

Frank Hawley Graduate Sidnei Frigo Nails First Top Alcohol Dragster Wally With a Holeshot at zMax

A driver not only will always remember their first major win, but when that first win comes by way of a holeshot, it is deemed extra special. Sidnei Frigo, who acquired his first NHRA competition license during his Super Class at Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School, drove to his first NHRA victory at zMax Dragway during the NHRA Div 2 event held there last weekend.

Frigo lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil and commutes to the U.S. When he is not racing or operating the drag strip that he built in his homeland, he is overseeing the day-to-day operations of his family's large paper and cardboard box manufacturing facility. A motorsports fan since childhood, Frigo got his racing start at a young age beginning behind the wheel of go-carts before falling in love with drag racing. "I have drag raced a lot over the years in Brazil," he said. "But drag racing in Brazil, although exciting, is nowhere as big as it is in the United States. My dream has always been to come to the states and compete on the NHRA level of competition."



In 2007, Frigo and his wife Daniela completed Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School's Super Class at Gainesville Raceway, both participating in the course driving one of the school's Super Comp dragsters under the instruction of Two-Time NHRA Nitro Funny Car World Champion, Frank Hawley.

For 2011, Frigo took a major step toward his dream of NHRA Top Alcohol Dragster competition by acquiring the very first "three rail" Murf McKinney dragster chassis to run with the nitro injected combination [A/FD] along with assembling a top notch crew and set out on his quest of his first NHRA victory.



With the help of ace crew chief Tom Conway, who has an amazing reputation for producing fast, consistent winning cars, the team has had some successes in the earlier part of the 2011 season, but it would be the NHRA Div 2 event in Concord, North Carolina where dreams would be achieved.

Prior to the zMax event, Frigo contacted Hawley in hopes of having him join the team for the division race. Frigo was looking to sharpen his starting line skills as one of the final pieces of the puzzle needed to get his first win.

“Sidnei had called and said that he had been having some trouble with consistency on the starting line,” explained Hawley. “He asked if I would come and help out for the weekend. We spent a lot of time together and did a lot of work. It ended up producing some very good reaction times for Sidnei.”

Frigo made his way through the Top Alcohol Dragster rounds, he and his car a very harmonious combination, posting both good reaction times and excellent ET’s. His final round match up looked to most certainly come down to a driver’s race, as the crew chiefs for both Frigo’s and his opponent Karen Stalba’s team had the two cars within just a hundredth of second.

With a whopping .035 starting line advantage, Frigo blistered his way down the quarter-mile for his first ever NHRA victory taking .019 at the stripe. A sensational holeshot final round victory, his 5.575 beating Stalba’s quicker 5.559.

“We were all very-very pleased with Sidnei’s performance this weekend,” said Hawley shortly after the win.

“The team is very excited and can’t wait to get to Indy. I know they are looking forward to building on their success here when they compete at the U.S. Nationals this weekend. Sidnei has all the right pieces in play from Conway as crew chief to his new Murf McKinney chassis along with the way he has been working on improving his driving skills.”



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