

LATE MODEL DIGEST

August 9, 2023



**Check, please!
Shook wins again in Outlaws**

Bolen breaks winless streak in Alabama • Hamilton's latest happy Sound • New Maritime tour points leader wins

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On the Mark again: #14 in 22nd Sizzler

From staff and team reports

NEW PARIS, Ind. (August 4) — This summer Mark Shook reeled off major Outlaw Late Model victories at Birch Run Speedway and Plymouth Motor Speedway, facilities where he had competed a few times in the past two years and come close to breakthrough wins. His latest triumph came at a bullring where he hadn't competed in three seasons.

Shook, from Plainwell, Mich., captured \$10,000 in the 22nd annual Summer Sizzler at New Paris Speedway. He had been in four previous Sizzlers, peaking with a third in 2019 at the quarter-mile.

"I hadn't been the last couple of years," he said. "It's a track that's hard on your stuff, and I kept that in mind. For this particular race it was great. We had it hooked up and it was awesome."

That speed showed early as Shook was .2 second faster than the next-best qualifier in time trials. The Sizzler always features one of short-track racing's largest inversions, and Shook was 16th on the grid.

He turned up the wick on his #14 ride near the end, reaching fourth place with about 25 laps left. The three leaders - Jaden Cretacci, Donny Klotz and Craig Everage - had been nose to tail for much



Chelsea Landis/Fast Lane Images

Mark Shook (14) goes low to pass Jack Landis (10) and second-best qualifier Jeff Ganus en route to a \$10,000 victory at New Paris Speedway. Shook's winning moves came mostly on the high side.

of the 100-lap main event. Clearing Everage was his toughest pass, then he went past Klotz and Cretacci on the same lap and had the lead alone for the last 12 circuits.

Most of his passes, including the winning moves, came on the high side. Going to the outside isn't something that happens too often at New Paris, but Shook took inspiration from attending the last two Sizzlers and watching Tyler Roahrig earn the sixth and seventh wins

in his record event total.

"It's tough to pass on the outside, but I've seen Tyler do it a few times," Shook said. "Tyler is so dominant here. Fortunately he wasn't here this time, but I learned from watching him."

The winning #14, a Triple B Fabrication chassis sponsored by Rescued Metals, Mac's Sports Timing, Engines by Irwin, Sweet Manufacturing, Crosstown Auto, SWT Excavating, Cloverleaf Lawn Maintenance, and Roahrig's company Rocket Fabrication & Suspension, had a nearly-full straightaway on Cretacci at the finish. This Sizzler was also a breakthrough for the runner-up, who hadn't done much Outlaw Late Model racing since his agreement with area veteran

Rich Boal ended a couple of years ago.

"The car was a rocketship, but the #14 was in his own zip code," said Cretacci, who started on the pole after the inversion. "I feel like I made a good point to those who said Outlaws are too fast for me and I can't control them. This was the first time in a while I've been able to enjoy racing the outlaw."

Summer Sizzler: 1. Mark Shook; 2. Jaden Cretacci; 3. Donny Klotz III; 4. Craig Everage; 5. Jeff Ganus; 6. Austin Maynard; 7. Jack Landis; 8. Matt Frazier; 9. Adam Terry; 10. Brandyn Ross; 11. Steve Stacy; 12. Jacob Maynard; 13. Kevin Sauer; 14. Corey Ryman; 15. Zack Cook; 16. Zachary Maynard; 17. Rich Boal; 18. Kenny Whitman; 19. Charlie Hanna; 20. Andrew DeVreese; 21. J.R. Roahrig; 22. Scott Ross.

Lap leaders: Cretacci 1-88, Shook 89-100 • Cautions: 4

• Fast qualifier: Shook, 12.52 seconds



Chelsea Landis/Fast Lane Images

Mark Shook is interviewed after winning the 22nd annual Summer Sizzler.



Chelsea Landis/Fast Lane Images

Jaden Cretacci (11) battles Donny Klotz at New Paris, Ind. Cretacci finished second and Klotz third.

Bolen matches Robbins, ends long skid

From staff and track reports

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (August 5) — John Bolen has two track championships in Montgomery Motor Speedway's top regular division. They came in 2010 and 2018; the latter title was clinched when his son Jase was barely walking.

Jase had never seen his dad win a Show Me the Money Pro Late Model race, but he'll remember this year's Saturday of Speed. Bolen topped the field in the second twin-70-lap feature for his first victory at the big half-mile since 2009, when the track reopened after a three-year hiatus.

