

The 2023 season opening at Flamboro Speedway was pushed off by a week due to weather but Billy and the #86 team showed up on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> as they prepared to do battle for the pro late model track championship. It would be tough sledding as the 2022 APC United Late Model Series Champion JR Fitzpatrick announced that he would be running for the 2023 championship as well in the #55 of Chris Howse. He was joined on Saturday by APC regulars the #31w of Rick Spencer-Walt, the #97 of Blair Wickett and the #89c of Shawn Chenoweth. The #86 hit the track for the first of two practice sessions with Billy being much happier with the handling of the #86 compared to practice two weeks previous.



Billy rolled out onto the track in 7<sup>th</sup> for the first feature of the night with the #7 of Ty Cavalin starting on the pole and the #55 to his outside. The field took the green flag for the first race of the season as the #55 jumped out to the early lead. Billy was able to take advantage of his starting position on the inside lane as he moved up into 6<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of the race was uneventful as the #55 won by a sizable margin as Billy came across the line in 6<sup>th</sup> with the race running caution free. After the first feature the team went work on trying to get the nose of the car down even more as Billy felt like the car couldn't plant itself going through the corners.

Billy was slated to start in the 5<sup>th</sup> position for the second 30-lap feature of the night but found himself moving up one position into 4<sup>th</sup> on the start as the #18 of Cole Quinton had to start scratch due to being a rookie at Flamboro. The #21 of Logan White started on the pole but it was the #89c who jumped out to the early lead while the field started to string out single file. Billy was able to get a good jump coming out of turn 4 as he slid into the 4<sup>th</sup> position ahead of the #7 heading into turn one on lap 3. The front four ran single file while the remainder of the field battled side by side behind them. As the laps ticked away the fast cars that started at the back of the field started to make their way back up through the field being led by the #55 who was looking to sweep the night. A few laps before the halfway mark the #55 made his way past the #27 of Kevin Albers who was running behind Billy and quickly set his sights on the #86. Heading into turn 3 the #55 made his move on the inside of Billy allowing the #27 and the #97 to follow him through putting Billy back into the 7<sup>th</sup> position followed shortly after by the #31w shuffling Billy back into 8<sup>th</sup>. The #89c checked out on the rest of the field while Billy was starting to close the gap between himself and the #21 who had fallen back through the field. With under ten laps to go Billy dove under the #21 heading into turn 3 and after a hard-fought battle Billy picked up the position to ultimately finish in the 7<sup>th</sup> position with the race again running caution free. After the second feature the story was much of the same as Billy felt like the car wasn't planting itself through the corners and that he wasn't able to get the usual bite off the corner that he's used to.

New to the Spira Racing program in 2023 is Aberfoyle Powersports and back on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> & Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>, they held the grand opening of their new showroom located at 94 Brock Rd. S. in Puslinch. As part of their grand opening, they gave away an Arctic Cat ALTEERRA 90 compact ATV that was won by none other than our team owner Ken



Spira. Though judging by the attached picture we're not sure who's enjoying the ATV more, Ken or his grandson Cayden. Since 1971, Aberfoyle Powersports has been Southern Ontario's source for power sports! They carry and service a wide range of snowmobiles, ATVs, side by sides, power equipment, lawnmowers, and open/enclosed snowmobile and ATV trailers. They proudly showcase Yamaha, Stihl, Arctic Cat, Cub Cadet, Argo, Toro, and Triton Trailers, and have established themselves as one of the oldest Arctic Cat dealers in Canada! Call or stop in today and see what they can do for you; you'll be glad you did! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch at (519) 763-1401 or toll-free at 1-833-ABER-SNO.

The 2023 season continues this coming Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> as Billy and the #86 team return to Flamboro for the Bill Zardo Sr. Memorial with twin 30-lap features on the schedule. The pit gates open at 4:00PM, the front gates open at 5:00PM and racing gets underway at 6:30PM.