

# Drag racing teams find going rough in Colorado

Army News Service

MORRISON, Colo. - U.S. Army Pro Stock Motorcycle rider Angelle Sampey lost in the finals to Matt Smith here Sunday in the Mopar Mile-High Nationals at Bandimere Speedway.

In other action, U.S. Army Top Fuel driver, Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher, lost in the semifinals, while U.S. Army Suzuki pilot Antron Brown fouled out in the second round of eliminations.

Sampey, who came into the weekend holding second in the standings, rolled through the likes of Chris Rivas, Karen Stoffer and Matt Guidera before committing a red-light foul against Smith in the final round.

"I guess I pushed the (Christmas) tree yet again," said the three-time world champion who was -.047-seconds too early at the start.

"I just couldn't cover a mile today," she said. "When you get to the finals, you always want to finish the job."

Sampey was seeking her second victory of the year and the 42nd of her career. She was also attempting to capture her second win in Denver, a place where she started her pro career in 1996.

"Bandimere Speedway is a special place for sure," she added. "Maybe, next year we can go one more round."

Brown, who started from the 14th spot, took care of third-place qualifier, Michael Phillips, in the opening round of eliminations before recording a red light foul in a second-round loss to Guidera.

The New Jersey native actually banked a better elapsed time than Guidera (7.484-seconds to 7.654-seconds), but he was -.001-seconds when he launched from the starting line and that was the race.

"It's extremely disappointing," said Brown about his early exit. "You can't keep beating yourself in this sport. We'll just have to keep our head up and look forward to the next race for the bikes out at Sonoma (Calif.) in two weeks."

Despite his second-round loss, Brown moved up a position in the standings to ninth. He's now just three points out of eighth place, which is the cut off for the NHRA's Countdown to the Championship.

"I guess that's the positive coming out of this weekend," he added. "We've got three (Pro Stock Motorcycle) races left to get into the playoffs."

After getting taken out in the first round last week at Bristol (Tenn.) Dragway, Schumacher came back strong with a semifinal round advancement at the 13th race of the year.

The Chicago native bolted past Clay Millican and J.R. Todd in the opening two rounds before dropping a close encounter to former Schumacher Racing teammate, Whit Bazemore, in the semis.

"It was a tight race with Whit," Schumacher said. "He just got me at the finish line (4.771-seconds to 4.806-seconds). Given all of the challenges that this track throws at you (hot temperatures and thin air due to the altitude), I thought we had a pretty good day."

Heading to next weekend's race in Seattle, Schumacher controls fifth place in the points, which is critical for entry into the Countdown to the Championship.

"Our mission is quite clear - like our Soldiers, failure is not an option or even a remote consideration," he added. "We're definitely taking aim at a fourth straight championship."

## Dragsters

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"For us, we've done exceptionally well the last three seasons," he added. "I guess we just get into a comfort zone out there. I always get asked about why we're successful at certain tracks and not as successful at others. There's really no clear explanation for it. I know that (crew chief) Alan Johnson has plenty of solid data to draw from. That's good enough for me."

Schumacher will enter the Schuck's Auto Supply Nationals holding fifth place in the standings. Presently, that would be good enough for a spot in the NHRA's Countdown to the Championship, which will allow the top eight in points (after the Reading, Pa., race, Aug. 16-19) to compete for the world title.

"We have a little bit of a cushion between us and that eighth position (126 points), but we certainly don't want to leave anything for chance with four races left until the cut-off," he said. "We need to keep running like we did in Denver and, perhaps, even grab a couple of wins along the way."

"Our Soldiers deserve this team's best effort all of the time. Our brave men and women give us their best effort every day, so why should we be any different? We definitely want to give them a fourth straight world championship."

ESPN2 will provide coverage of both qualifying (Saturday - 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. ET) and final eliminations (Sunday - 7 to 10 p.m. ET).



Photos by Jason Kaye

John Rodriguez finishes second overall and first in his age group during the Gray Army Airfield Run with a time of 27:57.



Shawn Dodge heads for the finish line during the Gray Army Airfield Run.

