



2019 Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race
What They're Saying About the "500"
Partner Quote Transcript

Tanner Watkins, president of Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race
June 28, 2019

"I couldn't be more excited to formally announce our anticipated 500-mile race in November. This event is being created in the spirit of the late Tony Hulman, aiming to personalize the race for our competitors and make it truly feel like a grand event. With the support of the sim racing community and the motorsport community as a whole, I truly believe that we can grow this event into the most prestigious and most anticipated event in open-wheel sim racing each year. I look forward to serving the competitors, sponsors and fans of this race by creating an event that all of us will be proud to be a part of for many years to come."

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Tammy Hall, Co-owner of Mitchell Transmissions
July 23, 2019 | Presenting Sponsorship Announcement

"Mitchell Transmission has been in business for more than 35 years. Our specialty is in-house rebuilt transmissions for all makes and models of vehicles, as well as installing new transmissions. We also build racing transmissions and specialize in Power glides for high horsepower racing engines, primarily drag racing but also some tractor pulling. We are proud sponsors the NHRA Division 3 Jeg's Super Quick Shootout.

"As a company that is involved in drag racing as well as maintaining your 'everyday get to the track vehicles,' we are honored to be a part of the first-ever Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race. This will be an exciting event for many years to come, and it is an honor to partner with such a great group of fellow racers in the motorsports industry. Together we will make the racing community take notice of the thrills of the motorsports industry."

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Joe Branch, Owner of MYLAPS Indy Elite Series and Triptacular Memories

July 31, 2019 | Race Award and Associate Sponsorship Announcement

“As owner and promoter of the MYLAPS Indy Elite Series, I am excited to partner again with Open-Wheels.com for their first 500-mile race this fall. After Open-Wheels covered our Indy 500, last year I have been looking forward to anything that they do because when they do things, they do it big! When I saw the sponsorship options I knew I had to find something that stood out as ‘Elite,’ and the Front Runner Award does exactly that!”

“Triptacular Memories has been looking for opportunities to expand its involvement in sim racing,” said Branch in a statement. “We are very excited to partner with Open-Wheels.com on what we feel like will be one of the top events of the entire year.”

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Phil Kaiser, Owner of Thru Kaiser’s Visor and The Beepline Vintage Rock Band August 2, 2019 | *Today at the 500* Presenting Sponsor and Associate Sponsor Announcement

“As a lifelong open-wheel fan (particularly of the Indianapolis 500), I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of Tanner’s new Open-Wheels 500 Mile Race, which I believe has the potential to become something race fans will look forward to passionately in the long off-season. I love his vision to recreate the traditions, pageantry, anticipation and competition of the original ‘500’ while bringing new race fans into the fold, and cannot wait to see how many racers enter it. I look forward to spreading the word for Tanner in Thru Kaiser’s Visor every chance I get, and want to thank everyone else who has stepped up financially to help Tanner get this off the ground.”

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Derek Speare, Owner of Derek Speare Designs

August 5, 2019 | Race Prize Announcement

“DSD is very much looking forward to the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race! We’re pleased to participate as a sponsor of the event and Tanner Watkins has organized an exciting racing schedule. Tanner’s professional approach and organization of the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race for the iRacing community will certainly be as close to the real thing as anyone would expect. The event is all about the participants. I’m a sim racer myself and my goal for DSD is to continually strive to offer components designed to make every sim racing enthusiast’s racing experience as enjoyable as possible.

“We love to give prizes and it’s great to offer up some DSD button controllers to add some sizzle and excitement to the event! We’re certain the participants of the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race will have a blast and hope that some DSD Track Boss controllers will make it better! Have fun and GLA.”

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Wil Vincent, Founding Partner and Lead Commentator of RaceSpot TV

August 7, 2019 | Broadcast Partner Announcement

“We are delighted to work with Tanner and Open-Wheels.com to provide broadcasting services for their 500-mile race this fall. Tanner is a model member of the iRacing IndyCar community, and the work he led for the 2019 iRacing Indy 500 Information Guide is one of the best things we’ve seen in a long time!

“IndyCar broadcasts are a part of our DNA. Our first ever broadcast was an IndyCar event, and we’ve broadcasted the iRacing Indy 500 in every year of our existence. We are therefore excited to be provided the opportunity to broadcast this unique, realistic sim version of the Indy 500.

“Not only will we be covering the race, but an hour of coverage from both Pole Day (Saturday, November 9) and Bump Day (Sunday, November 10). We look forward to working with Tanner to see how we can continue to push the boundaries of sim racing Indy 500 broadcasting.”

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Christopher Demeritt, Driver and iRacing Indianapolis 500 Race Winner

August 9, 2019 | “100 Days Out” Announcement

“This 500-mile race is different from the others I’ve run on iRacing because it has multiple chassis that can enter the event, and is only one of a very select handful Indy 500 races that has a proper qualifying format consisting of a Pole Day and Bump Day. The chassis selection and qualifying format make the entire event very exciting, especially to see the strengths and weaknesses of each chassis throughout qualifying and the race.”

