

***'The Duke of Danbury' Ed Dachenhausen has the winning magic in SNYRA's Asphalt Modified Ev Pierce Memorial! Curry and Crane pick up emotional victories in Andy Montanari Tribute & Sport Mod Joe Simoncini Sr. Special!***

July 24th, 2021:

**White Lake, NY:** A beautiful summer afternoon greeted race fans for a special night at the speedway as it honored the Danbury Racearena and the SNYRA organization with a reunion of past drivers, families, and friends of the famed speedway which sadly closed in 1981. A large crowd of fans gathered in the grandstands and were treated to see active drivers who had competed at Danbury along with second and third generation drivers now in competition as well. Northeast racing legend, Billy Greco with well over 300 feature wins was the Grand Marshal for the evening of racing, who also was attending the track for the very first time and was amazed by the exciting short track racing that the drivers presented to the fans in attendance. Fans were also treated to vintage modifieds, open cockpit sprint cars, and midgets as the ACOT and NEAR clubs were in action at the speedway. The highlighted race of the evening was the asphalt modified 'Ev Pierce Memorial' sponsored by Joe's Bar & Grill which paid out \$1,209 in honor of Ev's iconic number he often used at Danbury. Pierce was a lifelong racer and founding member of the SNYRA holding many roles within the association. Pierce also was successful at Bethel Speedway in the 1990's driving the Blackman Brothers Danbury based # 50 modified.

NASCAR Asphalt Modifieds were highlighted with their annual Joe's Bar & Grill 'Ev Pierce Memorial' which found a pair of Connecticut racers on the front row. Former Danbury RaceArena competitor Dan Archiere took the early lead over Stephen Kammer. Kammer soon found himself with a handling problem which allowed Mac Crawson to move into second position on lap 1. Lap 2 found Kammer contacting the turn 4 wall, sending the pack scuffling down the frontstretch and bringing out the yellow. The restart found Archiere and Crawson racing side by side for several laps, but Archiere continued to prevail as the leader. Lap 8 saw Danbury native and former track champion Ed Dachenhausen move into second position, getting by Crawson. Lap 9 found the yellow waving as Kammer, and Danbury based racer Fred Nees Jr. tangled in turn 3. The restart proved to be the pivotal point of the race as Archiere restarted the race, but Dachenhausen worked his magic with an exceptional rolling restart on the leader. Archiere spun his tires just slightly off the corner while Dachenhausen was a bullet going down the front chute to nose into the lead as the two drivers went into turn one side by side. Dachenhausen continued his outside charge to firmly take the lead at the halfway point and began to slightly pull ahead of the strong running Archiere. The caution came out on lap 13 as Mac Crawson and current point leader Brian Rygielski tangled down the frontstretch but both drivers were able to continue at the rear of the field. Dachenhausen again put forth a flawless restart using the outside lane over Archiere. Soon enough, Archiere found himself being challenged by another former Danbury racer and defending track champion John Cote. Cote kept nipping at Archiere's back bumper, but it was Skip LaPolit leaping from fourth to second position

with five laps to go. Cote squeezed by Archiere to take third position at the two to go mark, one lap later Rygielski slipped by Archiere for fourth. At the checkers, it was Dachenhausen scoring his third feature win of the season in the popular victory. LaPolt took a close second with Cote third. Archiere rebounded to take fourth at the stripe over Rygielski. Dachenhausen celebrated by doing a polish victory lap and providing an emotional on track interview much to the applause of the Pierce Family and the rest of the Danbury crowd in attendance.

