

Hope4Sudan/Motorvation Top Fuel team rallies Saturday

COMMERCE, Ga., April 18, 2009 -- Lance Larsen did what Clay Millican expected on Saturday and Millican earned the 12th starting berth for Sunday's Summit Racing Equipment Southern Nationals at Atlanta Dragway.

After smoking the tires twice Friday, Millican took the Hope4Sudan/ Motorvation Top Fuel dragster down the 1000-foot track in times of 3.917 seconds at 311.92 mph and 3.932 at 306.88 mph on Saturday. He races Antron Brown (fifth, 3.867 at 311.63) in the first round.

"Lance backed off on the tune-up a little bit and we qualified on our first run," Millican reported. "And he left it alone on the second run and it almost repeated the time. Sunday his plan is to run in the mid-3.80s against Antron because that's what we expect him to do."

Hope4Sudan/Motorvation Top Fuel dragster smokes tires Friday

COMMERCE, Ga., April 17, 2009 -- Tire smoke on both of his Friday qualifying runs at Atlanta Dragway forced Clay Millican to shut off early as Summit Racing Equipment Southern Nationals action began.

Millican's best time of 5.898 seconds at 107.68 mph came on his second attempt but left him 17th among the 19 entries. He did his best to get the tires to hook up. He pedaled the throttle early in his second 1,000-foot pass and got back into it, but the tires continued spinning, so he lifted.

"We haven't smoked the tires like that in awhile," Millican said. "I tried to get the car to go down the track but it just didn't respond. We're confident Lance (Larsen, team crew chief) will get things figured out before Saturday's qualifying runs.

The car's first run lost traction early and Millican opted to coast to a 9.356-second time at 73.02 mph.