

Sitterly is on fire at Oswego

Oswego, N.Y. – Otto Sitterly drove his blue G&I Homes No. 7 to his fourth win in as many weeks Saturday night with another win at Oswego Speedway.

But Sitterly didn't dominate this supermodified feature. In fact, at one point a fourth win to start the season was very much in doubt.

Sitterly ran in the bottom half of the top five for most of 45-lap affair. A strong-running Dan Connors Jr. paced the field until the closing stages of the race, and pulled away from former Classic winners Joe Gosek and Tim Snyder in the process.

Otto sat behind Gosek, Snyder and Dave McKnight while the trio battled for the third and fourth positions. Around lap 30, Gosek began to fade with a slowing No. 00. After overtaking Snyder, Otto easily passed Gosek and McKnight, who also fell off the pace with a problem, before setting his sights on the half-straightaway-ahead teenage Connors.

After only a handful of laps, Sitterly closed onto Connors' rear bumper and began going to work on the Oswego driver with less than 10 to go. Whether or not an eventual hard-fought technique Sitterly pass would have occurred is up for debate, but Otto didn't have to work on Connors for long. The young driver slipped off turn four with a half-dozen laps remaining. Otto took the opportunity to charge to the bottom of Connors in turn one, where the Canajoharie, N.Y., shoe completed the pass and ran away to another win.

Otto talked about the end of the race. "A couple of guys broke at the end and it gave me a shot to get to Danny. We were catching him and I'm not sure if we would've been able to pass him. He bobbed off of four and it gave me a chance to get wheel to wheel with him. I bonsai'd him into one and I saw him come back underneath me, but we were able to stick the pass," Sitterly said.

Sitterly's string of top results is forcing him to start the Nicotra Racing mount in the sixth row each week, and he admits it's not necessarily something he looks forward to.

"We have a fast car, but I'm sort of leery about starting 11th each week and being able to get to the front if everybody's just on the track at the end. It seems like – it's half being given to me. I don't want to take anything away from us; we're doing our homework and the car is fast, but there are a lot of fast race cars here."

Otto's early-season success has him in elite Oswego company. Only Jim Shampine with seven consecutive victories in 1974 has won more features in a row to start a season. At three each, only Kenny Andrews, Bentley Warren and Doug Heveron have won more than a pair races at the start of an Oswego season.

Sitterly now has 20 Oswego super wins to his credit, which puts him tied for 17th all time with the aforementioned late '60s-, early '70s-era ace Kenny Andrews.

Otto and the Nicotra team will continue work in the shop but will take this weekend off with an open date at the Big O. The non-wing supermodified season will resume with a regular 45-lapper June 19.

About Nicotra Racing

Nicotra Racing is sponsored by G&I Homes Inc., 5 Brothers Produce, S&L Beans, Florida Vegetable, Flavor First Produce, V.L. Walker Co, Georgia Crate & Basket, Rite-Pak Produce, Quality First Produce, Magnolia Packing, Beaver River Distribution, N&N Corporation, Burnac Produce Limited and Provincial Fruit Co.

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