


Kirila Brothers Among Shootout Winners

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Round three of the Summer Shootout Series Tuesday night at Lowe's Motor Speedway featured a brotherly theme as Jesse and Gene Kirila were among the nine feature winners while the Van Wingerden brothers, Thomas and Michael, probably didn't ride home together.

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Ten-year-old Jesse Kirila recorded his first feature victory of the season, leading the 15-lap Fisher-Price Bandolero Bandits main event from start to finish. The Transfer, Pa., resident started from the pole and was never seriously challenged as the race for drivers ages 8 to 11 was shortened due to the 15-minute time limit. Dillon Bassett, winner of the first two rounds, moved up to second following a wild final lap that saw Stephen Bergh Jr. hit the frontstretch wall while battling for the runner-up spot. Matthew Linker claimed the third-place trophy. Trevor Collins, of Seaford, Del., was uninjured when his Bandolero flipped violently, bringing out the red flag on lap five.



(Harold Hinson photo)

The elder Kirila brother chose a more dramatic route to victory lane, claiming the Legends Car Young Lions feature with a pass for the lead just seconds before the checkered flag. Fourteen-year-old Gene Kirila III pulled ahead of Tyler Millwood coming out of Turn 4 on the last lap. Millwood settled for second for the second consecutive week while Jordan Penninger slid into the show position on the final lap ahead of Chris Moore.

Family dinners for the Van Wingerdens will be a little more interesting following the 20-lap feature for the Thunder Roadsters. Michael Van Wingerden was leading on lap 16 and appeared en route to his third consecutive victory when he was hit from behind and spun. The culprit?—his brother, Thomas Van Wingerden, of Huntersville, N.C., who assumed command and went on to record his first victory of the season. Drew Calhoun negotiated the rain-soaked track to take second with Tom Van Wingerden, the patriarch of the racing Van Wingerden family, third across the stripe. Michael Van Wingerden recovered to finish fourth.

Defending Legends Car Pro division champion Casey Roderick slipped under Tyler Green on the final lap and went on to claim his first victory of the season in the series' premier division. Green, son of veteran NASCAR driver Mark Green, took the lead on lap seven with Roderick moving into second on the 12th trip around the quarter-mile oval.

The Lawrenceville, Ga., driver continued to hound Green until the white flag when the 14-year-old racer made an inside move exiting Turn 2. Green settled for the runner-up money while Darrell Wallace Jr. posted his best finish of the season in third.

In the most aggressive move of the night, Brian Weimer slipped between front-row starters Jan Ingram and Cotton Spry to grab the lead on the first lap of the Fractured Prune Legends Car Masters division feature. After completing the daring three-wide pass, the Cumming, Ga., veteran didn't take long to catch the rear of the field and smartly navigated through lapped traffic for his second triumph of the young season. Ingram and round-two winner Dennis White kept the pressure on Weimer, but had to settle for second and third, respectively, in a rare caution-free event.

In the first race following an electrifying thunderstorm, drivers in the Pull-A-Part Legends Car Semi-Pro division found it is indeed not nice to fool with Mother Nature. The first few laps were marred by slips and slides before Concord, N.C., resident Dennis Kiser found the groove after a lap-four caution flag. The 15-year-old racer then cruised to a large lead and became the third Semi-Pro driver in as many weeks to find victory lane. Kyle Hall and Matthew Stover followed Kiser under the checkered flag.

After a slippery start caused multiple spins on the first lap, Josh Turner of Concord, N.C., battled back-and-forth with Cabarrus County rival Chris Morgan for the first half of the Bandolero Outlaws division feature. Turner assumed command for good on lap nine and cruised to victory in the 20-lap event. Morgan settled for second and T.J. Hicks ended up in third place.

