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Mopar Dodge//SRT Funny Cars Seeded 1-2 for First Race of 2020 NHRA Season

- Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) drivers Matt Hagan and Jack Beckman qualified their Mopar Dodge//SRT Funny Cars No. 1 and No. 2 for Sunday's 60th annual NHRA Winternationals
- DSR teammates Tommy Johnson Jr. and Ron Capps secured qualifying positions in the top-half of the Funny Car eliminations ladder
- DSR Top Fuel driver Leah Pruett earns a third seed start for elimination rounds in qualifying with her Mopar Dodge//SRT Dragster
- Larry Gilley and Mike Loge win Dodge Top Finisher honors in NHRA Sportsman competition

February 8, 2020, Pomona, Calif. - It was a strong and fast start for Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) veteran pilots Matt Hagan and Jack Beckman as they drove their Mopar Dodge//SRT Hellcat Funny Cars to the No.1 and No.2 qualifier positions, respectively, in anticipation of Sunday's first race day of the 2020 National Hot Rod Association Mello Yello Drag Racing season at the 60th annual Winternationals.

Hagan kept his Mopar Dodge//SRT Charger Hellcat Funny Car atop the timesheets at the historic Auto Club Raceway in Pomona, California, through four qualifying sessions to earn his first No.1 qualifier position of the new year after running low E.T. on his first and last runs.

"This Mopar Funny Car is just flying out there," said Hagan, who improved on Friday's provisional top spot pass of 3.867 seconds /331.20 mph with a 3.841-second elapsed time qualifying run a top speed of 333.25 mph on his final run. "When your team puts a hot rod underneath you like that, it's always fun."

"Going into race day tomorrow, my lights are good, the car is running great, the guys are doing a phenomenal job, and we came off of a really strong season last year, so we're just focused on keeping the ball rolling," added Hagan who collected eight qualifying points for his efforts and will face off against Alex Miladinovich in the first round of eliminations.

Following up his win at Pomona to cap off the 2019 season, Beckman showed that he is looking to keep that momentum going into a new season. After driving the Infinite Hero Foundation Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat to a provisional second spot on Friday with a 3.868 seconds / 326.95 mph, he earned the second place starting position on Sunday.

"Other than this head cold, it's been a perfect weekend so far," said Beckman, who collected a category best total of nine qualifying points with his qualifying performance. "We've gotten bonus points every single session. I'll drive with a plugged up head all year long if it means I get a hot rod like this."

"We might have to throw out all the data that we've accumulated so far," added Beckman, who will face Steven Densham in first elimination round action. "It's going to be interesting. That's why you want to qualify high. You get a better first round draw so that if you get a hiccup you still have to get that first win light and data."

The MD Anderson Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat of Tommy Johnson Jr. also had solid qualifying runs, saw improvement through each session and, after posting a 3.881-second / 321.50-mph final pass earned a fourth seed starting matchup against Cruz Pedregon.

"I've got a really good solid car that's been really consistent," said Johnson "We just missed it a little bit in Q3 but the other three were really good solid runs, nice and consistent to be able to tune it and adjust it. I think that will be

important tomorrow because the weather change will be so drastic that you need a tuneable and adjustable race car.”

DSR teammate Ron Capps made big strides this weekend, even winning the “NHRA Never Rest” award after using all four sessions to mount a comeback from the trailer fire that cost the team a car and valuable testing time in Las Vegas.

“Obviously it was a check-out run the first lap and then to go out and get qualified that second lap, I was so emotional,” said Capps, who improved steadily through qualifying to earn a seventh place seed for eliminations with a 3.911-second E.T at 328.38 mph. “I just wanted to make sure these guys, as hard as they’ve worked, to get the car down the track and get qualified, that’s always the goal.”

“The Cinderella story would be for us to win the race, but right now it’s one step at a time,” added Capps, who will line up his HEMI®-powered Charger Hellcat against Bob Tasca III in the first round.

