

## **OTTO NOT TO BE DENIED IN MR. SUPERMODIFIED \$10,000-TO-WIN RACE**

OSWEGO, N.Y. (August 3, 2013) – Otto Sitterly overcame a massive first-lap accident which damaged the front wing and other bodywork on his No. 7 Nicotra Racing supermodified to come back and win the \$10,000 Mr. Supermodified 75-lapper Saturday night at the famed Oswego Speedway.

Otto's triumph marked his second career Mr. Supermodified victory and first since he won in his own No. 79 in 2006.

This time Sitterly delivered the win to his car owner since the 2007 season, Johnny Nicotra. The midsummer Mr. Super race, which has paid \$10,000 to win since it first ran in 1987, was the only big race on the Oswego non-wing supermodified schedule that Nicotra had not won as a car owner.

The 75-lap feature certainly didn't go smooth. Otto started 11<sup>th</sup> and after one lap a multi-car pileup blocked the track between turns three and four. With nowhere to go, Otto nosed his G&I Homes-sponsored super into the rear end of Keith Shampine's No. 55 machine, causing considerable damage to the front wing and other sheet metal damage.

Otto quickly exited his car to survey the damage, and reported to the safety crew that it was minimal and he needed to get the No. 7 to the Nicotra pit as soon as possible.

Once the safety crew removed the blue Hawk Jr chassis, the Nicotra team went to work to repair the front end of the potent super. After a lengthy delay to clear the damaged cars from the track, the race restarted with Otto near the tail end of the field.

Like he has so many times before, Sitterly began working his way through the field of supermodifieds. Otto made it into the top 10 by lap 10, and worked his way past Joe Gosek and into fifth on lap 26.

With nearly 50 laps remaining, Sitterly continued to work hard. A long green-flag run showed no signs of a yellow flag to slow the field, and with Brian Sweeney out front in his new Hawk Jr chassis, Otto needed to clear as many cars as fast as possible before Sweeney got away.

Otto passed Tim Devendorf for fourth on lap 35 and Jerry Curran for third on lap 40.

Once Otto was clear of Curran, Sweeney and early leader Dan Connors Jr. weren't far ahead. Lap traffic had slowed their speeds tremendously, and Otto quickly closed the gap and shot by both Connors and Sweeney between laps 43 and 44 to take the lead.

The race wasn't over, however, as Sweeney was quicker than Otto on a clear track. But the race stayed green and that played to Sitterly's advantage as he was able to use his experience to navigate through lap traffic much quicker than the rest of the leaders. By

the time the checkered flag waved, Otto had pulled out to a 4.4-second lead on Sweeney to score the big win.

“I was really pretty concerned with Sweeney running out there in the open track, because the new Hawk cars are really fast on their own, so I did not want him to get away from me,” said Sitterly. “You know, Brian has been out for a number of years, he is doing a heck of a job, but to go through lapped traffic like that, I knew that was where I had to get him.”

On the handling of his car, Otto said, “The car was really pretty loose getting into the turn early and I had to put a lot of front brake in the car. Actually, the car just kept getting tighter as we went so I ended up having to put rear brake back to it as we went along.”

And regarding the accident at the start of the race. “I didn’t know what to think at first, I didn’t really know how bad the damage was,” Otto said. “I got out of the car and looked around and it was pretty much just a bent up nose wing, and a little bit of bent sheet metal.”

With three point races remaining Otto now has a 32-point lead on Joe Gosek, who is the only driver within 80 points of Otto in the standings. Otto now has three feature wins of the season; he’s the only driver with more than one win this year.

Next up for the Nicotra Racing team is another 50-lapper at Oswego on Saturday night, August 10.

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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.