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Ray Kable Etches His Name in the History Books at Lincoln

June 16, 2018 (Abbottstown, PA) – by Mike Donald
(photos by Jimmy Saffell/wrtspeedwerx)

If people within the E-Mod racing industry want a history maker, Ray Kable just might be the driver who can fill the bill. The Sykesville, Maryland, 17-year-old Phenom wrote history, Saturday, when he became the first-ever E-Mod winner in the 60-year history of Lincoln Speedway after winning the Hoosier Tire Mid-Atlantic Modifieds (MAM) Series event.

Kable grabbed the lead from Mike Corbin on lap four, and never looked back, as he stormed to his historical triumph. This also marked Kable’s second MAM victory in 2018. His prior win came at Winchester (VA) Speedway in April. “I love it…this was fun,” a jubilant Kable said in Victory Lane. “My grandad, dad and uncle all raced here, and hopefully I can return. This Mid-Atlantic Modifieds Series is great, and I hope it just gets bigger and bigger,” he added.

After taking the lead from Corbin, Kable had to contend with a hard challenge by his car owner and fellow competitor, Rick Hulson. The Glen Burnie, Maryland veteran had moved to second, and he set his sights on Kable…his hired hand. Entering turn one, Hulson made a bid for the lead, and he and Kable’s cars made contact. This caused Hulson’s car to lose momentum and Kable squirted away from the remainder of the field. Kable continued to pace the field to claim the historical checkered flag. Hulson maintained second position and finished in the runner-up spot. Unfathomably, this marked his fifth-consecutive, second-place finish in MAM competition. “I’m beginning to think I’m no better than second,” Hulson jokingly stated on social media following the race.

Mount Union, Pennsylvania’s Brad Kling, the defending MAM Series champion, made the trek to the Abbottstown, Pennsylvania venue, and he made it pay off with a solid third-place effort. Kling won the second of three heat races, earlier in the evening. An invert of five put Kling in the fourth-starting position. Perhaps, though, no one was more disappointed with the invert than Manchester Maryland’s Justin Cullum. After winning the first heat of the night, Cullum hoped to be in the cat-bird seat; however, Hulson drew the No. 5 invert pill after winning the third heat, and this relegated Cullum to the fifth-starting spot. Like Kling, Cullum was able to improve upon his starting position by one spot. He finished fourth. Powhatan, Virginia’s Bret Hamilton put in a great performance as he moved forward from his eighth-starting spot to finish fifth. Hamilton’s race at Lincoln marked the 50th track at which he has competed in his stellar career.

Hagerstown, Maryland’s Keith Reed continued his good season with a sixth-place finish after starting 13th in the 25-lap affair. Reed has not finished outside the top-10 in any MAM race, this season. Greencastle, Pennsylvania’s Mark Jones and Hollywood, Maryland’s James Sparks made nice moves through the field to net good finishes, as well. After starting 16h, Jones finished seventh, and Sparks claimed the eighth spot after starting 11th. Tim Schulte, of Troy, Virginia, made the four-hour trek to compete, and he turned in a great performance. After starting 15th, Schulte finished ninth. Sharpsburg, Maryland’s Bryan Green turned in an impressive effort. After finishing second in the third heat, Green began the race from the sixth spot. He battled toward the front of the field all evening and crossed the stripe in 10th. The aforementioned Corbin, who began the race from the pole, faded in the final laps and took a disappointing 11th. Corbin entered the Lincoln event as the provisional points leader.

In addition to Kable’s race winnings, he also claimed the $100 bounty placed on Michael Altobelli, Jr., by Walter Nichols of Walrus Signs of Winchester, Virginia. Altobelli, a four-time winner in MAM competition in 2018, experienced some misfortune in the event. On lap six, Joey Polevoy cut a tire and spun, which forced a yellow flag. Under caution, Polevoy slowly drove his crippled machine down the front stretch in an effort to go to the pits. As the field went underneath Polevoy, Altobelli unimaginably made contact with Polevoy. This cut Altobelli’s tire, as well. Quick work by Altobelli’s pit crew put Altobelli back on track without losing a lap, but Altobelli had to restart from the rear of the field. Altobelli could only muster a 14th-place finish.

“Michael (Altobelli) has won four MAM races this year, and 10 E-Mod races overall this season. Any experienced driver and team like this one knows that sooner, or later, the racing gods are going to make you pay up. Unfortunately, for him, it came in such a historical race,” said MAM PR Director, Mike Donald. “This is going to set up for a great points battle between Altobelli and everyone as we enter the summer months,” Donald added.

The race was slowed by caution just one other time when Kyle Lloyd and Doug Stine spun simultaneously on lap 15. Neither driver finished the race. Besides Polevoy, Lloyd and Stine, Alyssa Rowe was the only other driver not to finish among the 25-car field. She withdrew with mechanical issues on lap 17.

The Mid-Atlantic Modifieds Series heads to Winchester Speedway, Saturday, June 23, and then makes its first visit of 2018 to the Greater Cumberland Speedway in Maryland, June 30.

Lincoln feature results: 1. Ray Kable, 2. Rick Hulson, 3. Brad Kling, 4. Justin Cullum, 5. Bret Hamilton, 6. Keith Reed, 7. Mark Jones, 8. James Sparks, 9. Tim Schulte, 10. Bryan Green, 11. Mike Corbin, 12. Ray Ciccarelli, 13. Josh Hughes, 14. Michael Altobelli, Jr., 15. Hunter Nester, 16. Haley Kaiser, 17. Craig Ramich, 18. Beau Aikey, 19. Jeff McCauley, 20. Frank DiBella, 21. Gary Moreland, Sr., 22. Alyssa Rowe (DNF), 23. Kyle Lloyd (DNF), 24. Doug Stine (DNF), 25. Joey Polevoy (DNF)

Heat 1 results: 1. Justin Cullum, 2. Ray Kable, 3. Michael Altobelli, Jr., 4. Joey Polevoy, 5. Keith Reed, 6. Mark Jones, 7. Craig Ramich, 8. Josh Hughes, 9. Beau Aikey

Heat 2 results: 1. Brad Kling, 2. Mike Corbin, 3. Bret Hamilton, 4. James Sparks, 5. Doug Stine, 6. Jeff McCauley, 7. Frank DiBella, 8. Gary Moreland, Sr.

Heat 3 results: 1. Rick Hulson, 2. Bryan Green, 3. Alyssa Rowe, 4. Hunter Nester, 5. Tim Schulte, 6. Kyle Lloyd, 7. Ray Ciccarelli, 8. Haley Kaiser

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