

# Steve Griffin Dominates at Inverness, May 22



Steve, discussing upcoming race strategy with a panel of experts!



Steve's No. 3 getting set for qualifying

Photos courtesy of Jake Loux

As we've been reporting, Steve Griffin is back! Man, is he back! In an awesome display of racing skill, he put on a clinic for other drivers at Citrus County Speedway in a 100-lap mini-stock feature at the venerable Inverness 3/8 mile oval. After qualifying second (about one one-hundredth of a second off the pole) and drawing a fourth-place starting position, Steve paced himself for the first quarter of the race, falling back and settling into sixth place while the early contenders battled for the top spots. Then, on lap 34, he drew on his driving skills to narrowly miss a two car accident in turn 2 and grabbed the lead. From that point on, it was all Steve, as he quickly built a two-second lead that he held up to the lap 50 competition yellow (mini-stocks do not typically carry enough fuel for a 100-lap run, so the cars were allowed to refuel for the second half of the event).

Steve made a pre-race trip over from the pits to the frontstretch grandstands to spend a few minutes with the contingent from our club, and expressed confidence that he had the car to beat. "I plan to take care of my car in the early laps," he said, "so don't be concerned when you see me drop back at the start." Evidently, his definition of a "drop back" was two spots, before the racer in him took over! Within about 15 laps after the lap-51 restart, his lead was stretched to four seconds, and at the end he had reached a half-lap lead on second place Travis Hoefler of Floral City.

It was a great night for Steve as he continues his successful return to competitive racing, and it was a great night for The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club. In his remarks in the winner's circle, in addition to acknowledging and thanking his sponsors, Steve expressed his appreciation to the club for its interest in his racing career and for its past support.

The future looks pretty bright for Steve in the months and years ahead!