

## July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 Race

We had a great night of racing last night in Hudson NC, Tri-County Speedway. Please read to end to see how well it turned out.

10:30 am we unload for practice. 10:45 we are on the track and the car will not turn, not a good sign for the day. By 12:15 we had the car running as fast as most of the field. Not great but in the top 10 of the 18 there. We were 17 seconds flat lap speeds.

7:00 time to Qualify

Ryan is 15th to go out and several of the cars before him are 16:5's with one at 16:4. 3 races ago we Qualified with a 16:6 and we felt a 16:5 was in our cards. Ryan comes out of the pits, goes through the gears drives the car hard into turn 3 and the car has a hard time turning. He comes out of turn 4 and takes the green flag and.... the reason we were having such a tough practice was....

The right front shock was going out. Ryan makes the car turn, keeps it from breaking loose and completes the first lap with a 17:00. These are his qualifying laps so he better do the best he can. The second lap he drops the time to 16:9's and Qualified 16th out of 18.

We bring the car into the pits, discover the blown shock, but here is the problem. We have no exact replacement shock, so we change both front shocks so they match better. The second problem is we have made a ton of changes to the car all day; they are not going work now. In a nut shell, we have no idea on what we have.

Thank goodness the story doesn't end there. It gets worse before it gets better. 18 cars, 150 laps of racing with a big purse what is our chance? With that many cars we will see several cautions from wrecks early and that is our chance to make changes. A good plan, we know the car can be fast and the driver can get the job done.

The green flag flies and we are off. Ryan moves to 14th and we are waiting and waiting and waiting for a caution. We are Slow and need a ton of changes to get fast. Well the leaders pass us around lap 40, so we are a lap down, so are 6 other cars. Finally lap 65 a caution, we are a lap down and pull into the pits. Back out we go and not much better. Around lap 120 the car was in bad shape and we had nothing to lose by coming in for more adjustments. We lost 3 more laps and made several adjustments and back out he went.

Finally here comes the good news. When he came out of the pits with about 25 laps to go, he brought the car up to speed and was a second behind the 2nd place car. Everyone was quick to notice Ryan was catching the 2nd place car. We put stop watches on Ryan and the leader and Ryan was faster than the leader. In 5 laps Ryan caught the 2nd place car and raced him for several laps, but when the 2 of them banged into each other in Turn one with about 10 laps left, we told Ryan to back off. The 2nd place car is going for a win and we could not advance of position.

We were just thrilled to be so fast, even if it was just at the end of the race. Next Friday Ryan will be speaking in Orlando to the ROAL at their National convention and Saturday it's another big race at Hickory Motor speedway a 177 lap race and we are ready.