Veteran racer Jerry Curry was red hot in flames two weeks ago as his racer caught fire after engine detonation, this week he picked up the ride in the Josh Wilbur owned #12 and was red hot in speed as he scorched the field in the Andy Montanari tribute Dirt Modified race. Curry led every lap to his first feature win of the season as a much-improved Joe Knoth put in his best run to date and continued to run second for the first half of the race holding off top guns Ed Dachenhausen and Bill Deckelman. Knoth got caught up in lapped traffic ever slightly which allowed Dachenhausen opportunity to pounce for position as he garnered second on lap 12 and looked to close the wide lead Curry had made. Deckelman got by Knoth on lap 13 to take third as he remained in hot pursuit of Dachenhausen. The final laps found Dachenhausen closing the gap on Curry while pulling away from Deckelman, but he was out of laps to make a challenge for the lead as Curry shook his bad luck season taking the popular win in the Wilbur's Garage owned machine, Dachenhausen nailed down second in the Scot Sanford owned #18s, while Deckelman took third in the beautiful #07.

NASCAR Sport Mod feature racing was in memory to longtime car owner Joe Simoncini Sr who sadly passed away last year. The plot thickened as the racing god's put forth destiny, a magical intangible into the Simoncini owned 4NY machine driven by Andy Crane. Recent bad luck and mechanical issues put Crane on the pole for the feature but this night he and the machine proved to be invincible as Kyle Welsch and Kyle Dunham did their best to overtake the determined driver. Crane hit his marks each lap in convincing fashion to pick up the emotional victory as he dedicated his first feature win of the season to Simoncini Sr. in Victory Lane, confiding that his spirit helped guide Crane to victory. Welsch took second place with Dunham in third.

INEX Legends feature racing found a new winner gracing Bethel's Victory Lane as Connecticut native, Connor Holderbach defeated current point leader James Anderson in a race long shootout to pick up his first career feature win scoring a popular win among the Danbury, CT area fans in the grandstands. Holderbach who has been knocking on Bethel's victory lane door finally found luck on his side beating Anderson by a car length at the checkers. Former dirt modified racer; Chris Piasecki put in his best run to date at Bethel netting a strong third place finish.

Longtime open wheel racer Joe Klein put forth a fabulous run in a Crosley powered vintage midget racer to take home the popular victory. The 86-year-old racer heard thunderous applause from the stands as he emerged from his race car for an on-track victory lane interview. Long Island's Jim Leys and New Jersey's Dennis White finished second and third, respectively.

Always exciting, NASCAR street stock racing found New Milford, CT native Bill Deak Sr. leading the pack in the early laps as the Danbury fans cheered him on. Deak quickly

found himself under heavy pressure from top runners Kyle Welsch and JB Morris. Lap 7 found three wide racing among the top three with Welsch and Morris splitting Deak Sr. dropping him to third. Welsch and Morris continued a race long battle for the lead but Welsch continues to heat up with the summer temps as he collected his third feature win of the season over Morris and Walt Henry in third.

Racing legend Billy Greco took on the role of head flagger for the Vintage Modified feature as he waved the green flag to a class of cars that brought him many feature wins in an extraordinary career. Connecticut racer, Paul Jacques captured his first career Bethel victory in his coupe bodied asphalt modified racer. Local hotshoes Larry O'Donnell in his Danbury themed Lombardo Racing # 35 and John Hager in his Chevy big block coupe put forth good runs in their vintage racers to finish in second and third at the finish line.

Four Cylinder Pure Stocks found themselves competing in an exciting Twin 15 feature format on this evening. The first feature proved to be a barnburner as Vinny DeGraw was able to shake off recent bad luck to outduel veteran racer Tim Curry and current point leader Mike Travis to capture his first feature win of the season by half a car length at the checkers. Travis marched from thirteenth starting position to take a close second with Curry settling for third. The second twin 15 feature found Dan Dulin leading the first half of the race but lap 8 found himself and Jeffrey Tubbs tangling down the frontstretch sending both drivers to the rear. The restart allowed Travis coming from fourteenth position to take the lead and hold off Richard Smith and Tisha Curry to collect his fourth feature win of the season and extend his point lead.

Easton Houghtaling continues to impress as he soared to his second career victory in the Beginner Bandos feature win as he led every lap outdistancing Jordan Smith and Sophia Travis. Meanwhile, Leland Oefelein picked up his first feature win of the season beating Isaiah Anderson in a race long shootout between the two young drivers.