

Potekhen Takes Win for Apex Racing & Avenue Communities

Phoenix, AZ (June 3, 2006) - Mike Potekhen takes his first win of the season for Apex Racing and Avenue Communities today at the historic Milwaukee Mile. The Avenue Communities Mazda cars were very fast all weekend and the team led every practice session in dominating fashion.

Friday's practice saw Mike and Ken first and third, with a best time of 27.8 sec. "The car was well balanced and consistent right from the start. I had a great time last week in testing but I did not get to spend much time in traffic so I was a little apprehensive coming into this weekend," stated Ken. The 30minute session saw no real track incidences and the Apex boys were very happy with the performance. The afternoon session was to be split into two half hour sessions with a half hour between, however, a last minute change caused the sessions to be shortened. Team Apex did not have time to return to the pits for chassis adjustments and were forced to sit out, but the team still held the top time of the day.

Morning warm up on race day saw Mike back on top where he had been all weekend, further increasing the team's confidence. They all felt certain that the day would bring the team their first win. "The car felt great all weekend and I was sure that it would take a low 27 sec lap time for the pole. We had done a 27.20 in practice a week ago and I was confident that we would be able to pull it off," declared Mike.

Qualifying would bring the team their first and only disappointment of the weekend. Ken reported, "I had never done a two lap qualifying format before so the adrenaline was flowing through my body like I have never felt before. To be honest I was so nervous I just did not get the most out of the car." In the end, Ken would have to start from a disappointing 15th. Mike's turn to qualify came soon after. "It was nice to have the upper hand of qualifying last, and I knew that I needed to put together a perfect lap. The pole at that point was a 27.2 and I was sure that I could do it better. My warm up lap was a mid 27 and my first lap was a 27.3. With one lap to go, the car got a little loose in turn 4 and I knew that it would be close. Unfortunately, I think that I lost just enough speed in four and would match my previous lap which had me starting from 3rd."

The team had two very good race-cars. With a 100-lap race at hand it would for sure be enough time to get the two cars back at the front where they had been all weekend. The green flag dropped at 4:00 p.m. and Mike would move into 2nd place in the first corner. "My race strategy was to get by Robby in the first corner and then just keep the pressure on Adrian for the first half of the race and then race him hard at the end for the lead. I was sure if we could keep the pressure on we would be able to come out ahead." The first yellow came in lap 3 when Dan Tomlin III hit the wall in turn three. "Again on the restart I followed Adrian into turn one and continued to follow him for the next 10 laps or so. I could see that his car was starting to get loose and that he was going to have a long day. I was able to get a run on him out of turn two just as we had caught traffic and I passed him for the lead on lap 28." Mike would continue to lead for the remainder of the

race to take the win for Apex racing and Avenue Communities. “The car was so good all day I really think that my past oval experience helped me get the car set up the way I needed and get through traffic without a problem all day. I really have to thank all the guys on the team and of course my sponsors, AvenueCommunities.com and everyone else that has made this season possible for me. I am sure that this will not be the last time we will be in the winners circle this season.”

Ken would finish the day with a great drive through the field to bring the second Apex Avenue Communities car to a 6th place finish. “By the time we got the green flag I was ready to go. I was able to pass a few cars at the start, after that I settled into a nice pace and just tried to be as patient as possible. Ryan Ruth, my spotter, did a great job to keep me calm,” stated Ken. Driving through the field like a true pro was exactly what Ken did today and everyone on the team was very happy with his performance. “The yellows fell at the right time for me today and I had a great car. I cannot thank the guys enough for all of their hard work over the past few months.”

The next race for the series will be Montréal, Québec with the Formula One cars. The team is very excited for the next race, and they hope that they will be able to use this momentum for continued success.