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## **Hagan Drives to Runner-up Finish in NHRA All-Star Callout; Dodge Entries Qualified and Ready for 68th Annual Dodge Power Brokers NHRA U.S. Nationals**

- Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) driver Matt Hagan drove his Dodge Power Brokers Funny Car to a runner-up finish in the Pep Boys National Hot Rod Association's (NHRA) All-Star Callout specialty race that took place during Sunday qualifying at the 68th annual Dodge Power Brokers U.S. Nationals
- Hagan qualified his Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat in the top half of the Funny Car elimination ladder after five qualifying opportunities to prepare for the world's biggest and best known drag racing competition on Monday at Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park
- TSR Top Fuel pilot Leah Pruett, who finished runner-up in 2020, qualified her Dodge Power Brokers dragster No. 10 on the eliminations ladder for the "Big Go"
- Three-time Indianapolis Funny Car winner Cruz Pedregon qualified his Snap-on Tools Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat No. 9 for eliminations

September 4, 2022, Indianapolis, Indiana - Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) driver Matt Hagan drove his Dodge Power Brokers Funny Car to a final round appearance in the Pep Boys National Hot Rod Association's (NHRA) All-Star Callout specialty race that took place during Sunday qualifying ahead of Monday's main event; the 68th annual Dodge Power Brokers U.S. Nationals at Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park.

Hagan and his Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat were among eight Funny Car drivers to take part in the race-within-a-race battle for bragging rights and \$80,000 cash prize. For his first pick, Hagan "called out" and defeated Alexis DeJoria as payback for defeating him in the semifinals of 2021 NHRA Finals at Pomona to end his championship bid.

Hagan moved on to the Callout semifinals, which did not count as an official qualifying run, to battle Robert Hight against whom he had the starting line advantage and turned on the win light with a 4.180-second run at 255.73 mph while his opponent (10.119/82.57) lost traction at the hit of the throttle.

Advancing to his first final elimination in five career specialty race appearances, Hagan staged his HEMI-powered ride next to Ron Capps who had earned lane choice with his previous run. The two competitors had an exciting side-by-side battle with Hagan's quicker 3.900 sec./328.86 mph run overshadowed by Capps' deep stage starting line advantage and slower 3.936 sec./ 330 mph pass for the holeshot win and a four thousandths-of-a-second margin of victory.

While disappointed with the runner-up result, Hagan was pleased with his team's efforts during the five qualifying opportunities they had to prepare his Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat to put him in the top half of the eliminations ladder for the legendary event known as the "Big Go". His best qualifying performance came Saturday night with a 3.892 sec./333.41 mph pass to put him in the No. 7 spot and set up a first round meeting with DeJoria in his quest for a second (2016) Dodge Power Brokers U.S. Nationals title win.

TSR pilot Leah Pruett will begin her race day from the No. 10 spot on the Top Fuel eliminations ladder after recording her best lap of 3.725 sec./332.51 mph aboard the Dodge Power Brokers dragster in the Saturday evening session. She'll have Billy Torrence as her first round opponent as she begins the pursuit of her first Dodge Power Brokers U.S. Nationals Wally after coming close with her runner-up performance in 2020.

A three-time winner at the world's biggest and best known drag racing competition, Cruz Pedregon qualified his Snap-on Tools Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat No. 9 on the Funny Car eliminations ladder with a 3.906 second effort at

324.83 mph, the fifth quickest run of the first session of the weekend. Pedregon will stage next to J.R. Todd for the opening round of the Labor Day classic.

Dodge Power Brokers U.S. Nationals eliminations coverage will begin Monday, Sept. 5, on FS1 at noon ET, continue on FOX at 2 p.m., and conclude with live final round action. Fans can also view all on-track activity in real-time via NHRA.TV and its subscription-based, video-on-demand coverage throughout the event.

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES and QUOTES:**

##### **Leah Pruett, Dodge Power Brokers Top Fuel Dragster**

**(No. 10 Qualifier – 3.725 seconds at 332.51 mph)**

**Qualifying 1:** 3.765 seconds/325.22 mph

**Qualifying 2:** 6.245 sec./109.56 mph

**Qualifying 3:** 3.725 sec./332.51 mph

**Qualifying 4:** 6.484 sec./104.15 mph

**Qualifying 5:** 5.442 sec./126.40 mph

"I've always said nothing is impossible when it comes to Indy, and learning curves and luck are not excluded from that statement. We started off on track with our strategy of running a solid Friday night pass to get us in the field with a 3.76 second run. The plan was to improve from there but as we worked to add speed to the car down low, it was not as cooperative as we would have liked. Instead it applied more abrupt power than we wanted, resulting in tire smoke in Q2. Finding a middle ground with great conditions, we ran a safe 3.72 and we're again at our performance baseline to continue to improve in Q4. Again we experienced rapid power application and smoked the tires.

