



#### FINISH LINE PHOTOS

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## MAY / JUNE 2009 FINISH LINE PHOTOS NEWSLETTER

First and foremost I must apologize for the latest of this newsletter for it has been a very busy month of April. So we'll pick up as it was the beginning of our first race of the season. (After all it makes the newsletter longer) Thank you for your understanding.

Well, well, mother nature decided to shine down a pond us instead of choosing to rain for days on end. Yes, finally Rockford Speedway was able to kick off its 62<sup>nd</sup> season on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A solid field of cars in all divisions. It was a parade of color as the newly rebuilt NASCAR late models took to the high banks of the Rockford Speedway. It was very apparent Ricky Bilderback had one mission and only one mission in mind, and that was to claim his 8<sup>th</sup> Rockford Speedway championship. However, even more apparent was the determination of all to take away the championship in their respective divisions.

The first win of the season went to Gene Marocco in the RoadRunner division as he ran away from the field in the trophy dash. Gene entered victory lane for his photos with a big smile ear to ear. Not lost for words Gene spoke of how slippery the track was. Later that evening track conditions improved.

In other divisions the veteran drivers of the American Short Tracker divisions once again proved to be the drivers to beat. BJ Sparkman and his brother George Sparkman ran up front most of the evening with BJ taking the checker flag for the feature win. However, I could not help to notice a young driver by the name of Kyle LaPier in the #55 Ford Mustang drove hard and smart all night long. Kyle finished third in his feature event which speaks highly for the young Belvedere native.

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Just as I speak highly of those already mentioned I am sure there are several other drivers who will surface and make their presence known. With that said, 2009 is showing signs of being an exciting one.

The first night of racing wasn't without an exciting moment or two. During the NASCAR Late Model feature with just a hand full of laps Alex Papinl found himself high in turn 3 only to spin around in the marbles and sliding half way down the track. In a blink of an eye Mike Beyer charging hard mid field had no where to go. Even though he did everything in his power to avoid Alex just couldn't do it fast enough. Mike slammed sideways into Alex resulting in heavy damage to both cars. Alex perhaps frustrated in himself climbed out of his car and immediately headed to his pit uninjured. Mike Beyer climbed out of his car under his own power however it was very noticeable he was walking with a heavy limp. Safety crew and medical personal questioned Mike about his condition. All was well and Mike proceeded to assist safety crew member separate the two cars. Fan or not of these two drivers you have to feel a little sad for them considering all the hard work they put in to their respective cars. But, know both as I do, they'll be back next week. Or at least they'll make every effort to do so.

At this point in the newsletter I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a newest member of the Rockford Speedway staff. His name is Jordan Kuehne. You are perhaps saying to yourself, who in the heck is he. Well my readers, allow me to give you a little background information on him. Calling Byron, Illinois his hometown, Jordan a graduate of Byron High School in May of 2008, earned himself status as an Illinois State Scholar as being an AP Scholar and a National Merit Scholar Finalist, not to mention having four years of straight A's. From high school he attended Webster University for Broadcast Journalism for a semester. With ambitions of being a writer for NASCAR or a play-by-play guy for the Chicago Cubs being an avid Cubs fans as he is. While taking a break from his career path he pursues the opportunity writing for the Rockford Speedway and the Big 8 Series with the job title as Media and Public Relations Director for Rockford Speedway.

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Jordan feels fortunate to have such a great opportunity and thanks Rockford Speedways General Manager Gregg McKarns for giving a young 19 year old a chance to prove himself. With education his primary goal Jordan will transfer back to Rock Valley College beginning in the fall of 2009 later to transfer to U of I or NIU in 2010.

Rockford Speedway is well known by his family, for it was his father who served on John Knaus championship team several years ago. So even at a very young age Jordan was able to absorb the sounds and smells of stock car racing.

As you get to know Jordan you may come to learn that you have a few things in common with one another. I did. So listed below are some known facts about him:

- Favorite NASCAR Driver: Jimmie Johnson
- Favorite Athlete: Tiger Woods
- Favorite Sport: Golf
- Favorite Sports Team: Chicago Cubs
- Favorite Racetrack: Dover
- Favorite Short Track: Rockford Speedway
- Favorite Driver Growing Up: Jeremy Miller
- Favorite Food: Fettuchini Alfredo with Shrimp
- Favorite Place: Seattle, Washington
- Favorite Thing to do: Watch sports, watch racing, play golf.

It goes without saying, there is much more about this young man that perhaps you will find interesting. Believe me, he is not your typical run of the mill writer. He has a gift and his future looks bright. For now everyone associated with Rockford Speedway should welcome him and his talent. Please make Jordan welcomed to the Rockford Speedway. Listed below is his email address. Feel free to send him an email filled with useful information.

[rockfordspeedwaymailing@yahoo.com](mailto:rockfordspeedwaymailing@yahoo.com)

Well race fans it's time to return to the pits and continue to do a little tweaking on the operations of Finish Line Photos. One finale reminder, don't forget to promote your race team. Finish Line Photos is more then happy to help in your endeavors.

Until next, happy racing thoughts.....JIMMYA

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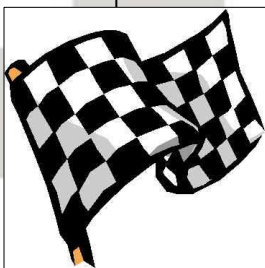


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