Red Cedar Opens WISSOTA Season

The 2016 PolyDome Dirt Track Series Kicked Off Friday Night At Red Cedar Speedway In Wisconsin. Brad Seng (12) & Darrell Nelson Raced Hard For The Season’s First Late Model Win.
A new line of FAST® ignition products provides the best in spark technology for all levels of circle track racers. The FAST® E6 CD Circle Track Ignition w/ Rev Limiter delivers the performance and reliability circle track racers demand. The unit produces full-voltage sparks through high revs. Since many racers use locked-out timing, a built-in 20-degree start/retard eases cranking and startup. A built-in, engine-protecting sequential rev limiter also utilizes sealed rotary dials to allow for adjustments in 100 RPM increments up to 9,900 RPM. The entire unit is encased in soft urethane for protection from harsh conditions at the track.

**FireWire® Spark Plug Wire**
New 8.5mm wires transfer maximum amount of system noise.

**Race Billet Distributor**
Provides stable timing through full RPM range & utilizes optical trigger for timing accuracy.

**E93 Coil**
Features an E-Core design with heavy-gauge wire windings for greater spark energy.

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It doesn’t stop there. COMP® Quality extends well beyond the finished product. Highly knowledgeable Tech Support technicians bring decades of experience and a passion for racing together to make sure you get the absolute best cam for your application and answer questions quickly and effectively. COMP® also offers fast turnarounds for time-sensitive racing situations. COMP® Quality, COMP® Care. That’s a winning combination.
EAGLE RIVER, WI - With snow on the challenging third-mile Tri-Oval at Eagle River Speedway, racers gathered for the awards banquet recently. Drivers were awarded their 2013 class championship awards. Cash awards worth $5000 were delivered to them as well.

Jesse Ahl took home his fourth consecutive WISSOTA Midwest Modified track championship. Also, from Wiro, MI, was given the Mark Glenni Memorial "Cub of the Year" award, which was won by fellow racers. Glenni, a past owner and racer at the track, passed away last year. Glenni received the first Bobby-O Spirit award last year, which was won by racers and fans.

Eagle River’s Tod Schoonover took second in the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds, with Hurley’s John Kallas in third place.

Tomahawk’s Nate Langenberg held off Eagle River racers Ryan Glenni and Ryan Valeria by only 21 and 22 points, respectively, to win the WISSOTA Street Stock championship.

The Tomahawk area put another racer in the track championship circle. C J Hedges won the Pure Stock track championship, and for the second year in a row, Eagle River’s Don Scharf took second. David Blackberg, originally from Ewen, MI, now from Eagle River, took third in the points.

Eagle River Brother-sister tandem of Ty and Tommi Jo Springer both took home track championships as well this year. Ty won the Micro Sprint 600 points championship, while his younger sister Tommi-Jo captured the Junior Sprint points championship.

Brothers Denver and Dylan Larson took second and third in the Micro Sprints, while Hunter Tintley and Dayton Rein rounded out the top three in the Junior Sprints.

The track will continue a 42-year tradition of focusing on family entertainment and racing. The 2014 schedule starts off with the May 13 practice day. The first race of the season will be May 20. The Friday night races include many special features, including a four-race Micro Sprint 600 series. Also on the upcoming summer schedule at the popular northern Wisconsin oval track are the Redneck Games, Spectator Racing, and two Off-Road Vehicle Side-By-Side Xtreme Challenge races.

CJ Hedges and his family organize the Tori Stevens Memorial Race every year, and this year the special race is planned for June 10. The race is a fundraiser to find the care for Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Once again this year IRS is going to have special nights for the fans as well. This includes Harry’s Fireworks night on July 4 and Junior Fan Autograph Night on August 5.

In 2006 the weekly race program will include the WISSOTA-sanctioned Midwest Modifieds and Street Stocks, the Micro Sprint 600s, Junior Sprints, and track Petro Stocks. For more information, visit www.eagleriverspeedway.com.
4 Years Ago
The historic 60th consecutive season of dirt track racing at Rice Lake Speedway began in record-breaking fashion Saturday night. With one of the largest crowds in recent years on hand for the opener, the track broke another record with its earliest opening night of 6:36 a.m. in the 40 years of its operation.

