



Sprint car winner Shane Cockrum standing in victory lane

Cockrum goes flag to flag to win Jerry Gappens Sr. Memorial

The Flying Fireman, Shane Cockrum of Benton, Ill., led all 25 laps of the non-wing sprint car feature to collect its \$2,020 first prize during the Jerry Gappens Sr. Memorial, a huge, five-division show honoring the promoter's late father Friday night at Gas City I-69 Speedway.

Zeke McKenzie of Claypool, won the 20-lap modified feature, while Andy Bishop of Gas City was victorious in the 15-lap street stock main event. James Headley of Marion, repeated as the hornet feature winner, this time chased to the line by his son, James Headley Jr. of Wabash, after 15 laps of the quarter-mile dirt oval. Fourteen-year-old Darin Naida of Adrian, Mich. took the top honors in the 15-lap winged outlaw micro-sprint feature followed by Reece Saldana, of Brownsburg.

The program featured 93 race cars.

Austin Nigh of Greenfield, started on the pole of the sprint car feature and had a spectacular save after he biked wildly in Turn 2 on the first lap. Cockrum, 38, who started second in Jamie and Michelle Paul's High ASSpirations Farms DRC Foxco, took advantage of Nigh's predicament and led the whole race. Scotty Weir of Marion, chased him most of the way but couldn't catch him, even after a restart with four laps down due to a spin by Sterling Cling of Indianapolis.

McKenzie started on the pole in the modified feature in the BZ Enterprises No. 24 and led the whole way despite four caution flags that obliterated his lead. One of them occurred with four laps down when Derek Losh of Rensselaer, Ind., last week's winner, spun out of second place in Turn 2 and then stopped in Turn 4.

Bishop, the defending street stock champion, started second in that feature, passed polesitter Mike Fischer to the outside in Turn 3 working lap two, and led the rest of the way despite a caution that tightened up the field behind his Thompson Trucking/R&R Transmissions No. 14. Fischer made a bid for the lead on the restart on lap 10 and

he and Bishop were abreast in Turns 1 and 2, but Bishop fought him off and still led in Turn 4.

Bishop was able to extend his lead during the last five laps. Fischer finished second followed by Justin Long of Lima, Ohio; Jeffery Jessup of Union City, Ind., and D.J. Holt of Marion, Ind.

The hornet feature was the most entertaining main event of the evening. Young James Headley Jr. started second, got the jump on the polesitter, his father, James Headley, at the start, and led the first five laps. His father led lap six before bowing to his son again on lap seven. The elder Headley made the winning move on the backstretch working lap eight

and led the rest of the way for a Headley family one-two. Dudding's Heating and Cooling, Garriott Electric, Edwards Automotive and TJR Trucking sponsor the Headley cars, among other companies.

Saldana started on the pole of the winged outlaw micros feature and led the first two laps before Naida charged under him in Turn 3. Naida led the rest of the way in the Ollie's Bargain Outlet No. 7N, and he had the biggest lead of the evening at the checkered. Saldana placed second over Jon Treadeu of Grass Lake, Mich.; Levi Winget of Wabash, and Brandon Sweat of Van Buren.



"The Flying Fireman," Shane Cockrum, works his way around a competitor at Gas City I-69 Speedway.

Oak Hill

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and I honestly don't think we could have ended up in a better position. I'm ecstatic with who we got."

The process took about 14 days, but despite the quick turnaround, Bolser is eager to get started.

"This was a unique situation, and something that was very positive for us," Bolser said. "Having the conversation with my daughters about whether or not this was a good plan, they knew the desire was still in me. They grew up watching me coach, so they were very supportive of it."

"It was tough, because I have a lot of respect for the people at Rossville. I love the job. I love the community. The school itself, [and] our superintendent, is fantastic. This was not an off-the-cuff decision. This was something [where] there was a lot of thought [involved.] It had to be the right situation at the right time, and I think there was no doubt when I started really reflecting on it."

Like the majority of schools in Indiana, Oak Hill will begin its summer workout program on July 6.

While there will be some differences, Bolser said he does not plan to make any drastic alterations.

"Obviously, there are going to be changes in communication and how we do things, but there are certain things you don't just want to come in and change for

[change's sake,] and you certainly don't want to disrupt something that has been as successful as Oak Hill girls' basketball has been for the last 13-14 years," he said.

Bolser takes over a program that has developed into one of Indiana's best over the last 16 years. Law led the Golden Eagles to 305 wins, eight Grant Four championships, 11 CIC championships, seven sectional championships, five regional championships, four semi-state championships and a Class 2A state title in 2019.

Bolser is ready to carry on the success and tradition that is Oak Hill girls' basketball.

"I obviously knew about the success that had gone on. My daughters played against them when they were at North Miami and then again at Mississinewa," he said. "I can't even really express the amount of respect I have for Coach Law and how he has been able to build the program, and I look forward to continuing that. Within the basketball program, we want to continue to have the highest of expectations and build on the tradition. We want to continue to build on that and make ourselves better. We are going to push and challenge the girls to be the best athlete they possibly can be, [as well as] the best teammates."

Myers

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Athlete Award his senior year.

"The thing with Brent, in hearing stories about him, you've got a guy that has a toughness about him," McCord said. "He was a guy you wanted to have as a teammate because he was a quintessential teammate in every sense of the word. This guy has competed at the highest level in every sport he played, and again, it goes right along with this class. When you look at great, all-around athletes, he is one of the guys at the top of the list."

In January 1973, Myers was drafted in the sixth round of the NFL draft by the Oakland Raiders, who at that time were one of the top teams in the league. In 1974, however, Myers changed course, giving up a potential professional football career to pursue a career in education. He relocated to the southern United States, where he served in academia until his

retirement.

Throughout his athletic career, Myers exemplified what it means to be a Marion Giant. He played for the logo on the front of his jersey rather than the name on the back. He did not care about personal accolades. Rather, it was team before self, and he did whatever was required of him to be the best teammate regardless of which sport he played.

And for that, his accomplishments will forever be enshrined.

"When you look at Brent Myers, he was a winner," McCord said. "The football teams he was a part of were outstanding. The basketball teams he was a part of were outstanding. He was a state level competitor in track. He got the job done, and he busted his tail for his teammates. He was the glue that held things together and was an integral part to the success of Marion High School athletics in the '60s."