August 25, 2018

By Mike Weber

St. Helens drivers Jim Potter, Broc Ross and Stephen Kaptur each recorded impressive wins in the Green Lion sponsored race Aug. 25 at River City Speedway in St. Helens. Greg Long and Andy Quilico notched their first CCRA main event wins this year. TJ Landis of West Linn, recorded his second straight main event win of the season in the 11th motorsports event at the Columbia County Fairgrounds clay oval facility.

Kaptur, Greg Brumbaugh of St. Helens and Warren's Teagan Fischer, each posted top-four main event finishes to possibly help them reach their goal of winning consecutive CCRA division titles. The trio are atop their respective division standings with three events remaining. The Labor Day weekend races are up next with the Sept. 1 Reser's Fine Foods sponsored event, followed by the Sept. 2 Modified Shootout.

Potter drove the Cozy Lawn Maintenance/Eaton's Tire & Service Center sponsored 1997 Dodge Neon owned by Bob Berg to victory in the 42-lap Tuner Division main and he earned a $420 purse. Potter started seventh in the 12-car field, he dropped back to 12th place early in the race and then he maneuvered up towards the front by gradually passing the other competitors.Berg, the division leader from St. Helens, had a DNF (didn't finish) after his identical looking Neon had a flat tire and also a broken axle during the main. Jeremy Hughes was runnerup, followed by Kelso's Joel Davis, Sande Simmet of Vancouver and Lynn Yeaman to round out the top-five.

"It was nice to get the win, but I honestly felt like I wouldn't have a chance to win earlier in the day," said Potter, who took third place in the Aug. 4 Tuner main, which was his first time ever competing in this new motorsport classification at the speedway. "About halfway through the main, I felt like I had a good shot at it, but I was just hoping for a top-five finish. I had a good opportunity to win especially after Bob's car broke down and Dick Gaboury's car broke down too. If those two cars would've continued running, then there's no way that I would've won."

Davis, the defending Four-Cylinder Division champion, won heat two with his Economy Auto Wrecking 1996 Nissan Altima. Berg won heat three in his Green Lion sponsored Neon. Jason Scheibel of Longview won the first heat race. Vancouver's Travis Koch won the trophy dash in the Ram Light Truck Salvage 2012 Nissan Sentra owned by Dick Gaboury of Rainier.

"I had to charge through and avoid getting involved in the crashes, so things just kind of fell into my lap," said Potter. "It wasn't easy and there were cars all over the place at the outset of the race. I felt like I could just take my time and drive patiently since there were 42 laps. I picked them off one at a time and I just let everybody wreck themselves because it was like survival of the fittest. I stayed out of the carnage and the car stayed together well. It was nice seeing a Green Lion sponsored car win on a night that Green Lion was the sponsor of the race as well."

Fischer led most of the 30-lap Dwarf Car main event before Long passed her on lap 23 to take the lead and hold her off for the victory. Fischer, 17, took second, with Anthony Brinster of St. Helens, getting third. Brinster was followed by Brandon Braaskma, Coty Belt, Jason Doane and Dave Brune. Defending division champ Fischer also notched second place finishes in the heat race and trophy dash with her TFT Construction/Finish Line Graphics 1934 Ford Sedan two-third scale replica dwarf car.

"I felt pretty good about getting second, it was a really good race and I thought I did pretty well," said Fischer, who is defensive specialist on the St. Helens High Lions OSAA Class 5A volleyball team. "I feel pretty happy to be leading the point standings and it would be really cool if I can win two championships in a row. We haven't had too many cars at most of the races this year. Hopefully, things will be a little different and maybe we'll have a lot more cars at the Labor Day weekend races. I'm hoping that I'll get a top-three finish on both days."

Kaptur, the defending Modified Division champion recorded a sweep in the series as he won the trophy dash, heat and main with the Somers Racing/Hudson Garbage Service open-wheel car owned by "Papa" Don West of St. Helens. West drove his other car to runnerup finishes in all three events.

Landis, who leads the Four-Cylinder Division point standings, was a two-time winner as he drove his Ford Focus to victory in the trophy dash. Landis won the main, followed by Dan McDonald, Jacob Shultz, Yeaman and Ryan Gillett.

Ross of St. Helens, was a two-time winner in the combined Street Stock/Super Stock Division main. Driving the Ross Diesel & Auto 1987 Buick Regal for car owner Terry King of Warren, Ross won the heat and dash and took second in the main to Quilico. Trevor Lively of St. Helens took third in his Lively Repair 1975 Chevrolet Camaro.

Brumbaugh, the defending Street Stock champion, took fourth in his CLT Trucking/Hoyt Construction 1985 Chevy Malibu. Ken Bryan took fifth and David Weaver was sixth. Brumbaugh, 56, leads the division standings and he has a good shot at winning a second consecutive title.