



## Emmons Brothers Dominate Fall Nationals

Courtesy of Todd Veney

Driving for the Lucas Oil/Hoosier Tire-backed Emmons Motorsports team, brothers Gary and Jerry Emmons pulled off the near-impossible at the NHRA Fall Nationals in Ennis, Texas, sweeping to victory over giant, national-caliber fields, Gary in Stock and Jerry in Super Stock. It was Gary's eighth career NHRA national event title and Jerry's 12th and brought the Emmons clan's overall total to a staggering 36 wins in NHRA national competition.

Gary was up first and defeated Slate Cummings, the second-ranked driver in the nation last season, cutting a near-perfect .003 reaction time in the final and covering the quarter-mile in 10.77 seconds at 114 mph. "From behind, I could see them up on the big screen, and they were just stuck together going across the finish line," Jerry said. "I closed my eyes and couldn't bear to look, but then I just had to see how it turned out. At that point, my heart was in my throat

because I really wanted us to double up. The last thing I remember thinking as I pulled up for the burnout was, 'Don't screw this up.' "

He didn't. With a better reaction time than that of his opponent, Chris Chaney, who currently in the top five in the NHRA national standings, Jerry took the final-round decision with a 9.86 at 132 mph. It was his fourth victory at the Dallas-area event; he also scored there three years ago in Stock over the same driver Gary took out this year, Cummings. "Our dad was pretty emotional at the finish line, and that's a little unusual for him," Jerry said. "He's sacrificed a lot for us to be able to do this."

Now, all four brothers have been part of a double win. Terry, who is a triplet with Gary and Jerry, teamed up with older brother Harvey III to dominate Super Stock and Stock, respectively, at the 1999 Pennzoil Nationals in Memphis. All four brothers also now have victories at the Texas Motorplex. Harvey III scored in Stock in 1997, Terry in Super Stock in 1999.

Before eliminations began, the Emmons brothers already had two class wins and nearly a third. Gary took the SS/JA title, Terry won SS/GA, and Jerry reached the final in GT/BA. They nearly had a third eliminator victory, too; Harvey advanced to the quarterfinals in Super Stock before falling to Chaney. Had he won, he would have had a semifinal bye and raced Jerry in the final.

"Speedy [Harvey III] was just murdering everyone," Jerry said. "He really would have been tough to beat in the final. All in all, this was one of our best weekends ever. Only a handful of brothers have ever doubled at a national event like this, and it was a great accomplishment for our whole team. We can't thank the people at Lucas Oil and Hoosier Tires enough."