

Clay Millican
Drummonds, Tenn.
Hope4Sudan/Motorvation/Matco/Lucas Oil Top Fuel Dragster

NHRA O'Reilly Spring Nationals Recap
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Millican reaches quarterfinals at Houston as performance Of Hope4Sudan/Motorvation dragster improves

BAYTOWN, Texas, March 29, 2009 – The positive things Clay Millican and the MPE Motorsports Top Fuel team learned during the O'Reilly Spring Nationals were far more important than losing in Sunday's quarterfinal-round at Houston Raceway Park.

“We got our first win light of the season and I think the car is much more competitive than it has been,” Millican said after his tire-smoking loss to Joe Hartley, 5.142 seconds at 152.087 mph to 4.083 at 294.31. “The sun came out Sunday and conditions were much different than Saturday.”

Millican recorded his quickest and fastest numbers of the season, 3.871 seconds at 313.80 mph, Saturday and began eliminations from the No. 4 slot – thanks to crew chief Lance Larsen's tune-up change prior to the final qualifying run.

Millican drove the Hope4Sudan/Motorvation dragster to its round win, outrunning Troy Buff, 3.937 at 301.20 mph to 3.997 at 288.52 mph. Millican left the starting line first (.068-second to .098) and never trailed.

He also was first off the line against Hartley (.087 to .101-second), but the tires began spinning “about 300 feet into the run,” said Millican. “Unfortunately, we didn't have enough knowledge about how the new combination would work. Lance tried to get the car to go down the track without spinning the tires, but it didn't work.

“I pedaled (the throttle) trying to get the tires to hook up, but I gave up when I saw the back of Hartley's car go by. We weren't hoping for a second-round loss, but we are definitely happy with the progress we made this weekend.”

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