"I don't even remember my last win, as bad as that sounds," said Bolen, from Jasper, Ala. "Working with some other drivers took us out of the seat for several years until we tried to race again. Jase was getting to that age where he's taking a little interest. If I wanted to race, there won't be too much longer until he might start, and we both can't do it. It was one of those things that we looked at and thought about, and we were gonna do it more now."

This spring he had built some momentum with a



David Kranak/Impact Zone Photos

Hunter Robbins won the early-evening feature for his third win of the season in Show Me the Money Pro Late Model competition. The trophy presenter is Ella Grace Dicks, last year's Alabama Southern Miss winner and a client of nightcap race winner John Bolen's mom Terri's company Total Pageant Prep.



David Kranak/Impact Zone Photos

John Bolen (2) leads Zack Dixon (62), Hunter Robbins (outside) and Augie Grill (43) en route to a victory in the second 70-lap feature at the Saturday of Speed.

runner-up effort in Montgomery's season-opening Alabama 200 and a third in a visit to Five Flags Speedway in June. But he didn't know how strong his #2 Fury Race Car was until he ran second in this early-evening opener, crossing the stripe a couple of car lengths behind Hunter Robbins.

"In the first race we paced right there with Hunter. He's been setting the bar lately," he said about Robbins, who had won the two previous SMTM events here. "That lets you know you're pretty close. We figured a few little adjustments and we'd be good come the next feature."

The top eight finishers from the opener drew pills for their later grid spots, just as the top eight qualifiers did for their starting positions earlier in the afternoon. Bolen started third and looked ahead at relative newcomers Josh Hicks and Taylor Hull.

Hull got hung out on the high side on the first lap. Then Bolen took advantage of an early caution to get around Hicks in the outside lane. At one point he was anticipating a late showdown with Robbins, but Bolen had almost four seconds on him at the checkered flag.

"We had the opportunity to get on around (Hicks), and we were glad it went green the rest of the way," said the winner, sponsored by Bolen Construction, Southern Music & Games, HP Elite Racing Engines, Strange Oval, SSF Race and Full Throttle Race Parts. "I think we had a three-second lead and we were sitting there riding. (Robbins) couldn't match the times we were running until the end, and he had to run a lot harder then."

Twin I: 1. Hunter Robbins; 2. John Bolen; 3. Christopher Tullis; 4. Gavin Graham; 5. Augie Grill; 6. Josh Hicks; 7. Jim Wall; 8. Taylor Hull; 9. Chase Spradlin; 10. Cale Hall; 11. Ethan Barker; 12. Hudson Bulger; 13. JoJo Wilkinson; 14. Dawson Sutton; 15. Luke Yarbrough; 16. Dustin Smith; 17. Bryson Shaffer; 18. Steven Chunn; 19. Johnny Aramendia; 20. Zack Dixon.

Lap leader: Robbins 1-70 • **Cautions:** 2 • **Fast qualifier:** Sutton, 19.57 seconds

Twin II: 1. John Bolen; 2. Hunter Robbins; 3. Dawson Sutton; 4. Augie Grill; 5. Gavin Graham; 6. Christopher Tullis; 7. Jim Wall; 8. Cale Hall; 9. Josh Hicks; 10. Luke Yarbrough; 11. Ethan Barker; 12. Hudson Bulger; 13. JoJo Wilkinson; 14. Steven Chunn; 15. Johnny Aramendia; 16. Taylor Hull; 17. Chase Spradlin; 18. Zack Dixon.

Lap leaders: Hicks 1-6, Bolen 7-70 • **Cautions:** 2



David Kranak/Impact Zone Photos

Fast qualifier Dawson Sutton (26), JoJo Wilkinson and Hudson Bulger (outside) go three-wide at Montgomery Motor Speedway.

Hamilton dodges crash and then coasts

From staff and track reports

TENINO, Wash. (August 5)— The first two Super Late Model specials of South Sound Speedway's 2023 season were fairly effortless for J.J. Hamilton. He reeled off a victory in the Chad Hinkle 138 tribute race on Memorial Day weekend, then ran a strong second to the resurgent Tom Sweatman in the Wes Rhodes Memorial show just before Independence Day.

The third and final extended-distance event for Supers at the 3/8-mile oval appeared to be the easiest finish for Hamilton, from Chehalis, Wash. His #11 was out front for the final 194 of 200 laps in the event which was sponsored by Miller for a number of years.

