

SOD Memorial Weekend Double Washed Out



Fort Wayne, IN (May 26, 2019) – In spite of the best efforts by Hartford Speedway and Butler Motor Speedway, the Lane Automotive Sprints On Dirt powered by King Engine Bearings / MSD Ignition / Motul races were both rained out.

Watching the Hartford weather Friday morning, it was already looking grim. Then, faced with morning rains, already saturated grounds, a forecast for evening showers, and the distance teams need to travel, owner/promoter Tim Dibble announced shortly after noon that it was in everyone's best interest to cancel the show. Although a difficult decision, especially after being rained out for its season opener a week earlier, it was the right decision.

Weather predictions for Saturday showed Butler Motor Speedway was facing a narrow period of rain in the evening. Unfortunately, Mother Nature apparently wasn't watching, and around 2:30 PM a strong storm moved through dumping a

large amount of rain in a short time. Faced with a considerable amount of standing water and a prediction of more rain to come, promoters Denny Donaldson and Bob Garrett had to make a frustrating decision to cancel the show. The race was already a make-up date for the May 11 rain out at Butler.

Sprints On Dirt thanks both Hartford and Butler for their hard work and support. Along with SOD, they are struggling with weather woes this season.

For more information about Hartford Speedway at www.hartfordspeedway.net and Butler Motor Speedway, at www.butlerspeedway.net.

Please check out these websites too:

Lane Automotive – www.laneautomotive.com

King Engine Bearings – www.kingbearings.com

MSD Ignition – www.msperformance.com

Motul – www.motul.com/us/en-US

Sprints On Dirt – www.sprintsondirt.com

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- *Motul (Presenting Sponsor)*
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- *Benic Enterprises (Fast Masters Sponsor)*
- *Engler Machine & Tool (Heat Race Sponsor)*
- *King Engine Bearings (Heat Race Sponsor)*
- *MSD Ignition (Heat Race Sponsor)*
- *Motul (Heat Race Sponsor)*
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- *Benic Enterprises (Crew Chief of the Year Sponsor)*
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- *Motul (Sprint Car Rookie of the Year Sponsor)*
- *King Engine Bearings (SOD Series Rookie of the Year Sponsor)*
- *Noizee 1 Motorsports (Special Awards)*

SOD 2019 contingency marketing partners are:

- *Allstar Performance*
 - *BR Motorsports*
 - *Diversified Machine Inc. (DMI)*
 - *Hepfner Racing Products (HRP)*
 - *Keizer Aluminum Wheels*
 - *King Racing Products*
 - *Maxim Racing*
 - *Pyrotec Racing Cells*
 - *Racing Optics*
 - *Rod End Supply*
 - *Saldana Racing Products*
 - *Schoenfeld Headers*
 - *Simpson Racing Products*
 - *Ti22 Performance*
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SOD at Butler over the falls without a barrel, race rescheduled



Fort Wayne, IN (May 12, 2019) – With rain percentages looking better and better as the day went on Saturday, the first 2019 Lane Automotive Sprints On Dirt powered by King Engine Bearings / MSD Ignition / Motul race at Butler Motor Speedway looked good. Unfortunately, Mother Nature apparently wasn't watching the percentages.

As pit gates opened and the pits filled with cars, intermittent sprinkles started. Just as SOD sign in was winding down, rain increased, and it soon became clear to everyone watching weather radar on their phones that we wouldn't get the show in. After having put in a long week prepping for the race, Promoters Denny Donaldson and Bob Garrett had to pull the plug and cancel the show.

Butler and SOD officials went to work to replace the date, and within a short time, it was agreed to reschedule the race for Saturday, May 25. It will be a two-day weekend for SOD competitors with Hartford Motor Speedway on the schedule for Friday, May 24.

For more information about Butler Motor Speedway, go to www.butlerspeedway.net and the speedway's Facebook page at <https://goo.gl/csxUkX>.

Please check out these websites too:

Lane Automotive – www.laneautomotive.com

King Engine Bearings – www.kingbearings.com

MSD Ignition – www.msperformance.com

Motul – www.motul.com/us/en-US

Sprints On Dirt – www.sprintsondirt.com



Ryan Ruhl masters SOD season opener at Crystal



Chad Blonde (2nd), Ryan Ruhl(1st), Zane DeVault (3rd)

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)

Group	Time	#	Driver
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			
	#	Driver	Contingency
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			
	#	Driver	Contingency
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	Pyrotect Racing Cells
7	10S	Jay Steinebach	King Racing Products
8	46	Robert Huiskens	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 and
on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CMSpeedway.

For more information, check out these websites:

Lane Automotive – www.laneautomotive.com

King Engine Bearings – www.kingbearings.com

MSD Ignition – www.msdperformance.com

Motul – www.motul.com/us/en-US

Sprints On Dirt – www.sprintsondirt.com

