

BILSTEIN MODIFIED LITE STARS NEWS

(814) 442-1738

www.modlitestars.org

modlitestars@gmail.com



CONTACT: Bill Bauer
President of Competition
& Racing Operations

For Immediate Release
March 4, 2017

BILSTEIN MODIFIED LITE STARS SETS WINTER NATIONALS CAR COUNT RECORD MAY – JONES – ZEHEM – TRETHERWAY FEATURE WINNERS



SOMERSET, PA: A record field of 65 cars invaded Bubba Raceway Park in Ocala, FL for the 3rd Annual Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Winter Nationals held on February 23-25. Mod Lite drivers from all over the country and abroad converged on the famed 3/8 mile dirt oval to test their skills and compete against the best the premier racing series has to offer. With a sizable \$21,000 purse for the three scheduled features, fans were witness to some of the best racing action

on dirt as teams put everything on the line for prize, prominence and prestige of the checkered flag.

“The Modified Lite STARS organization hit a grand slam with our winter national event,” said Modified Lite STARS President of Competition and Racing Operations Bill Bauer. “When most promoters would be happy with a full field, our record turn-out showed the strength of support our racing class has. This can be directly attributed our organizations principles in providing our drivers with a racing environment that is both competitive and cost effective. With the continued development of a stable and high purse structure, the STARS popularity will continue to grow among race teams and fans.”

The 3rd Annual Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Winter Nationals started kicked off slow with Mother Nature taking the win for Wednesday night practice and Thursday night’s program.

-More-

Mod Lite STARS Set Winter Nationals Car Count Record

During the delay, STARS officials came up with a solution to run an additional feature Saturday night for those drivers who failed to make the “A Main” through their heat races. To the drivers’ appreciation, Saturday’s program was changed from running one feature event to three paying feature events.

The Bilstein Modified Lite STARS National Feature presented by NXS Motorsports provided a purse of \$8,400 and was filled by the top four finishing positions from each of the six heat races along with STARS provisional spots. The \$3,300 purse for the second feature presented by PRO Race Cars was added providing drivers who finish in their heats in positions 5 through 9. The third and final feature race presented by Extreme Motorsports purse total \$2,000 for those drivers who were in attendance both nights and failed to qualify. All other drivers who were unable to compete in the Saturday night features were entitled for \$50 tow money, the total purse for Saturday features exceeded \$13,700.

Friday Night Program February 24th

With weather clearing and temperatures in the low 80’s, Fridays program presented by NXS Motorsports featured 65 of the fastest modified lites with Tyler Riggs of New Matamoras, OH setting the fastest time of 17.572 (76.827 MPH) around the 3/8 mile dirt oval. Six heat races were set by pill draw which saw the #82 Charlie Brown, #1 James Hill, #99 Josh May, #99T Tyler Riggs, #17S Joshua Sliter and #97 Austin Martin picking up heat wins. B Main winners were the #21 Rod Jones and #46Z Bryan Zehm.



Nevada, IA driver Charlie Brown driving his #82 PRO Chassis sat on the poll for the 20-lap feature paying \$200 to start and \$500 to the winner. At the start Brown took the green with James Hill #1 on the outside with last year Winter Nationals Champion Josh May starting 3rd and Tyler Riggs in 4th. Hill was able to get around Brown on the back sweeping stretch taking the lead on lap-1. With Hill in the lead and a five car length advantage, Brown, May and Riggs battled for positions second through fourth. Caution flew on lap-4

-more-

Mod Lite STARS Set Winter Nationals Car Count Record

when the #97 Austin Martin took a wild flip in turn one. Martin was ok but ended the night early for the Sarasota, FL driver. Green flag once again flew that saw Hill taking a demanding lead for the next four laps. May #99 now in second started to gain on Hill but lost the handle coming out of turn two which saw many of the top runners getting back around the #99 of May. "I lost the wheel," May stated in the post-race interview. After regaining control, May once again was able to move back to second with Hill still in first followed by May, Riggs, Walling and Sliter. At the halfway mark fans saw smoke coming from the #1 Hill machine and on lap-11 the motor expired ending the Laurel, DE drivers' night. May took the lead and was able to hold off the #21 NXS machine of Rod Jones who won his B Main and worked through traffic to finish second followed by the 46Z of Bryan Zehm third, 99T Tyler Riggs fourth and in fifth #197 Ryan Harrison.

Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Feature presented by NXS Motorsports: Winner Josh May, Rod Jones, Bryan Zehm, Tyler Riggs, Ryan Harrison, Mike Walling, Joshua Sliter, Randy Bryan, Nick Nash, Ed Griggs, Charlie Brown, Brandon Shaw, Jason Tretheway, Cody Sisson, Paul Kalger, Robert Bass, Mike Morrill, Josh Baldwin, Joel Huggins, James Hill, Bryan Henry, Micah Collins, Austin Martin, Tracey Fritter, Erin Turner, Darren Bass

RACE RECAP

Winner: Josh May

Lead Changes: 2

Lap Leaders: 1-10 James Hill, 11-20 Josh May

Cautions: 3

\$70 Hard Charger presented by Andy Sherly & Kara Lanley:

#197 Ryan Harrison 18 positions (started 23rd finished fifth)

Swift Spring Move of the Race: Josh May Turn 2 mis-hap

Hoosier Tires: Hard Luck James Hill & Austin Martin

Aero Wheels presented by Jarrod Cassley: Tony Foster & Charles Seabaugh

Heat Winners:

#82 Charlie Brown, #1 James Hill, #99 Josh May, #99T Tyler Riggs, #17S Joshua Sliter, #97 Austin Martin

B Main winners:

#21 Rod Jones, #46Z Bryan Zehm.

-More-

Saturday Night Program February 25th

Feature #1 Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Presented by NXS Motorsports



Fans watched 63 cars in attendance for the final night of the Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Winter Nationals. After a disappointing Friday night feature for James Hill, who lead ten laps before losing his motor on lap-11, the Laurel, DE driver returned to the 3/8 mile oval Saturday night setting fast time with a 17.603 (76.691 MPH). With a \$8,400 purse available for the nights main feature event, Northants, UK top driver Ryan Harrison won his heat race

which put him on the poll for \$1,000 to win Bilstein Modified Lite STARS National Feature presented by NXS Motorsports.

As the green flag flew it was evident that the top drivers were on hand which saw many lead changes among the top six drivers. By lap-9 Texan Mike Walling #29 had the lead followed by NXS Chassis #21 of Rod Jones in second, #99T of Tyler Riggs third, Mercer Raceway Park track champion Mark Marcucci who moved into fourth after starting 13th, followed by fifth place Harrison #197. On lap-10 the red flag was displayed for the #99T of Riggs who took a series of barrel rolls in turn two when he made contact with the inside barrier tire. Riggs was uninjured but ended his night.

On the restart, Walling maintained his lead heading into a caution on lap-12 for the #6M of Mike Morrill who stopped entering turn three. Walling once again maintained the lead for the next three laps battling the charging Jones and Marcucci. On lap-13 Jones had the speed coming off of turn two which carried it through turn three and was able to get under the #29 of Walling who went wide off of turn four. With that move, the #21 of Jones took the lead and earned the Swift Spring Move of the Race. On lap-15 Marcucci got around Jones briefly for the lead but Jones returned the favor the following lap and took the lead back on lap-16.

The final caution of the night flew on lap-22 when the #97 Austin Martin and #49 Cody Sisson made contact exiting turn four, both cars were able to continue. On the restart, Friday nights feature winner Josh May #99 was able to move around Walling and Marcucci moving the #99 to second. With laps counting down May was hopping for Jones to make a mistake, which never happened. The West Middlesex, PA driver Rod Jones took the checker followed by the #99 Josh May, third #29 Mike Walling, fourth #8M Mark Marcucci, and fifth of #22 Jeff Teeters.

Bilstein Modified Lite STARS National Feature Results presented by NXS Motorsports: Winner Rod Jones, Josh May, Mike Walling, Mark Marcucci, Jeff Teeters, Aaron Meister, Ryan Harrison, Charlie Brown, Nick Nash,, Micah Collins, Ed Griggs, Joshua Sliter, Cody Sisson, Chris Logan, Tracey Fritter, Brandon Shaw, Matt Ward, Ryan Saffell, Vivian Jones, Mitch Ward, Austin Martin, Andy Sherley, Billy Beard, Randy Bryan, Will Bennett, Mike Morrill, Tyler Riggs, Travis Stensland, Bryan Henry

RACE RECAP

Winner: Rod Jones

Lead Changes: 5

Lap Leaders: 1-2 Ryan Harrison, 3-14 Mike Walling, 15 Mark Marcucci, 16-18 Mike Walling, 19-25 Rod Jones

