

Brent Harris Wins Inaugural “Apple Blossom 100” at WWSO

By Late Model Challenge Series

(Graham, WA) May 3, 2005 - For the second year in a row, Brent Harris captured the feature win at the NW Late Model Challenge Series' season opener event. Last year, the series opened at Stateline Speedway ID, while this season began at Wenatchee Valley's Super Oval in conjunction with the town's annual Apple Blossom Festival.

Twenty-nine of the region's best late model teams gathered for the 100-lap special event competing for over \$10,000 available in cash and bonus awards. This, the 50th scheduled race event in the series six-season history, was the first of three appearances for the Late Model Challenge Series (LMCS) at Wenatchee Valley's Super Oval (WWSO) in 2005.

Starting the feature in eighth position, Harris of E. Wenatchee WA, worked his 2004 Monte Carlo up through the field while many times taking the high groove at his home track to secure the lead position on lap 38, overtaking early leader Steve Thompson of West Richland WA. Although challenged several times by NW Tour regular Garrett Evans, Harris was able to hold his lead position for the remaining laps. Evans finished in second, with Jimmy Johnson of Orting WA third.

Top qualifier Mike Zamora of Kennewick WA drew a six-car invert and finished overall in fourth and Duke Langley of Umatilla OR rounded out the top five. Of 22 feature event positions available, 16 cars were locked in by qualifying, 4 moved up through B main and two provisional positions. Many LMCS regulars found themselves in the B main as the track became oiled down prior to qualifying and the speedy dry slowed many of the early qualifying attempts. Rick Hager of Mountlake Terrace WA advanced the most positions, finishing seventh after starting in 21st position on a provisional.

The season opener was far from uneventful, as rookie Steve Blankenship of Port Angeles blew his motor in the B dash, and struck the turn 4 wall hard nearly head-on. Blankenship escaped without injury, but his LMCS rookie contention was put on hold as his car sustained significant damage. Several other racing incidents occurred, but overall the feature went well, with 14 cars on the track at finish, and 8 cars remaining on lead lap.

Next scheduled event for the Late Model Challenge Series is at Stateline Speedway in Post Falls, ID on May 21st. The series returns to WWSO for a 150 lap event on June 18th.