

# River City Speedway still offering a summer of exciting auto racing

by Mike Weber

Tricia Brittain of St. Helens and Dan Fox of Warren both capitalized on their pole position starts to notch wins in the Wilcox & Flegel stock car races Saturday at River City Speedway in St. Helens.

Brittain led the Reser's Fine Foods Sportsman 40 lap main from start-to-finish with her Fast Racing/Rose Valley Market Chevrolet Monte Carlo. Fox led all the way with his Driveline Service of Portland open-wheel style racer and took the checkered flag to capture the modified 40 lap main event.

The top six cars from qualifying were inverted in reverse order at the start of the 16-car sportsman main, which placed

Brittain at the front. She somehow managed to hold onto the top spot, with defending sportsman champion Curt Nusom tailgating her close behind.

Nusom, from Gresham, attempted to pass Brittain several times with his Steven's Printing Monte Carlo, but it was to no avail. Near the end of the race, there was contact between the two frontrunners on the back straightaway. Nusom's car spun out and hit the wall, bringing out a yellow caution flag from speedway starter Russ Voight. With Nusom in the rear on the restart, Brittain was able to remain ahead of runnerup John Nusom (Curt's brother) and held on for the victory.

"I benefited nicely from the six car inverted start, but sometimes trying to stay up front can feel rather nerve-racking," said Brittain, who recorded her first win this season and third of her seven-year career in the series. "A big win like this is sure hard to come by and it seems like it's a rare occasion whenever I get a sportsman A main event victory."

"You can't really gain any advantages up front because everyone is always trying to pass," said Brittain. "It was a miracle that I was able to hold off Curt for the lead. He's such a tough driver and he was there lap after lap in position to perhaps take the lead. I actually felt lucky that I was able to stay ahead of him, because he got very close a couple of times and nearly got by me."

Brittain said that her husband, Sam, and her dad, Bud Fast, made some adjustments to the car prior to the race that improved the handling and made it easier to maneuver around in the tight speedway corners. The win was her fourth straight top-five main event finish.

Fox drove his Malar Performance Engines/Competitive Edge Sign & Design racer to a flag-to-flag win in the modified main. It was the first win this year for Fox and his second top five finish. Dan's son, Sean, 25, also competes in the series and posted a top-10 finish. Their Northwest Competition Motor-

sports team also includes pit crew chief Gary Knox of Vancouver and Steve Fenter of St. Helens.

"The track was very slick tonight and that made it pretty difficult for passing," said Fox, who is ranked in the top five of the division points standings. "I feel comfortable whenever I'm up front, because then I'm not chasing anybody and it's easy to maintain the lead."

The STC Racing Parts team of Dan Smith of Scappoose and defending champion Jeremy Martin of St. Helens are the top-two current division point leaders. Both posted top five finishes Saturday while driving the identical Alliance Automotive race cars owned by Sam Jeffers of Scappoose.

"If they don't have any bad luck this year, those two guys are going to be awfully tough to beat," said Sean Fox. "They're both great drivers and it's fun racing with them. It's hard to envision one of them not winning the championship."

Smith, the 2005 champion, and Martin have won two of the last three titles. The team includes crew members Mike Harrison, Robert Smith, Dennis Blasier and Bobby Morley.

Justin McMullen won the mini stock main with his Skinny's Texaco Ford Mustang. Portland's Jackie Graham won the women's main in her Pontiac. Curt Nusom won the street stock main.

## RIVER CITY SPEEDWAY June 21, 2008 Results

Sportsman - Fast Time: Curt Nusom, Gresham 15.44. Trophy Dash: Curt Nusom. Heat 1: Paula Timmons, Kelso; LeRoy White, Portland; Matt Taylor, Portland. Heat 2: John Nusom, Gresham; Jesse Freeman, Wilsonville; Derek Vorseth, Sheridan. Heat 3: Tricia Brittain, St. Helens; Larry Lemons, Toledo, WA; Curt Nusom. Main: Brittain; John Nusom, Freeman; Mike Graham, Portland; Pam Graham, Portland; Doug Hurley, Castle Rock; Stephen Kaptur, St. Helens; Vorseth; Tony Hendon Portland; Curt Nusom.

Modified - Fast Time: Jeremy Martin, St. Helens, 14.96. Trophy Dash: Don Jenner, Vancouver. Heat 1: Ron Greer, Rainier; Robert Jenner, Vancouver; Dennis Blasier, Scappoose. Heat 2: Corey Cook, Rainier; Randy O'Connor, Portland; Don West, Deer Island. Main: Dan Fox, Warren; Robert Jenner; Dan Smith, Scappoose; Martin; Chris Quinn, Vancouver; Cook; Don Jenner, Vancouver; Sean Fox, Rainier; Herb Thomas, St. Helens; Bobby Morley, Scappoose.

Mini Stock - Fast Time: Scott McMullen, 16.71. Trophy Dash: Eric Lindquist, Milwaukie. Heat 1: Dan Beaudoin, Washougal; Jerry Winchester, Longview; Mike Beaudoin, Washougal. Heat 2: Rick Beehler, Goble; Jerald Strawn, St. Helens; Mike Harrison, St. Helens. Heat 3: Ric James, Portland; Justin McMullen, Deer Island; Lindquist. Main: Justin McMullen; Rick Beehler; Scott McMullen; Adam Beehler, Goble; James; Lindquist; Strawn; Dan Beaudoin; Winchester; Bob Wallace, Portland.

Street Stock - Fast Time: Curt Nusom, 16.53. Trophy Dash: John Nusom. Heat 1: Curtis Zelmer, Portland; Greg Hamilton, St. Helens; Strawn. Heat 2: Terry Moss, St. Helens; Eddie Farness, Sandy; Curt Nusom. Main: Curt Nusom; Farness; Don Grentz, St. Helens; Tom Zwicky, Portland; Ron Dodge, Vernonia; Zelmer; Steven Nusom, Gresham; Steven Fenter, St. Helens; Strawn; Callen Prettyman, St. Helens.

Women's Division - Fast Time: Linda Holland, Deer Island 16.58. Trophy Dash: Ann Carter, Scappoose. Heat 1: Tria Prettyman, St. Helens; Sheri Suckow, Portland; Susan Farness, Sandy. Heat 2: Kathy Griffin, Scappoose; Brenda Hurley, Castle Rock; Holland. Main: Jacki Graham, Portland; Holland; Hurley; Kim Lemmons, Toledo, WA; Prettyman; Danielle Palm, Kelso; Farness; Melissa McVae, Scappoose; Griffin; Suckow.

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