

PRP Press Release

Portsmouth Raceway Park began its 25th season of action Sunday with the annual PRP Kickoff Classic. A great opening night crowd was in attendance to witness a full card featuring over 90 race teams with 27 in the Late Model Division and 38 in the Modified Class plus Limited Lates and Bombers.

Racing was fierce throughout the evening with a lot of side-by-side battles and even some three-wide occurrences. R.J. Conley, Keith Smith, Matt Melvin, and Jason Spillman all recorded feature wins in their respective divisions.

The competitive tone was set early. In the very first race of the night, The Late Model Dash, Jackie Boggs made a last-lap, last-turn pass to get the win at the stripe. That type of action persisted throughout the evening, and there were many twists and turns along the way.

In the Giovanni's Pizza Late Models, Wheelersburg's R.J. Conley set fast time. Grayson, KY's Jackie Boggs took the dash, and Wheelersburg racers Nick Bocook and Delmas Conley were triumphant in the heats. Barboursville, WV racer Jake Keaton won the B-Main.

Come feature time, it quickly became evident that dash winner Jackie Boggs and fast qualifier R.J. Conley were going to be the class of the field. They pulled away from the rest of the pack and began dueling for the lead. On lap 6, Conley looked under Boggs, got crossed up, darted through the infield, and made a tremendous save to prevent the car from spinning out. While losing a lot of ground, he didn't relinquish a position.

Two laps later, Mick Sansom spun off turn 2 in front of race leader Jackie Boggs who was unable to avoid him. The only caution of the race occurred as Boggs slammed into the side of Samson and ended the hopes of an opening night win for the 4B Motorsports Team.

With Boggs out of the race, no one had anything for R.J. Conley. He pulled away and led the final 17 laps en route to the victory. His father Delmas, sporting a commemorative paint scheme celebrating 50 years of racing, charged from eighth to second. Wheelersburg's Kevin Wagner got by Martin, KY's Shannon Thornsberry on the final lap to take third, and Wheelersburg native Nick Bocook rounded out the top five. In total, four of the top five finishers were from Wheelersburg.

Jason Montgomery, Rod Conley, J.T. Conley, Mark Frazier, and Audie Swartz rounded out the top 10. Charlie Jude, Robbie Lewis, Joshua Hall, Derek Fisher, Billy Gullion, Avery Taylor, Jake Keaton, Brandon Mason, Mick Sansom, and Jackie Boggs made up the remainder of the field.

The R.W. Rental and Supplies Modifieds were entertaining all night long. Keith Smith, set fast time, won his heat, and took the feature. Other heat race winners were Kevin Hall, Jackie Boggs, and Jason Montgomery. Eric Berry and Aaron Pendleton recorded victories in the B-Mains.

In the Modified A-Main, Kevin Hall started third, jumped out to the early lead, and led the first seven laps. The Wayland, KY driver eventually relinquished the lead to Stanton, KY's Keith Smith. Smith led from lap eight all the way to the end and was exuberant in victory lane.

The rest of the top 10 was made up of Brian Skaggs, Jody Puckett, Jackie Boggs, Shawn Holiday, Todd Robinson, Jason Montgomery, Ervin Vance, and Scott Lemaster. The next 10 consisted of Aaron Pendleton, Cody Smith, Eric Berry, Kevin Harkins, Eddie Harmon, Adam Colley, Eric Hatfield, Dave Jamison, Jeremy Hayes, and Larry Pickleheimer, Jr. Ervin Vance was the biggest mover in the race advancing 11 positions. The Beaver, KY native climbed from 20th to ninth.

In the O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Lates, Matt Melvin came from fourth to win the feature. He got by his father, John, on lap 10 to take the lead. The elder Melvin led the first 10 laps but retired following a flat tire.

Cameron Logan placed second. Mike Meyers, Evyian Terry, and Duane Pick rounded out the top five. Also in the top 10 were Kenny McCann, Ronnie Whitt, Randy Ross, Harold Terry, and Kevin Terry. The rest of the field consisted of John Melvin, Dillon Huron, Billy Staker, Josh Whitrock, and Ellis Cook. The Limited Late Model Heat Race winners were John Melvin and Dillon Huron.

Jason Spillman captured the victory in the M & M Inflatables Bombers. The outside pole sitter got by defending track champ Zack Pendleton on lap two and led the rest of the way. Pendleton, who won the lone Bomber heat, placed second. Wayne Hughes, Rick Butler, Corey Lewis, Kevin Clarke, Mike Drake, Bo McCarty, Brett Carey, and Kasey Black made up the rest of the running order.

After a 14-inch snow in March and a flood-filled April that had Portsmouth Raceway Park submerged for weeks, PRP's 25th season is finally and now officially underway. The action continues this coming Saturday with a complete racing program featuring Late Models, Modifieds, Limited Lates, and Bombers. The evening will also be Dayton Auto Racing Fan Club Night.