

OTTO CAPTURES SIXTH SHAMPINE MEMORIAL AT OSWEGO

OSWEGO, N.Y. – Otto Sitterly and Dave Shullick Jr. gave John Nicotra Racing a win and third-place finish in the Jim Shampine Memorial 75-lap supermodified feature Saturday, May 23 at Oswego Speedway.

Otto charged from the 10th-place starting position to take the lead from Dave Gruel on lap 69 and race to the win. The win marked Sitterly's sixth in the Memorial Day weekend tradition. He also extended his early-season lead in Oswego's Novelis Supermodified point standings. Otto now holds a 37-point lead over Bob Bond in the standings.

"Bobby Bond and a few of these guys have some pretty fast racecars and once I saw them going ahead of me I knew it would be hard, especially after our (Sitterly & Bond) battle here last time," said Sitterly in Turning Stone Resort Casino Victory Lane. "I really tried to follow him (Bond) a little bit and once I saw some of those guys up there with fast cars, I really just had to do what I had to do. The car was definitely better at the end of the race."

Continuing to drive his rebuilt Hawk chassis No. 7, as compared to his dominant machine from previous seasons, Sitterly says he is feeling more and more comfortable in this newer ride each week.

"You know it was a little bit better tonight, and we are going in the right direction," said Sitterly. "It is a work in progress. Any of these things is like a moving target, just because it was good one week, doesn't mean it will be good the next. We are definitely going in the right direction, and have just a couple more things to change."

Shullick had an eventful night. The Amherst, Ohio, driver was involved in a heat-race jingle that caused damage to his Nicotra No. 6. Unable to restart the race, Shullick was forced to start 22nd in the 23-car field main event.

Shullick picked off some positions early and ran patiently aggressive, looking for holes when they'd open. By halfway he had his machine into the top 10, and when cars began to drop out throughout the second half of the race, Shullick made some strong maneuvers to advance to the third position. He finished behind Otto and Gruel.

"I owe it all to this team, they are amazing," said Shullick. "These are a tremendous group of guys and Otto (Sitterly) pitched in and helped us get it all back together. This car was great, it is Davey's (Hamilton) car and I really hope he doesn't want it back, because I like it."

When asked how many more times we could expect to see Shullick in the field, who travels from the midwest for special appearances, he said it is up to the Nicotra team and Otto Sitterly's season.

"I really hope to be back, I enjoy doing this," said Shullick. "We got caught up in that jingle in the heat race, really no fault of our own, but we have great equipment. I need to thank John

Nictora for the team and all of the fans for coming out tonight and I look forward to being back in two weeks with the wing car.”

Next up for the Nicotra team is the Spring Championship which features a 50-lap main event for the supermodifieds.

Otto and the new-style No. 7 Hawk Chassis will be the only Nicotra-owned machine in competition this Saturday.

John 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, five Oswego supermodified track championships and 17 regular-season feature races 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.