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# DRAGSTER



# 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

Steve "Fast" Jackson is the 2020 NHRA E3 Spark Plugs champion. He claimed the crown in a convincing way by winning the final Pro Mod race of the season. Going into the final race off the season, the NHRA Pro Modders had a perfect record with six different winners in the first six races of the abbreviated 2020 season. Three of the six were first-time winners which speaks immensely to the incredible parity in the class.

The racers did keep their runner-up streak intact by recording the seventh different runner-up in seven races. This time, **Khalid alBalooshi** was the runner-up as he pretty well swept the board. In addition to his runner-up spot, alBalooshi was also the No. 1 qualifier and recorded low e.t. of the event and top speed of the meet.

His 250.04-mph speed recording was the slowest top speed of the 2020 NHRA Pro Mod season. **Kris Thorne** had locked out the previous six top speeds of the event but was not in attendance at Las Vegas.

The tussle continues for the quickest Pro Mod reaction time of race day. This time, **Jim Whiteley** was the winner with an-otherworldly .005-second reaction time in the first round. Unfortunately, his spectacular reaction time and 5.780-second elapsed time was narrowly beaten by Jackson's



Jim Whiteley

.011-second reaction time and 5.770-second elapsed time.

**Brandon Snider's** very respectable .015-second reaction time in the second round was the third best reaction time of race day. His great reaction time combined with his 5.787-second elapsed time wasn't enough to hold off Jackson's .022-second reaction time, fourth best of the day, and 5.776-second elapsed time.

Snider's second-round loss ended his championship bid. In the previous three events he had been the No. 1 qualifier twice and a race winner once. Those accomplishments had made him a late-season points contender but his bid ended two rounds early of the grand prize. Whiteley's J&A Service had come to Brandon's rescue after he lost his primary sponsor of the last several seasons.

Snider is awaiting a new Jerry

Bickel Camaro, a car that he would prefer not to run. If he had his way he would run a vintage body style but there is just no keeping up with the late-model Camaros and he is forced to make that his choice.

Speaking of Jim Whiteley, not enough good can be said of him and his J&A Service company. He has been a staunch supporter of NHRA Pro Mod racing and his support is much appreciated. It's safe to say that the NHRA Pro Mod eliminator would not have made it this far without Jim's support.

Strutmasters was the presenting sponsor of the Las Vegas event while Justin Bond's JBS Equipment had been the presenting sponsor of the previous two Texas NHRA Pro Mod events.

As mentioned earlier, Jackson claimed his second NHRA Pro Mod title this season.

Snider finished second with his great end-of-season surge. alBalooshi finished third with **Mike Janis, Chad Green, Jonathan Gray, Rickie Smith, Thorne,** and Whiteley following in that order. **Clint Satterfield** rounded out the top 10 points finishers.

A total of 29 different Pro Mod competitors participated in the 2020 E3 Spark Plugs season. Not one of the 959-cubic inch cars ever appeared in 2020.

This column completes my ninth consecutive season of being the Pro Mod pit reporter for *National Dragster*. I have been honored to come to you after each NHRA Pro Mod event with my thoughts and observations. I look forward to seeing you again somewhere down the road. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support.

## PRO MOD

1. Khalid alBalooshi, Dubai, UAE ('19 Camaro) ..... 5.755, 248.34
2. Brandon Snider, Atmore, Ala. ('16 Corvette) ..... 5.766, 248.71
3. Justin Bond, Mission, B.C. ('69 Camaro) ..... 5.772, 247.34
4. Justin Jones, Weatherford, Texas ('18 Corvette) .... 5.784, 248.98
5. Steve Jackson, Evans, Ga. ('18 Camaro) ..... 5.788, 249.07
6. Chad Green, Midland, Texas ('18 Corvette) ..... 5.792, 248.16
7. Jeff Jones, Weatherford, Texas ('18 Corvette) ..... 5.828, 244.78
8. Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo. ('63 Corvette) ... 5.836, 244.65
9. Mike Janis, Lancaster, N.Y. ('20 Camaro) ..... 5.882, 244.25
10. Clint Satterfield, Albuquerque, N.M. ('69 Camaro) ... 6.248, 171.62
11. Brandon Pesz, Weatherford, Texas ('68 Camaro) .... 8.653, 105.41

