River City Speedway season ends after "Run What Ya Brung"

by Mike Weber

The stock car racing season concluded with the "Run What Ya Brung" on September 22, at River City Speedway, in a nonpoints race, as the Columbia County Racing Association's final regular event was the week before (September 15). For St. Helens drivers Terry Moss and Celeste Hardesty and Gresham's Curt Nusom, they were clearly focusing on ending the season on a positive note and that's exactly what they did while recording outstanding performances on the guartermile clay oval track.

In the combined sportsman/street stock class, Moss took second in the D main, he won the C main and took seventh in the B main while driving his Al's Automatic Transmission Chevrolet Malibu. Moss, who won the September 15 A main, started last in all three races, which really makes his accomplishment even more remarkable.

Moss arrived at the Columbia County Fairgrounds track late and missed the qualifying session that determines the lineup of each race, so he had to start at the rear of the 16-car D main field. He maneuvered his way toward the front and was runnerup to Larry Lemmons in the 25-lap race. Only the top-two cars earn a transfer spot into the C main, where they must start last. Again, it wasn't a problem for Moss, who passed every competitor and took the checkered flag to post an impressive win.

In the B main, Todd Hardesty of St.Helens started up front and led all the way to notch the win in his Fast Lube & Oil Chevy Monte Carlo. Ian Lamma of St. Helens took third and Moss took seventh after starting last in the the 16-car lineup.

"I didn't change anything on the car after winning last week, it was running great and I sure had fun tonight," said Moss, who posted six top-five A main finishes this year and took third in the street stock point standings. "I sure had lots of momentum the last two weeks and hopefully, it will continue next season. My goal at the beginning of the year was a top-five finish and I wanted to improve my position from last year (fifth place). I had a great season, I'm glad that I exceeded my goal and I couldn't be any happier, so I can't wait until next year."

One week after winning the Reser's Fine Foods Sportsman division championship, Nusom again showed why he's the top driver in the series as he maneuvered up from last place in the A main to get the victory in his Steven's Printing Monte Carlo. Gresham's Skip Pillow led the first 28 laps of the race until his car stalled and Nusom zoomed in front on lap 29.

Midway through the 35-lap race, Nusom exited to the pits with a flat tire, then returned where he was positioned at the rear of the 16-car-field. He rapidly progressed toward the front and won by a straightaway advantage over Jesse Freeman of Wilsonville. Women's Division champion Celeste Hardesty took third, after moving up impressively from her 15th place starting position in her Baxter Auto Parts Monte Carlo.

"This was a new experience for me, since it's the first time that I've competed with the men and they drive much more aggressively than the girls in the women's class," said Hardesty. "I was driving patiently, while trying to give the guys plenty of room and it was fun moving up from the back of the field. I'm thrilled to get third and I think I proved that I'm capable of competing very well against the guys, so maybe I earned their respect too."

Linda Holland of Deer Island, was impressive in the women's main as she recorded a come-from-behind win in her Recovery Racing Buick Regal after starting last in the 10-car field. Holland, who took fifth in the standings, moved ahead on lap nine and won by eight carlengths over Portland's Jackie Graham.

Milwaukie's James Lutz won the mini stock main and Deer Island's Justin McMullen had a career best second in his Ford Mustang. Doug Lockwood of Aloha, won the 30-lap modified main.

RIVERCITY SPEEDWAY RESULTS SEPTEMBER 22, 2007 RUN WHAT YA BRUNG

Sportsman/Street Stock (combined class) – Trophy Dash: John Nusom, Gresham. Heat 1: Larry Lemons, Toledo. Heat 2: Jay Silas, Vernonia. Heat 3: Bruce Thomas, Portland. Heat 4: Steve Kaptur, Deer Island. Heat 5: Doug Hurley, Castle Rock. Heat 6: Curt Nusom, Gresham. D Main: Lemmons; Terry Moss, St. Helens; Larry Wetzel, Portland. C Main: Moss; Stephen Fents, Portland; Kaptur. B Main: Todd Hardesty, St. Helens; Jesse Freeman, Wilsonville; Ian Lamma, St. Helens. A Main: Curt Nusom; Freeman; Celeste Hardesty, St. Helens; John Nusom; Brian Vaughn, Longview.

