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Saturday, May 17,1997 Page 5



Stanton native picks up first "A" feature win of '97 season

It was a perfect night of racing, last Saturday night at Riviera Raceway with temperatures in the mid-70s, enough wind to blow insects and dust away and hardly a caution flag flew.

In fact, the Street Stocks only saw four yellow flags in eight races. Unlike the Grand Nationals, which had seven yellows in six races.

Stanton's Patrick Jensen highlighted the Street Stock class by winning the "A" feature and his heat race.

But it was not an easy "A" feature win, as defending points leader and current points leader Jim Johnson of Bloomfield ran Jensen hard in the final laps.

Polesitter David Hille of Norfolk led the irst two laps, before Jason Throener and Jim Kimmel, both of Norfolk, got together and caused the only caution of the race.

That lined Jensen on the bumper of Hille on the restart. When racing resumed



Patrick Jensen (1) goes to the inside of David Hille (88D) to take the top spot in the Street Stock A-feature.

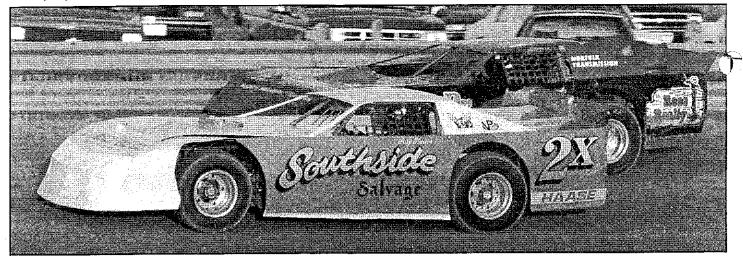
Jensen got by Hille and led the rest of the race. Johnson, who started 11 in the field, was running sixth after the second lap and broke the top three two laps later.

He passed Brad Brabec of Norfolk on the next lap and then set sail for Jensen.

With several laps remaining, Johnson was able to get a nose under Jensen, but was unable to make the pass.

Jensen won for his first top five finish.

Jensen wins/please see page 8



Grand National driver Raymond Haase (2X) gets by Bob Milander on the backstretch during their

heat race. The two would battle again in the "A" feature, with Haase winning the main event.

Haase back into victory lane

Despite his retirement two years ago, Norfolk's Raymond Haase showed last year he was far from retiring by winning the 1996 points chase and now in his second year following his retirement, Haase found victory in the "A" feature the third night out of the season.

However, it looked to be Norfolk's Robert Osborne's night, when he claimed his heat race and the trophy dash. He then had a chance at the mid-point to take over the lead in the "A" feature, but an unwanted caution ended his bid for the sweep.

Polesitter Bob Milander of Norfolk took advantage of his "A" feature position to lead the first 14 laps holding off Haase, who was running second. However, points leader Osborne had moved through the field from his fifth row starting position to run on the bumper of Haase after eight laps were completed.

Haase then seemed to step it up and passed Milander on lap 15 to lead the next six circuits. Osborne also got by Milander and was knocking at Haase's back door.

Then on lap 21 Jay Smith of Norfolk and Reggie Roth of Bancroft had an altercation in turn three bring out the only caution period of the race.

Following the caution period, Curt Zuhlke of Bancroft, who wrecked his car at Sunset Speedway the week before and spent time rebuilding his car and motor for Saturday night, came through the field and was sitting third during the caution laps.

The yellow allowed Zuhlke to close the gap between second and third place and on the restart he got around Osborne for second.

In the final four laps, Zuhlke worked on

Haase, but was unable to get around.

Haase took home the win and his second top five "A" feature placing. Zuhlke was second and Osborne third. Zuhlke and Osborne are the only Grand National drivers with three top five finishes in the same number of "A" features.

Mike Goldfuss of Sutton finished fourth and Roth recovered for fifth.

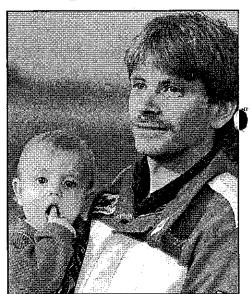
Three drivers qualified from the "B" feature to run in the "A" feature. Scott Phillips of Norfolk led all 10 laps of the smaller feature with Keith Hansen of Norfolk second and Jeff Haase of Norfolk taking third.

