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# BILSTEIN MODIFIED LITE STARS NEWS

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## BILSTEIN MODIFIED LITE STARS SETS PURSE RECORD & COMPLETES 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WINTER NATIONALS

### “HILL – BABBITT - KNEPPER – KENNEDY” FEATURE WINNERS

SOMERSET, PA: With the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Winter Nationals in the books, it is time to reflect on the success of the four day event. Fifty-eight drivers and teams were in attendance, and for the fifth year, Bubba Raceway Park provided the STARS with an excellent track at the famed 3/8 mile dirt oval. “The nationals continued breaking records with more than \$30,000 of cash and products awarded to the drivers, a \$5,000 increase over last year, said Modified Lite STARS President of Competition and Racing Operations,” Bill Bauer stated.

### Wednesday Night Program February 13<sup>th</sup>

With more than 52 cars in the pits, STARS Director, Jimmy May, headed his team for pre-race technical inspection which identified minor discrepancies, most of which related to misalignment and measurement from the frame rail to brake rotor. Several rounds of practice took place Wednesday night which saw West Middlesex, PA, driver #820, Rod Jones, setting fast time with a 16.339 (82.624 mph).

### HILL WIN’S RACE OF CHAMPIONS

For the first time of the Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Winter Nationals, a “Race of Champions” took place with fifteen drivers from across the United States and Quebec, Canada, taking the green for a 20-lap feature which crowned Laurel, DE, James Hill #1 as the Race of Champions.

Line up for the 20-lap feature was set by qualifying fast time order with the top five drivers pulling pills for their starting positions. The #826, Matt Ward, sat on the poll next to #59 of Tracey Fritter. At the



green flag, Ward got a good start off turn-4 but saw the #2 of James Hill take the lead on the high side of turn-2, being scored the leader on lap-1. Caution flew on lap-4 for the spinning of Rod Jones #22. At the restart, Hill remained as the leader and was able to hold off the field for the remaining 16-laps.

**Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Race of Champions:**  
**Winner James Hill**, Corey Babbitt, Tracey Fritter, Austin Martin, Tim White, Mitch Ward, Jeff Tetters, Eric

Desilets, Joe Glick, Brenden Priest, Tyler Riggs, Rod Jones, Matt Ward, Randy Bryan, Alan Knepper

### **RACE RECAP**

**Feature Length:** 20-Laps

**Winner:** James Hill

**Lead Changes:** 1

**Lap Leaders:** 1-20 James Hill

**# Cautions:** 1

**Hoosier Tire Longest Tow:** Brenden Priest, Eric Desilets

## **Thursday Night Program February 14<sup>th</sup>**

### **HILL DOMINATES NIGHT #1 BILSTEIN MODIFIED LITE STARS PRELIMINARY**

With perfect Florida weather and 52 mod lites signed into the pits, qualification took place, which set the lineup for six heat races with the top three finishers heading to the “\$500 to win A Main” and the remainder heading to the “B’s”. Somerset, PA, Alan Knepper #10, set fast time for the night and week with a 15.859 during his qualification group, providing him with poll starting position for his qualifying heat.

Laurel, DE, driver James Hill, continued dominating the field of mod lites around the 3/8<sup>th</sup> mile Bubba Raceway Park winning his heat race and starting the 20-lap feature on the poll. With a field of 24 cars starting Night #1 of the Winter Nationals, Hill got the run entering turn one holding off the Alan Knepper, #10K and the Tracey Fritter, #59. Hill had the lead on the opening lap, leading the first six laps when caution flew for the #47 of Ed Griggs who spun in turn-4. Hill continued his domination on the restart and lead the remaining laps picking up the feature win and \$500.



**Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Feature Night #1: Winner James Hill**, Austin Martin, Tracy Fritter, John Pitts, Alan Knepper, Darren Bass, Geoff Youngblood, Mitch Ward, Rod Jones, Brandon Sturgis, Vivian Jones, Ed Griggs, Jason Masengarb, Eric Desilets, Larry Hubbard, Jr., Chris Robinson, John Priest, Jason Darocha, Charlie Brown, Cole Petrelle, Kevin Carrier, Blake Wilson, Corey Babbitt, Tanner Gannon

