

Otto closes point gap with 4th at Oswego

Oswego, N.Y. (July 3, 2011) – Otto Sitterly closed the gap in the Oswego Speedway supermodified point standings Saturday night with a fourth-place finish in the 50-lap feature.

Otto finished third in his 12-lap heat but the handicap, still not playing in the Nicotra Racing team's favor, relegated him to a starting spot near the back end of the top 12.

Sitterly drove a hard-fought race, passing several cars throughout the race to work his way into the fourth slot before the checkers waved.

Otto spoke about his third top-five finish of the 2011 season.

“The car was pretty good. It felt like if there was a wrong lane, I was in it. I tried to be patient early, but each car if very, very hard to pass. It seems like everybody is so equal. Our car was a little off, a little tight. It seemed like the longer the race went, the more our car stayed the same. Everyone else's car seemed to be backing off a bit, where we stayed pretty good.”

In recalling the race, Sitterly noted a time where a lap car held him up and allowed drivers whom he'd already passed find their way back by.

“Late in the race, we were in position and I got caught behind the (No.) 21, who was a lap car. All the guys that I worked so hard to pass got back by. So then I had to track those guys back down, work them and get back by. It was a tough race!”

The Nicotra team's fourth track championship in a row is still on the radar. Otto's fourth-place finish Saturday night now has him fifth in the current standings – 60 behind point leader Dave McKnight Jr. Drivers between McKnight and Otto are Joe Gosek, Dave Gruel and Randy Ritskes. Otto is only 32 markers back of second-place point man Gosek.

At this point we're willing to accept anything,” Sitterly said while speaking of his current spot in Oswego's standings. “We're willing to accept winning it, and we're willing to accept running clean from here on out and finishing fifth. If we can just run clean, that's really all we're after. Starting position just means so much in today's racing up here.

“I want to thank John Nicotra, G&I Homes and the Florida farmers. Joe Lorracca and his family were here tonight. We've got a really great team; a lot of guys who help out. Joe Peri, Ronnie Lyons, our tire guy Tom Schulz, Ken Ketcham makes things happen. We've got a lot of really good guys on this team.”

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.

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