

# CHASE'N RACE'N

## ILLUSTRATED

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**IKF 4-Cycle Grand Nationals !**  
It's all about a Bronze Statue in South Dakota



Indoor-Summer-Nationals  
Sen Bob Martin Ag-Center  
Williamston, NC

JRPW Open House  
Martinez, GA

Grass Roots  
TECH BARN

Plus a whole lot more!!!



## IT'S A GRAND 'OL TIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA *Racers Pull Out All Stops In Search of Duffy*

With Chase'n Race'n Illustrated in the middle of our seventh year, we've made great strides to "cover" the sport of karting, specifically dirt oval karting. We've managed to make it from coast to coast, and almost countless points in between. We've witnessed how series, promoters, tracks, and even racers in the different regions manage their programs, and how certain aspects may work in one area but not in another. Trust me, it took a while for this opinionated southern redneck to realize that there's no clear cut, sure-fire, across the board, method to any of this madness we call karting.

Karting in my world has been something akin to living a sheltered life and not leaving the nest to experi-



ence anything different. Our coverage since inception, even though it has spanned from coast to coast, has predominately been events influenced the most by the rules, guidelines, and procedures of WKA. That tidbit of background is paramount to what you are about to read.

Back on New Year's weekend, while covering an event in Arizona, during some downtime, I sat and chatted with South Dakota Kart Club board member Doug Norgaard. Norgaard had been brought to the desert to be race director of the event. He proceeded to inform me about the IKF Grand Nationals, which were scheduled again in 2011 to be hosted by the SDKC at University Plains Speedway

in Brookings, SD. Having made the twenty-five hour haul to South Dakota a couple of times for the Mid America Speed-



way Nationals Series, I knew that I could at least count on a great facility and staff, and so I agreed to make the trip in July for the "Grands". Besides, I had never personally covered an IKF event, let alone the "Grands".

With better than six months to prepare, the anticipation simmered into a slow boil by the time the CRI/P&R wagon rolled out of South Carolina for the weeklong event



in Brookings. Not really knowing what to expect from a "crowd" standpoint, or how the event would be from the

operational side, there was perhaps more thought, on my part, put into this event than any before, as I stretched my feeble mind to come up with a savvy marketing plan for our visit.

As we rolled into Brookings, it was Saturday afternoon and the speedway was in the midst of their weekly racing program. We made our way to the nice flat, semi



Brookings after watching the water table rise a good bit, thanks to Mother Nature.

The design of UPS has always lent itself to trouble with the track flooding under heavy rains. But Mr. Norgaard had proudly informed me earlier of a project that the Club had taken on, and he wasted no time on Saturday evening giving me a personal tour of the results of a lot of hard work. The Club had installed a drainage system around the inside perimeter of the track with a collection point in turn one. From there, the water is pumped through piping bored under the track surface into an adjacent creek. Knowing the forecast for the upcoming week, we were mindful that the system would probably be put to the test.

shaded spot adjacent to the concession stand, just outside the fence separating the "spectator's area" from the racers side. Once we were settled in, even with karts on the track, I was able to do something unusual, just watch some good racing!

Once the business of the weekly program was fin-

ished, several members of the staff along with racers and their families greeted us and welcomed us back to the area. Of course, all of us were hoping for different results than our previous visits. On two occasions, we nearly "floated" out of





counterparts at WKA. The sanctioning body is the prevailing force in karting west of the Mississippi River, even though the WKA mentality has seeped into the Midwest region over the past few years. IKF has staunchly stood its ground over the years and diligently follows a very detailed format that covers every possible scenario. There's no it's,



and's, but's, or maybe's. Every course of action is spelled out and adhered to, under the guidance of a Board of Directors headed up by President Bill Hilger.

Each year, members of IKF compete for perhaps the most prestigious award in karting, a fourteen pound, twelve inch tall (not counting the six inch base) solid bronze statuette called the "Duffy", named after Frank "Duffy" Livingstone. While others offer "biggie sized" awards for their grand national champions, there's only one place, once a year to earn a Duffy, and that's the IKF Grand Nationals.

The format for this annual rite of passage creates a terrific atmosphere for participants, and nurtures the "family sport" aspect that has been rapidly slipping away over the past few years. Sunday is a full day set aside just for parking and getting set-up, while

Monday is practice day for racers and teams to get some much needed seat time. Monday also included a complimentary BBQ dinner for the racers and

families. Then, it's raceday!!!! Five division of competition are on the schedule for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, before wrapping up with only four divisions on Friday.



