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O'REILLY AUTO PARTS FRIDAY NIGHT DRAGS



O'Reilly Auto Parts Friday Night Drags, the popular street-style drag racing series and one of the largest organized programs of its kind in the country, resumed with Week 5 and the official 2016 points opener at Atlanta Motor Speedway Friday night.

With an explosive stunt by Benny the Bomb to help usher in the highly competitive points competition for 2016, drivers gripped their wheels and strapped for a night of high-speed stakes and an early lead in the championship standings.

One of the 17 drivers to rise into the top spot in his racing division was Howard Wolf of Marietta, who edged out Jonesboro's Richard Riggi in the evening's final race of the Summit Racing Equipment Sportsman Division. Wolf, who pilots a 1999 Chevrolet Corvette, has been racing on the pit lane drag strip since the series' inception 10 years ago and said he enjoys the easy-going, laidback atmosphere just as much as the racing.

"I've been coming out here since Day 1, actually," he said. "It's a relaxed atmosphere. It's not like other tracks."

As far as maintaining his lead atop the standings as the season progresses, Wolf offered a candid if not humble answer.

"It might be the only time this year," he said with a chuckle.

Wolf will attempt to remain atop the standings in Week 2 among a crowded Summit Racing Equipment Sportsman Division with a lineup of more than 30 current entries.

In the Harbin's Mechanical Services Super Pro Division, Robert Chaney made it four straight wins to open the season, beating out chal-

lenger Tony Byrd, while Dewayne Bethune, Damon Waldrop and Jamar Copes each posted their second consecutive wins in the Diesel Truck Division, Sport Compact Division and U.S. Marines Division respectively.

Other notable winners who captured early leads in the points standings include McDonough's David Clevenger in the Active Pest Control Pro Division, Mike Capazzoli of Williamson in the Harding Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Domestic Division and Kelly Morgan of Jonesboro in the HeadsUpGeorgia.com Street Modified Division.

June 3 race winners:

Harbin's Mechanical Services Super Pro Division
Robert Chaney (Stockbridge); 2012 American Dragster

Active Pest Control Pro Division
David Clevenger (McDonough); 1969 Chevrolet Nova

Summit Racing Equipment Sportsman Division
Howard Wolf (Marietta); 1999 Chevrolet Corvette

Harding Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Domestic Division
Mike Capazzoli (Williamson); 1968 Ford Mustang

HeadsUpGeorgia.com Street Modified Division
Kelly Morgan (Jonesboro); 1968 Ford Mustang

Peach Pass Factory Street Division
Keith Shockey (Fayetteville); 2015 Dodge Challenger

MetroPCS Tuner Division
Amanda Ledbetter (Peachtree City); 2012 Ford Mustang

Domestic Advanced Division
Jon Stovall; 2006 Dodge Viper

Truck Advanced Division
James Hames (McDonough); 1978 Ford Bronco

Diesel Truck Division
Dewayne Bethune (Covington); 2006 Dodge Ram 2500

Truck Division
Shelton Maynard (Hampton); 1972 Chevrolet C-10

Sport Compact Division
Damon Waldrop (McDonough); 1993 Honda Civic

Super Bike Division
Tony Freeman (Stockbridge); 2012 Suzuki

Sport Bike Division
Bryan Berube (Forest Park); 2006 Suzuki

U.S. Marines Motorcycle Division
Jamar Copes (Locust Grove); 2007 Suzuki

Cruiser Division
Brandon Hatfield (Forsythe); 2007 Honda ST1300

ATV/Dirt Bike Division
Wayne Cline (Griffin); Yamaha

Entry to drag race or for the Show-N-Shine is just \$20 or competitors can purchase a combo ticket for \$30. Spectator tickets are just \$8, and children 5 and under are free. More information can be found at www.atlantamotorspeedway.com/drags or by calling the Atlanta Motor Speedway Ticket Office at (770) 946-4211.

*Story and photo courtesy of
Atlanta Motor Speedway*