

## NHRA Arizona Nationals at Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park

Story by Phillip Prichard. MSA/Photos: NHRA

In the second event of the 2018 NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series, Courtney Force took home the Funny Car victory at the 34th annual NHRA Arizona Nationals at Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park in front of a sellout crowd.

Force emerged victorious with a run of 3.834 seconds at 337.16 mph in her Advance Auto Parts Chevy Camaro took down Tommy Johnson Jr. in the final round. After earning the No. 1 qualifier on Saturday, Force secured her first victory since Houston 2016.

Torrence powered his Capco Contractors/Torrence Racing dragster to the Top Fuel victory with a run of 3.729 at 330.72 to take down Scott Palmer in the final round. After locking down a career-best eight victories in 2017, Torrence recorded a victory in Phoenix for the first



**TIITHARPETOP, FUEL HARLEY WINNER**

time in his career.

In Pro Stock, McGaha drove to the winner's circle with a 6.529 at 211.59 run in his Harlow Sammons Chevrolet Camaro to defeat Jason Line in the final round. He secured his sixth career victory and first since winning the Four-Wide Nationals last season in Charlotte.

In a scary incident, John Force, who qualified fourth, was racing alongside Jonnie Lindberg in the second round of eliminations when he experienced a spectacular explosion at the finish line on his way to a 4.13-second victory. The concussion sent Force's car — with its demolished Camaro body — across the centerline in the shutdown area, where it made contact with Lindberg's Toyota, ultimately sending both cars careening into the guardrail.

Lindberg climbed from his battered machine under his own power, while Force, confirmed to be alert and speaking to Safety Safari personnel, was transported to an area hospital due to the severity of the accident. Force later returned to Wild Horse Pass to celebrate daughter Courtney's Funny Car victory.

After his explosion and crash, John Force discussed



**CHRIS MCGAHA PRO MOD WINNER**

the incident and the emotional weekend John Force Racing had at the NHRA Arizona Nationals. How are you feeling? "I feel great. I was in the office at 7 a.m. Tuesday morning. Thanks to Simpson. The helmet protected me. I have no complaints. The race car protected me. We build good race cars and we can always try and build them better. John Force is good, I am healthy. I am going to get a couple of check-ups to make sure I am okay. I was already goofy."

As Spring approaches, the 2016 NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series will compete at three eastern venues — Gatornationals, 4 Wide Nationals and Southern Nationals.

The 47th Annual Gatornationals at Gainesville, Florida will be held on March 17-20. The AutoPlus Raceway event sponsor is Amalie Motor Oil. Visit their website at [www.autoplusraceway.com](http://www.autoplusraceway.com) for more details.



**COURTNEY FORCE- PHOENIX FUNNY CAR WINNER**

The 7th Annual 4 Wide Nationals will be at ZMax Dragway in Concord, NC will be April 22-24. This unique event is the only time that NHRA runs four wide instead of the normal two side competition. Visit their website at [www.charlottespeedway.com](http://www.charlottespeedway.com) for event information.

The 36th Annual Southern Nationals will be at Atlanta Dragway in Commerce, GA on May 4-6. Visit their web-



**WINNERS**

site at [www.atlantadragway.com](http://www.atlantadragway.com) for information.


In June, the series will be at the NHRA Virginia Nationals outside of Richmond, VA .on June 7-10. The NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals, June 15-17 returns to Bristol (TN) Dragway on Father's Day weekend.

Tickets for the 16th annual NHRA Motorsports Museum Holley National Hot Rod Reunion presented by AAA Insurance are on sale now. The event will take place June 14-16 at Beech Bend Raceway Park in Bowling Green, KY.



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