

Chris Madden Wins the Southern Nationals Feature at Smoky Mountain Speedway

Story & Photos by Phillip Prichard, MSA

It took Chris Madden, nine events to get the job done but he finally got to Schaefer's Oil Southern Nationals Series victory lane at Smoky Mountain Speedway.

Madden, also, won the DirtOnDirt.com Dash for Cash (4 laps) for the four fastest qualifiers. The finish was: Chris Madden, Randy Weaver, Mike Marlar, Billy Ogle Jr.

Two B-Mains were run: B-Main No. 1 Finish (8 laps, top 6 transfer): Vic Hill, Jason Welshan, Mack McCarter, Donald McIntosh, Anthony Burroughs, Mark Douglas, David Crabtree, Josh Putnam, Ellery Leake, Riley Hickman, Stacy Boles (DNS), Chad Ogle (DNS).

B-Main No. 2 Finish (8 laps, top 6 transfer): Skip Arp, Austin Smith, Tommy Kerr, Ryan King, Eric Jacobsen, Mark Vineyard, Craig Vosbergen, Chris Wilson, Ross White, Robby Moses, Bo Eaton.

Madden of Gray Court, SC led flag-to-flag for the \$5,300 victory at the Smoky Mountain Speedway on Friday Night August 1st. Madden, who had not finished outside of the top-ten and had four podium finishes in the first eight races, finally got the job done in front of a great crowd. Madden took Clements Racing Engines-powered Bloomquist Race Car to victory lane for the 24th career time in series history.

Madden and Randy Weaver brought the



Izzi Leach Memorial on the hood of the #29 Jason Welshan car

field of 23 to the start for the 53-lapper with Madden jumping to the outside and the commanding lead early on. Madden lapped up to the sixth place car before the end of the main event. The four time series champion was never challenged for the lead after the last restart that took place after the final yellow on lap 13. The 53-lap race took 26 minutes, 24 seconds to complete.

Only two cautions occurred in the main event. The first yellow flag came as the field went into turn one on the initial start and Vic Hill spun around setting the field up for another start. The next yellow would wave on lap 13 as eighth running Tommy Kerr got his bumper locked into the right-rear quarter panel of Bo Eaton, sending both cars to the pits for the night with heavy damage.

A-Main Finish:

1. Chris Madden-Gray Court, SC
2. Mike Marlar-Winfield, TN
3. Randy Weaver-Crossville, TN
4. Billy Ogle Jr.-Knoxville, TN
5. Vic Hill-Mosheim, TN
6. Mack McCarter-Gatlinburg, TN
7. Eric Jacobsen-Rio Del Mar, CA
8. Donald McIntosh-Dawsonville, GA
9. Anthony Burroughs-Minden, LA
10. Ryan King-Seymour, TN
11. Austin Smith-Cedartown, GA
12. Craig Vosbergen-Perth, Australia
13. Jason Welshan-Maryville, TN
14. Chris Wilson-Crossville, TN
15. Riley Hickman-Cleveland, TN
16. Mark Douglas-Knoxville, TN
17. Josh Putnam-Florence, AL
18. David Crabtree-Maryville, TN
19. Skip Arp-Georgetown, TN
20. Tommy Kerr-Maryville, TN
21. Bo Eaton-Blue Ridge, GA
22. Mark Vineyard-Powell, TN
23. Stacy Boles-Clinton, TN

Smoky Mountain Speedway had a full night at racing with a 20-Lap Crate Late Model Race, a 25-Lap Limited Late Model Race and a 15-Lap Classic Car Race in addition to the 53-lap Southern Nationals Race.

Cory Hedgecock in the #23 won the

Limited Late model Race. Second was one of our own needs our support! I know



Madden in Victory Circle

Josh Henry, Third was Bobby Giffin, Fourth was Matt Henderson, and rounding out the top five was Jaylon Shannon.

Jason Welshan in the #29 was the winner in the Crate Late model race, Jimmy Elliott was second, Jacob Grizzle was third in the twelve car field.

Cameron Skinner captured the win in the Classic Car Race.

On 26 July, 3 year old Izzi Leach, daughter of Limited Late model driver Mark Leach drowned. Fans donated almost \$4,000 at Smoky Mountain Speedway when divers passed the helmets through the crowd of fans. The racing community really comes together when



Chris Madden & Randy Weaver on the Front Row

the Leach family truly appreciates you being a part of Keeping Izzi's memory alive!!



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