The schedule also included Saturday as a rain day, if needed. That's the way it is every year, no gimmicks, no surprises, no games.

Now I know many of our readers are thinking, "only five classes a day!!!" Well, those are the same folks that would enter eight classes in one day just for the track time. The IKF format offers plenty of track time for each division. After hot laps, it's heat race time, and here, there's two rounds of heats to determine the feature starting line-



up. No qualifying under the clock here, your starting spot is earned on the track. Many like this format, many don't, but it works, and provides for some great non-stop action throughout the day, without the dog-eat-dog pace.

Oh, and as you read about the action on the track,



many of you may wonder about the class structure, as you won't see a Jr 3 mentioned. The IKF structure has Jr 1 for 8-12 year olds, and Jr 2 is for the 12-16 age group.

A new twist added for this year's Grands is the use of Raceceivers. Raceceivers are one way communications devices that allow officials to talk to racers under certain



circumstances, such as realigning after a caution and notifying racers where the problem may be on the track when a caution is thrown. I've personally seen these things work, and work well, and when used correctly, they certainly enhance any top level program.

Ok, let's talk a little racing! One thing for sure, with the "Duffy" on the line, there's no holding back. The racers

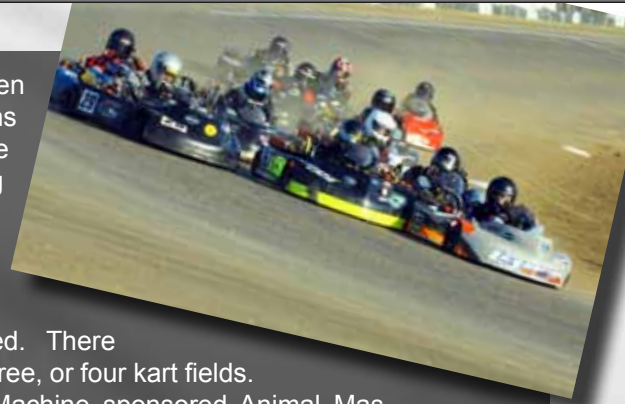


here have earned their way here, and from front to back every field of karts here is stacked deep with talent capable of taking home that prestigious statuette.



Only nineteen total divisions took to the track during the week, which is another reason the Duffy is so coveted. There are no two, three, or four kart fields.

The Merley Machine sponsored Animal Masters on Tuesday which had seven competitors, and won by Grand Forks, ND's Bryan Good over defending champion Brian Wannarka, was the "short" class of the week, and



fourteen features had more than twenty racers taking the green flag.

Three racers managed to rope in more than one Duffy. Sioux Falls, SD's Kaleb Johnson and Lincoln, NE's Tom Spanel each took a matching pair of the statues home, while Windom, MN's Tylan Porath bagged three.

Porath started his week out defending his Grand National Championship in the Jr 1 Lite division on Tuesday, snagging the win in the Sub Zero Chassis sponsored feature. Porath emerged from the fracas to pilot his Ultramax Excentrik to the checkers in the time shortened main. Trail-



ing Porath at the line was the Matrix of Nicholas Kyle and Bryan Brandt. Cole Luck and Crist Pettinger capped the top five.

Porath returned to the top step of the podium on Wednesday taking the All Around Construction sponsored

Jr 1 Heavy feature win. It was Pettinger, from Bismarck, ND, providing the heat in this one and making life hard for Porath. Rapid City, SD's Jacee Gerlach chased the lead



dup under the checkers, followed by Kyle and Omaha, NE's Jacob Murray.

Win number three for Porath came on the final day of competition. The DRE Jr 1 Animal Heavy feature provided fence hangers with plenty of action. This group of youngsters stepped it up each time they rolled onto the track during the week. Porath came out on top, sailing under the waving checkers of flagman Jason Cooper ahead of



Brandt, Gerlach, Brody Willet, and Cole Luck.

The only Jr 1 feature left on the card went to Norwich, KS's Nicholas Kyle on day three of action. Kyle managed to wheel his TRR powered Matrix to the checkers in the Humphries Construction Jr 1 Animal Lite feature, with Brandt, Collin Luck, Caymen DeJong, and Gerlach in pursuit.

Kaleb Johnson joined

Porath as a multiple winner in the Junior divisions. Johnson piloted his KWE prepared mount to the wins in the Merle Johnson Farm Toys Jr 2 Heavy and Butler Built Seat Systems sponsored features.