One hundred and two cars from three states signed in for the opener, and then the final checked flag had been waved, opening night winners included Kevin Adams, Ron Hillman, Tito Villo, Eric Olson and Zohr Hierlin.

In the Modfins, Mike Adams won on the pole for the WISSOTA Mod feature race, but it was Tim McManus who edged in front of Anderson to take the lead. However, Anderson fought back and they were running nearly side by side for the lead as Curt Myers and Rich Loftus battled right behind them. Things went badly for Anderson when he clipped a corner tire in turn two and spun, this ended his evening and triggered the first yellow flag of the event.

On the restart, McManus continued to hold the lead but Kevin Adams quickly moved into the third position. After he swept past McManus on the high side on the surface, Adams matched that move into two laps to drive past McManus and take over the lead.

Once in front, he started to stretch his advantage. This advantage saw him leading through four laps, which is the lead Lothsell said was about his limit.

McManus continued to run unbeatable, challenging him for the lead at times, but a lap later a yellow came out for a tangle.

McManus pulled away again, McManus 144% ahead. He did have some issues with the car, and while driving it, the car would spin, and it would dip the car side to side. However, he managed to stay in front throughout the night.

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The 10th John Seitz Memorial is being billed as the biggest and best in event history

The 2015 John Seitz Memorial winner was Chad Mahden. Late Model drivers will again be racing for a $9,200 pay check in honor of Seitz this September.

GRAND FORKS, ND -
The 10th anniversary running
of the John Seitz Memorial
Late Model Invitational at the
highly competitive River Cities
Speedway in Grand Forks, ND, is set to be the
biggest and best Seitz Memo-
rial in history.

The event will kick off again this year on Thursday, September 10. Known as the "Prelude to the Johnny," Late Models will compete in a $1,192-til-win program, which will begin at 7 p.m. As the final point night for the '16 NLRA season, this allows the tour champion to be crowned at River Cities, just as they have been the last five seasons. Defending NLRA champion Dustin Strand will be looking for his second straight and third overall NLRA championship entering the season finale. The Late Models will be complemented by the first of three consecutive nights for the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds in addition, it will be the first of two nights for the WISSOTA Street Stocks. The NOSS Outlaw 40 Sprint Cars will join the festivities for their first of two nights on Thursday night as well.

The second night of the memorial weekend begins on Friday, September 9 with action for the WISSOTA Late Models, NOSS Sprint Cars, WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds and WISSOTA Modifieds. Friday’s program will feature heat races and the $120-til-win "Go Hard or Go Home" pole dash for the Late Models. The revenge race will be back for the second year in a row for the Late Models, while the Midwest Modifieds, Modifieds and Sprint Cars will run a full program.

The program on Saturday, September 10 will include the B-features, a last-chance race and the $9,200-til-win feature event for the Late Models. In addition, there will be a complete program for the Midwest Modifieds and Street Stocks. But the ex-

The 10th John Seitz Memorial is being billed as the biggest and best in event history

Dodge County re-opening with WISSOTA

KASSON, MN (March 29) - The WISSOTA Promot-
ers Association is pleased to announce the continuation of an
other track that will host events under the WISSOTA banner during the 2016 racing season.

Dodge County Speedway in Kasson, MN will re-open in 2016 and will host WIS-
SOTA sanctioned Super Stocks, Midwest Modifieds and Street Stocks during 11 events, beginning on Sunday, April 17 and wrapping up with a two-day event on Oc-to-ber 1 and 2.

Fans and racers can check for updates at www.DodgeCoun-
ty.com.

Welcome back to WIS-
SOTA, Dodge County Speed-
way!
Anderson & Eder join forces to wow the fans Saturday night at Rice Lake Speedway

By Ed Reichert

RICE LAKE, WI (April 16) - Ashley Anderson and Kevin Eder shared the spotlight during the 2016 WISSOTA PolyDome Dirt Track Series opener Saturday night at Rice Lake Speedway. Eder won his first-ever Super Stock feature at the track and was on his way to a huge double win, only to be edged at the line by less than a car length after Ashley Anderson nipped him in the Modified feature race. Other winners on the 64th consecutive opening night at the speedway included Curt Myers, Tim Johnson and Jason Havel. A nice field of 92 racers from three states signed in to race on opening night in front of a large crowd on what was a summer-like night in northern Wisconsin.

