

# MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY

334-263-3267

## 2001 RACE SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

		LMS	SS	PS	OWM	LM			
MAR.17	OPEN PRACTICE								
MAR. 24	OPEN PRACTICE								
MAR. 31	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35	50			
APR. 7	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				
APR. 14	SOUTHERN THUNDER TOUR								
APR. 21	OFF								
APR. 28	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35	50			
MA. 5-6	ASA								
MAY 12	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				DWARF
MAY 19	ARA ALL-STARS 200								
MAY 26	OFF								
JUN. 2	ALL PRO								
JUN. 9	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				
JUN.16	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				
JUN. 23	SOUTHERN THUNDER TOUR			25					
JUN. 30	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				DWARF
JUL. 7	HOOTERS PRO CUP								
JUL. 14	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				
JUL. 21	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				
JUL. 28	SOUTHERN THUNDER TOUR			25					
AUG. 4	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				
AUG. 11	SOUTHERN ALL-STARS 125	?	30	25					
AUG, 18	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				
AUG. 25	SOUTHERN THUNDER TOUR			25					
SEP. 1	ARA WEEKLY RACING SERIES	30	30	25	35				
SEP. 9	SOUTHERN ALL STARS 125	?	30	25					
Sep. 15	OFF RAIN MAKEUP								
SEP. 22	OFF								
SEP. 30	SOUTHERN THUNDER 125	?	30	25					DWARF
OCT. 6	OFF								
OCT. 13	OFF								
OCT. 20	OFF								
OCT. 27	ENDURO 200								
NOV. 3	OFF								
NOV. 10 - 11	ALABAMA 300, SOUTHERN THUNDER , DIXIE LIGHTNING								

SOUTHERN THUNDER TOUR-LATE MODELS 125 LAPS- DIXIE LIGHTNING TRUCKS 100 LAPS  
TWIN RACES AND DOUBLE POINTS RACES WILL BE ANNOUNCED PROIR TO RACE

May 24, 2001,



Jim Carson

## John Huffman

Interview conducted  
by Jim Carson

it to change your plans that suddenly?

**Huffman:** We occasionally feel like we went too quickly, but in retrospect I'm amazed it went as well as it did. Getting it done in one year was of course fostered by the loss of RJR (from the NASCAR Weekly Racing Series), and unfortunately we could not do the things we wanted to do under the NASCAR sanction. We felt like all or nothing was the way to go; we fell off a cliff and hoped our parachute opened.

I get a lot of the credit for it having happened, but it would have never made it without the support of people like those at Kool Seal, plus Goodyear and Sunoco for their contributions to the points fund, and Galaxy Foods and many others. Last but not most important are the drivers. They were told that it wasn't gonna happen, that we'd fold, that there wasn't gonna be a points fund. But we did everything we said we would do.

That doesn't mean we can't improve on it for next year. There are a lot of things I feel like we can do better. Take the points system, which was almost unmanageable. We've greatly simplified it; now a kindergarten student can do it. The charging points are still in there, but it's weighted a little bit more toward the front to reward the best finishers.

**LMD: How has the response been for new drivers running the tour?**

**Huffman:** We've been overwhelmed with phone calls requesting schedules, rules, and applying for licenses. We have lots of good names coming in, All Pro drivers and Hooters ProCup drivers and such. That's not saying we didn't have good drivers last year. There were plenty of good names and plenty of action for me. Look at Catfish (Billy Parker), Josh Richeson, J.R. Robbs, and the rest that became big names through us. It was fun going to the sports bars here in Columbia; when an ARA race came on they'd have it on the big screen and everybody'd be cheering and hollering.

**LMD: Have you felt like NASCAR is looking down at you or regarding the ARA as outsiders or rebels?**

**Huffman:** I've talked to the big NASCAR honchos all the way down to the guys at the lower levels, and we've heard nothing but good reports and they're wishing us the best, etc. There's no personal animosity at all.

Some tracks that are NASCAR-sanctioned were a little leery about booking

our tour, but I don't think that came from NASCAR. They did nothing to hinder us. We're not anti-NASCAR; in fact I consider ourselves a feeding ground.

**LMD: The 2001 tour schedule includes some tracks that you don't own (Galaxy 411 Speedway and Kingsport Speedway in Tennessee and Franklin County Speedway in Virginia). How did that happen?**

**Huffman:** It was sort of something Kool Seal wanted to do, to explore other tracks. I wanted to keep the travel as limited as possible, because it's a hardship on some of these guys with their sponsors and rigging up their haulers for the long trips. But our sponsor wanted to branch out more, and I look forward to the races at the different tracks.

**LMD: Some of the ARA-owned tracks had banner years in 2000 (Lonesome Pine Raceway in Virginia and North**

**Carolina's Hickory and Tri-County Motor Speedways, plus a dirt track in Elkin, N.C.). But your other three facilities struggled a bit.**

**Huffman:** Yeah, Montgomery (Ala.) really had an off year, and Peach State (Ga.), we never got it going the way we wanted. And we're in the process of giving up Florida Speed Park to its previous owners. We had 11 rainouts at St. Augustine, and at Montgomery we called it off for 100-degree heat five or six times.

Looking at Peach State, it's sort of a sponsor-poor area, and it's the same at Montgomery. At Hickory and Tri-County, and to an extent Lonesome Pine, it's easy to get sponsors to let these guys run the whole season. But it's harder at Peach State and Montgomery. We're looking at programming more special events into those tracks and put the weekly points races on every other week. It would help a lot of those guys so that they can afford to race more. **LMD**

The slogan reads "Short Track Racing Revolution" at American Racing Association-sanctioned tracks owned by John Huffman and his partner Jim "Doc" Kasin. After one year in operation, the ARA has given Southeastern short track racers some fresh and exciting options and provided some outstanding action for the fans.

First and foremost was the creation of the ARA Kool Seal Short Track Challenge, a long-overdue touring series for Late Model Stock Cars. Drivers at the seven tracks under the ARA banner also competed for their own Weekly Racing Series points.

