



Wonders for Wolfe in first attempt

KALISPELL, Mont. (July 16, 1994) —

When a major short-track event is added to the schedule in your local area, that race almost certainly will be on your priority list. That was the case for those in one state in 1991, when Kalispell Raceway Park and sponsor Coors Light began the tradition of the Montana 200.

Cory Wolfe was still racing street stocks in 1991, but the next year he began work on a Late Model. Two years later, in his first attempt in the event, he walked away with the trophy.

"These were homemade cars then. I had a '69 Galaxy with a newer front clip; we built a couple of those," said Wolfe, from Ronan, Mont. "I didn't plan on building that first one. With all the lead for the different tracks, we weren't very well prepared. When we built the second one, we were a little wiser and made provisions for moving the lead around."

Everything was in the right place on that #88 that season, and on the quarter-mile racing surface as well. Wolfe held second at the halfway break, then took over the point when leader and frequent rival Danny Morris fell off the pace.

"The guy that was leading didn't get his wheels tight, or one of 'em,"



Cory Wolfe won the 1994 edition of the Montana 200 at Raceway Park in Kalispell, Mont., a bullring which closed after 2019.

LMD file

Wolfe said. "I think we had him covered away. The rest of the race was pretty smooth sailing."

This was the first of 22 attempts he has made in the Montana 200. He finished third on three other occasions,

twice at Raceway Park and then again in 2021, the first year the event was held at Mission Valley Super Oval.

"We should've won that thing two or three times, but it's like we'd shoot ourselves in the foot," he said. "I remember them well."

The home-state favorite has been a constant in the Montana short-track scene. There were some breaks in his schedule, namely part of the late 1990s and again in the late 2010s. There were also some hotter and heavier racing campaigns; he frequented many tracks in the Northwest, including a 1999 championship at the old Spokane Raceway Par. There were also several trips to Tucson Speedway in the 1990s for the old Winter Heat program.

Every July spectacular at MVSO has had Wolfe on the roster. The 2026 run-down found the 70-year-old in 14th place, eight laps down due to various issues.

"We didn't take the car out at all last year," said Wolfe, who drove one owned by Blaise Burland's family in the 2025 edition. "I think this was the worst night I've ever had out there. We should've been working on the car more. The competition level has really increased compared to what we had the first year (at MVSO)."

The 3/8-mile oval has two more Super Late Model races on its 2026 schedule, and Wolfe could have his formerly-perimeter-framed Lefthander car in action in one of those. The Polson facility is just a few miles from his home, but he misses the hour-plus hauls to the Kalispell track which closed after 2019.

"In the early days we'd go to Kalispell, bring the dirt bike and have the crew bring the car. We'd do the 200 and then also go to a Montana motocross the next day," he said. "We called ourselves Team Late Nite."



family photo

This is Cory Wolfe's current Super Late Model, shown from 2024 at Mission Valley Super Oval in Polson, Mont., the home of the Montana 200 since 2021.