

Raceway season crosses finish line

By **BRETT KANE**
STAFF WRITER

The Hermiston Raceway lit up the track for its “Fall Brawl” race to close the 2018 season on Saturday night.

The event served as the finale for 14 races held since April, and was the track’s biggest turnout yet. More than 70 cars competed across six divisions — Hornets, Bombers, Mini Stocks, Super Mini Stocks, Street Stocks and Late Models, based on car specifications and driver age and experience.

Motorists from across the region filled Saturday’s lineup, representing cities such as Yakima, Monroe, Wash., Portland, Bend, and Moses Lake. The Northwest Pro Four Alliance, a division that travels throughout the Northwest and races “exotic” cars with four-cylinder 320 horsepower engines, also took to the race tracks to celebrate the raceway’s season.

The drivers competed for a trophy and prize money collected from ticket sales and pit passes. On Saturday night, more than \$10,000 was awarded to drivers throughout the six divisions — more than twice the usual pool.

“This year met our expect-



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE
Ryan Rodabaugh, 16, with a trophy awarded for winning the Hornets division heat race.

tations in terms of the number of cars and people in the crowd, and the shows we’ve provided to the public,” said promoter Greg Walden. “Next year, we’d like to see the facility improve. We’d like to add a scoreboard. I’m here to make it exciting for the fans and competitors.”

This year was Walden’s first as promoter for the Hermiston Raceway. Walden began driving at the Tri-City course when he was 16. His father Wayne and

mother Carolyn ran the business from 1982-1998. After the tracks in the Tri-Cities and Yakima closed down, he came to Hermiston to give the sport more attention in the area.

“For Hermiston, this year was phenomenal,” he said. Neena Kik, a driver in the Legends category, was this season’s champion, closing out the year with a total of 1,016 points accumulated over the 14 races. The second-place winner, Jose

Zamudio, racked up 944 points.

For Kik, racing runs in the family — she was introduced to the sport through her father Bill, and has been driving competitively for seven years. Bill won the night’s Legends heat race.

“I pushed my car as hard as I could,” she said as she lined her car up to hit the course. “The adrenaline is very therapeutic. I love racing. I have every intention to come back next year.”

Hermiston Raceway’s Fall Brawl 2018 Top finishers
Bandolero Heat: 1, Ryker Ohler; 2, Meredith Thompson.
Bandolero Main: 1, Meredith Thompson; 2, Ryker Ohler.
Hornet Fast Time: David Knowles 18.92.
Hornet B Heat: 1, Ryan Rodabaugh; 2, Rob “Ricky Bobby” Cassano; 3, Ron Wilbur.
Hornet Heat A: 1, Kris Marlow; 2, Craig Jensen; 3, David Bauer.
Hornet Main: 1, Kris Marlow; 2, David Bauer; 3, David Knowles.
Bomber Fast Time: Kellie Zacharias, 19.045.
Bomber Heat B: 1, Craig Jensen; 2, Kedric Preston; 3, Carl Leggett.
Bomber Heat A: 1, Shade Coe; 2, Jeff Baker Jr; 3, Arlen Calley.
Bomber Main: 1, Kedric Preston; 2, Shade Coe; 3, Jeff Baker Jr.
Street Stock Fast Time: Richard Kerr 16.310.
Street Stock Heat B: 1, Jeff Stremcha; 2, Randy Pugh; 3, Seth Frazier.
Street Stock Heat A: 1, Bart Hector Sr.; 2, Ted Lingren; 3, Ron Stewart.
Street Stock Main: 1, Mark Marthaller Jr.; 2, Ron Stewart; 3, Richard Kerr.
Legend Fast Time: Brock McDonough 16.906.
Legend Heat B: 1, Austin Snodgrass; 2, Broc Nelson; 3, Shane Page.
Legend Heat A: 1, Bill Kik; 2, Trace Thompson; 3, Donovan Barr.
Legend Main: 1, Broc Nelson; 2, Donovan Barr; 3, Jerod Marin.
NW Pro 4 Alliance Fast Time: Steve Thompson, 15.397.
NW Pro 4 Alliance Heat B: 1, Rick Thompson; 2, Chance Overholt; 3, Brian Tichler.
NW Pro 4 Alliance Heat A: 1, Brad Morrison; 2, Eddie Secord; 3, Steve Thompson.
NW Pro 4 Alliance Main Event: 1, Brad Morrison; 2, Steve Thompson; 3, Rick Thompson.



