By Mike Weber

River City Speedway's Aug. 4 Fan Appreciation Night was definitely a tremendous amount of fun for children as they received awesome prizes, such as bicycles, scooters and lots of other great toys. It also proved to be a pretty special occasion as well for Trevor Lively, Justin Russell, Matt Jenner, Anthony Brinster and Thane Landis, as they each recorded their first Columbia County Racing Association (CCRA) main event wins of the season.

Bob Berg of St. Helens and Kelso's Trenton Brogan continued to enjoy amazing success as both drivers won their sixth CCRA main event Saturday at the Columbia County Fairgrounds motorsports facility in St. Helens.

Lively of St. Helens, drove his Lively Repair/Smart Start sponsored 1975 Chevrolet Camaro and led from start-to-finish to win the Street Stock Division 20-lap main event. For Lively, who has been competing in stock car racing for just two years, it marked his first ever main event win.

Greg Brumbaugh of St. Helens, took second, followed by Terry King, John Brown and Mark Holenstein. King won the trophy dash and Brumbaugh won the heat race. Lively, who took sixth last year in the division standings, is currently ranked second in the series behind frontrunner and defending Street Stock Brumbaugh.

"It's just great to win my first ever main event and it was exciting to be up front for the whole race," said Lively, 48, the 2017 Street Stock Rookie-of-the-Year, who has recorded seven top-five main event finishes. "Hopefully, I can get a few more wins before the end of the season. I had a pretty good season last year and I had a lot of fun. I made a lot of changes on the car this year and it's finally starting to come around. I've made some adjustments to the suspension and the motor to help make it run better. It's not hard to find problems with a car like this."

Vancouver's Chris West started on the pole position of the 10-car Sportsman/Super Stock main and he led the first 30 laps on the quarter-mile clay oval. Russell of St. Helens, maneuvered up from an eighth place starting spot and moved into second place on lap 10. Russell followed West closely for the next 20 laps and then the two leaders competed side-by-side for half a lap.

Russell then passed West for the lead on the inside of the front straightaway on lap 31 and he led the remainder of the 40-lap race in his Justin Russell Trucking Chevy Monte Carlo to win a $500 first place prize. Russell won by four car lengths over West, with Woodland's Devon Reed in third, Joel Beehler of St. Helens in fourth and Brad Beehler of St. Helens in fifth. Russell and Brad Beehler won the heats and Bernie Lujun of St. Helens, won the trophy dash.

"I had to build a new motor for the car, because it blew up during practice the last time I entered a race here on June 16," said Russell, 36, a five-time CCRA Sportsman Divison champion who was competing for the first time this year. "That car (West's) is really fast and he drives really clean for the most part. We've raced together for a long time and I've never had any trouble with him. I was waiting for the right opportunity to pass and I almost waited too long, because the car was starting to heat up quite a bit since we had so many caution flags. He (West) is really good on restarts and he makes it tough to pass. It was a great race though and I had lots of fun."

Berg maneuvered up from a seventh place start and passed leader Tim Oyler of St. Helens, on lap five and led the remaining 25 laps to capture the Tuner Division main event in his Green Lion/Eaton's Tire & Service Center 1997 Dodge Neon. Berg won by a straightaway length over Vancouver's Sam Simmet. Jim Potter of St. Helens took third place and he won the heat race. Longview's Jason Scheibel was fourth and Oyler took fifth. Berg recorded an impressive sweep with his Cozy Lawn Maintenance sponsored Neon as he also won the trophy dash and the heat race.

"I just put new shocks on the car and I had some work done on the engine, so the car is running pretty well now," said Berg, 54, who earned a $135 prize. "The car felt almost like a rocket ship out there. It was nice to get another sweep, which was the fourth time I've done that this year, so it was really a fun night. I'm hoping to win the championship and also the Rookie-of-the-Year Award. I've never won that before, so it would be kind of nice. Everyone in this class is a rookie, because this is a new division at the track this year."

Jenner of Vancouver, took the lead on the opening lap and led all the way to win the 20-lap Modified Division main event. Jenner, 22, was followed by his dad and former Modified Division champ (2012) Don Jenner, who was runnerup. Don West of Warren took third and defending series champion Stephen Kaptur of St. Helens, was fourth. Matt Jenner won the heat race.

"It feels good to be atop the standings, but it would be more exciting if we had a few more cars competing here," said Kaptur, the division leader who is seeking to win a second consecutive title. "They (the Jenner's) have really fast cars. I've been in every race this year and I'm going to continue doing that and hopefully win another championship this year."

"I had a good time, the car was running really good and I was just happy that my dad has helped me keep the car in such good condition," said Matt Jenner. "Dad and I have had a lot of one, two finishes, but I'm usually the one who finishes in second."

Brinster of St. Helens, won the Dwarf Car Division main in an exciting and close photo finish at the conclusion of the race as his car edged just ahead of runnerup Teagan Fischer of Warren at the finish line. Defending division champ Fischer, 17, was a two-time winner as she won the trophy dash and heat race with her TFT Construction/Finish Line Graphics open-wheel race car.

Landis of West Linn, passed Dan McDonald on lap seven and remained ahead for the duration of the race to win the Four Cylinder Division 30-lap main event in his Ford Focus. Tim Oyler, who competed as a double duty driver while entering two CCRA motorsport classifications, was second, followed by Danny Asher, McDonald and Jim West. Landis was a two-time winner as he also won the trophy dash. Asher and Oyler won the heat races.

Brogan, 14, remained undefeated as won his sixth straight Tracer Division (youth's age 13-15) main with his Ram Light Truck Salvage 1996 Nissan Altima. Kelso's Wendy Vough was runnerup and the two drivers duplicated their finishing order in the trophy dash and heat race as Brogan recorded a sweep with three wins.

The 10th event on the 14-race CCRA schedule is the Aug. 11 Road To The Iron Giant Race beginning at 5 p.m. at the fairgrounds.