

## **Pritchett and Capps Double Up for Dodge//SRT Mopar With NHRA Top Fuel and Funny Car Triumphs at Brainerd**

- Leah Pritchett wins first Wally of 2019 racing the Don Schumacher Racing HEMI®-powered Dodge//SRT Mopar Top Fuel Dragster to victory in Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals at Brainerd International Raceway in Brainerd, Minnesota
- Dodge//SRT Mopar driver Ron Capps wins third race of 2019 and sixth career triumph at Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals
- Tommy Johnson, Jr. reaches 50th career Funny Car final, fifth at Brainerd and fourth of 2019; moves up to No. 2 spot in Funny Car standings
- Matt Hagan earns 35th career No. 1 qualifier, advances to semifinal round driving 2020 Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Widebody Funny Car
- Dodge//SRT Mopar and Don Schumacher Racing drivers hold four of top six positions in NHRA Funny Car standings
- Kevin Leinhardt and Dan Zrust pick up Dodge Top Finisher honors
- [Dodge Garage](#), a digital hub for muscle car and race enthusiasts, offers exclusive photo journals with behind the scenes action

August 18, 2019, Auburn Hills, Mich. - Leah Pritchett and Ron Capps earned Dodge//SRT Mopar an NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series double up with Top Fuel and Funny Car wins, respectively, in the Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals at Brainerd International Raceway in Brainerd, Minnesota.

For Pritchett, the win Sunday was her first piloting the Mopar-powered Dodge//SRT Top Fuel dragster in 2019 and first since winning the 2018 Dodge Mile-High Nationals, a span of 26 races. She scored her eighth career win by beating Kyle Wurtzel, Billy Torrence, Austin Prock and Mike Salinas.

Capps defeated fellow Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) and Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car racer Tommy Johnson, Jr. racing the NAPA Auto Parts Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat to score his third Wally of the season, 64th of this career and a record sixth in Brainerd.

With the only the U.S. Nationals remaining before the points are reset for the six-race NHRA Countdown to the Championship, Dodge//SRT Mopar and DSR drivers hold the second through sixth positions in the Funny Car class – Johnson, Jr. (2nd), Capps (4th), Jack Beckman (5th) and Matt Hagan (6th).

It's been a challenging season for Pritchett, but on Sunday her DSR team was the last standing after starting the day from the fourth position on the eliminations ladder. After being knocked out in the first round the previous two races, the first hurdle was cleared when Pritchett defeated Wurtzel by posting a lap of 3.744 seconds at 327.43 mph. She followed that win up by defeating the last two winners in consecutive rounds, first defeating Billy Torrence in the second round and then avenging consecutive loses to Austin Prock in the semifinals. By defeating Prock, she reached the final for the 15th time in her career and clinched her spot in the upcoming Countdown to the Championship. In the final, Pritchett left first and smoothly drove away to score her 130th career round win and second race win at Brainerd.

After finishing runner-up two weeks ago in Seattle, Capps was focused on continuing his successful summer run with a great performance in Brainerd. The path to victory was loaded with Countdown contenders and former world champions. He started with reigning Funny Car champion J.R. Todd in round one where he outran Todd by putting up a lap of 3.920 seconds to start the day. Next it was his teammate and No. 2 qualifier Beckman and the two put on a

show with Capps besting his first round run with a lap of 3.918 to eliminate Beckman and reach his sixth semifinal of 2019. Capps was solid again in the semifinals while opponent Shawn Langdon smoked his tires to set up the all DSR final. The starting line was the difference and Capps surged to his 50th career win driving for Don Schumacher.

Johnson continued proving he is going to be a factor in the 2019 Funny Car championship chase Sunday with his runner-up finish. He raced the DSR Make-A-Wish Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car from the fifth position on the ladder and was victorious over Tim Wilkerson in the first round, Johnson followed that by defeating Robert Hight in the quarterfinals with his best run of the day at 3.910 seconds. In the semifinal, he squared off with No. 1 qualifier Matt Hagan and used a tremendous light, .031 reaction time, and lap of 3.930 ET to keep his run for a second Brainerd triumph alive as he reached his 50th career Funny Car final and seventh in Brainerd. In the final, Capps had the starting line advantage and Johnson couldn't recover despite making it close with a run of 3.947 compared to the winner's pass of 3.946. Johnson has now finished in the runner-up spot four out of the last five years at Brainerd.