Eder led most of the WISSOTA Modified feature after taking the lead from the outside pole at the drop of the green. He was chased for most of the race by Kevin Adams, who continually tried to slide under him coming out of each corner, but was never able to make the move stick. Matt Leer was a challenger for quite some time as well until he spun in turn one and triggered the second yellow of the race with 12 laps completed.

Adams continued to challenge for the lead while Eder still held the top spot, but Anderson and Mike Anderson had both worked their way into the front because positions also. Anderson looked to the inside of Adams for second and got beside him on occasion, but each time Adams was able to fight him off.

One final yellow slowed the action with 13 laps completed and Adams made an all-out effort on the green. He slid under Eder and they raced for the lead in turn one. Adams was not able to complete the pass, however, and as Eder held on to the lead, Adams lost momentum and Anderson moved into second and dropped under Eder. They raced side by side for the lead for several laps with neither driver able to pull away. The two drivers were still side by side when they took the white flag.

In the final corner, Eder did just a bit higher and that was Anderson’s opportunity to surge ahead where he pulled out the win by less than a car length. Mike Anderson came on strong at the end and pulled past the fading Adams for third with Neil Balsl cooling the top five. Anderson’s win was his first Modified win at Rice Lake since the 2012 racing season.

While Eder could not pull off the Modified win, he set for the next best thing as he won his first-ever WISSOTA Super Stock feature at Rice Lake after he nipped a fellow ABC Speedway regular in Nick Oderski by a car length at the line. Ashley regulars dominated the race while Randy Spack and Oderski battled for the lead for the first half of the race with Eder and another ABC regular, Cory Casari, right behind.

Oderski had used the high side to come from the second row right at the start and pulled ahead of Spack into the lead. However, Randy fought back and went wheel to wheel for a number of laps with Eder always close behind. Oderski continued to hold off Spack, but Eder closed on both of them before the yellow flew for debris on the track with 13 laps complete. Eder got a great restart and was able to drive past Spack into second and then he maneuvered to the low side and pulled up beside Oderski. They ran wheel to wheel as they fought for the top spot before Eder eventually pulled out to a small advantage. Oderski maintained the pressure and went to the high side one last time to try to gain some extra momentum, but Eder held him off by a car length for the win. Spack finished a close third and Curt Myers made a late charge to edge past Scott Lawrence into fourth. Eder’s win was accomplished driving the #80 Super Stock owned by Greg Kuklinski.

The WISSOTA Midwest Modified feature was a close affair for the first half of the event as five drivers battled hard for the lead. Shane Halopka and Joe Chaplin, Jr. fought tooth and nail in the early going for the lead while Ryan Viltz also brought plenty of pressure. Near the midpoint of the race, Myers picked up the pace and he was able to drive around the leaders and take over the top spot. Once in front, he stretched his lead while the race stayed under the green for the last 11 laps.

Myers continued to pull away from the field and lengthened his lead over Halopka, who was not able to catch the Myers advantage. Travis Anderson started to move up after dropping back initially, he got past Viltz to take over the third spot. Austin Ellis also made a nice charge and got past Chaplin, Jr. in the late going to grab the top five. The win for Myers was his first-ever at Rice Lake in the Midwest Modifieds, as Myers has focused his efforts at the track in recent years on his Super Stock.

Drama prevailed in the WISSOTA Street Stock feature after the leaders got together and a spin resulted which changed the course of the event. In the early going, Ashly Wahlstrom had one of her best runs at Rice Lake and she raced wheel to wheel with Cooper Berlin for the lead. They traded the lead back and forth while Sam Funkhauser and Kevin Bogdanovic both challenged. Cody Kummer picked up the pace, moved up the track and really started to gain positions.

Kummer continued his charge and was able to drive into the lead, but also on the move was Tim Johnson, who had started in the fourth row. Johnson pressed the high side too and he followed Kummer and Johnson.

