

Winter Freeze VI - World of Outlaws Winners: Clanton & Eckert

Story & Photos by Phillip Prichard, MSA

In the first World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series event of 2016, forty-six super late models assembled at Sylvania, GA for an action packed weekend.

Defending World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series champion Shane Clanton rocketed around both Josh Richards and Jason Covert to claim the season opener at Screven Motor Speedway's Winter Freeze VI.

Clanton started from the sixth position but made quick work powering his way into the top three. Richards, who is in the midst of a hot streak at Golden Isles & East Bay Speedways, drew the pole-position after winning his heat race earlier in the night.

Richards led just two laps before second place starter Covert battled past. Covert controlled the field for the first half of the race but could never pull away from Richards and eventually a hard-charging Clanton.

Clanton saw an opening in turn four on lap 15 when Richards pulled even with Covert for the lead. Clanton rocketed his car to the outside of the leaders, creating a three-wide drag race for the lead as they approached lapped traffic.

Clanton, a native of Zebulon, GA, completed the pass in turn one on the following lap, with Richards settling into second. Richards stayed glued to

Clanton's back bumper, taking shots at the leader on multiple occasions, Clanton held on to the lead and won the opening night of Winter Freeze VI at Screven Motor Speedway.

The top ten of the Winter Freeze VI Night 1 at Screven Motor Speedway results – A-Main (40 Laps): 1. Shane Clanton (\$8,400), 2. Josh Richards (\$4,200), 3. Brian Shirley (\$2,800), 4. Brandon Overton (\$2,550), 5. Jason Covert (\$2,600), 6. Paul Wilmoth Jr. (\$1,850), 7. Chub Frank (\$1,600), 8. Dennis Franklin (\$1,250), 9. Rick Eckert (\$1,350), 10. Donald Bradsher (\$1,000).

On the final night of Winter Freeze VI, Rick Eckert of York, PA battled Chris Ferguson and held off Boom Briggs to score his first World of Outlaws Craftsman® Late Model Series victory of the season.

Eckert started the A-main from the second row with Donald Bradsher grabbing the pole-position. Bradsher who explained he was "just happy to make the feature" earlier in the night, would not start the final event.

Jason Covert, who finished fifth on the first night of Winter Freeze VI, inherited the first starting position, but lost the lead once the green-flag dropped to second place starter Chris Ferguson. Ferguson dominated the majority of the race, leading 38 laps before tire issues derailed his night, resulting in a disappointing 22nd place finish.

Before the tire issues, a hard-charging Eckert bumped his way around Ferguson for the lead. Once out front, Eckert extended his lead on second place Boom Briggs.

Briggs, who came up just short at the end of the feature started the 50-lap feature near the middle of the pack. After fighting his way to the front, the Bear Lake, PA native brought home the runner-up position, improving on his 18th place finish on the first night of the double-header.

The top ten of the Winter Freeze VI Night 2 at Screven Motor Speedway results – A-Main (50 Laps): 1. Rick Eckert- \$10,750; 2. Boom Briggs- \$5,700; 3. Jason Covert- \$3,600; 4. Frank Heckenast Jr. - \$3,200

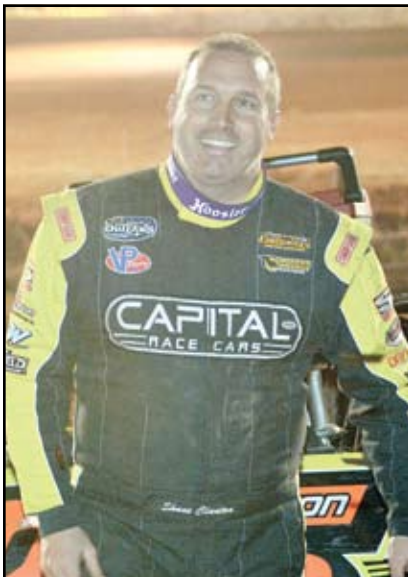
5. Casey Roberts- \$2,000; 6. Billy



Moyer Jr. - \$2,100; 7. Josh Richards - \$2,100; 8. Morgan Bagley- \$2,000; 9. Chub Frank- \$1,800; 10. Billy Ogle Jr.- \$1,150.

Screven Motor Speedway first opened its doors in 1997. It is a banked oval track that features turns that are approxi-

mately 100 feet wide and a backstretch that is 100 feet wide as well. This allows three-wide racing around the entire track. Known nationally as the "Action Track of the South." Check out <http://www.screvenmotorsports.com/>.



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