



# First Race at “The Rock” Kirila Finishes 12<sup>th</sup>

Kirila Race Update 7-6-09

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Rockingham Motor Speedway was host of the Cherry Bomb 100 lap ASA Challenge series race on Saturday, July 4, 2009. Gene drove very well during his first 1 mile track race and our team was very excited to finish 12<sup>th</sup>.



*Gene on the track during practice at Rockingham*

Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> was practice and qualifying. Kirila qualified in the 16<sup>th</sup> spot. He improved his time by six tenths between the practice and the qualifying runs.

As the race got underway Saturday at about 1:30 p.m., Gene took the green and stuck with the pack. The average speed was 155 miles per hour and he had his hands full with a loose car.



*In the pits by the David Stremme Racing hauler*

With several pit stops to adjust the car, Gene was able to race his way up to 9<sup>th</sup> place by

lap 45. There was a competition caution at lap 50 to change tires and make additional adjustments. He was not feeling really comfortable with the handling of the car, but at this larger track, there were many new factors to get used to.

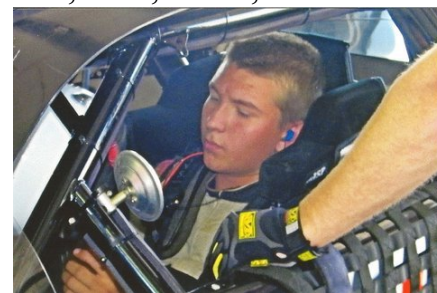


*#05 in the garage*

During the second half of the race, Gene battled for position keeping it in the top 10 through lap 70. He drove as hard as he could but dropped back 2 spots during the last 20 laps.

Despite many issues to deal with, his final 12<sup>th</sup> place finish was celebrated by the team. At a historic track like Rockingham (The Rock), Gene did a great job during the Cheerwine Cherry Bomb 100 race.

Thanks to the David Stremme Racing team: Jim, Don, Chris, Chris and Ryan.



*Gene getting ready to go racing.*