

# Bogan endures close races, beats former champs to win



*Monty Bogan Jr., near lane, won his first Stock title with a final-round defeat of three-time category world champion Kevin Helms. (Below) Bogan celebrated his victory in the winner's circle with car owner Bo Kenney, right, and crewmember Dwayne Eiskant.*

by Kelly Wade

**M**ulticlass racer Monty Bogan Jr. hadn't been to the winner's circle at a national event for more than six years, but an outstanding performance at the O'Reilly Super Start Batteries NHRA Fall Nationals at Texas Motorplex changed that in a hurry. The second-generation racer survived a series of ultra-close races and got past a pair of former world champions and a rash of other tough competitors to log the victory, his second in NHRA competition.

Bogan, a former IHRA Top Stock champ, utilized a terrific .010 reaction to put away F/S '69 Camaro pilot Don Davidson in the first round before beating four-time national event winner Terry Emmons. Bogan won the match by just .007-second; he was four-thousandths quicker off the starting line and ran two-thousandths over his 10.21 dial to Emmons' efficient yet ineffective 10.655 (10.65 dial).

Exceptionally close racing continued in the third round when Bogan and Kyle Ratcliff were identical off the starting line, posting .032 launches. Bogan's 10.243 (10.24) to Ratcliff's 10.885 (10.88) translated to a win by a slim .002 margin of victory, and in the quarterfinals, Bogan got a free pass when Leon Philpot fouled by a bunch.

Centreville, Va., transplant Bogan had to be on his game to triumph in the semi's and stop David Rampy, a venerable Sportsman racer with a collection of championship trophies celebrating

*In the semi's, perennial Sportsman competitor David Rampy, near lane, was a quick .011 on the Tree, but Bogan was right there with a .014 and got the nod when Rampy broke out by .009-second.*



success in Comp, Super Comp, and Super Gas and a slew of national event wins, including three in Stock.

"I've known Rampy for a long time," said Bogan. "We ran each other a bunch in bracket racing and Stock and Super Stock over the years, and he is a very good friend of mine. I wasn't really worried about that round because we were just having fun."

Bogan cut a cool .014 light and was still slower to react than Rampy, who was .011 at the Tree, but Bogan's 10.328 (10.32) got the nod over his opponent's breakout 11.261 (11.27).

Bogan pulled to the starting line in the final with longtime Louisiana racer Kevin Helms, a fellow who finished the season at the top of the Stock standings three times, in the other lane. The two launched with nearly indistinguishable reactions, Helms quicker by two-thou, and the decision was made at the finish, where Bogan ran dead on his 10.33 dial with a .001 to Helms' .004-over 10.57. The margin of victory was a very narrow .0013-second in favor of Bogan.

"I haven't been racing much this year due to work, and I was happy to be back and driving like I was supposed to be," said Bogan. "We broke an ignition box before we even left the shop and had one frown in, so I didn't really get but one time shot. The car came together through eliminations, and I was very happy with my lights. We got it worked out pretty well."

**The key race:** "It had to be the final against Kevin Helms," said Bogan. "I won that by a thousandth."



There were a lot of close races, but the final is always the key race; you gotta win that one to get it. Kevin's car was running good, and when we left, I knew I couldn't break out because I just had run Rampy and was wide open, so we dialed up one for the air and just held it wide open again. Most people probably would have dumped and let him have it. We were both .030 on the Tree and both dead on. It was close."

**The runner-up:** Helms ruled the class from 2001 to 2003, when he won three consecutive championships. Over the course of his career, Helms

## About the winning car

**B**o Kenney owns the A/SA '01 Pontiac driven to victory by Monty Bogan. The 348-cid LS1 was built by Tim Sloan of Sloan Racing Engines out of Stanford, N.C. Sloan and Bogan assembled the car several years ago and ran it in IHRA Top Stock, a category in which Bogan is a former points champion. Components include Mark Williams brakes and driveshaft, Moser axles, MSD coils, Hoosier tires, a Scott McClay transmission, and a Coan converter.

Bogan acknowledged the support of SBI Motorsports; Bo Kenney and his wife, Shannon; Hoosier Racing Tires; and Sloan Racing Engines. He thanked his girlfriend, Jessie Clark; his father, Monty Bogan Sr.; and his family back home in South Carolina.

