

Rain Doesn't Mess Up Hair at Summer Shootout

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Veteran Clay Hair and second-generation racer Tyler Green were among those who made return visits to victory lane Tuesday night at Lowe's Motor Speedway as rain fell on six of the nine main events during round seven of the 10-race Summer Shootout Series.

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Hair, of Mt. Pleasant, N.C., started fifth, took the lead on lap two and splashed to his second victory of the season in the 20-lap feature for the Fractured Prune Legends Car Masters division. Hair was so dominant he held a half-lap advantage over Tom Van Wingerden when the checkered flag was waved on the caution-free race. Van Wingerden, the patriarch of the racing Van Wingerden family, settled for second while Bobby Pierce was third across the finish line in the division for drivers ages 40 and over.

Despite a season-long run of top-five finishes, it had been nearly a month since Green, of Concord, N.C., had visited victory lane. But after battling the nation's best Legends Car drivers, and the elements, the verdict is in—Green is the man to beat for the Verdict Ridge Golf and Country Club Pro division championship.

Green, the son of NASCAR Busch Series driver Mark Green, slipped under perennial contender Michael Van Wingerden on lap eight to grab the lead. Green then drove a smooth line for the rest of the race in a pouring rain en route to his third feature victory. The best action in the 20-lap race took place in Green's rearview mirror as Van Wingerden and Casey Roderick took turns at the number two spot before Roderick finally edged Van Wingerden at the stripe.



Clay Hair (Harold Hinson photo)

On a night when every victory meant a little extra with the Summer Sizzler points shuffle looming, Kyle Plott of Marietta, Ga., made it four feature wins in a row in the Fisher-Price Bandolero Bandits division. Lap eight was the turning point as Stephen Bergh took the lead from Davey Matthews, but Bergh promptly lost control of his machine less than a half-lap later. Plott was running in third-place, but seized the moment and charged into the lead. The 11-year-old racer then held off Matthews during a green-white-checkered finish in an event that was shortened to 16 laps due to time constraints. Dillon Bassett claimed third in the division for drivers ages 8 to 11.

Despite a steady rain, Thomas Van Wingerden came "alive for five" in capturing his fifth straight victory in the Thunder Roadster division. The Huntersville, N.C., racer took the lead from his father, Tom, on the opening lap and cruised to the checkered flag. The only contact Van Wingerden had all night was when his brother, Michael, gave him a friendly tap from behind that sent him sliding under the checkered flag. Michael Van Wingerden finished second for the third time this season while Drew Calhoun was third in the 20-lap run.

Ryan Glenski held off a terrific last-lap charge from Clint King to win the 20-lap feature for the Bandolero Young Guns division. Glenski, the 14-year-old son of former modified racer Randy Glenski, assumed command on lap four when leader Nicholas Stroupe lost power and coasted into the infield. Glenski was cruising to victory when the caution flag was waved for a spin on the final lap, setting up a one-lap shootout. King was on Glenski's rear bumper for the restart and the two battled throughout the final quarter-mile with King falling just inches short at the checkered flag. Ronnie Bassett Jr. had the best seat for the last-lap battle as he finished third.

Steven Ross became the first repeat winner in the Pull-A-Part Legends Car Semi-Pro division as the Stanfield, N.C., driver recorded his second consecutive feature victory. Ross, 14, assumed command when Parker Hammons missed a shift on a lap-11 restart and led the rest of the distance as the caution-filled race was shortened to just 17 laps due to the 15-minute time limit. Ryan Blaney, the 13-year-old son of NASCAR NEXTEL Cup driver Dave Blaney, chased Ross under the checkered flag while Austin Hill finished third in the 28-car field.

Kendall Sellers scored his fourth victory of the season in the 20-lap feature for the Bandolero Outlaws division. The Kannapolis, N.C., racer started fourth, took the lead on lap three and enjoyed a comfortable advantage for the remainder of the race. Chris Morgan, Sellers' Methodist Motorsports Evangelism teammate, stole second place from Christopher McKinney coming around Turn 4 of the final lap. It was the sixth time in seven races that Morgan has finished in the runner-up spot while McKinney settled for the show money in the division for drivers ages 16 and older.

