

Cota notches a second in Sportsman at River City Speedway

by Mike Weber

Columbia County Racing Association division leaders Celeste Hardesty, Curt Nusom and his brother John, each proved that they're worthy of a top ranking as they won main events in the Baxter Auto Parts race Saturday, July 28, at River City Speedway, St. Helens.

Sportsman drivers Jon "Razor" Gillett and Tricia "Great" Brittain recorded top-five A main finishes and Dan Smith of Scappoose, won his first modified main this year. Portland's James Lutz had a sweep in mini stocks as he captured the dash, heat and main with his Volkswagen. In the new student class (kids age 13-16), Portland's Dylan Hallberg was also undefeated as he swept all three races while driving his Marty's Transmission Volkswagen.

Gresham's Curt Nusom took the lead from Toledo's Ken Bryan passing him on the outside lane of the back straightaway on lap 18 and led the remainder of the 50-lap event, winning by three-quarters of a lap over runnerup Ray Cota of Vernonia. Portland's Bryan Collins was third, followed by Gillett and Brittain. Gillett of St. Helens, had a particularly impressive performance, recovering from a lap 30 spinout, then maneuvering up front from the rear of the 17-car field, taking fourth in the Cornerstone Restaurant/Carousel Conces-

sions Chevrolet Camaro.

"Nusom is definitely the guy to beat and I always try to stay up front with the leaders, but after spinning out, I was determined that I wouldn't stay in the back," said Gillett. "Dennis Eckman and my dad (Ben) spend way too much time working on the car and I wasn't about to let them down with a disappointing finish. We've had some races that we didn't do to well, we've had motor problems and we can't catch Nusom in the point standings, but I'm just hoping for a top-five division finish."

Brittain, of St. Helens, was a double-duty driver as she also notched a women's division top-five finish. Hardesty, of St. Helens, dominated the class as she was the fastest qualifier at 16.04 seconds and swept three races. Teia Thomas of St. Helens, led the first seven laps, then collided with Tria Prettyman on lap eight. Following the yellow flag caution period, Hardesty was positioned up front on the lap nine restart and led the rest of the way with her AI's Automatic Transmission Monte Carlo, winning the 40-lap race by a straightaway length over Portland's Jackie Graham.

Corbett's Scott Winebarger passed Sam Jeffers of Scappoose on lap two of the modified main and led the next 17 circuits until he had a flat tire. Vernonia's Doug Davenport capitalized on a lucky break to take the lead, but Smith wasn't

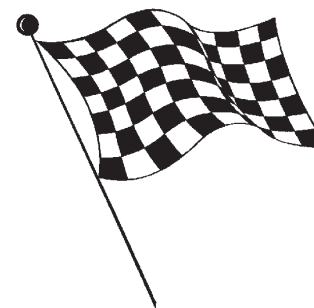
far behind. Their two open-wheel style cars circled the quarter-mile oval side-by-side for five laps until Smith took the lead for good on lap 30. Smith, a former series champion (2005) stayed up front with the Alliance Automotive racer owned by Jeffers and won by eight car-lengths over Davenport.

"We made some changes on the car to improve the suspension, so it's running pretty good and I couldn't ask to have a better race team, because everyone works well together," said Smith, whose STC Racing Parts team includes Robert Smith, Dennis Blasier, Mike Harrison, Bobby Morley and Jeremy Martin. "There's no doubt that Scott has one of the fastest cars, but I feel that I still could've won even if he didn't have a flat."

Ian Lamma of St. Helens, led the first 12 laps of the street stock main until Gresham's John Nusom passed him on lap 13. Nusom remained ahead until the end of the 50-laps, taking the checkered flag in his T&T Draggin' Wagons Camaro to win by five car-lengths over Beaverton's Mark Reser.

Deer Island's Rick Beehler led 39-of-40 laps in the mini stock main in his Rainier Log Hauling Subaru until Lutz

passed him on the final lap for the win. Beehler was second and defending champion Joe Cherington of Vancouver was third.



RIVERCITY SPEEDWAY OFFICIAL RESULTS, JULY 28, 2007

Sportsman – Fast Time: 15.59 Tricia Brittain, St. Helens. Trophy Dash: Larry Lemons, Toledo. Heat 1: Doug Hurley, Castle Rock; Ed Bruce, Portland; Corey Joe LoCicero, Astoria. Heat 2: Jon Gillett, St. Helens; Ken Bryan, Toledo; Ray Cota, Vernonia. Heat 3: Clark Tenney, Scappoose; Curt Nusom, Gresham; Lemons. Main: Nusom; Cota; Bryan Collins, Portland; Gillett; Brittain; Tim Williams, Scappoose; Tenney; Matt Taylor, Portland; Bryan; Lemons.

Modified – Fast Time: 14.96 Marc Sayre, Portland. Trophy Dash: Don Jenner, Vancouver. Heat 1: Scott Winebarger, Corbett; Dan Smith, Scappoose; Sam Jeffers, Scappoose. Heat 2: Doug Davenport, Vernonia; Gannin Thomas, St. Helens; Jenner. Main: Smith; Davenport; Jenner; Jeremy Martin, St. Helens; Sayre; Curtis Zelmer, Portland; Jeffers; Winebarger; Herb Thomas, St. Helens; Ray Elwess, Portland.