Huffman reflected on the sanctioning body's first year and projected some plans for 2001 after the ARA awards banquet in Columbia, S.C.

**Late Model Digest: You said earlier in the year that you had perfected the Late Model Stock Car, simply by lightening the cars by 100 pounds. Do you still believe that?**

**Huffman:** Absolutely. The cars are much more spiffy-looking and more capable of passing. They're much more manageable on the track; all that extra weight made them kinda sluggish. Now they run tighter together and it's much more competitive racing; you've seen that plenty of times last year.

It also allows the driver to recover more easily; as you know, we rub 'em and scrub 'em a bit.

**LMD: You also had to smile this year as you watched your son Westley race in the Kool Seal tour.**

**Huffman:** I could not be more pleased with what (crew chief/car owner) Dexter Canipe did with that boy. He really bloomed last year under Dexter's tutelage. I'm absolutely amazed.

Of course I have no connection with that team other than being his father and cheering for him. Dexter doesn't even allow me in his pit.

**LMD: Forming the ARA was originally a three-year plan, but you set the wheels rolling in only one year. How tough was**

## **Montgomery Motor Speedway**

**Columbia, S.C. (Jan. 7) –** Three

Montgomery Motor Speedway drivers were honored at the American Racing Association's awards banquet. DuWayne Middlebrooks, Dooby Lewis and Marty Bean received recognition and awards for placing in the top 20 in the ARA's Weekly Racing Series competition. The three drivers competed against more than 1,000 racing teams at seven speedways in the Southeast.

Bean, who also won a track title at Montgomery, placed 12<sup>th</sup> in the series driving the No. 15 Love Shack sponsored car. Lewis claimed his third Super Stock track title at Montgomery while Middlebrooks finished 16<sup>th</sup> nationally, winning the Super Late Model title at Montgomery.

# MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY

## MMS kicks off year with media/fan day

Montgomery Motor Speedway kicked off what figures to be its most exciting racing season ever Saturday with a media day/fan appreciation event. While fans and members of the media got an up-close look at the track and some of the race cars, drivers in all divisions got in some valuable practice time.

The track, located in south Montgomery, begins racing for real next Saturday with the Coca-Cola Night of Racing, the first event of the American Racing Association (ARA) Weekly Racing Series. All divisions will be racing.

— *Mike Tankersley*



David Bundy Staff

David Bonnett, son of NASCAR great Neil Bonnett, gets ready for a practice run at MMS on Saturday.



David Bundy Staff

Driver Marty Bean, back, helps Mike Barnett change tires on his car at Montgomery Motor Speedway on Saturday. Bean is the track champion at MMS.

## **MMS season opens Saturday night**

More than 80 cars are expected on the track Saturday night when the Montgomery Motor Speedway opens its 2001 season with the Coca-Cola Night of Racing. Divisions competing include late model sportsman, late models, trucks, pure stock, super stock, open wheel modified and a new category: hobby stock.

Meanwhile at Montgomery Motorsports Park, the B&M Racers Appreciation Series begins Friday night and continues through Sunday.

For more information about these events, contact MMS at (334) 263-3267, and MMP at (334) 260-9660.

# MMS opens season with Night of Racing

By Mike Tankersley  
Montgomery Advertiser

For 22 years Marty Bean has been putting on his shirt and tie and going to work at the local Winn-Dixie. In that respect, he's no different than any other worker in the Montgomery area.

But on Saturday nights in the spring and summer, Bean changes shirts and personalities.

He becomes, not the meat department manager at the Atlanta Highway Winn-Dixie, but Marty Bean the daredevil race car driver.

Bean, for the last six years, has been racing at Montgomery Motor Speedway, which opens its 2001 season Saturday night with the Coca-Cola Night of Racing.

More than 80 cars are expected to race in late model sportsman, late model, truck, pure stock, super stock, open-wheel modified and hobby stock divisions, according to MMS general manager W.D. Arthur.



David Bundy Staff

Montgomery Motor Speedway's 2000 track champion Marty Bean begins defense of his crown Saturday night.

Bean, who races in the Pure Stock division, is the defending track champion as well as a two-time Pure Stock division champ. Racers compete using a points system that yields division champs as well as an over-

## GETTING CRANKED UP FOR THE SEASON

- **What:** Montgomery Motor Speedway season opener
- **When:** Saturday; Gates open Saturday at 5 p.m., with racing scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.
- **Tickets** \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, military and students ages 13-17. Children ages 7-12 get in for \$2 and children under 6 are admitted free.

all champion. The points system rewards drivers for passing other drivers during a race, creating a more exciting brand of racing at the half-mile track than would occur if the faster cars simply raced to the finish line.

Through a process called inversion, the top five fastest qualifiers in each division can drop back five spots in the starting lineup.

"That gives drivers competing for points more chances to pass other driv-

ers," Arthur said. "And the drivers with the slower cars really like the chance to be out front."

For a driver like Bean, who likes to compete for the points championship, the system is ideal. Other drivers prefer to race to win a given race.

"With inversion, we're giving the fans a better show," Bean said. "And that's what we're there for."

Bean got interested in racing just six years ago. He watched his stepson, Mike Rhodes (then 24), race at MMS in the Cadet division. One time while Rhodes was practicing, Rhodes convinced Bean to get in the car and drive around the track one time.

Bean was hooked.

"The next weekend we went to Birmingham and I bought a car," he said.

"It's a great sport to watch if you're an adrenaline junkie. It's definitely a fast pace."

# **MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY**



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**MARCH 31, 2001**

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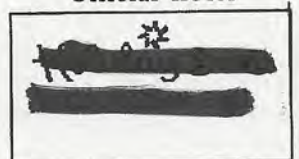
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Official Hotel



**MMS opener:** It seemed like old times at Montgomery Motor Speedway Saturday night when defending track champion Marty Bean captured the pole for the Pure Stock feature in the season-opening Night of Racing.

