



JULY 16, 2008
Benicia, Ca



MICHAEL HOGG

Stars of Karting East Rounds 5 and 6, Shawano, WI. Sunday Report

“We did what we needed to do, and it was our consistency and hard work that paid off in the end,” say Michael Hogg responding to media at the track after being asked his thoughts on his newly achieved Stars of Karting Eastern Championship.

The third heat race took place this morning, and was the final of three heat races. These heat races determined each drivers starting position for the two final events. Starting outside the front row in second spot, Michael jumped out into the lead by the first corner and held off a charging Jose Zanella for the win. After review however, the race officials determined that Michael had jumped the start and he would be penalized three spots.

“Personally, I feel it was to close to call, and I feel that the fact that the pole sitter didn’t have a great start further emphasized the idea of me jumping the start. I do appreciate the professionalism in which the Stars Officials handled the situation though, and I trust their judgment. We will move on and focus our attention to the final races.”

After all the points had been tallied up from all three heats, Michael maintained a solid second place starting position for both final races. He would be starting along his biggest competition Jose Zanella. Michael opted to use new tires for this race which was different than most other drivers. There were many different strategies in play, which all adds to the excitement of kart racing.

At the green flag Michael was able to tuck in behind Zanella with Mair right behind in third. Michael and Zanella began to break away, and Michael was in good shape to take



over the lead. Just when Michael was preparing for a pass on Zanella, the master link on his chain broke causing him to retire from the race.

“It was a huge disappointment for both my mechanic Scott and I, but it was just part of racing. It’s happened to the best so we just have to try our best to prevent it from happening again.”

Hogg ended up finishing in 7th spot which made the point’s race even tighter. After points were calculated, it was determined that Hogg needed to finish 4th or better in order to clinch the Eastern Division Championship.

When it came time for the second final, the adrenaline was pumping for all the drivers in the class. Being the final race on the East, there was a lot on the line for all drivers involved. When the green flag flew for the standing start of the second Tag ICC Final it was Michael Hogg getting the whole shot off the line. Michael Rocketed off the line and was able to squeeze Zanella to the inside to hold onto the top spot. Both Zanella and Mair being on new tires though, Hogg was challenged early on. By the end of the third lap he had dropped back to third spot. Michael knew what he had to do, and started to run very consistent and fast lap times, considering his tires were older than anyone else’s. After a 15 lap race of the USA International Raceway, Michael Hogg rolled across the line in third spot. Not only taken the step on the podium, Michael had won the Eastern Division Championship.

“What an amazing feeling,” Michael said,” We have worked hard for this all year, and to now have a championship in my name is a great feeling.”

Michael Hogg had done what he needed to do, and his excitement was shared with his mechanic Scott Cowell and all the rest of his teammates at the podium ceremony. A tough weekend for Michael really made him work hard for every inch. It proved to be a big learning experience and showed Michael’s driving capability. Finally, Michael made sure to thank all his loyal sponsors and supporters in his post race interview.

“I need to really thank all of my sponsors for this championship. First of all, Italian Motors for all of their hard work. Michael and Claudio Valiante for all of the advice and coaching, WAM Development Group, Ritter Motorsports, CMSI Pacific, Molecule Labs, and Bell Racing.”

Michael will be back on track for the 5th and 6th rounds of the Western Division Championship in Seattle Washington at the end of August.

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