

OTTO WRAPS UP 7TH CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON AT RACE OF CHAMPIONS

OSWEGO, N.Y. (September 15, 2014) – Otto Sitterly has done it again. The Canajoharie, N.Y., racer once again cemented his status as one of the best supermodified racers Oswego Speedway has ever seen with a second-place finish in Sunday's Race of Champions Novelis Supermodified 75-lap season closer to claim the 2014 track championship, his seventh title at the Steel Palace.

Otto joined Oswego legends Jim Shampine and Bentley Warren as the only seven-time supermodified track champions in the history of the historic track.

While the title was Sitterly's seventh in his illustrious career, he won the sixth championship for John Nicotra Racing. Otto won his first track championship in 2006 when he still owned his black and yellow No. 79 car.

Sitterly and Nicotra's latest Oswego title saw the team enter the final day of racing with a 13-point lead on Dave Gruel. While Gruel certainly had a shot to overtake Otto for his first-ever track title, Sitterly's title was never really in doubt.

Both Otto and Gruel finished third in their heat races, and Otto quickly passed Gruel during the opening laps of the feature. While Sitterly carefully negotiated the opening circuits in the 75-lapper, he kept his G&I Homes / Riccelli Northern No. 7 on the charge, moving into the top five by lap 17 and past Brandon Bellinger for fourth on lap 20.

A red flag halted the action just after Otto made it into fourth place for a hard, multi-car wreck in turn one.

Once green flag conditions returned to the speedway, Sitterly shot past Michael Muldoon for third and past Randy Ritskes for second on lap 34. Otto proceeded to hound leader Dan Connors Jr. for over 10 laps before passing the Oswego driver for the lead on lap 45.

With a conservative setup in the car because of the close points battle, Dave Danzer had good speed down the stretch and was able to pass Otto in lap traffic on lap 58 and race to victory. Sitterly would hold on for second, and with Gruel retiring from the race about midway through, Otto would claim his seventh track championship without a serious threat from this year's closest competitor.

"Today for us was a points deal, and it wasn't necessarily about winning that race," Otto said to Oswego Daily News after the feature. "Of course, we wanted to win, but we were conservative on our setup on the car and (Danzer) was able to get the lead when I got stuck behind a lapper. He's going really good and he was a really good car. Our car got extremely tight the last 25 laps and I had a feeling it was going to."

We just come to race and all the guys are fantastic. I'm not sure what we're going to do next year, but this isn't about me or John Nicotra or any one person in particular, it's

about the team and everybody coming together, including my wife and kids and all the crew members, for a great team effort to win this championship,” Sitterly added.

The 2014 Novelis Supermodified season at Oswego Speedway is now officially complete. Otto finished the 2014 regular season with one win, 10 top-five finishes and 11 top-ten finishes in 12 features.

Of course, Sitterly won his fourth International Classic 200 win just a couple of weeks ago.

Nicotra Racing’s plans for 2015 will be released this winter.

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 four International Classic 200s, six Oswego supermodified track championships and 19 regular-season feature races in its eight 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.