

Sprint car, bomber drivers bring excitement to Sunset Speedway

By Rusty Bolts

Kenny Cope of Myrtle Creek, July 22, became the fourth different winner in four 360 Sprint Car races at Sunset Speedway this year. In the Pro 4 division, Grey Ferrando of Salem led every lap and in non-points Street Stock, hard charger Brent Porter was victorious.

The most exciting race of the night, however, was the Bomber Feature. In their Main Event, North Plains pilot Shawn Thomson won with a last turn pass over a surprised Greg Long of Forest Grove.

Cope played a waiting game enroute to his first win at Banks, racing the bulk of the event in the third position. It was defending Champion Ty Mayden who took an early lead over pole sitter Tony Thomas, Cope, Bill Winsley and Don Trent.

Richard Weishan Jr., lost control in the first turn, collected Turner's Rick Dewar and plowed head on into a Euclid tire. On the back straight, some competitors let off, causing problems for those who followed. Heat winner Vince McDonnell apparently made contact with Shawn Smith of Idaho and both mounts sustained damage. Weishan and McDonnell were done for the night, but Smith's crew was able to make repairs and continue. Mayden led on the restart while Cope pressured Thomas. The best battle of the race was between Inter-Mountain point leader Hinkle, and Trent of Veneta. This dogfight would rage until later in the feature, with neither driver willing to concede. Meanwhile, Thomas shook loose Cope and after a few laps, was challenging Mayden. Once Thomas made his presence known, all he had to do was wait for Mayden to err — on a dry/slick track, Thomas didn't have to wait long. Mayden half spun between turns one and two, allowing not only Thomas to pass, but Cope and Winsley as well. Mayden re-entered the race in the fourth position but had lost his rhythm and soon found trouble instead. Hinkle and Trent caught Mayden at full kilt and the three cars tangled. The red flew for Trent, who had driven over the top of the disoriented Mayden and disabled both cars. Cope caught his second wind during the clean up and launched another assault on Thomas. Then the totally unexpected happened; searching for a bit of adhesion in the high groove, Thomas spun and stalled. Cope was handed the lead for the last restart and drove the final few laps unchallenged. Steadfast Winsley, who had chased Cope the distance, wound up second. Smith came back after repairs to finish third. Hinkle was a hard fought fourth, and Dewar hung on for fifth.

Eight cars started in the Pro 4 Feature after Mike Opoka crashed hard, without injury, in his heat. As he has done so

many times in the past, young Grey Ferrando jumped into an early lead in his hot-rodded Honda. What set this night apart, however, was that Ferrando would not be denied. A yellow flew for dash winner Greg Walters, a second for

Scott Peal, and a third for Steve Power, but through it all, Ferrando kept Keith Peal of Vancouver in his mirror. Tom Pinkowsky, who had won the last Pro 4 appearance at Sunset, climbed only as far as third this night. Walters recovered

from his early spin to finish fourth, and Power did likewise to round out the top five.

A dozen Street Stocks took the green flag, with neophyte Don Jenner leading Brent Porter, A.J. Tipton, John Nusom, and Jeff Gilman. Within a couple of rotations however, the top three Camaros had distanced themselves from the rest of the pack. The experienced Porter attempted a gutsy outside pass for the lead and made it stick. Jenner tried to retaliate, but spun instead. Next, point leader Tipton T-boned the Ford Maverick of Ed Hayes, and a yellow flag was thrown. With his two main challengers out of the hunt, Porter cruised the balance of the Feature without breaking a sweat. Nusom's skill at adapting to dirt tracks showed with a respectable second, Gilman was third in his crowd-pleasing Chevelle. For this night, car owner Dan Buker replaced hired gun Mark Bell in his Camaro and came home fourth, ahead of Dash winner Tipton.

A season high number of Bombers showed up to do battle and Greg Long, Craig Loomis, Kendall Lee, and Clint Meyer won heats. The Trophy

Dash was claimed by past Feature winner Brian Staley, and Jay Silas Jr. took the B Main ahead of Jeff Brookshire and Terry Talbot. Long brought them down to take the green in the A Main, followed by Loomis, Lee and Danny O'Neil. Point leader Shawn Thomson was forced to start deep in the pack but was on the move immediately. Long, a Feature winner this season, began to distance himself from the field as another high points man, Mike Mastrangelo, was forced to pit. A yellow waved just as Thomson broke into the top five, and Long was reeled back in. When racing resumed, Thomson continued to move forward utilizing the high groove.

Finally, with a single lap to spare, Thomson seized the point. Long, smelling victory himself, charged back underneath and led into the final turn. Thomson pointed his Camaro toward the fence at that point and buried his foot. The result was another win by a whisker, Long was second. Newcomers to Sunset, Loomis and O'Neil were third and fourth respectively, and Doug Younkin, back after several weeks absence, was fifth.