Bean, as usual, inverted back into the back seeking charger points. But it was outside pole winner Scott Vancor, who also inverted, who came away with the victory.

Bean finished second and rookie Lee Mason took third in the 15-car event. Vancor and Bean lead the points standings after one race, followed by Danny Luster. Mason and Jeff Ashurst are tied for fourth.

In the Super Stock feature, Bill Bethea won the pole for the nine-car event. But again, it was outside pole winner Charles Davis who came away with the win.

Betha finished second and James Jordan took third. In Open Wheel modified, Jim Parker took first place, while Paul Jean won the Trucks division. Selma's Tom Johnson won the Late Model Sportsman feature. Prattville's Duwayne Middlebrooks won the Late Model race.

3-31-01

(Race Event # 1)

# MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY

CAR NO.	DRIVER	QUALIFYING TIME	FIN. 1	FIN. 2
<u>LATE MODEL:</u>		(25 Laps)		
94	Frank King	20.691 (Fast Time)	2	
10	Duwayne Middlebrooks	20.312	1	
2	Greg Neil	22.330	4	
41	Will Blocksome	21.167	3	
<u>PURE STOCK:</u>		(25 Laps)		
69	Ricky Garmon	27.897	14	
3	Billy Ammons	25.545	8	
28	Truss Bethea	25.387	10	
K9	Bill Vorachek	25.998 (Fast Time)	9	
15	Marty Bean	24.705	2	
89	Kent Brendle	25.420	11	
00	Jeff Ashurst	25.586	7	
8	Brian Fuller	25.463	12	
2	Duwayne Vintson	25.640	4	
11	Bill Fuller (crash)	25.178	13	
01	Danny Luster	26.680	6	
44	Harry Hall	25.434	5	
07	Scott Van Cor	24.732	1	
34	Lee Mason	25.255	3	
99	Randon Roberts	DNQ	15	
<u>TRUCK:</u>		(10 Laps) (Fast Time)		
93	Paul Jean	22.348	1	
93	Gary Roberson	23.170	2	

CAR NO.	DRIVER	QUALIFYING TIME	FIN. 1	FIN. 2
<u>LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN:</u>		(25 Laps)		
4	Pat Cruise	20.968 (Fast Time)	3	
86	Greg Powers	20.669	4	
5	Tommy Johnson	21.370	1	
15	Dubby Lewis	22.247	5	
80	Tim Lynn	21.523	2	
<u>SUPER STOCK:</u>		(30 Laps)		
5	Wayne Vincent	23.583	4	
33	Tommy Jordan	23.484	6	
18x	Butch Helms	22.785 (Fast Time)	5	
94	Bill Bethea III	22.394	2	
3	James Jordan	22.900	3	
9	Chris Landers (crash)	23.224	8	
8	J.E. Burnett	25.253	7	
6	Charles Davis	22.575	1	
45	Bill Cruise	26.964	9	
<u>OPEN WHEEL MODIFIED:</u>		(Fast Time)		
30	Jim Parker	20.626	1	
15	Phillip Hyché	22.480	3	
14	Eddie Morgan	21.418	2	

**RAIN CHECK**

GOOD DATE SOLD  
OR SUBSEQUENT  
RACE DATE  
NO CASH REFUND

052145

3-31-01

Montgomery Motor Speedway  
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REQUIRED  
FOR READMITTANCE**

**Country roads:** WLWI-FM 92.3 is now the official radio station of Montgomery Motor Speedway. Racing fans can tune in to the station to get updates on racing events and schedule changes, such as postponements, rain delays, etc. MMS General Manager **W.D. Arthur** also hopes to eventually get WLWI to announce race winners. Also, popular disk jockey **Dr. Sam (Sam Faulk)** of MIX-103 has returned as the track announcer.

# MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY



## MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### April

#### April 7 *ARA Weekly Racing Series*

Featuring Late Model Sportsman, , Pure Stock, Super Stock,  
Open Wheel Modified

#### April 14 *Southern Thunder Tour*

Southern Thunder Late Models 125 Laps  
Dixie Lightning Trucks 100 Laps

#### April 28 *ARA Weekly Racing Series*

Featuring Super Stocks, Pure Stocks, Late Model Sportsman, Open Wheel  
Modified, Late Model and Trucks

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## Helms wins at MMS

Butch Helms and Charles Davis showed the rest of the super stock division last Saturday that they're the drivers to beat this season at Montgomery Motor Speedway.

Helms and Davis finished one-two in Saturday's feature, despite a strong showing by Bill Bethea III, who finished third.

In pure stock, polesitter Marty Bean and Scott Vancor elected to drop back to earn charger points. With 10 laps to go, Bean and Vancor had worked through the 17-car field to the front, where they waged a bumper-to-bumper battle. Then, with five laps remaining, Bean and Vancor knocked each other out of contention.

After the caution, Bean remained in the pits when his car couldn't continue. Vancor started in the rear, opening the door for Kent Brendle, who took first place; rookie Lee Mason, who finished second; and DeWayne Vintson, who placed third. Vancor still leads the points race.

In late model sportsman, Will Blocksom started on the pole and led every lap to finish first. In open wheel modified, Burt Betler of Calera held off Gary Nix for the win.

The Southern Thunder tour will make its first appearance at MMS this Saturday, with Stokes Chevrolet of Clanton sponsoring 125 laps of late model and 100 laps of Dixie Lightning pro trucks racing. A large number of cars and drivers from all across the Southeast are expected. Gates open at 5 p.m. with racing starting at 7:30. For more information, call (334) 263-3267.

