

SPEEDWAY

Dills Earns top five at Cottage Grove to garner second Straight Championship

BY BEN DEATHERAGE
For the Sentinel

Patrick Dills secured his second straight Cottage Grove Speedway track championship following a top-five finish during the Extreme Sprints season finale last Saturday.

Dills finished the season tied for the division lead in wins (two), top fives (eight) and top 10s (10), but his strong qualifying and heat race performances were the difference makers.

"It means a lot to win back-to-back championships," he said. "That was a big goal of ours, and to accomplish it after a grueling season means a lot to myself, my family, the team and our sponsors. All the hard work paid off."

Dills kicked off last Saturday's event by qualifying ninth-quickest. He then advanced from fifth to fourth place in a heat race.

"We just missed the setup in qualifying and we had a RaceSaver tire on," he said. "The

track changed drastically, and we didn't catch it. Plus, I ran the top in qualifying, and I should have run the bottom. I didn't make two good laps. That closed the gap from 19 points to nine going into the heat races."

Dills gained points in the heat race and secured the title by advancing from ninth to fifth place in the main event.

"In the feature I was up to fourth at one point and I blew the cushion in turns one and two," he said. "I fell back to

sixth or seventh and picked off another car or two after that."

Dills also ranks fifth in the Triple Crown standings following the first of three events. The next round is Saturday at Coos Bay Speedway in Coos Bay, Ore. The final race is Sept. 10 at Southern Oregon Speedway in White City, Ore., although Dills currently plans on competing in a 360ci race at Cottage Grove Speedway that night.

Championship Weekend at Cottage Grove Speedway next, karts on Friday, Sept. 9

The final time to see some of the best racing in the Pacific Northwest is this weekend at Cottage Grove Speedway. The Kage Karts will have their final race on Friday, Sept. 9 while the 1/4-mile clay oval will race on Saturday, Sept. 10. Divisions on the card for Saturday include 360 Sprints, Late Models, and the Quality RV Repair Hornets, while the Modifieds will be open comp and non-points. All three championships on the line are mathematically up for

grabs.

For the Kart races General Admission is free and Pit Passes are \$10 and Car and Driver fees will be \$35. The Pit Gate will open up around 4 p.m. and the Pit Meeting is at 6 p.m. with Hot Laps and Racing to follow. Roger Crockett has the most wins in the 360 Sprints with three trips to victory lane. Kyle Miller is the only other multi-feature winner, with two, while Jason Solwold and Trey Starks have one win each. Kyle

Miller has a 35-point advantage over second place Roger Crockett. Garen Linder, third in the standings, is 40 markers back behind Miller.

In the Late Model division, Ron Brewster leads in the win column with three victories over Britton Donahoo's two. Donahoo, though, has a 58-point lead over Brewster in the race for the championship. Darren Coffell, Rob Campos, John Duty, Preston Luckman, Jesse Williamson and Brian Cronk all

have one Late Model win this year.

In the Quality RV Repair Hornets Joe Maricle has the most wins and points so far. Maricle has made seven trips to the winner's circle while Josh Corley has six victories. Corley trails Maricle by 31 markers headed into the final event. K.C. Scott, Brad Moffett, and Chris Pierce have one win to their credit.

FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PG 1B

each for 46 and 54 yards.

With 115 yards on the ground, the Lions' offense racked up a whopping 435 yards of total offense. Roberts says that the production comes down to a slight weakness on Newport's defensive side along with the good execution of the Lions' offense.

"When you have kids who can do really well in space and players are executing, that will happen," Roberts added. The Lions could have possibly scored three more times if it weren't for a few turnovers, including a fumble at the goal line.

Parent's 84 percent completion rate proved the senior as a very efficient passer, despite his two interceptions. He completed passes to a total of seven different receivers, though Giffen seemed to be his primary target throughout the night. The Lions will travel east this Friday to face Madras High School, a team comparable to Newport. Though on the road, Cottage Grove should have similar success with an offense that seems to be clicking in all aspects.

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