

5-19-24: Sweet Springs Motorsports Complex

I was really excited when I found out that I was going to be in Kansas City at the same time the USAC Midgets were going to be running at Sweet Springs. I'd watched them race there on Flo a number of times and it seemed like it put on a great show. I'm always excited to see midgets racing on a small track, they tend to put on a great show.

It was entirely unclear when gates actually opened - the USAC Facebook page, the track Facebook page, and MyRacePass all listed different times. I still don't know what was actually correct. I ultimately arrived around 4:30, after watching the Royals beat the A's decisively at Kauffman Stadium.

The grandstands were pretty small and the track as a whole felt much more like a track that catered to competitors rather than spectators. I was able to secure a seat in the top row, though the top row didn't allow standing up due to the setup of the seatbacks.



The facility seemed quite nice overall, the track looked well groomed and the catch fence was solid. The stands aren't very large but they have good views of the track since they're set back a ways from the fence. They're pretty steep too, always a good thing. I don't think there'd be an issue sitting anywhere, especially if no one is sitting directly in front.



The scoreboard actually goes to 24 places which is much better than what I would have expected.

I spent a while sitting by a tree in the shade reading a book while I waited for the events to start, and it was quite a nice day so I was perfectly content doing so. There was a nice grassy area behind the grandstands.



There were 22 USAC midgets on hand, with 12 stock non-wing micros and 5 junior sprints as the local classes.

Through those laps turn three seemed a bit bumpy, but they were otherwise uneventful.

The midgets heats saw a decent bit of passing. The cars mostly were on the bottom in one and two but were a bit wider through three and four. The micros seemed to open the track up even more, moving the cushion up some in three and four in particular.

They started with the junior sprint main. It was uneventful except for one car that seemed to have broken something and went straight into the wall in turn two, a bit of a scary incident until it was confirmed that he was alright.

The midgets started their feature at 8pm, when it was still light outside which felt strange even though it shouldn't really have been given the number of other cars on the property. They ran a 40 lap feature that put on quite a show. There was a 7 car stackup in two early on, but no car seemed to be particularly hurt as a result of it. There were sliders for the lead early and a wide track, racing everywhere.



There were some big bikes in three and action all over the track, very good racing throughout. They were getting very close to the wall in three and four. There were some crazy sliders, Ryan Timms in particular providing them. They were all over the track and it was some excellent racing, wide on both ends.

Gavin Miller biked in three, getting up on two wheels then bounced onto the left sides and flipped multiple times and got into the fence for a violent roll bringing out the red flag. Ryan Timms spun early and managed to drive all the way to 4th by the time it was 4 laps to go.

Late in the race Kale Drake caught a wheel exiting two and got up in a wheelie and managed to hold on to it and kept the lead for the moment. Daison Pursley got Drake on a restart with a big slider into three, then Drake got it back. Pursley biked in two and tumbled into the fence to end a great battle for the lead.

On the last lap someone jumped the inner berm and almost took out the NOS Energy starting can and just about hit the ATV in the infield as well. Overall it was an exciting midget race, great battles throughout.

The micro main was decent, nothing particularly interesting about it.

I was out of there by 9pm having seen all 3 divisions race. I'm always a fan of an efficient show and they did a good one tonight. Enjoyable racing, well run, and out early, I enjoyed my time at Sweet Springs.