

Hickory Motor Speedway Hosts the 2nd Annual Finish Line Heating and Air Fall Classic

Story and photos by Phillip Prichard

Hickory Motor Speedway known as the "Birthplace of NASCAR Stars" and the "The World's Most Famous Short Track" began operation in 1951. The Hickory Motor Speedway is known as the longest continually operated motor speedway in the country. Drivers such as Junior Johnson, Ned Jarrett, and Ralph Earnhardt became track champions in the 1950s, Earnhardt alone winning five of them.

On a perfect night for racing, 28 September, Hickory Motor Speedway hosted the 2nd Annual Finish Line Heating and Air Fall Classic consisting of four series: Gold King Super Trucks, Ford Focus Midgets, Paramount KIA Limited Late Models and the Wrench Rags Renagades. Prior to the races, the speedway had an autograph session with all of the series participating on the front stretch. The speedway had a number of events for kids including inflatable bounce display, face painting, and free candy during the autograph session.

The Super trucks were the first event of the evening running 25 laps. The last lap was definitely wreckers or checkers with the winner Doug Barnes Jr., 88 battling with the Jason Cochran, 91C and wrecking at the start finish line. The 88 had to be towed by the wrecker back to the



MIDGET WINNER# 29

winner's circle and Doug Barnes being transported to the start finish line in the ambulance, where he had been checked out. The top three finishers were: #1 Doug Barnes Jr, 88; #2 Jason Cochran, 91C and #3 Spencer Boyd, 09B.

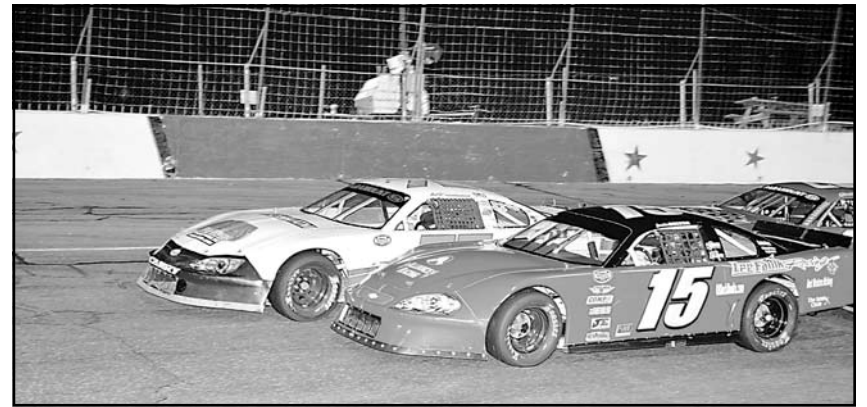
The Ford Focus Midgets ran a 35 lap



A LITTLE PILE UP IN THE LATE MODEL DIVISION

feature. Ryan Krachum, #29 took the checkered flag with Chris Lamb #9 taking second and Tyler Corriher, #12 being third.

The 100 Lap Limited Late Model Feature began with a driver introduction session on the front stretch. Danny Willis, Jr., #23 of South Boston, VA started on the pole of the 28 car feild. The race had a lot of beating and banging of the cars from mid pack toward the rear. The biggest wreck was a seven car wreck with the #32 of Brandon Grosso suffering the most damage. Justin Bolton of Greenburg, PA in the 15J took the checkered flag. Landon Huffman in the 75H was second and Jeremy Pelfrey in the 51 was third. Pefrey's



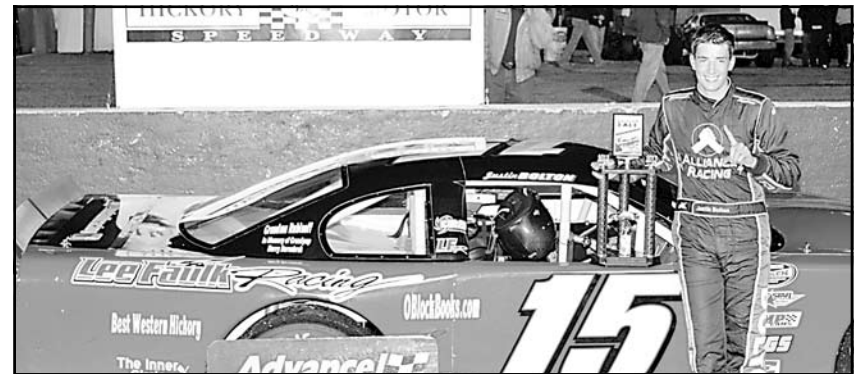
15 AND 75 RACING FOR LATE MODEL WIN

company Finish Line Heating and Air was the sponsor the 2nd Annual Fall Classic.

The final race of the evening was the WrenchRags Renagads, 20 lap feature. A pretty uneventful race except one spin out of the #22. Shawn Hayes in the #77 powered by the leaders on the last lap to take the checkered flag but was later disqualified in a post-race inspection . Greg Austin in the #4 was credited with first place,

Blake Walker in the #09 took second and Danny Crump in the 68C was third.

Hickory Motor Speedway shows it history in The Wall of Fame located near the main entrance, that includes Bobby Isaac, Ned Jarrett, Junior Johnson, Richard Petty, Morgan Shepherd, Sam Ard, Andy Petree, Dr. Jerry Punch, Wayne Auton, Buster Auton, Mike Beam, Harry Gant and Buddy Baker.



JUSTIN BOLTON-LATE MODEL WINNER



DOUG BARNES WAS THE WINNER IN THE #88 TRUCK



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