Contact: Bill Klingbeil

Dan Reid

Matt Hagan Keeps Building Momentum, Grabs Funny Car No. 1 Qualifying Position for Dodge//SRT Mopar in 2019 NHRA Season Finale

- Matt Hagan captures No. 1 Funny Car qualifier in Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Widebody of Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) for Sunday's elimination rounds of 55th annual Auto Club NHRA Finals at Auto Club Raceway at Pomona
- Jack Beckman starts eliminations from the second qualifying spot in his Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car
- Beckman (38 points back) and Hagan (44 points back) will begin elimination rounds in second and third in season standings, respectively, within striking distance of the championship lead
- Leah Pritchett drives HEMI®-powered Dodge//SRT dragster of DSR to No. 2 Top Fuel qualifying position
- DodgeGarage.com,a digital content hub for muscle car and race enthusiasts, features highlights from NHRA season
- New @DodgeMoparMotorsports Instagram channel features Dodge//SRT Mopar drivers in NHRA action

November 16, 2019, Pomona, Calif. - Dodge//SRT Mopar driver Matt Hagan continues to make his presence known loud and clear as the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Mello Yello Drag Racing Series 2019 season nears conclusion. The two-time Funny Car champion earned his second No. 1 qualifying position driving the Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Widebody of Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) for the 55th annual Auto Club NHRA Finals at Auto Club Raceway at Pomona, California and closed the points gap on the championship leaders heading into Sunday's elimination rounds.

Hagan surged his way to Pomona coming off consecutive Funny Car wins in Dallas and Las Vegas. The 2011 and 2014 champion continued his late-season push topping qualifying in both sessions Friday behind the wheel of the Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Widebody, with quickest pass of 3.872 seconds that held up through Saturday qualifying. He collected a total of 10 qualifying points and an additional two points for final position to close the gap from 56 points behind the leader to trailing by only 44 when eliminations commence Sunday. The three-time Auto Club NHRA Finals winner will face Jonnie Lindberg in the opening round.

"There's a lot of confidence in our team," said Hagan, after earning his 36th career No.1 position. "Starting from the No. 1 spot is huge, it sets the tone for the whole day. We've got a great race car, and I feel really confident about all of the decisions they're making in the lounge and how it's performing on the race track. I'm hungry for it; all of us out here live to be in this position where you have the opportunity to win a world championship."

Fellow Mopar-powered Funny Car driver Jack Beckman is also within striking distance of earning his second NHRA Funny Car championship. Beckman opened and closed qualifying with stout runs aboard the Infinite Hero Foundation Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car of DSR. He earned three qualifying points in Q1 and topped the field to close qualifying Saturday afternoon putting him into the second qualifier position and earning four additional bonus points. Entering Sunday, he trails the leader by 38 points and begins his quest for his second world title facing off with John Hale in round one.

Tommy Johnson, Jr., the 2016 and 2017 Auto Club NHRA Finals champion, qualified the Make-A-Wish Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car of DSR seventh. Ron Capps, pilot of the NAPA Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car, claimed the eighth position on the ladder and will begin his quest for his first season-ending victory with a round one matchup versus fellow Dodge//SRT driver Cruz Pedregon.

DSR Top Fuel star Leah Pritchett captured the No. 2 qualifying position driving the HEMI®-powered Dodge//SRT dragster. Pritchett left the last race in Las Vegas mathematically still alive for the Top Fuel championship. The southern California native is looking to close out the 2019 season with her second victory of the campaign and is in good position following qualifying. She drove to quicker E.Ts than any other driver during the opening three rounds of qualifying with a pass of 3.654 seconds. Despite being bumped from earning her second straight No. 1 qualifier on Saturday, she is confident her Mopar team will be ready for their first-round matchup with Scott Palmer.

Dodge Garage: Digital Hub for Drag Racing News
Fans can follow Auto Club NHRA Finals coverage at Dodge Garage, the one-stop portal for Dodge//SRT and Mopar drag racing news. The site includes daily updates and access to an online racing HQ, news, events, galleries, available downloads and merchandise.

@DodgeMoparMotorsports on Instagram
The @DodgeMoparMotorsports Instagram channel will share content capturing Dodge//SRT Mopar drivers in action in the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series, NHRA Sportsman grassroots racers competing in classes such as Factory Stock Showdown, Stock and Super Stock, as well as additional motorsports series.

Dodge//SRT Mopar Notes & Quotes
(qualifying times/speeds below)

Matt Hagan, Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Widebody Funny Car
Qualified No. 1 will face No. 16 Jonnie Lindberg
Friday: (3.900 seconds at 331.36 mph – Q1) (**3.872/333.58**– Q2); Saturday: (3.957/326.87– Q3); (3.904/329.26– Q4)

“I feel no pressure right now. It’s Robert’s to lose. He’s leading, and he’s got to maintain his lead, but that’s why you race on Sunday because you just never know. I’m excited about it; I feel really confident in my team, and I know they’re going to put a great race car underneath me, and I’m just going to drive my ass off, and we’ll see what happens. (Crew chief) Dickie (Venables) races smart, and that’s the reason we’ve won so many races together as a team. He races the race track, and he’s not ego-driven, trying to throw down all of the time. He’s a racer at heart, and I love that about him.”

Jack Beckman, Infinite Hero Foundation Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car
Qualified No. 2, will face No. 15 John Hale
Friday: (3.949 seconds at 326.16 mph – Q1) (7.928/83.59– Q2); Saturday: (4.499/186.28– Q3); (**3.876/332.43** – Q4)

“Making it down the track in that last qualifying session was huge for us. We had only made it down the track in Q1 and we still haven’t made it down the right lane. There’s something about Pomona. It took everything I had to get the car down the track. I was able to peek up at the scoreboard and I can tell you that’s exactly what the doctor ordered for the Infinite Hero Foundation team heading into tomorrow. It’s all right in front us. I’m really excited about the opportunity we have.”

