

SPORTS

EMO SPEEDWAY

DePiero and Paull take WISSOTA wins

BY ANTHONY LEEK
For The Journal

In what could be a preview for the two-day event of the Rea Memorial Fall Fair Weekend this Friday and Saturday, the AMSOIL Dirt Track Racing Series hit the Emo Speedway last Saturday in the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds, WISSOTA Modifieds and Emo Street Stocks.

The field of cars included all three classes having two heats in each division for the first time this year.

The WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds were the first heats of the night as Matt DePiero took the lead from rookie Jake Rea on the first lap and held off a hard charging Chuck Lambert for the win.

In the second heat, Christopher Leek took the lead on the restart from Bill Reimer and won by over a straight-away.

In the Street Stocks, heat one was claimed by pole sitter Tyler Wickstrom. Wickstrom had lost the lead for a bit, but a restart allowed him to get by Wes Morriseau late in the race. Rookie Devin Brown finished third.

In the second heat, Andrew Trimble started first and finished there over Jeff Wickstrom and Chris Shine.

In the WISSOTA Modifieds, Dwayne Pelepetz finished where he started on the pole to win it over Glen Strachan. In the second

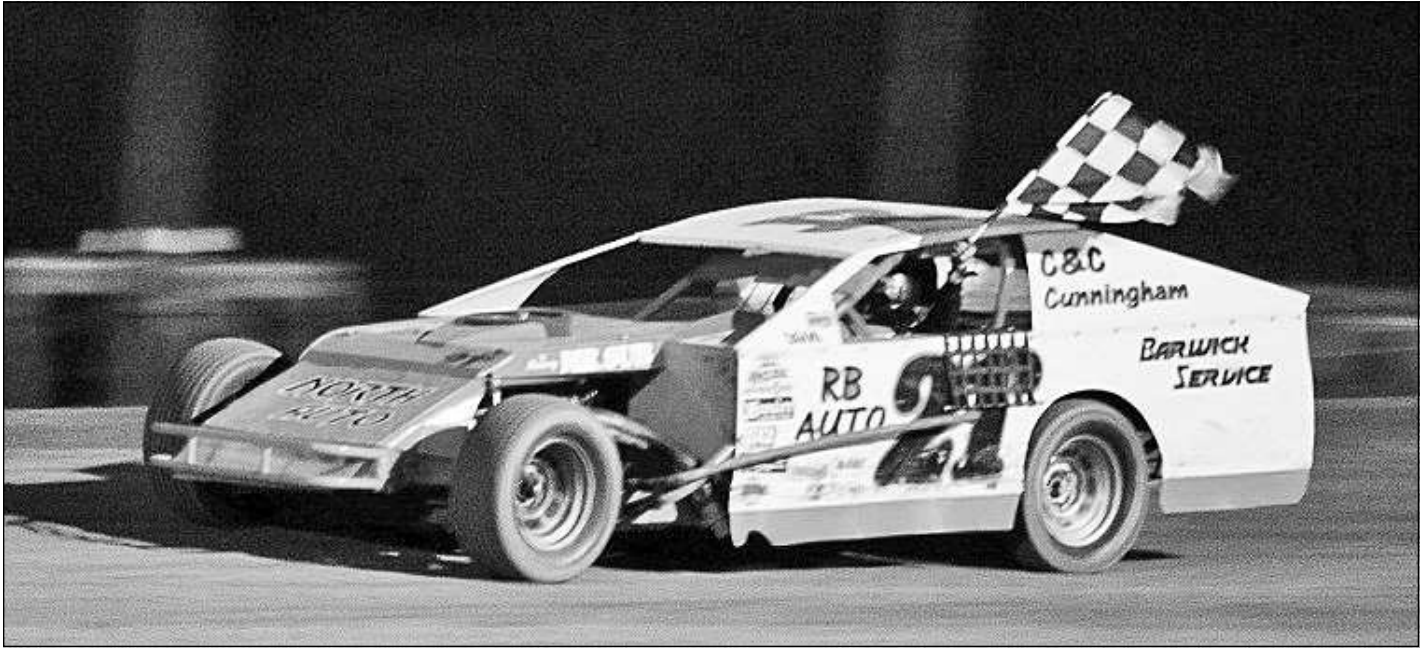


PHOTO BY KATY TRIMBLE

Matt DePiero (21D) celebrates his feature victory at the Emo Speedway and dedicated his win to his Uncle John, who passed away suddenly on Saturday.

heat, Gavin Paull moved from third to first passing Steve Nordin after a short battle.

After intermission, the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds went out for their feature event.

Reimer and Ken Perry started on the front row with DePiero and Leek on the second row. Working on the successes DePiero had last weekend, he quickly got around the two lead cars for the top spot. Leek then moved into second spot but looked to be having issues coming out of turn two.

The race went green for over ten laps as Leek started

to reel in DePiero. A rash of cautions then came out and on one restart Leek gained the lead, only to lose the spot due to a caution going back a lap on the lineup.

On the next restart, Leek went into turn three/four and the car suddenly spun out putting him to the back. Leek recovered to third, but it was DePiero's big night as he took the checkered flag for the first time in 2013 ahead of Lambert and Leek.

In the Emo Street Stocks, rookies Terry Henry and Devin Brown started on the front row. On the start, heat winner Tyler Wickstrom took the lead early on, but

a push in turn four allowed Ron Westover to take over the lead and not look back.

