



NATIONAL DRAGSTER

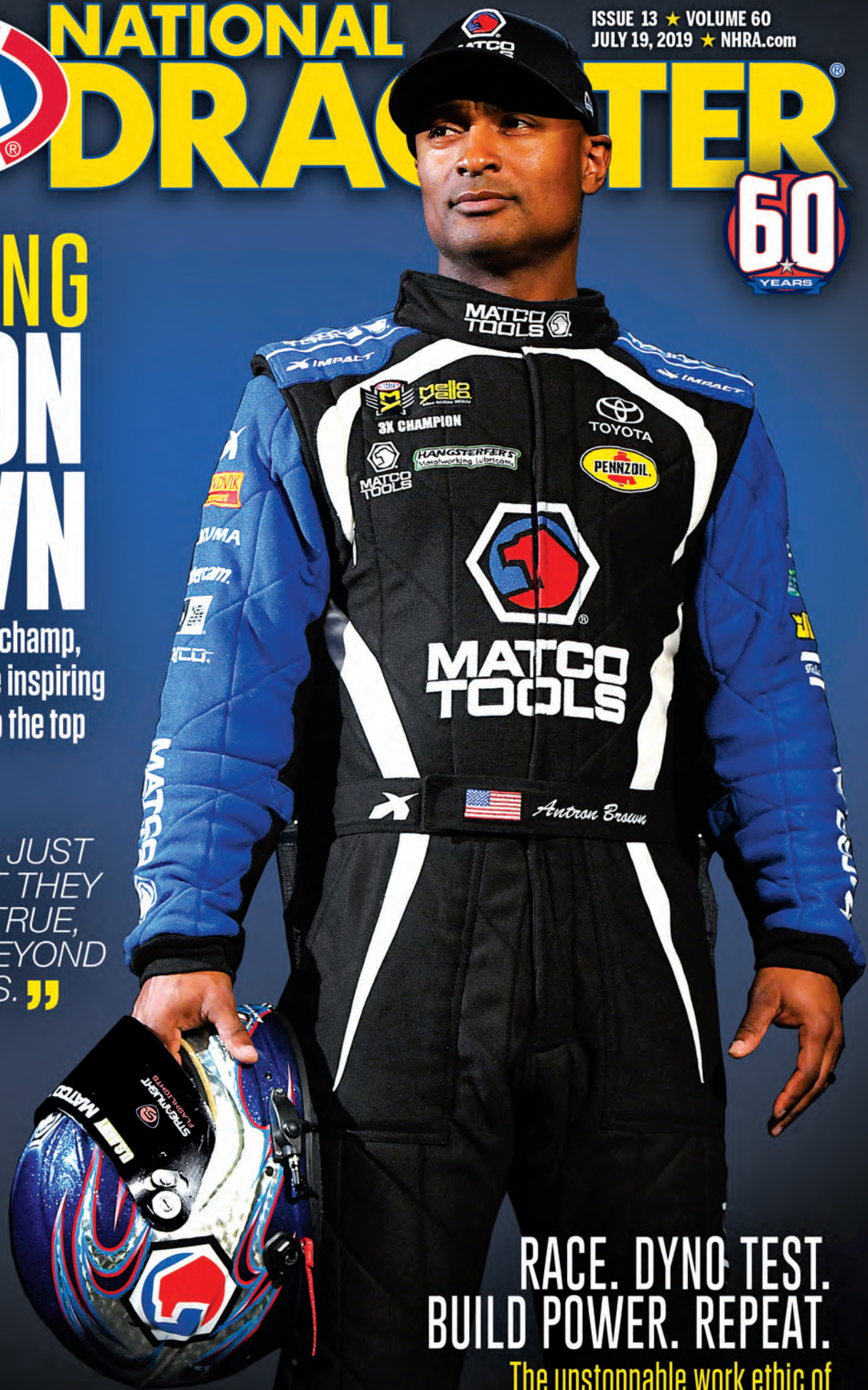
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BECOMING ANTRON BROWN

He wasn't born an NHRA champ,
it just seems that way; the inspiring
story behind his climb to the top

“ I HAD DREAMS; I JUST
NEVER THOUGHT THEY
WOULD COME TRUE,
LET ALONE GO BEYOND
MY DREAMS. ”



RACE. DYNO TEST.
BUILD POWER. REPEAT.

The unstoppable work ethic of
Pro Stock's Greg Anderson

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

It was the best of times and the worst of times for **Erica Enders** this year in Norwalk. On Saturday, she upped her national speed record again with a run of 261.22 mph. This was the third time this season that she has set, or reset, the national speed record for NHRA Pro Mods.

However, Enders had little time to celebrate because a very serious fire broke out in her car while she was going through the shutdown area. A fine piece of driving kept her off the walls and in the center of the track as she wrestled her car to a stop. Blinded by the smoke and unable to breathe, she was finally able to exit the car under her own power.

Although her car was built to meet the current NHRA specs, Enders vows that her next car will have safety measures above and beyond what the NHRA requires. She intends to take what she learned here and build her car in a way that addresses some of the obstacles that she had to overcome in exiting her car this time.

At the last E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series race on the tour, Enders was the recipient of a pass into the field when **Marc Caruso** was unable to answer the call for the first round because of his accident the previous day. This time, it was **Eric Latino** that advanced from the 17th qualifying position and into



Justin Bond

the field when Enders' car was damaged beyond repair for this event.

