

SMITH CLAIMS SUPER LATE MODEL RETURN TO SENOIA RACEWAY

Story by Ted Austad/Photo by F. Hauke

Senoia's hometown hot shoe Clint 'Cat Daddy' Smith battled with the World of Outlaws national point's leader Shane Clanton during the first half of the Super Late Model opening round feature at Senoia Raceway. The four-time Southern All Stars champion swapped the lead back and forth with his rival before Clanton broke a shock near the half way mark. Smith went on to record the victory in what was the first race at Senoia Raceway for the Super Late Model division in nearly thirty years.

"The track was little rough," said Smith in victory lane. "But there was a lot of racing before Shane broke."

Clint 'Cat Daddy' Smith and Shane Clanton brought the crowd out of it's seats during the Super Late Model feature. Smith led out of the gate, but Clanton battled back and overtook him on lap two. The veteran duo battled back and forth using the high side and the low side of the track utilizing the new configuration where the turns were widened to nearly 90 feet.

Track crews had been battling the elements of rain and cold weather for several

weeks leading up to the opening night race. That battle continued Saturday night as several holes developed in the turns. Those holes created a need for the drivers to not only race each other, but keep track of where the best place was to run so not to hit a hole and upset their race car.

Smith and Clanton raced inches away from each other working to miss the holes, but find an advantage on the other. The compelling race ended on lap twelve when Shane Clanton charged into the lead and then broke a shock after hitting a rut in turn one.

Smith inherited the lead and then cruised to victory over Gray's Jordy Nipper, Fayetteville's Ricky Williams and Marietta's Matt Larson. Meansville's 'Mad' Maddie Crane rounded out the first five in her debut piloting a Super Late Model.

"We will be working hard on the track this week," said Mayes Massey. "It has been a battle with the rain and cold, but Doug (Stevens) and his team have put in over 100 hours this week alone. We will not quit until the track is right. When it is right, there is going to be some very good racing."

Michael Page used the high side of the



race track to move from back of the pack to the lead position in the Limited Late Models. The veteran wheelman slid past LaGrange's Dusty Jones on lap twenty to snare the lead and then never looked back posting his first career win at Senoia Raceway. Jones then lost his second place spot out of the final turn of the final lap when Grantville's Austin Horton jumped underneath and won the sprint to the finish line. Temple's Chris Fennell and Carrollton's 'Hog Head' Clifton Moran rounded out the top five.

Alabama's Dylan Knowles outdueled Douglasville's Matt Black for the win in the Crate Late Model feature. It was the first time in four years that the Crate Late

Model division ran as it's own class. The past few season the crate cars were given a weight break and ran with the Limited Late Model division.

Chad Barrett earned the top spot in the Bombers after holding off last year's points champion John Holcomb for the victory. Lithia Springs' Mike Lilly was third ahead of Zebulon's Jim Jackson and Senoia's Chris Holt.

Bart Roberts beat Newnan's Robert Caldwell in the four cylinder Mini Stock race.

For additional information, schedules, rules and more, visit the Senoia Raceway website at www.senoiaraceway.com.

Davenport Wins at the Georgia Boot Super Bowl of Racing

Story & Photo by: Phillip Prichard, MSA

On the final night of the Georgia Boot Super Bowl of Racing in front of a record-breaking crowd at the Golden Isles Speedway, Jonathan Davenport won the Lucas Oil Late Model Series event on the third night. Davenport had led during both of the previous two nights, but suffered misfortune and was unable to finish either feature. Davenport picked up his fifth career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series win.

Friday Night's winner, Earl Pearson Jr. finished second, followed by Brandon Sheppard, Scott Bloomquist, and Ross Bailes rounded out five in an exciting finale to the Georgia Boot Super Bowl of Racing. Completing the top ten were Dennis Erb Jr., Donald McIntosh, Kenny Pettyjohn, Jimmy Owens, and Stormy Scott.

Davenport earned his third straight Miller Welders Fast Time Award of the weekend during time trials earlier in the night and won his heat race. At the start of the 50-lap main event, he stormed to the lead. Ross Bailes settled into second and trailed Davenport, until sixth-place starter Jared Landers got by him.

Landers charged after Davenport for the lead, assuming the point on lap 22. Landers led until his left rear wheel broke on lap 30. Landers slowed right in front

of Davenport forcing him to take evasive action. Davenport led the remaining 20 laps of the race to record the victory. A tire and wheel from Mike Benedum's car came off on the final lap, and stacked the field for a final drag race to the checkered flag. Davenport pulled away and sailed on to the victory in convincing style.

In preliminary action, Jonathan Davenport set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time (Group A) amongst the 32 entrants, with a lap of 15.213 seconds. Jared Landers set the fastest time in Group B with a time of 15.461 seconds. Jonathan Davenport, Ross Bailes, Earl Pearson Jr. and Billy Moyer Jr. won their respective heat races. Kenny Pettyjohn and Gregg Satterlee won their respective B-Mains.

Pearson moved into second place on lap 31 and stayed there throughout the remainder of the race. Despite three cautions over the last 19 laps of the race, Pearson could never get close enough after the restarts to challenge Davenport.

Sheppard, like Davenport had run well the two previous nights without the results to show for it. We felt like we had a car that could have won either night. To finish third tonight after changing engines from last night, we will take it and head to East Bay.

Earl Pearson Jr's 29th career Lucas Oil Late Model Series victory was one of his most memorable victories. In front of



his hometown fans, the 4-time LOLMDS National Champion won the Friday Night event at the Georgia Boot Super Bowl of Racing feature.

Eddie Carrier passed Brandon Sheppard on the final lap on the first night of the Georgia Boot Super Bowl of Racing at Golden Isles Speedway on Thursday night. Carrier picked up the \$7000 prize money.

For the latest breaking news on the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, log onto www.lucasdirt.com and follow the series on www.facebook.com/lucasdirt, www.twitter.com/lucasdirt, and www.instagram.com/lucasdirt.

The next Southern Thunder Late model series will be at North Florida speedway on March 28. Visit www.southernthunderlatemodelseries.blogspot.com for more details on the series.

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