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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

Through the years, Pro Mod has earned recognition as a wild and woolly class. Never was that more evident than at the Topeka E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series race this year. After a relatively quiet four qualifying sessions, the fireworks began for real in round one of eliminations.

They started when **Erica Enders** defeated Jeremy Ray. Ray, in the left lane, appeared to lose traction near the outer barrier and crossed the track on his side, narrowly missing the rear of Enders' fleeing car. He then impacted the right outside wall while upside down and spun back onto the racing surface, impacting the left wall before finally coming to rest on all four wheels.

Ray's drag racing future is unclear. He still has the '41 Willys that he raced before building his '63 Corvette, and a couple of other racers have offered help or assistance in getting him back on the track.

After a lengthy cleanup, the next pair, **Khalid alBalooshi** and Clint Satterfield, had an uneventful race with alBalooshi winning when Satterfield slowed. alBalooshi then proceeded to drive past the scales, making Satterfield the winner. A surprising but seemingly small item when it occurred, it loomed larger and larger as race day went on.

Mike Castellana then



Bob Rahaim

defeated Doug Winters in a very close race, 5.915 seconds to 5.919 seconds. For a few moments, it looked like normality had returned to Pro Mod.

However, things didn't stay quiet for long. Next up was the Todd Tutterow and Steven Whiteley pairing. Tutterow won the race with a 5.808-second elapsed time while Whiteley was close behind at 5.898 seconds. Just after the finish line, Tutterow's car made a hard right, crossing over into Whiteley's lane and striking the Whiteley car.

The collision was pretty

severe with both cars suffering substantial damage. Rumors are that Tutterow will transfer his equipment into another AAP Camaro, and Whiteley is looking at bringing back the Cadillac that he parked last year in favor of his new Camaro.

The round closed out with **Alex Laughlin** brushing the outer wall with his Camaro while racing Mike Janis. Laughlin's car looked the most repairable of all the carnage.

Satterfield was scheduled to race Tutterow in round two. When Tutterow was unable to return for the race, Satterfield claimed an easy win. More good



Michael Biehle II

news followed in the third round when Janis pulled through the beams. That put Satterfield in his second-ever NHRA final and the first in his '69 Camaro.

As you've probably already read, Satterfield came up short in the final against a rampaging **Steve Jackson**. Nonetheless, it was a great day for the two-man team from New Mexico. Satterfield, and sidekick Bob Gardner, have been on the receiving end of almost every kind of bad luck possible, so it was great to see them have some good luck for a change.

There was an equal amount of excitement on Friday when three drivers were disqualified after making their first two qualifying runs. NHRA determined that the race cars of Rickie Smith, alBalooshi, and Harry Hruska were out of compliance with their ECU [electronic control unit] firmware. alBalooshi came back on Saturday and requalified, and Smith and Hruska were not able to get back into the show.

Two racers that had get-well weekends in Topeka were Bob Rahaim and Michael Biehle. After two straight DQs, Rahaim came back strong to qualify twelfth and make his first start since Charlotte 1.

Likewise, for Biehle, he had not made a start since Houston but landed on his feet in Topeka in the No. 16 qualifying position. Hopefully, these are good signs that the Rahaim and Biehle programs are headed in the right direction.

PRO MOD

1. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) **5.795, 249.95**
2. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('19 Camaro) **5.800, 247.70**
3. Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('68 Camaro) **5.801, 246.66**
4. Sidnei Frigo, Sao Paulo, Brazil ('18 Camaro) **5.803, 254.86**
5. Steve Matussek, Olathe, Kan. ('13 Mustang) **5.827, 258.12**
6. Khalid alBalooshi, Duxbury, Mass. ('19 Camaro) **5.864, 255.63**
7. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.864, 245.67**
8. Erica Enders, Houston, Texas ('18 Camaro) **5.877, 257.14**
9. Jeremy Ray, Lugoff, S.C. ('63 Corvette) **5.879, 242.32**
10. Alex Laughlin, Bluff Dale, Texas ('18 Camaro) **5.889, 253.75**
11. Clint Satterfield, Albuquerque, N.M. ('69 Camaro) **5.917, 249.95**
12. Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('18 Camaro) **5.917, 243.94**
13. Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) **5.925, 242.19**
14. Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('18 Camaro) **5.929, 246.39**
15. Doug Winters, Pleasant Garden, N.C. ('69 Chevelle) **5.932, 246.12**
16. Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('18 Mustang) **5.951, 252.00**

ALTERNATES: Mike Castellana - 5.953, 244.92; Jim Whiteley - 5.977, 240.12; Eric Latino - 6.039, 239.57; Harry Hruska - 8.059, 115.06 (*6.242); Rickie Smith - NO TIME (* best provisional e.t.)

