

NHRA Arizona Nationals ***Feb. 17-19, 2012***

Final Round Report

Clay Millican and the Parts Plus Top Fuel team went into the Semi-Final Round of the NHRA Arizona Nationals at Firebird International Raceway in Phoenix this afternoon, following two solid runs in the first two rounds earlier in the day. The car smoked the tires at the step of the throttle, Clay immediately came out of the throttle, coasted down the track, resulting in an 8.94 second pass down the track, @ 83.46 mph.

“We weren’t going to try to get a .79 on this run”, Millican said afterwards, “our plan was go down the track just as we had in the two previous rounds.” He continued, “I’m not sure why the tires struck that early, but the crew is going to take a look at it and we’ll start working towards Gainesville. The Parts Plus team a GREAT, GREAT weekend, the boys on this crew did a really good job and I couldn’t be prouder of them.”

Team Owner Mark Pickens summed up the weekend, “The Parts Plus team had an excellent weekend. Learning how to go faster can sometimes be a slippery slope, but I can’t help but think that the other teams know we’re out here and they know we’re going to be here each and every event.”

After two events in the 2012 NHRA Full Throttle Series season, the Parts Plus team won a final round in Pomona, followed by two final round wins here in Phoenix, making it to the Semi-Final round in only the second event of the season.

Watch the Parts Plus Top Fuel team’s runs in the Final rounds today on ESPN2 and ESPN2HD, tonight at 9:00 PM (EST).

E2 Millican win 3.838 @ 317 mph

Clay Millican and the Parts Plus Top Fuel team continued to advance in the NHRA Arizona Nationals at Firebird International Raceway in Phoenix this afternoon, with a sound win in Round 2 of the finals, 3.838 second, 317.87 mph run. The crew is now getting the Parts Plus Top Fuel dragster ready for Round 3, which begin at 2:30 PM (MST).

Following his second consecutive round win Clay said, “Bring the sun out! We may not have quite figured out how to get the in the 70’s, but we’re definitely getting the car down the race track, which as I’ve said before, is what wins races.”

E1 Millican win 386.1@314.31 mph

The Parts Plus Top Fuel team began the day at the NHRA Arizona Nationals at Firebird International Raceway in Phoenix this afternoon, capturing a win in Round 1 of the Finals. Driver Clay Millican drove Parts Plus Top Fuel car to a 3.861 second, 314.31 MPH run.

Following the run Clay said, “We may not be the quickest, but we go down the race track and that what wins rounds.” Team Owner Mark Pickens concurred with him, adding, “The car continues to make it

down the race track, which is key. We've been fighting dropped cylinder problem at the top end of the track, but I feel we are only a fraction away from seeing what the Parts Plus dragster can really do."

The crew is now getting the car ready for Round 2 of the Finals, which begins at 1:00 PM (MST).

Q4 Millican ran 3.874 @ 313 mph

The fourth and final qualifying round for the NHRA Arizona Nationals at Firebird International Raceway, netted a clean consistent run for the Parts Plus Top Fuel Team this afternoon in Phoenix, AZ. Driver Clay Millican took the car down the track, netting a 3.874 second, 313.73 mph run. Following the round Clay said, "We were looking for a nice clean run and we got it." "We'll go to work and get ready for the finals tomorrow."

The Parts Plus Top Fuel Team is qualified in the 11th position. Finals begin tomorrow with Round 1 beginning at 11:00 AM (MST).

Watch the Parts Plus Top Fuel car in the coverage of qualifying rounds for the NHRA Arizona Nationals this evening on ESPN2 and ESPN2HD, 8:00 – 10:00 PM (EST).

Q3 Millican ran 3.88 @ 306 mph

On day two of the NHRA Arizona Nationals, qualifying continued with Round 3. In the first run of the day Clay Millican and the Parts Plus Top Fuel team made a 3.889 second, 306.19 mph run. "I'm not really sure what happened but the car went down the track", Millican said following the run, we were looking for better than it ran yesterday."

Team owner Mark Pickens noted that "we're going to have to get to point B quicker in this last round." The crew is now in "high gear" getting ready to do just that in the final round of qualifying, at 2:30 PM (MST) this afternoon

Q2 Millican ran 4.971 @ 140.99 mph

Qualifying for the NHRA Arizona Nationals continued this afternoon at Firebird International Raceway in Phoenix, AZ for the Parts Plus Top Fuel team. Seeking to improve on the earlier run in the day, Clay got off the line with the start of a great run, but struck the tires at the 200' mark, at which point he backed off the throttle, resulting in a disappointing 2nd round result of 4.97 seconds @140.99 MPH.

After the run Clay said "We were pushing to improve and sometimes you push too hard. We'll adjust and get ready for tomorrow's qualifying runs."

Qualifying continues tomorrow with Round 3 at 12:00 noon (MST).

Don't miss the television coverage of the NHRA Arizona Nationals over the weekend. Broadcast coverage can be seen:

TELEVISION: Saturday, Feb. 18, ESPN2 and ESPN2HD will televise two hours of qualifying highlights at 8 p.m. (ET).

Sunday, Feb. 19, ESPN2 and ESPN2HD will televise three hours of coverage starting at 9 p.m. (ET).

SATELLITE: Friday, Feb. 17, 10 – 10:30 p.m. (ET), AMC 7 / Transponder 12C

(Digital HD feed) Saturday, Feb. 18, 8:30 – 9 p.m. (ET), AMC 7 / Transponder 12C
Sunday, Feb. 19, 9:30 – 10 p.m. (ET), AMC 7 / Transponder 12C

Q1 Millican ran 3.846 @ 316.60 mph

The Parts Plus Top Fuel car began qualifying this afternoon at Firebird International Raceway in Phoenix, for the NHRA Arizona Nationals. The first run down the track for Clay Millican was a great start to the weekend, posting a 3.846 second time, @ 316 mph, placing him 2nd fastest for the round.

Following the round Clay said “We have a REALLY nice race car right now. Three runs in a row that are faster than we’ve ever run. I am pumped and so proud of the Parts Plus Crew.” He was referring to this run coming on the heels of the last two great runs the team had in Pomona last weekend.

Team Owner Mark Pickens said, “we’re continuing to build on thr momentum started last weekend. We even slowed the fuel down a little to insure that we got down the track. It wouldn’t surprise me at all to see an .80 tonight.” “This is another good example of the direction this team is moving in. They definitely have the “eye of the tiger.”