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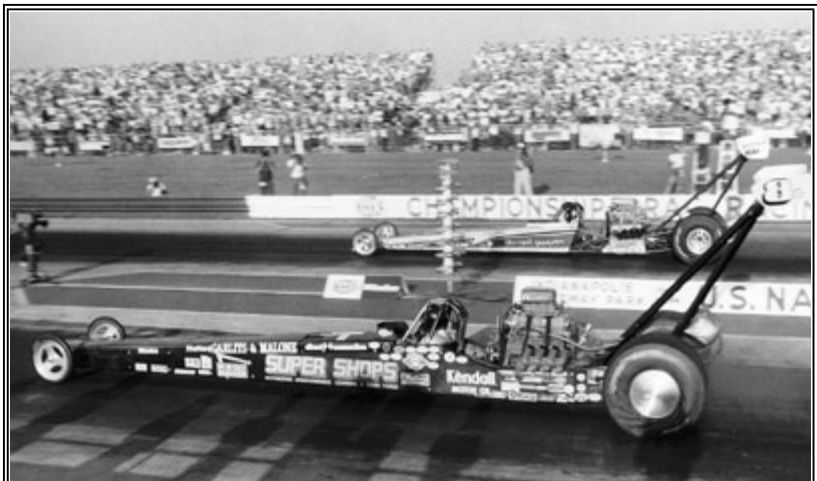
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Legendary racers Garlits, Gwynn renew rivalry in Match Races for a Cause at Gatornationals

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Legendary drag racers Don “Big Daddy” Garlits and Darrell “the Kid” Gwynn will renew their racing rivalry as they square off in Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Races for a Cause at Gainesville Raceway during the Tire Kingdom NHRA Gatornationals March 10-13.

Garlits and Gwynn faced each other on the racetrack for the first time in 1985 in the final of the Summernationals. Garlits was already an established star in the NHRA and Gwynn a rising star. Garlits defeated Gwynn, and the two would meet many more times, including in the final of the 1985 and 1986 U.S. Nationals. Gwynn scored a memorable win against Garlits at the 1986 Winternationals. The two competed frequently on the NHRA circuit until Gwynn sustained a spinal-cord injury in a racing accident in 1990, ending his career.



Don Garlits and Darrell Gwynn dueled through the late 1980s on NHRA tracks across the country. At the 1985 U.S. Nationals, Garlits, near lane, defeated his young rival, as he did again at the 1986 event.

Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Races for a Cause brings two NHRA legends back to the track as NHRA celebrates its 60th anniversary. The match races are designed to raise money and awareness for the Darrell Gwynn Foundation and the Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing. The Darrell Gwynn Foundation’s mission is to provide awareness, prevention, support, and ultimately a cure for paralysis.

The series will kick off in Gainesville with a best-of-three set of races between Gwynn and Garlits three days of the Gatornationals. The two rivals will race down the track in custom-built DieHard battery-powered replica dragsters that were built by Brad Hadman and designed by Mike Gerry and feature graphics by Eric Reyes.

Garlits and Gwynn will also race each other at the Mac Tools U.S. Nationals presented by Lucas Oil Aug. 31-Sept. 5 in Indianapolis, the Automobile Club of Southern California NHRA Finals Nov. 10-13 in Pomona, and several soon-to-be-announced NHRA events this year as part of Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Races for a Cause.

Fans can keep up with the standings of Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Races for a Cause by logging on to www.darrellgwynnfoundation.org.

The dragsters will be auctioned off at the 2012 Barrett-Jackson Auction in Scottsdale, Ariz., after the Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Races for a Cause series is complete. Fans can also get involved and help raise money for the Darrell Gwynn Foundation by purchasing tickets to the Darrell Gwynn Foundation's Track Walk for Those Who Can't, which will take place at each NHRA event where there is an event in the Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Races for a Cause series. The track walks give fans an opportunity to walk on NHRA tracks, meet star NHRA drivers such as Garlits, Larry Dixon, Robert Hight, Johnny Gray, Jim Head, and Hector Arana, and support the Darrell Gwynn Foundation's mission. The Darrell Gwynn Foundation will also make a wheelchair donation at each Garlits vs. Gwynn event through its national Wheelchair Donation Program. Track-walk tickets can be purchased at the racetracks the weekend of the event or online at www.darrellgwynnfoundation.org. At the Gatornationals, tickets for the track walk can be purchased for a \$20 donation at the Darrell Gwynn Foundation compound behind the Top Eliminator Club.

Darrell Gwynn Foundation Schedule at the NHRA Gatornationals:

Date	Time	Event
Friday, 3/11	3:25 p.m.	Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Race for a Cause (Race 1)
Saturday, 3/12	2:45 p.m.	Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Race for a Cause (Race 2)
Sunday, 3/13	8:30 a.m.	DGF Track Walk for Those Who Can't
Sunday, 3/13	10:45 a.m.	DGF wheelchair donation to Genesis Cagle
Sunday, 3/13	4 p.m.	Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Race for a Cause (Race 3)

To purchase tickets to the NHRA events hosting the Garlits vs. Gwynn: Match Races for a Cause, log on to www.nhra.com/tickets.

Sponsors who made this project possible include title sponsor Vision Airlines as well as Lucas Oil, Dynamic Machine, DieHard, National Auto Mart, JEGS, Summit, Mac Tools, Barrett-Jackson, Goodyear, DMR, Reliable Transportation, Moon, Pro Glass, G-Force, Simpson, K&N Filters, and Brad Hadman/PMI Truck Bodies.

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