



NASA Midwest Inc.
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Chicago, August 22, 2011, NASA Midwest, Inc.

Kaiser & George Spilt Wins at August Mid-Ohio

Friday August 12, 2011

NASA practice day at Mid-Ohio saw Factory Five racers', John George, Carl Thompson, Lyle Riggen and Brian Sanders take a few laps during the day. All in all the practice sessions were fairly uneventful as the racers checked their cars over and worked on their technique for the weekends races. Paul Arnold and his Family were in attendance including his son Raife who participated in time trials. Raife has ordered a new kit and is expected to join the series as a regular in 2012. Gregory Wellinghoff and his crewman Greg Hall, spent the day replacing the 77 clutch while Gregg Wellinghoff & Mike Dziurgalski lounged around the paddock for the afternoon. Paul Kaiser and Wes Holiday arrived late in the day. Unfortunately Wes Holiday was unable to pass his annual inspection with his car and was forced to run time trials for the weekend.

Saturday August 13, 2011

A beautiful morning greeted the racers as they arrived at the track to take morning practice. As the racers were running in the lightning group with Spec Miata, they chose to grid up early to ensure they would have no traffic issues early on and be able to get up front in qualifying. Paul Kaiser set fast time in morning practice at 1:40.051. Unfortunately Paul Arnold's car lost power during morning practice and work on the car throughout the morning discovered no compression in 2 cylinders. Further diagnosis of the problem led to the diagnosis of bent valves, likely resulting from a missed shift on Friday.

Qualifying saw the racers head out to a fast track and George set fast lap at 1:39.023, followed by Wellinghoff Jr. – 1:40.109, Kaiser – 1:40.766, Riggen – 1:41.199 (thanks to some good advice), Wellinghoff Sr. – 1:41.514, Sanders – 1:41.646, Thompson – 1:42.519, and Dziurgalski – 1:49.788. Unfortunately Dziurgalski had issues with his accelerator pedal breaking and had to retire early. Fortunately he was able to repair his pedal with some JB weld before race time. With starting grid set, the racers enjoyed some of Carl's cooking in the paddock, sad to be down another car before the Saturday race.

Race time saw beautiful sunshine down on a cool and fast racetrack. George pulled ahead of Wellinghoff Jr. at the race start and Kaiser also passed Wellinghoff Jr. during the first lap. Thompson moved around Sanders and Wellinghoff Sr. in the early going and moved into 5th behind Riggen. George and Kaiser pulled away from the field and battled back and forth for the lead with Kaiser eventually overcoming George and finishing first. Wellinghoff Jr. had a relatively boring race in third, too far behind the leaders to catch up and far enough ahead of Riggen and Thompson to not have pressure. Thompson passed Riggen halfway through the race and finished 4th followed by Riggen. Wellinghoff Sr. and Sanders raced side to side, front to back for the entire race, with Wellinghoff Sr. barely edging out Sanders for 6th. Dziurgalski's accelerator pedal problems renewed themselves during the race and he finished 8th.

The racers retired to the paddock and swapped their stories from the race, with very little work to be done on the cars that evening.



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Sunday August 14, 2011

Sunday morning practice saw the racers without the car of Mike Dziurgalski as his accelerator pedal problem was unable to be fixed at the track. The remaining racers went out and ran an uneventful session. Unfortunately the rains moved into the area shortly after practice. Many of the racers chose to change over to their full tread tires prior to qualifying.

Qualifying saw only Kaiser, George, Thompson, Wellinghoff Sr., and Wellinghoff Jr. venture out into the rain. The session was shortened by a black flag all, followed by a red flag on the second lap as various cars of the lightening group spun off track in a variety of places. Carl Thompson was nearly hit by a Miata that did not observe the red flag, creating a dangerous on track situation. The starting grid was set with Kaiser on the pole, followed by George, Thompson, Wellinghoff Sr., Wellinghoff Jr., Riggen, and Sanders.

Race time saw the skies over Mid-Ohio threatening rain on an otherwise dry track. This led to a mismatch of choices between full treads and slicks on the cars. Kaiser, Riggen, Sanders, and Wellinghoff Jr. chose to have their slicks mounted for the race, while Wellinghoff Sr., George, and Thompson chose to mount their full treads. As if the weather was on the NASA schedule the cars were waved from the paddock as the skies opened up. Sanders peeled off back to his trailer, while the remaining racers took the pace lap in a drenching rain that saw standing water across the track out of turn 4. Riggen pulled into the pits at the end of the pace lap. As the five remaining cars came towards the flagstand for the start, the starter waved off the green giving the 1 to go signal. Wellinghoff Jr. (being in a tight points battle) pulled into the paddock and quickly changed his tires from slicks to full treads with the help of Greg Hall. The green flag was thrown and George, Wellinghoff Sr. and Thompson all moved around Kaiser who came into the pits following the start. Wellinghoff Jr. made it back onto the track as the green flew and started the race two laps down in fourth. The few remaining racers finished with George in first, followed by Wellinghoff Sr., Thompson, and Wellinghoff Jr.

Happy that all of the cars were in one piece, the racers retired to their trailers and packed up for the trip home.

Next up for the Challenge Series is Nationals at Mid Ohio on September 10.

Next up for the Great Lakes racers is Autobahn on September 17, 18.

Next up for the East Coast Racers is Watkins Glen on October 1,2.

Greg Wellinghoff Jr.