



#70 Garrett Hansen (leader of USAC Western Midget Point standings, 23rd): “I’m just excited to get on a big, fast track. I’m not too nervous. I mean it’s always a little nerveracking, but I’m not nervous so it should be good. There’s a lot of grip out there, so it’s not as hard as you think. What makes the difference is the speed and the draft and just getting the car right is a big deal. Just a lot stiffer spring package than what I’m used to. That’s hard to get used to and so are the harder tires and more (air) pressure. All that stuff is a new ballgame for me. Last pavement race was Las Vegas, and I actually drove for somebody else. And we just kind of missed it (a fast set-up) with the other guy’s car, so we’re back on our own thing, trying to get back in our own groove. You can’t go out there and not finish. That doesn’t do you any good. We’ve got to get the highest position possible and still finish the race. I think we’ll be OK once I get out there and get in the draft and get more comfortable. We’re going to be just fine. I have to help myself and pick the speed up.”

#1 Cole Whitt (fourth) – “It was a good lap. We have a few cars left (to qualify) so we will see how it (the lap time) holds up. We’re sitting good right now and the car feels good. I think we have a good race car and that’s the main thing. (re: adjustments before the race) That’s up to (crew chief) Keith (Kunz). Hopefully everything stays good. I think we have a really good race car so I don’t think we’re going to have to do much. The track is good. It’s a big mile track, so we should be able to race just fine and be able to get around whoever we need to. Hopefully, it will be a good race.”

#4 Bobby East (pole winner): “It was a good run we haven’t been that fast all day or at least on top of the board so it’s cool to get the pole here at Phoenix. It always is, and everybody tries to gun for it. Last year, we swept this – won both poles and both features. We’re a quarter of the way there you could say. Just a little bit (of adjustments to make) before the race. Track’s in real good shape right now – it’s been pretty clean all day.”

#11D Bryan Clauson (2nd) – “It was alright (his qualifying lap). We were quite a bit better in practice and the track just kinda went away from us, but outside front row is a good spot for tonight’s Copper Classic. Hopefully we can get out up front and stay out of trouble and it gives us a good starting spot for the night. We will adjust the car a little bit. It’s kind of hard right now because we are racing in the dark. We have to go 25 laps and put full fuel in it and change a few little things, but we kind of have what we have right now. (re: change in track conditions from qualifying to the race) It will be a little bit different because you have the Camping World Truck Series on it for three hours before, so it will be a lot of rubber – not the same rubber we run, so it will be a different. But it should tighten up as the race goes on and ending up being overall tighter by the end of the race.”

USAC Silver Crown Race Pole Progression

First car out -- #155 Ryan Smith	26.946 sec.
Second car out -- #8 Davey Hamilton	26.642
Fourth car out -- #28 Scott Pierovich	26.150
Seventh car out -- #07 Jacob Wilson	25.988
Ninth car out -- #29 Bud Kaeding	25.978
11 th car out -- #22 Tracy Hines	25.777
13 th car out -- #30 Cole Whitt	25.762
14 th car out -- #10 Levi Jones	25.594
18 th car out -- #3 Jason Leffler	25.635