

May 3, 2009
Recap of O'Reilly NHRA Midwest Nationals

Clay Millican
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Gateway International Raceway, Madison, Ill., May 3

Clay Millican loses close race to Bernstein at St. Louis

MADISON, Ill. (St. Louis, Mo.) – Clay Millican called Sunday's close opening-round loss to Brandon Bernstein in the O'Reilly Midwest Nationals, "a good, old drag race . . . they just did a better job than we did. But we made them earn that win and we proved we have a competitive race car."

Bernstein stopped the timer in 3.900 seconds at 302.82 mph with Millican's MPE Motorsports Hope4Sudan/Motorvation dragster in close pursuit at 3.919, 306.74 mph. Bernstein advanced to the finals before losing.

"It's not often when you have a .048-second (reaction time) in Top Fuel that you are chasing the guy in the other lane, but that's what happened Sunday," added Millican. "Brandon had a .035 light and his car went right down the racetrack, too.

"I'm proud of our team and very happy with the way the car responds. It went down the racetrack on every run. Lance Larsen, our crew chief, did what he wanted to with the tune-up and the car liked the changes he made. We'll just take the information we learned here and add it to our data from testing and move on to Bristol (Tenn., site of the Thunder Valley Nationals, May 15-17)."

May 2, 2009

MPE Motorsports dragster post 3.910-second elapsed time

MADISON, Ill. (St Louis, Mo.), May 2, 2009 -- Two qualifying attempts to make the Midwest Nationals' starting line-up did not hinder Clay Millican and the Hope4Sudan/Motorvation Top Fuel team Saturday, and he'll start Sunday's race in the eighth position. Millican's quickest 1,000-foot run at Gateway International Raceway was 3.910 seconds at 294.82 mph.

"Our car is running a lot better, but it was spinning the tires at the top end of the race track," Millican said. "Everybody seems to have the same problem. None of the cars ran any big speed. We'll make adjustments for it Sunday."

Millican's first run following Friday's rained out sessions was 3.963 at 294.63. He squares off against Brandon Bernstein (No. 9, 3.944 at 297.02 mph) in the Sunday's opening round of eliminations.

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O'Reilly NHRA Midwest Nationals
Gateway International Raceway, Madison, Ill., May 1-3

May 1, 2009

Rain washes out Midwest Nationals qualifying

MADISON, Ill., May 1, 2009 -- Clay Millican and the MPE Motorsports team watched rain fall Friday at Gateway International Raceway and crew chief Lance Larsen didn't warm up the engine in the Hope4Sudan/Motorvation Top Fuel dragster.

The result was Larsen saved the team some nitromethane fuel because NHRA officials canceled Midwest Nationals qualifying. Two more sessions are scheduled Saturday.

"Right now, the weather report for Saturday calls for 65-to-75 percent chance of rain," Millican said. "We hope they'll be wrong and we can get qualified and race on Sunday. It seems like it's either real hot or it rains when we get to St. Louis."

Pro Stock Motorcycle riders were the only ones to get in a qualifying run before rain interrupted the competition.