



Day Two

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Practice Day

SILVIO ROBERTO SANCHEZ TOPS TIMESHEETS IN SECOND OPEN-WHEELS 500 PRACTICE

After a highly-successful showing in iRacing Indianapolis 500 qualifications last May, Brazil's sim racers have shown up with speed once again with two of their drivers leading the first two days of practice at the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race presented by Mitchell Transmissions.

Following the completion of Tuesday's 12-hour practice session at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Silvio Roberto Sanchez was quickest with a best lap speed of 232.360mph. It marked the second consecutive practice where a Brazilian driver had the best lap of the day, following Marco Aurelio Brasil's top effort on Opening Day.

In fact, four drivers from Brazil found their way into the top five positions by the end of practice (including Thales Toledo, Aurelio Brasil, and Wilson Neto), and the first American driver on the list was Zachary Campbell in sixth.

For Sanchez, securing Tuesday's top speed further strengthened the country's confidence in a positive showing for Qualifications Weekend presented by AG Trucking – held this Saturday and Sunday.

“(Tuesday practice) was a good workout; I improved by (two-tenths of a second) from the first day. My expectation for qualifying is the best possible (scenario), and as Marco Aurélio (Brasil) said, we are strong and we will probably be in the front row at the end of Saturday activities.”

Saturday will serve as Pole Day during the two-day qualifications weekend, and the \$100 Pit Lane Parley Pole Award will be gifted to the quickest driver at the end of the first day of running. Final-hour coverage of both Pole Day on November 9 and Bump Day on November 10 will be provided by RaceSpot TV, beginning at 5:00 PM Eastern each day.

Sandwiched between the Brazilians in the top five was AJ Burton from the UK and Ireland club. The Indy 500 Group with Broken Aero/ART driver was second-quickest on the day, but was keen to note that challenges persisted during practice that hampered testing efforts.

“It might be surprising to hear, but day two was a day of mixed emotions for me,” said Burton. “We were suffering from some technical issues for most of the day, which ultimately curtailed my efforts to do any meaningful running. Nonetheless, we were able to run a short race simulation and we definitely feel good with our race setup.”

While some attention was granted to race setup practice on Tuesday, the rest of the week (for Burton and his teammates, at least) will see the focus shift to qualifications practice.

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“The rest of this week will be focused on refining our qualifying pace. I did attempt two runs today but with the track being well used by then, and the influence of both dirty air and draft from other cars on track, these speeds weren’t close to being representative of what we’ll see at the weekend.”

After all was said and done on Tuesday, 44 drivers made it on-track to complete a total of 2,600 laps. Yesterday’s practice also marked the first day that each of the available Dallara chassis (the IR-18, DW-12, and IR-05) were on-track and practicing together.

The first 25 spots on the leaderboard belonged to Dallara IR-18 pilots, while Frank Ferry Jr. was the first driver listed in a Dallara DW-12. Ferry, driving for ACME Racing, was 26th-quick with a best lap speed of 227.779mph. The fastest Dallara IR-05 entry in practice was driven by Robert Grosser, who was 41st in practice with a best lap of 222.047mph.

After two days of practice – and a combined 24 hours of Speedway availability – 53 drivers have made it on-track thus far. Marco Aurelio Brasil has the best overall lap – clocked at 233.669mph on Opening Day – while Wilson Neto has turned the most laps thus far with 542 circuits completed. Across both sessions, 5,206 laps have been completed.

TUESDAY’S SCHEDULE (All Times Eastern)

3:00 PM-3:00 AM Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race Practice
8:00 PM *Today at the 500 presented by Thru Kaiser’s Visor Airing*

ENTRY UPDATES

- AJ Burton’s car name has been changed from Indy 500 Group with Broken Aero/ART to NextGen I5G Honda. Burton remains the driver of the No. 57 Indy 500 Group with Broken Aero/ART Dallara IR-18 Honda.
- Geoff Costeloe’s team name has been changed from Independent to EntryPoint Solutions Ltd. Costeloe remains the driver of the No. 87 Dallara IR-18 Honda.
- Alexander Cain’s engine manufacturer has been changed from Honda to Chevrolet. Cain remains the driver of the No. 11 Copenhagen/Valvoline/Gilmore Dallara IR-18.
- Lluç Ibañez, driver of the No. 60 MRW/AutosVelilla/ILSR.com Fritosport Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet, is now eligible to participate in today’s practice after accepting the Open-Wheels Motorsports Sanctioning league invitation on iRacing.
- Carter McCue, driver of the No. 27 Screenmobile/Driven2SaveLives/Open-Wheels.com Watkins Motorsports Group Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet, remains ineligible to participate in today’s practice due to safety rating restrictions.
- Tommy Gossett, driver of the No. 80 VPR/GTR Simulators/K&M Graphics Outlaw Motorsports Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet, will not be eligible to participate in today’s practice until he accepts the Open-Wheels Motorsports Sanctioning league invitation on iRacing.