This victory also provided Hamilton with his biggest scare of the season. He started ninth and picked up a few spots right away, but the final two positions didn't come the way he wanted. Logan Cole and Tommy Elstoen, who started on the inside of the first two rows, collided on the sixth lap and took each other out of the running.

When Cole's car careened toward the infield, it clipped Hamilton's right front; the wreck started three



Mike Wright/mewrightsportsphotos.com

J.J. Hamilton (11) clears Matt Doyle on a restart in the second half of the annual 200-lap Super Late Model race at South Sound Speedway.

or four car lengths in front of him. He didn't pit for service until the planned halfway break, but that made for some tense moments for the "Racing Realtor."

"We didn't know how much damage the car had, so I continued on," he said. "It completely ripped the right side of the car when I drove through it, but that was the only way I had to get through the accident. We didn't know if there was a toe problem or if it had hurt the trailing arm. The door was wrinkled pretty bad, and we even thought the rear end could've been bent or a tire was punctured. I ran over his air box and took all his hood pins.

"When we went back to yellow (after the red flag) I was able to scuff the car back and forth to feel it and it felt stable. My steering wheel was in the same location and there was no weird movement. When everybody came in for the break, we put on two right-side (tires) and fuel, and the guys didn't see anything they had to repair at the time. We went back out and led the last 100."

Matt Doyle, in a Jefferson Racing-backed ride, held second place at halftime and remained there for the duration. Hamilton kept a gap of at least six car lengths out front in his VanDoorn chassis, sponsored

by Academy Mortgage, C&C Development, the Power Shop, Race Car Supply and graphics company Evolve Manufacturing.

"I feel very fortunate to have a car that has produced these finishes this year," said Hamilton, who plans to swap his car back and forth between Super and Pro Late Model specs for South Sound's remaining 2023 events. "We did a shakedown in a Pro race three weeks ago, and I broke my own track record and won the race."

The downside in the victory and the early escape was the fact that Cole, along with his brother Mason, are teammates and protégés of Hamilton.

"It was tough to run into him," Hamilton said. "My collision removed him from the race. He could've returned if it was just him and Tommy, but my impact took the nose off his car."

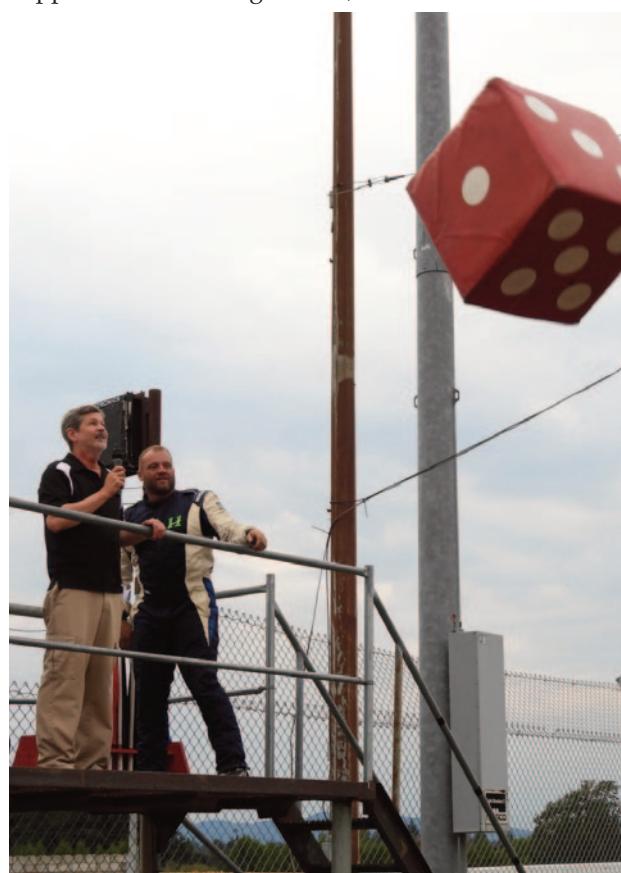
Super Late Model 200: 1. J.J. Hamilton; 2. Matt Doyle; 3. Tom Sweatman; 4. Alan Cress; 5. Larry Lasmanis; 6. Mason Cole; 7. Shawn Jones; 8. Zandar Peters; 9. Dave Cline; 10. Jay Sauls; 11. Kyle Cottam; 12. Bob Presley; 13. Levie Jones; 14. Matt Barrett; 15. Zachary Riehl; 16. Logan Cole; 17. Tommy Elstoen.

