

SpeedFest 2015: Nemechek & Elliott Capture Wins

Story & Photos by Phillip Prichard, MSA

Watermelon Capital Speedway at Crisp Motorsports Park hosted the 2015 SpeedFest. The CRA sanctioned event had two races: The JEGS/CRA Pro Late Models and the ARCA/CRA Super Late models.

On Saturday, practice sessions and qualifying were held for both classes. John Hunter Nemechek in the #8, son of NASCAR legend Joe Nemechek was the fastest qualifier in the JEGS/CRA All Star Tour. Nemechek has a fast time of 15.900 seconds on the 3/8 mile D-shaped Oval. After qualifying, Nemechek drew the number 10 pill, inverting the first 10 qualifying positions and put him starting tenth in the 125 lap race. Bubba Pollard of Senoia, GA led the qualifiers in the ARCA/CRA Super Series with a fast time of 15.613 seconds. Pollard drew the #5 pill creating a five car invert for the starting field. The invert resulted in Nemechek and Chase Elliott starting on the front row.

Fans were treated on Sunday to a pre-race concert by Megan Fowler and an autograph session where they were able to get autographs and photos with their favorite drivers.

Justin Ashburn led the field of the 27 Pro Late Models to the green flag in the JEGS/CRA All Star Tour, leading the first 13 laps. Harrison Burton, son of NASCAR driver Jeff Burton, led next and two more times, leading the field for a total 32 laps. John Hunter Nemechek and Bubba Pollard battled for the entire race. Nemechek led a total of 74 laps and Pollard led a lap.

In the final restart of the race, Nemechek was able to edge out Pollard for the \$4000 victory. In post-race ceremonies, Nemechek and Pollard complimented each other. Harrison Burton finished third; Chris Dilbeck, fourth and Corey Ruble, fifth.

In the ARCA/CRA Super series race, John Hunter Nemechek brought the field to the green flag, leading the first 44 laps. Chase Elliott, son of Bill Elliott and 2014 NASCAR Nationwide Champion took over the lead on lap 45 and led the field to lap

100 where the field had a 10 minute break to service the cars.

Upon the restart for the second half, Elliott cut a right front tire, sending him off track in turns one and two. After pitting, Elliott restarted in the 20th position, but he was quickly able to charge his way back toward the front. It appeared Bubba Pollard was destined to win, leading 93 laps of the final 100 laps. All during this last 100 laps; Pollard and Nemechek were still battling for the lead. With 4 laps to go, Pollard and Nemechek tangled in Turns 1 and 2. This led to both drivers having to restart in the rear of the lead lap cars.

This put Chase Elliott in lead cruising to his 6th career SpeedFest victory, 3rd in the Super Late model Division. Elliott finished five car lengths ahead of second place finisher, Kyle Grissom. David Regan finished third; Harrison Burton, fourth and Scotty Ellis, fifth. Sunday's racing action kept fans on the edge of their seats or standing.

Visit <http://crispmotorsportspark.com/> for more information and upcoming events.

Motorsports America congratulates Chase Elliott on both his victory and being named to replace Jeff Gordon in the No. 24 NASCAR Sprint Cup car by Hendricks Motorsports. Gordon announced his retirement from full-time competition following the 2015 season.



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