

Bill Deckelman and Kyle Welsch solidify themselves in speedway history as they win Dirt Modified 'Fall of 69' and Street Stock 'Sullivan 100' respectively in big weekend of racing!

September 27th, 2021:

White Lake, NY: Beautiful Autumn weather was displayed throughout a weekend of racing at Bethel Speedway located in Sullivan County and is part of the Catskill Mountain region. The weekend was highlighted by two popular annual races held at the speedway the dirt modified 'Fall of 69' race and the street stock 'Sullivan 100'. The track is located just minutes away from the original 'Woodstock Music Festival' that was held in 1969.

The dirt modified 'Fall of 69' feature found a tight battle of six racers contending for the lead in close formation throughout the fast-paced race. Point Champion Bill Deckelman waged a shootout with Bethel's all-time dirt car feature win leader Ed Dachenhausen. Other contenders just mere feet away in the close-knit race was former champ Jerry Curry, former Flemington Speedway racer Jeff Parker, Lebanon Valley big block regular LJ Lombardo, and versatile racer Josh Wilbur. Deckelman and Dachenhausen swapped the lead back and forth a few times during the race duration but Deckelman proved to be better in longer green flag runs. At the checkers, Deckelman claimed the 'Fall of 69' win for the second time in his career defeating the determined Dachenhausen by a car length. Curry, Parker, and Lombardo completed the top 5 as they swapped positions throughout the race. In a surprise note afterwards, Deckelman appeared to be electing not to run for the remainder of the season in the stout #07 machine.

Kyle Welsch has mastered the 'Sullivan 100' annual street stock race by taking the win for the second time in his career as he marched forward from tenth starting position. The race was a big pay day for the street stock racers as much contingency and lap money was raised as supporters wanted to see a good turn out of the area's best street stock drivers duke it out for 100 laps on street legal dot tires. Don Rosinski put forth his best performance to date to finish in second as he found himself making challenges on Welsch several times during the race. Joel Murns overcame early race mechanical struggles in the first half of the race to come alive in the second half and rally to a third-place finish. Larry O'Donnell picked up the ride in the Wayne Taylor owned machine and ran with the lead pack all day to come home with a solid fourth place finish. Accord Speedway invader Jay Smalley persevered from heat race struggles by making the right chassis adjustments to be a contender in the 100-lap feature. Smalley found himself locked in a battle with Orange County Fair Speedway invader Bob Sleight Jr. for the second half of the feature beating him by just mere inches at the finish line to claim fifth.

Saturday's INEX Legends feature was a somber one as the feature ran 27 laps in memory of young Tyler Christman who sadly sustained a fatal injury playing a high school football game earlier in the week. Christman was a Legends competitor at Evans Mills Speedway and had raced at Bethel last year during the 2020 pandemic season.

Despite the heavy hearts, the drivers put on a great race as top gun Alex McCollum methodically worked his way up to from seventh starting position to duel with pacesetter Bryan Gardella for several laps. McCollum surged ahead on a restart to take sole command on lap 8 enroute to feature victory. Tanner Jones came from sixth position to take second at the checkers over Gardella in third.

The second half of the Pro Stock feature was worth the price of admission as fans were treated to extremely exciting side by side action from the top two drivers in point standings as they put on a heart pounding battle coming thru the pack and for the feature win. Kenny Hyde and Dave Demorest came from starting positions eighth and ninth as they smartly carved their way through the competition. Hyde got to the lead first at the halfway point but Demorest achieved the second position with five laps to go. Demorest took it to the top and ran the wild side of the track as the two drivers battled door to door in exciting fashion for the remaining laps with Demorest nipping Hyde at the finish line to take his fourth win of the season. A returning Mike Policastro took a solid third in his first start after a long absence.

Versatile racer Jasper Zeigafuse dominated the East Coast TQ feature in the Blu Metz owner Silver Bullet. It was Zeigafuse first career modern win at the speedway. Tyler Wagner and Ozzy Carlino put in solid runs to finish second and third. The club members and speedway were concerned on racer Don Zrinski when he took a scary crash flipping wildly several times in turn two. Quick response from safety crews and EMT's found Zrinski shaken and slow getting out but thankfully walked away with bruised ribs and no broken bones.

Alex McCollum held off Kevin Nowak on the Sunday portion of the INEX Legends doubleheader making him 2 for 2 in the win category for the weekend. Tanner Jones finished third.

Jeffrey Tubbs outdueled Tasha Travis and Tisha Curry to grab victory in the opening round of the Open Comp Four Cylinder Fall Series. It was Tubbs second win of the season.

Richard Smith survived a wild and exciting Open Comp Enduro which included a minefield of hay bales and tires in a race dubbed the 'Haymaker 60'. Smith marched forward from ninth starting position to take the lead from standout enduro racer Scott Riggleman on lucky lap 13. Smith then maintained his lead while Riggleman stayed within striking distance while weaving through many obstacles in the enduro. At the checkers, it was Smith taking his second Enduro feature win of the season thus extending his point lead in the series.

Justin Teresak swept both Bandolero features over the weekend to now give him six feature wins on the season at the speedway. Leland Oefelein and Isaiah Anderson also finished in the top three both days as well.

Sophia Travis picked up her first career feature win in the Beg. Bandos feature on Saturday as the crowd cheered the young driver in victory lane. Easton Houghtaling put forth a strong performance on Sunday to earn his fourth feature win of the season.

Veteran racer Dan Curry took his first feature win of the season by winning a very entertaining and exciting bone stock jalopy Mini-Van feature. Former 'Bombers' racer Clint Morton finished second with Don Corbett in third.

Dom Roselli and young Sadie Creeden were the class of the field as both drivers put in dominant performances in Champ Kart feature racing both coming home with overall feature wins.

It came down to mere inches but Nick Foley picked up his first career feature win over Tucker Katz in the Novice feature.