Path Valley Hosts 140 Car Competitions

by Judy McGee Timmons

Path Valley Speedway logged in 140 drivers for their six division competition for Saturday Night's racing card.

     The Macri Concrete 600 Sprints were first on the track led to the green by Garyt Smith & Jayden Wolf. At the wave of green, 3rd place starter, Logan Spahr took an immediate lead. Logan Rumsey brought his #41 from 5th to 3rd going wheel to wheel with Wolf, gaining the position & moving by Smith to pull into second amidst lapped traffic by lap 9. Seventeen laps of the 20 lap feature were complete when the racer of Kelsey Heiney spun out coming out of turn 1 bringing out the caution. Spahr, Ramsey, Jim Young, Wolf & Smith were the top five when the restart saw green. With one lap remaining the 12M of Tyson Mowery flipped & had to be towed while the 880 of Kameron Morral also exited the track. Spahr led Ramsey, Young, Wolf & Smith on the final lap to claim the checkered with a start to finish win, clocking in with the best time of 11.169.

     The 4 cylinder Thunders were next out the gate with Robert McQuade & Cheyenne Ingram at the front. On lap 3 the 31D of Doug Decker got into the infield for the first caution. The restart had McQuade & Ingram still on top followed by Jeremy Ott, Lyle Barnes & Douglas Sales for the top 5. The next 6 laps had the Thunder fans on the edge of their seats as McQuade, Ingram & Ott tried to maintain their top positions with Barnes, Sales & Justin Rasp closing in going three abreast in the middle of the field. Barnes & Ott pulled beside 2nd place runner Ingram creating a 3 way door to door challenge. Ingram entered the pits with a flat tire, returning to the rear of the field. With 9 laps in, McQuade led on the restart but Barnes, Sales, Ott & Rasp were hot on the throttle as they all moved past McQuade. With 12 laps in, McQuade spun out putting the former leader to the rear. The 3rd restart had Barnes, Sales, Ott & Rasp at the top with Ott & Sales door to door for 3 laps while Kevin Bard moved into 4th. Ott took 2nd & with only two laps to go, the two top runners made contact putting Ott in the pits & Barnes to the rear. Sales led the competitors to the final restart taking it to the checkered followed by Rasp, Bard, Nicholas Barthalow & Cameron Defenderfer.

     The undeniable sound of Late Model engines roaring next filled the bullring with Randy Burkholder & Randy Schaeffer in pole positions. Burkholder took the lead , Schaeffer holding 2nd, Bryan Benton 3rd, Sean Merkel 4th & Levi Ardery in 5th where they held strong for 6 laps till Benton's #52 turned between 3 &4 putting the 3rd place runner to the back. Burkholder & Schaeffer were tops on the restart but Merkel moved by Schaeffer to take 2nd on lap 8 & by lap 9 Ryan Jacoby & Schaeffer made contact finishing Schaeffer’s run for the evening. The lineup for the final restart was Burkholder, Merkel, Jacoby, Chad Earnst, Benton, Levi Ardery & William Stile. All competitors held their positions for the non-stop remaining 16 laps. Best lap time was documented by Burkholder with a 12.024.

     The Legends division made their first appearance of the season with a full field of cars running 3 heats & a consi. Bob Stough & Aaron Updegraff led the 24 cars to the green for their 20 lap feature but Updegraff fell to 3rd when the #32 of Austin Bellemare passed him on the 2nd lap. Travis Perry claimed 4th spot & Alex Robinson ran in the top 5. With 7 laps complete, Robinson & Updegraff got together coming out of turn 1, both returning to the rear of the line. Stough, Bellemare, Perry & Ott & Chris Transeau were top on the restart where they remained till lap 12 when the racer of Alex Robinson came to a stop in turn 4, then returned to the back of the pack. At lap 15 Ott had pulled by Bellemare & was racing side by side with Stough taking the lead. Chris Transeau put his #18 sideways in turn 2 also heading to the rear. Ott held the lead to the checkered claiming the 1st Legend win of the season. Stough, Bellemare, Scott Houdeshell & Stephen Wurtzer followed for the top 5.

In the strictly stock division an accident on lap 2 would put oil on the track & cause a brief delay. The restart had the fast moving racers trying not to collect lapped traffic as they zig-zagged through the pack. On lap 7 the 1j of Jesse Matney wrecked in turn 4, ending his challenge for the evening. The restart turned into a major complication as Williamson & Garlock were wheel to wheel with lapped traffic causing a major obstacle as they both looked for holes to squeeze through to hold their positions. A couple lapped cars became the middle of the sandwich as the two top runners went on each side for clearance. Williamson hit the breaks at one point to avoid hitting a car that stopped in front of him, causing him to lose seconds but regained his momentum & kept Garlock at bay with Stine & Varner in pursuit. With 5 laps remaining, the #60 of Jr Witchley flipped between turns 1 &2,  Witchley required medical attention & was transported by ambulance, Due to the timing involved for a backup ambulance, the track called the race complete with 15 laps giving Williamson his 2nd win. He was followed by Garlock, Stine, Varner & Steven Jacobs.

