

David Gravel Scores 100th Outlaws Win In Williams Grove Summer Nationals

Connecticut pilot scores \$20,000 with impressive drive

Mechanicsburg – David Gravel scored his 100th career World of Outlaws sprint car win in the 23rd running of the C & D Rigging Summer Nationals at Williams Grove Speedway on Saturday night.

Gravel's ninth oval win and second in the Summer Nationals was worth \$20,000.

The victory has placed Gravel among an elite group of just eight outlaws drivers in history that have reached the century win mark with the circuit to include Steve Kinser, Mark Kinser, Donny Schatz, Doug Wolfgang, Sammy Swindell, Danny Lasoski and Joey Saldana.

Gravel's victory was hard-fought as he contended with both Daryn Pittman and Donny Schatz for the checkers.

In fact, the 30-lap main saw all three men lead the event at one point.

Gravel started fourth in the feature with Schatz and Pittman sharing the front row for the green flag.

Schatz took the lead at the start with Pittman applying pressure while Gravel came to third.

Pittman dogged Schatz for control until lap nine when he briefly pulled the trigger for control with an inside move in the third and fourth corner.

But Pittman's run in front was short lived as Schatz turned the car to reclaim the top spot as the pair raced back to the stripe.

The move by Pittman allowed Gravel to hone in for the second spot, which he took with an outside blast in the fourth turn on lap 11.

Gravel was surging by that point as the front trio began what was becoming a torrid battle with traffic in play.

It was lap 13 when Gravel pushed his No. 2 low in the second corner to get underneath Schatz and take command for the first time however Schatz came right back on the Connecticut pilot.

He completed a run through the middle groove in turns three and four on lap 14 to again go out front as he, Gravel and Pittman raced under a blanket for the lead and win.

But just then an untimely caution broke up the tension when Sheldon Haudenschild hit the outside wall and spun on the frontstretch before falling back in line.

Schatz chose the inside lane for the double file restart and held Gravel off when action resumed.

However Gravel was not to be denied as he used a head of steam on the cushion in turn four to complete a run down the frontchute and into the first turn that would push him back out front for good on lap 19.

Third starter Brent Marks went outside of Pittman for third with five laps to go and got the spot just before the final caution flag of the race unfurled.

Schatz got to Gravel's inside on the restart, proving that he still wasn't out of the event and returned to repeat the feat in the first turn the next time around but after that attempt Gravel got away for the win, taking the checkered flag by .495 seconds.

In victory lane Gravel noted that he felt he beat the three best cars to race at Williams Grove in the last 10 years in the form of Schatz, Marks and the Don Kreitz No. 69K raced by Pittman.

Schatz, Marks, Pittman and Justin Peck completed the top-five finishers.

Sixth through 10th went to Gio Scelzi, Carson Macedo, Lance Dewease, Haudenschild and Danny Dietrich.

Heats went to Marks, Gravel, Macedo and Pittman with Schatz earning the feature pole by winning the dash.

Anthony Macri scored the B Main.

Marks set fast time with a lap of 17.034 seconds.

Feature Finishes

410 sprints, 30 laps: 1. David Gravel, 2. Donny Schatz, 3. Brent Marks, 4. Daryn Pittman, 5. Justin Peck, 6. Gio Scelzi, 7. Carson Macedo, 8. Lance Dewease, 9. Sheldon Haudenschild, 10. Danny Dietrich, 11. Cory Eliason, 12. Buddy Kofoid, 13. Chase Dietz, 14. Troy Wagaman Jr., 15. Anthony Macri, 16. Freddie Rahmer, 17. Spencer Bayston, 18. Lucas Wolfe, 19. Justin Whittall, 20. TJ Stutts, 21. Logan Schuchart, 22. Jacob Allen, 23. Brock Zearfoss, 24. Kelby Watt, 25. Austin Bishop

DNQ: Aaron Bollinger, Landon Crawley, Bill Balog, Kraig Kinser, Jessie Attard, Chad Trout, Michael Walter, Kody Hartlaub