

Ford Notes and Quotes

Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series (MENCS)

Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 Advance (New Hampshire Motor Speedway; Loudon, NH)

Saturday, July 21, 2018

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Michael McDowell, driver of the No. 34 Starkey Hearing Foundation Ford Fusion, was involved in a single-car accident during final Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series practice. As a result, he will go to a back-up for tomorrow's scheduled race.

MICHAEL MCDOWELL, No. 34 Starkey Hearing Foundation Ford Fusion – "I'm not really sure what happened. I got on the brakes and immediately the car started to turn around, so it definitely caught me off-guard whatever it was and at that point I was kind of just along for the ride. There wasn't any indication that something was going wrong other than when I was already too late. We'll go back and look and see if we can't get a better shot of it. It kind of felt like a left-rear tire went down to me, but it's really hard to tell. There's not a whole lot left of the race car to go through and see what happened first, but either way we'll roll out a back-up and be ready to go."

HOW HARD WAS THE HIT? "It was harder than I anticipated. You're at a short track. You're at a flat mile race track. We know we're going fast, but you don't really think you're gonna – I felt like I hit at a mile-and-a-half or something like that, probably because it was driver's side. It's been a while since I've done that, but it's never the hit you want to have. It just shows how great our cars are built and what a tremendous job NASCAR and all the teams have done to make it safe because driver's side you didn't used to just get out and walk away from that easy. It's a hard hit. It hurts a little bit, but everything is good. I got checked out and we'll be ready to go tomorrow."

ISN'T IT A HELPLESS FEELING WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? "Yeah, and it's tough because from my seat you're always pushing pretty close to the limit and you know that it's easy to over-jump it. I didn't feel like I over-jumped it, but you never know, so you just go back and look through the data and that's one thing we can do now, where in year's past we didn't have anything to look at, to make sure that I didn't get in too far or drive in further and more brake pressure, but I'm pretty sure something broke loose just with the way it snapped sideways so quickly. But, yeah, it is a helpless feeling, for sure."