

Racing Saturday at Salem Speeday

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 20 April 2010 00:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 20 April 2010 10:43

Three divisions are set to share the Salem Speedway high banks on Saturday night, as racing returns to the legendary oval for the Casey's General Store Spring Speed Fest, presented by Salem True Value Hardware.

The ARCA Truck Series headlines the racing action, which also includes the season opening events for the Lucas Oil Super Stocks and Dave & Deb's Winner's Circle Street Stocks.

"This is an exciting line-up and a great way to kick-off our first Saturday night program of the season," said Salem Speedway general manager Richard Deaton. "The ARCA Truck Series, Super Stocks and Street Stocks always provide some outstanding racing action."

Defending series champion Paul Hahn of Canton, Mich., and defending race winner Danny Jackson of Loveland, Ohio, are set to lead a distinguished group of ARCA Truck Series drivers onto the famed high banks for the Casey's General Store Spring Speed Fest.

In 10 previous ARCA Truck Series races at Salem Speedway, dating back to the 1999 season, 10 different winners have emerged. Jackson, a second-generation driver, and Hahn, who won at Salem in 2003, are looking to end the string of no-repeat winners in ARCA Truck Series action at Salem.

Expected to join Hahn and Jackson for the season opening ARCA Truck Series event are series veterans Frank Wilson Jr. of Belmont, W.Va., who finished third at Salem last season, Brad Yunker of Maumee, Ohio, and Mike Young of Toledo, among others.

Add in a host of talented young rookies and you have yet another ARCA Truck Series event with several truck-driver combinations capable of visiting victory lane.

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Defending series champions Frank Kimmel II of Borden, Ind., and Brian Bayer of Birdseye, Ind., top the list of drivers expected for the season opening Lucas Oil Super Stock and Dave & Deb's Winner's Circle Street Stock events.

Kimmel, a third-generation driver who is finishing up his freshman year at UNC Charlotte, beat out two-time series champion (2004-2005) Todd Kempf of Huntingburg, Ind., for the 2009 Lucas Oil Super Stock title. Kempf is expected to make a strong bid for the 2010 title, as is Chris French of Vine Grove, Ky., who won the 2007 Super Stock championship.

Another former Lucas Oil Super Stock champion, John Cozart (1998) of New Albany, is returning to the high banks for the first time in several years and is planning a full season with the Super Stock division.

Among the drivers hoping to deny Bayer back-to-back Street Stock championships is Casey Heavrin of Jeffersonville, who has finished runner-up in the standings the past two years. Heavrin captured the 2001 Street Stock championship at Salem.

Other top Dave & Deb's Winner's Circle Street Stock drivers expected for the season opener include 2006 track champion David Bayens of Memphis, Ind., and 2009 Papa John's Rookie of the Year Winston Wood of Bloomington, among others.

Spectator gates open on Saturday at 3 p.m., with practice at 3:30 p.m., qualifications at 5:30 p.m. and the first race at 7 p.m. (EDT).

Advance general admission tickets are priced at \$12 for adults and \$3 for children (age 7-12). Kids, age 6 and under, are admitted free. Advance tickets are available at the Speedway office or by calling 812-883-6504 or toll free 1-888-246-7223.

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