

(Kaukauna, WI) – Kyle Quella is looking to come out swinging when the Wisconsin Sport Trucks kick off their 2018 season at Wisconsin International Raceway's "Thursday Night Thunder" May 24.

Last August the second-generation Appleton driver dethroned De Pere's Brett Van Horn's dominance of four straight track titles on the final night of racing. Although Van Horn won't be racing trucks this year Quella knows the field won't get any easier as a stacked field of competitors mixed in with a strong rookie crop will keep breathing down Quella's neck all season long in his title defense.

Among the top contenders to challenge Quella are Neenah's Jason Plutz, Appleton's Kylee Vanderboss, Neenah's Tanner Fickel, and Denmark's Bobby Wautier. Wautier will wheel a brand new truck as will 2017 rookie-of-the-year Nathan Brantmeier of Neenah.

Eight new rookies have signed up to do battle with the trucks including Appleton's Cody Vanderloop, Neenah's Dylan Vandenberg, Fond Du Lac's Cody Sokolik, Kaukauna's Riley Krueger, Fond Du Lac's Jeff Ludwig, Andrew Secrist of Florence and Adam Mohr of Menasha. "Overall our truck numbers are up as we've got 36 drivers signed up to race mostly full time between WIR, Norway Speedway and the touring series we've got," said Quella. "It's the most trucks we've had registered in many years. It should be a fun season."

Parker, Colorado's Sam Haven, a former touring series champion and multiple feature winner, will be making a return on a part time basis, with former 2-time champion Ron Magdanz of Fremont racing when Haven cannot answer the bell.

Quella will also make the bi-weekly trip to Norway (MI) Speedway where he'll attempt to dethrone Kingsford, Michigan's Brent Barglund who won the Norway crown in '17.

The touring series championship will be wide open in 2018 as Suamico's Jordan Fischer has hung up his helmet.

The season opening "Thursday Night Thunder" race at WIR will take place Thursday, May 24 at 6:45 p.m. A pre-season race party will take place Thursday, May 17 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission to this event is free and fans are encouraged to bring their kids as many teams will have their race cars available for kids to take selfies. Food and drinks will be served in the pit concessions.

Tuesday night oval practices are slated to begin on May 1 with Saturday, May 5 serving as the annual FRRC practice and inspection day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Spectator admission is free that day.