

Zizzo Makes the Most at Second Appearance of Season

By [Zizzo P.R.](#) on May 19, 2010 2:12 PM | [Permalink](#)



ATLANTA -- In just their second NHRA appearance of the season, Zizzo Racing took their PEAK/HERCULINER Top Fuel Dragster to their best performance in the team's seven year Top Fuel career.

After consistent improvements during qualifying sessions on Friday and Saturday, TJ Zizzo and his team maintained their solid position and qualified in the ninth spot for Sunday eliminations at the Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Nationals.

"The term for the weekend was 'stay hydrated'," Zizzo said of the hot and humid conditions. "With track temperatures in the 120s and Mike Kern turning the knobs, the car was as consistent as any car we ever have had."

The consistency of the car was a dividend the Zizzo Racing team received because of a few procedural changes in how the team responsibilities would be handled.

"Chris Schneider did a great job removing and installing the clutch assembly," Zizzo said. "It gave us a chance to utilize the talents of Tony Smith, a 19 year team member. The additional time he had to help setup our car proved to be very beneficial the last two races."

Those small changes showed immediate benefit for Zizzo when his team brought their career best ever qualifying effort into a round one match up with veteran Bob Vandergriff. Zizzo would take a slight starting line advantage and add a performance advantage to take the win - pedaling his way to a career best 3.903 @ 310.91mph.

"It wasn't much of a pedal job," Zizzo admitted after the run. "It just quivered a little bit and I slapped the pedal one time."

The PEAK/HERCULINER team put up another impressive effort in their round two match up with eventual race winner Larry Dixon. The Zizzo team would post the third fastest elapsed time of round two with a solid 3.946 @ 306.33 mph although Zizzo's hopes for an upset would fall short.

"I looked over at 600 feet and I was just waiting for Dixon to smoke the tires," Zizzo said. "Once he past the transition of concrete to asphalt, I knew it would be tough to catch him." "We can take our loss a little easier when you lose to the best hot rod in the country right now," Zizzo said.

"We gave them their best competition of the eliminations rounds. We did our best to keep them honest and that will be our consolation until the next race."

As always, Zizzo had time between runs to spend time with the fans. "I got a chance as I always do to spend valuable time with fans. I love putting a smile on the parents face. Having kids of my own, I know when your kids are happy you are happy."

The next stop for the PEAK/HERCULINER Top Fuel team will be June 3-6 for the United Association Route 66 NHRA Nationals at the Route 66 Raceway.