

Brockville Ontario Speedway

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Pat O'Brien wins second straight taking Jack May Pontiac 100 at Brockville

Modified Story credit: Tom Skibinski: DIRT Northeast

Move over younger brother, make room for the most experienced driver in the all so familiar O'Brien racing clan from Kingston, Ontario.

In a reversal of fortune on Saturday night, Pat O'Brien added just his second win of the season at Brockville Ontario Speedway while recently crowned BOS 358-Modified points champion Danny O'Brien fell two spots shy of collecting his ninth victory in the headline 'Jack May Pontiac-Buick 100' Mr. DIRTcar 358-Modified Championship Series event held on Canadian soil.

"It's just unbelievable, funny thing is you get on these (rolls) and we're not doing anything different than we ever did," remarked Pat, 44, a four-time overall Hoosier Tire-VP Racing Fuels Mr. DIRTcar 358-Modified Champion, now with two straight tour triumphs in '09 to elevate his career total to nine. 'Sometimes things just go your way.'

Sandwiched between the O'Brien siblings under the checkers was reigning Super DIRTcar Series Big-Block Champion Billy Decker, with 'Mr. Small-Block' Pete Bicknell and current series points leader Dale Planck filling out the top-five.

Decker swept high around front row partner Bobby Herrington on the opening circuit and the defending overall Hoosier-VP Mr. DIRTcar Big-Block Modified champion appeared destined to chalk up another convincing victory in the sister Small-Block tour since copping the Super DIRT Week special last October.

Gypsum Express teammate Pat O'Brien had plans of his own, starting fourth in the 30-car field and methodically working his way toward the front as just three yellow flags slowed the action on the racy 3/8-miler.

DIRTcar 358-Modified rookie contender Mark D'Ilario looped high out of turn two to incur the first caution period on lap 14, erasing Decker's comfortable advantage over Bicknell, race-long chaser Danny Johnson in the Dave Thompson-owned no. FX1 Troyer entry, Pat O'Brien and Herrington. Johnson bolted past Bicknell on the ensuing restart with

Danny O'Brien cracking the front-five through the opening 20 circuits.

When St. Catharines, Ont. tour traveler Tommy Flannigan hesitated between turns one and two with mechanical issues to force the second slowdown, the front-five running order remained intact while Planck, Jeremy Wilder, Kyle Dingwall, Mario Clair and Eric Gauvreau comprised the top-10.

Pat O'Brien darted past third-place Bicknell on the lap 30 restart and a half-dozen laps later overtook Johnson for the runner-up spot in his methodical march toward the front while most positions behind him remained frozen as the halfway mark quickly approached. Decker continued to pace the field with 50 laps in the books, while third family member Tim O'Brien (8th) and Lance Willix II (10th) made their presence known as racers set course for the final stretch run.

While Pat continued to close in on Decker, Danny disposed of Johnson on lap 56 to make his Global Warranty-1000 Islands RV-Stover Bus Lines entry the third Bicknell copy up front. A dangling rear bumper on the car of veteran Laurent Ladouceur brought out the third and final caution on lap 58 and put Pat on the bumper of Decker for his final push of the night.

The eldest O'Brien shadowed Decker when the green lights returned on lap 63, pulling along side in two more circuits, finally snatching the point for good as the leaders ducked low across the line to end the 71st circuit. The remainder of the century grind ran non-stop with O'Brien flawlessly weaving his way through lapped cars before opening up a convincing 10 car-length margin at the wire.

"We got a new car thanks to the guys at Bicknell and that was a big difference," noted O'Brien, who leaped from 10th to seventh in the Mr. DIRTcar standings after five events. "The one we had here last time, just couldn't get it going. Gotta thank everybody that helped out and turned things around for us."

"Don't know if its me or the cars, my set-ups always seem to hit the last half of the race, the same as last night (win at Mohawk). Thought early on we were gonna fade back to 10th or so, but again a lot of work was done and it really showed. It was definitely a lot of fun racing tonight, its nice when you're going good and Billy's so good to race with," added O'Brien, after chalking up his 145th (4th all-time) career win in DIRTcar 358-Modified competition.

Fresh off his trip to Lernerville (Pa.) Speedway for a Super DIRTcar Series Big-Block event halted by rain the night before, runner-up Decker was content with his best Small-Block finish of the season which locked up a guaranteed starting berth in the Super DIRT Week 358-Modified Championship during in October.

“The car was pretty good, but not quite as good as Pat with about 30 laps to go when he snuck by us,” said Decker, also 44, after making a rare appearance at Brockville on his way to Autodrome Granby for a \$10,000-to-win 358-Mod show outside of Montreal. “We’ve always been pretty good here, usually come out of this place with a good finish and tonight was no different.”

“I’m pretty happy with the our program, can’t say enough about the guys on the team that make this all happen. Just very fortunate to be the loose nut behind the wheel.”

“I wasn’t quite as versatile as the #6 car tonight, he seemed to be able to keep a little more speed on the bottom. I needed that little bit of banking there to keep some momentum up because I wasn’t getting off the turns quite as nice as I’d like to,” figured Decker, himself a winner of seven Mr. DIRTcar 358 race events.

Virtually unstoppable at the BOS in ’09, Danny O’Brien returned to the podium on Saturday night at the Kirkland facility still in the quest for his first Mr. DIRTcar title after settling for second-place finishes each of the past two years.

