



Official Press Release

“THE TOUGHEST SHORT TRACK IN THE SOUTH”

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Attn: Sports Department

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J.M. Wilkinson Memorial Opening Night at Southside Speedway

Midlothian, VA...Southside Speedway kicked off its 50th season in style on Friday April 11th with J.M. Wilkinson Memorial Night, a tribute to promotor Sue Clements' father and Southside Speedway founder. A huge crowd was on hand to enjoy “The Toughest Short Track in the South” and a beautiful night of spring weather.

The Grand Stocks started the night with the first of their twin 25 lap races. Daniel Shelton qualified on the pole to win the \$100 Stefi Enterprises Pole Award, but started seventh due to the invert. The field of 21 drivers battled with Jamie Neely inheriting the pole, and Brian Myslivy quickly overtaking him to grab the lead. Several drivers made a run at Myslivy for the lead, but were unsuccessful as he held them off to win the first event of the season. Keith Mackta, who returned from Germany for the event, came in second followed by Neely in third.

In the second twin Grand Stock 25 lap event, the field was once again inverted 7 positions to put Daniel Shelton on the pole with Chris Hott, the 2007 Grand Stock champion, on the outside. Donnie Newman joined the battle as the three fought it out throughout the race. Shelton stayed out front and emerged victorious followed by Newman and Hott. After all was said and done, the 2008 points battle in the Grand Stock Division is heating up with Newman, Hott, Shelton, and Fred Key tied for the top position in the points standings.

In the Modified Division, Thomas Stinson returned to Southside Speedway to defend his 4 time Division championship. During intermission, the Speedway unveiled a sign in the grandstands at turn one to honor his achievements. The Southside Speedway Pole award was given to Stinson, who started 7th due to the inverted start. Chris Johnson, Thomas Stinson, and Kyle Wood vied for the top three positions. Wood led the race for over 15 laps before being overtaken by Johnson. Johnson held onto the lead for the remainder of the 50 lap race with Stinson making a run for the lead during the last 5 laps, but coming in second, followed behind by Wood. This was Johnson's first win in the Modified Division.

The U-Cars kicked off their season with a 25 lap feature with Daniel Thomas drawing the lucky pole position. Thomas jumped out to an early lead in the 20 car field, but faded in the later stages. Jody Young took the checkered flag, followed by Renno Marchetti, who came from the 15th starting position, and Lindsay Bryant.

The Macka Karts started their season with a 20 lap feature with Alan Purser starting on the pole. The 6th place starter, Mark Claytor, quickly took the lead on lap 2 and maintained it for the win. Finishing second was Stan Holmes, followed by Purser.

Racing continues Friday night, April 18th with twin 50s for the Late Models and 50 laps for the Street Stocks. U-Cars will also be on tap with a 25 lap feature. Pit gates open at 3pm, front gates open at 6pm with qualifying at 6:30. Racing gets underway at 7:30pm. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for Seniors/Military, kids 7-12 are \$5, and 6 and under are free.

Tickets for the big night of racing on Thursday, May 1st, featuring Denny Hamlin and Curtis Markham, go on sale Friday April 18th at 3pm at the speedway. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 7-12. A portion of the night's proceeds will benefit the Denny Hamlin Foundation.

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www.southside-speedway.com