



The top five finishers in the Late Model division include Shawn Kirwin, 5th; Jeff Wildung, 4th (not pictured); Shaun Peterson, 3rd; Zach Johnson, 2nd; Jeff Hinkemeyer, 1st.



The top five Modified competitors include Scott Gilbertson, 5th; Danny Bayer, 4th; Terry Engebretson, 3rd; Jason Thoennes, 2nd; Dennis Bitzan, 1st.



The top five Midwest Modified finishers include Jeremy Kerzman 5th (not pictured); Matt Smith, 4th; Korey Krafthefer, 3rd; Brian Haben, 2nd; Josh Thoennes, 1st.



The top five in the Street Stock division include Cory Tammen, 5th; Randy Laage, 4th; Justin Vogel, 3rd; Scott Horn, 2nd; Mark Blom, 1st.

# Viking Speedway celebrates 2008 season at awards banquet

## Top drivers, rookies, sportsmen and others receive recognition at annual banquet

The annual Viking Speedway Awards Banquet was held Saturday, January 24 at the Broadway Ballroom in Alexandria.

The top drivers in each of the five WISSOTA divisions were presented with trophies, with the 1st place finishers also receiving championship jackets.

The 2008 champions included Jeff Hinkemeyer (4F) of St. Cloud in the Late Model division, Dennis Bitzan (10X) of Farwell in the Modified class, Larry Lund (54) of Brandon in the Super Stock class, Josh Thoennes (52) of Carlos in Midwest Modified and Mark Blom of Glenwood in Street Stock.

Rookie of the Year honors went to David Goulet in the Street Stock division, Dustin

Bitzan in Midwest Modified, Cory Tammen in Super Stock, Danny Bayer in Modified and Casey Meyer in the Late Model division.

Rookies are drivers who have not competed in more than five events in their class or a higher class at any track in any previous year. Those with the most points at the end of their first season are named Rookies of the Year.

Sportsmen of the Year honors were awarded based on votes cast by fellow racers. The award honors those who displayed good sportsmanship throughout the season.

Honorees included Mark Blom in the Street Stock division, Josh Thoennes in Midwest Modified, Jon Stepan in Super Stock, Dennis Bitzan in Modified and Zach Johnson in the Late Model division.

The 2009 Hall of Fame inductees were also announced. They include Jim Nieland of Garfield, former racer and former Viking Speedway board member, and Jerry Van Kem-

pen, original Viking Speedway track announcer and former race team member. The men will be honored at a race event this summer.

Three year service awards were presented during the banquet to Viking Speedway board members Joe Schiermeister, Layne Roberts and Bert Pexsa, and a special service award was presented to track employee Derrick Anderson.

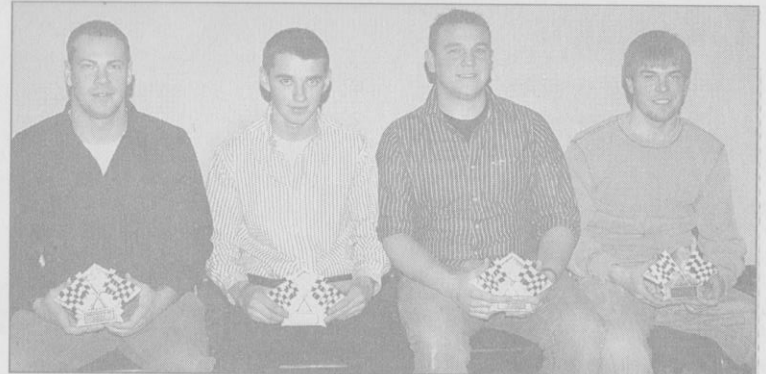
Winning Edge Graphics of Alexandria presented \$350 race car lettering certificates to drivers Kyle Krafthefer of Farwell and Chuck Thieschafer of Clarissa.

It was also announced at the banquet that the Viking Speedway received permission from the Douglas County Fair Board to construct the Florian Sprinzel Memorial Souvenir Shack in 2009.

Chris Stepan of FYE Motorsports served as master of ceremonies for the awards ceremony.



Super Stock top five include Jeff Kluver, 5th; Jeff Crouse, 4th (not pictured); Jon Stepan, 3rd; Ron Host, 2nd (Not pictured); Larry Lund, 1st.



Rookies of the Year are David Goulet, Street Stock; Dustin Bitzan, Midwest Modified; Corey Tammen, Super Stock; Danny Bayer, Modified; Casey Meyer, Late Model (not pictured).

