



Eric Sloan (27) led all 12 laps in the feature to pick up his first win of the season.

Sloan goes to winner circle

He only drove six weeks last year before having to sit out the rest of the season, but Eric Sloan of Norfolk hopes to run a lot longer this season.

The former champion had one win and four top fives in those six starts last season and already this season he has picked up his win.

The feature was hampered with six cautions in the 12-lap feature, as the class went to IMCA Sport Compact this season.

Sloan started on the inside of the second row and made quick of the front row, as he went on to lead all 12 laps.

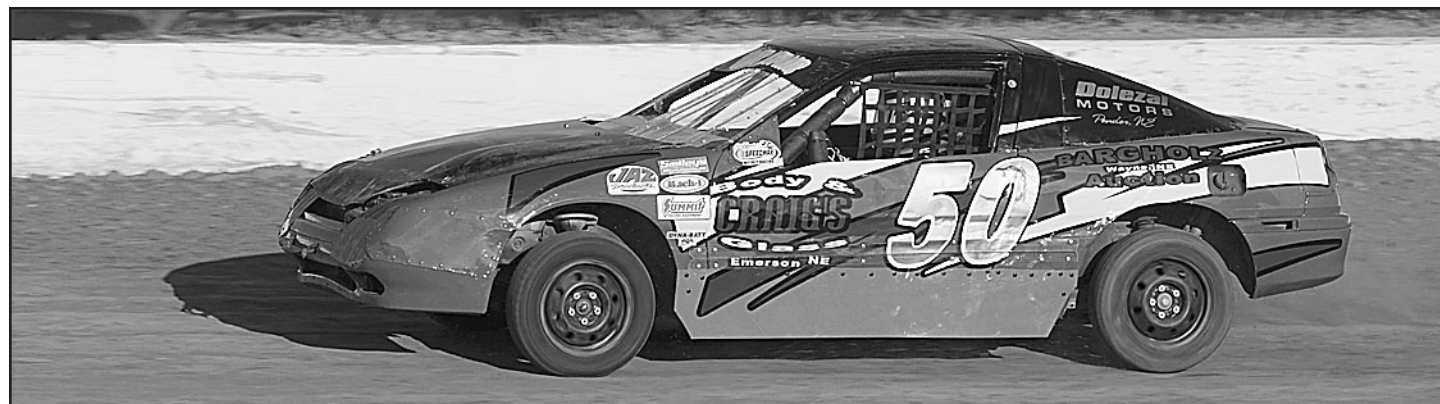
Defending points champion Cameron Meyer of Pierce started on the pole and tried to run down Sloan, but had to settle for second.

Jared Relitz of Emerson, who will share a ride with Jayme Bargholz of Wakefield, got by Wyatt Lehman of Norfolk on the second lap to finish third.

IMCA SPORT COMPACT STANDINGS											
After 1 night											
Car No.	Name	Town	Pts.	+/-	"A" wins	Top 5s	"A" starts	Laps led	Heat wins	No. nights	
1-	27	Eric Sloan	Norfolk	40		1	1	1	12	1	1
2-	21	Cameron Meyer	Pierce	39		0	1	1	0	1	1
3-	50	J Relitz/J Bargholz	Emerson	38		0	1	1	0	1	1
4-	6	Wyatt Lehman	Norfolk	37		0	1	1	0	1	1
5-	17	Adam Wagner	Norfolk	36		0	1	1	0	1	1
6-	26	Phillip Mrsny	Norfolk	35		0	0	1	0	1	1
7-	17x	Tom Brummels	Hadar	34		0	0	1	0	1	1
8-	2	Kandie Smidt	Norfolk	33		0	0	1	0	1	1
9-	77	Jeff Ronnfeldt	Pierce	32		0	0	1	0	1	1
10-	94	Michael Ronnfeldt	Norfolk	31		0	0	1	0	1	1
11-	00	Shannon Pospisil	Norfolk	30		0	0	1	0	1	1
12-	22	Jerry Smith	Norfolk	29		0	0	1	1	1	1
13-	42	Chris Brummels	Harrington	28		0	0	1	0	1	1
14-	13	Maison Frahm	Mead	00		0	0	0	0	0	0



Left, defending points champion Cameron Meyer (21) finished second in both the heat race and the feature. Below, Jared Relitz (50) cruised in third in the feature.



