

September 29, 2006 Chateau Raceway Classic Dwarf Report by Matthew Grage

Chateau Raceway in Lansing rolled out the red carpet for one more show before wrapping up the 50th Anniversary Season of Racing Friday Night. Both B and B Cafe of Albert Lea, who was the tracks weekly sponsor, along with Husqvarna, who has been an outstanding season long sponsor of the track, were excited as the track presented "Chateau Raceways First Annual WISSOTA Midwest Modified and WISSOTA Street Stock Fall Nationals".

The night's program got off to a slow start when a light shower rolled into the area about an hour and a half before race time. The rain continued for a little better than an hour before moving off. Track officials made the decision to blade the track and pack it back in to get the show in and with the cooperation of all the drivers the show was delayed less than an hour. When racing did start the show was run off in just about two and a half hours with lots of exciting racing action.

Also on hand for a support class were the Classic Dwarf drivers. In heat one Matt Goodin of Des Moines Iowa, making his first appearance at the track this season, took advantage of some late race misfortune for Kevin Bigalk of Austin to snag a win. Bigalk spun on lap seven but got the car going again as he tried to save a good finishing spot. As he continued another spin occurred in another corner and that driver could not keep going which brought out a caution. That saved Kevin as he got his spot back as they went back to the last completed lap which meant he would lead the field in for the restart. However as they came in for the green something else went wrong with Kevin's car and he pulled to the pits handing the lead over to Goodin who drove home to the win. In heat two Drew Jech of Austin came off the outside of the front row to lead flag to flag for the win.

In the classes main event things got pretty wild. As the field came in to take the green the front of the field bunched up as they came to the flag stand and Curt Luhmann of Rushford wheel hopped over the left side of Harmony's Tate Bestor's car. The car jumped up on two wheels showing it's under carriage to the grandstand. It appeared he was going to roll but the car settled back down onto all four wheels. Both Luhman's and Bestor's cars were to damaged from the contact however to continue. Corey Whalen of Harmony and Goodin were the front row starters and it was Goodin who took the early lead with Whalen falling in line third behind Jech who jumped from row three to second on the races first lap. The two set a very fast pace and were lapping cars on lap five. On lap six, as they tried to work traffic out of turn two, Goodin was blocked by a slower car and Jech skirted to the outside to take the lead as they went down the back straightaway. As they came through turn three another slower car spun right in front of Goodin and he drove right up on to the hood of the car. Everybody watched as the wrecker lifted his front end up so they could back the other car out from under him wondering if he was going to be able to continue. When they got him free he was indeed able to continue and with the race going back to the last completed lap he was back on point. Off the drop of the green Goodin's car responded well and he continued to maintain the lead. Jech meanwhile made a few attempts to pass but had his hands full with Rick Utley of Byron. Goodin used that to his advantage and drove off to the win and a sweep on the night. Utley made the late pass to take second over Jech.

Chateau Raceway now looks forward to its annual Car Show next March and a return to racing come April or as soon as Mother Nature will allow it next spring as the track looks forward to its 51st year of racing action in Lansing.

Heat 1	Heat 2	Feature	
1. Matt Goodin	1. Drew Jech	1. Matt Goodin	9. Matt Williamson
2. Rick Utley	2. Tate Bestor	2. Rick Utley	10. Charles Barth
3. Joel Huggins	3. Corey Whalen	3. Drew Jech	11. Joel Huggins
4. Charles Barth	4. Curtis Luhmann	4. Corey Whalen	12. Bob Michaelis
5. Matt Williamson	5. Jeff Jech	5. Jeff Jech	13. Dave Anderson
6. Bob Michaelis	6. John Griffin	6. Eric Hendrickson	14. Tate Bestor (dnf)
7. Kevin Bigalk	7. David Sikora	7. John Griffin	15. Curtis Luhmann (dnf)
8. Eric Hendrickson	8. Dave Anderson	8. David Sikora	16. Kevin Bigalk (dns)