

Cook, Elwess, Cherington, Nusom, Fordyce take CCRA 2006 titles

Columbia County Racing Association's 20th year concluded with Rodney Cook, Ray Elwess, Joe Cherington, Gresham's Curt Nusom and Vancouver's Stacey Fordyce winning division titles in the Napa Auto Parts Championship Saturday, September 16, at River City Speedway. There were also impressive performances by Deer Island's Jereld Strawn and Celeste Hardesty of St. Helens, who won their first ever main events.

Teia Thomas of St. Helens, led the first six laps of the women's main until Hardesty overtook her on lap seven and led the remainder of the 40-lap race with her Fast Lube & Oil Chevrolet Monte Carlo. It was the first win in the series for Hardesty, a second-year driver, and her 12th top-five main event finish; she finished second to Women's Division champion Fordyce. Tria Prettyman of St. Helens was second, followed by Fordyce in the All Star Sports Bar Monte Carlo.

Strawn started on the pole position of the street stock main and led the first eight circuits around the quarter-mile clay oval until Nusom passed him on lap nine. Strawn regained the lead for good with his Recovery Racing/M Cutter Pontiac Firebird after passing Nusom on the back straightaway on lap 12. Nusom was close behind Strawn as their cars were bumper-to-bumper throughout the 40-lap race. Street Stock Division Champi-

on Nusom was runnerup in his City Sprint Chevy and he won the title by just two points over his brother, John.

Dan Smith, of Scappoose, led from start-to-finish to capture the Baxter Auto Parts Modified A main, Vernonia's "Hollywood" Gary Meyer won the mini stock A main and Vancouver's Don Jenner won the Reser's Fine Foods Sportsman main event. Tricia "Great" Brittain of St. Helens, won the sportsman heat race, was 10th in the A main and took second behind Sportsman Champion Cook in the final point standings, which was the highest finish ever by a woman in the sportsman series.

Aaron Prettyman of St. Helens, led the first 11 laps in the sportsman race until he was sidelined after his Camaro overheated. Jenner then moved ahead and led the remaining 29 laps with his Tom's Performance Machine Monte Carlo, winning by a straight-away length over Wilsonville's Jesse Freeman. Area competitors finishing in the top-10 included Deer Island's Stephen Kaptur (4th) and St. Helens drivers Jon Gillett (5th) and Lisa Faulkner (9th), followed by Brittain in the Competitive Edge Sign & Design Monte Carlo. Sportsman Champion Cook, of Rainier, was eighth in his Dan Holum Trucking sponsored Chevy.

"It was an absolutely great season, the best ever of my five years in the sportsman class,

I'm thrilled with all the success we've had and I just couldn't be any happier," said Brittain, whose Warren Country Inn/Fast Racing team includes her husband Sam, along with her dad, Bud Fast. "Sam and dad worked hard all year and did a tremendous job preparing the car to keeping it running great every week."

Smith led the modified main all the way to notch his first win in the STC Racing Parts/Alliance Automotive racer owned by Sam and Jane Jeffers of Scappoose. Jeremy Martin of St. Helens, was second in an identical looking Jeffers-owned car to give the Reser's sponsored team a 1-2 finish. Corbett's Scott Winebarger was third, followed by Portland's Marc Sayre and Clint Petty of St. Helens. Sayre took second in the standings to Modified Champion Elwess of Portland, who was eighth in the Triple E Racing/Cedarscapes Greenhouse racer.

"We have an awesome crew with my brother, Robert, Bobby Morley and Dennis Blasier and I couldn't ask to drive for a better owner than Sam Jeffers," said Smith.

"I didn't win one main, but I was consistent with six top-five's and having a good crew chief, Joe Stinnett along with my dad Frank, my two sons Aaron and Edward and my brother, Frank Jr., who also helped."

"Hollywood" Gary Meyer, of Vernonia, overtook Adam Beehler of St. Helens, on lap 12 of the mini stock A main and remained up front to notch his

first win this year in the Meyer's Auto Body Dodge Neon. Warrenton's Mark Guindon was a close runnerup, followed by Adam Beehler, Gladstone's Ben Palmer and Mini Stock Division Champion Cherington. It marked the third straight title for Cherington, 45, of Vancouver, who captured his fifth title in seven years.

