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NATIONAL AUTO SPORT ASSOCIATION

NASA Midwest Inc.  
5250 Grand Avenue  
Suite 14-387  
Gurnee, IL 60031

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### **MWHC Returns to Mid Ohio**

Three Honda Challenge veterans and one HC rookie made the trip to Mid Ohio Sports Car Course on July 23-24 to do battle amid an array of different weather conditions. Saturday saw hot, humid conditions as the four H2 competitors took to the 2.4 mile Mid Ohio Club Course for qualifying with Colin Botha taking the pole in his #126 Tracy Nine Racing Honda CRX with a lap of 1:44.2, followed closely by Walter McKinney with a 1:44.6 in his #577 MFactory Competition Products Honda Prelude. The Team Know Fear / Myers Motorsports entry driven by Sam Myers timed in 3<sup>rd</sup> with a lap of 1:45.3 in the #44 RoadHunter's Café, Crossing Waters Engineering Honda Civic while HC rookie Sean Barwick rounded out the field with a 1:55.8 in his #3 Slow Motion Motorsports Honda Civic.

As race time rolled around, temperatures at the track were over the 90 degree mark while the heat index topped out at 104. As the green flag flew, McKinney was able to get the jump on Botha with Myers and Barwick following close behind until T11, where McKinney would have slight side-to-side contact with a GTS2 racer, thus allowing Botha to make the pass and Myers to close in. Botha would steadily pull away while McKinney and Myers ran nose-to-tail until Myers made the pass in traffic on lap 5, only to have McKinney motor him down the back straight to regain the spot on lap 6. When the checkered flag flew Botha would take the victory, followed by McKinney and Myers. Barwick was able to race clean and steadily increase his lap times to complete his first ever HC race. Congratulations Sean, and welcome to the MWHC!

The contact between McKinney and the GTS2 car resulted in McKinney being moved to last in class, thus moving Myers to P2 and Barwick to P3.

Sunday morning would see the skies open up and let loose, soaking the 2.25 mile Mid Ohio Pro Course as the HC competitors again took to the track for qualifying. McKinney would prove to be strong in the rain, capturing the pole position by 5 seconds over Barwick, with another 6 seconds back to Brain Flint in the Team Know Fear / Myers Motorsports entry while Botha rounded out the field.

Sunshine and lower humidity would quickly dry out the track as the cars formed up for the Standing Start on the back straight. McKinney would again get the jump with Botha quickly moving to 2<sup>nd</sup> from his 4<sup>th</sup> place qualifying position, with Flint hanging on to 3<sup>rd</sup> and Barwick settling into P4. The battle up front between McKinney and Botha would be fierce for the entire race, with Botha finally being able to gain a gap while working his way thru lapped traffic and again being the



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first to see the checkered flag. McKinney would stay on his tail thru the checkered flag, finishing just a few car lengths behind. Both Flint and Barwick would complete the race without incident, with Flint taking the last podium spot in 3<sup>rd</sup> and Barwick again settling for 4<sup>th</sup>.

The MWHC returns to Mid Ohio Sports Car Course with the NASA Great Lakes Region on August 13-15.

For complete results and lap records, please see [www.nasagreatlakes.com](http://www.nasagreatlakes.com).

Sam Myers  
MWHC Series Director  
NASA Great Lakes & Midwest

NASA Contact:  
Bryan Cohn  
Director of Competition  
NASA Midwest, Inc.  
[bcohn@nasamidwest.com](mailto:bcohn@nasamidwest.com)