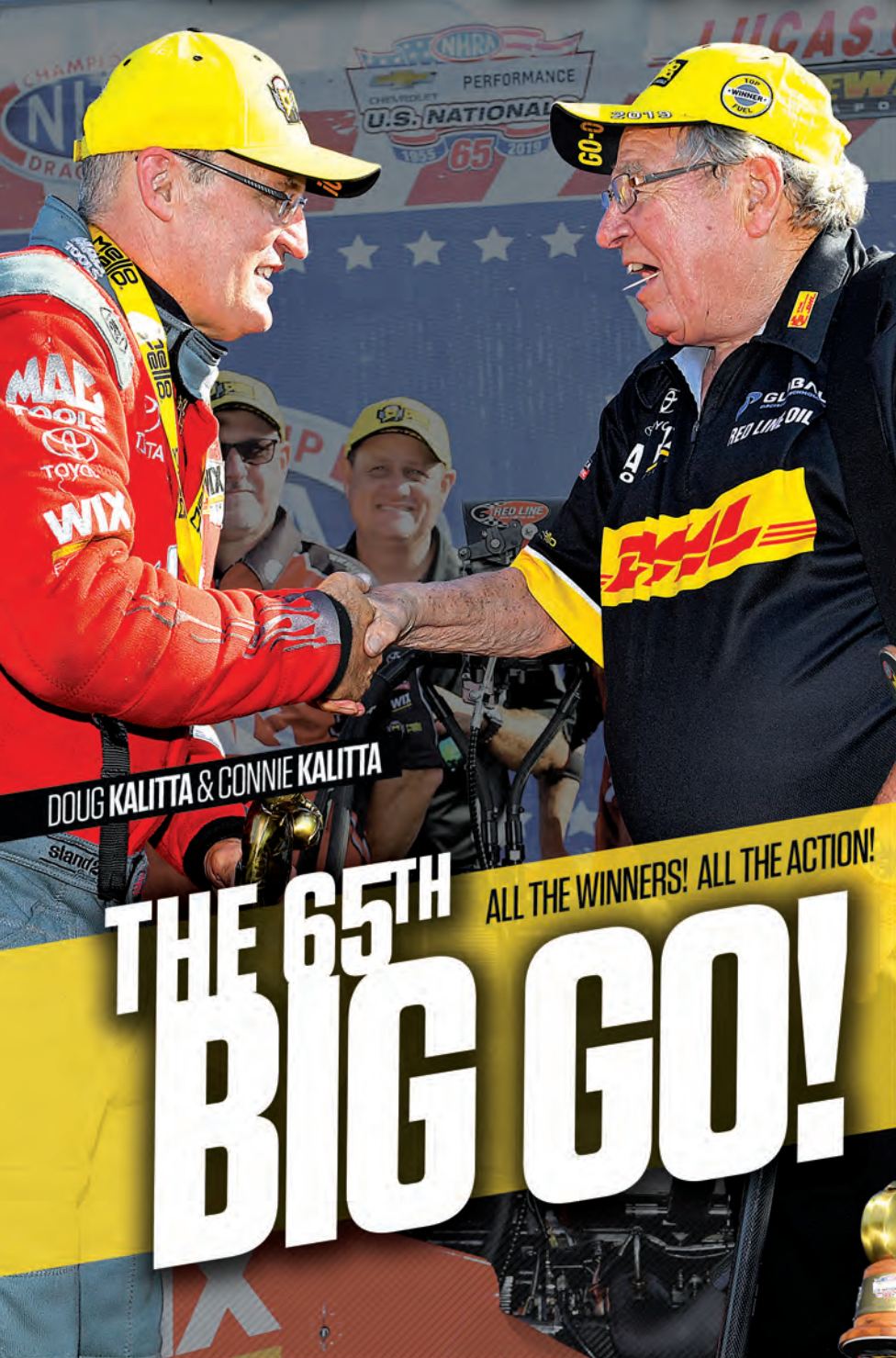




NATIONAL DRAGSTER

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DOUG KALITTA & CONNIE KALITTA

THE 65TH BIG GO!

ALL THE WINNERS! ALL THE ACTION!



NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

As I've often said, nothing excites me more than new cars and new drivers entering our E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series. In Indy, we had plenty of both.

For starters, **Jim Whiteley** debuted a beautiful new '63 Corvette painted in his traditional blue and white colors. Unfortunately, new car blues got in the way of a successful outing, and Whiteley ended up outside the final qualified field. No doubt, it won't be long before Whiteley has his new car running as good as it looks.

NHRA Pro Mod World Champion **Mike Janis** also debuted a new car in Indy — a '19 Camaro. It too was painted in his traditional paint scheme and appears to be a great replacement for his championship-winning '69 Camaro. Janis qualified a fine fourth with his new car at 5.761 seconds. On race day, Janis made it to the third round before falling to the eventual runner-up, Rickie Smith.

For Indy, **Rick Hord** replaced his familiar, all-black Corvette with a beautiful '18 Camaro. The car is reportedly the Camaro that Carl Stevens Jr. had been driving earlier this year. After qualifying fifth with a 5.762-second run, Hord's race day was cut short when he fell to West Virginia's Wayne Wolf in the opening round of competition.