4-7-01

MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY

(Race Event #2)

CAR NO.	DRIVER	QUALIFYING TIME	FIN. 1	FIN. 2
<u>LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN:</u>		(25 Laps)		
15	Dubby Lewis	20.823	3	
11	Todd Mellott	21.067	4	
4	Pat Cruise	21.004	2	
17	J.W. Clark	21.783	6	
80	Tim Lynn	21.405	5	
41	Will Blocksome	(Fast Time) 20.337	1	
<u>PURE STOCK:</u>		(30 Laps)		
01	Danny Luster	25.445	10	
20	David Wood	25.847	14	
18	Greg Jones	27.117	9	
15	Marty Bean (Crash)	(Fast Time) 24.722	12	
2	Dewayne Vintson	25.112	3	
11	Bill Fuller	25.118	6	
98	Randon Roberts	24.756	11	
28	Truss Bethea	25.052	4	
34	Lee Mason	25.223	2	
99	Idus Brendle	25.090	13	
69	Johnny Otto	28.732	15	
k9	Bill Vorachek	26.476	17	
00	Jeff Ashurst	25.804	8	
89	Kent Brendle	24.950	1	
07	Scott Van Cor	24.895	5	
3	Billy Ammons	Spin	7	
57	Todd Hill	DNQ	16	

CAR NO.	DRIVER	QUALIFYING TIME	FIN. 1	FIN. 2
<u>OPEN WHEEL MODIFIED:</u>		(25 Laps) (Fast Time)		
6	Burt Better	20.766	1	
1	Gary Nix	20.823	2	
14	Eddie Morgan	21.416	3	
36	Jim Parker	20.786	5	
15	Phillip Hyche	21.320	4	
<u>SUPER STOCK:</u>		(25 Laps)		
33	Tommy Jordan	23.007	4	
3	James Jordan	23.043	5	
8	J.E. Burnett	23.712	7	
07	Amos Broadway	23.418	6	
20	Bill Bethea III	22.497	3	
6	Charles Davis	22.581	2	
18x	Butch Helms	(Fast Time) 22.483	1	

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# Young driver, 14, highlights MMS event

By Mike Tankersley  
Montgomery Advertiser



**Lite**

And a child shall lead them. Unless, of course, the child sees a chance to grab some charger points, and then he'll pursue them.

The child is 14-year-old Stephen Lite, one of the hot young drivers on the short track circuit in the Southeast. Lite and other top late model drivers are in town for the second stop on the Southern Thunder tour, scheduled for tonight at Montgomery Motor Speedway.

The Southern Thunder event (which will be televised on a tape-delayed basis on The Outdoor Channel within the next

three weeks) consists of 125 laps of late model racing and 100 laps of Dixie Lightning pro trucks.

Lite, in his No. 99 Chevrolet, competes in the late model event.

He finished third in the inaugural Southern Thunder event last weekend at Peach State Speedway in Jefferson, Ga. Because of his savvy racing abilities and desire to compete, not only for titles but also in the tour's points race, Lite is second in the overall standings despite his third-place effort last week-

end.

Not bad for a kid who is licensed to race but not to drive.

While he might be the best driver in his family, he has to hitch a ride to the track from his mother or dad, who serve as his cheering section and crew chief, respectively.

Lite may be young but he's full of confidence. He expects to win tonight's race, even with last week's winner — Paul Kelly of Georgia — also entered in the event. Kelly drives the No. 24 car.

"I may be 14," he says with a big grin, "but I can drive."

He has the results to prove it. He competes on two circuits, in-

cluding also the ARA All-Star Tour for late model stock drivers. He finished seventh in that series' points standings last year as a 13-year-old, and earned several newcomer awards, including the Kool Seal Rookie of the Year honor. He's been racing cars or go-karts since he was 6 and one day dreams of competing in the Winston Cup division of NASCAR.

Tonight, Montgomery racing fans get to see him for the first of likely six appearances this season. Gates open at 5 p.m., with racing scheduled to begin at 7:30. For more information, contact MMS at (334) 263-3267.

# MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY



## STOKES CHEVROLET PRESENTS ARA SOUTHERN THUNDER TOUR

SATURDAY APRIL 14, 2001

125 LAPS LATE MODELS  
100 LAPS DIXIE LIGHTNING  
PRO TRUCKS

Friday April 13: Open Practice, 4pm-7pm; \$10 per person in pits  
Saturday April 14: Grandstands open at 5:00pm. Race begins at 7:30  
Grandstand Tickets: Adults \$15; Military, Seniors and Ages 13-18 \$8  
Ages 6 and under Free. Family Pack: (2 Adults with Children under 18) \$30

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Fax 334-263-3269  
E mail varthur@btitelecom.net

MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY RACE SCHEDULE - APRIL 14, 2001

10:00 a.m.	Pit Gates open
12:00-4:00 p.m.	Practice: (Late Models 12-1p.m., 2-3 p.m. Trucks 1 1/2p.m., 3-4p.m.)
4:00 p.m.	Late Model Drivers Meeting Tech Shed
4:30 p.m.	Pro Trucks Drivers Meeting Tech Shed
5:00 p.m.	Grandstand Gates Open
5:00 p.m.	Qualifying- Late Models Pro Trucks
6:45 p.m.	Late Models to front straight
7:15-7:45p.m.	Late Model Autograph session
7:45-7:50p.m.	Clear Track-ARA Theme Song
7:50 p.m.	Pole Awards
7:57 p.m.	Invocation
7:58 p.m.	National Anthem
8:00 p.m.	" Gentlemen Start Your Engines"

