

zMax's Dragway Carolina Nationals - 1st Stop on NHRA Countdown to Championship

Story / Photos: Phillip Prichard, MSA

The 8th Annual Carolina Nationals at the zMax Dragway marked the first stop in the NHRA Countdown to the Championship. The six race schedule will crown NHRA's 2015 set of champions. The weather was beautiful for the event but the high temperatures made the racing surface slick. Some of the drivers spun their tires but the best of the day hooked up and powered to the finish line.

In Top Fuel, Antron Brown scored his fifth win of the season by defeating J. R. Todd in the final round. NHRA history was made in the the round, this was the first time that two African-Americans went head-to-head for an event victory.

Antron qualified sixth, he defeated 11th place qualifier, Terry Millican in Round 1. In Round 2, he defeated third place qualifier Steve Torrence and in the Semi-Finals he defeated his teammate and second place qualifier Tony Schumacher.

Leah Prichett finished third, Tony Schumacher fourth and Doug Kalitta fifth in the series. Brown leads defeating series champion, Tony Schumacher by 9 points leaving zMax in the Countdown to the Championship.

Del Worsham defeated the Funny Car top qualifier, Tommy Johnson, Jr. in the final round. Worsham narrowly defeated Johnson by only .0358 seconds, which was the closest victory of the day. This was Worsham's first event victory in the 2015 season. Worsham became the first driver in history to claim victories in both Top Fuel and Funny Car at zMax Dragway. On his way to the final round, Worsham defeated Dave Richards, Matt Hagan and John Force. Upon winning, Worsham leads Tommy Johnson Jr. by 6 points in

the Countdown to the Championship.

16 time Funny Car champion, John Force sported a tribute paint scheme honoring retiring NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon and his number 24 for his contributions to racing and NASCAR. All of the Force cars had a slogan honoring the NASCAR champion.

In the Pro Stock Motorcycle division, defending world champ Andrew Hines won the event for the third time on his Screaming Eagle Vance & Hines Harley Davidson. He had a winning run of 6.880 at 195.11 mph. This was Hines 40th win of his career. Enroute to the finals, Hines defeated Chaz Kennedy, Steve Johnson and top qualifier Jerry Savoie. Hines leads his teammate Eddie Krawiiec by 20 point in the championship countdown.

Reigning Pro Stock champion Erica Enders-Stevens was the top qualifier in Pro Stock division and progressed to the finals in the elimination round. Her last opponent was Vincent Nobile, who was seeking to play spoiler but wound up losing out by the slimmest of margins. Enders used a quicker reaction time to defeat the faster car of Vincent Nobile. She defeated V. Gaines, Chis McGaha, Allen Johnson in the first three rounds. She has a commanding lead in the Pro Stock points standings as she eyes a second consecutive world championship crown. She also tied female wins leader Angelle Sampey's record for most wins by a female driver in a single season.

Danny Rowe raced to his first victory of the season Sunday in the NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series. Rowe drove a brand-new supercharged Agave Underground Tequila Corvette. He outran Dan Stevenson, Jim



Whiteley, and Steven Whiteley to advance to the final. In the final, he defeated Eric Latino to earn his fifth career victory with a performance of 5.941 seconds at 245.09 mph.

The next event at zMax Dragway will be the NHRA Four-Wide Nationals on April 22-24, 2016. Contact http://www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/tickets/nhra_four_wide_nationals/ for more information.



23 Miles Per Gallon...

Into the Shop getting
10 Miles Per Gallon-

- DPF Delete Kit
- GearVendor Overdrive
- Gauges

23 MPG out the door -
Another satisfied
Ford truck owner

FORD
Performance Specialists

Call Us Today:
770.949.7191

"FPS works on
Fords Exclusively!"

Tech 770.949.7191 • eMail ShoGuy89@aol.com • Fax 770.485.9738 • Online FordSpecialists.com • Mableton GA 30126

Prices subject to change. Parts subject to availability. Some items reserved for off-road use only. Ask for details on this and warranty info. Not affiliated with Ford Motor Co. Independently owned & operated. All vehicles shown are owned by customers of Ford Performance Specialists. Used car smoggy vehicle emissions control systems without CARB Certification are illegal for sale or use in California.