

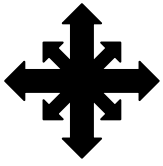
# THILENIUS GROUP

Hey! Another year of Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge racing is in the books. On October 3rd, the Irish Mike's Racing Hyundai Genesis Coupes competed in the final round at Road Atlanta. I returned to Road Atlanta for the first time since 1993 and recovered from a flat tire and penalty in the race to record a 15th place finish.



The Southeastern Guide Dogs liveried #94 Irish Mike's Genesis Coupe struggled for grip throughout the test day and in both practice sessions. Cameron Lawrence, my co-driver at Road Atlanta, and I were a bit at a loss because the car felt okay on track but was mired back in 24th position. After practice, we decided to install the chassis set-up which had worked well at Virginia International Raceway in August. Cameron was nominated to qualify and was shocked when we told him he had qualified fifth, the #94's best qualifying all season!

Race day dawned with rain soaking the track and paddock. The crew set about preparing the Irish Mike's Genesis Coupes for the rain while the drivers watched the sky trying to determine if the car should go to the grid on wet or dry Continental race tires. The track began to dry while we were on the grid, so we decided to make a small chassis adjustment in case the rain returned and sent Cameron out on slicks. At the drop of the green, Cameron took advantage of starting on the inside of the third row to follow our teammates in the #95 Irish Mike's Genesis Coupe into the first corner and into third place. When electrical issues slowed the #95 a few laps into the race, the #94 took second and held it until stopping for fuel and left side tires under full course caution. When racing resumed, Cameron had contact with the #31 Porsche resulting in a flat left front tire. The Irish Mike's crew changed the tire and kept the #94 on the lead lap. Another full course caution with about an hour left in the race let us catch the back of the pack and pit for fuel, tires and driver change. I returned to the track in 16th ready for a strong run to the finish only to be informed by the crew I had to serve a drive-through penalty. Apparently, Cameron had made an improper pass when he took the pass-by under the full course caution. The crew argued with the IMSA officials to no avail and the penalty dropped the #94 Irish Mike's Genesis Coupe to 19th with less than 20 minutes left in the race. An additional full course caution helped



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me catch up with the field where I was able to make a couple passes to get the #94 up to 15th by the time the checkered flag flew ending the 2014 Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge season.



The final result at Road Atlanta was not what I was hoping for to end the season, but I am extremely proud of everything the Irish Mike's Racing team has accomplished this year. Developing a racecar from scratch as a privateer without any support from the manufacturer is a monumental challenge. The improvements to the Irish Mike's Genesis Coupe from Daytona to now are huge. This season, the #94 and #95 Irish Mike's Genesis Coupes qualified in the top ten five times and finished in the top 10 twice. In the teams' championship, the #94 finished 22nd, one place ahead of the #95, in the field of 43 Street Tuner

teams. I ended up the highest placed Irish Mike's driver in the drivers' championship, 30th out of over 100 drivers that participated in the series in 2014.

The race from Road Atlanta will be televised on Fox Sports 1 at 12:00 PM Eastern on October 12th. If you miss the television broadcast, the race will be available without commercial interruptions on the IMSA website after the initial broadcast.

Thanks for sticking with me through this "character building" season. I do not know what 2015 will bring, but I do know work has already begun on preparations for next season. 2015 Daytona Test Days are only 90 days away!

David Thilenius  
949-878-2425