

Wild Weather Greet Great Lakes Factory Five Racers at Mid-Ohio.

Friday June 29, 2012

Fridays test and tune was incredibly hot, as temperatures climbed into the upper 90's. Participating in the test day were racers, Wayne Patterson, Paul Arnold, Brian Sanders, Gregg Wellinghoff Sr. and Peter LaRose. Gregg Sr. started the day off on an ominous note as he got the car out of shape coming over the jump into Thunder Valley and came to rest against the outside wall, suffering no damage to the car. He would have gotten away with telling everyone nothing happened if we hadn't seen him sitting there. He just couldn't get the car to re-fire. The worst part of this was the fact that he came to a stop at a point neither flag station could see him. Drivers on track passed him at least twice before a yellow flag was ever displayed. The rest of the day went without incident as the drivers tried to figure out how to get the most out the cars in the hot track conditions. The racers were given a heads up to pack up there equipment before the last session of the day due to approaching severe storms, and fortunately were able to heed the warning as high winds blew through the track wrecking havoc on pop up tents and taking down numerous trees and the power in the town of Lexington. Lexington would remain without power throughout the weekend as a result of the storm.

Saturday June 30, 2012

Saturday morning practice saw rain fall on the track and only Paul took practice. During practice his car made contact with a Mustang and Paul was initially found at fault, however following an investigation by the race director, Paul was no longer considered at fault in the incident. Qualifying saw Gregg Sr. on the pole, followed by Wayne, Brian, and Peter. Greg Wellinghoff Jr. and Paul did not participate in qualifying and started 5th and 6th respectively. Greg Wellinghoff Jr. would finally show up Saturday afternoon in time for the first race of the weekend. This was due to poor planning on his part by scheduling his wedding and subsequent wedding anniversaries on what would later prove to be a race weekend. The race was fairly eventful as an AI car spun 3 turns into the race blocking the middle of the track as the Factory Five cars came by. As the racers completed lap 1 it was Paul, Gregg Sr., Greg Jr, Wayne, Peter, Brian. Greg Jr. spun on lap 3 and fell back to 5th. Greg Jr. and Brian gradually worked their way around Peter, then Wayne, and then Gregg Sr. Wayne hit the wall hard in Thunder Valley on the white flag lap and was unable to continue. At the checkers it was Paul, Greg Jr., Brian, Gregg Sr., Peter, Wayne. Greg Jr had to take off right after the race to make a dinner reservation. Wayne, Mark Daugherty, and Greg Hall worked into the night to repair Wayne's damaged racer.



Tennessee Tuxedo makes an appearance in the FFR paddock

Sunday July 1, 2012

Sunday morning practice was uneventful as was qualifying as the racers played with their setups on their cars. Race time saw a much tamer race than Saturday. Paul sat on the pole followed by Brian, Gregg Sr., Greg Jr., Wayne, Peter. Greg Jr. and Gregg Sr. passed Brian on the opening lap and Greg Jr. passed Gregg Sr. at the end of the opening lap. After these passes the Factory Five field had its finishing order sorted out for the duration of the race. Paul took the win, followed by Greg Jr, Gregg Sr., Brian, Wayne, Peter.

Next up for the Great Lakes Racers is Mid-Ohio August 10-12.

-- Greg Wellinghoff Jr.