

7-24-24: Ripley County Fairgrounds

I was already planning a trip for USAC Indiana Sprint Week and decided that I could get a couple extra tracks in by going a day early, which was an obvious choice to make. I had originally planned to watch the All-Star TQs at Ripley County Fairgrounds, then when that date appeared to be off the schedule changed plans to Brownstown, then apparently it again became a two-day show both Wednesday and Thursday so I put that back on the itinerary, since this track I think only races once a year during the fair so counting it again would be a lot harder.

I left Boston after work on Thursday, spent the night somewhere in Ohio, and made my way to the Ripley County Fair a bit after hot laps were scheduled to start (or thereabouts, there was contradicting information depending on which Facebook page I looked at, either 7pm or 7:30pm). It was free entry into the fair but \$10 for the grandstands. I arrived when the TQs were “blowing off the track” which apparently wasn’t hot laps since they came out again for hot laps afterward.



There were 11 TQ midgets, the only class on the docket. The grandstands were covered but the two sets of poles infringed on the sightlines a good bit, making the top row not particularly desirable. There weren’t a ton of people in the grandstands, I don’t see how they’re making money running the show with the number of people in the stands unless there’s no payout for the cars (which there very well might not be).



I wandered the fair during the downtime between group qualifying and racing, and had an excellent pork burger and a decent strawberry cheesecake for a total of \$9 - I love county fair food prices.



The track is very flat but was equipped with a catch fence and flagstand. The PA was temporary speakers set up at the bottom of the stands, and a ladder that was required in order to get into the flagstand.



The cars during hot laps were covered in mud, though the track didn't look particularly wet. It seemed like a track that didn't take moisture well, though given that I don't think they race much there outside of once a year I'm not surprised. It was mostly single groove around the bottom, though there was a bit of a second lane developing in three and four, at least when two cars were side by side.

There were a few passes in the heats, including for the lead actually in the second heat. The racing wasn't particularly interesting but I didn't expect it to be, I'm just glad to be able to count a new track here and I do tend to enjoy a county fair if only for the cheap and usually rather good food options.

I left after the heats, since I wanted to count Brownstown Speedw