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GTS Drivers Shake things up at Gateway

Kyle Burkhardt, Vince Ko and Roy Lipner picked right up after last year's fantastic finish at Putnam Park. Saturday qualifying put Ko on the pole with a time that was a full second faster than his 2008 track record. Burkhardt qualified about .282 seconds behind. At the start of Saturday's race, Burkhardt jumped into the lead into turn one, only to have Ko sneak in under him in Turn 6 to grab the lead back. A full course Black Flag stopped the race in the next lap. When racing resumed, Ko pulled away and won comfortably.

On Sunday, Burkhardt grabbed the pole in qualifying. Burkhardt and Ko started side-by-side in Row 5. At the Green, Burkhardt got a great jump that was compounded by Ko missing a shift. Burkhardt maintained a 3-second lead over Ko for most of the race. Lipner's handling problems prevented him from joining the fight. In the last turn of the last lap, Burkhardt came around the T7 hairpin onto the oval only to find a Lotus and Viper parked on the track. Evasive maneuvers cost him all of his momentum around the oval. Meanwhile, Ko got through the incident without losing steam. A quarter of the way down the straight, Ko was right on Burkhardt's bumper, but Burkhardt managed to get to the line before Ko's momentum carried him past him. The margin of victory was 0.27 seconds.

Nic Georgioff jumped into the fray with his GTS4 Porsche 911 and is inaccurately quoted as saying "What oval?" Two new track records were set this weekend as well. Vince Ko bested his GTS3 record by 3/10ths and Julian Cates bested his prior GTS2 record by a full half second! Congratulations guys!

The current Gateway records are now:

German Touring 1 Pete Knese BMW 325 1:21.038 04/26/08
German Touring 2 Julian Cates BMW 325is 1:11.336 04/18/10
German Touring 3 Vince Ko BMW M3 1:10.540 04/17/10
German Touring 4 Chris Streit Porsche 911 1:09.972 04/27/08

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