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944 Spec Race Report, Mid-Ohio, July 16-17

Two words sum up the experience this past weekend "FUN" and "HOT". I think a cool suit is definitely a must have for summer racing. 944 Spec had planned on six entries for the July event, but John Armstrong was out of town with an obligation, Greg Coward is still finishing up his car, and unfortunately we lost Tom Stein to a tragic non-racing accident earlier this month. We ended up with a field of three cars and ran in the Storm group with all of GTS and Spec. E-30. The race group was full and the racing was intense among the multiple groups. I'm happy to say that both races were run under the green flag, with just a few local cautions.

944 Spec has grown so much in popularity that we even had a Mazda RX-7 show up in 944 Spec with taped on "944S" numbers to boot. The race director sorted this out and the RX-7 was appropriately classed, but it was fun having a 944 Spec wannabe trying to run with our group.

Practice and qualifying went well Saturday. On pole for the first race was Sam Grant in his Orange Baron, followed by Brad Raum in the Barney mobile and Shannon McCue in the Red Beast. At the drop of the green flag, Sam shot out in front and hung tough for the entire race in first place and scored his first-ever 944 Spec win. He was relentlessly chased by Brad and Shannon who came up short at the drop of the checkered flag and finished in that respective order.

Things got off to a slow start on Sunday with a heavy morning fog that pushed back and shortened both practice and qualifying. The start of Sunday's race was very familiar to Saturday's start with Sam bolting out to the lead and never looking back the entire race. The battle was between Brad and Shannon for second place. Shannon held second the majority of the race and racing was intense and close. Brad was finally able to make a move on the inside of turn one and pass Shannon for second position. The race ended Sunday in the same order as Saturday with Sam pulling off a double-header win for the weekend. Not to shabby for Sam's rookie season. We bow our respective 944 Spec hats to him for racing clean and safe to bring home the big trophy for both races.

The Great Lakes drivers are looking forward to meeting up with the Midwest drivers at the August cross-over event at Mid-Ohio. With nationals coming up in September the racing is sure to heat up. Thanks to our national sponsors, TOYO tires, Apex Performance, Hawk brake pads and Grassroots Motorsports Magazine.

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

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