

Salute to America's Nationals - Talladega Short Track

Story/Photos By: Phillip Prichard, MSA

Riley Hickman of Cleveland, TN swept the NeSmith Chevrolet Dirt Late Model Series Salute To America Nationals opening race on July 2nd at the Talladega Short Track, driving the Hickman Manufacturing CVR "House Car." Hickman set the fast time among the 40 entrants, and then led all 40 laps of the main event to becoming the 11th different winner in 12 races. He picked up the \$2000 check and trophy for his effort.

The defending and two-time NeSmith Chevrolet Dirt Late Model Series National Champion Ronnie Johnson of Chattanooga, TN finished second in the NeSmith Chevrolet Special and extended his point lead over Chase Edge of LaFayette, AL to 100 points.

The third spot went to 13-year-old Cruz Skinner of Oxford, AL in the Skinner's



CRUZ SKINNER BATTLES WITH RONNIE JOHNSON

Body Shop CVR. Skinner, who is the Sunoco Young Guns Challenge Series point leader for NeSmith Late Model drivers 18 years of age and younger, was also the second fastest qualifier, Josh Adkins of Talladega, AL took the fourth spot in CRM Motors GRT, and two-time NeSmith Chevrolet Dirt Late Model Series National Champion Eric Cooley of Fulton, MS was fifth in the Bryson Motorsports/Cooley Transport Special.

Joe Noogin of Boaz, AL finished sixth in the Noogin Body Shop GRT, and Matt Henderson of Loudon, TN drove the Rebel Diesel H2 Duayne Hommel Tribute Car to a seventh-place finish and was the Cruise With The Champions Rookie of the Race. The 2008 NeSmith Chevrolet Dirt Late Model Series National Champion Chip Brindle of Chatsworth, GA was eighth in the BDR Loopers and Clips Special.

Adam Cummings of Odenville, AL took the ninth spot in the Cummings Racing GRT, and Forrest Trent of Talbott, TN rounded out the top ten in the Trent Logging Rocket. Cody Martin of Christiana, TN started 22nd and finished 12th to earn the Beyea Headers Hard Charger of the Race Award driving the Martin Motorsports Warrior.

In preliminary action, Hickman set fast time honors among the 40 entrants with a lap of 15.132 seconds. The three ten-



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lap B-Main races were won by Noogin, Jimmy Thomas of Phenix City, AL in the Five Star Hyundai Special, and 13-year-old Sunoco Young Guns Challenge Series driver Will Roland of Jasper, GA in the Roland Tire Warrior.

The Super Late Model win went to Jason Hiatt. Second place was nailed down by Terry Smith; third was Jake Knowles; right on his bumper was Tim Roszell for fourth and TJ Alford was fifth in the 16 car field at Talladega Short Track.

Dallas Cooper won the Sportsman division. Tyler Hurst drove a heck of a race to claim the win and the \$750 prize money in the Nesmith Street Stocks division in the 18 car pack. Amory Chambers of Cullman, AL claimed his first ever win at Talladega Short Track in the Thunder Division.

The Riteway Auto Sales Hot Shot action concluded the early morning with Jimmy McAvoy in the winner's circle.

Contact <http://www.nesmithracing.com/> about the NeSmith Series. Contact <http://www.talladegashorttrack.com/> for their schedule and other information.



JASON HEITT-SUPER LATE MODEL WINNER

Dale McDowell, Jeff Smith & 13 year-old Will Roland - Rome Speedway Winners

Story/Photos By: Phillip Prichard, MSA

Rome Speedway held their Independence Day Celebration with a 40 Lap, \$3000 to win Super Late Model Race on 28 June plus Crate Late Model, Steelhead Late Model, Economy Bomber, Super Bomber, Pony Stock and Cruiser races and a gigantic fireworks show. A packed house of fans was thrilled by the intense racing action and the firework show.

Dale McDowell was the fastest qualifier of the Super Late Models with a lap time of 14.48 second on the half-mile semi-banked oval. The Chickamauga, GA driver, Dale McDowell started on the front row with Jason Heitt. The starting line up was set straight from the qualifying order. McDowell led the 40 lap feature from flag to flag. The feature was slowed slightly by three cautions, on laps 12, 18 and 36. Ray Cook started in the seventh position and charged to finished third. Cook and Ronnie Johnson battled throughout the 40 laps.

The top fifteen of the twenty-nine Super Late Models (1) 17m - Dale McDowell; (2) 1 - Jason Heitt; (3) 53 - Ray Cook; (4) 2 - Ryan Gifford; (5) 99 - Derek Ellis; (6) 9 - Jason Croft; (7) 6 - Jake Knowles; (8) A19 - Ronnie Johnson; (9) 11 - Austin

Smith; (10) 59 - Dale Thurman; (11) 81 - Aaron Ridley; (12) 21 - Joe Armistead Jr; (13) 41 - TJ Reaid; (14) 111 - Bo Shirley; (15) 3 - Luther Jenkins.

13 year old Will Roland of Jasper, GA won the Crate Late Model Race. He battled with Shane Smith in the #4 but the youngster dominated the last half of the race. This was Will's first Crate Late Model win. The top ten were rounded out by (2) 05 - TJ Brittain; (3) 4 - Shane Smith; (4) 54 - Hunter Jones; (5) 08 - Justin Shipley; (6) 12 - Drew Deaver; (7) 87 - Zach Pilcher; (8) 23 - Ahnna Parkhurst; (9) 9 - Josh Walker; and (10) 94 - Justin Gravely.

The Steel Head/525 Late Model Race was won by Jeff Smith who dominated the race. Second through Ten finishers were: (2) 16 - Austin Horton; (3) c87 - Chris Fennell; (4) 18 - Matt Dooley (525); (5) 21 - Joey Armistead; (6) 07 - Matt Helbing; (7) 1B - Don Jenkins; (8) 22 - Alan Brewer; (9) 37 - Jimmy Price and (1) 43 - Billy Dean.

Other series winners were: Super Bomber - Daniel Brewer (D22); Economy Bomber - Austin Smith (84); Pony Stock - Jamie Cross (55) and Cruisers - John Sexton (15).

Rome Speedway will be back in action



McDOWELL AND HEITT STARTED ON FRONT ROW IN FRONT OF PACKED CROWD



RAY COOK AND RONNIE JOHNSON BATTLE



ROLAND WIDE OPEN

on July 26 for the Ray Cook Schaeffer's Oil Southern Nationals \$5300 To Win + a Full Racing Program. Rome will host the Rome Boss \$3000 To Win + a Full Racing Program on September 6 and the Lucas

Oil Rome Showdown \$10,000 To Win on October 4. Visit <http://www.dixiespeedway.com/> for Dixie and Rome Speedways schedules and information.