## Montgomery Motor Speedway



Carolyn V. McLeod

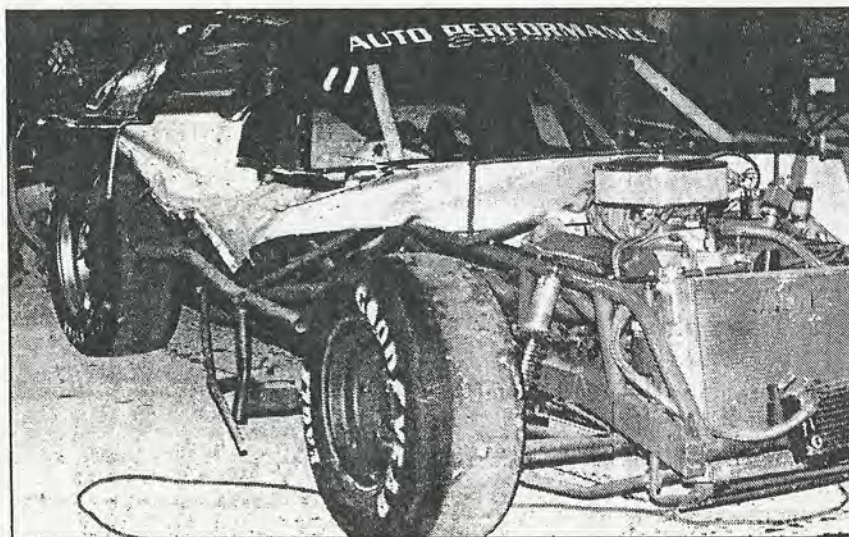
This was the race for the lead at one point. While Duwayne Middlebrooks (10) emerged with the top spot, Jeff Gore (5), Rodney Landrum (98) and Paul Kelley (outside) raced three wide just behind him. Landrum took second, Gore was third and Kelley placed fourth. Kelley also claimed the Outdoor Channel pole position award.

# Middlebrooks edges Landrum

By Brian McLeod  
Late Model Digest publisher

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (April 14) — It's possible that Duwayne Middlebrooks got a little lonely at various stages while en route to victory in the Stokes Chevrolet 125 at Montgomery Motor Speedway. The Prattville, Ala., driver, who earned \$3,000 for the win at his home track, held whopping leads at times during the ARA Southern Thunder Tour event at the half-mile oval.

And while his advantage often seemed insurmountable and threatened to turn the race into a laugher, it sure didn't turn out that way. Middlebrooks was far from lonely at the end of the 125-lap affair, as several of his fellow competitors



Brian McLeod

**Above:** A first-lap crash altered the appearance of several cars, depleting the 19-car field. Craig Butts was unable to continue after receiving heavy damage in the multicar incident.

**Right:** Rodney Landrum chased race winner Duwayne Middlebrooks over the final stages but settled for a runner-up showing in the 125-lap ARA Southern Thunder event.



### Stokes Chevrolet 125

1. Duwayne Middlebrooks
2. Rodney Landrum
3. Jeff Gore
4. Paul Kelley
5. Lee Langford
6. Russell Fleeman
7. Gabriel Corbitt
8. John Lovell
9. Dubby Lewis
10. Keith Barrett
11. Michael Lance
12. Dwayne Buggoy
13. Frank King
14. Stephen Leicht

- 15. Micky Cain
- 16. Kevin Perry
- 17. Brian Farley
- 18. Craig Butts
- 19. Korey Ruble
- Fast qualifier: Kelley
- Cautions: 5



Brian McLeod

**Jeff Gore**



Brian McLeod

**Paul Kelley**

kept him company during a spirited sprint to the checkered flag.

Middlebrooks survived the onslaught to become the second winner in the touring circuit's inaugural season, racing to the stripe just ahead of Rodney Landrum, Jeff Gore, Paul Kelley and Lee Langford. The top four finishers crossed the line in nose-to-tail formation, while Langford trailed the lead quartet by only a couple of car lengths.

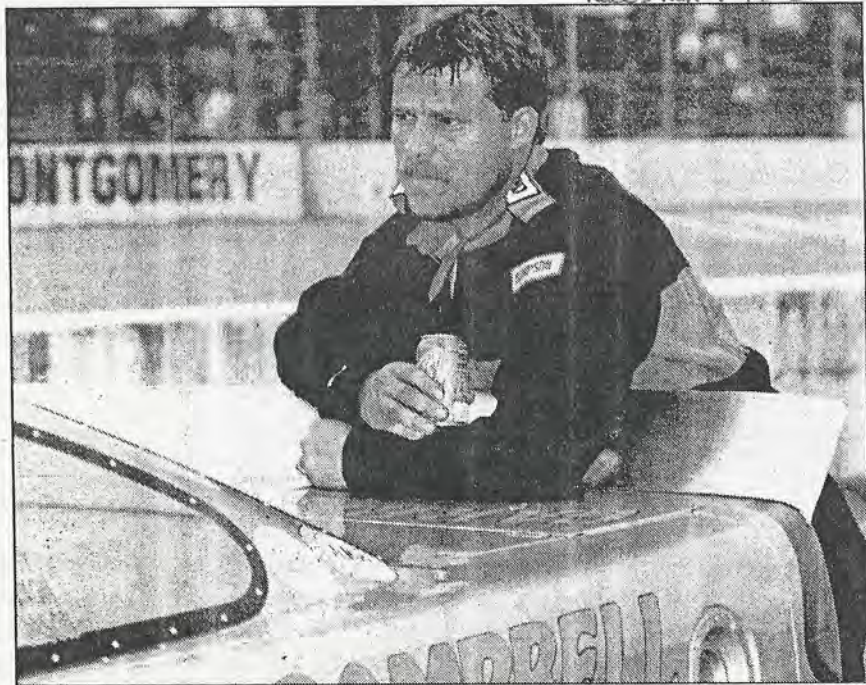
That extremely tight finish entertained a decent crowd that might have been lulled to sleep earlier, after a crash on lap one seriously depleted a 19-car field. Korey Ruble, Craig Butts, Brian Farley and Dwayne Buggay received heavy damage in the accident, although Buggay was able to return to action and post a 12th-place finish. The efforts of the rest were seriously hampered by the wreck.

Fourteen-year-old Stephen Leicht started from the pole when fast qualifier Kelley elected to trigger the invert and start from the outside of the third row. Leicht paced the field until he was passed by Middlebrooks, and the youngster later was foiled by shifter linkage problems that curtailed his efforts.

Middlebrooks established a large lead over Landrum, who took over the runner-up slot near the lap-40 mark. Landrum was nearly a straightaway behind Middlebrooks, but steadily chewed into the deficit. The night's third caution on lap 72 tightened the field, and Landrum moved under Middlebrooks a scant few laps after the restart.