"With the final qualifying session approaching and room to push the envelope, we continued down the path of trying to run a high 60 but the undetectable ghost of electronic woes bit us. Our clutch controller is software input driven and ground based, and a select portion of that program, crucial to the tune up setup, did not engage. Basically our bearing never moved and we never got to broker our power to improve our 10th position. God's department of thunder must have been looking out for us as we were the last pair to go down the track before it rained and they called it a night. Thankful we were able to identify the issue when we got back, but we are still looking for solutions. That may include swapping a full management system. I have total faith in my Neal Straughsbach-led crew. We will head into raceday with a solid tune, on-point driver and crew, and prepared for the Friday of Mondays."

##### **Matt Hagan, Dodge Power Brokers Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car**

**(No. 7 Qualifier – 3.892 seconds at 333.41 mph)**

**Qualifying 1:** 3.938 seconds/309.49 mph

**Qualifying 2:** 5.581 sec./126.38 mph

**Qualifying 3:** 3.892 sec./333.41 mph

**Qualifying 4:** 3.895 sec./334.15 mph (*Callout Round 1*)

**Callout semifinal:** 4.180 sec./ 255.73 mph (*Callout Round 2 did not count towards qualifying*)

**Qualifying 5:** 3.900sec./328.86 mph (*Callout final*)

"What a wild week in Indy. We've been nonstop with Dodge drive events, media, autograph signings, the Pet Boys NHRA All-Star Callout and trying to get the car qualified. It's been a wild weekend for racing. Today felt like a race day going to the Callout final against (Ron) Capps and we've got to get ready to race again tomorrow. It's kind of a different feeling. It was a really good drag race and a great show for the fans that came to watch qualifying at the Dodge Power Brokers U.S. Nationals, but it's a tough pill to swallow when you look at a holeshot loss like that and you do the math and know what really happened. In the end we know we've got a good car for tomorrow and that's really what counts. Obviously we would have loved to win the Callout and put the Dodge Power Broker car in the winter circle and celebrate tonight but it just wasn't our day and those guys over there ran really good. So hats off to them.

"I do feel confident about our Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat and what we're doing and the direction we're moving in. I know that we're going to have a great race car for race day on Monday. The car is responding well, it's driving well, it's handling well, the crew chiefs are making calls and it's responding to that.

"We started off the weekend with a lot of problems. We had a motor change in the warmup and we had parachutes falling off a race car and not working, so a lot of adversity to get through to start the weekend. Then to come out here and go to the finals in the All-star Callout, I think is moving in the right direction. Dickies Venables is doing a great job getting the car back on track and moving forward. I'm excited about tomorrow. Obviously we hate that we didn't get it done for TSR and Dodge Power Brokers, but at the end of the day we've still got another shot at it tomorrow and we're going to get it done."

#### **Cruz Pedregon, Cruz Pedregon Racing Snap-on® Tools Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat**

**(No. 9 Qualifier – seconds at mph)**

**Qualifying 1:** 3.906 seconds/324.83 mph (5th)

**Qualifying 2:** 5.905 sec./115.68 mph

**Qualifying 3:** 5.707 sec./127.37 mph

**Qualifying 4:** 4.031 sec./311.49 mph

**Qualifying 5:** 4.034 sec./299.06 mph

"We started out great in qualifying. Our Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat ran exactly what we wanted it to run; a 3.90 (second run) at 324 mph, but it did have a couple of cylinders out at the finish line. We smoked the tires twice Saturday because we were pressing. It's that time of year where we're going forward but we came up a little short there. Today we felt good going into the Callout race but it dropped a cylinder. It's kind of been a little bit of an issue with us lately. There are a lot of variables so we're kind of like searching for a solution but I have all the confidence in the world in (Crew chiefs) JC (John Collins) and Rip (Reynolds). They're going to figure it out and we'll just have to ride out this little bit of bad luck that we're going through right now."

