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Ron Capps Races Dodge//SRT Mopar Funny Car to NHRA Southern Nationals Victory

- Ron Capps scores first NHRA Funny Car win of 2019 by racing Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car to victory in the NHRA Southern Nationals at Atlanta Dragway
- Tommy Johnson, Jr. reaches semifinal aboard Make-A-Wish Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car for the second time in 2019
- Defending Southern Nationals winner Leah Pritchett qualified fourth, advanced to second round behind wheel of the HEMI-powered DSR Top Fuel dragster
- Jerry Hatch, Jack Zimmerman earn Dodge Top Finisher Awards at Atlanta
- More info on Mopar in NHRA available at http://blog.mopar.com
- Dodge Garage,a digital content hub for muscle car and race enthusiasts, features highlights from NHRA season

May 5, 2019, Commerce, Georgia - Ron Capps became the second driver to put a Mopar-powered Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car in the winner's circle by racing the Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) machine to victory in the 39th annual Arby's NHRA Southern Nationals at Atlanta Dragway in Commerce, Georgia, on Sunday, May 5.

Capps, one of six Mopar-powered Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car drivers in Sunday's field, earned his 62nd career win, first of 2019 and third career triumph at the track. Tommy Johnson, Jr. reached the semifinal while Jack Beckman, Matt Hagan, Cruz Pedregon, and Jim Campbell were unable to advance past round one. Leah Pritchett raced her HEMI-powered DSR Top Fuel dragster into the second round.

The victory for Capps was well earned for the 2016 Funny Car world champion. He started the day from the No. 11 position and opened eliminations by taking down last weekend's Charlotte winner, Shawn Langdon, in the first round with a run of 4.076 seconds. Next in his path was 16-time champion John Force and their 101st career match-up. For the fourth straight year, Capps defeated Force in the Southern Nationals by making his best run of the day at 4.022 to Force's pass of 4.312. In the semifinals, it was an all Mopar/DSR match-up with Capps out-dueling Johnson, Jr. with a run of 4.071 to reach his seventh career final at the facility.

The final pitted Capps versus Tim Wilkerson and it marked the third time in the past five years the duo would race for the Atlanta victory. Wilkerson won in 2015 and Capps was victorious in 2017. On Sunday, Capps was quicker off the starting line and he earned the holeshot victory with his run of 4.068 seconds compared to Wilkerson's pass 4.052. The margin of victory was 0.0102 seconds (approximately 5 feet).

Despite coming up short in his semifinal matchup with Capps, Johnson, Jr. was extremely happy with the performance of the DSR Make-A-Wish Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car. In the first round, he avenged his first-round loss in Houston to DSR teammate Matt Hagan with a run of 4.037 seconds and in round two, he defeated reigning Funny Car champion J.R. Todd with a smooth pass of 4.334 to win over Todd's tire-smoking run of 10.638. By reaching the semifinal, Johnson jumped back up into the top-five in the championship standings heading to Richmond.

After finishing runner-up in Atlanta last May, Matt Hagan was looking to capture his second career victory at the track and score his second win of 2019. Qualifying proved to be difficult for everyone in the class Friday and Saturday with the changing weather conditions and the result was Hagan qualifying the Dayco Mopar Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car in the bottom half of the field for the first time this season. He squared off with Johnson in the first round and his run of 4.113 seconds at 287.35 mph couldn't keep pace with his DSR teammate's Hellcat Funny Car. Hagan continues to rank second in the championship standings through seven events.

Two-time Southern Nationals winner Jack Beckman made his best run of the weekend in Sunday's opening-round match-up with 16-time Funny Car world champion John Force, but it wasn't quick enough to advance. Beckman muscled the Infinite Hero Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat down the Atlanta track at 4.040 seconds at 312.78 mph only to see Force deep stage, take the starting line advantage and lead throughout the run with his lap of 3.994 ET at 327.74 mph.

In other first-round action with Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Cars competing, Cruz Pedregon lost to Wilkerson and Jim Campbell wasn't able to make a clean run versus J.R. Todd.

In Top Fuel, going back-to-back in Atlanta was the goal of the weekend for Leah Pritchett and her DSR team led by Neil Strausbaugh and Todd Okuhara. The 2018 Southern Nationals champion was looking to become only the fourth Top Fuel driver in the event's 39-year history to score consecutive event wins in a rail car and first since Doug Kalitta accomplished the feat back in 2005 and 2006.

