

# New faces in Elmwood Park victory lane

By MIKE HUGHES  
Special Contributor

Elmwood Park Speedway was able to beat out Mother Nature Saturday evening, Aug. 9, and get in their race program, which saw several new faces in victory lane.

David Murray Jr. of Oberlin picked up his third IMCA Modified feature win at Elmwood Park, but it was anything but easy. Jordan Grabouski made the long haul from Beatrice, Neb., to Norton and took the lead on the opening lap of the 20-lap race, followed by Brett Behrends and Mike Petersilie.

After a lap 6 restart, Behrends got past Grabouski, but the caution went again before the lap was completed, giving the lead back to Grabouski. By the halfway mark, Murray worked his way to second behind Grabouski, then after a lap 13 restart, drove around Grabouski in turn 2 to take over the lead.

A late race caution set up a green-white-checked finish and Murray was able to hold off Grabouski for the win, while Josh

Hudson got around Behrends in a close race for third. Gary Kline rounded out the top five. Heat race winners were Murray, Petersilie, and Grabouski.

The IMCA Stock Car feature saw Logan's Dustin McClurg lead from green to checked in the 20-lap event, picking up his first ever stock car feature win. Heat race winners Travis Sherfick and Cory Struckhoff challenged McClurg the entire distance but had to settle for second and third. Terry Cunningham and Adam Balthazor completed the top five.

The IMCA Hobby Stock feature saw young Mathew Crowell of Clearwater lead early on in the 14-lap event, but broke on lap 7, ending his night. Rhett Kingsbury led the field back to green but was passed by 'The Bussman' Jim Buss of Blue Hill, Neb., on the restart and Buss drove on for his first win at Norton in 2008. Kingsbury was second, followed by Kelly Karnopp, Troy Robinson, and Ricky Runnion. Runnion and Buss won the two heat races.

Heat race winner Alex Loveless of Lincoln led all 8 laps of the 4-cylinder Young Gun feature race to notch his second feature win at Norton. Loyd Schoen and Jesse Dunlap finished second and third.

The Sport Mods made their debut and their main event saw 3 different leaders in the 10-lap race. Pat Bedore led the first two laps before Brian Conness took over the top spot. Then with 2 laps to go, heat two winner Tyler Frye of Belleville got under heat one winner Conness in turn 2 to take the lead and hold on to the checkers. Conness finished second, followed by Aaron Hupfer.

The Mod Lites returned to the speedway for the second time this season, and heat one winner Bud Lee was in the right place at the right time to score the main event victory. Heat two victor Troy Wente led the first 6 laps of the feature, then after a restart after a lap 6 caution, Wente hit the wall in turn 3, ending his night. That gave Lee the lead on the restart and he

was able to hold off Ethan Houlton to the finish. Duane Houlton placed third.

Racing returns to Elmwood Park Speedway on Saturday, Aug. 16, at 7 p.m. The regular four divisions will again be joined by the Sport Mods.

## RESULTS

### IMCA Hobby Stocks

Heat 1: 1. Ricky Runnion, 2. Frank McClurg, 3. Kelly Karnopp, 4. Troy Robinson.

Heat 2: 1. Jim Buss, 2. Jeromy Wagner, 3. Brandon Nelson, 4. Mathew Crowell.

Feature: 1. Buss, 2. Rhett Kingsbury, 3. Karnopp, 4. Robinson, 5. Runnion, 6. McClurg, 7. Jason Nelsens, 8. Michael Lauber, 9. B. Nelson, 10. Wagner, 11. Matt Christensen, 12. Laura Hinger, 13. Crowell (DNF), 14. Josh Rohrbough (DNF).

### IMCA Stock Cars

Heat 1: 1. Travis Sherfick, 2. Dustin McClurg, 3. Bryan Lariviere, 4. Dan Lauer.

Heat 2: 1. Cory Struckhoff, 2.

Adam Balthazor, 3. Brenden Eilts, 4. Terry Cunningham.

Feature: 1. McClurg, 2. Sherfick, 3. Struckhoff, 4. Cunningham, 5. Balthazor, 6. Jason Smidt, 7. Eilts, 8. Lauer, 9. Bob Rutherford, 10. Arnold Williams (DNF), 11. Lariviere (DNF), 12. Jason Davis (DNS).

