



Fate Has the Gorilla's Feet going in two Directions ... "Temporarily"

Kirila Race Update 10-30-08

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Gene Kirila III and his race team have some big news. Starting with the good news first: Gene has been selected as one of 28 out of 704 drivers to participate in the Ron Sutton driver career development shoot out event in California. The contest is held to select the best driver's that the Ron Sutton Program could find for the 2009 season. The top 6 of those drivers will be given a full scholarship to participate in Ron Sutton's career development program. During the past several months Gene has gone through an extensive interview process that was based on his driving experience, personal interviews with the race series directors and his race results. Two weeks ago Gene got the call from program director Ron Sutton to pack his bags and head to Sacramento, CA for the shoot out. This is Gene's chance to show the West coast scouts his stuff. The shoot out is a great test of drivers' skills. The 3 day weekend consists of media testing, personal interviews, sports psychology testing and a track test day in a Ford Focus Midget. The weekend of events is to select the top drivers who will get a ride in 2009 under the direction of Sutton's program. Each racer is going to be matched up with a pro race team for 2009 and run their equipment for the season. The program has a combination of Sprint Cars, Late Models, Formula Ford cars and Midgets. These high profile team's take drivers and train them to become talent for the next level of racing. Gene and our team have been very excited about this excellent opportunity. Being one of the youngest drivers selected really boosts Gene's confidence. He is scheduled to test next weekend, November 7, 8, and 9th. **And now the bad news...**

All this came "crashing" down.

In a freak accident today on Gene's home farm in Pennsylvania, he fell off a 3-rail horse fence, got his leg tangled up and crashed to the ground breaking

his right lower leg. It was not pretty; one foot was just going the wrong way. Dad asked if he should call Crew Chief Tony Blanchard to fix his wheel but the tow was too far out (Race Humor). Gene is going to have his leg set and a rod put into his bone during surgery next Tuesday. If there was a place to break it, it was the leg bone and not the ankle. He was lucky and all prognoses are that he will be just fine. Aside from the broken heart that will ache due to missing the California Shoot Out and a couple of races planned for the end of this year, Gene is taking this time to get ahead on his home schooling, lifting weights with his upper body and lots of time on the race simulator.



Gene with Tony Stewart July 2008

We are big believers in faith and know that someone more powerful has his best interests in mind with different plans for Gene this fall. We are blessed that his leg is repairable and at 15 years old he will have plenty of time for more shoot outs and races. The major lesson in this event is about how quickly life can change and Gene knows that he is well balanced to handle these little detours. His cast is not even dry and he is already communicating with the team to let them know that this is just like any other crash, you get busy and fix it.

Thanks for all your support and we will keep you posted.