



Jesse in his Bandolero

KIRILA RACE TEAM **September 28, 2007** **RACING NEWS UPDATE**

Author: Ginger Kirila

Jesse pulls off a 4th and 5th place finish at Columbus Motor speedway.

Last weekend, September 22 and 23 the Kirila team raced in Columbus, Ohio at the Columbus Motor Speedway. I asked our young drivers, Gene and Jesse to summarize the weekend and they summed it up as follows:

We had the race team of Marty Belik, Devo Gene II, Jesse, and Gene III. We went to the track in Columbus, and had seen the best racing there is to see. It was a pretty good weekend for Jesse, and an ok one for Gene. Jesse qualified 4th on the first day out of the 2 days we were there. It was a good run to qualify for Jesse because it was only his third time on the track. Jesse started outside pole (2nd) and drove well holding his own to finish 2nd. He started 4th in the feature and ran a steady green flag race and finished in 4th. Gene had a great night at first with a qualifying position of 4th. This was good since the top 5 were within 1 thousandth of a second from each other. Gene started outside pole (2nd) in the heat race and got spun out on the 1st lap. He had to start at the back of the field and had to work his way back up. He managed to finish in 3rd place. He started 5th in the feature and stayed there for most of the race until lap 25 of the 35 laps. The leader had hit 1 of the big tractor tires at the bottom of the track. He knocked the tire into the middle of the track. (which Gene did not know about at the time) and the leader went air born and started flipping. While he was flipping Gene was trying to miss the leader and did not see the tire, with all the dust, he hit the tire head on. This damaged his front end. Gene got out of his car to inspect the damage and asked an official if he could go put a new bumper on the front of the car during the red flag stop. The

official radioed the tower and told Gene it was ok to go change it. After pulling off the track, another official approached Gene in the pits and told him that once he got off the track he was out of the race and he was not able to continue. This was very disappointing since Gene would have restarted in 2nd position with only 10 laps to go. The next day Gene went out for the 1st round of practice and was 3 laps in, when he blew his engine. The team had placed the brand new motor into the car just 3 days before and was running it in before the national in Vegas. Lucky we got that out of our system before Vegas. The day had now ended early for Gene.

However, the day was not over for Jesse. He qualified 4th and started 2nd in his heat and he finished 2nd. He then started 4th in his feature. It was a very long and competitive race, but Jesse managed to bring home a 5th place finish on day 2.

The Kirila race team had a great time at Columbus motor speedway. We are now getting ready for Las Vegas (Oct. 11-13) for the Legend Asphalt National race. We would like to thank our Mechanics Devo and Marty and our Dad for getting us there.

Written by,
Gene & Jesse Kirila

The Kirila Race team also had some special guests join us at the Columbus Motor speedway. On Saturday night Gene's long time friend Verne Harnish and his sons, Cameron age 11 and Cole age 8, were in town for the Ohio State game and were able to come over to the track. So they got a taste of their first short track experience. The boys got to sit in the cars, see some spectacular crashes [always a young lad's highlight] and by the end of the night they were cheering on and scream'n for their car like an official NASCAR redneck. Verne also brought his friend, Jon Iveson along for the excitement.

On Sunday Carol and Lee Healey drove up from Dayton Ohio. We apologize for Gene's engine trouble because that prevented our cousins, the Healey's, from seeing Gene run. They got to see Jesse wheel it that day and also enjoyed the tough races that ensued throughout the day.

We'll give you our update following our week in Vegas. Thanks to everyone for your constant support!!