

# Kwasniewski Makes History at Road Atlanta

Story and photos by Phillip Prichard

Dylan Kwasniewski made history at the Road Atlanta 115, winning both the race that he dominated and the 2013 NASCAR K&N Pro Series East championship.

Kwasniewski started on the pole due to qualifying being rained out and he dominated the race by leading all 28 laps. The fast paced race only took 45 minutes and 59 seconds with an average speed of 92.799 mph. Kwasniewski had a 5.5 second lead at the checkered flag of the 2.54 mile road course.

Kwasniewski, who became the youngest champion in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series West, last year, became the first driver to win both titles in both series.

Leading Brett Moffitt in the championship by five points as the race started, Kwasniewski was home free being out front, the championship suspense quickly ended as Moffitt had transmission problems that knocked him out of second-place on lap six and eventually out of the race. Moffitt finished 24th, giving Kwasniewski the title by 33 points.

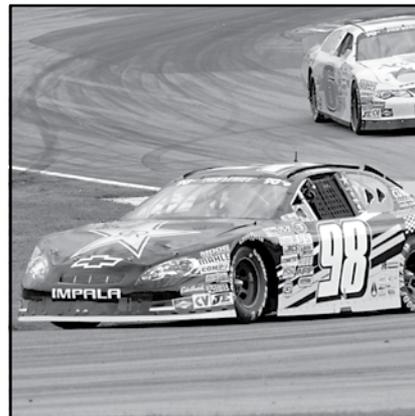
Kwasniewski entered this season with one goal to win this championship. Crew chief, Marty Lindley and the rest of my Turner Scott Motorsports team was influential in Kwasniewski in winning the championship. Rockstar Energy Drink and Royal Purple had enough faith in Kwasniewski to make the jump from the West to the East. He stated that he was much

honored to bring them another championship."

Daniel Suárez crossed the line in second for his sixth top-five finish of the campaign and Bryan Ortiz finished third. Andrew Ranger finished fourth followed by rookie Cole Custer in fifth.

Ben Kennedy, Scott Heckert, Brandon Gdovic, Dale Quarterley and Austin Dyne completed the top-10 finishers.

Kwasniewski, a member of the NASCAR Next program, also became the first driver since Mike Stefanik to notch championships in two different series in consecutive years. Stefanik won the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and K&N Pro Series East titles in both 1997 and 1998. NASCAR Next is an industry initiative that spotlights young, talented drivers within the NASCAR ranks.



## Gresham Motorsports Park Taps Close For Interim General Manager Position

Gresham Motorsports Park (GMP) announced that John Close has been named as the Interim General Manager of the Jefferson, GA motorsports and event complex.

Close - a 30-year professional motorsports media and marketing specialist - served as the Communications Director at GMP in 2009-2010.

"It's a homecoming of sorts for me," stated Close. "It was a great honor to be associated with GMP when we reopened in 2009. Now, I am very fortunate to

again be a part of the team at one of the best and most modern motorsports and event facilities in the United States. For a life-long 'racer' like me, it doesn't get any better than this."

According to Track Properties LLC president Jim Gresham, Close's hiring will mark a new direction for the 88-acre Georgia racing and public event complex.

"John's wide range of experience at multiple levels of the racing - including an extensive media, marketing and business career in NASCAR - is going to help

GMP expand its brand and events both locally and nationally in 2014," stated Gresham. "GMP will be hosting more and a wider variety of races this coming season. There are also several other new community events John and our GMP management team have on the drawing board. We're looking forward to our best season ever."

"We're definitely going to have more races this season," echoed Close. "Not only on the GMP half-mile oval, but also on the quarter-mile track. It's important



that we give local racers a place and an opportunity to compete. We're also developing some events that will allow fans to bring their personal daily drivers, custom and classic cars, hot rods, trucks, and bikes to GMP and put them through their paces. GMP is going to be a very busy, fun place to be in 2014."



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