

TALLADEGA SHORT TRACK: ICE BOWL 2019

By Nancy Elles/Photos: MSA Staff

A friend that knows that I love all types of racing invited me to this event. I've been to several stock car events in different cities but very few dirt tracks. This is a premiere race event that draws racers from all over, all ages. Talladege is a short dirt track that I had never been to and always wanted to so this was an invite I could not pass up. I'm sure glad I didn't.

We arrived at the track about 10am. The southern US have had weeks of rains and the sun was finally out. It was also predicted to be close to 70 degrees. First thing we see, mud, and lots of it. Not just a few puddles here and there but lots of deep thick mud. Shout out to the employees for keeping the roads passable. To me, I couldn't wait to see all that mud being flung around when we got up to the track.

The pit area is filled with many race teams and spectators. Some teams have several cars and big sponsors, others 1 car they race, it breaks down or wrecks, put it back together, and race again. Also this is a family friendly sport. Full families often travel with the racers and they all know each other through out the circuit.

A walk through the pit area is an experience in itself. Race teams under cars, motors revving, checking tires. Some will compare notes. I suspect there is some tall tales being told also. Some of these cars look like they should be in a Mad Max movie.

Racing was supposed to start at 12 noon. The track was so wet that they had to have vehicles run around for well over an hour to pack the dirt down. A lot of "hurry up and wait." First race finally started at about 1:30. Green flag drops, 10 cars on the track. Speeds upward of 60mph. This is a very small track, only a



JUST A LITTLE DAMP!!!

third of a mile. As soon as they hit max speed they are in a turn and drift through trying to keep the car from spinning
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WET RED CLAY



HAY, WHAT EVER IT TAKES



DRYNG THE WET TRACK.



GETTING AIR WHILE DOING HOT LAPS