

## (NW) Late Model Challenge Series Hosts First Ever Builder's Challenge at Yakima Speedway's "Wix Filters 100"

LMCS Media

Graham, Wash. (May 17, 2006) – A record 40+ Late Model teams from throughout the Northwest region are expected to assemble at the historic ½ -mile oval at Yakima Speedway in Yakima, Wash. for an 100-lap special event this Saturday, May 20th competing for over \$12,000 in cash and bonus awards. These drivers and teams are busy preparing to compete for the twenty-six main event starting positions in the 'WIX Filters 100'. This event is the second of ten point races on the Late Model Challenge Series (LMCS) 2006 touring schedule, and the first of two visits this season to Yakima Speedway. The series last visited Yakima Speedway in July of 2004, and twice back in 2001 as one of three original tracks on the schedule the first season the series began touring.

Fresh off a 34-car showing at Wenatchee Valley's Super Oval in East Wenatchee, Wash. on the LMCS season opener May 6th; the series expects a huge field of super stock cars to battle for the increased special purse offered. Series promoter/director Jerry Losch came up with a unique program to get many of the region's premier engine builders to co-sponsor this first-ever 'Builders Challenge'. Adding nearly \$4,000 to the event purse, together with the series' bonus and contingency awards, the victorious driver will walk away with nearly \$2,500 in winnings. If a participating builder's engine wins the event, that builder will receive a \$500.00 bonus check. This stirred many builders into calling up their most skilled drivers for a chance at initial bragging rights in this proposed annual event.

The expected driver roster includes well known local-area talent as Jason Jefferson, BJ Tidrick, Erick Hargraves, Ron Bemis, Jarrod Crum and Lon Werremeyer. Three prior LMCS Champions are attending: Ron Wolf (2000 & 2004), Jason Hedrick (2003) and defending Champion Mike Zamora (2006). Current & prior NW Tour drivers Jason Fraser, Kelly Mann, Gaylon Stewart, Mark Owens, Troy Conrad, and Wes Rhodes are shooting for a good qualifying spot. Series regulars, such as Shelby Thompson, Mark Sundberg, Loren Sutphin, Don Vickery, Loran Payne, James Spiering, Rick Hager, Scott Davis, Marty Wason, Mike Kenyon, Troy Eaton and Billy Coates all know they have their work cut out this weekend. Newcomers like Amber Cope, Rick Thompson, Todd Walters, Josh Roberts, John Boyatt, Chuck Pickens, Christian Roeder, Bryon Harvey and Willy Thom all must qualify well to get locked into the 26-car feature, or face a tough challenge in the consolation race battling over just 4 move-up positions. Four Canadian teams are expected: Wade Bland, Rob Angus, Ryan Fischer and Darrell Midgley. Darren Shaw of South Carolina, Mark Owens of Montana, and Bryon Harvey of Southern Oregon are making the long haul. All-in-all, this event is primed to be one of the largest Late Model races in the region this year, in addition to being the biggest ever fielding of cars for the LMCS.

The Late Model Challenge Series' 'WIX Filters 100' event headlines an exciting night also featuring Yakima Speedway's own local Street Stocks and Hobby Stocks. Raceday schedule: Hot lap sessions begin at 2:00pm, qualifying for all classes begin at 5:00pm, Racing begins at 6:30pm. Large crowds are expected, arrive early for best seating and time trials. Front Gate opens at 4:00pm. Ticket prices: Adults \$20 – Seniors & Students \$15, Child - \$6, and under 6 - free. (\$2 Discount tickets are available at C & H Hardware in Yakima Wash.)

Participating engine builders include: Action Machine, Bayless Racing Engines, Bird Race Engines, Cope Bros. Machine Shop, 'Freight Train' Peters Engines, Maropulos Race Engines, Nutter Racing Components, Powerhouse Machine, Somer's Machine, and T-Mac Performance.

Contingency & Series Bonus Awards are provided by: Circle Racing Wheels, Frank's Radio Service, K-Motorsports, Mechanix Wear Gloves, NW Racing Enterprises, Pro-Pack Racing, Pro-Shocks, TRICK Racing Fuel, Vogtland Springs, Blue Oval – Gus Carlson, ARP & Five Star Race Car Bodies, Microsoft 'Real Heroes' & The Valvoline Cup Challenge.

**For Immediate Release**

Contributing Series Sponsors include: Bart's Trailer Sales, Bay Cities Motorsports, Big John's Trophies, Don Small & Son's Oil Distributing Inc., M.E. Wright Motorsports Photos & Tanner Racing Products

For additional information contact: Jerry Losch, LMCS Series Director at 253-312-1080 or visit: [www.LateModelChallenge.com](http://www.LateModelChallenge.com) for the latest series news and racing information. Contact Yakima Speedway at 509-248-0647 or [www.YakimaSpeedway.us](http://www.YakimaSpeedway.us)