

**FULL FORCE**

By Jen McVay

March 16th 2014 Gainesville, Florida; the 45th Annual Amalie Oil Gatornational at Auto Plus Raceway.

John Force the 16 time Funny Car Champion qualified #16 with a not so impressive 4.38 ET 246.98mph. Force drove his Castro GTX Mustang, to his 12th final round appearance at the Gatornationals, and the 4th time he has been up against Robert Hight in the final round at a NHRA event. The Hight vs. Force matchup was the 40th all JFR Funny Car final and Hight's win was the 227th Funny Car win for JFR. As for Force he wasn't letting anything or anyone stand in his way to the final round not even first place funny car driver Cruz Pedregon, which Force beat in the first round of eliminations.

Not to be out done by her father Courtney Force came to Gainesville 12th in the Mello Yellow points standings, but after a semi-final finish she is comfortably holding on to the 10th position. After posting a 4.102 ET at 315.56mph she officially took the 5th place away from Matt Hagan with his time of 4.307 seconds and due to tire-smoking, that puts her 6-5 to him on race day. Her next competitor was Tim Wilkerson in which she beat. That set the stage for a Force vs. Force in the semi finals, at that time she got another schooled lesson in

funny car from team mate/boss/dad, when she smoked the tires and pedaled it to a 6.090 on the board.

The younger but just as competitive Brittany Force was not going to be in the shadows. Brittany made one of her best runs for that weekend. Then came her time to shine in round one, her competitor Doug Kalitta, this was the 5th time this season they have raced against each other. Unfortunately Brittany's 3.82 second ET and almost identical RT wasn't quite enough to beat Kalitta's 3.79 second ET. Brittany credits her team and crew chief Todd Smith and Dean "Guido" Antonelli for the awesome Castrol EDGE Dragster she had and even though they had some issues to fix and a couple of oops she still feels that the Castrol EDGE Dragster was good. She leaves Gainesville, FL in 7th place in points, and with NHRA Nationals only weeks away young Brittany Force has a taste for her first Top Fuel Win.

Unknown to a lot of people, Brand Source and John Force Racing have had a promotion going on where fans could enter to win multiple different prizes when one of JFR cars came in first or wins the event. In the 2013 season for John Force, Brand Source gave away 8 flat-screen TVs. And 9 washer & Dryers to lucky fans. More than 24,000 race fans registered to win prizes at the "Win with Force" display and another 91,000 fans signed up on line at BrandSource.com.

Photos by MSA Staff



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