

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



Ryan Ruhl (Coldwater, MI) charged from the 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 12<sup>th</sup> place starter Chad Blonde (Litchfield, MI), winner of the three previous King Engine Bearings KoM took 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. Irwin took 2<sup>nd</sup> on lap 22, but lapped traffic in his low groove forced him to check up, and Blonde drove around the top back into 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 19<sup>th</sup> to a 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish earned him the King Engine Bearings King of Michigan Championship. Steve Irwin finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, Gregg Dalman 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thomas Schinderle 4<sup>th</sup>, and Ryan Ruhl 5<sup>th</sup>.

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 8<sup>th</sup> place finish after an early race spin.

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

| <b>Group</b>               | <b>Time</b> | <b>#</b> | <b>Driver</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| 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

| <b>Engler Machine &amp; Tool Heat #1</b> |          |                   |                         |
|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------------|
|  | <b>#</b> | <b>Driver</b>     | <b>Contingency</b>      |
| 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        |                         |

| <b>COMP Cams Heat #2</b> |          |               |                    |
|--------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------|
|                          | <b>#</b> | <b>Driver</b> | <b>Contingency</b> |
| 1                        | 16       | Ryan Ruhl     |                    |

|     |     |                      |                        |
|-----|-----|----------------------|------------------------|
| 2   | 5M  | Max Stambaugh        | Allstar<br>Performance |
| 3   | 10S | Jay<br>Steinebach    | Racing Optics          |
| 4   | 10J | Chris Jones          |                        |
| 5   | 5B  | Chad Blonde          |                        |
| 6   | 8   | Justin Ward          |                        |
| 7   | 70  | Eli Lakin            |                        |
| 8   | 4   | Tyler<br>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<br>Products |
| 3                    | 77  | Andrew Scheid      | Racing Optics              |
| 4                    | 19J | Linden Jones       |                            |
| 5                    | 27B | Boston Mead        |                            |
| 6                    | 5QB | Quentin<br>Blonde  |                            |
| 7                    | 18  | Michael<br>Summers |                            |
| 8                    | 27  | Jared<br>Lamberson |                            |
| 9                    | 19  | Brett Mann         |                            |

B-Main

|  | # | Driver |
|--|---|--------|
|--|---|--------|

|   |    |                   |
|---|----|-------------------|
| 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

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