

Dick Anderson Brings Home a 4th Place Finish

Battling an ill-handling race car, oppressive heat and humidity, and a full field of talented Super Late Model competitors, Wildwood's Dick Anderson put on a strong showing in the June 11 Orange Blossom 100 at Orlando Speedworld. Anderson converted a mediocre qualifying run—he placed 11th out of 24 cars entered in the field—into a solid fourth place finish at the end of the grueling 100-lap contest that saw the starting field reduced to eight cars running at the end.

“We missed a little on our set-up,” commented Anderson. “Putting on sticker tires for the race didn’t give us the edge we were looking for, and wound up making the car run entirely too tight.” During practice sessions the night before and earlier in the day, Anderson’s No. 92 was the class of the field on Orlando’s tight $\frac{3}{8}$ mile asphalt oval where a tight-handling car equals passing difficulties.

Anderson ran in the top 10 through most of the race, dodging a rash of accidents that produced 17 caution periods, three of which resulted in red flags to stop the cars for clean-up of major wrecks. As the race moved into its final ten laps, he moved into the top five, and then to third place on lap 92, when he was the victim of a bump-and-spin incident while making a front stretch power bid for second place. On the lap 93 restart, he moved quickly from 6th place in the running order to 4th, earning a solid finish in the first 100-lap event on his comeback tour.



The No. 92 waits out one of the three red flags.

Longwood, Florida’s Tim Russell—a perennial favorite in the Super Late Model ranks at many race tracks—led the first half of the event before being caught up in a major accident late in the race. Russell started on the pole for the event, but was credited with an 11th place finish. Veterans David Rogers of Orlando and Joe Winchell of Dade City finished first and second, with Huntsville, Florida’s Marty Pierce coming home third followed by Anderson, with Jared Allison of Cocoa, Florida rounding out the top five. Rogers set the fastest qualifying time, laying down a 13.4 second lap—100.7 miles per hour—on the slick asphalt surface.

Anderson’s fourth place finish in the June 11 event, coupled with his four feature wins this year, place him first in the points standings for Super Late Models at Orlando Speedworld. He presently maintains an 18-point lead over second place Ben Kennedy of Daytona, Florida. Anderson continues to show the local racing world that “once a racer, always a racer. Does it bother him competing against drivers less than half his age? “No,” Anderson asserts. “In fact, at the finish of the Orange Blossom, I felt like I was 25 again!”



About 18 club members made the trip to Orlando on June 11 to support Anderson in his bid for another win. Our club logo was on the car—we put it on the back bumper so more cars could see it as they followed Dick!



Anyway, before arriving at Speedworld, our spirited group made a side trip to Hooter's Restaurant in Waterford Lakes (see photo at left), where we had an enjoyable pre-race strategy session. Everybody basically behaved, although there were some tense moments. At the track, we had an unexpected Matt Bowers encounter...Matt was serving as a member of Dick's pit crew, and made a trip over to the grandstands to spend some time with us.

Here are some random photos from the trip...

