

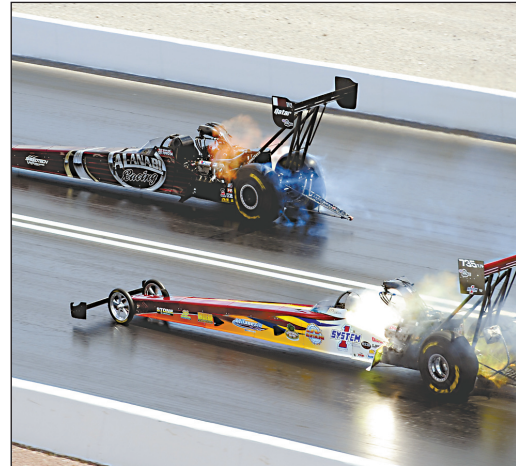
Favored Dixon, Force, Edwards collect Las Vegas jackpots

The Las Vegas oddsmakers certainly got it right as favored Larry Dixon, John Force, and Mike Edwards did the expected, grabbing wins at the 11th annual SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Each of the victors – who also all opened their seasons with wins at the 50th annual Kragen O'Reilly Auto Parts NHRA Winternationals presented by Valvoline – left Las Vegas with the points lead after the sixth of 23 events on the 2010 NHRA Full Throttle Drag Racing Series schedule. Dixon was a 5/2 favorite in Top Fuel, Force was 2/1 in Funny Car, and reigning Pro Stock world champ Edwards was rated even by Fred Crespi, oddsmaker for the Palms Casino Resort, and none disappointed despite another challenging day in which race teams had to endure more high air and track temperatures, putting a premium on race car setup.

Larry Dixon

Dixon, who collected his milestone 50th win in Top Fuel last weekend in Houston, didn't wait long to get started on his second 50 as he won again in Las Vegas, defeating Cory McClenathan in a final-round battle with the points lead in the balance. Dixon took the win, his third of the season, and the points lead – by a single marker -- easily with a 4.01 after McClenathan smoked the tires. With 51 wins, Dixon holds sole possession of 13th place on NHRA's list of all-time winners. Photos by David Allio for MSA.



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