



nasa
NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

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

Chicago, June 16, 2011, NASA Midwest, Inc.

Grrrrrattan Tamed By Factory Five Racers

NASA Great Lakes returned to Grattan Raceway in Belding, Michigan on June 11 & 12. The newly paved track gave way to some great lap times and numerous track records fell to the various run groups throughout the weekend.

Saturday June 11, 2011



Great Lakes regulars Brian Sanders – 49, Gregg Wellinghoff Sr. – 29, Gregory Wellinghoff Jr. – 77 and Midwest regular Team Riki Tiki Tavi – 09 were ready to go on Saturday morning. Additionally, Todd Ayers brought his Factory Five up to continue to shake his car down in HPDE. The Wellinghoffs participated in track orientation as it was their first time at Grattan Raceway. Morning practice saw all of the racers take to the slightly wet track and get a feel for the new surface. Sanders and the Wellinghoffs went out on their full tread tires while team Tavi went out on their dry tires. Team Riki Tiki Tavi with Lyle Riggen at the helm set the fast time of the session at 1:32.724. Qualifying found all the racers on their dry tires and team Tavi again set fast time at 1:31.668 followed by Sanders, Wellinghoff Jr. and Wellinghoff Sr. The drivers lounged around most of the afternoon relaxing while waiting on their 3:45 race.



nasa
NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

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

The race began with team Tavi, under the control of Lyle Riggen, jumping out to an early lead while Wellinghoff Jr. moved up the inside into second place followed by Sanders and Wellinghoff Sr. The racers remained in this order until lap 5 when Sanders missed a shift and had his car shutdown on the main straightaway. As he was unable to get the car re-fired he spent the remainder of the race, just past start/finish, in the grass, fearing he had a blown motor. Full course caution came out on lap 7 for an off track BMW. As the field bunched back up and the yellow flag was lifted, Wellinghoff Jr. shot around Riggen into the lead as he misinterpreted the restart rules. Wellinghoff Jr. and Riggen traded the lead back and forth over the next few laps before Wellinghoff Jr. began to have clutch cable issues. Riggen then pulled away from Wellinghoff Jr. who had his hands full trying to hold off Wellinghoff Sr. without shifting. On lap 15 Wellinghoff Jr.'s power steering went out (split high pressure line) and Wellinghoff Jr. spun off track on the white flag lap. Frustrated, Wellinghoff Jr. pulled his broken machine into the paddock. Team Tavi won with ease followed by Wellinghoff Sr.



The racers retired to the paddock and began inspecting Sanders machine, which re-fired, much to Sanders amazement and relief. Work began on Wellinghoff Jr.'s 77 as the racers determined what parts would be needed to repair the machine. Finally the racers retired from the track for the evening.



nasa
NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

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

Sunday June 13, 2011

Early morning found the Wellinghoffs and Todd Ayers working on the 77 machine. Brian arrived and helped finish up the work in time to get the car on track for morning qualifying. As Sunday was a 2 race day, morning practice was replaced with a qualifying session for race # 1. Team Tavi, again with Lyle Rikken at the helm, set fast time of 1:30.110, followed by Sanders at 1:31.350, Wellinghoff Jr. at 1:32.950 and Wellinghoff Sr. at 1:33.688. The first Sunday race began with Wellinghoff Jr. again shooting to the inside and managing to get in front of Rikken and take the lead, while Wellinghoff Sr. managed to pass both Sanders and Rikken to move into second. Rikken worked his way back around Wellinghoff Sr. and then caught up and passed Wellinghoff Jr. on lap 8. The racers would stay in this order to the finish. Team Tavi set a NASA lap record time of 1:30.628 during the race.



The racers relaxed for a few hours after making a few air pressure adjustments on their cars. Team Tavi decided to make a driver change for the second race in order to give Julie Rikken some experience. The starting order for race #2 saw Julie Rikken on the pole, followed by Wellinghoff Jr., Wellinghoff Sr., and Sanders. The start of the race found the Factory Five starters faced with a 4 wide wall of GTS cars as they went down into turn 1. Wellinghoff Sr. chose the best line and came through turn 1 in first followed by Wellinghoff Jr., Sanders, and Rikken. The racers stayed nose to tail for the first couple of laps until Wellinghoff Sr. went wide in turn 10, giving Wellinghoff Jr. an opening to take the lead. Wellinghoff Jr. managed to check



nasa
NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

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

out on the hard fought battle for second place between Wellinghoff Sr. and Sanders. This duo battled all the way to the end where Wellinghoff Sr. edged out Sanders by .087 seconds for 2nd place. Riggen took the checkers in fourth following a couple of spins taken while learning the track.

The racers retired to the trailers to congratulate each other on a competitive and clean weekend of racing.

Next up for the Great Lakes Racers is Mid-Ohio July 15-17, when the East Coast racers will join for a regional battle.

-- Greg Wellinghoff Jr.

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