

Pritchett Claims No. 2 Qualifying Spot in Mopar Top Fuel Dragster at NHRA Midwest Nationals

- Leah Pritchett qualifies No. 2 in HEMI®-powered Top Fuel dragster from Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) to lead Mopar at Gateway Motorsports Park
- Mopar-powered Tony Schumacher is third in Top Fuel
- Ron Capps is best of Mopar Dodge Funny Car drivers from DSR with third-place qualifying effort
- Six Mopar Dodge Funny Cars will compete in 16-car field
- Pritchett drives Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak in Factory Stock Showdown after qualifying fourth

September 30, 2017, Madison, Ill. - On a gorgeous fall weekend at Gateway Motorsports Park near downtown St. Louis, Leah Pritchett led all Mopar HEMI®-powered drivers in qualifying for the sixth annual NHRA Midwest Nationals with a second-place effort in Top Fuel.

Pritchett qualified No. 2 in her Papa John's Pizza/Mopar Pennzoil dragster from Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) on the strength of a 3.670-second pass at 329.10 mph in the fourth and final qualifying session of the weekend late on Saturday afternoon. The weekend has featured prime weather conditions for quick times and record-setting performances, including a national elapsed-time (e.t.) record by Clay Millican in Top Fuel on Friday evening.

Pritchett's DSR Mopar stablemate Tony Schumacher will start from third on Sunday's elimination ladder in his U.S. Army Top Fuel dragster.

The Mopar-powered Dodge Charger R/T Funny Cars from DSR are scattered throughout Sunday's bracket, with all in the top nine.

Defending champion and current points leader Ron Capps set the pace with a pass of 3.849 seconds at 332.51 mph in his Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car on Friday evening, good enough for third place. Jack Beckman, last year's event winner, qualified sixth in his Infinite Hero machine, while Matt Hagan qualified No. 8 in the Mopar/Sandvik Coromant Dodge Charger R/T from DSR. Last year's event runner-up, Tommy Johnson Jr., will start from the ninth spot with the Make-A-Wish team.

The event is the third in the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series Countdown to the Championship playoffs and serves as a pivotal stop in the six-race playoff stretch throughout the fall months.

Pritchett collected a total of five qualifying points as she looks to get back into the championship battle from the seventh position in Top Fuel, while Capps collected six points to add to his Funny Car lead. At all events, three points are awarded to the driver setting the lowest elapsed time in each qualifying session, two are given to the second quickest time and the third quickest e.t. receives one point, making them crucial to winning the year-end title.

Pritchett Takes Part in Factory Stock Showdown

This weekend at Gateway, Leah Pritchett also competed in the fifth and final Factory Stock Showdown of 2017 for modern American muscle. Pritchett was behind the wheel of a Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak and qualified in the fourth position for the eight-car field on Friday with an 8.136-second pass at 168.49 mph. However, she turned on the red light in the first round on Saturday. A total of 19 cars made qualifying attempts for the prestigious event.

Mopar/Dodge Notes & Quotes

(best elapsed time in bold)

Leah Pritchett, Papa John's Pizza/Mopar Pennzoil Top Fuel Dragster

Qualified No. 2, will face No. 15 Ashley Sanford

Friday: (3.775 seconds at 325.69 mph – Q1); (3.697/329.83 – Q2)

Saturday: (3.697/329.83 – Q3); **(3.670/329.10 – Q4)**

"In qualifying, you can have your own victories, and we've had a strong presence on the track this weekend in very good conditions. The strength we've showed ourselves gives us confidence that we can run in warm conditions. Our qualifying effort gives us some momentum going into Sunday.

"We want to end this season the way we started it."

Matt Hagan, Mopar/Sandvik Coromant Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car

Qualified No. 8, will face No. 9 Tommy Johnson Jr.

Friday: (3.930 seconds at 327.19 mph – Q1); (4.337/202.21 – Q2)

Saturday: (9.129/77.31 – Q3); **(3.894/330.96 – Q4)**

"It's a tricky racetrack out here in St. Louis, always hot, always greasy. We have a lot of guys working hard to figure this thing out. We have a teammate tomorrow (Tommy Johnson Jr.) and you always hate running teammates because they're probably the best cars out there. But the ladder looks like it's lined up that if we can do well to really take some heavy hitters out and gain some points. I'm obviously excited. We ended on a nice lap there, we ran .89 this evening and I'm looking forward to tomorrow."

