

Gatornationals race recap

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Clay Millican

Drummonds, Tenn.

Hope4Sudan/Motorvation/Matco/Lucas Oil Top Fuel Dragster

NHRA ACDelco Nationals

March 15, 2009

Gainesville (Fla.) Raceway

Clay Millican runs quicker but can't catch Antron Brown

Clay Millican registered his quickest Gatornationals elapsed time Sunday but it still wasn't enough to chase down Antron Brown in the opening round at Gainesville Raceway.

Millican's 1,000-foot elapsed time in the Hope4Sudan/Motorvation Top Fuel dragster was 3.958 seconds at 307.09 mph while Brown crossed first with a 3.920 at 305.63 mph.

"Well, on the positive side," said Millican, "the car got quicker on every run, but we weren't able to fix the problem of getting the car to leave the starting line harder. It runs so well from half-track to the finish line. Now we just need to get it moving earlier."

Crew chief Lance Larsen said the car "was responding, but we have to do it quicker. We came here with a different setup and we were playing catch-up after not getting down the track Friday (in the first two qualifying runs). It will be running better when we get to Houston (March 27-29).

"Clay is driving well and my guys are working hard."

Saturday runs produce best time of 3.978 seconds

GAINESVILLE, Fla., March 14 -- After a slow Friday start, Clay Millican got back on the right track Saturday as qualifying concluded for Sunday's ACDelco Gatornationals at Gainesville Raceway.

Crew chief Lance Larsen tuned the Hope4Sudan/Motorvation Top Fuel dragster to a 4.011-second time in the opening session and followed with a stellar 3.978 seconds at 302.69 mph that put Millican 11th overall.

"Lance has the tune-up going in the right direction," said a happy Millican. "That last run was what he was looking to do in our first two runs on Friday. It's all about going down the race track and we got down two times in a row. I think we'll be ready to go Sunday."

He squares off against Antron Brown (3.943 at 305.77 mph) in the first round.

Hope4Sudan/Motorvation Top Fuel dragster 17th

GAINESVILLE, Fla., March 13, 2009 -- Well, from the looks of things, crew chief Lance Larsen made considerable progress getting driver Clay Millican and the MPE Motorsports dragster off the starting line quicker -- his goal coming here for the ACDelco Gatornationals this weekend. However, in doing so, it might have upset the tune-up for the remainder of the 1000-foot run. "It looks like we found what Lance was looking for, but in doing so, we must have gone on the wrong side of the tuning curve," Millican explained after the car lost traction and smoked the tires in the day's two qualifying sessions. "We jumped over the threshold and now we need to find the happy medium." He is 17th overall with the final runs due Saturday. His quickest run was 5.214 seconds at 133.72 mph. His other time was 5.926 seconds.

"The car is running fine, now we must learn how to manage the tune-up," added Millican, of Drummonds, Tenn. "We get two more shots at it Saturday."