Osborne started on the outside of the front row for the trophy dash, but fell back a few spots, before working his way back to the front and winning the trophy dash.

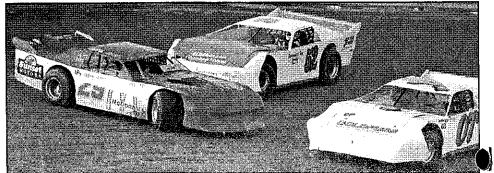
Zuhlke also drifted to the back, but stormed back through to finish second and a quite Raymond Haase slipped into third.

Heat races went to Steve Matthies of

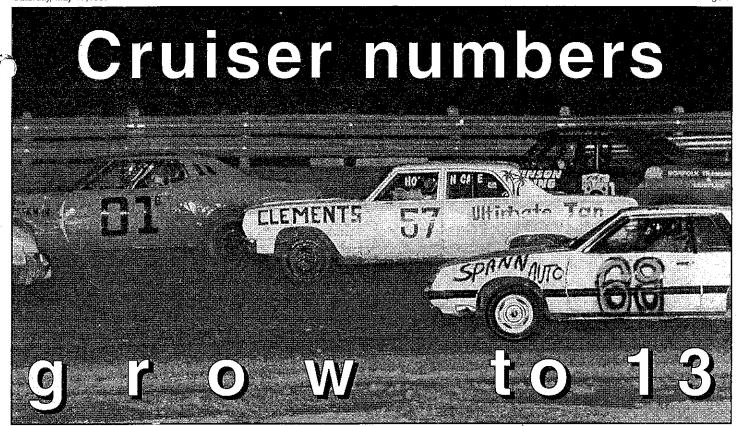
Haase first/please see page 8



Following his trophy dash win, Robert Osborne was welcomed to victory lane by his young son Chase.



Jeff Haase brought out one of five cautions in the final Grand National heat race of the night. The rest of the night ran smoothly without multiple caution periods.



Gnat and Koch continue winning ways in new class

With only two laps left in the main event for the Cruiser class, driver Jeremy Gnat and co-pilot Brian Koch got by the team of driver Jerry Bangmann and co-pilot Chris Bonsall to win their third straight feature of the season

Bangmann-Bonsall looked to have the race in hand, but slower traffic allowed Gnat-Koch to close in behind. Several times coming out of the second corner Gnat-Koch looked to have made the pass for the lead, but a smooth Bangmann-Bonsall team consistently out raced them down the back straightaway to regain the top spot.

However on lap six of eight, Bangmann-Bonsall slowed for spinning lapped cars in three and four, which opened the door for Gnat-Koch to drive around the leaders to take the win.

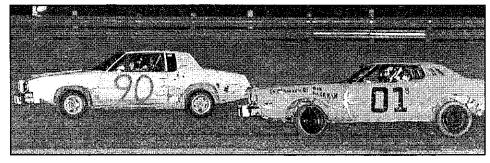
Gnat-Koch have won all three features this season.

Lee Baumert and Keith Gradert took home third place.

Despite several cars not returning in the Cruisers Class, the field grew to 13 for Saturday night's show.



Driver Jerry Bangmann and co-pilot Christ Bonsall (OY) lead driver Jeremy Gnat and co-pilot Brian Koch down the backstretch late in their feature race.



Jensen wins/

continued from page 5

Johnson was second, the only driver this year to finish in the top five in all three "A" features.

Travis Loecker of Norfolk scooted into third with four laps remaining to take his second top five finish of the season. Fourth went to Jon Haase of Plainview and fifth to a fading Hille.

Bill Wells of Norfolk, Haase and Tim Bertschinger of Creighton all qualified to run the "A" feature through the "B" feature.

Wells started from the outside of the third row, was running second after two laps, then was leading after getting by Bertschinger on the next lap.

Haase led from one lap, but fell back to third, before regaining and placing second.

In the "C" feature, Dennis Martz of Norfolk led the way. After having trouble in his heat, Martz gained the lead on lap two and won the 10-lap event, with Joel Carlson second and Brian Wagner third. Martz and Carlson advanced into the "B" feature.

Jensen had a chance to make a clean sweep, but after a spin Jensen parked the car and waited from the "A" feature. Johnson went onto win the trophy dash from the pole position.

