

# Wenzel opens up season with win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Open-wheel ace Nathan Wenzel strutted the stuff that made him both a speedway and New Hampshire state Modified champion Saturday at Monadnock Speedway, topping the season opening main event at the high-banked speedplant.

And even though Saturday marked the first event of the new season, reigning Limited Late Model track champion Dylan Zullo is already in the running for what may be the summer's most exciting victory at the historic quarter-mile oval.

With a huge crowd braving the chilly April temperatures, six drivers started their season with a flourish, each earning the first victory lap of the new season in their respective division. Along with Wenzel and Zullo, long-ago Mini Stock champ Kevin Clayton, Pure Stock

hot shoe Jimmy Zellman, Pro V8 Sportsman pilot Chris Kingsley and Young Gun speedster Sofia Rego each went home victorious.

Colton Martin and JT Cloutier led the All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds to the green Saturday, with Martin jumping all over the opening lead. Cloutier rode second in his shadow, with Kimmy Rivet a close third, and Wenzel, from row three, quickly on the charge.

Wenzel had third on lap three and took second from Rivet on the tenth go-round. He and Martin then raced under a blanket until light contact on lap 28 sent Martin tumbling off turn two, then moving Wenzel and Rivet to row one, with Tyler Leary now up to third.

Leary powered up to second on lap 36, quickly gluing his ride to Wenzel's

as the two former speedway champions squared off. They rubbed in the final turn, with Wenzel wobbling but still holding the point to score his first win of the season.

With Leary an airtight second, Martin charged back through the field to snatch third from Rivet, and Cloutier's strong night's work netted him fifth. Leary set fast time in qualifying, scorching his way around the high banks in 12.127 seconds.

Hillary Renaud led early in the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model feature. Dylan Zullo, though, was on a mission, blasting from row three as he began to pick up where he'd left off in his championship season a year ago. Taking the lead on lap two, he looked headed for an easy romp in Saturday's 30-lapper. A caution, though, on lap 24,

brought JD Stockwell to his door and the action was just getting started.

Over the last three laps, they rubbed, they pushed, and they traded places, with Zullo prevailing to win by just a foot. Robert Hagar had the best view of the top-two chaos, watching from close behind as he impressed in third. Renaud was fourth on the night, and Erik Smith rounded out the first five.

Kevin Clayton won the Monadnock Speedway Mini Stock championship more than a quarter century ago, taking top honors way back in 2000. In recent summers, victory lane had been like a foreign nation to him. But now, the popular wheelsman has a new streak started.

Starting up front, Clayton led all the way to win by three lengths over third row starter Craig Chaffee in the night's Keene

Towing and Recovery Mini Stock main event. Steady Tim Paquette came home third, Tim O'Shea was fourth, and Dick Lamotte fifth.

Jimmy Zellman won a thriller in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stocks, coming off a pair of runner-up finishes at Claremont, the Bay State blaster had his mind set on something a little bit better. Leading all the way, he achieved that goal Saturday.

Zellman's opening night victory didn't come easily though. He had Colton Hull and Carlos Grenier draped all over him every inch of the way. Grenier got up for second on lap 18 and the potent trio raced under a blanket the rest of the way. With Hull third, Josh Brigham impressed in fourth, and Kyle Begos was fifth.

Chris Kingsley won the

spirited Beck's Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman feature. Stephen LaPlante was second and Garden State ace Scott Riggelman came home third. It was Kingsley's first career win on the high banks.

Sofia Rego had a memorable night in the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns, winning with ease in both her heat and feature races. Eleven-year-old Dylan Stati - yes, just eleven - was second in the 15-lap feature, and Maeve Barry was third.

Monadnock Speedway roars back into action next Saturday, May 2, with a special Todd Martell Memorial 75-lap Modified main event atop a full night of NASCAR Local Racing Series events, and the first visit of the season of the exciting Pro 4 Modified series. Post time is 6 p.m. each Saturday.

# Thunderbirds defeated in series opener with Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Springfield Thunderbirds and Providence Bruins fought tooth and nail in another stingy contest, with the Bruins prevailing 2-1 in Game 2 of the Atlantic Division Semifinals on Sunday night inside Amica Mutual Pavilion. With that, the series shifts back to Springfield tied at one game apiece in the best-of-five set.

All of the scoring in the game came in a window of less than six minutes' time in the opening period. For a fifth straight game in these playoffs, Springfield

succumbed to a 1-0 deficit within the opening half of period one. Frederic Brunet geared a slapper toward Georgi Romanov, who made the initial save. However, the rebound bounced over to a waiting Matej Blumel on the right wing, and the 2024-25 AHL goal scoring leader rifled it into an empty cage to make it a 1-0 game at 8:34 of the opening period.

