

SITTERLY LEADS SECOND NICOTRA RACING ONE, TWO CLASSIC FINISH

OSWEGO, N.Y. (Sept. 3, 2012) – Otto Sitterly led a John Nicotra Racing one, two finish in supermodified racing's signature event, the Oswego Speedway Budweiser International Classic 200, for the second consecutive year on Sunday, Sept. 3.

This year Sitterly crossed the stripe ahead of teammate Davey Hamilton. Last year's second-place finisher, Mike Lichty, raced the newest Hawk Jr Nicotra roadster inside the top five until Lichty spun in turn four while battling with heavy lap traffic on lap 87.

Sitterly started 14th, the deepest the blue Nicotra No. 7 has started a Classic in seven starts.

The Canajoharie, N.Y., veteran methodically worked his way through the field in the early going. He moved into the top five on lap 59.

All three Nicotra cars ran in the top five from that point until lap 87, when Lichty retired from the 200-lap grind while running third.

Lichty's issue moved Otto into fourth, behind leader Joe Gosek, Hamilton and Randy Ritskes. Otto made it past Ritskes on lap 105 and made it by Hamilton on lap 142 when Davey slipped high while working on Gosek.

Otto and Gosek battled hard for the next 15 or so laps, trading the lead a few times before a red flag waved on lap 156 for Bob Bond, who flipped wildly down the backstretch.

Gosek's No. 00 vapor locked when cars went to refire, sending him to the pits and out of contention. From there, Otto cruised to his third Classic win over Hamilton.

The win marked Sitterly's third Classic triumph in four years and second in a row. This year is the second time Sitterly won the Classic and Oswego supermodified track championship in the same year; he also did it in 2009.

Otto said the following in Victory Lane.

"The biggest thing I have to say to anyone that's helped me is, 'thanks a lot.' I owe a lot of people everything; I wouldn't be able to do it if it wasn't for the people behind me. I owe a thanks to so many people, a lot of gratitude right here."

Sitterly went on to dissect the 200-lap race.

"We got off to a really good start. I really didn't expect it that early in the race. As soon as I saw Davey a few cars ahead of me with Mike (Lichty) I figured we would all cruise for a while right there. I was worried about a couple guys. Ritskes is always tough, I didn't want to stay behind him too long just because I didn't want to have to use my car up late in the race to get by."

The most tense moment in the event came passed halfway as Gosek, Hamilton, and Sitterly all ran in a tight bunch.

“When Joe and Davey were running together, if Davey could have got out in front I would have liked to have seen that,” said Sitterly. “As long as Davey was trying to get Joe, I was just trying to be patient. He (Hamilton) ended up slipping twice and the second time I got in there. From there, in clean air I could really run Joe down good.”

Hamilton spoke after the race.

“It was another fun race,” Davey said. “I love coming to Oswego and Johnny Nicotra and Otto Sitterly, what can I say, they give me a great car. The race was a lot of fun but you know Otto was on rails. I had nothing for him, we were a little loose coming off the corner, but it was still a solid run. It was a good day though with Otto winning as my teammate, me running second, and I just got news that my Indy Car finished third today in Baltimore.”

Next up for Nicotra Racing is a special Sept. 15 Fall Championship 75-lapper at Oswego, the final race of the 2012 non-wing supermodified season.