In the T.A. Ward Construction 270 Sprints class,, polesitter Wyatt Rotz took the lead with Logan Diehl inches behind. With only 2 laps on the board the #37 of Tyler Brown came to a stop on the front stretch; having to retire for the evening. One more lap was logged before the racers of Bradley Brown, Bradyn Kuhn & Kelsey Heiney were in an accident on turn 4 with Brown going to the rear & Kuhn & Heiney going to the pit area. On the restart, leader Wyatt Rotz exited from the front stretch for the pits giving Diehl the lead followed by Levi Peck, Timmie Bitner & Mike Boyer. The 7th place starter, Cory Myers, brought his #20 to 2nd by lap 6 as Peck & Boyer battled for position behind him for the next 10 laps till the Oz came to a stop between 3 & 4; going to the pits. On the restart Mike Boyer passed Peck for 3rd following Logan Diehl & Craig Myers to the checkered. Timmie Bittner held his 5th spot for 10 laps to complete the top 5. Wyatt Rotz had the best lap time with 11,452.

Upcoming at Path Valley on April 3rd will be the Thunders, Strictly Stock ,T.A. Ward Construction 270 Sprints, Macri Concrete 600 Sprints, Metzler Auto Truck Trailer Wingless Super Sportsman and the EMODS. Gates open at 2 - hotlaps at 4- racing at 4:30.  Information: www.pathvalleyspeedway.com

Saturday, March 27th Results

Macri Concrete 600cc Micros (25 cars):

1. Logan Spahr 2. Logan Rumsey 3. Jim Young 4. Jayden Wolf 5. Garyt Smith 6. Jason Sechrist 7. Dylan Anderson 8. Trent Yoder 9. Trevor Teats 10. Tyler Ulrich 11. Brian Kramer 12. Shjon Dove 13. Randy Kunkle 14. Bradley Brown 15. Jeremy Harshman 16. Sam Moyer 17. Logan Rhodes 18. Mason Beinhower 19. Hunter McFadden 20. Josh Smith 21. Kelsey Heiney 22. Kameron Morral (DNF) 23. Tyson Mowery (DNF) 24. Timmie Bittner (DNF)

4 Cylinder Thunder Cars (20 cars):

1. Doug Sales 2. Justin Rasp 3. Kevin Bard 4. Nicholas Barthalow 5. Cameron Defenderfer 6. Jackson Eutzy 7. Brian Smith 8. Cheyenne Ingram 9. Robert McQuade 10. Lyle Barnes 11. Doug Decker 12. William Seibert 13. Dylan McKee 14. Michael Krepps, Jr. (DNF) 15. Jeremy Ott (DNF) 16. Eric Seibert (DNF) 17. Jason Erwin (DNF)

DNS: Nicholas Smith, Tim Hahn

Limited Late Models (9 cars):

1. Randy Burkholder 2. Sean Merkel 3. Ryan Jacoby 4. Chad Earnst 5. Bryan Benton 6. Levi Ardery 7. William Stile 8. Randy Scheaffer (DNF) 9. Andrew Long (DNF)

Central PA Legends (31 cars):

1. Jeremy Ott 2. Bob Stough 3. Austin Bellemare 4. Scott Houdeshell 5. Stephen Wurtzer 6. Bill Diehl 7. Logan Carbaugh 8. Logan Dimm 9. Justin Cunningham 10. Chuck Dell, Jr. 11. Shaun Abrey 12. Greg Burd 13. Shawn Groft 14. Cody Altland 15. Alex Robinson 16. Seth Kearchner 17. Aaron Updegraff 18. Tyler Groft 19. Eric Hurst 20. Donald Stoudt 21. Travis Perry 22. Chris Transeau 23. Rick Hartwig 24. Scott Montgomery (DNF)

4 Cylinder Strictly Stocks (30 cars):

1. Justin Williamson 2. Rusty Garlock 3. Tyler Stine 4. Kala Varner 5. Steven Jacobs 6. Travis Semple 7. David Eitnier 8. Kevin Arcq 9. Johnathan Middaugh 10. Fred Rummings 11. Jason Goss 12. Ryan Betres 13. Dustin Moore 14. Ryan Unger 15. Shaun Wise 16. Courtney Ulsh 17. Don Varner 18. Jr Witchley (DNF) 19. Jesse Matney (DNF) 20. TJ Taylor (DNF) 21. Jimmy Moyer (DNF) 22. Spencer Ulsh (DNF) 23. Logan Matney (DNF) 24. Matthew Zimmerman (DNF)

DNS: Shane Varner

T.A. Ward Construction 270cc Micros (26 cars):

1. Logan Diehl 2. Craig Myers 3. Mike Boyer 4. Levi Peck 5. Timmie Bittner 6. Sean McAndrew 7. Cory Myers 8. Zach Glass 9. Toby Blumenshine 10. Jason Houtz 11. Bradley Brown 12. Chase Walker 13. Brad Cowan 14. Matt Dixson 15. Hunter Forsythe (DNF) 16. Austin Bower (DNF) 17. Steph Welk (DNF) 18. Richie Hartman (DNF) 19. Austin Mieckowski (DNF) 20. Wyatt Rotz (DNF) 21. Jordan Racine (DNF) 22. Kelsey Heiney (DNF) 23. Bradyn Kuhn (DNF) 24. Garrett Love (DNF) 25. Tyler Brown (DNF) 26. Curtis Brown (DNF)