"Continued on Page 7"
continued to charge, got up beside Kummer and edged into the lead. However, as they battled for the top spot, both wanted the same piece of territory in turn one. Johnson got clipped and went for a spin in front of the pack. After everyone was able to miss him, Johnson was restored to his position and Kummer headed for the tail.

Johnson then began to pull away following another spin, this one cost Bogdanovic the second spot. One more yellow set up a two-lap sprint to the finish. After the race resumed, Johnson easily pulled away from the pack. Several drivers who had faked back somewhat made late charges as Fankhauser raced back up to second and Scott Clark. Waldstrom and Kelly Kriel were all able to get back in the top five.

Jason Havel picked up right where he left off in 2015 and the defending track champion raced to the win in the Pure Stock feature. George Richards gave it everything he had in the late stages, but Havel maintained his lead and Richards settled for second.

Another five division program is scheduled for this coming Saturday night, April 23rd. Along with racing in five divisions, the winners of the best appearing car awards are scheduled to be announced also. Warm ups begin at 6:30 p.m.
Red Cedar Speedway honors its 2015 champions during March car show event

WISSOTA Late Model honorees included (L to R): Champion Mike Prochnow; 2nd place Nick Hanestad; and 4th place Buddy Hanestad. (3rd and 5th place finishers AJ Diemel and Jake Redetzke not pictured.)

WISSOTA Super Stock honorees included (L to R): Champion Jason Forehand; 2nd place Jesse Redetzke; 3rd place Mike Anderson; 4th place Gunnar Watkins. (5th place finisher Rick Hallquist not pictured.)

The WISSOTA Modified class was represented by (L to R): Champion Mike Anderson; 2nd place Ashley Anderson; 3rd place Kerry Halopka; and 4th place Steve Hallquist. (5th place finisher Kevin Adams not pictured.)

The WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds were represented by (L to R): Shane Halopka, Champion; 2nd place Jake Smith; 3rd place Travis Anderson; and 4th place Dave Shackleton. (5th place finisher Nick Kohler not pictured.)

Among the top five in WISSOTA Street Stocks points at Red Cedar were (L to R): Champion Sam Fankhauser, and 2nd place Hunter VanGilder. (3rd through 5th-place finishers Adam Solits, Cody Kummer and Michael Knudson not pictured.)

New For 2016: THURSDAY NIGHT RACING!

Race info: (765) 480-0730
https://eaglespeedway.net

Thursday, April 21
Gordy’s Market Season Opener
All Regular Classes in Action

Thursday, April 28
JP Mechanical Night
All Regular Classes in Action

UPCOMING EVENTS AT EAGLE SPEEDWAY:
May 5 , 2016 – River Country Classic Night
May 12 , 2016 – Miller Lite Country Ham Prom Night
May 19 , 2016 – King Pansletal Trophy Tour
May 26 , 2016 – Gordy’s Market Night

Two Open 5:30 – Grandstand 5:30
Gate Opens 5:00 – Racing At 7:30

THROTTLE PEDALS, ADJUSTABLE ANGLE

New! Throttle Pedals, Adjustable Angle

This new throttle pedal features an adjustable range that allows the racer to adjust the angle of the flange to the foot box. Simply mount the unit to the foot box, adjust the pedal to the proper angle and tighten the split clamp. These pedals are ideal for use on compound angle foot boxes. They feature a needle bearing supported pivot shaft for smooth action.

STEERING QUICKENER, CLAMP-ON

This new steering quickener offers a clamp-on design for easy installation and eliminates the need for a weld-on mount and steering joint. Features an 18” long steering shaft that can be cut to length. Fits 1-3/4” dash bars or 1-5/8” dash bars with reducer bushing. Available in 1.5:1 and 2.0:1 ratios.

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Rice Lake Speedway
2016 Car Show
Cedar Mall • April 1-3, 2016 • Rice Lake, Wisconsin

Photos By Doug Zimmer

BILSTEIN XVS Series
• Dual Zone gas bulb results in decreased gas pressure ramp up while increasing grip levels
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A story in the Rice Lake Chronicle on March 16 detailed the long and successful history of Maxine's on Route 21. The restaurant is now run by three generations of the Smith family, including Maxine's daughter, Debbie Bissouette, and Debbie's sons, Bryan and Moor. Many are also aware how deeply the ownership and operation of Maxine's are woven together with the restaurant's history.

