



Broken Rear End Concludes Night Early for Matt Crafton in LOR ARCA Race  
Kimmel Racing Entry Finishes 32nd

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (July 28, 2011) - Matt Crafton finished 32nd in the No. 88 Messina Wildlife Management/Menards machine after experiencing a broken rear end 75 laps into the race. Crafton was forced to retire 125 laps shy of the finish in the first ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards event at Lucas Oil Raceway since 1985.

After running extremely loose in qualifying, Crafton took the green flag from the 19th position. It took only one lap for Crafton to navigate up to 15th, but he quickly notified his crew that he was "plowing" off the corner. Maintaining his position until lap 24, Crafton radioed his crew that he felt he had a tire going down and that he was bringing the No. 88 in for an unscheduled green-flag pit stop. Taking on two right-side tires, Crafton returned to the track two laps down in the 31st position.

Closer inspection revealed that Crafton did not have a tire going down, but the handling on the Kimmel Racing machine was so poor that it felt like a flat. Fortunately, the two fresh tires dramatically changed the handling of the Messina Wildlife Management/Menards car, which was now loose.

When an accident brought out the yellow flag on lap 34, Crafton returned to the pits to trade out left-side tires and top off will fuel. Taking the green on lap 40, the racing quickly went three wide and Crafton avoided a near-tangle. Crafton quickly relayed that the two left-side tires had tightened up the No. 88 again, completely changing its handling.

With the handling quickly deteriorating, Crafton brought the No. 88 in for another unscheduled green-flag pit stop, taking on two more right-side tires, emerging from pit road four laps down. When a wreck erupted on lap 60, Crafton skillfully navigated around the melee and continued to assess the handling of his car.

Loose once again, Crafton also told his crew that his water temperature was beginning to rise when the field went green on lap 65. The yellow flag waved only three laps later, and Crafton came into the pits for a track-bar adjustment and fuel.

When green-flag racing resumed, Crafton's truck was once again tight, but his biggest concern was the smoke emerging from the rear of the machine. Concerned his engine might blow, Crafton brought the No. 88 behind the wall. When the team rushed to assess the car, they determined that the rear end had broken, preventing him from returning to the track. Crafton was officially scored in the 32nd position, 125 laps down.

"I've never seen anything like the handling I had tonight," said Crafton. "After right-side tire stops I was a rocket ship, but as soon as I changed lefts the handling tightened up. I hate to finish a race like this, but I'm glad I had the chance to support Menards and learn about the track for tomorrow night's truck race."

RACE RECAP:  
July 28, 2011  
Lucas Oil Raceway  
0.686-Mile Oval  
Ansell Protective Gloves 200  
200 Laps/137.2 Miles  
Start: 19th  
Finish: 32nd

PR Contact:  
Jessica Trippy  
Girl Friday PR  
Mobile: 312.933.7883  
E-mail: [Jessica@girlfridaypr.com](mailto:Jessica@girlfridaypr.com)

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