

AUTOMOBILE RACING ADVENTURES

By Dale P. Danielski

America is talking about rocketing man to the Moon again along with the planet Mars. The ASA Midwest Tour had its own Rocket Man here Saturday night as Jonathan Eilen rocketed around the tight ¼ mile Jefferson Speedway, Jefferson, WI., oval to capture the 100 lap feature finale. In Eilen's words his car was a "Rocket on Rails" and it definitely was as the Hampton, Minnesota driver was never threatened the entire way after taking the lead at the outset from his front row starting position. The biggest threat to Eilen was the weather as rain moved in on lap 27 and forced an hour delay. Once the track was dry however, it was back to work and Eilen moved his machine into orbit and than victory lane. It was Eilen's first 2008 win and 2nd overall in ASA Midwest Tour competition.

The day started with a new track record as Blake Horstman blazed the tiny bullring in 13:729. Horstman proved the lap was no fluke as he came from his 12th starting position to place fifth in the feature event.

And speaking of bullrings, there aren't many left like Jefferson as newer facilities are more of the 3/8 and larger variety. Most of the true short tracks date back to the 1960s, or even '40s and '50s. With tracks this size you can really see drivers working the wheel and there was plenty of that here on this day!

Here and there....Jefferson normally draws large crowds for all events, but with cool, wet weather attendance was down for this year's event....The final running order after 100 laps of main event competition was Eilen, Jamie Iverson, Andrew Morrissey, Dan Fredrickson, Horstman, Mark Kraus, Nathan Haseleu, Travis Sauter, Doug Mahlik and Donny Reuvers. Reuvers would have had a top five finish if not for an oops spin accident late in the going....Rich Loch had a great run going, running 4th, until encountering the lapped machine of Kyle Calmes. Contact was made and both were sent to the rear.....28 cars checked in for the event and 26 started the feature event. Jeff Storm and Doug Hahn were the only two heading home early.....According to one team they spent \$60,000 following the entire Tour in 2007. And they likely aren't on the top of the expenditure list. This racing deal everywhere is sure getting expensive, although the ASA Midwest Tour offers one of the best pay-offs for a series going. With the economy tightening up race teams will have to get really creative to keep all their backers happy and acquire more to keep the racing experience alive.....Hobbystocks and bandit division cars made up the rest of the race program tonight and both put on great side by side racing. The bandit class, in an attempt to maintain parity keep the racers guessing as to which direction they will be racing; Counterclockwise or clockwise. They raced in both directions on this night making things very exciting indeed..... The next ASA Midwest Tour event is set for Sunday June 1, at the Dells Raceway Park, Wis. Dells, WI. The Dells is a tight 1/3 mile oval so action will be aplenty at that event which will culminate with a 100 lap feature finale....Couldn't make the show but the Mighty Midgets of USAC made an appearance at the 5/8 mile La Crosse Fairgrounds Speedway of West Salem, WI., this past Friday. The lightweights shattered the all-time qualifications track

record held by Steve Holzhausen at 18:903 with the new standard now held by Kody Swanson at 18:177. That equates to an average speed of 107.993 mph....



#77 Jonathan captured the ASA Midwest Tour 100 lap feature win at Jefferson Speedway, Jefferson, WI.

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