MAY 2016 VOLUME 16 - RACEWAY

Rising to the Challenge The LSX Shootout Celebrates Its 10th Year

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Frank Hoffman's LSX-Powered, NA 10.5 Mustang











WORDS BY SCOTT SPARROW / PHOTOS BY TEAM FSC

usten Spencer had a point to make in 2015 after a less than stellar 2014 season. He felt if he ran strong and won rounds, he'd be in a position to claim this year's Scat Crankshafts championship. "I felt really confident that this was going to be a challenging and exponential year of racing. I also felt like we had something to prove after being plagued with problems during the last season," he said.

His first race of the season set the tone for the young racer. "After qualifying only 13th, I was pitted against heavy-hitters every round and I had to make split second decisions to make it to the finals," Spencer said. In the final round, Spencer faced one of the toughest racers on the track, Brent Calvert. "With almost identical reaction times, I really had to put in some work on the big end when racing Brent, which isn't an easy task when his closing speed is over 10 mph more than mine," Spencer said. However, Spencer and his 2000 Mustang won the race, putting him exactly where he needed to be—at the top in points.

The second race of the year grounded Spencer after losing in the first round to Mike Nordhal. After that loss, Spencer said, "I hardened my resolve to make a huge comeback," and he did by winning and thus maintaining his points lead over Nordahl and Greg Dreher, who was runner-up to Spencer at the third race.

Entering the final race of the season, Spencer had the lead but both Dreher and Nordhal were in striking distance. "It's always stressful to be chased by such notoriously great racers. Thankfully, the race day went in my favor even though I exited competition earlier than I wanted to that day," he said. Working in his favor was a first-round loss by Nordahl and a final-round loss for Dreher. The final difference in points was a bit more than 100 points. "I want to thank everyone that contributed to my success this year, Aerospace Components, Vortech Superchargers, Mickey Thompson Tires and Wheels, Hughes Performance, Unleashed Performance Labs, Mod Motor Mustangs, and most of all my parents," said the newly minted champ. FSC



RUNNER-UP — GREG DREHER — 1,625 POINTS

here's no doubt about it, Greg Dreher had a great season. His runner-up in Scat Crankshafts Open Comp complemented his championship run in MMR Mustang Madness. Had it not been for a couple early round losses, Dreher and his Mustang could have easily claimed two titles in 2015. His season opened with a loss to eventual class champ, Justen Spencer in the second round followed by a runner-up finish to Mike Nordahl during the second race of the season.

The second half of the year began with him moving to the semifinals, but losing that race to Spencer. But even with the round losses, he was still in a very tight points battle entering the final race of the season. At that event, the Bakersfield driver made it to the final once againthis time facing Brent Calvert—but he ended up losing the round after running under his index.

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