Johnson and Ames, IA's Jeff Edwards led the field



to the green flag for the Jr 2 Heavy main, and it quickly became a dogfight with Jerod Ballhagen, Levi Preston, and Ben Bogle joining the fray. After several lead changes, Ed-



wards led the field into turn three for the final time. But, he left the door cracked ever so slightly, and that's where things got dicey. Contact between Edwards and Bogle kicked the door open for Johnson to edge out Ballhagen at the stripe, with Preston and Bogle following. Edwards crossed the fin-



ish line fifth, backwards and on his way to the muddy infield. Ballhagen and Javen Osterman shared the front row for the start of the Jr 2 Animal Heavy feature. Johnson





spots.

Lincoln, NE's Tom Spanel was the lone Senior division racer to earn the top step on the podium more than once, claiming the two offerings for the Blue Wazoom class, Medium and Heavy. Spanel scored the win in the Wazoom Heavy feature, sponsored by Uncle Franks, on opening day over Sioux Falls, SD's Brent Mork and Sam Mangiameli,

started on the inside of row two, but wasted little time snatching the top spot, but Ballhagen wasn't going away quietly. Ballhagen and Omaha, NE's Jacob Krug, along with Johnson battled it out for twenty laps with each taking their swings at leading the parade. At the stripe, it was Johnson coming out on top over the Tim Fishel powered machine of Krug, followed by Dylan LeCroix, Brayton Carter, and Osterman.

Ballhagen and LeCroix both also managed to bag a Duffy during the week. Ballhagen, aboard a Waller powered Phantom Seraph, outran Landon Schott and LeCroix to the finish line in the Jr 2 Animal Lite feature, followed by Colby,



followed by Jonathan Hanson and John Merley.

On day two, Spanel captured the Koopman Racing sponsored Wazoom Medium feature win. Mork duplicated his second place run after a spirited battle with Erica Bear. Bear, from Charlotte, NC via Robert, WI settled for third after a valiant fight aboard a 1998 Phantom Banshee. Mangiameli and Merley again capped the top five.

In the last issue of Chase'n Race'n Illustrated, we mentioned how several Midwest racers had "stepped up" their game with the assistance of Kevin Weldon Enterprise (KWE). This event continued that trend as the KWE contingent occupied steps on the podium early and often.

Petite Talia Mangiameli from Omaha, NE proved again to be every ounce as tough as any "guy" in the seat, as she piloted her TRR powered, KWE prepared mount to the Waller Racing sponsored Stock Lite feature win to close out day one of racing action. Another KWE outfitted machine, with Jamie Gerlach at the helm claimed the second spot ahead of Mike Ballhagen, Zach Axlen, and Ashley Miller. According to officials at IKF, the last time a female earned a Grand National Title in the Speedway Dirt Series was in 2004, and before that, 1983.

Another KWE jockey, Zach Humphries scored a Duffy in the Briggs & Stratton Animal Lite main on day two over Lennox, SD's Max Jacobson, Darrin Zomer, Spanel, and Gerlach.

KS's Tayber Haremza and Johnson. LeCroix scored his Duffy in the first Jr 2 feature of the week when his Waller powered steed edged out Johnson for the Jr 2 Lite checkers. Bo-



gle, Krug, and Lincoln Schanzenbach filled out the podium



The rest of the podium steps went to mutual Grand National Champions! You be the judge.

Day three of action started with Allison, IA's Mike Ballhagen claiming the win in the Briggs & Stratton Animal



How impressive was this win for Humphries? Take a look at those four chasing him to the stripe. It has already been noted that Spanel picked up two of the coveted statues. Zomer came back two features later to capture the checkers over Axlen in the L&J Karting by HRE Stock Medium main, followed by Zach Vanderkamp, Spanel, and Gerlach. Jacobson proved you don't need an unlimited tire budget and a 40ft hauler to be the best as he captured a Grand National Title in the Data Assit sponsored Stock Heavy feature. Jason Lindgren, Axlen, Spanel, and Ashley Miller followed the young man



Super Heavy feature over Kevin Mulder, Dillon Sampson, Austin Mennen, and Cole Liekweg.