### IMCA Modifieds

Heat 1: 1. David Murray Jr., 2. Rick Schwab, 3. Josh Hudson, 4. Barry Maupin.

Heat 2: 1. Mike Petersilie, 2. Mitch Kline, 3. Dylan Sherfick, 4. Tim Watts.

Heat 3: 1. Jordan Grabouski, 2. Brett Behrends, 3. Gary Kline, 4. Mark Zorn.

Feature: 1. Murray, 2. Grabouski, 3. Hudson, 4. Behrends, 5. G. Kline, 6. M. Kline, 7. Rusty Miller, 8. Maupin, 9. Brooke Eilts (DNF), 10. Petersilie (DNF), 11. Heath Myers (DNF), 12. Schwab (DNF), 13. Sherfick (DNF), 14. Zorn (DNF), 15. Watts (DNF), 16. Doug Shearer (DNF), 17. Mark Hamel (DNF).

### 4-cylinder Young Guns

Heat: 1. Alex Loveless, 2. Loyd Schoen, 3. Michael Smith, 4. Jesse Dunlap.

Feature: 1. Loveless, 2. Schoen, 3. Dunlap, 4. Smith, 5. Art Herzog, 6. Elliott Conard (DNF).

### Sport Mods

Heat 1: 1. Brian Conness, 2. Pat Bedore, 3. Jason Davis, 4. Amanda Maupin.

Heat 2: 1. Tyler Frye, 2. Aaron Hupfer, 3. Wayne McAfee.

Feature: 1. Frye, 2. Conness, 3. Hupfer, 4. Bedore, 5. Davis, 6. Maupin, 7. McAfee, 8. Brad Higdon (DNF).

### Mod Lites

Heat 1: 1. Bud Lee, 2. Dustin Forsberg, 3. Ethan Houlton, 4. Duane Houlton.

Heat 2: 1. Troy Wente, 2. Barry Richards.

Feature: 1. Lee, 2. E. Houlton, 3. D. Houlton, 4. Tyson Garrison, 5. Wente (DNF), 6. Justin Kinderknecht (DNF), 7. Forsberg (DNF), 8. Brandon Gray (DNF), 9. Richards (DNF).

# Area athlete inks NCAA D-1 letter

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Michaela Berg of Logan has signed a letter of intent to play NCAA Division I women's basketball at Centenary College in Shreveport, La.

Berg, a three-time All-Cheyenne Conference selection in high school, played her senior year at Eastern Heights, where she and teammate Kendra Matteson (who now plays for Fort Hays State University) were members of a team which won its first 23 games in the 2005-06 season under coach John

Boden before losing the sub-state championship game to Golden Plains.

Berg completed an outstanding two-year stint at Highland Community College in Doniphan County this March. While there, she led the Jayhawk Conference in 2007-08 by averaging 2.9 three-point baskets per game.

She was also fifth in the conference in scoring with an average of 15.9 points per game and sixth in free throw percentage, connecting on 78.6 percent of her charity tosses.

On December 5, 2007, Berg was named the NJCAA Division II Co-Player of the Week after leading Highland to three victories by averaging 19 points, 5.6 rebounds and 3 assists per game.

Following the season, Berg earned first team NJCAA Regional VI honors and was an honorable mention selection in the Jayhawk Conference Eastern Division, which includes Allen County (Iola), Coffeyville, Cowley County (Winfield), Fort Scott, Highland, Independence, Johnson County (Overland Park), Kansas City, Labette County (Parson) and Neosho (Chanute).

"Michaela is an excellent three-point shooter and is very good at scoring around the basket," said Centenary coach Steve Curtis.

"Her versatility and experience should be a big part of our offense the next two years."

Centenary is best known as the alma mater of Robert Parish, who enjoyed a Hall of Fame career as the center of the great Boston Celtics teams of the 1980s.

Michaela's family and friends won't have to travel all the way to Louisiana to see her play since Centenary is a member of the Summit League, which includes the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla.

Michaela is the daughter of Deb and Christie Berg of Logan.

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August 20 - Wednesday Night Ladies	7:00 p.m.
August 21 - InterCity	7:30 p.m.
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