

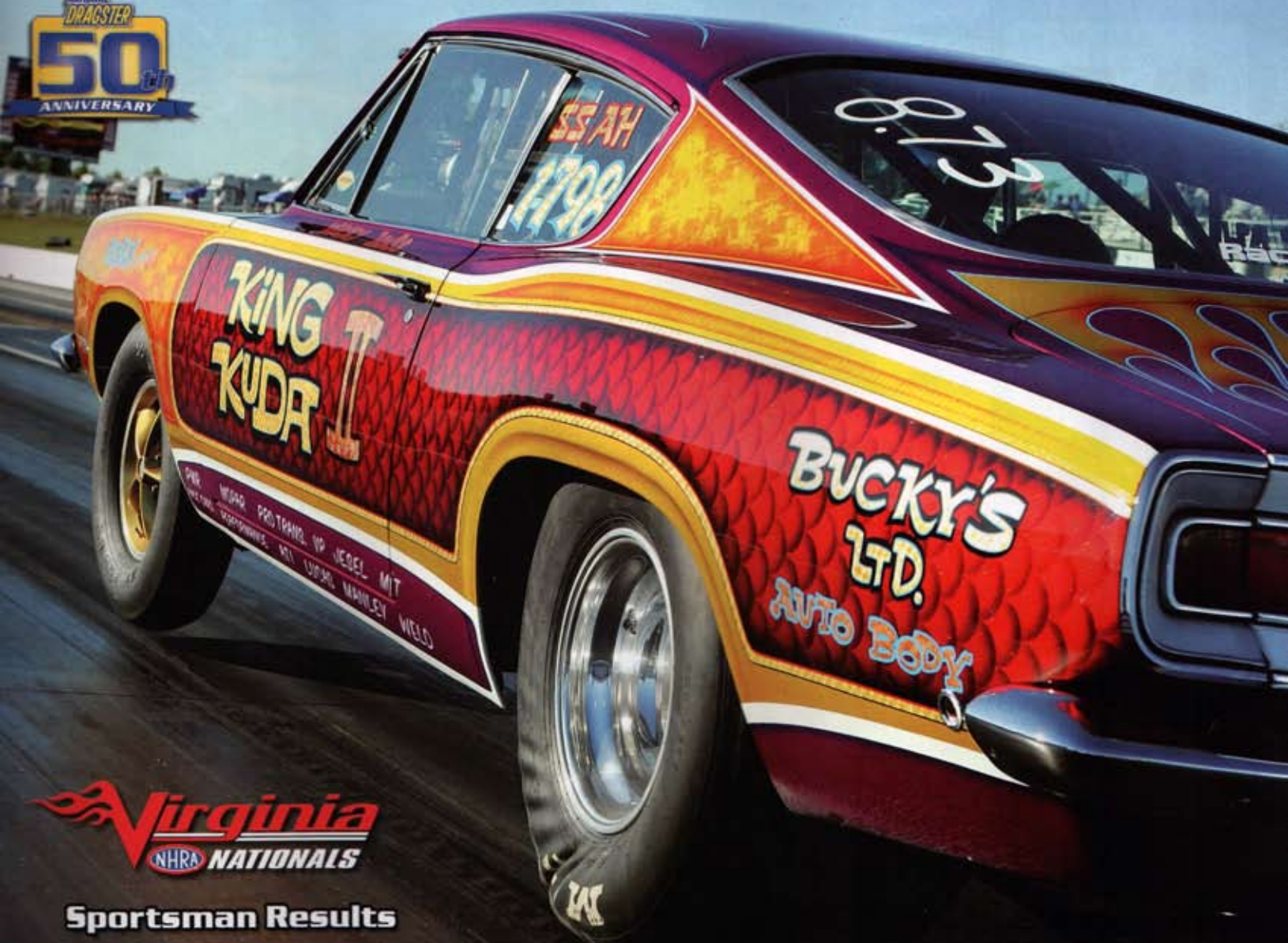
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# DRAGSTER