# Stock Qualifying

(Top 16 of 43 qualifiers)

1. Gary Emmons, Friendswood, Texas (C/SA '98 Firebird) .....	10.546 (-1.154)
2. Leon Philpot, Grand Prairie, Texas (D/SA '71 Corvette) .....	10.752 (-1.098)
3. R.J. Sledge, Boerne, Texas (E/SA '67 Fairlane) .....	10.906 (-1.094)
4. Todd Patterson, Augusta, Kan. (C/SA '97 Camaro) .....	10.612 (-1.088)
5. Monty Bogan, Centerville, Va. (A/SA '01 Firebird) .....	10.221 (-1.079)
6. Ronnie West, Broussard, La. (A/SA '70 GTX) .....	10.221 (-1.079)
7. Peter Biondo, Maspeth, N.Y. (C/SA '69 Camaro) .....	10.626 (-1.074)
8. Bill McClister, Shoreacres, Texas (E/SA '72 Mustang) .....	10.936 (-1.064)
9. Jane Braswell, Weatherford, Texas (G/SA '69 Camaro) .....	11.253 (-1.047)
10. Austin Williams, Burleson, Texas (G/SA '69 Camaro) .....	11.268 (-1.032)
11. Paula Cotten, Broken Arrow, Okla. (G/SA '73 Duster) .....	11.282 (-1.018)
12. Slate Cummings, Hammond, La. (B/SA '99 Firebird) .....	10.534 (-1.016)
13. S.E. Buchanan, Hot Springs, Ark. (G/SA '67 Barracuda) .....	11.284 (-1.016)
14. David Latino, Donaldsonville, La. (B/SA '02 Firebird) .....	10.556 (-0.994)
15. David Rampy, Piedmont, Ala. (F/SA '69 Camaro) .....	11.164 (-0.986)
16. Terry Emmons, League City, Texas (B/SA '69 Camaro) .....	10.575 (-0.975)

## ROUND TWO

Driver, Hometown (Class/Car)	Dial	R.T.	E.T.	M.P.H.
Monty Bogan, Centerville, Va. (A/SA '01 Firebird) .....	10.21	(.033)	10.212	129.64
Terry Emmons, League City, Texas (B/SA '69 Camaro) .....	10.65	(.037)	10.655	117.84
Kevin Helms, Schriever, La. (AA/S '69 Camaro) .....	10.49	(.028)	10.520	124.32
Ronnie West, Broussard, La. (A/SA '70 GTX) .....	10.22	(.037)**	10.205	127.37
Verne Buchanan, Conway, Ark. (H/SA '73 Mustang) .....	11.57	(.042)	11.566	111.01
Jane Braswell, Weatherford, Texas (G/SA '69 Camaro) .....	11.33	(-.010)	11.287	115.98
Jimmy Mikolajczyk, San Antonio, Texas (AA/SA '67 Corvette) .....	10.56	(.014)	10.517	124.37
Bill McClister, Shoreacres, Texas (E/SA '72 Mustang) .....	10.90	(-.010)	11.282	95.54
Kyle Ratcliff, Denton, Texas (C/SA '98 Firebird) .....	10.85	(.063)	10.856	121.13
William Carrell, Ardmore, Okla. (J/SA '69 Chevelle) .....	11.98	(-.042)	12.048	101.20
David Latino, Donaldsonville, La. (B/SA '02 Firebird) .....	10.42	(.052)	10.428	119.68
R.J. Sledge, Boerne, Texas (E/SA '67 Fairlane) .....	10.90	(.054)**	10.886	110.88
Dennis Wilson, Duncan, Okla. (B/S '69 Nova) .....	10.66	(.086)	10.647	124.10
Darrell Erwin, Kennedale, Texas (H/SA '69 Camaro) .....	11.80	(-.035)	11.808	110.57
Gary Emmons, Friendswood, Texas (C/SA '98 Firebird) .....	10.62	(.009)	10.664	115.46
Slate Cummings, Hammond, La. (B/SA '99 Firebird) .....	10.43	(.058)	10.436	124.65
David Rampy, Piedmont, Ala. (F/SA '69 Camaro) .....	11.17	(.009)	11.182	107.86
Todd Patterson, Augusta, Kan. (C/SA '97 Camaro) .....	10.63	(-.022)	10.637	124.86
Leon Philpot, Grand Prairie, Texas (D/SA '71 Corvette) .....	10.83	(.109)	10.861	123.51
Jeff Richardson, Dallas, Texas (F/SA '67 Fairlane) .....	11.55	(.090)**	11.505	108.81
Peter Biondo, Maspeth, N.Y. (C/SA '69 Camaro) .....	10.69	(.025)	10.827	108.27
Mike Cotten, Broken Arrow, Okla. (G/SA '73 Duster) .....	11.34	(.073)	11.486	116.36

