

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENGLISHTOWN, N.J. – Despite a close first round loss to Robert Hight, Blake Alexander is still happy with the performance of his Gates/Auto Service Plus Funny Car at the Toyota NHRA SuperNationals. He ran two solid qualifying sessions and got to represent Gates Auto, a corporation who has supported him since age 16.

“It meant so much to be able to race the Gates Funny Car at Englishtown. The people at Gates have supported me through the Sportsman ranks and now into the transition to the Pro level and Fuel Funny Car. I look forward to representing them again at the next race in Bristol,” said Alexander.

Blake’s weekend started off with a decent 4.19 in qualifying, which put him in the show at 9th after the first session. The parachutes came out just after the half-track mark, slowing the car down considerably. Crew chief Paul Smith tuned it up for the next session, resulting in a 4.116 at 302 mph, beating out Blake’s previous career-best run of 4.16. But Blake believes that the first run would have been even better than 4.11.

“The first run was a little better incrementally before the ‘chutes came out, so it could’ve been a 4.0 run. The improved conditions in the second session helped us, but also helped every other team. I was just happy to lay down a run that put us in the Top 12 heading into the Saturday sessions,” Blake says.

As Sunday eliminations rolled around, the sun heated up the New Jersey track; not good conditions for an 8,000 horsepower nitro Funny Car. Paul Smith and the Gates Auto team sent Blake down the track on his quickest run in eliminations yet, but his 4.17 wasn’t enough to take out Robert Hight’s 4.09.

“When the track temperature is 100+ degrees and the air temperature is in the high 70s, it’s still going to play into the big teams’ strengths,” Alexander claimed. “One race into the series of hot summer races, we managed to qualify. We just have to keep trucking away and success will follow if we keep doing the things we’ve been doing.”

About Gates:

Gates Corporation (gates.com) is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of industrial and automotive products, systems and components with operations in 30 countries. Gates maintains sales and marketing operations in every major industrial and automotive market, including North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East.

Gates is part of the Industrial & Automotive group of Tomkins Ltd., which is owned by a consortium comprising Onex Corporation and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. Tomkins enjoys strong market positions and technical leadership across all of its business activities and owns some of the best-known brands in their respective markets.

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Blake Alexander Racing is a company that was started and maintained by nitro funny car driver Blake Alexander while in college. Blake worked his way up from Jr. Dragsters through the competitive sportsman ranks, now achieving his goal of driving a professional Nitro Funny Car. Through his efforts on and off the track, Blake secures corporate sponsorships and works actively with each supporter to activate and stimulate their respective brands from market to market. Blake Alexander drives for iconic master tuner Paul Smith, who owns and operates Paul Smith Racing out of Boynton Beach, Florida.

Companies that support Blake Alexander Racing include: Auto Service Plus, Gates Rubber Company, Exide Batteries, Tenneco Automotive, Valvoline, Standard Motor Products, and Pro Jack Race Car Stands.

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