

MYLAPS

INDY ELITE SERIES

Indy Elite Series

*Round Seven | Gold Peak 300
Michigan International Speedway*

Trackside Report
October 20, 2019

35 drivers are on the entry list for tonight's event, meaning all entries will qualify and start the double points-paying race.

Adam Blocker leads the 2019 MYLAPS Indy Elite Series fall championship by 14 points over Henry Bennett entering tonight's seventh round of the season.

Qualifying

Henry Bennett takes the pole for tonight's 300-mile race with a lap of 32.288 seconds – ahead of Rob Powers, Adam Dock and Riley Thompson in the first two rows. Tim Doyle and Richard Holt were on the initial entry list but did not start the race as part of the field of 33.

Race

LAP 1: GREEN: Henry Bennett leads the field into Turn 1 for the first lap while drivers roll two- and three-wide down the backstretch. Dock passes Bennett during Lap 1 and officially leads Lap 1.

LAP 2: Bennett retakes the lead and is scored as the leader for Lap 2.

LAP 3: Dock leads Lap 3 while Blocker, Powers and Chin fill out the top five.

LAP 8: Bennett leads Dock by 0.066 seconds at the line while Blocker, Simpson, and Chin round out the top five. Simpson, Drake, Branch, and Powers are also all within 1 second of the lead.

LAP 12: Dock leads Bennett by 0.033 seconds at the line ahead of Blocker, Stofer and Chin.

LAP 15: Blocker takes the lead away from Dock at the line.

LAP 20: Ray Kingsbury has worked his way to third – the winner of the first leg of the Triple Crown at Pocono Raceway. Kingsbury started 22nd this evening.

LAP 22: CAUTION: Andreas Eik in the No. 76 machine goes for a spin on the backstretch after making contact with Matt Kingsbury.

LAP 23: All drivers come down pit lane for fuel and tires. Dock and Blocker make it off of pit lane first.

LAP 24: Per SYMTV, the ambient temperature is 82 degrees Fahrenheit and the track temperature is 127 degrees Fahrenheit.

LAP 26: RESTART: Dock leads the field into Turn 1 ahead of Blocker, Kingsbury and Stofer. Kingsbury and Stofer side-by-side at the line.

LAP 30: Drivers go three-wide for the lead as Stofer, Simpson and Kingsbury round out the first three positions. The first 13 drivers are separated by less than a second.

LAP 32: Multiple wiggles in Turn 2 for Ray Kingsbury who drops from the first few positions down to 9th. Stofer, Dock, Simpson, Blocker and Thompson comprise the first five spots.

LAP 38: Goke leads Simpson at the line ahead of Stofer, Bennett, Thompson and Kinsella.

LAP 46: Dock hangs his left side tires on the apron on the frontstretch and his car hooks into the Turn 1 inside wall. His night ends in 33rd place after starting third and leading 17 laps.

LAP 49: Jonathan Goke leads Blocker, Stofer, Simpson and Kinsella with seven drivers still within a second of the lead. Todd Novasad makes slight contact with the frontstretch apron and ends up in the inside wall similar to Dock. Novasad finishes 32nd on the night.

LAP 54: Christopher Demeritt works his way into fourth place after starting 30th.

LAP 55: Goke slides onto the pit lane and is one of the first leaders to make a green flag pit stop. Norton pits with him and more leaders begin to hit the pit lane afterwards.

LAP 56: CAUTION: With drivers pitting, Joe Flanagan goes spinning into the Turn 4 wall after running into the back of Joe Branch trying to get to pit lane. Branch makes hard contact with the inside pit wall. Branch and Flanagan finish 30th and 31st respectively.

LAP 59: RESTART: Demeritt leads Kinsella, Thompson, Bennett and Kingsbury to the green flag.

LAP 61: Demeritt pits from the lead to serve a stop-and-go penalty for passing the pace car. Kinsella assumes the race lead ahead of Kingsbury, Thompson, Stofer and Blocker.

LAP 67: CAUTION: Joshua Chin makes heavy contact with the outside wall on the exit of Turn 2 after contact with Tony Showen. Logan Simmons is also involved after he and Liam Quinn check up on the backstretch.

LAP 68: Under yellow flag conditions, Brendan Lichtenberg stays out to take the lead.

LAP 71: RESTART: Lichtenberg leads the field to the green while the top ten shuffles out single-file.

LAP 72: Stofer slides sideways through Turn 4 and hangs on to his car to avoid an accident. Does lose many positions and shuffles to the end of the pack.

LAP 75: Goke leads Simpson, Matt Kingsbury, Kinsella and Lichtenberg at the race's halfway mark.

LAP 77: Last Lap Motorsports teammates run 1-2-3 with Goke leading Simpson, Matt Kingsbury ahead of Kinsella, Blocker, Trost and Lichtenberg.

LAP 81: CAUTION: Kinsella spins to the inside of the backstretch and receives significant damage after making contact with Ray Kingsbury. Trost is clipped as Kinsella shoots down towards the inside wall, though both drivers avoid the wall. Kinsella will finish 28th as the damage knocks him out of the race.

LAP 85: RESTART: Multiple-car accident on the frontstretch during the restart period. Logan Simmons, Niall McBride, Frank Levick IV, Ryan Norton, Dakota DiCienzo, Adam Plunkett, Rob Powers are all involved.

LAP 89: RESTART: Last Lap Motorsports drivers Goke, Simpson, M. Kingsbury and R. Kingsbury lead the field to green ahead of Blocker, Bennett, Lichtenberg and Demeritt.

