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RACING HEADLINES

World Champions Crowned at 69th All-American Soap Box Derby

JULY 24, 2006

AKRON, Ohio — Three local champions claimed world titles at the 69th annual All-American Soap Box Derby (AASBD) Championship presented by the Levi Strauss Signature brand held today at Derby Downs.

Michael Neely (stock division), Sally Sue Thornton (super stock) and Garrett Kysar (masters) won their respective divisions in the gravity-powered world championship event, which features boys and girls ages 8-17. Neely, 14, of North Canton, Ohio, defeated Brittney Katterfield, 15, of Spokane, Wash. (second), and Riley Davis, 9, of Anderson, Ind. (third) in the stock division.

In super stock, Thornton, 14, of Vallejo, Calif., edged out Louis Nelson, 14, of Indianapolis (second), and Koby Garnhart, 14, of Madison, Wis. (third). In masters, Garrett Kysar, 14, from Martinsburg, W.Va., defeated Missy Cahill, 16, of North Platte, Neb., and Johnny Wheaton, 14, of Waynesboro, Va. Each competitor had to win his / her local race to advance to Akron.

The Levi Strauss Signature brand, the event's title sponsor, awarded the three world champions with \$5,000 college scholarships. Runner-ups and third-place winners received \$3,000 and \$2,000 from the AASBD, respectively. The AASBD is an official youth initiative of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Inc. (NASCAR).

In addition, current NASCAR NEXTEL Cup points leader and 2006 Daytona 500 champion Jimmie Johnson attended the championship and took part in race-day festivities, including interacting with competitors, signing autographs and participating in a celebrity Oil Can exhibition race against 2005 AASBD Masters champion Stephanie Inglezakis, 17, of Stow, Ohio, who was retired from competition.

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RACING MILESTONES POLL

Who will miss the 2007 Chase for the Championship?

- Dale Jr.
- Greg Biffle
- Jeff Gordon
- Tony Stewart



Johnson, who presented the winners with their championship awards, is the national Soap Box Derby spokesperson.

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In the rally competition, Michael Bridges (stock), Olivia Murphy (super stock) and Scott Reed (masters) won their respective divisions. Bridges, 11, of Scottsdale, Ariz., downed William Myers, 14, of Rock Hill, S.C. (second), and Abby King, 9, of River Falls, Wis. (third), in rally stock. In rally super stock, Murphy, 12, defeated Katherine Phillips, 13, of Meriden, Conn. (second), and Megan Cahill, 14, of Auburn, N.Y. (third).

Scott Reed, 16, of Fredericksburg, Va., snatched the rally masters title by besting Kyle Bair, 15, of New Castle, Pa. (second), and Alexandria Terrigno, 14, of Campbell, Ohio (third). Rally champions received \$3,000 college scholarships, followed by \$2,000 for second and \$1,500 for third, courtesy of the AASBD.

The 2006 finals showcased more than 500 competitors from 40 states, the District of Columbia and five foreign countries (Japan, Germany, New Zealand, Guam and the Philippines).

The Stachowski family of Moss Point, Miss., were named the Levi Strauss Signature brand National Soap Box Derby Family of the Year for outstanding dedication to their derby chapter and were honored in a ceremony at the championships. The Stachowskis – parents, Kevin and Susan, and children, Kevin Jr. and Christina, were presented with an award and a \$5,000 donation for their derby chapter.

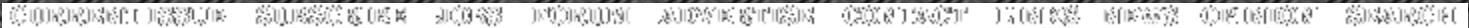


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