Latino was not quite as lucky as Enders after losing a very close race to **Mike Janis** in the very first round of eliminations. Latino's 5.819-second pass was just not quite enough to defeat Janis' 5.789-second winning run. When Enders was inserted into the field in Bristol, she went all the way to the final four before being eliminated.

Another of the Topeka crashfest participants, **Steven Whiteley**, returned to action here after missing the last race in Bristol. Whiteley was driving the Cadillac that he had raced previously instead of the Camaro that he has been racing this season. Unfortunately for Whiteley, his best qualifying run was not able to propel him into a very quick field that had a 5.790-second bump spot.

Holding down the 16th, and final, qualifying position was **Justin Bond**, of Mission, B.C., at

5.790 seconds. This was Bond's first appearance this season after driving **Shane Molinari's** Firebird at two events toward the end of last season. Interestingly, Bond made his 2019 NHRA debut driving the turbocharged '67 Mustang that **Rickie Smith** raced earlier this season.

Bond's race day was a short one, losing to **Mike Castellana** in the very first round of eliminations. Bond's very respectable 5.803-second pass was not enough to hold off the No. 1 qualifier's 5.738-second winning elapsed time.

Chuck Little made his second NHRA appearance of 2019 in Norwalk. Little was a DNQ when his best qualifying run of 5.872 seconds left him outside the all 5.70-second field. Castellana locked up the pole with a run of 5.701 seconds, and Bond anchored the field with his 5.790-second pass.

With the conclusion of the Norwalk event, the Pro Mod Series has reached the two-thirds mark of its season. After taking a two-month summer break, the series returns to action at the Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals. After that, only the events in St. Louis, Charlotte, and Las Vegas remain on the NHRA Pro Mod schedule.

It's certainly not too early to start talking about points for 2019. **Jose Gonzalez** is in second place after his runner-up in Norwalk. He, and everyone else, are chasing points leader **Stevie Jackson**. Jackson has a commanding six-plus-round advantage with only 16 rounds of NHRA Pro Mod racing remaining in 2019.



Chuck Little

PRO MOD

1. Mike Castellana, Muttontown, N.Y. ('17 Camaro) **5.701, 252.71**
2. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.741, 250.27**
3. Sidnei Frigo, Sao Paulo, Brazil ('69 Camaro) **5.742, 257.58**
4. Steve Matusek, Olathe, Kan. ('13 Mustang) **5.744, 260.41**
5. Alex Laughlin, Bluff Dale, Texas ('18 Camaro) **5.745, 257.58**
6. Jose Gonzalez, Ball Ground, Ga. ('17 Camaro) **5.748, 258.62**
7. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('19 Camaro) **5.751, 251.34**
8. Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('19 Camaro) **5.761, 250.23**
9. Khalid alBalooshi, Duxbury, Mass. ('19 Camaro) **5.764, 258.76**
10. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) **5.764, 250.13**
11. Doug Winters, Pleasant Garden, N.C. ('69 Chevelle) **5.769, 245.99**
12. Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('67 Mustang) **5.781, 255.00**
13. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('19 Camaro) **5.782, 251.49**
14. Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) **5.782, 248.43**
15. Erica Enders, Houston, Texas ('18 Camaro) **5.787, 261.22**
16. Justin Bond, Mission, B.C. ('67 Mustang) **5.790, 255.05**

ALTERNATES: Eric Latino - 5.813, 249.44; Dwayne Wolfe - 5.814, 247.79; Bob Rahaim - 5.816, 245.54; Harry Hruska - 5.845, 253.33; Clint Satterfield - 5.863, 252.00; Chuck Little - 5.872, 243.85; Chip King - 8.357, 99.69; Steven Whiteley - 15.746, 61.10.

PRO MOD CHAMPION
KHALID alBALOOSHI

5.738-248.84 CASTELLANA (.045)	10.469-96.78 CASTELLANA (.027)	5.784-250.37 JANIS (.025)	5.789-248.98 JANIS (.038)
5.803-256.55 BOND (.071)	12.073-65.73 alBALOOSHI (.043)	5.801-251.34 JACKSON (.040)	5.819-252.52 LATINO (.065)
5.934-247.34 TUTTEROW (.027)	7.684-169.76 alBALOOSHI (.171)	5.801-258.81 GONZALEZ (.028)	9.257-97.36 GREEN (.016)
5.756-258.67 alBALOOSHI (.045)	5.765-259.01 alBALOOSHI (.052)	5.755-251.67 JACKSON (.025)	5.786-250.60 JACKSON (.011)
6.881-163.20 MATUSEK (.090)	5.769-252.38 SMITH (.058)	5.849-247.34 SNIDER (.034)	9.755-101.57 FRIGO (.031)
5.776-253.28 SMITH (.047)	BROKE SMITH	5.800-259.26 GONZALEZ (.012)	5.825-246.93 SNIDER (.021)
BROKE LAUGHLIN	BROKE SMITH	5.802-259.21 GONZALEZ (.012)	5.747-259.56 GONZALEZ (.033)
7.485-147.83 BIEHLE (.024)	5.875-255.00 BIEHLE (.096)		9.239-98.02 WINTERS (.015)

LOW E.T.: 5.701 - CASTELLANA
TOP SPEED: 261.22 - ENDERS