

LaCrosse Shrugs Off Broken Hand, Ready For Title Defense

Written by Joe Verdegan

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Warning: Invalid argument supplied for foreach() in `/home/content/s/e/y/seymourracing/html/plugins/system/rokcandy_system.php`

on line

144

Not even a broken hand can slow down Benji LaCrosse.

The Luxemburg native, who now calls Green Bay home, is prepped to defend his Seymour Speedway IMCA modified track title when the first points night kicks off Sunday May 2 for Jackson Pointe Citgo night at the races.

A few weeks back LaCrosse suffered a broken right hand in a work accident. Despite having six screws put in his hand along with a splint, the former IMCA Supernationals champion managed an eighth place finish at the season opener at Luxemburg Speedway April 23. "It hurt a little bit, but the pain is starting to go away," said LaCrosse. "I normally race with my left hand anyway. I had to put some padding in to hold my arm up. It's a little distraction more than anything. If it rains this weekend I won't be too bummed out, because I'd like to give it a week or so to heal. But I'm a racer and I'll be there."

Last season LaCrosse nailed down his second straight track title, and his third in the last four seasons. LaCrosse beat out hometown favorite Brian Mullen by eight points last year. In addition to Seymour, LaCrosse plans on chasing the title at his hometown track at Luxemburg Speedway on Fridays. "We plan on hitting some Wednesday nights at 141 Speedway, too" said LaCrosse. "It's a little tougher for me because Wednesdays are typically a big day for us in construction. I hope to make it out there sometime yet in May to run on the new track."

Seymour's Shawn "Lunchbox" Wagner netted the IMCA stock car crown last year, beating out veteran Jeremy Christians of Horicon on the final night of racing. Wagner's last title prior to that came in the street stock class back in 1998. Wagner bested a field of 67 stock car contestants who waged battle on points nights last year. Wagner earned a sixth place finish in the Spring Thaw back on April 11.

Defending IMCA northern sportmod champion Travis Van Straten has looked tough in the early season, posting fourth at the Spring Thaw and capturing the opening night feature at

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Luxemburg Speedway. "The car has been fast right out of the box," said Van Straten. "But there are so many tough competitors this year in this division winning the title will be no picnic at all."

Green Bay's Todd Everard started off his season in strong fashion, finishing second at the Spring Thaw to Appleton's David Hoerning. Everard was the class of the street stocks in 2009, dominating the field by winning seven features and the points battle over Hoerning and Green Bay's Jeremy Wittala. Everard will compete in the street stock division one more season this year. Last year's street stock field saw 59 different participants.

Krakov's Kevin Birr won back-to-back 4 banger titles in 2008 and 2009. Birr beat out 58 other competitors in the four cylinder class. Birr is competing in an IMCA northern sportmod this year, leaving the 4 banger title wide open.

The pit area opens at 3 p.m. while the grandstand opens at 4:30 p.m. Racing gets underway at 6 p.m.