

Nicotra team focused after tough twin 30s night

Oswego, N.Y. (June 18, 2011) – Twin 30s are always an intriguing event at Oswego Speedway. Throughout the track's history of running the popular short-distance dual features, many times simply avoiding the wreckage and surviving is all even the best supermodified pilots can work to do.

Oswego's June 18 twin bill resulted in a rough night for many, including the G&I Homes-sponsored Nicotra Racing No. 7, driven by four-time defending Oswego champion Otto Sitterly.

Sitterly was involved in an accident in his heat race, resulting in a hard trip into Oswego's foam-protected steel wall. The wreck meant the Canajoharie, N.Y.-based team had to switch to its backup car, a brand-new Hawk Jr chassis.

Oswego's stellar 25-plus supermodified fields in 2011 meant Otto would have to run the 10-lap consolation to qualify for the night's twin 30-lappers. Sitterly made the mains by finishing sixth in the consi but was clearly struggling heading into the first feature.

Otto started the first feature, one that resulted in numerous accidents and some severely torn up equipment, and pitted early with a car that wasn't handling. Upon discussions with his crew, the team decided to switch to the tires with which Otto won the June 11 main.

The tire change proved to be a good one as Otto turned a fast lap of 17.1 late in the first feature. The race resulted in a 13th-place finish, as Sitterly lost several laps while pitting.

Otto started 21st for the second 30-lapper and made a strong surge through the field in a race that went wire to wire with no cautions. Sitterly made his way up to ninth, passing over 10 cars to do it, but was relegated to a 12th-place result because of some confusion over the waving of the checkered flag.

Team owner John Nicotra reflected on the night.

“We must have got a bad tire; that's all we can figure out. Otto ran our normal setup, and the car was scary loose with low stagger. It doesn't make any sense. When we put the week-old tires on, the car came to life and we were fast. That tells me it was a bad tire, mixed in with the others, and we ended up with it. It's disappointing for sure, but we'll keep on rolling,” Nicotra said.

Nicotra also spoke about the team's chance at a fourth Oswego track championship in a row.

“One week at a time; if we put some consistent runs together, maybe we can get back into the championship hunt. Our struggles this season have made us all appreciate how hard it is to win three titles in a row.”

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

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.