With Mother Nature knocking out the final qualifying session Saturday, Pritchett began her Atlanta title defense from the fourth position. She was machine-like in her opening round race with Audrey Worm, posting the fourth-best run of the session with her lap of 3.812 seconds at 317.79 mph to earn lane choice in round two. In the second round, Pritchett faced Jordan Vandergriff for the first time and she got the starting line advantage, but her run of 3.898/306.95 came up 0.0105 seconds (approximately 5 feet) short of earning her the victory. Pritchett gained two positions in the standings and heads to Richmond fourth.

Mopar Dodge//SRT NHRA Sportsman Spotlight
Jerry Hatch and Jack Zimmerman added their names to the list of Dodge Top Finisher award winners at Atlanta. Lubec, Maine, native Hatch steered his 1970 Dodge Challenger to a third-round finish to claim the honors in Super Stock, while Zimmerman, hailing from Clemons, North Carolina, earned the honors in Stock in his 1971 Dodge Challenger.

The Dodge Top Finisher award, now in its third year, awards $500 to Stock Eliminator and Super Stock drivers who advance the furthest behind the wheel of a Mopar-powered Dodge, Chrysler, or Plymouth race car at all 24 NHRA national events.

Dodge//SRT Mopar NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series: Notes & Quotes

Ron Capps, NAPA Brakes Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car
(No. 11 Qualifier – 4.149 ET)
Rd.1: (.064-second reaction time, 4.076 seconds at 315.78 mph) beat No. 6 Shawn Langdon (.060/4.414/202.09)
Rd.2: (.071/4.022/317.57) beat No. 3 John Force (.078/4.312/220.80)
Rd. 3: (.047/4.071/317.19) beat No. 10 Tommy Johnson, Jr. (064/4.091/310.27)
Rd. 4: (.064/4.068/315.34) beat No. 4 Tim Wilkerson (.090/4.052/310.05)

"Today was amazing. It still hasn't hit me yet. We know we can win from any position, but (starting from 11th) we didn't have all of the confidence in the world. The NAPA Brakes Dodge was a car you dream about driving. It was going down the lane every time when other people were struggling; cars are having a hard time getting grip and then you have Rahn Tobler pulling out 'vintage Tobler.' At the end of the year, you look back on the moments that define the season. We've been struggling this year and as a driver, I've learned the crew chiefs need you more than ever when they're searching. Rahn Tobler has made it look easy a lot over the past decade and I've been the lucky guy behind the wheel, but you've got to be good when they need you the most."

Tommy Johnson Jr., Make-A-Wish Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car
(No. 7 Qualifier – 4.031 ET)
Rd.1: (.087-second reaction time, 4.037 seconds at 309.84 mph) beat No. 10 Matt Hagan (.082/4.113/287.35)
Rd. 2: (.079/4.334/218.62) beat No. 2 J.R. Todd (.072/10.638/76.09)
Rd. 3: (.064/4.091/310.27) lost to No. 11 Ron Capps (.047/4.071/317.19)

"I thought we were going to be able to break our Atlanta curse today. We had a good running Dodge Charger SRT in hot conditions and just lost a close one. I'm excited because the summer races are coming and we are running well.

It was a good points day, we moved up today. We need to maintain our consistency and stay in this thing and continue to do better. The hot races are coming and with the way we are running, I think our win is coming."

Matt Hagan, Dayco Mopar Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car

(No. 10 Qualifier – 4.129 ET)

Rd.1: (.082-second reaction time, 4.113 seconds at 287.35 mph) lost to No. 7 Tommy Johnson, Jr. (.087/4.037/309.84)

"This was a tricky race track for us this weekend. Obviously, we had some issues that we just couldn't overcome. Usually, our hot rod is like a bracket car; put a 94 on it and go racing. The weather threw us for a loop this weekend and we just got behind the eight ball a little bit."

Jack Beckman, Infinite Hero Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car

(No. 14 Qualifier – 5.126 ET)

Rd.1: (.091-second reaction time, 4.040 seconds at 312.78 mph) lost to No. 3 John Force (.038/3.994/327.74)

"Tough weekend. Tough race track. There wasn't a whole lot of success during qualifying in the Funny Car division and we never made it down. I think with us it was a case of too little, too late this weekend. We figured the car out for first round. We made the quickest run in the right lane and it doesn't matter. It wasn't quicker than the car in the other lane. We have to get better. And we want to get better and we will get better. I don't know if that means staying and testing. Or just going and crunching notes before Richmond. We are so much better than this, but you can't keep saying that when the race day results reflect it. We will fix the car. We figure out how a way to get win lights and we'll get it back in the winner circle soon."