Ronnie Bassett was the class of the field in the main event for the Bandolero Young Guns as the race was shortened to 14 laps due to time constraints. The Winston-Salem, N.C., driver started third, took the lead on lap two and was never seriously challenged en route to his first victory of the season. Clint King, who won on opening night and finished second in round two, claimed the place honors again to increase his points lead while Josh Langley crossed the stripe third.

The CRASHCar race included barrel demolition, multiple spins, fender-bending wrecks, cars joining the field after the green flag and a lost wheel-and that was just in the first five laps! While the race was high on action, it was low on lead changes, with Paul Sparrow from Gastonia, N.C., dominating in the Invader entry. Rusty Drye came in second driving Vigilante while Jennifer Petrea piloted Miss DeMeanor to a third-place finish.

There will be fireworks on and off the track Tuesday, July 3, and Wednesday, July 4, as Lowe's Motor Speedway celebrates Independence Day with a doubleheader. A giant fireworks display will follow a full slate of Legends Car, Bandolero and Thunder Roadster racing during each of the Hanes ComfortZone Summer Shootout Nights.

The wild-and-crazy CRASHCar Trailer Race of Destruction will be part of the action on Tuesday night while the extremely popular School Buses return to the track Wednesday night. Gates open at 5 p.m. each night with feature racing at 7:30. Fireworks will follow the racing programs at approximately 10:30 p.m. For information, call 1-800-455-FANS or visit www.lowesmotorspeedway.com.

The results:

Verdict Ridge Golf & Country Club Legends Car Pro Feature (20 laps): 1. Casey Roderick; 2. Tyler Green; 3. Darrell Wallace; 4. Chris Buescher; 5. Jake Crum; 6. Thomas Van Wingerden; 7. Max Gresham; 8. Thomas Hartensveld Jr.; 9. Michael Van Wingerden; 10. Steven Daniels; 11. Brandon Thomson; 12. Mitchell Coble; 13. Paddy Rodenbeck; 14. Scott Knox; 15. Jordan Anderson; 16. Tyler Chrisinger; 17. Chrissy Wallace; 18. Duncan Molesworth; 19. Kyle Beattie; 20. Rich Petrucco; 21. Nick Carey; 22. Todd Adams; 23. Ryan Bird; 24. Steven Abbey; 25. Danny Kapuscinski; 26. Garrett Lancaster; 27. Cole Miktuk; 28. John Gottsacker.

Thunder Roadster Feature (20 laps): 1. Thomas Van Wingerden; 2. Drew Calhoun; 3. Tom Van Wingerden; 4. Michael Van Wingerden; 5. Matt Lassiter; 6. Brian Weimer; 7. Nick Tucker; 8. Jordan Sims; 9. Justin Long; 10. Jim Gresham; 11. Roger Simons; 12. Ed Evans; 13. Dana White; 14. Ryan Zeck; 15. Thomas Clarke.

Fractured Prune Legends Car Masters Feature (20 laps): 1. Brian Weimer; 2. Jan Ingram; 3. Dennis White; 4. George "Cotton" Spry; 5. Clay Hair; 6. Tom Van Wingerden; 7. Bill Gardner; 8. Eddie Harwell; 9. Ronnie Laney; 10. Gary Shannon; 11. Todd Johnson; 12. Phil Sharpe; 13. David Denham; 14. Mark Moskowitz; 15. Jeff Turner; 16. Jimmy Gurley; 17. Will Cagle; 18. Bruce Little; 19. Todd Laney; 20. Dean Lyons; 21. Charles Kiser; 22. Roger Hefner; 23. Carlos Moore; 24. Tony Carper; 25. Bruce Silver; 26. Brad Taylor; 27. Chip Ferguson; 28. Glen Aikenhead; 29. Bobby Pence; 30. John Barilka.

