



# NATIONAL DRAGSTER

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## SURVIVAL + REVIVAL



TWO OF THE BEST RACERS IN THE PRO STOCK CLASSES SHARE THE WINNER'S CIRCLE, MAKE HISTORY [AGAIN]

# NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

The story of the 2019 E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series season can be summed up in just two words: **Stevie Jackson**. With 10 of the 12 NHRA 2019 Pro Mod races in the books, Jackson has amassed five final rounds, two wins, three runner-ups, three No. 1 qualifiers, and five low e.t.s of the event.

On race day, Jackson recorded the first and third lowest e.t. of eliminations. His 5.769-second run in the first round was only bettered by his 5.768 in the second round. **Rickie Smith** also recorded a 5.768 in the final, but it was at a slightly slower top speed.

Jackson has a whopping 156-point lead over second-place man **Todd Tutterow**. With 20 points on offer for each winning round of racing and only eight rounds remaining in this season, it's hard to imagine anyone but Jackson as your 2019 E3 Spark Plugs NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series champion.

Tutterow is in second place in the points and is the only racer that has a mathematical chance, albeit the slimmest of slim, of catching Jackson for the Pro Mod title. Tutterow's record of one win, one runner-up, two final rounds, one No. 1 qualifier, and one low e.t. of the event would serve him well in any other year beside this year.

The only other title of the season (to date) that wasn't captured by one of the above



Scott Oksas

two racers went to **Erica Enders**. Enders has five top speeds of the event despite competing in only eight NHRA Pro Mod events this season. The chances that she will set top speed of the event at any meet that she attends is a whopping 62.5%. She is also the current Top Speed record holder after setting and resetting the national speed record three times.

After the abundance of new cars and drivers that we saw in Indy, only **Carl Stevens Jr.** was a first timer here. Stevens qualified No. 15 with a 5.843 e.t. but was a no-show for the first round of eliminations. His 256.45-mph pass from qualifying did, however, hold up as top speed of the event.

**Brandon Snider** continues to quietly have a very fine season. His fourth-place qualifying position matched his points position for the year. Snider defeated **Steven Whiteley** in the first round on race day before falling to **Mike Castellana** in the closest race of the second

round. Castellana barely eked out the victory when his 5.789 e.t. finished just ahead of Snider's 5.796 run.

**Scott Oksas** participated in the series for the second straight event. His results were exactly the same as in Indy — he qualified 14th and fell in the first round at both events. What's notable about his St. Louis outing is his stunning .010 reaction time in his loss to **Khalid alBalooshi**.

The holeshot of the day went to **Michael Biehle** when his 5.859 e.t. was able to prevail over **Bob Rahaim**'s quicker 5.817 run. The loss was a disappointment for Rahaim, whose car has been running stronger at recent events. Rahaim's No. 9 qualifying slot was the best he has done this year since Houston and Gainesville, where he qualified eighth at each event.

The NHRA Pro Mods saw their smallest car count of the season. For a variety of reasons, only 19 cars attempted to snag one of the 16 qualifying positions. It is expected that the smaller car count will reverse itself at the next two races. Charlotte should enjoy a nice turnout as the series returns to the heart of the Pro Mod world in North Carolina. Several of the West Coast cars plan to join us at the Dodge NHRA Nationals Presented by Pennzoil in Las Vegas, so that car count should be higher as well.



Brandon Snider

## PRO MOD

- Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.724, 252.43**
- Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.734, 251.49**
- Khalid alBalooshi, Duxbury, Mass. ('19 Camaro) . . . . . **5.749, 255.24**
- Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) . . . . . **5.749, 247.34**
- Mike Castellana, Muttontown, N.Y. ('17 Camaro) . . . . . **5.757, 248.80**
- Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('68 Camaro) . . . . . **5.769, 249.81**
- Eric Latino, Port Perry, Ont. ('67 Camaro) . . . . . **5.776, 248.89**
- Michael Biehle, North Vernon, Ind. ('67 Mustang) . . . . . **5.791, 252.24**
- Bob Rahaim, Grosse Pointe, Mich. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.792, 247.70**
- Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.799, 248.02**
- Steve Matusek, Olathe, Kan. ('13 Mustang) . . . . . **5.805, 252.71**
- Sidnei Frigo, Sao Paulo, Brazil ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.809, 253.90**
- Steven Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.819, 246.62**
- Scott Oksas, Saugus, Ga. ('18 Mustang) . . . . . **5.832, 250.23**
- Carl Stevens, North Haledon, N.J. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.843, 256.45**
- Alex Laughlin, Bluff Dale, Texas ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.863, 251.39**

ALTERNATES: Rick Hord - 5.866, 252.80; Doug Winters - 5.871, 247.97; Jason Scruggs - 5.877, 248.57.

