



Dillon Moltz brings home Top-20 finish for *Richard Petty's Driver Search*

(Long Pond, PA) July 31, 2010 – Dillon Moltz, “Top Driver” of the inaugural *Richard Petty's Driver Search*, bounced back from a pit road speeding penalty and brought home a 20th place finish for the No. 41 *Richard Petty's Driver Search* Dodge team in the Weis Markets 125 ARCA Racing Series event at Pocono Raceway.

“What an unbelievable opportunity it was this weekend working with the *Driver's Search* team”, said Moltz, making his first ever appearance at the 2.5 mile track known as “The Tricky Triangle”. “Overall, we completed our goals and I couldn't be more happy about the overall experience and success of weekend”.

The No.41 *Richard Petty's Driver Search* Dodge team, led by Crew Chief Brad Noffsinger, unloaded for Friday's lone practice session with a very tight race car. After using valuable driver feedback to make proper adjustments during the hour and a half practice session, the team shaved almost two seconds off their lap times ending up 20th fastest in the field of 39 cars. “It was great to work with Dillon in practice to see what kind of feedback he would provide. It really helped us adjust the setup and give him a car more suited to his liking and it showed on the lap charts”, said Noffsinger.

Later that afternoon during qualifying, Moltz turned a lap of 55.82 seconds, good enough for 16th position on the starting grid. “Considering we didn't make a qualifying run in practice due to time constraints, I was really happy with the effort put forth by Dillon and this team. The kid is a class act and has a serious future in this sport”, added Noffsinger.

Saturday was race day and from the beginning there was never a dull moment during the event for the 19-year old from Waterford, CT. As ARCA veteran and pole sitter, Frank Kimmel, led the field to the green flag on lap one, the first caution was only a few cars back as Donny Lia missed a shift and lost control of his car just five rows in front of the No. 41. Cars scattered, smoke filled the frontstretch, and Moltz calmly maneuvered around the accident and avoided any contact with Lia's Toyota. “I thought our spotter, Marc

Dailey, was a pivotal factor in Dillon's development not only by keeping him calm during the incident, but also developing a trust with him throughout the entire weekend and overall program", said Noffsinger.

As the race settled down, the No. 41 team found themselves consistently running around the 16th position for the first 20 laps. Team officials decided to make their only pit stop of the race earlier than most of the field to gain track position in case a caution came out. At lap 25, Moltz came down pit road for a green flag pit stop, made a wedge adjustment, and received four fresh Hoosier tires and enough Sunoco fuel to get him to the finish. However, ARCA officials slapped him with a "pass thru" penalty for speeding on the exit to pit road forcing the car back to the pits and putting the No. 41 a lap down to the leaders, running in the 21st position. "He was so smooth coming down pit road off the racing surface which we thought would be the tough part for him and that was great to see. However, this being his first race and first major pit stop with a professional crew...I think he just got out a little excited coming out of the box. It happens to the best of us", said Noffsinger.

Two different caution flags flew shortly after the penalty was carried out and the No. 41 car was ineligible both times for the "lucky dog" free pass, given to the first car one lap down. After that, Moltz was able to make a long green flag run, improve his lap times, and work his way up to finish in the 20th position, the first car one lap down. "Our original goal was to come here, run competitive, and finish in the top-20 and we accomplished all of those goals", said Team Manager, Rick Fedrizzi. "However, in racing, sometimes the final results on the track don't always show the performance of the team and this was definitely a top 10 car. There is no doubt in my mind", added Fedrizzi.

Upon exiting the car on pit road, the first person to greet Moltz and congratulate him on his run was "The King," Richard Petty himself. "I was pretty hard on myself after the race for the pit road incident, but then as I pulled onto pit road, The King was there to give me feedback on my performance and ways to handle myself in that situation. That never would have happened had I not been a part of this great *Driver Search* program." Other ARCA veterans such as Kimmel and Bobby Gerhart also stopped by to compliment Moltz on his racing ability and maturity. "For being only 19 years old, he showed the maturity of a seasoned veteran. Those guys don't give out compliments to just anyone", said Fedrizzi.

The second edition of the one-of-a kind training camp and competition, *Richard Petty's Driver Search II*, will take place September 13th-16th, 2010 at Charlotte Motor Speedway and Concord Speedway in North Carolina, and the road course at Carolina Motorsports Park in Kershaw, South Carolina. Grassroots legend Ken Schrader 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 the "American 200" ARCA Racing Series event on October 9th at historic Rockingham Speedway in an effort fully supported by Petty Holdings. "After seeing the success of the first edition, it only shows the potential of this program as it grows and gives young drivers the opportunity to showcase their talents and learn from the best in business", said Fedrizzi.

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

Contact: Jonathan E. Bayless (704) 454-6244 / jbayless@drivepetty.com

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