

10-06-22: Tri-County Racetrack
Track #159 | Brasstown, NC | ¼ Mile Dirt Oval

The second new track on my two week southern road trip was also my first time attending a FloRacing Night in America event. I arrived a few minutes after gates opened and the first order of business was figuring out where the entrance actually was. I first walked down to the pit gate, then wandered around to the opposite side and eventually located a narrow walkway right along the overgrown fence that led to the main gate.



There weren't many people there when I arrived and I got my ticket and found a nice seat on the top row at the exit of turn four. The grandstands were very short but stretched the length of the front stretch, and only had a backrest at the top so you can't actually stand at the top, but that didn't appear like it would be a problem.



Pretty much anywhere seemed to have a good sightline of the whole track because the track is built so far down from the midway. There's probably six feet down to the track surface and the whole track is in a bowl down below, with even the walls of the turns below ground level. It's a neat looking track, somewhat paperclip shaped and much bigger looking than the quarter mile that it is. The flagstand was literally just a door in the catch fence with a bit of a platform to stand on.



The track had quite a bit of banking at the top of the turns and seemed to flatten out at the bottom. I'm used to seeing tractor tires to demarcate the track but there were none, though I realized there was a bit of a berm down there. It had a lot of character overall, a nice small-town feel to it and a very nice looking surface.



The water truck almost seemed to have had a rollover or something, the roof was quite torn up.



35 super late models signed in, plus 6 street stocks, 5 modifieds, 22 602 late models, and 14 front wheel drives that ran features only.

The super late models came out for hot laps and started right on the top of the track. With the small radius turns it meant they got really sideways in the turns and it was fun watching them just throw it sideways right in front of me. It shows you how skewed the cars are too, they always look pretty straight until you see them from an angle like this.



Then was qualifying followed by super late model heat racing. Jonathan Davenport was involved in a stackup with several other cars forcing him to retire from the heat. There were a couple other crashes, including one getting hard into the wall on the exit of turn two. The racing was good overall, it would string out eventually but there was very multi-groove racing early in each heat and was as good as any late model racing I've seen recently.

They interspersed the features for the support divisions between SLM events. Not much happened in any of them, though there were pretty weak car counts for everything but the 602s.

The super late model feature was a good one though. They announced that this was the biggest crowd and biggest purse in track history. There was a ton of dirt flying as soon as they dropped the green. I had my goggles on and was completely covered in dirt, but the racing was good and there was always something going on, sliders and passing throughout the field. It was mostly on the bottom but there definitely was a top, which is really important. Overall I'd have to say it's one of the best late model races I've seen in quite a while, possibly since Gateway last December.

I stuck around for the front wheel drive main to round out the night. They had trouble getting it moving but it was a decent race. At one point someone lost a wheel in turn two and it rolled all the way down into the infield and right through the tech shed.

I did appreciate the announcer, he offered some interesting insight into past events and other things at the track. Apparently last week there was a last lap pass but then they realized they had run an extra lap beyond the scheduled distance, so they awarded both drivers the win and the full prize money. There was also the great line saying that the winner was "grinning like a possum eating a persimmon."

I got out of the track without an issue since everyone had left after the SLM feature. Overall an enjoyable night of racing, and I loved the character of the track. I would come back again if I was in the area.