

Vernonian Meyers sets new track record at St. Helens Speedway

by Mike Weber

Gary Meyer, of Vernonia, set a new track record for four-cylinders with a 16.207 on June 20.

Area drivers Jereld Strawn and Justin McMullen overtook division leaders to move atop the point standings in the Emmert Motors sponsored race Saturday, June 27, at River City Speedway in St. Helens.

The husband/wife duo of Michael and Jenelle Harrison of

St. Helens, recorded top five finishes. Deer Island's Scott McMullen notched his first A main event win this year and Vancouver's Stacey Fordyce was nearly unbeatable in the women's class.

Portland's Rick Graham, Gresham's John Nusom, Vancouver's Robert Jenner (modified) and Corey Esteban (PHRA) of Gaston all won A main events. Corbett's Colleen Winebarger won the first race of the new Tracer Division, a

class for kids age 13-16.

The top eight qualifying cars were inverted in reverse order at the front of the 16-car sportsman main. Graham, who was eighth fastest, started on the pole position and led the 20-lap main from start-to-finish with his T&T Draggin' Wagons Towing/Perfection Automotive 1978 Pontiac Firebird.

Nusom, one of many double duty drivers who compete in two Columbia County Racing Association classes, was runnerup eight car-lengths behind Graham in his Chevrolet Camaro. Strawn, a sportsman class rookie, took sixth with his Recovery Racing 1978 Buick Regal. Strawn, who also won the heat race, moved from second into first in the standings. Milwaukie's Eric Lindquist, who led Strawn by just two points prior to the race, finished 11th.

"It feels good to be the points leader as a rookie," said Strawn, a fourth year driver who competed in the street stock class the last three years. "There's a lot of fast cars that I'm trying to keep up with in this old car, but it's sure running pretty good. I thought that I might have a chance to do fairly well this year. I didn't really think that I would be where I'm at right now, so I'm pretty happy."

Scott McMullen started sixth in the 12-car mini stock main. McMullen maneuvered up to second by the third lap, behind frontrunner Adam Beehler in his Dan Garrison CPA sponsored Honda Civic. It was a two car race between McMullen and Beehler the next 12 circuits as the duo moved in front by nearly half a lap over third place driver Jenelle Harrison, in the Wayne Martin Floor Covering 1979 Datsun 210.

McMullen moved past Beehler on lap 15 and led the remainder of the 40-lap race to get the victory in his McMullen Water Systems 1981 Ford Mustang. Harrison was runnerup for her fourth straight top five finish. Justin McMullen (Scott's son), the defending series champion, took third for his fourth straight top-five in his Skinny's Texaco Mustang and moved past Vernonia's Gary Meyer for the lead in the standings.

"It was a fun race and it felt good to be out in front of all the

other high caliber of competitors that we have in this class," said Scott McMullen, who also won the trophy dash. "It was exciting to get my first win this year."

Nusom passed Portland's Todd Newton on the 12th lap of the street stock main and led the remainder of the 30-lap race to get his second win this year with his City Sprint Delivery Service Camaro. Nusom won by one car length over his brother Curt, the defending champion. Portland's Tom Zywicki was third and Michael Harrison took fourth in his Double J Tires Chevy Malibu.

"The season has been going pretty good and I'm hoping to win the street stock Rookie-of-the-Year Award," said Harrison, whose three car team also includes Tim Oyler of St. Helens. "Jenelle has been real consistent and we haven't had any breakdowns or flat tires with her car. This is an inexpensive way to have lots of fun. We just want to keep the track operating well. We're offering anybody an opportunity to drive our cars to pack the track too."

Fordyce won the main, heat, was second in the dash and was the fastest women's class qualifier with her 1975 Chevy Nova.

RIVER CITY SPEEDWAY

June 27, Official Results

Sportsman: Fast Time 16.13, Mike Graham, Portland. Trophy Dash: John Nusom, Gresham. Heat 1: Nathan Slape, Rainier; Tricia Brittain, St. Helens; Chris Gallagher, Portland. Heat 2: Jereld Strawn, Deer Island; John Fordyce, Vancouver; Rick Graham, Portland. Heat 3: Clyde White, Longview; Larry Lemmons, Toledo, WA; Mike Graham. B Main: Slape; Gallagher; Brittain; Ben Crase, Portland; Bob Berg, St. Helens. A Main: Rick Graham; John Nusom; Frank Elwess, Portland; Fordyce; Rick Rehanek, Vancouver; Strawn; Leroy White, Portland; Pam Graham, Portland; Stephen Kaptur, St. Helens; Matt Taylor, Portland.

Modified: Fast Time 15.73, Don Jenner, Vancouver. Trophy Dash: Robert Jenner, Vancouver. Heat: Dan Fox, Warren; Curtis Zelmer, Portland; Dan Smith, Scappoose. Main: Robert Jenner; Don Jenner; Smith; Fox; David Day, Port-

land; Zelmer.

Street Stock: Fast Time 16.04, Brad Nusom, Gresham. Trophy Dash: John Nusom. Heat 1: Zelmer; Mark Beehler, St. Helens; R.T. Cutler, Portland. Heat 2: Todd Newton, Portland; Curt Nusom; Mike Harrison, St. Helens. Main: John Nusom; Curt Nusom; Tom Zywicki, Portland; Harrison; Roy Girout, Portland; Eddie Farness, Sandy; Ron Dodge, Vernonia; Mike Crase, Portland; Zelmer.

Mini Stock: Fast Time: 16.94, Justin McMullen, Deer Island. Trophy Dash: Scott McMullen, Deer Island. Heat 1: Mark Beehler, St. Helens; Jason Scheibel, Longview; Rick Gooding, Castle Rock. Heat 2: Jenelle Harrison, St. Helens; Scott McMullen; Mike Harrison. Main: Scott McMullen; Jenelle Harrison; Justin McMullen; Adam Beehler, St. Helens; Joel Beehler, St. Helens; Gooding; Devon Reed, Washougal; Tim Oyler, St. Helens; Mark Beehler; Scheibel.

Pacific Mini Sprints: Trophy Dash: Darren Pierson, Chehalis. Heat 1: Dave Walters, Portland; Tracey Titus, Manzanita; Jesse Shannon., Centralia. Heat 2: Shannon; Pierson; Titus. Main: Shannon; Titus; Pierson; Walters; Verne Delaney, Winlock.

Women's Division: Fast Time: 16.75 Stacey Fordyce, Vancouver. Trophy Dash: Kathy McMullen, Deer Island. Heat: Fordyce; Susan Nelson, Portland; McMullen. Main: Fordyce; Kim Lemmons, Toledo; McMullen.

Tracers: Fast Time: 17.13, Andrew Olsen, St. Helens. Trophy Dash: Collen Winebarger, Corbett. Heat: Winebarger; Olsen; Matt Jenner, Vancouver. Main: Winebarger; Jenner; Olsen.

PHRA Dwarf Cars: A Trophy Dash: Jim Dunn. B Dash: Jack Mires. Heat 1: Ronnie Gilmore; Jim Pavel; Mires. Heat 2: Dunn; Roger Moore; Charles Millar. Heat 3: Ron Love; Troy Kunas; David Lewis. Heat 4: Corey Esteban; Rick Adams; Dave Carter. C Main: Doug McVae; Shane Younger; Mike Chadwick; Dean Hicks; Tristan Wood. B Main: Mitch Meeuwse; Younger; Carter; Mires; Clay Gobek. A Main: Esteban; Henry Corbin; Adams; Pavel; Gilmore; Younger; Jim Fischer; Mires; Love; Lewis.

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