



Strong Start to the Season for MC Racing



Photo Courtesy: Ryan Cristobal

April 26, 2009 (Willows, CA) - Michael McColligan, driving the #36 Mazdatrix/Idemitsu Mazda RX8, finished just off the podium in 4th place in Round 1 of the Nitto Tires United States Touring Car Championship at Thunderhill Raceway. His improved race pace earned the GO PRO Hero Camera award.

During the off-season the MC Racing crew made a lot of changes in search of more speed. Unfortunately the team was unable to test before the first race. "The car is definitely much faster but a little more difficult to drive", stated McColligan after his first practice. The team continued to tune the car qualifying in fifth position for the standing start.

Before the race the team made a few more suspension changes. "Usually the smart move is not to make drastic changes before the race but with limited test time I figured it was worth the risk", mentioned McColligan. At the drop of the flag McColligan got an awesome launch and tried to go down the inside of the Honda Civic who had similar plans and took a very defensive line. "I had a great start and planned to go down the inside, once I had 2-wheels on the grass I figured the smart move was to back-off", mentioned McColligan. Unfortunately McColligan got shuffled back to 8th by turn 2 and drove a couple of blistering laps to clear 3 cars. "I was a surprised when my crew chief came on the radio and called out times 2 seconds/lap faster than qualifying, obviously the changes worked for the better". McColligan pushed hard and drove clean laps bringing the car home in 4th place. "As usual the RX8 was fast and reliable and I am extremely encouraged by the pace of the car. With more seat time I am confident we can improve with each race", summed up McColligan.

About MC Racing

MC Racing competes in the Nitto Tires United States Touring Car Championship aboard a Mazda RX-8 with support from Mazda, Mazdatrix, Idemitsu, Racing Beat, Konig Wheels, TC Sportline, and Bell Racing. For more information, visit www.mcspeedracer.com

MC Racing 2009



Mazdatrix
www.mazdatrix.com



Idemitsu
www.idemitsu-usa.com



Racing Beat
www.racingbeat.com



Mazda USA/Mazdaspeed
www.mazdausa.com



Konig Wheels
www.konigwheels.com



Bell Racing
www.bellracing.com

TCSportline
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