

OTTO'S BID FOR WIN TURNS TO SCARY FLIP ON LATE-RACE RESTART

OSWEGO, N.Y. (June 30, 2012) – Otto Sitterly put his G&I Homes Nicotra Racing No. 7 into contention to challenge for his third supermodified win of the season Saturday night at Oswego Speedway before disaster struck on a lap 63 restart in the 75-lap Independence Grand Prix feature.

Sitterly, who started 10th, methodically advanced his way through another strong supermodified field throughout the opening 60 laps of the main event. With Ray Graham Jr. out front, Sitterly had moved his way into second past eventual winner Randy Ritskes on lap 55. With 20 laps remaining and Graham looking stout in the lead aboard his sleek No. 90, Sitterly's task was tall but not insurmountable.

A caution on lap 63 slowed the field, giving Sitterly a shot.

However, Graham had managed to build such a lead that on the lap 63 restart several lapped racecars sat between himself and Sitterly. One of those machines was the son of the race leader, Kody Graham.

As the field came out of turn four and the lights turned green, Kody Graham tried to make a move on another lapped car for position and in doing so lost the handle spinning around in front of nearly the entire field.

Trying to avoid the spinning Graham No. 21, Sitterly moved to the low side, but could not move low enough. Sitterly's right rear tire made contact with Graham's right rear causing the No. 7 to spin and collide rear first into the inside hub rail.

After making contact, Sitterly's car flipped up and over on the roll cage, coming to a stop at the start/finish line.

With the red flag in the air the speedway track safety crew quickly made their way to Sitterly, who was awake and alert but was temporarily trapped inside the racecar. After a few tense moments, Sitterly was eventually freed and able to climb out of the crippled Nicotra Racing ride.

"Everything is so tight in there," said Sitterly at the start/finish line, immediately after climbing out of his car. "I wanted to jump right out, and I am not that big of a guy, but you just can't physically get your legs out from all the stuff that's in there. It started to get hot in there when all those fluids came rushing out, I don't know what they were, but the vapors were getting pretty hot."

Otto was credited with 16th place in the 26-car field.

Davey Hamilton was in attendance at Oswego Saturday in the Nicotra No. 6. Davey won the consolation race to qualify for the feature field, however, he pulled in early and was credited with the 21st position.

Despite the bad luck, Otto now holds a slim six-point lead over Pat Lavery in the Oswego supermodified point standings. New Jersey's Joey Payne is third in the points, 10 markers behind Otto.

Next up for the Nicotra team is Saturday, July 14.

Nicotra Racing will not be running the July 7 King of Wings IV. Owner John Nicotra offered the following on Pinner's message board.

"We will not be running the wing show, we are getting the 7 back together along with finishing up our new car. We hope to test both on the 13th and run one of them on the 14th, not sure which one, whatever Otto chooses to do, I'm good with. See you then, we hoped to run the wing deal but decided to regroup, build some spares and get ready for the rest of the non-wing season," Nicotra posted.

Work is being completed on Nicotra Racing's brand-new Hawk Jr. Chassis. The new mount should debut very soon.
