

Saturday, September 4, 2010

It was off to Canaan Fair Speedway for another glorious day of racing! We weren't sure how the car was going to perform, since there were a lot of repairs done over the past week, including fixing a bent frame. During the first warm-up, Austin said the car was very loose. Some adjustments were made before the second warm-up, which was delayed by a rain shower. Due to the rain, we only had two practices instead of three. The car was a little better for the second warm-up, but the crew made one more adjustment for the heat race.

In the heat, Austin started in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and that is where he finished.

For the feature, Austin had a 5<sup>th</sup> place starting position. He did a great job on the start of the race, but as usual, there was a caution on the first lap for a car spinning out, so they had to have a restart. The restart also went well, with Austin moving up into third. Scott MacMichael in the #7 got past Austin, putting us back to 4<sup>th</sup>. Then Austin was able to get past the #29 of Bruce Jaycox and the #12 of Todd Bragg (who had a mechanical problem). Austin was in second trying to chase down MacMichael with the #58 of Sparky MacIver in 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a restart on lap 17 with Austin on the outside of MacMichael, which is a hard place to be, with worries of having a "freight-train" go under him and put him way back. However, Austin had a GREAT restart and was able to tuck right in behind MacMichael on the front stretch before going into turn 1. However, MacIver decided on that same lap to drive deep into turn 3, just to run into Austin and dump him. Austin almost had the car saved coming out of turn 4, but was unable to hold onto it. He spun in the middle of the front stretch, but luckily everyone missed him, so the car wasn't damaged. MacIver was put to the rear (as he should have been), but he went off the track instead (which was just as well, so he couldn't take anyone else out). He told Glen that Austin was "blocking" him. We have reviewed Austin's in-car video, which shows that Austin's right-side tires were off the edge of the backstretch, so if Sparky couldn't get by with that much room, maybe he shouldn't be on the track! Even Austin's fellow competitors came up to him after the race to note that he was "intentionally" taken out.

Austin did restart in the rear and after two laps, he was back up to 4<sup>th</sup>. He was driving aggressively after being taken out, as he is getting very tired of it. With 4 laps to go, he tried to pass the #09 of David Miller Jr for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, but didn't have quite enough to get under him that lap. He had to back-out and this caused him to lose some ground. He ran out of laps, so couldn't get back up to make another challenge for 3<sup>rd</sup>. He ended up with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish, which is much better than the past two weeks, but it is getting tiresome being taken out of a top three finish week after week due to irresponsible driving!

Hopefully, next week (the final show) will be even better!