

7-18-22 Greenwood Valley Action Tracks

Today was the first day of Hyper Racing 600 Speedweek in Pennsylvania. It seemed like the biggest race of the year at most of the tracks and the chance to count four new ones made it very worth checking out. I left work before lunch and drove down to Greenwood Valley for the first night of racing.

This is very much a small town in the middle of nowhere track. I drove up and there wasn't a gate or fence or anything. I parked in a small grassy area outside turn 1 and walked up to what I assumed was the ticket booth and got my ticket. There was no physical separation between the ticket booth, grandstands, or track even, only a short fence to demarcate the pit area.



There also appeared to be a house that was right on the property, and people parked right in the yard. Hopefully the owner of the house is also the owner of the track, or at least a race fan.



There was a catch fence in front of the grandstands but no catch fence anywhere else around the track, I could walk right up to the k-rail in turns 1 and 2 with nothing stopping me. There was in fact not much of anything between the track and my parked car, if one were to flip in a particular way it could theoretically get to my car, but given all the people that parked after me it would hit enough of them on the way that I didn't feel it was an issue.



The trees right outside the turn though were super sketchy. There was no catch fence, just a bunch of trees like 5 feet from the short wall. I've seen micros go pretty high into the air and taking a tree branch to the head could cause some real bad injuries. There also wasn't a fence separating turns 3 and 4 and the pits, a car could theoretically go right into the trailers in the pit area if it flipped just right.



The water truck consisted of a guy standing on a flat bed spraying a hose but it seemed to work just fine.



I found a seat in the grandstands, they were pretty small but it doesn't seem like a track that gets a lot of spectators typically. I was surprised how few there were for this race though, it felt like most people there were affiliated with a team. I guess not a lot of people would find it worth traveling much to watch micros race. The views were good though, it's a very small track with nothing to really obstruct visibility.



They had a concession stand that was almost certainly the least efficiently run one I've ever been to. I literally stood in a four person line for upwards of 15 minutes in order to get my cheeseburger and mozzarella sticks. There were only two people working it I think and they would take requests one at a time, like if you wanted a cheeseburger they'd run off and get that then ask what else you wanted and run off and get the fries, etc. Could use a lot of optimization. The food was solid though.

It did start raining at one point, but it luckily never came down hard. We lost about 2 hours of time but they were able to work the track with a skid steer and wheelpack with the micros and get it back in racing condition, starting hot laps around 8:30pm instead of 6:30.



There were 83 non-wing 600 micros plus 17 winged 270 micros. It's amazing how many micros there are in the Pennsylvania area willing to show up on a Monday night. I was surprised to see that Christopher Bell was also in attendance. I had just watched him win the Nascar Cup race at New Hampshire yesterday, but I guess it makes sense since Cup is in Pocono this coming weekend.

I was surprised that they still decided to do time trials for the micros even though it was after 9pm and there were 83 of them but they did. It moved reasonably quickly, running three at a time. The PA system was actually quite good, I could hear it perfectly well even during time trials. It probably helped that the grandstands are short and very close to the track. There was a lot of dirt flying due to the wet track and it made for some good pictures and definitely kept any dust there might have been completely down. The cushion got pretty high and seemed to be giving the drivers a bit of trouble at points.

They knocked the cushion down with the skid steers and worked the track a bit before heat races, which started at 9:50pm. There were 8 of them. The restart line is actually on the backstretch, entering turn

three. There were some good battles and solid racing throughout, with them stairstepped 6 wide at one point through the turn. The track really opened up around heat 6 and had some good multi-groove racing. They could really carry the momentum off the top down the front and backstretch. They were actually caution free until the very final heat wildly enough. They managed to do all 8 heats in 40 minutes after taking over 30 to do time trials.

Instead of doing a soup run they ran four B mains and took only the top 2 from each. Christopher Bell was actually in a B main, and though he transferred from the pole, he didn't run away and instead seemed to be holding the rest of the field up, they just couldn't quite get past him. He did seem to find something at the top right at the end.

The 270s also did heats and their feature. Whatever sort of engines they use put out a lot of exhaust smoke that's visible in the air. Their racing was alright but not as good as the 600s.

At one point they actually threw the green flag when two people were literally leaning on the outside of the k-rail outside turn 2. It was wildly unsafe and one of a few really dangerous looking things throughout the night.

The 600 main started 26. There was a big flip down the front stretch early on but it was remarkably incident-free as a whole, as was the entire night. The racing was excellent. The track was grippy with multiple grooves, putting on a great show throughout the night. The 1/8th mile seemed just right for the micros and the feature was a lot of fun. Hopefully the future nights are as good of racing, since it set a pretty high bar.

The track had a lot of character as well, definitely unique. I always love the small town random middle of nowhere tracks since you never know what you're going to get and they generally have a very unique feel to them. This was no exception. I doubt I'll go for anything but the speedweek event, but it was good enough to warrant another trip if timing works out.