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Inland Motorcycle Speedway Grand Reopening/John Ladouceur Championship

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif (June 24, 2009) – Speedway fans witnessed an evening of resurrection at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino on Friday, June 19, 2009. The date marked the resurrection of speedway at the Inland Empire venue and the resurrection of the speedway career of Josh Larsen at the Grand Reopening/John Ladouceur Championship at Inland Motorsport Speedway.

Promoters Jason Bonsignore and Shawn McConnell and many volunteers worked feverishly to ensure that the facility was ready on time. Their hard work paid off as the event was sold out 30 minutes prior to the first race and the fans were entertained by fantastic racing throughout the evening. The riders were very pleased with the track, especially the ample supply of dirt that produced a lot of outside passing.

The John Ladouceur Championship was named for the original promoter of speedway at the National Orange Show (NOS). Inland Motor Speedway (IMS) was immensely popular and was known as "The Only Reason for Wednesday Nights" from 1975 to 1987 before the promotion moved to Glen Helen. Although the racing was great at Glen Helen it never garnered the fan support that IMS had and, after going through several promoters, speedway ended there after the 1995 season.

Charlie Venegas promoted several events inside the NOS stock car stadium in 2000 and at Arrowhead Motor Speedway in 2001 and 2002 (Larsen coincidentally won Arrowhead's first main event). International Speedway Inc. promoted a handful of events inside the stock car stadium in 2003, but there has been nary a speedway bike on the property since. Bonsignore and McConnell are hoping that their IMS will be the Friday Night happening in the Inland Empire much the same as what the original IMS was on Wednesday nights.

The fans were greeted by the voice of legendary announcer Bruce Flanders, who was the announcer of the original IMS and remains immensely popular with speedway fans. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was performed at the starting tapes prior to the races as well. Many speedway dignitaries were in attendance including iconic two-time World

Champion Bruce Penhall, former World Under 21 Champion Ron Preston, former National Champion Kelly Moran, and AMA Hall of Fame announcer Larry Huffman.

The next event at IMS is Speedway Racers Remembrance Night. The evening will honor Ernie Roccio, Ken Berry, and Randy Evans, three American speedway racers who lost their lives in competition. The program will have scratch and handicap racing and will include the first Last of the Mohicans Last Man Out Challenge of the season.

Release courtesy of Ryan Evans (sideways31@aol.com)
Release edited by Amber Sommerville

About the Inland Motorsport Speedway

Affectionately referred to by most as IMS, the new Inland Motorsport Speedway was rebuilt as a replica of the old IMS facility and is just 300 feet from the site of the original location.

The priority of the IMS is to provide a fun, fair, affordable and entertaining venue, while doing its best to bring back past history and create many more years of new history for the great sport of motorcycle racing. The facility is also used as a full-time practice facility for motorcyclists. Speedway rentals and instruction are available. Contact Jason Bonsignore or Shawn McConnell for info at eastcoastspeedway@hotmail.com or visit www.inlandmotorsportspeedway.com

About the National Orange Show Events Center

The National Orange Show Events Center is the Inland Empire's premier source of entertainment and all-inclusive event solutions. The center's multi-use, 120 acre facility offers 150,000 square feet of indoor space, a state-of-the-art satellite wagering center, the IMS motorcycle speedway, and the Best-in-the-West auto speedway. With the historic tradition of the annual citrus fair at the heart of the organization since 1911, the National Orange Show Events Center is at the forefront of the events industry while working to maintain strong community connections. For more information, visit www.nosevents.com.

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