

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

"The Toughest Short Track in the South!"



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Attn: Sports Department

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Subject: Opening Night – June 24, 2011

Southside Opens Season with an Exciting J.M. Wilkinson Memorial Night

By Sara Page
Southside Speedway

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. – The start of the season may have been delayed a couple months but drivers made it worth the wait for Friday night's J.M. Wilkinson Memorial race.

The Street Stocks took the track last in the six-race slate but put on the best show. Twice cars rode the wall and a black flagged car marched from eighth position to second in just 10 laps.

Mike Gano saw the black flag waving in his direction with 10 laps to go for jumping the start and changing lanes. Gano didn't let it stop him. He flew threw the pack, taking fifth on the first lap after the restart. In third with three laps left, Gano kept the pedal to the metal and finished second after Gary Turner in the second spot rode the wall on the front stretch and gave up the position.

Turner wasn't the first to ride the wall in the Street Stock race. Coming out of a caution Wayne Groome and Justin Groome got hung up and put two wheels each on the wall in the back stretch. Justin Groome lost a tire in turn four trying to clear the mess.

Brian Smith won the race. Top five were Smith, Gano, Gary Turner, James Loving and Paul Clemons.

In the other races, Jeff Oakley won the Late Model 75-lap feature ahead of Adam Resnick, Brad Davis, Chris Johnson and Mike Kersey.

Stanley Holmes won the Champ Kart race with Chris Williams, Buzz Moore, Tanner Aman and Jason Higginbotham rounding out the top five.

Racing at Southside Speedway for the first time in four years, the Legends division beat their way around the short track. Taking top honors was Brad Hancock, Rhetta Causey, Michael Edwards, Chris Raiford and Kevin Yeatts.

Top five in the Grand Stock were Daniel Shelton, Donnie Newman, Kevin Wilson, Todd Ruggles and Cory Willoughby; and top five in the U-Car division were Mike Chapman, Michael Hall, Rusty Reynett, Richard Powers and Jamie Hite.

Racing continues Sunday, July 3 with seven divisions taking the track. Gates open at 3:00pm, qualifying at 3:35, driver's meet & greet at 4:30 and racing at 5:30. For more information, please visit www.southsidespeedway.com.

Southside Speedway is a 1/3 mile, paved oval track located on Genito Road in Midlothian. The speedway was established in 1959 by J.M. Wilkinson and is currently operated by his daughter, Sue W. Clements. The speedway features eight divisions including Late Model, Modified, Grand Stock, Street Stock, U-Car, Champ Kart, Legend and Pro-6. The 2011 season will run from June through October.

12800 Genito Road – Midlothian, VA 23112
www.southsidespeedway.com