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Last lap for a 'weekend warrior'



*"He's a great driver —
a real weekend warrior
like most of us."*

Greg Walden,
Hermiston Raceway promoter

STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE

Vic Beard waves a checkered flag as he takes the final lap of his racing career on Friday at the Hermiston Raceway.

Friday night's race honors longtime driver Vic Beard

By BRETT KANE
STAFF WRITER

Friday night's race at the Hermiston Raceway began by honoring a veteran of the track.

Vic Beard, 70, had been working on his 2007 Chevrolet Impala, painted red and white with the number 77 displayed across the doors, with the intention of continuing his career as a Hermiston racer.

However, he grew too tired to make it down to the course to compete. He was later diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer.

Beard took his final lap around the raceway during the night's opening ceremonies. He was followed by nearly 30 of his fellow drivers.

"He'd been competing here for over 20 years," said Hermiston Raceway promoter Greg Walden (not the Congressman). "He's a great driver — a real weekend warrior like most of us."

A packed stadium stood and applauded as Beard took his lap, and soon the evening's races were underway.

The event, titled Friday Night Showdown, pitted drivers against each other divided into six categories:



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE

Melissa Schroder and Treina Critchfield of Kennewick, and Tammy Vetsch of Tacoma cheer on drivers at the Hermiston Raceway.

Late Models, Street Stocks, Legends, Mini Stock & Super Mini, Bombers, and Hornets. Cars were categorized depending on various specifications, including car size, engine type, and material used to outfit the cars.

The event began with a series of heat races, which consisted of eight cars and eight laps. The top four drivers of these races would then move on to the main event, which consisted of races lasted upwards of 30 laps.

After the races finished, audiences were in for a special event — CrashMania's demolition derby Point Series took over Hermiston's course. The tournament consists of six races held throughout southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. The competitor who has accumulated the most points by the end of the tour is set to receive \$1,000 and a CrashMania championship belt.

"It's been a great season," Walden said. "All of our classes

have been growing, and we're providing good entertainment for the fans."

Audiences regularly jumped to their feet as cars roared by the stands, either cheering in support or jeering at a flagman's decision.

"I've been to more races here than I can count," said Treina Critchfield of Kennewick. "It's exciting, it's tradition, and the new promoters have done a great job of keeping it up and running. And you just can't beat the smell

of burnt rubber."

Hermiston Raceway's next event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 18 at 6 p.m.

Auto racing

Hermiston Raceway, Week 9

Hornet Main

1st #77 Devin Taylor
2nd #77 David Knowles
3rd #7 Tracy "Snoop" Howell
4th #11 Joe Dunn
5th #12 Kris Marlow
6th #18 Karen Pitzer
7th #13 Ryan Rodabaugh
8th #1 Rob "Ricky Bobby" Cassano
9th #21 Owen Berglund
10th #24 Justus Zamudio
11th #883 Woodrow Pittman
12th #69 Cody McDonald
13th #22 Caroline Barnes
14th #17 Kedric Preston

Mini Stock Main

1st #49 Angel Oseguera
2nd #29 Andy Pierce
3rd #71 Logan Blackburn

Super Mini Stock Main

1st #11X Patrick Mullins
2nd #11 Chris Kohler
3rd #27 Ron Wilbur
4th #8 Bradd Arneson

Bomber Main

1st #17 Kedric Preston
2nd #123 Jeremy Erb
3rd #55 Justin Gage
4th #2 Arlen Calley
5th #N21K Carl Leggett

Street Stock Main

1st #77 Jeff Stremcha
2nd #46 Terry Osborn
3rd #28 Kaylyn Jeffery
4th #13 Adam Baker
5th #75 Terry Lydell

Legend Main

1st #24Z Jose Zamudio
2nd #81 Ben Matheson
3rd #54 Trace Thompson
4th #13 Donnie Rabbit
5th #43 Bill Kik
6th #2 Jeff Mueller
7th #3 Neema Kik
8th #23 Steve Owen

Late Model Main with a special tribute to #77 Vic Beard

1st #12 Rick Gerrard
2nd #15 Dan Nelson
3rd #3 Ken Bonney
4th #7 Tom Abercrombie

Catch a local at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo

By BRETT KANE
STAFF WRITER

Local cowboys and cowgirls will take to the Farm-City Pro Rodeo Area to defend their home turf — or dirt — this week.

Several local competitors are currently ranked within the top 20 on the 2018 Columbia River Circuit and will perform throughout the week's rodeo events.

You can catch steer wrestlers Dalton Massey and Ryan Bothum of Hermiston on Friday at 2 p.m. during that day's slack. Massey

is currently ranked at No. 8 and Bothum at No. 13. Bothum will also compete that night at 7:45 p.m.

Team ropers Andy Carlson and Jake Stanley of Hermiston, currently holding down the No. 6 and 9 spots, respectively, will compete in the slack matinee on Saturday at 2 p.m. and the rodeo's fourth night at 7:45 p.m. Other local team ropers include B.J. Roberts of Hermiston and Phoenix Everano of Pendleton.

Brad Goodrich and Michael Pederson of Hermiston will compete in the

rodeo's tie-down competitions on Friday and Saturday. Goodrich is ranked at No. 3 in the event, and Pederson is at No. 9.

Seth Hopper of Stanfield stands at No. 10 and will perform for the slack on Thursday, and during the second night at 7:45 p.m.

Other local athletes include barrel racers Jordan Minor, currently ranked at No. 4, Mary Shae Hays, and Jami Erwert of Hermiston, and Amy Coelho and Libby Gibson of Echo, bull rider Clay Hall, and Stanfield steer wrestler Travis

Taruscio.

"The idea of this rodeo is to attract the best contestants for the fans to watch," said director Jon Gill. "We have the best contestants and livestock out there. It's a pretty good draw. We're honored to have them."

Go see it

The Farm-City Pro Rodeo is Wednesday through Saturday at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston. Start: 2 p.m. slack, 7:30 p.m. main performance. Cost: \$17 for general admission.



HH FILE PHOTO

Ryan Bothum turns his steer in 5.1 seconds in steer wrestling at the 2016 Farm-City Pro Rodeo in Hermiston. He will compete this Friday in Hermiston.