



COUNTDOWN 2009



Volume III, Issue 16

August 24, 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

Winners: Lucas, T. Pedregon, Anderson, Arana

TOYO TIRES NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Dixon, Tasca, Coughlin, Krawiec

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)

Midnight Hour Is Here

1 race left to get in playoffs for 13 teams on the bubble

Seven more teams clinched playoff berths at the Toyo Tires NHRA Nationals and three more are virtual cinches — that leaves 13 teams competing for the final seven places in the Countdown to 1, NHRA's six-race playoff, with one regular season race left.

That one regular season race is the prestigious Mac Tools U.S. Nationals at O'Reilly Raceway Park at Indianapolis and it will be run Sept. 2-7.

Doug Kalitta and Mike Neff just need to qualify to secure their spot and Kurt Johnson just needs to make a qualifying pass. All of the others in contention for Countdown to 1 playoff berths will have to wait for the traditional Labor Day Monday race day for their fates to be determined



The Staging Lane

What's next: Mac Tools U.S. Nationals
When: Sept. 2-7, 2009
Where: O'Reilly Raceway Park at Indianapolis
ON TV (ESPN2HD, ET): Qualifying highlights, Sunday 11:30-2, 5-7 p.m.; Raceday (pre-race show), Sunday at 11-11:30 a.m. and Monday at Noon-1; Race, Monday at 1-6 p.m.
Notable: 30 of 40 playoff berths are clinched ... Doug Kalitta and Mike Neff just need to qualify to clinch; Kurt Johnson just needs to make a qualifying pass to clinch.

(unless drivers behind them in the standings DNQ).

"Obviously we want to get in the Countdown (to 1) ... and we have one more shot to make sure we do,"

said Clay Millican, who holds only a three-point lead over Joe Hartley for the final playoff berth in Top Fuel.

In FC, it's three drivers (Cruz Pedregon, Matt Hagan and Robert Hight) separated by just 38 points, less than two rounds, competing for one spot.

The scenario in PS is similar with three drivers separated by just 36 points, but only one of those three (Rickie Jones, Warren Johnson and Johnny Gray) will be left at the altar.

And finally, in PSM, there are five drivers with a shot. Michael Phillips made a monster move at Reading, jumping from 11th to eighth with his runner-up finish. At the other end, Junior Pippin still has a shot as he's within three rounds of 10th place Karen Stoffer.

2009 NHRA FULL THROTTLE SERIES STANDINGS (17 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. X=Clinched playoff berth; Y=Clinched No. 1 seed (20-point bonus).

TOP FUEL		FUNNY CAR		PRO STOCK		PSM (11/17 races)	
Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Rider (Ws)	Pts
1. Ant. Brown (5).....	1435-y	1. T. Pedregon (3)...	1292-x	1. J. Coughlin (6).....	1438-x	1. E. Krawiec (4).....	1026-y
2. Larry Dixon (5).....	1248-x	2. Ron Capps (5).....	1219-x	2. Jason Line (4).....	1373-x	2. Andrew Hines (2)...	837-x
3. T. Schumacher (3)...	1194-x	3. A. Force Hood (1)...	1128-x	3. M.Edwards (3).....	1349-x	3. Hector Arana (2)...	722-x
4. C. McClenathan...	1040-x	4. Bob Tasca (2).....	1008-x	4. G. Anderson (1)...	1222-x	4. Matt Smith.....	720-x
5. Br. Bernstein.....	1029-x	5. J. Beckman (2).....	996-x	5. A. Johnson (2).....	1076-x	5. Doug Home.....	685-x
6. M. Lucas (2).....	981-x	6. Tim Wilkerson (2)...	982-x	6. Greg Stanfield.....	862-x	6. Craig Treble (2)...	673-x
7. Sp. Massey (1).....	980-x	7. Del Worsham (2)...	929-x	7. Ron Krisher (1).....	847-x	7. Matt Guidera (1)...	583-x
8. Sh. Langdon.....	932-x	8. John Force.....	919-x	8. Kurt Johnson.....	824	8. Michael Phillips.....	500
9. Doug Kalitta (1).....	765	9. Mike Neff.....	872	9. Rickie Jones.....	742	9. Shawn Gann.....	475
10. Clay Millican.....	682	10. Cruz Pedregon.....	801	10. Warren Johnson.....	715	10. Karen Stoffer.....	459
11. Joe Hartley.....	-3	11. Matt Hagan.....	-31	11. Johnny Gray.....	-9	11. Steve Johnson.....	-2
12. Terry Haddock.....	-244	12. Robert Hight.....	-38	12. Larry Morgan.....	-138	12. Junior Pippin.....	-50
13. Troy Buff.....	-340	13. Jeff Arend.....	-246	13. Rodger Brogdon.....	-270	13. Bailey Whitaker.....	-163
14. Steve Chrisman.....	-405	14. Jerry Toliver.....	-250	14. V Gaines.....	-332	14. Mike Berry.....	-192
15. Mike Strasburg.....	-487	15. Jim Head.....	-353	15. Steven Spiess.....	-385	15. Wesley Wells.....	-218