Two-time Funny Car world champion Hagan earned his 35th career No. 1 qualifier aboard the DSR 2020 Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Widebody Funny Car and clinched his spot in the six-race Countdown to the Championship Saturday. He opened his quest for his first-ever victory in Brainerd Sunday by defeating Dale Creasy, Jr. with a run of 3.937 seconds to advance to the second round where he overpowered Bob Tasca III with another sub 4-second run of 3.954 ET and advanced to his seventh semifinal appearance of 2019. It was an all-DSR/all-Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat semifinal matchup pitting Hagan versus Johnson, Jr. The duo staged a terrific drag race and Johnson's 3.930 was just enough to end Hagan's run. Hagan was able to climb to sixth in the season championship standings.

After qualifying the DSR Infinite Hero Foundation Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car second in the field for the third time in 2019, Beckman rocketed to an opening-round win over Terry Haddock by posting the quickest run and top speed of the weekend at 3.876 seconds at 329.75 mph to advance to the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, he matched up with fellow DSR and Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car racer Ron Capps for the first time head-to-head this season. Capps grabbed the starting-line advantage and Beckman couldn't catch the four-time Brainerd champion despite posting a pass of 3.945 seconds. Sunday's exit was the fourth in the previous five races where Beckman has been defeated by a DSR teammate.

Cruz Pedregon and Paul Lee also qualified for Sunday's 16-car field driving Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Cars. Pedregon qualified his Snap-on Tools Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat 13th and was defeated by Hight, while Lee lost his first-round matchup with Langdon.

#### **Mopar Dodge//SRT NHRA Sportsman Spotlight**

Kevin Leinart and Dan Zrust were winners of the Dodge Top Finisher honors in Stock Eliminator and Super Stock, respectively, Sunday at Brainerd International Raceway during the Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals.

Leinart powered his way to a semifinal finish behind the wheel of his R/SA 1969 Dodge Dart. The Dakota City, Nebraska racer powered his Mopar 318 cubic-inch small block V8 through five rounds of Stock Eliminator competition before coming up just 0.18 seconds short of racing to the final.

Zrust, from Maple Grove, Minnesota, piloted his GT/AA 1968 Plymouth Barracuda to the semifinals before being eliminated because he left the starting line early and was disqualified.

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**

##### **Leah Pritchett, Mopar Dodge//SRT Top Fuel Dragster**

###### **(No. 4 Qualifier – 3.756)**

Rd. 1: (.091-second reaction time, 3.744 seconds at 327.43 mph) beat No. 13 Kyle Wurtzel (.112/6.758/85.34)

Rd. 2: (.065/3.764/326.79) beat No. 5 Billy Torrence (-.160/4.124/205.13)

Rd. 3: (.047/3.725/327.27) beat No. 8 Austin Prock (.045/4.002/299.33)

Rd. 4: (.058/3.732/321.04) beat No. 3 Mike Salinas (.074/4.066/235.72)

"It feels so good to finally get that win, not only for myself and my team, but for Don Schumacher and Dodge. Proud to be the one to put on that final round Top Fuel win light. This is the perfect time to be able to gain momentum heading into the playoffs. We made four incredible runs (today) and that's something that (co-crew chiefs) Todd Okuhara and Neal Strausbaugh have worked hard to do consistently, and now it's coming into play at a perfect time. Putting all of the pieces of the puzzle together, we could see, internally, that we were moving in the right direction, but now everyone could finally see it this weekend. We're happy we can bring the Wally home for Dodge and Mopar, and are looking forward to more this year."

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

##### **(No. 7 Qualifier – 3.908)**

Rd. 1: (.092-second reaction time, 3.920 seconds at 327.03 mph) beat No. 10 J.R. Todd (.066/4.635/174.55)

Rd. 2: (.077/3.918/325.53) beat No. 2 Jack Beckman (.089/3.945/327.82)

Rd. 3: (.064/3.938/322/27) beat No. 6 Shawn Langdon (.076/4.377/201.43)

Rd. 4: (.055/3.946/324.28) beat No. 5 Tommy Johnson, Jr. (.171/3.947/319.98)

"This is the time of year where you have to be at your best. Teamwork and great leadership from the top down are the reasons why we are here today. Every time I race Tommy Johnson's car, I feel like I'm racing a mirror of myself. (Johnson's crew chief) John Collins is a chip off the old block, he spent so many years working under Rahn Tobler; his approach is the same, and their car is set up almost identical to ours. The list of teams we beat today are teams you're going to have to beat to win a world championship. I'm so happy we had so much success today, and we have a great running car. I feel really good leaving here."

