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Dylan Presnell Scores Win in Race 101 Super Late Model Program Car at Newport, TN

Denver, NC - Fourteen year old Dylan Presnell of Sevierville, TN set fast time at Newport Speedway Saturday night and won the 75 lap feature event in the Race 101 program car led by crew-chief and driving coach Tony Blanchard, owner of RACE 101. This would mark the first time Dylan was ever in a super late model race car. Dylan was looking to make a successful transition from his own late model stock car into the ultra-fast super late model, and he did just that.

Tony Blanchard is known for coaching young drivers and helping them with transitions into different race cars. Blanchard had worked with Dylan before, just one time last year. Dylan liked working with Tony and the two worked together again last weekend in Dylan's family owned #83 late model stock car at Newport, with setting fast time and nearly winning the race before getting caught up in oil on the track. Tony suggested that Dylan try racing a super late model, and get the feel and experience of that type of car. After discussing options with Dylan and his family, Blanchard would bring his RACE 101 super late model to TN for Dylan to test that next Friday; and based on his comfort level and performance they would race him in the super late model event on Saturday at Newport in the RACE 101 program car. The test went well, and the decision was made for Dylan to race the car on Saturday.

Saturday started out with good lap times in practice with Tony and Dylan making steady adjustments to the car. Dylan went out and qualified at a 12.56 second lap, setting fast time. This was impressive since the average speed for the pole at Newport is 12.8 seconds. Dylan started third in the 75 lap feature with an inverted start; racing with against dueling champions who started in front of him, for the first time ever. Blanchard was on the radio with Dylan the entire time, coaching him to save his tires and wait for the right opportunity to take the lead. When that opportunity came it was in spectacular style, with Dylan going for an opening on the bottom, when the leader tried to go high around a lap car -- making it three wide for the pass. Dylan took the lead and never looked back. The fans at Newport were on their feet as the personable and popular young driver passed and out-ran the track's super late model top

championship contenders. Needless to say, Victory Lane for Dylan was quite a celebration and the Newport fans enjoyed a great show.

"I told Dylan to be patient, stay calm and save his tires, and he listened." Says Blanchard. "For only 14 years old he showed a lot of maturity and you don't usually get that from a young driver. I knew we had a good car, and Dylan just had to trust me. He did a great job and I am looking forward to working with him more."

Dylan was excited about his win, but also looked at it as a great learning experience. "I had planned on someday soon getting into a super late model, and this opportunity came up with Tony and I knew if I was going to make the transition, I would be in good hands." He continues, "Tony is very calm, patient and steady on the radio, and that really helped me. I had to get used to the difference with these cars, because you can definitely drive them into the corner harder and they respond faster off the corner. Tony coached me on my line, throttle control and saving my tires. He made the transition very easy on me and I was so glad that I could win for him in his car--especially since it's his birthday on Sunday."

Dylan will now be part of the RACE 101 program. He has been added to the roster of drivers that are currently working with Tony Blanchard and the RACE 101 program and race cars. Blanchard will be working with Dylan in all cars that he drives, as a driving coach and possibly with another run in the RACE 101 late model.

"I was a little worried about Dylan getting into a super late model," Says Ken Presnell (Dylan's father). "These cars are so much faster than the late model stocks, especially at Newport. But after testing with Tony on Friday, and seeing how he and Dylan worked so well together, along with Dylan's confidence in the car and himself, I felt better about him racing the next day." He continues, "As a parent of a driver you are looking at a lot of things- the safety, the speed, and the overall quality of the equipment and people that you put your trust in to work with your kids --- after this weekend with Tony and the Race 101 car, we feel we could not have picked a better person or program for Dylan."

Dylan is looking forward to working with Blanchard and Race 101 in the future. "As you move up the ranks, going from car to car there is always that transition period from small car, to big car, and then different types of late models. It's good to have an experienced coach like Tony to help you make these transitions. We communicate really good, and he keeps me calm and patient. He helps with your confidence and comfort level in the car, so this is very good for me at this point in my career. I hope to be able to drive the Race 101 super late model again really soon, it's a good race car. Even though it's

Tony's car, he works side by side with your team members and crew, too. We all worked really well together. I want to thank Tony for his help and the opportunity to drive the Race 101 car, and I also want to thank my car chief 'Dinky' for being there for my first super late model win at my home track. It was awesome and I hope we can have many more wins together."

Blanchard and RACE 101 want to send out special thanks to RACE 101 partners, McGunegill Engine Performance. "The McGunegill engine was just fantastic on the Newport high banks." Says Blanchard. "I want to give them credit for this win as well for providing us with such high quality engines. We are looking forward to bringing in more wins with McGunegill".

RACE 101 is an educational, coaching and consulting program for race drivers who wish to advance their careers or become a better driver. The program offers a variety of programs and specializes in working with drivers one-on-one. RACE 101 also offers a yearly scholarship program for deserving drivers, and is currently accepting applications for 2010.

For more information please visit: www.race101.net

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