### **RACE RECAP**

**Feature Length:** 20-Laps

**Winner:** James Hill

**Lead Changes:** 1

**Lap Leaders:** 1-20 James Hill

**# Cautions:** 3

**Eliminator Challenge \$100 Bonus:** James Hill

**Hoosier Tire Hard Charger:** #14B Darren Bass, (18 positions started 24th finished 6th)

**Driver Meeting Hoosier Tire Winner:** Aubrey Taylor

### **Heat Winners:**

James Hill, Alan Knepper, Tracy Fritter, Eric Desilets, Ed Griggs, Corey Babbitt

### **B Main winners:**

Jason Darocha, Charlie Brown

## **Friday Night Program February 15<sup>th</sup>**

### **TEXAS DRIVER COREY BABBITT WINS NIGHT #2 BILSTEIN MODIFIED LITE STARS PRELIMINARY**

Night #2 of the Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Winter Nationals did not disappoint the large crowd of fans at Bubba Raceway Park for Friday night's Winter Nationals when they watched Channelview, TX, Corey Babbitt, #12, take the check flag holding off second place Tracy Fritter, #59, and third place finisher Rod Jones, #820.



The #12 of Corey Babbitt demonstrated why he is one of the top mod lite drivers under the STARS banner when he picked up the feature win Friday night. Babbitt is no stranger to winner circle winning the 2018 Thursday night Winter Nationals preliminary feature and the 2018 Greater Southwest Nationals at I-30 Speedway on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Babbitt who finished second to James Hill during the Wednesday nights Race of Champions regain his championship ways taking home the trophy and \$500.

No mistakes and car set up provided Babbitt with the speed he needed to hold off the 24-car field. With Fritter and Jones knocking at the door, Babbitt remained composed on restarts and lead every lap, picking up the Eliminator Challenge \$100 bonus. With the green flag, Babbitt showed the field how to get around the tricky 3/8<sup>th</sup> mile Bubba oval. On lap-8 caution flew when the #56 of Larry Hubbard, Jr. and the #52 of Brenden Priest made contact. On the restart, Babbitt continued the lead for the remainder 16-laps on to see two additional cautions for the spin of #18, Blake Wilson, on lap-11 and the stopping of Tim White, #16, on lap-13.

**Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Feature Night #2 Winner Corey Babbitt,** Tracy Fritter, Rod Jones, Alan Knepper, Austin Martin, Mitch Ward, Randy Bryan, Ed Griggs, Chris Robinson, James Hill, Brenden Priest, Geoff Youngblood, Donovan Jackson, Jason Darocha, Joe Glick, Vivian Jones, Robert Bass, John Priest, Larry Hubbard Jr., Cody Rogers, Blake Wilson, Tyler Riggs, Tim White, Tanner Gannon

### **RACE RECAP**

**Feature Length:** 20-Laps

**Winner:** Corey Babbitt

**Lead Changes:** 0

**Lap Leaders:** 1-20 Corey Babbitt

**# Cautions:** 3

**Eliminator Challenge \$100 Bonus:** Corey Babbitt

**Hoosier Tire Hard Charger:** #47 Ed Griggs, (6 positions started 14th finished 8th)

**Driver Meeting Hoosier Tire Winner:** Shane Jenkins

### **Heat Winners:**

Corey Babbitt, Tracy Fritter, Mitch Ward, Rod Jones, Alan Knepper, Chris Robinson

### **B Main winners:**

Tyler Riggs, Blake Wilson

## Saturday Night Program February 16<sup>th</sup>

### ALAN KNEPPER WINS NIGHT #3

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### BILSTEIN MODIFIED LITE STARS 2019 WINTER NATIONALS

After four nights of hard racing and 58 cars signed into the pits during the week in hopes of competing for the final night of racing for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bilstein Mod Lite STARS Winter Nationals Championship saw the Somerset, PA, driver Alan Knepper win the Winter National feature event and the overall Winter Nationals point's championship. Going into the week, Knepper broke Wednesday night's opening lap of the Race of Champions, and set the tone for hard work for the remainder of the week with well-known Crew Chief "Mikey Hay" by his side along with car owner Lynn Knepper. "This race was the hardest I ever ran", Knepper stated in victory lane. After a disappointing Wednesday night

Knepper returned to the speedway setting the overall weekly lap time of 15.859 and focused on Saturday's feature. Winning his qualifying heat, put Knepper on the poll for the 30-lap feature paying \$1,000 to the winner.

