

Scrader and Kimmel top list of drivers for ARCA 200 at Speedway

Written by Administrator

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The ultimate challenge of 200 laps faces ARCA RE/MAX Series veterans and rookies in the \$105,802 Kentuckiana Ford Dealers ARCA 200, presented by Federated Car Care at Salem Speedway on Sunday afternoon.

It's the first short-track race of the season for the ARCA RE/MAX Series after an early season visit to Daytona International Speedway for the Lucas Oil Slick Mist 200.

Eight different drivers have won the last nine ARCA RE/MAX Series races on the lightning-fast high banks, which are known for separating "the men from the boys" in ARCA competition. Overall, 48 different drivers have won 84 previous ARCA races at Salem.

Frank Kimmel, the all-time ARCA RE/MAX Series race winner at Salem with nine wins, and Ken Schrader, an ARCA RE/MAX Series race winner at Salem in 1999, top the list of entries for Sunday's race.

Kimmel, who snapped an eight-race winless streak at Salem with a victory in last fall's Eddie Gilstrap Motors ARCA 200, is hoping to post his first back-to-back wins on the famed half-mile oval since the 2002 season.

Schrader, who finished second at Salem last spring to current NASCAR Nationwide Series driver Justin Allgaier, has competed in eight previous ARCA events at Salem with six top three finishes to his credit.

Among those hoping to deny Kimmel and Schrader a return to Salem's victory lane are Justin Lofton of Westmoreland, Calif., and Brent Sherman of Barrington, Ill.

Lofton, who drives the Lofton Cattle Toyota for Eddie Sharp Racing, is coming off an impressive third place finish in the Lucas Oil Slick Mist 200 at Daytona in February.

Sherman, a rising star in the ARCA RE/MAX Series before heading south to race with the NASCAR Nationwide Series, is looking to make his first ARCA start since winning at Michigan International Speedway in 2006.

Other top drivers expected for the Kentuckiana Ford Dealers ARCA 200 include Ken Weaver of Dallas, Tex., Patrick Sheltra of Indiantown, Fla., Tom Hessert of Cherry Hill, N.J., and Bryan Silas of Stuart, Fla.

Area drivers entered include Darrell and Jason Basham of Henryville, Ind., and Brett Hudson of Owensboro, Ky.

74-year-old NASCAR legend James Hylton of Inman, SC, who finished second in the 1966 and 1967 Cup standings, has also filed an entry for Sunday's race.

Sharing the high banks with the ARCA RE/MAX Series on Saturday and Sunday will be the Lucas Oil Super Stocks.

Defending Lucas Oil Super Stock champion Skeeter Crum of Jeffersonville, Ind., plus former champions Todd Kempf (2004-2005) of Huntingburg, Ind., and Chris French (2007) of Vine Grove, Ky., are expected to lead the way as the chase begins for the 2009 title.

Practice and qualifications for the ARCA RE/MAX Series and the Lucas Oil Super Stocks takes place on Saturday. Practice gets underway at 11:30 a.m. and qualifications at 2:15 p.m. Sunday's activities kick-off with the annual on-track autograph session at 11:30 a.m., followed by the Federated Car Care 50 for the Lucas Oil Super Stocks at 1 p.m. The Kentuckiana Ford Dealers 200 by Federated Auto Parts is set to take the green flag at 2:15 p.m.

Tickets, both reserved and general admission, are now selling and may be purchased by calling 812-883-6504 or toll free 1-888-246-7223. Advance general admission tickets are priced at \$23 for adults and \$5 for children (age 7-12). Kids, age 6 and under, are admitted free with an adult. Advance reserved seat tickets are \$28 each. All prices are \$2 more weekend of race.