

MID-OHIO RACE RECAP JUNE 2-4, 2017 LEXINGTON, OHIO



Chelsea resident, Fritz Wilke, makes successful B-Spec debut with Capaldi Racing at Mid-Ohio SCCA Hoosier Super Tour.

June 10, 2017 – Lexington, Ohio/Chelsea, Michigan

After a nearly 10 year hiatus from SCCA Racing, Fritz Wilke arrived at the Mid Ohio Sports Car course full of optimism and a few butterflies. This was Fritz' first time competing on Mid-Ohio's challenging 2.4 Mile club course.

Fritz has lived in Chelsea, Michigan for the past 10 years and works in Marketing at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn. Fritz is competing in the SCCA Majors and Hoosier Super Tour in 2017 culminating in the 2017 National Championship Runoffs at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in September.

Driving the distinctive yellow and blue #84 Capaldi Racing / MMB Imagery B-Spec Ford Fiesta, Fritz improved his time in each session as he learned the technical and hilly Mid-Ohio..

Mid-Ohio, built in 1962, is one of America's premier road racing facilities. Mid-Ohio's 15-turn club course layout includes the daunting Turn One, a blind, 90+ mph corner, a long back straight, a roller-coaster series of esse bends known as Madness and a 270 degree Carousel.

Fritz qualified 3rd for the Saturday Race, trailing the 2nd place Mazda 2 of Ted Sahley and the Honda Fit of Rob Piekarczyk. Fritz battled Ted Sahley in the Mazda 2 for the first three laps. Fritz eventually drafted past on the 100+ MPH back straight and passed the Mazda under braking into Turn 4, the entrance to the section of Mid-Ohio known as Madness for its technical twists, turns, dips and bumps. Once past the Mazda, Fritz set sights on leader Rob Piekarczyk in the red, white and blue Honda Fit.

Fritz ran several fastest laps in a row to catch the Honda. With only a few laps remaining, Fritz took a chance entering turn one and went for a pass, but made a mistake that many make into the daunting, blind, high-speed turn one. The car carried too much speed and spun off to the outside, across the gravel trap and onto the grass.

Once back on track, in 6th place, Fritz began reeling in the 3rd-5th place group at more than 2 seconds a lap. In a few laps, Fritz was close behind the 5th place Mini Cooper of Brian Metcalf. Unfortunately, with only two laps to go, Fritz missed a shift and over revved the engine and damaged the valvetrain. Fritz brought the injured car home in sixth place.

Overnight, Dave Marchione, Zach Birchall and Alex Perales, the expert technicians at Capaldi Racing, determined that the valve damage was not repairable. Fritz started the Sunday race with the wounded Fiesta, but brought the car back in on the pace lap as the motor was too damaged to maintain pace.

"It was a great race and a good learning experience! I'm excited about our pace," said Fritz. "We were fastest in the third sector and set the second fastest race lap. Rob got a quick one in there at the end. Not bad for our first time here in the Fiesta. The Hoosier tires were great, really predictable and super durable. I had as much tire under me after the spin as before. They really helped me catch back up. I can't wait to get home and get the engine repaired. Zach and Leo were great on the radio! Capaldi Racing is a great team," said Fritz.

"We've got a busy week, Michelle from MMB Imagery is coming by the shop to do a photo shoot. I can't wait to see what creative ideas she's come up with for the team photos! She's got such an amazing eye and has lots of ideas that will make us all look great! No easy feat. Now it's time to get the new engine in the car and get ready for the June Sprints at Road America," said Fritz.

Next up for the #84 Capaldi Racing MMB Imagery B-Spec Fiesta is the 62nd running of the June Sprints on June 16-18 at the beautiful 4-Mile long track at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.

(continued)



Contact: Fritz Wilke Fritzwilke@mac.com for additional images and in-car and on-car video from the event.

Thanks to each of these teams for their support:

Capaldi Racing: www.capaldiracing.com **MMB Imagery:** www.masseybarnesphotography.com

Ford Performance: www.performance.ford.com **Hoosier Tires:** www.hoosiertires.com

Hawk Brakes: www.hawkperformance.com

About the SCCA U.S. Majors Tour: <https://www.scca.com/pages/majors-2>

The U.S. Majors Tour is the pinnacle of championship racing in North America.

This isn't Easy Street. This is where America's best amateur drivers race. It means start-to-finish, wheel-to-wheel action. It's where drivers not only put their cars on the track, they put their pride on the line.

The kindred spirit found here is mixed with fuel and emotion. Adrenaline pumps a little harder here.

About the SCCA Hoosier Super Tour: <https://www.scca.com/pages/super-tour>

Hoosier Racing Tire SCCA Super Tour consists of 11 race weekends at 11 premier tracks across the United States. The Hoosier Super Tour is a gateway to the SCCA National Championship Runoffs being held in 2017 at the iconic Indianapolis Motor Speedway.