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California Supermodified Series



Photo by Brian Ratchford

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TUEY TRIUMPHANT IN CALIFORNIA SUPERMODIFIED SERIES PORTION OF THE POMBO SARGENT CLASSIC

MADERA, CA, April 21, 2016 – The days have flown by since the California Supermodified Series (CSS) kicked off its 2016 race season, but the thrill of that first victory in a Supermodified might have just now completely set in for Bakersfield's Justin Tuey.

The CSS invaded "The Fastest one-third mile in the West", LoanMart Madera Speedway, on Saturday, April 2, 2016, to celebrating the rich racing heritage of two iconic legends, Al Pombo and Marshall Sargent. Seven winged warriors were on hand to challenge the beautifully prepared LoanMart Madera Speedway and hoped to entertain fans like the good old days.

Tuey, a second generation Supermodified driver, looked to start off his Rookie of the Year season with the best outcome possible, while becoming more comfortable and a part of his #78 CSS Supermodified. The day would prove challenging for Tuey and his Qwik Time Racing team though, as a minor right front suspension part failure in the first practice was overcome, but is also brought about concerns over stressed components on that same critical corner.

Madera, California

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Tuey was not the only one to experience early season gremlins, as nearly all the teams had some issues to overcome at one point in the day. Mike Funkhouser debuted his gorgeous #2F CSS Supermodified for Funkhouser Motorsports, but a power steering problem ailed the team early and sidelined Funkhouser for qualifying. Lance Jackson and the Left Turn Motorsports team were also not immune with the #18 CSS Supermodified, as they experienced engine cooling concerns after qualifying.

In qualifying, AJ Russell in the Hays Bros. Racing #7 CSS Supermodified topped the field, followed by the #18 of Jackson, the #78 of Tuey, the #2 of Donnie Large Jr. for Patton Racing, the #10 of Austin Carter for Carter Racing, and the #4 of Larry Hinz for Hinz Racing, while the #2F of Funkhouser was a scratch and did not qualify.

Following qualifying, the heat race was next on tap. Going with a straight up start for the heat race, all seven CSS Supermodifieds warmed up, but Jackson pulled in with the previously mentioned cooling issue, relegating him to the infield prior to the start. With Jackson out, the outside line moved forward and put Donnie Large Jr. outside of Russell. A great start by the veteran Russell and rookie Large Jr. commenced heat racing action. While Russell pulled away from the start, the first two laps saw two great side by side battles develop, Tuey and Large Jr. for second and Funkhouser and Hinz for four, while Carter, the 3rd rookie in the field, remained in striking distance and tried to settle into a groove. The battle for second remained hot as Tuey continued to challenge Large Jr., meanwhile Carter made his move and challenged Hinz for fifth. The heat race ran green to checkers in just under two minutes race time and at the line it was Russell, Large Jr., Tuey, Funkhouser, Carter, Hinz, and Jackson.

The teams returned to the pits in preparation for the main event, and Left Turn Motorsports found the water pump shaft sheared in two and failed. While it looked dire initially, a pump was located and the team hustled to make the call for the main event. Carter Racing also had repairs to attend to as some body work had come loose on the final lap of the heat race, and was definitely an aerodynamic hindrance. Patton Racing's beautiful bright #2 CSS Supermodified, also debuting, had seemingly conquered their gremlins from earlier in the week and prepared for the main event after all their hard work.





The main event lined up inverting the top 4 and putting Large Jr. on pole followed by Tuey, Jackson, Russell, Carter, Hinz, and Funkhouser. Large Jr. brought the field to the green with Tuey alongside. Tuey jumped to the front going into turn 1 and Russell followed around the outside of Large Jr. in Turn 2. Jackson looked to the outside of Large Jr. through turns 3 and 4 and then crossed over to try and inside move going into turn 1. Unfortunately, the racing room ran out and contact between Large Jr. and Jackson brought contact between Jackson, Carter, and Funkhouser, while Hinz ran out of track and ended up high and hard into the turn 1 wall.

The red flag came out halting the race as the cars of Carter, Funkhouser, and Hinz occupied most of turn 1. Hinz, with heavy damage, retired from the event after having one of the best personal runs in years. Funkhouser also had too many repairs needed to continue, but Carter was able to rejoin the field, as well as Jackson, restarting fourth and fifth respectively.

After the time consuming clean up, Tuey brought the field to the lap 1 restart and quickly had a battle with Russell for the next two laps. Both began to march away from the field and as Large Jr., Carter, and Jackson battled for a number of laps. Russell would lap the group by midway, leaving only himself and Tuey on the lead lap, as a couple of spins retired Carter and a final dash to the finish was set on limited time.

On the restart Russell pulled away as Tuey and Jackson raced, although Jackson was a lap down. On the 27th lap Russell went into turn 3 and began smoking tremendously. As he attempted another lap he brought out the yellow. Although a restart and two lap dash would have been preferred, due to time constraints and

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a necessary clean up, the checked flag was flown with the yellow, ending the race. As a result of bringing out the caution, Russell was placed to the rear of the field as is standard common for bringing out the yellow or red flag. Tuey picked up his first Supermodified win and started his Rookie of the Year challenge strong. Tuey, Jackson, and Large Jr. all passes post-race inspection, while Russell failed to report immediately, or at all, and was therefore disqualified from the entire event. The final results were Tuey, Jackson, Large Jr., Carter, Funkhouser, and Hinz.

Up next for the CSS is the Vukovich Classic at LoanMart Madera Speedway. We hope you will join us on May 7th to honor and celebrate the Vukovich family and their racing heritage and legacy.

About the California Supermodified Series: Launched in 2014, the California Supermodified Series (CSS) is a series for “the world’s ultimate short track racecar”, the Supermodified, to once again reign supreme in California, after the decline over the last several years, by providing 360 Supermodifieds in California a sanctioning body and offer wholesome, thrilling, and intense entertainment of the highest quality; through affordable, equitable, and competitive racing of intriguing and unique racing machines; while giving back to the communities we entertain. For more information and updates please visit the Series’ Official Website at www.cssracing.com, like them on Facebook, and follow them on Twitter (@CSSRacing), Instagram (CSSRacing), and YouTube!

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