Cautions: 6

\$70 Hard Charger presented by Andy Sherly & Kara Lanley:

#99 Josh May 19 positions started 21st finished 2nd

Swift Spring Move of the Race: Rod Jones Turn 4 pass

Hoosier Tires: Hard Luck Bryan Henry

Hoosier Tire Rookie of the Nationals: Vivian Jones

Lucas Oil Heat Winners:

#197 Ryan Harrison, #98 Matt Ward, #28B Billy Beard, #21 Rod Jones, #5J Bryan Henry, #99T Tyler Riggs

Feature #2 Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Presented by PRO Race Cars

Jeff Youngblood #691 was able to take the lead on the opening lap of the \$500 to win Bilstein Mod Lite STARS Feature #2 and held off the field for the first nine laps when the #12R of Chris Robinson took the top spot on lap-10. Coming strong was the 41B of Bo Bass who had the track figured out starting in 23rd by lap 14 had moved into the top four positions. Caution flew on lap-14 for the spinning of Jake Layton which titan the field and gave the #46Z Bryan Zehm to get the run taking the lead in the closing laps.



**Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Feature Results
presented by PRO Race Cars:**

Winner Bryan Zehm, Jeff Youngblood, Paul Klager, Joshua Kinney, Robert Bass, Jake Layton, Chris Robinson, Corey Lowe, Erin Turner, Sloppy Hog, Alan Vanwhy, James Hill, Joe Glick, Ronnie Choate, Justin Rankin, Michael Kelly, Jarod Cassley, DNS Joel Huggins, DNQ Tim White, Jason Musser, Larry Hubbard Jr., Jeff Swinford, Darren Bass, Josh Baldwin

RACE RECAP

Winner: Bryan Zehm

Lead Changes: 3

Lap Leaders: 1-9 Jeff Youngblood, 10-14 Chris Robinson, 15-20 Bryan Zehm

Cautions: 5

Swift Spring Move of the Race: Chris Robinson lead pass

Hoosier Tires: Best Interview Bryan Zehm

Hoosier Tires: Longest Tow Joe Glick

Feature #3 Bilstein Modified Lite STARS presented by Extreme Motorsports:

The #28 of Jason Tretheway took home \$300 for the Extreme Motorsport 15-lap feature. Tretheway was able to hold off the charging Ryan Ayers for the win.

Bilstein Modified Lite STARS Feature Results presented by Extreme Motorsports:

Winner Jason Tretheway, Ryan Ayers, Ryan Ward, Tony Kelly, DNS Charles Seabaugh, Tony Foster, Matt Fregoe

RACE RECAP

Winner: Jason Tretheway

Lead Changes: 0

Lap Leaders: 1-15 Jason Tretheway

Cautions: 0

Swift Spring Move of the Race: Jason Tretheway

Hoosier Tires: Longest Tow Ryan Ayers, Bryan Ward

BILSTEIN MODIFIED LITE STARS WINTER NATIONALS TOP 10

1	251	Josh May (99)	\$300
2	250	Rod Jones (21)	\$225
3	227	Mike Walling (29)	\$200
4	215	Ryan Harrison (197)	\$175
5	207	Charlie Brown (82)	\$150
6	206	Nick Nash (27N)	\$125
7	205	Joshua Sliter (17S)	\$100
8	200	Ed Griggs (47)	\$100
9	183	Cody Sisson (49)	\$100
9	183	Brandon Shaw (20S)	\$100
			<u>\$1,575</u>

Modified Lite STARS, Inc. is a non-profit organization serving as a national sanctioning body for the Modified Lite racing class. Representing more than 350 race teams throughout North America, the Modified Lite STARS organization serves a fast-growing segment of dirt oval racing motorsports and is recognized as the leader in Modified Lite racing. In its tenth year of operation, the Bilstein Modified Lite STARS International Championship Tour has gained widespread acceptance with its standardized rules and growing sponsorship program.

The Bilstein Modified Lite STARS International Championship Tour is proudly supported by its major sponsors: BILSTEIN Shock Absorbers, Hoosier Race Tire, Aero Race Wheels, SWIFT Springs, ROD END Supply, ModLiteProject.com, NXS Motorsports, Knepper ATV Repair, PRO Race Cars, Sidewinder Chassis, Velocity Race Cars, Extreme Motorsports, Reynolds Farm Equipment, John Deer, Boyd's Garage, Sauer & Sons Construction, Chasos Motorsports, and Jokers Chassis.

#