



Schatz Continues Winning Ways at Knoxville

May Slate of Outlaws Races a Busy One for Tony Stewart Racing Teammates

Dates: Friday-Saturday, May 10-11, 2013
Series: World of Outlaws (WoO) STP Sprint Car Series
Locations: Friday – Elko (Minn.) Speedway
Saturday – Knoxville (Iowa) Raceway
Winners: Friday – Tim Kaeding of Roth Motorsports
Saturday – Donny Schatz of Tony Stewart Racing
TSR Results: Friday – Donny Schatz (Started 14th, Finished 7th)
Steve Kinser (Started 17th, Finished 17th)
Saturday – Schatz (Started 7th, Finished 1st)
Kinser (Started 27th, Finished 17th)
TSR Points: Schatz (3rd with 2,815 points, 165 out of first)
Kinser (10th with 2,590 points, 390 out of first)

Tony Stewart Racing's (TSR) Donny Schatz continued his mastery of Knoxville (Iowa) Raceway Saturday by storming to his third World of Outlaws (WoO) STP Sprint Car Series triumph of the 2013 season. The driver of the TSR No. 15 STP/Armor All/Chevrolet Performance J&J won his third consecutive race and 16th of his career at the famed half-mile, dirt oval after starting seventh in the 25-lap A-Feature. The victory at Knoxville for the five-time and reigning WoO STP Sprint Car Series champion followed Friday's seventh-place finish at Elko (Minn.) Speedway.

TSR's Steve Kinser raced the TSR No. 11 No. 11 Bad Boy Buggies/J.D. Byrider/Chevrolet Performance Maxim to a pair of 17th-place finishes in the Midwest doubleheader.

An overflow crowd welcomed the WoO STP Sprint Car Series to Elko Speedway for the inaugural race at the 3/8-mile paved oval that was covered with dirt for the event. The FVP Outlaws at Elko attracted 34 cars to compete and drawing an early qualifying number was key to turning a fast lap against the clock. Sam Hafertepe, Jr., was the third competitor on the track for qualifying and he turned the fastest lap. Times began slowing immediately as the preferred line continued to lose moisture. Schatz was the ninth car to make his qualifying lap and ended up sixth overall. Kinser was the 18th car to circle the semi-banked track and the 20-time WoO champion turned the 17th-fastest lap, which meant he missed the heat inversion by one position. Kinser started and finished fifth in heat one, while Schatz started and finished third in heat two. Both drivers transferred to the 40-lap A-Feature and started deep in the field. Schatz started outside of row seven and was able to reach the seventh position before the race was stopped on lap 34. An accident brought out the red flag and a subsequent rain shower forced officials to call the race complete six laps short of the scheduled distance. Kinser held his position throughout the race and finished 17th.

Tim Kaeding of Roth Motorsports took the lead on lap 33 when early leader Kerry Madsen appeared to be having motor problems. Kaeding would lead only one lap en route to his fourth WoO STP Sprint Car Series A-Feature victory of the season.

Both TSR teams traveled from Minnesota to Central Iowa Saturday for their first of three events at the historic Knoxville Raceway. Schatz came into the event with a two-race winning streak at the half-mile track – winning last year's SPEED SPORT Knoxville World Challenge and the 52nd annual Knoxville Nationals A-Main last August – and was looking to earn his third A-Feature victory of the season.

A season-high 51 cars were in competition and once again qualifying was key. Schatz ended up 15th overall, dominated the fifth heat and finished seventh in the six-lap dash. The Fargo, N.D., racer started the 25-lap A-Feature seventh and was in sixth with five laps completed when the first caution slowed the race. On the restart, he took the STP machine to the high groove and stormed from sixth to third and began closing in leaders Brian Brown and Craig Dollansky. Schatz took second from Brown two laps later and then set his sights on Dollansky and the lead. Schatz closed as the two maneuvered through traffic. Dollansky kept his car glued to the low line, but that strategy didn't work as Schatz moved back up to the cushion and took the lead with move around the outside. A red flag stopped the race two laps later, but Schatz pulled away during the final restart and checked out to earn the his fourth career Knoxville WoO A-Feature in the month of May. The three previous May wins (2007, 2008, and 2009) have been followed by WoO championships later in the season.

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Kinser faced an uphill battle after qualifying 41st. The Bloomington, Ind., native started ninth in the first heat and finished sixth. He charged from 16th to sixth in the 12-lap Last Chance Showdown, and after using a provisional starting spot, he raced from 27th to 17th in the A-Feature.

Following Saturday's victory, Schatz maintained third in the 2013 WoO STP Sprint Car Series championship standings and has accumulated 2,815 points. He trails leader Daryn Pittman by 165 markers after 21 of 85 scheduled nights of racing. Kinser ranks 10th with 2,590 points.

The WoO STP Sprint Car Series opens a busy week of action Wednesday with the Gettysburg Clash at Lincoln (Pa.) Speedway. Two nights of racing at historic Williams Grove Speedway in Mechanicsburg, Pa., Friday and Saturday will be followed by Sunday's event at Orange County Fair Speedway in Middletown, N.Y.

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