## Airfield run

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Nine of the 14 registered entrants showed up for the race, said Edgar Moore, manager of Sheridan Sports and Fitness Center and organizer of the run for the last seven years.

Moore never considered calling off the event because of the heat.

"We'll keep on truckin'," he said. "This isn't much different than a lot of them do for PT. We give them water once they get here and most of them have water packs on their backs. But that's what it's all about - having a good time."

The finishers didn't appear to be enjoying themselves as they finished.

"If it would be a run in the morning..." gasped second-place finisher, John Rodriguez, unable to complete his wish for an earlier, cooler start time. "We had a headwind for half the course. It was a workout the whole way."

Dodge won the race as the fastest of the 27-33 group. Rodriguez finished first in his 18-27 age group, second overall, with a time of 27 minutes, 57 seconds. Mike McCay came in third and won the over-40 competition in 28:08.

## Martin

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"I am happy that we were able to do the same today," Martin added.

"We had one of the best cars that I've ever had on Friday and I lost it yesterday in practice," Martin said Saturday. "But these guys really dug down and came back with all they had. To lose a car like that and be able to pull the backup out and be competitive really says a great deal about this team."

Martin was indeed stout on Friday by qualifying the Army Chevy fourth. He was forced to give up his second row

starting position after the team went to the backup car and made an engine change. Under NASCAR rules, a team that makes an engine change is sent to the rear of the starting field.

The team recovered from the accident and Martin was able to participate in Saturday's second practice session.

True to character, the veteran Army driver wasted little time flexing his muscles once the green flag dropped on Sunday, picking up five spots on the first lap. He broke into the top-30 on Lap 22 of 267 and moved to 24th on Lap 46 when the field began green-flag pits stops.

By the second pit stop on Lap 58, Martin had moved up to 17th, thanks to

Victor Rascon out-distanced the field of 34-39-year-olds with a time of 31:08.

For Dodge, who will compete Oct. 7 in the 2007 Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., the airfield run was a useful tune-up for later races. For him and most participants, the run fell somewhere between a fun run and serious competition.

"Four-point-three is kind of a tough distance," he said. "It's fun to run this distance but it's just additional (training) miles."

His goals for the day matched not only the laid-back tone of the race, but the temperature, as well.

"Stay hydrated, stay upright. Just run a nice solid race. You just have to stay hydrated, back it off if you don't feel well. There's not so much riding on the line in a race like this. It's certainly hotter than I would hope for, but it is what it is."

Dodge will lead the Ten-Miler team to time trials Aug. 3, which will determine final selections for the 18-person Fort Lewis squad.

"We have the best team this year that I've had since I've been here," Dodge said. "I'm very pumped up about that. I think across the board, men, master's, women, I think we're going to all get trophies this year in D.C."

quick stops by the 01 over-the-wall crew. He quickly moved to 16th and remained there before gaining two positions on the final lap to post a 14th-place result.

The finish was Martin's 11th top 15 in 14 races in 2007. He is ranked 18th in driver points, despite missing five races. The 01 team is ranked 10th in owner points.

The Nextel Cup Series will take next weekend off before returning to action in two weeks for the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard at the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Martin has eight top-10 and five top-five finishes at Indy, including a fifth-place run at the Brickyard last season.

## Triple Threat Triathlon Race Two Results

### Individual Men

1. Doug Hill, 1:09:03
2. Blake Saksa, 1:09:42
3. Bruce Antonowicz, 1:10:04
4. Nick Johnson, 1:13:13
5. Ed Diaz, 1:14:51

### Individual Women

1. Alycia Hill, 1:17:21
2. Connie Crum, 1:17:55
3. Jennifer Edwards, 1:25:55
4. Carol Tasker, 1:26:27
5. Amanda Gylling, 1:27:18

