



## **This year marks 25th year of derby**

***By Russ Pankonin***

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Demolition derby fans got treated to plenty of smashups, rear enders, and head-ons during this year's Chase County Fair Imperial Jaycees demo derby held Thursday night of fair week, Aug. 15.

This year's event marked the 25th annual derby held by the Jaycees and fans were treated to a derby worthy of a celebration.

The no-weld class drew a total of 17 cars, allowing for three preliminary heats before the main event.

The main event featured nine cars in what many fans considered the best heat they'd seen at the derby in recent years.

In the end, it was Jason Gohl of Culbertson in his 1972 Oldsmobile who outlasted Kevin Kugler, Sr., of Elsie in his 1984 Mercury.

This year's truck division drew three entries. J.J. Howard of Paxton won the top prize in the heat with his bruiser Suburban.

In the weld division, Larry Steinbeck of McCook punished the rest of the nine-car field to finish first with his 74 Buick.

Mike Stadler of Beaver City took the second place prize in the division.

As part of the incentive for drivers to be aggressive, the Jaycees add a \$250 prize in the no-weld and weld divisions.

Known as the "Mad Dog," the prize goes to the driver who is aggressive by hitting other cars, along with dishing out the hardest hit.

In the no-weld division, Karith Williams won the prize. Chad Cochran of Imperial won the prize in the weld division.

Results of the demo derby are as follows:

Trucks—1st, J.J. Howard, Paxton; 2nd, George Hallett, Paxton; 3rd, Mike Schilke, Imperial.

No welds—1st, Jason Gohl, Culbertson; 2nd, Kevin Kugler, Elsie; 3rd, Karith Williams, Grant; 4th, Lane Krug, Benkelman; 5th, Heath Teel, Indianola. Flag winner: Hunter Spady. Mad Dog: Karith Williams.

Weld—1st, Larry Steinbeck, McCook; 2nd, Mike Stadler, Beaver City; 3rd, Sean Mitchell, Imperial; 4th, Brandon Watson, North Platte; 5th, Jarrod Williams, Grant. Flag winner and Mad Dog: Chad Cochran.