

OTTO TAKES HIS FIRST WIN OF THE YEAR IN SHAMPINE MEMORIAL

OSWEGO, N.Y. – Otto Sitterly raced his John Nicotra Racing No. 7 Hawk Jr. chassis to his first win of the 2013 season this past Saturday in the Jim Shampine Memorial 75 at Oswego Speedway. The victory marked Otto's fifth Shampine Memorial triumph, which leads all drivers, and the 25th Oswego supermodified win of his career.

Two weeks after a controversial incident while racing Dave Gruel for second place in the non-wing supermodified opener at Oswego which resulted in a rare DNF for Otto, Sitterly put on a show for the fans on a cold night at the Steel Palace.

Once again showing he's one of the few drivers capable of passing his way to the front, Otto started fifth in the 75-lap main and made his way to the third position by lap eight. However, Gruel, who started seventh, was able to get past Sitterly in the opening laps and had his No. 50 in to the second spot only a few laps later.

With Kody Graham out front, Otto began working hard on the Gruel machine for the runner-up spot. Otto continuously looked low through turn four, but Gruel had just enough to stay ahead.

Around lap 35, Otto began looking to the high side of Gruel and nearly had the pass made on a couple of occasions. However, once again the 50 was able to hang onto the second spot until lap 43, when Gruel pushed high in the center of turns three and four and Otto quickly closed the gap, moving his blue Nicotra machine to the inside of the 50 and making an impressive pass for the second position.

With Graham turning fast laps out front Otto was ready to go to work on the No. 21. But Graham had just caught some lap traffic and Otto took advantage. Only two laps after overtaking Gruel, Sitterly shot to the outside of Graham to take the lead.

From there, with approximately 30 laps still remaining in the contest, Otto maneuvered through lap traffic like a pro, passing cars on the inside and outside of the track. After a late-race restart Sitterly pulled away for a convincing four-second win over veteran Joe Gosek. Graham dropped out late in the race while Gruel finished third.

After a disappointing start to the season, Otto is now only nine points back of leader Michael Barnes in Oswego's Novelis Supermodified standings. Gosek sits second in the points, only four markers back of Barnes and five ahead of Otto.

Next up for the Nicotra Racing team is the first 50-lap main event of the season, this Saturday, June 1 at Oswego.

Nicotra Racing is a supermodified team owned by John Nicotra and maintained by driver and chief mechanic Otto Sitterly. Nicotra Racing is based in Homestead, Fla., and

Canajoharie, N.Y., and has won three International Classic 200s and four Oswego supermodified track championships in its seven years of existence.

Nicotra Racing is proud to be 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, Sam Accursio Farms, Excel Homes, Ritz-Craft Homes and Beaver River Distributing.