



3DCS VIDEO
The Missing Piece to the Puzzle

Team 3DCS Survives Troubles at Crandon, Collects Two Podiums

Crandon, WI
June 28, 2009

Team 3DCS opened the Midwest swing of the 2009 Traxxas TORC series at the famed Crandon International Off-Road Raceway.

On Saturday, in the SRT Stock Truck race, Team 3DCS members Eric Ruppel and Don Demeny both found themselves outside the top five on the start. The two battled door handle to door handle for the early portion of the race while reeling in other competitors. However, mechanical issues took their toll on both drivers. Rupe ultimately pulled his #837 Phil's Inc BFGoodrich Ford off the track with a few laps to go, citing a broken crank as the problem; he received eleventh place points. Meanwhile, Don fought transmission troubles in the #885 Bayland Telephone BFGoodrich Dodge, but managed to hold off Scott Beauchamp and Al Konitzer for a third place finish.

In Saturday's SRT 1600 Light Buggy race, Team 3DCS' Matt Gerald jumped out to second early on and was in striking distance of race leader Wes Frehse. As the race progressed, though, Matt was unable to hold his position and steadily dropped back in the field, surrendering second to Bryan Holtger and third to Vincent Lohfquist, and the #195 Amsoil Ogio Goodyear car ultimately dropped to and finished sixth in the field of seventeen.

Saturday night saw all three drivers hard at work making important changes prior to Sunday's Round 2. Matt Gerald and crew chief Tyler Wians spent Saturday night going to their backup engine. Matt remarked, "Something just isn't right. I didn't have enough power and I was moving backwards. We'll take this engine home and figure it out, but for tomorrow we'll go with the backup engine."

Meanwhile, Rupe and his crew were hard at work searching for a replacement to their race-destroyed engine. Their quest landed them some help from the #807 Metz Plumbing Ford of Craig Metz, who loaned Rupe a spare engine which the crew installed on Sunday morning. Don Demeny, who survived transmission problems for a third place on Saturday, made some repairs to the transmission but kept the same one in the truck.

Sunday's SRT Stock Truck race saw both Don and Rupe come through Forest County Potawatomi Turn One mid-pack. However, Rupe's borrowed motor and Don's damaged transmission left both drivers off the pace of the lead pack. The two battled for fifth, swapping positions multiple times. At race's end, Don's #885 Bayland Telephone BFGoodrich Dodge stayed in fifth ahead of Rupe's #837 Phil's Inc BFGoodrich Ford.

"This isn't where we wanted to be after the first of five weekends this year, but it happens. Nothing we could've done; now we just have to put our head down and keep moving forward. We've got time to come back," stated a disappointed Rupe. Don was slightly more optimistic: "Fourth place in points after two rounds, not too bad. We fought the transmission issues and still came out in good shape. If we can keep the mechanical gremlins off our backs for the rest of the year we can make a push to the front."

In Sunday's SRT 1600 Light Buggy race, Matt Gerald swiftly moved into second place after a strong start. He chased eventual race winner Greg Stingle for the duration of the race but was unable to catch up and make a move; meanwhile Matt was able to hold off and run away from eventual third place finisher Jeff Virnig. Matt and the #195 Amsoil Ogio Goodyear car landed on the podium in second place in Round 2.

"We're third in points, so it could be worse. Saturday was disappointing. I really feel like we've got it in us to be on top. We've worked for it all winter, made every preparation, and to have engine problems on Saturday was disappointing. We'll figure it out, and we're going to come back in Bark River full power, and I think we'll be able to improve on this weekend," said Matt.

Team 3DCS and the Traxxas TORC Series presented by Amsoil travels next to Bark River, Michigan, for the UP Off-Road 100 on July 11 and 12.

Remember to check www.3dcsvideo.com soon for Crandon videos from Team 3DCS drivers!