



Kirila Gorilla climbs to a No. 7 on the Charts in Music City

Kirila Race Update 7-7-08

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Gene Kirila III's smooth driving style provided him the tire management he needed to make a late race charge for a 7th place finish at Nashville, Tennessee's Music City Motorplex. This was Gene's first time at Nashville, and only his 8th 100 lap race.

With the Gorilla running multiple series this year in order to keep his "rookie" status for 2009, the #05 is at a horsepower disadvantage running with the ASA Southeast series. With this disadvantage, it does teach our driver momentum and clearly, Gene had momentum this 4th of July weekend.



Gene gets ready to qualify at Music City Motorplex

With the Kirila Gorilla team giving up horsepower, we qualified 17th, but the field was extremely competitive. Qualifying just .1 (1/10th) of a second faster would have given the #05 an 8th place starting position. Crew chief, Tony Blanchard was excited to see Gene turn in a great qualifying run against the big engine crowd. Gene turned a blistering 5/10ths improvement from much of the practice earlier that day. The qualifying experience is starting to pay dividends.

When the green flag dropped on the 100 lap race, Gene settled into his 17th place starting spot and held his position for the first 25 laps. From lap 25 to lap 67, Gene held off some fast cars as he ran multiple lines and some aggressive driving, but it was taxing the car and tires a little more than planned. With few cautions during the first half of the race, the #05's game-plan was coming together. Tony and Gene decided to run a long run set-up and keep the tires for the end of the race. So during lap 67, the caution came out and the call came over the radio from Tony to Gene, "Get R Done".

When the re-start kicked in, Gene was wheelin' it. As he battled with multiple cars for multi lap door to door racing in order to pass 1 driver, he earned a lot of respect

from the seasoned field, many who were twice the 15-year-old's age. Gene also hung out on the outside for several laps for some high groove passes on this high banked 5/10th mile speedway.

These high groove and outside veteran moves caught the eye of everyone and produced gracious "at a boy" comments from the officials, race fans and fellow competitors after the race. Gene's late race charge earned him another "hard charger" award and put everyone at the track on notice that the Gorilla will be a contender the next time he returns to Music City. The race was free of mechanical problems and Gene did an excellent job of missing several wrecks.



Gene in his #05

Nashville is the home of country music and Kenny Chesney's concert was just a few miles up the road from the track Saturday night for Music City's 4th of July weekend celebration here in Nashville.

The team is pumped up about our 3rd top 10 finish in just eight 100 lap races. Recognizing the horsepower handicap and the performance so far this year, has people talking about the talent Gene is developing.

Thanks for all the support!! Our team will be in North Carolina both racing and testing for the remainder of July.

Fan Knowledge by Kirila Gorilla Racing:

Late Model Series throughout the US run different rules based on each individual league. The Kirila Gorilla team is running a "crate" 450 hp motor program for the 2008 season. Several series run a "Spec" 500 hp motor. The Kirila team elects to run races against the higher horsepower series to teach Gene how to manage horsepower, his car handling and momentum racing. This all helps his driver development by learning critical skills for when he does elect to run in other series.