

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

*Dave Hoenig*

Round Two of the AMA Ford Quality Checked Flat Track Championship came to the Smokey Mountains and the Volunteer Speedway for the first time Saturday night. Blue Springs Screamin Eagle's Jared Mees proved to be the master of the high banked bowl of a race track.

Mees took over the lead on the twenty five lap main event on lap three, from Rogers Lake Racing / Bartels Harley-Davidson's Shaun Russell and never looked back, winning the fourth National of his brief career.

National Cycle / Coziahr Harley-Davidson's Johnny Murphree worked his way up to second, passing his former traveling partner to third on lap seven. Murphree then settled in to post his best finish in some time. Murphree had to hold off the late race charge of American Suzuki / Parts Unlimited's Jake Johnson as the Suzuki pilot worked his way up from a seventh place start, giving Suzuki it's first podium in the twins class.

Russell was under constant attack as Harley-Davidson Motor Company / Screamin Eagle's Kenny Coolbeth took fourth away with just two laps remaining. Coolbeth had started on the second row and methodically worked his way through traffic, settling into fourth as the laps ran out.

Paul Lynch posted a strong ride on his own Harley-Davidson grabbing sixth when Screamin' Eagle Latus Harley-Davidson's Joe Kopp suffered a flat tire within sight of the finish. Kopp tried to struggle home, but dropped all the way to fourteenth.

Seven time Grand National Champion Chris Carr got off to a good start on his Quality Checked Certified Pre-Owned Ford backed Harley-Davidson, but wasn't able to keep pace and dropped from a high water position of fourth to a seventh place finish.

American Harley-Davidson / Dick Ford / R&J Racing's Rob Pearson and American Suzuki / Parts Unlimited's JR Schnabel had a great race for eighth with Pearson getting the upper hand.

A short distance back another great race was going on between Moroney's Harley-Davidson / Screamin' Eagle's Bryan Smith and R&D Machine / KK Motorcycle Supply's AJ Eslick. Eslick took the spot on lap twenty four as they all moved up one spot after Kopp's misfortune.

American Harley-Davidson's Joe Hartrich's strong heat race performance put him on row one for his first National main event appearance, the youngster came away with a sixteenth place finish.

Action Motorsports / Moose Racing's Brandon Robinson won the 450 Pro Sport Support race after a tight race with Mike Caves / Mack Daddy Racing's Kyle Snyder and Pure Attitude / RLJ Engines' Brad Hazel.

The win propels Mees into first place in the AMA Ford Quality Checked Flat Track Twins Championship point standings. Mees now holds a narrow one point lead over Defending Grand National Champion Kenny Coolbeth. Chris Carr is just eight points back with Jake Johnson sitting in fourth.

The combined Twins and Singles points standings have two time winner Johnson holding a five point lead over Coolbeth with Mees and Carr third and fourth.