Shine and Jeff Wickstrom were other big movers with Shine taking the second position over Wickstrom for third.

The turnout in the Street Stocks included two new rookies taking the field. Westover now takes a commanding lead in the points as Garrett Gamsby was unable to get the car fixed in time to make it to the feature event.

The WISSOTA Modifieds were last on the track as Gary Wilson and Glen Strachan started on the front

row. Strachan took the early lead on the high side as Steve Nordin took the low line and tried to keep up.

Pelepetz started moving up to third, but seemed to push a bit and fell back for a bit. Meanwhile, Paull was making it through from seventh place as Denny Trimble had now taken the lead.

On a restart, Paull took over the lead and never looked back as the gremlins he was dealing with over the past week may have been solved. Trimble and Brian Nelson had some battling for second place with Nelson taking the upper hand by the end of the race. Pelepetz

and Nordin rounded out the top five.

This coming weekend features two complete shows with the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds, Emo Street Stocks and WISSOTA Modifieds. Both Friday and Saturday night racing with hot laps at 6 p.m. and racing at 6:30 p.m. Check out www.borderlandracing.com for more information.

Emo Speedway
Aug. 10 Summary
WISSOTA Modifieds
Feature — Gavin Paull, Brian Nelson, Denny Trimble, Dwayne Pelepetz, Steve Nordin, Garrett Gamsby, Tyler Brown, Glen Strachan, Lindsay Bourre, Gary Wilson.
Heat 1 — Pelepetz, Strachan, Trimble, Wilson, Gamsby.
Heat 2 — Paull, Nordin, Nelson, Brown, Bourre.

WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds
Feature — Matt DePiero, Chuck Lambert, Christopher Leek, John Hettinga, Bill Reimer, Cody Ossachuk, Anthony Visser, Ken Perry, Jake Rea, Brody Strachan.
Heat 1 — DePiero, Lambert, Hettinga, Strachan, Rea.
Heat 2 — Leek, Reimer, Ossachuk, Perry, Visser.

Emo Street Stocks
Feature — Ron Westover, Chris Shine, Jeff Wickstrom, Wes Morriseau, Devin Brown, Tyler Wickstrom, Andrew Trimble, Terry Henry, Dean Kellar, Garrett Gamsby.
Heat 1 — T. Wickstrom, Morriseau, Brown, Henry, Kellar.
Heat 2 — Trimble, J. Wickstrom, Shine, Westover, Gamsby.

No downside to depth on Vikings defensive line

MANKATO (AP)—When Minnesota's veteran defensive linemen are pulled from a game for a play or two to rest, the coaches are well-prepared for the response.

The summons to the sideline has often been greeted like a root canal. Or a debt collector. Or a week in seventh-grade detention.

So with the starters one year older and the Vikings even deeper at a position group already one of the team's strongest, well, these gripes are bound to grow louder.

"They know that at some point they're going to come out of the ball game," defensive coordinator Alan

Williams said. "That's going to be the best thing for the team, not necessarily the best thing for their number of reps, but we want to make sure that we keep them fresh."

Jared Allen, the NFL's sack leader since he entered the league in 2004, has never been hesitant to voice his opposition to coming out of the game. Brian Robison has never been a fan of it, either. Part of what's required for effective pass rushing, of course, is a let-me-do-this attitude.

Backup Everson Griffen, who can play both end spots, is coming off a breakout season. He's 25. Allen is 30,

and Robison is 30. No matter how many tackles for loss the starters rack up, those ages are just as important of numbers in this playing time equation.

"They are all fierce competitors, and they are all incredibly tough guys," defensive line coach Brendan Daly said. "They're in great physical condition, and they have a little bit of a sense of invincibility for lack of a better term, that they can go all day every day."

Backup nose tackle Fred Evans has been challenging Letroy Guion. Stalwart under tackle Kevin Williams will turn 33 next week, and the Vikings drafted his re-

placement, Sharrif Floyd, in the first round. So the job share is as inevitable there as anywhere. The Vikings have said they'd prefer Williams to take only 30 to 40 snaps per game, which could only be half of a given contest. Last season, Williams often played about 70 percent of the downs.

"If we can get what we are expecting from Shariff... we should get more quality from him over time," coach Leslie Frazier said.

The other issue here is contracts: Williams, Allen and Robison are all playing on expiring deals. So is Griffen, but his age and ascending production have

put him in prime territory for an extension. Floyd, of course, will be around for a while. If the incumbents aren't offered new contracts, well, the Vikings better have ready-made replacements for 2014.

"The more pass rushers you can get, the more you want. You never want to turn down pass rushers. You need them," Frazier said.

Allen has long been the most vocal about his disinterest in coming off the field, and he has won many arguments with his bosses. Last year, for instance, with the Vikings making a surprise push for a playoff spot, he played 72 of 78 snaps (92

percent) against Chicago on Dec. 9 after taking 80 of 82 snaps (98 percent) at Green Bay the week before.

"If you're good enough to be the starter, you're the starter. And I've always been a firm believer in that," Allen said.

He has acknowledged his respect of the rotation strategy, but only to a point.


"You have to have depth because of injuries. You have to have depth because guys do get tired. You can't expect a 315-pound guy to play 80 snaps a game. I understand that," Allen said. "My philosophy is when you start rotating left tackles, you can start rotating me."



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