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Top Fuel DUEL

A seven-week showdown between Justin Ashley and T.J. Zizzo will crown a new first-time winner



FUNNY CAR SUMMER

Alex Miladinovich and Mike McIntire were all-in for NHRA's Return to Racing in Indy

JEGS SPEEDWEEK

Complete coverage of JEGS SPORTSnationals, Lucas Oil Series at National Trail doubleheader

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

After what seems like forever, the NHRA Pro Mods were called to the staging lanes for the first time in nine months. Some things have changed and some things have stayed the same with the arrival of the new season.

Chief among the changes for the new season is that the NHRA has taken over the management of the Pro Mod Series from the Real Pro Mod Association. Also new this year is the addition of two new power-adders to the three that had previously competed.

ProCharger superchargers are now legal for the class, as is a larger cubic-inch nitrous combination. No Nitrous Plus combinations showed at Indy but three ProCharger-equipped cars made their appearance. It didn't take them long to get settled in because, by the time the two qualifying sessions were done, two of the three ProCharger cars had nabbed two of the top three qualifying spots, including the pole position.

Anyone who has read my column for the last seven years knows that there is nothing that I like better than new cars and new drivers. At this event, we had it all: New cars, new drivers, and a Pro driver from another category making his Pro Mod debut.

Clint Satterfield and his right-hand man Bob Gardner have had plenty of tough times in the NHRA during recent years. They



Jeff Jones

tell me they run well everywhere else, including a Midwest Pro Mod Series win the previous weekend, but they have had a hard time converting those successes into an NHRA success. At Indy, they showed up with one of the three new ProCharger combinations and roared right to top.

In the first qualifying session, they made a 5.848-second pass that put them in the No. 2 qualifying position at that time. In the second and final qualifying session, Satterfield made a slightly slower 5.884-second run and ended up third overall going into eliminations.

On race day, his 5.858-second first-round pass made short work of Steve Matusek, despite Steve's great .008-second reaction time, the quickest of the event. In the second round, Jeff Jones was sent packing as Satterfield made his quickest run of the weekend at 5.838-seconds.

Unfortunately, that time was accompanied by a 239.53 mph

speed, Satterfield's slowest speed of the weekend. The relatively slow speed was the result of catastrophic engine damage despite his best E.T. of the weekend. He was a no-show for the final four and his race was done, but that is not the last you will hear from him this year.

Brandon Pesz brought three cars to the event. One for himself and the others were for newcomer **Jeff Jones** and his son, Justin. Jeff made his presence known quickly with a great sixth-place qualifying

position. On raceday, Jeff defeated former series champ Mike Janis in round one before falling to the rampaging Satterfield in round two.

Qualifying eighth was Floridian **Kris Thorne**, who went all the way to the semifinals where he was defeated by the quickest elapsed time of the whole event, Chad Green's 5.80-second elapsed time that locked Green into his first-ever NHRA final round.

The other finalist, also a first-timer, is Tupelo, Miss.'s **Jason Scruggs** in only his fourth ever NHRA start. Scruggs' father, Mitchell, and long-time team cohort Roger Henson assisted greatly in making the final round possible.

Pro Stock's **Bo Butner** appeared in his first NHRA Pro Mod race ever driving Rickie Smith's car while Smith recovers from back surgery.

Tour regulars Bob Rahaim, Michael Biehle, Sidney Frigo, Jose Gonzalez, and Jim Whiteley were missing in action at the 2020 NHRA Pro Mod season opener.



Kristopher Thorne

PRO MODIFIED QUALIFYING

1. Khalid alBalooshi, Marion, Ohio ('19 Camaro) **5.814, 249.07**
2. Jeffery Barker, Kathleen, Ga. ('18 Camaro) **5.838, 248.48**
3. Clint Satterfield, Albuquerque, N.M. ('69 Camaro) **5.848, 242.36**
4. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('17 Corvette) **5.851, 248.84**
5. Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Camaro) **5.853, 243.59**
6. Jeff Jones, Weatherford, Texas ('19 Corvette) **5.854, 247.38**
7. Jason Scruggs, Sattillo, Miss. ('19 Camaro) **5.859, 247.11**
8. Kris Thorne, Nims, Fla. ('18 Camaro) **5.868, 254.66**
9. Jonathan Gray, Artesia, N.M. ('18 Camaro) **5.888, 249.03**
10. Bo Butner, Floyds Knobs, Ind. ('20 Camaro) **5.904, 247.16**
11. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('20 Camaro) **5.906, 246.93**
12. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) **5.909, 242.89**
13. Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('20 Camaro) **5.922, 243.63**
14. Steve Matusek, Olathe, Kan. ('21 Mustang) **5.930, 247.38**
15. Mike Castellana, Muttontown, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.939, 242.67**
16. Justin Jones, Weatherford, Texas ('19 Corvette) **5.941, 245.72**

ALTERNATES: Brandon Pesz - 5.952, 237.96; Rick Hord - 5.955, 245.90; Chip King - 6.055, 227.84; Doug Winters - 6.274, 198.99

