

RACING LINES

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Lagoni drives turbo M3 to Auto Club Speedway sweep

Just an hour outside of Los Angeles, Auto Club Speedway and the Los Angeles Chapter played host to sixteen BMW CCA Club racers in May. Auto Club Speedway is a huge track; with a length of almost three miles and an average track width of 75 feet on the straights and oval—compared to Indianapolis at 46 feet—the thinking was that the sixteen Club racers would spread out and have—well, too much room to “play.” For most racers that weekend, however, nothing could have been further from reality; the words

“drafting” and “Club racing” usually don’t share the same sentence, but at Auto Club Speedway, with a headwind down the long front straight, drafting was a must, and helped keep the in-class battles tight.

Carl Lagoni and the boys at race-series sponsor Evosport dusted off their fire-breathing blue B-Modified E46 Turbo for the weekend. The car hadn’t run since last year, but the race was local—and everyone knows turbo engines do pretty well on long straights. Sure enough, with mechanical grip, an aero package,

and brakes to match the car’s power, Lagoni drove well all weekend long, winning both points races. Then, from the back of the field, he won the fun race Sunday afternoon as well.

On Saturday, rookie Chris Finn (E36 M3) took C-Mod and second overall, followed by another C-Mod E36 M3 piloted by Steve Dais. The battle to watch was in I-Prepared, however, where the top three cars in class were close the whole race. In the end, Jon Paul Devore (E36 M3) edged out Vic Pizzino (E36 325is), followed closely by Julie Wolf (E36 M3).

TIRE RACK CCA Club Race at Auto Club Speedway
5/15 Distance: 13 Laps

Pos.	Class	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1 BM	Carl Lagoni	E46 M3	01:49.3
2	1 CM	Christopher Finn	E36 M3	01:51.0
3	2 CM	Steve Dais	E36 M3	01:52.2
4	1 PTC	Dan Wornenberg	E36 325i	01:52.9
5	1 IP	John Paul DeVore	E36 M3	01:55.2
6	2 IP	Vic Pizzino	E36 325is	01:55.6
7	3 IP	Julie Wolf	E36 M3	01:55.7
8	1 JP	Patrick Arakian	Z3 coupe	01:56.9
9	1 HP	Rolando Saldano	E46 M3	01:57.2
10	1 HS	Ralph Warren	E85 135i	01:56.9
11	4 IP	Mark Magee	E36 M3	01:57.5
12	2 JP	Tom Bell	Z3 2.8i	01:57.6
13	5 IP	Gil Caravantes	E30 M3	01:55.2
14	6 IP	Vern Buwalda	E36 M3	01:57.0
DNF	CM	Isaac Schumacher	E46 M3	02:00.0
DQ	CM	Hans Kopecky	E46 M3	01:54.0

5/16 Distance: 10 Laps

1	1 BM	Carl Lagoni	E46 M3	01:50.1
2	1 CM	Christopher Finn	E36 M3	01:51.6
3	2 CM	Steve Dais	E36 M3	01:52.0
4	1 IP	Vic Pizzino	E36 325is	01:54.2
5	2 IP	Julie Wolf	E36 M3	01:54.5
6	3 IP	John Paul DeVore	E36 M3	01:55.1
7	1 HP	Rolando Saldano	E46 M3	01:55.7
8	4 IP	Gil Caravantes	E30 M3	01:55.4
9	1 HS	Ralph Warren	E85 135i	01:57.1
10	5 IP	Mark Magee	E36 M3	01:56.4
11	1 PTC	Flavio Soria	E36 325i	01:59.6
12	1 JS	Louis Goldsman	E30 M3	02:05.3

Carl Lagoni won all three races at Auto Club Speedway in his turbocharged M3.



RALPH WARREN

Ralph Warren runs the H-Stock-winning 135i at Auto Club.



EARL SHERMAN

C-Modified racers lead a 50-car pack at Mid-Ohio

At the start of the Memorial Day race weekend, Mid-Ohio welcomed 58 race cars and 65 racers to the Northern Ohio Chapter’s Tire Rack BMW CCA Club Race, the premier event of the season for the North Central region. With over seventeen C-Modified and fifteen I-Prepared cars in the field, the talk of the weekend was how fast the field was going to be—and how traffic management would be critical for everybody. The race also saw one of the series’ largest rookie gatherings, fifteen in all—including eight who had never turned a wheel in BMW CCA Club Racing.

