

The 4th Annual Jake's 150

June 26, 2004

Pre-race activities for the mid-summer classic saw last years to rookie Mark Tunny set quick time in qualifications with an event record lap of 16.827 seconds. Former Legends national champion Doug Greig took home honors in the trophy dash. Then drivers were introduced in front of the massive crowd. A seven-car inversion was drawn for the starting lineup putting defending World Figure 8 champion Bill Tunny Jr and 1994 track champion Rodney Sizemore on the front row.

The race began with a surprise aerial display of fireworks on the drop of the green flag, a first for a regular season event. Bill grabbed the first advantage followed by Sizemore and 2001 World Figure 8 champion Bobby Douthitt. A few laps later crossover traffic forces several driver to get on the brakes thrusting defending track titlist Bruce Tunny to third. The a lap 11 crossover crash between Kevin Ford, John Passehl, and Scott Settles brought out the initial red flag of the race.

The restart saw the same running order hit the gas and go. A lap 17 flat tire sent fast qualifier Mark Tunny to the pits. He returned three laps later, but dropped out with further problems a couple minutes afterward. The top five runners at the 25-lap mark were Bill Tunny Jr, Sizemore, Bruce Tunny, Doug Greig, and Douthitt. Bill began to slowly stretch the gap over the next ten circuits before the red flag flew again on lap 34 for the stalled car of Steve Prine.

Bill once again maintained the spot on the restart, but brother Bruce got caught behind a slower car shuffling him to fifth. This action also moved defending race champ Curtis McMurtrey into fourth position. Around the one-third time frame, the elder Tunny consistently moved away from second place Sizemore. The tight fight for 2nd to 6th compacted during this portion. Bruce moved back into fourth when McMurtrey had to swing wide at the "X" to miss seventh place Jeff Shackelford.

The next ten laps saw Sizemore cut the deficit down to a car length on first place. Bill further slowing lap times have brought the top five to his back door at the halfway point. Douthitt joins the group on lap 80 to make it a six-car tussle for the major victory. Shackelford stays the last car on the lead lap in 7th, but is three quarter track in the rears.

The race took a dramatic turn on lap 102 when leader Bill Tunny Jr has a failure in his quick-change rear-end. Bill had led every circuit before dropping out and turning the lead over to Sizemore at that point. Bruce was now in second with Greig, Douthitt, and McMurtrey rounding out the top five. The front duo pulls ahead of the others at this point looking to settle the victory. The final lead change came on lap 125 when Bruce used Jeff Hizer as a pick to get past the inaugural Jake's champion. Thus leaving Sizemore to defend the runner-up spot from Greig and McMurtrey.

Bruce Tunny charged away to take home his first win in the Jake's 150, a race named for one of his longtime sponsors Jake Cohen. In victory lane Bruce said, "I have longed to win this one. Jake actually built my first racecar and sponsored me for many years". He also mentioned that this day would have been his parents' 50th wedding anniversary. Unfortunately his mom Phyllis passed away two years previous. Rodney Sizemore held on to the second position while Curtis McMurtrey wrestled third from Doug Greig to hold on to the season point lead. Bobby Douthitt finished in the fifth spot.



2004 Jake's 150 Champion Bruce Tunny

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F	ST	#	Driver	Time	TD	Laps
1	4	1	Bruce Tunny	16.997	2	150
2	2	51	Rodney Sizemore	17.340		150
3	6	4	Curtis McMurtrey	16.882	4	150
4	5	33	Doug Greig	16.991	1	150
5	3	21	Bobby Douthitt	17.259		150
6	8	28	Jeff Shackelford	17.459		149
7	10	22	Chris Green	17.662		146
8	12	14	Ben Tunny	17.831		142
9	14	9	Leonard Basham	17.889		142
10	9	77	Donnie Garrigus III	17.520		140
11	16	18	Jeff Hizer	17.947		136
12	11	46	Eddie Brickley Jr	17.716		129
13	1	6	Bill Tunny Jr	17.385		102
14	15	00	Donnie Garrigus II	17.938		102
15	19	71	Steve Frost	18.096		78
16	18	37	Mike Cain	18.091		30
17	17	59	Steve Prine	18.035		24
18	7	17	Mark Tunny	16.827	3	20
19	24	19	Ronnie Rigdon	19.967		16
20	20	36	John Passehl	18.402		9
21	13	50	Kevin Ford	17.848		8
22	21	38	Scott Settles	18.844		8
23	22	44	Donnie Sloan	19.385		8
24	dnq	95	Steve Durham	no time		0
dns	23	95	Keith Richee	19.562		dns

Fast Qualifier - Mark Tunny 16.827 (draw was 7 invert)