

November 23, 2013  
Auburndale Speedway

# DYLAN WINS!!

(Qualified 5<sup>th</sup> out of 16 trucks)  
#8 Race Florida United Promoters Series



Dylan Martin in his #7 Blackwater Ford Raptor put on one heck of a show for the cheering fans this past Saturday night. The other 15 drivers had no idea that Dylan had showed up that weekend with favor on his side. See earlier that week Dylan had taken his truck to Combee and Polk City Elementary schools for their Great American Teach-In. He received over 1,000 personal “Good Luck” wishes from the students. With that and an almost 200 lap test session the week before....nothing was going to stop Dylan from his win.



Breaking his own personal qualifying record with a 14.62 second lap, he qualified his Pro Truck in 5<sup>th</sup> position. Dylan was grinning when he pulled into tech for post-qualifying inspection. He knew that his good luck charms were with him. Next step is the pill pull. This is where they can invert up to the top 7 trucks for the start of the race. It doesn't take the crew long to guess what number pill had been drawn when Dylan walked back up to his pit stall area. With even a bigger

grin, Dylan would be starting on the pole (a 5 had been drawn).

Dylan's smile continues to grow as the next thing was the Driver Autograph Session. All the FUPS drivers were called to the front stretch to meet and greet with the fans. Now I am not saying Dylan doesn't love to race but he certainly enjoys this too. He likes having the opportunity to thank the fans for coming out and meet with all the kids. He may only be 16 years old but his understanding of the importance of the race fans and sponsors, well exceeds his years.

At 7:56pm, the young 16 year old out of Lakeland brought the field to take the green flag. As Dylan and the #26 crossed the start/finish line, they were side by side. Within two laps, Dylan had a solid lead. On lap 6, the #41 truck drove into turn 1 too deep and hit Dylan to get his truck sideways. Dylan stayed in the throttle, got up on the wheel and drove it out of turn 2 like a pro. By lap 13, Dylan in his #7 Pro Truck had a good truck length lead on the others. But the next lap the caution flag came out.



Lap 14, Dylan and the #26 find themselves restarting side by side again. The flagman, Julian doesn't like the start so he throws a quick yellow flag for a complete restart. The Black #7 only takes one lap to get a good lead. A couple laps later another caution flag for the #26. It spins in turn 2 along with a few other trucks. It becomes a red flag as it takes some time to get the track cleaned up. Lap 18, you can hear Chad, the crew chief tell Dylan, "get ready, get ready, green green green".

By lap 22, Dylan has a two truck length lead over the #41 and lays down a 14.67 second lap. He isn't leaving anything on the table. As the #41 and #16 truck battle for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Dylan gains more ground between them. Lap 32, is another 14.67 second lap and over three truck lengths between him and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. But the next lap another yellow flag drops for the #51 truck.

This restart, Dylan finds himself side by side with the #16 truck for the green flag. It doesn't last long though because as they come out of turn 4 to take the green flag, the #41 hits Dylan in the rear which makes all the trucks behind him bottle up. The #9 spins and loses a radiator. Caution again. So they line back up for the restart and Chad tells Dylan over the radio that he starts the race, not to let the outside pole truck start it. He is in control.



Once again it doesn't take Dylan long to get a good lead. Lap 35, Dylan runs a 14.65 second lap. He gains some ground between his truck and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place truck. He continues to push his truck to the edge. Just a couple laps later he lays down another 14.65 second lap. By lap 39, he has six truck lengths on the 2<sup>nd</sup> place truck. The radio is



quiet for a few laps and then Chad tells Dylan, “2 to go buddy, bring it home to me”.

Dylan finishes it off by crossing the line first. As he comes back to the front stretch, Dylan does his first burn out. With smoke flying, fans cheering and the biggest smile ever, Dylan crawls out of his #7 Blackwater Ford Raptor. He thanks his parents, his sponsors and his crew, for helping him get here. Dylan finishes the season 3<sup>rd</sup> in points BUT the only driver to win 3 races. He is happy!

A special thanks to all the fans and sponsors that have supported Dylan this season. Dylan will be racing in the Joey Coulter 200 Charity Weekend race on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at Auburndale Speedway. Please come out and help Dylan raise money for three well deserving kids.

( Photo/Press Release Credit – Kim Scheffler)



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