

## **Otto leads much of Classic, but damaged wings cost him the race**

OSWEGO, N.Y. – Otto Sitterly and the G&I Homes Nicotra No. 7 team made a strong bid for their second International Classic 200 win in a row Monday, Sept. 6, but it wasn't to be.

Otto took the lead early in the 200-lap affair and led all the way until the 187<sup>th</sup> circuit when Mexico, New York's Bob Bond snuck past him on Oswego's front straightway.

But it was the events of several laps previous that led to Sitterly's loss of the lead, and ultimately the win. With just over 20 laps to go, Otto bobbed off turn four which resulted in a close-running Greg Furlong to make contact with the Nicotra 7. The contact sent Furlong to the pits, and while Otto was able to continue, the rear wings on his Hawk Jr mount were damaged, causing a lack of rear down force.

Sitterly's pace slowed dramatically after the contact with Furlong, allowing a fast-running Bond to close and make the pass for the lead with 13 laps remaining.

"The one time I just got pretty loose coming out of (turn) four," Sitterly said. "I wouldn't have lost it or anything, but it was my fault, not Furlong's. He ran into me, but I really had to check pretty good to keep from losing it. When he did, it damaged his right front and it ripped the wings loose. The bi-wings were just basically flapping in the breeze. We probably had half the down force of what we would normally have. When that thing went, it was like a light switch. It was there and then it was gone, just like that."

With the damaged tail section, Otto nursed his G&I Homes super home to a ninth-place finish.

A fine sight for Nicotra Racing fans was to see Sitterly and teammate Davey Hamilton pace the field together throughout much of the race. Starting third and fourth, Sitterly and Hamilton moved their blue Hawk Jr mounts into first and second early in the contest, and the pair ran nose to tail at the front of the pack until late in the race. Hamilton ended the Classic in third place, marking his best finish in the race since finishing second in 1998.

"We were really good early," Hamilton said. "We got into second there. I was behind Otto and really just cruising, just cruising, like half throttle down the straightaways. I was thinking 'Man, this car is really good.' For whatever reason, it started getting a little loose. I thought 'That's still OK.' But three-fourths the way through, we couldn't even gas it on the straightaways. It would just spin the tires too much. We gave all we had and ended up third. We just had too much stagger. We were going for like two inches and ended up with three and one-eights."

Davey now has six top-five finishes in the Classic 200. This year marked the second time he finished third. Davey's lone Classic win came while driving for Mike Muldoon in 1998.

As for Otto, the Canajoharie, N.Y., shoe has three top-fives in the Classic, comprising one win (2009), a second in '07 and a fourth-place result in 2003.

The 2010 season may go down as Sitterly's best ever at the fast five-eighths, despite not winning the Classic.

In 12 supermodified features this season (including King of Wings), Otto never finished outside the top 10. Officially, he ends the season with four wins, eight top-fives, 12 top-10s and the track championship.

### **About Nicotra Racing**

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