

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONCORD, N.C. – Funny Car rookie Blake Alexander has been through some trying experiences in just his first few races in the nitro-breathing Auto Service Plus car. His season of wild rides continued at the 4-Wide Nationals at zMax Dragway last weekend. Blake's first qualifying pass ended in a fiery mess.

“We had it set up to run a 4.16 or 4.18. I had my hands full on the second half of the run, trying to keep it straight with a hole out. Once I started to slow down, the supercharger back-fired and lifted the body up. I could feel the heat before I could see the flames. I got it stopped and shut everything down. Flames reached the fuel tank and lit the fuel on fire. Ultimately it was a parts failure that caused a lot of damage,” said Alexander, who ran a career-best 4.18 at 302 mph, his first official 300 mph pass.

Tuner and car owner Paul Smith had the Auto Service Plus Funny Car running consistently through qualifying, giving Blake the power to run 4.19 and 4.18 in the final two sessions. Blake would square off with fellow rookie Alexis DeJoria, Johnny Gray and Mike Neff in the first round of eliminations. He came up close at the finish line, just nine thousandths of a second from moving on to the next round. His 4.215 wasn't enough to best Neff or Gray. Alexander feels that he handled his first 4-Wide experience well.

“I adapted to the staging process fairly well. I didn't cause anyone else problems or myself problems, which is the goal heading into it as a rookie. Once your top two staging bulbs are lit, it's just like any other race,” claimed the Virginia resident.

The Paul Smith Racing team tested on Monday, trying a new supercharger in preparation for the team's next race in Atlanta.

“The car ran some of its fastest numbers to the 330 foot mark (at Charlotte), so that looks promising. We'll get the body fixed and ready for Atlanta in a few weeks,” said Blake.

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Blake Alexander Racing is a company that was started and maintained by nitro funny car driver Blake Alexander while in college. Blake worked his way up from Jr. Dragsters through the competitive sportsman ranks, now achieving his goal of driving a professional Nitro Funny Car. Through his efforts on and off the track, Blake secures corporate sponsorships and works actively with each supporter to activate and stimulate their respective brands from market to market. Blake Alexander drives for iconic master tuner Paul Smith, who owns and operates Paul Smith Racing out of Boynton Beach, Florida.

Companies that support Blake Alexander Racing include: Auto Service Plus, Gates Rubber Company, Exide Batteries, Tenneco Automotive, Valvoline, Standard Motor Products, and Pro Jack Race Car Stands.

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