Preview Issue

WEEKLY



Sportsman Results

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# Crowning Achievement

Veteran Hess' King Kuda reels in first national event victory

# Hemi hero Hess grabs first national event win



(Bottom) Bucky Hess, who, along with his wife, Jeannie, has been racing Hemi Super Stock cars for nearly two decades, finally earned his first NHRA national event Wally in Richmond. (Below) Hess, near lane, drove his show-quality SS/AH '69 Barracuda to an 8.70 on his 8.70 dial in the final round to stop Grant Lewis, who broke out.



by Kevin McKenna

In a stark contrast to many of the racers who participate in the NHRA Mopar Hemi Challenge events, Bucky Hess *does* actually enjoy the bracket racing aspects of Super Stock, and he isn't shy about hot-lapping his 150-mph Hemi Barracuda through a long day of eliminations. Hess fulfilled a longtime goal at the NHRA Virginia Nationals when he defeated Grant Lewis for the Super Stock title, a victory that helped ease the pain of an early round loss in last month's Hemi Challenge event at the Mac Tools U.S. Nationals.

"For the second year in a row, I blew up my good engine the week before Indy, so when I got to the Hemi Challenge, I had no chance," said

Hess. "Even worse, I got beat by Hemi cars in heads-up runs twice this year. I couldn't seem to get away from them. It was so bad that before we left for Richmond, I told my wife, Jeannie, 'If there is another Hemi car on the entry list, we aren't going.'"

Fortunately for Hess, there were no other SS/AH cars in Richmond, and he managed to avoid a potentially disastrous heads-up run. In contrast to his previous outings, Hess actually had some good fortune in his corner when he benefited from two single runs and two red-lights by his opponents, including James Antonette Jr., the son of Richmond Super Comp winner James Sr., and former national champion Chuck Gallagher. In the final, Hess was second off the starting line against Lewis but once again ran right on his dial to earn the win.

"I thought I could push him under [his dial], and my plan actually came together," said Hess. "We hit the finish line, and I looked at my win light, and it wasn't on, and then I looked over at his, and it wasn't on either. It seemed forever, but



it finally came on in my lane. All I could think was thank the Lord. It was almost like time stood still for a few seconds.

"I always knew I could do this, I just didn't know when it would happen," he said. "The funny thing is that this is probably one of the worst jobs I've ever done of driving at a national event, and I

## About the winning car

Bucky Hess' King Kuda II was built by Phil Mandella, and the stunning paint scheme was applied by Hess and his son, Travis, in their auto body shop, Bucky's Ltd., in Bunker Hill, W.Va. Joe Clark supplied the Hemi engine, which is fitted with components from Manley, Jesel, Braswell Carburetors, HRE Manifolds, Herb Geibler Headers, and Moroso. Pro Trans supplied the transmission, which is fitted with an ATI converter. The car is also has Lamb brakes, American Racing wheels, and Mickey Thompson tires and runs on VP Fuels.

In addition to wife Jeannie, son Travis, and daughter Lauren; Hess thanked Cole McAllister; Gene Strauss; Phil Mandella; Nelson Grimes; Marty Rinehart; the Ewing brothers; the Worner family; Bill Leber and his girlfriend, Cheryl Shaw; and Racers For Christ. Hess also dedicated the win to his engine builder, Clark, who recently underwent bypass surgery.



Hess also ran dead on his dial during his semifinal win over Emily Stott's wheelstanding SS/HA Camaro. Stott was even with Hess off the starting line but ran a tenth over her dial.



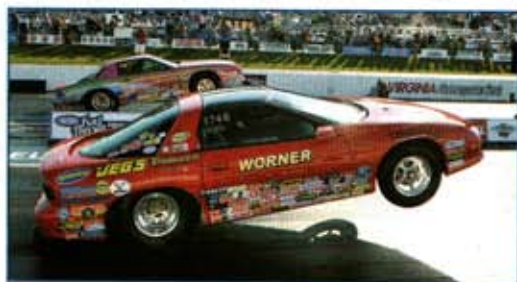
(Above) Lewis gave Joe Tysinger a 1.5-second head start in round four but was able to run him down to win with a .02-over 9.02. (Right) Stott gained more than six-hundredths off the starting line in her quarterfinal race against James "Hunt" Sharron's Duragloss Camaro and held on for the win with a .03-over 10.27.

ended up winning it. I didn't do a great job, but I am driving with a lot of confidence, and I think that has made a big difference. I still want to go back to Indy and win the Hemi Challenge, but I also want to win another national event. This one was so much fun."

