



# COUNTDOWN 2009



Volume III, Issue 17

Sept. 8, 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

Winners: Schumacher, Force Hood, Coughlin, Arana

### 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)

# Playoff Fields Are Set

## Hight's Indy runner-up earns him 40th and final bid


With the DNQs by Joe Hartley and Warren Johnson, and first-round losses by Junior Pippin and Steve Johnson, by the quarterfinal round of the 55th Mac Tools U.S. Nationals presented by Lucas Oil, all of the focus had shifted to Funny Car.

Thirty-nine of the 40 playoff berths had been secured and the game of Musical Chairs was down to two drivers — Cruz Pedregon and Robert Hight — for one final berth in the Countdown to 1, NHRA's six-race playoff.

Hight had the luxury of knowing that although he trailed Pedregon by 35 points, the two were on the same half of the ladder so he controlled his own destiny.

First things first.

In the quarterfinals, Hight — the No. 1 qualifier — sped past Bob Tasca and he



**The Staging Lane**

**What's next:** Carolinas NHRA Nationals  
**When:** Sept. 18-20, 2009  
**Where:** zMax Dragway  
**ON TV (ESPN2HD, ET):** Qualifying highlights, Sat. (late night) at 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.; Raceday (pre-race show), Sun. at 11 a.m.; Race, Sun. at 7 p.m.  
**Notable:** This is the first race of the six-race NHRA Playoffs, the Countdown to 1 ... This is the second year for NHRA to host a race in Concord, N.C. ... In 2010, NHRA will host two events at zMax Dragway in Concord.

watched from top end as his boss, John Force, staged against Cruz Pedregon.

Interestingly, just a year earlier, at the final race in Pomona, Cruz Pedregon

watched from top end as his brother Tony Pedregon defeated a still-in-contention Hight to clinch the 2008 championship for Cruz.

And a year before that, in 2007, Tony Pedregon won the championship by a mere 19 points over Hight.

This time, however, it was Hight celebrating as Force eliminated Cruz Pedregon from the race.

A round later, Hight officially eliminated Cruz Pedregon from championship contention when he defeated Force to move around Cruz Pedregon to secure the 10th and final playoff berth in the ultra-competitive FC class.

In Top Fuel and Pro Stock, the final playoff berth were secured in qualifying as Hartley and Warren Johnson each failed to qualify.

## 2009 NHRA FULL THROTTLE SERIES STANDINGS (Regular Season Complete)

**NOTE:** When the six-race playoff (Countdown to 1) begins Sept. 18-20, the Top 10 drivers will have their points reset in 10-point increments with the first-place driver receiving a 20-point bonus. Standings reflect reg. season points/playoffs reset.

TOP FUEL		FUNNY CAR		PRO STOCK		PSM (12/17 races)	
Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Rider (Ws)	Pts
1. Brown (5).....	1473/2110	1. T.Pedregon (3).....	1364/2110	1. Coughlin (7).....	1550/2110	1. Krawiec (4).....	1059/2110
2. Dixon (5).....	1343/2080	2. Capps (5).....	1250/2080	2. Line (4).....	1450/2080	2. Hines (2).....	873/2080
3. Schumacher (4).....	1311/2070	3. Force Hood (2).....	1245/2070	3. Edwards (3).....	1427/2070	3. Arana (2).....	839/2070
4. Br. Bernstein.....	1105/2060	4. Tasca (2).....	1061/2060	4. Anderson (1).....	1256/2060	4. Smith.....	778/2060
5. McClenathan.....	1094/2050	5. Beckman (2).....	1027/2050	5. A.Johnson (2).....	1111/2050	5. Home.....	757/2050
6. Massey (1).....	1051/2040	6. Wilkerson (2).....	1014/2040	6. Stanfield.....	956/2040	6. Treble (2).....	724/2040
7. Lucas (2).....	1035/2030	7. J.Force.....	993/2030	7. Krisher (1).....	880/2030	7. Phillips.....	595/2030
8. Langdon.....	984/2020	8. Worsham (2).....	963/2020	8. K.Johnson.....	834/2020	8. Guidera (1).....	583/2020
9. Kalitta (1).....	798/2010	9. Neff.....	928/2010	9. Jones.....	773/2010	9. Gann.....	529/2010
10. Millican.....	713/2000	10. Hight.....	861/2000	10. Gray.....	758/2000	10. Stoffer.....	511/2000
11. Joe Hartley.....	-24	11. Cruz Pedregon.....	-5	11. Warren Johnson.....	-33	11. Steve Johnson.....	-20
12. Terry Haddock.....	-243	12. Matt Hagan.....	-60	12. Larry Morgan.....	-130	12. Junior Pippin.....	-71
13. Troy Buff.....	-361	13. Jerry Toliver.....	-277	13. Rodger Brogdon.....	-262	13. Bailey Whitaker.....	-205
14. Steve Chrisman.....	-436	14. Jeff Arend.....	-306	14. V.Gaines.....	-365	14. Mike Berry.....	-234
15. Mike Strasburg.....	-518	15. Jim Head.....	-381	15. Steven Spiess.....	-396	15. Wesley Wells.....	-238