By Ed Reichert
The Spec Head Specialist!
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**In Rice Lake, dirt track racing and one restaurant have a lot in common**

Don Smith was a 2004 inductee into the Rice Lake Speedway Hall of Fame, while Jamie came back after a number of years away from racing to start up again in the Midwest Mod in 2015. Maxine's Family Restaurant remains a big sponsor of many of the race cars that come out of the Dallas, WI shop.

Jero Massingill recently ran well in an open motor Late Model show held at LaSalle Speedway in central Illinois. He feared a 450-cubic-inch VW Hall powerplant from J.R. Haley, and made the show in a $15,000-to-win Late Model event against a stout field of cars. Massingill drove the same Club 29 car he ran last year in WISSOTA action, and expects to use the same car once again this coming year. He plans on running the entire OneMain Financial Challenge Series schedule in 2016. My sense is that with a schedule that has more races on the eastern side of WISSOTA, there is more excitement about the series by drivers on this side of the organization.

Haley told me that he is putting together a new car to race the Challenge Series as well, but he has not yet decided on who the driver will be. He has had some preliminary talks with a top Modified driver from Minnesota, and if things come to fruition, this pairing will create a lot of talk for sure!

When it comes to big shows in the Midwest east in the season, all roads lead to the unlikely place of southeast Kansas, and to the little town of Humboldt, where two of the biggest races for open-wheel cars are held each March. Under the direction of the Whitworth family, the Humboldt Speedway continued to pack out big races that are very attractive to WISSOTA-based teams.

Early in the month it was the B-Mod special had more than 120 cars on hand and Kelly Lake (Minnesota)’s Sketoe Ester took home the big money.

During the first weekend in April it was the open Modifiers’ turn, and nearly 180 of them were on hand to race for a top prize of $12,000 on Saturday night. Not surprisingly, a considerable number of WISSOTA racers were on hand to race on many of the better speedways in business, fighting to qualify for the 28-car starting field. The list of names is a long one, but among the notable names were Mike Stairs, Brady garbage, Kent Arment, Billy Vogel, Ward Jurje, Trevor Andreasen, Phil Braun, Jerome Guyott, Aaron Olson, Jason Thomsen, Ryan Mikkelson, Scott Bismarck, Travis Sauwer, Randy Klein, Clayton Waga- mon, Paul Niznik, Matt Leue, Adam Apfel, Keith Tourville, Don Elsheimer, Casey Skyberg and Tyler Peterson.

Drivers participated in a series of four mini features the first two nights; this allowed them to earn points and set the fields for Saturday night’s big feature. Gerdes and Sauwer earned enough points to automatically make the show, and Niznik qualified in the three-wide through it as always, the biggest thing that tore up the track badly. B-Mods also ran three full features, but no WISSOTA show drivers also entered in this class. They included Binstead, Sauwer, Klein and Niznik. Among those with cars in both classes - along with Mike Beardsley, McKenzie Gerdes, Mike Nichols, John Feirn, Dan White and Tim Workman.

On Thursday night, Klein recorded a sixth place, while Saurer right behind him. Niznik was 12th, Wheeler was 15th and Nichols was 21st. Feirn was a frustrated competitor who had to supply his own tires, and couldn’t get on some specifics of John’s car, and felt he was on a dream ride back home to Wisconsin without getting to turn a lap.

Friday night Klein again led the delegation when he finished ninth. Nichols was 17th, and Wheeler, in 17th, also made the show. Binstead qualified for the main, but didn’t take the green flag. Niznik was another perplexed driver when he won a heat and qualified for the A-Mod for a short while, before some disagreement with him. He then retired his B-Mod and concentrated on the Mod the rest of the weekend.

On the final night of the show, Binstead got a good draw and he responded by finishing with a solid second in the B-Mod feature. Sauwer was ninth, Wheeler was 17th and Klein was 19th. Wheeler has struggled with his car for weeks down here. Forced under rules to run a two-barrel carb, he has been having power issues that point this thing virtually everywhere on the track, too. He did however, get an apparent apparent engine or chipless by slapping on Friday night and he came to the track and made some changes in the carburetor and seemingly fixed the problem. The bad news was that by the time he discovered the issue, sub-par performances may have cost him some serious money. Now he must switch back to the four-barrel with local rac- ing on horizon.

