

## BECKMAN, LUCAS, ENDERS, SAVOIE PICK UP VICTORIES AT THE TRADITION-RICH U.S. NATIONALS

Jack Beckman completed a sweep of the weekend in Funny Car with his victory on Labor Day Monday at the Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals.

Morgan Lucas (Top Fuel), Erica Enders (Pro Stock) and Jerry Savoie (Pro Stock Motorcycle) also were winners at the world's most prestigious drag race and the final NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series event of the regular season.

Beckman defeated three-time Indianapolis winner Robert Hight in the final with a reaction time advantage victory. Beckman ran his Infinite Hero Foundation Dodge Charger R/T to a 4.058-second pass at 310.77 mph while Hight ran a quicker 4.045 at 309.77 in his Auto Club Chevy Camaro SS. Despite running the slower time, Beckman had a superior 0.034 reaction time advantage to Hight's 0.063 which helped him take the victory. It was his sixth win of the season, 21st of his career and first at Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis.



In addition to earning a coveted first victory at the tradition-rich event, Beckman also won the \$100,000 Traxxas Nitro Shootout all-star race on Sunday and was the event's No. 1 qualifier. Beckman outran Bob Bode, Ron Capps and Del Worsham to advance to the final.

Beckman enters the Mello Yello Countdown to the Championship, NHRA's six-race playoffs, as the No. 1 seed.

Hight, a three-time Indy winner who was making his sixth U.S. Nationals final round appearance, was the runner-up in the Traxxas Nitro Shootout. Hight, who made his third final of the season and second-in-a-row, will take some momentum into the playoffs as the No. 7 seed.

Alexis DeJoria clinched the 10th and



final Funny Car spot in the Countdown when Courtney Force fell to Tommy Johnson Jr. in the second round. Force defeated DeJoria in round one, but had to reach the final to overtake the defending Indianapolis winner for the final Countdown position.

Lucas picked up his first U.S. Nationals victory with a final round performance of 3.864 at 319.90 in his Lucas Oil dragster to defeat Dave Connolly. The win was Lucas' first of the season and 12th of his career. He defeated Leah Pritchett, teammate Richie Crampton and Brittany Force to reach the final. It is the second straight U.S. Nationals victory for Morgan Lucas Racing after Crampton's win last season.

Connolly was racing in his second Top Fuel final after moving to the category this season after a successful career in Pro Stock. Despite the loss, the driver of the C&J Energy Services dragster was able to claim the final Countdown spot with his runner-up finish.

Defending and eight-time world champ Tony Schumacher will be the No. 1 seed in the playoffs.

In Pro Stock, Enders claimed her first career Indianapolis victory and sixth win of the season in her Elite Motorsports Chevy Camaro, defeating teammate Drew Skillman in the final on a holeshot with a 6.611 at 209.75 to Skillman's quicker, but losing 6.606 at 209.98. Enders now has 18 career victories, which ties her for second on the all-time wins list by women in Mello Yello Series competition with the legendary Shirley Muldowney.

Enders used holeshot starts to win three



of her four rounds during the day and she sped past V Gaines, Larry Morgan and Greg Anderson in the first three rounds.

Rookie driver Skillman was seeking his first win in Pro Stock after two previous runner-up finishes. Despite the loss, Skillman and his Ray Skillman Racing Chevy Camaro will be ready for the Countdown, where they are the No. 8 seed.

In Pro Stock Motorcycle, Savoie took home his second victory of the season with a 7.011 at 193.02 on his Savoie's Alligator Farm Suzuki, beating No. 1 qualifier Chip Ellis who fouled out at the start on his PiranaZ/Pippin Motorsports Buell. The win was Savoie's third career victory and his first at Indianapolis. He was the runner-up here in 2011 and 2014. He defeated Chaz Kennedy, Steve Johnson and Hector Arana Jr. to advance to the final.

Ellis was the No. 1 qualifier and was looking for his first win of the season. Despite the loss, Ellis was able to move around LE Tonglet and earn a Countdown spot.

Scotty Pollacheck secured the final Countdown spot when three-time world champ Angelle Sampey lost in the semi-finals.

This is the second straight year that all four winners were first-time victors of the U.S. Nationals.

The Mello Yello Countdown to the Championship, NHRA's six-race playoffs, will begin in two weeks with the NHRA Carolina Nationals, Sept. 18-20, at zMAX Dragway in Charlotte, N.C. The championship is open to the top 10 in each professional category following the U.S. Nationals.



Story & Photos courtesy of NHRA Media

# 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

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

"FPS works on  
Fords Exclusively!"

Prices subject to change. Parts subject to availability. Some items intended 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. Note that modify vehicle emissions control systems without CARB Certification are illegal for sale or use in California.