At the green flag Knepper took the lead for the opening laps when caution flew on lap-2 that gave the field a chance to regroup and figure out the best line on the speedway. Bubba track prep gave the drivers a wide racing surface that saw 4-5 car wide racing in the turns. On the restart, Knepper kept the preferred inside line while the #20 of John Pitts and the #16 of Tim White put pressure on Knepper. On lap-6, White lost the handle of the #16 bringing out the second caution of the night, only to see the caution fly again when contact was made with the #15 of Chris Robinson and the #820 of Rod Jones collecting the #59 of Fritter and the #3G of Joe Glick. Knepper remained in control with Pitts #20 working the outside line and the #12 of Babbitt who started in the 11<sup>th</sup> position. At the half way point, Knepper remained as the leader followed by Babbitt #12, Pitts #20, Ward #862, & Youngblood #89. Caution flew on lap-17 for the spinning of Robinson #15 and as the say in NASCAR, "Caution brew cautions" when Jones, #820, spun, which the Bass #14B, Glick #3G and Tretheway #28 collected. With the laps counting down, Knepper was able to pull from the field only to see the caution displayed for the spinning of White's #16 on lap-26. At the restart, top five driver had Knepper, Babbitt, Pitts,





Youngblood, D. Bass with the #820 of Jones working the outside line gaining speed on the field with four laps remaining. Jones took the lead on lap-29 only for the caution of the #14B of Bass, and under caution Jones ran out of fuel ending his night and giving the lead back to Knepper. Knepper was able to hold off the #12 of Babbitt picking up the \$1,000 pay day along with the Eliminator \$100 bonus.

**Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Nationals: Winner Alan Knepper,** Corey Babbitt, John Pitts, Geoff Youngblood, James Hill, Brenden Priest, Randy Bryan, Jason Darocha, Donovan Jackson, Chris Robinson, Joe Glick, Eric Desilets, Duane Williams, Rod Jones, Darren Bass, Tim White, Aubrey Taylor, Mitch Ward, Jason Tretheway, Josh May, Tracy Fritter, Tyler Riggs, Austin Martin, Brian Teeters, Matt Ward, Ed Griggs

### **RACE RECAP**

**Feature Length:** 30-Laps

**Winner:** Alan Knepper

**Lead Changes:** 2

**Lap Leaders:** 1-27 Alan Knepper, 28 Rod Jones, 29-30 Alan Knepper

**# Cautions:** 7

**Eliminator Challenge \$100 Bonus:** Alan Knepper

**Hoosier Tire Hard Charger:** #52 Brenden Priest, (15 positions started 21st finished 6th)

**Driver Meeting Hoosier Tire Winner:** Geoff Youngblood

**Charlie Brown Performance Wiring: (Hard Luck Award)** Blake Wilson

### **Heat Winners:**

Alan Knepper, Mitch Ward, Tim White, Chris Robinson, John Pitts, Rod Jones

### **B Main winners:**

Jason Darocha, Donovan Jackson

## KENNEDY WINS NON – QUAL FEATURE



After working hard getting his car set up for the tricky 3/8<sup>th</sup> mile Bubba Raceway, Silvis, IL, driver Mike Kennedy figured things out and was able to pick up the feature Non-Qual race Saturday night taking home the trophy and \$300.

### **Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Non-Qual Feature**

**Winner: Mike Kennedy,** Allyson Prince, Larry Hubbard III, Andrew Smith, Charles Seabaugh, Logan Lewis, Jordan Taylor, Hunter Sanders, Shane Jenkins, Roman Jones, Ayden Cipriano

### **RACE RECAP**

**Feature Length:** 15-Laps

**Winner:** Mike Kennedy

Modified Lite STARS, LLC serving as a national sanctioning body for the mod lite racing class represent more than 489 race teams throughout North America and Canada; the Modified Lite STARS organization serves a fast-growing segment of dirt oval racing motorsports and is recognized as the leader in modified lite racing. In its eleventh year of operation, the Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Series has gained widespread acceptance with its standardized rules and growing sponsorship program.

The Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Series is proudly supported by its major sponsors: **BILSTEIN Shock Absorbers, Hoosier Race Tire**, Knepper ATV Repair, Velocity Race Cars, Sidewinder Chassis by SS Racing, Extreme Motorsports, Chasos Motorsports, Jokers Chassis, Edge Racing Chassis, and Charlie Brown Performance Wiring.