



Schatz Scores One for the Outlaws

Rain Slows Tony Stewart Racing Team's Battle with Pennsylvania Posse

Dates:	Thursday-Friday, May 16-17, 2013
Series:	World of Outlaws (WoO) STP Sprint Car Series
Locations:	Thursday – Lincoln Speedway (Abottstown, Pa.) Friday – Williams Grove Speedway (Mechanicsburg, Pa.)
Winners:	Thursday – Danny Dietrich of Dietrich Racing Friday – Donny Schatz of Tony Stewart Racing
TSR Results:	Thursday – Donny Schatz (Started 3 rd , Finished 2 nd); Steve Kinser (Started 19 th , Finished 19 th) Friday – Schatz (Started 12th, Finished 1st); Kinser (Started 24th, Finished 13th)
TSR Points:	Schatz (3 rd with 3,113 points, 150 out of first) Kinser (10 th with 2,826 points, 437 out of first)

Six days after Tony Stewart Racing's (TSR) Donny Schatz maintained a winning streak at the famed Knoxville (Iowa) Raceway, the five-time and reigning World of Outlaws (WoO) STP Sprint Car Series champion continued another one at legendary Williams Grove Speedway in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Schatz, who won the 50th annual Morgan Hughes National Open last fall, raced the TSR No. 15 STP/Armor All/Chevrolet Performance J&J from the 12th starting position and made his winning move coming out of turn four to score a thrilling victory in Friday night's 25-lap A-Feature. His 17th career win at the historic half-mile, dirt oval followed Thursday's runner-up finish at Lincoln Speedway in Abottstown, Pa.

TSR's Steve Kinser, who won the Outlaws' A-Feature at Williams Grove last May, drove the TSR No. 11 No. 11 Bad Boy Buggies/J.D. Byrider/Chevrolet Performance Maxim past 11 cars en route to a 13th-place finish at Williams Grove after finishing 19th at Lincoln.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature was the big winner in the Outlaws' first venture of the season into Pennsylvania and New York. Wednesday's race at Lincoln was pushed to Thursday because of persistent showers and both Saturday's event at Williams Grove and Sunday's scheduled race at Orange County Fair Speedway in Middletown, N.Y., were postponed because of rain. The Williams Grove event, dubbed the Morgan Cup, will be contested in July during the annual Summer Nationals, while the Orange County race was rescheduled for Monday night.

Thursday's race at Lincoln attracted 43 cars to the 4/10-mile dirt oval located in the Pigeon Hills. Schatz turned the 11th-best lap in qualifying and scored a victory in heat three. The Fargo, N.D., racer finished third in the six-lap dash and started the 35-lap A-Feature on the inside of row two. Schatz moved into second early in the race and chased polesitter Danny Dietrich, winner of last year's WoO stop at Lincoln. The battle for the lead heated up on lap 10 as lapped traffic became part of the race. Schatz closed to Dietrich's bumper on several occasions and nearly pulled even with him twice leaving corners two and four, but he couldn't clear the Lincoln Speedway regular. A caution on lap 26 took the leaders out of traffic and gave Dietrich an open track for the rest of the race. Schatz did everything he could to get the lead, but he had to settle for second.

Kinser's night began with "The King of the Outlaws" turning the 21st-fastest qualifying lap. The 20-time WoO STP Sprint Car Series champion finished sixth in the opening heat and second in the Last Chance Showdown to transfer into the 35-lap A-Feature. Kinser ended up 19th in the A-Feature.

Williams Grove Speedway is arguably one of the toughest tracks for the WoO racers to conquer. Whether it's the unique paperclip-type layout of the half-mile, dirt oval or the contingent of racers who compete there weekly, the Outlaws know they have to bring their best in order to have a fighting chance.

In the last decade, Schatz has been one of the Outlaws able to complete at a high level at "The Grove," and that continued Friday night. Schatz was the fourth overall qualifier in the field of 46 cars, but a third-place finish in heat four relegated him to the 12th starting spot in the 25-lap A-Feature. He moved into the top-10 on the opening lap and began searching the surface for the fastest groove. When a caution slowed the race on lap 11, Schatz had worked his way up to seventh. The final 14 laps went without a stop and Schatz saved his best for the final five circuits. He took fourth on lap 20 from Paul McMahan and third from Daryn Pittman on lap 22. He moved into second with a high move through turns one and two on lap 23 and spent the next lap closing in on leader Greg Hodnett.

With Schatz on his bumper entering turn three, Hodnett protected the bottom groove, forcing Schatz to the high line. Schatz was able to turn back off the cushion exiting turn four and passed Hodnett heading to the checkered flag. The run from 12th to first not only earned Schatz his 128th career WoO A-Feature triumph, he also collected the KSE Hard Charger Award.

Despite qualifying 31st, Kinser was able to move forward in both his heat and the 25-lap A-Feature. The Bloomington, Ind., racer made a bold move on the opening lap of heat three advancing from eighth to fourth to grab one of the coveted transfer positions. Kinser didn't get the same kind of start in the A-Feature, but he patiently worked his way forward from his 24th starting position. In the end, he would pass 11 cars and finished 13th.

Schatz continues to rank third in the 2013 WoO STP Sprint Car Series championship standings with 3,113 points. He trails leader Pittman by 150 markers, but is only five behind McMahan for second. Kinser is 10th with 2,826 points.

The WoO STP Sprint Car Series will return to Orange County Fair Speedway Monday before the scheduled event at New Egypt (N.J.) Speedway Tuesday. The TSR teams will then travel to North Carolina for Friday night's Outlaw Showdown at The Dirt Track at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

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