

The 48th Annual Amalie Motor Oil NHRA Gatornationals - John Force sets Milestone

By Phillip Prichard

John Force collected his eighth career Gatornationals Funny Car victory defeating rookie Jonnie Lindberg in the final, 3.92 to 3.97. The victory is the 148th of his hall of fame career and the round win is the 2500th collected by John Force Racing Funny Car drivers over the years, more than half of which (1,269) were collected by the man himself.

Tony Schumacher became the winningest Top Fuel driver in Gatornationals history collecting his fifth title by defeating teammate Antron Brown in the final, 3.70 to 3.76. It was Schumacher's first

Gators crown since he beat Brown in the 2010 final.

Don Garlits has been retired from fulltime active competition for nearly three decades, yet the famous Floridian is still tied for most Top Fuel wins at his home state event. It's a fact well known to today's Top Fuel pilots, who still revere him and revel in being mentioned in the same sentence.

Garlits won the Gators four times (1972, '77, '78, and '86), a total matched by both Tony Schumacher and Larry Dixon (as well as retired Joe Amato) while Doug Kalitta has three wins. To



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JOHN (LOVIN IT) FORCE-NHRA PHOTO

exceed or even tie the legendary "Swamp Rat" in any category is a major feat, but to do it at his hometown event would be almost in a class by itself.

Eddie Krawiec, won for the 37th time in his career and the fifth at Gainesville Raceway when he defeated teammate Andrew Hines in an all-Harley-Davidson final round. Krawiec rode to a 6.763 to hold off Hines, who grabbed a lead at the start but fell behind to a 6.802. Krawiec has now appeared in 64 final rounds.

Shane Gray became the third-different

Pro Stock winner in the first three events of the season when he defeated four-time champion Greg Anderson in the final round. After an even start, Gray, the No. 6 qualifier in his Gray Manufacturing Technologies Camaro, drove to a 6.535 for the win over Anderson's 6.560. Gray has now won six Pro Stock events in 14 final round appearances. Anderson has appeared in all three final rounds this season with one win and two runner-up finishes.

One of the wildest events in the history

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TONY SCHUMACHER WINNINGEST TOP FUEL DRIVER IN GATOR HISTORY-NHRA PHOTO



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