

Scott Bloomquist Victorious in Optima Batteries Dirt Track World Championship Race Don O'Neal Wins Championship

Story & photos by Phillip Prichard, MSA

Eighty-nine Late Models entered the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series finale at Portsmouth (OH) Raceway Park on the second weekend of October. Scott Bloomquist led the final 39 laps to win his second career Optima Batteries Dirt Track World Championship -Presented by NAPA Auto Parts. Bloomquist earned \$50,000 for the victory.

Eddie Carrier Jr. finished second, followed by Jimmy Owens, Don O'Neal, and Jason Feger. Don O'Neal with his fourth place finish clinched the 2014 Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series National Championship. O'Neal finished 65 points ahead of Owens in the final tally to capture his first series title after three runner-up finishes.

Bloomquist was the fourth different leader of the race after a torrid battle for the lead with Jimmy Owens. He cleared Owens for the final time on lap 61, and maintained his blistering pace, right to the end.

Carrier charged to the second spot on lap 95, but he could not close the gap on the front-running Bloomquist towards the end. Carrier had a great season especially with winning the North/South 100. He

said they are learning week-to-week with these Rocket cars and we feel we can come back next year and compete for a championship.

Jimmy Owens finished third to cap off the 2014 season on the tour. Owens' car was the same car we flipped at Knoxville a few weeks ago. He stated they were going for the win, and however the points fell in the way it was meant to be. Owens had a good season with this Club 29 car, he said they learned a lot, took a lot of notes, and looking forward to coming back next year to get the title back.

Completing the top ten were Billy Moyer, Dennis Erb, Jr., Dale McDowell, Steve Francis, and Tim McCreddie.

Lap Leaders: Billy Moyer (Laps 1 - 12); Eddie Carrier Jr. (Lap 13); Billy Moyer (Laps 14 - 39); Jimmy Owens (Laps 40 - 41); Scott Bloomquist (Laps 42 - 53); Jimmy Owens (Laps 54 - 60); Scott Bloomquist (Laps 61 - 100). Six Cautions: Debris (Lap 25); Brandon Overton (Lap 29); # (Lap 63); Tim McCreddie (Lap 70); Jackie Boggs, John Blankenship (Lap 70); Jared Landers (Lap 71).

In preliminary action, RJ Conley set the overall Miller Welders Fast Time



(Group A) amongst the 89 entrants, with a lap of 14.706 seconds. Jason Feger set the fastest time in Group B with a time of 15.015 seconds. Jonathan Davenport, Billy Moyer, Scott Bloomquist, Don O'Neal, Jimmy Owens and Eddie Carrier Jr. won their respective heat races. Earl Pearson Jr., Brandon Overton, and Dustin

Linville won their respective B-Mains. Scott James won the Jim Dunn Memorial Non-Qualifiers Race.

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