Two features later, Sheboygan, WI's Zach Axlen and Spanel led Ballhagen and Darrin Zomer to the green flag for the KSM Motorsports Animal Medium feature. Axlen, aboard the L&J Karting by HRE house ride grabbed the early lead, but he had plenty of company in the form of Ballhagen and Jody Krug. Ballhagen snatched the lead from

from Lennox, SD to the checkers. Then, the "old man" in the group, Gerlach, knocked on the door week before finally kicking it down in the Dammer Trucking Animal Heavy main, the final feature of the event. Mike Ballhagen, Spanel, Kyle Heitz, and Drake Helgeson chased the veteran to the checkers. Again, how impressive was Humphries win?



Axlen on the restart after the first of many cautions, taking Krug along for the ride. As the laps counted down, Axlen and Spanel led Ballhagen and Krug to the white flag. Into turn one, Spanel slips to the inside of Axlen, and Ballhagen is there, muscling his way inside of Spanel and into the lead as they exit turn two. Ballhagen leads Spanel off of turn four looking for the checkers, but instead, there's a yellow flag in the air!





Axlen, Spanel, Ballhagen, and Krug at the head of the field. Heading back to the checkers, Ballhagen rolled the dice again, but lady luck wasn't there the second time, as contact among the leaders cobbled up the field and opened the



door for Krug to slip through for the win. Spanel recovered for a second place finish ahead of Bryan Good, Gerlach, and Helgeson.

Thanks to Mother Nature providing some rain on Wednesday, the program was pushed back a day and forcing use of the Saturday as a rain date. The final day of action opened up with the Spanel Engines sponsored Animal Sportsman feature. This division is reserved for racers who have never claimed a Duffy. Zach Axlen earned the top starting spot and appeared on his way to his first Grand National title before a late



Zomer looped his ride in turn three behind the leaders to bring out the caution. Anywhere else in America, and Ballhagen has another win, but that's not the way things are done here.

On the restart for a green, white, checkered run, it's



race slip allowed Scandia, MN's Mitch Weiss to slide by. From there, Weiss fought off Axlen for the win, followed by Todd Moulton, Ashley Miller, and John Merley.

Now folks, it would be a lie to tell you that this was the perfect event, but dang, it was as close to perfection in

words.

A quick congrats to the winners of several gifts given away by CRI/P&R. Jill Hogan, Mylan Mork, and Ashley Rialson were lucky ticket holders in our daily drawings, and Ben Bogle held the winning ticket for our Grand Prize!!



karting that I've ever witnessed. Thinking long and hard, the only negative to the whole week was Mother Nature's insistence to be a pain in the butt! Oh yeah, and there's the matter of the twenty-five hour haul to get to Brookings, but

Ben's ticket earned him a custom 20x30 FX print from P&R Photos, a \$200 value!! Congrats Ben!! Even Pam (the "P"



honestly, it was worth every minute of windshield time.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a special "call-out" to everyone at this event for the over the top hospitality and support. We've been treated great nearly everywhere the CRI/P&R wagon has rolled, but this was something extra special that can't be put into

in P&R) got in on the "giving", drawing Marie Thesenvitz's name for a gift basket of Mary Kay products. Congrats to all of you and Thank You.

It has been announced that IKF will combine the 2-cycle and 4-cycle Grand National events in 2012 here in Brookings. A safe bet would be that the CRI/P&R wagon can be found under those trees beside the concession stand!







**Animal Heavy**



- Animal Heavy**
- Jamie Gerlach
- Mike Ballhagen
- Tom Spanel
- Kyle Heitz
- Drake Helgeson
- Darrin Zomer
- Zach Axlen
- Max Jacobson
- Justin Hanson
- Jake Hanson



**Animal Masters**



**Jr 1 Lite**



**Wazoom Heavy**



**Jr 2 Lite**



**Stock Lite**



**Wazoom Medium**

**Animal Masters**

Bryan Good  
 Brian Wannarka  
 Doug Hanson  
 Scott Simons  
 Mike Berg  
 Brian Baker  
 Ken Scott

**Junior 1 Lite**

Tylan Porath  
 Nicholas Kyle  
 Bryan Brandt  
 Cole Luck  
 Crist Pittenger  
 Cody Ott  
 Brandon Maitland  
 Ben Hogan  
 Caymen DeJong  
 Collin Luck

**Wazoom Heavy**

Tom Spanel  
 Brentt Mork  
 Sam Mangiameli  
 Johnathan Han-  
 son  
 John Merley  
 Erica Bear  
 Kevin Mulder  
 Jamie Wilson  
 David Bristow  
 Justin Hanson

