



Bernard Ready to Defend NLSA Title

Greg Cybulski, WINNIPEG, MB (April 19, 2010) There is an old saying that goes, "If you want to be the man, you have to beat the man." Nothing could be closer to the truth than when people talk about defending Northern Lightning Sprint Association champion Roland Bernard and the challenges he will face during the upcoming 2010 racing season.

From the first green flag to the final checkered flag of the 2009 racing season, Bernard and his "Blue 2 Crew" team were the model of consistency, dedication and preparedness that separates champions from the rest of their competitors. As the NLSA's inaugural season progressed, some teams showed success towards the end of the season which may set up some additional contenders for the 2010 championship run.

NLSA President Darren Pallen appeared to be in the roll of bridesmaid for most of last season. The pilot of the #11 Lightning Sprint should have another strong season and may very well be the man to wrestle the title away from Bernard when the dust settles.

Open wheel veteran Dave Sobczak made a statement by sweeping both his heat and the feature in the season finale at Red River Co-op Speedway on September 19. Sobczak not only swept these races but dominated the field. If this performance was a sign of things to come, the #17 Lightning Sprint will find itself in victory lane more than once in 2010.

Jennifer Carlson could regularly be seen hard-charging through the field during the features. Her biggest problem was early car troubles that plagued her #6 Sprinter during the season. If Team Carlson can get the bugs worked out, Jennifer could very well be the dark horse contender of 2010.

Lessons learned from last year's racing experiences and seat time will help improve the programs of Tyson Hiebert, Chris Unrau, Chris Bouwman, Amber Balcaen, Bob Charney and Bob Saindon in 2010.

New drivers to the Northern Lightning Sprint Association include Ryan Harms, Scott and Steven Brown. Harms comes from a motocross and snowmobile racing background. Veteran racer Scott Brown has been a regular in the Wisconsin Super Stock class and will try his hand at open wheel racing until his son, Steven, takes over the wheel in August.

Even though these drivers have not run in the Lightning Sprint class, their racing backgrounds may prove to be an "X Factor" in the points race by season's end.

As the grandstands begin to fill with anxious spectators and the pit area is filled with the sounds of roaring engines waiting to be unleashed to it's public, one senses that something exciting is about to take place. A new season of dirt track racing begins at Red River Co-op Speedway on Saturday, May 1st.

About the Northern Lightning Sprint Association:

Created in September of 2008, the Northern Lightning Sprint Association is a rapidly

growing organization committed to the creation and maintenance of safe, fast, fun, and affordable open wheel racing. Many of the organization's members are dedicated to helping charities such as the Children's Hospital Foundation and Cancer Care of Manitoba. More information can be found at <http://www.nlsprints.com>