

OTTO PERSEVERES TO NINTH-PLACE FINISH, REGAINS POINT LEAD

OSWEGO, N.Y. – A ninth-place finish normally wouldn't make the Otto Sitterly and the Nicotra Racing team happy, but it could have been much worse Saturday, Aug. 17, in the Novelis Supermodified main event at Oswego Speedway.

A fifth-place finish in the heat race relegated Otto to a deep 14th-place starting position for the 50-lap main event. Sitterly opened the race by engaging in his usual march to the front, charging past the likes of Brian Sweeney, Jerry Curran and Joe Gosek, who entered the race with a slight seven-point advantage on Sitterly.

Otto made his way to ninth by lap 12 and stayed in the position until lap 23, when he and Gosek were involved in a turn three accident that sent both the top point racers into the wall.

Gosek's No. 00 sustained damage heavy enough take him out of the action for the night. Sitterly was luckier, however, only sustaining slight damage to the rear wing of his Nicotra No. 7. He pulled his super to the pits where the Nicotra Racing team went to work. The team was able to make repairs and get Otto back out on the lead lap.

Sitterly went on to perform another workingman's effort. The remainder of the race went green to checkered and Otto barely caught up to the tail of the field when the green flag flew for the restart.

Otto began picking off cars toward the tail of the field and was able to salvage a ninth-place finish in the 50-lapper.

Gosek stayed in the pits and was credited with 18th, which now gives Otto the point lead back after he lost it for one week when a rear-end part broke on his No. 7 early in the August 10 main event.

Two of the most important races of the season are on tap. The Nicotra team will have a week off this weekend before next week's Budweiser International Classic 200, the richest supermodified race of the year. Qualifying will take place Friday of Labor Day weekend and the 200-lapper will go off Sunday. Otto will be looking for his fourth win in the prestigious event. One of his toughest competitors will be his teammate Davey Hamilton, who is set to drive the newest Hawk Jr chassis for John Nicotra.

After the Classic the Oswego points season will close on September 14. The event is a regular point race and Otto will enter with approximately a 20-point lead over Gosek and Shaun Gosselin, who is now on a two-race winning streak.

If Otto can pull it out, it would mark Nicotra Racing's fifth track championship and Otto's sixth overall.

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.