"It was nice to be in the NHRA All-Star Callout among the top eight cars, but tomorrow is a new day. I've won the Dodge Power Brokers U.S. Nationals three times and to try to do it again we're going to have to come out and do the cliché 'one race at a time' and 'I don't care who we race' thing and see how we do. There's a 3.88 or 3.89 in his car. I know it's there and hopefully we can bring it out tomorrow."

#### **NHRA CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS STANDINGS:**

*Following qualifying at Dodge Power Brokers U.S. Nationals*

#### **FUNNY CAR (season wins in parentheses)**

1. Robert Hight 1480 (6)

**2. Matt Hagan (Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat): 1214 (3)**

3. Ron Capps: 1171 (2)

4. Bob Tasca III: 1104 (3)

5. John Force: 1089 (1)

6. J.R. Todd: 841

7. Alexis DeJoria: 824

**8. Cruz Pedregon (Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat): 801**

9. Tim Wilkerson: 700

10. Chad Green: 573

#### **TOP FUEL (season wins in parentheses)**

1. Brittany Force: 1266 (4)

2. Mike Salinas: 1170 (4)

3. Steve Torrence: 1139 (1)

4. Justin Ashley: 1135 (2)

5. Josh Hart: 852

**6. Leah Pruett (Dodge Power Brokers): 810 (1)**

7. Shawn Langdon: 809

8. Doug Kalitta: 741

9. Antron Brown 719 (1)

10. Tony Schumacher: 703 (1)

### **@DodgeMoparMotorsports on Instagram**

The [@DodgeMoparMotorsports](#) Instagram channel continues to share content capturing Dodge//SRT Mopar drivers on the track. Fans can see action from the NHRA Camping World Drag Racing Series and NHRA Sportsman grassroots racers, competing in classes such as Factory Stock Showdown, Stock and Super Stock, as well as additional motorsports series.

### **Dodge//SRT**

For more than 100 years, the Dodge brand has carried on the spirit of brothers John and Horace Dodge. Their influence continues today as Dodge shifts into high gear with a lineup that delivers unrivaled performance in each of the segments in which the brand competes while moving forward to a future that includes electrified muscle in the form of the next-generation, all-new Dodge Charger.

The next-generation Dodge Charger electrifies a legend, with the Charger retaining its title as the world's quickest and most powerful muscle car led by the all-new, all-electric 2024 Dodge Charger Daytona Scat Pack. The all-new Dodge Charger will also offer performance choices via multi-energy powertrain options, including the 550-horsepower Dodge Charger SIXPACK H.O., powered by the 3.0L Twin Turbo Hurricane High Output engine.

Dodge also keeps its foot on the gas as a pure performance brand with the 710-horsepower Dodge Durango SRT Hellcat, the most powerful SUV ever, and best-in-class standard performance in the compact utility vehicle segment with the Dodge Hornet.

In 2022, the Dodge brand ranked No. 1 in the [J.D. Power APEAL Study](#) (mass market), making it the only domestic brand ever to do so three years in a row. In 2020, Dodge was named the "[#1 Brand in Initial Quality](#)," making it the first domestic brand ever to rank No. 1 in the J.D. Power Initial Quality Study (IQS).

Fans can follow all the NHRA action this season at [DodgeGarage](#), the one-stop portal for Dodge//SRT and Mopar drag-racing news, including daily updates and access to an online racing HQ, news, events, galleries, available downloads and merchandise. Dodge is part of the portfolio of brands offered by leading global automaker and mobility provider [Stellantis](#) (NYSE: STLA).

### **Mopar**

Mopar is the global name for Stellantis genuine parts and authentic accessories.

A simple combination of the words MOfor and PARts, Mopar offers exceptional service, parts and customer-care. Born in 1937 as the name of a line of antifreeze products, Mopar has evolved over more than 85 years to represent both complete vehicle care and authentic performance for owners and enthusiasts worldwide.

Mopar made its mark in the 1960s during the muscle-car era with performance parts to enhance speed and handling for both on-road and racing use. Later, Mopar expanded to include technical service and customer support, and today integrates service, parts and customer-care operations in order to enhance customer and dealer support worldwide.

Complete information on Mopar is available at [www.mopar.com](#) and the newly redesigned Mopar blog at [www.blog.mopar.com](#).

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