It didn't last long, as Middlebrooks returned the favor

continued on page 51



Brian McLeod

**Micky Cain was running in the top five** and racing local driver Frank King for position when the pair knocked fenders. The crash hampered both drivers' chances for a top-five finish.

**First-lap crash decimates field ♦ Kelley takes Outdoor Channel pole award ♦ Engine teardown delays postrace celebration**

## ARA Southern Thunder @ Montgomery

continued from page 38

on lap 100, scooting past Landrum shortly after a restart. The move caught Landrum by surprise, and happened at the same time that the leader struggled to get up to speed. Behind Middlebrooks, drivers raced three wide for the runner-up slot, and Landrum prevailed.

"He (Middlebrooks) killed me on that restart," Landrum said. "He got a better start than I did and just out-horsepowered me. It'd take me 10 laps and then the car would get to working pretty good."

Middlebrooks never again trailed despite a strong effort from the rest of the top five finishers. Landrum chased Middlebrooks incessantly but couldn't find a way past the local favorite. A spin by Michael Lance set up a restart with 23 laps to go, but Middlebrooks held the point in a loose-handling race car to grab the narrow victory.

"The last two or three laps...I tell



Brian McLeod

**Dwayne Middlebrooks (10)** upheld the honor of the locals when the ARA Southern Thunder Tour rolled into Montgomery (Ala.) Motor Speedway. The seven-time track titlist claimed a victory in the Stokes Chevrolet 125 against a field of mostly Georgia-based competitors.

you I was hangin' on," Middlebrooks said. "It was awful loose, and it was all I could do to hold it. I did a lot of

defensive driving over the last two or three laps, and I wasn't going to give him (Landrum) the bottom groove

unless he turned me around. I was inviting him to the outside, but I got out of shape two or three times and I really couldn't have blamed him if he'd gotten into me."

Landrum knew the same thing, but there was a respect between the two drivers that surpassed the heat of competition. It'd have been easy for the race to end with a tangle, but instead the fans witnessed a tight battle among the top five drivers.

"I'd heard he (Middlebrooks) was a good racer from everybody I talked to, and that's why I sure didn't want to spin him around," Landrum said.

"Earlier in the race he motioned for me to pass him for the lead, and I gained a lot of respect for him. I was killing him between turns one and two at the end of the race, and I could have easily nudged him or spun him around, but that wouldn't have done either one of us any good." **LMD**

# nuts&bolts

## Checking out:

Duwayne Middlebrooks waited longer than expected to officially claim his victory, as series officials went over his car's motor with a fine-tooth comb. That raised the intensity level among competitors in the pits, as a small crowd gathered to watch in the infield and officials worked tirelessly to make sure that Middlebrooks had followed the rules.

And the seven-time track champion wasn't worried, except for the additional expense involved in putting the engine back together. His longtime motor builder is Auto Performance Engines, owned and operated by Bill Bethea. Middlebrooks has used Bethea's motors long enough to know that it was likely within the rules, and it turned out exactly that way.

A bigger problem for Middlebrooks was a fine-handling car that allowed him to build huge leads during the race. The car's chassis went away at the end, but Middlebrooks admitted it was his own fault.

## Youth brigade rolls on:

Stephen Leicht has made great strides as a driver on the series, and has reached the ripe old age of 14. Throw another teenager into the mix, as 15-year-old Korey Ruble made his debut on the traveling series in a car fielded by his grandfather, Jackie Hastings.

Racing roots run deep for the youngster. He's driving an ex-Ronnie Sanders car, and his grandfather once owned and operated Dothan Speed Shop in Alabama, a business that was co-owned by one of Sanders' longtime crew members, Wayne Quattlebaum. More than a decade before Ruble was born, Hastings and Quattlebaum built cars in the early 1970s for drivers such as Dickie Davis, Red Farmer and Dave Mader III.

Ruble is in his sixth year as a driver, advancing from the PARTS Pro Truck Series where he claimed a couple of top-10 finishes in six starts last season. He's also experienced in legend cars and (what else?) go-karts. While Ruble likes to play the drums in his

it's real important for me to get seat time at this point," Ruble said. "I feel like I'm getting a lot better from race to race, getting more used to the car. I just need to make laps."

**More news:** Stephen Leicht sure doesn't have a light schedule, according to his father, Russ Leicht Jr. The teen will run well over 30 races under the ARA banner, the only driver who will attempt to run both the Late Model Stock All-Stars and the Southern Thunder Tour. Added up, it boils down to 30 weekends on the road. .... A late spin by Michael Lance dropped him out of the top 10.

He ran as high as second during the early stages. .... Track regular Frank King and Micky Cain tangled during a battle for a spot in the top five near the lap-30 mark. .... The crash on lap one involved several cars, including Kevin Perry, Korey Ruble, Brian Farley, Dwayne Buggay, Dubby Lewis and Craig Butts. Cars kept sliding into a pile, but no injuries resulted. .... Jeff Gore finished third and his car showed the scars of a tough battle. The right-front fender was damaged, but one crew member wasn't worried. "If we can finish third every race, we'll be glad to fix that kind of stuff," he said. **LMD**

"I had a lot of cushion at times and should have backed off some to save the car," Middlebrooks said. "We had some pretty good leads a time or two, and the crew told me to slow down a little, but that's just hard, man. It's the worst thing in the world to try to slow down when you take that thing into the corner and it's doing exactly what you want it to do. It's almost impossible for a driver to go easy in that situation."

Sponsors for Middlebrooks' victorious journey included Big 10 Tires, McBride Sign Company Inc., and Eldeco Inc. His Fremco Racing-fielded machine rolled out of Frankie Grill's Grand American Race Cars shops in Dolomite, Ala.

spare time, he's already learned one of stock car racing's great lessons.

Spare time. What spare time?

"It's a lot of hard work," Ruble said about his budding racing career. "I'm at the shop every night helping to do what it takes to keep the car ready. There's always something that needs to be done."

