

MYLAPS

INDY ELITE SERIES

Indy Elite Series

Round Twelve

Auto Club Speedway

Trackside Report

December 15, 2019

26 drivers are on the entry list for tonight's event. Each driver will be able to start the race this evening. This is the third and final Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Kokomo "Local Refresh" Triple Crown race of the season.

Adam Blocker is the points leader after eleven rounds of the Indy Elite Series, leading Henry Bennett by 159 points following the most recent race at Road America. Blocker has already clinched the championship for the 2019 fall season.

Qualifying

AJ Burton takes the pole for tonight's 150-lap race with a best lap of 31.523s, ahead of Simon Briant (31.525s), Christopher Demeritt (31.530s) and Brendan Lichtenberg (31.531s).

23 drivers posted times in qualifications, while Brandon Trost, Joe Flanagan, and David Adams did not post times but will start the race.

Trost was unable to qualify due to a mechanical issue in qualifications.

Race

LAP 1: GREEN: AJ Burton leads the field to green for the 150-lap race, and additionally, leads the first lap with Briant, Demeritt, Lichtenberg, and Henry Bennett rounding out the top five.

LAP 2: Demeritt assumes the race lead with Bennett now running second. A massive pack has developed with no noticeable breaks in the running order.

LAP 3: Bennett takes the race lead ahead of Briant, Demeritt and Burton.

LAP 5: Briant assumes the race lead ahead of Burton and Joshua Chin.

LAP 7: Chin takes the race lead ahead of Burton, Briant, Demeritt and Lichtenberg. Chin started the race 11th.

LAP 16: Chin continues to lead while Burton, Demeritt, Stofer, and Briant sit within 0.5 seconds of the lead in the top five. Richard Holt has exited the race and retired to pit lane.

LAP 17: Eight drivers are within 1 second of the race lead. Chris Stofer has climbed from 17th to third overall thus far.

LAP 21: Stofer is running second and has placed a bit of pressure on Chin in the recent laps, though the No. 93 continues to hold the lead.

LAP 26: Brandon Trost is the first driver to pit for tires and fuel.

LAP 28: Chin leads Stofer, Burton, Demeritt, and Bradley Walters. Walters has worked his way into the top-10 after starting the race ninth.

LAP 30: Leaders head to pit lane, including Chin, Stofer, Burton, and more. Stofer misses his mark on the pit lane and spends some extra time on pit lane.

LAP 32: A second round of leaders hit the pit lane, and while the second group of leaders merge back onto the track, Chin begins to battle with Lichtenberg for the race lead as Demeritt is the last of the leaders to pit.

LAP 34: Walters slides into the race lead ahead of Lichtenberg, Burton, Briant, Chin, and Quinn. Demeritt loses quite a bit of time in the pit sequence and drops outside the top-15.

LAP 36: Stofer dropped from second place to 11th as a result of the pit lane mishap.

LAP 37: Back to the race lead for Chin in the No. 93 Team Chimera machine.

LAP 41: Riley Thompson moves to second with Liam Quinn holding third as the alliance members of Chin, Thompson, and Quinn lead the way. Sadi Sim Autosport teammates Walters and Briant also working nearby inside the top-10.

LAP 47: Track temperature has dropped to 79 degrees Fahrenheit as the ambient temperature is only 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

LAP 50: At the 1/3rd mark of the race, Chin continues to lead as Briant, Quinn, Burton, and Andrew Wood round out the top five. Six drivers are within 1 second of the lead while 13 drivers are within 2 seconds of the lead. Chin has led 39 laps thus far.

LAP 51: Tim Doyle has worked his way from 20th to fifth at the moment.

LAP 53: Doyle up to P2 to battle with Chin, leading Burton, Wood and Quinn at the moment.

LAP 57: Brandon Trost exits the race after 56 laps completed, which will result in a 25th-place finish.

LAP 61: Leaders Chin, Burton and Stofer head to the pit lane. Chin has an issue on pit lane that eventually pushes him to the tail end of the top-10 after the pit stop sequence cycles through.

LAP 62: Wood, Lichtenberg, Walters, Doyle, Briant, and Showen all hit the pit lane. Seven drivers have yet to pit thus far. Joe Flanagan has exited the race.

LAP 63: Quinn and Simpson head to pit lane.

LAP 64: Thompson, Demeritt, Bennett, and Kingsbury head to the pit lane to complete the pit cycle.

LAP 66: Lichtenberg assumes the race lead as Wood, Walters, Stofer and Burton all battle for position up front.

LAP 69: Chin is back into the top five and begins working on the lead group.

LAP 70: Logan Simmons has retired from the race.

LAP 72: Walters heads to the race lead as Chin follows him past Lichtenberg in a battle for the race lead.

LAP 75: At the halfway mark, 12 drivers are within 1 second of the race lead. Chin gets a run on Walters on the exit of Turn 2 and passes for the race lead into Turn 3.

LAP 76: The top five as they run: Chin, Lichtenberg, Stofer, Burton, and Walters.

