



Kirila places 16th at the Mansfield Motorsports Park **Kirila Race Update 6-30-08**

Author: Ginger Kirila

Our team raced at Mansfield Motorsports Park in Mansfield, OH this past weekend. First of all we would like to thank all of our fans who came to the track to support us and watch Gene race.

Gene finished 16th despite mechanical difficulties. It was the ASA Challenge series that hosted this weekend's race and our first time racing with them.

Our crew chief, Tony Blanchard, put an ignition box on the car which is mandatory and given to each team by the ASA series. During Saturday's practice the engine hadn't sounded quite right compared to Friday's practice and the car was running slower. Tony made several gear changes and other adjustments to try to fix the problem.



Gene II coaching our driver during practice

The heavy rain came during the late afternoon and qualifying was cancelled. The race officials decided to line up the start of the feature based on series point's standings and since this was Gene's first time racing with this series, he had to start in the back.

The race began and Gene was hanging back and getting in a groove. As he was decelerating going into the turns, there were flames coming out of the

exhaust. This threw up a red flag in our crew chief's mind and when Gene told him the car seemed to be losing power, at lap 21 of the 200 lap feature, Tony told him to come into the pits.

Our crew, Chris, Tony Stevens and Gene II worked as quickly as they could to try to resolve the problem. After checking the plug wires and other parts, they sent Gene back out on the track. Our driver could tell immediately that the engine still was having trouble, so he came back into the pits.



Getting the #05 car ready in the pits

The team finally diagnosed the problem and narrowed it down to the ignition box malfunctioning, the one supplied by the ASA racing series. By the time the box was switched out, Gene was about 30 laps down. He went back out and did his best to stay out of trouble and complete as many laps as possible.

The laps and seat time were what our team had to settle for, but starting 21st and finishing 16th was pretty good for our young driver.

Next week 7/5/08 we will be in Nashville, TN at the Music City Motorplex for the Nashville 100 race. Visit us at www.kirilaracing.com