

# Sioux Chief Showdown Preview: Bush's Beans 200 at Bristol Motor Speedway



The penultimate race on the 2020 Sioux Chief Showdown calendar has arrived as the ARCA Menards Series returns to Bristol for the first time in over 50 years. The Bush's Beans 200 has been a fixture on the schedule of what is now known as the ARCA Menards Series East in recent years, and the race will count for points towards both series' championships. The tight race at the top of the Showdown standings means that the battle for the prestigious in-season championship will likely go down to the wire in next week's Showdown finale, the Sioux Chief PowerPex 200 at Memphis International Raceway.

The Sioux Chief Showdown will bring together the best of the best from the ARCA Menards Series, the ARCA Menards Series East and ARCA Menards Series West (formerly known as the NASCAR K&N Pro Series). These ten events offer drivers who may not be able or eligible to run the full 20-race ARCA Menards Series schedule the opportunity to run for a title. Combined with the overall ARCA Menards Series crown as well as the ARCA Menards East and ARCA Menards West championships, drivers will have four unique titles to compete for in 2020.

Formerly known as the Sioux Chief Short Track Challenge, an expanded partnership with Sioux Chief will increase the event purse and point fund significantly, as well as add prestige and a variety of venues to the in-season championship. New guidelines and common rule packages are aimed at drawing in teams and drivers from both the ARCA East and ARCA West series as well, which were previously run as distinct separate entities from the ARCA Menards Series. **Christian Eckes**, now a challenger for rookie of the year honors in the NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series, won both the Sioux Chief Short Track Challenge and the ARCA Menards Series overall championship in 2019, clinching both titles in the final race of each championship.

Victorious in the most recent Sioux Chief Showdown race was **Sam Mayer**, scoring his third win of the year in the Zinsser SmartCoat 200 at Lebanon I-44 Speedway in Missouri. All three of Mayer's wins have come in Showdown events, with Mayer previously sweeping an earlier doubleheader at Toledo Speedway. ARCA's first-ever visit to I-44 delivered a classic short track affair with more than enough beating-and-banging racing to go around. Mayer, who picked up minor damage early on when he scrambled to avoid an incident directly in front of him, got a fantastic launch on the final restart of the evening and pulled away over the remaining 46 laps. Mayer's main adversaries for the night were a pair of drivers that have trailed in the Showdown standings for most of the season: **Bret Holmes**, who led 69 laps from the pole and finished second; and **Hailie Deegan**, who set an AMS record for the most laps led in a race by a female driver with 85.

It took six months and a lot of hard racing to get there, but Mayer finally recovered from the points deficit he faced following the Showdown opener in March and now leads the standings with 319 points. Mayer failed to finish at Phoenix after his car overheated, and the 17-year old from Wisconsin has trailed in the standings ever since. After finishing on the podium in each of the next eight Showdown races, Mayer now leads the pack for the first time with 319 points. **Chandler Smith** has paced the Showdown group for almost the entire season, but a night to forget at I-44 has dropped him to a tie for second in the standings with **Ty Gibbs** at 314 points, five behind Mayer. Smith was involved in multiple incidents at I-44 and finished two laps down. Onetime Showdown point leader **Michael Self** struggled for the second consecutive week, falling to fourth with 305 points after being stuck on the receiving end of a couple of hard bumps gone wrong at I-44.

Most of the regulars on the ARCA Menards Series circuit have never raced at Bristol in a full-bodied stock car, giving a knowledge advantage to the few drivers that have taken to the high banks of the legendary short track. There's some bad news for the field here: current Showdown leader Sam Mayer swept the AMS East races at Bristol in 2019, even leading wire-to-wire in the spring race in the process. His stiffest competition could come in the form of Chandler Smith, one of the drivers tied for second behind Mayer in the standings. Smith ran the NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series race at Bristol last year, establishing his career-best mark in a truck by finishing second to winner Brett Moffitt.

# 2020 Sioux Chief Showdown Schedule & Current Top 25 Standings



DRIVER	CAR	CAR OWNER	PHX	LOR	IOW	TOL	TOL	DIS	GAT	I44	TOTAL
Sam Mayer	#21 Chevrolet	Maury Gallagher	24	42	42	43	43	41	41	43	319
Chandler Smith	#20 Toyota	Billy Venturini	43	43	40	33	42	35	42	36	314
Ty Gibbs	#18 Toyota	Coy Gibbs	41	29	43	42	34	42	43	40	314
Michael Self	#25 Toyota	Cathy Venturini	42	36	38	39	40	43	29	38	305
Bret Holmes	#23 Chevrolet	Stacy Holmes	29	37	41	40	41	36	38	42	304
Hailie Deegan	#4 Ford	David Gilliland	37	41	26	36	38	38	35	39	290
Taylor Gray	#17 Ford	David Gilliland		40	39	41	33	40	36	41	270
Drew Dollar	#15 Toyota	Bill Venturini	30	30	27	38	35	32	37	35	264
Thad Moffitt	#46 Ford	Bo LeMastus	26	39	34	32	36	33			200
Mike Basham	#12 Toyota	Andy Hillenburg		25	24	30	29	29	24	34	195
Brad Smith	#48 Chevrolet	Brad Smith		27	25	31	30	25	25	31	194
Tim Richmond	#06 Toyota	Wayne Peterson	21	3	31	35	32		28	33	183
Max McLaughlin	#1 Toyota	Shigeaki Hattori		38	37			37	40		152
Owen Smith	#11 Ford	Andy Hillenburg				28	28		23	32	111
Derek Griffith	#22 Ford	Chad Bryant		32		37	39				108
Jesse Love	#19 Toyota	Alex McAnally	28		32				39		99
Gio Scelzi	#16 Toyota	Mike Curb	34		33				31		98
Rick Clifton	#12 Toyota	Andy Hillenburg			30	34	31				95
Gracie Trotter	#99 Toyota	Bill McAnally	22		35				32		89
Howie DiSavino III	#32 Chevrolet	Kevin Cywinski	23	35	28						86
Chase Cabre	#4 Toyota	Max Siegel	36						34		70
Nick Sanchez	#6 Toyota	Max Siegel	38						30		68
Kyle Sieg	#41 Chevrolet	Bruce Cook		34					33		67
Kris Wright	#22 Chevrolet	Chad Bryant							26	37	63
Tim Monroe	#10 Chevrolet	Andy Hillenburg						24		30	54

March 6	Phoenix Raceway – Avondale, AZ	Chandler Smith
July 3	Lucas Oil Raceway – Brownsburg, IN	Chandler Smith
July 18	Iowa Speedway – Newton, IA	Ty Gibbs
July 31	Toledo Speedway – Toledo, OH	Sam Mayer
August 1	Toledo Speedway – Toledo, OH	Sam Mayer
August 14	Daytona International Speedway Road Course – Daytona Beach, FL	Michael Self
August 29	World Wide Technology Raceway at Gateway – Madison, IL	Ty Gibbs
September 5	Lebanon I-44 Speedway – Lebanon, MO	Sam Mayer
September 17	Bristol Motor Speedway – Bristol, TN	.533 Mile Oval
September 26	Memphis International Raceway – Memphis, TN	.750 Mile Oval