

Tommy Beck Wins Career First Dirt Late Model Feature at Pittsburgh's PA Motor Speedway on Opening Night April 18, 2009; Kyle Lukon, Andre Layfield, Nick Kocuba, Gary Koteles and Ricky Steigerwald Also Picked up Wins.

For Murrysville's Tommy Beck, it was a career first win in the DirtCar Super Late Models. Beck did it the hard way starting in the 9th spot and holding off last year's Pittsburgher 100 winner and 7 time feature winner Steve Baker for the win. Mark Moats, Sr. and rookie Mike Basich brought the field down for the start. Moats grabbed the lead and led the first two laps. Ed Ferree grabbed the lead on lap three. Meanwhile, Beck and heat winners Steve Baker and Lynn Geisler were making their way through the field. Beck broke through the traffic first and moved into second on lap 11 and passed Ferree on lap 13. In the meantime, Baker was moving up through the field with Geisler not far behind. Baker moved into fourth on lap 16 and third on lap 17. Geisler brought out the yellow on lap 17, when he did a half spin on the back straight; while he didn't stop he was ruled to have caused the caution and sent to the rear. On the restart, Baker moved into second, and made several attempts to get by Beck, but Beck held him off to pick up the win. While Beck has several wins on the local asphalt tracks in the Late Models, this was his first Late Model win on the dirt. Following Beck and Baker were Brandon Burgoon, Ben Miley, Ferree, Basich (in a solid run for the rookie), Geisler, Moats Sr., John Flinner (who arrived after the heats and started scratch) and Lance Elson. Lynn Geisler and Steve Baker won the heats for the 18 cars on hand.

Former track champ Kyle Lukon, Burgettstown, PA, picked up his first win of the new season in a last lap pass in the Brougner's Machine Shop Pro Late Models. But the race ended in heartbreak for race long leader, second year driver Justin Lamb. Lamb and Bryant Hank brought the field down for the start with Lamb grabbing the lead. Lamb pulled away at the start, but restarts on lap 12 and 13 tightened things up. Neil Isiminger, subbing for Laura Lukon, moved into second on lap 2 and chased Lamb for the first half of the event. Meanwhile, Kyle Lukon, who quietly rode around in fifth spot for the first half of the event, began to make his move after the halfway point of the event. By lap 13 he was third and moved into second on lap 14. He battled with Lamb for several laps, but it looked as if he was going to hold him off. The yellow came out on lap 19, which gave Lukon his shot, and he was able to take over on the restart. At the finish it was Lukon, Lamb, Isiminger, Rocky Kugel, newcomer Tommy Dembowski, Mark Moats, Jr., Dusty Curry, Josh Holtgraver, and Dan Karalagas. Rocky Kugel and Kyle Lukon took the heats for the 19 cars on hand.

The Miley Truck Rental UMP Modifieds saw Grafton, WV's Andre Layfield pick up his first ever PPMS win. J.E. Stalder grabbed the lead on lap 1 from his 5th starting spot. Stalder led until lap 5, when third starting Layfield took over. Stalder and Layfield battled the rest of the way. A caution on the last lap caused a green/white/checker finish. Stalder was able to lead the next lap on the restart, but Layfield came charging back on the last lap to pick up the win. Following the lead pair in third was Kevin Miller, Daryl Charlier, Chris Basich, Brad Westover, Jared Domhoff, Bob Damron, Shawn Scheerbaum, and Tom Martineck. Daryl Charlier picked up the heat win.

While the Lates, ProLates, and Modifieds were three exiting features, the Sunoco Race Fuels DIRTcar Sportsman saw a photo finish for the win, with Imperial, PA's Nick Kocuba picking up the opening night victory. Bob Schwartzmiller grabbed the lead at the start and pulled away leading the first 4 laps. A yellow came out on lap 5, and Schwartzmiller's car quit and was pushed pit side. Pat Hanley took the lead on the restart. Hanley led the next five laps, while a battle for second raged behind him between Wayne Carbo, Craig Koteles, Bill Robertson and Nick Kocuba. Hanley spun in-between turns one and two on lap 10 bringing out the yellow. Robertson took the lead on the restart, while Koteles and Kocuba swapped second. Another yellow on lap 13 set up a two lap dash for the checker. Kocuba grabbed the lead on that restart and battled wheel to wheel the last two laps to beat Robertson by inches for the victory. Koteles ended up third with Jake Simmons fourth, followed by Bob Egley, Robert Betz, James Fosnaught, Adam Kostelnik, Wayne Carbo and Pat Hanley. Wayne Carbo and Nick Kocuba took the heats for the 21 car field.

