

SPECIAL REPORT

## New Dixie Racing Struggles Through a Long Night!

June 7, 2008



It started out bad, and just got worse for Dick Anderson's New Dixie Racing team last night at USA International Speedway. After electrical problems caused the No. 92 entry ("our car") to miss qualifying, and a similar set of problems forced the No. 26 Murphy Motorsports entry (another car set-up by the Anderson team) to waive off a qualifying run, there was a flurry of activity in the pits to

diagnose the trouble. By race time, it appeared that the problems had been identified and the No. 92, with Wayne Anderson at the wheel and our hood on display, was able to take the green flag, starting 25<sup>th</sup> in the field of 29 strong Super Late Model entries.

It was an interesting race, at least up until lap 23 of the 125-lap event. After a major accident on lap 2 took out six cars, and cautions on laps 5 and 7 further thinned the field to 20 cars, Wayne was on a steady march to the front, moving into 10<sup>th</sup> position on lap 21. Two laps later, though, the car lost power and drifted into the pits, where the New Dixie Team worked feverishly to detect the problem. Wayne took the car back into competition on lap 50, running in 19<sup>th</sup> position 27 laps down. This would only last another 17 laps, though, and the car retired for the night on lap 67.



"Our car" waiting by the wall during the lap 2 red flag.

This was the first leg of the Florida Triple Crown Series, so New Dixie Racing will have two more opportunities to capture trophies in this prestigious series. Of course, the one we're most interested in is the **second leg (August 2)**, when our club will be traveling as a group to cheer the team on.

In the second of last night's two main events, Dick Anderson protégé Jessica Murphy, driving the No. 26 Late Model entry, turned in an impressive performance as she overcame the dismal starting position caused by her inability to complete a qualifying run. Taking the green in 19<sup>th</sup> position in the field of 24 cars, she progressed steadily through the field, moving into the top 10 on lap 43 of the 100-lap event. Over the next 20 laps, she systematically picked off the competition to take 6<sup>th</sup> place on lap 65, only to be the victim of a "racing incident" on lap 80. The intermittent mechanical/electrical problems she experienced earlier in the day re-surfaced as she attempted to rejoin the field (her 6<sup>th</sup> position in the running order would have been restored), and she was unable to return to competition. The car was retired from the event on lap 83, resulting in a 16<sup>th</sup> place finish for this outstanding young driver.

From our vantage point in the pits, Glen Carter and I were able to observe the night's events close-up, and we're of the shared opinion that both of Dick's cars were on track to turn in impressive performances. Wayne was clearly the class of the field in the SLM event, and Jessica's methodical movement up through the positions plainly established her as a major contender. Looking forward to the remainder of the 2008 racing season, we anticipate continued strong performance from these two car-driver combinations. Wayne is recognized among the best-of-the-best in Florida racing circles, while Jessica, at age 17, shows the potential to be one of the Sunshine State's truly great racers.

Here are some highlight photos from last night's event:



Jessica Murphy prior to the start of the race. Note Crew Chief Carter in the background discussing race strategy with Ms. Murphy's crew; and no, she doesn't drive in open-toed sandals!



It was a rough night for Tim Russell. He was caught up in the lap 2 wreck in the main event, and was probably the only car that would have been able to run with the No. 92 (had it stayed healthy!)



The crew goes to work on Jessica's car during the red flag on lap 80 (yes, you can work on the cars during a red flag in FASCAR).