

## Schaeffer's Oil Spring Nationals at Dixie Speedway

Story/Photos: Phillip Prichard, MSA

The Schaeffer's Oil Spring Nationals presented by Sunoco Race Fuel and Tennessee RV visited Dixie Speedway in Woodstock, GA for the second-race of the three event 2017 championship Memorial Day weekend and Dale McDowell of Chickamauga, GA would lead all 50 laps in route to the \$5,000 payday at the historic Swims-family promoted racing facility.

McDowell's victory would make him the sixth different winner in eight Spring Nationals Series events.

The initial start of the event would see the caution flag fly before all competitors completed the opening lap of the event

as Skip Arp would slow with mechanical issues in turn four. Once again got underway, Dale McDowell would take the race lead, with Donald McIntosh and Casey Roberts giving chase. Roberts would work past McIntosh for the runner-up slot on lap three as McDowell set a torrid pace out front. As race leader McDowell started working slower traffic on lap ten. McIntosh would challenge Roberts for the second position while tenth place starting Brandon Overton would move into the top five on the same circuit. But Roberts night would come to an end when he would draw the next caution of the contest with a flat right-rear tire on lap thirteen. A three-car tangle involving Kenny Collins,

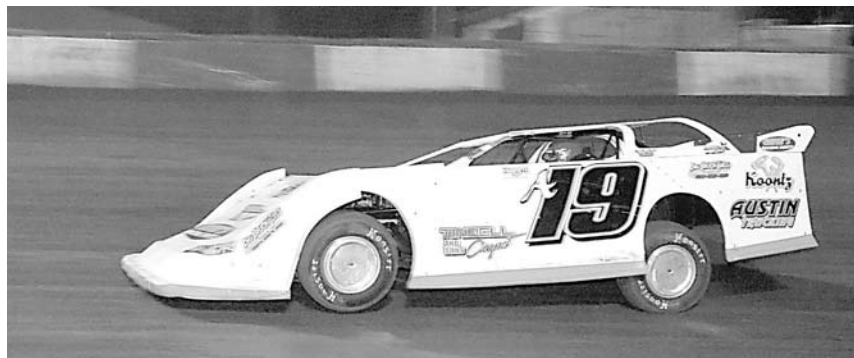


**\$5000.00 SATURDAY**

Austin Kirkpatrick, and Robby Moses in turn two would draw the caution flag on lap sixteen. The restart would see the final caution of the event wave when Jamie Oliver would loop his mount in turn two. The restart would see McDowell again motor away from the pack, while Overton would drive past McIntosh for the second position.

As the event neared the halfway point of the fifty-lap contest, McDowell would start the process working lapped traffic again, allowing Overton to close the gap on McDowell for the lead. McDowell would work lapped traffic to perfection during this point in the event, while Over-

ton continued to give chase. Meanwhile, thirteenth place starter Michael Page would make his way into the top five, taking the spot away from Austin Horton. McDowell and Overton would continue to work slower traffic and McDowell had lapped up to the ninth place running of David Payne by lap forty-two. McDowell would see his lead shrink as the field saw the five laps to go signal in lapped traffic, while Page would continue his charge as he would claim the fourth position from Croft on the same lap. McDowell would drive on to see the checkered flag first, while Overton would settle for second, and McIntosh finishing a distant third.



**JEFF SMITH: CRATE LATE MODEL WINNER**

## Dale McDowell Victory at Rome Speedway; Brandon Overton Wins Schaeffer's Spring Nationals Championship

Story/Photos: Phillip Prichard, MSA

The Schaeffer's Oil Spring Nationals presented by Sunoco Race Fuel and Tennessee RV would conclude its 2017 Schaeffer's Spring Nationals campaign and crown a series champion at Rome Speedway with Dale McDowell of Chickamauga, GA scoring the \$6,000 payday in the tour's finale, while Brandon Overton of Evans, GA would claim the 2017 Spring Nationals Series title. McDowell's victory would be his second-consecutive win on the tour.

Donald McIntosh would take the lead at the drop of the green flag to start the fifty-

lap affair with a 21-car field, with Dale McDowell, Derek Ellis, Brandon Overton, and Ricky Weiss in pursuit. McIntosh would hold a comfortable lead as he was set to start working slower traffic on lap ten, but the caution would wave on the same lap as Buddy George stopped on the track in turn three. The restart would again McIntosh maintain the lead, with McDowell giving chase, while Overton would pressure Ellis for third. Overton would take the third position from Ellis on lap thirteen, while McIntosh continued strong up front. McIntosh would start working slower traffic on



**BRANDON OVERTON 2017 CHAMP BY 14 POINTS**

lap twenty and it would be at this point that McDowell would begin to chop away at McIntosh's lead.

As the halfway signal was displayed, McDowell would close right in on McIntosh's rear bumper and the pair would duel side-by-side for the lead on lap thirty, with McDowell taking the lead one trip later on lap thirty-one. McDowell would stretch his lead at this point, only to see his advantage erased by a caution flag on lap thirty-seven for Todd Murphy's stopped machine in turn three. Overton was challenging McIntosh for the second position prior to the caution

and on the restart would take the runner-up slot, with Weiss scooting past Ellis for the fourth position on same lap. McDowell would hold a comfortable lead until encountering heavy traffic on lap forty-six, allowing Overton to close in on the leader. As the field saw the white flag, Overton would make one final run on McDowell for the win. However, McDowell would see the checkered flag first, with Overton trailing in second, and McIntosh settling for the third position. Weiss and Ellis would complete the top five.



**16 YEAR OLD AHNNA PARKHURST WON HER 1ST CRATE LATE MODEL RACE**