In the Flynn Tire and Auto DIRTcar Amateur Stocks, Gary Koteles of Finleyville, PA picked up the win after a race-long battle with Curt Bish in another great race. Rich Mason was third followed by Brian Huchko, Dan Duseheid, Jason Herniak, Brian Reddcliff, Garrett O'Patchen, Todd Busch and Jennifer Barker. Jason Herniak and Butch Levandosky won the heats for the 14 car field.

The Imperial Heights Garage Young Guns saw Robinson Twp., PA's Ricky Steigerwald pick up the win, his first. Tyler Atkinson was second followed by Alec Broniszewski, Daniel White, Justin Pons and car #22 (unknown).

SUMMARY – April 18, 2009

DirtCar Super Late Models

Heats – Lynn Geisler and Steve Baker

Feature (25 Laps) – 1. Tommy Beck 2. Steve Baker 3. Brandon Burgoon 4. Ben Miley 5. Ed Ferree 6. Mike Basich 7. Lynn Geisler 8. Mark Moats, Sr. 9. John Flinner 10. Lance Elson 11. Jim Stephans 12. Daryl Charlier 13. Charles Medved, 14. Kari Gasser 15. Lou Bradich 16. Keith Barbara 17. Mark Banal, DNS - Keith Rodriguez

Brougner's Machine Shop Pro Late Models

Heats – Rocky Kugel and Kyle Lukon

Feature (20 Laps) – 1. Kyle Lukon, 2. Justin Lamb, 3. Neil Isiminger, 4. Rocky Kugel, 5. Thomas Dembowski, 6. Mark Moats Jr, 7. Bryant Hank, 8. Dusty Curry, 9. Josh Holtgraver, 10. Dan "The Greek" Karalagas, 11. Colton Flinner, 12. Darrell Dow, 13. Michael Reft, 14. Scott Schempp, 15. Terry Kerr, 16. Kenneth Chernetk, 17. Mike Opalinski, 18. Beau Glemba, 19. Jayme Beck

Miley Truck Rental UMP Modifieds

Heats – Daryl Charlier

Feature (15 Laps) – 1. Andre Layfield, 2. J. E. Stalder, 3. Kevin Miller, 4. Daryl Charlier, 5. Chris Basich, 6. Brad Westover, 7. Jared Domhoff, 8. Bob Damron, 9. Shawn Scheerbaum, 10. Tom Martineck, 11. Clayton Kennedy

Sunoco Race Fuels UMP Sportsman

Heats – Wayne Cerbo and Nick Kocuba

Feature (15 Laps) – 1. Nick Kocuba, 2. Bill Robertson, 3. Craig Koteles, 4. Jake Simmons, 5. Bob Egley, 6. Robert Betz, 7. James Fosnaught, 8. Adam Kostelnik, 9. Wayne Cerbo, 10. Pat Hanley, 11. Pat Weldon, 12. Gary Smith, 13. Dave Slade, 14. Mike Mohn, 15. Bill Tennant, 16. Steve Pyeritz, 17. Tyler Fox, 18. Bob Schwartzmiller, 19. Vincent Kamicker, DNS - Todd Janas, Russell Volponi

Flynn's Tire and Auto Factory Stocks

Heats – Jason Herniak and Butch Levandosky

Feature (12 Laps) – 1. Gary Koteles, 2. Curt Bish, 3. Rich Mason, 4. Brian Huchko, 5. Dan Duseheid, 6. Jason Herniak, 7. Brian Reddcliff, 8. Garrett O'Patchen, 9. Todd Busch, 10. Jennifer Barker, 11. Edward Wiser, 12. Tony White, 13. Butch Levandosky, 14. Mark Sullivan

Imperial Heights Garage Young Guns Sport Compacts

Feature (8 Laps) – 1. Ricky Steigerwald, 2. Tyler Atkinson, 3. Alec Broniszewski, 4. Daniel Lloyd White, 5. Justin Pons, 6. #22