalooshi, Ajman, United Arab Emirates (*18 Camaro) ... **5.729, 251.95**
2. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. (*18 Camaro) ... **5.752, 251.11**
3. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. (*69 Camaro) ... **5.756, 248.52**
4. Jose Gonzalez, Ball Ground, Ga. (*17 Camaro) ... **5.767, 255.24**
5. Jeremy Ray, Lugoff, S.C. (*63 Corvette) ... **5.771, 247.79**
6. Mike Castellana, Oyster Bay, N.Y. (*17 Camaro) ... **5.775, 253.14**
7. Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. (*68 Camaro) ... **5.775, 248.34**
8. Chad Green, Midland, Texas (*18 Camaro) ... **5.789, 250.78**
9. Chuck Little, Atkinson, N.H. (*63 Corvette) ... **5.794, 247.93**
10. Dan Stevenson, Bolingbrook, Ill. (*16 Camaro) ... **5.796, 255.53**
11. Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. (*18 Camaro) ... **5.799, 253.75**
12. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. (*18 Camaro) ... **5.803, 249.63**
13. Pete Farber, Baldwinville, Mass. (*69 Daytona) ... **5.803, 246.66**
14. Sidnei Frigo, Itatiba, Brazil (*69 Camaro) ... **5.812, 252.85**
15. Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. (*16 Corvette) ... **5.816, 245.81**
16. Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. (*67 Mustang) ... **5.838, 251.30**

NONQUALIFIERS: Bob Rahaim - 5.840, 247.97; Shane Molinari - 5.845, 254.66; Jim Whiteley - 5.848, 246.53; Steve Matusek - 5.859, 248.25; Richie Stevens - 5.871, 248.25; Doug Winters - 5.875, 245.23; Eric Latino - 5.881, 249.53; Jeffery Barker - 5.885, 240.12; Melanie Salemi - 5.890, 244.16; Chip King - 5.891, 244.83; Harry Hruska - 5.947, 249.58; Steven Whiteley - 6.325, 231.60; Michael Bowman - 6.341, 248.11; Rick Hord - 6.354, 211.26; Clint Satterfield - 6.491, 215.58.

1 5.736-251.72
aBALOOSHI (.111)

2 6.009-250.04
BIEHLE (.048)

3 6.665-233.60
GREEN (.045)

4 7.023-144.91
LITTLE (.062)

1ST ROUND

2 5.785-254.57
GONZALEZ (.061)

4 10.372-83.84
FARBER (.303)

3 6.707-224.62
RAY (.083)

1 5.773-250.18
SMITH (.047)

PRO MOD CHAMPION JOSE GONZALEZ

1 5.743-254.09
GONZALEZ (.021)

3 5.775-250.74
SMITH (.053)

4 6.393-162.10
SNIDER (.022)

2 5.763-243.68
JACKSON (.038)

FINAL

LOW E.T.: 5.726 - GONZALEZ
TOP SPEED: 256.45 - GONZALEZ

■ = ORDER OF FINISH

1 5.736-249.35
JACKSON (.058)

2 6.036-245.36
SNIDER (.040)

4 6.116-232.59 (FOUL)
TUTTEROW (-.001)

3 8.929-108.11
STEVENS (.028)

1ST ROUND

1 5.775-244.65
JANIS (.045)

2 7.945-200.50
FRIGO (.029)

3 10.697-83.44
CASTELLANA (.040)

4 DISQ.-OUTER BOUNDARY
ROWE (.008)