

## ***Kyle Welsch is the top gun in street stock 'Ron Welsch Memorial'; Travis continues his hot streak by winning 84-Lap 'Stephanie Babich Memorial'!***

August 14th, 2021:

**White Lake, NY:** A beautiful summer day greeted racers and fans as the speedway hosted its Racers Reunion Night which found many former drivers from yesteryear taking part in festivities behind the grandstands. The night also honored two of the speedway's driving stars who both passed away way too soon. The street stocks honored the late Ron Welsch, and the four-cylinder pure stocks honored the late Stephanie Babich with memorial races.

It only seems fitting to have John Cote winning the NASCAR Asphalt Modified feature on Racer Reunion Night as he is the division's all time feature win leader and has been a fixture at the track for over twenty years. Cote used the highside enroute to his third feature win of the season as he worked by Steve Conklin and Stephen Kammer then opened a sizeable lead for the remainder of the race. Skip LaPolt put forth a good run to work by Kammer for second with five laps to go. At the checkers, it was Cote over LaPolt and Kammer.

Kyle Dunham led the first 17 laps of the dirt modified feature despite a race long battle with current point leader, Bill Deckelman. Deckelman used the outside lane in turns 1 and two to take the lead on lap 18 and pulled away to take his fifth win of the season. The final laps found Dunham breaking and heading to the pits as Joe Knoth finished a career best second and Shawn Maloney put forth another strong run to finish third.

NASCAR Street Stock feature racing action honored the late Ron Welsch in a memorial race. Welsch was a longtime competitor at the speedway who sadly passed away. NASCAR Xfinity driver Joe Graf Jr. was the Grand Marshall and waved the initial green flag as Scott Tyler jumped into the lead over rookie Ivan Guerra. Tyler was impressive leading the first half of the race but Kyle Welsch; the son of Ron emerged to take the lead at the halfway mark coming from eighth starting position. Welsch surged ahead in the second half of the caution free feature as current point leader JB Morris worked by Todd Gadoury and Tyler to take second position with five laps to go. The dual checkers found destiny speeding across the line as Welsch took the emotional victory over Morris and Tyler.

Legends feature racing saw former track champ Eugene Drew taking the early lead over former dirt modified driver Chris Piasecki. Jack Gerzabek worked his way up from fourth starting position to take the lead from Drew on lap 12. Gerzabek then stayed steady holding off several late race challenges from Drew as he took his second feature win of the season by a car length over Drew with Tanner Jones coming home a strong third.

The 84 lap Four Cylinder Pure Stock feature was in the spotlight as it honored the late Stephanie Babich who was a top racer at the speedway for several seasons but sadly

passed away several years ago from a long-term illness. The first few laps of the feature were plagued by overanxious drivers resulting in several yellow flags and found many drivers pitting early for repairs. Veteran driver, Tim Curry retired from the event on lap 2 with steering issues. The early race tangles also allowed current point leader, Mike Travis to easily work his way into the lead from twelfth position. Travis took the lead on lap 3 and never relinquished the position for the remainder of the event. JW Gannon dropped out on lap 4 with mechanical trouble. Lap 11 found Bruce Illenberg headed pitside with problems. Lap 27 saw Jerry Kingeter coming from eleventh starting position to take second after battling with Tasha Travis for several laps. The yellow came out on lap 32 as Dan Houghtaling slowed with a tire problem as he pitted for repairs. The restart was interesting as Jerry Kingeter appeared to be faster than the leader Travis as he even nosed ahead at times on the track but was unable to make the outside pass stick as the two drivers battled door to door lap after lap. Lap 40, saw Vinny DeGraw bailing into the infield with a loss of power. Kingeter continued to pressure Travis high and low as they maneuvered through lapped traffic. Dan Dulin relinquished a solid run as he headed pitside on lap 58. Lap 64 proved to be the smokiest as Tisha Curry came to a rest on the frontstretch in a plume of white smoke as the car overheated dropping her from the event. The restart found Kingeter putting forth his most valiant challenge to overtake Travis for the lead as he again used the outside to nose ahead at times but on lap 71 contact between the two leaders damaged Kingeter's car as he began to drop in speed. Tasha Travis reclaimed second position on lap 74 as Kingeter continued to fade. Lap 77 saw Richard Smith and Jeffrey Tubbs moving into third and fourth as they worked past Kingeter. At the checkers it was Mike Travis winning his sixth win of the season by a large margin over Tasha Travis, Smith, Tubbs, and Kingeter. Post race technical inspection found both Smith and Tubbs being disqualified by illegal wheel offsets shuffling Kingeter back up to third and putting Dan Houghtaling and Nicole Nelson into the top 5 running order.

Sal Macchio led the Compact Trucks feature from the initial green to lap 12 but Terry McNamara proved to have the winning truck as he passed Macchio on lap 13 then held off Emerson Cargain Jr. to claim his first career feature win at Bethel.

For the third week in a row the Novice feature had to be halted early on lap 10 due to driver's not adhering to the common rules of racing as the race looked more like a roller derby tournament with several yellows being thrown for some hard collisions and spins. Zerek Bauernfeind was declared the winner in the rough and tumble event.

Bandolero feature racing found an early conclusion as the red flag was displayed on lap 1 which found a multi-car crash and saw Isaiah Anderson flipping wildly down the backstretch luckily, he emerged from the car unharmed in the scary incident. Leland Oefelin was declared the feature winner for his second win of the season after one lap was scored.

Jordan Smith earned his fifth triumph of the season as he and Easton Houghtaling dueled each other throughout the race as they swapped the lead back and forth. Sophia Travis finished third.