

# Ryan Ruhl masters SOD season opener at Crystal



*Chad Blonde (2<sup>nd</sup>), Ryan Ruhl(1<sup>st</sup>), Zane DeVault (3<sup>rd</sup>)*

ERIE, MI (May 5, 2019) – The Lane Automotive Sprints On Dirt powered by King Engine Bearings / MSD Ignition / Motul traditional season opener at Crystal Motor Speedway, rained out a week ago, went off under a sunny day Saturday. Ryan Ruhl was impressive in winning his Engler Machine & Tool heat race and the twenty-five-lap feature.

In the feature, Ruhl took the lead from the pole at the start, but the caution flag came out causing a complete restart. On the second start Ruhl and Joshua Turner (Osseo, MI) battled side by side with Turner using the top of the track to grab the early lead. But Ruhl (Coldwater, MI) had his Smith Motorsports Krieger-powered, Maxim hooked up on the lower groove and quickly moved into the lead. As the

race went on, Ruhl got stronger and stronger, turning laps near 98 mph on the Crystal oval.

2018 SOD champion Chad Blonde (Litchfield, MI) used a slight miscue by Turner to take second. Blonde had a couple shots at Ruhl on the high side on restarts, but Ruhl was just too strong and motored away to win by a wide margin. Blonde held on for second while Zane DeVault (Plymouth, IN), last year's SOD opener winner, was impressive in finishing third in former SOD competitor, now car owner Greg Wheeler's 360 ride. Turner took fourth and second-generation driver Ricky Ferkel (Mt. Pleasant, MI) had a strong showing to finish fifth. Tyler Gunn (Napoleon, OH), easy winner of the King Engine Bearings heat race, recovered from a spin and charged from last to finish sixth.

Gremlins made the night difficult for some veteran drivers as former SOD champions Brett Mann (Goshen, IN) and Steve Irwin (Fenton, MI) both had engine problems. Michigan Motor Sports Hall of Fame member Jason Blonde (Litchfield, MI) suffered the same fate.

Garrett Saunders (Lakeville, IN), a standout in Plymouth (IN) Speedway crate Pro Sprints, made his unlimited sprint car debut as team mate to Zane DeVault. On the opposite end of the spectrum, Kent Gardner (Fenton, MI) returned to SOD competition after a twenty-six-year absence!

Crystal owner/promoter Ron Flinn, new SOD owner Dave Muzzillo, and their staffs did a great job to kick off the 2019 season

in front of a  
great crowd.

Qualifying – Benic Enterprises Fast Masters (fast qualifiers)

<b>Group</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Driver</b>
Engler Machine & Tool Heat	13.836	16C	Zane DeVault
King Engine Bearings Heat	14.334	5b	Chad Blonde

Heat Races

Engler Machine & Tool Heat #1			
	<b>#</b>	<b>Driver</b>	<b>Contingency</b>
1	71H	Ryan Ruhl	
2	4	Joshua Turner	Ti22 Performance
3	16C	Zane DeVault	Racing Optics
4	46	Robert Huisken	
5	10S	Jay Steinebach	
6	10XS	Robert Bulloch	
7	16W	Garrett Saunders	
8	24	Eric Smith	
9	0	Steve Irwin	
DNS	19	Brett Mann	
King Engine Bearings Heat #2			
	<b>#</b>	<b>Driver</b>	<b>Contingency</b>
1	68G	Tyler Gunn	
2	5b	Chad Blonde	Ti22 Performance
3	1a	Mark Aldrich	Racing Optics
4	0	Ricky Ferkel	
5	8	Justin Ward	

6	81	John Gall	
7	52	Zac Broughman	
8	6	Tyler Bearden	
9	41	Kent Gardner	
10	27K	Jason Blonde	

A-Main

	#	Driver	Contingencies
1	71H	Ryan Ruhl	Rod End Supply
2	5b	Chad Blonde	Rod End Supply
3	16C	Zane DeVault	Rod End Supply
4	4	Joshua Turner	Schoenfeld Headers
5	0	Ricky Ferkel	Saldana Racing Products
6	68G	Tyler Gunn	Pyroprotect Racing Cells
7	10S	Jay Steinebach	King Racing Products
8	46	Robert Huisken	Keizer Aluminum Wheels
9	81	John Gall	
10	8	Justin Ward	
11	16W	Garrett Saunders	
12	52	Zac Broughman	
13	6	Tyler Bearden	
14	1a	Mark Aldrich	
15	10XS	Robert Bulloch	
16	0	Steve Irwin	
17	41	Kent Gardner	
18	24	Eric Smith	
19	27K	Jason Blonde	

MAHLE Aftermarket Hard Charger – 4 drivers (3)

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger – 4 drivers (3)  
BR Motorsports Contingency (feature top 10 draw) – TylerGunn  
DMI Contingency (feature 12-16 draw) –Tyler Bearden  
COMP Cams Lucky Dog – Tyler Bearden  
Allstar Performance Better Luck Next Time – Brett Mann  
Allstar Performance Better Luck Next Time – Jason Blonde

Check out Crystal Motor Speedway at  
[www.crystalmotorspeedway.com](http://www.crystalmotorspeedway.com) and  
on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CMSpeedway](http://www.facebook.com/CMSpeedway).

For more information, check out these websites:

Lane Automotive – [www.laneautomotive.com](http://www.laneautomotive.com)  
King Engine Bearings – [www.kingbearings.com](http://www.kingbearings.com)  
MSD Ignition – [www.msperformance.com](http://www.msperformance.com)  
Motul – [www.motul.com/us/en-US](http://www.motul.com/us/en-US)  
Sprints On Dirt – [www.sprintsondirt.com](http://www.sprintsondirt.com)

