

VOLUSIA SPEEDWEEKS PREVIEW

Contributed by Bill Klingbeil

Outlaw

Champions Set To Begin Title Chase at Volusia Speedway Park

INDIANAPOLIS

(Feb. 2, 2010) –With the state of Florida being the focal point of the sporting world over the next two weeks, it seems only appropriate that the World of Outlaws (WoO) Sprint Series begins its 32nd season in the Sunshine State with possibly the most competitive collection of teams in short-track racing. Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) headlines that race lineup with arguably the best driver duo the sport has ever seen.

Sprint
car racing icon Steve Kinser and four-time defending WoO champion Donny Schatz will carry the TSR colors at dirt tracks across the U.S. in 2010. Kinser and Schatz have combined to win the last eight Outlaw titles and are the only two drivers in series history to win at least four titles. Each begins his quest to add another championship this weekend during the 39th Annual Florida DIRTcar Nationals by University of Northwestern Ohio at Volusia Speedway Park (VSP) in Barberville, Fla. The three nights of racing at VSP kick off a schedule that includes nearly 80 nights of action.

Schatz will be looking to make it five straight WoO titles this season and once again will pilot the TSR No. 15 Armor All/STP/ParkerStore J&J. The Fargo, N.D. resident scored a dozen WoO wins last season en route to his championship, including his 100th career WoO "A" Feature at Dacotah Speedway in Mandan, N.D. His four-year run at the top of the Outlaw ranks has produced 66 WoO wins, during which he also became only the second driver – joining Kinser – to win four consecutive Knoxville (Iowa) Nationals.

Schatz's TSR Armor All/STP crew will be comprised of crew chief Rick Warner, crewman Shane Bowers and Steve Swenson. The trio spent the past three months building an arsenal of equipment for Schatz to use in the wars ahead. Schatz himself stayed sharp behind the wheel by winning three of his seven winged Sprint car races in Australia, including his eighth \$50,000 Scott Darley Memorial win and third consecutive \$30,000 Australian Open victory.

Two of Schatz's WoO victories came during last year's opening weekend at VSP. He has three career WoO wins, eight podium finishes and 10 runs in the top-10 in his 13 career Outlaw starts at the track. In all, he has won eight times at the half-mile dirt oval. He scored his first career All-Star Circuit of Champions (ASCoC) victory at VSP in February 2006. Last season, he won the opening ASCoC feature in thrilling fashion.

After starting 16th, he was involved in an opening-lap accident and then rejoined the field in 23rd. The 30-lap race went nonstop from there, and Schatz charged from the back to win the race. He won another ASCoC feature the following night before capturing the opening WoO feature and event finale two nights later. A similar start would go a long way toward championship number five for Schatz.

For all three WoO events at Volusia Speedway Park, the pit gates open at 1 p.m. EST, and the grandstands open at 5 p.m. Hot laps are scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Tickets for the race can be purchased by calling Volusia Speedway Park at (386) 985-4402. For more information on the event, visit www.DIRTcarNationals.com.

Race fans unable

to attend this weekend's races can catch all of the action on DIRTVision.com. Fans can listen live as Johnny Gibson, "Voice of the Outlaws," calls the action as he does at all WoO Sprint Series events on the DIRTVision.com cybercast, as well as on the DIRT Radio Network. Go to www.DIRTVision.com for more information on all the site features, including updated results from each night of racing, as well as a chat room to interact with other race fans.

Donny Schatz, Driver of the No. 15 TSR/Armor All/Chevy/ParkerStore J&J:

You've been on top of the sport for the last four seasons. What is going to take to stay there this season?

"It's going to take a lot of things. We're going to have to be consistent like we have been, and we're going to have to be even better than we were. It did get pretty tight there at the end last year, and that's not how we want it. We fell out of two races last year that we thought were absolutely ridiculous, and if you have two last-place finishes, that's something I can't live with if we lose a championship. My crew worked hard all winter so that we can hopefully avoid those problems again.

"I think we are in the best position we have ever been in to compete for a championship. They changed the tires and my guys seem to adapt to change a little bit better than everyone else. We're all pumped up and ready to go."

You've recently returned home from another solid Australian tour. This time, you had a teammate down there and that's been kind of the norm for you since coming to TSR, right?

"Going to Australia is one of the fun things that I get to do and, this year, to have (car owner) Tony (Stewart) come over and race with me was a lot of fun. I not only got to race against him, but he was my teammate. We learned a lot about each other and spent a lot of time together.

"He's very sharp and he's more than just a driver. He is a smart businessman and a good motivator. I learned a lot from him, especially in the time we had away from the track and the approach to take on things. We worked together well at the races and I wish he could have had a few better finishes. He did a great job there and we had a lot of fun."

Speaking of teammates, this year, Steve Kinser is driving for Tony Stewart Racing, as well. So you get to be teamed up with one of the greatest drivers to ever sit behind the wheel of a Sprint car. Is that a pretty exciting thought?

"To have a teammate like Steve Kinser, what else could you ask for? He is 'The King.' There are no ifs ands or buts about it. It's pretty cool to have him under the Tony Stewart Racing banner. We're still going to have to beat each other on the track, but now we have a closer affiliation. When they told me he was coming to the team, I thought, 'Wow, this is going to be unbelievable.' He is the premier driver in our sport. I'm glad to be his teammate and I'm looking forward to racing with him."

Florida has been a good place for you the past few years. What's been the key for your fast starts down there?

"It's been lot of things. My guys have worked hard this winter to make sure that I am going to be in a good situation. Volusia is a very tricky place. Track conditions can be totally opposite from night to night, and that's where having a great

crew comes into play. You just have to keep doing things that keep you a little bit ahead. I'm looking forward to getting going, and trying to get our first win of the season.

"You have to remember that racing in Florida is unique, and often what works down there won't work anywhere else. Making sure you understand what is going on and analyzing what you do learn in Florida is key. We've got a couple of All-Star races and three Outlaw shows so, hopefully, we can get it figured out right away and get off to a good start to the season."

About Bass Pro Shops

In less than three decades, Bass Pro Shops has grown from a small display in Springfield, Mo., into the nation's leading retailer of premium outdoor gear. Bass Pro Shops has established itself as a cutting-edge innovator in the highly competitive world of outdoor retailers. Now totaling 53 locations nationwide, and planning to add up to two more stores in 2009, Bass Pro Shops have become destination locations for over 80 million consumers each year with their unique combination of entertainment, outdoor education and conservation appreciation. Bass Pro Shops has won the prestigious "Trendsetter of the Year" award, as well as Chain Store Age's "Retailer of the Year" award and Sporting Goods Business' "Specialty Retailer of the Year" award. Bass Pro Shops and brand founder, Johnny Morris, also won "2008 Retail Innovator of the Year" from the National Retail Federation. The company also has been named the #1 Outdoor Retailer in America by Sporting Goods Business magazine for the past two years. For more information regarding Bass Pro Shops, store locations and racing involvement, log on to www.basspro.com.

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The Armor All/STP Products Company is a subsidiary of The Clorox Company, headquartered in Oakland, Calif. Clorox is a leading manufacturer and marketer of consumer products with fiscal year 2008 revenues of \$5.2 billion. With 7,600 employees worldwide, the company manufactures products in two dozen countries and markets them in more than 100 countries. For more information about Clorox, visit www.TheCloroxCompany.com. For more information on Armor All, go to www.armorall.com or www.aa-ownercenter.com.

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