

# Howard and Busby share laurels

by Vicki Gehris  
Berks-Mont Writer

Bechtelsville, Pa. – Duane Howard, the '93, '96 and '97 Grandview Speedway modified point champion, has been trying to get into victory lane for the past several weeks at the 1/3-mile oval; but with no success.

Finally Saturday night Howard put the Big Spring Car Wash No. 126 into the winner's circle. He wrestled the lead away from newly-crowned point champion Craig Von Dohren on the 15th lap restart and went on to take home the checkered in the 30-lap modified feature for his first win of the year and the track.

Before the evening's activities got underway, all drivers, owners and their crews stood along the homestretch and joined the fans, and all track personnel to pay a special tribute to the Tuesday tragedies in New York, Washington, DC and Somerset County while track announcer Ernie Saxton read comments from NASCAR Winston Cup driver Bobby Labonte's PR director. Later that evening the drivers went through the stands to take a monetary collection that will be sent to help with the efforts.

The lineup for the feature was heads up as to how a driver finished in their heats since the points are concluded. Jason Smythe started on the pole, but that didn't last long as the drop of the green as Von Dohren put the

Mrs. T. Pierogies No. 114 at the head of the pack.

While Von Dohren set the pace, the action behind him was hot and heavy between Howard, Doug Manmiller, Glenn Strunk and Rick Laubach. Trying to get into the first five were Shawn Reimert and Jeff Strunk.

Rick Schaffer and Keith Brightbill tangled coming off of turn four to bring out the yellow on the 11th circuit. Von Dohren held his post when action resumed, with Howard making advances.

Von Dohren and Howard battled as the laps wound down and just waiting behind them for something to unfurl were J. Strunk, Tom Mayberry and Manmiller, but both drivers drove like professionals.

Joe Biasi brought out the next caution period when he stopped in the fourth turn with 14 laps in the books. On the restart with Von Dohren running the high line and Howard down low, Howard managed to take the lead. Von Dohren didn't surrender easily as he stayed right with Howard in an effort to regain first.

Howard and Von Dohren put on quite a battle for the number one spot with neither one losing determination to get ahead.

Howard never looked back once he became the leader and pulled into victory lane for the first time since he won the Freedom 76 on September 11,

1999 for his 14th career win. Following Howard across were Von Dohren, J. Strunk, Mayberry and G. Strunk. Rounding out the top ten were Manmiller, Jon Kellner, who came on strong after starting last; Ray Swinehart, Kerry Kratz and Ryan Watt.

Heats winners were Smythe, Von Dohren, Howard, Manmiller and Laubach. Ron Mawson, Brightbill and Swinehart won the consies. The 3-lap Automotive Machining Services Cash Dash worth \$358 went to Von Dohren.

## URC Feature

Jeff Busby, a rookie sprint car racing talent, won his second of the season with the United Racing Club sprint cars when he took the win in a 20-lap feature, shortened from the original 25-lap event.

Busby took the lead with his JOB Construction entry at the start and led all the laps of the Bar's Leaks URC sprint feature. Kevin Welsh was coming on strong, and probably could have used the five laps cut from the event by URC officials to his advantage, but had to settle for a second place. Chris Coyle, current URC point leader, finished a solid third. Impressive was Mike Hagenbottom as he went to the rear of the field early and charged back toward the front to grab fourth. Sam Ross earned a solid fifth place finish.

The feature included a variety of incidents and cautions that created almost 40 caution laps. To

avoid a "late night" fuel stop URC officials cut the feature to 20 laps catching some racers and fans by surprise. There were no injuries as a result of any of the accidents.

Qualifying events for the URC sprinters went to Sam Ross, Kevin Welsh, Jeff Busby and Mike Hagenbottom. The "B" Feature was won by Ashley Parlett.

The final regular season Saturday night show of stock car racing will be presented September 22, with a 5 p.m. starting time. Featured will be open competition modifieds, late models and sportsman stock cars.

Modified and late model racers are reminded, for the open competition events, conventional bodies only are allowed.

Open carburetors. Open wheel and tires. No fuel injection.

No BAT cars and for the modifieds there is a mandatory 2350 pound weight rule.

Pits will open at 2 p.m. Cars should be signed in by 3 p.m. Racing will get the green flag at 5 p.m. For spectators the gates will open at 3 p.m.

Saturday, October 20, at 6 p.m. the NAPA Auto Parts Thunder on the Hill Show will offer features only including 410 sprints, modifieds, KARS sprints, ARDC midjets and late model stock cars.

