

September 14, 2024 - Elko, MN

By Jason D Searcy

The Minnesota Professional Towing Association and its members sponsored the Eve of Destruction at Elko Speedway on Saturday night.

The Interim HealthCare Staffing Late Model division raced two 25 lap feature events, the first race was slowed by only one caution and that occurred during the first lap. The remainder of the race was run under the green flag, 16 drivers competed and none of them were lapped.

Ryan Varner #31 from Mayer (MN) was the winner, he ran side by side with #50 Steve Anderson Jr for a handful of laps to begin the race, then held back the hard charging #3 of Chris Marek to win by 0.342 seconds at the stripe. It was the second win of the season for Varner, he recently revealed that the plan is to scale back and not race full-time after this season. It was an eventful week for Varner who just days earlier was married. Marek finished a close second, #18 Michael Ostdiek was third, point leader #19 Jake Ryan moved up from his 8th starting position to finish fourth and Steve Anderson Jr rounded out the Top 5. Fast-timer #72 Jacob Goede scored the \$500 bonus from Interim HealthCare Staffing for the fastest lap in qualifying and the driver who is second place in points #52 Chad Walen finished 9th.

The second NASCAR sanctioned Late Model division race was won by 10-time ELKO Champion #72 Jacob Goede from Carver (MN). Goede was able to slip past #52 Chad Walen with an inside pass for the lead on lap 8 and then hold on for the win. Goede won by 1.237 seconds during this caution less race, it was the third win of the season for Goede, who is not racing ELKO full-time this season. Walen finished the race in second place, Michael Ostdiek #18 raced up from his 8th starting position to finish third, point leader #19 Jake Ryan was fourth and #32 Jeremy Wolff was fifth of the 16 cars entered.

Jake Ryan continues to lead the Late Model division point standings; he picked up 2 additional points on the night and now leads Chad Walen by 18 going into the final two race nights at ELKO.

The NASCAR sanctioned Thunder Car division raced two 20 lap feature events Saturday night at Elko Speedway.

The first feature was won by veteran driver #18 Eric Montour from Rosemount (MN). Ben Gannon #41 led the first few laps until Montour passed him on the inside and then held onto the lead the entire race. Montour was able to endure a caution on lap 12, he then outran #83 Julie Jorgenson to the finish and won by 0.343 seconds. It was the first career Thunder Car win at ELKO for Montour. Jorgenson finished second, #8 Taylor Goldman was third, point leader #99 Brent Kane was fourth and Gannon finished fifth of the 12 cars competing.

The second Thunder Car feature was won by #99 Brent Kane from Lonsdale (MN), he has now won over 140 times at ELKO in his 25-year career. Jimmy Omeara #16 led the opening few laps until #9 Adam Wiebusch grabbed the lead on lap 5, Kane passed Wiebusch on the inside for the lead the next lap and then cruised to the victory, winning by 1.664 seconds. This was the 10th win of the season for Kane, who has won at least one feature during every race night at ELKO this season. Adam Wiebusch finished second, former power stock Champion #88 Jason Novak returned to finish third, #29 Tommy Sorem was fourth and #41 Ben Gannon was fifth.

Kane now has a 62-point lead over Tommy Sorem in the Thunder Car division going into the final two race nights of the 2024 season at Elko Speedway.

The NASCAR sanctioned Power Stocks raced two very entertaining 20 lap feature events during the Eve of Destruction at Elko Speedway.

The first race was won by #57 Jesse Fischer from Eagan (MN), he was able to race up from his 9th starting position and pass #45 Gary Stokvis on the high side with 7 laps remaining to take the lead and then he extended that lead to 3.268 seconds at the finish line. It was the fourth win of the season for Fischer at ELKO. Gary Stokvis has been very close to winning as of late, he finished second place again, Mike Stoer #08 was third, #83 Julie Jorgenson fourth and #3 Jimmie Jorgenson fifth of the 15 cars entered.