"My goal at the beginning of the year was to win another title, I had consistent finishes all season and that's what it takes to win a title," said Cherington, who had four victories and a total of 12 top-five's with his Circle H Enterprises Datsun 210. "After winning a championship, it seems like everyone tries to do their best to beat you the following season. I've had lots of fun and it's nice being a five-time champion, but I might take next year off."

Rick Beehler of St. Helens (mini stock), Longview's Larry Benson (modified), Castle Rock's Doug Hurley (sportsman) and Sandy's Chris Hallberg (street stock) each recorded B main wins.

RIVER CITY SPEEDWAY SEPT. 16, 2006, RESULTS

Sportsman - Fast Time: 15.61; Ken Bryan, Toledo, WA. Trophy Dash: Larry Lemons, Toledo. Heat 1: Bryan Collins, Canby; Doug Hurley, Castle Rock; Joseph Vorseth, Portland. Heat 2: Tim Williams, Skip Pillow, Gresham; Aaron Prettyman, St. Helens. Heat 3: Tricia Brittain, St. Helens; Jesse Freeman, Wilsonville; Don Jenner, Vancouver. B Main: Hurley; Collins; Williams; Vorseth; Ron Williams, Longview. A Main: Jenner; Freeman; Steven Canham, Portland; Stephen Kaptur, Deer Island; Jon Gillett, St. Helens; Lemons; Pillow; Rodney Cook, Rainier; Lisa Faulkner, St. Helens; Brittain.

Modified - Fast Time: 14.65; Clint Petty, St. Helens. Trophy Dash: Marc Sayre, Portland. Heat 1: Herb Thomas, St. Helens; Larry Benson, Longview; Curt Nusom, Gresham. Heat 2: Gannin Thomas, St. Helens; Dan Smith, Scappoose; Scott Winebarger, Corbett. Heat 3: Sean Fox, St. Helens; Sayre; Petty. B Main: Benson; Thomas; Marcie Kisor, Scappoose; Nusom. A Main: Smith; Jeremy Martin, St. Helens; Winebarger; Sayre; Petty; Gannin Thomas; Greg Greer, Rainier; Ray Elwess, Portland; Fox; Rob Sjogren, Seattle.

Street Stock - Fast Time: 16.18; Robert Duncan, Scappoose. Trophy Dash: Jeff Lovell, Portland. Heat 1: Tom Zywicki, St. Helens; Gary Meyer, Vernonia; Nathan Slape, Rainier. Heat 2: Dennis Krohling, Vancouver; Brett Eakins, Washougal; Brad Nusom, Gresham. Heat 3: Jereld Strawn, Deer Island; Curt Nusom; Mark Reser, Tigard. B Main: Chris Hallberg, Sandy; Krohling; Zywicki; Nick Novak, Scappoose; Jeremy Cernac, Scappoose. A Main: Strawn; Curt Nusom; John Haagenon, St. Helens; John Nusom, Gresham; Reser; Lovell; Terry Moss, St. Helens; Krohling; Hallberg; Duncan.

Mini Stock - Fast Time: 16.42; Brad Ruth, Washougal. Trophy Dash: Gary Meyer. Heat 1: Jared Hansen, St. Helens; Frank Karnath, Washougal; Daniel Beaudoin, Washougal. Heat 2: Marie Sayre, Portland; Scott McMullen, Deer Island; Brad Beehler, St. Helens. Heat 3: Adam Beehler, St. Helens; Mark Guindon, Warrenton; Ben Palmer, Gladstone. B Main: Rick Beehler, St. Helens; Beaudoin; Kathy McMullen, Deer Island; Karnath; Josh Kelsey, Portland. A Main: Meyer; Guindon; Adam Beehler; Palmer; Joe Cherington, Vancouver; Brad Beehler; Bob Wallace, Portland; James Lutz, Portland; Eric Lindquist, Portland; Beaudoin.

Women's Division - Fast Time: 16.04; Celeste Hardesty, St. Helens. Trophy Dash: Stacey Fordyce, Vancouver. Heat: Hardesty; Tria Prettyman; Brenda Hurley, Castle Rock. Main: Hardesty; Prettyman; Fordyce; Hurley; Teia Thomas, St. Helens; Linda Holland, Portland; Sundee Hamrick, Portland; Kathy Griffin, Scappoose.



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