

JOHN FORCE WINS TOYOTA NATIONALS FOR FOURTH TIME

Story courtesy of Elon Warner/JFR Racing
Photos by Gary Nastase

John Force was racing in his 246th final round and he picked up his 147th win today at the NHRA Toyota Nationals at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Force won for the second time in the Countdown to the Championship and outran his daughter Courtney Force in the 47th all JFR Funny Car final. The 16-time champion moved up from No. 7 to No. 5 in the Mello Yello point standings and just seven points out of fourth place.

"They told me all I had to do was win this race and I had a shot at (Ron) Capps then I found out at the top end that wasn't the case. I want a recount," joked Force.

In a classic final round John Force pulled up beside his youngest daughter for the fifth time in a final round. The pair of Force's had split the previous four races and today it was the elder Force to take the rubber-match win.

"I never like defeating my daughter but we got two wins in the Countdown but we were just a little bit late. It is pretty exciting to see the stands that packed. We have sold out crowds and our TV with FOX is really hopping. I have young kids running this PEAK Chevrolet led by (crew chief) Jon Schaffer. We are building a young group for the future," said Force. "All the sponsors have been really good to me like PEAK, Chevrolet, Monster Energy, Traxxas and Auto Club. I am just glad we gave the fans a good show. Courtney left on me. I rolled deep on her and she still got the jump on me. I am excited to be in the hunt with these kids."

Courtney Force and the Traxxas Chevrolet Camaro took a starting line advantage but the now four-time Toyota Nationals winner quickly caught up to her and at the stripe. It was John with a winning time

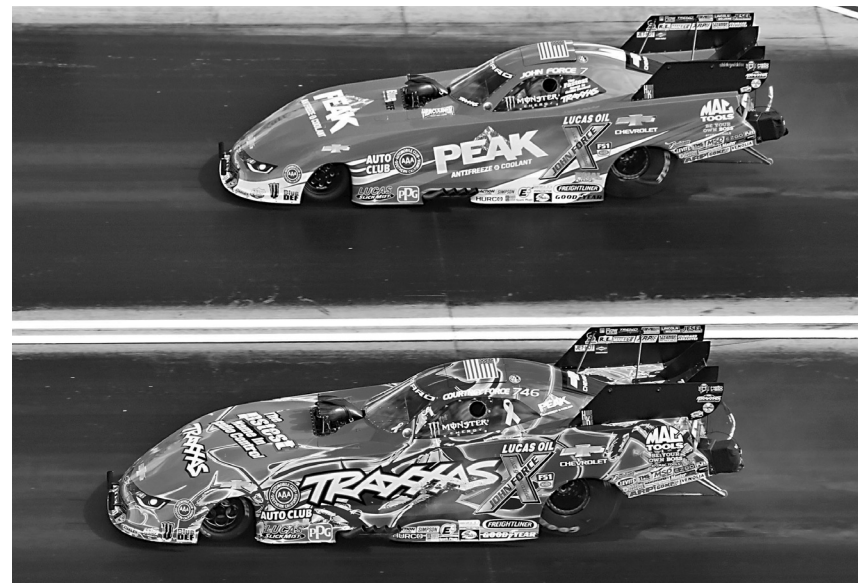
of 3.884 seconds at 327.19 mph against Courtney's 3.906 second run at 325.85 mph. That was Courtney Force's lone run on race day outside the 3.8 second range and it was Force's only 3.8 second run of the day.

"I think we had a great race day with our Traxxas Chevrolet Camaro. Honestly we turned this car around when it counted for race day and to have three consistent 3.88 passes is pretty unbelievable. So I am really proud of my guys," said Force from the Traxxas pit area. "And to go into the final and run a 3.90 and a really close race with dad, you know we gave it all we got. He was able to get around me for the win and it was definitely a fun race and a close one. Having an all Force and all Chevy final was great and definitely what we need to do. I hope to continue doing it in Pomona and all of next season. So just happy with where we were at today and I think we definitely made some moves in the points."

This was the second time that John Force has taken the event win away from Courtney Force at the Toyota Nationals. In 2013 John clinched his 16th Funny Car championship with a final round win over Courtney.

John Force, the all-time Funny Car winner, now has 98 more Funny Car wins than Ron Capps who sits in the No. 2 spot and more impressively Force now has 50 more wins than Hall of Fame Pro Stock driver Warren Johnson who is No. 2 on the all-time NHRA win list.

"You know the next race is the final race of the season and to be able to end on a good note is what we want to do. We want to end strong. I am proud of the success that we have had in our 2016 season. We had some wins and some killer runs and we want to end at Pomona with a win and take it home," summed up Force.



COURTNEY JOHN FORCE FINAL



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FORCE (PEAK RACINE CREW)