The second Power Stock feature event had a first time ELKO winner, #24 Donovan Michaud from Elko-New Market (MN) led every lap, he even held on through a caution period with about 5 laps remaining to win by 0.801 seconds. Julie Jorgenson #83 finished second, #57 Jesse Fischer was third, #3 Jimmie Jorgenson crossed the finish line fourth but was disqualified in post-race technical inspection. Mike Stoer #08 was awarded fourth and #22 Zeke Oppegaard rounded out the Top 5 finishers.

The points race has been very close and variable this year at ELKO in the Power Stock division. Defending Champion Julie Jorgenson has now taken the lead, she currently has a 10-point advantage over Jesse Fischer, 26 points over Mike Stoer and 30 points over her brother Jimmie Jorgenson.

The INEX sanctioned Legends division raced two 20 lap feature events during Eve of Destruction at Elko Speedway. Tristan Swanson #66 from Elko (MN) won both races. 19 cars were entered for each race, Swanson was able to take the lead at the half-way point in the first race. 69-year-old Greg Erhardt led the first couple laps and 15-year-old Ayrton Brockhouse #12 led the race until Swanson took over the top spot with a pass coming out of turn two on the high side. Swanson won the race by 0.44 seconds, Dirk Henry #3 was second place, Ayrton Brockhouse finished third, point leader and fast-timer #75 Baiden Heskett was fourth and #13 Tim Brockhouse was fifth.

The second Legends feature had #27 Riley Goodwin leading up until a caution period on lap 6. Off the restart #66 Tristan Swanson grabbed the top spot and held on to win a great race by just edging #75 Baiden Heskett by 0.126 seconds at the finish line. Ayrton Brockhouse #12 was third, #3 Dirk Henry fourth and Riley Goodwin finished fifth.

Baiden Heskett has a 70+ point lead in the Legends division going into the final two race nights at Elko Speedway.

The INEX sanctioned Bandoleros for kids ages 7-15 years old raced two 12 lap feature events at Elko Speedway on Saturday night. The first race was very exciting as #32 Mason Westphal took the lead off the start, then was passed by #5 Christopher Flynn for a lap and then Westphal regained the lead on the next lap and held the top spot until he spun while passing

lapped traffic and sent to the back of the pack. Frank Jirik #19 from New Prague (MN) an 8-year-old driver who has been racing ¼ midgets in the NASCAR youth series and who has only raced a Bando one other time then took over the lead off the restart and never looked back, Jirik won by 0.732 seconds. Emily Billings #10 finished second place, Christopher Flynn was third, #22 Bentley Thompson was fourth and point leader #32 Colton Roe Pershall was fifth of the 18 total cars competing.

The second Bando feature had #22 Bentley Thompson the 2024 Wisconsin State Champion from West Salem (WI) taking the lead on the first lap and he never gave it up. Thompson ended up holding off Frank Jirek #19 by 0.857 seconds to win for the third time in just 6 races at Elko Speedway in 2024. Jirek finished second place, #57 Rev Heitkamp was third, #10 Emily Billings fourth and #32 Mason Westphal was fifth.

Colton Roe Pershall #32 now has a 16-point lead over Christopher Flynn #5 in the race for the 2024 Bando Championship at ELKO.

*All points and results are unofficial currently, get updates at ElkoSpeedway.com

The MPTA Spectator drags were very entertaining as Mark driving an Audi S5 was the overall winner.

Two Monster Trucks put on an amazing car crushing show, Josh Baumgartner in Bigfoot and Jim Bendzick in Thunder 4x4.

Nick Rogers the ATV Big Air action athlete from Litchfield (MN) made history as he completed a full backflip in an ATV, the first time that feat has ever been done at Elko Speedway.

School Bus races completed the show with a rollover as they crossed in the X.

Coming up next at Elko Speedway is the Thunderstruck93 Super Late Model event with the ASA Midwest tour racing a 125-lap main event. All 5 divisions of cars will also be racing double features. Gates open at 4:30pm, on-track autograph session at 4:45pm. Features begin at 7pm, get more information at ElkoSpeedway.com #ElkoSpeedway

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