Since the last time the drivers for the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race presented by Mitchell Transmissions were on-track for practice, ownership of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway has changed hands.

On Monday, it was announced that Penske Corporation – founded by the billionaire Roger Penske – was in the process of purchasing Hulman & Company. Hulman & Company owns and operates not only the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, but also the NTT IndyCar Series and IMS Productions, the entertainment arm that produces all IndyCar Series races on television.

The transition of IMS/IndyCar ownership to Penske signals the end of a 74-year run with the Hulman-George family at the helm. A crush of media and Speedway personnel were on-hand to usher in the new era Monday morning in an impromptu press conference. Speaking at the podium were Penske, Tony George (Chairman, Hulman & Company) and Mark Miles, the President and CEO of Hulman & Company. Their take on the transition:

ROGER PENSKE (Chairman and Founder, Penske Corporation): "My passion for racing began at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1951 when I attended the Indianapolis 500 with my father. We have so much respect and appreciation for the history and tradition of the Speedway and the sport of INDYCAR racing. I want to thank Hulman & Company for the opportunity to build on this legacy, and it will be an honor for Penske Corporation to help lead these great institutions forward into a new era."

TONY GEORGE (Chairman, Hulman & Company): "We recently approached Roger Penske and Penske Corporation about this opportunity and began working to put an agreement in place. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has been the centerpiece and the cathedral of motorsports since 1909, and the Hulman-George family has proudly served as the steward of this great institution for more than 70 years. Now, we are honored to pass the torch to Roger Penske and Penske Corporation, as they become just the fourth owner of the iconic Speedway. There is no one more capable and qualified than Roger and his organization to lead the sport of INDYCAR racing and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway into the future."

MARK MILES (President and CEO, Hulman & Company): "The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race and the NTT IndyCar Series have enjoyed considerable growth over the past decade, with significant increases in television, digital and social media audiences combined with record attendance at many of our race venues. With their track record of business success, their venue, operation and event experience and their passion for motorsports, Roger Penske and Penske Corporation will help us take the IndyCar Series, the

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Indianapolis Motor Speedway and all of our properties to new heights. Everyone on our team looks forward to working with them to capitalize on the momentum that the Series and the Speedway have achieved."

With both Hulman & Company and Penske Corporation listed as private companies, figures were not released on the value of the sale.

During Monday's press conference, George said that he first approached Penske with an inquiry to Speedway stewardship back at the IndyCar season finale in Laguna Seca. After trading e-mails and a couple of in-person visits to Indianapolis, the deal was drafted relatively quickly. The deal will be finalized by January, and Hulman & Company hired Allen & Company LLC as their financial adviser as well as Ice Miller LLP as their legal counsel for this transaction.

OPEN-WHEELS.COM 500 MILE RACE PRACTICE

3:00 PM – **GREEN**. The Speedway is open for practice for all entrants.

3:02 PM – Lluç Ibañez is the first driver on-track today. The No. 60 MRW/AutosVelilla/ILSR.com Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet did not practice during Sunday's Opening Day session, but Ibañez is here representing FritoSport looking for his first start in a major iRacing 500-mile race at Indianapolis.

3:15 PM – Zachary Campbell (No. 2 Apex Racing Team with Indy 500 Group Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet) sets the quickest time of the session with a lap at 229.956mph (39.138s).

3:57 PM – Wilson Neto (No. 421 Interlagos Motorsport Dallara IR-18 Honda) posts a new quick lap for the session at 230.309mph (39.078s). Neto ran the most laps in the first practice session of the month on Sunday – a total of 249 laps.

4:20 PM – Firestone reports that the track temperature is 114 degrees Fahrenheit and the ambient temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit. The skies are partly cloudy and a 2 mph wind is coming out of the North.

