

The Lead Lap

1st career top 5 and podium finish

The opening night was a tough one for the sophomore driver Kevin Wiseman. The day began to go south when after the first practice session when a small hole was found in the radiator. After borrowing a radiator from the 99 team a second more discerning problem was found as it was found that the torque converter had sheered from the back of the motor, preventing power from being transferred from the motor to the transmission and drive train. After contemplating loading up and heading home, Chase Stapp, crew chief of the 99 team convinced Wiseman that the change was easy and could be done. With Stapp's assistance and spare torque converter, in addition to help from the 77 team of Jody and Justin Buzbee the Wiseman/DeMarino duo managed to make the change and make the heat race with a few minutes to spare. "I was convinced that we were headed to the stands to eat dollar hot dogs and drink stale draft beer" Wiseman said after all the mechanical problems were found.

After making the critical repairs, Wiseman started his heat race in 8th place. When the green fell, he moved to 5th at the end of the 1st lap and kept pace with the leaders finishing 5th.

Wiseman started the feature in 10th place. When the green flag dropped, he stayed patient as early cautions thinned the 17 truck field. On each restart, Wiseman chose the outside line and was able to advance into the top 10. Around lap 20, Kevin was spun out by the 06 truck of Dale Sheen in turn 4. During the spin, the pins holding the deck cover down came loose causing the deck cover to flap. After a brief pit stop for repairs, Wiseman rejoined the pack at the end of field. Wiseman made a beeline towards the front avoiding the spinning 22 and 23 trucks. As the race neared the end, Wiseman found himself in the top 5 when a late caution slowed the field with only 6 laps to go. Wiseman made the choice to stick to the low side as the green flag dropped. Wiseman was able to keep the pace advancing into the second position



behind the 76 truck of Lynn Hardy Jr. Wiseman was able to hold back the 53 truck of Wayne Wrappas and take the checkered flag in 2nd position. This was Wiseman's first career top 5 and 1st career podium finish. "When the checkered fell, I kinda freaked out cause we had never been in the top five before and certainly had never been in contention for a win" Wiseman said. When I pulled up the podium and got out, I stood on the door and was so elated you would have thought we'd just of won the Daytona 500, Wiseman continued. I mean after all the problems we had, I couldn't believe we'd finished the race at all, and a 2nd place finish never even entered my mind, Wiseman concluded.

Wiseman
MOTORSPORTS

 The logo for Wiseman Motorsports, featuring the name 'Wiseman' in a large, stylized orange font, 'MOTORSPORTS' in a smaller orange font below it, and a graphic of a checkered flag with horizontal lines underneath.

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DLR & Associates



DeMarino, shown above, is the crew chief and spotter for the #28 DLR and Associates Chevy Silverado

“I HAD TO PINCH MYSELF TO MAKE SURE THIS WAS FOR REAL....”

Crew Chief Corner

Crew chief Matt DeMarino took a few moments to fill us in from the crew chief's prospective regarding last Saturday's race. "It seemed that the deck was stacked against us from the time we left the house" Matt says. "I was positive that all the problems we had would have had us home in time to catch the Budweiser Shootout on TV." I couldn't believe how fast the truck was when we got it all back together, Demarino said regarding the heat race. "We decided to make no changes for the feature other than adjusting the tire pressures since we really were not sure what the truck was going to do". Kevin was so patient and kept his a cool head when he was knocked around by the 06 and 23 trucks, Matt continued. "When we came to the last caution with 6 to go, I was shocked to see Kevin in 5th, and for a change, he decided to stay low for the last restart and it stuck". Demarino says. "When the checkers came out, I had to pinch myself to make sure that this was all for real". "We made it through tech with no problems, though being the first time to be in tech, I was not sure what to expect". When we were done, it really set in that we managed to pull a lemon of a day into a 2nd place finish". "The ride home was comical, Kevin and I both just kept laughing, not believing that there was a 2nd place trophy in the back seat". DeMarino concluded.

Looking Ahead

The DLR & Associates Chevy will hit the track again for race 2 of the 2011 campaign on February 26th when the green flag drops for the "Adrenaline on Asphalt" event at Houston Motorsports Park. The track is offering a buy one get one free ticket special for adults, and as always, kids under 12 are free. Lastly, there will be plenty of \$1 hotdogs and plenty of ice cold \$1 beer and soda.

Recent Photos



The 28 truck heading down the front stretch during practice.



Kevin and Dan Rathe, Sponsor, in the pits after the race.



Matt and Kevin after being awarded the 2nd place trophy



Kevin and Team Mom Elisa Wiseman during intermission.



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