

ELKO Race Recap September 28th, 2024 - Elko, MN

By Jason D Searcy

The 59th Season Championship at Elko Speedway was held Saturday night and 5 drivers won titles on a warm night in front of a big crowd during Eve of Destruction.

Jake Ryan #19 from Elko-New Market (MN) went into the final night of racing with a slim lead in the Interim HealthCare Staffing Late Model division, but he was able to have a strong night, and he won the 2024 Late Model Championship at ELKO.

In the first of two 25 lap Late Model feature event #5 Ryan Kamish led the first few laps before losing the lead and eventually dropping from the race with mechanical problems. Jeremy Wolff #32 took over the top spot until about the half-way point of the event at that time fifth starting driver #50 Steve Anderson Jr from Farmington (MN) grabbed the lead and drove to a convincing win, the margin of victory was 2.215 seconds. It was the third win of the season for Anderson. Ryan Varner #31 finished second place, Jeremy Wolff dropped to third, point leader Jake Ryan #19 finished fourth and second place in points #52 Chad Walen finished 5th of the 11 cars entered. Fast-timer and winner of the \$500 bonus from Interim HealthCare Staffing 16-year-old Danny Mann #10 had bad luck during the race and did not finish.

The second NASCAR sanctioned Late Model feature event had 2013 Bando Champion Jared Duda #53 leading a majority of the race, he was finally passed for the top spot by #52 Chad Walen from Prior Lake (MN) who held off his year-long rival #19 Jake Ryan by 0.18 seconds at the finish line. It was the first win of the season for the ultra-consistent Walen who had 11 "Top 5" finishes during the 19 races held in his division at ELKO. Jake Ryan finished second place in the race and that ensured he had enough points to win the 2024 Late Model point title. Ryan finished with 4 wins on the season and led the division with 8 "Top 3" finishes, it was the second point title for Ryan who also won the 2012 Big8 division Championship at ELKO. Jared Duda finished the race in a season-best third position, 06 Adam Ratliff raced for the first time of the year and finished an impressive fourth and Ryan Varner was fifth.

Jake Ryan won the 2024 ELKO Late Model Championship, Chad Walen finished 21 points behind in second, Steve Anderson Jr #50 had three wins and was 167 points behind in third place overall. 27 different drivers earned points in the Late Model division this year at Elko Speedway.

The NASCAR sanctioned Thunder Car division raced two 20 lap features during season championship night at Elko Speedway.

Brent Kane #99 from Lonsdale (MN) dominated the division in 2024 at ELKO, he won both feature events and ended up with 13 wins out of 19 feature events, he won at least once during every race night at ELKO in 2024 and never finished out of the "Top 5" in any feature race. In his 25th year of racing, he earned his 5th Thunder Car Championship at Elko Speedway.

The first feature had #27 Gary West leading the first lap, #88 Jason Novak led from lap 2 to lap 12, then Brent Kane took the lead and did not look back, he won by 0.991 seconds. Jimmy Omeara #16 finished second place, #83 Julie Jorgenson was third, #29 Tommy Sorem fourth and Jason Novak finished the race fifth of the 9 cars entered.

The second Thunder Car feature event had #9 Adam Wiebusch leading the first 12 laps until Brent Kane #99, who started last, passed him for the lead on the high side, Kane then held on to win by 1.01 seconds, it was his 13th win of the season. Wiebusch finished second, Julie Jorgenson #83 was third, #8 Taylor Goldman finished fourth and #16 Jimmy Omeara rounded out the "Top 5" finishers.

Brent Kane #99 won the 2024 ELKO Thunder Car title by the very appropriate number of 99 points, Tommy Sorem finished second place, he scored an impressive 12 "Top 3" finishes this year. In her first full year racing in the division Julie Jorgenson finished just two points behind Sorem for third in the final point tally. 18 different drivers raced in the Thunder Car division at Elko Speedway in 2024.

The NASCAR sanctioned Power Stocks raced two 20 lap feature events Saturday night during Eve of Destruction at Elko Speedway.

Julie Jorgenson #83 from Dundas (MN) won her second consecutive Power Stock title at ELKO. Jorgenson had an incredibly consistent season, she finished in the "Top 5" 17 of the 19 feature events in 2024, she also won 3 races on her way to the Championship.

In the first Power Stock feature #45 Gary Stokvis led the first hand-full of laps until #08 Mike Stoer from Prior Lake (MN) took the lead on lap 5. The top three drivers checked-out and ran away from the field, Stoer ended up winning by 0.343 seconds, it was the 6th win of the season for Stoer, more wins than any other racer in the Power Stock division, this is the third consecutive year in which Stoer has scored the most wins in the division. Julie Jorgenson #83 finished second, 57 Jesse Fischer was third, #0b Grant Brown finished a distant fourth and #24 Donovan Michaud fifth of the 13 cars entered.