I-94 promoter and WISSOTA board member Corey Eggen was on hand to watch the action and meet with some of the drivers who will be_invading Lakeville this coming June. He reports that everything is good to go at Fergus and they are ready to go.

Quite a few of the drivers had cars on display and all have moved up a class. The last time I talked to them, the Spec Head Specials I own.

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The other Late Model driver on hand at Wheatland made the long pull from Rapid City, SD. Mike Stadel and his “Full Throttle” Late made the long drive in hopes of getting some laps in before the opener. Mike informs that he will run a combination of open and WISSOTA Late Model events, especially hoping to hit the Challenge Series events in Montana and Dakota. It was a tough weekend for Mike; he made the main on either night.

Rice Lake Speedway held a practice session on Thursday, April 14 in preparation for their opener scheduled for April 17. As I turned the corner off the highway to pull into the valley where the track is located, it looked more like opening night than a practice session. Of course, the weather for the practice night was sensational. I’m sure that something had to do with the large turnout, both in the pits and in the grandstands. But hopefully, it was just an increased enthusiasm by people of the area for the start of the new season.

Sixty-five cars were on hand for practice, which was also about one of the largest turnouts in many years. Again, the nice weather could have something to do with that, along with the fact that it was the only practice scheduled for the track this year.

The weather was plenty of dust in the air Thursday, but that was just a temporary situation. Track prep artist Rick Huamons and Duane Bissinet purposely ran the track dry so that it would re-maintain and smooth as they prepared it for opening night. A strong southwest wind also fanned the dust around more than usual.

There were drivers on hand from all five classes that normally race at the speedway, along with a Late Model and even three of the Six Cylinder cars that run at the ABC Raceway in Ashland. Since I was a late arrival and drivers and their crews were working hard, I spent most of the night in more of an observer’s role.

Steve Laursen was present with his Late Model, and my friend and racer Mark Archer was trying to get some laps in as preparation for the Challenge Series race coming up at the track this year. Despite the fact that the track is known to be somewhat different that night, after a number of sessions Laursen looked like he was really getting his head around the track well.

Number one changes were quickly noticed on three of the Modifielders practicing. I spoke briefly with “Big Mose” Wayne Potetz, who is now driving a new number 218 as opposed to his old blue #42W. Potetz’s reasoning for the change involved his wife, who worked for Interstate Batteries for 20 years. Despite not being sponsored by that company, the Potetzes always liked the look of the #42W car on the NASCAR tracks and his wife always found it easy to find that car on the track. So for 2016, his car is now “ Interstate” green with bright yellow numbers. Potetz said that he and Cory Mahler, who did the graphics, struggled to get the color correct as green apparently hard to work with. The trailer, however, will remain the same, which was just a much of a job to consider changing. Last Wednesday, Potetz will be driving a Hughes chassis that has been completely redone by Jason Hughes in Oklahoma and with a rebuilt motor guaranteed to put out more power for “ Big Mose Motorsports.”

While Mahler wasn’t around on Thursday, I did learn from Potetz that Mahler will be wheeling a new MB Customs Modified this season.

Pete Hofmann is driving a bright yellow and orange Modifield this year with the # 30H. Now, that number may be confusing since the main sponsor is Henry, the proud owner of a fire department, right in Rice Lake. Then it makes perfect sense.

Ashley Anderson is driving the yellow, silver and gray #1 this year as he celebrates 25 years of racing. That hardly seems possible because I can remember vividly when he, his father John and his late brother all raced together in the modifieds at Rice Lake Speedway, driving Ford Mustangs. In fact, in looks back at my notes, Ashley’s first recorded win at Rice Lake in the Mini Stocks included three wins in 1992 and two more in 1994, all driving a yellow car #1. Anderson’s car is very sharp looking this year and he may very well some very nice Appearing Car awards, in addition to feature races; his Taylor chassis appeared very fast on Thursday night.