Street Stock – Fast Time: 16.31 Jeff Lovell, Portland. Trophy Dash: Terry

Moss, St. Helens. Heat 1: Brad Nusom, Gresham; Todd Newton, Portland; Greg Hamilton, Portland. Heat 2: John Haagenson, St. Helens; Jereld Strawn, Deer Island; Robert Williams, Vernonia. Heat 3: Bobby Morley, Scappoose; Moss; John Nusom, Gresham. Main: John Nusom; Mark Reser, Beaverton; Lovell; Strawn; Moss; Morley, Scappoose; Ian Lamma, St. Helens; Haagenson; Williams.

Mini Stock – Fast Time: 16.47 Eric Lindquist, Milwaukie. Trophy Dash: James Lutz, Portland. Heat 1: Calvin Jacobs, Portland; Rick Beehler, Deer Island; Kathy McMullen, Deer Island. Heat 2: Ric James, Portland; Taz-zJudkins, Vancouver; Bob Wallace, Portland. Heat 3: Lutz; Adam Beehler, Deer Island; Marie Sayre, Portland. B Main: Jacobs; Richard Boettcher, Portland; Frank Karnath, Portland; Kathy McMullen; Jason Scheibel, Portland. A Main: Lutz; Rick Beehler; Joe Cherington, Vancouver; Justin McMullen, Deer Island; Brad Beehler, Deer Island; Sayre; Adam Beehler, Deer Island; Lindquist; Scott McMullen, Deer Island; Wallace.

Women's Division – Fast Time: 16.04 Celeste Hardesty, St. Helens. Trophy Dash: Hardesty. Heat 1: Teia Thomas, St. Helens; Brenda Hurley, Castle Rock; Tria Prettyman, St. Helens. Heat 2: Hardesty; Linda Holland, Deer Island; Hurley; Prettyman; Tricia Brittain; Kim Lemmons, Toledo; Julie Camberg, Portland; Thomas; Kathy Griffin, Scappoose; Susan Wallace, Portland.

Student Division – Fast Time: 17.31 Steven Schreiner, Longview. Trophy Dash: Dylan Hallberg, Portland. Heat 1: Hallberg; Joel Beehler, Deer Island; Steffan Strawn, Deer Island. Heat 2: Schreiner; Brandon Sayre, Portland; Austin Smart, St. Helens. Main: Hallberg; Beehler; Pat Rigdon, St. Helens; Strawn; Sayre; Schreiner; Callen Prettyman, St. Helens; Smart.

SOLV seeks Hood to Coast volunteers in this area

SOLV is seeking volunteers to staff several sites in Columbia County for the Nike Hood to Coast Relay on August 24-25. This is the biggest relay in the world, with 1,000 teams participating.

SOLV is supporting Nike to fill volunteer positions near St. Helens, Mist and Birkenfeld. In exchange, Nike will make a major contribution to SOLV in support of the Great Oregon Beach Cleanup, taking place on September 15, three weeks

after runners hit the beach.

"More than 150 volunteers are still needed, mostly for the overnight and early morning shifts," said Jan McGowan, SOLV Associate Director. "We're looking for night owls over the age of 16, who can spend approximately four hours helping with tasks such as directing parking, crowd control, and litter cleanup to reduce the impact of the relay on the environment. We're asking SOLV volunteers, and others

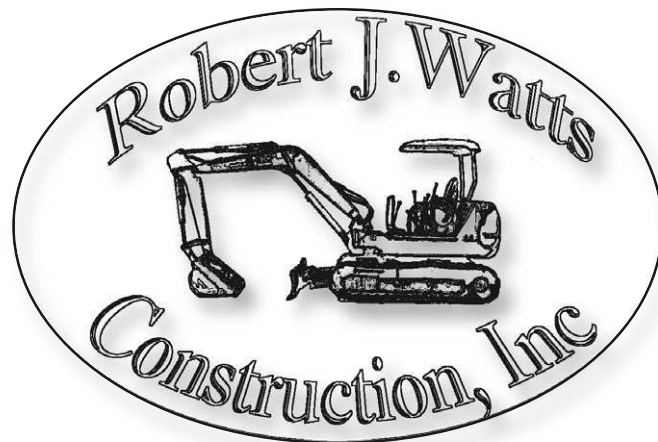
who believe in the beach cleanups, to help out so that we can continue to provide the program."

Volunteers for the Relay will be participating on behalf of Nike running teams from around the world. A requirement of team participation is to provide three volunteers each to staff the event. Since international visitors are unable to fill this requirement, Nike turned to SOLV to help with recruitment.

Volunteers will receive a Nike gift pack including a sweatshirt and water bottle, as well as a world-class Hood to Coast T-shirt. Volunteers will receive training at the Nike World Headquarters campus in Beaverton in August.

For complete details and to register, visit the SOLV website at <http://www.solv.org/program/Nikehtc.asp>.

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