

MYLAPS

INDY ELITE SERIES

Indy Elite Series

Round Eleven

Road America

Trackside Report

December 8, 2019

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

Adam Blocker is the points leader after ten rounds of the Indy Elite Series, leading Henry Bennett by 157 points following the most recent race at Kansas Speedway. As long as Blocker starts tonight's race, he will clinch the 2019-20 fall championship.

Qualifying

Henry Bennett takes the pole for tonight's 25-lap race with a best lap of 1m41.921s, ahead of Joshua Chin (1m41.959s) and Adam Blocker (1m41.984s).

23 drivers posted times in qualifications, while Bradley Walters, Marshall Stanley, Rob Powers and Dakota DiCienzo did not post a time in qualifications.

Simon Briant has an internet connection issue and missed the grid, which will force him to start from the pits.

Race

LAP 1: GREEN: Henry Bennett leads the field into Turn 1 as his Powerslide Motorsports teammate Adam Blocker follows him into second place. Tony Showen, Richard Holt, and Logan Simmons all collect in an accident a few turns into the race.

LAP 2: Adam Crane with an off-track but he holds on to his machine and jumps back in line. Bradley Walters crashes exiting Canada Corner with a heavy accident, followed by his teammate Simon Briant leaving the track surface on the final corner of the lap.

LAP 5: Bennett continues to lead Blocker (0.485s) and Chin (0.995s), followed by Flinn Lazier, Andrew Kinsella, and Riley Thompson. Andreas Eik has climbed from 14th to 10th, and Richard Holt has gone from 17th to 12th.

Dan Lee Ensich goes off the track and makes contact with the wall that puts him into the pit lane for repairs. Kinsella also has an off-track trip that loses him a couple of positions.

LAP 6: Dakota DiCienzo heads straight off after locking up the brakes, but is able to continue on. Blocker puts an over-under on his teammate Bennett and takes the race lead.

LAP 7: Drivers such as Joe Flanagan and Christopher Demeritt have already hit the pit lane for service.

LAP 8: Chin gets around Bennett on a second attempt and takes second place for the moment. David Adams also spins moments after the Chin pass – in the same place that Riley Thompson spins at Turn 5.

LAP 9: Logan Simmons exits the race with a hard accident. Drivers out of the race currently: Simmons, Demeritt, Ensich, Walters, and Showen. Blocker leads Chin by 2.596s, then Bennett (3.584s), Lazier (6.088s) and Nicklas Rasmussen (9.172s).

LAP 10: Thompson spins again (this time at Canada Corner) and Downing takes a trip through the sand trying to avoid the No. 58 machine. Leaders Blocker, Chin and Bennett all pit on the same lap – as does Lazier, Rasmussen, and Kinsella. Rasmussen endures a long pit stop for repairs apparently.

LAP 12: Flanagan and Thompson involved in an incident that results in Thompson upside down. Flanagan enters the corner too quickly and broadsides the No. 58, which sends Thompson onto his lid. Branch later spins at Turn 5 after being bumped on corner entry by David Adams.

LAP 13: Track temperature is 114 F according to Race Control. Blocker leads Chin by 1.333s, while Bennett is 4.224s back in third place. Kinsella, Lichtenberg and Lazier round out the top six.

LAP 14: Ray Kingsbury has improved from 22nd to 10th. The only other driver to make up as many positions is Marshall Stanley – from 25th to 13th. Lichtenberg, Eik, and Holt are all inside the top-10 after starting 11th, 14th and 17th, respectively.

LAP 15: Blocker's lead is down to 0.994s ahead of Chin while Bennett, Kinsella, and Lichtenberg continue to lose ground behind them.

LAP 17: Chin cuts the gap to 0.537s behind the leader Blocker as the pit window begins to open for drivers who pitted early. John Downing spins off the track and makes significant front-end impact.

LAP 18: Henry Bennett, Andreas Eik, and AJ Burton onto pit lane as the leaders continue to stay out.

LAP 19: Chin down just 0.336s to the leader now – until Turn 1 where Chin clips the curb to upset his car, displaying a big slide but saving the car with only losing about a second. Chin subsequently pits as Blocker is left on-track all alone.