STAFF PHOTO BY ANNIE FOWLER
Umatilla coaches Dan Durfey, left, and Scott Bow are among the national top 50 nominees in U.S. Cellular’s Most Valuable Coach Program.

Umatilla coaches up for award, donation

By **ANNIE FOWLER**
STAFF WRITER

Two Umatilla High School coaches could use your vote.

Dan Durfey (football) and Scott Bow (boys basketball) were nominated for the U.S. Cellular’s Most Valuable Coach program.

The program, which began Aug. 21, gave people the opportunity to nominate current K-12 school-affiliated coaches in its markets who inspire their players and are leaders in their schools and communities.

Bow said he and Durfey each received an email with “you have been nominated” in the subject line.

“Neither Dan nor I really responded to it,” Bow said. “As the deadline got closer, they called us. We found out someone took the time to nominate us. It’s a great publicity thing for Umatilla High School. It’s just cool to be honored.”

Dane Yancey, the local marketing and brand activation manager for U.S.

Cellular in the Northwest, said coaches nationwide were nominated for the program, and out of hundreds of submissions, the top 50 were chosen.

“We break it down into how they impact their school, athletes and community,” said Yancey, who is based in Richland. “We look at their leadership, if they go above and beyond, and connect with their players. For there to be two from one school is rare. It’s the first time in the past three years.”

The top 15 coaches earning the most votes will be announced on Oct. 11, and they will advance to the final round of voting. U.S. Cellular will donate \$5,000 to their schools.

People still have six days to vote for Bow and Durfey. Neither are in the top 15 at the moment, but that could change with a few key strokes. Voting can be done at <https://www.themostvaluablecoach.com>.

People can vote for their favorite coaches among the top 50 nominees through 9:59 a.m. on Oct. 8.

Tigers come close in league opener

HERMISTON HERALD

The Weston-McEwen TigerScots (1-3, 1-0) opened 2A Special District 6 play on Friday with a 34-28 win over Stanfield in Athena.

AJ Keeny ran for 152 yards and two touchdowns for Stanfield (1-4, 0-1), while Enrique Arellano ran for 76 yards and two touchdowns.

The Tigers had the ball with 22 seconds left in the game, and a long pass play

set them up in Weston-McEwen territory, but a fumble on what would be the last play of the game killed the drive.

Stanfield will host Grant Union (2-3) on Friday.

ECHO 72, PRAIRIE CITY 0 — Echo took home a road win, shutting out Prairie City on Friday night for their season’s third consecutive victory.

“We were a little short-staffed because some kids

were out for grade-checks,” said Echo coach Rick Thew. “But everyone stepped up and played really well. The kids kept their heads. It was a team win.”

The Cougars will travel to Burnt River (0-4) on Friday.

NYSSA 55, UMATILLA 6 — Umatilla fell to Nyssa on the road, with quarterback Andrew Earl passing to running back Ramiro Alvarez for the team’s only touchdown.

Earl was also 6-28 for 43 yards and caught one interception. Alvarez was 1-6 for 17 yards.

“During the first half, we played really well. We stopped them defensively,” said Umatilla coach Dan Durfey. “But they passed really well in the second half — that’s how they got us.”

Umatilla will go for their first league win of the season when they host Burns (5-0, 1-0) on Friday.

KENNISON VISITOR BLEACHERS

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