

The 1st Annual Jake's 150

June 23, 2001

An amazing field of CL Bryant Late Models were on hand for the richest race in the series' history. \$5000 was the winners prize in sight of the 32 starters in this inaugural Jake's 150. The man Jake Cohen himself (pictured left) was front and center to greet all the drivers during introductions on the front stretch. The heads-up start saw fast qualifier RJ Norton Jr on the point after a timed lap of 18.883 seconds. His early season teammate Fred Bear Jr was in the second starting slot.



Jake gives the command to start engines igniting motors as well as the infield fireworks display that spells out Mr. Cohen's name. The green flag flies with Norton leading followed by Bear, Rodney Sizemore, and Bill Tunny Jr. Heavy traffic sees Norton clip rookie Jeff Shackelford at the crossover knocking out RJ's radiator. Shackelford car is then struck hard by Jerry Lee Ward's machine bringing out the red flag. With Norton headed pit side; the restart has Bill Jr thrusting himself into the top spot followed closely by Bear. The "big dog" Bobby Douthitt is now in the third position with legendary racing rivals Wayne Arnold and Mike St John rounding out the top five.

The lead trio slowly marches away from the pack, but is encountering lots of lapped traffic. Bill Jr puts veterans Charlie Reed and Rodney Sizemore a lap down on lap 24. Reed is then spun high-centering him on the marker tire. At the very moment that the red was coming out, Sizemore unintentionally turned leader Bill Tunny Jr around. Tunny resumes the status quo leading on the race restart. On lap 33, a chain reaction crash in turn three is the cause of the red flag that knocks out several cars including frontrunner Douthitt. During the red flag Bill realizes that he has a tire going down and heads to the pit area. He later returned one lap down.

Bear is the new front man with Arnold, George Sutton, Mike St John, and Curtis McMurtrey solidly in the first five. Lap 41 saw 1995 Speedrome Hall of Fame inductee Wayne Arnold takes control with a quick pace coming from his 14th place starting position. Bear, Sutton, St John, and Sizemore trail him at the one-third mark after getting back on the lead lap. The strong run comes to an end on lap 56 when leader Arnold and rookie Bill Ellis collided at the crossover. Also during this stoppage, second place Bear makes a pit stop.

The field reshuffling has Mike St John now on top in his first race of the season with Sutton and Sizemore pressuring him for the prime position. Sizemore become the runner-up as we cross the midway portion of the 150-lap contest. The two dual for the lead for 12 circuits before Sizemore takes over on lap 88. At the two-thirds point, he has a nice margin over St John, Bear, Sutton, and McMurtrey one lap back. Curtis is joined a circuit behind by Sutton on lap 119.

Rodney Sizemore has turned on the jets amassing a 9 second gap. The best battle on the track is for second between St John and Bear with 25 laps remaining. Freddie spins a few minutes later costing him a lap and third place to Sutton. Rodney keeps up the pace cruising to a 3/4 lap gap at the checkered flag for the biggest win of his career St John is second as the only other lead lap machine. Sutton, Bear, and Doug Greig are in the top five at race end. The very popular Sizemore is joined in victory lane by father Kenny, family members, and the whole crew. Crew chief Danny Gamble brings out the big check and enters the celebration. The win moves Rodney within 40 markers of idle Bruce Tunny for the series point lead.



2001 Jake's 150 Champion Rodney Sizemore



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- 1 Rodney Sizemore
- 2 Mike St John
- 3 George Sutton
- 4 Fred Bear Jr
- 5 Doug Greig
- 6 Curtis McMurtrey
- 7 Kevin Ford
- 8 Jeff Hizer
- 9 Kenny Stewart
- 10 Charlie Reed
- 11 Steve Frost
- 12 Country Brown
- 13 Donnie Garrigus II
- 14 Donnie Garrigus III
- 15 Chris Green
- 16 Keith Richee
- 17 Bill Tunny Jr
- 18 Ronnie Rigdon
- 19 Bobby Whitaker
- 20 Wayne Arnold
- 21 Bill Ellis
- 22 Steve Prine
- 23 Bobby Douthitt
- 24 Danny Turner
- 25 Casey White
- 26 Robert Downey Jr
- 27 Jim Logan
- 28 RJ Norton Jr
- 29 Manny Aguilar
- 30 Jeff Shackelford
- 31 Jerry Lee Ward
- 32 Danny Teepe