



## **Mansfield, OH - August 13th & 14th, 2011, NASA Midwest, Inc.**

The last race weekend at Mid-Ohio before the National Championships was loaded with 35 Spec Miatas ready to shoot it out. The weather was forecasted as wet, after an absolutely gorgeous practice day on Friday. Thankfully, the weather cooperated on Saturday and provided the group with relatively cool temperatures and a day of dodging rain clouds that provided dry sessions in practice, qualifying, and the race.

Saturday's qualifying session looked like a carbon copy of the season.... Justin Hille scorching the field with a qualifying time of 1:43.322, the fastest time recorded during the weekend. Greg Stasiowski was almost half a second back at 1:43.796 and 15 more miatas crammed into the second that separated Greg from the #17 qualifier, Robert Keller at 1:44.795. Saturday's race was shaping up to be quite a battle.

At the start, almost all 35 made it through turn 7, but an unfortunate meeting between the #22 car of TJ Graven, and the #94 of Tom Sager sent Graven to China Beach, while Sager's own strong fourth place finish would be negated as a result of the contact. The rest of the field fought hard on the first few laps. With the #32 of Greg Stasiowski, and the #175 of Justin Hille, leading the pack, #87 David Spencer, #3 Chris Price, #55 Chris Williams, and the #54 of Derek Whitis gave chase. With Whitis sliding off in the carousel, the front pack thinned slightly. A lap later, side to side contact between Price and Spencer allowed Williams to slip by into third place, with Sager marching up the pack into fourth. The chase for first was on, and Stasiowski and Hille battled cleanly the entire race, with Williams on their bumper waiting to take advantage of a miscue that never materialized. In the end Stasiowski broke through and gained his first Mid Ohio win of the year, with Hille in second, and Williams in third. Price finished fourth after Sager was moved as a result of the earlier incident. The #62 car of Zachary Silver made an impressive charge from 12th in qualifying to finish in fifth. Ryan Myrehn driving the #93 car of team Myrehn, improved seven positions as well to finish sixth. Spencer, the #47 of Dan Fargo, the #35 of Frank Todaro, and the #614 of Robert Keller rounded the top ten in the strong 35 car field.

The Hard Charger of the race was hotly contested with six racers improving seven spots from qualifying, nice driving to Silver(12th to 5th), Ryan Myrehn(13th to 6th), Robert Keller(17th to 10th), Ken Brinkman(25th to 18th), Bill Biel(27th to 20th), and Scott Berlin(35th to 28th). Unfortunately, seven spots wouldn't take home the award, as the #199 of Scott Dennewitz improved a whopping nine places to finish 21st!

Fast lap of the race went to Stasiowski at 1:44.066, with Hille a gnat's eyelash behind at 1:44.088. In fact only roughly a quarter of a second separated the best lap times of Stasiowski, Hille, Williams, Spencer, Price, Silver, and Sager. That is some close clean racing folks! Sunday..... well, some different racing and some different names at the front! The morning dawned threatening, but the practice was run under dry conditions. Unfortunately, the same could not be said for qualifying. During qualifying, a lighter rain turned into the heavens opening up, and many miatas, as well as an assorted variety of other race cars made frequent visits to the agricultural areas of the track. In the end, only three laps were run under green flag



conditions, with a black flag all, turning into a red flag condition, the first of these flags this year in Great Lakes region. Times varied widely, but Silver took the pole for the Sunday race, followed by Hille, Stasiowski, and the #23 of Matt Paderta. Fargo and the # 52 car of Luke Wilwert rounded out the first three starting rows for the race.

Now comes the good part... rain tires, or dry, rain tires or dry. Every racer was consulting the radar displays on cellphones, every racer was watching what the other was doing. In the end, the general consensus was dry tires for the race, the majority of the field showed up on everything from 4/32" to baldies. As they all sat on the grid, five minutes blew, three minutes blew, and at the one minute whistle, large raindrops started pelting windshields. On the out lap, it looked like the rain might not be so bad going through the keyhole, but heading down the back straight, that all changed. Torrential rains swept up the entire back half of the course, and as the pack rounded the carousel, the podium group from Saturday promptly exited stage left.

In all, Hille, Stasiowski, Williams, Price, Spencer, Graven, North, Todaro, Biel, Brown, and Brancae all decided that running on slicks would not be beneficial to their sheetmetal, the majority of this group ended up like a secondary grid in the parking area of turn seven, ready to watch the race unfold. The brave, or rain tire equipped, remaining Spec Miatas, drove around the track two more times under the standing yellow, before the green flag waved.

The remaining 24 miatas led by Silver and Paderta slithered toward turn seven. The entire pack made it through seven, over madness and then Silver couldn't negotiate turn nine. Silver ended up in the tires followed closely by the #23 of Paderta. The remaining field kept running and thinned out very quickly.

In the end, the #614 car of Bob Keller, drove away with the win. Keller was followed by the #199 of Scott Denewitz and the #187 of Chris Adams. Nice work as all three not only gained their first podiums of the year, but did so in the worst conditions of the year! The #79 of Nick DeCuzzi jumped an impressive 16 spots to finish in fourth, followed by the #8 of Tyler Cooke. Fargo finished sixth, followed by the #75 of Mike Metzler, the #56 of Jonathon Davis, the #77 car of Scott Berlin, and rounding out the top ten, Rhett Odoski in the #155 car. Nice work by the top ten in less than ideal conditions.

Fast lap of the race went to the #89 car of Angelo Dinkov at 2:10.234 a full 10.5 seconds faster than the second fastest lap of Keller. While there were four hard chargers who gained an amazing twenty spots or better (Berlin, Yeager, Bruce Myrehn, and Dinkov), the absolute winner was Chris Adams who jumped an unbelievable 29 positions to land on the podium in third place! Not only a hard charger award for the race, but for the entire year!

Next up is the National Championships, we have several Great Lakes drivers representing us, I will send out a quick blurb on all that have registered in the coming week or two.... The next regularly scheduled race is Autobahn, September 16-18! See you there!

For complete results and lap records, please see [www.nasagreatlakes.com](http://www.nasagreatlakes.com)  
[www.nasamidwest.com](http://www.nasamidwest.com).



Chris Williams  
Great Lakes SM Series Director  
NASA Great Lakes/Midwest

NASA Contact:  
Dave Royce  
NASA Midwest, Inc  
Dave@nasamidwest.com