

Apex Racing - Montreal Weekend Report

The team was entering Montreal with very high hopes for the weekend. Both cars would be starting in the top ten. "I was very excited about coming to Canada and racing with formula one. I was at the race last year but only as a spectator, so to race on the famed circuit was very exciting for me" stated Mike. "This race would be my fifth pro race and to be starting in the top ten shows how far this team has risen in its' short existence." Stated Ken

With only two practice sessions before the race, the team knew that it would be important to learn the track fast and get the cars balanced. "We went out for the first session and immediately I knew that we had made a mistake on our gear choice. The car was on the rev. limiter half way down the straight so any hope of setting a fast time was out the window" reported Mike. Although the time did not show it, Ken and Mike felt they both had well balanced cars and would have no problem running fast in the final session.

The Final session of the day came at 5:00 pm and the track was completely different from the morning session. "The track had quite a bit more grip and we made a few changes through the session. I was able to get some clear track right at the end of the session. That would enable me to run the fourth fastest time of the day. I was very happy with the car and I was happy that we earned the starting spot that we had."

Unfortunately, for Ken the session would not go as well as he wanted. "We started the session on what would become our race tires so I just needed to go out and put a light scrub on them. Soon after, we changed back to our practice tires and went back out. I immediately felt like something was not right with the car. The throttle kept sticking and I had to pit again. Unfortunately I lost quite a bit of valuable track time" said Ken. The team was disappointed for Ken but knew that he would have a great race, considering where Mike was on the charts.

The race was scheduled to start at 2:00 pm on Saturday. Everyone was on time and ready to go. There was a delay in the schedule, forcing the race director to go to one pace lap. "We sat on the grid forever. Finally when we went roll off for the race, the steward made an announcement that we would do just one pace lap. I tried to get my tires as hot as possible but the pace car was so slow that it made it quite difficult" stated Ken.

From Mike's perspective, he knew that the first lap was going to be chaotic. "The green flag dropped very late and I had to pop out to the left to avoid Daniel who got off to a slow start. I just tried to hold my position going into turn one. As we approached turn two, I was on the outside and it was very slick. Daniel, Matt and I all raced hard down the next straight into the first chicane. Matt came out ahead and I came out next with Daniel close behind. I saw Daniel in my mirrors to the left of me and I knew it was going to be a close call getting through the next right. I tried to give him as much racing room as I could but unfortunately for Daniel there were just too many marbles at the exit and he spun off to the left making contact with the wall."

Ken's tough weekend came to a disappointing end soon after it had begun. "I had a great start. The team had given me a car that was handling very well. I was able to make up a few positions at the start and in hindsight I am very glad that I did. As I came out of the first chicane I passed Gerardo on the left when he went wide. I was right on the gearbox of Ryan going into the fast right. The next thing I saw was a car in the air coming right towards me. I had nowhere to go and I made contact with the wall on the right. At first I was very disappointed but after reviewing the tape I feel lucky to have made it through the major crash with minor damage."

When the race finally resumed Mike would continue from second place for the race directors had restacked the grid based on qualifying order minus the cars that were involved in the first lap incident. "I had a great start and was able to maintain my position. I just tried to run consistent lap time and stay as close to Adrian as I could. The second yellow flag came out in about the fifth lap of the race. My second restart was not quite as good as the first but I was able to hold my position for the first half of the lap. Adrian was able to pull a gap on me when Kevin and I began to race for second place. We both went into the hairpin side by side and raced a little too hard into the corner so Matt passed us both on the inside. The next lap was very hectic. Kevin and I traded position about three times, but when he made contact with the wall exiting the chicane it was all over and I would finish the race in third place.

The team is very happy with how the entire program is taking shape. The team's next outing will be next week at Millar Park in Salt Lake City Utah.