

Speedfest 2016 Winners - Bubba Pollard and John Hunter Nemechek

Story by Phillip Prichard, MSA/ Photos by David Griffin

Thirty of the best asphalt late model racers gave fans a great race at SpeedFest at the Crisp Motorsports Park (Watermelon Speedway) in Cordele, GA. In an almost a repeat of the 2015 200-lap race, Bubba Pollard, John Hunter Nemechek and William Byron fiercely battled on the final laps.

Pollard took the lead on Lap 199 when he got inside Nemechek with William Byron running third. Byron tapped Pollard who got into Nemechek, causing the leader to spin. Officials determined Byron caused the malady was penalized.

Bubba Pollard held off Harrison Burton by a nose to win the ARCA/CRA Super Series SpeedFest 200. Pollard only led three laps but he led the most important checkered flag lap.

Drivers from all over the United States assembled in Cordele for the first race of the season. Zane Smith traveled from California and Noah Gragson traveled from Nevada. Sixteen states and Canada were represented.

Wisconsin driver Ty Majeski lead the first 100 laps, followed by Bradbon Setzer taking the lead next. On Lap 175, Majeski and Setzer got together, ending Setzer's day. The caution flew five times in the last 20 laps.

NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion Kyle Busch battled an ill-handling race car for the entire race. While running 11th on lap 136, Busch would wreck on Turn 3 and ending up in the mud. Busch finished 24th.

Rounding out the top ten were Harrison Burton, Zane Smith, Noah Gragson, Cole Anderson, Christian Eckes, Brennan Poole, Scotty Ellis, Steve Dorer and Joey Padgett.

Zane Smith set the fast time for the ARCA/CRA Super Series portion of SpeedFest 2016 at Crisp Motorsports Park with a blistering lap of 15.698 seconds. He beat out John Hunter Nemechek by half a tenth of a second.

John Hunter Nemechek set the quick time for the 125-lap JEGS CRA All-Stars Tour race. He started ninth in the 24-car field due to the inversion. Chris Dilbeck started on the pole leading the first 62-laps. On a restart after a caution, Nemechek made a daring three-wide move to take the lead and propel him to the checkered flag and the win for the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour SpeedFest 125.

Rounding out the top ten were Chris Dilbeck, Casey Roderick, Bret Holmes, Steve Dorer, Chandler Smith, Phil Bozwell, Andy Bozwell, Dalton Grindle, Christopher Tullis and Justin Wakefield.

SpeedFest consisted of a 200 lap ARCA/CRA Super Series Late Model special non-points event and a 125 lap JEGS/CRA All Stars Tour Pro Late model special non-points races.

Check out <http://cra-racing.com/> and <http://www.crispmotorsportspark.com/> for more information and events.



RACE FEST 2016 ACTION



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