### Men's Teams

1. SQD STX, 1:07:21
2. Lofreddo, 1:14:11
3. Team Hohstadt, 1:15:02

### Coed Teams

1. 10 Miler Junkies, 1:13:46
2. Larry & Brenda, 1:23:43
3. Black Lions, 1:25:25

### AGE GROUPS

#### Male 15-19

1. Chris Peterson, 1:20:31
2. Cody Fuller, 1:31:59

#### Male 20-24

1. Nick Johnson, 1:13:13
2. Kyle Mohagen, 1:23:03
3. Ben Schaefer, 1:28:17

#### Female 20-24

1. Amanda Gylling, 1:27:18
2. Brynne Coaker, 1:45:49
3. Bethany Lackie, 2:05:02

#### Male 25-29

1. Rob Decker, 1:14:58
2. Robert Hanley, 1:23:56
3. Adam Eldridge, 1:27:31

#### Female 25-29

1. Jennifer Edwards, 1:25:55
2. Mary Wollschlager, 1:29:09
3. Brittany Smith, 1:32:43

#### Male 30-34

1. John Mozer, 1:16:18
2. Richard Godden, 1:23:05
3. Eric Haas, 1:27:03

#### Female 30-34

1. Erica Haas, 1:30:45
2. Julie Taylor, 1:31:25
3. Natalie Stockhausen, 2:03:15

#### Male 35-39

1. Ed Diaz, 1:14:51
2. Eric Hrivnak, 1:22:27
3. Eric Hendrickson, 1:28:59

#### Female 35-39

1. Carol Tasker, 1:26:27
2. Marianne Haukli, 1:35:12
3. Kelli Findlay, 1:38:01

#### Male 40-44

1. Chris Karamatic, 1:16:36
2. William Zimmerman, 1:19:31
3. Dale Peterson, 1:19:50

#### Female 40-44

1. Cheryl Tobie, 1:27:49
2. Eileen Bochsler, 1:41:42

#### Male 45-49

1. Brad Howeller, 1:19:10
2. Greg Pelton, 1:20:03
3. James Polo, 1:24:41

#### Female 45-49

1. Beth O'Connor, 1:30:24
2. Susan Raymond, 1:37:00
3. Erin Kittleman, 1:37:49

#### Male 50-54

1. Bob Thome, 1:17:08
2. Guy Raymond, 1:24:02
3. Stephen Paul, 1:32:10

#### Female 50-54

1. Anne Albert, 1:25:06
2. Joan Hogan, 1:28:30
3. Debbie Kotz, 1:32:12

#### Male 55-59

1. Patrick Hogan, 1:22:30
2. Lon Kincannon, 1:23:38
3. Ronald Shurer, 1:27:35

#### Female 55-59

1. Diane Reinert, 1:38:16
2. Diane Faber, 1:42:37

#### Male 60-99

1. Pete Bisson, 1:25:07
2. David Seal, 1:25:21
3. Don Hoover, 1:25:56

#### Female 60-99

1. Barbara Wright, 1:56:06

## Triathlon

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Alycia used a different route to achieve a similar result. Second out of the water overall in 10:30, Alycia lost ground to Connie Crum on the bike. A strong runner, Alycia passed Crum on that leg and won the women's race in 1:17:21. Crum finished in 1:17:55.

The Hills finally could focus on the Triple Threat series after getting past the national championships, which were held June 30. Doug, 53, placed seventh there in the men's 50-55 age group, while the 19-year-old Alycia was fourth in the female 19-and-under category.

In the second Triple Threat event, competitors seemed to benefit from air temperatures in the mid 60s and American Lake water temperatures in the low 70s.

"The water was warmer than usual," said Doug, adding that he prefers heat over cold. "My body moves better that way."

The quickest run time of the day was 16:40 for the three miles by Shawn Dodge, a member of the 10 Miler Junkies, winners of the coed team race. The 10 Miler Junkies got off to a quick start with Jodi Day's swim leg of 15:08.

"My swim was OK," Day said. "I ended having to swim an extra 50 meters or so because when I was heading towards the second buoy, I got off track. I looked up, and I noticed that everyone was far away from me and I was going in the wrong direction."

Rob Decker had no such trouble. The former West Point swimmer reached the beach at Shoreline Park in 10:18, the fastest half-mile swim leg here in recent memory. Decker slowed on the bike and run to place sixth in the men's race.

Squad STX won the men's team title in 1:07:21.