

# JCR

JESSICA CLARK RACING

## NEWSLETTER

Hi Everyone!

The title of this month's newsletter should be, "Taming the Dragon!" That's what racing in Blythe at the Lucas Oil Speedway feels like. In other words, if the track isn't treated with respect, it might burn you! The car count is typically a bit lower (we had 29 cars) because some people prefer to avoid the experience. Since I raced a USAC Focus Midget there two years ago, and placed second in the feature, I was confident racing a modified wouldn't be much more of a challenge – I was wrong! I learned a few things that can be applied in the fall when I race there again.

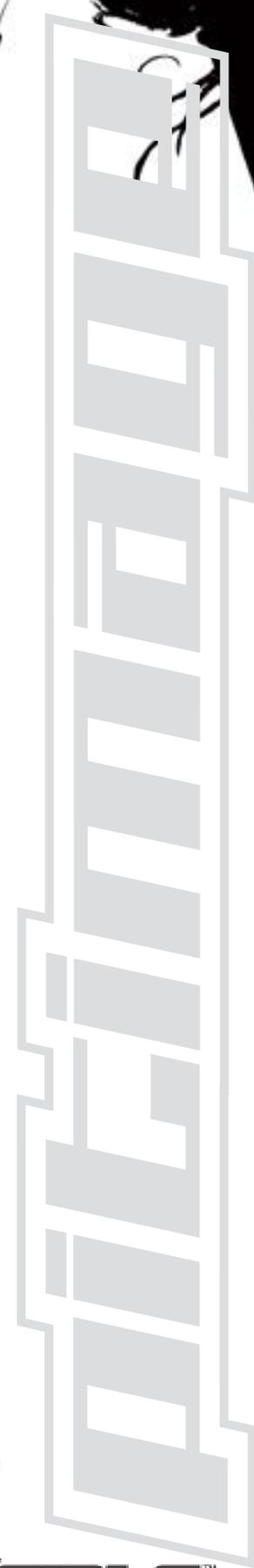
Practice on Friday evening was going pretty well until our practice tires completely lost their grip. When the tires go, there's no point in continuing to practice because you won't make any gains or learn anything. So here's what that means – for the first time in my career I had to go out and qualify on Saturday without any race day practice. We simply put a new set of race tires on the car, and I went out to qualify – hoping for the best! The top 16 qualify for the "A" main. Well, the top 16 qualifying times were one tenth of a second apart. That's how competitive the series is! I ran my fastest time all weekend in qualifying, placing me in 13th – Whew!



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The feature was 75 laps. I was hit from behind on lap three, which resulted in a wreck that landed another car on top of me – literally! A red flag forced everyone to stop and turn their cars off. Incredibly, the only major damage done to my car, outside of crushed panels and bumpers, was a flat left front tire. The car was towed to the pits and every available hand descended on the car in order to get it back on the track before the green flag was thrown. It worked! I managed to return to the race and salvage a 12th place finish. My GoPro camera captured much of the race so I'll be putting it on YouTube as soon as I get it edited.



We left Blythe around 11:30 p.m. and arrived at a Girl Scout camp in Riverside at 2:00 a.m. Troop # 11484 invited me to talk to the girls about empowering females. After getting a few hours of sleep in a tent, we rolled the car out of the trailer and fired it up. Suddenly, Girl Scouts ranging in age from about 7 to 17 came running from all directions to the grass in front of my car. They asked some great questions, and I encouraged them to always keep smiling – after all, it's difficult to be unhappy if you're smiling. Utilizing motor sports as way to reach out to young people is really rewarding, and I look forward to future opportunities.

What's next?

We race at the Las Vegas Bullring in May!

I appreciate all of the good thoughts and support from friends, family, and fans.

**SINCERELY,**

**JESSICA**



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