

Bubba Pollard Scores Big Win at GMP's Inaugural PASS South Event

July 16, 2001 - In a thrilling race that ended with a door-to-door finish at the wire, Bubba Pollard inched by veteran-racer Augie Grill to capture the Racing Radios 100 win at Gresham Motorsports Park. This was Bubba's tenth win of the 2011 season, his first PASS South career win and — even though he won the GMP Super Late Model Championship in 2010 — his first win at the new Gresham Motorsports Park!

"I have wanted to win here so bad since they built this place. After a great battle like that, it means that much more to have this trophy going back home with us. We used to run well here on the old track and now we got one on the new surface," said Pollard in victory lane.

Pollard, who set the fast time, started from the sixth spot after the top-ten qualifiers had a mandatory pill draw for their starting positions.

When the green flew, Bubba quickly moved into the third spot with Augie moving up to fourth as they followed leaders Andy Loden and Steven Legendre when the first caution of the night flew on lap 19 for a spin in turn four.

Bubba immediately moved into second on the restart with Augie close in third. On lap 25, Grill moved under Pollard. The race ran — Loden way out front with Grill and Pollard following — until the second caution of the night fell on lap 96 — setting up a four lap shootout for the checkered.

Andy Loden chose the inside for the double-file restart with Augie on the outside. Bubba was inside second row. All of the fans in attendance knew that this was gonna' be good!

As the green flag flew, Loden led the 97th lap — and his last of the race! Grill launched into the top spot! Bubba fell to fourth and another quick caution fell on lap 97.

For the final restart on the night, Grill selected the bottom leaving the outside for Loden with Pollard on his bumper at the top of row two!

Green flag! Grill and Loden drag-raced through turns one and two with Bubba in tow!

Loden washed up the track in turns three and four allowing Pollard to move into second — and then immediately drove to Augie's door. The two raced side-by-side for the last lap and a half with Bubba edging past Grill at the line in an exhilarating finish!

Preston Peltier, Stephen Nasse, and Andy Loden rounded out the top five in this awe-inspiring event.

"I knew we needed to have a caution there at the end to pull it off," said Pollard. "We set fast time and where marching forward, but a long run got us a ways back from the lead so we needed that late-race yellow. We were banking on a late race caution and it almost hurt our strategy, but sure enough we got one with four to go."

Another note, Jason Bates is getting back on track at GMP after a slow start to his season. He captured the win in the Outlaw Late Model division on this evening. This follows a second place finish back in June. He's giving the credit to Roscoe, his crew chief.

-Rocky Sinyard

Photos by MSA Staff




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