

Triplett cruises to victory at OCS- 6/14/06

By KELLY SNOW, C-T Sports Editor

ROUGEMONT—It didn't take long for David Triplett Jr. to re-introduce himself to the crowd at Orange County Speedway Saturday.

The Durham County driver qualified on the outside of the front row and took the lead from pole sitter Barry Beggarly on the second lap of the featured 150-lap Late Model Stock division race. He never relinquished it and cruised to his first victory of the season at the Rougemont track

Triplett's best finish before Saturday was a pair of third-place results and he missed the last Late Model division race at OCS on May 27. He currently sits in sixth in the points, despite being a race

"This is what we've been waiting for," Triplett said. " I just wish (three-time winner in the Late Model division) Jonathan Cash would have been here to see if we would have had something for him."

Triplett had to hold off OCS Late Model Stock division points' leader Ronald Hill.

The Rougemont driver started in fifth, but climbed all the way to second after sneaking under Beggarly on lap 92. Hill closed what was once a straightaway lead to just three car lengths and was brought even closer with a caution with 21-laps remaining.

Triplett had a good restart and sped away from Hill for a comfortable victory.

"I thought I had something too, but on the restart I just spun the tires and he got away from me," Hill said. "We were just maintaining after that. We were about the same distance from that."

Hill's strong finish helped balloon his lead to 50-points over second-place Robert Turner. The Burlington driver finished a disappointing 10th place after hitting the wall in the frontstretch when he and Josh Baker got together on lap 34.

Justin Johnson came home with his second consecutive top-three finish.

The Durham driver was second two weeks ago and held off Beggarly to finish third Saturday.

"(Beggarly) was strong there in the end. He fell off a little bit in the middle (of the race)," Johnson said. "He got into me a little bit going into (turn) one, but that's just racing.

"Triplett had a good car tonight. It was good to see him and Ronald finishing up front," Johnson added.

Beggarly led the first lap of the race after starting on the pole and finished fourth, while Rougemont's Craig Moore rounded out the top-five.

The race featured 15-cars, six more than the May 27 race and was slowed by three cautions.