Lap leaders: L.Cole 1-5, Hamilton 6-200 • **Cautions:** 6 • **Red flag:** 1 • **Fast qualifier (of 18 drivers):** Hamilton, 13.711 seconds • **Dash winner:** Riehl



Mike Wright/mewrightsportsphotos.com

Tommy Rasmussen (2) crashes with Logan Cole early at the track near Tenino, Wash. They were running first and second at the time.



Photos by Stormy and Felicia

Fast qualifier J.J. Hamilton tosses one of two dice from the flagstand. The inversion put him ninth, but he still led all but the first six laps.

Powered up after win on rainy weekend

From staff and series reports

OYSTER BED BRIDGE, P.E.I. (August 6) —

The first three races in the new Maritime Super Late Model Series found Dylan Gosbee finishing fourth, third and second. With those numbers trending, plus the fact that Oyster Bed Speedway is Gosbee's home track, he seemingly would have been looking forward to the next event on the schedule.

The feeling of the #16 group approaching the Universal Truck & Trailer 150 wasn't that high, but Gosbee turned that around with his biggest victory in several years. He led the final 47 laps to earn \$4,000 and extend his points lead in the first-year circuit.

"It's definitely the one I have the most experience at," Gosbee said about the third-mile oval. "It's funny though; going into the weekend, I felt like it was probably our worst chance to win. Maybe it's because we'd run so good at the other two tracks (Petty Raceway and



Mike Francis/Racin' Photos

Dylan Gosbee, shown with his wife Jenine, son Alexander, daughter Sarah and his crew, became the fourth different winner in as many races in the Maritime provinces' first-year Super Late Model Series.



Dave O'Blenis (48) and eventual runner-up **Troy Burke** line up on the front row for the Universal Truck & Trailer 150 at Oyster Bed Speedway.



Ryan Messer (1) looks to the inside of Dustin Tucker en route to a third-place finish at the bullring in Prince Edward Island.

Speedway 660), but we had struggled in our last race there. After practice we knew the car was gonna race good here, even though it was not showing in the time sheet."

Gosbee's speed was really evident in the middle and late stages, after a rain delay on lap 40. He was fourth at that point and grabbed one spot on the next restart. Then fearing more weather interruptions, he turned up the pressure on leaders Dave O'Blenis and Troy Burke, clearing them for good with about a third of the race distance remaining.

The event, already postponed a day by rain, went green the rest of the way after the lead change. Gosbee dodged a bullet avoiding another caution.

"It kinda started to sprinkle with about 12 to go. I didn't want to see another yellow," said Gosbee, whose sponsors include Clam Diggers Restaurant, Cornell Self Storage, Piccott Care and the Shine Depot. "I was like, 'Let's make it to the end.' Luckily everyone else had been pushing just as hard before that. I looked in the mirror and couldn't see the guy in second. There was a gaggle of cars ahead, and you don't want to push things there, so I kinda cruised. It doesn't happen too

often that way, when you look in the mirror and you can't see the guy in second and you can't see anyone looking forward either."

This was Gosbee's first victory in a traveling series since 2013 when he won in the now-ECI Pro Stock Tour. Since then he had acquired this chassis from Donnie Wilson; it was numbered #16 during the brief time in which Hamke Race Cars was renamed Rowdy Manufacturing. These races in the new tour have been the only stops he has made, because most of the rest of his time has been consumed by his new business, Powered Up Electrical Plus.

"I've been running in circles ever since," he said about his company's official January 1 start date.

Universal Truck & Trailer 150 presented by Chris' Bobcat Services and Central Engine Services: 1. Dylan Gosbee; 2. Troy Burke; 3. Ryan Messer; 4. Steve Halpin; 5. Darren MacKinnon; 6. Cory Hall; 7. Dave O'Blenis; 8. Robbie MacEwen; 9. Hudson Weston; 10. Greg Proude; 11. Dustin Tucker; 12. Greg Fahey; 13. Ian Rasmussen; 14. Kenny Snow; 15. Kenny MacKenzie Jr.; 16. Mark LeClair; 17. Allison MacKinnon; 18. Brodie Lewis; 19. Chris Hughes; 20. Ryan Raynes; 21. Lonnie Sommerville; 22. Ashton Tucker.

Lap leaders: Burke 1-103, Gosbee 104-150 • **Cautions:** 5 • **Red flag:** 1 • **Heat race winners:** Messer, Gosbee, Halpin