

## **2009 ASLMS Banquet Preview: Rick 'Boom' Briggs Shatters Expectations!**

### **Pittsburgh, PA (February 18, 2009) - Jason Shank – O'Reilly All Star Late Model Series Director**

At the beginning of the 2009 racing season, Rick 'Boom' Briggs had in his mind that he was going to race locally and travel on occasion with whatever group or series that was reasonably close to his home town of Bear Lake, Pennsylvania. But after a memorable Inaugural O'Reilly All Star Late Model Series weekend in April, his 2009 plans changed.

After sweeping the O'Reilly All Star Late Model Series' Inaugural weekend at Lernerville Speedway in Sarver, PA and KC Raceway in Chillicothe, OH, Briggs decided to buy a two-car hauler and stick with the tour. 'With being the only series out there besides the two national series' to offer show-up money to the drivers, we felt it was the best thing for us to do, winning the first two shows sure did help though,' Boom said with a smile.

After he swept the tour's opening weekend, the series visited Winchester Speedway in Winchester, VA. Briggs ran into a bit of trouble in his heat race and was forced to start at the tail of the 40-lap feature event. Boom finished 18th to carry a 34 point edge going into the series' second stop at Jeff Schrader's KC Raceway. Briggs showed his muscle rallying from his 13th starting spot to finish third behind Eddie Carrier and R.J. Conley. Another strong seventh place finish at Central PA Speedway in Clearfield, PA stretched Boom's point lead to 54 points over youngster Coleby Frye.

Hartford Motor Speedway in Hartford, MI was the tour's next stop and an 18<sup>th</sup> place finish was not what Briggs had hoped for to start the Michigan trip. However, Boom's weekend quickly turned from sour to sweet as he passed Rod Conley with ten laps remaining to pick up the win at Butler Motor Speedway in Butler, MI, his third win of the season. Briggs followed the in with a strong fourth place finish at Franklin, PA's Tri-City Speedway but finished behind race winner Rob Blair who was now second in the championship point standings and starting to close the gap between himself and Boom. Briggs stayed consistent with a seventh place finish at Tyler County Speedway in Middlebourne, WV, but once again finished behind Blair, who was now only 34 points behind.

The series made their second stop at Tim Baaney's Central PA Speedway where Boom had his most adventurous night in ASLMS competition of the year. Briggs had a flat tire with 19 laps remaining in the 50-lap feature while running in the top-ten but had one of the fastest cars on the speedway. Boom returned at the tail of the field and battled his way up to a fourth place finish to salvage some much needed points as Blair once again beat Briggs to the stripe with a second place finish. Boom's point lead was now 30 points heading into the series' trek into the state of Indiana as they visited Twin Cities Speedway in North Vernon, IN and Lawrenceburg, IN. Finishes of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

respectively, closed the championship gap to 26 points with only three events remaining.

General Manager Gary Risch Jr. welcomed the ASLMS back to Lernerville Speedway for their second visit of the year, where Boom won the series' opening event. A tenth place finish by Briggs and a fourth place finish by Blair cut the point lead to 14 going into the final two events, both at KC Raceway in Chillicothe, OH. Blair was again extremely consistent with a finish of third in the next to last event of the year while Boom came home a quiet seventh leaving the point differential six points heading into the \$20,000 to-win 'Classic'. Boom's 'Classic' weekend got off to a rough start with a seventh place finish in his heat putting him in a B-Main. Briggs seemed to have figured things out in the B-Main as he made his way through the field to finish third and transfer to the 100-lap main event. However, Blair won his heat and was starting the main event at the front of the pack. Boom was never able to get into a solid rhythm in the feature and finished 19<sup>th</sup> while Blair finished tenth, good enough to steal the ASLMS Championship from Briggs by a mere 12 points.

'If I had to lose to anyone, I'm glad it was Robbie,' Briggs commented. 'He's such a good point racer and I knew he'd be consistent throughout the season. I thought after our fourth place run at Clearfield we were going to really have a shot at the championship but the way Robbie finished the year...I'm just glad we had a shot at it on that final weekend,' Boom continued. 'To be that close and to lose is heartbreaking but at the same time we are extremely proud of what we accomplished with the All Stars. I've only been driving for five years and to finish second in points is a heck of an accomplishment.'

#99 - Rick 'Boom' Briggs – (The Bear Lake Banzai) drives a Rocket Chassis mounted on Ohlins Shocks with a Custom Racing Engine and American Racer Tires. Sponsors include Horton Equipment / Tony Spec Lumber / Meridian Hardwoods / Sorbera Family Chiropractic / CJ's Auto Transport / Briggs Transport / Sunset Dairy / Lias Tire / American Racer Tires

Points: 2688

Points Position: 2nd

Fast Time: 1

A-Main Wins: Three (\*Inaugural Event\* Lernerville Speedway, Sarver, PA – K-C Raceway, Chillicothe, OH - Butler Motor Speedway, Butler, MI)

Top 10's: 9

Top 5's: 6

Heat Wins: 4

B-Main Wins: 1

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