The T-Birds were granted a power play and an opportunity to tie the score quickly, and at 11:30, Dillon Dube did just that, parking himself along the left post



and guiding a Hugh McGing pass behind Michael DiPietro to even the slate, 1-1. Alek Kaskimaki picked up his second assist in as many games to round out the scoring play.

The Bruins showed they, too, could answer in a hurry, as Brunet gathered a rolling puck along the right wing and geared a backhand pass across the slot to Georgii Merkulov, who beat Romanov with a

quick release to put Providence ahead, 2-1, at 14:02.

Providence outshot the T-Birds 25 - 14 over the first 40 minutes of the game, but both DiPietro and Romanov were taxed with special teams work in a second period that featured 10 minor penalties and eight combined power plays of varying lengths.

The T-Birds finally were able to give DiPietro

a steady diet of scoring chances in the third, but the Springfield power play left two more opportunities on the table, going 0-for-6 in the final two frames after connecting on their first man advantage of the evening.

Springfield's netminding and penalty killing did everything in its power to buy the offense time for an equalizer. Romanov, for a fourth straight contest, kept his opposition to two goals or less. The T-Birds' backstop has now stopped 116 of 123 shots for a .943 save percentage in the Calder Cup Playoffs.

## ► Public Notices

**City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing**  
The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a Special permit application of Wayne Versace for a nonconforming structure to construct an attached deck and install a rear entry door at 5 Brightwood Ave per 4.7.5. Hearing will take place on **Monday, May 18, 2026 at 6:30 pm**

at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 824 0539 6605 Meeting Passcode 689658 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by

phone 413-322-5525.  
DGR Chair, Richard Purcell  
05/01, 05/08/2026

**City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing**  
The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a Special permit application of Cypress Acquisitions, LLC c/o MacDermid Reynolds & Glissman P.C

for alteration of a nonconforming structure at 2201 Northampton Street per 4.7.3. Hearing will take place on **Monday, May 18, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 824 0539 6605 Meeting Passcode 689658 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair, Richard Purcell  
05/01, 05/08/2026

**City of Holyoke Public Hearing Notice**

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN \*67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size for Florence Bank, at 1490-1504 Northampton Street, Holyoke MA 01040 (105-00-059).

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 8:30-4 p.m.  
Applicant:  
Holyoke Retail, LLC  
Planning Board:  
Lauren Niles, Chairperson  
05/08, 05/15/2026

**Office of Purchasing 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, Ma 01040 Request for Quotes 2026-49 DPW Pouliot Pool Repairs**

The City of Holyoke, through its Procurement Office, is requesting quotes from qualified contractors for Pouliot Pool repairs. This procurement is conducted in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B and Chapter 149. Documents are available electronically starting on 5/6/2026 @ 10AM by requesting electronically from [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org)

The City seeks a contractor to complete repairs and maintenance necessary to prepare Pouliot Pool for the upcoming swim season. The contractor shall provide all labor, materials, tools, and supervision required. Scope of Work; Concrete Repair,- Repair damaged concrete, remove deteriorated material, structural patching, Surface Coating, apply commercial-grade pool coating, Pool Seam Resealing, remove and replace sealant, Pool Marking, Repaint depth line.

A non Mandatory but highly recommended site visit will be held on May 14th, 2026 @ 10AM Pouliot Pool 575 Maple Street, Holyoke Ma 01040.

Work must be completed prior to swim season. Include start date and duration.

**Submission Instructions Due May 5, 2026 at 2:00 PM.** Submit electronically to [morrowj@holyoke.org](mailto:morrowj@holyoke.org). Late submissions will be rejected.

Prevailing Wage Rates must be paid wage sheet for this job attached to specification documents.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all quotes, waive informalities, or cancel the RFQ.  
05/08/2026

**City of Holyoke Conservation Commission**

Pursuant to MGL Chap. 131 §40 and the Holyoke Wetlands Ordinance, the Holyoke Conservation Commission will hold a Public Meeting on **Thursday May 14th, 2026 at 6:15 p.m.** remotely via zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83189025752?pwd=sCx3V77mzmdKzQoFJ7VNSmDVfWef0m.1> to review a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Tec Associates on behalf of Pioneer Valley Railroad for the confirmation of wetland boundaries under the railroad's Vegetation Management Plan along the Pioneer Valley Railroad Right-of-Way in Holyoke, MA.

Signed,  
Jeffery Horan, Chairperson  
05/08/2026

# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
EARLY AD DEADLINE  
Place your public notice  
no later than NOON  
**Thursday, May 21**  
– Thank you!

*The Holyoke Sun*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

**visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**