

THE EARL WILCOX MEMORIAL RACE KICKS OFF SEASON AT SILVER CITY QUARTER MIDGET CLUB

The inaugural race of the season, the Earl Wilcox Memorial Race, paid tribute to a legendary figure at Silver City, whose passion for racing left a mark on the quarter midget community. Wilcox, known for his tireless efforts in teaching novices the art of driving quarter midgets, was a beloved fixture at the club. Earl's wife, affectionately known as Aunt Janet by her Silver City family, reminisced during the Opening Ceremony about how the race track was where they both made friendships that have stood the test of time.

The Earl Wilcox Memorial Race, which marks the beginning of the season, ignited a weekend of unparalleled excitement and intense rivalry at the Silver City Quarter Midget Club. One standout driver, Belle Bradley, made a triumphant return to the track when she clinch her first victory in a feature race.

Bradley, age 13 of East Hartford, displayed racing skills earning her not only the coveted checkered flag but also the prestigious "Hot Shot" award, presented by Race Director, Johnny Morgillo.

"Belle Bradley's performance was nothing short of phenomenal. She maneuvered through the track with the finesse of a seasoned driver, making passes that left spectators in awe," remarked Morgillo, acknowledging Bradley's victory.

Bradley wasn't the only novice driver to taste the sweetness of victory. Giovane Laureano, age 7 of Meriden, in his inaugural race, triumphantly crossed the finish line, expressing his excitement, "It felt really good to win. It made me happy and grateful. I would like to thank the Silver City novice committee for training me."



Bradley accepting the Hot Shot award from Morgillo.



Burnham celebrating his first victory.

Proud parent, Nate Burnham watched as his son, Ryker, age 5 of Pomfret Center, clinched his first feature race win, exclaiming, "The gas man did it for the first time this weekend! I couldn't be more proud of Ryker's progress. It was super awesome to see."

The weekend's events were marked by a series of remarkable firsts, with all four novice feature races lining up within three laps and proceeding seamlessly from green to checkered flag. "Novices got sprinkled by the unicorn this weekend," quipped one spectator, capturing the magical atmosphere that surrounded the track.

Sisters, Adriana and Aubry Wasko were seen excitedly gearing up for the electrifying start to the racing season. Aubry said of the start of the season, "It was great to be back at the track this past weekend. It's been a very

long off season and it was just so great to see everyone again. For me, I find the most enjoyment in seeing the progress in all of the younger drivers and spending time with them again!"

Despite the challenges posed by adverse weather conditions, Mason Kluczinsky, reminisced about the exhilarating Heavy World Formula race, stating, "It was going great until the rain came."

Following the cancellation of the final race of the day due to the rain after only 6 exhilarating laps, boys from the junior and senior racing divisions found solace and excitement in an impromptu game of football. Undeterred by the weather's interference, they took to the pits and even the track itself, transforming disappointment into an opportunity for bonding and enjoyment.

Their spontaneous display of sportsmanship and camaraderie underscored the resilience and sense of community that defines the racing culture at Silver City Quarter Midget Club.



J. Gaudiosi, Henion, Chamberland, D. Gaudiosi, P. Grady, W. Johndro, and C. Bushnell enjoying a game of football in the rain.

While the drivers and handlers waited on tech to conclude and the trophy ceremony to begin, Brighton Hazelwood expressed her excitement about finishing her first race of the season at her hometrack of Silver City. While she loves being able to travel to different tracks with her family, nothing compares to the excitement of racing at Silver City. Additionally, she has been eagerly waiting to reunite with all of her racing friends at the track.

Silver City President, Daniel Gaudiosi, commended the collaborative effort of volunteers, emphasizing their pivotal role in ensuring the smooth execution of the event. "All volunteers worked together to hit the benchmarks, helping us fall in line with our schedule perfectly," highlighting the successful completion of the 150+ car count race day by 8:00 PM.

A parent of three Silver City drivers, Kristen Bergenty, echoed the sentiment, expressing her delight at the early completion of the day's events, "Being done by 8 is absolutely amazing!" Silver City Treasurer, Joanna Cavallaro, praised the collective effort of the members, remarking on their instrumental role in ensuring the seamless flow of the season's inaugural race day.



Vangruskas, Ruiz, and Wilcox working the Novelty Shop for the first race of the season.

Meanwhile, the Novelty Shop marked its season debut, with Bella Ruiz, Gracie Wilcox, and Ady Vangruskas working tirelessly to offer fans a wide array of Silver City merchandise. Fans looking to stock up on memorabilia can visit the on-site store or explore the online pop-up shop.

[\(https://silvercitymerchandise.itemorder.com/shop/home/\)](https://silvercitymerchandise.itemorder.com/shop/home/).

As the dust settles on an electrifying weekend, all eyes now turn to Silver City's upcoming points race #1 on May 4th, promising another adrenaline-fueled extravaganza for racing enthusiasts.