

The first race of the season was a wild one for Austin and Austin Brehio Racing. The weekend started out with Austin having an early afternoon baseball game where he pitched the first inning and went three for three at the plate keeping pace with his 1000 batting average for the year, after three games. Then he left in the top of the fourth inning to head for Canaan Fair Speedway where he was able to make one practice and get ready for the heat. As with the last race of 2009, Austin won his qualifying heat, holding off Scott MacMichael (#7NH) for the win. With the top three in each heat redrawing for position, Austin drew a fourth place starting spot for the feature event. At the start of the race, Austin was able to tuck in behind Chris Wilk (#15) in fourth position and follow him up under Rich Dubeau (#60) into third. Then MacMichael, Wilk and Austin started to pull away, running nose to tail for the first five laps until the first caution flew. This set Austin up nicely in the third starting spot on the restart, but unfortunately it took many, many restarts to get lap six in, so track officials had to start the field single file. Once the race resumed, the trio of Scott, Chris and Austin ran bumper to bumper and pulled almost ½ a lap ahead of the rest of the field. Then the dreaded caution came out AGAIN, with three laps to go. Now Austin had to contend with past champion and veteran racer Jimmy Renfrew starting on his bumper in 4<sup>th</sup> place. With great pleasure, Austin was able to pull a car-length away on the final lap only to have the car lose traction coming out of turn two and spin down the back stretch, thankfully, just missing Renfrew. So unfortunately, we ended up with a 9<sup>th</sup> place finish instead of a podium finish. We will be back next week to try again. We also would like to thank Steve Tapley for driving up to Canaan to spot for Austin this week. We know he is usually busy spotting for the big boys in the touring series!