



Gene in the lead during his heat race



The crew discusses strategy in the pits

KIRILA RACE TEAM
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RACING NEWS UPDATE

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The Kirila race team gets caught in the big crash at the INEX Legend Asphalt Nationals in Las Vegas, NV.

Our team headed out to Las Vegas for the National race with the intention of clinching a great finish of at least a top 10. Instead we got caught up in the "big one" during the A-Main feature race.

The turnout for the weekend was excellent with 250 cars registered which included all race classes. The 85 cars in Gene's class (Semi-Pros), were working hard to get into the 34 car A-Main feature race. The race was held in the "Bullring" which is within the 5 track complex of the Las Vegas Motor speedway.

In addition to qualifying, the drivers raced a heat race. The combination of qualifying times with the heat race results are what placed them into a D, C, B, or A main which ran on day 3.

Gene's heat race began well with him starting in 4th and moving quickly into the 2nd place spot within one lap. Only 4 laps into the 12 lap race, Gene was in the lead. He led for the next several laps and was overtaken to put him into

2nd. The 3rd place driver came around him when he missed his line in lap 8. Gene became anxious and worked to get around the car again, but when he went to pass, the 2nd place car came down on him and they both spun. This put him to the back of the field and he finished in 9th place out of 12 cars.

With both the heat race results and qualifying time, he qualified in the C-Main. Based on Gene's win at a race he ran back in July at the Shenandoah Speedway in Virginia (a national qualifier), he was automatically placed as a provisional in the A-Main. We took advantage of this qualifying position and did not have him try to work his way up through the C and B mains which they only take the top 4 cars to move up in each. We did not want to chance getting caught up in any wrecks.

Gene started the A-Main in 33rd position. The race strategy was to stay in the back of the pack and let the wrecks happen and avoid them. When it is a national championship everyone is overly aggressive and historically there are 5 to 7 wrecks per race. Gene and Devo decided to hang back and let the field settle down. At the half way flag Gene started his planned charge. He was running lap times that were only 1/10th slower than the leaders. He passed a few cars and avoided 2 wrecks during the first 18 laps of the 40 lap feature. On lap 22, one driver spun another in mid pack. With Gene behind them and all of the cars swerving from the top of the track to the bottom to avoid the wreck, there were 7 cars wrecked in the pile up and Gene had nowhere to go. He hit a car in front of him and then was hit by another car behind him. The damage was major and caused Gene's car to be towed off the track unable to continue.

Our team is so grateful to have had the opportunity to go to Las Vegas and be surrounded by some of the best Legends drivers in the country. The experience was awesome and a great learning curve for the team as a whole. But as someone said "we will be back." It is not how we wanted to finish the season but we are proud of our first season legend racing at a national level.

We are also thankful for our friends and family who always support us and those who joined us for this event. Gene's grandparents flew in from Florida to be with us. His Great aunt and uncle Ann and Andy Buff drove up from California. Our friend Dr. Jerry Hrabosky came as well, it was so nice to have all their support at the track

The help and support we have from our friend Marty Belik is beyond words. We appreciate all the time and effort he puts forth to help us tremendously. Thanks also to Devo for his setup help.