

Otto Wins Jim Shampine Memorial... Davey Finishes 5th

By Dan Johnson

Speedway Champions Mike Bond and Otto Sitterly each picked up convincing wins, as they wheeled their machines to their second wins of the season at Oswego Speedway Saturday night. Bond grabbed the lead on a lap 24 pass, and went on for the popular win in the Tony White Memorial 34, while Sitterly dove the #7 to the inside of Dave McKnight on lap 31 of the Jim Shampine race for his victory.

Jason Spaulding and Todd Stowell brought the supermodifieds down to Bruce Lee's green flag to start the Shampine Memorial 58. Stowell raced out to the lead, as the field scattered behind looking for racing room. Doug Didero, Davey Hamilton and Joey Payne went inside, while Sitterly and McKnight went to the high side of the speedway to clear early race traffic.

Stowell set a pace in the 17.62 range, as Ray Graham, McKnight, Spaulding, Bobby Magner, Sitterly, Payne, Didero, Jerry Curran and Hamilton followed early on. The first yellow flag of the race came out on lap 7, as Bob Bogwicz looped his #09 in turn one. Sitterly began his charge to the front on the restart, as he wheeled by Spaulding, then took off after Magner once racing. McKnight picked off Graham for position, taking the 7 with him, as the top three now read 89, 08, and 7.

The trio began to race away from the field, as they circled the 5/8's mile at a 17.69 rate. Didero tried to keep touch with the leaders, as he was up to sixth by the lap 22 yellow flag session. The restart, Didero moved to the top five, shooting by the Magner 22.

The action up front heated up, as McKnight shot by Stowell for the lead on lap 25 on the inside of the front straightaway, with Sitterly following suit the next lap. McKnight ran 17.59 up front, but couldn't shake the Sitterly 7, who was driving in the tracks of the 08. At the halfway point, Sitterly drove under the 08 along the front straightaway, and dove into turn one hard, washing up to the outer groove. McKnight regained the spot, pulling the 08 back under the 7 as he went to the outer groove.

Lap 32, Sitterly again dove bombed on the front straightaway, only this time the pass stuck, and Sitterly drove into turn two the third leader of the race. Race pace quickened as the 7 turned laps of 17.21, as he raced out to a sizeable gap.

Didero tried to stay in contact with the leaders, as he shot under the Graham 90, who was having handling troubles. Graham pulled pitside shortly after. Sitterly's lead was up to 1.93 seconds, as he raced into traffic on lap 36.

Sitterly's lead was gone the very next lap, as yellow flew over the speedway with a pair of spins on the back straightaway. Back to green, Didero went to second place as he shot by McKnight on lap 41, 1.51 seconds behind Sitterly.

Both the 7 and 3 turned about the same times, 17.4's, as they pulled away from the pack. McKnight ran third all alone, as Davey Hamilton and Joey Payne rounded out the top five. The leaders came into traffic in the closing laps, but Didero could not close the gap. Sitterly drove under the checkerds on lap 58, with his second feature win of the year..

"We had a good car tonight," Sitterly said after his victory. "It was a lot of work, but we had two cars in the top five tonight. We had a good run, and Davey had a top five with his car. We had a couple of the sponsors here tonight, so that was cool having them here for the win."

Jason Simmons and Steve Abt had front row assignments for the SBS, Tony White Memorial 34. Simmons took the spot when the green came out, but that was short lived, s a multi car jam

up in turn one slowed the pace.. Back racing again, the inside lane took off, with Simmons again taking P1. Simmons and Rob Pullen paced the field in the early laps Dave Gruel caught fans attention, as he came from starting spot 11, and had the Barbeau owned 50 up to third by lap 4, using the high side of the speedway. Gruel kept that charge going, as he took the lead on lap 5 wheeling by the Pullen 25 and Simmons 91 in one swoop.

Jack Patrick took a hard ride into the turn one wall on lap 6, as he was caught up in a multi car incident. It was a hard hit for the Fulton driver, but he did manage to walk away from the scene. The 9 was hooked from the track, with significant damage to the car.

Dave Cliff and Mike Bond made their presence felt, as they began their charge forward, sitting in third and fourth, behind the Gruel and Pullen cars. While Gruel pulled away at a clip of a car length a lap, a battle royal for second ensued as Pullen, Cliff, Russ Brown and Bond went at it for the spot.

As Gruel's lead built to 3.36 seconds, Bond ended up with in second, with Brown in third. A lap 22 yellow flag period erased Gruel advantage, as e now had the 26 and 60 on his back bumper for the restart. Bond took full advantage, and pulled the 26 to the inside on lap 24, and came away with the lead. Gruel's 50 faded, and fell back to third, with Brown wheeling by as well.

Bond remained in control of the race, and drove to the checkered unchallenged, and picked up career win #17, but more importantly, the Tony White Memorial win. It's really cool to win the race in an FFB car, especially for the guy that built the first FFB car, Tony. Any win is great, but this one really is a nice one for us."

News and Notes...23 SBS cars and 22 supermodifieds were pitside.

Kevin Knopp, Mike Bond and Dave Gruel won SBS heat races, with Jason Spaulding, Ray Graham and Bob M anger taking supermodified qualifiers. This week is the Old Timers picnic Saturday and King of Wings MSA winged race Saturday.

Supermodified 58 results

1)Otto Sitterly 7, 2)Doug Didero 3, 3)Dave McKnight 08, 4)Joey Payne 99, 5)Davey Hamilton 6, 6)Greg Furlong 72, 7)Pat Lavery 2, 8)Keith Gilliam 87, 9)Keith Shampine 88, 10)Gene Gibson 06, 11)Jerry Curran 24, 12)Jason Spaulding 23, 13)Bentley Warren 15, 14)Bob Magner 22, 15)Hal Latulip 56, 16)Danny Connors 01, 17)Todd Stowell 89, 18)Stephen Gioia 9, 19)Ray Graham 90, 20)Lou Levea, 04, 21)Bob Bogwicz, 22)Tim Snyder 0

SBS 34 results

1)Mike Bond 26, 2)Russ Brown 60, 3)Dave Gruel 50, 4)Rob Pullen 25, 5)Tim Barbeau 58, 6)Kevin Knopp 04, 7)Brian Sobus 79, 8)Jason Simmons 91, 9)Kenny Pierce 67, 10)Barry Kingsley 23, 11)Andrew Schartner 18, 12)Gregg Davis 68, 13)Dave Danzer 52, 14)Guard Nearbin 78, 15)Chip Wood 2, 16)Brian Haynes 86, 17)Dave Cliff 06, 18)Stan Gates 90, 19)Dennis Rupert 95, 20)Billy Moore 20, 21)Steve Abt 85, 22)Jack Patrick 9, 23)George Knight 1