

## Roseville Race Recognition Complete

The NASCAR Whelen All American Series competitors received high marks at the annual Awards Banquet held Saturday night November 15 at Jones Hall in Roseville. Nearly 400 people packed the Placer County Fairgrounds hall to hear praises sung for Champions Paulie Harraka, Scott Winters, Mickey Owens, and Jason Poppert.

Harraka, won a storybook Toyota TRD Late Model championship over Granite Bay's John Moore. The two battles into the final night of action just a handful of points apart. The night was twin 50's with double points at stake, but Harraka had to win both races to have a chance, and Moore had to finish worse than second in one race. Harraka stormed to victory in dominant fashion in both 50 lap races and Moore finished second and third. The results were a tie. The NASCAR rulebook spells out in the event of tie, that the driver with the most wins that year is the winner. Harraka scored more wins than any driver with 11 feature victories. Moore, was very gracious, in acceptance of his second place award, when he commented, "Paulie earned this, he did everything he had to do to win, and sure I was disappointed, but what a year, I'd sometimes wake up on Sunday morning, and say wow did that really happen."

Harraka, thanked a long list of backer including championship car owner Bill McAnally, along with many sponsors, crew members, and his Dad, who was there every race night with him. Harraka was also voted the Diversity Driver of the Year at the NASCAR Banquet in Las Vegas two weeks ago to further supplement his resume. Jill Picaut from NASCAR attended the Roseville banquet and both welcomed those in attendance and congratulated all four champions.

Harraka and Moore were followed to the podium by Gary Glenn, Shannon Mansch, and Juan Pitta. All five were also ranked in the top 20 of the State championship ranking. Laura Hayes was named the Late Model Rookie of the Year and Jonathan Mawhinney claimed the most improved honors.

Scott Winters scored his second consecutive championship in the Modified division over Andy Field, Nick Lyons, Michael Newland, and Mike Lehman. Newland was named the Modified Rookie of the Year, and Lyons was the most improved driver.

Awards were plentiful for Street Stock champion Mickey Owens, who also captured, the sportsman of the year award, the NASCAR Craftsman Mechanic of the Year, and a new recognition for Racer of the Year. Owens was gracious in his acceptance as he noted second place finisher Phil Wilkins gave him a run for his money, but the two became good friends and later Wilkins won a second Racer of the Year award plus the Most Improved driver award for the division. Rounding out the top five were Christopher Lambert, Dick Meadows, and Bryon Tommeraason. Joseph Colorado was named Street Stock rookie of the year.

Jason Poppert raced to the Bomber championship in just his second year or competition. His closest challengers were Mike Dickson, Eric Bocksberger, Adam Chapman, and Luke Kaper.

Rookie of the year honors went to Chapman, and Dana Kelly was the proud recipient of the most improved award.

Track Announcer Chase Montgomery and race Director of Competition Frank Vincent presided over the awards and gave high marks to the entire field of 2008 All American Speedway contenders. Plans are well underway for 2009 with events kicking off in March for all four divisions. It was also announced that NASCAR contingency checks will be issued on Dec. 15.