Shannon Buenning of Norfolk was second and Loecker drove to third.

First time heat winners this week were Brabec and Kimmel.. Brabec took the first heat. Jay Sloan of Pierce led the first two laps before Brabec took over and finished the last six.

Kimmel got his first heat race win in the third heat. Kimmel was able to jump into the top spot when Jason Jensen got into the side of Clint Fisher coming out of four, the same spot Fisher rolled his vehicle the first night of racing. Both drivers were sent to the back giving Kimmel the lead and the eventual win.

Both Johnson and Jensen picked up their second heat race wins of the season.



Jim Kimmel (17K) leads Lee Baumert (79) and Shannon Buenning (back right) through turn four early in the third heat. Kimmel went onto win, Buenning second and Baumert third.

Haase first/

continued from page 6

Norfolk, Raymond Haase and Osborne.

Phillips led the first heat race for the first five of eight laps when dropped back allowing Matthies to grab the lead. Vic Lovejoy followed and finished second and

Roth was third.

Raymond Haase led it from the completion of the first lap to the drop of the checkered flag in the second heat race. Zuhlke had trouble getting by Milander, but with two left Zuhlke squeezed by for second and Milander was third.

Going into the final heat race of the

night only one caution flag flew for the two classes of cars, but anxious drivers and other problems brought out five cautions.

Left Heave brought out the first one

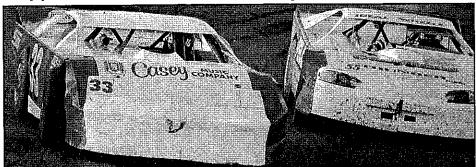
Jeff Haase brought out the first one when he spun in turns three and four, collecting Jay Smith of Norfolk. Both went to the rear of the field.

On the restart, someone jumped the gun bringing out caution period two. On the restart, Smith then spun causing caution period three. Dean Wilkenson then stalled on the front stretch on the restart for the fourth caution period.

Smith then got ahead of himself and jumped the gun for the final yellow flag.

All this without completing one lap.

When the race finally started only one car was eliminated. Goldfuss led the first two circuits, as Osborne got by to take over the point. Smith got by Goldfuss on lap seven for second place.



Scott Phillips (33) fights off Steve Matthies (55) in a heat race.

Drivers from Norfolk unless noted GRAND NATIONAL: (A feature) 1. Raymond Haase; 2. Curt Zuhlke, Bancroft; 3. Robert Osborne; 4. Mike Goldfuss, Sutton; 5. Reggie Roth, Bancroft; 6. Bob Milander; 7. Vic Lovejoy, Meadow Grove; 8. Jay Smith; 9. Scott Phillips; 10. Steve Matthies. (B feature) 1. Phillips; 2. Keith Hansen; 3. Jeff Haase. (Trophy Dash) 1. Osborne. (Heat 1) 1. Matthies; 2. Lovejoy. (Heat 2) 1. Raymond

Haase; 2. Zuhlke. (Heat 3) 1. Osborne, 2. Smith.

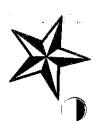
STREET STOCK: (A feature) 1. Patrick Jensen, Stanton; 2. Jim Johnson, Bloomfield; 3. Travis Loecker, Bloomfield; 4. Brad Brabec; 5. Jon Haase, Plainview; 6. David Hille; 7. Bill Wells; 8. Lee Baumert, Neligh; 9. Jim Kimmel; 10. Tim Bertschinger, Creighton. (B feature) 1. Wells; 2. Haase; 3. Bertschinger. (C feature) 1. Dennis Martz; 2. Joel Carlson, Winside; 3.

Brian Wagner, Winnetoon. (Trophy Dash) 1. Johnson. (Heat 1) 1. Brabec; 2. Loecker. (Heat 2) 1. Jensen; 2. Ned Bertschinger, Creighton. (Heat 3) 1. Kimmel; 2. Shannon Buenning. (Heat 4) 1. Johnson, 2. Hille.

CRUISERS: (Feature) 1. Driver — Jeremy Gnat / co-pilot — Brian Koch; 2. Driver — Jerry Bangmann / co-pilot — Chris Bonsall; 3. Driver — Lee Baumert / co-pilot — Keith Gradert.



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