

## Rome Speedway Concludes 2014 season with Rome Showdown

Story & photos by: Phillip Prichard, MSA

Rome Speedway concluded their 2014 season on Sunday, October 5th for a near capacity crowd. The evening of racing consisted of the Lucas Oil Dirt Late Model Series, the Steelhead Late Models, the Crate Late models, the Econo Bomber Class and the Pony class.

The evening kicked off with hot laps for each class; Heat Races for the Crate and Steelhead Late Models; Qualifying for the Lucas Oil Late Models with 34 Super Late Models entrants, Scott Bloomquist set the fast time of 13.045 seconds; the Econo Bomber Feature of 15 Laps with Austin Smith being the victor.

Four Heat races followed for the Lucas Oil Late Models with top four entrants transferring: Heat Race #1 – Scott Bloomquist, Dale McDowell, Rick Eckert and Shane Clanton; Heat Race #2 – Jimmy Owens, Don O’Neal, Jared Landers and Dennis Erb Jr. transferred; Heat race #3 – Brandon Overton, Chris Madden, Ray Cook and Randy Weaver transferred; Heat Race #4 – Casey Roberts, Steve Francis, Eric Jacobsen and Jason Hughes transferred.

The 20 Lap Steelhead Late Feature was next with 14 entrants. Mike Bruner in the #18 was the winner. Mario Gresham, 21 second, Andy Morris, 40 third, Chris Fennell, #87 fourth and Matt Dooley, 18 was fifth.

Two B-Mains for the Lucas Oil Late Models followed with JRi Shocks B-Main #1 (12 Laps, Top 3 Transfer) Finish: Eddie Carrier, Jr., Billy Ogle Jr., Mike Marlar, Jason Croft, Jason Papich, Cody King, Earl Pearson, Jr., Austin Smith, Bo Eaton; and CV Products B-Main #2 (12 Laps, Top 3 Transfer) Finish: Donald McIntosh, John Blankenship, Clint Smith, Chase Junghans, Doug Stevens, Austin Kirkpatrick, Casey Barrow, Aaron Ridley, Scott Groves

Scott Bloomquist captured his seventh Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series victory of the season. Bloomquist started on the pole and was never seriously challenged for the race lead which he led all 50 laps. Owens held the second spot until lap 32 when he



slowed in turn four with a broken right rear shock, relinquishing the position to Overton. Owens’ crew was able to change the shock return at the tail of the field without losing a lap.

Brandon Overton came home in second, followed by Chris Madden, Rick Eckert, and Casey Roberts. Don O’Neal finished sixth and increased his points lead over Jimmy Owens with one race remaining on the 2014 schedule. Owens recovered to finish ninth, after pitting to replace a broken right rear shock.

Overton held off Madden over the remaining 18 laps to finish second. Overton stated, “I only live about 2 hours from here, and have never run here before. It is a super-fast race track and I am glad to finish second against this competition, they are the best-of-the-best.”

Madden, who won the Dixie Shootout at Rome’s sister track, Dixie Speedway last night was satisfied with his weekend’s performance in his new Sweet-Bloomquist car. “To win the Shootout and finish third here tonight, I am extremely proud of our race team. We started off the season really good, with a lot of wins, and now we will try and finish the season strong to get ready for next year.”

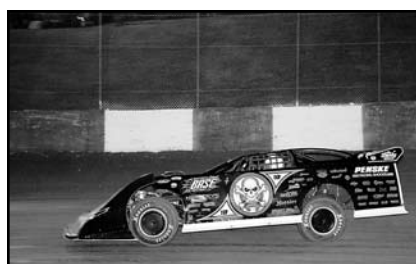
Completing the top ten were Rick Eckert,

Casey Roberts, Don O’Neal, Ray Cook, Jared Landers, Jimmy Owens, and Jason Papich.

Fifteen PONY STOCK cars ran at 15 Lap feature with John Land, 10 winning in a close finish, Shannon Ethridge, 21 second, Bo Jordan, 41 third, Mason Tucker, 23 fourth and Jimmy Plumlee, 44 fifth.

Nineteen Crate Late Models rounded out the evening in a 20 Lap feature. This was one of the most exciting races of the evening with Matt Larson in the #25 winning; Justin Shipley, 08 second, TJ Brittain, 05 third; Zach Pilcher, 07 fourth and Kolby Kilgore, 44 fifth.

Rome Speedway will kick off the 2015 season on 25 April. Check out Dixie Speedway and Rome Speedway on <http://www.dixiespeedway.com/>.



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