

SEDiv Double

Wednesday, 23 July 2008

We arrived back at Roebing Road Raceway in Savannah, Ga for rounds 11 & 12 in the SEDiv National points Championship, and our sites were set on coming out of here with the title locked up. With five wins under our belt this season, a sixth win could all but lock it up.....a seventh would seal the deal.

We decided not to test for the event since we had enough info on car set up. Friday consisted of two provisional qualifying sessions, one for Saturday and one for Sundays event, where we qualified on pole for Saturday and second on Sunday. With the track being as hot as it is in early July, there would be no records from the spring event in jeopardy. Saturday morning had final qualifying before the afternoon race, and just like at the June Sprints it had a surprise for us. About the third lap, going into turn one we had a left rear suspension failure, sending us into the tire wall at 120 MPH. We were very fortunate though, as the car actually became airborne before contact and landed on top of the wall, minimizing the damage. As we did at the June Sprints, the team was able to repair the car with only a few hours to spare before the green. Saturdays final qualifying would see us starting from the second position as Saturdays race started in the wet. The opening laps of the race saw us drop to third, but once the race settled in and the pace quickened, the GA/RMS/CI FE started to march to the front, and by lap five we had taken the lead.....one that would never be relinquished as we took the win by a few seconds for the sixth win of the season. In SCCA, the max number of races that can be counted for points is 6, and in the event of a tie, they go to the 7th race, and beyond if necessary till the tie is broken.

Sunday morning had final qualifying, but because our times were very strong from Q1, we decided to sit out the final qualifying. As we had planned, our times from Q1 were strong enough to keep us on the front row in the second position. Sundays race would be under hot and sunny conditions with temps in the high 90's, equating to very slick track conditions. As the green flag flew, the GA/RMS/CI FE took the lead on the start, and quickly built a multiple car advantage. With many competitors struggling for grip, even the faster FA cars, we were able to click off consistent laps all within a few tenths of our qualifying time, and eventually move into third overall. With some breathing room between us and the 2nd place FE, our lead expanded each lap to take the checker 8 seconds ahead of 2nd place...our seventh win of the season. With the seventh win under our belt we were able to clinch the division. Add in the win at the June Sprints we now have two of the three steps accomplished to winning the Triple Crown...of course the ultimate test still awaits us at Topeka in October.

The regular season has come to a close, but we will be on track at least twice before heading to the National Championship RUNOFFS by AT & T, but for testing purposes only. Wish us luck, and stay tuned in October as we try to win our second national championship in as many years.