

***“D’s” are the winners at Bethel! Pro Stock racer Dave Demorest drives to big victory in ‘Steel Horse 55’; It’s an order of Dachenhausen Double Deluxe as he wins Asphalt & Dirt Modified main events!***

June 5th, 2021:

**White Lake, NY:** A beautiful sunny summer day proved to be picture perfect at Bethel Motor Speedway. The night was highlighted with the Gary O’Donnell Memorial ‘Steel Horse 55’ for Pro Stocks which is Bethel’s oldest running class that was established in 1978. O’Donnell was a longtime supporter of the speedway and often raced in that division years ago. Sadly, O’Donnell passed away a few years ago from heart complications. He is deeply missed by many at the speedway.

The Pro Stock class held their biggest race of the season in the ‘Steel Horse 55’ a 55 lap feature honoring the late Gary O’Donnell who was a long time competitor in the class and was track champion in the division in 1979 and 1995. race. Polesitter Emerson Cargain Jr took the early lead but was quickly challenged by Dave Demorest who was blessed with a second starting position spot. Demorest took to the outside lane and gained the lead fully from Cargain on lap 4. Street Stock Champ, Kyle Welsch started to move through the pack and found himself working by Cargain to take second position on lap 10 and began to reel in the leader. Long Island racer, Kenny Hyde looked potent coming from deep in the pack getting into the top 5 but found mechanical trouble sidelining him on lap 22. Lap 26, found three wide racing for fourth position between John Rood, Cargain, and track champion Joe Barnes, it soon became a game of ‘chicken’ as they journeyed into Bethel’s tight turn 4 which found Cargain and Barnes tangling into the wall thus knocking Cargain out of the race. The restart found Welsch putting heavy pressure on the leader Demorest as he tried to pass the leader both high and low as he nudgingly pushed on Demorest’s rear bumper. Just after halfway, former dirt pro stock racer John Velde threw his hat in the ring as a contender as he worked his way past Welsch and started his challenge on Demorest to take the lead. Meanwhile, sentimental favorite Larry O’Donnell coming from twelfth starting spot passed Welsch down the frontstretch for third spot and began to close in on the leaders. A caution for a spun Joe Barnes brought on an eventful restart which found O’Donnell attempting a crossover pass in turn 1 and 2 on Velde for second position. The two cars came together in turn two as they tangled into the infield bringing out the yellow. Both drivers were able to restart at the rear of the field and now moved Welsch and Rood into second and third. The closing laps of the feature found Welsch beginning to run hot under the hood as he continued to stay in striking distance of Demorest while under pressure from Rood. Welsch’s strong run ended prematurely as he slowed with engine woes bringing out the yellow and moved Joel Murns into the top three. The final restart found Rood as Demorest’s final challenger in a gauntlet of a race. Rood tried a strong inside pass but Demorest proved to be steady as he continued to lead the final laps to the checkers picking up the biggest win of his career over Rood and Murns. Victory Lane found Demorest as an ecstatic but humbled winner “Winning this race is an honor

and I remember him well here at Bethel; he was a great man". "This was a tough long race and I could feel Welsch right behind me, but it was good racing." "I really love racing with my nephews at this track with my family watching". "I also gotta thank my sponsors and family especially my Dad, he is a great mechanic on these cars". Second and Third place finishers Rood and Murns were also very content with their finishes in the race.

Stephen Kammer led the early laps of the NASCAR Asphalt Modified feature over Ed Butler but soon found himself under pressure by a quick Ed Dachenhausen. Kammer continued to hit his marks on the inside line as Dachenhausen built up momentum on the outer lane to capture the lead just prior to the halfway point. Dachenhausen then opened a comfortable lead while quite the battle went on behind him between Kammer, John Cote, Skip LaPolt, and Brian Rygielski. The race conclusion found Dachenhausen picking up his first win of the season over Cote and LaPolt in second and third, respectively.

Dirt Modified feature action found a race through traffic battle between top guns Ed Dachenhausen and Jerry Curry. Curry committed to the inside lane traffic while Dachenhausen picked the outside traffic lane which proved to be the quicker lane moving him thru the pack into second position. He continued his outside charge to get past the leader Mike Roth on lap 8. Curry moved into second position two laps later getting by Roth but was unable to make a challenge on the leader. Dachenhausen cruised home to his 36<sup>th</sup> career dirt car win at Bethel in the Scot Sanford owned machine.

A vastly improved Jack Gerzabek looked at ease leading the Legends field during the first half of their 20 lap feature but Tanner Jones and James Anderson were formidable spoilers coming from deep in the pack eager to win. Jones made his winning pass using a strong outside charge in turn 1 and was a full head of steam out of turn two to take the lead solely down the backstretch. Anderson nipped away at Gerzabek for several laps but was unable to get by Gerzabek who held steady. Jones took home his first feature win of the season over the impressive Gerzabek and Anderson in third.

Sophomore dirt modified racer, Kyle Dunham outdrove former Bandolero champion Mike Roth to take home his first career feature win at Bethel. The second half of the race found Roth trying every trick in the book to get by Dunham. The leader kept his cool and never slipped up earning the hard fought NASCAR Sport Mod feature. At the checkers it was Dunham, Roth, and Andy Crane in the top three positions.

The 'Jolly Rogers 55' Open Comp Enduro Series found Richard Smith notching another hard fought victory in his belt as he had to contend with quite a few mishaps, an oil slick, and debris on the track in the always unpredictable enduro race. Smith navigated through much lapped traffic as other top contenders ran into problems on the track. Smith took the win over a surprise second place run from rookie Sean Lynch and Accord Speedway regular Tim DeGrote in third position. It was Smith's first enduro win of the season.

Monika Deckelman had a cakewalk win in Bandolero feature racing, easily winning over Leland Oefelein and Isaiah Anderson. Justin Smith was surprised to win the beginner bando feature as apparent winner Olivia Tyler was absent in post race tech inspection giving Smith his second feature win of the season.