



COUNTDOWN 2009



Volume III, Issue 5

March 29, 2009

Full Throttle Series Schedule

COUNTDOWN TO 10 (Regular Season)

KRAGEN O'REILLY NHRA WINTERNATIONALS

Winners: D. Kalitta, Capps, Line

LUCAS OIL SLICK MIST NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Brown, Capps, Coughlin

ACDELCO NHRA GATORNATIONALS

Winners: Dixon, Tasca, Line, Arana

O'REILLY NHRA SPRING NATIONALS

Winners: Schumacher, Force Hood, Krisher, Treble

SUMMITRACING.COM NHRA NATIONALS

April 2-5 at Las Vegas

SUMMIT RACING NHRA SOUTHERN NATIONALS

April 16-19 at Atlanta (PSM)

O'REILLY NHRA MIDWEST NATIONALS

May 1-3 at St. Louis (PSM)

NHRA THUNDER VALLEY NATIONALS

May 15-17 at Bristol, Tenn.

O'REILLY NHRA SUMMER NATIONALS

May 29-31 at Topeka, Kan.

UNITED ASSOCIATION ROUTE 66 NATIONALS

June 4-7 at Chicago (PSM)

UNITED ASSOCIATION SUPERNATIONALS

June 11-14 at Englishtown, N.J. (PSM)

SUMMIT RACING EQUIPMENT NHRA NATIONALS

June 25-28 at Norwalk, Ohio (PSM)

MOPAR MILE-HIGH NHRA NATIONALS

July 10-12 at Denver (PSM)

NHRA NORTHWEST NATIONALS

July 17-19 at Seattle

FRAM-AUTOLITE NHRA NATIONALS

July 24-26 at Sonoma, Calif. (PSM)

LUCAS OIL NHRA NATIONALS

Aug. 13-16 at Brainerd, Minn. (PSM)

TOYO TIRES NHRA NATIONALS

Aug. 20-23 at Reading, Pa. (PSM)

MAC TOOLS U.S. NATIONALS

Sept. 2-7 at Indianapolis (PSM)

COUNTDOWN TO 1 (Playoffs)

NHRA NATIONALS

Sept. 17-20 at Charlotte, N.C. (PSM)

O'REILLY SUPER-START NHRA FALL NATIONALS

Sept. 24-27 at Dallas (PSM)

O'REILLY NHRA MID-SOUTH NATIONALS

Oct. 2-4 at Memphis, Tenn. (PSM)

NHRA VIRGINIA NATIONALS

Oct. 9-11 at Richmond, Va.

NHRA LAS VEGAS NATIONALS

Oct. 29-Nov. 1 at Las Vegas (PSM)

AUTO CLUB NHRA FINALS

Nov. 12-15 at Pomona (PSM)

Major Movement in FC

Force Hood, Beckman bounce off the early bubble

It's just one race, but this early in the season one race can make a major difference in the point standings and that was certainly the case for the two Funny Car drivers who reached the final round of eliminations at Sunday's O'Reilly NHRA Spring Nationals.

Entering the race in 10th and 11th place respectively — squarely on the playoff bubble — Ashley Force Hood and Jack Beckman secured a fair amount of breathing room with their run to the finals.

Again, it's early, but Ashley Force Hood vaulted up from 10th to third place with the win and Beckman moved up from 11th place to sixth place with the runner-up finish.

Still a long way between now and the start of the playoffs, but with two of the major players in last year's



The Staging Lane
What's next: SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals
When: April 2-5, 2009
Where: The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway
ON TV (ESPN2, ET): Qualifying highlights, Sat. at 8 p.m.; Raceday (pre-race show), Sunday at 11 a.m.; Race, Sunday at 4 p.m.
Notable: Larry Dixon needs just two more round-wins to collect his milestone 500th round-win of his career ... Popular Tim Wilkerson picked up the first of his six wins in 2008 at this race ...

championship — Cruz Pedregon and Tim Wilkerson — still lurking outside the Top 10, it's safe to say that the further you are from the bubble the better.

In Top Fuel, the story clearly belonged to the U.S. Army team, which won for

the first time this season and the first time without longtime crew chief Alan Johnson.

And with the win, the Army team — with Tony Schumacher in the seat and Mike Green tuning — moved up from fifth place to second place, just 20 points behind first-place Antron Brown.

Pro Stock and Pro Stock Motorcycle had first-time winners in 2009 as well with Ron Krisher and Craig Treble capturing the Wally.

For Krisher, the good news is he's built a 99-point cushion between himself and 11th place Johnny Gray; the bad news is that even with the win he still trails first place Jason Line by 96 points.

In PSM, Matt Smith's national record 6.865 run in the quarters helped propel him into first place.

2009 NHRA FULL THROTTLE SERIES STANDINGS (4 Races Complete)

NOTE: The season consists of an 18-race regular season and a six-race playoff; the Top 10 drivers qualify for the playoffs.

TOP FUEL		FUNNY CAR		PRO STOCK		PSM (2/17 races)	
Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Rider (Ws)	Pts
1. Antron Brown (1).....	317	1. Ron Capps (2).....	294	1. Jason Line (2).....	343	1. Matt Smith.....	194
2. T. Schumacher (1).....	297	2. Del Worsham.....	265	2. Jeg Coughlin (1).....	317	2. Hector Arana (1).....	172
3. B. Bernstein.....	296	3. Force Hood (1).....	261	3. Mike Edwards.....	286	3. Andrew Hines.....	152
4. Larry Dixon (1).....	279	4. Bob Tasca (1).....	257	4. Allen Johnson.....	260	4. Craig Treble (1).....	151
5. C. McClenathan.....	270	5. Tony Pedregon.....	232	5. Greg Anderson.....	248	5. Doug Home.....	125
6. Morgan Lucas.....	230	6. Jack Beckman.....	231	6. Ron Krisher (1).....	247	6. Eddie Krawiec.....	107
7. Doug Kalitta (1).....	204	7. Matt Hagan.....	210	7. Kurt Johnson.....	219	7. Steve Johnson.....	105
8. Shawn Langdon.....	170	8. John Force.....	200	8. Jim Yates.....	189	8. Shawn Gann.....	104
9. Joe Hartley.....	167	9t. Robert Hight.....	196	9. Greg Stanfield.....	186	9. Karen Stoffer.....	87
10. Spencer Massey.....	156	9t. Mike Neff.....	196	10. Rickie Jones.....	168	10. Matt Guidera.....	84
11. Clay Millican.....	-27	11. Tim Wilkerson.....	-7	11. Johnny Gray.....	-20	11t. Michael Phillips.....	-19
12. Del Cox.....	-32	12. Jim Head.....	-41	12. Larry Morgan.....	-21	11t. Wesley Wells.....	-19
13. David Baca.....	-62	13. Cruz Pedregon.....	-44	13. Warren Johnson.....	-39	13. Junior Pippin.....	-22
14. Urs Erbacher.....	-63	14. Jerry Toliver.....	-50	14. Scott Spiess.....	-45	14. Angie McBride.....	-29
15. Terry Haddock.....	-84	15. Gary Densham.....	-60	15. Tom Hammonds.....	-64	15t. Berry, Harris.....	-43