

Dakota Stroup Prepares for Alabama Pro 200

A track record at Kentucky Motor Speedway last week has the Owensboro driver confident

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OWENSBORO, KY (October 12, 2011) – Dakota Stroup Racing has been working hard the past couple of weeks. This hard work and preparation is all for the upcoming Alabama Pro 200 at South Alabama Speedway. The event, will be Stroup's third appearance at the 4/10 mile Kinston, AL oval since the Rattler Weekend in March.

Stroup's last two trips to the high banks of South Alabama Speedway have both resulted in second place finishes. This is something that the Owensboro, KY driver plans to change, with help from a recent race at Kentucky Motor Speedway. A race that Stroup not only qualified on the pole, but set a new track record in the process. According to Stroup, the team learned some setup techniques at Kentucky Motor Speedway that they believe may help them this weekend at South Alabama Speedway.

“SAS is a little bigger than KMS, but the banking is pretty close. I feel like it's going to help me going to SAS this coming weekend. I think any time you are in a race car it helps because you learn something new each and every race.”

Stroup has been strong at South Alabama all year long, and there is no reason why the Alabama Pro 200 should be an exception. In May's Diamondback 100 Viper Series Pro Late Model event at South Alabama Speedway, Dakota finished a hard-charging second. He followed up that performance in August in the Copperhead 100 with fast-time in qualifying, and a strong second place run.

The Alabama Pro 200 will be a different beast, however. The format for the race in 2011 is quite different than anything that has been done at South Alabama Speedway before. This year, the 200 lap distance will be split into Twin 100 lap races, with a 30 minute break in between. Teams will also be allotted a total of eight tires to be used at any point during the event. This means that strategy could play a huge role in the outcome of both races. For Stroup, however, he plans on keeping the same strategy that has earned him success thus far this year.

“The twin races aren't going to effect my strategy much. I plan on starting the first race on a new set of tires starting the second race on a new set of tires so I think it will be just like running any other 100 lap race. You just gotta get out there and keep your nose clean. The trick is you have to do it twice to have a shot to win both of them.”

The new format has seen mixed reviews from teams, drivers, and fans alike. Stroup understands that from the fan's perspective, the new format may be a winning combination.

“I would rather it have been a straight 200 lap race. Then it's more about endurance. But I

understand from a fan's stand point that the twin 100 la races will make for a better show because you won't have guys riding and waiting for the last 50 laps or so to really start racing. I do like how South Alabama Speedway is going to have a caution with 25 laps to go in the second race. I think that will make for some real good racing and pump the fans up.”

Stroup's 2011 Racing Stats at South Alabama Speedway

Starts	Wins	Top 5s	Top 10s	Poles	Ave. Finish
4	0	2	2	1	11.2

For more information about Dakota Stroup and Dakota Stroup Racing, please visit www.DakotaStroup.com