

## 11x NHRA World Champions

# SHOE'S NEWS...



**DON SCHUMACHER RACING**

**Friday June 7, 2013**

**BROWNSBURG, INDIANA**



## ***Hagan moves around Gray for Funny Car points lead as DSR prepares to head to Bristol for Father's Day***

Matt Hagan gave his father, David Hagan, an early Father's Day present and Don Schumacher Racing teammate Johnny Gray is eager to snatch it back for himself next weekend when the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series heads south for the Thunder Valley NHRA Nationals at Bristol, Tenn.

Hagan beat Gray in the second round Sunday in the Toyota NHRA Summernationals at Englishtown, N.J., then went on to win his team's second event title of the season to take the points lead from Gray, who leads the Funny Car category with three titles.



Hagan and crew chief Dickie Venables with assistant Michael Knudsen and the Magneti Marelli Offered by Mopar/Rocky Boots Dodge Charger R/T team swept the event by winning their second pole and posting the quickest elapsed time (4.050 seconds) and speed (315.64 mph) of the meet. The performances came on the first hot weekend of the season when temperatures reached into the 90s.



***All photos courtesy: Autolmagery.com***

The year continues to be a 180-degree spin from a year ago when Hagan went winless without a pole and missed qualifying for the Traxxas Shootout and six-event NHRA Countdown to the Championship.

"Dickie Venables puts a car underneath me that's just phenomenal," Hagan said. "When you can have a team of this caliber that does everything right, makes the right calls on the racetrack it just makes my job that much easier. I just kind of sit back and grin and hold onto the steering wheel."

Hagan also has high praise for Knudsen, a first-time assistant crew chief.

"It's the first time he's stepped up and been in that position. He's up there making calls on the racetrack, where to line up, how much grip there is, clutch weight, that kind of stuff. For Newt (Knudsen) to do that, I'm really, really proud of that guy."

Hagan's continued resurgence kept DSR teammate Jack Beckman from his first event title of the year when the pair met in the championship round at Old Bridge Township Raceway Park. Beckman, the reigning NHRA Funny Car world champion, took the Valvoline NextGen/MTS Mail for Wounded Warriors Dodge to its first final round of the year.

Beckman's trip to the final round came on the heels of crew chief Todd Smith and assistant Terry Snyder getting their team to the semifinals at Topeka, Kan.

"At Topeka, we really liked that we went down the track seven times in a row," said Beckman, whose team jumped up three spots to fifth in points. "Topeka was a phenomenal racetrack because of the weather. (Englishtown) was completely different conditions yet we showed we're still back to our predictable tune-up."

"It's very disappointing to lose in the final but getting to the final was that next step for us before getting that first win and I think we're getting closer than ever this year. I am completely optimistic about the rest of the season."

For Gray, his loss to Hagan in the second round by three-hundredths of a second, the points lead slipped away but with 15 of 24 Mello Yello events remaining he believes his Pitch Energy Dodge team

will in the championship hunt the rest of the season, which he says will be his last racing full time.

"(Our team might be) just a hair more driven because I've told them this is it, you know," said Gray, 60. "They have given me a great race car and all we have to do is just go out there and keep running like we are running and if we can pull that off, towards the end of the year, we are going to have as good a shot as anybody else."



**NAPA AUTO PARTS** crewmen, from left: **Joe Chrisman, Mark Stewart, Tyler Troxell and Chris Afflerbach at Englishtown.**

Ron Capps and the NAPA AUTO PARTS team believe they have found the gremlin that's been bugging their Dodge Charger R/T, and are prepared to defend the Funny Car title they won a year ago at Bristol.

The disappointing aspect is it wasn't discovered until after Saturday qualify that left Capps ranked No. 11.

Crew chief Rahn Tobler and assistant John Collins recovered quickly and the team produced the fourth best run at 4.123 seconds of Sunday's opening round that would have won five of eight matchups. But it wasn't enough to beat former world champion Cruz Pedregon, whose 4.088-second pass against Capps was the quickest through eliminations on Sunday.

In Top Fuel, Englishtown marked only the second time



through nine events this year that DSR did not have one of its three dragsters in the championship round. The U.S. Army's Tony Schumacher and the Battery Extender Powered by Schumacher's Spencer Massey advanced to the



**Ron Freedman of the U.S. Army team helps Schumacher prepare for a run.**

semifinals.