SUMMARY, JULY 22

Bomber:

HEAT 1: Greg Long, Danny O'Neil, George Daniels, Jay Silas Jr., Brian Clark

HEAT 2: Craig Loomis, Mike Mastrangelo, Doug Younkin, Dave Ruby, Brian Staley

HEAT 3: Kendall Lee, Michael Meyer, Stan Asanovic, Jeff Brookshire, Terry Talbot

HEAT 4: Clint Meyer, Dennis Krohling, Shawn Thomson, Tom Finley, Bob Kister

DASH: Staley, Mastrangelo, Thomson, Long

B MAIN: Silas Jr., Brookshire, Talbot, Ruby, Staley

MAIN: Thomson, Long, Loomis, O'Neil, Younkin, Silas Jr., Talbot, C. Meyer, M. Meyer Asanovic, Lee, Ruby, Krohling, Brookshire, Mastrangelo, Daniels

Street Stock

HEAT 1: Don Jenner, A.J. Tipton, John Nusom, Tony Catalano, Bill Patraw

HEAT 2: Brent Porter, Jeff Gilman, Dan Buker, Dustin Wilkenson, Robert Williams

DASH: Tipton, Gilman, Jenner, Porter

MAIN: Porter, Nusom, Gilman, Buker, Tipton, Catalano, Jenner, Wilkenson, Ed Hayes, Williams, Brian Overturn, Patraw

Pro 4

HEAT 1: Scott Peal, Keith Peal, Red Van Dyne, Steve Power, Stanley Steeves

HEAT 2: Dave Walters, Tom Pinkowsky, S. Peal, K. Peal, Mike Opoka

DASH: Walters, Pinkowsky, Van Dyne, Power

MAIN: Grey Ferrando, K. Peal, Pinkowsky, Walters, Power, Steeves, S. Peal Van Dyne

360 Sprint Cars

HEAT 1: Tony Thomas, Don Trent, Mark Hinkle, Carl Tresser, Dick Weishan, Jr.

HEAT 2: Vince McDonnell, Ty Mayden, Bill Winsley, Kenny Cope, Shawn Smith

DASH: Thomas, Mayden, Trent, McDonnell

MAIN: Cope, Winsley, Smith, Hinkle, Rick Dewar, Thomas, Mayden, Trent, McDonnell, Weishan Jr., Tresser

SUMMARY, JULY 29

Bomber:

HEAT 1: Doug Younkin, Mike Mastrangelo, John Mayfield, Rick Fors, Kendall Lee

HEAT 2: Arnie Case, Greg Long, Brian Staley, Carolyn Nordby, Brian Clark

HEAT 3: Jay Silas Jr, Doug Trout, Tim Gilman, Walter Wollman, Stan Asanovic

HEAT 4: Jeff Brookshire, Terry Talbot, Kirk Krause

DASH: Younkin, Silas Jr., Long Talbot

MAIN: Youkin, Case, Brookshire, Long, Mastrangelo, Talbot, Fors, Asanovic, Clint Meyer, Lee, Mayfield, Brian O'Rear, Wollman, Gilman, Staley, Silas Jr., Trout, Krause, Nordby, Clark, Steve Anderson

Street Stocks:

HEAT 1: Dustin Wilkenson, Charlie Weaver, John Nuson, Bob Trout, Mike Fitzpatrick

HEAT 2: Brent Porter, Don Greutz, Sonny Sayre, Pet Kelley, James Simeroth

HEAT 3: Jay Silas, Jeff Gilman, Jimmy Masure, Derek Vorseth, Gary Meyer

HEAT 4: A.J. Tipton, Rich Kelley, Rhett Daly, Tony Catalano, David Johnson

DASH: Meyer, Tipton, R. Kelley,

Trout

B MAIN: Meyer, Simeroth, Fitzpatrick, Nathan Morton, Susan Nelson

A MAIN: Tipton, Sayre, Porter, Silas, Weaver, Daly, Trout, Meyer, Nuson, Masure, Wilkenson, Catalano, Greutz, Fitzpatrick, Gilman, P. Kelley, Morton, R. Kelley, Vorseth, Simeroth

Cascade Hardtops:

HEAT 1: Steve Webb, Mark Bell, Dan Shaw, Jim Beardley, Bob Taube

HEAT 2: Tom Willie, Gerry Grossen, Greg Ray, Stanley Garboden, Steve Lemley

DASH: Bell, Webb, Grossen, Shaw

MAIN: Grossen, Bell, Dave Bax, Willie, Shaw, Lemley, Taube, Dale

bake, Ray, Garboden, Richard Nordby, Beardley, Webb, Robert Lavorico

360 Sprint Cars:

HEAT 1: Tony Thomas, Vince McDonnell, Bill Winsley, Carl Tresser, Rick Dewar

HEAT 2: Ty Mayden, Mark Hinkle, Kenny Cope, Jim Skinner, C.J. Whistledach

DASH: McDonnell, Thomas, Winsley, Mayden

MAIN: Thomas, Mayden, McDonnell, Hinkle, Cope, Winsley, Dewar, Tresser, Skinner, Whistledach

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