## ROUND THREE

Philpot .....	10.83	(.049)	10.934	122.86
bye				
Helms .....	10.56	(.042)	10.649	110.55
Wilson .....	10.66	(-.500)	20.400	49.19
Rampy .....	11.18	(.009)	11.245	113.34
V. Buchanan .....	11.57	(.039)	11.623	111.45
Bogan .....	10.24	(.032)	10.243	125.99
Ratcliff .....	10.88	(.032)	10.885	121.05
G. Emmons .....	11.70	(.049)	10.870	91.98
Biondo .....	11.70	(.061)**	11.412	82.18
Mikolajczyk .....	10.53	(.007)	10.540	124.06
Latino .....	10.42	(-.001)	10.468	126.73

## ROUND FOUR

Bogan .....	10.32	(.022)	10.317	127.62
Philpot .....	11.00	(-.039)	11.022	122.83
Helms .....	10.62	(.040)	10.681	114.88
Mikolajczyk .....	10.60	(.068)	10.695	113.11
Rampy .....	11.28	(.025)	11.291	111.38
Emmons .....	10.75	(.025)	10.768	123.36

## ROUND FIVE

Bogan .....	10.32	(.014)	10.328	127.11
Rampy .....	11.27	(.011)**	11.261	112.98
Helms .....	10.60	(1.561)	23.661	51.10
bye				

## FINAL ROUND

Bogan .....	10.33	(.033)	10.331	126.96
Helms .....	10.57	(.031)	10.574	124.67

\*red-light \*\*breakout



D/SA '71 Corvette pilot Leon Philpot was .039-second too quick off the starting line, giving Bogan an easy win in the quarterfinals.



(Above) Helms was first off the starting line and earned a bye run into the final with a quarter-final defeat of Jimmie Mikolajczyk. (Left) Rampy drove his F/SA Camaro to a semifinal victory against Gary Emmons. The two launched with identical .025 reactions, but Rampy ran .007 closer to his dial for the win.

has picked up 20 wins (12 Stock and eight Super Stock), including a double in Denver in 2005.

**Fast facts:** R.J. Sledge just missed a perfect run in the first round with a .000 light and a 10.908 on his 10.90 dial. ... Twenty-six of 43 drivers hailed from Texas. ... Bogan was also competing in Super Stock at the event but broke in the first round.

**Did you know:** Veteran Comp racer Todd Patterson made an unusual appearance in the

class and red-lighted against Rampy in round two. ... Only one heads-up race was contested during eliminations; Gary Emmons beat Peter Biondo in a third-round C/SA match.

**Quotable:** "I always like the easy wins, but I made some good passes this weekend and had some good, close racing. Those wins made it fun." — Monty Bogan

**Best packages:** 1. R.J. Sledge (Boerne, Texas), .000/10.908 (10.90 dial) round one; 2. David Latino (Donaldsonville, La.), .005/10.422 (10.41 dial) round one, and Jimmie Mikolajczyk (San Antonio, Texas), .007/10.540 (10.53 dial) round three. **ND**



(Above) Dennis Wilson went in deep and fouled in round three, gifting Helms (right) with the round-win at the starting line. (Below) Bogan and Kyle Ratcliff both posted .032 reactions at the start, but Bogan was .003 over his 10.24 dial at the top end to Ratcliff's .005-over 10.88 to get the win light.



Helms made his 31st national event final-round appearance. He won the Dallas event in Super Stock in 2000 and 2002.