

### Elliot Dynasty overthrown with DQ Jones captures back-to-back Snowballs

By Chuck Corder, [www.5flagsspeedway.com](http://www.5flagsspeedway.com)

The monarch has been sacked.

It was a virtual coronation Sunday of Chase Elliott's growing kingdom of trophies in Victory Lane at Five Flags Speedway rose another power in the Tech Shed.

A few short hours after Elliott had hoisted the Tom Dawson trophy for his second career Snowball Derby victory, he was stripped of the crown under technical inspection.

Instead, Erik Jones went from settling for second to successfully defending his historic 2012 Snowball Derby win by capturing a second consecutive crown.

Not surprisingly, Elliott had no comment to share about his feelings following the official ruling of "unapproved weight" to his No. 9 Super Late Model.

"It was all a fair process," Five Flags general manager Tim Bryant said. "There were no arguments from the Elliots on that."

Elliott and crew chief Ricky Turner have been simpatico for the duration of the 18-year-old's entire late model career.

"It was an oversight on my part," Turner told Speed51.com, short-track's online bible. "I messed up"

The disqualification meant Elliott's apparent weekend sweep of the 46th annual Snowball and Saturday night's Snowflake 100 for Pro Late Models went poof.

More importantly, it meant once-bridesmaid Jones was now back-to-back champion Erik Jones.

Last year the Byron, Mich., native outdueled NASCAR superstar Kyle Busch for the most coveted prize in short-track racing to become the 300 lapper's youngest winner.

This December, the 17-year-old drove the Kyle Busch Motorsports No. 51 into short-track lore by becoming part of an exclusive group that has won consecutive Snowballs.

Rich Bickle did it twice (1990-91, 1998-98), amazingly, and Augie Grill won the country's most prestigious race in 2007-08.

Ironic that the back half of Grill's two also came when Brian Icklar's 2008 win was tossed out in tech.

"It's pretty special to join that list," Jones said. "It puts my name on a list with some awesome racecar drivers. That's something pretty special to me."

Before he walked through another milestone, Jones' second-place finish was an impressive showing in a champion's role.

Not many drivers could say they've done that.

"It's hard to lose to Chase," Jones said moments afterward the race's conclusion, as he had to watch Elliott

pose for photos and get doused with water from his joyous team.

"He's my biggest competition. I like beating him more than running second."

Elliott, a Mozart of late models, dominated the 300 laps, a night after dominating the Snowflake 100.

He said in prerace introductions he expected to be the man to beat. He showed quickly that he wouldn't be intimidated by the field of hunters by mixing it up with lapped cars on Lap 26.

At one point he had lap the entire 37-car field, safe for 11 drivers.

"It means the world to me," the Dawsonville, Ga., native said. "I don't know what to say."

Instead, an authority on jaw-dropping performances offer his invaluable two cents.

"A weekend performance like this comes once in a lifetime."

Those were the immortal words of Bill Elliott, Chase's father who just so happens to have the nickname "Million Dollar" for his NASCAR Sprint Cup Series exploits in one dominant 1985 season.

Chase Elliott crossed the finish line, left index finger hanging outside the window net as the checkered flag waved wildly.

His legion of fans screamed for his attention as he ascended from the car with an emphatic and elated "Yes!"

The race had eight cautions for 71 laps, but two yellows were competition cautions as the race twice stayed green for 75 laps. Rules state the yellow must wave with that much green-flag racing.

Johann Long couldn't channel the magic of her 2010 title run, finishing a disappointing 17th and never was a factor.

Augie Grill (37th) and Bubba Pollard (31st), both perennial favorites for any late model event their names are entered in, had nightmarish days.

Grill's day was done before the opening green, doomed under pace laps.

"I was just spinning the tires with one to go and it just broke," said the two-time Snowball winner (2007, 2008). "It's heartbreaking. In the last two Snowballs, I haven't made it to the first pit stop."

Pollard, right in the thick of the top three for most of the race, couldn't make it out of the pits during a caution on Lap 221 due to a broken axle.

"It just broke before I could get out of the pits," he said. "With all that racing, the parts take a lot of abuse. It's disappointing ... we had a lot left for Chase."

Who knows? Maybe he did.

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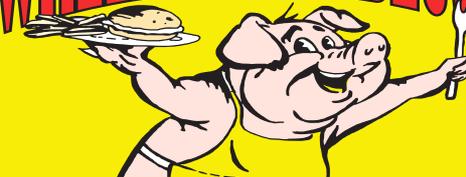
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**Erik Jones Declared Snowball Winner Following Tech Inspection of Chase Elliott's Car. Post Race tech discovered use of unapproved weight in car that started on the pole, and took the checkers 300 laps later.**