Plans are being made to include a Halloween party as part of the race activities.

Saturday, October 27, the



Photo by Rich Kepner  
Duane Howard waves the American flag along with the checkered flag signifying his win at Grandview Saturday, September 15. Howard was the 30 lap modified feature winner.

annual auto racing flea market will be staged on the speedway grounds.

Saturday, November 17, the annual Grandview Speedway Awards Banquet will be presented at the Gilbertsville, PA Fire Hall starting at 6 p.m. Doors open at 4 p.m.

Grandview Speedway is located on Passmore Road, just off Route 100 in Bechtelsville, PA, 10 miles north of Pottstown.

For racing information telephone 610.754.7688 or visit their website at www.grandviewsspeedway.com.



Photo by Rich Kepner

Jeff Busby and friend stand in front of his car in the winners circle. Busby was the winner of the BarsLeaks URC Sprint Series feature at grandview speedway Saturday, September 15. Grandview has a number of events planned into November. Read the above article to see what is coming up in the near future.



Photo by Rich Kepner  
Duane Howard in car 126 battles Craig VonDohren for the lead in Saturday night's action at Grandview Speedway. Von Dohren in car 114 holds a slight edge as the two come out of the curve onto the straightaway. Howard won the 30 lap modified feature, defeating the newly crowned point champion VonDohren. Grandview has plenty planned through November. read the above article to find out what is on tap in the near future.

**SPORTS DEADLINE:** The Boyertown Area Times sports deadline is 12 noon every Monday. The Times sports staff will consider any local information on a team or athlete for publication as long as the information is received by deadline.

"You have not lost until you quit trying."  
-Mike Ditka

## HUNTING & FISHING

### HUNTERS SHARPEN YOUR VISION

We Carry Specially Treated Lens To Better Your VISION Whether Hunting Or Just Target Shooting

Eye Exams & Contact Lenses At Reasonable Rates

### BOYERTOWN VISION CENTER

135 North Reading Avenue, Boyertown (610) 367-2140

**Maple Grove RACEWAY** 610-856-7200  
10 miles south of Reading off Route 10  
www.maplegrove-raceway.com

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Saturday, Sept. 22.....Grudge Event  
Sunday, Sept. 23.....NED. E.T. Finals Warm-Up Bracket Race

Rescheduled Oct. 4-7 .....17th Annual NHRA Keystone nationals

**the silver shoppe**  
Come and see my collection of fine jewelry in Sterling Silver designed and handcrafted in Sanatoga.  
Uwe Bauer SILVERSMITH  
2452 EAST HIGH ST. POTTSTOWN  
610-323-4994  
HOURS: Wednesday & Thursday 11-6 Friday 11-7; Saturday 10-5 Closed Sunday, Monday & Tuesday

**GRANDVIEW Speedway U.S.A.**  
WWW.GRANDVIEWSSPEEDWAY.COM  
SAT., SEPT. 22 - 5:00 P.M.  
★ REGULAR SEASON FINALE ★  
OPEN COMPETITION MODIFIEDS, LATE MODELS & SPORTSMAN  
LAST CHANCE TO WIN A RIDE IN THE NEW TWO-SEAT MODIFIED

THANKS TO FANS, COMPETITORS, CREWS, OFFICIALS AND MEDIA FOR ANOTHER FINE SEASON

COMING: OCT. 20 - NAPA THUNDER ON THE HILL 410 Sprints, Modifieds, Late Models, KARS Sprints & Midjets - Features Only  
OCT. 27 - FLEA MARKET

SEE THE VERY BEST DIRT TRACK RACING TALENTS IN ACTION  
• Non-Alcohol Grandstand Seating • Free Parking  
• Family Entertainment • Award Winning Concessions

The Greatest Show On Dirt!  
ROUTE 100, BECHTELSTVILLE, PA 610-754-7688  
SEE THE VERY BEST DIRT TRACK RACING TALENTS IN ACTION!!

Send them BACK TO college with a subscription to The Boyertown Area Times

Certainly going away to college can be a rewarding and fun experience, but every student now and then becomes a bit lonely for the folks at home. A very welcome visitor on campus will be The Boyertown Area Times.

Special College Subscription Rate \$21<sup>00</sup>

Mail to: Berks-Mont Newspapers, Inc. (Times - College)  
124 N. Chestnut St., P.O. Box 565  
Boyertown, PA 19512

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
College \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Must Accompany This Coupon  
Paid By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_