Leah Pritchett, Mopar Dodge Top Fuel Dragster

(No. 4 Qualifier – 3.764 ET)

Rd.1: (.068-second reaction time, 3.812 seconds at 317.79 mph) beat No. 13 Audrey Worm (.157/4.008/289.88)
Rd.2: (.068 /3.898/306.95) lost to No. 5 Jordan Vandergriff (.085/3.871/313.15)

"I think the real winners here today have been the fans. In that second round race, they got to see a real close drag race. We don't take any of our competition lightly, especially that team. This was our one and only run on a hot track this weekend. We have been wearing more clutch than we wanted to and it kind of bit us right there. This was the hottest track we've run on all year. We're going to take what we learned in that run and take it with us to the races coming up in the summer. We know we have a really good race car. We are all keeping our heads held up high, but we are disappointed. We wanted to go back-to-back with wins here at Atlanta and the fans have fueled that fire. We gave it everything we had and we're going to keep hunting for more."

Up Next: Virginia NHRA Nationals

Mopar and Dodge//SRT competitors will head next to the second annual Virginia NHRA Nationals, May 17-19 at Virginia Motorsports Park in Richmond, Virginia. Two-time Funny Car world champion Matt Hagan will look to score his first Funny Car triumph in his home state of Virginia and second of 2019 aboard his Mopar-powered Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car.

2019 NHRA Championship — Point Standings After Round 7 of 24
(Season Wins in Parentheses)
NHRA Funny Car

1. Robert Hight (3) – 663
2. **Matt Hagan, Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat (1) – 472**
3. John Force – 470
4. J.R. Todd (1) – 456
5. **Tommy Johnson, Jr., Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat –445**
6. Tim Wilkerson - 436
7. **Ron Capps, Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat (1) – 430**
8. **Jack Beckman, Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat – 425**
9. Shawn Langdon (1) - 365

10. Bob Tasca III - 338

NHRA Top Fuel

1. Steve Torrence (2) – 579
2. Brittany Force (1) –483
3. Doug Kalitta (1) - 464
4. **Leah Pritchett, Mopar HEMI – 433**
5. Clay Millican – 427
6. Mike Salinas (1) – 384
7. Antron Brown – 373
8. Richie Crampton (1) – 329
9. Terry McMillen – 319
10. Austin Prock - 288

About Dodge

Dodge//SRT offers a complete lineup of performance vehicles that stand out in their own segments. Dodge is America's mainstream performance brand and SRT is positioned as the ultimate performance halo of the Dodge brand, together creating a complete and balanced performance brand with one vision and one voice.

For more than 100 years, the Dodge brand has carried on the spirit of brothers John and Horace Dodge, who founded the brand in 1914. Their influence continues today. New for 2019, the Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat Redeye is possessed by the Demon. Its 797-horsepower supercharged HEMI® high-output engine makes it the most powerful, quickest and fastest muscle car reaching 0-60 miles per hour (mph) in 3.4 seconds and the fastest GT production car with a ¼-mile elapsed time (ET) of 10.8 seconds at 131 mph. It also reaches a new top speed of 203 mph. Joining the Challenger SRT Hellcat Redeye is the 2019 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat with its more powerful 717-horsepower engine, the Challenger R/T Scat Pack Widebody, which features fender flares from the SRT Hellcat Widebody and adds 3.5 inches of width to Scat Pack's footprint, as well as and the new Challenger R/T Scat Pack 1320. Infused with exclusive drag strip technology from the iconic Dodge Challenger SRT Demon, the Challenger R/T Scat Pack 1320 is a drag-oriented, street-legal muscle car and a blank canvas for the serious grassroots drag racer. The 2019 Dodge Durango SRT, America's fastest, most powerful and most capable three-row SUV with a best-in-class tow rating of 8,700 lbs. fills out the brands' performance lineup. These visceral performance models join a 2019 brand lineup that includes the Durango, Grand Caravan, Journey, Charger and Challenger — a showroom that offers performance at every price point.

Mopar

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

A simple combination of the words MOtor 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. For more information regarding Stellantis (NYSE: STLA), please visit www.stellantis.com.

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