

After a long winter the 2022 season kicked off for the Spira Racing team at Flamboro Speedway with Cole



Quinton and his new look #18 mini stock on Saturday. The new purple wrap on the car is in memory of crew chief Erik Dalla Riva's fiancée Shelbi who lost her battle with cancer back in October.

Cole was eager to jump back into the car for the first of two 10-lap practice sessions and while still getting comfortable in the car, he diagnosed a loose condition and passed this on to his crew chief so that a minor adjustment could be made before the final practice session that would help the #18 get up off the corner going into qualifying. Group qualifying saw the field run 5-laps with Cole posting the 3rd best time, so the driver felt confident with the speed of the #18 over a long run. After a four-car inversion Cole lined up on the outside of the front row for the 30-lap feature.

Cole got a strong jump at the start of the race taking the lead going down the backstretch, but it was short



lived as he lost the lead on the next lap after getting stuck on the outside. By lap 5 Cole had fallen back to 4th where he settled in to try and get back up front to battle with the leaders. After battling with the 3rd place car, Cole managed to take over the position and try to run down the leaders who had



pulled away from the rest of the field. The rest of the 30-lap feature would see the field spread out as Cole would run some of his best laps but in the end, he was unable to catch 2nd place as he crossed the line in 3rd after a big learning day for the driver and the team.

The #18 team is back in action on Saturday May 7th as they head north to Sunset Speedway for the tracks opening night. The front gates open at 3:30PM with racing getting underway at 5:00PM. Billy Schwartzenburg and the #86 pro late model team have a couple of more weeks to prepare for the start of the season as they get ready for race #1 of the APC United Late Model Series and the Dayco 100 at Sunset Speedway on Saturday May 21st. Although not much has changed for the #86 in regard to sponsors, there has been a few changes as the decal on the hood for Hy-Grade Steel Roofing System has changed as did the names of Northern Ice to Artic Ice, Nestle Waters to BlueTriton Canada and LMI Canada Insurance is now BrokerLink Insurance.