

Four races, three winners in Mid-Ohio premier event



Allan Lewis and Todd Brown lead the pack at the start of Race Two at Mid-Ohio.

Twenty-five racers attended the North-Central region premier event at Mid-Ohio in May. The weather was excellent: sunny and cool. There were four races: one sprint on Friday, two on Saturday, and an enduro on Sunday. The Saturday races were worth 150%, with the second of the two being the feature race.

Todd Brown (C-Modified E46 M3) threw down the gauntlet first, claiming the pole for the Friday race. I was in another C-M E46 M3, and I got a better start, but missed a shift, letting Brown back in front entering the first turn. I tried to keep on his tail, but Brown slowly built up an increasing lead until a spin in Mid-Ohio's Madness turn allowed me to take the lead. Brown recovered without any other cars passing and took up the chase. He slowly caught up and was able to make the pass into Thunder Valley, taking the lead back and continuing on to the win.

On Saturday, I took the pole and maintained the lead throughout the race to take the win. Brown was able to maintain sight of me, but was not able to catch or pressure me. Well behind us were the group of Steve Gailits (C-M E21 320i), Kevin Ogrodnik (I-Prepared E36 M3), and Shaun McKenzie (C-M E46 M3), followed by Jerry Kaufman (I-P E36 M3) who had been in the mix earlier in the race. Bob Perritt in another I-P E36 M3, Mike Cookson in an I-P E36 M3 Lightweight, Ryan White in an H-Sport E46 M3, and Sean Brown in an I-Sport

E36 M3 made up another group that ran a close race.

The grid for the second race on Saturday, the feature race for the weekend, was set according to the fast laps in the first race. I was once again on the pole, with Todd Brown alongside. However, during the pace lap, My engine went sour, and I had to pull aside and out of the race before it began. This put McKenzie on the left side of the front row, beside Brown. Still, at the start, Brown was able to lead the field into the first turn. No one was able to challenge him, and he easily took the win, but there was a lot of excellent racing throughout the rest of the field, with a number of groups of cars of different classes, years of age, power and weight running nose-to-tail for much of the race.

Isi Papadopoulos (C-M E36 325is) got a great start and was able to take second into the first turn. For the first six laps, Papadopoulos, McKenzie, Ogrodnik, Kaufman, and Gailits were bumper-to-bumper. Kaufman made a number of attempts to pass Ogrodnik, getting side-by-side with him once. Eventually, Gailits was able to pass Kaufman in traffic, and then able to pick off Ogrodnik. On lap nine, McKenzie fell back to sixth as a result of avoiding a backmarker who spun exiting the Keyhole, but he worked his way back to as high as third, and finished fourth. In the meantime, as these battles went on, Papadopoulos was able to pull ahead of the group by a few seconds.

Because he had not posted a time in the first race on Saturday, Tim Rolfson (H-P E46 325i) started at the rear of the field in Race Two. Within a couple of laps, he was up to fourteenth, and he had a good race with I-P E36 M3 racer Christian Machado; the two traded spots a number of times. The two I-S E36 M3s of Sean Brown and Dan Feldmann were also in a tight battle, with Feldmann chasing Brown, but falling back after he spun in Turn One. Cookson, Perritt, and White had a close battle for the first half the race until White spun, allowing Cookson, Richard Grieser (C-M E36 M3) and Sean Brown to pass him. Further back in the field, Kevin Ruble (I-S E36 M3), Jim Ginter, running an E36 M3 in PTD [a NASA class], Peter Grant in an E-Mod E30 318i, and John Lochner (I-P E36 325is had a great race throughout. Ruble and Grant swapped positions on multiple occasions. Then Ginter spent a few laps on Grant's tail, eventually outbraking him going into Turn Seven on the very last lap.

The field was a bit smaller for the Sunday enduro, with only eighteen cars starting. Brown decided not to run his C-M car and instead shared his son's I-S car, coming in a mere half-second behind the I-S-winning duo of Scott Barton and Dan Feldmann. Papadopoulos did not participate in qualifying, so he started at the rear of the field, but was able to carve his way through the pack to finish second. With my C-M and Brown's C-M cars missing from the field, Odrodnik easily took the overall win and set the fastest lap of the race.

There were a number of social events through the weekend, with a Friday-evening party in the paddock hosted by the Browns—the leftovers going into a Saturday lunch also hosted by the Browns—and a Saturday dinner and awards ceremony provided by the BMW CCA at KC's Steak and Rib House. The stewards for the weekend were Barry Kaplan (competition), Clement Schmitt (tech), and Roland Nieves (timing and scoring).—*Allan Lewis*

Tire Rack BMW CCA Club Race at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course
5-23-2015 Northern Ohio Chapter Feature sprint 19 laps*

Overall Position	Position in Class	Class	Driver	Model	Best time
1	1	CM	Todd Brown	E46 M3	01:35.1
2	2	CM	Isidore Papadopoulos	E36 325is	01:37.0
3	3	CM	Stephen Gailits	E21 320i	01:37.1
4	4	CM	Shaun McKenzie	E46 M3	01:36.5
5	1	IP	Kevin Odrodnik	E36 M3	01:36.5
6	2	IP	Jerry Kaufman	E36 M3	01:37.8
7	3	IP	Bob Perritt	E36 M3	01:38.4
8	4	IP	Mike Cookson	E36 M3 LTW	01:38.5
9	5	CM	Richard Grieser	E36 M3	01:39.1
10	1	IS	Sean Brown	E36 M3	01:39.2
11	1	HS	Ryan White	E46 M3	01:39.3
12	5	IP	Christian Machado	E36 M3	01:41.9
13	1	HP	Tim Rolfson	E46 325i	01:39.5
14	1	Spec E46	Ali Salih	E46 330i	01:42.6
15	6	IP	Greg Wharton	E36 M3	01:41.7
16	1	Spec E36	Joseph Cudby	E36 328i	01:46.1
17	1	DM	Marshall Papadopoulos	E30 318is	01:46.4
18	2	IS	Kevin Ruble	E36 M3	01:48.6
19	1	PTD	Jim Ginter	E30 325is	01:47.0
20	1	EM	Peter Grant	E30 318i	01:49.5
21	1	JP	John Lochner	E36 325is	01:48.2
22	1	KP	Raymond Peterson	E30 325is	01:51.4
23	3	IS	Dan Feldmann	E36 M3	01:39.1
DNF	DNF	DM	Gary L Davis	E36 328i	--
DNF	DNF	CM	Allan Lewis	E46 M3	--

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