LAP 20: Lazier onto pit lane as Blocker stays out for another lap.

LAP 21: Blocker comes to pit lane for his final stop of the race. The Powerslide driver comes out in front of Chin by a little under 2 seconds to keep the race lead.

LAP 23: Blocker leads Chin by 2.187s, while Bennett, Kinsella, and Lazier round out the top five.

LAP 24: Blocker's lead is up to 2.421s over Chin, followed by Bennett (9.864s) and then Kinsella and Lazier, more than 25 seconds back.

LAP 25: WHITE FLAG – Blocker leads Chin by 3.073s on the final lap of the race. After an early spin – and having to start from the pits - Simon Briant has climbed into the top-10.

CHECKERED FLAG: Adam Blocker wins the MYLAPS Indy Elite Series Grand Prix of Road America over Joshua Chin, Henry Bennett, Andrew Kinsella and Flinn Lazier. Joe Branch spins on the final lap and Marshall Stanley runs out of gas on the final uphill straightaway.

This is the fourth win of the season for Adam Blocker, and he has officially clinched the 2019 MYLAPS Indy Elite Series fall championship for the 2019-20 season. The victory is Blocker's fifth career MYLAPS Indy Elite Series win.

Brendan Lichtenberg, Richard Holt, Adam Crane, Andreas Eik, and Simon Briant rounded out the top-10. Ray Kingsbury, who started 22nd, made up more spots from his starting position than any other driver after finishing 12th – though Briant did have to start from the pits after internet issues before finishing 10th in the end.

Adam Blocker leads the 2019 MYLAPS Indy Elite Series fall championship by 159 points over Henry Bennett following tonight's eleventh round of the season.

Adam Blocker, Winner: "It was a really good race. Qualified third within a tenth of Henry and Josh, but I don't think I had more than that so I was happy with third. I was on a lower-downforce trim than Henry and Josh, so it was going to be tough for me if I was behind a lot of cars, but obviously I had a big straight-line advantage."

On catching Bennett for the race lead: "I got close enough where I was on his gearbox in (Turns) 1 and 3, and used push-to-pass into Turn 5, then did a switchback and got (Bennett) into Turn 6. After that, Henry and Josh helped me out a little bit because they fought and lost a little bit of

time. Josh was then faster than me, because he caught me from three seconds back. He had a slide that cost him a chance, but I had more push-to-pass saved up on him, so even if he got past me, with the straight-line advantage I think I could have gotten him back.”

Joshua Chin, Second Place: “I was pretty happy with how the race went... I knew I was at a straight-line deficit to Adam and Henry, and it was going to be a struggle all night, and it showed from Lap 1 with that back-and-forth... having them battle each other. I finally got around Henry and it was working out nicely, but I had to use up a little more push-to-pass to do that than I probably should of, and it left me hanging out dry for the second lap of the race.”

Henry Bennett, Third Place: “I know the car had the speed but I think I made the wrong choice on downforce. Adam went low downforce and I went with high downforce because the track temperature shot up just before the race, so I thought I would be safe with high downforce. But I just couldn’t do anything with Adam on the straights.”

About his outlook on the finishing position entering the race: “I was just looking to finish – a good top-five finish or a top-three since I have had a bad run since mid-season. Really (have) not scored much at all with DNFs and mistakes, so I am happy to get onto the podium.”

OFFICIAL MYLAPS INDY ELITE SERIES POINT STANDINGS (Top 10)

1. Adam Blocker, 483
2. Henry Bennett, 324
3. Ray Kingsbury, 281
 Brendan Lichtenberg, 281
5. Andrew Kinsella, 274
6. Joshua Chin, 273
7. Andreas Eik, 261
8. Frank Levick IV, 233
9. Simon Briant, 219
10. Chad Simpson, 214

The final MYLAPS Indy Elite Series fall championship race will be held on Sunday, December 15 as the championship ends at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, California for the twelfth round of the 2019 fall season. The race will be shown live by SYMTV.