## VIKING SPEEDWAY TOP 10 DIVISION WINNERS

Following are the top 10 finishers in each division for the 2008 Viking Speedway season. These drivers were honored at the annual banquet on January 24.

### Late Model

1. Jeff Hinkemeyer, St. Cloud
2. Zach Johnson, Lowry
3. Shaun Peterson, Alexandria
4. Jeff Wildung, Nassau
5. Shawn Kirwin, Morris
6. Tim Jodsaas, Alexandria
7. Rick Nelson, Alexandria
8. Dave Zimmerman, Elizabeth
9. Paul Mueller, Bismarck, ND
10. Jeremy Keller, ND

### Modified

1. Dennis Bitzan, Farwell
2. Jason Thoennes, Garfield

3. Terry Engebretson, Cyrus
4. Danny Bayer, Elrosa
5. Scott Gilbertson, Melrose
6. Dallas Gulbrandson, Alexandria
7. Mike Storck, Morris
8. Dave Storck, Morris
9. Jake Wildman, Glenwood
10. Kyle Wieberdink, Alexandria

### Super Stock

1. Larry Lund, Brandon
2. Ron Host, Eagle Bend
3. Jon Stepan, Brandon
4. Jeff Crouse, Alexandria
5. Jeff Kluver, Alexandria
6. Roger Host, Watkins
7. Jason Blascyk, Kensington
8. Derrick Lemke, Sauk Centre
9. Irvin Cook, Osakis
10. Jeff Flaten, Hancock

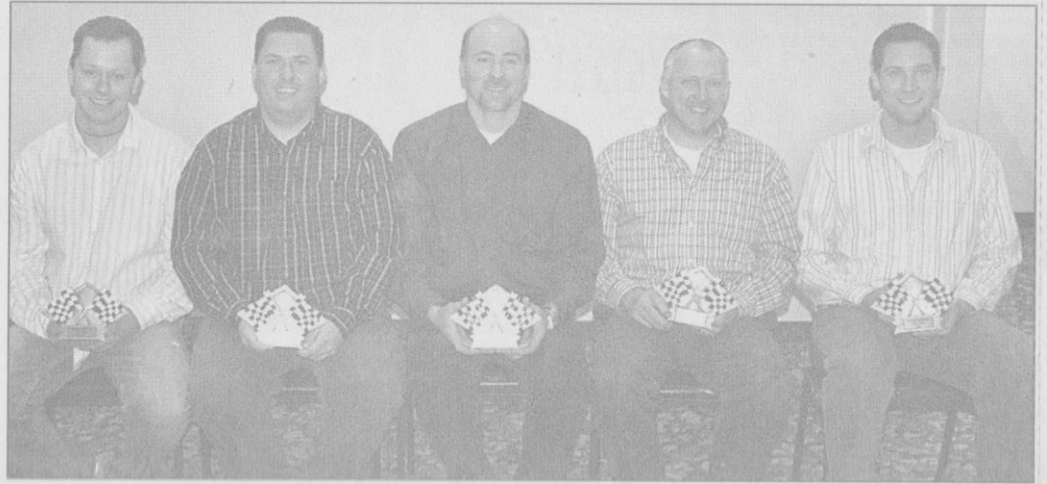
### Midwest Modified

1. Josh Thoennes, Carlos

2. Brian Haben, Holloway
3. Corey Krafthefer, Kensington
4. Matt Smith, Morris
5. Jeremy Kerzman, Grey Eagle
6. Dustin Bitzan, Brandon
7. Brendan Blascyk, Kensington
8. Terry Merten, Sauk Centre
9. William Lund, Brandon
10. Jason Hoffman, Villard

### Street Stock

1. Mark Blom, Glenwood
2. Scott Horn, Wadena
3. Justin Vogel, Brooten
4. Randy Laage, Brooten
5. Cory Tammen, Clara City
6. Jason Babcock, Horace ND
7. Chuck Olson, Evansville
8. Shawn Wageman, Breezy Point
9. Jim Williams, DeGraff
10. Rick Sahli, Miltona



Echo Press photos by Tara Bitzan  
Sportsmen of the Year are Mark Blom, Street Stock; Josh Thoennes, Midwest Modified; Jon Stepan, Super Stock; Dennis Bitzan, Modified; Zach Johnson, Late Model.