

MPE Motorsports Report:

2nd NHRA Carolinas Nationals
zMAX Dragway
Concord, N.C., Sept. 19, 2009

Clay Millican
Drummonds, Tenn.
Hope4Sudan/Motorvation Top Fuel Dragster
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Millican squares off with Schumacher in Countdown opener

Clay Millican breathed a sigh of relief Saturday afternoon at zMAX Dragway after qualifying 14th for Sunday's Carolina Nationals -- the first of six NHRA Countdown to the Championship events.

After two mediocre 1,000-foot laps Friday, the Hope4Sudan/Motorvation team rallied with runs of 3.912 seconds at 308.21 mph and 3.952. Millican's opening round foe is Tony Schumacher (No. 3, 3.848 at 316.75).

"That wasn't what we were looking for," Millican commented. "The combination is a puzzle. We seem to run consistent times from 3.91 to 3.95 seconds . . . and that's all it wants to run. We've made an effort to change that but it continues to do the same thing.

"We've made a lot of changes but, obviously, we haven't changed the right thing yet. We hope to get everything squared away (Saturday night) because we need to run better on Sunday."

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