

# DRAG RACING NEWS

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## Those Mean, Mean Street Machines

By: Ross Martin

I thought that the days of the muscle cars ended with the downsizing of engines in an attempt to conserve energy and reduce pollution. I have to admit, I was wrong. The new breed are smaller, lighter and more luxurious, but they sure pack the same power of yesteryears killer cars.

On July 16, Dragway Park held Annual Street Machine Nationals. Much to the crowds delight, the 80 plus competitors put on a tremendous show. The cars went from mild to wild and plain to 'I just can't believe it'. There were 5 litre Mustangs, Buick Grand Nationals, Corvettes, Camaros as well as many other late model tire screamers. The 'I Just Can't Believe What I Just Saw' award would had to have gone to the Low Rider Camaro with the trick green paint job and the Twin Paxton Superchargers. Because there were so many heavy duty cars. John Fletcher decided to run a Street Machine Quick 8 Eliminator along with the regular Street Machine Eliminator. That announcement really got the competitors to search for that little extra horsepower.

The competition was extremely close, with the racers cutting some fantastic lights and more than one breaking the finish line beams right on their dial-in. In the semi finals Al Hodgson pulled to the line in his red, white and blue 68 AMX to face Dominic Pidrodangelo in his immaculate white 83 Z28. The Camaro got the handicap and held off the hard charging American Motors car. In the other semi, Steve Townsend racing a propane powered 1963 Ford Galaxie, faced Don Moore in a beautiful, beige 78 Corvette. The Corvette took full advantage of the handicap to take the win.

With the final being an all GM race, the Ford and Chrysler fans sat on their hands to wait for the first round of the Quick 8. Don pushed the Corvette too hard in the final of Street Machine Eliminator and ran under his dial-in to give both the win and the trophy to Dominic.

The Quick 8 show was incredible and it looked like it was going to shape up to be a classic Ford vs Chevy final when 'THE WALL OF WATER' appeared. I'm not referring to a small summer shower, we couldn't even see the win light towers from the timing tower. What we could see though, was the lightning striking all around the strip. Because both Tom Morana driving his 82 Mustang and Bob Chapman driving his blown 72 Vega had put on such a great performance, just getting to the final round, they were asked if they would want to split the prize money. Since it didn't appear that any more racing would be done that day, they agreed.

The following trophies were awarded in the tower, during the rain, with no photographs being taken, so you'll just have to take my word for it:

### 'Fastest Chrysler Trophy'

-was presented to Victor Komaszko and his 23 T Altered.

### 'Fastest Ford Trophy'

-was presented to Tom Morans and his 82 Mustang.

### 'Fastest GM Trophy' and 'Fastest Street Machine Trophy'

-were presented to Bob Chapman and his 72 Vega.

### 'Street Rod Winner Trophy'

-was presented to Dominic Pidrodangelo and his 83 Camaro.

See  
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for  
schedule  
of events

# SPECTACULAR