



FRICKE DRIVES FINKE RACING TO NATIONAL EVENT WIN #2 AT 2017 SUMMIT RACING EQUIPMENT NHRA NATIONALS



Jackie Fricke, alongside her dedicated crew, placed the Finke Racing Injected Nitro Top Alcohol Dragster into the winner's circle during the Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Nationals (Summit Motorsports Park, Norwalk, OH).

The most recent win is Fricke's second National event win while behind the wheel of John Finke's 2015 McKinney Chassis ride, sponsored by Lucas Oil Products, the Wirtgen Group, JE Pistons, Doosan, ISC Racers Tape, VP Racing Fuels, Quik-Latch Products, and JLP Race Promotions; and supported by Manley Performance Products and MAHLE. It is also the team's second victory of the season (notably, back-to-back), as Finke Racing just raced its way to a win during the NHRA Lucas Oil East Region Showdown at Sundown event (held at Maple Grove Raceway (Mohnton, PA).

"Norwalk is one of my favorite tracks on the tour," said Fricke. "Billy Bader has a beautiful facility and treats everyone who walks through the gate tremendously well," she added.

After laying down a solid 5.345 elapsed time during her first qualifying pass down the Summit Motorsports Park quarter-mile, good enough to place the team on the upper half of the qualifying list, Fricke defeated competitors John Paul Gutierrez and Mia Tedesco in the early rounds of competition.

When reflecting back on her race on Tedesco, Fricke explained, "We respect Dave Hirata and his driver, Mia, quite a bit. We knew we had to step up our e.t. a bit in round 2 if we had any shot at this race. It worked and we went 5.29."

In the semi-final round of eliminations, the Finke Racing Top Alcohol Dragster ran an even faster 5.275 e.t. at 276 mph, which was no match for the NHRA North Central Division contender, Marty Thacker's 5.400 e.t. at 269 mph. "Marty is one of the best drivers out there. Going into the semi's, I knew it was time to try to improve on my lazy reaction times," Fricke said. Her reaction time improved (.073) against Thacker, giving her some advantage to remain out front. "My reaction time was about all my car and I could produce on that track, but it was good enough," she added.

Fricke went on to discuss how important her reaction time would be in her final round matchup against Chris Demke, whose Uyehara-chassis Top Alcohol Dragster had just run a competitive 5.29 e.t. for the semi-final win against Jeff Veale. "I watched Chris run a 5.29 e.t. and knew that I was really going to have to give it my all, in order to earn our team the win in the final," she explained.

In the final, Demke and his team faced problems after the burnout due to a disconnected coupler, giving Fricke and the Finke Racing team a free pass down the quarter-mile to kick off a celebration of the gang's second NHRA National event win, together, in Top Alcohol Dragster.

Excited about her and her team's recent success, Fricke highlighted that she and Finke Racing still have quite a few races left for the 2017 season. "This win put us third in the National standings, and we're going to do our best to improve upon that ranking," she said.

