

Brockville Ontario Speedway

Release 12-2009

July 9, 2009

Modified Race Story Courtesy: Tom Skibinski, DIRTcar North East

Hearn Regains Winning Form In Super DIRTcar Series Victory At The BOS

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Brockville, ONT – July 9, 2009 – By Tom Skibinski, Super DIRTcar Series PR Director

It took Brett Hearn 102 laps to seal the deal Thursday night, yet the brief delay didn't seem to matter much for the 'Corporate Jet' as he also extended his points lead after scoring his 102nd career Super DIRTcar Series victory in the 'Coca-Cola/BOB FM 100'

Big-Block Modified title event at Brockville Ontario Speedway.

Hearn's uncanny level of consistency seeped through once more in his second tour triumph of the season, accompanying four more third-place tallies to move comfortably ahead in the bid for an unprecedented seventh overall Hoosier Tire-VP Racing Fuels Mr. DIRTcar Championship.

"The fact that Ransomville (won July 3) is a track I've struggled at for a couple years, Brockville is a track I've struggle at a lot, I think this is a pretty good sign," remarked Hearn, 50, summing up his season to date and his chance to claim yet another Mr. DIRTcar title. While his recent flag-to-flag triumph at the BOS was his first in a Big-Block, the Sussex, New Jersey standout captured 358-Modified Series shows four times.

"We made some really good choices tonight on tires and gear, and everything else you need to decide before the feature. Its just one of those deals where it worked out really well," noted Hearn, after reaching victory lane at the 29th different track since registering his first Series win in 1981.

Despite a late-race caution that pushed the Modified main beyond the scheduled 100-lap distance, Hearn out-distanced defending Mr. DIRTcar Champion Billy Decker by two car-lengths while '07 Brockville race winner Pat O'Brien settled for third to wrap guaranteed starting berths in both the prestigious Rite Aid 200 on October 11 of Super DIRT Week XXXVIII at

the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse and All-Star Weekend Exemption Dash at Cayuga County Fair Speedway on July 18.

Tour traveler Billy Dunn notched his first top-five finish of the season while second-generation driver Kyle Dingwall placed fifth utilizing a 358-Modified engine. Steve Paine made his first Series start of the season and finished eighth, sandwiched between tour regulars Justin Haers (6th) and Matt Sheppard (7th) and track regulars Todd Stewart (9th) and Danny O'Brien, the current Brockville points leader with four wins in '09.

Sharing the front row with O'Brien after the customary pre-race draw that lined up the 31-car starting field, Hearn beat the pole-sitter to the line aboard his potent Madsen Motorsports no. 20 Wentworth Custom Homes-Kruger-WLR-BPG/TEO entry and to set the early pace. Series stalwarts Gary Tomkins, Decker, Dale Planck and Ryan Phelps ran next in line on the smooth black clay that became highly receptive to rubber the rest of the way.

Frenchman Denis Gauvreau overshot turn one on lap 14 and his abrupt exit off the track forced out the first of 10 caution flags, with Hearn seemingly unphased on every restart that ensued. Mario Clair and Larry Wight tangled in turn one before Adam Moore looped on the front straightaway to bring out two more yellows and a quarter of the way through the order remained intact.

Integra Shocks Fast Time Trialer Jimmy Phelps was bumped high off the back chute while running 10th to incur a fifth caution period on lap 32, with Tomkins and Decker hoping to chase down high-flying Hearn while Dale Planck, Dingwall and Dunn shadowed O'Brien during the early stages.

With the halfway mark quickly approaching, Decker passed Tomkins for the runner-up slot as Billy Dunn made his way into the front-five on the heels of O'Brien, a three-time BOS Small-Block points champion, taking the track honor one time in each of the past three decades. Haers, Dingwall, Sheppard, Paine and Danny O'Brien occupied the Top-10 when the lap counter signaled still 50 to go.

A frustrating night for fast time Phelps came to a pre-mature ending when Phelps spun the H&H Motorsports no. 98H Mohawk N.E.-New England Race Fuels/Troyer mount on the frontstretch calling it quits for the remainder with 77 laps complete. The ensuing restart had front-runners Hearn, Decker, O'Brien, Dunn and Hears lined up nose-to-tail, and except for Dingwall swapping spots with Haers with 10 to go, the order remained untouched the rest of the way.

Even when Pierre Dagenais slid high off the track to bring out the final yellow flag on lap 97, his return to the track in front of the leaders was not enough to distract Hearn in the green-white-checkered flag finish.

“It felt like we fired pretty good on that last restart, but with the hard tires it feels like it takes about five laps before you can get going again,” figured Hearn, who stretched his SDS points lead to 127 over Decker through six rounds. “And I think everybody else was in the same boat regarding tires.”

“After that I just tried to find the right line, find out where the most bite was. The car floated just about any place I wanted to go, it was really good,” added Hearn, who’s only other front-five at Brockville heading into Thursday was fifth in 2007.

Decker continued his success at the Kirkland layout, scoring a fourth top-five finish in as many tries steering the LJL Racing no. 91 Gypsum Wholesalers-Stadium Int’l-Quality Hardwoods/Bicknell. Exactly one year ago, the Unadilla, New York star led all but the opening four circuits en route to the decisive victory.

“It wasn’t too bad of a run, the car was alright,” assessed Decker, who now owns 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th-place tour tallies at Brockville since 2006. “We lacked a little bit though, still have some more work to do.”

“We went with three hards (tires), looking at the way Brett’s car was, looked like he had a soft on the left-rear. He did take off a lot better than we did, whether that was a tire or what, it kind of level off after a handful of laps. We needed those long greens, we were gonna also need some help with lapped traffic to get anything done anyhow,” Decker said.

