

## AUTO RACING: U.S. ARMY 60

Prunty racks up another 'W'

Lomira driver has won four of past five Super Late races

By NICK DETTMANN Daily News Sports Editor

SLINGER — He insists he will take a week off, possibly more, at some point this season. When that will be even he is unsure. Dennis Prunty won his fourth Super Late Model feature race in five weeks Sunday in the U.S. Army 60 at the Slinger Super Speedway. "I didn't think there was anyway I was going to win," Prunty said. "I didn't think I was running Lowell Bennett down at all.

"I can't even explain it."

Prunty started the 60-lap feature in 12th place and was 13th three laps into the race. He thought it was a long shot to win. With 16 laps to go, Prunty, sitting in second place, trailed Bennett, the race leader, by more than two seconds.

But any winning streak often needs some luck with it and that's what Prunty got with 16 laps to go.

Series rookie Austin Luedtke, Bennett's teammate, spun out in turn 4, bringing out the second and final caution flag of the race.

"Well I have a chance," Prunty said on his thought when the last caution came out.

On the restart, Prunty got a great jump while the handling slipped on Bennett's No. 2 car. By the time the two were in turn 3, Prunty cleared the defending and six-time series champion around the outside.

Prunty led the rest of the race.

"Lowell did a good job keeping it low," Prunty said. "He can't figure it out yet. I like the outside. I was laughing the whole time. 'Thanks buddy. Thanks for the win.'"

Bennett finished the race in second place, his fourth runner-up finish in seven races this season. Conrad Morgan matched his season-best effort with a third-place showing, followed by Josh Wallace and Jeff Holtz. It was Holtz's first topfive finish of the season in five starts.

And for Morgan, who won the trophy dash, third place was a mild victory after finishing 15th last week.

“I’m happy with (third),” he said. “We’ve had a really good car; it’s been good all year. We just haven’t had the breaks.”

Bennett maintains his eightpoint lead (511-503) over Prunty by virtue of having a top five qualifying time.

“We just didn’t have quite the same car we had before,” Bennett said about the last restart. “I took the bottom; we were so good on the bottom when I was running by myself, went into the corner and it just wouldn’t turn the whole last 16 laps.”

Bennett added he felt his rightfront tire was flat, which is why he thinks the car wasn’t as sharp turning as it was earlier. Afterward, the tire was just fine.

“I didn’t have any problems until that yellow,” Bennett said.

Cheer him or boo him, Prunty just keeps winning. The winning is fine with him, of course, but so is the booing.

“It doesn’t matter because if you’re booing me that means you want to see me race ’cause you want your guy to beat me,” he said. “Here’s the thing. Anybody that finds anything illegal on my car, I’ll pay ’em a thousand bucks. This thing is not cheated up in one way at all.”

And as for the planned family vacation later this summer? Prunty said it’s still going to happen, he just needs to decide when to do it. He doesn’t want to abandon the trip because he wants to have fun this summer.

However, racing the way he is, that decision gets tougher each week for the 37-year-old out of Lomira.

“I keep saying I’m not going to come back,” Prunty said. “But when you’re finishing in the top two and not wrecking the car, how can you stay home?”