



Gerald Podiums Again In Crandon!

6/26/09

Light Buggy racer Matt Gerald arrived at the TORC Midwest season opener in Crandon, WI this past weekend focused and hungry to win. After finishing runner up last season, Gerald and his father prepped and meticulously rebuilt the car over the off season. The team ran a shake down race in April, in Casey, IL, to prepare for the TORC series. With a spring drenched in rain the team wasn't able to get any local practice sessions in. TORC did not allow the sportsman teams to practice on Friday night making it difficult for Gerald to dial in the new motor and tire package on the fast Crandon track.

Saturday morning the team rolled the car out for the 3 lap practice. Crandon made several changes to the track including bringing in a new racing surface that was soft and boggy. Gerald tried several lines to find hard ground and good lines through out the track.

“After practice the car just didn't feel right I was having a hard time telling if it was the motor or the track. Something just didn't feel right.” stated Gerald. After discussing the track conditions with former teammate Jeff Kincaid, the team decided to leave the motor package in and make small adjustments to get more RPM's out of the engine.

Saturday 6/19/09

At the first green flag of the season, Gerald took off in the AMSOIL/Goodyear buggy and came around the first turn in 8th place. He soon picked off several cars and made his way to the 3rd spot. The motor started to fade and lose a lot of power at the half way point causing Gerald to drop several spots. When the checkered flag flew he had crossed the line in a very disappointing 6th place. After the race lead mechanic Tyler Wians, went to work prepping the car. Gerald and his father made the decision to replace the motor and transmission to not take chances risking what might be wrong. Gerald and Wians worked on the car until 11:30 Saturday night getting every thing perfect and set for Sunday's race.

Sunday 6/20/09

With the brand new Curt Gerald built engine and transmission in the car Gerald knew the car would be fast for the race. He made a couple test runs up and down the strait-away to get the clutch dialed in. Gerald lined up in the 6th position. When Fay dropped the green flag the AMSOIL machine came around the first turn again in 8th place. Gerald worked his way through traffic and passed several cars. Finally making his move into 2nd place when getting around Jeff Virnig. Gerald made his march to the front shaving off several seconds off the leader Stingle. With 3 laps to go he closed the gap and was within one second of the Stingle car. While attempting to make up more time, Gerald made a costly mistake and drove the car too deep into a bermed corner and packed the right rear wheel

full of dirt. With the wheel full of mud it made the car unstable and handled like it had a flat tire. Gerald was able to limp the car back to the finish line in 2nd place. After the race the team found that the packed wheel had shook the car so bad it rattled the rear suspension arm pivot bolt completely out. The only thing keeping the car from falling apart was the shock and spring plate.

“Overall it was a good weekend for the Gerald Racing Team. We walked away with a 6th and a 2nd place finish and are within striking distance of the points leader. We’re really looking forward to racing at Bark River in a few weeks. We’re always fast there!” said Gerald after the race.

Be sure to catch the Gerald Racing Team in action July 11th & 12th in Bark River MI.

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