

Ruhl takes Hartford King Engine Bearings King of Michigan finale; Blonde KoM series champ



Ryan Ruhl (Coldwater, MI) charged from the 8th starting position to win the King Engine Bearings King of Michigan finale at Hartford Speedway last night. The race brought the curtain down on the last race for Engine Pro Sprints On Dirt Presented by ARP at Hartford Speedway.

The 29 qualifiers were led by Joe Swanson, Lane Automotive/MSD Ignition Fast Master (fast qualifier) in the Engler Machine & Tool heat and fastest overall at 14.200. Swanson looked like he had the speed to be a contender for the feature win, but suffered an engine failure while leading his heat. Chad Blonde was Lane Automotive/MSD Ignition Fast Master (fast qualifier) in the COMP Cams heat, and Steve Irwin for the RockAuto.com heat. Ryan Grubaugh's night ended in qualifying with engine woes.

Ruhl's win came after he took the lead from race leader Steve

Irwin (Fenton, MI) on lap 10, but it wasn't an easy win. 12th place starter Chad Blonde (Litchfield, MI), winner of the three previous King Engine Bearings KoM took 2nd on lap 16, then the lead on the next lap. Ruhl wasn't to be denied and charged back around Blonde on the next lap. While it looked like everything was settled, Irwin found new speed and battled back and forth with Blonde for 2nd. Irwin took 2nd on lap 22, but lapped traffic in his low groove forced him to check up, and Blonde drove around the top back into 2nd. Ruhl held on to take the action-packed 25 lapper over Blonde and Irwin.

Ruhl advanced 7 places in the feature, and Blonde advanced 12 places. However, Brett Mann showed the most muscle by advancing from 19th to a 4th place finish, winning the KSE Racing Products Hard Charger Award at +15. Irwin was the fastest car for several laps late in the race.

Blonde's 2nd place finish earned him the King Engine Bearings King of Michigan Championship. Steve Irwin finished 2nd, Gregg Dalman 3rd, Thomas Schinderle 4th, and Ryan Ruhl 5th.

King Engine Bearings made it possible to take the SOD King of Michigan to a new level as a four-race mini-series instead of a single race. Hartford Speedway's Tim and Leah Dibble and their entire staff gave competitors a great race track that culminated with an excellent program and one of the season's best features with action and passing everywhere.

Going into the 2017 SOD final points race tonight at Crystal Motor Speedway, Andrew Scheid will be the 2017 Perfit Corporation Sprint Car Rookie of the Year; Scheid's feature ended early on the hook with a flat right front tire. Thomas Schinderle has a lock on the 2017 Perfit Corporation Series Car Rookie of the Year; Schinderle drove to an 8th place finish after an early race spin.

Qualifying – Lane Automotive/MSD Ignition Fast Masters (fast qualifiers) \$50 each

Group	Time	#	Driver
Engler Machine & Tool Heat	14.200	7J	Joe Swanson
COMP Cams Heat	14.239	5b	Chad Blonde
RockAuto.com Heat	14.442	0	Steve Irwin

Heat Races – Winners \$100 each

Engler Machine & Tool Heat #1			
	#	Driver	Contingency
1	20A	Andy Chehowski	
2	41	Thomas Schinderle	Kistler Racing Products
3	77Z	Zane Devault	Racing Optics
4	12	Chris Gurley	
5	21T	Troy Chehowski	
6	47	Robert Bulloch	
7	11	Trey Smith	
8	7J	Joe Swanson	
9	3G	John Gurley	
10	58	Tony Bures	

COMP Cams Heat #2			
	#	Driver	Contingency
1	16	Ryan Ruhl	

2	5M	Max Stambaugh	Allstar Performance
3	10S	Jay Steinebach	Racing Optics
4	10J	Chris Jones	
5	5B	Chad Blonde	
6	8	Justin Ward	
7	70	Eli Lakin	
8	4	Tyler Fitzpatrick	
9	52	Zac Broughman	
DNS	71H	Ryan Grubaugh	

RockAuto.com Heat #3			
	#	Driver	Contingency
1	0	Steve Irwin	
2	49T	Gregg Dalman	Kistler Racing Products
3	77	Andrew Scheid	Racing Optics
4	19J	Linden Jones	
5	27B	Boston Mead	
6	5QB	Quentin Blonde	
7	18	Michael Summers	
8	27	Jared Lamberson	
9	19	Brett Mann	

B-Main

	#	Driver
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1	19	Brett Mann
2	11	Trey Smith
3	70	Eli Lakin
4	18	Michael Summers
5	4	Tyler Fitzpatrick
6	27	Jared Lamberson
7	52	Zac Broughman
8	3G	John Gurley

Feature

	#	Driver	Started	Contingencies
1	16	Ryan Ruhl	8	Rod End Supply
2	5b	Chad Blonde	14	Rod End Supply
3	0	Steve Irwin	1	Rod End Supply
4	19	Brett Mann	19	Schoenfeld Headers
5	49T	Gregg Dalman	4	ATL Racing Fuel Cells
6	5M	Max Stambaugh	7	
7	77Z	Zane Devault	5	Allstar Performance
8	41	Thomas Schinderle	3	
9	27B	Boston Mead	15	King Racing Products
10	10S	Jay Steinebach	9	
11	19J	Linden Jones	12	

12	20A	Andy Chehowski	2	
13	5QB	Quentin Blonde	18	
14	21T	Troy Chehowski	13	
15	18	Michael Summers	22	
16	70	Eli Lakin	21	
17	4	Tyler Fitzpatrick	23	
18	8	Justin Ward	17	
19	47	Robert Bulloch	16	
20	10J	Chris Jones	9	
21	27	Jared Lamberson	24	
22	77	Andrew Scheid	6	
23	11	Trey Smith	20	
DNS	12	Chris Gurley	10	

KSE Racing Products Hard Charger – Brett Mann (+15)

BR Motorsports Contingency (feature top 10 draw) – MaxStambaugh

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

Perfit Corporation Lucky Dog – Andy Chehowski

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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