

Lewis sweeps at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course



Allan Lewis won all four races at Mid-Ohio in his C-Mod E46 M3.

Twenty-six cars took the field for the first of four Tire Rack BMW CCA sprint races held over Memorial Day weekend at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. Setting a pattern that was to be repeated throughout the event, Allan Lewis achieved both a class win and first place overall in his new C-Modified E46 M3. Rounding out the podium were two other C-M competitors, Harold Petit (E46 M3) and Todd Brown (E30 M3).

In I-P action, Jeff Negus took first in class, narrowly edging out Kevin Ogrodnik; both drove E36 M3s. The Spec E36 win was taken by reigning champion Nathaniel Orens (325is) after a close early-race battle with Joseph Cudby (E36 328i). Ali Salih dominated the I-S field in his E36 M3, achieving a comfortable margin of victory.

Saturday's schedule allowed for two races: a 25-minute sprint and the feature race, a 45-minute sprint toward the end of the day. Lap times from Saturday's Sprint One set the starting grid for Sprint Two. Once again, the podium was all C-M, with Alan Lewis crossing the finish line first. There was an intense battle for second place between E46 M3 racers John Van Houten and Thom Rossi; the position was contended through the final corner of the final lap, but Rossi was unable to get by Van Houten, who took second place. SE36 action also gave the crowd plenty of excitement, with positions being swapped throughout the race;

this time Rob Eskew (E36 325is) was to take first in class. Jeff Negus and Ali Salih once again posted convincing class wins.

Lewis started on pole for the feature race, with Rossi joining him on the first row. The C-M field was closely matched, with the front three drivers achieving lap times within a few tenths of a second of each other. This time Negus was to join Lewis and Rossi on the podium, taking third overall and first in class in I-P, after Van Houten dropped out of the race with mechanical issues. Salih was unable to repeat his earlier success and was edged out of the I-S win by Dan March (E36 M3), while Orens was once again able to claim victory in SE36, fending off a late surge by Eskew.

The C-M field for Sunday's sprint race was diminished by several mechanical incidents, which led to a DNF for Van Houten and prohibited Rossi from starting. Once again Lewis led the field, this time to an uncontested victory. Negus did not participate due to an earlier on-track incident, and I-P was taken by Kevin Ogrodnik. Salih and Eskew once again found themselves at the front of their classes in I-S and SE36, respectively. The podium finishers were Lewis, Brown, and Ogrodnik.

Friday's endurance race saw a rather small field of contenders, but did not lack in close racing and excitement. There was a closely fought battle for first place, with Harold Petit and Eric Zimmerman in

an E46 M3 ultimately achieving another success in this series.

The competition steward for the Tire Rack Series races was Barry Kaplan, while Kent Williamson was the competition steward for the enduro. For both series, Pat Spikes served as tech steward and Larry Fletcher served as the timing-and-scoring steward.—*Thom Rossi*

Tire Rack BMW CCA Club Race at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course*

5-24-14 Northern Ohio Chapter Feature sprint 29 laps

Overall Position	Position in Class	Class	Driver	Model	Best time
1	1	CM	Allan Lewis	E46 M3	01:32.8
2	2	CM	Thomas Rossi	E46 M3	01:33.6
3	1	IP	Jeffrey Negus	E36 M3	01:36.3
4	2	IP	Kevin Ogrodnik	E36 M3	01:37.5
5	3	IP	Rob Jackowitz	E36 M3	01:38.8
6	4	IP	Mike Cookson	E36 M3 LTW	01:39.1
7	5	IP	Ben von Fischer	E36 M3	01:39.8
8	1	GTS2	Jerry Kaufman	E90 328i	01:39.9
9	1	IS	Dan March	E36 M3	01:40.4
10	2	IS	Ali Salih	E36 M3	01:39.9
11	3	IS	Dan Feldmann	E36 M3	01:41.3
12	4	IS	Ruhl Heffner	E36 M3	01:42.5
13	6	IP	David Seidman	E36 M3	01:42.8
14	7	IP	Dennis Pippy	E36 M3	01:43.8
15	1	M3T	Charles Benoit	E30 M3	01:43.5
16	1	Spec E36	Nathaniel Orens	E36 325is	01:43.8
17	1	ITR	Scott Ontjes	E36 325i	01:44.3
18	2	Spec E36	Rob Eskew	E36 325is	01:42.3
19	3	Spec E36	Joseph Cudby	E36 328i	01:43.5
20	4	Spec E36	Taylor Handwerk	E36 325is	01:44.7
21	1	JP	Greg Wharton	E36 M3	01:45.0
22	5	Spec E36	Phil Antoine	E36 325i	01:45.6
23	8	IP	Christian Machado	E36 M3	01:43.2
24	3	CM	John Van Houten	E46 M3	01:33.5
DNF	DNF	IP	Bob Perritt	E36 M3	01:53.2
DNF	DNF	Spec E36	Rich Schickler	E36 325is	01:46.1

* Results for the feature sprint are presented here. Results for all races are posted at www.bmwccaclubracing.com.