

## Mike Potekhen and Ken Losch Bring Home another Great Result for Apex Racing

Round 8 at Three Rivers, August 6<sup>th</sup>, Mike Potekhen in his Avenue Communities Apex Racing Mazda brought home another podium finish. Ken Losch finished an impressive ninth, after an unfortunate mechanical failure in qualifying forced him to start 24<sup>th</sup>.

From Mike's perspective, the race weekend started out a little slow. "I had a red eye flight from Chicago where I was testing the IPS car on Thursday so I was a little tired on Friday morning. I was not able to walk the track like I normally do every morning, I think that is one of the reasons we were a little off the pace in the first session. Unfortunately the second session was cut short by rain."

Qualifying was a little bit of a surprise to many people including the guys at Apex. For the first time since Mid Ohio, the top three would be made up of newcomers. The team felt a little disappointed with their qualifying positions but were confident that they had good race cars and that their drivers would have no problem working their way to the front. "I have not qualified outside the top three since Houston so I was a little disappointed but I was confident that I would be able to race my way to the front," stated Mike. Ken had one of his best qualifying efforts ever and was less than a second off the pole time. "We are all very happy with how fast Ken is learning this season. I am very impressed with how well he has been improving" stated team manager Ryan Ruth. Unfortunately, a part in the fuel system had failed during the post race session and Ken was moved back to 24<sup>th</sup> from his original 14<sup>th</sup> place.

The race was a different story. Both drivers would bring the results the team had been searching for all weekend that is, both Mike and Ken would finish in the top ten! With one of the most impressive passes of the season Mike was able to move from his starting position outside the third row to second place in the first corner. "I knew it was going to be tough to make it through the first corner alive let alone make up positions but the cards could not have played any better. The green came out and it was like the inside row just came to a stop. I was able to pass three cars on the outside of turn one and one at the exit going into turn two. The rest of the race was fairly uneventful, I just tried to run as consistent as possible and bring home a solid finish," affirmed Mike.

The race for Ken was far from uneventful. From the start, Ken was passing cars and like a seasoned veteran, he was able to work his way through traffic passing 14 cars to his tenth place finish. "The team wanted me to be patient and not get too anxious, so I just tried to time my passes and work my way back up to the front. I really enjoy street racing and today was a huge learning experience for me," declared Ken.

Road America will be the next race in the series where Mike holds a track record in a FF2000. The team looks forward to a hopeful third win of the series. After that, off to Mosport where Jay Howard took victory last season driving a car engineered by Darrel who now works for Apex Racing.