The combination of Schumacher's third-round loss and Shawn Langdon of Al-Anabi Racing winning the title dropped Schumacher from first to second in the standings. Schumacher heads to Bristol as the reigning event winner.

Reigning world champion Antron Brown's Matco Tools team lost in the opening round for the second consecutive race but held onto third in points while Massey also remains fourth.

For only the second time since the start of the 2012 Mello Yello season, DSR is not ranked first in Top Fuel.

Brown, Schumacher or Massey were first in points after each of last season's 23 events.

This year, Langdon ranked No. 1 after winning the opener at Pomona, Calif., and now has the lead after winning at Englishtown.

But the DSR teams are ranked 2-3-4 in Top Fuel and 1-2-4-5 in Funny Car with Hagan followed by Gray, Cruz Pedregon, Capps and Beckman.

### **DSR win total to 207**

Hagan's title moved the DSR total to 207 including 11 of a possible 18 this year ... that's a winning rate of 61 percent.

DSR has won six Funny Car titles (Gray 3, Hagan 2, Capps 1) and five in Top Fuel (Schumacher 2, Brown 2, Massey 1).



**Scott Okuhara, left, crew chief Phil Shuler, center, and Tom Boyington get Massey ready for a blast down the track.**



**Michael O'Guin, background, Wayne 'Red' Waite and Jeff Hilliker, right, work on the Matco Tools dragster between rounds.**

## **Hagan, Rocky's Funny Car to visit Mahoney's in Johnson City on June 13 before Bristol's Thunder Valley NHRA Nationals**

*NHRA points leader Matt Hagan and his Rocky Boots Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car will be at Mahoney's (830 Sunset Drive in Johnson City, Tenn.) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday (June 13) to meet fans and sign autographs before the June 14-16 Thunder Valley NHRA Nationals at Bristol Dragway.*

*The 2011 NHRA Funny Car world champion for Don Schumacher Racing won last weekend's NHRA Summernationals title at Englishtown, N.J.*

*For more information: [RockyBoots.com](http://RockyBoots.com) and [ShoeRacing.com](http://ShoeRacing.com).*

## **Brown to visit Middleburg Heights, Ohio, July 3**

# for pizza with friends at Corradi's Master Pizza



NHRA Top Fuel dragster world champion Antron Brown will join friends and fans on July 3 at Corradi's Master Pizza in Middleburg Heights, Ohio.

Brown, who will be competing July 5-7 in the Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Nationals at Norwalk, Ohio, will visit the pizzeria owned by his Matco Tools crew chief, Brian Corradi, and wife, Jackie Corradi. The popular restaurant is located at 15180 Bagley Road just south of the Cleveland metropolitan area.

Brian and crew chief Mark Oswald along with assistant Brad Mason and the Matco Tools crew helped Brown become the first African-American to win a major U.S. driving championship in November when they won the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series crown. Brown has won 39 NHRA event titles in his

career.

The special night is open to the public and will be held from 6 to 9 p.m.

"We've been doing this when we get back to Ohio the past few years, and it's a great night," Brown said. "We get to spend time with Brian and his family away from the track and share it with a lot of their friends. And of course, we enjoy the best pizza in Ohio ... and I know good pizza because I'm from New Jersey."



## ***NEXT UP ....***

**June 14-16 at Bristol, Tenn.**

**Thunder Valley NHRA Nationals, Bristol Dragway**

Friday (June 14): 6 p.m., 8 p.m., nitro qualifying

Saturday (June 15): 1 p.m., 3 p.m., nitro qualifying

Sunday (June 16): 11 a.m., championship eliminations

## ***Don Schumacher Racing statistics - 2013***

(After 9 of 24 national events; through Englishtown)

	Pts	Events	Titles	Rup	Semi	Poles	DNQ	Win/Loss
<b>TOP FUEL ...</b>								
Tony Schumacher	2nd	9	2	3	1	1	0	19-7
Antron Brown	3rd	9	2	1	2	1	0	15-7
Spencer Massey	4th	9	1	0	5	0	0	15-8
<b>TOP FUEL TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49-22</b>
<b>FUNNY CAR ...</b>								
Matt Hagan	1st	9	2	2	1	2	0	17-7
Johnny Gray	2nd	9	3	0	1	1	1	17-5
Ron Capps	4th	9	1	1	2	0	0	12-8
Jack Beckman	5th	9	0	1	2	1	0	11-9
<b>FUNNY CAR TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57-29</b>
<b>DSR TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>106-51</b>

