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Lucas Oil Dirt Late Model Series/TORA King Of The Hill Late Model Shoot-Out
Junction Motor Speedway-York, Nebraska 6/25/05

Story by Ron Meyer

Photos by Amanda Meyer

Fledgling racing organizations Lucas Oil Dirt Late Model Series and Junction Motor Speedway combined with TORA to host the 1st Annual King Of The Hill Late Model Shoot-Out. A stout field of regional and national tour luminaries filed into JMS on 6/25, a day after navigating the high banks of Belleville, KS. The pit sign-in sheet read like a Who's Who of super late model drivers-Freddy Smith, Earl Pearson Jr., John Anderson, Brady Smith, Kelly Boen, Matt Miller, Kyle Berck, Brian Birkhofer, Steve Kosiski, Don O'Neal, Terry Phillips, and Donnie Moran were among the 39 drivers from 13 states seeking the \$10,000 winner's share of the purse.

The Real Deal Don O'Neal stated his intentions early in the qualifying session. The Hoosier hot-shoe blasted his way around the 3/8ths mile JMS oval in 16.81 seconds. Only a tick of the stop watch slower were 2004 NARA points champ Pearson, former World 100 winner Birkhofer, and the Million Dollar Man Donnie Moran.

O'Neal did a Bachman-Turner Overdrive imitation in heat one-"Taking Care of Business," besting 2005 WDRL champ Brady Smith, and always exciting Kelly Boen. Matt Miller gave himself a 34th birthday present in heat two, crossing under the checkers ahead of Pearson, Freddy Smith, and Berck. The third heat was loaded, and lowan Brian Birkhofer showed he would need to be reckoned with before the evening was over, defeating Scott James, Phillips, and Moran. Heat four saw the 52K of Steve Kosiski race past Gary Gorby, Larry McDaniels, and Delbert Smith.

Lucas Oil Rookie of The Year candidate Tim Dohm from West Virginia, and Johnny Bone Jr. from Arkansas qualified in the first B Main, with locals Eddie Moore and Bo Egge qualifying in the second B Main.

Starting on the pole of the 50 lap King Of The Hill Shoot-Out, O'Neal wasted no time showing Cornhusker state fans why he is the winningest super late model driver over the last two years. While Kosiski and Birkhofer battled side by side, the 71 built a half straightaway lead over the Midwestern duo. O'Neal began lapping tail enders early in the race, and by lap 22 had lapped through 12th place in the field. Other than the checking out of O'Neal, there were position battles going on throughout the field. Berck, Freddy Smith, and Moran put on a great show, going 2 and 3 wide lap after lap. Late in the race Birkhofer began to rein in O'Neal, and with fans yelling approval, closed the gap dramatically in the final

three laps, but O'Neal was able to hold off the Flyin' 15B and pad his current Lucas Oil series points lead.

Belleville and JMS officials plan to work together in coming months to build on the success of this year's events. JMS has hopes that with corporate backing their late model special can become the Cornhusker state equal to Missouri's Show-Me 100. With ESPN2 televising some Lucas Oil events, back to back shows at tracks only 1 ½ hours apart has some appeal to the television network. Belleville has hosted a televised event, and JMS is more than ready to host one.

Lucas Oil / Tora Late Model A Main

- 1) 71 Don O'Neal
- 2) 15b Brian Birkhofer
- 3) 7 Matt Miller
- 4) 07 Kelly Boen
- 5) 52k Steve Kosiski
- 6) 1 Earl Pearson, Jr
- 7) 83 Scott James
- 8) 2 Brady Smith
- 9) 00 Freddy Smith
- 10) 99 Donnie Moran
- 11) 2j Johnny Bone Jr
- 12) 6 Al Humphrey
- 13) 12m Raymond Merrill
- 14) 17m Eddie Moore
- 15) 14 Kyle Berck
- 16) 92 Delbert Smith
- 17) 50b Larry McDaniels
- 18) 99g Gary Gorby
- 19) t1t Earl Kinderknecht
- 20) 07t Tim Dohm
- 21) 75 Terry Phillips
- 22) 1x Bo Egge