**The key race:** Hess ran right on his dial in his semifinal race against Emily Stott but didn't need to because he was comfortably ahead. "At the 1,100-foot mark, I was right beside her," said Hess. "I probably didn't make it as close as I should have, but it was enough. It's nice when those rounds start going your way."

**The runner-up:** Lewis is one of NHRA's most diverse drivers, having raced successfully in everything from Stock to Pro Stock. Lewis, a multi-time Southeast Division champion, reached his latest final round with a strong performance that included wins over Joe Tysinger and recent Jags NHRA Northern SPORTSnationals champion Byron Worner.

(Left) Lewis, left, with his friend and executive chef, Bob Smith, reached his 14th career final round following a double-breakout win over recent Jags NHRA Northern SPORTSnationals winner Byron Worner in the semifinals (above).



(Above) Worner put together a great run in round four with a .000 light and a 9.92 on his 9.89 dial to beat former Stock national champion Michael Iacono, who had a solid effort of his own and was just .05-second behind at the finish line.



**Fast facts:** Stephen McCreary won the NHRA Best Appearing Car award for his Pontiac Sunfire. ... Eventual runner-up Lewis was also the low qualifier with a 9.070 from his SS/EM entry. ... Worner posted the only perfect reaction time in his round-four win over Michael Iacono.

**Did you know:** In addition to Hess, the only SS/AH drivers to win a national event this decade are Jerry Jenkins and Bob Mazzolini, who scored in Las Vegas in 2002 and 2006, respectively.

**Quotable:** "After I won the Hemi Challenge at Indy a few years ago, I said that the only thing that I was missing was a national event win. Now I've got that. I must have gotten 100 phone calls since I got home." — Bucky Hess

**Best packages:** 1. Emily Stott (Columbus, N.C.), .002/10.249 (10.24 dial), round three; 2. Gary Ewing (Bel Air, Md.), .002/10.130 (10.12 dial), round one; 3. Byron Worner (Duncannon, Pa.), .005/9.888 (9.88 dial), round two. **ND**

## Top 16 of 52 Qualifiers

1. Grant Lewis, Jesup, Ga. (SS/EM '05 Grand Am)	9.070
2. Gary Ewing, Bel Air, Md. (SS/JA '89 Camaro)	10.154
3. Doug Chervanik, Sunbury, Pa. (GT/LA '82 Camaro)	10.711
4. Anthony Bertozzi, Ashland, Va. (SS/AS '05 Cobalt)	8.761
5. Brian Oakes, Williamstown, N.J. (SS/CA '89 Camaro)	9.252
6. Norm Hall, Waldorf, Md. (GT/CA '05 Cavalier)	8.534
7. Brian McClanahan, Alta Loma, Calif. (SS/FA '87 Camaro)	9.706
8. James Antonette Jr., New Hyde Park, N.Y. (SS/CS '98 Grand Am)	9.506
9. Jimmy Spell, Stedman, N.C. (GT/K '90 Camaro)	10.371
10. Bob Cupp, Alexandria, Va. (SS/KA '65 Chevelle)	10.524
11. Joe Tysinger, Wrightsville Bch, N.C. (GT/JA '87 Firebird)	10.584
12. Larry Mohar, Hagerstown, Md. (SS/JA '89 Camaro)	10.303
13. Tom Sheehan, Belle Vernon, Pa. (GT/HA '00 Sebring)	10.301
14. Stephen McCreary, Cana, Va. (SS/BX '05 Sunfire)	9.876
15. Chuck Gallagher, Lexington, N.C. (SS/BM '94 Sunbird)	8.541
16. Sean Gaffney, Rockland, Ont. (SS/GA '66 Chevy II)	9.891

