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TSR Dodge//SRT Racers Pruett, Hagan Miss by Inches at Rain-delayed Pep Boys NHRA Nationals

- Leah Pruett advanced to the semifinals Sunday in her Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) Mobil 1/Dodge//SRT Top Fuel dragster in the Pep Boys NHRA Nationals after recording her quickest run of the 2023 NHRA Camping World Series
- Pruett defeated Clay Millican and Brittany Force in the first two rounds of eliminations at the historic Maple Grove Raceway before recording her quickest elapsed time of the 2023 NHRA Camping World campaign with a 3.677
- Pruett's top run wasn't enough in the semifinals, losing by inches
- With the semi-final finish, Pruett remains in the top five in the NHRA Top Fuel points standings
- Matt Hagan, the three-time NHRA Camping World Funny Car champion, drove his TSR Rinnai Dodge//SRT Hellcat to impressive eliminations runs with a 3.871 and 3.859 at Maple Grove
- Hagan, a four-time 2023 NHRA national event winner, set low elapsed time in the opening round with his victory over J.R. Todd
- Hagan lost the closest race of the entire 2023 NHRA campaign in the quarterfinals, nipped by 0.0001 seconds and less than 2 inches to Robert Hight with a 3.852 to Hagan's 3.859
- Hagan now ranks fourth in NHRA Camping World Drag Racing Series Funny Car points heading to Charlotte, North Carolina, next weekend for the NHRA Carolina Nationals
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September 18, 2023, Reading, Pa. - The adage, "it's a game of inches," couldn't have been more appropriate for Dodge//SRT racers Leah Pruett and Matt Hagan Sunday in the Pep Boys NHRA Nationals at Maple Grove Raceway.

The Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) pair turned in impressive elapsed times in eliminations in the Top Fuel and Funny Car divisions, but both Pruett and Hagan were nipped at the finish line after strong runs in the rain-delayed first Countdown to the Championship event in the NHRA Camping World drag racing series. The finals were concluded on Monday morning.

Despite recording her quickest run of the 2023 NHRA national series at 3.677 seconds in the TSR Mobil 1/Dodge//SRT dragster, Pruett lost by inches to Doug Kalitta in the Top Fuel semifinals. Pruett remains in the top five in the current NHRA Top Fuel points standings with the tour traveling to the NHRA Carolina Nationals this weekend (Sept. 22-24).

"This Reading race gave us great racing conditions," said Pruett. "Crew chiefs Neal Strausbaugh and Mike Domagala capitalized on every run we made to narrow in on balancing our car's power and clutch application threshold. In our first-round win against Clay (Millican), it was a pedal-fest after tire shake, so the win was a welcomed break. In the second round, we ran a 3.74 with a (spark) plug shot out, but still grabbed the win. Our 'hot rod' came to life in the semifinals running a stout 3.67. We made so much progress tune-up wise. Even though we didn't advance to the final round, that semifinal round validated what we need and will be implementing the rest of this Countdown. I haven't been this excited for my team's momentum. This is the most significant amount of progress we've ever made, and I can't wait for it to show again in Charlotte."

It was an even closer defeat for the three-time NHRA Funny Car World Champion Hagan, who set low elapsed time

in the first round Sunday with a 3.871 in defeating J.R. Todd with his TSR Rinnai Dodge//SRT Hellcat. Hagan lost in the second round to Robert Hight in the closest NHRA national event matchup of the 2023 season, falling just short by an incredible 0.0001 seconds, or less than 2 inches.

Hagan left the starting line first with a strong 0.052 reaction time, but his 3.859 was just edged out with Hight's 3.852. Despite the second-round loss, Hagan stays in the top four in the current NHRA Funny Car points standing with five races remaining.

Hagan was pleased with the Dodge//SRT Hellcat's performance at Maple Grove and feels confident heading to the NHRA Carolina Nationals this weekend.

"With it being the start of the Countdown this weekend, we would have liked to have gone more rounds," said Hagan. "At least we went a couple of rounds, and we made a lot of strides in the horsepower department. Dickie (Venables – crew chief) is doing a great job making some changes and our miles per hour were up. We ran a 336 and a 335, which shows how much horsepower we have.

"All in all, I think it was a productive weekend. We were just on the backside of a good drag race. To lose by .0001 is just splitting frog hairs out there. We just weren't on the right side of it. I enjoy running Robert (Hight) and that team always makes us bring our best on the starting line too. You want Robert, you want J.R. (Todd), and you want (Ron) Capps. You want all of the guys that are heavy hitters out here. At the end of the day, I'm proud of my guys, and they did a phenomenal job on the race car. We aren't leaving here the way we wanted to, but we just have to keep digging and working hard for Charlotte now."

Team owner Tony Stewart captured his second NHRA national event this year by winning the Top Alcohol Dragster title Monday in the Pep Boys NHRA Nationals at Maple Grove Raceway.

The NHRA Carolina Nationals features one nitro qualifying session on Friday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. EDT followed by two qualifying rounds on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. EDT. The final eliminations will begin Sunday, Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. EDT.

Fox Sports 1 will televise with qualifying round 1 on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 9:30 a.m. EDT and qualifying round 2 on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. EDT. The final eliminations for the NHRA Carolina Nationals will be televised on Fox Sports 1 on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. EDT.

@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 Mission 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 110 years, the Dodge brand has carried on the spirit of brothers John and Horace Dodge. Their influence continues today as Dodge, America's performance brand, 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.

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).

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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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