



Top 10 Finish at the Easter Bunny 150

Kirila Race Team Update 4-12-09

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The legendary Hickory Motor Speedway in Hickory, NC hosted the PASS (Pro All Star Series) South this weekend. The 150 lap race was called the Easter Bunny 150. With NASCAR being off Easter weekend the field was littered with NASCAR talent both in the race and in the pits. This high profile race is a great chance for drivers and crews to show their stuff.

The David Stremme Racing Team's crew chief, Jim King set up the #05 car so well for Gene he was able to qualify 5th out of 43 cars. Only the top 26 cars made the main feature. Gene's qualifying time was 15.123. There was only .02 seconds between the 2nd and 5th place qualifying spots. The 10 fastest qualifiers had to draw a pill to determine their starting order. Gene pulled a 7 placing him in 7th to start the race.



Gene discusses strategy with David Stremme

The race began and Gene drove hard working to stay out of trouble and keep his #05 up in the front of the pack. By lap 67 a spin occurred in front of Gene causing him to have to stop his car in order to avoid hitting anyone. The officials placed him in the back of the field after claiming the 05 was involved in the wreckage, but clearly Gene had stopped short of the pile, the controversial call created some heated debate but to no avail. Gene was order to the rear of the field. He began his first of two charges from the rear of the field. With the race loaded with the best of veteran Late Model Racers Gene built on his reputation of racing clean and hard as he charged forward. He began moving up through the field again passing the cars and being patient as he made his way toward the front. When he was up to 7th place again by lap 116, there was a restart.

During the congestion on the back stretch after the green flag flew, a driver recklessly got underneath Gene's rear causing him to spin. Gene tried to save it, but the car came around on him. Gene was able to hold his car off the wall but this brought out the yellow and placed him to the rear of the field again. With only 34 laps to go, he had a lot of ground to make up. Gene passed his way up through the field to take the checkered flag in 10th place.

He won the award for passing the most cars during the race but the two incidents that moved him to the rear were just tough breaks. Car owner David Stremme was excited about the skill level that Gene illustrated as he picked through the field. Gene's strong 5th place qualifying run and dominate driving on the track, the Stremme crew is convinced Kirila will be a contender this season. Crew Chief Jim King said "tonight we had some bad breaks but we proved tonight we got a driver and car combination that will be a force to contend with. Kirila ran door to door with 15 year vets and track champions which showed me I got a driver."

Being a part of the David Stremme Racing Team is such a great opportunity for Gene. There is no doubt that the level of knowledge, skills and team members is top notch.



Autograph session brings many fans.

Thank you to David Stremme – team owner, Jim King – crew chief, Ryan Dubois – spotter and all of the team members who helped getting the car ready and supporting Gene at the track.