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IT'S TIME TO RACE!!

November 26, 2006

Staropoli Wins Race, Morales gets 2006 Pro Truck Championship at New Smyrna Speedway

Samsula, Fla. (November 25, 2006) The weather was not too cool as the fans greeted and wished the 34 truck drivers good luck at the 2nd Annual Florida State Truck Championship 200 at New Smyrna Speedway. A special appearance was made by the number one driver of the number one sleigh - Mr. and Mrs. Claus, yes that is right, Santa Claus. A nice surprise for all at New Smyrna.

Michael Pilla set fast time and was on the pole for the 100 lap event with no inversion to the field since there is no pill draw for a 100 lap feature. As the green was thrown, Pilla jumped to the lead followed by Dustin Skinner and Scott Reeves, returning from a very bad accident in Lakeland earlier this year, spun in turns 3 and 4 causing a total restart. Billy Bishop retires his truck at this time from overheating. On the second restart, it is Pilla, Reeves, Skinner, Patrick Staropoli and Ricky Moxley in the top five.

Reeves challenges Pilla for the lead but Pilla is having nothing to do with it. They go side-by-side putting on a great show for the fans. Reeves then finds himself being challenged by Staropoli for second as Staropoli proves to have the stronger truck taking second and putting Reeves third. Now it is Moxley who is challenged by Scott Bishop who takes over fifth as Moxley goes back to sixth.

Just as the action is hot and heavy, the caution comes out for Chad Akins and Tim Gersch. Gersch is able to continue but Akins is done for the night. The green comes back out as Staropoli leads the way over Pilla, Skinner, Reeves, and Bishop. Lap 24 sees T.J. Chambers bring out the yellow as he spins on the backstretch. The field is realigned for the restart as



Pit Stop

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Staropoli leads the way. Pilla finds his hands full as he goes side-by-side with Skinner for second. Skinner takes over second followed by Reeves, Bishop and Kevin Henry.

Staropoli and Skinner put on one heck of a show as they take turns taking the lead with each fighting back until lap 59 when the caution comes out for a spin in turns 1 and 2. Suddenly the truck of Phil Luizzo comes in full of smoke as he is done for the night. The green comes back out on lap 69 with Skinner on the point followed by Staropoli, Bishop, Reeves, and Pilla. Suddenly the truck of Kevin Henry stalls on the frontstretch with a broken trailing arm ending his good run.

Skinner holds the point on the restart with Staropoli after the lead also. Staropoli retakes the point but Skinner is charging hard, just a little too hard, as he spins out Staropoli on lap 75. Caught up in the mess in turn 4 was the points leader George Morales but he is able to pit and fix his truck enough to continue. Staropoli is given back his spot as Skinner goes to the rear of the trucks on the lead lap.

On the restart it is Staropoli, Bishop, Reeves, Pilla, and Brandon Johnson. Pilla passes Reeves and takes over third as Reeves goes to fourth. Racing is now hot and heavy as the end is in sight but on lap 92, the yellow comes out again for a mass spin coming off turn 4 involving Jessica Murphy, Dwayne Barrus, and Caesar Bacerella. All are okay and the race goes back green but Bacerella slows on the backstretch and brings out the caution again. Barcella looks to be out of gas but has a bent fuel tube from the earlier spin causing his truck not to get fuel. So close to the end but not close enough as Barcella is pushed to his pit done for the night.

With only eight laps to go, Staropoli leads the way over Scott Bishop, Michael Pilla, Scott Reeves, and Brandon Johnson. Staropoli takes the win as George Morales takes the 2006 Pro Truck Championship.

In other action at New Smyrna, Dale Clouser shows the way for the Sportsman feature. Phil Luizzo had the pole but it was Dale Howard who took the point on the green followed by Mike Pletka, Dale Clouser, Luizzo, and John Nusbaum. Clouser works his way to the point and takes over followed by Howard, Nusbaum, Pletka, and Luizzo. Suddenly Pletka and Nusbaum get together with Nusbaum going into the turns 1 and 2 wall hard. Nusbaum is okay but done for the night.

On the restart, it is Clouser, Howard, Luizzo, Derrick Wood and Pletka. Luizzo passes Howard for second as Howard settles into thrd. Lap 15 sees the caution for Derrick Wood who has spun high in turns 3 and 4 but saved his car from hitting the wall A really good job indeed. Clouser continues to lead the way and takes the checkered over Phil Luizzo, Dale Howard, Mike

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