

The Best Photographs of 2005

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WDLIGHT: To be fast on pavement, you need to set the car up for pavement... not dirt!



JEFF DYKES: A non-typical point of view as Mike Boyd rides the chutes at the end of a run in the Willy Borsch car.



CRAIG MURPHY: Brad Stanwood looks over and gives Nick Behn a look while spinning in Super Stock action at South Sound Speedway near Tenino. I thought Stanwood's "Hey you punk!" expression is great.



MIKE WRIGHT: This nice-looking 1937 Chevrolet Vintage Modified was snapped at South Sound Speedway. The driver says it is an original 1937 Chevy body, not a reproduction. Quite an attractive old warhorse.



CRAIG MURPHY: Shawn Dorie has always been willing to let people see just how a Modified works at speed. I like the airtime seen here.



CAREN STRIMPLE: In WWRA action at Evergreen Speedway, Doug Reba getting the squeeze from "Wild" Bill Fuller and Steve Lindquist. All three continued without hitting the wall or running over the photographer!



JEFF DYKES: John Petersen's twin-engined Freight Train steams through Pacific Raceways.



MIKE WRIGHT: This unusual view of Jay Sauls' Northwest Late Model Challenge Series race car was taken from the flagstand at Montana Raceway Park. It's certainly not a view one sees every day.



WDLIGHT: Love 'em or hate 'em, spectacular crashes are part of the allure of open wheel racing.



DENNY STRIMPLE: Just a cool shot of Jeff Bailey holding off a three-wide pack of Wes Rhodes, Matt Hall and Steven Howard. This is typical short track action all here is hotly contested. All made it through — this time.



LIFE IN THE FUN LANE! The racing action is fast and furious in Bizarre Creations' Project Gotham Racing 3 for the Xbox 360. Now kiddies, it goes without saying that you should not try this on the streets of Seattle.

Zoom with a view

Project Gotham Racing 3 may look almost real, but don't mistake it for a simulation.

■ *Philip Palermo*

Sometimes life isn't fair. I've just bought a 750-hp Saleen S7 and there's no room in my garage. Outside it sits, by the reflecting pool, joined by some of my other shunned vehicles — a Ford GT and a Ford Shelby Mustang Cobra GT500.

Those Kudos help increase your rank and allow you to progress through the game.

Using style points helps vary some of the game play considerably. In this game, winning doesn't always mean a race against the clock.

If playing alone ever gets boring, just hop online to Xbox Live and play against hundreds of other racers.

Several online leaderboards and events are available so drivers at any skill level will likely find someone to race against.

The game also features Gotham TV, an on-line spectator mode where players can watch a television-style broadcast of other players competing.

With all the game has to offer, its few drawbacks seem almost inconsequential. The game isn't perfect, however.

First off, the interface can be a bit tricky at times. The pop up window that displays song titles for the soundtrack can interfere with your view, especially in a two-player split-screen game.

Finally, while the graphics look almost real at times, don't confuse this with a racing simulator.

The car damage effects are minimal at best. A head-on crash at 200 mph would certainly do more to my car in real life than ruin the front bumper.

I'd say the crash physics in Gotham rival those found on the A-Team, where high-speed crashes in open-topped Jeeps always resulted in mild soreness and minimal injury.

While I don't consider this a fault of the game, it is worth mentioning.

It's what makes this blend of real world presentation and arcade style gameplay so unique and addicting.

The game invites you to take the wheel of some of the world's finest automobiles and career down city streets.

Who would want to do that while driving sensibly?

2005 Champions

Here they are. The men and women that took to the track and found in themselves what it takes to be a champion. On this list you'll find the very best of the best throughout the Northwest.

BREMERTON RACEWAY

BREMERTON, WASH.