The first sprint was the featured race for the weekend. Mark Marquis (C-M E36 M3) and Randy Mueller in Steve Bassen’s E30 M3 led the field to the green flag, thrown on the back stretch due to the large field. Mueller took the lead in Turn Seven and didn’t look back, leading every lap of the race; in fact, the

top seven cars, all running in C-Mod, never traded a position during the race. Todd Brown, running eighth overall and sandwiched between two C-Mod cars, won D-Modified in his E30 M3. Two positions back, Kevin Ogrodnik edged out Jeff Negus by three seconds to take the I-Prepared class win; both were in E36 M3s. The J-Prep class, with lap times comparable to those in I-P, was led by another pair of E36 M3s driven by Jesse Clark and Texas racer Sean Garrity, who made the 1,100-mile trip to run at Mid-Ohio.

Farther back in the field, the Spec E36 class leaders were battling it out, with the top three racers, Mike Gilbert, Jason Briedis, and Tim Smith, qualifying within 0.06 seconds of each other. Gilbert and Smith battled for the first five laps until Smith finally got past when slower traffic came into play. After Smith made the pass, the double yellows

came out; after the restart, Gilbert and Briedis got past Smith when he got stuck in slower traffic. Gilbert finished first, with Briedis in second, followed by Smith. John Negus won the K-Prepared class, running a scorching fast-lap time of 1:43.8 in his 325is.

Qualifying for the second race would be a little different that weekend, as the fastest lap time in the first race—rather than the finishing position—was used to determine grid position. Randy Mueller’s 1:33.4 put the E30 M3 on the pole for Steve Bassen. Bassen held the lead until lap two, when Mark Marquis made a pass to claim first place. Marquis and Bassen would finish nose-to-tail, with Marquis earning the hard-fought win by less than 0.20 seconds. Todd Brown had his second strong race of the day, finishing first in D-Mod.

In I-Prepared, Jeff Negus won, with Wal-lead Hessami (E90 330i) finishing second,

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Vic Pizzino gets out of shape and makes a nice recovery at Auto Club Speedway.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RALPH WARREN

In Sunday's feature race, with Lagoni again leading firmly, the battle for second heated up between C-Mod racers Finn and Dais. In the end, Finn held off Dais for the

class win and second overall. Again, the I-P battle was close, with the top three places going to Pizzino, Wolf, and Devore, respectively.—Ralph Warren



Sprint Two leaders Mark Marquis, Steve Bassen, and Peter Carroll do battle at Mid-Ohio.

ANDY WELTER

less than a second ahead of Kevin Ogrodnik, while Sean Garrity and rookie Jason Crist (E36 M3) finished first and second in J-P. In Spec E36, Tim Smith had a commanding lead, but he was black-flagged on lap four for dropping fuel on the track. Mike Gilbert got past Jason Briedis on that lap, but eventually Briedis won over Gilbert by one second. Dennis Pippy (E30 M3) finished first in M3T with a strong lap time of 143.044; John Negus repeated in K-P; and rookie Kish Galappatti took a solo class win in SE30.

Sunday was another great day, with the temperature in the mid-80s and no rain. Bassen

qualified on the pole for the enduro, followed by Peter Carroll. In this hour-long race, traffic and tire management would be key; Bassen and Randy Mueller piloted Bassen's C-Mod E30 M3 to victory ahead of two more C-Mod racers, Allan Lewis (E36 325i) and NASA regular Max Fisher (E36 M3). Rookie provisional racer Robert Chang stepped up his game to finish an impressive fourth overall in his C-Mod E46 M3, while Todd Brown, finishing eighth overall, completed his sweep of D-Mod. Jeff Negus finished a strong first in I-P for the second time, ahead of the E36 M3 of Mike Skeen and Roman Lifson. Sean Garrity won J-P ahead

RACING BRIEFS

Ganassi wins earn weight penalty; team wins again at Daytona: Less than a week after their Ganassi Racing Riley-BMW Daytona Prototype was crashed out of the Grand-Am race at Lime Rock, Scott Pruett and Memo Rojas scored a convincing win in the six-hour enduro at Watkins Glen, where the Starworks Riley-BMW of Ryan Dalziel and Mike Forest finished seventh. Two weeks later, Pruett and Rojas won again, strengthening their lead in the championship points race. Then, just days before the July 3 race at Daytona, Grand-Am took 25 points away from Pruett. Rojas, the Ganassi team, and BMW for unspecified engine violations, fined the team \$15,000, and imposed a 75-pound weight increase on all BMW-powered prototypes. Despite the penalties, the Ganassi team went on to win the Daytona race, and the Starworks Riley-BMW finished second.

