

NWR has one Run-Offs titlist

BY SHERRI MASTERSON
Staff Writer

Congratulations to all drivers who qualified to attend this year's Run-Offs in their final year at Heartland Park, Topeka. It was a rough year for some of our Northwest Region drivers on track but a few managed to finish the race and some placed well.

Also a handful of officials made the trek. They were Gerry and Rich Weixler, John and Geri Martinsen, Glen and Carol Wilhelm and Jim Graffy.

The results:

On Friday, GT2 driver Jim Walsh in his blue and white Porsche 996 GT3 Cup car sponsored by Microsoft Advertising and Live Search qualified fifth overall and placed in the same spot. Not as well as he had hoped for but a great showing.

FV drivers Dennis Andrade and Stephen Saslow finished 10th and 32nd respectively. Andrade drove his blue

The GT2 view

Northwest Region member Jim Walsh recounts his second trip to the Run-Offs. **See Page 11**

Vortech sponsored by D&D Racing. Saslow drove his red and white Tsunami MKIII. FV was the largest group at Run-Offs this year.

FM driver Lucian Pancea in the blue and yellow Star Mazda sponsored by Newport Hills Villa finished sixth overall in a competitive group of Formula Mazdas.

FC brought driver Nicholas Belling from Canada driving his black Van Diemen RF98-H6 sponsored by Hangar6.ca and Loynings.com, finishing seventh overall.

On Saturday in FF, three drivers from NWR headed to grid. Larry Bangert in his orange and white Swift DB-1 sponsored by R&A Manufacturing finished

17th after running closer to the front before possible mechanical issues arose. Mark Keller, driving his blue and orange Swift DB-1 sponsored by Black Jack Racing, finished 14th in FF. Finishing the highest of the three FF drivers was Rick Payne from Mission, B.C., driving another Swift DB-1 that is sponsored by Payton Pools. He finished eighth.

NWR dual member Edward Zabinski in T1 drove his red 2002 Ferrari 360 Modena to the championship. This was a first win for Ferrari and Zabinski. His sponsor is Level 5 Motorsports and his region of record is currently Atlanta Region.

On the final day, Chris Souliotis in his silver Speads R506 sponsored by Sarpinos-Speedway in CSR class finished sixth.

Again congratulations to all of these competitors: 10 entries, seven top 10s and one champion. See you next year at Road America, Sept. 22-27, 2009.

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