

## Thibeault Goes From Underdog to Top Dog at Silver City

“It’s not how you start that’s important, but how you finish” proved to be the theme at Silver City for their 11th points series race of the season. As the week went on, the weather forecast grew grim, however, Race Director, Daniel Gaudiosi Jr. was determined to put a race weekend together for his Meriden based drivers.

With the Saturday’s race day hampered with rain, that didn’t stop the Silver City gang. As soon as the rain slowed, the track was overtaken by determined drivers and handlers as they set out drying the racing surface.

Racing began at 3PM with heats. There were a few “Silver City firsts” with an 11 car Junior Animal field that raced hard and clean from the drop of the green all the way to the checkered. Not only that, but the ground was *pounding* during a 10 car Light World Formula Heat, depth that’s rare to see at the Club Level.

Heats and lower mains concluded by early evening as Day 1 of Gaudiosi’s plan to save the race weekend was proving to be successful. The race weekend resumed on Sunday with Main Events.

Going along with the theme of the weekend was 7-year old Junior standout, Logan Thibeault. Much like the weekend’s questionable weather, Thibeault’s first year in competitive classes got off to a rocky start. His first win of the season on August 26, 2023, proved a little bit of confidence can go a long way as this former “Hard Charger” has shown to be a force ever since visiting Victory Lane.

Thibeault’s weekend began with two wins and a second place on Saturday for heats. He would eventually come out on top in what was arguably the most exciting battle of the weekend in the Junior Animal Main Event.



Thibeault with his parents, Nichole and Shawn, after winning Junior Animal.



Thibeault's Victory Lane photograph after winning Junior 160

At the drop of the flag, the Southington driver shot to the bottom and immediately took over second from an unfavorable fourth place starting position. He flexed his muscles by taking the lead on a restart over the fast and fierce lady racer, Anna Henion of Southbury.

In a battle to the finish, where Thibeault ultimately came out on top, Aubry Wasko, a Silver City driver said of the race, “Thibeault and Henion fought hard in Junior Animal, as well as Daniel Gaudiosi of Terryville, and Peter Grady of Berlin.

Another Silver City driver, Adrianna Kimmer, called the Junior Animal race the most exhilarating race of the weekend, mentioning that “The little man (Thibeault) wheeled and drove a really exciting race.”

Thibeault would go on to repeat in the Junior 160 class over Chase Guillemette of New Hampshire and Gaudiosi.

A second big win of the night was Aiden Kimmer, 9, of Thomaston, taking his very first checkered flag in Senior Animal over the weekend. This was Kimmer's second Senior division race since moving up from the Junior class (division for ages 5-8).

Kimmer's parents and his previous competitors from the Junior division could be seen screaming and jumping on the sidelines. After the race, a Silver City driver, Paiten Burnham, said Kimmer's driving stood out this weekend "because he made it from 7th to first in Animal cleanly."

At the conclusion of the night, Kimmer also earned the "Hot Shot" award. The award focuses on improvements made and exemplary sportsmanship - attributes Silver City hopes to see spread out among other drivers.



Kimmer's Victory Lane photograph after his Senior Animal Victory

The Silver City driver who came back from the biggest setback during a race was Aubree Warner, 5, of Ludlow, Massachusetts. Warner was in the lead during the Junior Novice race when she was involved in a wreck while passing a lapped car.

Adrianna Wasko, a driver from Silver City, said of the Junior Novice race, "After going into the pits and having to start in the 8th spot, Aubree managed to catch up to third within a few laps."

Other impressive victories of the weekend include Norah Bertrand (12) of Southwick, Massachusetts winning her first Heavy Animal race, Peter Grady (7) of Berlin winning his first Junior Honda race, and Mason Kluczinsky (12) of Oakville winning both Heavy 160 and Heavy Honda.

Next Saturday, Silver City will hold their last points series race of the season.