Ron Capps, NAPA Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car

Qualified No. 3, will face No. 14 Jim Campbell

Friday: (3.852 seconds at 330.88 mph – Q1); **(3.849/332.51 – Q2)**

Saturday: (3.898/329.83 – Q3); (4.292/207.21 – Q4)

"I feel good. Coming off the win (last week at Reading) we gained a bunch of confidence like we had (earlier) this year. We unloaded and had two great runs on Friday. It's been fun this weekend, because you go up there with the confidence again that you can call pretty much within a couple hundredths of what the car is going to run. And (crew chief Rahn) Tobler's right on when he says what he wants to do. So that gives us all a lot of confidence. We take nothing for granted, nobody for granted. We're going to go up every round and try to just do what we did all year long."

Jack Beckman, Infinite Hero Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car

Qualified No. 6, will face No. 11 Del Worsham

Friday: **(3.873)** seconds at 331.77 mph – Q1); (3.877/331.12 – Q2)

Saturday: (4.107/239.10 – Q3); (10.074/69.65 – Q4)

Tommy Johnson Jr., Make-A-Wish Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car

Qualified No. 9, will face No. 8 Matt Hagan

Friday: (4.314 seconds at 213.50 mph – Q1); **(3.897/325.30 – Q2)**

Saturday: (4.130/234.74 – Q3); (4.007/308.21 – Q4)

Tony Schumacher, U.S. Army Top Fuel Dragster

Qualified No. 3, will face No. 14 Troy Buff

Friday: (3.729 seconds at 329.26 mph – Q1); **(3.680/327.66 – Q2)**

Saturday: (3.754/328.54 – Q3); (3.681/330.72 – Q4)

Tune-in Info

FOX Sports 1 will broadcast the elimination rounds of the sixth annual NHRA Midwest Nationals LIVE at 2:00 p.m. ET on Sunday, October 1.

For more information on Mopar and Dodge in NHRA, check out the Mopar brand's official blog, <http://blog.mopar.com>.

About Mopar Motorsports

The Mopar brand's commitment to professional motorsports competition was established in the 1950s when a partnership ignited with drag racing pioneer Don Garlits, resulting in the breaking of numerous speed and performance barriers in HEMI-powered vehicles over the next several decades. In 2016, thanks to Don Schumacher Racing driver Ron Capps, Mopar captured its fourth NHRA Funny Car World Championship in the last six years. As Mopar celebrates 80 years as a brand in 2017, it will focus its NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series efforts on NHRA Funny Car and, with rising star Leah Pritchett, NHRA Top Fuel Dragster. Mopar will also bolster its commitment to NHRA Sportsman racing with new contingency rewards, factory support and at-track technical advice and guidance.

Mopar-First Features

During the brand's 80 years, Mopar has introduced numerous industry-first features including:

- Vehicle-information apps: first to introduce smartphone vehicle-information applications, a new channel of communication with consumers
- wiADVISOR: first to incorporate a tablet-based service lane tool
- Electronic Vehicle Tracking System (EVTS): first to market with a new interactive vehicle tracking device that sends owner a text when vehicle is driven too fast or too far based on pre-set parameters
- Wi-Fi: first to offer customers the ability to make their vehicle a wireless hot spot
- Electronic owner manuals: first to introduce traditional owner manuals on a smartphone app

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 and the newly redesigned Mopar blog at www.blog.mopar.com. For more information regarding Stellantis (NYSE: STLA), please visit www.stellantis.com.

Follow Mopar and company news and video on:

Company blog: blog.stellantisnorthamerica.com

Media website: media.stellantisnorthamerica.com

Mopar brand: www.mopar.com/

Mopar blog: blog.mopar.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mopar

Instagram: www.instagram.com/officialmopar

Twitter: twitter.com/OfficialMOPAR

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/mopar or www.youtube.com/StellantisNA

-###-

Additional information and news from Stellantis are available at: <https://media.stellantisnorthamerica.com>