

Faulkner, Greer and Hurley capture their first main event wins

by Mike Weber

In what could be regarded as River City Speedway's premier event — the "Joe Jeffries Memorial" proved to be a significant highlight, too, for Lisa Faulkner, Greg Greer and Doug Hurley, who each captured their first main event wins of the season in Saturday's stock car races at the Columbia County Fairgrounds on July 30.

Perhaps inspired by the tribute honoring Jeffries, a number of area competitors had outstanding performances while

recording top-five main event finishes, including St Helens drivers Jeremy Martin, Tricia Brittain and Adam Beehler, in addition to Scappoose drivers Tim Williams and Nick Novak. Jeffries, a former mini stock division driver, was an Army Reserve Specialist who was killed two years ago in Afghanistan at age 21.

In one of the most thrilling races this year, Greer edged Martin with their cars side-by-side in a rare photo finish to take the checkered flag in the

Baxter Auto Parts Modified main with his Advantage Screen Printing open-wheel style modified racer. Greer took the lead from Corbett's Scott Winebarger on lap 25 and led the final 20 circuits to notch his first-ever main event win in the series. Winebarger took third, followed by Gannin Thomas of St. Helens. It was the fourth top-three finish for Martin in the Alliance Automotive/Reser's Fine Foods sponsored racer owned by Sam Jeffers of Scappoose. It was a good day for the three-car STC Racing Parts team owned by Jeffers, as defending champion Dan Smith of Scappoose was fifth and Stephen Kaptur of Deer Island took sixth.

"In the last race (July 8), I lost to Todd Hardesty by half a car length, so my last two races have been extremely close second place finishes and I was just six inches behind Greer, so it sure was a great finish," said Martin, who is ranked second in the division behind Portland's Ray Elwess. "Since Elwess had trouble though (13th place), I've reduced the gap substantially in the point standings. Our goal is to win another title for Sam, but there's other top contenders capable of winning too and the championship probably won't even be determined until the final race on September 16."

The sportsman main was plagued by six caution periods as attrition reduced the number of entrants from 16 to just seven that remained at the conclusion of the 45-lap race. On the

opening lap, a four-car crash on the front straightaway involved Kirk Brissett, Jesse Freeman, Hurley and Brittain. Jon Gillett of St. Helens, moved ahead on the ensuing restart and led until Hurley passed him on lap 14. Brittain spun out in turn one on lap 38 for a final caution after her Fast Racing Chevrolet Monte Carlo was bumped from behind by a Chevy driven by Vancouver's John Fordyce, who was penalized by CCRA officials for the incident.

Hurley, of Castle Rock, continued leading the last seven circuits with the RSG Forest Products Monte Carlo and won by four car lengths over division leader Rodney Cook of Rainier. Williams took third, which marked his sixth top-five finish and Brittain was fourth.

"I don't know what was going on tonight, but after an extremely rough race, I sure was glad to get fourth," said Brittain, who recorded her fourth top-five with the Paulson Printing/Warren Country Inn Chevy. "I'm not the type of person that points fingers at people, but I really felt that there was intentional rough driving and unsportsmanlike conduct by some drivers. It's not much fun when guys who are not even contending for the division title intentionally crash into you. I sure enjoy competing with Tim and Rodney, because we always race together well and we have lots of fun without ever having any problems."

Faulkner won the women's main in the Liner Racing Mal-

ibu, followed by division leader Stacey Fordyce of Vancouver and Jenelle Harrison of St. Helens.

Vancouver's Joe Cherington, the defending series champion and current division leader, won the mini stock A main with his Circle H Enterprises Datsun. Gladstone's Ben Palmer was runnerup and Adam Beehler of St. Helens took third. Mark Beehler Jr. of St. Helens, captured the B main.

Gresham's John Nusom passed Vernonia's "Hollywood" Gary Meyer on lap seven of the street stock A main and he stayed in control the remainder of the 40-lap event. It marked the first win this year for Nusom in the Sapa Anodizing Inc./City Sprint Delivery Services Camaro. Meyer was three car lengths back in second, followed by Sandy's Chris Hallberg, division leader Curt Nusom (John's brother) and Beaverton's Mark Reser. Novak, one of the youngest drivers at age 17, won the B main and he also posted a victory in the heat race with his Anderson Signs/Lakeside Industries Pontiac Ventura.

Five events remain at the speedway and the next race is August 5.

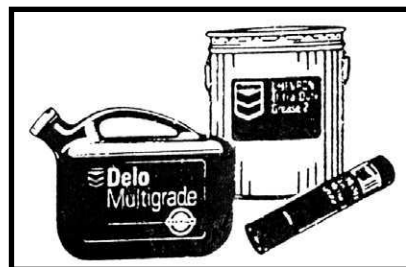
RIVER CITY SPEEDWAY Results, July 30, 2006

Sportsman — Fast Time: Doug Hurley, Castle Rock 15.29. Trophy Dash: Rodney Cook, Rainier. Heat 1: Ken Bryan, Toledo; Bryan Collins, Canby; Aaron Chappell, St. Helens. Heat 2: Larry Lemons, Toledo; Tim Williams, Scappoose; John Fordyce, Vancouver. Please see page 27

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