

## LEBANON I-44 SPEEDWAY

# Michael Juergensen brings home victory in NASCAR Street Stock



### From Ronnie Williams

Another week has gone and passed at Lebanon I-44 Speedway as the "One wheel revolution stunt show" was held this past Saturday.

NASCAR Street Stock action saw fast qualifier Michael Juergensen take the lead on the start from his pole spot and dominate the 15 lap feature taking his second win of the season. While Juergensen was taking a Saturday Night drive on Missouri's only active asphalt oval, the real race was for the runner-up spot as point leader Jordan Nisbett and two-time winner Aaron Douglas. Both drivers kept the action tight in the caution free feature as they ran the last five laps door to door before Douglas took the second place spot with Nisbett, Tony Johnson and Nick Cherry completing the top five. Juergensen set fast time with a lap of 17.214, just a tick off the track record and took the heat of the evening.

Mooresville, North Carolina resident Jerrick Johnson made the trip to Lebanon I-44 eventful as he held back Many Chick for the entire 30 lap feature in becoming the fourth different NASCAR Pro Late Model feature winner in four events this season in NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Action.

Johnson, originally from Moberly, relocated to North Carolina and hadn't competed at the high banks since 2002. Johnson made a clean sweep of the action by setting fast time, captured the dash and then had to fend back Chick the entire distance in the caution free feature.

After drawing a one for the evening, Johnson and Chick brought the field to the green with current point leader Mike Sloan and Tim Swearingin in row two. Johnson grabbed the opening lead with Chick following close behind on his bumper with Missouri NASCAR and I-44 track point leader, Mike Slone settling into third place. With Johnson protecting that top groove, Chick had attempted several laps to move to the inside of Johnson especially in turn two. Chick, The NASCAR Missouri Rookie of the Year, looked to be set for her first career late model victory on lap 22 as she got a strong run on the leader and pulled even with Johnson down the backstretch but Johnson would pull away by less than one car at the stripe. On the final lap, Chick again made a move off turn two, but Johnson would hold back the last lap challenge to gather the win with Chick posting the runner-up spot for the second straight week, followed by Slone, Swearingin, and Hartford.

Johnson set quick time with a 14.708 and also captured the Fast Dash while points runner-up and leading Rookie contender Jake Piel of St. Louis took the position heat.

Current Modified point leader Ricky Icenhower came roaring from his ninth starting spot to capture his third NASCAR Modified win of the season, but it wasn't easy. Lebanon's Chris Johnson jumped to the opening lead with Harrisonville's Joe Bunkers following close behind as points runner-up Richard Lewis followed close behind.



Michael Juergensen took home first place on Saturday night during the NASCAR Street Stock race at I-44 Speedway in Lebanon. Submitted Photos

Johnson was setting a steady quick pace as Bunkers and Lewis kept the action hot as Icenhower was slicing through the field. As the feature was caution free, it would take until lap 11 when Icenhower pulled even with Johnson to take the lead, but things got interesting two laps later as Richard Lewis began a charge on the new leader and began to reel him in. Lewis, who had won a feature earlier this season was driving his dad's number nine tonight as issues with his car after qualifying forced him to make the switch. In the final three laps, Lewis had caught Icenhower and attempted to make the pass for the final two laps coming up just a car length short while the tight battle for the third spot saw Chris Johnson, Bunkers, and Mark Riddle completing the top five. Icenhower made the evening a clean sweep by setting fast time with a lap of 15.615 and taking the dash over Bunkers. Mark Riddle took the position heat.

The NASCAR Chargers feature saw many surprising runs up front as points runner-up Jerry Ellis of Richland had to work hard, moving around leader Breken Johnson on the fourth lap and then was able to pull away late in capturing his first win of the season. Breken Johnson of Lebanon took the opening lead at the start, keeping Justin Blake at bay while Ellis was closing ground. A lap two caution proved to be bad luck for Blake as he lost power before the restart ending his night. On the restart, Johnson was holding back Ellis as the battle up front was strong. After trying for three straight laps, Ellis finally made the pass with Johnson staying close. During the rest of the long green flag run, Ellis would start to put some distance over Johnson and stretched out the lead taking the victory. For Lebanon's young lady driver Breken Johnson, it was a career-best finish with the runner-up finish with rookie Parker Ellis, Luke Oster and point leader Ronnie Taylor completing the top five. Taylor set a new qualifying record with a lap of 18.872 breaking his own qualifying record. Johnson and Taylor took

the heat race wins.

Action continues Saturday, June 25, with action featuring NASCAR Pro Late Models, NASCAR Modifieds, NASCAR Street Stocks and NASCAR Chargers with the gates opening at 5:30 for tier parking and 6 p.m. in the grandstands. Qualifying is slated to begin at 6:20 and racing is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information visit [www.I44Speedway.net](http://www.I44Speedway.net).