

Chad Blonde Battles to Hartford Engine Pro SOD by ARP MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge Win



ERIE, MI (September 5, 2016) – Veteran Michigan sprint car star Chad Blonde drove his Sean Robinson owned 5B to victory from his 8th place starting position over 10th place starter Ryan Ruhl and 9th place starter Steve Irwin to win the Engine Pro Sprints On Dirt presented by ARP MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge feature at Hartford Speedway last night. The huge crowd saw a wild show with great racing on the 2016 Sprint On Dirt spec tire from Hoosier Racing Tire.

Linden Jones and John Gall led the start of the 20-lap feature with Gall jumping into the lead for the first 2 laps before Jones took over for laps 3-4. On lap 4, SOD points leader Brian Smith escaped disaster when Joe Swanson climbed up his left rear going into turn one bringing out the race's only caution. Both cars sustained damage, but restarted after repairs in the pits. Early leaders John Gall, Linden Jones, and Mark Aldrich, as well as SOD Hartford May winner Ryan Ruhl proved to be no match for Blonde who drove away and finished with a commanding lead over Ryan Ruhl and Steve Irwin. Blonde's victory was his first appearance with SOD in several years, and he found the highly-acclaimed 2016 SOD spec Hoosier tires to his liking.

Robert Bulloch suffered a mechanical failure in his Kirkendall 7K that sent him hard into the water barrels in turn four in the first heat. His car was launched high into the air upon impact and although the car was destroyed, Bulloch was eventually cleared by the track medical crew. The proper installation of the car's seat and belts prevented potentially serious injuries in this high-speed, heavy-impact crash.

ARP MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge Feature

	#	Driver	Awards	Contingencies
1	5B	Chad Blonde		Rod End Supply

2	16	Ryan Ruhl	KSE Hard Charger	Rod End Supply
3	0	Steve Irwin		Rod End Supply
4	1A	Mark Aldrich		Racing Optics
5	7	Joe Swanson		ATL Racing Fuel Cells
6	19J	Linden Jones		King Racing Products
7	10S	Jay Steinebach	Ti22 Draw Winner	
8	4T	Josh Turner		
9	2+	Brian Smith		
10	46	Robert Huisken		
11	81	John Gall	DMI Draw Winner	
12	27K	Ryan Kirkendall	Engine Pro Lucky Dog	
13	1	Eric Smith		
14	8	Justin Ward		
15	57	Tyler Fitzpatrick		
16	91L	Lexi Adgate		
DNS	7K	Robert Bulloch		
DNS	23	Joe Geibe		

COMP Cams \$100 Fast Qualifier

Joe Swanson (7) – 16.803

Engler Machine & Tool Heat \$100 winner – Brian Smith (2+)
2+, 7, 0, 1A, 19J, 46, 91L, 23

Lane Automotive Heat \$100 winner – Ryan Tuhl (16)

16, 5B, 4T, 27K, 81, 7K, 8, 24, 57

Kistler Racing Products Contingency – Joe Swanson

BR Motorsports Contingency – Steve Irwin

COMP Cams Contingency – Chad Blonde

Allstar Performance Contingency – Josh Turner

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For more information about Engine Pro, [click here](#). For more information about ARP, [click here](#). The full 2016 Sprints on Dirt schedule, rules, current news, and other information are available at www.sprintsondirt.com.

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