Billings 4th Amongst Small Block Peers at Can Am Motorsports Park
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With a strong performance on opening night, Matt Billings and his team were looking for big results for the second week of the season. Friday night, they would travel to Chapman's Can Am Motorsports Park in Lafargeville, New York for their event on Friday night, and then Saturday the team made the two-hour haul to Fulton, New York, located just north of Syracuse to race at the Fulton Speedway.

Billings was fast off the trailer Friday night at Can Am, posting the 10th overall speed in practice, and one of the top speeds amongst the disadvantaged Small Block competitors, racing against the more powerful Big Blocks.

"When the track is real tacky like it usually is early in the night, that is when the Small Blocks are at the biggest disadvantage", says Billings. "Hopefully by feature time the track will get slick, and it will help to even us out".

Billings started his 8 lap qualifying heat from 5th place, but after losing ground early due to a slower car in front of him at the start of the race, and no cautions in the race to help regain some of that lost ground, Billings crossed the line in 7th place, a disappointing result with a car and driver that was capable of plenty more without that early race setback.

With the 7th place finish in the heat race, Billings was marred deep in the field for the 30 lap main event, starting from the 20th position. Starting from that far back is a challenge, especially when the first half of the race went without a caution. Billings maneuvered his Billings Automotive, Stealth Racewear, Race 101, Turn One High Performance Steering Systems, Pastime Motors, Babe Design, Finish Line Web Design, Carquest and Engine Research sponsored Bicknell machine up to the 13th position when the checkered flag came out. Billings finished as the 4th highest finishing Small Block, and is now 3rd in points after the first two races of the season, just six points behind the leader.

"We certainly have some work to do before next week. Our biggest problem tonight was track position, and we got off to that bad start in the heat race, and were never able to quite recover from that. We will just have to dig a little deeper, and hope for a better finish next week", said Billings after the race.

Saturday night, the Billings team traveled to the Fulton Speedway to get some laps in, and get more seat time with his 358 Modified. Their regular Saturday night home, Brockville Ontario Speedway doesn't open until May 15th, so Billings took the opportunity to race at a track that is amongst the favorites of the 16 year old Billings, who coincidently has his 17th Birthday on the same day as the BOS Season Opener.

Unfortunately, a late afternoon downpour forced the Fulton track officials to cancel the night's racing program, and made for a long drive back to their Brockville, Ontario home.

Matt will be back in action this Friday night at Chapman's Can Am Motorsports Park. Brockville Speedway also opens for practice this weekend, and Matt will take a few laps at the home track before making another visit to the Fulton Speedway, this time hoping for some nice weather.

For more information on Matt Billings and the Billings Racing Team, please visit our website, www.mattbillings74.com.

Matt Billings stands beside his DIRTcar 358 Modified. Matt will be racing at Can Am, and Fulton this weekend, with a practice session at Brockville in between. (Doug Elkins Photo)