

Super Bowl of Racing - Lucas Oil Late Model Series

By Phillip Prichard

The first night of the Georgia Boot Super Bowl of Racing at Golden Isles Speedway got started off with a soggy beginning with rain delaying the events until Friday.

Friday morning, drivers and fans were ready for some racing starting at 10 am in both the Lucas Oil Late Model Series and the Ne-Smith Chevrolet Dirt Late Model Series. After hot laps, qualifying laps, heat races, B-Mains for both series, The Lucas Oil Late Models Series drivers were first up in their 25 lap A-Main.

Jonathan Davenport set a new track record in time trials, won his heat, and led all 25-laps of the first main event for the Georgia Boot Super Bowl of Racing. The win marked his third career Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series victory.

Davenport was unchallenged for a majority of the \$5000 to win event, which was the first LOLMDS race at Golden Isles Speedway since 2008. Last year's series rookie of the year, Billy Moyer Jr. ran second for the first 11 laps until yielding to Brandon Sheppard. Moyer then lost another spot a few circuits later to Earl Pearson Jr., who took over the third spot.

A caution with five laps to go would set-up a five lap dash to the finish. But Davenport was just too strong as he fought off Sheppard's challenges to take the win. Sheppard, who is subbing for Josh Richards in the Mark Richards Racing, Rocket House Car crept to within a car-length in the final five-lap shootout, but Davenport pulled away in the closing laps

Sheppard was the only non-Longhorn Chassis driver to prevent a podium finish for Davenport, Pearson and Moyer Jr. Pearson was happy with his finish, but even more for the younger Moyer. He drove a heck of a race there running up top and I didn't think I was going to get by him. He is going to have a good year and just a matter of time before he gets a series win.

Completing the top ten were Chris Madden, Don O'Neal, Steve Francis, Dennis Franklin and Jimmy Owens.

In the 2014 NeSmith Chevrolet Dirt Late Model Series season opener on Friday afternoon in the Super Bowl of Racing, Ray Cook of Brasstown, NC took the lead with five laps to go and drove the Tri-County Race Track Special to at Golden Isles Speedway.

Cook started ninth and moved up to the second spot by lap eight. When early race leader Walker Arthur of Forest, VA began to encounter lapped traffic with ten laps to go, Cook closed in and made up a half straightaway deficit. Arthur pushed up the banking in turn one on lap 26, and Cook dove underneath to take the lead.

The victory was the second straight NeSmith Chevrolet Dirt Late Model Series win for Cook, who won the 2013 season finale in November in the Chevrolet Performance World Championship Race. That win was in a different car, but Cook had some valuable pieces from that winning mount on his car Friday afternoon.

Jack Kick lighter of Savannah, GA drove the Kicklighter Construction Special to a second



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place finish and was the Rookie of the Race. NASCAR star Joey Coulter of Concord, NC took the third spot in the Wolfpack Racing Rocket, and Mack McCarter of Gatlinburg, TN was fourth in the CVR Race Cars Special and Scott Lagasse Jr. of St. Augustine, FL drove the Boy Scout of America Special to a fifth-place finish.

Madden earns the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series main event victory on Friday Night at Golden Isles Speedway. Madden was dealing with a rapidly deflating right-rear tire in the final two laps of the Georgia Boot Super Bowl of Racing.

Madden claimed a sixth place finish in the afternoon race won by Jonathan Davenport.

O'Neal started third in the Clint Bowyer - Peak Antifreeze and Motor Oil; Barry Wright Race Cars entry moved into second on the opening lap and stayed there to record a runner-up finish in his second start for the team.

Earl Pearson Jr., backed up his third place finish in the afternoon race, and enjoyed another podium finish in Friday Night's 50 lapper.

Pearson stated it had been a fantastic day for Longhorn Chassis; Davenport got the first win today. Pearson started with Madden on the front row and slipped back to third on the opening lap. Pearson thanked Bobby Labonte, Lucas Oil, Sunoco, and MAV-TV for making this possible.

Completing the top ten were Vic Coffey, Steve Francis, Eddie Carrier Jr., Jimmy Owens, and Kenny Pettyjohn.

In preliminary action, Jonathan Davenport set the overall Georgia Boot Fast Time (Group B) amongst the 34 entrants, with a lap of 15.041 seconds.

Jonathan Davenport won their respective B-Mains.

third-place finish to total 194 points, the super late model pilot will not run the full season. Arthur is second to Cook with 192 points, and McCarter is third with 188 points.

Overall, it was a great weekend of racing at Golden Isles Speedway, a great start of the season for the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series.

For more photos and expanded story, visit www.motorsportamerica.com.



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Peach Bowl Speedway Reunion 2014

The 24th Annual Peach Bowl Speedway Reunion was held Jan. 25 in Austell, GA at the American Legion Riders Post 216.

According to Atlanta Time Machine:

"Although it seems almost impossible to imagine now, from 1949 until 1972 there was an auto racing track less than 3 miles northwest of the heart of downtown Atlanta. Located at the corner of Howell Mill Road and Brady Avenue near the current location of the Northside Tavern, the Peach Bowl was a popular fixture on the local racing scene during the years of its operation.

In addition to the midget car racing, the Peach Bowl also hosted races featuring stock cars, modifieds, Grand National Sportman cars, jalopies and Nascar Convertibles according to the experts over at the Georgia

Racing History website, where they've got a couple of very informative pages about this long-gone race track. If you're

interested, you should first check out their page on the general history of the track itself. In addition to that, they've also published a separate article featuring even more details about the track's history and some of the people who remember participating in events there.

In 1972, MARTA bought the property, tore down the race track and erected a bus repair facility on the site."

Captain Herb Emory was MC of the event



and special thanks was extended to Susan Milam Morgan for all her hard work organizing the annual reunion.

Motorsport America magazine was also recognized as a supporter of the reunion for that we thank the Peach Bowl Reunion for keeping alive the history of racing in Georgia and race tracks like Peach Bowl that may be gone, but not forgotten.

More photos at www.motorsportamerica.com (Photo by Fred Hanyon, MSA)