

Santos, King of Wing Series Gets Five Flags Season Off to Roaring Start

Pensacola, FL – April 18, 2015 – Twenty drivers from across the United States and Canada traveled to the waterlogged Florida panhandle to kick off the 2015 Season. After a week's delay the King of the Wing season opener took place Friday night at 5 Flags Speedway, Pensacola, FL.

Rain threatened early in the day but ended about 1pm and the track was dry as the teams took to the ½ mile for practice at 4pm. The rain stayed away until after the nights racing was complete.

Twenty drivers put on a spectacular 40 lap main event won by Franklin MA, Bobby Santos. Santos led several times Friday, including the final 10 laps of the 40 lapper, to win the King of the Wing's season opener. Kyle Edwards of Bartlett, Tenn., finished second and Tampa's Mickey Kempgens rounded out the top 3.

"That was just a lotta fun," said Santos. "We got some great help after having a little setback last night. This was not the car we planned on running. I thought the other car was better, but obviously this one was pretty good."

Aaron Pierce, Fishers, IN, was the quickest qualifier with a 13.252 lap over 130 mph. With an invert of 6. Santos with a 5th quick qualifying lap started outside pole and quickly battled side by side with Jacob Wilson for the lead on the first lap. Santos was able to get the lead and hold it for the first 10 laps.

Troy DeCaire moved into the lead on lap 11 and held it for 10 laps when he fell off the pace due to a tire going down. He relinquished the lead to Pierce who battled side by side with Santos, Santos took the lead 2 laps later and only held it for 1 lap before Pierce took it back. Pierce held it through lap 28 before relinquishing it back to Santos who held it through the final lap.

There were 6 cautions during the main event predominantly for tires going down. DeCaire fell victim to tire woes bringing out the 3rd caution of the night and taking him out of the lead and contention for the win.

Results:

QUALIFYING: 1. Aaron Pierce, 26, Pierce-13.352; 2. Kyle Edwards, 11, Wilsh-13.487; 3. Troy Decaire, 91, Puglio-13.608; 4. Sierra Jackson, 25, Jackson-13.638; 5. Dave Baumgartner, 38, Baumgartner-13.736; 6. Bobby Santos, 22A, DJ Racing-13.782; 7. Jacob Wilson, 07, WBR-13.810; 8. Shane Butler, 15, Thompson-14.036; 9. Ron Larson, 12, Larson-14.106; 10. Mickey Kempgens, 5k, Kenny-14.114; 11. Davey Hamilton Jr., 5, HGR-14.180; 12. Robert Beck, 38B, Beck-14.479; 13. Robert Stout, 23, HGR-14.718; 14. Tommy Nichols, 55, Nichols-14.771; 15. Richie Larson, 22, Larson-15.286; 16. J.J. Dutton, 86, Dutton-15.952; 17. Troy Thompson, 115, Thompson-16.159; 18. Tom Paterson, 100, Paterson-27.999 19. Blake Rose, 56, Rose-NT; 20. Dave Steele, 33, Steele-NT.

FIRST HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Kempgens, 2. Baumgartner, 3. Pierce, 4. Jackson, 5. Dutton, 6. Stout. NT

SECOND HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Santos, 2. Butler, 3. Nichols, 4. Edwards, 5. Hamilton, 6. Thompson. NT

THIRD HEAT: (8 laps) 1. Steele, 2. Decaire, 3. Beck, 4. Wilson, 5. Ron Larson, 6. Richie Larson, 7. Paterson. NT

FEATURE: (40 laps) 1. Bobby Santos, 2. Kyle Edwards, 3. Mickey Kempgens, 4. Ron Larson, 5. Jacob Wilson, 6. Troy Decaire, 7. Aaron Pierce, 8. Tommy Nichols, 9. Richie Larson, 10. Dave Steele, 11. Dave Baumgartner, 12. Sierra Jackson, 13. J.J. Dutton, 14. Shane Butler, 15. Robert Beck, 16. Davey Hamilton Jr., 17. Troy Thompson, 18. Blake Rose, 19. Tom Paterson, 20. Robert Stout