Modified – Trophy Dash: Gannin Thomas, St. Helens. Heat 1: Sam Jeffers, Scappoose. Heat 2: Dan Smith, Scappoose. Main: Doug Lockwood, Aloha; Rick Zuvich, Lebannon; Jeremy Martin, St. Helens; Don Jenner, Vancouver; Smith.

Mini Stock – Trophy Dash: Justin McMullen, Deer Island. Heat 1: Scott McMullen, Deer Island. Main: James Lutz, Milwaukie; Justin McMullen; John Mayfield, Vancouver; Tazz Judkins, Vancouver; Scott McMullen.

Women's Division – Trophy Dash: Brenda Hurley, Castle Rock. Heat 1: Jenae Ricker, Scappoose. Heat 2: Jacki Graham, Portland. Main: Linda Holland, Deer Island; Graham; Sue Wallace, Portland; Jacolsa Kemper, Portland; Ricker.

Dirt Late Model – Trophy Dash: Mike Bennett Estacada. Heat 1: Don West, St. Helens. Heat 2: Thomas. Main: Bennett; Lockwood; Butch Valdez, Portland; Zuvich; Thomas.

PHRA Dwarf Cars – Trophy Dash: Richard Petty, Scappoose. Heat 1: Adam Stocklin, Portland. Heat 2: Petty. Main: Rick Adams, Hillsboro; Petty; Stocklin; Gary Saunsi, Portland; West.

Micro Sprints – Trophy Dash: Sammy Wright, Portland. Heat 1: Kyle Mehner, St. Helens. Heat 2: Derek Marquardt, Portland. Main: Marquardt; Wright; Mehner.



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CCRA gives 2007 final point standings

Columbia County Racing Association 2007 final point standings, by division, are as follows:

Sportsman – 1. Curt Nusom, Gresham 1147. 2. Tim Williams, Scappoose 1005. 3. Larry Lemmons, Toledo 982. 4. Bryan Collins, Canby 936. 5. Tricia Brittain, St. Helens 927. 6. Jon Gillett, St. Helens 885. 7. Ed Bruce, Portland 840. 8. Matt Taylor, Portland 832. 9. Doug Hurley, Castle Rock 756. 10. Ken Bryan, Toledo 740.

Modified – 1. Jeremy Martin, St. Helens 1126. 2. Marc Sayre, Portland 1034. 3. Dan Smith, Scappoose 1011. 4. Greg Greer, Rainier 870. 5. Gannin Thomas, St. Helens 819. 6. Herb Thomas, St. Helens 732. 7. Sam Jeffers, Scappoose 709. 8. Curtis Zelmer, Portland 662. 9. Dan Fox, Warren 566. 10. Ray Elwess, Portland 529.

Street Stock – 1. John Nusom, Gresham 1129. 2. Jeff Lovell, Portland 1050. 3. Terry Moss, St.Helens 1038. 4. Bobby Morley, Scappoose 896. 5. Robert Williams, Vernonia 881. 6. Ian Lamma, St. Helens 914. 7. Jereld Strawn, Deer Island 885. 8. Brad Nusom, Gresham 856. 9. Mark Reser, Beaverton 854. 10. Greg Hamilton, Portland 846.

Mini Stock –1. Joe Cherington, Vancouver 1060. 2. Eric Lindquist, Milwaukie 1035. 3. Tazz Judkins, Vancouver 1001. 4. Justin McMullen, Deer Island 944. 5. Ric James, Portland 859. 6. Bob Wallace, Portland 806. 7. Devon Reed, Portland 769. 8. Frank Karnath, Portland 598. 9. Adam Beehler, Deer Island 648. 10. James Lutz, Milwaukie 632.

Women's Division – 1. Celeste Hardesty, St. Helens 1205. 2. Jacki Graham, Portland 1111. 3. Kathy Griffin, Scappoose 966. 4. Susan Wallace, Portland 923. 5. Linda Holland, Deer Island 834. 6. Brenda Hurley, Castle Rock 833. 7. Amber Smith, Scappoose 643. 8. Pam Graham, Portland 561. 9. Teia Thomas, St. Helens 496. 10. Kay Bayot, Portland 473.