

Roaring weekend ahead at SIR

By Jarrett Smith, The StarPhoenix July 25, 2009

The smell of burning rubber and racing fuel will fill the air south of Saskatoon again this weekend as Saskatchewan International Raceway is set to hold races No. 6 and No. 7 in the season point series.

Tonight, fans will experience a smoke show most aren't used to seeing at a drag strip as the National Hot Rod Diesel Association invades SIR for the first time. The event features some of the fastest diesel vehicles in North America. The combination of white smoke and black soot is a show racing fans won't want to miss.

The program Sunday -- the NHRA King of the Track Challenge -- is what many racers consider their favourite event of the season. On a normal race day, each category runs eliminations until two cars are left in the final. At the King of the Track, each class champion continues on to a final showdown against the class champions from the other divisions.

All classes -- super pro, pro, sportsman, sport compact and street legal -- are represented in the event, with the winner taking home a Wally Trophy, which is the same trophy awarded at an NHRA national event.

The weekend will also have junior dragster eliminations.

In the SIR points series, there has been a major shakeup in super pro after Lee Lyons of Regina posted a win and a top-four finish in the latest race weekend to take over top spot in the class.

Saskatoon's Alex Faure, who was the runner-up to Lyons on Sunday, now finds himself in second position, while Gord Spak of Saskatoon has dropped from first to third.

Brian Hebert of Regina had another strong weekend and increased his lead atop the pro category. Mike Cote of Vanscoy is second and Dwight Twigge of Martensville is third.

Cote is first in the sportsman division. Breathing down Cote's neck, only 12 points behind, is Bob Gaunt of Pennant with his classic 1955 Chevy 210. Brent Flaman of Regina rounds out the top three with his 1969 Chevelle Wagon.

Adam Knutson of Regina completed a weekend sweep in his 2004 Dodge SRT-4 to take the lead in the sport compact class. Max Koenders of Watson is close behind in second and Ryan Galarneau of Saskatoon is third with his '93 Del Sol.

Dwane Park of Lucky Lake, the series runner-up in the street legal division last season, is setting the pace this year. Chad Penner of Martensville has slipped to second place. John Bird of Moose Jaw is third with his '70 Duster.

Davis Roach of Saskatoon is the new leader in junior dragster. Alyssa Hicks of Regina is second, while Shelby Schultz of Warman has been pushed to third place after going into the previous race weekend in first.

Racer gates open at 9 a.m. today, time trials go at noon, spectator gates open at 2 p.m. and eliminations begin at 4 p.m. and run into the evening.

Sunday, racer gates open at 8 a.m., time trials start at 9 and eliminations get underway at 1:30 p.m. Spectator gates open at 10 a.m. for fans who want to get a day full of racing.

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