

***Destiny powers Joey Payne Jr. to dramatic victory in ATQMRA's Winged TQ 'Joe Payne Sr. Memorial'; Anthony Sesely invades and wins East Coast's Wingless TQ portion of Joe Payne Sr. tribute!***

June 26th, 2021:

**White Lake, NY:** Beautiful hot summer weather greeted racers and fans for the annual Pine Brook Stadium reunion which held a special tribute to longtime three-quarter midget racer Joe Payne Sr. He was the patriarch of the Payne racing family as his son's and grandsons continue the racing tradition that he started. Payne's family and friends were well represented in the event along with many other longtime advocates and supporters of three-quarter racing and the defunct Pine Brook Stadium. The on-track racing action was hotter than the summer temps and many races proved to be classic barnburners as the night will go down in Bethel's recordbooks as one of it's best. The speedway gives special thanks to the Payne Family, the East Coast TQ Club, the ATQMRA Series, and all of the racers and fans who came out to support this event. May we all remember Joe Payne Sr. and the footprint he left in Northeast short track racing.

Whenever the ATQMRA TQ Midget series visits the speedway, it is always a guarantee that it is a thrilling race of speed and quick reaction driving. This past Saturday they upped the ante in excitement as they dedicated their night of racing to the late Joe Payne Sr, a TQ racing engineer, advocate, and successful car owner along with being a famed legend at the Pine Brook Stadium. The 25 lap feature was action packed starting off with an unusual tangle between two of the series best drivers Ryan Tidman and Joey Bailey bringing out the yellow on lap two. Both drivers were able to continue at the rear of the field. Meanwhile, when racing resumed Buddy Sload was a spitfire comet catapulting from seventh starting position to take sole possession of the lead on lap 3 with rookie Tyler Ferris and Kyle Taraska trying to keep chase of the leader. Sload built up a comfortable lead but lap 13 found Ferris losing second position to Taraska while negotiating lapped traffic. One lap later, famed supermodified star Joey Payne Jr. moved past Ferris to secure third position. The race took another unusual turn on lap 21 when mechanical misfortune struck the leader Sload entering turn 1 causing to crash hard into the turn two wall bringing out the red flag and halting the race for emergency personnel to quickly respond. Sload emerged from the car unscathed, but the car suffered damage dropping him out of the event in a race he looked poised to win. The lap 22 restart found Taraska inheriting the lead with Payne known as the Jersey Jet eyeing up his competition from second position. After the red, Taraska's car developed a tight condition which Payne quickly found out as the leader's weakness to pounce on. With two laps to go Payne began an inside charge on Taraska to get alongside the leader going into turn one and raced wheel to wheel down the backstretch. Taraska surged ahead in turn 3 but Payne then precisely set up a cross over move coming off turn four with the white flag waving to get alongside the leader when Taraska pushed up the track opening up the winning lane. The fans roared in cheers as destiny powered

the Paul Dodorico owned machine into the lead down the front chute dropping Taraska to second position. At the dramatic dual checkers, it was Payne Jr. winning his father's memorial race by three quarters of a car length over Taraska and a quck closing Bailey finishing in third. Payne Jr. celebrated the emotional victory to strong applause with much of his family and friends in attendance taking his first career win at Bethel ensuring that the racing family legacy created by his father will continue for years to come.

East Coast Wingless TQ feature action found invader Anthony Sesely, another superstar driver taking home the trophy for their Joe Payne Sr tribute race. Sesely a multi-championship winning asphalt modified driver is also versatile and established in three quarter midget racing. Sesely minced the competition quickly coming from eighth starting position to claim the lead from young hotshoe Jasper Zeigafuse on lap five and cruised to his first career Bethel win in convincing fashion driving the Blue Mountain Machine # 16 over Zeigafuse and Tyler Wagner in third.

Ed Dachenhausen used his driving magic to get through the Nascar Asphalt Modified competition with no damage to emerge as the leader getting past rookie Ed Butler on lap 6. Mechanical woes knocked defending track champion John Cote out of the feature on lap 3 allowing current point leader Brian Rygielski to charge up through the pack using the outside lane climbing to second position but was unable to make a suitable challenge on the quick Dachenhausen. At the finish, it was Dachenhausen picking up his second feature win of the season, Rygielski finishing second gaining a larger point lead, and Butler collecting a strong third in his best performance thus far in the established pro stock racer's new division class.

Legends feature racing saw Jeffrey Farruggia putting forth a strong run leading for 13 laps before ace INEX racer Alex McCollum made the winning move with a clean inside charge going down the frontstretch to take the lead as he methodically came through the pack from his ninth starting position. McCollum then fended off any challenges on some late race restarts to capture his third feature win of the season at Bethel over Farruggia's best run to date at Bethel with a strong second and James Anderson taking home a hard fought third place finish.

Gary VanOrden Jr. jumped out to the early lead in a fast and furious Nascar Street Stock feature. Top runners Kyle Welsch and Joel Murns got caught up in some early lap skirmishes putting damages on both cars as two other top runners; current point leader JB Morris and former track champ Walt Henry used the outside groove to come through the pack. Lap 7 found Morris making the winning pass coming off turn two using the outside to acquire the lead over VanOrden. Lap 8, found Henry quickly taking second position from VanOrden. The final laps found an amazing comeback from Kyle Welsch as he muscled his damaged racer back into third position on lap 15 getting past VanOrden. Welsch then challenged Henry for second position as they charged fender to fender to the finish line as the careened off into the infield just past the checkers. Morris

nailed down his third feature win of the season in a flawless race with Henry second and Welsch third in the dramatic finish.

Excitement was the key word to describe two ultra competitive Twin 15 features for the Four Cylinder Pure Stock class. The first feature found John Houghtaling leading for the first 13 laps with Tisha Curry running in second but all eyes were on some hard chargers coming deep from the pack. It was veteran Mike Travis emerging from fourteenth starting position proving to be the best driver in this race as he made an outside pass to take the lead from Houghtaling with two laps to go to pick up his second win of the season over Houghtaling and Curry.

The second twin 15 feature also found an overly exciting race with some hard charging from deep in the pack, this time Richard Smith got to the front first but was then outdueled by current point leader Jerry Kingeter, as Kingeter captured the lead from Smith at the halfway point. Travis again put on the heat late in the race muscling by Smith to take second with five laps to go then began to close in the margin with the leader, Kingeter. The final lap found Travis finding enough real estate to charge hard into turn 3 getting door to door with Kingeter on the inside coming off turn four as the two drivers accelerated towards the checkers racing hard wheel to wheel. At the line it was Kingeter picking up his second win of the season by a fender over Travis with Smith holding on for third in the exciting finish.

It was a photo finish as Jasper Zeigafuse picked up his first Bethel career win by inches over Rick Casario as former Pine Brook Stadium flagger; legendary Russ Meyers through the checkers.

Former dirt modified racer, Keith Majka threaded the needle in an exciting three wide backstretch pass going between Jim Leys and Mike Casario to pick up the ACOT Open Cockpit feature win.

New England racer, Curt Snow made the long haul fruitful as he won an exciting ACOT Vintage Modified feature over Dennis Desautels and AJ Kitzen taking the victory by a car length.

Monica Deckelman continued her mastery of the Bandoleros division as she worked past Leland Oefelein on Lap 7 and never looked back as she cruised to an easy victory.

The Beginner Bandos feature saw Jordan Smith earning a hard-fought win over an improving Easton Houghtaling as the two drivers raced door to door for several laps in the close finish. Alyson Smith finished third.