“We weren’t quite good enough, that’s all we had tonight,” stated O’Brien, who currently ranks third in the Mr. DIRTcar 358-Modified standings, 76 points behind Planck while just six markers in back of runner-up Bicknell. “Didn’t quite guess good enough but it was still a good solid run for us.”

“The middle (groove) was the place to be at the end, might’ve taken a little bit of rubber, I don’t really know. Pat and Billy were just a little bit better than us tonight. We’ll just keep battling though, see what we can get,” O’Brien said.

Its right back to work for contenders in the 2009 Mr. DIRTcar 358-Modified Series as top teams chasing points towards the overall Hoosier Tire-VP Racing Fuels Mr. DIRTcar 358-Modified Championship Series return to action in round #6 on Sunday, Sept. 13 at Autodrome Granby with \$10,000 the first-place prize.

All four other other regular divisions were also in action on Saturday night. Dylan Evoy started on the front row and immediately went to the very top of the track and led all 25 laps in taking his third Sportsman victory of the

season. Chris Herbison masterfully battled through traffic for a solid second place run in front of Mike Mainse and Shane Pecore. Steve Barber was an impressive fifth as the Rookie champion made his first ever Sportsman feature run at the BOS.

Wayne Riddell also went wire to wire in taking the 12 lap Vintage battle over Jason Powers and Jeff Ciglich. There was a fresh face in victory lane in the 16 lap Rookie event as long time competitor Dwight Feltham celebrated his first win outdistancing Chris Bakker in a late dash to the finish line. JP Laberge was third followed by Josh Kirkland and Pierre Luc. Derek Cryderman ended years of frustration at the Beast of the East in the Street Stock division powering his way to victory over Kevin Fetterly Jr. Brock Cullen, Steve Billings and Bill Code were third through fifth respectively.

Brockville Ontario Speedway returns to action next Sunday afternoon, September 20th with the annual Kanes Towing Monster Enduro. Race time is set for 2pm.

Mr. DIRTcar 358-Modified Championship Series Race #5 – Brockville Ontario Speedway, September 12, 2009 'Jack May Pontiac-Buick 100' Event Summary

Feature

FIN STR CAR# DRIVER

1 4 6 Pat O'Brien/Kingston,ONT(\$4,000)

2 2 91 Billy Decker/Unadilla,NY

3 6 7* Danny O'Brien/Kingston,ONT

4 3 42 Pete Bicknell/St.Catharines,ONT

5 7 77x Dale Planck/Cortland,NY

6 5 fx1 Danny Johnson/Rochester,NY

7 13 88 Tim O'Brien/Kingston,ONT

8 8 96 Kyle Dingwall/Brockville,ONT

9 11 22e Eric Gauvreau/Chelsea,QUE

10 23 3b Chad Brachmann/Sanborn,NY

11 20 66x Carey Terrance/Akwesasne,NY

12 21 99L Larry Wight/Phoenix,NY
13 22 16w Lance Willix II/Theresa,NY
14 15 72s Todd Stewart/Kingston,ONT
15 10 22c Mario Clair/St-Edmond,QUE
16 9 22j Jeremy Wilder/Fort Plain,NY
17 19 22 Larry Lampman,Jr./Port Colborne,ONT
18 1 25 Bobby Herrington/Elginburg,ONT
19 25 08 Mark D'Ilario/Smithville,ONT
20 16 8 Rich Scagliotta/Bound Brook,NJ
21 28 6m Mat Williamson/St.Catharines,ONT
22 17 33 Mike Mahaney/King Ferry,NY
23 14 76 Ryan Poole/Charleston Lake,ONT
24 26 23 Laurent Ladouceur/Alexandria,ONT
25 30 31x Andy Lloyd/Harrowsmith,ONT
26 24 m96 Brian McDonald/Cornwall,ONT
27 29 m70 Billy Cook/Hogansburg,NY
28 27 72 Tommy Flannigan/St.Catharines,ONT
29 18 84 Dave Heaslip/Smiths Falls,ONT
30 12 0 Bill Gill/Plessis,NY

Sportsman 25 laps: Dylan Evoy, Chris Herbison, Mike Mainse, Shane Pecore, Steve Barber, Dana Aikins, Joey Evans, Brian Copp, Doug O Blenis, Jessica Power, Bruce Makinson, Sheldon Hoogwerf, Todd Ferguson, Matt Collins, Adam Trickey, Tabatha Murphy, Roger Varacalli, Randy Earl, Dave Wilgosh

Street Stock 15 laps: Derek Cryderman, Kevin Fetterly Jr., Brock Cullen, Steve Billings, Bill Code, Danny Mocibob, Derrick Eaton, Yan Labelle, Steve Kearney, Jack Code, Brian Billings, Selena Simzer, Art Brown, Eric Alexander, Guy Amesse, Stephane Bussiere

Rookies 16 laps: Dwight Feltham, Chris Bakker, JP Lebarge, Josh Kirkland, Pierre Luc, Joe McNicholls, Matt Day, Brandon Henderson,

Pernie Banks, Josh Kane, Daniel Laforte, Chris Lloyd

Vintage 12 laps: Wayne Riddell, Jason Powers, Jeff Ciglich, John Gibson,
Denzil Billings Jr, Peter Stapper, Brian Comeau, Tim Charland