

For Immediate Release

Contact: John Nicotra

john@nicotraracing.com

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Otto Battles to Fifth Saturday at Oswego

OSWEGO, N.Y. – Otto Sitterly and the Nicotra Racing / G&I Homes No. 7 team rebounded from a rough Oswego Speedway supermodified season opener Memorial Day weekend to finish a strong fifth Saturday in the Big O's second event of the new year.

Sitterly started eighth in the 45-lap feature and got boxed in early, forcing the four-time Oswego champion to hold position in the back half of the top 10 until the field shook out.

Sitting ninth after 10 circuits, Otto began his charge. While single-file racing throughout the field was the story of the night, Sitterly was one of the only drivers able to stick passes, beginning with an inside move by Tim Snyder for seventh on lap 23.

After two cautions around the lap 30 mark, Otto battled hard and wheeled his blue Hawk Jr. chassis by opening night winner Randy Ritskes for sixth, and later past Ray Graham Jr. to take over the last slot in the top five.

While clearly one of the fastest cars on the five-eighths-mile lakeside oval, and boasting a fast lap of 17.146 to prove it, fifth place was all Otto could muster as he watched Double Deuce Racing teammates Dave Gruel and Pat Lavery cross the stripe one-two, followed by Canadian Dave McKnight and 1996 Indy 500 starter Joe Gosek third and fourth.

Otto spoke about the night and the tough supermodified competition he's facing each week at The Steel Palace.

"The car was pretty decent. We may be off a little bit, but it's pretty close. At the start of the race, I tried to let things sort out, and we got boxed in pretty good. A couple of the fast cars took off, but I just didn't feel there was any place to go early (in the race).

"Late in the race, I could see (the top cars) backing up," Sitterly continued, "but when there are that many good cars in front of you, there's no two ways around it, track position just means so much. There are a lot of really equal cars, a lot of good drivers, and basically you just have to keep wearing on the guy in front of you until you get him."

When asked by [LakesideRacingNews.com's](http://LakesideRacingNews.com) Chris Porter why passing seems to be at a premium at this early stage of the season, Otto cited a couple of reasons.

“There are a lot of really good cars, and the track is not really a two-lane track. A lot of equal equipment... and there's not much passing going on. I think track position really means a lot.”

Saturday's fifth-place run netted Otto his first top five of the season after Memorial Day's Jim Shampine Memorial 75 featured a pair of accidents that relegated the Canajoharie, N.Y., veteran to a disappointing 16th-place result.

The 16th and fifth have Sitterly unofficially 10th in the standings, but only 33 markers behind point leader Ritskes. With a formidable 11-race non-wing supermodified schedule in 2011, including twin 30s later this month, the Nicotra team has plenty of time to hit its stride and make a run at its fourth Oswego championship in a row.

Next up for the G&I Homes-sponsored team is another regular 45-lapper this Saturday, June 11 at the John and Eric Torrese-owned speed plant. Racing starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.oswegospeedway.com.

About Nicotra Racing

Nicotra Racing is owned by longtime supermodified fan John Nicotra, a Central New York native who makes his living as a produce broker in Homestead, Fla. The team, led by top driver and mechanic Otto Sitterly, debuted in 2007 and since has won three Oswego supermodified championships and eight Oswego features, including the 2009 International Classic. Nicotra Racing operates out of Sitterly's shop in Canajoharie, N.Y.

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.

For more information, visit www.NicotraRacing.com. To contact Nicotra Racing, call John Nicotra at 305-345-2437 or e-mail John@NicotraRacing.com.

Press written by New Concept Race Media. For more information, visit www.newconceptracemedia.com or contact Keith Shampine at 909-918-6276 / keith@newconceptracemedia.com.