

OTTO DOMINATES FOR 4TH INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC WIN

OSWEGO, N.Y. (August 31, 2014) – Otto Sitterly is now a four-time Budweiser International Classic champion after his win Sunday in Oswego Speedway's 200-lap supermodified extravaganza on the shores of Lake Ontario in upstate New York.

Sitterly qualified his No. 7 Nicotra Racing / G&I Homes Hawk Jr supermodified 10th of over 40 drivers to take time Friday night, August 29 at Oswego. Sitterly's 10th-place qualifying effort was four spots behind his Nicotra Racing teammate, Davey Hamilton, who timed fifth best in the team's newest Hawk supermodified.

Once the green flag waved for Sunday's International Classic, which was delayed several hours because of morning rain showers in the Oswego area, Otto quickly made his presence known in the fastest field of non-wing supers Oswego has ever seen.

The Canajoharie, N.Y., native moved his Nicotra-owned machine into the top five by lap 50 and made a pass on Michael Barnes on lap 55 for the fourth position. Sitterly then quickly pounced on Dave Danzer for the No. 3 spot on lap 58, and ahead were only teammate Hamilton and early leader Joey Payne.

Otto would waste little time riding behind Davey; he passed the Indy 500 veteran on lap 74 for the runner-up spot, and only a short time later – during a caution on lap 81 – Otto inherited the lead when Payne pulled his No. 99 pit side.

Sitterly would race unchallenged for the remaining 120-plus laps. Only a handful of late-race cautions, which pushed the race into overtime, would slow Sitterly's pursuit of his fourth Classic title. Two green-white-checked restarts would lead to Sitterly crossing the stripe under green flag conditions on lap 209 to score the big victory.

"I wasn't too worried about Payne because I thought he might burn his tires off," Otto said to Chris Porter after his victory. "I was more worried about the other Hawk cars – (David) Danzer, Davey, the 37 (Randy Ritskes) and the 68 (Michael Barnes) – because I thought one of them would have something for me at the end. I kept watching the leader board and kind of used Davey as my cushion. I figured as soon as someone passed Davey that I would turn it up a notch.

"I want every race going into it," Otto continued. "It comes down to whatever plays out in front of you, and you have to roll with the punches and today I was able to duck and dive and make some moves. The car stayed together and we were there at the end. I'm very happy; we definitely had a solid racecar all day."

With another Classic title in the rearview, Sitterly and team now turn their focus to the Novelis Supermodified championship point race. The race will be decided Sunday, Sept. 14 during Race of Champions weekend at the Steel Palace. Sitterly enters the race 13 points ahead of rival Dave Gruel. The lead is a bit of a cushion, but certainly not a lead that couldn't be erased in one feature event.

The Race of Champions 75-lapper for Novelis supers will decide the title and team owner John Nicotra offered his thoughts on the championship battle, which could result in his team's sixth track championship in seven years and Otto's seventh title overall.

"I hope Dave Gruel and Otto Sitterly can both race all 75 laps and get to the checkered flag and at that point, of course, I hope the racing gods are shining on us and we can get the title," Nicotra said.

Davey Hamilton would go on to finish third in the Classic, giving Nicotra Racing two of the top-three positions in the prestigious race.

Dave Shullick Jr., who was driving the third Nicotra Racing entry in Sunday's Bud Classic, qualified 22nd and retired on lap 145 to earn the 18th place finishing position

One race remains in 2014 for the Nicotra Racing team, the aforementioned Race of Champions season closer Sunday, Sept. 14 at Oswego Speedway.

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, five Oswego supermodified track championships and 18 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.