

SITTERLY SOLDIERS TO RUNNER-UP FINISH IN OSWEGO OPENER

OSWEGO, N.Y. (May 10, 2014) – Oswego Speedway opened the doors on its 2014 season Saturday night, May 10, with 22 non-winged supermodifieds in attendance for the 50-lap season opener.

Two of the supers belonged to John Nicotra Racing with Otto Sitterly and Davey Hamilton ready to do battle in Nicotra's pristine Hawk Jr chassis.

Both Nicotra Racing drivers were notably fast throughout the night with Otto time trialing second at a blistering 16.242 around Oswego's five-eighths-mile oval and Davey not far behind with a 16.436, good enough for the fourth quick time.

Otto finished second to Joe Gosek in his heat while Davey raced to a fourth-place run in the third heat race of the evening.

Sitterly started the 50-lap main in the 11th position while Hamilton would open the feature from the ninth slot on the grid.

Once the green flag waved on Oswego's supermodified lid-lifter, the Nicotra machines quickly settled into positions inside the top 10. So many fast cars in the field made passing a premium, and Davey and Otto would ride in the seventh and eighth positions for the opening 15 circuits of the race.

Lap 16 was a turning point for many drivers in the race. Michael Muldoon and Dave Gruel – who were running strong in the top five – came together in turn one. The contact caused Muldoon to spin his machine, and Brian Sweeney, who was racing just behind the pair, slowed to avoid contact.

With nowhere to go Davey drove into the back of Sweeney's car, causing front-end damage to the No. 6. Unfortunately, the damage to the car's front wings was enough to badly affect the handling on the car. Now out of the running for the race win and not racing for points, Hamilton made the smart decision to pull the No. 6 to the pits and not return to action.

When the race restarted Sitterly found himself in the fifth position, just behind new track record holder Bob Bond. The pair raced behind Sweeney (third), Dave Danzer (second) and leader Jeff Abold for the next 30 laps.

Otto tried the outside on Bond numerous times, but would continue to run out of racetrack on exit to turn four. With only five laps left it appeared Sitterly would have to settle for a fifth-place finish. But the last several circuits around Oswego's fast five-eighths provided a good bit of action, and Otto would take advantage.

Danzer overtook Abold for the lead on lap 41, and Abold began slide back into the grasp of Sweeney, Bond and Otto. The trio moved past Abold on lap 45 to bring Otto to fourth, then Bond and Otto made it past Sweeney just one lap later.

Now sitting third, Sitterly finally made an inside pass down the backstretch on Bond with just two laps to go. The move gave Otto the runner-up spot to Danzer, who had checked out from the rest of the field after passing Abold.

Otto, who drove the newest Hawk Jr chassis in the Nicotra stable (the No. 2 car Dave Shullick Jr. drove in the 2013 Classic) spoke after the race.

“The car actually didn’t work that good tonight. It got better at the end, but it wasn’t that good at the beginning. There’s a lot of fast cars here and a lot of hungry guys out there that want to use up the race track, so you have to take what you can get.

“I’ve got mixed emotions right now, this car here still needs some work,” said Sitterly. “The car that sat tonight, that I’ve run the last three years, has probably the highest win percentage at the track, it just has been a real good car. We will probably run this car a couple more weeks and then assess everything from there.”

Next up for Nicotra Racing is the prestigious Jim Shampine Memorial 75 Saturday, May 24. This event will see Otto race with teammate Dave Shullick Jr., while Hamilton will not look to return to Oswego until later in the season.

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.