

NICOTRA RACING PLACES TWO CARS IN TOP FIVE IN BUD CLASSIC

Otto Sitterly spins while leading with 10 laps to go

OSWEGO, N.Y. (Sept. 6, 2015) – While Nicotra Racing wasn't able to reach the ultimate goal of winning their fifth Budweiser International Classic 200 in the last seven years, the G&I Homes / Riccelli Northern-backed team did place two cars – Davey Hamilton (4th) and Dave Shullick Jr. (5th) in the top five in the prestigious race.

At one point late in the race it looked like Nicotra blue may have pulled off the unthinkable – a sweep of the podium. Otto Sitterly, who had one of his best qualifying efforts Friday night with a time of 16.0 to start third in Sunday's Classic, sat in the third position for most of the first half of the race. He began to put the pressure on leader Michael Barnes just past halfway, and made the pass for the lead on a lap 134 restart after Dave Danzer, who was leading the race, spun to bring out the caution.

It looked as though Otto would cruise to his fifth Classic triumph. But while battling lap traffic and a slick track throughout the last quarter of the race, Sitterly lost the handle on his #7 coming out of turn two and spun.

From lap 134 to late in the race, only Barnes broke up the three Nicotra machines as Hamilton ran third and Shullick fourth. With about 15 laps to go eventual winner Bob Bond made a late-race charge to pass the top-five runners and move into the lead with two laps to go.

"We contemplated on our setup and unfortunately went the wrong way," Sitterly said after the race. "The right-front tire is gone and the left-front is used up pretty good, too. (The lap cars) didn't do anything wrong, but of course you'd always like to have more room. They were struggling to keep it down and it would put me up in the marbles when trying to go around them. But I had to go. I know some fast cars were coming and I'd rather go down swinging than get passed and finish a distant second or third."

Veteran Nicotra Racing wheelman Davey Hamilton spoke about his solid fourth-place finish.

"I want to thank Johnny Nicotra and Otto for putting these cars together and doing such a good job. The last three years here we've been loose so this year I told the guys, 'No matter what, I don't want to be loose so make it tight.' Unfortunately, we went a little too far and the last 50 laps I was just hanging on. It was really tight. The first half of the race I could have passed all three front runners at any time, but the cars change so much over a 200-lap race. We're happy to come here and run well, but I'm here to win, so we'll come back next year and try it again."

Shullick had one of his best runs in the Classic with a fifth-place effort, but he said in the post-race interview that it may have been much better if a part hadn't broke in the front-end of his machine.

"The watts pivot (link) in the front-end broke with about 30 laps to go when I was running right behind Davey, and it was hard to drive after that. I was just trying to keep it straight and finish the race. We had a good car and the tires held up fine, so I'm not sure what would have happened if the link didn't break. I have to thank Otto and John Nicotra for giving me a great car, and helping us with the winged car last night," Shullick said.

Only one race remains in 2015 for the Nicotra Racing team. The Oswego Speedway season will close Saturday, Sept. 19 with the 75-lap Fall Championship and points season finale.

Sitterly will enter the night 12.5 points behind Bond in what's been a back-and-forth duel in the standings between the two drivers. With points awarded in the heat race and the feature, Otto still has a legitimate chance at capturing his record eighth Novelis Supermodified championship and seventh while driving for Nicotra Racing.

Racing will begin at 4pm Sept. 19 to close out the 2015 campaign.

John Nicotra Racing is a Supermodified race 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 now 24 regular-season Oswego feature races since the team's debut in 2007.

Nicotra Racing is proud to be sponsored by G&I Homes, Riccelli Northern, 5 Brothers Produce, Burnac Produce Limited, Provincial Fruit Co., Flavor First, Georgia Crate & Basket, Rite-Pak Produce, Quality First Produce, Sam Accursio Farms, Ritz-Craft Homes, Torbert Farms, Elite Harvesting, Green Bean Packers, Housby and Sunrise Growers.