And his progress? Recently, he was running in the top 10 in a race for two-barrel machines at Senoia (Ga.) Speedway, but finished 16th after some contact with eventual winner Scott Griffin. And he unceremoniously crashed on lap one in the Stokes Chevrolet 125, finishing a disappointing last in the 19-car field.

"I hate we wrecked because I think



Brian McLeod

**Fifteen-year-old driver Corey Ruble (right)** receives some advice from veteran crew member Wayne Quattlebaum (left) at Montgomery (Ala.) Motor Speedway. Ruble's grandfather Jackie Hastings and Quattlebaum once shared ownership of a speed shop in Dothan, Ala., and built race cars in the early 1970s.

# Prattville driver captures Thunder at MMS

Montgomery Motor Speedway started the first of seven taped-delayed Southern Thunder Tour events last Saturday. The races featured late model cars and pro trucks from across the Southeast.

Kirk Stokes of Stokes Chevrolet gave the command to start engines. At the completion of one lap, several cars tried to go three wide in turn one, resulting in Craig Butts, Brian Farley and Corey Ruble pitting. After leading the first seven laps, 14-year-old Stephen Lite of Asheville, N.C., was overtaken by Prattville's Duwayne Middlebrooks. After losing the lead, Middlebrooks re-captured the lead late and held on for the last 25 laps for the victory.

In the Dixie Lightning pro trucks, pole-sitter Paul Jean set the pace for the first 80 laps and appeared on his way to a victory. Then, on lap 81, he had motor problems and had to pit, ending his racing for the night.

At that point, Stephen Mothershed took over the lead and held on for his second win in the Dixie Lightning series. The next event at MMS will be April 28, with all local divisions racing. The race will be sponsored by U.S. Graphics.

**RAIN CHECK**

GOOD DATE SOLD  
OR SUBSEQUENT  
RACE DATE  
NO CASH REFUND

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4-14-01

Montgomery Motor Speedway  
**HAND STAMP AND  
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FOR READMITTANCE**

Southern Thunder Tour

Welton, Williams & Lick



# Duwayne Middlebrooks

Winner • Stokes Chevrolet 125  
ARA Southern Thunder Tour  
Montgomery (Ala.) Motor Speedway

Races Run 4-14-01

4-14-01

# MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY

## " SOUTHERN THUNDER TOUR "

CAR NO.	DRIVER	QUALIFYING TIME	FIN. 1	FIN. 2
	(LATE MODEL:)	(125 Laps) (Fast Time)		
24	Paul Kelley	20.034	4	
98	Russell Fleeman	20.317	6	
54	Gabriel Corbett	20.490	7	
04	Michael Lance	20.102	11	
16	Dubby Lewis	21.330	9	
10	Duwayne Middlebrooks	20.220	1	
92.5	John Lovett	21.156	8	
15	Dwayne Buggay	20.530	12	
99	Stephen Lite	20.292	14	
5	Jeff Gore	20.357	3	
32	Keith Barrett	21.763	10	
98	Rodney Landrum	20.303	2	
73	Korey Ruble (crash)	20.354	19	
94	Frank King	20.243	13	
85	Kevin Perry	20.992	16	
28	Lee Langford	20.291	5	
54	Brian Farley	20.765	17	
37	Mickey Cain	20.320	15	
14	Craig Butts (crash)	21.162	18	
14	Bob Castleberry	DNS	-	

CAR NO.	DRIVER	QUALIFYING TIME	FIN. 1	FIN. 2
	(TRUCK:)	(100 Laps)		
00	Jeff Wainwright	21.339	11	
93	Paul Jean	(Fast Time) 21.087	8	
28	Stephen Mothershed	21.117	1	
1	Willie Milliken	23.709	10	
17	Mark Henderson	23.605	7	
27	Mike Davidson	21.192	3	
94	Vince Whitmire	23.784	2	
29	Barry Martin	21.513	9	
85	Kevin Perry	22.003	4	
14	Frank Pass	22.147	6	
2	Mickey Kempgens	21.930	5	

**U.S. GRAPHICS**

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SPORTSWEAR, INC.

# A NIGHT OF RACING

APRIL 28, 2001

AT THE MONTGOMERY  
MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Featuring the  
**BIRMINGHAM BOLTS  
CHEERLEADERS**

GRANDSTANDS OPEN: 5:00  
DRIVER QUALIFYING: 6:00  
CHEERLEADERS ARRIVE: 7:00  
RACING STARTS: 7:30

1st 500 Fans Receive a Commemorative T-Shirt



The Legendary  
Montgomery Motor  
Speedway Welcomes  
You to the  
**Short Track  
RACING  
Revolution**



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## US Graphics Night Wild and Woolly

April 28h, Montgomery, AL - ARA Weekly Racing Series returned to action Saturday night April 28, 2001 with US Graphics sponsoring all events. Prior to starting the race, a special presentation was made to the Nellie Burge Community Center by the Rollin' Thunder Racing Auxiliary and Montgomery Motor Speedway officials of \$2,000.00. The donation was made for their support of the prevention of abused women.

The crowd had a special treat as Brandi and Leah, cheerleaders for the XFL's Birmingham Thunderbolts, put on an energetic exhibition.

The Pure Stocks once again put on the show of shows. Scott VanCor in the No.07, the points leader, said his crew told him to be patient. Patience definitely worked in his favor as he took the checkered flag over local favorite Marty Bean in the No.15, a close second. Brian Fuller (No.8) started on the pole but suffered from a loose ride through the feature and finished third.

Gary Nix (No.1) held on to finish first in the Open Wheel Modified event, outrunning Billy Melvin in the No.45 car. Following the event, Nix thanked Melvin for driving a clean race, while Melvin commented that he was as good a driver as Nix, but that Nix maybe knew something he didn't since Nix built his car also. Third place went to Burt Belter in the fishtailing No.6.

