

PRP Press Release by Chuck Greenslate – DTWC Preview

Portsmouth Raceway Park will once again host the annual Dirt Track World Championship October 18-20. The 38th annual Rhino Ag DTWC presented by Optima Batteries has been a fixture at PRP since 2012.

"We're so blessed to be able to host this race," PRP Track Promoter Donna Rayburn said. "It's like the Super Bowl to the NFL, the World Series to baseball, and the Final Four to college basketball."

The DTWC is undoubtedly a crown jewel for Dirt Late Model Auto Racing. It's \$100,000-to-win payout makes this annual Fall tradition one of the richest dirt-track events in all the world.

The Dirt Track World Championship, which was created by Carl Short in 1981, has been won by some of the most notable Dirt Late Model drivers to have ever sit behind the wheel.

The DTWC has had 25 different winners over the last 37 years, with Shinnston, WV's Josh Richards capturing his first a season ago. New Berlin, IL's Brandon Sheppard and Mooresburg, TN's Scott Bloomquist have also enjoyed success in recent years. Sheppard won it in 2013 and 2016. Bloomquist, a three-time winner of the race, prevailed in 2014 and 2015.

From 1999 through 2013, the race had 14 different winners in 15 years.

Freddy Smith is a five-time DTWC winner, which is the most of any driver. The late Jim Dunn won the first one in 1981.

Five different Ohioans have won the race and four different Kentuckians.

Regional racers Charlie Swartz won the DTWC in 1981 and the late "Black Jack" Boggs captured the checkers three times

"When you look over the list of the DTWC's past winners, you'll find the best names in the sport," Rayburn said. "If they weren't well-known before winning it, they certainly became so afterwards."

In recent years, simply earning a provisional starting spot has become a goal of many drivers, which is completely understandable considering the race pays \$2,000 just simply to start.

Already this season, two provisional starting spots have been captured at Portsmouth Raceway Park. Salt Rock, WV's Eddie Carrier is guaranteed a starting position for claiming this year's PRP track championship, and Kite, KY's Brandon Fouts will have a starting spot for winning this year's Boone Coleman Memorial "Gator 50".

Last season, one of the most thrilling races of the weekend for local fans occurred Friday when 75-year-old, Wheelersburg-native Delmas Conley out dueled Pennsylvania's Jason Covert to win a heat.

Again this year, the DTWC will serve as the season finale for the Lucas Oil Late Model Series. The two previous Lucas Oil races held at PRP this season were thrillers with Jason Jameson winning on June 30th and Brandon Sheppard prevailing on September 1st.

PRP was wicked fast over Labor Day Weekend with Scott Bloomquist establishing a new track record of 13.840 seconds, which averaged out to a speed of 114 mph.

The Late Model-portion of this year's DTWC will start Friday, as the Lucas Oil Series will hit the track for two exciting rounds of qualifying heat races.

Besides Late Models, the weekend will also bring racing for The R.W. Rental and Supply Modifieds and The Ohio Valley Roofers Legends Cars.

The Modifieds will get the weekend kicked off. Barbour Auto Parts and Ross Auto Parts & Paint have teamed up with Auto Value and Wix Filters to sponsor the Dirt Track World Championship Open Wheel Modified racing at Portsmouth Raceway Park. Hot laps and heat races will be Thursday October 18th with the \$4,000 to win main event on Saturday the 20th.

The Legends Cars will run their heats and feature on Friday.

PRP is hopeful that all remnants of September flooding will be gone long before race week arrives, but there is little doubt that this year's DTWC will earn even more respect for Track Operator Tim Coleman, who will definitely put in more hours than ever before in preparation for this year's race.

"We got hit pretty hard by flooding," Rayburn said. "That's very unusual in the fall, but quite common in the spring.

"Unfortunately, cleaning up after high waters is nothing new at PRP. Tim's been down this road before. I don't know how he does it, but I guarantee that come race day, he'll have the track looking brand new!"

General admission and pit gates will both open at 2 p.m. each day of the event. For more information regarding the 2018 DTWC, visit the official Dirt Track World Championship website at www.thedtwc.com, The Lucas Oil Dirt Car Series website at www.lucasdirt.com, or the Portsmouth Raceway Park website at www.portsraceway.com.