

## MORRELL TAKES CAREER-FIRST USCS 600 MINI SPRINT WIN AT HATTIESBURG

HATTIESBURG, MS &ndash; March 3, 2017 - The 2016 www.RockAuto.com USCS 600 Sprint Car Series Micro/Mini Sprint Rookie of the Year 12-year-old Connor Morrell of Bradenton, FL won his career-first USCS main event on Friday night in the 2017 season opener at Hattiesburg Speedway. Morrell took the point from early race leader Kyle Amerson of Matthews, AL on lap seven of the 15-lap race, and then led the rest of the way for the win. He then pulled his red #28 into the www.RockAuto.com USCS Victory Lane as the victor/

Two-time series Champion, veteran racer Bobby Zaiontz from Columbus, MS finished second and third place went to Greg Jones of Nvarre, FL, Darl Parvin from Renzi the fourth spot, and Michael Ward from Santa Rosa Beach, FL rounded out the top five.

Amerson ended up sixth, with Matthew Spicer from Ocean Springs, MS taking the seventh spot. Jim Kradel also of Navarre, FL finished eighth and Mack Mitchel from Renzi, MS was ninth. Kaleb Stevens from Gulf Crest, AL rounded out the top ten.

The 15-lap feature race got off to an ominous start, as spins on the first three tries forced complete restarts. Once the race got a clean start, Amerson led the first lap followed by Morrell, Parvin, Zaiontz, and Ward. Zaiontz passed Parvin for fourth place on the fourth lap, and Jones moved into the top five on lap five went he got by Ward for the fifth spot.

Amerson gave up the lead on lap seven when he slowed up in turn three to bring out the caution flag. That gave the lead to Morrell, who led Zaiontz, Parvin, Ward and Jones down for the restart. Jones moved up to the fourth spot on lap eight, while Morrell stayed out front for the remaining eight laps to take the win.

In preliminary action, the pair of six-lap heat races were won by Bobby Zaiontz and Kyle Amerson. After a four inversion was drawn in the K&N Filters Pole Award drawing, Conner Morrell was award the K&N Filers Pole award and position. Michael Ward scrambled from ninth to fourth to receive the Wilwood Disc Brakes Hard Charger Award.

The [www.rockauto.com](http://www.rockauto.com) 600 Mini Sprints will travel to Magnolia Motor Speedway in Columbus, MS on Saturday night to compete in Round 2 of the 2017 USCS season on the famed Black Ice surface.

For rules and updated schedule information about the United Sprint Car Series Outlaw Thunder Tour, please visit [www.uscsracing.com](http://www.uscsracing.com) or call the series office at 770-460-7223 or 770-865-6097. You can also like the United Sprint Car Series Facebook page at USCS Racing.

OFFICIAL USCS 600 MINI SPRINT ROUND ONE RESULTS FROM HATTIESBURG SPEEDWAY IN HATTIESBURG, MS ON 3/3/17:

FEATURE RACE &ndash; 15 LAPS:

1. 28 Connor Morrell Bradenton, FL
2. 1 Bobby Zaiontz, Columbus, MS
3. 730 Greg Jones, Navarre, FL
4. D14 Darl Parvin, Renzi, MS
5. 98 Michael Ward, Santa Rosa Beach, FL
6. 29 Kyle Amerson, Matthews, AL
7. 18 Matthew Spicer, Ocean Sprints, MS
8. 19 Jim Kradel, Navarre, FL
9. M14 Mack Mitchell, Renzi, MS
10. 22 Kaleb Stevens, Gulf Crest, AL

ENGLER ACHINE and TOOL FIRST HEAT &ndash; 6 LAPS: 1. Zaiontz; 2. Mitchell; 3. Kradel; 4. Spicer-DNS; 5. Ward-DNS.

[www.rockauto.com](http://www.rockauto.com) SECOND HEAT &ndash; 6 LAPS: 1. Amerson; 2. Morrell; 3. Parvin; 4. Jones; 5. Stevens DNS.

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600 SPRINT CAR SERIES RACE AWARDS:

K&N Filters Pole Award:

Engler Machine and Tool First Heat: Bobby  
Zaiontz

www.rockauto.com Second  
Heat: Kyle Amerson

PRO Shocks Champions Choice Award: Bobby Zaionta (2nd place)

K&N Filters Podium Award: (3rd place)  
Award: Conner Morrell

Wilwood Disc Brakes Hard Charger Award: Michael Ward (started 9th  
and finish 4th)

Brown and Miller Racing Solutions Fourth Place: Darl Parvin

Keizer Aluminum Wheels Top Five Award: Michael  
Ward

Saldana Racing Products Super Sixth Award: Kyle Amerson

Pyrotec Racing Cells Lucky Seven Award: Matt Spicer

DHR Suspension 8th-Place Award: Jim Kradel

DMI/Bulldog Rear Ends Top Ten Award: Caleb Stevens

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600 Sprint Car Series would like to gratefully thank its sponsoring partners for their involvement in the 2017 and 7th annual Chained Lightning Tour. Those partners are K&N Filters, www.rockauto.com, Engler Machine and Tool, Butlerbuilt, Wilwood Disc Brakes, Saldana Racing Products, Pyrotec Racing Cells, DMI/Bulldog Rear Ends. PRO Shocks, DHR Suspensions, Schoenfeld Headers, Bell Helmets, Brown and Miller Racing Solutions, Arizona Sport Shirts and Hero Graphics.

Photo/Caption: 12-year-old Conner Morrell raced to his career-first UCS 60 Sprint Car Series mini sprint win on Friday at Hattiesburg Speedway.

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