



NATIONAL

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DRAGSTER[®]

HERO'S JOURNEY

KEY VICTORY BOOSTS
BECKMAN'S FUNNY CAR
TITLE HOPES



INSIDE THE STREAK
BEHIND THE NUMBERS OF DON SCHUMACHER
RACING'S 12-RACE FUNNY CAR WIN SKEIN

**CAMPING WORLD DRAG RACING
SERIES MAKES DEBUT IN DALLAS**
TORRENCE, BECKMAN, HARTFORD, SAVOIE
TAKE TEXAS-SIZED FALL NATIONALS WINS

PLUS!
SECRETS OF THE WINNINGEST
CAR IN NHRA HISTORY

CAMPING WORLD

NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

Brandon Snider became a first-time winner on the NHRA E3 Spark Plugs Tour when he won the event. Snider, who had qualified No. 1 at the last two events, finally put it all together in Dallas. In a private interview the three-year class veteran said, "It's hard to describe how competitive the E3 tour is. If you qualify you can win from anywhere on the ladder."

Canadian **Eric Latino** made his first appearance of 2020 in Dallas after having to sit out the season so far due to Canadian travel restrictions. He qualified No. 16 with a best of 8.550 seconds after two failed attempts to get down the track during Saturday's two qualifying sessions.

On Sunday, he put it together by dipping into the fives with a 5.981-second run in the first-round. Unfortunately, that was not enough to hold off Snider's 5.791-second pass as Snider began his road to the finals. With travel restrictions now extended past the end of the 2020 NHRA season it will be interesting to see if Latino is able to return again this year.

The other 2020 newcomer was FuelTech's **Luis De Leon**. He was driving for Jeff Jones after business commitments forced Jones to sit out the Dallas race. Using the appropriate permanent number of 2020, De Leon qualified 12th

Eric Latino



at 5.786. On race day he was eliminated in the first round when his quicker but red-lighting, 5.781-second run gave **Jonathan Gray's** 5.814-second run the win.

The reaction-time onslaught continued at Dallas with **Justin Jones'** first-round .007-second reaction time the best of the day. Other notables included **Mike Janis** at .016, **Kris Thorne** at .020, and Mike Janis again at .021. **Stevie "Fast" Jackson** rounded out the best five at .024. It's not enough to just have a quick car anymore. You must also be able to drive it like a bracket-racer.

On the other end of that spectrum was **Khalid alBalooshi**. His .135-second reaction time in the third round was the worst of the day and kept him from advancing to the finals. His elapsed time of 5.763 seconds was far better than Jackson's 5.820-second

run but the tardy departure was not able to make up the difference.

Once again, Thorne recorded top speed of the meet for this eliminator. His turbo-assisted Camaro flew to a best of 258.02 mph. This run was best in class by nearly five miles per hour.

Jim Whiteley's J&A Services was the presenting sponsor of the series, while **Justin Bond's** JBS Equipment was the event sponsor. Thanks to both

of these gentlemen for their support of the class.

Speaking of Bond, the rumor is that we will see him in competition before the end of the season. He, too, has been held up by the Canadian travel restrictions. alBalooshi did use Bond's car for a couple of events to start the season.

Interestingly, through the first five races of this season, we have had five different winners and five different runners-up. Jackson is the only name that appears on both lists since he has one win and one runner-up.

With just two races and eight rounds to go in this strange and shortened 2020 season, we have quite a points battle on our hands. Jackson leads the series points with 354 while Snider is less than one round out of first place with 336 points. Mike Janis is a half a round back of Snider at 326 points. alBalooshi, **Chad Green**, Gray, Thorne, **Rickie Smith** and **Clint Satterfield** still have a mathematical chance at the 2020 crown.

Luis De Leon



PRO MOD

- Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) **5.680, 251.77**
- Khalid alBalooshi, Dubai, ('19 Camaro) **5.685, 253.75**
- Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) **5.694, 248.02**
- Brandon Pesz, Weatherford, Texas ('68 Camaro) **5.707, 250.41**
- Jonathan Gray, Artesia, N.M. ('18 Camaro) **5.729, 252.61**
- Alex Laughlin, Bluff Dale, Texas ('17 Camaro) **5.730, 252.38**
- Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('63 Corvette) **5.733, 248.80**
- Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('18 Corvette) **5.740, 251.53**
- Kris Thorne, Mims, Fla. ('17 Camaro) **5.752, 258.02**
- Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('20 Camaro) **5.755, 251.06**
- Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('20 Camaro) **5.764, 247.88**
- Luis De Leon, Canton, Ga. ('18 Corvette) **5.786, 248.29**
- Doug Winters, Pleasant Garden, N.C. ('69 Chevelle) **5.807, 247.11**
- Justin Jones, Weatherford, Texas ('18 Corvette) **5.829, 238.09**
- Clint Satterfield, Albuquerque, N.M. ('69 Camaro) **5.951, 192.30**
- Eric Latino, Port Perry, Ont. ('67 Camaro) **8.550, 123.70**

