

NayKid heads 'home'

Laguna Seca comes as Viper program surges

BY TOM MOORE
NayKid Racing

MONTEREY, Calif. — NayKid Racing's first season back in the SCCA Speed World Challenge comes to an end on Sunday, Oct. 21, at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.

Cindi Lux of Aloha, Ore., and Lake Tapps Scotty B. White's limited schedule with a pair of Dodge Viper Competition Coupes started off slowly but gained momentum quickly as the NayKid Racing team became more knowledgeable of the V10-powered machines. Entering NayKid Racing's sixth and final race of the season on Oct. 21 at the team's adopted "home" track in Monterey, Calif., the energy and excitement are high for the two Northwest-based drivers. Recent events at North America's premier road courses have shown the program on an upsurge that the team hopes to culminate in its best performance of the season at this weekend SPEED World Challenge GT race on the Monterey Peninsula.

Since a less-than-satisfactory debut on the tight confines of the Long Beach Grand Prix street course, the No. 2 Dodge-Mintex Brakes-MOMO Dodge Viper Competition Coupe of Lux and the No. 3 Corsa Performance-Forgeline Dodge Viper Comp. Coupe of White have shown impressive speed on the natural terrain courses. Most recently, at Road Atlanta, the team regularly ran in the top-10 of practice, qualifying and the race before a sudden rainstorm and red

flag put White off-course and Lux out of contention for a top-10. The Laguna Seca race, the final event to be held on the Monterey Sports Car Championship weekend, has drawn the largest SPEED GT entry list of the season. The additional competition and major status of the event is just the kind of scenario that Lux and White covet.

"Taking our momentum from the last few races will be an important shot in the arm for Laguna," Lux said. "Both Scotty and I have a ton of time at this track, but just not in Viper Comp. Coupes. It's kind of funny, it was a year ago at this race that Scotty, Fred and I attended as observers and decided to join the Series. One year later, here we are ready to throttle-up and get our first top-ten finish."

Both Lux and White are pleased that their final opportunity to secure a top finish comes at Laguna Seca. The front-engine, American supercar is better matched to the long, flowing road course than the narrow street tracks, raising the team's expectations. Further buoying the anticipation of the one-hour race is that each driver has extensive time on Laguna Seca's 2.238-mile, 11-turn track. The venue was a regular stop for White while contesting the SoPac Division T1 championship in SCCA Club Racing. He helped use the track to spur an impressive four SoPac titles in five seasons. Lux's experience at the track is nearly as strong and, combined; the two feel confident that they will have their best results of the season this weekend.

"Our welcome back to SPEED GT has

n't been filled with all the glory we hoped for, especially my personal results," White said. "But it's been fun and it feels great to be back home on the West Coast at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. I love this track and Cindi and I have always had a lot of fun during our race weekends here in Monterey. I know we'll see a lot of friends and family here and being at a track where I can remember which way the next corner goes ought to be a big help!"

Lux currently has the team's best results with an 11th at Mosport International Raceway and 13th (twice, Miller and Road Atlanta). She also won the Piloti Rookie of the Race for highest placing first-year driver at the Miller event. White's speed and racecraft has been impressive with just bad luck harming his overall results. White has regularly raced into the top-10 before misfortune has taken its toll. He earned the Sunoco Hard Charger Award for most positions gained at Miller Motorsports Park on his way to a 15th-place result and matched that at a rain-soaked Mosport event where drying conditions destroyed his wet-weather tires and dropped him from a certain top-10.

"Fred, Matt and the guys have really been starting to get these Dodge Vipers dialed in and I just hope we can finally showcase some of the speed we have found on a nice, dry track we are familiar with," said White. "Stay tuned!"

The SPEED GT race from Laguna Seca can be seen at 4:30 p.m. (ET) Saturday, Oct. 28, on SPEED Channel.

Local racers plan to tackle Laguna enduro

BY CHUCK BRIGGS
NW Racers Group

We're just not ready to call it an end to the racing season!

Five local SCCA drivers have decided to drive our first endurance race (4 hours) at Laguna Seca on Oct. 28. Ken Osage (Porsche 928), Ken Olson (Shelby Cobra), Dave Conover (Miata), Dick

Pierson (RX-7) and myself (Porsche 928) have teamed up and will be driving this race to benefit the United Way.

We're seeking pledges for the United Way, with 100 percent of the contributions going directly to the United Way. (We were going to go racing anyway, so we might as well do it for a good cause.)

We will be driving both 928s with Pierson, myself and Mark Kibort (SFR

SCCA member) driving the red 928 and Osage, Conover and Olson driving the blue 928.

Anyone interested in pledging can find a link at www.nwracersgroup.com. We are estimating between 100 and 120 laps. No pledge amount is too small.

After the race, we will post the results and all contributions will be paid directly to the United Way.