

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NHRA LUCAS OIL DRAG RACING SERIES – PACIFIC DIVISION
FIREBIRD INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY, CHANDLER, ARIZ.
Sunday, March 02, 2008
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Three Local Racers Take Wins at Firebird

CHANDLER, Ariz. – If there is such thing as home field advantage in NHRA Drag Racing it took place this weekend at Firebird International Raceway for the Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series with three local racers taking home wins and another advancing to the final round.

Kevin Kleineweber of Phoenix, led off with a win in the Hughes Performance Top Dragster class over Steve Casner of Sheridan, Calif., running 7.039 seconds at 180.65 mph to Casner's 7.219, 180.69 mph. Joining Kleineweber were **Keith Manogue** in Super Street and **Matt Hartford** in the Sunset Racecraft Top Sportsman class. **Both of Phoenix**, Manogue drove his '63 Nova to a 10.905 second pass at 139.52 mph over Jeff Jackson while Hartford beat Martin Vazquez in his '63 Corvette with a lap of 7.779 seconds, 161.29 mph.

Dan Fletcher won over **Glendale, Ariz., resident and defending division champion Dean Carter** in Comp Eliminator. The Churchville, N.Y., racer recorded an 8.630 second, 120.12 mph pass to hold off Carter.

In the top alcohol classes it was Brandon Johnson outrunning Bob Perkins in Top Alcohol Dragster and Doug Gordon of Paso Robles, Calif., over No. 1 qualifier Clint Thompson in Top Alcohol Funny Car. Johnson, of Sheldon, Wash., beat **Mark Niver of Phoenix**, in the semifinals before running a 5.558 second 246.93 mph to beat Perkins in the final. Gordon slowed in the final but held on for the win with a 6.208 second, 246.17 mph pass.

Defending NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series Super Comp National Champion Shawn Langdon of Mira Loma, Calif., went to the final round in two categories picking up the win in Super Comp over Aaron Kinard before losing to Tommy Phillips of Forney, Texas, in the final of Super Gas. Phillips ran 9.906 seconds at 151.27 mph in his '63 Corvette.

Rounding out this weekend's winners were Ryan McClannahan of Alta Loma, Calif., in Super Stock; Mike Cotten of Broken Arrow, Okla., in Stock; and Tom Medlin of La Mirada, Calif., in the Sportsman Motorcycle Series presented by Harley Davidson.

Pacific Division racers head to Southwestern International Raceway in Tucson, Ariz., for the next NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series event, next weekend, March 7 and 8.

The following are the final results from the NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series Pacific Division Opener at Firebird International Raceway:

TOP ALCOHOL DRAGSTER:

Round 1

- 6) Mark Niver, Phoenix, Ariz., 6.070, 193.02 def. 9) James Stevens, Gothenburg, Neb., 10.770, 73.64
4) Larry Miersch, Huntington Beach, Calif., 5.421, 252.19 def. 5) Shawn Cowie, Delta, B.C., 5.470, 267.80
7) Brandon Johnson, Sheldon, Wash., 5.414, 259.26 def. 2) Jim Whiteley, Grand Junction, Colo., 5.867, 258.76
8) Bob Perkins, Bluffdale, Utah, 5.402, 264.86 def. 1) Duane Shields, Boulder City, Nev., 10.688, 84.78

Semifinals

Perkins, 5.410, 263.46 def. Miersch, 5.470, 260.97
Johnson, 5.592, 253.52 def. Niver, 6.462, 161.54

Final

Johnson, 5.558, 246.93 def. Perkins, 5.746, 250.41

TOP ALCOHOL FUNNY CAR

Round 1

- 7) Doug Gordon, Paso Robles, Calif., '06 Monte Carlo, 5.767, 256.02 def. 2) Terry Ruckman, Grand Junction, Colo., '01 Firebird, foul
1) Clint Thompson, Klamath Falls, Ore., '06 Monte Carlo, 5.957, 250.74 def. 8) Rian Konno, Rosemead, Calif., '02 Trans Am, 11.181, 76.28

6) Von Smith, Santa Clarita, Calif., '08 Mustang, 5.635, 256.55 def. 3) Brian Hough, Junction City, Ore., '06 Monte Carlo, 6.268, 201.85
4) Sean O'Bannon, Ontario, Calif., '07 Charger, 5.754, 251.63 def. 5) Ron August Jr, Pleasanton, Calif., '08 Mustang, 6.001, 199.46

Semifinals

Thompson, 5.656, 257.33 def. O'Bannon, 5.686, 256.75
Gordon, 5.670, 258.12 def. Smith, 6.085, 171.84

Final

Gordon, 6.208, 246.17 def. Thompson, 15.690, 73.30

COMP ELIMINATOR

Dan Fletcher, Churchville, N.Y., '07 Cobalt, C/EA, 8.630, 120.12 def. Dean Carter, Glendale, Ariz., dragster, B/ND, 7.483, 134.19

SUPER STOCK

Ryan McClannahan, Alta Loma, Calif., '08 Cobalt, SS/BM, 9.361, 111.80 def. Abe Loewen, Regina, Sask., '98 Grand Am, SS/EM, foul

STOCK ELIMINATOR

Mike Cotten, Broken Arrow, Okla., '73 Duster, H/SA, 11.343, 107.85 def. Mark Faul, Tacoma, Wash., '69 Chevelle, C/SA, 10.837, 120.05

SUPER COMP

Shawn Langdon, Mira Loma, Calif., dragster, 8.931, 154.47 def. Aaron Kinard, San Marcos, Calif., dragster, 8.891, 165.29

SUPER GAS

Tommy Phillips, Forney, Texas, '63 Corvette, 9.906, 151.27 def. Shawn Langdon, Mira Loma, Calif., '02 Corvette, 9.919, 143.08

SUPER STREET

Keith Manogue, Phoenix, Ariz., '63 Nova, 10.905, 139.52 def. Jeff Jackson, Wilsonville, Ore., '68 Mustang, 10.880, 149.13

SPORTSMAN MOTORCYCLE

Tom Medlin, La Mirada, Calif., '86 Suzuki, 8.709, 149.12 def. Augustine Herrera, La Mirada, Calif., '05 Suzuki, 9.090, 158.48

TOP SPORTSMAN

Matt Hartford, Phoenix, Ariz., '63 Corvette, 7.779, 161.29 def. Martin Vazquez, Downey, Calif., '04 Dakota, 7.883, 167.49

TOP DRAGSTER

Kevin Kleineweber, Phoenix, Ariz., dragster, 7.039, 180.65 def. Steve Casner, Sheridan, Calif., dragster, 7.219, 180.69