

Aug 3rd, 2024 - Elko, MN

By Jason D Searcy

The ARCA Menards series made their 10th appearance at Elko Speedway on Saturday night August 3rd and an ELKO alumni won the race and provided drama that will be remembered for years to come, not only for those in attendance but also for a National TV audience watching on FS1.

17-year-old William Sawalich #18 from Eden Prairie (MN) won the Shore Lunch 250 presented by Dutch Boy paints on Starkey night at the races. Sawalich is a driver who raced at the "little Elko," ¼ midget track during his youth before graduating to race on the big track at ELKO, he won a Legends division race at Elko Speedway in 2020.

Sawalich won General Tire qualifying, besting 19 other cars with a time of 14.393 seconds and he started the race from the pole position. Sawalich dominated the first half of the race until the lapped car #99 Michael Maples spun him out, sending Sawalich back to 8th position, the last car on the lead lap. During a mandatory caution on lap 175 the #18 crew adjusted and repaired the Sawalich car, and the driver began his epic climb back to the front of the field. With rain on the horizon Sawalich picked his way up to the runner-up position and the crowd was energized sensing a dramatic finish. With 15 laps remaining in the race #12 Ryan Roulette spun and set up the final restart for all the marbles. During the caution laps raindrops were falling from the sky and lightning was viewed off in the distance. The race was restarted with 7 laps remaining, Lavar Scott #6 shot out to the lead and #15 Kris Wright battled with Sawalich for second place. With just 4 laps to go Sawalich passed Wright for a second and he set his sights on the leader, with two laps to go Sawalich dove to the inside of Scott, he grabbed the top spot, and the crowd rose to its feet. Scott fought back the next set of corners, he dove low, and they banged doors all through the turn coming to the white flag. Scott held the lead through the corners and down the backstretch on the final lap, but Sawalich stayed on his high side, meanwhile Kris Wright joined the fray with a last-ditch attempt from the bottom. It was a drag race down the front stretch with all three cars in contact and sliding across the finish line. William Sawalich won the race by 0.011 seconds, Lavar Scott narrowly missed his first career win and finished second with Kris Wright only 0.043 seconds behind for third. The most epic finish in recent memory at Elko Speedway. It was the fifth win of

the season for Sawalich and most importantly a hometown wins for his many fans in attendance.

Get full ELKO ARCA coverage at ARCARacing.com

NASCAR sanctioned Late Models sponsored by Interim HealthCare Staffing raced a 30 lap main event during ARCA night at Elko Speedway. 2023 Thunder Car Champion #07 Dillon Sellner led the first 10 laps of the race until #31 Ryan Varner from Mayer (MN) grabbed the top spot and never let it go. Varner led the last 2/3rds of the cautionless race and won by 0.916 seconds. It was the first win of the season for Varner. Chad Walen #52 raced up from his 8th starting position to finish second, Dillon Sellner was third, #94 Hunter Paine Covell was fourth, #6 Owin Giles fifth and fast qualifier #19 Jake Ryan finished 6th of the 15 cars competing.

Jake Ryan now leads Chad Walen by 28 points in the race for the 2024 Late Model Championship at ELKO.

The NASCAR sanctioned Thunder Cars raced a 25-lap caution less feature event before the big ARCA race Saturday night at Elko Speedway. 11 cars started the race and #18 Eric Montour grabbed the top spot early, Jim Omeara #16 took over the lead on lap 5. Omeara held the point until #9 Adam Wiebusch drove side-by-side for many laps before finally taking the lead on lap 18. Fifth row starter #99 Brent Kane from Lonsdale (MN) worked his way through the field and was able to make a high-side pass for the lead on lap 21. Kane then drove to the finish line and won by 0.388 seconds; it was the 7th win of the season for Kane at ELKO. Wiebusch finished second, #29 Tommy Sorem was third, Jim Omeara was fourth and #83 Julie Jorgenson fifth.

Kane now has a 29-point lead over Tommy Sorem in the race for the 2024 Thunder Car Championship at ELKO.

The NASCAR sanctioned Power Stocks held a very eventful race that had four different caution periods on ARCA night Saturday at Elko Speedway. Tom Doten #62 took the early lead and held on through a

couple restarts. Mike Stoer #08 from Prior Lake (MN) drove up from his 5th row starting position to take the lead with a high-side pass on lap 10. Stoer then endured a couple more cautions before taking the checkers first and winning by 0.948 seconds, it was the 3rd win of the season at ELKO for Stoer. Jesse Fischer #57 finished second, #3 Jimmie Jorgenson survived a trip to the pits during a caution to finish third, #41 Jason Michaud back after a 3 year absence was fourth and #56 Paul Hamilton racing for the first time this year finished 5th. Numerous cars did not finish the race including defending point Champion #83 Julie Jorgenson.

Jesse Fischer now has a 10-point lead over Mike Stoer and 15-point lead over Jimmie Jorgenson in the race for the 2024 Power Stock point title at ELKO.

Up Next at ELKO will be an Eve of Destruction on Saturday August 17th presented by Interim HealthCare Staffing. Monster Trucks, free rides in the school bus for the kids, drifters, petting zoo, trampoline stunt show, Chad Johnson music, School bus races plus NASCAR and INEX racing in all 5 divisions. Including the Late Model Tribute race in honor of Dwain Behrens. Gates open at 4:30pm, action begins at 5:15pm. Get more info at ElkoSpeedway.com

Elko Speedway is a NASCAR sanctioned 3/8th mile asphalt high banked oval track with stadium seating located 30 minutes South of the Twin Cities in Elko-New Market Minnesota.