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NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.
5250 Grand Avenue
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Performance Touring Race Report, Mid Ohio April 9-10

Finally, the first Great Lakes Region competition of the 2011 season arrived! The racers were greeted with an overcast wet, Saturday morning. Practice and qualifying were completed on a wet track with temperatures in the 40's. Luckily, the track was dry by race time. Sunday provided a wet practice session and a drying qualifying session. By race time the track was dry with partly cloudy skies. The Club Course configuration was in use both days.

PTB – Two competitors ran in the PTB class this weekend. Rookie, Edgar Villarroya, driving the Villarroya Motorsports black, supercharged Honda Civic, and PTE stalwart, Brian Makse, in the white Pakistan Express Honda Civic. Villarroya, making his debut racing after completing competition licensing school the previous day, displayed good car control and track awareness. Makse's Pakistan Express Honda completed enough laps to receive the needed entry points. Makse still looked smooth driving the PTE classed car in PTB. Sunday's race was a mirror image of Saturday. Villarroya not only successfully completed his first two races, but can claim victory also.

PTC - Joe Hayes, competing in the Know Fear Honda Civic, competed alone in this class for the weekend. Joe has an abundance of Time Trial competition on his resume and was getting more precious seat time racing. Sunday brought more experience going wheel to wheel with cars in other classes. Joe looked very comfortable and managing traffic and will be more than ready when the other PTC cars enter the fray. Meanwhile, Hayes collects two more wins!

PTD – As the most exciting class of the 2010 season in Great Lakes Performance Touring, high expectations were in the air for PTD this kickoff weekend. Reigning champion, Ron Dodson was back in his Acura Integra. Matt Johnston, driving his impressive, Chevy powered, Mazda RX7, and, PT newcomer, Greg Peluso, driving a newly built BMW E46 323, rounded out the class. Qualifying on Saturday killed the champ's weekend as the Integra's two day old engine gave up the ghost. Hopefully, engine warranties transfer to race cars! Johnston's RX7 and Peluso's BMW had a good race going Saturday when a slight off track excursion lodged mud in Johnston's front end. The RX7 pulled out of the race after seven laps. Luckily there was no major damage. Peluso picked up his first win in PT. Congratulations Greg! Sunday, the racing seemed to be tight between these two again. Johnston pulled a slight lead and Peluso could not gain on him through all the traffic.



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PTE – The PTE class looks to be very promising, competition wise, this year. With six entries for the weekend, five of them new to PT, the racing was exciting. Four drivers made the jump from Spec Miata and their skills were apparent. Kyle Webb, Randy Shaw, Jet Hawthorne and Jeffrey Diffenderfer brought the Mazda's to play. Two rookie competitors, Guy Dirkin, driving the Pakistan Express Honda Civic, and Terry Leroux, driving the Myers Motorsports Honda Civic rounded out the class. Dirkin and Leroux were both starting their first wheel to wheel race. Saturday's race had the Miata's in the front. Diffenderfer got the jump at the start passing many cars. As the race wore on, Kyle Webb proved victorious followed by Shaw, Hawthorne, Diffenderfer, Dirkin and Leroux. Sunday's race produced similar results with much excitement throughout the event. Dirkin and Leroux both showed visible improvement by Sunday's finish and the fire was apparent in their eyes Sunday evening. You can bet a lot of "tweaking" will take place before the May event at Putnam Park. Stay tuned!

For complete results and lap records, please see www.nasagreatlakes.com.

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