



KIRILA RACE TEAM
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RACING NEWS UPDATE
Author: Ginger Kirila

Last Saturday night was a special night for everyone attending Lake Erie Speedway. As the race season winds down in Pennsylvania, the track hosted a star studded night by inviting 4 NASCAR celebrities to run a late model exhibition. With Kenny Wallace, Johnny Sauter, Martin Truex Jr., and Dale Earnhart Jr. in the house all the drivers were pumped up and just maybe looking to make an impression. Many race careers have been built based on a credible NASCAR dignitary putting in a good word that can give a driver that special break.

“This night is my chance to show my stuff” said the 14 year old Gene Kirila III. Kirila’s legend car feature race turned out to be the thriller of the night.

Throughout the summer Gene has been racing in the south, therefore, this was only the second trip to Lake Erie Speedway this year. Last week was his first weekend to race there and he finished second in the feature. Everyone was excited to get back to the 3/8 high bank paved oval. This weekend, Gene started the night off by coming in second in the heat race, which positioned him outside poll for the feature. When the green flag flew Gene had a great start and took the lead coming out of turn 2 and never looked back as

he ripped off 18 laps of the 25 lap feature. This great run separated him from the field by nearly a straight away. As lap 19 approached the caution flew and the trailing fleet was now pulled up tight on Gene. With 6 to go, the green flag dropped for the restart and Gene in his #5 car got off to another rocket start. He led the next 4 laps but traffic gave the second place car, #25 the opportunity to stick on #5. As the leaders took the white flag for 1 lap to go the 37 year old experienced pro driver of the number #25 car moved to the inside and barreled for turn one. The #25’s aggressive move paid off as he drove it inside the #5 and took the lead as they exited turn 2. The drag race ensued into turn 3, the #25 had Kirila by half a car. Determined, Kirila took the high line and let it roll high and wide. Later he said “I barely braked and knew it would be iffy to get the car to stick on the high line.” It stuck, and Kirila rolled around the outside to win by half a car at the finish line to take the checkered flag. It proved to be the most exciting race of the night. It was also great exposure to win in front of the sell out crowd of 7,000 fans plus a few NASCAR boys. We hope they were watching.

The Kirila team also had a guest driver in the #5 back up car that was converted to number 15, Pete Carpec of Masury Ohio. Pete started the week as a fill in crew member but was slowly talked into climbing into a paved car for the first time in 20 years since he drove dirt late models. For the first time in the car, Pete held his own and more importantly provided great memories for Gene III because back when Pete raced, Gene II wrenched for him at the dirt track. It was like a 3 generation night of fun, especially with the win.

The Kirila’s would also like to thank Devo Motorsports, Marty Belik, and Incredible Plastics for their support.