Jason Wilkinson (52) squeezes by the field during his heat race. He won both his heat race and the feature.

Wilkinson takes checkered

In Jason Wilkinson style, the Neligh native drove through the field casually take the season opener win in the IMCA Hobby Stock division last week.

And it was not easy as the race went without caution.

Jim Kimmel of Norfolk started things off. He started on the inside of the second row of the 15-lap feature and by the time they were exiting turn two, the former champion was leading the way.

Wilkinson, who started on the outside of the fifth row, broke into the top three on lap five.

Kimmel and the second place car of Matt Haase of Norfolk had pulled away from the rest of the field, so Wilkinson had to first catch up.

On lap 10, he passed Haase and pulled alongside Kimmel at the start finish line.

Wilkinson completed the pass and went on to lead the final five laps to win the feature.

Kimmel was second and Haase placed third. Fourth went to Mark Arduser of Battle Creek and rounding out the top 5 was Colby Langenberg of Norfolk.

IMCA HOBBY STOCK STANDINGS											
After 1 night											
Car No.	Name	Town	Pts.	+/-	"A" wins	Top 5s	"A" starts	Laps led	Heat wins	No. nights	
1-	52	Jason Wilkinson	Neligh	40	s	1	1	1	5	1	1
2-	17k	Jim Kimmel	Norfolk	39	s	0	1	1	10	1	1
3-	81	Matt Haase	Norfolk	38	s	0	1	1	0	1	1
4-	4	Mark Arduser	Battle Creek	37	s	0	1	1	0	1	1
5-	1J	Colby Langenberg	Norfolk	36	s	0	1	1	0	1	1
6-	7/11	Travis Coover	Neligh	35	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
7-	26	Jeremy Hoskinson	Norfolk	34	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
8-	28	Tracy Buck	Neligh	33	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
9-	16s	Derek Sehi	Neligh	32	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
10-	92	Tom Marksmeier	Norfolk	31	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
11-	9	Kevin Haase	Norfolk	30	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
12-	79s	Quinten Spragg	Columbus	29	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
13-	46	Tate Weinrich	Hoskins	28	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
14-	18	Jake Timm	Pierce	27	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
15-	4J	Brent Jochum	Norfolk	26	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
16-	16	Tim Pritchett Jr.	Beemer	25	s	0	0	1	0	1	1



Jim Kimmel (17) won his heat race and later finished second in the feature.



Defending points champion took a third place finish in the feature.

IMCA SportMods take to the track



Nelson Vollbrecht (11x) finished second in his heat race, but would win the feature in the SportMods.



Kyle Prauner (5) won his heat race, but finished second in the feature.

Vollbrecht, Johnson win season opener

When it is the first night of the season it is anybody's guess if cautions were going to overwhelm the racing.

But last week's season opener showed that this season could be good.

Two young drivers in the IMCA SportMods showed their maturity in an 18-lap feature and only one caution in the Grand Nationals gave the racers a chance to see what they had.

For Nelson Vollbrecht of Stanton and Kyle Prauner of Norfolk, they showed their skills picked up from their respective fathers.

It was not that many years ago their dads, Todd Vollbrecht and Jerry Prauner were circling local tracks. Now their sons can stay home and race, as Riviera Raceway went to IMCA sanction.

Vollbrecht started on the outside of the front row for the 18-lap feature. He grabbed the early lead with Prauner slipping in behind him.

The race went uninterrupted and the leaders started dealing lap traffic half way through the race.

Prauner could get a good run off turn two, but could not finish the pass. On lap 14, it looked like Prauner was going to make the pass, but Vollbrecht had caught lap traffic and was able to squeeze between

the slower cars. That forced Prauner to back off and follow Vollbrecht through the hole.

Prauner quickly went back to work and in less than a lap was again alongside Vollbrecht.

Despite running several laps side-by-side the young drivers never tangled.

Vollbrecht picked up the first win and Prauner was second. Geoff Olson of Sioux City was third with Todd Boulware of Jefferson taking fourth. Rounding out the top five was Rick Pendergast of Norfolk.

In the Grand National division, Chris Johnson led all but the first lap. Dean Wilkinson of Oakdale led the first lap from the pole.

