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Not enough power and the car goes into weak shake, and then strikes the tires and goes up in smoke.

These cars have a multi-disc slipper clutch system where the car leaves on the clutch which slips just enough to allow the tires to bite and push the car forward, then at some point finally locks up and the car drives through the finish line. [it's like driving a clutch car and starting from a stop in 4th gear...at full power]

The number one qualifier was Brittany Force with a 3.680 at 326mph. Rounding out the field of 16 was Chris Karamesines (80-something years old - no one really knows). 3 rounds later brings us to the final 4 with T.J Zizzo racing Richie Crampton and Clay Milican racing Doug Kalitta. Richie beats T.J. who was on a really good run but loses after a day of career best runs.

Clay beats Doug after Doug goes up in smoke 100 feet past the starting line. So in the final round, the 2 best drivers of the day race each other. At the lights, both drivers leave together and are hooked up side by side all the way down the track. It was a fantastic final round with both drivers giving it their all with 2 fantastic runs in the 3.70's at over 320mph.

In the end, Richie Crampton beat the quicker and faster Clay Millican by leaving a split second before Clay in what's called a Hole Shot Win. At the stripe, Richie was just a couple of inches ahead of Clay, and that's the only thing that counts. So in the end, Richie Crampton wins in Top Fuel Dragster. Robert Hight wins in Top Fuel Funny Car. Bo Butner wins in Pro Stock Car and Andrew Hnes wins in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

We started Ford Performance Specialists in 1998. So were in our 21st year of helping our customers maintain and improve their Fords. Motorsport America has been a great partner for advertising and getting our message out to the people that can use our services.

I've written a few articles and stories in the past, but this is the first time I've gotten to join with the magazine and shoot pictures at the event. What - An - Experience!!

Knowing what I know about the physics and my limited experience behind a camera lens, standing on the line with all the rest of the photographers vying for position to get that perfect shot, I now have a profound new respect for those that chronicle the events of this great sport. I'll do my part to help keep it up...and stay out of the way of the professionals.



JACK BECKMAN TESTING THE TUNE UP



NITRO ALIENS



JOHN LOST TO ROBERT IN SEMI FINALS



TIM WILKERSON LOST TO ROBERT IN FINAL



HORSEPOWER



ROBERT HIGHT ON WAY TO WALLY



BRITTANY QUALIFIED #1



CLAY MILLICAN LOST FINAL TO RICHIE BY SPLIT SECOND



CELEBRATION IN THE KALITTA MOSH PIT