



COUNTDOWN 2009



Volume III, Issue 13

July 21, 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

Winners: Dixon, Capps, Allen Johnson

UNITED ASSOCIATION ROUTE 66 NATIONALS

Winners: Massey, T. Pedregon, Coughlin, Guidera

UNITED ASSOCIATION SUPERNATIONALS

Winners: Dixon, T. Pedregon, Coughlin, Treble

SUMMIT RACING EQUIPMENT NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Dixon, Beckman, Line, Hines

MOPAR MILE-HIGH NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Brown, Capps, A. Johnson, Krawiec

NHRA NORTHWEST NATIONALS

Winners: Brown, Wilkerson, Edwards

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 CAROLINAS 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)

Focusing on FC Bubble

Runs by Force, Wilk in Seattle narrow field in FC


As the top drivers secure their spots in the Countdown to 1, NHRA's six-race playoff, much of the attention will turn to the drama surrounding those drivers on the bubble.

And with only four races left in the Countdown to 10, NHRA's 18-race regular season, it's becoming awfully clear who's on the bubble and who's not.

Two drivers who steered their way off the bubble at the just-completed NHRA Northwest Nationals in Seattle were Tim Wilkerson and John Force.

The former moved up from seventh to fifth place with a win — his first this season — and the latter, while not moving up in the standings, separated himself from the pack with a semifinal finish.

So that leaves four drivers



The Staging Lane

What's next: FRAM Autolite NHRA Nationals

When: July 24-26, 2009

Where: Infineon Raceway

ON TV (ESPN2HD, ET): Qualifying highlights, Sat. at 6 p.m.; Raceday (pre-race show), Sunday at 11 a.m.; Race, Sunday at 9 p.m.

Notable: With wins in Denver and Seattle, Antron Brown can become the seventh driver in history to sweep the Western Swing ... Ron Capps will be the first driver in FC to clinch a playoff berth this weekend.

(separated by 57 points) for two spots in Funny Car with only four races — or 16 potential round-wins — left in the regular season.

And what an interesting group it is with two JFR drivers (Neff and perennial

championship contender Robert Hight), a rookie (Matt Hagan), and the defending NHRA Full Throttle Series champion (Cruz Pedregon).

In Top Fuel, Clay Millican and the new LifeLock-Racing.com team have been clinging to the 10th spot for some time and they maintain a 44-point lead over Joe Hartley.

Meanwhile, up at the top of the pack, there will be another half dozen or so spots clinched this weekend.

In FC, Ron Capps clinches just by making a qualifying pass and Ashley Force Hood and Tony Pedregon will clinch by qualifying.

In PS, Greg Anderson clinches by qualifying and Allen Johnson clinches by qualifying in the top four.

2009 NHRA FULL THROTTLE SERIES STANDINGS (14 Races Complete)

NOTE: The season consists of an 18-race regular season (Countdown to 10) and a six-race playoff (Countdown to 1); the Top 10 drivers qualify for the playoffs. Drivers with an 'x' next to their point total have clinched a spot in the six-race playoff.

| TOP FUEL | | FUNNY CAR | | PRO STOCK | | PSM (8/17 races) | |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------|-------|
| Driver (Ws) | Pts | Driver (Ws) | Pts | Driver (Ws) | Pts | Rider (Ws) | Pts |
| 1. Ant. Brown (4)..... | 1168-x | 1. Ron Capps (5)..... | 1039 | 1. J. Coughlin (5)..... | 1199-x | 1. E. Krawiec (3)..... | 739-x |
| 2. T. Schumacher (3)..... | 1031-x | 2. A. Force Hood (1) .. | 1018 | 2. M. Edwards (3)..... | 1179-x | 2. Andrew Hines (1)..... | 651 |
| 3. Larry Dixon (4)..... | 998-x | 3. Tony Pedregon (2) .. | 1009 | 3. Jason Line (3)..... | 1086-x | 3. Matt Smith..... | 559 |
| 4. Br. Bernstein..... | 913 | 4. Jack Beckman (2) .. | 855 | 4. Greg Anderson..... | 951 | 4. Craig Treble (2)..... | 535 |
| 5. Sp. Massey (1)..... | 819 | 5. Tim Wilkerson (1)..... | 804 | 5. Allen Johnson (2) .. | 933 | 5. Doug Home..... | 506 |
| 6. C. McClenathan..... | 814 | 6. Del Worsham (2)..... | 791 | 6. Greg Stanfield..... | 744 | 6. Hector Arana (1)..... | 472 |
| 7. Shawn Langdon..... | 773 | 7. Bob Tasca (1)..... | 787 | 7. Ron Krisher (1)..... | 704 | 7. Matt Guidera (1)..... | 446 |
| 8. Morgan Lucas (1) .. | 773 | 8. John Force..... | 739 | 8. Kurt Johnson..... | 668 | 8. Steve Johnson..... | 360 |
| 9. Doug Kalitta (1)..... | 666 | 9. Mike Neff..... | 683 | 9. Rickie Jones..... | 608 | 9. Shawn Gann..... | 356 |
| 10. Clay Millican..... | 567 | 10. Matt Hagan..... | 669 | 10. Warren Johnson..... | 575 | 10. Karen Stoffer..... | 351 |
| 11. Joe Hartley..... | -44 | 11. Cruz Pedregon..... | -7 | 11. Johnny Gray..... | -48 | 11. Michael Phillips..... | -54 |
| 12. Terry Haddock..... | -224 | 12. Robert Hight..... | -43 | 12. Larry Morgan..... | -111 | 12. Junior Pippin..... | -118 |
| 13. Troy Buff..... | -256 | 13. Jeff Arend..... | -230 | 13. Roger Brogdon..... | -227 | 13. Angie McBride..... | -120 |
| 14. Steve Chrisman..... | -321 | 14. Jerry Toliver..... | -232 | 14. V. Gaines..... | -264 | 14. Mike Berry..... | -145 |
| 15. David Baca..... | -440 | 15. Jim Head..... | -284 | 15. J. Humphreys..... | -305 | 15. Wesley Wells..... | -172 |