

CHAMPIONSHIP
NHRA
DRAG RACING

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60
YEARS

WIN ON SUNDAY

BOB TASCA RETURNS
FORD MOTOR COMPANY
TO NITRO WINNER'S CIRCLE

SUMMER SIZZLE

HIGHT, SALINAS, TASCA, AND TORRENCE
RIDE HOT STREAKS THROUGH TOPEKA
AND BRISTOL EVENTS



NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

After the carnage that NHRA Pro Modders experienced at their last event in Topeka, I was interested to see who would be able to make the short, five-day turnaround for Bristol.

Todd Tutterow would have to be the star of that group. He installed his driveline in the repaired AAP Camaro that Mike Castellana had crashed at Gainesville 2019. After the rushed turnaround, he qualified No. 1 at 5.774 seconds in Bristol. Admittedly, one of the driving forces for the quick turnaround was the fact that Tutterow is in a strong position in the 2019 points chase. With the E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Drag Racing Series season now past its halfway mark, second-place Tutterow has the best chance of catching points leader Stevie Jackson.

After all his and his team's mid-week heroics, Tutterow did himself no favors when he red-lighted in the first round of eliminations by a mere

.005-second. Luckily for him, Jackson bowed out in the very next round, limiting the points damage to one round.

Alex Laughlin did the best of the other Topeka survivors, and Jeremy Ray and Steven Whiteley were not able to make it.

Marc Caruso took a wild ride on Saturday when his chutes failed to open, causing him to go into the net in the shutdown area. Caruso was able to exit his car, but his car was definitely through for the weekend.

Caruso had already qualified in the No. 12 spot on the final qualifying sheet. The E3 Series, until the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series, allows provisionals to fill any open position in the starting field. No. 17 qualifier Erica Enders was the driver that was inserted into the field, and she made the best of her opportunity. Enders went all the way to the final four, which ties her best finish of the year.

Unlike Topeka, there weren't any race-day incidents to juggle the results. However, there were quite a few surprising outcomes,



Brandon Snider

which eventually led to the No. 14 and No. 16 qualifiers meeting in the final round.

It was great to see Michigan's **Bob Rahaim** as one of the two finalists. His team has had a tough season as they work to build their own engine program. Rahaim had three first rounds and one second round to go, along with his two DNQs entering Bristol. Adding a big fourth-round result to his total sure does balance his results for the year a little better.

Someone else that left Bristol with a smile on their face was **Brandon Snider**. The Alabama ace has had a quiet but steady 2019 season so far. He's qualified for every race, except Houston, but has gone out in the first round of every race, except for Gainesville. In Bristol, he added his second second-round finish of the year.

I always like to see new guys and new teams join our series. In Bristol, we had two fine additions in Kris Thorne and Dwayne Wolfe. Thorne is driving the ex-Troy

Coughlin World Championship C7 Corvette. Although neither driver qualified, I expect to see both of them again.

Rickie Smith's challenging season delivered another blow in Bristol as he failed to qualify yet again. His best qualifying run of 5.899 seconds left him well out of the field, coming in No. 21 out of the 24 cars on ground. Quite a surprising result for a racer who has always done so well.

Power-adder parity is a never-ending topic of discussion in Pro Mod. I try to take a long look and compare results over the whole season. Different weather conditions favor different power adders, and each has their own moment in the sun over the course of the whole season.

Having said all that, I found it interesting that the final-four cars in Bristol featured one nitrous and three turbo cars. The final had one nitrous car and one turbo car, with the turbo prevailing. No blowers to be seen anywhere.



Dwayne Wolfe

PRO MOD

- Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('68 Camaro) **5.774, 248.66**
- Sidnei Frigo, Sao Paulo, Brazil ('69 Camaro) **5.788, 255.97**
- Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.800, 247.52**
- Mike Castellana, Muttontown, N.Y. ('17 Camaro) **5.806, 248.61**
- Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('19 Camaro) **5.808, 245.05**
- Khalid alBaloooshi, Duxbury, Mass. ('19 Camaro) **5.813, 256.36**
- Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) **5.820, 248.66**
- Alex Laughlin, Bluff Dale, Texas ('18 Camaro) **5.827, 255.77**
- Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) **5.828, 244.87**
- Steve Matusek, Olathe, Kan. ('13 Mustang) **5.831, 256.50**
- Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('67 Mustang) **5.834, 253.47**
- Marc Caruso, Fairport, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.834, 245.45**
- Doug Winters, Pleasant Garden, N.C. ('69 Chevelle) **5.846, 236.59**
- Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('18 Camaro) **5.850, 244.21**
- Eric Latino, Port Perry, Ont. ('67 Camaro) **5.855, 245.00**
- Jose Gonzalez, Ball Ground, Ga. ('17 Camaro) **5.858, 256.94**

ALTERNATES: Erica Enders - 5.859, 257.92; Clint Satterfield - 5.874, 254.18; Kris Thorne - 5.883, 248.61; Chip King - 5.887, 247.75; Rickie Smith - 5.899, 250.51; Jim Whiteley - 5.925, 232.23; Harry Hruska - 5.991, 247.29; Dwayne Wolfe - 6.021, 242.36.

PRO MOD CHAMPION
JOSE GONZALEZ

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 7.868-125.10 (FOUL) TUTTEROW (-.005) | 5.873-255.15 GONZALEZ (.051) | 5.846-255.15 FRIGO (.038) | 5.834-255.48 FRIGO (.044) |
| 5.868-255.77 GONZALEZ (.032) | 5.850-256.02 GONZALEZ (.034) | 6.810-146.86 FRIGO (.054) | 5.943-242.15 LATINO (.331) |
| 6.104-251.11 LAUGHLIN (.099) | 5.932-241.84 SNIDER (.037) | 5.914-238.72 RAHAIM (.061) | 5.861-245.81 JACKSON (.028) |
| 5.920-242.15 SNIDER (.052) | 5.848-256.06 GONZALEZ (.049) | 5.872-247.11 JACKSON (.028) | 9.152-95.88 MATUSEK (.059) |
| 5.915-245.58 CASTELLANA (.031) | 7.606-128.80 CASTELLANA (.036) | 5.903-245.05 RAHAIM (.049) | 5.879-244.92 JANIS (.071) |
| 5.919-243.41 WINTERS (.065) | 5.906-256.21 ENDERS (.045) | 5.892-245.85 RAHAIM (.061) | 5.872-245.18 RAHAIM (.053) |
| 8.401-109.85 GREEN (.074) | 5.920-256.41 ENDERS (.046) | DISQ.-C/LINE alBALOOSHI (.039) | 5.828-254.62 alBALOOSHI (.053) |
| 5.889-257.78 ENDERS (.006) | | | 7.613-128.69 BIEHLE (.014) |

LOW E.T.: 5.774 - TUTTEROW
TOP SPEED: 257.92 - ENDERS