



nasa
NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.
5250 Grand Avenue
Suite 14-387
Gurnee, IL 60031

Chicago, July 30, 2010, NASA Midwest, Inc.

Great Lakes Points Battle Heats Up at Mid-Ohio

Friday, July 23, 2010

Temperatures in the mid 90's greeted five Challenge Series racers as they arrived at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. In attendance were Gregg Wellinghoff Sr – 29, Brian Sanders – 49, Gregory Wellinghoff Jr. – 77, Mike Dzuirgalski – 169, and Wes Holiday – 8. Friday was a pretty typical setup day, Sanders was gracious enough to take Wellinghoff Sr.'s 29 out for a few laps to bed in new brakes. John Tongish of California brought his Factory Five roadster over to Mid-Ohio for the Friday track event, checking another of America's great race tracks off of his list. As it was Holiday's first NASA event of the season, Sanders took the time to perform his annual. Greg Jr. was the last to arrive at 6PM, and following his arrival, the drivers retired from the track for the evening.

Saturday July 24, 2010

The mercury again climbed into the 90's on Saturday as the race drivers took morning practice on Mid-Ohio's club course. Brian ran a fast lap in practice of 1:44:089, which was good enough for a Factory Five club course record. Everything ran smoothly, perhaps foreshadowing the events to come. After practice, Greg Jr. began installation of his new cool suit in his car. During his installation of the wiring to his switch panel he managed to knock his fuel pump power source loose and blow his 50AMP alternator fuse. With no spare, he had to leave the track to head to O'Reilly Auto Parts in Mansfield for a new fuse. He arrived back at the track before qualifying and managed to get the fuse replaced and the car buttoned up, for qualifying as the racers took to the track, but the loose fuel wire was causing intermittent issues in the paddock and he had to tear the dash down again before locating the loose connection, thus missing qualifying.

Potential new racer, Eileen Baker brought her car to Mid-Ohio for its first NASA HPDE. The Factory Five racers were pleased to meet her and welcomed her to the Great Lakes family. Brian ran a session instructing with her to offer his opinion on the handling of the car. It was good to see another new Factory Five Challenge car in attendance as our series continues to grow.

Qualifying was short for the racers as an AI car blew a motor in the braking zone at the end of the backstretch on the fourth lap, causing the 49 of Brian to spin. Fortunately, he did not make contact with anything. NASA black flagged the session in order to take care of a hazardous situation. Brian took the pole, followed by Gregg Sr., Mike, and Wes. Greg Jr. would start last after not running a qualification attempt. The drivers enjoyed lunch at the track and then had nearly a five hour break before their race. After performing a few miscellaneous cleanup items on their cars (air pressure adjustments, fueling, windshield cleaning) the drivers decided they had had enough of the 90+ degree heat. Gregg Sr., Brian, Mike, and Greg Jr. piled into a truck and headed to town for some ice cream. Steak and Shake was the venue of choice for these dedicated individuals as they relaxed in the A/C and enjoyed milkshakes. They



nasa
NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.
5250 Grand Avenue
Suite 14-387
Gurnee, IL 60031

returned to the track with approximately two hours to race time and relaxed in the heat, feeling refreshed.

Race time arrived and all five drivers took to the track, thus meeting the Toyo requirement for \$310 in additional contingency monies for that race, and putting the Great Lakes region drivers closer to the \$1750 regional championship contingency. Brian took the early lead with Gregg Sr. close behind as they moved through a cluster of AI cars on the first lap. Greg Jr. passed Wes at the start of the race and began a back and forth, side by side battle with Mike that lasted the duration of the race. Gregg Sr. started losing power on lap 4 and Mike and Greg Jr. passed him as they continued their second place battle behind Sanders. Gregg Sr. retired to the trailer on lap 7. In the end Brian took the win and 100 needed championship points, followed by Mike in second place by .483 seconds over Greg Jr. as they drag raced to the checkered flag. Wes finished in fourth place.

The racers returned to their trailers and congratulated each other on a great race, before beginning work on Gregg Sr.'s 29. The first order of business was to change the fuel filter. A brief test following the change seemed to indicate the problem was fixed and the racers retired to their accommodations for the evening.

Sunday July 25, 2010

Sunday morning brought cooler temperatures to Mid-Ohio as rain was all around. Gregg Sr. took morning practice in the rain to ensure his problem was fixed and returned on the first lap feeling like the car's power issue was fixed. The rest decided to stay in and dry. As the drivers lounged around in the rain, Wes dropped by to inform the rest of the racers that he would also be heading out early for personal reasons. With significant Toyo money on the line, the disappointed racers attempted to talk Wes into staying to no avail.

Qualifying also saw light rainfall on a very wet track. Greg Jr. was the only racer to go out for qualifying. His run was short lived as multiple out of class cars found themselves sliding off track. He returned to the trailer on lap 2 of qualifying as the session was black flagged due to a CMC car spinning into the wall and blocking the front straightaway. As the only car to run the session, Greg Jr. claimed the pole. NASA organized the remaining racers according to car number, with Gregg Sr. starting second, followed by Brian and Mike. Again, the racers spent the afternoon relaxing in lounge chairs before race time.

Race time rolled around and the rain had moved out of the area, giving the race group a dry track. Greg Jr. led the racers through the green flag, and worked his way around a few AI cars that seemed to have a bad start. Gregg Sr. made a pass for the lead going into the keyhole on lap 2 as the field became more single file. Brian followed in third and Mike in fourth having a vicious battle with a slow AI that prevented him from keeping up with the FFR's in his class. The running order remained Gregg Sr., Greg Jr., and Brian into lap 5, when Greg Jr. hit a slick spot in turn 11 causing him to slide off track into the grass, a quick recovery returned Greg Jr. to the track a few car lengths behind Brian. Gregg Sr. again suffered a loss of horsepower on lap 8, allowing Brian and Greg Jr. to pass him. The running order remained Brian, followed by Greg Jr., Gregg Sr. to the checkers. The racers returned to their trailers with Greg Jr. and Gregg Sr. somewhat disappointed in their performance while Brian was happy with another 100 point



nasa
NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.
5250 Grand Avenue
Suite 14-387
Gurnee, IL 60031

win, moving him from third in points to tied for first. While the current points leader Gregg Sr. now shared the points lead.

The racers bid their farewells to each other and set out for home.

The NASA Great Lakes region's next race is at Mid-Ohio on August 13-15, when the East Coast Challenge racers come over to the Great Lakes turf for a rematch of their earlier exploits.

---Gregory Wellinghoff Jr. 77

For complete results and a list of lap records, please see www.nasamidwest.com

NASA Contact:
Bryan Cohn
Director of Competition
NASA Midwest, Inc.
bcohn@nasamidwest.com