

Iron-Man Late Model Series - 3rd Annual Frostbuster at Volunteer Speedway

Story & photo by Phil Prichard, MSA

On Saturday, February 24th, Cory Hedgecock of Loudon, TN would take the lead on lap twenty-three and drive to the win with the Schaeffer's Oil Iron-Man Championship Late Model Series.

Ray Cook would take the lead at the drop of the green flag with Chicky Barton, Casey Roberts, Ryan King, and Cory Hedgecock giving chase. The front five would remain the same until caution waved on lap eight when race leader Cook would slow in turn four minus the driveshaft for his machine.

Hedgecock's charge would continue and would grab fourth from Billy Ogle, Jr. on lap sixteen. Barton continued to lead the way out front as King and Roberts battled for second, with Roberts firing a slidejob pass on King for second exiting turn four on lap seventeen.

Barton would continue to hold the lead on the restart, while Hedgecock would battle with Roberts for second before Roberts would spin his machine in turn two on lap twenty-three and into the pits and be done for the event.

The restart would see Hedgecock get a run on Barton for the lead off

turn two and Hedgecock would take the top spot on lap twenty-three. The final few circuits would see Hedgecock pull away from the remainder of the field and take the win, with Frame finishing second, while Billy Ogle, Jr.



would recover for third after a lap twenty spin. Craig Greer would claim the fourth spot, while Barton would be credited with fifth.

In the Iron-Man Modified Series, Chase King of Seymour, TN would lead the entire twenty-five lap distance to score the victory.

The Schaeffer's Oil Iron-Man Championship Late Model Series presented by DirtOnDirt.com next event will be Saturday May 12 at I-75 Raceway in Sweetwater, TN, paying \$3,000 to win. The Brucebilt Performance Iron-Man Modified Series next event will be on Friday

May 11 at Tri-County Race Track in Brasstown, NC, paying \$1,553 to win, followed by action the next evening on Saturday May 12 at I-75 Raceway in Sweetwater, TN, paying \$1,000 to win. It will be the first-ever appearance for Open Wheel Modifieds at both racing venues.

Further information on the Schaeffer Oil Iron-Man Championship Late Model Series presented by DirtOnDirt.com and Brucebilt Performance Iron-Man Modified Series can be obtained by visiting the official website located at www.CTPROMOTIONS.org

Chattanooga Hall calls for Dale McDowell

A racing career that has spanned four decades (and counting) will now include induction into two Hall of Fames for Chickamauga's Dale McDowell.

McDowell, who was recently inducted into the National Dirt Late Model Hall of Fame in 2017, will go into the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame next month. That induction ceremony will take place next month at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

"It's definitely an honor to be recognized for all the accomplishments I've been blessed to obtain through racing," McDowell said. "I'm very glad to receive it."

McDowell won the 1994 Southern All Stars (SAS) and 1999 Hav-A-Tampa dirt-track national champions. He has finished in the top eight in Xtreme (Hav-A-Tampa), World of Outlaws and Lucas Oil Late Model national series points nine times and is in the Xtreme Millionaire's Club.

He won the inaugural Battle of Bristol in 2000 and the 2005 World 100 in Eldora, Ohio in addition to a pair of \$10,000 wins last year. McDowell has 40 career SAS race wins, 31 in the Xtreme (Hav-A-Tampa) series, 10 in the World of Outlaws series and eight in the Lucas series. He also has been a longtime race-driving instructor in the area.

McDowell grew up around racing, working in his father Danny's shop as a kid and spending summers working at the Cleveland (Tenn.) Speedway. He said he began racing in 1980 at the age of 14.

"I had no idea it would all evolve into something I would do for a living," he explained. "A lot of things have happened because of racing. You're very fortunate if you

get to do something you love for a living."

McDowell added that among his many wins and accomplishments, a few stand out. He referred to the Battle of Bristol and the World 100 wins, as well as the Hav-A-Tampa national title. He also captured the \$100,000 Dirt Late Model Dream at Eldora in 2014.

He won the \$20,000 National 100 in Phenix City, Ala. this past

November, the second time he's won the event. His racing career will continue in 2018 as he recently announced on his website that he will open the new season at Volusia Speedway in Barberville, Florida in mid-Feb.

The induction ceremony took place on Feb. 26.



Chickamauga resident Dale McDowell will be inducted into the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame next month. (Contributed photo)

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