#### **Tommy Johnson, Jr., Make-A-Wish Foundation Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car**

##### **(No. 5 Qualifier – 3.908)**

Rd. 1: (.075-second reaction time, 3.944 seconds at 320.20 mph) beat No. 12 Tim Wilkerson (.070/4.519/191.87)

Rd. 2: (.068/3.910/323.50) beat No. 4 Robert Hight (.095/6.034/115.21)

Rd. 3: (.031/3.930/324.59) beat No. 1 Matt Hagan (.062/3.932/326.08)

Rd. 4: (.171/3.947/319.98) lost to No. 7 Ron Capps (.055/3.946/324.28)

"We had a big points day for the team and have a really good running Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car. I just made a rookie mistake there in the final. A mistake that I shouldn't have made, but all in all it was a good day. To be able to win the rounds we did and get to another final just builds confidence for this team. We have a lot of momentum going into to Indy and I'm ready."

#### **Matt Hagan, Mopar Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Widebody Funny Car**

##### **(No. 1 Qualifier – 3.890)**

Rd. 1: (.053-second reaction time, 3.937 seconds at 329.18 mph) beat No. 16 Dale Creasy, Jr. (.061/4.119/295.66)

Rd. 2: (.060/3.954/323.81) beat No. 8 Bob Tasca III (.045/4.092/267.16)

Rd. 3: (.062/3.932/326.08) lost to No. 5 Tommy Johnson, Jr. (.031/3.930/324.59)

"It was a good weekend at Brainerd getting the pole and moving around (Bob) Tasca in the points, and obviously Indy is points-and-a-half. We're making momentum with this Mopar-powered Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Widebody Funny Car, and (crew chief) Dickie (Venables) has a really good handle on the tune-up of this Hemi in a lot of conditions. We won Epping and have been going rounds, and this team is peaking at the right time, and I like the way we're progressing. It's going to be a dog fight in the Countdown."

#### **Jack Beckman, Infinite Hero Foundation Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Funny Car**

##### **(No. 2 Qualifier – 3.908)**

Rd. 1: (.095-second reaction time, 3.876 seconds at 329.75 mph) beat No. 15 Terry Haddock (.116/5.076/151.27)

Rd. 2: (.089/3.945/327.82) lost to No. 7 Ron Capps (.077/3.918/325.53)

"Our last win came here and we were kind of hoping this is where we were going to get over the hump this year because we do need a win. I'll take six runner-ups in the Countdown if that's enough to win the championship, but we need to get a trophy. To go out there first round and run low ET and top speed of the weekend and then come back and just flat get outrun by the NAPA team in second round ... that's kind of a testament to DSR teams and how

hard we race one another. Most of the time our toughest competition comes from within our own camp. That doesn't make me feel better, because we came here to take the Infinite Hero Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat to four win lights. We'll take the data and get ourselves prepared for Indy. That's a marathon race and there's nothing more that this team wants more than to go the distance at Indy."

### **Up Next: U.S. Nationals**

The Mopar Dodge//SRT Mopar contingent of racers and teams return to action in two weeks during the NHRA U.S. Nationals at Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis in Indiana. The event consists of six days of action beginning Thursday, August 29 and culminating Monday, September 2, with eliminations on Labor Day. The 19th annual NHRA Dodge HEMI® Challenge takes center stage Thursday and Friday, August 29-30, to open the U.S. Nationals.

### **2019 NHRA Championship – Point Standings Through 17 of 24 Rounds**

(Season Wins in Parentheses)

#### **NHRA Funny Car**

1. Robert Hight (5) - 1397
- 2. Tommy Johnson, Jr. Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat (2) – 1218**
3. John Force (1) - 1199
- 4. Ron Capps, Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat (3) –1171**
- 5. Jack Beckman, Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat - 1098**
- 6. Matt Hagan, Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Widebody (2) - 1047**
7. 6. Bob Tasca III (2) - 1038
8. J.R. Todd (1) -981
9. Shawn Langdon (1) - 914
10. Tim Wilkerson - 824

#### **NHRA Top Fuel**

1. Steve Torrence (8) - 1650
2. Brittany Force (1) - 1015
3. Doug Kalitta (1) - 1013
4. Clay Millican - 1009
5. Antron Brown - 998
6. Mike Salinas (2) – 986
- 7. Leah Pritchett, Mopar HEMI (1) - 903**
8. Austin Prock (1) - 826
9. Richie Crampton (1) - 785
10. Terry McMillen - 708

#### **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](http://www.mopar.com) and the Mopar blog at [www.blog.mopar.com](http://www.blog.mopar.com). For more information regarding Stellantis (NYSE: STLA), please visit [www.stellantis.com](http://www.stellantis.com).

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