



COUNTDOWN 2009



Volume III, Issue 14

July 27, 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

Winners: Brown, Wilkerson, Line, Hines

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)

Calm Before the Storm

2-week break before 3-race scramble for playoffs

For the dozen or so drivers who are on the Countdown bubble, the marathon has reached its sprint: The Countdown to 10, NHRA's 18-race regular season, is down to three final, climactic races.

But first, a two-week break to recharge batteries and get driver, crew and car on the same page. Then the fields will be set based on the performance of those bubble teams at Brainerd (Aug. 13-16), Reading (Aug. 20-23) and Indianapolis (Sept. 2-7).

As you'll see in the updated standings below, a gray box has been drawn around the drivers considered to be on the bubble and, not surprisingly, Funny Car is the most wide open.

It's been the most competitive of the four classes all year and last week's



The Staging Lane

What's next: Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals

When: Aug. 14-16, 2009

Where: Brainerd Int'l R'way

ON TV (ESPN2HD, ET):

Qualifying highlights, Sat. at 6 p.m.; Raceday (pre-race show), Sunday at 11 a.m.; Race, Sunday at 10 p.m.

Notable: Antron Brown is the seventh driver to sweep the Western Swing ... Brandon Bernstein is looking for his first win since Brainerd 2007 (0-8 in final rounds since then) ... 14 of 40 playoff berths are clinched.

FRAM Autolite Nationals was a perfect illustration of that fact: Of the top 11 drivers, only eighth-place John Force and ninth-place Mike Neff exited Sonoma in the same position in which they entered it.

And Robert Hight, in 12th place, went rounds for the second straight week and he's now less than a round from qualifying.

By contrast, in Pro Stock there wasn't a single movement up or down among the top 11 drivers.

Funny Car did have its first three drivers clinch playoff berths with Tony Pedregon, Ron Capps and Ashley Force Hood securing their spots. The competition for the 20-point first-place bonus heated up as well in FC as Tony Pedregon became the third different points leader in the last three races.

Also clinching berths in the Countdown to 1, NHRA's six-race playoff, were Brandon Bernstein in TF, Greg Anderson and Allen Johnson in PS and Andrew Hines in PSM.

2009 NHRA FULL THROTTLE SERIES STANDINGS (15 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 (9/17 races)	
Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Rider (Ws)	Pts
1. Ant. Brown (5).....	1283-x	1. T. Pedregon (2)...	1101-x	1. J. Coughlin (5).....	1273-x	1. E. Krawiec (3).....	837-x
2. T. Schumacher (3)...	1084-x	2. Ron Capps (5).....	1090-x	2. M. Edwards (3).....	1213-x	2. Andrew Hines (2)...	767-x
3. Larry Dixon (4).....	1035-x	3. A. Force Hood (1) 1054-x		3. Jason Line (4).....	1203-x	3. Matt Smith.....	636
4. Br. Bernstein.....	945-x	4. Tim Wilkerson (2)...	919	4. Greg Anderson....	1049-x	4. Doug Home.....	580
5. C. McClenathan.....	910	5. Jack Beckman (2) ..	889	5. Allen Johnson (2) ..	989-x	5. Craig Treble (2) ..	568
6. Sp. Massey (1)	853	6. Bob Tasca (1)	841	6. Greg Stanfield	776	6. Hector Arana (1) ..	526
7. Morgan Lucas (1)	826	7. Del Worsham (2)....	824	7. Ron Krisher (1)	739	7. Matt Guidera (1) ..	499
8. Shawn Langdon.....	807	8. John Force	772	8. Kurt Johnson	721	8. Steve Johnson.....	392
9. Doug Kalitta (1).....	698	9. Mike Neff.....	740	9. Rickie Jones	680	9. Shawn Gann.....	388
10. Clay Millican	619	10. Cruz Pedregon.....	713	10. Warren Johnson.....	607	10. Karen Stoffer.....	386
11. Joe Hartley	-44	11. Matt Hagan	-6	11. Johnny Gray	-27	11. Michael Phillips ..	-38
12. Terry Haddock	-276	12. Robert Hight.....	-15	12. Larry Morgan	92	12. Junior Pippin.....	-122
13. Troy Buff	-277	13. Jeff Arend.....	-243	13. Rodger Brogdon....	-227	13. Angie McBride	-155
14. Steve Chrisman	-342	14. Jerry Toliver	-245	14. V. Gaines.....	-265	14. Mike Berry.....	-170
15. Mike Strasburg	-424	15. Jim Head.....	-328	15. J. Humphreys	-337	15. David Hope.....	-183