

## ***Cote and Deckelman spring into action as they pick up season opener victories at Bethel!***

May 1st, 2021:

**White Lake, NY:** A cool crisp spring evening brought forth the big season opener at Bethel Motor Speedway and the Advance Auto Parts NASCAR weekly racing series. The night found many familiar faces returning to Victory Lane but saw as many new victors as well. The racing was intense in many of the races to the delight for the contingent of race fans as many begin their quest for not only wins but points championships as well. The night was also a somber one as the speedway's front gatekeeper, Greg Davis passed away earlier in the week and will be sadly missed at the speedway. A rolling tribute to Davis was done during intermission, as many motorcycle riders came out to the track to send their respects. Greg was a cycle enthusiast and often was seen riding his motorcycle. Thoughts and prayers go out to Greg's family and friends during this difficult time.

The Nascar Asphalt Modified feature found a race long battle between generations as multi-champion driver John Cote who is the all-time feature wins leader at Bethel had his hands full with a rookie ball of energy in the form of Bandolero graduate Brian Rygielski. Rygielski proved his worth running a strong outside line and surprising the veteran Cote several times as he made some challenges for the lead. Skip LaPolt passed the most cars as bad luck bit the driver twice and had him restarting at the rear after getting caught up in two yellows. LaPolt used his experience to sneak by Rygielski to take second with one lap to go. At the checkers, it was a close finish with Cote taking the win over a rebounding LaPolt and Rygielski.

The mighty Dirt Modifieds put forth one of the best features of the night as the first half of the race was a classic between veterans Jerry Curry and Bill Deckelman. The two drivers raced hard wheel to wheel and got very dicey navigating through lapped traffic. Lap 12 found the yellow coming out for Curry as he got jammed up with lap cars in turn 1 which found him sideways bringing out the yellow flag. The restart found Josh Wilbur challenging Deckelman as he powered by rookie Mike Roth to take second position. Deckelman kept hitting his marks and began to pull away from Wilbur in the closing laps to pick up the exciting season opening win over Wilbur and Roth.

The inaugural NASCAR Sport Mod feature proved to be a quick one as the race went caution free with Josh Wilbur coming from fourth position to take the lead on lap 4. Wilbur put forth a strong run in the new division which limits drivers who have won in the track's division three or more times. Kyle Dunham stayed in pursuit of Wilbur to finish in second place while Andy Crane came from sixth position to take a strong third position in the final rundown.

Nascar Street Stock feature action proved to be a two-car shootout between JB Morris and Kyle Welsch. Morris hung to the low side with track champion Welsch gunning the

outside lane. The two drivers battled throughout the caution free feature, but it was Morris by half a car length with the dual checkers flying much to the fan's excitement.

Alex McCollum continued his mastery of the speedway as he easily won the Legends feature. Many eyes watched the race long battle for second between Eugene Drew, James Anderson, and Bryan Gardella as the checkers waved, they finished in that order.

Pro Stock feature racing saw a dominant performance by rookie pavement driver Dave Demorest. Demorest who has found success on dirt tracks turned to be a quick study on Bethel's pavement. He trounced the field as the closing laps saw a battle for second between Larry O'Donnell and Kenny Hyde. Demorest collected his first career Bethel feature win over O'Donnell and Hyde.

Track champion, Mike Travis continued his winning ways as he picked up the Four Cylinder Pure Stock feature win. Richard Smith and Vinny DeGraw took turns leading, and both looked to be winning contenders for victory, but Travis worked his way up from fifth starting position and took the lead from DeGraw on lap 8 and never looked back. DeGraw stayed close to the leader while veteran Jerry Kingeter worked his way past Smith to take third position.

Kaden Rogers took the lead over Justin Teresak in the Bandolero feature holding a slight lead with the caution coming out on lap 5 for a one car crash in turn four involving Isaiah Anderson. On the restart, Teresak outgunned Rogers to take the lead while track champion Monika Deckelman worked her way up through from eighth position to get past Rogers for second at the halfway mark. Deckelman then chased down the leader Teresak and put pressure on the leader both high and low in the closing laps of the race but Teresak stayed strong to pick up his first career win at the speedway.

Novice Pure Stock racing found two drivers, Fawn Card and Marcus Small battling door to door for many laps in a respectful manner. Card led for most of the race but with two laps to go Small nosed ahead on the inside lane in turn two to take the lead and collect his second career victory over Card and Cam Reichenbaugh.

Shawn Tyler picked up his first career Beginner Bandolero win over Alison Smith and Sophia Travis in the all rookie field.

### **5/1/21 Results:**

**Asphalt Modified Feature:** 1. John Cote; New Milford, CT 2. Skip LaPolt 3. Brian Rygielski 4. Stephen Kammer 5. Steve Conklin 6. Chris Bottge 7. Joey LaMontagne 8. Blair Culhane 9. Mac Crawson

**Dirt Modified Feature:** 1. Bill Deckelman; Fremont Center, NY 2. Josh Wilbur 3. Mike Roth 4. Jerry Curry 5. Andy Crane 6. Mike Travis 7. Phil Goetschius 8. Shawn Johannessen 9. Joe Knoth 10. Kyle Dunham

**Nascar Sport Mod Feature:** 1. Josh Wilbur; Youngsville, NY 2. Kyle Dunham 3. Andy Crane 4. Mike Roth 5. Joe Knoth 6. Phil Goetschius 7. Shawn Johannessen 8. Mike Travis

**Street Stock Feature:** 1. JB Morris; Middletown, NY 2. Kyle Welsch 3. Joel Murns 4. John Hechinger 5. Don Rosinski 6. Brent Shaddock 7. Scott Sepe DNS. Alec Graham DNS. Ivan Guerra DNS. Phil Funcheon

**Legends Feature:** 1. Alex McCollum, Phillipsburg, NJ 2. Eugene Drew 3. James Anderson 4. Bryan Gardella 5. Ryan Kuhlthau 6. Chris Piasecki 7. Jeff Stephens 8. Lexi Pryzybylinski 9. Joe Pryzybylinski 10. Mark Foster DNS. Jack Polan

**Pro Stock Feature:** 1. Dave Demorest; Accord, NY 2. Larry O'Donnell 3. Kenny Hyde 4. Emerson Cargain Jr. 5. Brandon Decker 6. Amber VanOrden 7. John Rood 8. Aiden Demorest

**Four Cylinder Pure Stock:** 1. Mike Travis, Liberty, NY 2. Vinny DeGraw 3. Jerry Kingeter 4. Richard Smith 5. Dan Houghtaling 6. Nicole Nelson 7. Tasha Travis 8. Willie DeGraw 9. Dan Dulin 10. Tisha Curry 11. Robert Beach 12. Bruce Illenberg 13. Harold Kinner DNS. JW Gannon

**Bandolero Feature:** 1. Justin Teresak; Whitehouse Station, NJ 2. Monika Deckelman 3. Kaden Rogers 4. Leland Oefelein 5. Rodney Dowless Jr. 6. Cody Quagliato 7. Isaiah Anderson 8. Mike Sinagra

**Novice Pure Stock:** 1. Marcus Small; Rock Hill, NY 2. Fawn Card 3. Cam Reichenbaugh DNS. Leora Fabian

**Beg. Bandos Feature:** 1. Shawn Tyler; Liberty, NY 2. Alison Smith 3. Sophia Travis 4. Easton Houghtaling 5. Jordan Smith