Gypsum teammate O’Brien was looking to match his 2007 first-place performance, yet was relegated to the show position which still amounted to a third front-five finish in the past four years.

“The track goes away pretty good at the end and I didn’t have enough forward drive all night,” stated O’Brien, 44, following his first Super DIRTcar Series start of the season following a hard crash suffered in the ’09 tour opener at Big Diamond Raceway in April. “Billy and I were fighting for the same piece of real estate going in (turn one) so I was just trying not to lose any momentum down in there.”

“This is my kind of track, this is what I like to race on. I wish we had the old surface back, I haven’t got this one quite figured out yet,” added O’Brien, who led the initial laps last summer buckled into the Gypsum Logistics no. 6 730 Truck Stop-Milestone Concrete/Bicknell machine before dropping to

24th on the final scoresheet.

The Street Stocks filled out the bill for the special Thursday night show. Ronnie Wadforth of Picton came and managed to the show the locals how it was done in taking the special 20 lap invitational after a late duel with Dominic Gauvreau. Early leader Todd Raabe had to settle for the number 3 spot in front of Alex Gagnon and Dana Aikins. Brockville Ontario Speedway is back in action on Saturday night, July 11 with a full race program for Fan Appreciation night with an admission price of just 20 dollars a car load. The green flag drops at 7pm.

Super DIRTcar Series Race #6 – Brockville Ontario Speedway, July 9,
2009 'Coca-Cola/BOB FM 100' Big-Block Modified Event Summary

FIN STR CAR# DRIVER

- 1 2 20 Brett Hearn/Sussex,NJ (\$6,000)
- 2 5 91 Billy Decker/Unadilla,NY
- 3 1 6 Pat O'Brien/Kingston,ONT
- 4 9 49 Billy Dunn/Watertown,NY
- 5 7 96 Kyle Dingwall/Brockville,ONT
- 6 11 3 Justin Haers/Phelps,NY
- 7 12 9s Matt Sheppard/Waterloo,NY
- 8 16 7x Steve Paine/Waterloo,NY
- 9 20 72 Todd Stewart/Kingston,ONT
- 10 21 7star Danny O'Brien/Kingston,ONT
- 11 6 99 Ryan Phelps/Fulton,NY
- 12 14 88 Tim O'Brien/Kingston,ONT
- 13 19 22 Eric Gauvreau/Chelsea,QUE
- 14 15 66c Mario Clair/St-Edmond,QUE
- 15 3 84 Gary Tomkins/Clifton Springs,NY

16 4 77x Dale Planck/Cortland,NY
17 26 72x Denis Gauvreau/Alymer,QUE
18 29 27j Danny Johnson/Rochester,NY
19 25 07 Tim Kerr/Picton,ONT
20 8 124 Pierre DagenaisGatineau,QUE
21 31 8 Rich Scagliotta/Bound Brook,NJ
22 22 97 Michel Chicoine/Ste-Cecile de Milton,QUE
23 18 21 Yan Bussiere/Drummondville,QUE
24 13 99L Larry Wight/Phoenix,NY
25 27 31x Andy Lloyd/Harrowsmith,ONT
26 28 4 Michael Storms/Wantage,NJ
27 10 98h Jimmy Phelps/Baldwinsville,NY
28 30 m96 Brian McDonald/Cornwall,ONT
29 17 0 Bill Gill/Plessis,NY
30 23 35 Adam Moore/Elgin,ONT
31 24 9 Jason Riddell/Cardinal,ONT

GATER RACING NEWS LAP LEADER: Hearn (1-102).

CAUTIONS: 10 for 16 laps.

HEAT WINNERS: J.Phelps, Dagenais, Dingwall, Sheppard.

DIG SAFELY NEW YORK LAST CHANCE RACE WINNERS: D.O'Brien,
Chicoine.

BICKNELL RACING PRODUCTS WINNER AWARD: Brett Hearn.

RISLONE OIL STABILIZER & TREATMENT WINNER AWARD: Brett

Hearn.

BARS LEAKS RUNNER-UP AWARD: Billy Decker.

SYRACUSE RITE AID 200 QUALIFIER: Pat O'Brien.

ALL-STAR WEEKEND EXEMPTION DASH QUALIFIER: Pat O'Brien.

HALFWAY LEADER: Brett Hearn.

BERT/KSE RACING PRODUCTS HARD CHARGER AWARD: Todd Stewart.

XTREME LUBRICANTS SLICK MOVE OF THE RACE AWARD: Billy Dunn.

PENSKE POWER POSITION AWARD (7th): Matt Sheppard.

INTEGRA SHOCKS FAST TIME AWARD: Jimmy Phelps
(15.585sec/86.622mph).

TOTAL PURSE: \$27,750.

CARS ENTERED: 39.

NEXT EVENT: Autodrome Granby - July 10, 2009.

DID NOT QUALIFY(8)

X-Chad Phelps/Mexico,NY

3d-Dexter Stacey/Kahnawake,QUE

12-John Mulder/Spencerville,ONT

55-Perry Francis/Akwesasne,NY

66w-Wallace Stacey/Kahnawake,QUE

66x-Carey Terrance/Akwesasne,NY

73-Dave Austin/Perth Road Village,ONT

75j-Joe Banks/Portland,ONT

76-Ryan Poole/Charleston Lake,ONT

Street Stocks 20 laps: Ron Wadforth, Dominic Gauvreau, Todd Raabe, Alex Gagnon, Dana Aikins, Bill Code, Jack Code, Guy Regimbald, Kevin Fetterly Jr, Steve Billings, Danny Mocibob, Art Brown, Selena Simzer, Guy Amesse, Derrick Eaton.