The second Power Stock feature had #14 Brock Westermayer led the first half of the race until sixth starting #0b Grant Brown from Jordan (MN) driving the back-up car for Mike Stoer passed him and held on to win in the Power Stock division for the first time since he was a Champion at the age of 15 way back in 2015. Donovan Michaud #24 finished 0.466 seconds behind to finish second, #57 Jesse Fischer was third, Fisher led the division in 2024 with 13 "Top 3" finishes in the 19 races. Mike Stoer finished fourth and #83 Julie Jorgenson crossed the finish line fifth.

Julie Jorgenson won the 2024 ELKO Power Stock point title by 16 points over Mike Stoer and Jesse Fischer finished a close third, just 18 points out of the Championship. 24 drivers completed at Elko Speedway this year in the Power Stock division.

The INEX sanctioned Legends cars raced two 20 lap feature events during Eve of Destruction Saturday night at Elko Speedway.

Baiden Heskett #75 from Hastings (MN) won his second Legends title at Elko Speedway, he led the division with 14 "Top 3" finishes in the 18 races

at ELKO in 2024. He also scored 6 wins enroute to his second Legends division title, he also won the Championship in 2018 at ELKO.

The first feature event was 12-year-old #22 Cam Panitzke lead the first five laps before #12 Ayrton Brockhouse took over the lead and he held on for the 6th time in 2024 at ELKO. Dirk Henry #3 finished 1.375 seconds behind to score the runner-up position, fast-timer #75 Baiden Heskett was third, #901 Alex Hartwig fourth and #87 Robby Carter fifth of the 20 cars competing.

The second 20 lap Feature event in the Legends division had #3 Zach Geiger leading the first seven laps before #87 Robby Carter took over the lead, he then raced side-by-side for many laps and then was finally passed by 9th starting #75 Baiden Heskett who went on to win by 0.311 seconds. It was the sixth win of the season for Heskett. Carter finished second, Ayrton Brockhouse #12 was third, 3 Dirk Henry fourth and #901 Alex Hartwig fifth.

Baiden Heskett won the 2024 Legends title at Elko Speedway by an impressive 117 points, Ayrton Brockhouse had 6 wins and finished second place, Zach Geiger made huge improvements this year and finished in third position. 44 different drivers raced in the Legends division at ELKO in 2024.

The INEX sanctioned Bandolero division raced two 12 lap feature events on season Championship night at Elko Speedway.

Colton Roe Pershall #32 from Sartell (MN) won the season Championship, it was a close race, he only led by 2 points going into the final night of racing. Colton finished the season at ELKO with 3 wins and a division leading 9 "Top 3" finishes in the 18 races run during the 2024 season.

The first race had #21 Aiden Kubiszewski leading the first two laps after a couple attempts to get the race started, on lap 3 Colton Roe Pershall #32 raced up from his 11th starting position to take the lead. Colton Roe Pershall weaved his way through lapped traffic and held on to win by 0.294 seconds. Mason Westphal #32 finished second place, Justice Doubrava #01 was third, 57 Rev Heitkamp fourth and #56 George Brochman

fifth. Christopher Flynn #5, who was just two points behind entering the race night, spun on the last lap while in third position, he did not finish and was credited with 14th.

The second feature event for the Bando's had #5 Christopher Flynn winning by 1.374 seconds, it was his 4th win of the season at ELKO. Colton Roe Pershall #32 crossed the finish line in second, 27 Roman Crow was third, #01 Justice Doubrava fourth and #57 Rev Heitkamp fifth.

Colton Roe Pershall won the 2024 Bando division title at Elko Speedway by 22 points over Christopher Flynn, Rev Heitkamp scored the most "Top 5" finishes of any driver this year with 12, he finished 44 points behind the leader to finish third in points. 27 different drivers scored points in the Bando division this year at ELKO.

All points and results unofficial, get more information at ElkoSpeedway.com

The huge Eve of Destruction crowd was thrilled by Monster Truck freestyles from Josh Baumgartner in Mechanical Mischief and Rod Schmidt in Redneck Rampage. Sam Buckner won the Spectator Drags in his 1987 Chevrolet Corvette. Stuntman Russ Lorbiecki from Sussex (WI) rode his Rollover trike, Micro-cooper and also Operation Fireball making for an exciting style of burnouts. A jet powered truck named Magdatude melted a car to the ground, the figure 8 trailer race was the highlight of the evening with smashed cars and excitement galore and the 2024 season was capped off with an amazing Fireworks show.

The next event will be an Eve of Destruction for Opening Day of our 60th season on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend in 2025 at Elko Speedway.

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

Get more information at ElkoSpeedway.com #ElkoSpeedway