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By Mike Weber

For St. Helens race car driver Stephen Kaptur and Jake Tupper, the second race at River City Speedway proved to be a very memorable one as they each won their first ever Columbia County Racing Association main event victories.

Kaptur, the defending Modified Division champion, won the main event for the first time ever in his five-year career in the series. Tupper, 18, drove to victory in the Dwarf Car main, marking his first ever CCRA main event win too.

Former Four-Cylinder Division (2016) champion Bob Berg of St. Helens, won the Tuner Four-Cylinder main and Portland's Tom Zywicki won the Street Stock Division main. Bernie Lujan of St. Helens recorded victories in the trophy dash, heat race and main for a sweep in the Super Sport Division. Casey Starr also had a sweep as he notched wins in the dash, heat and main of the Micro Sprint Car Division.

Kaptur, 42, won the 2017 Modified Division title without the benefit of having one main event win. It was a little different situation on Saturday though as Kaptur notched his first ever win in the Modified Division with his Hudson Garbage Service/Discount Race Car Parts sponsored race car owned by Don West of St. Helens. Dustin Asher of Molalla, was runnerup as the duo were the only two cars in the 15-lap event. It marked the first time that Kaptur had won a main event in the three years that he's been a driving for West, 71.

"It was a good race and we were pretty equal out on the track, but it would've been nice if we had a few more cars," said Kaptur, who works at Hudson Garbage Service. "It's been my goal for a long time to get a main event win and I guess I'll take it anyway I can get it. Hopefully we'll get a few more wins this year. The car is much better than the one we had last year and it's a little different. I'm pretty happy with it so far and I think we'll do pretty good. Asher is a good driver and he'll have a chance to do well this year as too, but I think we'll have a good chance to win another championship."

Berg, 54, drove his Cozy Lawn Maintenance/Eaton's Tire & Service Center 1997 Dodge Neon to a sweep of Four-Cylinder Division races. Berg won the trophy dash, heat race and main event. Dale Holland of Portland, was runnerup, followed by Longview's Jason Sheibel and defending champion Joel Davis of Kelso.

Tupper drove his TFT Construction/Freightwest Global open-wheel car to victory lane in the 12-car Dwarf Car Division main event. Shawn Dorie of St. Helens, who won the May 5 season opening race, was second, followed by Doug McVae of Scappoose and defending series champion Teagan Fischer of Warren in her Finish Line Graphics 1934 Ford Sedan two-third scale replica dwarf car. McVae was a two-time winner with victories in the trophy dash and Heat 2. Dorie won Heat 1 in his Family Fun RV sponsored racer.

Fischer, a St. Helens High junior, was a double duty driver while she accomplished the impressive task of competing in two motorsport classifications at the speedway. Fischer also drove a car in the Micro Sprint Car Division class and she took fifth in the heat and fifth in the main event.

Terry King of Warren, was a two-time winner in the Street Stock Division as he drove his Ross Diesel and Auto sponsored 1987 Buick Regal to victory in the heat race and trophy dash. Zywicki won the 30-lap main event, followed by defending series champion Greg Brumbaugh of St. Helens, in the CLT Trucking/Hoyt Construction 1985 Chevrolet Malibu. Brumbaugh, 56, started last in the eight-car field and he maneuvered up front to notch his second straight top-five finish. King, who won the May 5 season opener, took third place in the main event, followed by Trevor Lively and David Weaver.

"It felt good to get second and we had a pretty decent day without having any damage to the car," said Brumbaugh, whose Columbia River Auto Glass sponsored race team includes crew members Mark Beehler, Joel Beehler, Lenny Templin and Greg's wife Marcie. "The race track was in really nice condition, it was a fun race and we had a really good day. Who knows when I'll get another main event win, but I'm hoping to win the championship again this year. Hopefully, I'll continue to have some success throughout the season. I had a real good season a year ago with lots of second place finishes and I didn't even win one main event but I still won the championship."

The next event on the speedway schedule is June 19with racing scheduled to start at 5 p.m. on the quarter-mile clay oval track at the Columbia County Fairgrounds motorsports facility in St. Helens.