

CHAMPIONSHIP  
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# DRAGSTER<sup>®</sup>



# THE CLASS OF 2020

CAMPING WORLD CHAMPIONS MATT SMITH, ERICA ENDERS, MATT HAGAN, AND STEVE TORRENCE WERE THE BIGGEST WINNERS IN THE SPORT'S MOST CHALLENGING SEASON



# NOTES FROM THE PRO MOD REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY JIM LUIKENS

**J**ustin Bond, who has been missing in NHRA action all season, made the decision at 10 p.m. PST on Thursday night to participate in the E3 Spark Plugs portion of Houston's Mopar Express Lane Spring Nationals (a misnomer if I have ever heard one for a race conducted in October.)

His car arrived at 9 a.m. Saturday and by Sunday night, it was parked solidly in Houston's winner's circle. His win was his first in the NHRA Pro Mod Series and also the first for a ProCharger-equipped Pro Mod in NHRA competition. ProCharger was added just this year as a legal power-adder and while the ProCharger entries have been strong runners all year, this was the first trip to a NHRA victory lane for a ProCharger-equipped racer.

Texan **Brandon Pesz** has had his share of challenges this season as the leader of the Imperial Construction Racing Team. At Houston, fate threw Pesz a bone as he made it to his first-ever NHRA Pro Mod final round. Fate decided to withhold his first series win for a while longer, but even the runner-up finish was well-deserved after his trials and tribulations this season.

Mooresville, N.C.'s **Paul Daigrepoint** made his NHRA Pro Mod debut in a very respectable way as he qualified 13th with a 5.841-second elapsed time. On race day he was a first-round



Paul Daigrepoint

runner-up as **Khalid alBalooshi** took the round victory at 5.777 seconds. Welcome to the world of NHRA Pro Mod, Paul, and we look forward to seeing you again.

**Justin Jones** won the reaction-time "race" at this event with a remarkable .007-second reaction time in his first-round loss to **Brandon Snider**. Close on his heels was **Jonathan Gray** with a great .009-second reaction time in the second round. **Rickie Smith** (.010) was third and **Jim Whiteley** (.018) fourth with **Chad Green's** .019-second rounding out the top five.

Can you even imagine that the top five reaction times on race day were all less than .020-second? Pro Mod is getting more like a high-dollar bracket race than a heads-up Pro eliminator every day.

The surprise of the race happened in the very first race of the very first round. **Alex Laughlin**, the No. 16 qualifier, jumped up and put **Steve**

**Jackson** out of the field. Jackson was the No. 1 qualifier, but his 5.746-second pass was not enough to defeat Laughlin's 5.731-second run.

Interestingly, this was the sixth race of the 2020 NHRA Pro Mod season and it produced the sixth different winner and the sixth different runner-up. Jackson is the only person even on both lists as he has recorded one win and one runner-up.

On the other hand, **Kris Thorne** recorded his sixth (out

of six) Top Speed of the Event. Thorne, in the only turbocharged entry, has locked out all six top speeds of this season. His Houston speed of 258.52 mph was his highest speed of the six that he has recorded this season.

New Mexico's **Clint Satterfield** was the only Pro Mod on the grounds that did not make the Houston field. Ironically, Satterfield was in the original St. Louis field that was moved to Houston when high winds and track conditions did not permit the contesting of the St. Louis event.

Snider leads the Pro Mod points chase with 413 points with just one race to go in the abbreviated 2020 NHRA season. Jackson is second with 387 points and **Mike Janis** third at 358 points. alBalooshi is just one point behind Janis at 357 points. **Jonathan Gray** rounds out the top five points earners with 339 points. These are the only five racers that have a mathematical shot at the 2020 NHRA Pro Mod championship.



Brandon Pesz

## PRO MODIFIED QUALIFYING

1. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.659, 253.52**
2. Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) . . . . . **5.660, 252.00**
3. Justin Bond, Mission, B.C. ('69 Camaro) . . . . . **5.692, 248.20**
4. Khalid alBalooshi, Dubai, UAE ('19 Camaro) . . . . . **5.693, 253.66**
5. Rickie Smith, King, N.C. ('20 Camaro) . . . . . **5.710, 251.95**
6. Jonathan Gray, Artesia, N.M. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.728, 252.05**
7. Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('63 Corvette) . . . . . **5.735, 247.25**
8. Brandon Pesz, Weatherford, Texas ('68 Camaro) . . . . . **5.736, 249.12**
9. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('18 Corvette) . . . . . **5.739, 249.72**
10. Jeff Jones, Weatherford, Texas ('18 Corvette) . . . . . **5.764, 227.61**
11. Kris Thorne, Mims, Fla. ('17 Camaro) . . . . . **5.776, 258.52**
12. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('20 Camaro) . . . . . **5.777, 247.79**
13. Paul Daigrepoint, Mooresville, N.C. ('18 Camaro) . . . . . **5.841, 245.40**
14. Doug Winters, Pleasant Garden, N.C. ('69 Chevelle) . . . . . **5.846, 245.81**
15. Justin Jones, Weatherford, Texas ('18 Corvette) . . . . . **5.956, 207.02**
16. Alex Laughlin, Bluff Dale, Texas ('17 Camaro) . . . . . **6.144, 217.84**

ALTERNATE: Clint Satterfield - 6.223, 199.17

### CHAMPION JUSTIN BOND

5.746-247.02 <b>JACKSON (.043)</b>	BROKE <b>LAUGHLIN</b>	5.721-249.95 <b>SNIDER (.022)</b>	5.858-247.25 <b>SNIDER (.039)</b>
5.731-247.75 <b>LAUGHLIN (.025)</b>		5.706-250.46 (FOUL) <b>SNIDER (-.054)</b>	6.028-243.94 <b>JU. JONES (.007)</b>
5.701-249.67 <b>PESZ (.038)</b>		5.758-247.84 <b>WHITELEY (.033)</b>	5.771-247.52 <b>WHITELEY (.018)</b>
5.742-248.71 <b>PESZ (.041)</b>	5.740-249.26 <b>PESZ (.310)</b>	7.504-127.58 <b>PESZ (.037)</b>	6.203-228.46 <b>JE. JONES (.022)</b>
5.777-250.78 <b>GREEN (.019)</b>		5.707-249.35 <b>BOND (.065)</b>	5.730-249.63 <b>BOND (.123)</b>
5.777-248.98 <b>ALBALOOSHI (.173)</b>	5.713-251.30 <b>ALBALOOSHI (.062)</b>	5.721-249.72 <b>BOND (.025)</b>	5.936-245.72 <b>WINTERS (.032)</b>
6.110-235.72 <b>DAIGREPOINT (.049)</b>	5.749-251.77 <b>SMITH (.051)</b>	5.759-219.90 <b>BOND (.032)</b>	5.751-251.58 <b>GRAY (.040)</b>
5.767-250.64 <b>SMITH (.043)</b>	5.748-251.63 <b>SMITH (.010)</b>	5.771-251.53 <b>GRAY (.009)</b>	8.335-133.61 <b>THORNE (.023)</b>
5.772-249.35 <b>JANIS (.041)</b>			

**LOW E.T.: 5.659 - JACKSON**  
**TOP SPEED: 258.52 - THORNE**