

8/12/11 TRAVIS SHINN HITS THE BIG TIME ON CANAAN DIRT

Travis Shinn has been the most improved driver on the Canaan Dirt Modified scene in 2011, and on Friday night he showed just how strong he has become by holding off the hard charging Randy Howe over the final twelve laps of their main event to claim his first career win. Other winners on Miller Auto Night included Derek O'Hearn, Dallas Hammond and Lowbed Johnson.

Sixteen Papa Z's Modifieds took to the Speedway for their twenty-five lap main event. Rookie, DJ Robinson jumped into the lead and lead the first eight laps, before Shinn raced by on the outside.. Shinn started to stretch his lead, before a major pileup in turn four eliminated the cars of Trevor Rocke, Jason Sanville and TC Forward. This set-up the battle between Shin and Howe. The pair raced side by side for several laps before Shinn edged ahead, and finally pulled away for the win. Shinn had collected a victory in a non-winners race earlier in the season, but this was his first career full field win at Canaan. Following Shinn and Howe to the stripe were Tom Forward, Ryan Avery and Chris Chambers. Jason Sanville and Robbie Lacroix won their respective heats.

Derek O'Hearn made it two in a row in the Beard Sewer and Drain Super Street main event, but it was lady luck that allowed him to grab the win as Ryan Christian and leader, Mark Brown tangled on the next to last lap, and O'Hearn blasted under the pair to steal the win. Brown held on for second followed by Troy Comeau, JP Vaillancourt and Christian. Christian carried the heat checkers.

Dallas Hammond grabbed a popular win in the Bond Auto Parts Bandits. He outraced Armand Boucher, Mark St. Pierre, Doug Boucher and Matt Boucher. Matt Boucher won the preliminary round.

The Northeast Mini-Sprints made their final appearance of 2011, and a good one it was. Slowed by a couple of minor spins, Lowbed Johnson, Terry Reil and Rich Crooker all battled for the lead throughout the race. Crooker came from the rear twice before spinning out of contention with two laps to go. Johnson ended up the winner with Reil second. They were chased home by Spencer Allen, Scott Preston and Richard Crooker. Reil and Crooker picked up hat wins.

Action returns to Canaan next Friday night as Bond Auto parts and Make-A-Wish presents the night's activities. The 360 ScoNE Sprint Cars will be in town, plus there will be a Non-winners Modified event, Super Streets, Bandits and Granite State Mini-Sprints. Post time is 7pm.

Canaan Fair Speedways are located on Orange Road, off Route 118 in Canaan, New Hampshire. For more information visit the track website at www.canaanspeedways.com, or call the track hotline at 603-523-4502.