

RACE 17 | SATURDAY | Sept. 26, 2015 | 2:50 p.m.

## TOURING 1

Andrew Aquilante's biggest drama in winning his fourth Touring 1 National Championship and sixth title overall was getting a car together to bring to the Runoffs. With he and Phoenix Motorsports contesting for the Pirelli World Challenge GTS title, the Runoffs kind of snuck up on them.

"We had a brand-new chassis that we were going to build, but due to running World Challenge and the back end of that schedule being so packed - we ran a third of our season in a month - and the prep time with all that, the [Runoffs] car got put on the back burner," explained Aquilante. "We were out at Sonoma [Raceway], and one of our cars got wrecked. We had a spare car for World Challenge and we had an extra truck that was coming back after Sonoma anyway, [so] we sent the car back home, the body shop fixed it up, and then we got back from [Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca] and had two days to install all the bits and come [to the Runoffs]."

Aquilante then proceeded to put his Phoenix Performance/Hawk/Hoosier Ford Mustang Boss 302 on the Tire Rack pole with a 1:53.562 - more than a second-and-a-half clear of Mark Boden's BMW M3 - and motored to a 7.771sec margin of victory.

Boden ran second for a while, but began slipping backward on lap six, perhaps the victim of fading tires. That left Pratt Cole and Cameron Maugeri to battle for the remaining podium positions. The position belonged to Maugeri until lap seven, when

Cole got by; but Cole could never shake Maugeri's BTI Motorsports Ford Mustang. They ran that way until the final lap, when Cole ran into trouble.

"I went across start/finish, going into Turn 1 on the white flag lap, and unloaded my power steering pump," Cole explained. "I don't know what blew, the hose or the pump. All I knew was going in there, I've got a windshield full of oil, and I'm not exactly sure what's coming.

"I really had a hard time seeing in the right-hand turns," Cole said of his Western Metals Transport Ford Mustang. "I thought I might get lucky and get past this; I've got to be honest, I tried like crazy for not being able to see. But Cameron brought it out of the Bus Stop - and he brought it hard - and I had nothing for him."

Maugeri had difficulties of his own. "The car was starting to get a little squirmy and it didn't feel right," he said. "After I pulled into the pit, I saw I had a flat tire." Add to that the oil from Cole's blown power steering, and it was getting especially slippery for Maugeri.

Up front, Aquilante was able to cruise to the checker, although not without distractions. "The cool thing [at Daytona] is you get the chance to look around while you're going pretty fast," he said. "You look up at the Timing and Scoring tower, and you go, 'OK, eight laps; alright, nine laps'...and you start listening for every creak and rattle."

Richard S. James

## LIKE A BOSS

(ABOVE and FAR RIGHT) Andrew Aquilante led a Mustang sweep of the Touring 1 podium, claiming his sixth Runoffs title along the way. (LEFT) Cameron Maugeri survived a flat tire and took home the silver medal. (RIGHT) Pratt Cole strong-armed his car around the final lap after losing his power steering and managed to hold on for third.



Photo: Dave Perini



Photo: Matt



Photo: Dave Perini

## T1 RESULTS

**ANDREW AQUILANTE**  
Philadelphia Region  
Phoenix Performance/Hawk/Hoosier  
Ford Mustang Boss 302

**T1 RESULTS**  
Pos. Driver/Region (Car) Time Session 1/Time Session 2/Time Session 3/Time Session 4; 1. Andrew Aquilante/PHL (2012 Ford Mustang Boss 302) **1:53.562** / 1:53.607 / 1:57.327 / 1:54.813; 2. Mark Boden/CHI (2009 BMW M3 Coupe) **1:55.213** / 1:56.130 / 1:59.293 / 1:56.848; 3. Cameron Maugeri/CFR (2013 Ford Mustang) **1:55.306** / 1:55.767 / 1:59.169 / 1:56.926; 4. Pratt Cole/RENO (2008 Ford Mustang) 1:56.730 / 1:56.553 / 1:58.435 / **1:55.856**; 5. Tim Myers/ATL (2010 Dodge Viper ACR-X) **1:56.049** / 1:58.248 / No time / No time; 6. Joseph Gaudette/WDC (2002 Chevrolet Corvette Z06) **1:57.798** / 1:58.932 / No time / 1:58.590; 7. David Sanders/PHL (2003 Chevrolet Corvette Z06) 1:58.922 / **1:58.077** / No time / 1:58.320; 8. Alan Kossol/CHI (2009 BMW M3) 2:00.147 / 2:00.108 / **2:00.048** / 2:00.678; 9. Scotty B White/NWST (2006 Dodge Viper) No time / No time / 2:06.211 / **2:00.896**; 10. John R. Buttermore/DET (2005 Chevrolet Corvette) **2:01.386** / 2:02.169 / No time / 2:02.517; 11. Joe Aquilante/PHL (2007 Chevrolet

Corvette C6 Coupe) 2:03.939 / **2:03.342** / 2:04.639 / 2:04.474; 12. Thomas Ellis/FLA (2012 Ford Mustang Boss 302) No time / No time / **2:03.859** / 2:04.004;  
Ellis - Loss of qualifying 2 times per Chief Steward - Supp. 9.12

## T1 RESULTS

**14 Laps, 50 Miles: Pos. Driver (Laps);** 1. Andrew Aquilante (14); 2. Cameron Maugeri (14); 3. Pratt Cole (14); 4. Joseph Gaudette (14); 5. Tim Myers (14); 6. David Sanders (14); 7. Scotty B White (14); 8. Alan Kossol (14); 9. Mark Boden (14); 10. John R. Buttermore (14); 11. Joe Aquilante (13); 12. Thomas Ellis (14); Ellis - Loss of 2 finishing positions per Chief Steward - GCR 6.11.1;  
**Overall Time of Race:** 27:17.030; **Average Race Speed:** 109.603mph; **Margin of Victory:** 07.771 seconds; **Fastest Race Lap:** A. Aquilante 1:55.494 (110.967 mph); **Lap Leaders:** #36 laps 1-14; **Sunoco Hard Charger:** #86 Joseph Gaudette



Photo: Dave Perini