

TENNESSEE'S GRAY WINS HIS FOURTH SENOIA SUMMER NATIONALS TITLE

(Senoia, GA – September 9, 2018) Eleven-time USCS Sprint Car national champion Terry Gray of Bartlett, TN made a return trip to Senoia Raceway's victory lane on Saturday night after overtaking polesitter Jordon Mallett of Greenbriar, AR on lap 18. Gray took home his fourth career victory at the Senoia Summer Nationals, but his first since 2013 as he sped away from Mallett over the final laps of the show.

"That is Terry's 91st victory with the USCS series," said series founder and promoter Pete Walton of Fayetteville. "He is still winning races at age sixty."

Gray's Senoia Summer Nationals IX victory coincided with winning efforts by Cass Fowler of Acworth in the Limited Late Model and Crate Late Model combined feature, Alabama's Dylan Knowles in the Late Model Sportsman, Keith West of Powder Springs in the Hobby Bomber combined main event and Good Hope teenager Grant Roberts in the four cylinder feature. Macon's Cole Compton picked up his first career win at Senoia Raceway winning the Riley's Warriors Charger main event.

Jordan Mallett looked like he was on cruise control and was going to win his first career Senoia Summer Nationals until lap 16 of the USCS Sprint Car feature. Mallett had built a straight away length lead over Alabama's Kyle Amerson before a caution slowed the action for a crashed Brian Thomas of Pendergrass. The huge lead evaporated in an instance as the field was bunched together for the restart.

The 'Bartlett Bullet' Terry Gray used the opportunity to his advantage as he wheeled past Amerson using the top of the Bull Ring to gain second. Mallett piloted his car on the bottom of the track while Gray found speed in the middle groove. The momentum he gained was enough to shoot him past the leader on lap 18 and then he never looked back posting the win and claiming his fourth Senoia Summer Nationals victory. Gray also won titles in 2010, 2011 and 2013. Mallett ended up second



FULL HOUSE AT THE BULL RING

with Mississippi's Michael Miller riding the rim to a third place finish. Amerson and 2016 Senoia Summer Nationals champion Morgan Turpen rounded out the top five.

Tennessee's Mike Hall won his first career race at Senoia Raceway as he claimed the checkers in the USCS Mini Sprint feature. Hall scooted past Mississippi's Bobby Zainotz early on and then held off all challenges from eleven-year-old Trynt Lloyd of Jacksonville, FL, to win. Lloyd was relegated to the back of the starting line-up after failing to scale his car after a great effort in early heat race action.

The action throughout the field during the combined feature for Limited Late Model and Crate Late Model saw three and four wide racing for several positions while up front Acworth's 'Fast' Cass Fowler never missed a beat. Fowler kept Senoia's Clint 'Cat Daddy' Smith behind him through lapped traffic and a couple of restarts. Fowler nabbed his first Bull Ring victory of the season ahead of Smith, Alabama's Cruz Skinner, Dennis Hale of LaGrange and Columbus hot shoe Dalton Cook.

'Thrillin' Dylan Knowles dominated the Late Model Sportsman race running flag to flag to score his ninth win of the season. Macon's Cory Compton ended up second after an interesting turn of events on lap 8. Compton was battling with Alabama's Richie 'Rocketman' Stevens for fourth place when Compton apparently spun coming off of turn four. Compton was relegated to restarting at the back of the pack until Stevens pulled over to talk to track officials.

"Rocketman told our officials that he should go to the back because he got into the back of Compton and caused the spin," explained track promoter Mayes Massey. "Officials corrected the restart line-up with Compton placed back in his running position and Stevens relegated to the back."

In the combined Hobby and Bomber feature, Keith West won his eighth race of the season as he stayed out front of several challengers. Barnesville's Landon DeGraff kept the pressure on until the final lap when his car slid high in turns one and two allowing Mableton's 'Hard



UNLOADING CAT DADDY'S RIDE

Head' Ryan Ray and McDonough's Ted Willingham to scoot past to nab second and third behind West.

Thirteen-year-old Joshua Till was leading the Mini Stock Hot Shot main event until lap nine when he lost control of his ride coming out of the fourth turn. The young driver over-corrected his racer and ended up smashing into the front stretch concrete wall. The crash ended his night and allowed for fellow teenager Grant Robert to inherit a lead that he would never relinquish winning his first race of the season at Senoia Raceway. Newnan's Tommy Faulkner ran second with Hampton's Harold Leath recovering from an early race altercation that caved in his passenger side door panel to finish in third.

The family of Riley McDowell made an announcement on Saturday night that they will sponsor the track's Charger division for the remainder of the year to honor the memory of their four-year-old that passed away in May. The first Riley's Warrior Charger winner was Cole Compton. The Macon driver ran away from Newnan's Scott Gaddy and Jason Turner of McDonough for the trip to the winner's circle. Gaddy and Turner could not gain any ground on Compton as they were in an intense battle for second place that actually saw the two drivers trade paint on the back stretch before both hitting the concrete. They were able to keep running, but could not catch Compton.

Story courtesy of Senoia Raceway, photos MSA Staff



INFIELD SEAT

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