



# NATIONAL DRAGSTER

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# SPEED SEASON



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# NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

For the second race in a row, **Erica Enders** upped the E3 Spark Plugs Pro Mod Drag Racing Series national mph record. After recording a stout 260.11 mph in Houston, she went even faster in Charlotte. Her run of 260.41 mph during qualifying is now the new national Pro Mod mph standard.

**Jose Gonzalez** was almost as quick as Enders; his qualifying run of 259.96 mph trailed the new queen of speed by less than a half of a mile per hour while he narrowly missed the 260-mph range himself.

**Adam Flamholz** failed to qualify for the third straight race of the 2019 NHRA Pro Mod season. However, he was closer to the bump spot than at either of his previous outings this year. His best elapsed time of 5.921 seconds locked down the 19th spot on the final qualifying sheet.

Flamholz has also been assisting the Charlotte Pro Mod presenting sponsor, SMP Racing, in advancing their Pro Mod racing activities. SMP has served as one of the leading Russian Racing Development programs since 2014. Early rumors point to SMP's possible debut in NHRA Pro Mod competition as early as next year with Flamholz driving.

North Carolinian **Doug Winters** also missed the field, but only by the narrowest of margins. His best qualifying run of 5.886 seconds left him just a few thousands of a second



Jose Gonzalez

behind Brandon Snider's best qualifying elapsed time of 5.881 seconds.

The extreme closeness of Pro Mod competition has caused many competitors to test like never before. Some NHRA racers were seen at various venues in the week leading up to the Charlotte event, and others stayed after the event to test once the race was finished.

**Alex "I'll Drive Anything" Laughlin** was driving two cars at this event. He qualified a career-best 5.708 seconds in E3 competition while also driving the second Mountain Motor Pro Stock entry of North Carolina's Elijah Morton. Laughlin lost in the first round of both eliminators.

Canada's **Eric Latino** also lost in the first round of Pro Mod eliminations, but he deserved better. His 5.893 e.t. was actually the second quickest of his quad, and he should have advanced to round two. However, Latino's tardy .199-second reaction time

actually opened the door for Mike Janis to advance. Janis went on to win his first NHRA Pro Mod race of this year.

**Stevie Jackson** and **Todd Tutterow** were literally tied in the points going into Charlotte due to their nearly identical finishes in the first two races of the year. When the eliminations ladder came out, it showed that both Jackson and Tutterow were paired in the first round of eliminations, which hinted at a huge shake-up in the points.

However, since this is

Charlotte, there were also two other racers in that first-round match. As luck would have it, both Jackson and Tutterow were the first-round winners and advanced to a second-round matchup.

In that round, Jackson, as well as Janis, advanced while Tutterow and Jeremy Ray headed for their trailers. Tutterow actually ran marginally quicker than Jackson, 5.825 to 5.827, but Jackson had a slightly better reaction time, 0.035 to 0.039, in a race that was unbelievably close.

The final-round quad was made up of two blower cars and two turbo cars. With the winner driving a blower car and the runner-up in a turbo car, it proves that the parity is still strong in this class.

Janis' win propelled him into what had been a two-man points battle. Jackson now leads the field with 296 markers while Tutterow has 278 tallies, and Janis has 227. They are the only three competitors who have amassed more than 200 points in 2019.



Adam Flamholz

## PRO MOD

1. Jose Gonzalez, Ball Ground, Ga. ('17 Camaro) . . . . . **5.657, 257.14**
2. Alex Laughlin, Bluff Dale, Texas ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.708, 256.55**
3. Todd Tutterow, Lewisville, N.C. ('68 Camaro) . . . . . **5.714, 250.04**
4. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('19 Camaro) . . . . . **5.718, 249.16**
5. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('67 Mustang) . . . . . **5.720, 257.38**
6. Khalid alBalooshi, Duxbury, Mass. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.726, 252.10**
7. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.726, 247.47**
8. Erica Enders, Houston, Texas ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.755, 260.41**
9. Marc Caruso, Fairport, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.762, 247.84**
10. Jeremy Ray, Lugoff, S.C. ('63 Corvette) . . . . . **5.774, 246.44**
11. Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.780, 247.66**
12. Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.781, 252.90**
13. Sidnei Frigo, Sao Paulo, Brazil ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.783, 255.92**
14. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('17 Camaro) . . . . . **5.792, 238.55**
15. Eric Latino, Port Perry, Ont. ('67 Camaro) . . . . . **5.849, 249.44**
16. Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) . . . . . **5.881, 246.80**

ALTERNATES: Doug Winters - 5.886, 248.20; Jim Whiteley - 5.896, 242.50; Adam Flamholz - 5.912, 240.55; Michael Biehle - 6.141, 250.64; Clint Satterfield - 6.192, 245.00; Mike Castellana - 6.345, 144.44; Chip King - 10.404, 86.87; Rick Hord - 13.106, 54.71.

1	5.809-257.87 <b>GONZALEZ (.051)</b>
4	6.109-242.23 <b>SNIDER (.051)</b>
2	5.836-259.96 <b>ENDERS (.039)</b>
3	5.866-246.62 <b>CARUSO (.056)</b>
<b>1ST ROUND</b>	
2	8.272-120.46 <b>GREEN (.048)</b>
4	13.953-47.37 <b>FRIGO (.015)</b>
1	5.771-256.89 <b>SMITH (.090)</b>
3	10.198-87.98 <b>S. WHITELEY (.033)</b>

## PRO MOD CHAMPION MIKE JANIS

3	5.890-227.31 <b>GONZALEZ (.037)</b>	4	6.460-173.45 <b>ENDERS (.044)</b>	1	5.813-248.16 <b>JANIS (.016)</b>	4	6.390-235.06 <b>LAUGHLIN (.101)</b>
1	5.861-258.22 <b>ENDERS (.051)</b>	2	5.817-257.63 <b>SMITH (.055)</b>	4	5.826-248.16 <b>RAY (.044)</b>	3	5.893-243.19 <b>LATINO (.199)</b>
4	6.204-245.99 <b>GREEN (.038)</b>	1	5.799-248.52 <b>JANIS (.068)</b>	3	5.825-250.41 <b>TUTTEROW (.039)</b>	2	5.905-226.43 <b>JANIS (.116)</b>
2	5.820-255.29 <b>SMITH (.102)</b>	3	6.235-211.49 <b>JACKSON (.040)</b>	2	5.827-250.27 <b>JACKSON (.035)</b>	1	5.810-247.57 <b>RAY (.190)</b>
<b>2ND ROUND</b>		<b>FINAL</b>		<b>2ND ROUND</b>		<b>1ST ROUND</b>	
		<b>LOW E.T.: 5.657 - GONZALEZ TOP SPEED: 260.41 - ENDERS</b>				1 5.842-249.67 <b>TUTTEROW (.036)</b>	
		■ = ORDER OF FINISH				2 5.839-248.02 <b>JACKSON (.048)</b>	
						3 5.825-248.98 <b>alBALOOSHI (.106)</b>	
						4 8.751-125.37 (FOUL) <b>RAHAIM (-.012)</b>	