Turner Motorsport scores first M6 Grand-Am GT win: Bill Auberlen and Joey Hand won the GT class in the Grand-Am Rolex Series race at Mid-Ohio in June in the Turner Motorsport M6. The win came after a two-week rebuild; the Turner team had withdrawn the car from the Watkins Glen race because of a crash in practice.

With Ganassi and Turner both winning at Mid-Ohio, it was the first time in the history of Grand-Am that BMW-powered cars had won both classes.

BMW racers lead Continental Challenge classes: Charles Putman and Charles Espenlaub of Fall-Line Motorsports left Mid-Ohio first in Continental Challenge Grand Sport drivers' points after finishing third in their E92 M3. They had won at Watkins Glen two weeks earlier, ahead of Turner Motorsport's Joey Hand and Michael Marsal—who were second in points after Mid-Ohio—and Fall-Line's Terry Borcheller and Andrew Hendricks. Seth Thomas and Bill Heumann won the Street Tuner class at Mid-Ohio in the Birrmer-World E90 328i. The duo, which had finished sixth at the Glen, were leading Honda's Lawson Aschenbach and David Thilenius by one point going into the mid-July Continental Challenge race at New Jersey Motorsports Park.

Priaux wins WTCC in Belgium: Andy Priaux led from the pole in a BMW 320si to win the second sprint at the World Touring Car event at the Zolder circuit in Belgium, the home country of BMW Team RBM. His teammate, Augusto Farfus, finished ninth in Race One and eighth in Race Two. Priaux had finished eighth on the circuit in Race One, securing the pole for Race Two. He was later elevated to seventh when the winning SEAT of Jordi Gené was disqualified in a post-race inspection. After the disqualification, the Race One win was awarded to SEAT's Gabriele Tarquini. Priaux was third in points going into the July 4 race in Portugal.

BMW finishes sixth in class at Le Mans: The BMW Motorsport M3 GT2 of Augusto Farfus, Jörg Müller, and Uwe Alzen finished sixth in class in the 24 Hours of Le Mans, eighteen laps off the pace of the class-winning Porsche of Marc Lieb, Richard Leitz, and Wolf Henster. The team's other M3, the dramatic Jeff Koons Art Car piloted by Dirk Müller, Andy Priaux, and Dirk Werner—who never got a turn at the wheel during the race—retired near the six-hour mark with mechanical problems.

of Jason Crist and Mike Skeen (running in two classes) in an E36 M3. J-P front-runner Jesse Clark did not start this race due to mechanical issues, and rookie racer Brian Nawrocki finished first in H-P in his E46 M3 after having a rough start to the weekend.

Spec E36 was led by Tim Smith from the green flag until three laps to go, when he had an engine issue that led him to lose the ten-second lead he had built up. Mike Gilbert passed Smith for the class win with Vivek Govindapillai finishing third. Scott Ontjes finished first in ITR in his E36 325i.

All in all, the weekend was a great success, as many rookie racers got a taste of the addiction we call racing. Six racers who completed the Club Racing school in April at Mid-Ohio were out racing in May.—*Tim Smith*