4:47 PM – A total of 19 drivers have set times in today's practice thus far, and 19 cars have made their way to pit lane. The drivers have logged a cumulative 514 laps thus far in practice, and 14 drivers have posted times under the 40-second mark.

4:53 PM – Wilson Neto has improved the session's best lap – now a 39.064s lap for an average speed of 230.391mph. Fellow Brazilian driver Silvio Sanchez has joined Neto atop the leaderboard – he is P2 currently with a best lap of 39.120s (230.061mph).

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- 4:56 PM – Lluç Ibañez is making up for lost time on Sunday – he is currently tied with Robert Grosser (No. 3 LOGYKAL Vortex SimRacing Dallara IR-05 Honda) with the most laps logged today. Each driver has completed 52 laps at the Speedway this afternoon.
- 5:12 PM – AJ Burton (No. 57 Indy 500 Group with Broken Aero/ART Dallara IR-18 Honda) goes quickest in the session with a lap at 230.497mph (39.046s). Burton is carrying sponsorship from NextGen for this year’s Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race, and the UK & Ireland club member has turned 11 laps thus far in practice.
- 5:23 PM – The fastest trap speed of the day belongs to the session leader AJ Burton. The UK & Ireland club member posted a high speed of 240.3 miles per hour on one of his earlier laps in the session.
- 5:49 PM – Thales Toledo (No. 77 Dallara IR-18 Honda) posts the quickest time of the day – a lap at 230.929mph (38.973s). Toledo is the first driver to break the 39-second barrier this afternoon.
- 6:09 PM – AJ Burton re-assumes the top spot in practice with a lap at 231.613mph (38.858s) to join Toledo as the only drivers with 38-second laps in practice on Tuesday.
- 6:18 PM – A total of 27 drivers have set times today, and 1,150 laps have been completed in practice to this point. 28 drivers have brought their cars to pit lane, with Michael Chinn being the only driver yet to participate in practice today while being present.
- 6:20 PM – Today’s practice is the first time (officially) that all three available Dallara chassis have shared the track. Frank Ferry Jr. is the quickest driver in a Dallara DW-12 chassis (P19, 39.512s fast lap) and Robert Grosser is the quickest driver in a Dallara IR-05 chassis (P26, 40.532s fast lap). The first 18 spots on the time chart belong to drivers in the Dallara IR-18.
- 6:22 PM – The fastest 15-lap average thus far belongs to Wilson Neto, who had a string of 15 laps average out to 40.342s, or 223.093mph. The next closest driver is Kinetic Racing with Team Talent’s Rob Powers (No. 47 Dallara IR-18 Honda) with a 15-lap average of 40.478s (222.343mph).
- 7:03 PM – Silvio Sanchez (No. 407 Corinthians Rally Team Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet) posts a new fastest lap of the day, going for an average of 232.144mph (38.769s) on his 63rd lap of the afternoon.
- 7:11 PM – Firestone reports that the ambient temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit and the track temperature has risen to 115 degrees Fahrenheit. Winds are calm, out of the North at 2 miles per hour while the drivers practice under partly cloudy skies.

