

# ***Nichole Cheza: Hagerstown Report***

Hey Race Fans,

Well, we are back from the weekend in Hagerstown, MD, is one of my least favorite tracks. Not that it's a bad track I just can never seem to get it figured out. We got there Saturday afternoon around 2:30 when they started letting us into the track. Once we got in we got unloaded and started practice around 6:00 p.m. I was in the second practice group.

When I went out I noticed that my footpeg had fallen off on the brake and shifter side. I tried running it a few laps but it was just not working so I pulled off on the third lap. After we got that fixed I was feeling pretty good. I had qualified 20th and wasn't far off the lead pack. I came in made a few changes and went back out.

This time I was feeling really good qualifying 8th. When they combined all the times I was sitting 16th. I was happy with this as this would put me in the 3rd heat on the front row. I got a horrible start as I was at the top of the banking in the track. I went completely sideways and was dead last going into turn 1. After the second lap I had worked my way up to about 7th and there was a red flag. Again I got off the line bad. I was sitting 10th this time and stayed there the whole race. I started having problems coming off the turns. This would put me in a semi on the second row.

I knew that I had to get things figured out. So I decided in the semi that I was going to try and run a different line as I was going to have my work cut out for me. I got an OK start and coming out of two I had worked my way up 6th. I was working on passing 5th place when we got a red flag.

This called for a single file restart. I came off the line in 6th made it up to fifth was working on 4th when all of a sudden by bike started cutting in and out. I decided to try and finish the race but was going backwards very quickly I had no speed down the straight-aways due to the bike cutting in and out. I ended up finishing 11th.

All though I had a tough night as far as bike problems go it was the best I ever felt at Hagerstown. I am definitely starting to get things figured out on these car tracks. I learned a lot and am ready for the miles that are coming up.

This weekend we have off. Then I am taking the following weekend off as I am not a Peoria fan. The weekend after that is the Indy Mile.

I hope to see all of you there. Again thanks for all the continued support and help. I couldn't do it without you.

***Nichole Cheza #15***