

(KAUKAUNA, WI) August 23 – One of the Midwest’s busiest racers – Casey Johnson of Edgerton – found victory lane for the third time this year at Wisconsin International Raceway in Kaukauna Thursday.

The current super late model point leader dodged a number of cautions and defending track champion Andy Monday who stayed within striking distance of the Chase Motorsports driver but could not catch him.

Polesitter Cory Kemkes jumped into the lead at the drop of the green in the 25 lap feature and quickly built up a sizeable lead in a short amount of time.

By lap six Grant Griesbach, Monday and Johnson along with Sawyer Effertz were all over the tail of Kemkes machine, with Griesbach getting the lead on lap seven. One circuit later the caution flew when Corey Manders and Randy Schuler tangled in turn three.

Back under green Johnson motored past Griesbach for the lead with Monday in tow. Monday tried keeping the point leader within striking distance. However Johnson hung on for the win. Monday took home second place money, followed by rookie Grant Griesbach who’s third place finish was his best of the year. Sawyer Effertz and Alex Stump placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

Markesan’s Jesse Bernhagen wound up winning a game of survivor. The current late model points leader dodged a couple of big wrecks and went on to win the division’s feature, his second of the season.

What was remarkable about Bernhagen’s win was in the pit area the second year WIR driver was hobbling around on crutches as he sliced his achilles tendon in a non-racing related mishap.

With the win Bernhagen padded his point lead in the process. Trailing Bernhagen at the checkers were Neenah’s Braison Bennett, who pulled double duty tonight, Nathan Van Wychen, Matt Wittman and Eddie Muenster who recovered from an early race wreck to place fifth.

A pair of wrecks in the main sidelined some heavy hitters, including Hilbert’s Mike Meyerhofer, Two Rivers’ Brett Wenzel and fast qualifier Bryan Monday.

Omro's Kevin Bethke snatched the lead on a lap eight restart and fought off a fast moving Braison Bennett to win the 20 lap Pavement Pounder sportmod feature presented by Winnegamie Home Builders Association.

By winning in his first appearance of the year here Bethke pocketed an additional \$200 bonus courtesy of Fox Cities Towing.

Appleton's Brock Saunders, who won the first two series events, got caught up in a wreck with Bonduel's Collin Wichman on lap eight, sending Saunders to the back. Saunders, who had a five point lead heading into the final series event, wound up placing eighth, and finishing just one mark ahead of Randy Van Roy of Kaukauna. Van Roy was guest driving the Jayden Schmidt car.

Wayne Sonkowsky of Kaukauna scored a thrilling win in the super stock class – his first victory of the season.

Appleton's Scott Wolf found victory lane, winning the Sizzlin' 4 feature while Appleton's Kylee Vandermoss, fresh off a vacation from Ireland, chalked up her third feature flag of the season in the sport truck division.

Mike Meyerhofer emerged triumphant in the Figure 8 feature.

Next Thursday August 30 will be Valley Liquor/Budweiser Face appreciation night. It will also be championship night as champions will be crowned in the respective divisions. Racing gets underway at 6:45 p.m. You can check frrc.us for more information or follow the club's Facebook page.

SUPER LATE MODEL FEATURE – Casey Johnson, Edgerton; Andy Monday, Appleton; Grant Griesbach, Pewaukee; Sawyer Effertz, Darboy; Alex Stumpf, Woodville; Travis Dassow, West Bend; Lowell Bennett, Neenah; Brent Strelka, Freedom; Jeff Van Oudenhoven, Appleton; Bobby Kendall, Montello; Taylor Vandermoss, Appleton; Cory Kemkes, Appleton; Corey Manders, Hilbert; Michael Anthony, Appleton; Randy Schuler, Mequon; Kyle Calmes, Freedom; Tim Springstroh, Freedom; Mickey Schallie, Darboy; Gabe Sommers, Stevens Point; Mike Reichenberger, Appleton

SEMI FEATURE – Springstroh; Reichenberger; Wichman; Anthony

HEATS 1) Brady Baldry, Omro; Alex Seidl, Appleton 2) Anthony; Springstroh 3) Kemkes; Effertz

DASH – Bennett

FAST TIME: Strelka, 19.448

LATE MODEL FEATURE- Jesse Bernhagen, Markesan; Nathan Van Wychen, Kaukauna; Matt Wittman, Appleton; Eddie Muenster, Green Bay; Mike King, Appleton; RD Yaeger, Appleton; Brian Randerson, Kaukauna; Craig Krueger, Kaukauna; Will Timmers, Kaukauna

HEAT – Brett Wenzel, Two Rivers; Muenster

DASH- Van Wychen

FAST TIME: Bryan Monday, Appleton 20.456

SUPER STOCK FEATURE – Wayne Sonkowsky, Kaukauna; Dylan Wenzel, Fremont; George Schwalbach, Menasha; Dave Meyerhofer, Kaukauna; Jeff Treml, Greenleaf

HEAT – Treml; Larry Raygo, Omro

PAVEMENT POUNDER FEATURE – Kevin Bethke, Omro; Braison Bennett, Neenah; John Ostermann, Norway, MI; Randy Van Roy, Kaukauna; Sawyer Haese, New Franken; Evan Beattie, Little Chute; Scott Besaw, Omro; Brock Saunders, Appleton; Chad Ewald, Omro; Tony Gates, Chilton; Todd Ewald, Omro; Collin Wichman, Bonduel; Steve Seehawer, Beaver Dam; Randy Theys, Algoma

HEATS 1) Saunders; Bethke 2) Bennett; Todd Ewald

SIZZLIN' 4 FEATURE – Scott Wolf, Appleton; Larry Belonger, New Holstein; Mitchell Opsahl, Freedom; Larry Gintner, Neenah; Kurt Schweitzer, Greenville

HEATS 1) Mitchell Opsahl, Freedom; Tyler Lind, Darboy 2) Dennis DeBruin, Kaukauna; Rick Glaser, Appleton

FAST TIME – Dan Thomson, Menasha, 17.876

SPORT TRUCKS FEATURE – Kylee Vandermoss, Appleton; Bobby Wautier, Denmark; Kyle Quella, Appleton; Jason Plutz, Menasha; Tanner Fickel, Neenah

HEATS 1) Dylan Vandenberg, Appleton; Mike Byrge, Fond Du Lac 2) Quella; Brian Vixmer, Fond Du Lac

FAST TIME –Wautier, 16.407

FIGURE 8 – Mike Meyerhofer