



Kirila Finishes 10th at Hickory Motor Speedway

Kirila Race Update 9-1-09

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The Hickory Motor Speedway hosted the Pro All Star Series (PASS) for the “Over the Mountain 150” on Saturday, August 29, 2009. Gene headed to the track with the David Stremme Racing Team ready to make his mark. After several rain outs keeping him from racing recently he was determined to make this count.

With so much time away from the car, it was key to get things dialed in as quickly as possible. Crew Chief Jim King and the rest of the Stremme team worked with Gene to get the car set up and ready for the 150 lap race.

Kirila’s qualifying run was within 3/10 of a second from the pole position but not quick enough to make the main. Gene needed to run in the last chance race. He had to finish in the top 6 to make the feature.

During the 15 lap last chance race, in turn 1 of the 1st lap, another driver got into the back bumper of Kirila’s #05 and spun him around. He had to go to the back. He was on a mission for the next 14 laps, There was some aggressive driving going on in the 14 laps but it caught everyone’s attention as the Gorilla kept the 7th place car on his outside door for 3 laps. Then as they exited turn four, the #05 squeezed the contender up the track. This gave the #05 a 3 foot clearance at the finish line and the 6th and final position for the main event.

The crowd was quick to recognize that Kirila kept the final transfer car right where he could manage the competitor, vs. passing the car and then permitting the challenger to be behind the #05. Gene later said in an interview “I knew his bumper could have spun me out of the main event. I kept him right where I could manage him.” These moves pumped up the #05 crew and fans. With the

limited number of races within the paved late mode schedule, it has not provided Gene with the opportunity to show his racing ability as planned. This last chance race highlighted intelligence, aggressiveness and composure all in one race.



Gene on the track in his #05 late model

Kirila started 26th during the 150 lap feature and was patient throughout the 1st half. He passed when possible and moved his way up to 7th place by lap 90. With several yellow flags and wrecks within those 90 laps, he did very well to stay out of trouble. During a yellow flag restart, the officials placed Gene in the back of the pack because Gene and other drivers were jockeying for position under yellow. Clearly the officials were not playing around. He restarted in 16th place and again drove his way back up through the pack and took the checkered for a 10th place finish. The #05 team just ran out of laps coming from the tail. “We should have had a top 5 finish.” Said Kirila.

Although there was disappointment with a bad tower call, our team was very happy with the 10th place finish and we brought the car home in one piece.

Thank you for all your support and wishes of good luck. All of our fans were behind us for this great finish!