

**ARMISTEAD, SCOTT AND CASUEY
GET ON TRACK WHILE MORAN
AND BLACK RETURN TO NEW
SENOIA RACEWAY VICTORY LANE**

By Katherine Adams
Photos by Francis Hauke

May 1, 2011 (Senoia, GA) On a night that was filled with great racing and shining moments, Joe Armistead, Jr., was beaming the brightest. The Senoia hot shoe bested the field in the Mike Wheeler's Automotive & Transmission Late Models to pocket the \$1000 pay day. Craig Scott, the 'Zero Hero' from Newnan, topped the field in the Crown Security Crate Late Model division while Whitesburg's Jason Causey outlasted everyone to nab the laurels in the Newnan Bonding B-Cadets. All three drivers picked up their first wins of the season at the 3/8ths mile dirt track New Senoia Raceway.

The Mike Wheeler's Automotive & Transmission Late Model feature started with a bang and in the wrong way for last week's victor Rucker Orr. On the initial drop of the green Alabama's Lavon Sparks was slow to fire as Orr tried to sneak past on the inside. Orr slid up the track a little while Sparks was looking to get down on the track. The two hooked just past the flagstand with the end result Orr slamming the outside retaining wall and then collecting fellow Newnan competitor Steven 'The Iceman' Endicott. The crash ended the night for both competitors.

Armistead was fastest all night as he set a new season track record in qualifying (14.926 seconds) before leading the field flag to flag to pick up his first win of the season. Lavon Sparks came home second and secured the points lead. Shane Fulcher was third followed by the hard charger of the night 'Racin' Jason Williams and Glenn Morris.

It was a wire to wire victory in the Crown Security Crate Late Model feature Saturday night as Craig Scott nabbed the pole in qualifying. Last week's feature winner Tod Darda tried valiantly to make his ride stick on the outside for the first lap but eventually had to let Scott go and drop in behind him for the number two spot.

Two multi-car crashes slowed the field during the early laps of the main

event. Trey White spun in turn two on lap two collecting Thomas Lewis, Marty Lunsford, Troy Tyson and Parrish Duncan. One lap later, Matt Woodson spun in turn four collecting Doug Ludwig and Thomas Lewis again.

When the dust settled, Scott cruised to his first win of the 2011 campaign. Darda would finish in second place followed by Russ Ogletree, Tony 'The Tiger' Kemp and Chase Edge.

"It's good to see all the fans come out to watch us race," said Scott in victory lane. "The credit goes to this car and my crew. It was perfect tonight."

In the Newnan Bonding B-Cadet feature race, Billy Bright, Jr., looked to put his early season problems behind him as he snagged the lead at the drop of the green. Unfortunately, it was short lived as Bright's mount developed problems on lap three and had to drop out. Jason Causey inherited the lead with Jay Conner moving to second place.

Causey increased his lead to several car lengths as Conner's ride started to slip high in the corners. On lap 7, Billy Bright, Sr., moved past Conner and into second. One lap later, B-Cadet points leader Brand Lewis moved past to secure third place. Over the final ten laps of the race, Bright, Sr., would close the gap on the Causey only to see him pull away by a car length at the end. Lewis would end up third with Conner settling for fourth and Jeff Carter fifth.

Causey's win coupled with Bright, Sr.'s runner-up spot and Brand Lewis' third place finish places all three drivers in a tie for the Newnan Bonding B-Cadet point standings as they roll into this Saturday's racing action.

The top spot in the Summit Racing Equipment Hobby Stock points will change this week as Scott Sherrer had problems early and dropped out after the initial start of the race. Right there, ready to pounce on the opportunity, was his track rival Clifton 'Hog Head' Moran. The two cagey veterans have waged battles throughout the first month of the season.

Whitesburg's Blant Duke joined the battle this week winning the pole for the feature. He and Moran put on a fantastic show that had the fans on their feet many times. Moran would dive into the corners to try and get a run on Duke

only to have his car slide up a little allowing Duke to use the momentum of the upper groove to keep him out front.

A caution on lap 6 involving Randy Futral and Houston Hatchett bunched the field back up and also created an opportunity for Moran to try and rocket past Duke on the restart. When the green flew, Moran did exactly what most of the crowd anticipated, diving low to get side by side with Blant through the first two turns. The pair raced into turn three in the same position, but Moran touched the rear quarter panel of Duke which sent him spinning to the top side of the race track bringing out the caution.

New Senoia Raceway rules and procedures for racing altercations places both drivers at fault for the cause of the caution and both Moran and Duke were placed at the rear of the field.

Mike Jenkins inherited the point for the restart with Rusty Johnson and Todd Hatchett second and third. Johnson moved to the lead a lap and half later as most eyes in the grandstand were watching Duke and Moran charge back up from the rear of the field.

Moran completed his mad dash to the front on lap 11 when he retook the lead from Johnson. Duke completed his charge to the runner-up spot by lap 14 as Mike Jenkins worked back past Johnson in the waning laps to snare a third place finish. Johnson and George Purgason rounded the top five in a hard fought battle.

"They must not like me or something to put me to the back like that, my wheels never stopped, it's bull crap," said Clifton Moran to a chorus of boos, referring to the early race incident involving he and Blant Duke.

In the Mini Stock feature, Bo Chambers looked to be on his way to victory when the engine in his Ford Mustang blew up with four laps remaining. That created an opportunity for Gary Parker to challenge for his first win of the season. His challenge would end after he was pushed around in turn two by Marcus Snead. The leader had moved to the low side in turn one with current points leader Dusty Jones hot on his tail. Jones had his bumper on Parker as Snead pushed Jones into Parker causing Parker to go around.

High school senior Matt Black



inherited the lead and never looked back in a green, white, checkered finish for the four cylinder brigade. Marcus Snead would charge back to finish in second followed by Parker, Stephen Hill and Rocky Johnson.

It was a battle of attrition in the Bomber class main event and Griffin's David Johnson was the survivor.



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