

The Broome-Tioga Race Report

By Jim Sanderson

Photo's by jimsandersonphoto.com

Piazza, Gatch Haunt Halloween Classic

13th Annual Halloween Classic, District 3 Fall Classic Series & Season Finale

Robert Piazza and Nathan Gatch haunted the competition into submission in the 250 B and 250 C divisions, respectively, at the 13th Annual Halloween Classic at the Broome-Tioga Sports Center in Binghamton, New York.

The weekend featured a Halloween party on Saturday night that included dinner, a costume contest and trick or treating for the little ones throughout the pit area. Sunday's main event was the season finale motocross race but in addition, Hurd Motorsports, also added some 4-wheel racing across the street that included a Mud Bog, Tuff Truck and Autocross racing.

Robert Piazza earned the top tier of the extremely competitive 250 B class after taking a win in the opening moto and a second in the final moto. Piazza led the starts of both motos and won the opening moto going away and was in the process of doing the same in the final moto but a flat rear tire forced Piazza to cut his pace considerably after having led six of seven laps with a 16-second advantage. Piazza managed to hang on and finish second and still take the overall. Corey Burnett's 2-3 tally took second overall and Greg Cleveland completed the rostrum with a 4-5 score.

When the 30 second card turned sideways and the gate dropped for the penultimate time of the season for the 250 B class, Piazza, Burnett, Cole Fredericks, and Cleveland rounded the switch-back first turn as the top five. After completing the newly revamped front rhythm section, Piazza continued to hold the point position with Fredericks in close pursuit. Nick Kraeger worked his way into third followed by Burnett and Mark Novosel. Fredericks went down at the end of lap one and Burnett advanced to second, Kraeger remained third, Novosel inherited fourth and Michael Schalkoff fifth.



Robert Piazza (27) and Cole Fredericks (502) battle for the lead at the end of the opening lap of the first 250 B moto.

Binghamton, NY, October 23, 2011

Piazza gradually pulled away from the field and had a solid eight second advantage at the start of lap three. Kraeger lost his front tire in the corner preceding the downhill triple just prior to the start of lap three. Novosel and Schalkoff inherited third and fourth and Cleveland fifth. Piazza's lead had increased to 13 seconds at the start of lap five and 16-seconds at the start of lap six. Piazza took the checkers 14-seconds ahead of Burnett. Schalkoff, Cleveland and Novosel completed the top five.



Michael Schalkoff (17x) and Marko Novosel (620) battle for fourth in the opening 250 B moto.

When the gate dropped for the final time of the 2011 season for the 250 B division, Piazza was once again at the front of the pack followed by Fredericks, Burnett, Cleveland and Kraeger. The top five quickly spread out as Piazza began to gap the field starting lap two four seconds ahead of Frederick. Piazza was adding about a second per lap to his lead and started lap five with a nine second advantage and carried that momentum to the white flag but then began looking back at his rear tire and slowed his pace. Fredericks closed the gap when it became apparent that Piazza's rear tire was indeed flat.



Robert Piazza (27), Cole Fredericks (502) and Nick Kraeger (296) lead the start of the final 250 B moto.

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Fredrick's made the pass for the lead with less than three quarters of a lap to go and held on to take the win. Piazza salvaged second. Burnett, Kraeger and Cleveland rounded out the top five.

When the gate dropped for the opening 250 C division moto, John Roys, Nathan Gatch, Michael Grover, Jon Fierro and Zachary Fancher led the pack out of the first turn. When the leaders emerged from the rhythm section the top five running order was; Roys, Vinny Grasso, Gatch, Grover and Fancher. The top three remained unchanged following the front section on lap two. Fierro passed Fancher taking fourth. Fancher was relegated to fifth. Roys started lap three with a three second lead over Grasso in second. Fancher battled back to re-take fourth from Fierro at the start of lap four. Roys held on to take the win with a four second lead. Grasso, Gatch, Fancher and Greg Phelan followed.



Nathan Gatch (637), Michael Grover (688) and Jon Fierro (263) and Zachary Fancher battle for second thru fifth on the opening lap of the first 250 C moto.



John Roys (929) leads the start of the opening 250 C moto at the 13th Annual Halloween Classic at Broome-Tioga.

When the gate dropped for the final time of the season in the last 250 C division moto, Gatch, Anthony Rotella, Fancher, Roys and Logan Withers led the pack out of the first turn. Rotella had worked his way into the lead by the start of lap two followed by Grover, Gatch, Clayton Rockwell and Fancher. The top five remained unchanged until the start of lap four when Grover passed Rotella for the lead. Rotella was relegated to second. Third through fifth were unchanged. Rotella went down on the last lap assuring Grover the win. Gatch inherited second, Rockwell third, Fancher fourth and Phelan fifth. Grover took the checkered flag with a 13-second lead. Gatch, Rockwell, Fancher and Phelan completed the top five.

Gatch (3-2) topped the podium. Grover (7-1) took second and Fancher (4-4) third.



Nathan Gatch (637), Anthony Rotella (613), Zachary Fancher (273) and Jon Roys (929) lead the pack out of the first turn in the final 250 C moto of the season at Broome-Tioga.



Anthony Rotella (613), Nathan Gatch (637) and Jon Roys battle for third in the final 250 C moto at the Halloween Classic.