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## **Tony Stewart Racing Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Cars Exit Early in Short Day for Hagan, Stewart at NHRA Northwest Nationals**

- Short day for the Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) team Sunday in the NHRA Northwest Nationals at Pacific Raceways with early exits in the Direct Connection Dodge//SRT nitro cars
- Defending NHRA Mission Drag Racing Funny Car Champion Matt Hagan, who qualified sixth, drove his TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Hellcat to the quarterfinals
- Hagan recorded a 3.891 at 327.43 miles per hour run in defeating Dave Richards in the opening round but the four-time World Champion lost traction in the second round against Paul Lee
- Hagan currently ranks third in the NHRA Mission Funny Car points standings as the national drag racing tour heads to Sonoma Raceway on July 26-28 for the Sonoma Nationals
- Motorsports Hall of Famer and Top Fuel rookie Tony Stewart departed the Seattle event in the first round Sunday when his Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Top Fuel dragster also lost traction
- Stewart left the starting line first over Jasmine Salinas, but his Top Fueler smoked the tires early
- Stewart currently holds the ninth position in the NHRA Mission Top Fuel points standings
- Follow Dodge in NHRA action at [DodgeGarage](#)

July 22, 2024, Auburn Hills, Mich. - Traction issues for Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) nitro drivers Matt Hagan and Tony Stewart made for early exits Sunday in their Direct Connection Dodge//SRT nitro machines in the NHRA Northwest Nationals at Pacific Raceways near Seattle, the eleventh stop in the 20-race NHRA Mission Drag Racing Series.

Hagan, the reigning NHRA Mission Funny Car World Champion, won his opening round of competition with a strong 3.891 at 327.43 miles per hour run in the TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Hellcat against Dave Richards and was seeking a quarterfinal victory against Paul Lee when his 11,000-horsepower Funny Car lost traction. Hagan held the starting line advantage with an excellent .059 reaction time, but his mount spun the tires early and Lee moved on to the second round.

Despite the short day for Hagan, the four-time Funny Car World Champion remains in the top three in the NHRA Mission points standings as the national tour heads to Sonoma Raceway on July 26-28 for the NHRA Sonoma Nationals.

"We've been trying some different things in the heat," said Hagan. "It's obviously not the weekend that we wanted. Sometimes you have to try other things. If they don't work, you go back to what you know. You always have to try and grow and adapt and evolve. I feel good moving into Sonoma because we have a good baseline there. We can go back to a combination that we've used there for years. We're still where we need to be because we're keeping it on all eight cylinders. We'll keep digging now."

Stewart, the former NASCAR, IndyCar and USAC driving champion, made his first racing appearance in the Northwest this weekend when he qualified with a 3.778 run in the TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Top Fuel dragster in his eleventh Top Fuel race in first NHRA professional season.

The Indiana driver went up against another rookie racer, Jasmine Salinas, in the first round of eliminations Sunday. Stewart left the starting line first, but his nitro-burning dragster lost traction, leaving Salinas to advance to the quarterfinals.

Stewart, the leading rookie in the Top Fuel division, continues to hold down the ninth position in the NHRA Mission Top Fuel points standings entering this weekend's Sonoma Nationals.

"Today obviously didn't go according to plan," said Stewart. "We've been working on our hot weather combinations and the car wasn't happy today. We are going to re-group and look ahead to Sonoma. That's one of my favorite tracks, so hoping we can conquer both the road course and the drag strip."

Stewart drove to victory at Sonoma Raceway in the three NASCAR Cup Series road course events in 2001, 2005 and 2016 (his last Sonoma Raceway racing appearance and last NASCAR Cup win) and the Sonoma Nationals will be his NHRA professional debut at the Northern California track.

The NHRA Sonoma Nationals nitro action this week at Sonoma Raceway is scheduled for Friday, July 26, with two rounds of qualifying set for 5:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. PDT. The two qualifying sessions will take place on Saturday, July 27, at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. PDT. Sunday's (July 28) final eliminations will begin at 10:30 a.m. PDT.

The FOX Network will televise two events throughout the weekend with Saturday's Mission 2Fast2Tasty races on air at 6 p.m. EDT, while Sunday's eliminations are set at 4 p.m. EDT on Sunday.

### **@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).

### **Mopar**

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A simple combination of the words MOTOtor 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 newly redesigned Mopar blog at [www.blog.mopar.com](http://www.blog.mopar.com).

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