

## **OTTO THIRD IN 75-LAPPER SATURDAY AT OSWEGO**

OSWEGO, N.Y. – Otto Sitterly raced his G&I Homes No. 7 supermodified to a solid third-place finish in Saturday night's Toys For Tots Christmas in July Independence 75 for Novelis Supermodifieds at Oswego Speedway.

Otto started ninth in the 22-car field and advanced to sixth by lap five. He spent the next 25 laps racing behind Dan Connors Jr., and Pat Lavery, who were each having strong runs in the fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

Lavery and Otto, along with Joe Gosek, finally made it past Connors around the lap 30 mark. Otto ran in the fifth spot for approximately 20 laps until Gosek proved he had a little better racecar than Otto as the laps wound down, passing the Nicotra Racing 7 on lap 49.

After Gosek surprised him, Otto began to make some moves. Brandon Bellinger faded late in the race and Sitterly made it past the Daratt Farms Racing driver for fifth place on lap 53. Gosek passed Lavery a few laps later, and Otto did the same on lap 64 to move into fourth.

Early leader Jerry Curran was fading late in the race. Gosek passed Curran for second on lap 63 and Otto made it past the Nuclear Banana No. 24 a few laps later to move up to third.

But third place was all Sitterly could muster on this night. The Canajoharie pilot, who admitted in his post-race interview that his super has been tight all season, said that the car was the opposite of tight in the extra-distance 75-lapper.

“The track changed a lot and the car has been really tight,” said Sitterly. “I talked with a lot of guys; Pat Lavery, Joe Gosek and everyone has been really tight the last few weeks. I imagine it has something to do with the heat, track change, or what? Joe was going awful good tonight, and Pat was good early, but we just sort of stayed mediocre the whole race but we'll take it.”

Dave Gruel won the event with Gosek second, Otto third, Shaun Gosselin fourth and Curran holding on for fifth.

The Oswego supermodified point standings are getting interesting with, believe it or not, only four regular season point races remaining.

Otto entered the night five points behind Gosek with Michael Barnes only one point behind Otto. Gosselin entered fourth, only 11 markers out of the lead.

Barnes had a bad night, retiring with engine problems at lap 14 of the main event. Gosek and Otto both finished fourth in their heats, and with Gosek finishing one spot ahead of Sitterly in the main, points, when updated, should show Gosek with about a 10-point

advantage over Otto. Gosselin should be third, and certainly not out of the hunt for the championship.

Next up for the Nicotra Racing team is the big Sunoco Race of Champions July 19 at Oswego. The Race of Champions modifieds will run a 200-lap main event while the mighty supermodifieds will run a 100-lap special.

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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.