LAP 92: Lichtenberg goes three-wide and squeezes into P4 behind Simpson, Goke and M. Kingsbury.

LAP 100: Simpson leads Goke, R. Kingsbury, M. Kingsbury and Lichtenberg while the top eight are all within 1 second of the lead.

LAP 102: CAUTION: Jeff Drake, Niall McBride and Tony Showen get together on the exit of Turn 4, resulting in a multi-car accident that ends each driver's day.

LAP 103: Trost stays out while many leaders pit for fuel and tires.

LAP 105: RESTART: Trost leads the field to a restart with three Last Lap Motorsports drivers behind him. Simpson jumps to the lead while Goke and M. Kingsbury also get around Trost.

LAP 110: Bradley Walters moves up to 6th place after starting 33rd.

LAP 111: Simpson leads Goke by 0.17 seconds, ahead of Walters, R. Kingsbury, M. Kingsbury and Blocker.

LAP 116: CAUTION: Walters and Ray Kingsbury make contact on the backstretch that also collects Lichtenberg and David Adams in a multi-car accident. Adams, Walters and Lichtenberg finish 18th, 19th and 20th, respectively.

LAP 120: RESTART: Simpson, M. Kingsbury, Blocker, Demeritt and R. Kingsbury lead the field to green.

LAP 122: Blocker executes an impressive pass on the low side to take the lead.

LAP 123: Trost pits by himself under green. Blocker leads Simpson, Kingsbury, Demeritt and Eik.

LAP 126: Thompson and Enschede get together on the exit of Turn 2 which turns Enschede sideways. Dan Lee hangs on and Thompson picks up wing damage.

LAP 130: Blocker leads Stofer by 0.133 seconds. Demeritt, Eik and Goke fill out the top five.

LAP 134: Blocker leads Stofer, Enschede, Demeritt, Goke and Eik. 10 cars stand within one second of the race lead.

LAP 135: Dan Lee Enschede powers to the lead before Stofer takes it back.

LAP 137: Enschede hits pit lane from the lead group. Blocker leads Stofer, Demeritt, Goke, Briant and Wood.

LAP 141: Demeritt jumps to the lead ahead of Stofer and Blocker. Goke, Wood and Briant still in the picture near the top five.

LAP 143: Demeritt leads Goke by 0.233 seconds ahead of Stofer, Blocker, Wood and Bennett.

LAP 144: Goke passes Demeritt for the lead on the backstretch but Demeritt takes it back before Turn 3.

CAUTION: Wood spins to the inside of the track on the exit of Turn 4 after contact with Henry Bennett.

LAP 149: RESTART: Demeritt leads Stofer, Blocker, Briant and Bennett for the final shootout. Blocker passes Stofer and Demeritt to get to the lead.

LAP 150: Stofer passes Blocker by the backstretch before Blocker gets back to the lead by Turn 3. Blocker holds on for the win while there is a three-wide battle for second place behind him. A multi-car accident occurs on the frontstretch at the checkered flag.

This is the third career victory for Blocker in the MYLAPS Indy Elite Series – who also posted a victory at Laguna Seca earlier this season. This is Demeritt's second start with a runner-up finish this season, the first coming at Texas Motor Speedway back on September 8.

Adam Blocker leads the 2019 MYLAPS Indy Elite Series fall championship by 61 points over Henry Bennett following tonight's seventh round of the season.

Adam Blocker, Winner: "Definitely crazy – Michigan is always like that. We sort of had a long-run car – we had more downforce on than a lot of guys, so our top speed was a little down while we were strong on the long run. That kind of hurt us – there were a couple times where on short runs we would fall back... but then you saw me, Henry (Bennett) and (Chris) Stofer get to the front at the end. I was kind of glad we had a long run at the end – that helped us.

"(Christopher) Demeritt and I said that we would work together even though we aren't on the same team, just so we could try and fight those guys off. The goal of the last stint was to stay in the top three and keep track position for the end. I actually pushed too hard – I was going to be tight on fuel if it went green (to the end). Probably would have had to finish third or fourth (as a result of) lifting in the draft. But fortunately we got the yellow (flag), and then Stofer and I faked (Jonathan) Goke out, so he pitted. We figured with only two laps to go, sure our tires were really old, but there wouldn't be enough time (for new tires to catch up) and we were right.

"Just kind of timed the draft right with Demeritt – got the lead onto the front straight on the last lap, then Stofer passed both of us because Demeritt wanted to wait. But with Stofer being in front on the last lap down the back straight allowed me to get enough of a tow to hold them from Turn 3 on, so it worked out."

In regards to the championship and double-points races: "It depends on how the next few races go. I think Richmond, Sebring and Road America should be good races for me, so as long as I get good results there, maybe I put myself in a position where I don't have to do something amazing at Fontana. Obviously, the double points are big points – and there is a huge drop off with the way that the points system works. Sixth place gets like half the points of first, so it is really important to finish in the top three or four in the double-points races."

OFFICIAL MYLAPS INDY ELITE SERIES POINT STANDINGS (Top 10)

1. Adam Blocker, 320
2. Henry Bennett, 259
3. Brendan Lichtenberg, 208
4. Ray Kingsbury, 207
5. Andrew Kinsella, 184
6. Christopher Demeritt, 183
7. Frank Levick IV, 173
8. Andreas Eik, 169
9. Simon Briant, 153
Chad Simpson, 153

The next MYLAPS Indy Elite Series race will be held on Sunday, November 3 as the championship heads to Richmond Raceway for the Triptacular Memories 160, the eighth round of the 2019 fall season. The race will be shown live by SYMTV.