

## Apex racing Mid Ohio Race Report

Team drivers Mike Potekhen and Ken Losch have another solid weekend in Mid Ohio. The team went into mid Ohio with very high hopes of coming out of the weekend with the points lead. Mike was the fastest driver after the first day of testing even with very limited track time. "we tested here two weeks ago the car felt great out of the box I new we would be competitive I was just hoping the weather would clear up for the race"

The first day of testing was wet and dry all day long and it just so happened that every time we had a session scheduled the skies would open up. The First session of the day was still wet from the rain tin the morning so the team opted to sit out. The second d session of the day was looking much better Mike set the fast time early in the session before a yellow was brought out and the sky's opened up. "I was a little disappointed that the first day was a wash but I was also happy because the car was right where we left of in testing a few of the others in the championship did not get a chance to make up the gap that we had created in testing"

Friday brought more of the same kind of weather and the track was soaking wet in first session. With rain a solid possibility for race day most for the teams decided they had to go out and try there wet set ups. Again Mike found himself one of the quickest cars on the track and was the early pace setter in the session. As the day went on the weather cleared a bit the team put outfitted there cars with dry tires knowing that they would only go out in the afternoon if the track was dry. A major cloud passed over just before the team would take to the track for the final practice session luckily there was no rain and the teams would have there first totally dry session of the weekend. Mike again was the pace setter and would remain that way for the remainder of the session. "I was very happy with the way the car handled in the final practice session all the guys at Apex racing have been working very hard to give me a great car and it showed today"

Entering qualifying the team was very optimistic the cars were both very fast. "We were confident that we could qualify at the front we just were not sure how much the track would change before qualifying. We made a few small changes to the car to fix a slight under steer we were fighting in the previous session but that was about it." "I was very optimistic going into the race considering the fact that last week I passed 10 cars to finish 3rd I was confident that I could pass three cars this weekend and go for the win. When the green flag flew I new I was in trouble the car did not have near the grip that it had in qualifying. I lost one position at the start to Adrian and it was all I could do to hold off Kevin for the opening lap. On the second lap Kevin was able to get a great run on to the back straight and without blocking him he was able to drive by me. I tried to stay calm and get the best out of the car as the tires came in the car got much faster and easier to drive. The first of two full course yellows would come out on about the forth lap of the race and again on the restart the car was a handful and I had to battle very hard to hold my position. The final yellow was the same story and if it was not for the fact that Matt would spin in turn 13 I would have probably finished sixth. I am sure that if the race had gone green flag to flag we would have been there for the car was very fast at the end of the race but unfortunately the leaders were able to pull a gap that I was not able to make up with the yellows. I am very happy with how the team is starting to gel with consistency I am sure that this will be a very tight championship and we are in the thick of it."

"I new that this was going to be a tough race considering I was starting 21<sup>st</sup>. The race went good for me I made up a few positions on the first lap and tried to settle into a nice race pace. The car was a little loose on the start as well as the restarts but I was able to move forward a few positions. I am very aware of how tough this season is going to be I am on a very steep learning curve and I have only seen one track on the schedule so every weekend is a challenge for me. I am sure with hard work I will reach my goal of running in the top ten by the end of the season. I am very proud of how hard all the guys are working for Mike and I this season I feel very fortunate to have all of them with me this season."

Apex racing will test at the historic Milwaukee Mile on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week in preparation for the race that will be held in conjunction with the champ car world series the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.