

Sports

Von Dohren collects \$20,000 in T.H. Properties Freedom 76 win at Grandview Speedway

by Vicki Gehris
Berks-Mont Writer

Craig Von Dohren returned to the 1/3-mile Grandview Speedway, Bechtelsville, oval for the 2001 NASCAR Weekly Racing Series modified campaign and had a season most drivers would only hope for.

He piloted the BRB Racing/Mrs. T's Pierogies No. 114 to another point championship, won six features including the Forrest Rogers Memorial and Saturday night he put the icing on the cake when he won the T.H. Properties Freedom 76-lap modi-

fied championship race.

Von Dohren didn't have an easy time in capturing his second win in the event, the last time being in 1985, as he put on a fierce battle with runner-up MeMe DeSantis in the final stages of the race.

Brian Kressley set the pace for one lap for the 38-car starting grid at the drop of the green by assistant starter Craig Bower.

Before the second lap could be completed, a multi-car tangle in the fourth turn eliminated Kerry Kratz. The next try was no good since Ray Swinehart and Kenny Gruber got crossed up in turn two. Then Jeff Strunk's distributor broke and he was out of competition followed by Dennis Bailey and Jeff Sechrist's collision in the second turn.

After four tries racing finally continued and Shawn Reimert was the new leader followed by Kressley, Todd Heydt, Tom Mayberry and Kevin Hartnett. Heydt and Mayberry put on quite a battle for the third spot.

By the eighth lap the front runners were already upon lap traffic and had to use heads-up driving.

Reimert kept pulling away from the pack and had a comfort-

able lead built by the 16th lap leaving Kressley, Mayberry, K. Hartnett and Frank Cozze take chase.

Ed Aikin and Rick Schaffer brought the field together on lap 19 when they tangled in the second turn to bring out the yellow.

Reimert held his own on the restart, but by now second through fifth consisted of Kressley, Mayberry, DeSantis and Cozze.

Mayberry and DeSantis took over second and third respectively on the 22nd lap restart needed when Gruber stopped against the third turn wall and set their sights on Reimert.

The yellow came out on the 35th lap when Reimert's battery ceased and he slowed his pace in turn three. It was a tough break for Reimert as he was having his best run thus far.

On the restart DeSantis stormed into first with Mayberry right by his side as the pair battled for several laps with Von Dohren, Kressley and K. Hartnett in tow.

Lap 40 Von Dohren advanced to second and his next goal was DeSantis and the lead.

DeSantis and Von Dohren mixed it up a few laps before Von

Dohren took over first on the 44th circuit.

While Von Dohren showed the way, two through five were up for grabs between DeSantis, Mayberry, defending race champion Billy Pauch and Glenn Strunk. Fast approaching the front runners was Duane Howard.

With 49 laps completed a mandatory fuel stop brought out the red as it was all green flag racing and no caution laps counted.

Von Dohren was still the leader after the red with DeSantis, Mayberry, Pauch and Howard trying to change the status.

Lap after lap the front five were comprised of these same drivers with Pauch and Howard swapping third and fourth.

The healthy lead Von Dohren built up was erased with three laps from completion as Cozze spun in the fourth turn.

Von Dohren wasted no time punching the accelerator on the restart as he knew the likes of DeSantis, Howard, Pauch and Mayberry were right on his bumper waiting for a slip-up.

The leader board never changed and at the wave of the checkered Von Dohren pulled into victory lane for his 47th career

win, tying him with Rick Schaffer. DeSantis tried to regain the lead, but had to settle for second followed by Howard, Pauch and Mayberry. Rounding out the top ten were Randy Stoudt, K. Hartnett, Terry Meitzler, Tracy Readinger and Barry Readinger.

Qualifying heats were sponsored by D&S Archery, Franconia Cafe & Market, P.K. Moyer & Sons Inc., R.L. Kulp Paving, West Point Supply, Ace Hardware, Kochel Equipment, Stoudt Auto Sales and Corrina's Country House. Heat winners were Jeff Sechrist, Todd Heydt, Jack Hartnett, Duane Howard, Ray Swinehart, MeMe DeSantis, Kevin Hartnett and Keith Brightbill. The Cheers Tavern 10-lap Cash Dash worth \$1,000 was won by Brightbill. Doug Manmiller was the winner of the Schaeffer's Racing Minuteman 20. The Area Auto Racing News Hard Luck Award went to Bob Trapper.

Additional information may be had by telephoning 610-754-7688 or check their website at www.grandviewspeedway.com.

Grandview Speedway is located on Passmore Road, just off Route 100, in Bechtelsville, PA,



Photo by Rich Kepner

Doug "Chipper" Manmiller, the Minute Man 20 winner.

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Starting Times begin at 6:00 p.m.

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