

Heavy rains across the province cancelled racing at both Delaware Speedway and Sunset Speedway on Saturday with the final race of the APC United Late Model Series season getting postponed until Sunday. Sunset would not be rescheduling their final points night of the season and as a result Jake would finish 5<sup>th</sup> in points and Samantha would finish 19<sup>th</sup> with her limited schedule due to a broken wrist suffered earlier in the season. With the APC Series race now rescheduled for Sunday the #86 pro late model team took advantage of the rainy Saturday to do a few last minute checks on the #86 including some touchup paint on the body as well as replacing some decals in anticipation of the autograph session that was planned for the last race of the season.

The team was a little nervous about how the car would handle after repairing the damage from the last race two weeks ago but they did get a chance to take the #86 out to Flamboro Speedway on Tuesday afternoon for a shakedown and to test their setup for Frostoberfest at the beginning of October. The car was fast right out of the trailer and Billy was quite happy with the handling so it was a short session as the team was only on site for just over an hour. With the



Sunday schedule matching the same schedule that was supposed to be run on Saturday, the #86 team was up bright and early and on the road by 7:00 AM to head to Delaware. Billy took to the track for first practice and he was happy with the handling and it showed on the speed chart as he was 6<sup>th</sup> quickest overall. With a 20 minute break between practice sessions the team worked on some minor adjustments to help the car rotate through the

centre of the corners. As second practice got underway Billy

rocketed to the top of the speed charts and he would cut the session short as he was tied with the #83 of Dale Shaw for the second fastest time of the session. After bolting on their new tires and going through pre-race technical inspection, a full field of 28 pro late models lined up on pit road for an autograph session before qualifying got underway. Billy was the 20<sup>th</sup> car on track to make his

qualifying run and he got the crowd talking on his first lap as he would put the #86

to the top of the board before laying down an even faster second lap of 18.255 seconds which was only 0.019 seconds off the track record. Billy's time would hold up against some of the fastest pro late models in the province as he would get his first ever pole position in the APC Series. After the pill draw to determine the top-5 starting positions, it would be the #44 of Steve Laking that would start on the pole followed by the #22, Billy in the #86, the #83, the #81 and the #27 rounding out the top-5.



The field came to the green and the first caution fell early on lap 9 but not before Billy had dropped back to 4<sup>th</sup>. Stuck in the outside lane for the restart, Billy dropped back to 7<sup>th</sup> behind the #81 before he was able to get down to the inside lane. Billy picked up a position on lap 22 as he got by the #27 but the caution returned shortly after as the #83 and #44 got together in turns 3 & 4 causing Billy to go low to avoid and move up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the process behind the #22 & #81. As the field rolled under caution, Billy came over the radio and reported that the motor was starting to stumble and it was cutting out in the corners before clearing out down the straight-aways. The #27 was able to make his way past Billy on the restart putting Billy again on the outside line as the third caution came out on lap 28. At this point the



stumble in the motor was getting worse and Billy dropped back to 6<sup>th</sup> where he was running until the next caution again involving the #44. As the #44 sat up against the outside wall the #17 inexplicably came around and drove right into the front of him ending his night. Billy lost two more spots on the ensuing restart and his frustration was starting to mount as the car was handling extremely well but the stumble in the motor was killing him coming out of the corner. At the halfway point the leaders pulled away and

Billy ran back in 9<sup>th</sup> before eventually falling back to 12<sup>th</sup> as the laps ticked away with now only 30 laps to go. Multiple cautions fell over the last 30 laps and Billy made it very obvious how frustrated he was as he felt like he was going to get run over on every restart as the motor stumbled when he put the throttle down. With the team unable to do anything; Billy's crew chief and spotter tried to calm their frustrated driver by telling him just to do the best he could over the final laps as we were having a good points night and all he could do was stay out of trouble and bring the car home in one piece. When the checkered flag fell, it was the #81 of Andrew Gresel taking the victory and the series championship as Billy came home in 11<sup>th</sup>. With the 11<sup>th</sup> place finish and the 5 bonus points for the fastest qualifying time, Billy was able to move up two positions from 9<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in the overall standings.

Billy makes his first appearance in the #86 mini stock this season as he joins Jake and Samantha at Sunset Speedway on Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> & Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> for the Velocity 250 weekend. The front gates open at 1:30 PM with racing getting underway at 3:30 PM on Saturday while on Sunday the front gates open at 11:30 AM with racing getting underway at 1:00 PM.