

Three Days of Victory for Team APPCO

Saturday

The racing weekend started out Friday morning at Mark Dismores New Castle Motorsports Park in Indiana, an asphalt sprint track measuring well over one mile. Competitors Jarred Thomas, Johnny Smith, and new comer Cooper (Coop) Kuethe ran several rounds, tuning their chassis and motors, in preparation for early Saturday morning qualifying in classes where competitors are well known as some of the best in the country. Thirteen year old Thomas got the ball rolling by qualifying first in his APPCO tuned KPP two cycle over an entire class of top notch racers. Qualifying third in an equally experienced class, twelve year old Johnny Smith kept things moving in the right direction. On a large track with big sweeping turns and long straight a ways used for drafting, tuning can be very difficult. Team APPCO and JP Smith (Johnny's dad) managed to stay on top of things putting Johnny Smith, the two time WKA Gold Cup National Champion within striking distance of the lead in his Yamaha sportsman heavy. On the final lap Smith, pulled up beside the leader using a draft from another competitor making a gut wrenching pass on the outside of the last turn to take the checkered flag in the most exciting race of the day.



Johnny Smith taking the checkered flag, Saturday 09/03/11.



Jarred Thomas, Dave Thomas and JP Smith there to congratulate winner Johnny Smith. 09/03/11

Sunday

Things kept moving Sunday morning as Thomas and Smith kept the pressure on by qualifying sixth and fourth respectively, once again in large classes filled with tough competition. First up to race in his Yamaha Lights Class with 25 competitors was Johnny Smith. As the race began, a down pour started at the far end of track. The race was then red flagged, not sending every one home but back to their pits to put on rain tires and tune the chassis for wet conditions. When the rain let up enough that the drivers could use karts instead of boats racing resumed, with Johnny Smith starting in the fourth position. Smith and Leo Stoia from PCR pulled out to a large lead with Smith in first. Late in the race Smith was overtaken by Stoia and finished in second place.

Jarred Thomas in the number 96 APPCO powered KPP started in the pole position next to Sara Carmen. The green was dropped and the powerful KPP two cycle motors accelerated the drivers into a slick turn one. Braking late to make up for being beaten on the start by the excellent reaction time of Thomas, Carmen slid off the track, stalling her motor and putting her out of contention. Thomas and two other racers pulled away and battled for the lead. Eventually prevailing and pulling away to win, due to superior driving skill would be J. Thomas.



Pictured Left: JP, Dave Thomas, AR Gardner and The Governor (Dave Thomas) celebrating after another great day of racing! p.s. My Favorite picture of AR.

Pictured Right: Cooper Kuethe

Monday (Labor Day)

Switching gears from the hot and wet conditions of the large Sprint track of New castle to the fifth mile dirt track of the famous Tony Stewart owned Eldora Speedway (Little E). Josh Brown, driving the number 46 powered by APPCO Racing engines, has been racing since he was nine years old. Josh in his mid twenties is no stranger to racing. The racing day started with practice at 10 am on a very hard to read and very hard to follow track that never saw the sunshine. Struggling, Team APPCO was about the middle of the pack at first. With the excellent guidance of AR, by the time qualifying came around J. Brown had become the fastest in his heat. Making his way through the consolation bracket, Josh landed a spot in the feature on the tale. In the 25 lap feature race, Brown drove his number 46 through the pack to capture the 3rd place position by lap 18. In the next two laps Josh take over the second place spot. On lap 25 in turn three Brown pulled up beside the 48 kart that had lead from the first drop of the green flag. With a very exciting exit from turn 4 to the checkered flag, Brown lacked less than six inches of a win, coming from the tale.

Click on the link to watch this exciting finish. Remember Josh starts last place:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbQWmHRQ1q4&sns=em>



Getting ready for the 25 Lap Main. 09/05/11



Josh Brown racing to the finish line. 09/05/11.