



COUNTDOWN 2009



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May 18, 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

Winners: Schumacher, Capps, Coughlin

SUMMIT RACING NHRA SOUTHERN NATIONALS

Winners: Lucas, Beckman, Edwards, Krawiec

O'REILLY NHRA MIDWEST NATIONALS

Winners: Brown, Worsham, Coughlin, Krawiec

NHRA THUNDER VALLEY NATIONALS

Winners: Schumacher, Worsham, Edwards

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)

Cruz makes Top 10 List


Defending champion climbs inside Playoff bubble

For the first time all season, defending NHRA Full Throttle Series world champion Cruz Pedregon finds himself inside the Top 10 of the Funny Car standings.

But to be fair, it's a fact that has less to do with anything he has done and more to do with what Robert Hight and Mike Neff have *not* done.

Cruz Pedregon vaulted Neff and Hight by simply winning a round — over Mike Neff — at the NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals (while Hight DNQ'd). So the dye is hardly cast in his pursuit of defending his championship.

In fact, as the Series heads to Topeka for the O'Reilly NHRA Summer Nationals May 29-31 — the halfway point of the 18-race regular season — Pedregon and the Advance Auto Parts team have not hinted at the form



The Staging Lane
What's next: O'Reilly NHRA Summer Nationals
When: May 29-31, 2009
Where: Heartland Park
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: Tony Schumacher is a smoldering 16-1 in his last 17 final rounds ... Topeka was the site of John Force's last win ... This race marks the halfway point of the 18-race regular season.

that carried them to the championship-winning three-race winning streak to end the 2008 season.

It's not to say that Cruz and crew chief Rahn Tobler aren't playing possum, but drag racing is a fickle sport and there are going to be at

least two really good cars that don't qualify for the six-race playoff.

And right now Cruz Pedregon is squarely in that no-man's land with Bob Tasca, John Force, Hight and Neff, who are in 8th-12th place and separated by only 61 points.

In Top Fuel, Tony Schumacher won for the third time this season to regain the points lead as he competes in what is right now a three-team race — with Antron Brown and Brandon Bernstein — for first place and the 20-point bonus that comes with it.

In Pro Stock the top four drivers continue to pull away from the pack — Pro Stock has the top two point totals in any class (714 and 662) and fourth-place Greg Anderson is 139 points clear of fifth-place Allen Johnson.

2009 NHRA FULL THROTTLE SERIES STANDINGS (8 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 (4/17 races)	
Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Rider (Ws)	Pts
1. T. Schumacher (3).....	659	1. Ron Capps (3).....	616	1. Jeg Coughlin (3).....	714	1. Eddie Krawiec (2).....	341
2. Antron Brown (2).....	614	2. Del Worsham (2).....	559	2. Jason Line (2).....	662	2. Matt Smith.....	325
3. Br. Bernstein.....	594	3. Tony Pedregon.....	528	3. Mike Edwards (2).....	616	3. Andrew Hines.....	308
4. C. McClenathan.....	511	4. Force Hood (1).....	505	4. Greg Anderson.....	574	4. Doug Home.....	291
5. Morgan Lucas (1).....	489	5. Jack Beckman (1).....	479	5. Allen Johnson.....	435	5. Hector Arana (1).....	282
6. Larry Dixon (1).....	457	6. Matt Hagan.....	448	6. Greg Stanfield.....	429	6. Craig Treble (1).....	278
7. Shawn Langdon.....	449	7. Tim Wilkerson.....	426	7. Ron Krisher (1).....	398	7. Shawn Gann.....	209
8. Doug Kalitta (1).....	412	8. Bob Tasca (1).....	408	8. Kurt Johnson.....	390	8. Karen Stoffer.....	175
9. Sp. Massey.....	373	9. John Force.....	396	9. Rickie Jones.....	336	9. Matt Guidera.....	168
10. Joe Hartley.....	333	10. Cruz Pedregon.....	386	10t. Gray, Morgan.....	295	10. Steve Johnson.....	167
11. Clay Millican.....	-105	11. Mike Neff.....	-17	12. Warren Johnson.....	-17	11. Angie McBride.....	-7
12. Troy Buff.....	-176	12. Robert Hight.....	-39	13. Scott Spiess.....	-69	12. Michael Phillips.....	-38
13. Terry Haddock.....	-198	13. Jim Head.....	-116	14. Tom Hammonds.....	-95	13. Junior Pippin.....	-40
14. David Baca.....	-206	14t. Jerry Toliver.....	-137	15. Jim Yates.....	-106	14. Wesley Wells.....	-60
15t. Cox, Urbacher.....	-209	14t. Jeff Arend.....	-137	16. V Gaines.....	-109	15. Mike Berry.....	-85