

# 1<sup>st</sup> Year in an Asphalt Pro Late Model -2025

- 🌸 **First Race in Late Model**      5-10-25      Anderson Speedway (Anderson, IN)
- JEG'S CRA All Star Tour*      13 Total Cars      **Qualified 8<sup>th</sup> Started 8<sup>th</sup> Finished 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Great Deals 100      100 laps
- Butch VanDoorn couldn't believe how fast Sam got up to speed for his very first race with only 1 practice in the car
- 🌸 **Second Race**      5-26-25      Owosso Speedway (Ovid, MI)
- JEG'S CRA All Star Tour*      33 Total Cars      **Qualified 17<sup>th</sup> Started 17<sup>th</sup> Finished 7<sup>th</sup>**
- Big O' Classic      100 laps
- Earned **Hard Charger Award** for gaining the most positions from start to finish
  - Race lasted nearly 2 hours due to so many wrecks
  - Sam went to the back of field approx. 4 times to drive to 7<sup>th</sup> place in a field of 33 cars
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time at Owosso Speedway
- 🌸 **Third Race**      6-28-25      Berlin Raceway (Marne, MI)
- Super Late Model Series*      17 Total Cars      **Qualified 5<sup>th</sup> Started 8<sup>th</sup> Finished 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Berlin Birthday Party      75 laps
- Berlin is considered the most difficult short track to race in the U.S. and is a very technical track
  - Sam finished in the top 10 the first time here with qualifying 5<sup>th</sup> (which people at the track said this was unheard of)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time at Berlin
  - Race went green to checkered with no cautions
- 🌸 **Fourth Race**      7-16-25      Owosso Speedway (Ovid, MI)
- JEG'S CRA All Star Tour*      30 Total Cars      **Qualified 19<sup>th</sup> Started 19<sup>th</sup> Finished 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Masters of the Pro's      200 laps
- Considered one the most prestigious races within Pro Late Model racing
  - Raced with NASCAR Truck Driver Dawson Sutton & Beat Retired NASCAR Cup Driver Kevin Harvick
  - Raced national big names in the Asphalt Late Model World
  - Finished on the lead lap & completed all 200 laps & had a tire going flat around the last 10 laps
  - Team's 1<sup>st</sup> ever scheduled pit stop

🌸 <b>Fifth Race</b>	8-2-25	Berlin Raceway (Marne, MI)
<i>Super Late Model Series</i>	18 Total Cars	Qualified 10 <sup>th</sup> Started 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Finished 11<sup>th</sup></b>
Hall of Fame Night	75 laps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started on pole from invert</li> <li>This track changes throughout the day and impacts car setup, which is one of the reasons that makes this track so difficult to race</li> <li>Car was dragging a ton; crew learned a lot for this track</li> </ul>		
🌸 <b>Sixth Race</b>	9-5-25	Berlin Raceway (Marne, MI)
<i>Super Late Model Series</i>	15 Total Cars	Qualified 6 <sup>th</sup> Started 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Finished 3<sup>rd</sup></b>
New Stars Race	75 laps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Podium Finish</li> <li>Raced and beat names like Treyton Lapevich (NASCAR ARCA)</li> </ul>		
🌸 <b>Seventh Race</b>	9-6-25	Berlin Raceway (Marne, MI)
<i>Super Late Model Series</i>	17 Total Cars	Qualified 12 <sup>th</sup> Started 12 <sup>th</sup> <b>Finished 10<sup>th</sup></b>
Battle of the Pros	150 laps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduled pit stop</li> <li>Made it up to 7<sup>th</sup> place before pit stop</li> <li>Had a good 'long run' car but needed 'short run' car after pit stop to finish better</li> </ul>		
🌸 <b>Eighth Race</b>	10-10-25	Winchester Speedway (Winchester, IN)
<i>JEG'S CRA All Star Tour</i>	20 Total Cars	DNS (Did not start)
Winchester 400 Weekend		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ran approx. 15 laps of practice and engine began leaking oil and we had to scratch from the race</li> <li>This ended our season to be able to pull the motor and send for a refresh</li> </ul>		

### *What people said this year:*

- 🌸 Sam is Top Tier (competitor crew member said after Sam's 2<sup>nd</sup> race)
- 🌸 Qualifying 5<sup>th</sup> at Berlin is unheard of (competitor crew member)
- 🌸 Sam has talent, he is going to win races next year (Butch VanDoorn)
- 🌸 I didn't know what kind of driver I had here. We need to rethink the plan for this year. Instead of only racing 4-5 races, race as much as you can this year (Butch VanDoorn)
- 🌸 We were wondering where the 24 came from. They know what they are doing (Engine Builder)
- 🌸 Scratch running for rookie of the year next year. Instead, run for the championship (Butch VanDoorn)
- 🌸 I can't believe how fast Sam got up to speed his 1<sup>st</sup> race (Butch VanDoorn)
- 🌸 I can't believe how fast Sam got up to speed this year (Engine Builder)
- 🌸 Not too much to tell you so just keep working on your race craft because you are doing really good (VanDoorn Crew Chief)
- 🌸 Tip of the hat for the night goes to Sam Johnson (Berlin Raceway Announcer)
- 🌸 Sam is an advanced racer for just starting in Late Models (Butch VanDoorn)