Mike Janis

We haven't seen **Jason Scruggs** since earlier this season when he ran the Gainesville and Houston events in his '69 Camaro. He was another of the late-model Camaro converts in Indy, debuting his new '19 Camaro. It carries the traditional Scruggs red paint scheme, and he qualified ninth with a 5.795-second e.t. His race day was a short one as well, falling to Khalid alBalooshi in the very first pair of the first round.

The hits just kept coming as newcomer **Scott Oksas** made his first appearance of the 2019 NHRA Pro Mod season. Oksas was driving the '18 Mustang that he had done so well with at the recent World Series of Pro Mod event. He didn't do quite as well here, falling to Brandon Snyder in the very first round, 5.812 to Snyder's 5.754.

Steven Whiteley was the first of the non-qualifiers at 5.821 seconds. He was driving

his '18 Camaro in its debut outing after a rough day at the Topeka crashfest earlier this year. For now, the car is painted refrigerator white with no graphics.

Alex Laughlin was carrying the colors of the event sponsor, Hot Wheels. Although not a new car, his ride carried a new wrap that was voted Best Appearing Car at the 65th annual Chevrolet

Performance U.S. Nationals. After a generally fine season that has had Laughlin qualify at every Pro Mod race except one, he was a surprise DNQ here for only the second time this season.

Chad Green suffered a devastating incident during the final round of qualifying when his car crashed and rolled before returning to the track with a very hard landing. Early reports are that his surgery went well, and he is expected to be released soon. Green's driving plans are undetermined at the present time.

Stevie "Fast" Jackson was the real winner here. Despite a surprising -.015 red-light in the first round, Jackson still commands the points lead by a large margin. Going into Indy, he was six rounds ahead with 16 rounds of racing remaining in the 2019 Pro Mod season. Leaving Indy, he is still six rounds ahead but now with only 12 rounds of competition left this year.

On a personal note, I would like to share with you that this was my 53rd consecutive Big Go. A lot of things change in a half century, but I have always made sure that my schedule included time for the U.S. Nationals.



Jim Whiteley

TOP ALCOHOL DRAGSTER

- Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('18 Camaro) **5.717, 251.34**
- Mike Castellana, Muttontown, N.Y. ('17 Camaro) **5.751, 248.93**
- Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) **5.760, 247.16**
- Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.761, 247.07**
- Rick Hord, Belle Isle, Fla. ('18 Camaro) **5.762, 254.04**
- Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) **5.767, 247.84**
- Doug Winters, Pleasant Garden, N.C. ('69 Chevlelle) **5.776, 249.72**
- Khalid alBalooshi, Duxbury, Mass. ('19 Camaro) **5.794, 251.86**
- Jason Scruggs, Tupelo, Miss. ('19 Camaro) **5.795, 249.35**
- Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('18 Camaro) **5.795, 245.90**
- Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('68 Camaro) **5.799, 248.66**
- Dwayne Wolfe, Moorefield, W.Va. ('18 Camaro) **5.804, 246.89**
- Steve Matussek, Olathe, Kan. ('13 Mustang) **5.805, 254.57**
- Scott Oksas, Saugus, Ga. ('18 Mustang) **5.810, 250.97**
- Sidnei Frigo, Sao Paulo, Brazil ('69 Camaro) **5.816, 253.52**
- Eric Latino, Port Perry, Ont. ('67 Camaro) **5.819, 246.21**

ALTERNATES: Steven Whiteley - 5.821, 248.48; Clint Satterfield - 5.852, 249.86; Michael Biehle - 5.862, 250.37; Chuck Little - 5.880, 241.67; Alex Laughlin - 5.896, 249.86; Jim Whiteley - 5.911, 237.50; Jose Gonzalez - 5.913, 252.43; Chad Green - 5.997, 247.57.

PRO MOD CHAMPION
MIKE CASTELLANA

5.740-251.02 SMITH (.069)	5.774-251.58 SMITH (.039)	5.801-248.39 CASTELLANA (.035)	5.765-248.89 CASTELLANA (.032)
5.779-246.89 LATINO (.070)	5.769-251.58 SMITH (.042)	9.155-98.30 CASTELLANA (.075)	5.790-253.66 FRIGO (.009)
5.764-251.81 alBALOOSHI (.061)	5.785-255.19 alBALOOSHI (.057)	5.873-227.23 WINTERS (.033)	5.793-248.80 WINTERS (.042)
5.966-244.16 SCRUGGS (.021)	5.747-250.83 SMITH (.063)	5.758-248.43 CASTELLANA (.049)	6.180-182.26 RAHAIM (.079)
5.887-208.65 JANIS (.051)	5.909-221.09 JANIS (.031)	5.788-247.43 SNIDER (.006)	5.754-247.93 SNIDER (.038)
5.938-232.55 MATUSEK (.035)	5.865-246.17 JANIS (.038)	BROKE SNIDER	5.812-242.32 OKSAS (.071)
6.061-197.65 HORD (.060)	DISQ.-C/LINE WOLFE (-.017)	6.181-169.40 TUTTEROW (.045)	5.772-247.66 (FOUL) JACKSON (-.015)
5.796-246.44 WOLFE (.049)			5.751-249.53 TUTTEROW (.008)

LOW E.T.: 5.717 - SMITH
TOP SPEED: 255.19 - alBALOOSHI