

May 12, 2009

## **RUST IMPRESSES IN LATE MODEL DEBUT FRIDAY AT TRI-COUNTY**

HUDSON, N.C. - Ryan Rust made his first career start in a late model stock car Friday night at Tri-County Motor Speedway in western North Carolina. Following a 2008 season that included driving an Orion Motorsports limited late model at Tri-County and Hickory Motor Speedway, Rust made the step to a late model stock and had good success in his opening race of the 2009 season.

Tri-County ran twin 35-lap features for the late models on Friday. Rust, 16, started 12<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the two races, and improved on the starting position in both 35 lappers. He finished a respectable eighth and ninth in the two races. Fourteen cars started each race.

"In the first race we made it up to sixth but we slipped back to eighth before the end," explained Ryan, who resides in Port St. Lucie, Florida. "The car was tight toward the end of the first race so we loosened it up for the second race and it helped. We made it up to sixth again and battled in a pack of cars throughout the race. We were on the outside for the last four or five laps and the other car just got us at the line, and we finished ninth."

Rust, who again is driving an Orion-owned car, believes the '09 debut was a successful one.

"I think everything went really well. I'm happy to run well for the team and I think we showed we should be successful this year. I have to thank everyone involved for the support."

Rust is going to get some valuable road-racing experience this weekend; he'll be driving his pro challenge car in an event at Palm Beach International Raceway in Florida. He'll return to Tri-County on Friday, May 29 for another late model event. Ryan says the plan is to run 10 late model events in 2009: five at Tri-County, three at Hickory, one at Myrtle Beach Speedway and another undecided event. He'll also race the pro challenge car in Florida throughout the summer.

Ryan Rust will turn 17 on May 25. Residing in Port St. Lucie, Fla., Rust spends time racing his pro challenge car in the state but also frequently travels to North Carolina to drive a late model stock car owned by Ed Cox and Orion Motorsports. Rust is looking to gain experience in the late model class in 2009 and has high hopes for top finishes while competing at tracks in the Carolinas.

Rust is a member of the Team Full Throttle Driver Development Program and is represented by Driver Development Services, Inc., Charlotte, N.C. His marketing partners are Adopt-A-Hero, Florida Green Racing, FW1 Wax and RGS Labs.

Team Full Throttle is a Mooresville, N.C., based driver development program that specializes in all areas of personal and professional development, including leadership, teamwork, and communications as well as marketing, promotion, and on-track driving skills. TFT currently comprises over 30 racers who reside and race in all regions of the country.

For more information on Ryan, visit his Web site at [www.ryanrust.com](http://www.ryanrust.com). For more information on Team Full Throttle, visit [www.goteamfullthrottle.com](http://www.goteamfullthrottle.com) or contact 704-664-1755.

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*Ryan Rust (TFT Photo)*