**Junior 2 Lite**

Dylan LaCroix  
 Kaleb Johnson  
 Ben Bogle  
 Jacob Krug  
 Lincoln Schan-  
 zenbach  
 Jerod Ballhagen  
 Jeff Edwards  
 Javen Oster-  
 mann  
 Brayton Carter  
 Landon Schott

**Stock Lite**

Talia Mangiameli  
 Jamie Gerlach  
 Mike Ballhagen  
 Zach Axlen  
 Ashley Miller  
 Tom Spanel  
 Mark Jacobson  
 Dakota Hendey  
 Erica Bear  
 Mitch Weiss

**Wazoom  
Medium**

Tom Spanel  
 Brentt Mork  
 Erica Bear  
 Sam Mangimeli  
 John Merley  
 Mitch Weiss  
 Jonathan Han-  
 son  
 David Bristow  
 Brian Wannarka  
 Kevin Mulder



**Jr 1 Heavy**



**Animal Lite**



**Jr 2 Heavy**



**Stock Medium**



**Animal Super Heavy**



**Jr 1 Animal Lite**

**Junior 1 Heavy**

Tylan Porath  
Crist Pittenger  
Jacee Gerlach  
Nicholas Kyle  
Jacob Murray  
Dylan VanWyk  
Tyson Kaiser  
Cole Luck  
Caymen DeJong  
Bryan Brandt

**Animal Light**

Zach Humphries  
Max Jacobson  
Darrin Zomer  
Tom Spanel  
Jamie Gerlach  
Adam Gustafson  
Brentt Mork  
Erica Bear  
Ashley Miller  
Jeremiah Davis

**Junior 2 Heavy**

Kaleb Johnson  
Jerod Ballhagen  
Levi Preston  
Ben Bogle  
Jeff Edwards  
Landon Schott  
Javen Ostermann  
Ross Young  
Dylan LaCroix  
Tayber Haremza

**Stock Medium**

Darrin Zomer  
Zach Axlen  
Zach  
VandeKamp  
Tom Spanel  
Jamie Gerlach  
Adam Gustafson  
Mike Ballhagen  
Max Jacobson  
Sam Mangiameli  
Jason Lindgren

**Animal Super Heavy**

Mike Ballhagen  
Kevin Mulder  
Dillon Sampson  
Austin Mennen  
Cole Liekweg  
Mike Berg  
Brandon Sohl  
Doug Hanson  
Jamie Wilson  
Josh Peterson

**Jr 1 Animal Light**

Nicholas Kyle  
Bryan Brandt  
Collin Luck  
Caymen DeJong  
Jacee Gerlach  
Jacob Murray  
Cole Luck  
Crist Pittenger  
Brandon Dolman  
Blair Nothdurff



**Animal Medium**



**Jr 2 Animal Lite**



**Stock Heavy**



**Animal Sportsman**



**Jr 1 Animal Heavy**



**Jr 2 Animal Heavy**

**Animal Medium**

Jody Krug  
Tom Spanel  
Bryan Good  
Jamie Gerlach  
Drake Helgeson  
Brentt Mork  
Mitch Weiss  
Mike Ballhagen  
Todd Moulton Jr  
Tony Rialson

**Jr 2 Animal Light**

Jerod Ballhagen  
Landon Schott  
Dylan LaCroix  
Tayber Haremza  
Kaleb Johnson  
Levi Preston  
Lincoln Schanzenbach  
Javen Ostermann  
Ben Bogle  
Jacob Krug

**Stock Heavy**

Max Jacobson  
Jason Lindgren  
Zach Axlen  
Tom Spanel  
Ashley Miller  
Darrin Zomer  
Sam Mangiameli  
Zach  
VandeKamp  
Dakota Hendey  
Brentt Mork

**Animal Sportsman**

Mitch Weiss  
Zach Axlen  
Todd Moulton Jr  
Ashley Miller  
John Merley  
Adam Gustafson  
Justin Hanson  
Jake Hanson  
Nick Otto  
Jonathan Hanson

**Jr 1 Animal Heavy**

Tylan Porath  
Bryan Brandt  
Jacee Gerlach  
Brody Willett  
Cole Luck  
Jack Hogan  
Blair Nothdurft  
Dylan VanWyk  
Cayman DeJong  
Bryan Maitland

**Jr 2 Animal Heavy**

Kaleb Johnson  
Jacob Krug  
Dylan LaCroix  
Brayton Carter  
Javen Ostermann  
Jerod Ballhagen  
Ben Bogle  
Tayber Haramza  
Ryan Maitland  
Michael Nichols