

Steve Irwin Up to SOD's MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge at Crystal



Car owner Adrianna Irwin, BLC winner Steve Irwin, crew chief (2016 XYZ Machining Crew Chief of the Year) Nathan Whitney

Engine Pro Sprints on Dirt presented by ARP 2001 champion Steve Irwin drove his familiar Flying Zero, Krieger Engine powered Maxim to the win in the exciting MAHLE/Clevite Beyond Limits Challenge Race #3 at Crystal Motor Speedway last night.

Starting outside, front row, the Fenton, Michigan, SOD point leader took the lead at the start over pole starter Brad Lamberson. Irwin maintained a small lead for five laps before 2015 SOD champion Gregg Dalman charged around Lamberson and then Irwin for first. Dalman was clearly the class of the

field and opened up a commanding lead. Meanwhile, Jay Steinebach's hard work paid off as he grabbed second from Irwin and began closing in on Dalman who had to contend with heavy traffic as the race wound down.

Steinebach was just four car length behind Dalman when he made hard contact with the outside wall at the flag stand completing lap nineteen. Steinebach ended up against the wall facing turn four with a flat right front tire bringing out the caution flag and ending his impressive drive.

With five laps to go, Dalman had early leader Irwin behind him and things dramatically changed. It was clear that Dalman's handling had gone south as Irwin charged into the lead and drove away. Dalman continued to struggle as first Thomas Schinderle, then Shawn Valenti passed him also. Schinderle narrowed Irwin's lead and pulled alongside the leader once, but it was a wakeup call for the leader as he opened up a small lead and was in complete command at the end.

Irwin (Engler Machine & Tool heat) and Valenti (COMP Cams heat) drove to convincing heat wins. Early engine woes turned leading SOD sprint car rookie of the year into a spectator for the entire program.

Irwin now leads the MAHLE/Clevite BLC points over Schinderle, Dalman, Chris Jones, and Robert Bulloch. He also leads SOD championship points over Dalman, Schinderle, Jones, and Robert Huiskens.

Heat Races – Winners \$100 each

Engler Machine & Tool Heat #1			
	#	Driver	Contingency
1	0	Steve Irwin	
2	10s	Jay Steinebach	Kistler Racing Products

3	49T	Gregg Dalman	Racing Optics
4	41	Thomas Schinderle	
5	8	Justin Ward	
6	10J	Chris Jones	
7	2K	Matt Kinzinger	
8	24	Eric Smith	
9	58	Tony Bures	
DNS	77	Andrew Scheid	

COMP Cams Heat #2			
	#	Driver	Contingency
1	7	Shawn Valenti	
2	27	Brad Lamberson	Allstar Performance
3	9E	Tim Evilsizer	Racing Optics
4	3A	Mike Astrauskas	
5	89	Chris Pobanz	
6	47	Robert Bulloch	
7	91	Lexi Adgate	
8	6	Tyler Bearden	
9	31	Tanner Astrauskas	

Feature

	#	Driver	Start	Contingencies
1	0	Steve Irwin	2	Rod End Supply

2	41	Thomas Schinderle	8	Rod End Supply
3	7	Shawn Valenti	7	Rod End Supply
4	49T	Gregg Dalman	4	Schoenfeld Headers
5	27	Brad Lamberson	1	ATL Racing Fuel Cells
6	9E	Tim Evilsizer	3	
7	10J	Chris Jones	11	Allstar Performance
8	3A	Mike Astrauskas	5	
9	89	Chris Pobanz	10	King Racing Products
10	8	Justin Ward	9	
11	47	Robert Bulloch	12	Keizer Aluminum Wheels
12	91	Lexi Adgate	14	
13	58	Tony Bures	17	
14	6	Tyler Bearden	16	
15	31	Tanner Astrauskas	18	
16	10s	Jay Steinebach	6	
17	2K	Matt Kinzinger	13	
18	24	Eric Smith	15	
DNS	77	Andrew Scheid		

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger – Thomas Schinderle (+6)

BR Motorsports Contingency (feature top 10 draw) – Shawn Valenti

DMI (Diversified Machine) Contingency (feature 12-16 draw) –

Tyler Bearden

Perfit Corporation Lucky Dog – Chris Jones

For more information about Engine Pro go to www.enginepro.com. For more information about ARP, go to www.arp-bolts.com. The full 2017 Sprints on Dirt schedule, rules, current news, and other information are available at www.sprintsondirt.com.

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