



Steady Krajewski wins nine times for title



NHRA SUMMIT RACING SERIES FINALS (Div. 1) — There's no telling how many big races Chris Krajewski might win in the future. What's certain for now, though, is that at just 19 years of age, he's already won one of the biggest.

Krajewski, racing for Cecil County Dragway, stayed near his dial throughout the event to win a massive nine-round eliminator and claim his first NHRA Summit Racing Series Finals title. He ended the competition just like he began it, posting another near-the-dial run to beat Atco Raceway's Brian Balducci in the final, 7.613 (7.60

dial) to an on-the-money 7.573 (7.57). A .009 reaction time saved the day for Krajewski, who reached the stripe first with just three-thousandths to spare.

"This is probably my biggest win so far, and this has been the first year I've been in a dragster, so I'm pretty happy with that," Krajewski said. "I really didn't pay too

much attention to how far I'd gone or how many rounds it was; I was just there trying to do what I had to do. It didn't really bother me that it was nine rounds; it was all about just getting to the end."

Solid lights and accurate dials were Krajewski's recipe for victory at Maple Grove Raceway. He was solid on the Tree throughout the event, recording no dangerous lights and cobbling together five leaves of .010 or better. Just as important, Krajewski finished virtually all of his runs within striking distance of his dial and did not break out once throughout the nine rounds. With the exception of having to lift when his second-round opponent got loose,

Krajewski was within .015-second of his number on each of his passes.

"I was very satisfied with how I ran," said Krajewski, who thanked his parents, along with Maryland Performance Specialties, Perry's Auto, Richmond Racing Transmissions, Viper Venom Racing Fuels, Cressman Race Cars, Mach Racing Engines for their support. "My dad did all the dialing, so if anyone had a finger on how it would run, it was him."

With no bye runs appearing in his section of the ladder, Krajewski raced head to head in all nine rounds. None were more important than the quarterfinals and semifinals, when he put


together successive packages of .014-second and .013-second to beat Doug Wade and Dave Deeds, respectively.

Now, after overcoming nine tough rounds of racing, Krajewski finds himself potentially only three round-wins away from claiming a national championship when the NHRA Summit Racing Series National Championship kicks off next month in Pomona.

"I've thought about Pomona maybe twice this whole week; I still can't believe I actually won the bracket finals," Krajewski said. "I don't think it's quite hit me yet. I feel lucky to have gotten this far." **ND**

(Top) Chris Krajewski, far lane, edged Brian Balducci for the Division 1 title by getting to the finish line first by .003-second, 7.613 (7.60 dial) to an on-target 7.573 (7.57). (Above) Krajewski celebrated his tough nine-round victory with family, friends, and Cecil County Dragway teammates.

Division 1



Quarterfinalists: Doug Wade ('69 Camaro); Chris Krajewski (dragster); Barry Sauder ('72 Nova); Brian Balducci (dragster); Dave Deeds (dragster).

Quarters		
Krajewski	7.626	(7.62)
Wade	8.496	(8.47)
Balducci	7.581	(7.57)
Sauder	10.645	(10.63)
Deeds	7.384	(7.40)
Bye		
Semi's		
Krajewski	7.613	(7.61)
Deeds	7.283	(7.30)
Balducci	7.633	(7.59)
Bye		
Final		
Krajewski	7.613	(7.60)
Balducci	7.573	(7.57)

*red-light **breakout (dial)



Krajewski reserved his place in the final by hitting his 7.61 dial in the semifinals against Dave Deeds, who broke out.