

Jamestown July 18th 2009

Trucks debut

Michael Savaloja - 07/20/2009

Winnipeg's Lee McRae was run over, spun out and knocked sideways, but he was still somehow able to drive to victory in the Super Trucks' debut at Jamestown Speedway on Saturday. The Super Trucks are out of Winnipeg, Man., where they run weekly at Red River Co-op Speedway. The trucks run similar engines to WISSOTA Super Stocks, except for a high-rise aluminum intake, and have similar suspension components as WISSOTA Late Models. On the track, the class appears to look almost like the NASCAR Craftsman Truck series, primarily because all trucks must run 1995 or newer truck bodies. The series brought a total of eight trucks to Jamestown over the weekend in its first appearance at the track, and all eight machines diced it up to try and take command of the 20-lap feature. The Super Trucks were the last class to hit the track, which was by then dry-slick and extremely icy through the middle of the turns. Success was found at the very bottom, where McRae set up shop. "The track was really smooth, but I couldn't get enough bite," McRae said. "The low lane had some tack and I tried to stay there if possible. "It was a tough battle there. I figured anything could happen and I just braked early and tired not to slide." Lynn Lucken, of Winger, Minn., led the field to the green from the pole, but had trouble staying there early. Lucken was caught up in one of three caution flags in the opening lap, after spinning around in turns one and two along with Winnipeg's Murray Kozie. Winnipeg's Ward Imrie took the point after the dust settled, with McRae riding second and Winnipeg's Jerome Guyot in third. Imrie stayed down by the guardrail as Jerome Guyot, on the high side, briefly swapped second with McRae. McRae reclaimed the second spot, following Imrie's line down low, with 14 laps to go. Imrie had worked up almost a straightaway lead on the field by this point, until Kozie spun in turns one and two to bring out another yellow with nine laps left. One lap after the restart, McRae was able to get his nose under Imrie in turn one and took over the lead down the backstretch. But Imrie wasn't going quietly. Imrie smashed hard into the driver's side of McRae's truck in turns one and two with four laps left, and both trucks came to a rest at the bottom of the track to bring out the yellow. Both were able to drive on, and McRae was awarded back the lead. "(Imrie) climbed me pretty hard. I figured the ball joint was shot, but the (track official) said it was good," McRae said. McRae would get a few more gray hairs before the race was over. On the restart, Guyot almost knocked McRae's back bumper off going into turn one and battled McRae side-by-side for the lead back to the line. Guyot got into McRae again out of four with two laps left, almost spinning out the leader. Both trucks slowed and Winnipeg's Tayvia Dorge shot to the lead, but the contact between Guyot and McRae drew the sixth caution flag of the race. "I figured it was a one-lane highway and I was sticking to the bottom," McRae said. "Jerome and I are good buddies. That was just a racing deal." McRae was again awarded back the lead and got off to a great restart to cruise to victory. Imrie took second, as Dorge settled for third. The winner said he was impressed with Jamestown Speedway, and added he hopes the Super Trucks can return. "The trucks would come back in a heartbeat. We'd come back next week if we were invited," McRae said. "I love the track. It has a nice progressive bank, it's the perfect size and it takes rubber, which is something we don't need back home.