August 11th 2018

By Mike Weber

The trio of local drivers Terry King, Bob Berg and Jeremy Martin each captured Columbia County Racing Association (CCRA) main event wins in the 10th round of motorsports action Aug. 11 at River City Speedway in St. Helens.

The Road To The Iron Giant Series was also featured for the first time ever at the Columbia County Fairgrounds motorsports facility. A total of 20 drivers from throughout Oregon and Washington participated in the traveling series for late model stock cars. David Cronk of Portland, won the main event, followed by Gresham's Kevin Roberts and Vancouver's Chris West.

Berg of St. Helens, was a two-time winner as he captured the Tuner Division trophy dash and main event with his Green Lion/Eaton's Tire & Service Center sponsored 1997 Dodge Neon. Berg started last in the nine-car main and took the lead on lap six after passing Kelso's Joel Davis. Berg led the remainder of the 30-lap race and won by a straightaway length over Davis, who took second in his Economy Auto Wrecking/Ram Light Truck Salvage 1996 Nissan Altima. Vancouver's Sam Simmet was third, followed by Taylor Sayre and Troy Jewell to round out the top-five. Simmet and Davis each won the heat races.

"Since there was lots of rain Saturday, we weren't even sure that we would even be able to race," said Berg. "The track was really tacky and it was kind of rough on the bottom half, but the outside lane was really nice and it was just a pretty cool day at the track. I have a decent lead in the division standings with over a 150 point advantage, so I'll have a pretty good chance to win the championship."

It marked the seventh main event win this year for Berg, who also recorded his ninth top-three finish. Berg, 54, is seeking to win the second stock car racing championship of his 27-year career. Berg won the 2016 Four Cylinder Division title with his Cozy Lawn Maintenance sponsored Neon.

King of Warren, won the Street Stock Division main with his Ross Diesel & Auto sponsored 1987 Buick Regal. Defending division champion Greg Brumbaugh of St. Helens, took second in his CLT Trucking/Hoyt Construction 1985 Chevrolet Malibu. Brumbaugh, 56, leads the division standings and has a good chance to win a second straight series title. Trevor Lively of St. Helens, who won his first ever main event Aug. 4, was third in his Lively Repair 1975 Camaro. King notched a victory in the heat race and Brumbaugh won the trophy dash.

Martin, a former CCRA Modified Division champion (2007), entered his second race this year at St. Helens and had a very impressive performance. Martin, 46, recorded a sweep in winning the Modified Division trophy dash, heat race and main event with his Wayne Martin Floor Covering open-wheel style modified racer. Donald Schott of Portland took second in the main, followed by Don West of Warren and defending series champion Stephen Kaptur of St. Helens.

"It seems like I don't get an opportunity to compete here too often, because I'm usually entering events at Elma, Wash. (Grays Harbor Raceway) and at Yakima and sometimes at Cottage Grove Speedway as well," said Martin. "I had fun though and it was a pretty good day. I love this place (River City Speedway) and I support it, but I just wish we could have more modified division drivers here. I only live a mile away from the track, so I always try to come here at least once or twice a year. It was neat because I had about 30 of my family members who came out and supported the track and we all had lots of fun. The Iron Giant race was just an outstanding event too and it's a pretty neat deal. It attracted lots of fans and it was nice to see the full grandstands too."

Cronk, Roberts, Jeff Marson and Shannon Horn won the Iron Giant heat races. Roberts won the trophy dash in his Big Sky Landscaping sponsored Camaro. Andrew Langan won the 12-car B main event.

The 11th event on the CCRA 14 race schedule is the Aug. 25 Green Lion sponsored race, which includes a $420 first place purse for the Tuner Division main. Three more races follow after that and the season concludes Sept. 15.