



Kirila Proves to Have What it Takes, Even Though Dillon Speedway is a Dilly at Lap 64

Kirila Race Update 6-16-08

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The Dillon Motor Speedway in Dillon, SC was host to the ASA Southeast Tobaccoville 100 race. The Kirila race team knew that with our smaller crate engine, running against the other teams who had larger motors and up to 80 horsepower more than we had, it would be a real challenge to compete.

In spite of the engine size difference, it became evident throughout the practice, qualifying and racing during the weekend that our young driver was able to wheel the equipment he had to what is showing to be higher skill levels than were expected from anyone.

Gene qualified in 18th place. An added test to the lack of horse power was a malfunction with the 2- way radio between our crew chief, Tony and driver. Gene was unable to communicate properly and by halfway through the race lost complete radio communication. With no spotter for the driver it can make for difficulty and trouble.

The race got underway and Kirila was moving up through the field very well. Through the corners he was one of the fastest cars on the track, the problem was the drag race down the straight-aways where he was not as fast. During the first 55 laps, he moved up to 11th place. At lap 64, there were several cars in front of Gene who were battling for position and after getting 3 wide, one of the cars slid up the track and caused a spin in front of the #05. At the time, Gene was going for a pass for 10th place. Kirila had nowhere to go and was caught up in the wreck. With a broken oil line due to the front end collision, Gene's car became enflamed. He was able to get out of the car very quickly and was fine. The damage to the nose of the car was pretty minor. Since the last 2 races scored two top ten finishes, our team's 14th place finish this week was a bit disappointing, but the performance of our driver was anything but that.

Robert Torrey, who's nickname is "Bucket" was at the track and watching our driver with a critical eye. Bucket has been around the race industry for a long time with experience as a winning crew chief in the ARCA, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series and several other racing series. His comments regarding Gene's performance were extremely positive. He gave our team some very good feedback and said that Gene has shown many very advanced abilities especially for his age. We are grateful for his input.

There have been a few changes to our race schedule already this season (as expected since this is a season to get an idea of how fast Gene learns to race his late model. We currently think he is on an accelerated pace). One of the schedule changes was our hopes to race at Lake Erie Speedway the weekend of June 7th. Unfortunately, with the track sanctioning being NASCAR, the minimum age requirement is 16 years old. This posed a problem seeing that Gene is only 15.

Another schedule change is for next weekend. We will not be racing at New Smyrna Speedway so that we can get ready to race the weekend of June 28th at the Speedway at Mansfield Motorsports Park in Mansfield, OH (closer to home). We will be racing with the ASA Challenge Series.

Many of you had discussed attending one of our local races. If you would like to plan to attend, the race at Mansfield on June 28th, please contact Ginger – ginger@kirilaracing.com. We are organizing a group trip to the track and a hospitality area for our fans and sponsors. More information and details will be sent later this week.

As always thanks to our many supporters, friends, family, fans, team members: Tony, Marty, Chris, Tony and Fred. We really appreciate all of your feedback and support!!