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NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.
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Chicago, June 14, 2010, NASA Midwest, Inc.

NASA Midwest Spec Miata Challenge heads to Blackhawk Farms

The fourth event of the NASA Midwest Spec Miata Challenge was held at picturesque Blackhawk Farms in South Beloit, IL. A brilliantly technical 1.95 mile course, it is a track where Spec Miatas can really shine.

Saturday qualifying resulted in Ryan Groth #52 on the pole, with Jason Pulvermacher #25 second. Chris Portele #50, Richard Strickland #66, and Anthony Storino #19 rounded out the starting grid for the 40 minute race. This was Strickland's first event of the season and he was eager to get back on track! Pulvermacher had a slight bobble on the start with a missed shift but was able to recover and hold on to second place. The racing up front was close between Pulvermacher and Groth, with some out of class lap traffic keeping things interesting. Strickland retired early and Portele was able to hang on to 3rd.

Cooler weather Sunday was a welcome relief and brought with it improved lap times in morning qualifying. All drivers dropped significant time from their Saturday qualifying and race times, but the order remained the same. For the start of Sunday's first race it was Groth's turn to bobble the start with a missed shift, Pulvermacher was able to capitalize and take the lead. Groth later spun in Turn 7, getting passed by the entire SM field. Persistence paid off, however, and a series of quick laps got Groth back to within sight of Pulvermacher. An intense battle for the lead ensued with Groth ultimately being able to sneak by Pulvermacher and hold him off through a lot of lapped traffic. Portele, Strickland, and Storino rounded out the field.

Sunday's second race proved that northern Illinois weather is completely unpredictable. A slight mist began just as most cars were coming to grid, some chose rain tires while others chose to stay on slicks. During the outlap the heavens opened up and rain tires were clearly the tires to be on. Visibility was very poor, and the track was covered with standing water. Storino and Strickland both retired early, and Pulvermacher drove away from the field. Portele was able to hold on to second – her best finish ever, and Groth managed a third place finish.

The next event of the NASA Midwest Spec Miata Challenge brings us to Autobahn Country Club, which should bring a large Spec Miata field and tons of great racing.

Ryan Groth
Spec Miata Series Director
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