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- 8:00 PM – The second airing of *Today at the 500 presented by Thru Kasier's Visor* features drivers Bradley Walters, Liam Quinn, Joe Branch, and Mike Joachim of the Pit Lane Parley podcast. Joachim's podcast is the sponsor of the \$100 Pit Lane Parley Pole Award, to be given to the quickest driver at the end of Pole Day qualifications.
- 9:12 PM – Silvio Sanchez bests his previous top lap by going 232.360mph (38.733s). Sanchez also has the highest trap speed of the day with a top speed at the end of the straightaway at 241.7 miles per hour.
- 9:34 PM – Club Brazil has three of the first four spots on the leaderboard: Sanchez (P1, 38.733s), Thales Toledo (P3, 38.937s) and Wilson Neto (P4, 39.064s). The first American driver on the board is Zachary Campbell, placed fifth with a best time of 39.104s (230.156mph).
- 10:20 PM – 39 drivers have posted times in practice today, and a total of 2,100 laps have been turned by today's competitors. The first 24 times on the leaderboard are owned by Dallara IR-18 drivers, and 36 drivers have set laps quicker than 40 seconds today. Three drivers have gone quicker than 39 seconds – Sanchez, Burton, and Toldeo.
- 10:45 PM – Marco Aurelio Brasil (No. 812 TES Racing Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet) sets the fifth-quickest lap of the day (39.088s, 230.250mph), pushing a fourth Brazilian driver into the top five. AJ Burton (UK & Ireland club) is the only non-Brazilian driver in the first five positions.
- 12:21 AM – At final check, 42 drivers have posted times today (two more than Opening Day) and 37 drivers ran laps faster than 40 seconds. 2,417 laps have been completed today – excluding 17 laps that were unable to be timed due to a transponder malfunction on Joe Branch's No. 28 Dallara IR-18.
- 12:25 AM – Jeffrey Stanton (No. 46 JSRacing with BIG EVIL, Farlow & JSRL Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet) had the quickest five-lap average – 228.044mph (39.466s) – while Wilson Neto (No. 421 Interlagos Motorsport Dallara IR-18 Honda) captured the quickest 15-lap run – 223.369mph (40.292s).
- 12:27 AM – Wilson Neto has completed the most laps of all drivers today with 293 circuits complete. He is currently the fourth-fastest driver in the session with a best lap of 39.064s (230.391mph).
- 12:29 AM – Six international club drivers fill the top-10 while four American drivers make up the remaining spots. In fact, International drivers make up 10 of the first 14 positions on the leaderboard.

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3:00 AM – Practice has concluded for Day Two at the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race. Silvio Roberto Sanchez was the quickest driver with a best lap speed of 232.360mph (38.733s). A total of 2,600 laps were turned for the day

A total of 44 cars were on-track today, and 53 cars have made laps at the Speedway thus far. 50 drivers have piloted Dallara IR-18 chassis, while two entrants have driven the Dallara DW-12, and one driver has made laps in the Dallara IR-05. There were zero yellow flag periods today. The high was 78 degrees Fahrenheit and the track temperature began the session at 113 degrees Fahrenheit, ending the session at 115 degrees Fahrenheit. Winds were out of the North at 2 mph.

Cars on track today (in order of speed): #407 Silvio Roberto Sanchez, #57 AJ Burton, #77 Thales Toledo, #812 Marco Aurelio Brasil, #421 Wilson Neto, #2 Zachary Campbell, #313 Dylan Freckelton, #42 Chad Simpson, #33 John Hajek-Doggett, #21 Logan Simmons, #144 Christopher Demeritt, #72 Hugo Hernandez Gutierrez, #60 Lluc Ibanez, #8 Peter Bennett, #46 Jeffrey Stanton, #47 Rob Powers, #54 Payton Gries, #35 Michael Chinn, #52 Dan Ensich, #51 Borja Bueno, #37 Nate S Stewart, #98 Pierre Bourdon, #31 Tyson Landis, #44 Liam Quinn, #19 Craig Hawkins, #97 Frank Ferry Jr, #66 Michele Costantini, #738 David Soranzo, #74 Adam Blocker, #58 Riley Thompson, #9 Brandon Traino, #56 Bradley Walters, #13 Chris Stofer, #40 Adam Plunkett, #20 John Downing, #48 Nick Autorina, #10 Brendan Lichtenberg, #11 Alex Cain, #4 Jeff Drake, #43 Dakota DiCienzo, #3 Robert Grosser, #86 Raul Alvarez, #71 Richard Valli, and #28 Joe Branch.

FASTEST TIMES/SPEEDS OF THE DAY

| Pos. | Car | Name | Team | Time | Speed (mph) |
|------|-----|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| 1. | 407 | Silvio Roberto Sanchez | Corinthians Rally Team | 38.733s | 232.360mph |
| 2. | 57 | AJ Burton | Indy 500 Group w/ Broken Aero/ART | 38.858 | 231.613 |
| 3. | 77 | Thales Toledo | Independent | 38.937 | 231.143 |
| 4. | 812 | Marco Aurelio Brasil | TES Racing | 38.963 | 230.988 |
| 5. | 421 | Wilson Neto | Interlagos Motorsport | 39.064 | 230.391 |
| 6. | 2 | Zachary Campbell | Apex Racing Team w/ Indy 500 Group | 39.104 | 230.155 |
| 7. | 313 | Dylan Freckelton | Independent | 39.124 | 230.038 |
| 8. | 42 | Chad Simpson | Last Lap Motorsports | 39.152 | 229.873 |
| 9. | 33 | John Hajek-Doggett | Team Talent | 39.154 | 229.862 |
| 10. | 21 | Logan Simmons | Iconic Motorsports | 39.166 | 229.791 |

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POST-PRACTICE DRIVER QUOTES

P1. SILVIO SANCHEZ (No. 407 Corinthians Rally Team Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet): "It was a good workout; I improved by (two tenths of a second) from the first day. My expectation for qualifying is the best possible (scenario), as Marco Aurélio (Brasil) said, we are strong and we will probably be in the front row at the end of Saturday activities."

