

# Labor Day weekend ends season at Elmwood Park

By Mike Hughes

Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton, KS, hosted the United Rebel Series Sprint Cars on Saturday evening, August 31, and were joined by the IMCA Stock Cars.

Keefe Hemel took advantage of his pole starting position to jump to the lead in the 25-lap URSS main event, followed by Kade Hagans and Richie Dewell. Hemel continued to lead to the first of two caution flags when Zac Taylor came to a stop on the backstraight. Hemel led the field back to green, but Luke Cranston of Plains took advantage as he lined up behind Hemel on the restart and then shot by to take a lead he would not relinquish. A late caution for a stalled Darren Berry gave the field one last shot at Cranston, but Luke pulled away for his third URSS win of the year and 14th of his URSS career. Hemel held on to second, followed by heat two winner Jake Bubak, Kade Hagans, and third heat winner 'Flyin' Brian Herbert. Steven Richardson also won a heat race.

Josh 'The Hammer' Hudson of Kensington led all 15 laps in the IMCA Stock Car feature. The lone caution waved on lap 9 when Travis Milander came to a stop, but Hudson pulled away on the restart and went on to score his first win at Norton this year. Track point leader Dustin McClurg finished in the runner-up spot, with heat two winner Tyler Tipton, Jason Davis and Pat Bedore completing the top five. Hudson was victorious in the other heat race.

The vintage cars held their



MBM Motor sports and the Norton Elmwood Park Racing Association held the twelfth annual Labor Day weekend vintage care races on Saturday and Sunday. There were

12th annual meet at the half-mile oval and 35 drivers from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska brought their cars for the two-day event.

### RESULTS IMCA Stock Cars

Heat race winners: Josh Hudson, Tyler Tipton.

Feature: 1. Hudson, 2. Dustin McClurg, 3. Tipton, 4. Jason Davis, 5. Pat Bedore, 6. Bob Rutherford, 7. Frank McClurg, 8. John Annon, 9. Travis Milander, 10. Jason McCartney, 11. Darin Racek.

### United Rebel Sprint Series

Heat race winners: Steven Richardson, Jake Bubak, Brian Herbert.

Feature: 1. Luke Cranston, 2.

Keefe Hemel, 3. Bubak, 4. Kade Hagans, 5. Herbert, 6. Barry Crane, 7. Zach Blurton, 8. Richardson, 9. Jeff Radcliffe, 10. Patrick Bourke, 11. Ron Hadley, 12. Mark Walinder, 13. Howard Van Dyke, 14. Greg Reiners, 15. Darren Berry (DNF), 16. Zac Taylor (DNF), 17. Richie Dewell (DNF), 18. Mike Madden (DNF).

The final night of the 2013 racing season at Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton, KS, took place Sunday evening, September 1, with the URSS Sprint Cars, IMCA Stock Cars and vintage cars returning to action for the second night in a row.

Prior to the evening's race program, the vintage drivers

35 Vintage cars from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado and each had their turn on the track.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

paid tribute to the late Don McMullen of Norton for his years of work at the annual Labor Day weekend vintage car event in Norton. The McMullen family received a memorial plaque in his honor.

The IMCA Stock Cars were the first to take the track for their main event and Casey Werkmeister of North Platte, NE, led all 15 laps to make his way to victory lane and a \$650 paycheck. The race for second through fifth was close, but Josh 'The Hammer' Hudson finished in the runner-up spot, followed by Tyler Tipton, Eric Kinderknecht and Andre Rexford. Dustin McClurg of Logan did not finish and was scored

tenth, but it was good enough to give him enough points to claim the track championship. Heat race winners were McClurg and Jason Davis.

Luke Cranston of Plains won his second URSS feature in as many nights at the 1/2-mile oval, but had some luck fall his way. John Webster led the first 2 laps before Richie Dewell took the lead on lap 3 of the 25-lap main event. The first caution waved on lap 7 for debris, then again on lap 10 when Kade Hagans spun. Dewell was up to the task and had built a sizable lead at the halfway mark. Cranston, who started tenth, had worked his way to second at the crossed flags and was closing in on Dew-

ell when the lead duo caught up to Howard Van Dyke. Van Dyke spun and made contact with inside guardrail on lap 17. Dewell was also involved and done for the night. That gave Cranston the lead on the restart and that's all he would need to drive off to the checkers for his 4th URSS win of the season. Steven Richardson finished second, followed by heat two winner 'Flyin' Brian Herbert, Barry Crane and Zach Blurton. Darren Berry won the other heat race.

Mike Madden rolled his sprinter in the first heat. He was okay but done for the night.

The promoters at Elmwood Park Speedway would like to thank the track sponsors, staff and volunteers, drivers and fans for all their support in 2013.

### RESULTS

#### IMCA Stock Cars

Heat race winners: Dustin McClurg, Jason Davis.

Feature: 1. Casey Werkmeister, 2. Josh Hudson, 3. Tyler Tipton, 4. Eric Kinderknecht, 5. Andre Rexford, 6. John Annon, 7. Darin Racek, 8. Frank McClurg, 9. Bob Rutherford, 10. D. McClurg (DNF), 11. Jason McCartney (DNF), 12. Davis (DNF).

#### United Rebel Sprint Series

Heat race winners: Darren Berry, Brian Herbert.

Feature: 1. Luke Cranston, 2. Steven Richardson, 3. Herbert, 4. Barry Crane, 5. Zach Blurton, 6. Patrick Bourke, 7. John Webster, 8. Berry, 9. Zac Taylor, 10. Greg Reiners, 11. Jeff Radcliffe (DNF), 12. Richie Dewell (DNF), 13. Howard Van Dyke (DNF), 14. Kade Hagans (DNF), 15. Mike Madden (DNS).



On the left: The United Rebel Series Sprint cars competed for points at the last race of the season over Labor Day weekend at Elmwood Park Speedway. It was very impressive to see the cars coming down the track four rows wide at the green light. Luke Cranston of Plains was the big winner both nights in this event. Local driver, Mike Madden, had his night shortened when he rolled his sprint car, putting it out of commission.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

To the right: IMCA Stock cars took to the track over Labor Day weekend. Josh "The Hammer" Hudson was the first to fly past the checked flag on Saturday night but then Casey Werkmeister of North Platte, Ne. outdrove him to be the Sunday night winner.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton



This year's annual Labor Day weekend vintage car races were also the Don McMullen memorial race. The No. 81 car he rebuilt with Jerry Bantam years ago, the one Don drove in this very vintage race, was retired on Sunday. Jerry Bantam of MBM Motor Sports was not only a racer himself but also Don's friend. He is seen here presenting Don's widow Cindy McMullen with a plaque from MBM Motor sports commemorating Don's memory. Cindy is surrounded by her loving family in support.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

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