

Speedway 660, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

June 11, 2011

Austin Brehio Racing made a 7.5 hour trek up to Canada this weekend for the next PASS race. It was a beautiful, but long ride. When we arrived, Austin got to walk the track and talk to a lot of local drivers who gave him advice about how to drive the track. Throughout the entire time we were there, numerous race fans came over to the car to meet Austin. One person even mentioned that there was a radio ad on the stations up there that mentioned a 13 year old would be driving this weekend, so people wanted to meet him. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly – we really enjoyed our time at Speedway 660.

Austin had about 100 laps of practice that went quite well. Each time he was out on the track, he became more and more comfortable and was able to increase his speed and lap times. With the new brake calipers, the car was doing well without any brake problems throughout practice.

Prior to the beginning of the races, the track officials asked Austin to come out on the track and give an interview for the crowd. He did a great job!

Then it was time for the heat races, where he started 9th. The car developed a terrible “push”, making it hard to turn. The local drivers had warned us that the car would tighten up as it cooled off, but we didn’t expect it to tighten up as much as it did. Therefore, Austin wasn’t able to advance in his heat. He finished where he started, in 9th.

For the feature, Austin started 18th out of 20 cars. He was doing a great job staying with the pack and slowly gaining some positions. However, the crew noted that his right front brake rotor was glowing orange again by lap 14 or 15. A caution came out, which let the brakes cool down. He had made it up to 15th and was doing well until he realized that his brakes were going again! He was in the process of trying to bring the car off the track, when the brake problem became a bigger issue. This track has a very tricky exit ramp that has a slight ‘S-shape’. Austin had his foot fully pushed down on the brakes, but the pedal went to the floor with no results, making the exit very difficult. He made it off the track, but then the car launched in the air over a banking, rubbed a light pole on the driver’s side and spun the car around to land perpendicular to pit road. Austin was totally fine, but the car was not so lucky. We have left – front damage and lost the radiator. We were thankful that this didn’t happen on the track and everyone was okay.