

Battle of the Buses

Hermiston Super Oval finds a new hit with school bus races

By **ERIC SINGER**
Staff Writer

The first school bus race debuted in August 2015 and it instantly became a crowd favorite.

This past weekend on June 25, the Hermiston Super Oval hosted its first school bus race of the year, and once again it brought out a big crowd of a few hundred people packed into the old, red wooden grandstands at the track.

The Saturday event featured three different races for the buses, a five-lap trophy dash, a 10-lap heat race, and finally the 35-lap Figure-8 race which is the main event of the evening. The trophy dash and heat races featured some exciting action, with some three-wide racing on the straightaways and into the corners. But once the sun went down and the car races were finished, the fans were ready for the main event.

With six buses competing,



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC SINGER

Two school buses race side-by-side through turn four during one of two trophy dash races at the Hermiston Super Oval on Saturday in Hermiston.

it took a few laps to see some real action, but once a few buses pulled away to spread out the pack, some tense moments developed for the fans with buses appearing to be headed for a collision in the middle of the Figure-8 track.

Most of the time, the drivers slowed down to make sure they could each pass through safely, but there were a few drivers that

decided to risk a crash and sped up to attempt to make it through, causing many near-misses that ended in collective sighs from the crowd, who after a few near-misses were on the edge of their seats hoping to see a crash.

During the inaugural Figure-8 race, a side-swipe collision happened in the middle of the track, resulting in one bus rolling over into a nearby lightpole. The act



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC SINGER

School buses complete a lap during the trophy dash round at the Hermiston Super Oval on Saturday evening in Hermiston.

subsequently knocked out the power for the entire race track.

"It's total chaos," said Dan Nelson, the operations manager at the track who has competed in bus races before.

The Super Oval has three more bus race events on their 2016 schedule, with the next one being a school bus trailer race taking place on Aug. 13 followed by a school bus boat race on Sept. 17.

And for those fans that love to see wrecks and destruction, the Super Oval finishes off the season with a bus race demolition derby — where the objective is to cause as much damage as possible.

"It's just good old fashioned redneck fun," Nelson said.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC SINGER

School buses complete a lap during one of two five-lap trophy dash races at the Hermiston Super Oval on Saturday night in Hermiston.

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Pendleton **\$152,000** - 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath. 2028 sq.ft. Two car garage, fenced yard, central gas heat, large family room. MLS# 16413663
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Pendleton **\$273,500 - 6 BDRM**, 4.5 bath, in desirable College View Addition. Hickory Cabinets, Fireplace, Grande Master Suite, Storage Room, UGS, RV Parking. Possible extra lot. Call Matt Vogler. MLS# 16690591
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Homes for Sale, Other Areas 115

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Pendleton **\$269,000** - 3 Bed, 2 Bath mountain home on 6.68 acres. Beautiful home on 6.68 acres within 15 minutes of Pendleton. Gorgeous property with 2 pastures. MLS# 16035201
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Pendleton **\$272,500-** 7.5 acres with 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Aluminum siding and metal roof. Full water rights and 100 GPM well. Two fenced pastures. MLS #15014105.
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Pendleton **\$359,900** - 23 AC.(m/l), water rights. Newly "spiffed" up property! 3 bed home, 2 fireplaces, family rm. Outbuildings. Minutes from town, hospital, near McKay Dam - fishing, boating, wildlife! RMLS# 16029884 ASK FOR MARGE LAPP.

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Acreages 135

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