



MYRON PIATEK

It's Hard to Stop a Train

While physics and momentum are obviously important in drag racing, it is the kind of momentum that sportscasters talk about when a team is on a winning streak that carried 2006 Stock World Champion Myron Piatek to the Summit Allstars crown. Once he got rolling in his Locomotion '75 Dart Sport, there was little that could stand in his way.

Piatek used the qualifying runs and first round of the regular Stock eliminations during the IHRA Spring Nationals at Rockingham Dragway to hone his key asset: - reaction time. Although his first qualifying run was a throwaway red light due to staging too deep, from that point on, he was positively deadly quick and consistent. His last two qualifying efforts each netted .01-range lights, and he only lost the first round of Stock after a .004 light due to a breakout.

Piatek used an .017 bulb to overcome defending Allstars champion Scott Macy in the first round of the Allstars. Likewise, an .018-initiated dead-on 11.492 gave Britt Mizia's Savoy no room to work with in the semifinals.

Piatek's final round opponent, Anthony Bertozzi, started out eliminations with a similar .017 light to off Ricky Baehr, but he had to dig into the luck bank to survive a double red light start with Craig Marshall's Eastland Crane Dart Sport, by virtue of Marshall's slight handicap start.

Piatek recorded his fifth "teen" light of the weekend in the finals, welding Bertozzi's Auto Meter Camaro to the starting line, .016 to .049. Piatek picked up the win light with an 11.487 on an 11.46 to Bertozzi's closer but



Myron Piatek dedicated his Summit Allstars Stock win to his dad at Rockingham. Summit's Don Lower and Jim Greenleaf joined Piatek and his crew and family in celebrating the well-deserved victory.



By Michael Beard

Photos by Chris Simmons & Roger Richards



trailing 10.602 on a 10.59.

"Needless to say, I was more than thrilled to beat Anthony," Piatek said. "He's arguably the best Sportsman racer in IHRA. I've beaten him before, but he's still up on me a couple!

"I want to dedicate the win to my dad," Piatek said. "He suffered a bad fall, and had been in intensive care all week. I was going to stay with him, but fortunately he was feeling better, and my brother stayed with him. He told me if I wanted to go, go. That surprised me because he never cared much for racing, but he knew how much it meant to me."

In order to compete on the highest level, Piatek credits a long list of important supporters of his racing program, including Daytona State College, Holeshoot Wheels, Amsoil Synthetics/The Lube Page, Larry Whitley at Eastern Performance Engines, J.W. Performance Transmissions, Bearden Oil/Sunoco Race Fuels, Ronnie Robinson Performance, Hoosier Tire, TTI Exhaust, Autometer, Harland Sharp, ROL Gaskets, Pioneer Performance, Volusia Drivetrain, Gary's Driveline, Ishihara-Johnson crank scrapers, Al's Signs, Michael Beard, and Richard Martz.

"I can't thank Summit enough for providing a stage for the Allstars race, not to mention everything else they do. I'd also like to thank the Summit Pro Shop and IHRA contingency sponsors for helping me maintain a tough schedule and a competitive Mopar combination," he said.