

Summer Shootout draws 85 participants

By Eric Gaede
Thomas County Speedway

The Thomas County Free Fair ended with a few fireworks in the air, and on the track, with the Modified Shootout on Saturday as the last race of the weekend.

John Hansen took the win in the International Motor Contest Association BST Series Modified division on Saturday, with Brady Coen getting the win in the Friday night main event.

The URSS 305 Sprint Cars headlined Friday nights show, and Luke Cranston found the winner's circle.

The IMCA Stocks also were featured in both nights of racing. Ryan Wark took the win Friday and Jeff Tubbs got the win Saturday night. Angel Munoz went to the winner's circle in the IMCA Hobby Stock Class and Jory Friesen took the checkers in the Econo Class.

URSS 305 Sprint Cars

The URSS 305 Sprint Cars had a tough time getting started as the first two starts of the race ended before they got through turn one. In all, six cars were out before the first official lap was run. Cranston made it through the first laps unscathed and had little trouble getting to the front.

The rest of the main event went caution-free and Cranston cruised to victory, lapping the majority of the field. Brian Herbert held on for second. Keefe Hemel came in third, with Blake Smith Jr. in fourth, and Patrick Bourke getting fifth. There were 24 sprints on hand.

Modifieds

Coen took the win in the Friday night main event, which was just a warm up for the \$1,000 Saturday night purse. Jerry Phillips raced him hard but had to settle for sec-

ond and Alan Sharpsteen finished third.

Saturday's main event was where all the action was, with David Murray Jr. and Will Brack taking off with a big lead from the rest of the pack.

It really got interesting once they got to lap traffic. Brack passed Murray in turn two and Murray came blasting back to the inside of Brack into turn three, but was too fast entering the corner to make it stick and slid up into Brack, ending his night early.

During that caution, the flagman gave Murray the black flag and disqualified him for rough driving. By listening to the cheers, the crowd was definitely behind the flagman's decision.

Hansen took advantage of the situation and didn't look back, getting the win. Alan Sharpsteen had a great weekend and finished second with Adam Morris getting the third spot. Twenty five modifieds were on hand.

Stock Cars

The IMCA stock cars also raced both Friday and Saturday nights. Wark made some great moves to get to the front of the pack and went on to get the victory on Friday night. Tubbs held off Dustin Daniels for second with Jason Rogers in fourth.

Saturday had Tubbs getting the best of the field, holding off Jason Rogers for the win. Rogers was second with Tubbs holding off Dustin Daniels for third. Seventeen stocks were on hand.

Hobby Stocks

Munoz is starting to make this look easy, getting his third win in a row in Colby. Chad Fields had a great run in second, holding off Cody Pancake who finished third. Richard Boon came in fourth and Jeff Doty finished fifth. Mike Giesenhagen was sixth and Tyrel



John Hansen spoke with track announcer Gary Walker Saturday after winning the BST Series Modified division during the Summer Shootout at the Thomas County Speedway. The Summer Shootout was on Friday and Saturday.

ERIC GAEDE/Thomas County Speedway

Smith finished seventh. Ten hobbies were in the field.

Econos

The econos left their mark on the racing action, having the only

car to go over the wall during the weekend's racing action. TJ Powell got loose in turn two and corrected to not hit another car, but ended up hitting and flipping over

the backstretch wall. Powell was okay after the incident.

After the racing action restarted, Friesen held off Joe Harper for the win. Bryan Guyer held on for third

and Jason Gray finished fourth. Nine econos were on hand.

The next races will be Sunday, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m.

National Basketball Association takes legal action against players

By Dave Campbell
AP Sports Writer

Trying to head off the chance of an antitrust lawsuit from the NBA Players Association, the league went ahead and beat the union to court.

The NBA filed two claims against the NBAPA on Tuesday — an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board and a lawsuit in federal district court in New York.

The NBA accused the players of being uncooperative in negotiations toward a new collective bargaining agreement by making "more than two dozen" threats to

dissolve their union and sue the league under antitrust laws to secure more favorable terms in a new CBA.

Commissioner David Stern told The Associated Press in a phone interview that an unproductive meeting Monday with union executive director Billy Hunter, president Derek Fisher and others confirmed to the league it needed to take this action.

"There doesn't seem to be a seriousness of purpose to the players and we keep reading about they're considering decertification, and the agents are meeting with Billy to talk about decertification. Derek was quoted as saying it's an option on the

table," Stern said.

Stern added: "And we think that as long as they are preparing to use the same strategy that the NFL, who uses the same lawyer, used, it doesn't seem that we're going to be able to get to the deal that we need to get to together."

NFL players decertified their union this year, though they ultimately resolved a 4 1/2-month labor dispute with the owners.

"We just don't have as much time as the NFL did," Stern said. "If the union sort of continued to drag its feet and then pursued its preferred decertification strategy, and if the same 4 1/2 months went by, we'd be well into our season...."

Owners are seeking significant changes to the league's salary structure, claiming \$300 million in losses last season and hundreds of millions more in each year of the previous CBA, which was ratified in 2005. Players have acknowledged the losses but disputed the size, and they've balked at the league's push for a hard salary cap and reduction in salaries and maximum contract lengths.

The NBA's lawsuit is essentially preventative legal medicine.

It seeks a declaration from the court that the lockout does not violate antitrust laws, in case the union breaks up to file an antitrust lawsuit. It also cites legal

backing for the lockout itself, invoking Depression-era legislation known as the Norris-LaGuardia Act designed to prevent court intervention in a labor dispute.

Finally, the league's lawsuit also makes an attempt to secure support for massive salary reform should the union dissolve. The NBA asked the court to declare that such a decertification would in turn void all existing player contracts because they're guided by the union's involvement in the old CBA. Without a union and a collective bargaining relationship, the league argued, the terms and conditions of those previously negotiated contracts would not apply.

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