



NATIONAL DRAGSTER®

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TECHNOLOGY OF SPEED

11,000-HP SUPERCHARGED V-8s,
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RACING SLICKS DESIGNED AND
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SUPERCOMPUTERS
CONTROL FUEL,
SPARK, AND CLUTCH
APPLICATIONS AND
CAN LOG THOUSANDS
OF POINTS OF DATA

KEVLAR-REINFORCED
CARBON FIBER
BODIES WITH
TITANIUM SKELETONS



**HOW NHRA DRAG RACING
COMBINES ENGINEERING
GENIUS, AEROSPACE MATERIALS,
AND THE HORSEPOWER OF
AMERICAN HOT RODDING
TO CREATE THE
QUICKEST MOTORSPORT
ON EARTH!**

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

Participants in the E3 Spark Plugs Pro Mod Drag Racing Series rolled into Gateway Motorsports Park with just four races left in their 2018 season. Unlike the racers in the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series, there is no Countdown to the Championship to decide the Pro Mod Series champion. E3 racers have to get it done, and get it done now, at every event.

At the AAA Insurance NHRA Midwest Nationals, they had no problem getting it done. With three virtually cloud-free days and "Disneyland" conditions, it became a race to remember. These conditions led to very high drama in each round of qualifying and a record bump of 5.777 seconds when qualifying was all done. In fact, the field was so quick that two racers, Steven Whiteley and Todd Tutterow, also ran in the 5.70-second bracket but failed to qualify.

Mike Castellana's booming 5.676-second national record elapsed time during the final round of qualifying leads the list of takeaways from this event. Conditions at that time were 75 degrees air temperature, 94 degrees track temperature, 48 percent relative humidity, 29.71 inches of barometer, and an adjusted altitude of 1,904 feet.

Stevie Jackson continues to impress. In St. Louis, he won his second consecutive

Mike Bowman



race and moved up to third in points. Jackson debuted his car, the Shadow 2.0, in Topeka after a final-round crash at the NGK Spark Plugs NHRA Four-Wide Nationals sidelined his primary car. It has been a story of twos for Jackson since then, as the first two NHRA races the car attended saw early-round departures followed by two DNQs. Now, it has ended up in the winner's circle at the last two races.

Mike Bowman had a very different result. He had also suffered a crash in Charlotte that put him out of action for most of the midseason. Bowman returned in Indy with a new body

and a new paint scheme. During early qualifying, Bowman had the misfortune of his parachutes failing to deploy. A very fast trip across the sand saw him go hard into the catch net. Bowman is hoping for a midseason return next year.

Jim Whiteley had a very

successful event in St. Louis after not qualifying since Gainesville. He started race day from the sixth position and defeated Jason Scroggs in the first round in a very close race. Whiteley's 5.808-second elapsed time barely held off Scroggs' 5.820-second run. In the second round, Whiteley went even quicker at 5.797 seconds, but it was not enough to overcome the surging Jackson.

Michigan's **Bob Rahaim** won't be writing home about this

event. Four rounds of qualifying saw Rahaim post a best elapsed time of 8.134 seconds, which placed him last on the qualifying sheet. Normally a high flyer, Rahaim was bedeviled by everything possible at this event.

Erica Enders continues her march up the Pro Mod ladder. Competing in just her fifth NHRA Pro Mod event, Enders qualified ninth and defeated Jeremy Ray in the first round when Ray's car would not back up from his burnout. Her very respectable 5.826-second elapsed time was not enough to hold off Castellana in the second round.

Marc Caruso stamped himself as someone to watch as he qualified for his second consecutive event, the only two NHRA races he has ever attended. His seventh-place qualifying position at the event was a slight step up after qualifying 11th at the Big Go. Caruso won his first-round race but was unable to come back for round two due to massive engine damage.

Turbo cars recorded the top three mph runs, and that was without the turbo brigade of Troy Coughlin, Jose Gonzalez, and Sidnei Frigo in attendance. All three were kept away for various reasons, but it would have been something to see what they could have done with the great air conditions in St. Louis.

Mike Janis leads the points with only three races to go this season.



Jim Whiteley

PRO MOD

1. Mike Castellana, Oyster Bay, N.Y. ('17 Camaro) **5.676, 255.39**
2. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.725, 248.02**
3. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('17 Camaro) **5.727, 252.05**
4. Rick Hord, Belle Isle, Fla. ('16 Corvette) **5.728, 255.48**
5. Khalid alBalooshi, Dubai, United Arab Emirates ('18 Camaro) **5.729, 251.06**
6. Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('69 Camaro) **5.729, 250.55**
7. Marc Caruso, Fairport, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.743, 244.43**
8. Jeremy Ray, Lugoff, S.C. ('63 Corvette) **5.745, 249.67**
9. Erica Enders, Houston, Texas ('18 Camaro) **5.752, 254.38**
10. Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('67 Mustang) **5.754, 255.97**
11. Jason Scroggs, Saltgillo, Miss. ('68 Camaro) **5.756, 248.98**
12. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('17 Corvette) **5.756, 248.80**
13. Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('18 Camaro) **5.764, 252.66**
14. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('18 Camaro) **5.764, 251.91**
15. Brandon Snider, Attmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) **5.774, 247.34**
16. Shane Molinari, Battle Ground, Wash. ('68 Firebird) **5.777, 255.58**

ALTERNATES: Steven Whiteley - 5.779, 252.19; Todd Tutterow - 5.798, 247.75; Pete Farber - 5.803, 248.29; Dan Stevenson - 5.808, 255.63; Steve Matusek - 5.824, 249.81; Doug Winters - 5.861, 242.54; Chip King - 5.885, 246.71; Michael Bowman - 5.894, 255.24; Clint Satterfield - 6.336, 244.52; Keith Haney - 7.527, 126.01; Harry Hruska - 7.573, 200.89; Bob Rahaim - 8.134, 137.34.

PRO MOD CHAMPION

STEVE JACKSON

6.276-239.82 CASTELLANA (.024)	5.746-251.63 CASTELLANA (.030)	5.746-248.34 JANIS (.065)
6.729-173.61 MOLINARI (.053)	5.804-250.88 (FOUL) CASTELLANA (-.043)	TOOK THE LIGHT JANIS (5.678)
BROKE RAY	5.826-252.43 ENDERS (.025)	5.812-245.14 SNIDER (.021)
10.728-88.73 ENDERS (.009)	5.828-248.16 (FOUL) GREEN (-.048)	5.774-248.16 JANIS (.047)
9.431-80.10 HORD (.033)	5.800-252.90 ROWE (.060)	NT-NO SHOW CARUSO
5.894-251.95 ROWE (.069)	5.816-248.34 GREEN (.028)	5.834-244.87 CARUSO (.029)
6.076-185.56 alBALOOSHI (.071)	5.802-247.57 GREEN (.043)	BROKE BIEHLE
5.766-248.34 GREEN (.025)	5.759-250.88 JACKSON (.025)	5.721-251.86 JACKSON (.018)
	5.749-250.92 JACKSON (.019)	5.852-248.48 SMITH (.064)
	5.736-249.90 JACKSON (.034)	5.808-248.39 J. WHITELEY (.046)
	5.797-249.12 J. WHITELEY (.055)	5.820-247.11 SCRUGGS (.070)

LOW E.T.: 5.676 - CASTELLANA
TOP SPEED: 256.50 - BIEHLE