

9-14-24: Sportsdrome Speedway

I was in Nashville for the IndyCar season finale and was originally planning to go to a different track right outside the city on Saturday night but weather changed my plans, in this instance for the better. Saturday at the IndyCar race was practice and qualifying for both IndyCar and Indy NXT plus a number of concerts. My brother and I were debating whether we wanted to stick around for the final practice session when rain made the decision for us, as it was perfectly timed to give us just enough time to get over to Sportsdrome Speedway.

In my search for races near Nashville Sportsdrome stood out because it was going to be a double, with the oval and figure-8. Looking at the map I thought it was in Kentucky and my brother got excited because he hadn't counted a track there before, but it turns out it's like 10 miles over the border into Indiana.



We arrived at the track and I had never seen goats in the parking lot before but here they were. I'm assuming they just wandered over from one of the houses adjacent.



The track had a tall cinder block wall surrounding it almost entirely. There were grandstands on the front and backstretch and we chose the back to be away from the crowd and get a top row seat, though it did face into the setting sun for half an hour or so until it went behind the buildings.



The wall was a guardrail that was supported by oil barrels filled with concrete, something I haven't seen before. The track is almost totally flat, only a hint of banking in the turns.



There was a decent crowd in the frontstretch, not too many on the back.



The sightlines were good unsurprisingly, and the night lighting was quite good once the sun set. The pits were off turn three and four and seemed pretty small, and the whole track was a bit crammed into the city right off the freeway.



I did appreciate that there was a car designed to look like a Uhaul and was numbered 1995. They also allowed the number 13 ½. I would be e^{π} if I was allowed.



It was features only with decent car counts except for the “Affordable Ford Oval” class which had 61 entries! Though they split them into triple features so only 20. The cars came out of the pits in no real order (I think because they don’t have room in the pits for staging) and instead line up diagonally on the frontstretch in order of starting position as indicated by numbers on the outside wall, which is actually a rather efficient way of lining up.



The Affordable Fords seemed to be mostly Crown Vics. They mostly ran without cautions, giving the cars plenty of leeway to get back going again if they spun (which a number of them did). There were a lot of battles and a lot of contact, but mostly fairly clean and no intentional wrecking. It was solid, fun racing and run efficiently with no cautions.

The second Affordable Ford feature had a bit more excitement. One guy parked his damaged car in the infield and ran off the track into the pits. They brought out the tow truck to move the car then he ran back out and got in the car and drove off. Later on, there was contact then retaliation with one car driving another into the wall and into the air, getting up pretty high with the rear wheels.



The modified figure-8s then ran, which were outlaw figure-8 style cars. There were 14 of them and they had a separate flagstand in turn four for the figure-8 track. The racing was fun with some good threading through the intersection without any collisions. The leader was being especially bold about it which is always fun.

I didn't get a picture of it unfortunately but the safety truck carrying the speedy dry really looked like it was upside down at some point, since it had major damage to the top of it and the roof didn't appear to be quite straight. If so it wouldn't be the first time a track vehicle had been upside down before, as Macon has an Escalade that flipped in spectator drags that they bought as a push truck.

The Fords ran a figure-8 as well, 20 of them. The racing was good once again, including outside the intersection as they were a very competitive class.

The sportsman seemed to be their premier class, looking like outlaw late models. It was the least interesting of the night, with a lot of mechanical attrition and only 10 cars to start with.

We decided to call it after that, with a 3 hour drive back to Nashville and an early morning Indycar race tomorrow. It was a fun race though, nice to go to an asphalt track sometimes since I'm mostly a dirt person. The track had character as well which I appreciate.