

## Sopwith Team Turns Hot Lap at Iowa

Despite mechanical problems that forced them into a backup car, Sopwith Motorsports turned some of the fastest laps in the field during last weekend's 24-hour endurance race at Iowa Speedway.

The race started poorly for the Sopwith/F1R race team when electrical issues retired the primary car early in the competition. Although the team couldn't contend for a win, they hoped to set fast lap for the event in the backup car and establish themselves among the quickest teams in the race as a consolation prize.

The team was comprised of four drivers: Stephen Cox, Joseph and Calvin Smith, and Stephen Dale. Joseph is a accomplished endurance racer, Calvin has years of short track experience, and Stephen Dale is among the talented rookies in the 2010 class.

Cox took a brief 25-minute driving shift shortly after 10pm in an effort to set a record lap. "The cooler temperatures helped the engine produce power, but it was pretty hard to see in the infield area and I couldn't drive quite as hard as I had hoped," Cox said after posting the 7th-fastest lap of the race among a field of 25 cars. "I had several open laps without much traffic. In daylight conditions we'd have picked up another second or more and set quick time pretty easily. Still, we were certainly the fastest car on the track during that stint. We passed nearly everyone on the track and at least showed that we can be quick. Joe took the car out after my stint and he was turning laps just as fast, so the car was really solid." The Sopwith/F1R team settled for 19th place in the final standings.

Sopwith's upcoming races include Vegas to Reno - the longest off-road race in America - and the "OK 24" sportscar endurance race in Oklahoma on August 28-29.