

Great Lakes Factory Fives Return with a Vengeance in 2012.



Friday, April 13

Friday practice saw Factory Five drivers Rafe Baskin, Eric Kostamaa, and Brian Sanders enjoy a pleasant day of breaking in their upgraded racecars. Off season rules changes gave the Factory Fives' a number of upgrades including a 3.27 rear end, front swaybar, upgraded front brakes, and a new Trick Flow engine top end. All in all the new upgrades had the racers feeling like kids in a candy store their first time out. New racer Mike Tuck also paddocked with the racers in his number 60 Challenge Car that he enjoyed running in HPDE through the weekend. Wellinghoff Jr. arrived late Friday night.



Saturday, April 14

The last thing a bunch of racers with fast new cars wanted to see was a rainy Saturday morning, unfortunately that is exactly what they received, with a forecast that called for rain all day. Rafe, Gregory, Brian and Eric took morning practice in the rain and enjoyed a little slipping and sliding. Qualifying saw three racers venture out for more slipping and sliding without serious incident while Brian sat in the dry in the paddock. Race time saw Brian join the others for some fun in the rain as well. The starting order was Rafe, Greg, Eric, and Brian. As the green flag flew the racers stayed in this order taking it relatively cautious in the wet. Rafe spun off track in turn 13 into the guardrail with light damage to the rear, giving the lead to Greg, while Brian followed a close second. Rafe managed to get the car going and returned to the race, taking back the lead on lap 3 and running away with it. Although Rafe enjoyed a few other off track experiences during the race, he managed to finish with his first series victory by a comfortable margin.



The wet racers returned from the track to dry out and enjoy dinner away from the rain.

Sunday, April 15

Morning practice gave the racers a somewhat slick track and Greg bounced his car off the tire barrier in turn 7, while Rafe buried his car in the sand trap on the outside of turn 10. All the cars returned to the paddock with both Rafe's and Greg's car needing to have tires remounted to remove gravel. Qualifying saw Greg edge out Rafe for the pole followed by Brian and Eric. The beginning of the race saw Rafe jump out to an early lead followed by Greg, Brian and Eric. Rafe and Greg broke away and battled nose to tail through traffic throughout the race until an out of control GTS car caused Rafe to check up and Greg to get alongside in turn 6,7,8 before completing the pass for the lead with 3 laps to go. Rafe was unable to keep up with Greg after the pass and finished in second, followed by Brian and Eric.

Following a great battle Greg and Rafe congratulated each other on a thrilling race.

Next up for the Great Lakes Racers is Putnam Park May 11-13.