## SUPER ROUND TWO

Driver, Hometown (Class/Car)	Dial	R.T.	E.T.
Brian Oakes, Williamstown, N.J. (SS/CA '89 Camaro)	9.29	(.025)	9.28
Mike Heintz, Statesville, N.C. (SS/B '89 Camaro)	9.22	(-.048)	9.18
Joe Tysinger, Wrightsville Bch, N.C. (GT/JA '87 Firebird)	10.51	(.008)	10.63
Robbie Hudlow, Monrovia, Md. (SS/CM '96 Achieve)	9.51	(.025)	9.91
Hunt Sharron, Greensboro, N.C. (GT/BA '87 Camaro)	9.56	(.034)	9.58
Bobby Warren, Clinton, N.C. (SS/JA '98 Firebird)	10.40	(.060)	11.39
Grant Lewis, Jesup, Ga. (SS/EM '05 Grand Am)	9.00	(.041)	9.05
Stephen McCreary, Cana, Va. (SS/BX '05 Sunfire)	9.78	(.067)	9.87
Byron Worner, Duncannon, Pa. (SS/IA '96 Camaro)	9.88	(.005)	9.88
Norm Hall, Waldorf, Md. (GT/CA '05 Cavalier)	9.56	(.019)	9.53
Tom Sheehan, Belle Vernon, Pa. (GT/HA '00 Sebring)	10.30	(.006)	10.31
Marty Rinehart Jr., Thomasville, Pa. (SS/EA '89 Camaro)	9.72	(.033)	9.71
Michael Iacono, Wading River, N.Y. (GT/DA '87 Camaro)	9.83	(.036)	9.86
Sean Gaffney, Rockland, Ont. (SS/GA '66 Chevy II)	9.86	(.107)	9.86
Bucky Hess, Bunker Hill, W.Va. (SS/AH '88 Barracuda)	8.72	(.092)	8.71
James Antonette Jr., New Hyde Park, N.Y. (SS/CS '98 Grand Am)	9.52	(-.009)	9.51
Billy Leber, Tonawanda, N.Y. (SS/TB '02 S-10)	9.19	(.023)	9.28
Jack Sepanek, Moosic, Pa. (SS/BA '89 Camaro)	9.25	(.094)	9.28
Ron Richards, Dublin, Ohio (SS/AM '92 Camaro)	9.23	(.058)	9.87
Steven Johnson, Dobson, N.C. (SS/DM '95 Grand Am)	9.22	(-.008)	9.21
Chuck Gallagher, Lexington, N.C. (SS/BM '94 Sunbird)	8.48	(.036)	8.52
Gary Ewing, Bel Air, Md. (SS/JA '89 Camaro)	10.09	(.108)	10.30
Emily Stott, Columbus, N.C. (SS/HA '89 Camaro)	10.24	(.038)	10.24
Brian McClanahan, Alta Loma, Calif. (SS/FA '87 Camaro)	9.63	(.034)	9.52
Ryan McClanahan, Alta Loma, Calif. (SS/BM '09 Cobalt)	8.41	(.022)	8.39
Michael Allen, Astori, Pa. (GT/IA '01 Firehawk)	9.56	(.024)	9.54

## ROUND THREE

Tysinger	10.52	(.011)	10.51
Oakes	9.28	(-.132)	9.25
Hess	8.72	(.062)	8.67
Gallagher	8.51	(-.046)	11.96
Iacono	9.82	(.011)	9.82
Leber	9.21	(.027)	9.20
Stott	10.24	(.002)	10.24
Sheehan	10.32	(.082)	10.31
Sharron	9.57	(.013)	9.54
R. McClanahan	8.40	(-.024)	8.32
Worner	9.89	(.032)	9.88
Richards	9.30	no-show	
Lewis	9.01	(.013)	8.98
bye			

## ROUND FOUR

Worner	9.89	(.000)	9.92
Iacono	9.83	(.015)	9.84
Stott	10.24	(.091)	10.27
Sharron	9.57	(.150)	9.56
Lewis	9.00	(.029)	9.02
Tysinger	10.51	(.010)	10.57
Hess	8.70	(.003)	9.16
bye			

## ROUND FIVE

Lewis	9.01	(.043)	9.00
Worner	9.89	(.053)	9.83
Hess	8.73	(.038)	8.73
Stott	10.25	(.054)	10.35

## FINAL ROUND

Hess	8.70	(.070)	8.70
Lewis	9.00	(.048)	8.99

\*red-light \*\*breakout