ANDY WELTER

TIRE RACK CCA Club Race at Mid Ohio
5/29 Distance: 11 Laps

Pos.	Class	Pos.	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1 CM		Randy Mueller	E36 M3	01:33.4
2	2 CM		Mark Marquis	E36 M3	01:34.6
3	3 CM		Allan Lewis	E36 325i	01:34.9
4	4 CM		Peter Carroll	E36 M3	01:34.3
5	5 CM		Max Fischer	E46 M3	01:34.7
6	6 CM		John Dimoff	E36 M3	01:35.5
7	7 CM		Robert Chang	E46 M3	01:36.0
8	1 DM		Todd Brown	E30 M3	01:36.9
9	8 CM		Chris Lewis	E46 M3	01:37.9
10	1 IP		Kevin Ogrodnik	E36 M3	01:39.1
11	1 BM		Nerosos Mavelian	E36 M3	01:39.5
12	2 IP		Jeffery Negus	E36 M3	01:38.4
13	9 CM		John Hansen	E36 328is	01:38.9
14	10 CM		James Knopp	E36 M3	01:39.6
15	1 JP		Jesse Clark	E36 M3	01:39.9
16	2 JP		Sean Ganity	E36 M3	01:39.8
17	2 DM		Nicholas Large	Z3 3.0i coupe	01:40.1
18	3 IP		Mario Meise	E36 M3	01:39.9
19	4 IP		Walead Hessami	E90 330i	01:39.5
20	5 IP		Craig Lippe	E36 M3	01:41.0
21	11 CM		Richard Grieser	E36 M3	01:40.8
22	3 DM		Stephen Gallits	E21 320i	01:41.2
23	3 JP		Jason Crist	E36 M3	01:41.6
24	1 HP		Brian Nawrocki	E46 M3	01:42.4
25	12 CM		Kenny Cangalosi	E36 M3	01:42.3
26	1 Sp E36		Michael Gilbert	E36 325is	01:43.1
27	13 CM		Brent Mosing	E46 M3	01:42.0
28	2 Sp E36		Jason Briedis	E36 325i	01:43.2
29	3 Sp E36		Timothy Smith	E36 325is	01:42.9
30	6 IP		Scott Reiman	E36 M3	01:43.3
31	7 IP		Roman Lifson	E36 M3	01:43.0
32	4 Sp E36		Vivek Govindapillai	E36 325i	01:43.3
33	8 IP		Will Page-Echols	E36 M3	01:43.3
34	1 M3T		Dennis Pippy	E30 M3	01:44.3
35	4 DM		Louis Payant	E30 M3	01:42.6
36	1 KP		John Negus	E30 325is	01:43.8
37	9 IP		Edward Macanga	E36 M3	01:45.7
38	1 ITR		Scott Ontjes	E36 325i	01:47.0
39	5 Sp E36		Nathaniel Orens	E36 325is	01:45.2
40	2 M3T		Steve Amos	E30 M3	01:48.7
41	6 Sp E36		Daniel Feldmann	E36 325is	01:48.2
42	1 EM		John Barthyt	2002	01:50.3
43	2 KP		Jim Ginter	E30 325iS	01:48.7
44	1 SE30		Kish Galappatti	E30 325i	01:53.1
45	7 Sp E36		Brian Henry	E36 325is	01:47.5
46	4 JP		Robert Klooz	E30 M3	01:47.6
DNF	CM		Harold Petit	E46 M3	01:39.4
DNF	IP		Bob Wright	E36 M3	01:43.6
DNF	CM		Timothy Peloso	E36 M3	-
DQ	CM		Korey Deason	E36 M3	01:39.1

TIRE RACK CCA Club Race at Mid Ohio
5/29 Distance: 12 Laps

Pos.	Class	Pos.	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1 CM		Mark Marquis	E36 M3	01:34.7
2	2 CM		Steve Bassen	E30 M3	01:34.5
3	3 CM		Peter Carroll	E36 M3	01:35.0
4	4 CM		Allan Lewis	E36 325i	01:35.4
5	5 CM		Max Fischer	E46 M3	01:35.5
6	6 CM		Robert Chang	E46 M3	01:35.4
7	7 CM		John Dimoff	E36 M3	01:36.1
8	8 CM		Chris Lewis	E46 M3	01:36.2
9	1 DM		Todd Brown	E30 M3	01:37.4
10	9 CM		Harold Petit	E46 M3	01:38.3
11	1 IP		Jeffery Negus	E36 M3	01:38.7
12	2 IP		Walead Hessami	E90 330i	01:39.3
13	3 IP		Kevin Ogrodnik	E36 M3	01:39.1
14	1 BM		Nerosos Mavelian	E36 M3	01:39.8
15	10 CM		John Hansen	E36 328is	01:39.7
16	4 IP		Mario Meise	E36 M3	01:39.8
17	2 DM		Nicholas Large	Z3 3.0i coupe	01:40.3
18	1 JP		Sean Ganity	E36 M3	01:40.5
19	11 CM		Richard Grieser	E36 M3	01:40.1
20	2 JP		Jason Crist	E36 M3	01:41.4
21	5 IP		Craig Lippe	E36 M3	01:40.9
22	3 DM		Louis Payant	E30 M3	01:40.2
23	1 Sp E36		Jason Briedis	E36 325i	01:42.9
24	2 Sp E36		Michael Gilbert	E36 325is	01:42.8
25	12 CM		Kenny Cangalosi	E36 M3	01:42.6
26	6 IP		Scott Reiman	E36 M3	01:43.0
27	1 M3T		Dennis Pippy	E30 M3	01:43.0
28	3 JP		Jason Nezel	E36 325is	01:42.5
29	7 IP		Roman Lifson	E36 M3	01:42.8
30	3 Sp E36		Vivek Govindapillai	E36 325i	01:43.6
31	1 KP		John Negus	E30 325is	01:43.4
32	8 IP		Edward Macanga	E36 M3	01:44.6
33	4 Sp E36		Nathaniel Orens	E36 325is	01:45.2
34	1 ITR		Scott Ontjes	E36 325i	01:46.9
35	9 IP		Will Page-Echols	E36 M3	01:43.6
36	2 M3T		Steve Amos	E30 M3	01:47.5
37	5 Sp E36		Brian Henry	E36 325is	01:47.6
38	2 KP		Jim Ginter	E30 325is	01:48.6
39	6 Sp E36		Daniel Feldmann	E36 325is	01:47.9
40	1 EM		John Barthyt	2002	01:50.2
41	1 SE30		Kish Galappatti	E30 325i	01:52.7
42	1 HP		Brian Nawrocki	E46 M3	01:43.4
DNF	CM		Brent Mosing	E46 M3	01:42.6
DNF	CM		James Knopp	E36 M3	01:40.2
DNF	Sp E36		Tim Smith	E36 325is	01:43.6
DNF	CM		Timothy Peloso	E36 M3	

