



Ryan Wilson brings home Top-15 finish for the No. 15 *Richard Petty's Driver Search* team at Rockingham Speedway

(Rockingham, NC) October 9, 2010 – Ryan Wilson, “Top Driver” of *Richard Petty's Driver Search II*, brought home a 14th place finish for the No. 15 *Richard Petty's Driver Search* Dodge team in the American 200 ARCA Racing Series event at Rockingham Speedway on October 9th, 2010.

“We had a pretty good day,” said Wilson, making his first ever appearance at the one mile track known as “The Rock”. “As a driver you want to win every race, but to come down here with no experience in these cars, run solid all weekend, and come home in 14th place is great.”

The No.15 *Richard Petty's Driver Search* Dodge team, led by Crew Chief Brad Noffsinger, unloaded for Thursday's open test session with one goal, getting their young driver comfortable in a bigger, heavier car than the late model stock cars he is used to running on a weekly basis. “You could see Ryan's late model tendencies slowly start to fade away as the weekend progressed,” said Noffsinger. “The test session that was provided by ARCA was huge for us because it gave us a full day of free testing to really work with Ryan and develop his skills which is the main goal of this great program.”

Friday brought practice and qualifying for the *Driver Search* team. Wilson ran consistently in the top 15 during both practice sessions and was able to turn a lap in qualifying that was good enough for 19th position on the starting grid. “It was great effort by our team because everytime we came in to make adjustments during practice, we went back out and were faster on the track,” added Noffsinger “We made a lot of significant changes to the setup and Ryan gave us valuable feedback with the handling of the car.”

Race day approached on Saturday with one goal: run consistent and stay out of trouble with a young driver on a tough track. Any form of racing event that takes place at Rockingham can get wild quickly as the old, abrasive surface is known to wear down tires making the cars on the track slide around creating a lot of cautions. “We worked with Ryan because he liked to drive the car so hard into the corners which would easily melt the tires and severely alter the handling of the car. It was amazing to see the improvements he made and we hoped it would carry over to race day because we knew tires were going to be a major concern.”

Wilson started the race in 19th and improved his position throughout the race moving all the way up to 10th. As the race progressed, Wilson made three different pit stops (all under caution flag conditions) which were smooth and without any penalties from ARCA Officials. “I really would have liked to get Ryan a green flag stop because the best way to learn something is to actually go out and do it,” said Noffsinger. “We did, however, have good pit stops which worked out great in our favor. The tire situation is what really hurt us in the long run.” ARCA only allows three sets of tires for each team and the second set of tires that the *Driver Search* team used wasn’t to their liking and only lasted 22 laps forcing them to use old tires while every other team put on fresh tires.

In the end, Wilson came home with a solid 14th place finish and was very excited and appreciative of the opportunity to represent the *Driver Search* program. “This was a pretty neat deal,” said Wilson. “I feel like I gained a ton of experience today that will help me down the road and it was a lot of fun to race this car for Richard Petty. Not many people get to say they’ve done that.”

“I can’t speak highly enough about Ryan as a driver and the overall *Driver Search* team as a whole,” commented Team Manager, Rick Fedrizzi. “Everyone really gave it everything they had trying to get this car dialed in and it showed in the final results.”

The third edition of the one-of-a kind training camp and competition, *Richard Petty’s Driver Search III*, will take place December 6th-9th, 2010 at Charlotte Motor Speedway and Concord Speedway in North Carolina, and the road course at Carolina Motorsports Park in Kershaw, South Carolina. Two-time Nationwide Series Champion, Randy LaJoie and road course expert Marcos Ambrose, will be among the racing celebrities to join the *Driver Search* instruction staff, with the “Top Driver” earning the chance to compete in an ARCA Racing Series event during the 2011 season in another effort fully supported by Petty Holdings.

Complete information and driver applications can be found at <http://www.pettydriversearch.com>.

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