

With preseason testing being rained out the week before, Billy and the #86 team headed to Flamboro Speedway on Saturday for the first race of the season. The team was curious how the car would be right out of the trailer as nothing had been changed in terms of setup since the Grisdale Triple Crown at the end of the 2023 season and with the pro late models running a harder compound tire.

As the pro late models took to the track for their first practice of the season, Billy came over the radio and said that he was quite happy with the handling of the car though it might be a little tight coming out of the corners. The team went to work adjusting the bump stops to get the nose of the car down lower before Billy went out for the second and final practice session of the day. The nose of the #86 was getting down lower like the team wanted, but at the conclusion of practice Billy said that it felt like the right front suspension would drop and then the left front suspension would slam down upsetting the balance of the car. With a bit of time before the first feature of the night, the team adjusted the bump stops again before making an adjustment to the pan hard bar to try and loosen the car up in the middle of the corner and on corner exit.

With a low car count for opening night, the track made the decision to have the pro late models only run twin 25-lap features instead of their usual twin 30-lap features. Having drawn his starting position when he signed in at the track, Billy started on the outside pole for the first feature of the night beside the #2 of Rick Burbridge. Though Billy was able to hang on the outside as the field took the green flag over the first few laps, he ended up dropping back before settling into the 5th position as he got back in line with the rest of the field. Much of the race ran with the field running single file, but the caution would come out in the back half of the race as contact between the #55 of JR Fitzpatrick and the #27 of Kevin Albers sent the #27 spinning in the middle of turns 3 & 4. Billy headed to the outside to avoid the #27 who had stopped in the lower groove and then made his way around the #55 who was being sent to the back of the field for being an involved car. Now in the preferred inside lane, Billy hounded the #2 over the remainder of the race and despite taking a couple of looks on the inside, Billy brought the #86 home in 2nd.



With the finish of the first feature being inverted for the start of the second feature, Billy lined up on the inside back in the 5th position. The second feature ran caution free as Billy was able to pick up a position on the initial restart before gently nudging the #21 of Logan White out of the way going into turn 3 late in the race to move up into the 3rd position where he would finish to pick up his second podium finish of the night. Both Billy and team were quite happy with how the night went and how the car ran leaving them feeling confident heading into the second race of the season.

Billy and the #86 team return to Flamboro Speedway on Saturday May 11th for a regular night of racing. The pit gates open at 4:00PM, the front gates open at 5:00PM and racing gets underway at 6:30PM.