P2. AJ BURTON (No. 57 Indy 500 Group with Broken Aero/ART Dallara IR-18 Honda): "It might be surprising to hear, but day two was a day of mixed emotions for me. We were suffering from some technical issues for most of the day, which ultimately curtailed my efforts to do any meaningful running. Nonetheless, we were able to run a short race simulation and we definitely feel good with our race setup. The rest of this week will be focused on refining our qualifying pace. I did attempt two runs today but with the track being well used by then, and the influence of both dirty air and draft from other cars on track, these speeds weren't close to being representative of what we'll see at the weekend."

P3. THALES TOLEDO (No. 77 Independent Dallara IR-18 Honda): "Well, day two practice was basically a test of my race pace with Wilson Neto. I made one or two fast laps just to be near the top of the table for the fun of it, but I don't fool myself. It will be pretty hard to be one of the 33 drivers who will start the race, but I can guarantee that I'm trying my best."

P5. WILSON NETO (No. 421 Interlagos Motorsport Dallara IR-18 Honda): "Today, while working in day two of practice, the car felt really good over the long run. I was able to do many tests with my teammates and also with cars from other very strong teams. It helped me to understand a little bit more about strengths and weakness of my car at this moment, and those takeaways will be key to help me improve the car. The closer we get to the Qualifying Weekend, the higher the expectation to live (up to) this unique experience that Open-Wheels.com is bringing this month to the IndyCar community. I'm really looking forward to it!"

P6. ZACHARY CAMPBELL (No. 2 Apex Racing Team with Indy 500 Group Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet): "In these practices leading up to qualifying, we are really just trying to figure out how the car reacts to rubber in Q-trim - which we got that checked off pretty quick and were able to shift towards improving race trim. The hardest thing about this week's practices is to not get distracted by the timesheets. We know the Brazilians are going to be really quick come Saturday, but we knew that coming in so there isn't much to learn until next week. I think we do have a lot of momentum, but it's more personal confidence from our group's performance in Ma, rather than the laps we're putting in. It's nice and all to be top-10 or top five in practice, but come race day the practice times aren't going to matter."

P7. DYLAN FRECKELTON (NO. 313 Independent Dallara IR-18 Honda): "I just did a bit of work refining the qualifying setup, (and I am) pretty happy with it now. My quickest lap had a bit of help with the draft, I think a tenth or so, but the overall pace is good. Hopefully I can make the field and then look towards the race."

P8. CHAD SIMPSON (No. 42 Last Lap Motorsports Dallara IR-18 Honda): "I managed to find a very tiny bit of speed today - which is always nice but I'm still not very confident with how fast our runs are. I know what other people drove in May and I know what some are running this week, and we're just not there yet. Hopefully I can hit on something big in the setup in the next few days to get that extra speed that would make me feel more comfortable."

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P10. LOGAN SIMMONS (No. 21 Iconic Motorsports Dallara IR-18 Honda): “Today in practice, (I) was more focused on race setups. I still am trying to find how I can make the car work in traffic better while still having enough straight-line speed. Heading into qualifying weekend, my confidence is high and there is a ton of pride in what I've built this past month. I would hope to see this car qualify top-15 based on speed that I have seen come from this car.” About being a driver without an established team: “Being an independent driver (has been) rewarding through this whole process. The fact that I have been able to build something very competitive for qualifying without really having someone to bounce off of makes having a real shot at making the show that much more of a reward - and gives an extra sense of accomplishment.”

THURSDAY’S SCHEDULE (All Times Eastern)

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|-----------------|---|
| 3:00 PM-3:00 AM | Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race Practice |
| 7:00 PM | Draw for Initial Qualifications Order |
| 8:00 PM | <i>Today at the 500 presented by Thru Kaiser’s Visor Airing</i> |