

Pomona Results

Feb. 9-12

Sunday Finals - Feb 12, 2012

R2 Millican Loss 3.847 @ 315.49 mph

Pomona/NHRA Winternationals - Round 2

by Steve Jones

In Round 2 at the NHRA Winternationals in Pomona CA this afternoon, Clay Millican posted a 3.84 second, @315.49 mph run, which was not as quick as his opponent Spencer Massey. Afterwards Clay said, "Even though our 3.84 loses to his 3.77, the Parts Plus team is off to a great start to the 2012 season."

Mark Pickens summed up the weekend with, "Having entered this event with a new combination and very limited data, to have posted the runs we did was extremely encouraging." Looking toward next weekend's Arizona Nationals, Mark said "I am really looking forward to Phoenix and seeing the team build on what we were able to accomplish here. Clay is already in mid-season form and the team is working very hard."

R1 Millican Wins 1st round 3.81 @ 318 mph

Pomona/NHRA Winternationals - Round 1

by Steve Jones

With the opening round of the NHRA Winternationals at Auto Club Raceway in Pomona, CA, Clay Millican kicked off the 2012 season campaign in spectacular fashion, in the Parts Plus Top Fuel car. Clay has the distinction of being the first car to cross the finish line in 2012 with a Round 1 win, doing it with a sensational run of 3.81 seconds, 318 MPH.

The time was a career best for the 44 year old from Drummonds, TN and was also 2nd fastest of the weekend to this point.

Following the run Clay said, "I could not be more proud of everyone on the Parts Plus team, working, working hard, working tirelessly and working relentless to makes us competitive". He added that, "Things are starting to payoff and I could not be happier for everyone in the Parts Plus family, as well as our team owners Mark and Lauren Pickens, who have maintained their faith in what this team can be.

Mark Pickens said "This is a great way to start the season for Parts Plus, our vendors, the team and our loyal fans. I am extremely proud." He added, "This first round demonstrates how competitive the Top Fuel cars are going to be this season and I am looking forward to the challenge.

The crew is now preparing the car for Round 2

Qualifying

Saturday - Feb. 11, 2012

Q3 Millican ran 261.42 mph

Pomona/NHRA Winternationals - 3rd Run Report
by Steve Jones

Activity at the NHRA season opening Winternationals in Pomona, CA were cancelled due to rain late Saturday afternoon, prior to the day's second round of qualifying. The forecast for Sunday appears to be typical February CA weather, thus allowing the final round of qualification, followed by the regular schedule of races.

Friday - Feb. 10, 2012

Q2 Millican ran 4.03 @ 238 mph

Pomona/NHRA Winternationals - 2nd Run Report
by Steve Jones

On day two of the NHRA season opening Winternationals in Pomona, CA, the Parts Plus Top Fuel team made its 2nd qualifying run of the event. Driver Clay Millican said the car actually came off the line much better than in Thursday's round 1 run, but then broke a lifter, which shut down cylinder one, overloading the pressure in the other 7 cylinders and blew the head gasket out on the right side. Clay recognized what was happening and was able to shut it down, avoiding a massive motor explosion. "The guys made some nice adjustments to calm the car down off the line," said Millican, "and until it dropped the cylinder it was looking good". The result was a 4.03 seconds @238 mph. Team owner Mark Pickens noted that weather conditions for Saturday's two runs would be cooler with some cloud cover, which would be very close to race day conditions. He added that "tomorrow we're going to see the teams going for broke on results, so I won't be surprised to see runs in the 7's".

The Parts Plus team remains in the top ten after today's qualifying run and will get ready for Saturday's two runs. Mark and Clay agree that tomorrow will be an entirely different game for all the teams.

Thursday - Feb. 9, 2012

Q1 Millican ran 3.884 @ 309.34 mph
Pomona/NHRA Winternationals - 1st Run Report
by Steve Jones

The competition began today at Pomona Raceway for the National Hot Rod Association's 2012 season opening Winternationals in Pomona, CA. The 1st run down the track for the MPE Motorsports Parts Plus Top Fuel Team was "REAL GOOD", according to driver Clay Millican.

The Team posted a time of 3.884 seconds, 2012 campaign.

Team owner Mark Pickens said "Generally speaking, we can only compare ourselves against the competition and based on that, our result today is encouraging for the entire team and everyone in the Parts Plus family.

The team will make its next run Friday afternoon as qualifying continues for the event.