TIRE RACK CCA Club Race at Mid Ohio
5/30 Distance: 31 Laps

Pos.	Class	Pos.	Driver	Car	Best Lap
1	1 CM		S Bassen/R Mueller	E30 M3	01:32.6
2	2 CM		Allan Lewis	E36 325i	01:35.3
3	3 CM		Max Fischer	E46 M3	01:35.9
4	4 CM		Robert Chang	E46 M3	01:34.9
5	5 CM		Chris Lewis	E46 M3	01:36.0
6	6 CM		John Dimoff	E36 M3	01:35.4
7	7 CM		Mark Marquis	E36 M3	01:35.8
8	1 DM		Todd Brown	E30 M3	01:37.3
9	1 IP		Jeffery Negus	E36 M3	01:38.8
10	8 CM		Harold Petit	E46 M3	01:37.8
11	1 JP		Sean Ganity	E36 M3	01:38.6
12	1 BM		Nerosos Mavelian	E36 M3	01:39.0
13	2 IP		M Skeen/R Lifson	E36 M3	01:38.4
14	3 IP		E Wong/W Hessami	E90 330i	01:38.5
15	2 DM		Louis Payant	E30 M3	01:40.1
16	9 CM		John Hansen	E36 328is	01:38.8
17	2 JP		J Crist/M Skeen	E36 M3	01:40.4
18	10 CM		Korey Deason	E36 M3	01:38.7
19	11 CM		Kenny Cangalosi	E36 M3	01:41.1
20	3 JP		Jason Nezel	E36 325is	01:41.4
21	1 HP		Brian Nawrocki	E46 M3	01:41.8
22	1 Sp E36		Michael Gilbert	E36 325is	01:42.5
23	4 IP		Mario Meise	E36 M3	01:39.5
24	2 Sp E36		Timothy Smith	E36 325is	01:42.7
25	3 Sp E36		Vivek Govindapillai	E36 325i	01:43.0
26	5 IP		Edward Macanga	E36 M3	01:42.5
27	4 Sp E36		Jason Briedis	E36 325i	01:42.7
28	6 IP		Scott Reiman	E36 M3	01:42.2
29	1 KP		John Negus	E30 325is	01:44.1
30	5 Sp E36		Nathaniel Orens	E36 325is	01:44.6
31	1 ITR		Scott Ontjes	E36 325i	01:45.7
32	6 Sp E36		Brian Henry	E36 325is	01:46.8
33	1 M3T		S Amos / K Denham	E30 M3	01:44.9
34	12 CM		Timothy Peloso	E36 M3	01:46.3
35	7 IP		Bob Wright	E36 M3	01:43.3
36	1 EM		John Barthyt	2002	01:48.6
37	4 JP		Jesse Clark	E36 M3	01:39.0
38	7 Sp E36		Daniel Feldmann	E36 325is	01:47.6
39	2 KP		Jim Ginter	E30 325is	01:48.7
40	8 IP		Kevin Ogrodnik	E36 M3	01:39.1
41	13 CM		Brent Mosing	E46 M3	01:42.2
42	1 SE30		Kish Galappatti	E30 325i	01:52.2
DNF	IP		Will Page-Echols	E36 M3	01:43.0
DNF	CM		Peter Carroll	E36 M3	01:34.4
DNF	M3T		Dennis Pippy	E30 M3	01:47.6
DNF	DM		Nicholas Large	Z3 3.0i coupe	
DNF	JP		Robert Klooz	E30 M3	

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