SPORTSMAN

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Jerry Biscay | 692 |
| 2. Steve Adams | 513 |
| 3. Christine Stacy | 552 |
| 4. Doug Tallant | 531 |
| 5. John Barnett | 501 |

PRO

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. Aron Spitzer | 733 |
| 2. Jack Ward | 646 |
| 3. Randy Shaiman | 592 |
| 4. Doug O'Conner | 580 |
| 5. Bill Sello | 570 |

SUPER PRO

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Joe Poole | 597 |
| 2. Tom Hamerley | 564 |
| 3. Shannon Frye | 564 |
| 4. Al Chin | 533 |
| 5. Steve Hamerwooder | 478 |

TOP COMP

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. Terry Wilcox | 562 |
| 2. Kevin Rennick | 484 |
| 3. Doug Arthur | 333 |
| 4. Doug Arthur | 194 |
| 5. Kim Bryan | 32 |

MOTORCYCLE

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Milo Bennett | 489 |
| 2. Jason Speer | 433 |
| 3. James Erspy | 411 |
| 4. Steven Anderson | 400 |
| 5. Joclyn Gregory | 320 |

HIGH SCHOOL

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Kelli Brekke | 602 |
| 2. George King | 483 |
| 3. Camille Coxy | 461 |
| 4. Denny Colicelli | 423 |
| 5. Joe Freme | 422 |

JR. DRAGS: THUNDER

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Toren Smith | 458 |
| 2. Austin Calhoun | 382 |
| 3. Kelly McAlena | 320 |
| 4. Jared Brozzy | 309 |
| 5. Andrew Horvath | 267 |

JR. DRAGS: LIGHTNING

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Makyle Ouan | 379 |
| 2. Kelli Howes | 360 |
| 3. Jason Ronan | 328 |
| 4. Tanner Ellingsen | 306 |
| 5. Joseph McAlena | 251 |

EVERGREEN SPEEDWAY

HOVOC, WASH.

SUPER STOCK

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Shane Harding | 786 |
| 2. Jason Frazier | 746 |
| 3. Gordon Stewart | 696 |
| 4. Doug Davidson | 626 |
| 5. John Bartscha | 626 |

ROMBERS

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Travis Blackwood | 917 |
| 2. Steve McElroy | 910 |
| 3. Dave Strubel | 892 |
| 4. William Long | 885 |
| 5. Steve Prazak | 884 |

MINI STOCKS

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Jamie Richardson | 652 |
| 2. Tony Benklemen | 608 |
| 3. Dave Ramsey | 581 |
| 4. Mark Wieda | 527 |
| 5. Chad Chase | 479 |

STINGER II

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Steve Baumgartner | 826 |
| 2. Greg Estes | 824 |
| 3. Craig Jantz | 776 |
| 4. Gary Estes | 732 |
| 5. Cody Kumbach | 671 |

GRAYS HARBOR RACEWAY

ELMA, WASH.

HOBBY STOCKS

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1. Scott Bostick | 1263 |
| 2. Jack Simpson | 1179 |
| 3. Jim Olson, Jr. | 1175 |
| 4. Joe Gemmon | 1174 |
| 5. Scott Witley | 1147 |

MINI STOCKS

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Jeff Brocole | 875 |
| 2. Kevin Keopke | 792 |
| 3. Floyd/Michael Hayne | 725 |
| 4. Martin Wang | 722 |
| 5. Tom Kathan | 704 |

HUMBERLE

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1. Roy Talbot | 73 |
| 2. Brad Newbury | 67 |
| 3. Craig Huffman | 62 |
| 4. Shannon Ocho | 60 |
| 5. Billy Wing | 56 |

JAG SPRINT CARS

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1. Randy VanAngen | 1295 |
| 2. Mike Bess, Jr. | 1172 |
| 3. Steve Yegre | 1087 |
| 4. Jay Cole | 1069 |
| 5. Mitch Olson | 1050 |

CRUISERS

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Smith/Olson | 776 |
| 2. Glick/Lagimod | 737 |
| 3. Howarth/Wesley | 678 |
| 4. Fowlkes/Arminio | 633 |
| 5. Conroy/McSweeney | 629 |

FORD FOCUS INDYGT SERIES

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Don Billings | 591 |
| 2. Brian Thomas | 587 |
| 3. Russ Spague | 582 |
| 4. Nick Francis | 479 |

PACIFIC RACEWAYS

HEW, WASH.

SUPER PRO

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Steve Glenn | 560 |
| 2. Jim Hady | 520 |
| 3. Brandon Spittal | 500 |
| 4. Mark Johnson | 480 |
| 5. Gory Fearbort | 480 |

PRO

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. John Schuller | 730 |
| 2. Mike Sumner | 610 |
| 3. Randy Shaiman | 590 |
| 4. Jason Roggeley | 540 |
| 5. Ken O'Keefe | 490 |

SPORTSMAN

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. Sean Kennedy | 630 |
| 2. Jay Norton | 490 |
| 4. Ralph Mueller | 470 |
| 5. Randy Walker | 470 |

MOTORCYCLE

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Don Dahl | 520 |
| 2. Robby Evans | 480 |
| 3. Joe Lind | 480 |
| 4. Mark Fawcett | 430 |
| 5. Jason Speer | 410 |

SOUTH SOUND SPEEDWAY

HOVOC, WASH.