A three car wreck in Turn 2 between division rookie Bill Bethea III (No.20) and brothers Tommy Jordan (No.33) and James Jordan (No.3) mixed up the Super Stock event. James Jordan managed to get back in the race and finish in third place, while Charles Davis (No.06) took the win. The self proclaimed "big-eared winner" thanked the fans and drivers for putting on a good show. Jimmy Thaggart (No.94) placed second in his first race on asphalt, needing a little oxygen after the race.

In the Late Model Sportsman feature, Pat Cruise (No.4) brought home the checkers for his first victory.

"I came here to win and it finally paid off," said Cruise in Victory Lane.

Dubby Lewis piloted his No.15 car to a second place finish, despite a tire going flat. Following, he thanked Tommy Jordan for loaning him a super

**KOOL SEAL**



stock motor so he could make the race. Jim Walker (No.74) pounded his way back from the rear following an early-race incident in Turn 4 to finish third, to the jeers of many of the Montgomery faithful.

"You gotta drive hard to win," said Walker. "Everyone is hard to beat."

Duwayne Middlebrooks (No.10) took the victory once again in the Late Model division. Middlebrooks, a 7-time track champion, was challenged by second place driver Frank King (No.94). Korey Ruble (No.73), the 15 year-old from Dothan, AL, finished third.

This Saturday and Sunday, the American Speed Association will be in town for a special 300 lap feature. The race will start at 12:00 noon Sunday.

# LOCAL NOTEBOOK

## **MMS to make special presentation**

Montgomery Motor Speedway and the Rolling Thunder Auxiliary will present a \$2,000 gift to the Nellie Burge Community Center before this weekend's racing begins Saturday night. The presentation will start about 7 p.m. and racing will get under way about 7:30.

All local racing divisions will be in action. Two Birmingham Thunderbolts cheerleaders will also be at the track Saturday night, sponsored by U.S. Graphics.

**MMS results:** The ARA weekly racing series returned to action Saturday night at Montgomery Motor Speedway. Prior to the race, a special presentation of \$2,000 was made to the Nellie Burge Community Center by the Rollin' Thunder Racing Auxiliary and MMS officials. The center lends support to preventing the abuse of women.

The Pure Stock division had 19 cars to start and 13 to finish. Points leader **Scott VanCor** practiced the patience his crew preached to him and again finished in first place. **Marty**

**Bean**, a track favorite, came in a close second. **Brian Fuller** started on the pole with a qualifying time of 24.640 and came in third.

In Open Wheel Modified, **Gary Nix** took first place, followed by **Billy Melvin** and **Burt Belter**.

A three-car wreck in turn two between brothers **Tommy** and **James Jordan** and Super Stock rookie **Bill Bethea III** impacted the the Super Stock feature. **James Jordan** managed to get back into the race and finish in third place. **Charles Davis** took first, while **Jimmy Thaggart** placed second.

In Late Model Sportsman, **Pat Cruise** came in first place for his first victory. **Duwayne Middlebrooks** finished first in the Late Model Division and appears well on his way to an eighth track championship. **Frank King** came in a close second, followed by **Korey Ruble**.

4-28-01

(Race Event # 4)

MONTGOMERY MOTOR SPEEDWAY

CAR NO.	DRIVER	QUALIFYING TIME	FIN. 1	FIN. 2
<u>(LATE MODEL:)</u>		(25 Laps)		
41	Will Blocksome	20.628	4	
73	Korey Ruble	20.458	3	
94	Frank King	20.542 (Fast Time)	2	
10	Duwayne Middlebrooks	20.223	1	
<u>(OPEN WHEEL MODIFIED:)</u>		(30 Laps)		
6	Burt Belter	21.005	3	
12	Barry Nicholson	22.163	8	
45	Billy Melvin	20.808	2	
15	Phillip Hycbe	21.800	4	
14	Eddie Morgan	22.103	5	
71	Jacob Permenter	23.940	7	
1	Gary Nix	20.746 (Fast Time)	1	
17	Bruce Permenter	Spun	6	
36	Jim Parker	DNQ	-	
<u>(SUPER STOCK:)</u>		(30 Laps)		
94	Jimmy Thaggard	22.974	2	
07	Amos Broadway	23.595	6	
45	Bill Cruise	23.950	8	
18x	Butch Helms	22.972	7	
20	Bill Bethea III (crash)	22.557	4	
3	James Jordan	23.110	3	
33	Tommy Jordan	23.017 (Fast Time)	5	
6	Charles Davis	22.492	1	

CAR NO.	DRIVER	QUALIFYING TIME	FIN. 1	FIN. 2
<u>(LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN:)</u>		(25 Laps)		
80	Tim Lynn	21.736	6	
5	Tommy Johnson	21.257	4	
17	J.W. Clark	21.757	5	
74	Jim Walker	20.550	3	
4	Pat Cruise	20.429 (Fast Time)	1	
15	Dubby Lewis	20.697	2	
43	Roger Jones	DNQ	7	
61	Todd Mellott	DNQ	-	
<u>(PURE STOCK:)</u>		(25 Laps)		
28	Truss Bethea	24.980	10	
34	Lee Mason	25.228	7	
8	Brian Fuller	24.640 (Fast Time)	3	
37	Bud Joiner	26.000	14	
11	Bill Fuller	25.441	9	
2	Dewayne Vintson	25.016	16	
00	Jeff Ashurst	25.033	5	
07	Scott Van Cor	24.650	1	
23	Brian Sherman	30.821	19	
99	Idus Brendle	25.146	17	
15	Marty Bean	24.789	2	
3	Billy Ammons	25.065	6	
k9	Bill Vorachek	26.979	18	
1	Clyde Luster III	25.697	8	
98	Randon Roberts	25.012	4	
89	Kent Brendle	24.902	15	
18	Greg Jones	26.163	11	
82	Brian Hutchinson	26.320	12	
57	Ike Allinder	26.994	13	
88	Ricky Garmon	DNQ	-	

**RAIN CHECK**  
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 RACE DATE  
 NO CASH REFUND  
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 HAND STAMP AND  
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