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Jeff Drake, Driver and iRacing IndyCar Race Winner

August 9, 2019 | “100 Days Out” Announcement

“What has me most excited for this ‘500’ is the wild variation between the available chassis. So often in previous years, teams would get together and say ‘okay, how do we make this car faster?’ This time, the teams (looked) at each other and said, ‘hold on, we don’t even know which car is the fastest, and how the same setup adjustments will affect the different cars.’ Indy has always been a strenuous task in sim engineering, but this is a whole new level. It’s an exciting throwback to the pre-spec days of the ‘500.’”

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Mike Silver, Owner of The Pit Window

August 12, 2019 | Pit Stop Competition Announcement

“*The Pit Window* is proud to sponsor the Open-Wheels Pit Stop Competition in conjunction with the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race. This event fits perfectly with *The Pit Window*’s goal of engaging fans of open-wheel racing with IndyCar racing and related activities.”

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Jonathan Goke, Driver and iRacing Indianapolis 500 Race Winner

August 15, 2019 | Donation Announcement

“I am extremely excited to be partnering with Tanner and Open-Wheels.com for this amazing event. I have absolutely no doubt that this will bring in a ton of new competitors to the IndyCar, as well as have an amazing amount of support from the regulars. Everyone knows that I call the IndyCar community home on iRacing, and I just want to be able to give something back through the amazing list of rewards available to sponsor. I cannot wait to get to November and see how it all plays out!”

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Casey Stump, CEO of AG Trucking

August 19, 2019 | Qualifications Weekend Sponsorship Announcement

“AG Trucking is a Hoosier-based company that has racing in its blood, and we are thrilled to be supporting this event. One of our long-time employees will be racing in this event and that is the reason why we decided to support this event.”

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Tod Goble, Owner of Tojo’s Smoke Me Tender BBQ

August 26, 2019 | Race Partner Announcement

“BBQ and racing go hand in hand – that’s why we here at Tojo’s Smoke Me Tender BBQ are one of the proud sponsors of the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race. Located in West Salem, Illinois, we are a competition BBQ team that also caters your favorite events.”

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Scott Martin, Racecast Weather

August 29, 2019 | Race Partner Announcement

“The guys at Racecast Weather are very excited to be a sponsor for such an awesome event like this. I really hope this catches on and becomes a fixture in the sim racing world.”



Jorge Anzaldo, Owner of Lionheart Racing Series

September 3, 2019 | Associate Sponsor Announcement

“The Lionheart Racing Series is proud to attach its name to the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race presented by Mitchell Transmissions. Lionheart is committed to the IndyCar community and the growth of Simulation Racing. Associating our series with this event is part of our goal to bring additional awareness to the ever-growing world of iRacing and simulated racing eSports events.”

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Robert Grosser, Owner of Classic IndyCar Series

September 5, 2019 | Partner Award Announcement

“The Classic IndyCar Series is very excited to support the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race in its inaugural event. Especially so, considering that the ‘IndyCar Dallara 2011’ (aka Dallara IR-05) will be allowed to enter this event makes it very appealing for us. We like the idea of encouraging drivers to choose the oldest available chassis for this event, and at the same time support Tanner Watkins, who puts so much effort into this unique event.”

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Mike Lashmett, CEO of Vintage Indy Registry

September 30, 2019 | Lap Sponsor and Award Announcement

“In keeping with the Vintage Indy Registry’s™ principal belief that the future of all things Indy is deeply anchored to its past – and along with the immense popularity with old and new fans of Sim Racing – it only seemed a natural fit to help sponsor the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race on November 17. Nobody works harder and does a better job of telling the story of IndyCar and the Indianapolis 500 than Open-Wheels.com. We are proud to partner with them.”

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Mike Joachim, Founder of the Pit Lane Parley podcast

October 1, 2019 | Pole Award Announcement

“This being the most exciting, drama-filled sim racing day of the offseason is what makes this event even more awesome, and I wanted to be a part of it. Knowing the quality of Open-Wheels’ work, year-in and year-out, means I know that the event is going to be good, and I wanted to support it!”

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Bill Throckmorton, Co-Owner of Grant King Race Shops

October 4, 2019 | Day Before the 500 Presenting Sponsor Announcement

“We are new to Sim Racing, but are looking forward to sponsoring Tanner’s *Day Before the 500*. We think this is a great opportunity to get the Grant King name in front of a brand new audience and get the word out on our museum, while helping Tanner with his first 500 Mile Race. It’s a win-win.”

Stephanie Throckmorton, Co-Owner of Grant King Race Shops

October 4, 2019 | Day Before the 500 Presenting Sponsor Announcement

“The *Day Before the 500* sounds like a lot of fun! It’s so great to be able to get in ‘on the ground floor’ of a big new event! We look forward to our participation in the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race and are wishing Tanner and his crew much success with it.”