

Late Race Drama Punctuates Round 5 of Summer Dirt Series

MERIDIAN, Idaho—After a five week hiatus the Dirt Track at Meridian Speedway roared to life Saturday, July 21, for the fifth round of the PitStopUSA.com Summer Dirt Series. Six classes hit the dirt twelfth-mile, including the Senior 4 Cycles, Pee Wees, Hot Rods, Idaho UAS, Predator Stox, and the Box Stocks.

The Senior 4 Cycles took to the Dirt Track at Meridian Speedway first for their fifteen lap main event. Dale Smitchger used the pole position to take the early lead while Steve Gilbert and Eric Smitchger battled for second. Gilbert quickly cleared Eric Smitchger, then with 10 laps to go caught up to the leader. But Dale Smitchger had his kart dialed in, and he sped to the checkers.

Five Pee Wee competitors took to the Dirt Track at Meridian Speedway for their twelve lap feature. Bailey Newman used a front row starting spot to grab the early lead, but Anthony Latham found the handle on his kart and soon found himself on the leader's tail tank. With five laps left Newman and Latham caught lapped traffic, and with a three wide pass Latham had captured the lead and sped to victory.

A full field of Hot Rods hit the dirt for their 15 lap main event. Bently Hull stormed from the pole position to the early lead with Hudson Eccles in tow. But the battle on the track was for third as Joey Wiederich and Brady Ransom battled all race long. With four laps left Tyson and Andrew Martinson joined the scrum for third. With the white flag in the air something had to give, and it was Ransom who went around in turn four. While both Martinson's scattered to avoid Ransom, Wiederich scooted across the line third behind Eccles and Hull.

Craig Anderson and Joe Young led the Idaho UAS division to green for their 12 lap shootout. Anderson overpowered Young to take the early lead, but soon faced pressure from his son Travis Anderson for the lead. Craig Anderson wheeled his kart hard to fend off Travis Anderson through the race's middle stages. But the patriarch could only hold on so long, and with three laps left Travis Anderson dove to the inside and took the lead and the checkered flag. The Andersons' one-two finish was erased due to post race issues, which handed Young the victory.

Six speedy Predator Stoxs took the green for a fifteen lap feature. Trevor Ford made the most of his front row starting spot and piloted his kart to the early lead. Behind Ford, Hunter Perala and Kizziah Arp went to war for the runner up spot. Perala got the better of that battle, but immediately turned his sights to Dakota Allen. With 12 laps to go Allen ducked low and relieved Perala of second place. Now Allen's sights were set on Ford. Allen picked his way through traffic and with five laps to go Allen arrived on Ford's rear bumper. But Ford proved too strong, and he held on for the win.

Dalton Allen led the Box Stock field to Saturday's final feature. Allen dashed to the top spot, which left Makayla Trafford and Anthony Latham locked in a bumper-to-bumper battle for second. Something had to give as the youngsters pushed their karts to the limit, and it was Latham who stepped over the line first and spun. This left Trafford second to main event dominator Allen.

The sixth round of the PitStopUSA.Com Summer Dirt Series at the Dirt Track at Meridian Speedway goes green Saturday, August 11. The Pee Wee, Box Stock, Hot Rod, Predator Stox, and Open 250s will be on hand to provide all the thrills and spills you've come to expect from the twelfth-mile dirt oval. Gates open at 9 a.m. with racing at 11:15 am. General admission is free to the public, and trackside access is

available with the purchase of a pit pass. We'll see you Saturday, August 11 for more PitStopUSA.com Summer Dirt Series action under the big yellow water tower at the Dirt Track at Meridian Speedway.