



NATIONAL

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DRAGSTER

FOUR SCORE!

- Reading
- St. Louis
- DALLAS!
- Charlotte
- Las Vegas
- Pomona



Torrence Remains Countdown-Perfect with Fourth Straight Win

Mello Yello, Lucas Oil, Summit Series, Championships on the Line in Pomona

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

I always enjoy seeing new faces or cars join the E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series, and in Dallas, we were blessed with both. Newcomer **Scott Oksas**, of Saugus, Calif., brought out his beautiful '67 Mustang to compete in his first-ever NHRA Pro Mod event. Unfortunately for him, he was a DNQ with a 6.023 best. Hopefully, we'll see Oksas again this season when the Pro Mod tour moves West.

Justin Bond and **Jader Krolow**, two new drivers in familiar cars, qualified for the Texas field. Brazilian Krolow, piloting the Corvette that Sidnei Frigo drove to victory at the 2017 Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals, qualified 13th with a 5.825 but lost to Steven Whiteley in the first round of eliminations.

Bond, of Mission, B.C., and a longtime associate of Shane Molinari, drove Molinari's

winning '68 Pontiac Firebird while Molinari attended his grandmother's 100th birthday celebration. Bond qualified an excellent third on the sheet, tying Molinari's best qualifying effort this season, and on race day, he was just as solid, using consecutive winning elapsed times of 5.724, 5.767, and 5.770 to reach the final round of his first-ever NHRA Pro Mod event. In the final, he ran a consistent 5.774 but lost to Jeremy Ray's holed-out-aided 5.785 elapsed time.

Although Krolow and Bond may not be familiar to NHRA fans, they both have a long history of driving fast cars in their home countries. A welcome to both as they bring even more international flavor to the already diverse set of NHRA Pro Mod competitors.

As he has done the last couple of years, **Michael Biehle** showed up in Dallas with a pink wrap on his '67 Mustang. He does it in honor of his mother and all



Michael Biehle

women who have survived breast cancer or are currently fighting the dreadful disease.

Biehle will have a couple of more opportunities to run his pink car because October is one of the two months that feature three NHRA Pro Mod races. June is the other month, which means that exactly half of the Pro Mod races are contested in those two months each season. Biehle qualified a season-high second in Dallas but lost via a red-light to Todd Tutterow in the first round of eliminations. Congratulations to Biehle and all of the other competitors who took the time and made an effort to recognize such a worthy cause.

Frigo introduced a new engine block in Dallas that features a camshaft mounted higher. This allows for several things, including a larger-diameter camshaft that is more likely to avoid twisting, bigger cam bearings for more

lubrication, and more clearance for larger connection rods. It also allows the user to run shorter pushrods, which is a very big deal on the second-gen Chrysler Hemi-style engine.

Frigo put his new engine to good use by roaring all the way to the No. 1 qualifying position at 5.779-second. He also set top speed of the event on a different qualifying pass at 257.87 mph. On race day, he went all the way to the third round before red-lighting against Ray. All in all, the new engine's debut was very successful.

After 10 races this year, supercharged race cars have won five times, nitrous entries four times, and turbo vehicles once. With just two races to go in the season, **Mike Janis** leads **Rickie Smith** by a scant 24 points. All of the other competitors have been technically eliminated, so Janis and Smith will duke it out for the season championship.



Scott Oksas

PRO MOD

1. Sidnei Frigo, Itatiba, Brazil ('69 Camaro) **5.779, 256.50**
2. Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('67 Mustang) **5.780, 256.89**
3. Justin Bond, Mission, B.C. ('68 firebird) **5.793, 255.82**
4. Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('18 Camaro) **5.803, 251.25**
5. Jeremy Ray, Lugoff, S.C. ('63 Corvette) **5.803, 246.80**
6. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('18 Camaro) **5.804, 248.71**
7. Rick Hord, Belle Isle, Fla. ('16 Corvette) **5.808, 256.89**
8. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.808, 245.23**
9. Mike Castellana, Oyster Bay, N.Y. ('17 Camaro) **5.809, 250.46**
10. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('17 Corvette) **5.814, 247.47**
11. Khalid alBalooshi, Dubai, United Arab Emirates ('18 Camaro) **5.815, 250.27**
12. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('17 Camaro) **5.824, 246.62**
13. Jader Krolow, Ball Ground, Ga. ('16 Corvette) **5.825, 252.43**
14. Keith Haney, Broken Arrow, Okla. ('17 Camaro) **5.842, 246.84**
15. Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('68 Camaro) **5.848, 246.17**
16. Danny Rowe, Laguna Hills, Calif. ('18 Camaro) **5.852, 249.49**

ALTERNATES: Erica Enders - 5.868, 249.90; Jim Whiteley - 5.870, 245.94; Brandon Snider - 5.880, 244.03; Steve Matusek - 5.882, 248.61; Brandon Pesz - 5.887, 243.41; Bob Rahaim - 5.891, 246.48; Doug Winters - 5.925, 241.45; Clint Satterfield - 5.999, 245.09; Scott Oksas - 6.032, 243.24; Pete Farber - 6.053, 202.55.

