



Jessica Clark Racing Newsletter



Hello Friends!

Summer just blew by! I'm back at school, and we're approaching the final stretch of the racing season. During the month of August I raced the Limited Late Model, a Focus Midget on dirt, and my Focus Midget on pavement. It was challenging, yet helpful with my overall development as a driver.

On July 30th, I was in my fourth race in the Limited Late Model. Unfortunately, there was a wreck in the first lap of the race. I navigated through it safely but ended up getting hit from behind and sent into the wall. I was fine – the car was destroyed! Although the cost of that crash threatened to put me out of the car for the remainder of the season, we did end up running again, which I'll talk about later.



During the first week of August I was provided the opportunity to run three Focus Midget races on dirt in one week. This being a new experience, my goal was to improve my ability to control the car with the throttle. It would translate back to the pavement. Although we had some issues with the fuel system in the car, I did put in a lot of laps and appreciated the help I received. I was a better driver by the time I returned to the pavement in Stockton the following weekend. For example, when the car was loose on exit, instead of asking for more grip, I got on the throttle and powered through it. I could do this because

I got used to sliding through the turns on dirt. I qualified 4th, placed 2nd in the Trophy Dash, and 4th in the feature that weekend.

The next race was at the Las Vegas Bullring – 105 degrees – twin features - 14 cars. Practice went well, and I had one of the fastest cars going into qualifying. After the race tires were put on the car, the setup was changed slightly, and I no longer had a fast car. I ended up qualifying 7th – yuck! We were back on track by the time we went out for the main, and I pulled off a 5th place finish and posted the fastest lap. The field was inverted for the second main, and again, I had a really good car. However, I simply couldn't get around one of the cars so I finished 9th. The positive part was when the father of the driver I couldn't pass came to see me after the race. He personally thanked me for not "punting his son out of the way". He said I earned a tremendous amount of respect because he knew I was exercising restraint. Respect is really important in this business so I felt good.





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Finally, I was back at Toyota Speedway on August 27th ready for double duty. Both the Limited Late Model and the Focus Midget were scheduled to race on the same day. I'll admit that I was a little concerned about the mental and physical challenge this was going to present – especially since it was over 100 degrees. The two cars were literally scheduled back to back throughout the day, so I was shuttled around the pits by a race official or the fire crew (I even ran through the pits a couple times). In the end, it was surprisingly easy for me to go from car to car.



After the Limited Late Model feature on the 1/2 mile – which I happily completed without incident – the Focus Midgets were already lined up on the grid for a heat race.

I wiped my face, took a drink of water, put my helmet back on, and strapped in the car while the field went onto the track without me and circled slowly while they waited. As I drove onto the track the crowd cheered. It meant so much to me that the fans really appreciated what I was doing. I came in 2nd in the heat.

After a short break, we were back out for the Focus Midget feature. It was an aggressive race with numerous cautions. I spun out early in the race and was sent to the back. I didn't make the same mistake twice though and worked hard to get back to the front. With three laps to go I made the pass for 2nd place, which is where I ended up finishing. It was an incredibly satisfying day, and I was grateful for the support of both of my crews and everyone else who helped meet my needs. I can't wait to do it again in October!

September will be busy, and I'll look forward to sharing more news.

Thanks for your good thoughts and support!

Jessica Clark

