



NATIONAL

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DRAGMASTER



SHAWN LANGDON

THE BIG GO!

COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE DENSO
SPARK PLUGS NHRA U.S. NATIONALS



JACK BECKMAN



ERICA ENDERS



SCOTTY POLLACHEK

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

One year ago, **Chad Green** left Lucas Oil Raceway on Labor Day weekend in a very battered condition after his crash in the final round of E3 Spark Plugs Pro Modified qualifying. This year he claimed the first Pro Mod victory of the weekend and his first-ever win when he won the rain-delayed final from the Lucas Oil Nationals.

However, Chad's 2020 U.S. Nationals was over quickly. His .263 red-light in the first round sent Jonathan Gray on to round two.

Stevie "Fast" Jackson claimed his second U.S. Nationals win and 10th overall in NHRA Pro Mod Competition. Stevie began his march to the finals with a remarkable .000-second reaction time to notch a first-round win over Clint Satterfield.

As is well known, I like new cars, new sponsors, and new driving combinations. The U.S. Nationals had some of each.

Khalid alBalooshi has had a hot hand so far this season driving Justin Bond's Camaro. At Indy, he debuted his own Camaro with a strong second-place qualifying position. On race day he lost to Stevie Jackson in the second round when his quicker run was undone by a rather leisurely .102 reaction time.

Steve Matussek unveiled Tequila Comisario as a new sponsor, both to him and to the sport of drag racing. Matussek gave Tequila Comisario a little



Eric Dillard

more TV time than expected when his car suffered an untimely crash in the first round against eventual runner-up Todd Tutterow.

Matussek is already preparing a new car for the rest of the season. In a complete departure from his norm, it will be a ProCharger-equipped Camaro. He plans to repair his crashed turbo Mustang in time for next season.

Kris Thorne, another hot hand in 2020, also destroyed his car in a first-round crash. He actually

won his first-round matchup over **Jason Scruggs** but went out of control after that. His great .006-second reaction time and 5.768-second elapsed time was quick enough to defeat the No. 1 qualifier Scruggs.

Tommy D'Aprile made his first appearance on the NHRA tour in some time when he was selected to drive the Camaro of Marc Caruso. D'Aprile improved on his qualifying time by .005-second in the first round but still lost to **Brandon Snider**.

Also behind the wheel for

the first time in a while was **Eric Dillard**. He qualified 13th driving a Camaro owned by Canadian super tuner **Al Billes**. His raceday was a short one as former world champ Mike Janis sent him packing in the first round.

Raceday was a day of double-O reaction times. Jackson led the parade with his aforementioned .000-second reaction time in the first round. Tutterow was not far behind with a .003-second reaction time in the semifinals.

Thorne had the third quickest reaction time at .006-second while Brandon Snider recorded a .008-second reaction time in the second round to defeat Rickie Smith.

"Stevie Fast" also recorded the fifth quickest reaction time of the day when he laid down a .009-second reaction time in the final. All of these are amazing numbers for Pro Modified cars.

The **Brandon Pesz** ensemble has had a great 2020 until Indy 4. The trio consists of himself, **Jeff Jones**, and **Justin Jones**, all of who have run well earlier this year. At Indy, they actually withdrew their three cars because of parts attrition. That left them in the 19th, 20th, and 21st slots on the final qualifying sheets.

The Pro Mod points race is starting to shape up after three events. Jackson is on top with 201 points while Gray is very close behind at 198 points. Thorne, Green, and Janis round out the top five in points.



Steve Matussek

PRO MOD

1. Jason Scruggs, Saltillo, Miss. ('19 Camaro) **5.717, 253.04**
2. Khalid alBalooshi, Marion, Ohio ('19 Camaro). **5.722, 252.43**
3. Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) **5.746, 249.03**
4. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('20 Camaro) **5.758, 250.46**
5. Jonathan Gray, Artesia, N.M. ('18 Camaro) **5.759, 251.30**
6. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('20 Camaro) **5.760, 250.09**
7. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) **5.764, 248.93**
8. Todd Tutterow, Yadkinville, N.C. ('20 Camaro) **5.774, 250.97**
9. Steve Matussek, Olathe, Kan. ('20 Mustang) **5.777, 257.83**
10. Clint Satterfield, Albuquerque, N.M. ('69 Camaro) **5.785, 245.05**
11. Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('63 Corvette) **5.802, 246.75**
12. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('17 Corvette) **5.823, 250.09**
13. Eric Dillard, Bell Ground, Ga. ('69 Camaro) **5.828, 245.63**
14. Tommy D'Aprile, Port Charlotte, Fla. ('69 Camaro) **5.850, 227.96**
15. Mike Castellana, Muttontown, N.Y. ('69 Camaro) **5.879, 247.93**
16. Kris Thorne, Mims, Fla. ('18 Camaro) **5.899, 224.96**

ALTERNATES: Jeffery Barker - 6.041, 244.69; Rick Hord - 6.095, 229.39; Jeff Jones - 7.287, 118.28; Brandon Pesz - 21.632, 78.44; Justin Jones - Disq.

