

## Melanie Troxel, In-N-Out Burger win Pro Mod race

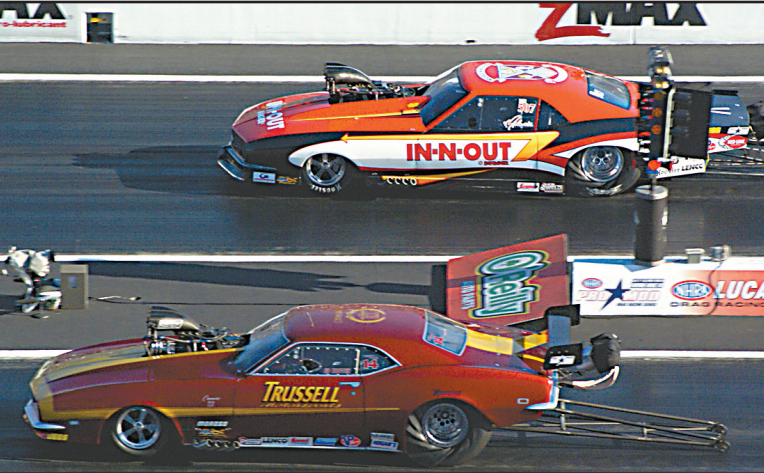
by Rob Geiger

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Sept. 19) Melanie Troxel added another page to her legacy on Sunday when she won the Get Screened America Pro Mod Series race at the O'Reilly Auto Parts Nationals at zMax Dragway in the In-N-Out Burger

wanted to get a win in the Pro Mod class before I retired from it."

Troxel's final round ended up being a victory lap of sorts. Her opponent, Scott Ray, suffered an engine explosion in the semifinals and was unable to make the call for the finals.

"I feel so bad for Scott and his family because they have been running so well," she said. "I know how much they wanted to make it



Camaro.

In the process, Troxel won an NHRA national event in a fourth different class. She's now won in Pro Mod, Funny Car, Top Fuel and

to the final round. I went over and talked to them before the finals, and you could see the disappointment in their eyes."

Troxel's solo run was a



Top Alcohol Dragster.

"For me to win in four different categories in the NHRA is pretty special," Troxel said. "I'm not sure if I'm going to run Pro Mod next year, and I was starting to get a little worried.

"I only had two more races left in the season. I was getting a little nervous about getting a win in. I

5.938-second pass at 245.94 mph, more than enough proof that the In-N-Out Burger Camaro was best in the class. "All the normal things you do as a driver to get focused as a driver weren't there," Troxel said of her final, single run. "All that's gone and it's kind of tough. At the same time, knowing you've won the round makes up for all of that.

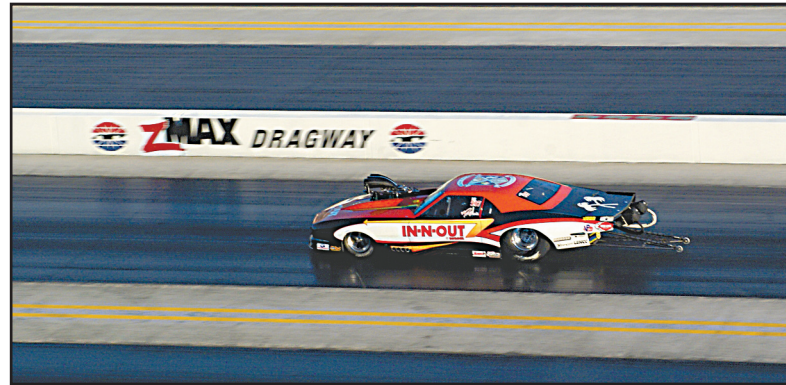


"For us, going out and running our best ET of the weekend in the finals took away a little of that sting. We said we were going to be tough to beat even if he was able to make it."

She advanced to the finals when opponent Ed Hoover tripped the beams .019 seconds too early and fouled out. Troxel beat Rick Stivers

dropped cylinders at nearly the same time, with Pedregon ultimately getting the upper hand with a winning run of 4.318 seconds at 275.73 mph. Troxel crossed the line in 4.334 seconds at 283.13 mph.

"We're making progress in the Funny Car," Troxel said. "We still need to consistently go down the track, but we're getting closer to



in the second round with a 5.982 second run at 245.99 mph to Stivers' 8.409 at 111.67 mph.

That wasn't the only racing Troxel was doing on Sunday. She qualified the ProCare Rx Dodge Charger into the Funny Car field and started the day with a matchup against Tony Pedregon. Both cars

that every run we make." Troxel will next race her Funny Car at the Sept. 23-26 O'Reilly Auto Parts Super Start Batteries Nationals at Texas Motorplex outside Dallas. The Pro Mods won't race again until late October in Las Vegas.

Photos by Fred Hanyon, MSA