Gene Karila III was literally singing in the rain following the Legends Car Young Lions feature as the Transfer, Pa., driver became the first repeat winner in the division for drivers ages 12 to 16. Karila, who also visited victory lane during round three, exchanged the lead with Kyle Pierce during the early laps on the rain-soaked track, taking command for the final time on lap nine as the caution-filled race was shortened to just 10 laps. Tyler Millwood crossed under the checkered flag second while Pierce ended up third.

In a race where the second car across the finish line was declared the winner, Jennifer Petrea, driving Miss Demeanor, emerged victorious in the wild-and-wacky CRASHCar event. The finish of the 15-lap race was so close that officials had to review video to determine that Miss Demeanor was inches behind Krashy the Clown, driven by Walter Pecora, at the stripe.

The 14th annual Summer Shootout continues Tuesday night, July 24, with the first round of the three-race Summer Sizzler. In addition to the eight regular divisions, the CRASHCars will also trade paint. Gates open at 5 p.m. with feature racing at 7:30. For information, visit www.lowesmotorspeedway.com or call the Lowe's Motor Speedway ticket office at 1-800-455-FANS.

The results:

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

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

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

Pull-A-Part Legends Car Semi-Pro Feature (17 laps): 1. Steven Ross; 2. Ryan Blaney; 3. Austin Hill; 4. Trey Poole; 5. Luke Fleming; 6. Justin Lloyd; 7. Trevor Alspach; 8. Justin Swilling; 9. J.R. Allen; 10. Scott Ward; 11. Jake Dallenbach; 12. Jason Richardson; 13. Kevan Combs; 14. Trey Eidson; 15. Daniel Hemric; 16. Bryan Silas; 17. Matthew Stover; 18. Sam McAulay; 19. Rob Sanders; 20. Parker Hammons; 21. Kyle Hall; 22. Charles Evans Jr.; 23. John Stancill; 24. Josh Williams; 25. Zack Alspach; 26. Chad Hackenbracht; 27. Dennis Kiser; 28. Justin Morton.

Legends Car Young Lions Feature (10 laps): 1. Gene Kirila III; 2. Tyler Millwood; 3. Kyle Pierce; 4. Tyler Kivett; 5. Devin Laysler; 6. Dylan Presnell; 7. Trevor Farbo; 8. Andrew Llyod; 9. Landon Bullock; 10. Jordan Penninger; 11. Chris Moore; 12. Wyatt Dallenbach; 13. Bailey Freeman; 14. Nick Hoffman; 15. Sloan Henderson; 16. Chase Fleming; 17. Jimmy Heavlow.

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

Bandolero Young Guns Feature (20 laps): 1. Ryan Glenski; 2. Clint King; 3. Ronnie Bassett Jr.; 4. Dylan Pack; 5. Bryce Walker; 6. Justin Grimes; 7. Benji Hicks; 8. Tyler Hill; 9. Cameron Collins; 10. Timmy Hill; 11. Brett Pepicelli; 12. Joshua Langley; 13. Robert Poole; 14. Devin Jones; 15. Dylan Barbrian; 16. Chad Finchum; 17. Jeremy Birch; 18. Meghan Dillner; 19. Daniel Gobeille; 20. Casey LaJoie; 21. Chase Ferguson; 22. Brandon Lynn; 23. Hayden Reeves; 24. Nicholas Stroupe; 25. William Cunningham; 26. Gregory Lang.

Bandolero Outlaws Feature (20 laps): 1. Kendall Sellers; 2. Chris Morgan; 3. Christopher McKinney; 4. Josh Turner; 5. Adrian Williamson; 6. Chris Honeycutt; 7. Dawn Eagens; 8. Charles Long Jr.; 9. Tim Keener; 10. Make Limehouse; 11. Kayla Turner; 12. Jake Morris; 13. Nathan Rodgers; 14. Jeremy Troiano; 15. Jarod Hicks.

CRASHCars Feature (15 laps): 1. Jennifer Petrea; 2. Walter Pecora; 3. Paul Sparrow; 4. Kenneth Deese; 5. Jake Brown; 6. Chris James; 7. Jerry White; 8. Jason Campbell; 9. Jeremy Troiano; 10. Joe Saleem; 11. Rusty Drye; 12. Brandon Gordon.