

Salem Speedway kicks-off 67th season Sunday

Written by George Browning
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Salem Speedway kicks-off its 67th year on Sunday afternoon, April 7th with four different divisions visiting the quarter-mile infield oval for the season opening Taco Bell/Pizza Hut Express Short-Track Festival.

The O'Reilly Auto Parts Pure Stocks, Portland Recycling Front Wheel Drive Stocks and the FAST Series Legends Cars and Bandoleros are set to share the track for a full slate of racing action.

"We're anticipating a great afternoon of racing," said Salem Speedway general manager Richard Deaton. "The infield short-track produced some very close and spirited racing in 2012 and we are expecting more of the same this season."

The Taco Bell/Pizza Hut Express Short-Track Festival marks the season opening event for both the O'Reilly Auto Parts Pure Stocks and Portland Recycling Front Wheel Drive Stocks.

Mike Kestler of Louisville and Travis Rogers top the list of drivers expected for the O'Reilly Auto Parts Pure Stock portion of the Short-Track Festival. Those two drivers have finished first and second in the season standing the past two years.

Winning back-to-back championships has not been easy for Kestler, as he finished just 12 points in front of Rogers in 2011 and 15 ahead of the Charlestown, Ind., driver last season.

Rogers is hoping to reverse the finishing order in 2013.

Louisville Manual High School student, Austin Baum of Shepherdsville, Ky., is set to return to Salem in defense of his Portland Recycling Front Wheel Drive divisional title.

Baum won three races on the way to the 2012 championship, as he finished 84 points in front of Bill Grove of Jeffersonville, Ind. Grove is expected to battle Baum and a host of other contenders for the 2013 track championship.

The Webb brothers of Jeffersonville, Taylor and Alec, along with members of a famed central Indiana racing family, Jack Dossey Jr. and Jack Dossey III, are expected to headline a solid group of drivers for the FAST Series Legends Cars on Sunday.

Taylor Webb passed Dossey Jr. with six laps remaining to post his third win at Salem last July. Dossey Jr. is a former Legends Series National Masters Champion and Dossey III is the series Young-Lions Champion.

Spectator gates open and practice begins at 11 a.m. on April 7th, with qualifications at 12:30 p.m. and the first race at 1:30 p.m. (EDT).

There will be heat races and feature events for all divisions.

Advance tickets, priced at just \$8 for adults and \$3 for children (age 7-12), may be purchased by visiting the Salem Speedway office or by calling 812-883-6504 or toll free 1-888-246-7223.

Tickets are also available on-line at www.salemspeedway.com.