LAP 79: Wood moves into P2 behind Chin while Stofer, Lichtenberg and Briant round out the top five. The first five drivers are separated by less than a half second.

LAP 89: Fighting for sixth place, Doyle and Briant make minor contact on the backstretch without causing an accident. Briant incurs a small bit of damage on the left front portion of his wing and begins to lose positions quickly.

LAP 92: Chin leads Burton and Stofer onto the pit lane to open the green flag pit window.

LAP 93: Quinn, Lichtenberg, Burton, Wood, Walters, and Briant all head to pit lane.

LAP 94: Thompson leads Kingsbury, Simpson, Bennett, and Demeritt as they stay out longer than the previous leaders. Simpson and Ensich pit at the end of Lap 95.

LAP 97: Doyle slides sideways off of Turn 2 on the exit and hangs onto the car onto the backstretch. Doyle loses a few positions but continues on in seventh place. Kingsbury is the only driver yet to pit at the moment.

LAP 98: Chin assumes the race lead as Kingsbury pits (and eventually merges back into place well). Lichtenberg, Burton, and Kingsbury are with Chin in the lead pack while Doyle, Quinn, Wood, and Thompson lead the second group.

LAP 106: Chin has led 75 laps to this point, and continues to pace Lichtenberg, Burton, and Kingsbury.

LAP 109: A total of 22 drivers are still out on track racing, with only four of the original 26 starters out of the race.

LAP 114: The top six cars are separated by less than a second as now the first and second group of leaders have merged once again.

LAP 117: Quinn and Burton make contact fighting for third place. Quinn hangs on to a sideways, sliding car but loses a slew of positions. Quinn drops to 10th while Burton continues on in third place.

LAP 119: Wood and Lichtenberg fight for second place before coming together on the exit of Turn 2. Wood hangs on to the car as well and continues on, dropping to seventh overall.

LAP 121: Chin leads Lichtenberg, Burton, Stofer and Kingsbury. Through Turn 4, Kingsbury slides up into Stofer but both drivers continue on.

LAP 123: Stofer is the first of the leaders to hit the pit lane.

LAP 124: Chin hits the pit lane for the final time, and Burton takes the lead for the moment.

LAP 125: Quinn, Burton, and Kingsbury pit from the lead group for their last round of stops.

LAP 126: Lichtenberg, Wood and four more drivers make their pit stop. Lichtenberg gets a pit road speeding penalty for being too fast on entry to the pit lane.

LAP 128: Bennett and Thompson pit and come out just as the leaders overtake them.

LAP 130: Chin leads Wood, Quinn, Stofer and Doyle. Nine cars are within one second of the lead.

LAP 132: Tony Showen works his way into the top five for the first time this evening in the No. 31 car.

LAP 135: Top five consists of Chin, Burton, Quinn, Showen and Wood, while Doyle, Stofer, Bennett, Simpson, Kingsbury and Thompson all make up the lead pack.

LAP 140: Chin and Quinn clear a small margin to the other leads as Simpson jumps to P3.

LAP 143: Kingsbury seems to catch the apron and shoots his car sideways, forcing him out of the gas and off of the lead pack.

LAP 144: Simpson challenges Chin for the race lead. Then Doyle and Simpson come together on the frontstretch, sending Simpson into the outside wall while Doyle takes a run through the grass. Doyle later tags the inside wall and both drivers' races are over – they were fighting for second.

LAP 145: Quinn and Showen draw contact on the backstretch fighting for second place, but they continue on without issue.

LAP 147: Chin, Burton and Showen go three-wide for the race lead into Turn 1 before the caution flag flies for Simpson. The No. 42 car was trying to get back to pit lane and lost control on the entry to the pit road.

CHECKERED FLAG: Joshua Chin wins the MYLAPS Indy Elite Series POWERADE Championship at Auto Club Speedway over AJ Burton, Tony Showen, Andrew Wood and Liam Quinn.

This is the second win of the season for Joshua Chin, winning previously at Sebring Raceway earlier this season. It is the 10th win in Chin's Indy Elite Series career – more than any other driver.

Ray Kingsbury, Chris Stofer, Riley Thompson, Henry Bennett and Christopher Demeritt rounded out the top-10. David Adams improved more positions than any driver in the race – 12 spots – by moving from 26th on the grid to a finishing position of 14.

Adam Blocker wins the 2019 MYLAPS Indy Elite Series fall championship by 117 points over Joshua Chin following tonight's twelfth and final round of the season.

OFFICIAL MYLAPS INDY ELITE SERIES POINT STANDINGS (Top 10)

1. Adam Blocker, 483
2. Joshua Chin, 366
3. Henry Bennett, 363
4. Ray Kingsbury, 333
5. Brendan Lichtenberg, 296
6. Andreas Eik, 280
7. Andrew Kinsella, 274
8. Simon Briant, 253
9. Christopher Demeritt, 241
10. Chris Stofer, 240

This was the final MYLAPS Indy Elite Series fall championship race. The next Indy Elite Series race will be held on January 5 at Homestead-Miami Speedway, kicking off the 2020 season sponsored by the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Kokomo. The event will be shown live by SYMTV.