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## NORDAHL'S STUNNING WEEKEND

Going into the NMCA West World Street Finals many of the index class championships were still up for grabs which made for an exciting weekend for both the racers and fans. Many of these die-hard drag racing fanatics made all four of the NMCA West races to earn 400 bonus points along with the chance to throw out a bad race to improve upon their points totals. With Auto Club Famoso Raceway in Bakersfield playing host for a second time, the stage was set for some great and very strategic index racing. Thanks to the great weather, mild temperatures and a prepped track, the cars were running great times during Saturday's qualifying session.



Ron DeHoop made it through two rounds before losing on a redlight against Steve Cox.



Col Gordon and his Fox body bested Mike O'Keefe and Greg Montoya, and Stephen Porcho in the semis before redlighting against Citrois in the final.



Steve Cox and his Camaro didn't have wild rides to the quarterfinals in the first four rounds, but he had to race Nardahl in the final, but couldn't run his number.



Kenny Snow drove his Vega to the semis where he lost a close race against Nardahl.

It's safe to say that this weekend belonged to Mike Nordahl, who left the storied facility with three NHRA Wallys—a first in NMCA competition, and in fact, Nordahl's probably one of a very few who has ever won three different eliminators in one day.

All season the Hedman Hedders Nostalgia Street Car class proved to be one of the most popular classes among racers and fans alike. Thanks to its popularity, Hedman Hedders offered a bonus to the class champion at the end of the season. Mike Sigman earned his place at the top of the qualifying sheet on Saturday thanks to his nearly perfect .01 reaction time, while the points leader Mike Nordahl came in sixth during the session. Going into the NMCA West World Street Finals Nordahl had a points lead over Steve Cox, but Cox was not going to give up on his championship dreams without a fight. Both Nordahl and Cox went rounds and eventually ended up facing one another in the finals. In the final, Nordahl had a slightly faster reaction time than Cox, but his 10.64 on a 10.5 index sealed the deal for the win and the championship. Cox experienced some mechanical issues that prevented the '68 Camaro from running close to his 10.5 index.

Nordahl's '64 Nova ran 10.54 at 126 mph to advance over the '67 Mustang of Jan Vanderpool in the first round of eliminations on Sunday. Meanwhile Cox earned a place in the second round when George Stanges '64 GTO experienced some issues that kept him from even earning a time slip. Top qualifier Sigman, enjoyed a bye in the first round, but in round two despite running 9.50 on a 9.5 index, Sigman was unable to get past Burnitzki's perfect light and 11.52 on an 11.50. Cox caught a break in the second round when Richard Miller's '69 Camaro was unable to complete a pass. A double breakout by Nordahl and Mike Matranga in second round resulted in Nordahl being the least guilty of the two. In the third round Nordahl ran a 10.58 with a .017 light to advance over David Burnitzki. Yet again, Cox caught another break when Ron DeHoop



A-.023 red light in the semis kept John Guinn from advancing to the final.



The '55 Chevy of Jordan Janke proved a reliable ride for him, but in the final Janke got too heavy on the foot, leaving the line too early.



Driving in his comfort zone, Nordahl was methodical on the tree and his Nova stayed constant, taking him to the winner's circle in Open Comp.

After the finals, Cox remained second in points while Nordahl earned the championship.



Kyle Thorpe and his '91 Mustang defeated Dustin Lee in the first round, but Nordahl ended Thorpe's weekend in the second.

| HEDMAN HEDDERS |       | NOSTALGIA STREET CAR |       |
|----------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| DRIVER         | RT    | INDEX                | ET    |
| Mike Nordahl   | 0.117 | 10.50                | 10.64 |
| Steve Cox      | 0.124 | 10.50                | 11.91 |
| TOP QUALIFIER  | RT    | INDEX                | ET    |
| Mike Sigman    |       | 9.50                 | 9.51  |

uncharacteristically went -.035 red in an elimination round. Meanwhile, Kenny Snow and his '71 Vega enjoyed a bye-run into the semifinals. Snow ran a 10.58 with a .021 light, but it was not enough to get past Nordahl's 10.5 with a .034 light. Cox had the bye in the semis, and took a leisurely pass knowing he had to face Nordahl in the final round.

In the final, Nordahl illuminated the win lights with a 10.64 and a .117 light, while Cox managed to get his car down the track with an 11.9 despite some mechanical gremlins. After the finals, Cox remained second in points while Nordahl earned the championship. "Having to win the final event of the year to clinch the Nostalgia Street Car championship after a very close season was very exciting to say the least," said Nordahl. When asked who was his biggest competitor Nordahl replied, "Steve Cox because he is a good and consistent racer, if you're not on you're A-game he will end your weekend and put you on the trailer."

Going into Bakersfield Dustin Lee was the B&M Racing Open Comp points leader, but the gap between Lee and Monte Lafrenz was still close. During Saturday's qualifying session John Guinn took the top spot with a perfect light while Mike Nordahl, who was running one of three classes, came in second. Lee qualified fourth behind Ron DeHoop.

In the first round Lee cut a .035 light, but his 11.65 on a 11.59 was not strong enough to fend off Kyle Thorpe's 10.27 on a 10.23 with a .031 light. Top qualifier Guinn got past Alan Ross with an .01 light and 10.13 on his 10.05 index. Nordahl ran a 10.53 with a .024 light to get past the '84 Camaro of Dennis Sato.

| B&M           |        | OPEN COMP |        |
|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| DRIVER        | RT     | INDEX     | ET     |
| Mike Nordahl  | 0.029  | 10.49     | 10.480 |
| Jordan Janke  | -0.015 | 8.55      | 8.564  |
| TOP QUALIFIER | RT     | INDEX     | ET     |
| John Guinn    | 0.000  |           |        |

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