

Back on Track Naples teen Michael Cenzi returns to his racing roots

NAPLES, FLORIDA, July 6, 2010 - Michael Cenzi anticipates success with his return to Punta Gorda Speedway on Saturday. The Naples teenager will race his family-owned no. 92 late model, and he shares excitement with many in the racing community about the speedway's resurrection.

The re-opening of Southwest Florida's only paved stock car oval - now known as the Punta Gorda Speedway - occurred on May 29. The fresh ownership has delivered plenty of optimism.

"It is exciting to finally be back in the car," says Cenzi. "And it is even sweeter when it is a track that I am very familiar with. The new owners have made subtle changes creating a fair playing field for all racers, lowering racing costs, and they are focused on bringing short track racing back to the fans.

Cenzi enjoyed great success at the speedway when it was called Charlotte County Motorsports Park. In 2005 at the age of twelve, Cenzi launched his short track career in the FasTruck Kids Series. As the youngest driver in the division he made his debut with a third place qualifying run at the track he calls home.

Cenzi's race team delivers important "safe driving" message

Michael will get personal with the fans visiting the spectator area to speak and educate them on the dangers of texting while driving.

"No text is so important that you put everyone around you at risk," says the advocate of his 'Don't Text and Drive' campaign. "People think they can text without affecting their ability to drive safely. It cannot be done safely! Please put the cell phone down when you drive."

In 2009 over 6,000 people were killed in accidents related to distracted drivers, and more than one million people were injured.

"We can make a big difference by respecting the 'No Phone Zone'," says Cenzi. "Our goal is to collect 10,000 signed contracts from people pledging to not text and drive. I know we can do it."

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