<b>Career</b>	Events	Titles	Rup	Semi	Poles	DNQ	Win/Loss
<b>TOP FUEL ...</b>							
Tony Schumacher	369	71	53	57	72	8	650-290
Antron Brown	271	39*	37	56	33	2	458-230
<small>*23 Top Fuel/16 Pro Stock Motorcycle</small>							
Spencer Massey	80	11	12	21	6	2	137-67
<b>FUNNY CAR ...</b>							
Ron Capps	396	39**	40	65	14	17	483-340
<small>**38 Funny Car/1 Top Fuel</small>							
Jack Beckman	165	15	17	30	8	6	217-144
Johnny Gray	213	6	12	22	4	41	144-165
Matt Hagan	106	7	12	16	12	4	127-95

## **DSR Career Best Times, Speeds**

### **TOP FUEL**

**Driver's best time (date, location)**

Massey 3.728 (5-31-12, Englishtown, N.J.)  
Schumacher 3.736 (10-6-12, Reading, Pa.)  
Antron Brown 3.701\*/\*\* (10- 8-12, Reading)

**Top speed (date, location)**

332.18\*\* (4-15-12, Charlotte 1)  
330.30(4-15-12, Charlotte 1)  
328.78 (10-8-12, Reading)

**FUNNY CAR**

**Driver's best time (date, location)**

Hagan 3.995 (9-16-11, Charlotte 2)  
Capps 3.964\* (5-31-12, Englishtown, N.J.)  
Beckman 3.986\*\* (10-7-12, Reading)  
Gray 4.010 (10-1-11, Reading)

**Top speed (date, location)**

322.27\* (9-17-11, Charlotte 2)  
320.89 (5-31-12, Englishtown)  
320.58\*\* (10-5-12, Reading)  
319.45 (10-8-12, Reading)

\* Quickest, fastest ever  
\*\* NHRA national record



**NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series**  
(Standings after 9 of 24 events; DSR drivers in **BOLD/CAPS**)



**TOP FUEL**

1. Shawn Langdon, 746
- 2. TONY SCHUMACHER, 742**
- 3. ANTRON BROWN, 626**
- 4. SPENCER MASSEY, 615**
5. Khalid alBalooshi, 544
6. Doug Kalitta, 510
7. Brandon Bernstein, 445
8. Morgan Lucas, 441
9. Bob Vandergriff, 415
10. Clay Millican, 396

**FUNNY CAR**

- 1. MATT HAGAN, 689**
- 2. JOHNNY GRAY, 645**
3. Cruz Pedregon, 639
- 4. RON CAPPS, 544**
- 5. JACK BECKMAN, 543**
6. Tim Wilkerson, 534
7. Courtney Force, 522
8. Robert Hight, 483
9. Del Worsham, 476
10. John Force, 437

**2013 EVENT WINNERS**

**TOP FUEL:** Langdon, **SCHUMACHER, BROWN, SCHUMACHER, MASSEY**, Vandergriff, **BROWN**, Langdon, Langdon.

**FUNNY CAR:** C. Force, **CAPPS, GRAY**, C. Pedregon, **HAGAN**, C. Pedregon, **GRAY, GRAY, HAGAN.**

***About Don Schumacher Racing***

*Don Schumacher Racing, headquartered in Brownsburg, Ind., starts 2013 with seven professional NHRA teams. In Top Fuel, the 2012 NHRA Top Fuel world champion Matco Tools dragster driven by Antron Brown and the U.S. Army dragster driven by seven-time world champion Tony Schumacher and the Battery Extender Powered by Schumacher dragster driven by Spencer Massey; and in Funny Car, 2012 NHRA world champion Jack Beckman in the Valvoline/MTS Mail for Wounded Warriors Dodge Charger R/T, 2011 world champion Matt Hagan in the Magneti Marelli Mopar/Rocky Boots Dodge, the NAPA AUTO PARTS Dodge of Ron Capps and the Pitch Energy Dodge of Johnny Gray. DSR has won 207 NHRA national event titles and 11 world championships.*

*Follow Don Schumacher Racing at ShoeRacing.com, on Twitter at @shoeracing and Facebook.com/shoeracing.*

**FOR INFORMATION:**  
**Don Schumacher Racing**  
**ShoeRacing.com (317) 358-0356**