LATE MODEL SUPER STOCK

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. Tom Sweetman | 546 |
| 2. Joe Constance | 510 |
| 3. Nick Behn | 428 |
| 4. Brad Tanner | 356 |
| 5. Tim Gosch | 324 |

SPORTSMAN

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. Shane Swain | 732 |
| 2. Brandon Finch | 722 |
| 3. John Bayett | 650 |
| 4. Bradley Shaw | 546 |
| 5. Mark Jones | 510 |

STREET STOCK

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Jim Swanson | 793 |
| 2. Robby Winsell | 777 |
| 3. Jay Hopkins | 756 |
| 4. Jordan McGregor | 750 |
| 5. Ron Ehn | 734 |

PURE STOCK

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Mike Carlson | 888 |
| 2. Don Walker/B. Walker | 870 |
| 3. Steve Woods | 841 |
| 4. Robby Moore | 797 |
| 5. Mitchell Woods | 696 |

MINI STOCKS

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Jeff Brocole | 875 |
| 2. Kevin Keopke | 792 |
| 3. Floyd/Michael Hayne | 725 |
| 4. Martin Wang | 722 |
| 5. Tom Kathan | 704 |

HUMBERLE

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1. Roy Talbot | 73 |
| 2. Brad Newbury | 67 |
| 3. Craig Huffman | 62 |
| 4. Shannon Ocho | 60 |
| 5. Billy Wing | 56 |

JAG WINNILESS SPRINTS

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. J.R. Ray | 582 |
| 2. Mike Becher | 533 |
| 3. Glenn Walker | 454 |
| 4. Rich Langley | 404 |
| 5. Corey Wilkin | 324 |

WAGO REGULAR CAR

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Mike Bess | 332 |
| 2. Mike Charles | 106 |
| 3. Chris Rao | 104 |
| 4. Mike Hardin | 104 |
| 5. Jamie Genter | 103 |

WAGO SMALL CAR

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. Ron Bewick | 45 |
| 2. Jeff Hensley | 41 |
| 3. Dave Godwin | 35 |
| 4. Danielle Goodell | 33 |
| 5. Don Saer | 29 |

WAGO POWDER PUFF

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Judy Charles | 185 |
| 2. Leslie Ross | 164 |
| 3. Joyce Jasper | 64 |
| 4. Teala Thresher | 64 |
| 5. Janna Lefkova | 62 |

MODIFIEDS

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. Ray Potter | 168 |
| 2. Jim Foster | 153 |
| 3. David Wood | 139 |
| 4. Curtis Zolmer | 138 |
| 5. Terry Backner | 71 |

MINI CUPS

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Steven Roberts | 159 |
| 2. Brooke Lefler | 159 |
| 3. Coby Stewart | 144 |
| 4. Don Larson S. | 141 |
| 5. Dave Vandepool | 129 |

NORTHERN SPRINT TOUR

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1. Bill Nutter | 1015 |
| 2. Didi Smith | 872 |
| 3. Roger Crockett | 818 |
| 4. Rick Fawer | 793 |
| 5. Denny Homer | 776 |

NORTHWEST LATE MODEL CHALLENGE SERIES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Mike Zamora | 812 |
| 2. Mark Sorenberg/B.J. Tidack | 755 |
| 3. James Spitzberg | 732 |
| 4. Steve Thompson | 721 |
| 5. Jay Soles | 675 |

NASCAR ELITE DIVISION, NORTHWEST SERIES

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1. Jeff Jefferson | 1423 |
| 2. Brandon Riehl | 1372 |
| 3. Garrett Evans | 1348 |
| 4. Wilbur Bess | 1325 |
| 5. Pete Harding | 1321 |
| 6. Jeff Borchini | 1289 |
| 7. Jeff Dillon | 1240 |
| 8. John Dillon | 1236 |
| 9. Gary Lewis | 1221 |
| 10. John Bander | 1218 |