In Top Fuel action, Leah Pruett moved her DSR Mopar Dodge//SRT Dragster up a step from a provisional fourth place on Friday to secure the third spot on the eliminations ladder with a best qualifying run of 3.687 seconds at 328.06 mph. She’ll face opponent Jim Maroney for a first round match up.

Eliminations rounds at the 60th annual NHRA Winternationals will be televised beginning at 5 p.m. (ET) on Sunday, Feb. 9, on FOX Sports 1 (FS1).

Sportsman Spotlight

Larry Gilley and Mike Loge were winners of the Dodge Top Finisher honors in Stock Eliminator and Super Stock, respectively, in NHRA Sportsman competition.

Gilley, who hails from Hilmar, California, drove his E/SA 1969 Dodge Dart GTS to a round-four finish in Stock Eliminator at the 60th annual NHRA Winternationals.

Powered by a Mopar 340 small block, Gilley ran a string of consistent high 10-second elapsed times during competition. During round four, both he and his opponent had the same reaction times, but unfortunately Gilley lost by a mere 0.0193 seconds. For his great driving and tuning efforts, Gilley will receive \$500 from Dodge for advancing the furthest in his class.

In Super Stock, Loge, a lifelong Mopar racer and resident of Antioch, California, raced his SS/MA 1972 Plymouth ‘Cuda 340 to a round-four finish and looked strong throughout the race weekend, losing by only 0.0318 seconds to his competitor. He will also receive a \$500 bonus from Dodge for going the furthest in his class during the NHRA Winternationals.

The Dodge Top Finisher award, now in its fourth year, awards \$500 to Stock Eliminator and Super Stock drivers who advance the furthest behind the wheel of a Mopar-powered Dodge, Chrysler or Plymouth race car at all 24 NHRA national events.

Dodge Garage: Digital Hub for Drag Racing News

Fans can follow all the NHRA’s action this season at Dodge Garage, the one-stop portal for Dodge//SRT and Mopar drag racing news. The site includes daily updates and access to an online racing HQ, news, events, galleries, available downloads and merchandise. For more information, please visit www.dodgegarage.com.

@DodgeMoparMotorsports on Instagram

The [@DodgeMoparMotorsports](https://www.instagram.com/dodge_mopar_motorsports/) Instagram channel continues to share content capturing Dodge//SRT Mopar drivers in action in the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series, NHRA Sportsman grassroots racers competing in classes such as Factory Stock Showdown, Stock and Super Stock, as well as additional motorsports series.

Mopar

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Mopar made its mark in the 1960s during the muscle-car era, with Mopar Performance Parts to enhance speed and handling for both road and racing use, and expanded to include technical service and customer support. Today, the Mopar brand's global reach distributes more than 500,000 parts and accessories in over 150 markets around the world. With more than 50 parts distribution centers and 25 customer contact centers globally, Mopar integrates service, parts and customer-care operations in order to enhance customer and dealer support worldwide.

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Dodge//SRT

For more than 100 years, the Dodge brand has carried on the spirit of brothers John and Horace Dodge. Their influence continues today as Dodge shifts into high gear with a lineup that delivers unrivaled performance in each of the segments in which the brand competes while moving forward to a future that includes electrified muscle in the form of the next-generation, all-new Dodge Charger.

The next-generation Dodge Charger electrifies a legend, with the Charger retaining its title as the world's quickest and most powerful muscle car led by the all-new, all-electric 2024 Dodge Charger Daytona Scat Pack. The all-new Dodge Charger will also offer performance choices via multi-energy powertrain options including the 550-horsepower Dodge Charger SIXPACK H.O., powered by the 3.0L Twin Turbo Hurricane High Output engine.

Dodge also keeps its foot on the gas as a pure performance brand with the 710-horsepower Dodge Durango SRT Hellcat, the most powerful SUV ever, and best-in-class standard performance in the compact utility vehicle segment with the Dodge Hornet.

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