Leah Pritchett, Mopar Dodge//SRT Top Fuel dragster
Qualified No. 2, will face No. 15 Scott Palmer
Friday: (6.492 seconds at 100.39 mph – Q1) (**3.694/322.88**– Q2); Saturday: (3.748/327.51– Q3); (3.708/327.66– Q4)

“Making three good qualifying runs is a great way to position ourselves for Sunday. We were a little bit quick on Q1, but proved to be fast learners by going out in Q2 and running low for the session. We picked up some qualifying bonus points Friday night and Saturday afternoon. We were aiming to get more in that final session, but we had some mechanical issues hold us back. Going into race day No. 2, we have a great chance. This team is full of proven winners at this track and I feel the same way about tomorrow. Winning tomorrow would be a perfect way to round out our first season with this group together and we’re going to do everything we can to accomplish that. It all starts with the first round and all that matters is getting to the finish line first.”

Tommy Johnson, Jr., Make-A-Wish Foundation Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car
Qualified No. 7, will face No. 10 J.R. Todd
Friday: (4.922 seconds at 158.80 mph – Q1) (3.945/319.82– Q2); Saturday: (**3.918/323.97**– Q3); (3.924/322.65– Q4)

“The track conditions have been tricky this weekend, but it’s nice having a consistent car. We have a really good Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat for the conditions we will be racing in tomorrow. This has been a really good race for us in the past and if we can string together some 3.90s tomorrow, I feel like we have a great chance of making it to the final for the fifth consecutive year.”

Ron Capps, NAPA Auto Parts Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car

Qualified No. 8, will face No. 9 Cruz Pedregon

Friday: (4.229 seconds at 219.76 mph – Q1) (6.466/108.97– Q2); Saturday: (3.991/324.59– Q3); （**3.940/328.06**– Q4)

“We feel better about chances after Q4. We talked about it in Las Vegas that it happens to the best of teams. We lost our way a little bit. I couldn’t be prouder of (crew chief) Rahn Tobler and this NAPA Autocare team. Sometimes it takes teams a lot runs and races to figure out what your car is doing and what went wrong, but these guys did a great job figuring it out in short amount of time. That last run was what we wanted. There are a number of scenarios that can play out tomorrow. We are in it to make our teammates proud. If we can help we will. We’ll just go out and try to win the race. We’re just trying to end the year with the best finish we can.”

DodgeGarage: Digital Hub for Drag Racing News

Fans can follow all the NHRA’s action this season at DodgeGarage, the one-stop portal for Dodge//SRT and Mopar drag-racing news. The site includes daily updates and access to an online racing HQ, news, events, galleries, available downloads, and merchandise. For more information, visit www.dodgegarage.com.

@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 Mello Yello 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.

Official Driving School of Dodge//SRT

Dodge is the official sponsor of the Bondurant School of High Performance Driving in Chandler, Arizona, where guests get behind the wheels of the fastest street-legal cars in the world with professional instruction and time on the track. Customers who buy a new SRT model receive one full-day session as part of the Dodge//SRT Package and have the opportunity to learn how to get the optimum performance from their new vehicles in a controlled environment. For more information, visit dodgegarage.com/track-experience.

Mopar

Mopar (a simple contraction of the words MOtor and PARts) is the service, parts and customer-care brand for FCA vehicles around the globe. Born in 1937 as the name of a line of antifreeze products, the Mopar brand has evolved over more than 80 years to represent both complete care and authentic performance for owners and enthusiasts worldwide.

Mopar made its mark in the 1960s during the muscle-car era, with Mopar Performance Parts to enhance speed and handling for both road and racing use, and expanded to include technical service and customer support. Today, the Mopar brand’s global reach distributes more than 500,000 parts and accessories in more than 150 markets. With more than 50 parts distribution centers and 25 customer-contact centers globally, Mopar integrates service, parts and customer-care operations in order to enhance customer and dealer support worldwide.

Complete information on the Mopar brand is available at www.mopar.com. Mopar is part of the portfolio of brands offered by global automaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. For more information regarding FCA (NYSE: FCAU/ MTA: FCA), please visit www.fcagroup.com.

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 muscle cars and SUVs that deliver unrivaled

performance in each of the segments where they compete.

2021 marks the year that Dodge is distilled into a pure performance brand, offering Hellcat-powered, 700+ horsepower SRT versions of every model across the lineup. For the 2021 model year, Dodge delivers the drag-strip dominating 807-horsepower Dodge Challenger SRT Super Stock, the new 797-horsepower Dodge Charger SRT Redeye, the most powerful and fastest mass-produced sedan in the world, and the new 710-horsepower Dodge Durango SRT Hellcat, the most powerful SUV ever. Combined, these three muscle cars make Dodge the industry's most powerful brand, offering more horsepower than any other American brand across its entire lineup.

In June 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). Dodge is part of the portfolio of brands offered by global automaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. For more information regarding FCA (NYSE: FCAU/ MTA: FCA), please visit www.fcagroup.com.

Follow Dodge, SRT and FCA news and video on:
Company blog: http://blog.fcanorthamerica.com
Media website: http://media.fcanorthamerica.com
Dodge brand: www.dodge.com
Dodge Garage: www.dodgegarage.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/dodge or https://www.facebook.com/FiatChrysler.NorthAmerica/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/dodgeofficial or www.instagram.com/FiatChrysler_NA
Twitter: www.twitter.com/dodge or www.twitter.com/FiatChrysler_NA
YouTube: www.youtube.com/dodge or www.youtube.com/fcanorthamerica

-###-

Additional information and news from Stellantis are available at: https://media.stellantisnorthamerica.com