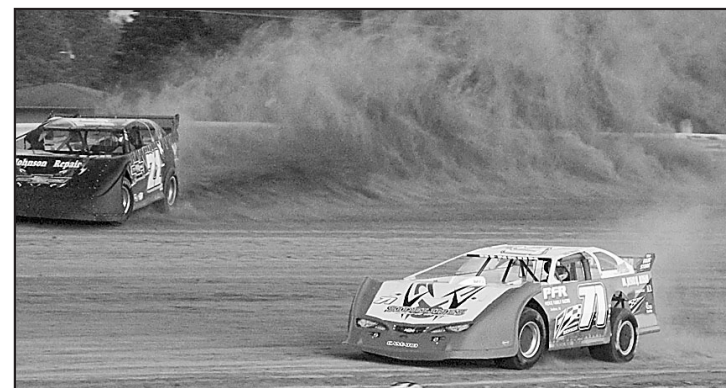
Johnson took over and never had too much pressure, as the race for second allowed him to extend his lead.

Mike Benson of Wakefield battle with Wilkinson for second on lap eight. Benson took over the spot on lap nine.

Robert Osborne of Norfolk got by Wilkinson for third on lap 15 and battle with Benson for second laps later, Osborne could not complete the pas, as Benson took home second and Osborne was third.

Wilkinson finished fourth and Nick Opfer of Hartington was fifth.

Right, Chris Johnson (7) runs inside Kyle Coover (10) during there heat race. Johnson picked up the first win of the season.



David Babcock (71x) and Mike Benson (71) void a spun out car during their heat race. Benson later finished second in the feature.



Robert Osborne (35) each finished third.

IMCA SPORTMOD STANDINGS											
After 1 night											
Car No.	Name	Town	Pts.	+/-	"A" wins	Top 5s	"A" starts	Laps led	Heat wins	No. nights	
1-	11x	Nelson Vollbrecht	Stanton	40	s	1	1	1	18	0	1
2-	5k	Kyle Prauner	Norfolk	39	s	0	1	1	1	1	1
3-	2g	Geoff Olson	Sioux City	38	s	0	1	1	0	1	1
4-	14	Todd Boulware	Jefferson	37	s	0	1	1	0	1	1
5-	49	Rick Pendergast	Norfolk	36	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
6-	0x	Darik Fox	O'Neill	35	s	0	1	1	0	1	1
7-	13x	Karl Brewer	Vermilion	34	s	0	0	1	1	1	1
8-	1B	Brad Brabec	Norfolk	33	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
9-	25	Johnny Kerby	Wisner	32	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
10-	97	David Johnson	Norfolk	31	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
11-	52p	Brandon Poessnecker	Atkinson	30	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
12-	17	Mary Lenz	Elmwood	29	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
13-	32k	Chase Kuhlman	Wagner	28	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
14-	79	Brian Barber	Platte Center	27	s	0	0	1	0	1	1

GRAND NATIONAL STANDINGS											
After 1 night											
Car No.	Name	Town	Pts.	+/-	"A" wins	Top 5s	"A" starts	Laps led	Heat wins	No. nights	
1-	7	Chris Johnson	Bloomfield	234	s	1	1	1	24	1	1
2-	71	Mike Benson	Wakefield	203	s	0	1	1	0	1	1
3-	35	Robert Osborne	Norfolk	200	s	0	1	1	1	1	1
4-	52	Dean Wilkinson	Oakdale	196	s	0	1	1	1	1	1
5-	10	Jr./Kyle Coover	Norfolk	183	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
6-	34	Nick Opfer	Hartington	182	s	0	1	1	0	1	1
7-	12	Alex Banks	Norfolk	174	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
8-	3	Doug Tomka	Stanton	172	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
9-	71x	David Babcock	Creighton	166	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
10-	07	Ben Sukup	Norfolk	160	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
11-	17	BJ Haase	Norfolk	160	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
12-	73	Chad Jensen	Norfolk	154	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
13-	101	Bill Sukup	Norfolk	154	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
14-	36	Jim Johnson	Plainview	148	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
15-	78	Travis Birkley	Wakefield	138	s	0	0	1	0	1	1
16-	90	Justin Bertschinger	Norfolk	132	s	0	0	0	0	1	1
17-	9	Eric Vanosdall	Winside	131	s	0	0	0	0	1	1
18-	14	Chase Osborne	Norfolk	130	s	0	0	0	0	1	1
19-	02	Cory Haase	Norfolk	125	s	0	0	0	0	1	1
20-	83	Mike Babcock	Creighton	120	s	0	0	0	0	1	1