

PRP Press Release-Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series July 4, 2015-Chuck Greenslate

Saturday's Fourth of July racing action at Portsmouth Raceway Park brought more "Oohs" and "Ahs" than any fireworks display could ever hope to.

Racing was intense all night long, as the Lucas Oil Late Model Series was in town for the Independence 50 which paid \$10,000 to win. Illinois' Brandon Sheppard became the 12th Lucas Oil winner this season and returned to winner's circle at PRP for the first time since winning the 2013 Dirt Track World Championship.

Modified driver Todd Robinson claimed his fourth feature win of the year, and Limited Late Model regular Mike Meyers returned to victory lane for the third time.

Fans came out in droves to watch the annual holiday showcase, and they were not disappointed. The Independence 50 had four lead changes, four different leaders, a five-car pileup that saw two cars get upside down, and multiple twists and turns.

Of the many surprises in a drama-filled feature, the aforementioned multi-car accident took out Lucas points leader Jonathan Davenport. Local favorite Jackie Boggs broke down on lap three while leading the race. On lap 38, the legendary Scott Bloomquist had a wheel come off.

Earl Pearson, Jr. led 40 of the 50 laps before getting passed by two cars at the same time with one going high and the other low. Sheppard climbed from seventh to grab the win. Dennis Erb, Jr. drove from 13th to second before eventually finishing third, and Jared Landers went to the back of the field on lap 14 after experiencing a flat tire but still managed to battle his way back to second.

Boggs led the first two laps. Pearson led the next three before Landers jumped out front to lead laps six and seven. Pearson re-took the lead on lap eight and stayed up front before Sheppard made the winning pass on lap 45.

Sheppard made the high groove work, as he put his car right up on the wall. The 22-year-old did just about all of his passing up top.

Finishing behind Sheppard were Landers, Erb, Jimmy Owens, and Pearson. Ashland, KY's Steve Francis was sixth. Don O'Neal, Eddie Carrier, Jr., Chris Brown, and Scott Bloomquist made up the rest of the top 10. Rounding out the field were Stephen Breeding, Duane Chamberlain, Devin Moran, R.J. Conley, Delmas Conley, Mason Zeigler, Ben Adkins, Jackie Boggs, Jonathan Davenport, Davey Johnson, Rod Conley, Steve Casebolt, Shannon Thornsberry, and Kenneth Howell.

The most vicious accident of the night was undoubtedly the lap-two crash in the Late Model feature that caused two cars to get upside down. Davey Johnson rolled and landed back on all four tires. Steve Casebolt flipped and landed on his top. All drivers involved in the scary accident walked away unscathed.

The R.W. Rental and Supplies Modified A-Main had an incredible finish. It looked like Jeremy Rayburn was destined to take the checkered flag. The Lucasville native dominated the first 17 laps of the 20-lap feature, but Todd Robinson evidently had luck on his side.

Working lap 18, Robinson had just gotten passed for second by Shawn Holiday when a caution came out backing up the race to the previously scored lap. With three laps to go, Robinson restarted second behind Rayburn. Robinson, the two-time reigning PRP champ, then had the re-start of his life as he dove to the inside of Rayburn, made it stick, and got by to take the win.

Finishing behind Robinson were Holliday, Ervin Vance, Rayburn, Jimmy Lennex, Jeremy Hayes, Jody Puckett, David McWilliams, Adam Jordan, and Jimmy Adams. Vance was named the Markwest Ranger Pipeline Hard Charger, as he advanced 11 spots in the race moving from 14th to third.

The O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Late Model Feature was tightly contested throughout. Mike Meyers had the car to beat, but Evyian Terry kept things interesting and remained within striking distance the entire race. Terry mounted a charge with just a couple of laps to go and actually appeared poised to make a bid for the lead on the white-flag lap when his machine broke down off of turn two.

Placing behind Meyers were Cameron Logan, John Melvin, Matt Melvin, Dillon Huron, Kenny McCann, Ronnie Whitt, Harold Terry, Randy Ross, and Evyian Terry.

The Lucas Oil Series will return to PRP two more times this season. The series regulars will be back over Labor Day Weekend for The River Days Rumble. The series will also return in mid-October for the 35th annual Dirt Track World Championship paying \$100,000 to win.

Portsmouth Raceway Park's next race is scheduled for July 18th. On the card will be Late Models, Modifieds, Limited Lates, and Bombers. The highlighted race of the evening will be the annual Weaver's Gas and Oil Bomber Shootout.