

## CLANTON CLAIMS SHOWDOWN SHOOTOUT FINAL

Shane Clanton of Zebulon led from start to finish capturing the \$4,000 top prize Friday Night at Senoia Raceway during the Showdown Shootout sanctioned by the Schaeffer's Oil Southern Nationals Bonus Series. Clanton led all forty laps winning for the third time at the south's baddest bull ring, Senoia Raceway. Only one caution slowed the weekend kick-off event and it took place on lap eleven when Senoia's Joey Armistead spun in turn two collecting Plains' Larry Harrod and Steven Roberts from Sylvester.

Other winners during the opening night of the 3rd Annual Showdown at Senoia included Chatanooga's Ronnie Johnson in the Limited Late Models, Grovetown's Cody Overton in the Late Model Sportsman, Brandon McDaniel of Byron in the Bombers and sixteen-year-old Jordan Benefield of Carrollton in the Chargers division.

The former Craftsman Tool World of Outlaws champion, Clanton, used lapped traffic to keep his nearest competitor at a safe distance. Senoia teenager Ashton Winger ran a great race pursuing Clanton throughout the very fast race. Winger battled with Winston's Michael Page for several laps at the beginning of the feature before clearing the position and starting the pursuit of the lead.

Two hard chargers kept the slim crowd anxious as Texas hot shoe 'Turbo' Tyler Erb cruised the high side of the track for the final twelve laps gaining positions to finally reach fourth before the checkered flag came out while track champion Clint 'Cat Daddy' Smith started nineteenth before charging to an eighth place finish.

Clanton went flag to flag for the win with Winger second, Page third, Erb fourth and Kingston's Tyler Millwood in fifth. Toccoa's Casey Roberts ended up sixth ahead of Woodstock's Jason Croft, Clint Smith, TJ Reaid from Acworth and North Carolina's David Murphy. Thirty

cars were on hand for the opener of the double-header weekend. The Super Late Models will compete again on Saturday evening which will culminate with a 50-lap \$6000 to win main event.

Veteran short track ace Ronnie Johnson showed early why he remains one of the best in the sport as he ran three wide to snare the lead on lap three of the Limited Late Model feature on Friday evening. Tyrone's Jody Knowles was his early pursuer before Knowles dropped with a flat tire.

Track champion Joey Armistead did his best x-games impression on the fourth lap when he rode the top of the concrete wall in turns one and two like the world's best skateboarder. He never missed a beat though as he kept his foot on the floor and remained in his top five position.

Great racing throughout the field featured superb driving by Armistead, Austin Horton of Whitesburg and Alabama's Cruz Skinner and Williams Thomas. A late scuffle between Horton and Armistead would send them to the back of the pack allowing the others to battle for final laps behind only Johnson.

When it was over Johnson had won his second straight Limited Late Model Showdown at Senoia title (he also won the race in October 2017) with Thomas in second and Cruz Skinner third. LaGrange's Dusty Jones and Oliver Gentry from Newnan completed the top five.

The most entertaining race of the night came in the Late Model Sportsman Friday Night feature. Alabama's 'Thrillin' Dylan Knowles fought door to door with Newnan's McKenna Nelms, Winston's Michael Page and Byron's Wiley McDaniel as the drivers ran three wide at times chasing the top position.

On lap five, Page dove under Knowles in the third turn running into this door panel which resulted in Knowles spinning and collecting an unfortunate McDaniel



**SHANE CLANTON**

in the process. An apparent unhappy Knowles reluctantly went to the back of the pack for the restart.

Cody Overton took advantage of the restart to gain position and battle with McDaniel and Page for the top spot. Overton took it over on lap eight as McDaniel returned to the pits with a flat tire. The upstart Overton ran away for the final circuits as all eyes turned to Knowles who was climbing through the field. Knowles caught Page on the final lap with most fans anticipating some revenge for the earlier altercation. The Alabama youngster, Knowles, showed his poise though as he shot past Page and into second behind only Overton. Page ended up third ahead of Alabama's Andrew Bailey and Winston's Mark Page.

Brandon McDaniel dominated most of the Bomber feature before having to survive a late race restart that allowed Douglasville's Dunie Dillard a final shot at

the title. That shot fell short as McDaniel obtained the year long Showdown at Senoia bragging rights for the Bombers.

Jordan Benefield also survived a mid-race altercation with McDonough's Jason Turner before going on to win his first career victory at Senoia Raceway in the Chargers main. Benefield finished ahead of Jackson's Mike Abercrombie and his older brother Dalton Benefield.

The Showdown at Senoia continues on Saturday night with another full night of racing action highlighted by the \$6000 to win, 50-lap Super Late Model show. The Crate Late Models, Late Model Sportsman, Hobby, Mini, Hot Shots and Chargers will also be racing. The action begins at 5:30pm with qualifying and hot laps before racing starting at 7pm.

For additional information, event schedule, ticket prices and more, visit the track website at [www.senoiaraceway.com](http://www.senoiaraceway.com) or call the speedway at 770.599.6161.