Curt Myers was getting extremely fast in on both his new Super Stock, along with the new Midwest Mod he plans to drive on occasion.

Among other drivers breaking in new Midwest Mods were Austin Ellis, Scott Meeds and Joe Chaplin Jr. from Dallas during the 2014 season when he shared a ride with Ark Lindberg.

Wayne Stricker from Highbridge was on hand with two Midwest Mods, one for himself and one for his son Jared, who is a rookie this year. Folks might want to keep an eye on the #422 as Jared is one of the youngest drivers on the circuit right now. He is a 12-year-old seventh grader! Shawn and Rich Rowland from Superior were also on hand with two cars, both made lap on their track this week.

Shane Halopka, last year’s Late Model champion, gets back up, down the same potent combination again this year, last year; he’s utilizing a concept motor once again.

In the Super Stocks, Mason’s Nick Orskowski was breaking in a new TBC and now he, second-year driver Lake Schultz and Myers all share a common trait: all three sport the yellow and red pants in all of WISSOTA!

Three rookie Super Stock drivers in Nick Traynor, Simon Wahlstrom and Adam South all have some sort of experience driving in their new rides. It was good to see that Jerry Zileman has returned for another year of racing. It will be tough for him to be at the track and not have his father pitted right next to him like last year during his rookie year. Jim Harris is working with Zileman to help tune his car in during the early season until Harris pulls his car out at some point and starts running again.

Speaking of issues, Super Stock driver Willie Johnson, Jr., sadly reported that he lost his father last week due to a heart attack at the young age of 57. Willie, alone on this trip, was feeling very down as his father is usually his pit crew when he travels down the road. Folks, when you see Willie, he could definitely use some cheering up and words of comfort.

Unfortunately, the cautions started early when track officials had to escort two Pure Stock drivers off the grounds. It seems they wanted a piece of a Street Stock driver, who accidently collided with one of their cars after the car lost power. With their catch balls apparently just a little too tight, there must have been restricted blood flow to their brains to get them so worked up over a racing accident on a practice night. Let’s hope that this isn’t a foreboding of the coming season.

The 2016 WISSOTA Auto Racing season opened on Friday night, April 15 at Red Cedar Speedway. The inaugural Randy Buss Icebreaker Classic, a new event for Red Cedar, was the opening-night attraction. This event, the memory of Randy Buss, a former Red Cedar Racing Association president and board member, as well as a former WISSOTA board member and tech inspector. Buss worked long and hard for Red Cedar Speedway and this event was a fitting memorial for Randy, who passed away in Oc- tober of 2015.

WISSOTA-sanctioned Late Models, Modifields, Super Stocks, and Pure Stocks were on the card Friday, the other three classes that run at Red Cedar weekly will be added to the program starting next Fri- day. It was a wise choice to limit the classes racing on opening weekend, with the extra-dis- tances races on Friday, they could have faced an issue with the city caufier they tried to slow down by no mission. The weather was absolutely fantastic on Friday Night. For the weather, it would have been a most pleasant night, but to have this kind of weather for an opener in mid April in western Wisconsin was almost more than one could have hoped for. The fans responded with a nice-sized crowd to the stands to watch.

Car counts were okay, with 20 Midwest Mod on hand, a dozen Super Stocks, 15 Modifields and 10 Late Models. It was hoped that more Late Models would be in attendance; a num- ber of freighters were put out to drivers, but the results didn’t seem to attract many cars that wouldn’t have been there other- wise. Being very early in the season and with many drivers still not done with their cars, it’s hard to gauge just what the sea- son will bring.

Trackofficials“were on the spot”and had a nice- looking crowd ready to go for the opener. It contained a very nice tribute to Buss, and it contained the track schedule and a long list of area contributors to the Red Cedar Speedway program raceway.

While I promise not to talk too much about track conditions at the various tracks as they open up their seasons, knowing that they did not do dirt track into good running condi- tion for an opener, given the time and the fact that they all were within our part of the world, you should know that Red Cedar was in good shape for its racing opener. The track stayed smooth and while it started out quite tacky and fast, it dried out and slowed down as the evening progressed. In fact, by feature time it was pretty slippery and I think someone’s change of the surface may have caught a few drivers by surprise.

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