



Donny Schatz scores again at Cottage Grove Speedway

From his first victory to his 201st, Schatz continues to build a renowned racing career

BY BEN DEATHERAGE
For the Sentinel

Seventeen years ago at Cottage Grove Speedway, Donny Schatz picked up his first ever World of Outlaws Sprint Car Series victory. On Wednesday, Sept. 9 at the track, he added to the record books his 201st series win.

“Every one you win is incredible. You never know when it’s going to be your last, so I’m just enjoying the hell out of it at the moment,” Schatz said. “This is the place I got my first win, so it’s always had a special place in my heart, and I’m glad to be able to win here again tonight.”

The win came as Schatz battled past Daryn Pittman in his No. 15 Bad Boy Buggies/Chevrolet Performance car on the second lap of the 35-lap feature and held him off through restarts, all while effectively maneuvering through traffic.

“You just have to get through there the best that you can,” said

Schatz, who drives for Tony Stewart/Curb-Agajanian Racing. “It forces you to change your lineup a little bit. A lot of those guys want to be on the bottom, so I had to try to run around the top. I just didn’t seem to have as much speed there... It was awful snug the whole race and just kept getting better and better and better. That’s what we strive for, to make the thing better as the race goes on and be as good as we can at the end.”

In addition to the win being career number 201, it was also the 28th of the season for Schatz - the most single-season wins of his career.

Pittman, who ended the night in second, started from the feature pole. He and Schatz battled in the opening laps, with Pittman blocking him effectively on lap one, but Schatz got by to lead lap two. Through early cautions Pittman kept his No. 9 car close to Schatz and then as racing got underway and traffic came in to play, Pittman ran

down Schatz. Unfortunately for Pittman, a caution flag waved.

“For whatever reason, the first five laps, I was really struggling and just had no grip,” Pittman said. “The longer the race went I felt like my car got better. The race was really getting good there before that caution or red there in the middle. We were right there in heavy lap traffic and had a shot but [Donny] doesn’t make many mistakes.”

Pittman said Cottage Grove has not historically been a good track for him, so he was happy to get the podium finish.

“It was a lot of fun,” Pittman said. “You don’t want to run second, but I haven’t had very many fun seconds this year.”

Shane Stewart’s path to the podium was a bit more challenging, as he faced off with Brad Sweet and Jason Solwold. Stewart fell back as far as sixth in his No. 2 car in the first 10 laps as he faced several restarts.

In front of him was Solwold, who battled to third on a restart

four laps earlier. As the two drivers worked to complete lap 13, Stewart got around him to take the position.

By the midway point in the feature, Brad Sweet was on Stewart’s tail and the two drivers fought for position.

“Me and Brad had a pretty good race there in the middle of the race and I could see him a couple of times; I just needed to hit my marks around the bottom,” Stewart said.

Stewart was able to do that, and he brought his car home in third. He said the track is a tough one for him, so he was happy to get a podium finish. This is the fourth podium finish in the last five races for Stewart and his Larson Marks Racing team.

“Happy with a podium finish and we’ll carry this momentum into Gold Cup and hopefully we can get some wins there and Antioch and on into the East,” Stewart said.



Photo by Jim Settelmeyer
Ryan Barger, Alex Clifton, Max Gause, Connor Howard and Jayden Tucker trot through the mud on Saturday.

Lions run in the mud

Cross Country’s 5k run featured obstacles and more during Saturday’s race

BY JIM SETTELMAYER
For the Sentinel

The Ultimook 5K Saturday was not a typical race for the Lion Cross Country Team.

In the pre-meet coaches meeting, visitors were warned that the local runners fell negotiating the downhill to the first river crossing in their practice run, and if runners lost their shoe in the mud pit they must find it and put it back on before being allowed to continue. And, oh, by the way, the pit seems especially

soft this year.

No personal records were set (with the exception of newcomer Mitchell Johnson’s 27:55... on account it was his first 5K) but several lions overcame these unique obstacles to run near season-best times, led by Maeve Dahlen whose effort in the mud did reset her season record at 31:47.

The Lion Harriers take another long trip to the coast this coming weekend to compete in the storied Three Course Challenge in Seaside.

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