

10-11-22: 411 Motor Speedway
Track #161 | Seymour, TN | 1/3 Mile Dirt Oval

I was staying at an Airbnb less than 10 minutes from the track so when they advertised 3:30 gates I decided I was going to head over at gates open and put down my blanket then go home and continue to work for another hour or so. It's the first time I've done such a thing and it worked great, it's still unusual to me to be staying closer than an hour away from a racetrack.

I set my blanket at the top of the grandstands in front of a boarded up section of the boxes on top since I figured I'd be able to stand there if I so desired. The seats were right up against the flat backrest and didn't seem particularly comfortable. I actually ended up deciding on a seat in the lawnchair section, since even being at the bottom of the grandstands it was a view that wasn't lacking anything I'd get up top, which was impressive. Very few tracks are laid out such that a non-top-row seat is legitimately as good as one in the top row.



In fact, the grandstands are very unique in how excellent the sightlines are. I think almost every seat would be good, and I can't say that about most tracks. I really think I'd be satisfied sitting just about anywhere in the facility.



The track looked to have good banking, though made of dirt that looked like it was going to slick off almost immediately. It had a lot of banking in the corners. The only issue was the sun set in turn 4 so it was directly in your eyes looking over there, but once it set it wasn't an issue.



Hot laps starting right on time. There were 38 super late models for FloRacing Night in America, 23 604 crate late models, and 25 modifieds. One of the 604s backed hard into the wall in turn 1, but hot laps and qualifying were otherwise uneventful, outside of several spins in the modified hot laps on what was obviously a very slick track.



The super late model heats didn't have a ton of passing but they were mostly running the top so that's something. There was a bit of a second groove but not a lot of passing. In heat 3, one of them got the outside wall in turn 1, hitting it hard and climbing up such that I thought he might go over, but managed to stay on all fours.

The biggest issue throughout the racing was that they weren't able to hook the FloRacing commentary to the PA. They had a local announcer who announced opening ceremonies but was then never heard from again, resulting in no commentary throughout the event. I didn't realize before how much of a difference it makes having commentary, the racing gets surprisingly less enjoyable without it.

The racing ran quickly, particularly since they only ran hot laps and feature events for the support classes. The super late models lined up their main at 8:40pm for 6:30 hot laps, pretty impressive. They ran caution free and finished well before 9, crazily early for what I'm used to. The racing was good overall. It was a two-groove track, with people in both lanes much of the night. There were sliders for position and good battles throughout the event. Jimmy Owens ran away with it and actually lapped Kyle Larson in the process. He definitely deserved the victory. There was a bit of dust but nothing problematic, I thought the racing was good and I enjoyed it throughout.



My biggest complaint was the lack of any commentary throughout the night. I felt like I was missing a lot of context and just general expected info about what was going on.

The 604 main raced pretty similar to the supers. They had a single caution and were actually more dusty, though I'm inclined to believe that the wind picked up during their feature as opposed to the supers. There was only one caution for a stopped car, though there were a bunch of close calls exiting four.

As opposed to the two late model classes, who only had one caution between them, the modifieds had a real struggle getting going. They took three tries to get the initial start then had 9 cautions in the first 10 laps. The race was shortened from 25 to 20 laps in total, though when they were actually able to race it was good. I do always enjoy modifieds.

Overall the sightlines were just fantastic. The track itself slicked off fairly quickly but provided solid racing, and I would be happy to come back. It seems like sprint cars would put on a fantastic show, though it's Tennessee so I don't really expect that to be happening any time soon.