Pull-A-Part Legends Car Semi-Pro Feature (20 laps): 1. Dennis Kiser; 2. Kyle Hall; 3. Matthew Stover; 4. Daniel Hemric; 5. Ty Dillon; 6. John Ellenburg; 7. Trey Eidson; 8. Luke Fleming; 9. Josh Williams; 10. Kara Clarke; 11. J.R. Allen; 12. Justin Swilling; 13. Zach Zimmerly; 14. Christian Pahud; 15. Bryan Silas; 16. Austin Hill; 17. Rob Sanders; 18. Mike Alcaro; 19. Bryan Howland; 20. Charles Evans Jr.; 21. Trevor Alspach; 22. Kevan Combs; 23. Zach Stroupe; 24. Zack Alspach; 25. Ryan Blaney; 26. Justin Morton; 27. Justin Lloyd; 28. John Stancil.

Legends Car Young Lions Feature (20 laps): 1. Gene Kirila III; 2. Tyler Millwood; 3. Jordan Penninger; 4. Chris Moore; 5. Kyle Pierce; 6. Dylan Presnell; 7. Nick Hoffman; 8. Tyler Kivett; 9. Bailey Freeman; 10. Brady Demelee; 11. Justin Ashley; 12. Landon Bullock; 13. Jimmy Heavlow; 14. Devin Layser; 15. Wyatt Dallenbach; 16. Trevor Farbo; 17. C.J. Faison; 18. Andrew Llyod.

Fisher-Price Bandolero Bandits Feature (16 laps): 1. Jesse Kirila; 2. Dillon Bassett; 3. Matthew Linker; 4. Tyler Lester; 5. Matt Wallace; 6. Corey Gordon; 7. Kyle Plott; 8. Davey Matthews; 9. Sean Shalvoy; 10. Evan Swilling; 11. Sammy Jasper; 12. Bayley Currey; 13. Layne Clifton; 14. Blake Jones; 15. Riley Halverson; 16. Brock Newsom; 17. Jesse Little; 18. Charlie Grisham; 19. Aaron Beaver; 20. Stephen Bergh Jr.; 21. Cole Custer; 22. Reid Wilson; 23. Myatt Snider; 24. Jeffrey Abbey; 25. Trevor Collins; 26. Justin Crider; 27. Jordan Stillwell; 28. Kayla Marshall.

Bandolero Young Guns Feature (14 laps): 1. Ronnie Bassett; 2. Clint King; 3. Joshua Langley; 4. Dylan Pack; 5. William Cunningham; 6. Ryan Glenski; 7. Brandon Lynn; 8. Justin Grimes; 9. Hayden Reeves; 10. Brett Pepicelli; 11. Tripp Ellis; 12. Benji Hicks; 13. Tyler Hill; 14. Nicholas Stroupe; 15. Cody Blackburn; 16. Meghan Dillner; 17. Josh Lambert; 18. Gregory Lang; 19. Timmy Hill; 20. Bryce Walker; 21. Kenzie Ruston; 22. Chad Finchum; 23. Blake Eden; 24. Casey Lajoie; 25. Jordan Coker; 26. Daniel Gobeille; 27. Devin Jones.

Bandolero Outlaws Feature (20 laps): 1. Josh Turner; 2. Chris Morgan; 3. T.J. Hicks; 4. Dawn Eagens; 5. Marcus Limehouse; 6. Brett White; 7. Nathan Rodgers; 8. Charles Long Jr.; 9. Chris Honeycutt; 10. Tim Keener; 11. Kayla Turner; 12. Christopher McKinney; 13. Kendall Sellers; 14. Dove Furr; 15. Jarod Hicks; 16. Jake Morris.

CRASHCars (15 laps): 1. Paul Sparrow; 2. Rusty Drye; 3. Jennifer Petrea; 4. Walter Pecora; 5. Larry Henderson; 6. Jason Campbell; 7. Joe Saleem; 8. Chris James; 9. Jake Brown; 10. Jeremy Troiano; 11. Randy Spivey; 12. Kenneth Deese; 13. Jeff Blackwelder; 14. Mike Scarborough; 15. Lee Rice; 16. Kirby Allen; 17. Jerry White; 18. David Spivey.