



Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series

Round One

Homestead-Miami Speedway

Trackside Report

January 5, 2020

36 drivers are on the entry list for tonight's event, which means three drivers will not start this evening's Triptacular Memories Miami 225. This is the first Triptacular Memories Triple Crown race of the season. The race is scheduled for 150 laps.

Qualifying

Chris Cahoe takes the pole for this evening's race at Homestead-Miami Speedway with a best lap of 24.324s, just ahead of Bradley Walters (24.334) and Henry Bennett (24.353) for the top spot. The first 14 drivers in qualifying are separated by less than one tenth of a second.

36 drivers posted times in qualifications, and Gabriel Perez, Brendan Lichtenberg, and Cristian Otarola were not quick enough to qualify for the race. AJ Burton was the last driver (33rd) to make it into the field on time with a lap of 24.521s – less than two tenths of a second off of the pole sitter's time.

Race

LAP 1: GREEN: Chris Cahoe leads the field into Turn 1 ahead of Bennett and Walters. Bennett, Walters and David Adams pressure Cahoe right from the start of the race.

LAP 8: Chris Stofer climbs from 17th on the grid to 9th place at the moment, the quickest climb through the field at the moment.

LAP 9: Bradley Walters, running in second place, clips the apron and spins to the inside wall on the exit of Turn 4, making heavy contact. Walters' night is over and he will finish 33rd.

LAP 15: AJ Burton has climbed from 33rd on the grid to 15th overall, the new highest climber early on.

LAP 16: The top 11 cars are separated by less than a second from the leader. Stofer is challenging Cahoe at the moment on the outside though there has yet to be a driver to overcome the pole sitter thus far.

LAP 18: Simon Briant, running 6th, has a slight contact with the wall but continues on without issue.

LAP 20: Andreas Eik spins into the inside wall on the exit of Turn 2 and makes heavy contact, followed just a few seconds later by Charles Anti in a similar accident. Both drivers would retire, finishing 31st (Eik) and 32nd (Anti), though no caution flag would fly.

LAP 22: Riley Thompson slides sideways on the exit of Turn 2 but is able to slow his car down enough to avoid contact with the inside wall – continuing without a caution flag.

LAP 24: Adam Blocker takes the lead away from Cahoe on the entry to Turn 3 and leads the lap. Cahoe takes the lead right back on the next lap.

LAP 26: Cahoe and Blocker continue to swap the lead, with Joe Branch, Tim Doyle and Chris Stofer rounding out the top five at the moment.

LAP 28: Liam Quinn and Logan Simmons fall to a similar fate as other drivers, oversteering on the exit of Turn 2 and hitting the inside wall. Simmons would finish 29th while Quinn is to be placed 30th.

LAP 30: Branch and Blocker now battling for the lead, followed by Doyle, Stofer and Cahoe.

LAP 32: Branch officially holds the race lead.

LAP 38: Blocker leads Branch, Doyle, Stofer and Cahoe as the first round of green flag pit stops begins.

LAP 40: Shannon Caudill and Joe Flanagan both spin right at the entry to pit lane as drivers locked up their brakes.

LAP 41: CAUTION: Brian Carey spins entering pit lane and brings out a yellow flag while stopping on the access road.

LAP 44: Brian Carey has retired from the race and will finish 28th.

LAP 46: RESTART: Philip Kraus will lead Dakota DiCienzo, Blocker, Chad Simpson and Branch to green. With Ray Kingsbury running sixth, Last Lap Motorsports has three cars in the first six spots.

LAP 50: Blocker takes the lead ahead of Branch, Kraus, Simpson, Doyle and Burton. The top nine drivers are separated by less than a second at the race's one-third mark.

LAP 57: Firestone reports the track temperature at 82 degrees Fahrenheit. The ambient temperature is 78 degrees.

LAP 64: As Branch and Blocker continue to swap for the lead, Burton, Kraus and Doyle round out the top five. Jason Brophy is up to sixth, followed by DiCienzo, Kingsbury, Simpson and Stofer.

LAP 68: On the exit of Turn 4, Andrew Kinsella and DiCienzo nearly touch for an accident but continue on without much issue.

LAP 71: Tim Doyle takes the lead from Joe Branch, leading Blocker, Brophy and Kraus in the top five.

LAP 75: Brophy moves into third place, climbing from a 14th-place starting position on the grid. Blocker moves back to fourth place.

LAP 80: Green flag pit stops begin for the leaders, with Chris Stofer being the first of the front runners to hit the pit lane.

LAP 85: Rob Powers slides through the grass on the access road while trying to enter pit lane, though no caution for the issue.

LAP 86: Doyle, Brophy, Blocker, Stofer and Branch cycle back to the top five once green flag pit stops conclude.

LAP 92: The first three cars have broken away from an approximate 10-car pack battling for fourth place on back. Brophy leads Blocker and Doyle in the first group.

LAP 100: The leading trio begin to work their way through lapped traffic while the trailing group of cars in the top ten still try to reel in the current podium drivers.

LAP 101: Scott Corbin has retired and will finish 27th.

LAP 106: The lapped car of Caleb Weekley makes contact with the outside wall in Turn 4 but continues on without much issue.

LAP 109: The leading trio of Doyle, Blocker and Brophy are more than four seconds ahead of the second challenging group.

LAP 117: A few cars have pitted for the final time of the race, though none of the leaders are taking a chance just yet.

LAP 118: Stofer and Briant are the first of the leaders to hit the pit lane.

LAP 123: Doyle and Blocker both hit pit lane as Brophy stays out to lead on his own.

LAP 124: Brophy hits the pit lane for his final green flag stop of the evening, pitting from the lead.

LAP 126: Brophy comes out ahead of Doyle and Blocker at the conclusion of their green flag pit cycle, commencing a three-car battle for the race's final stage.

LAP 135: CAUTION: A multi-car accident involves Andrew Kinsella, AJ Burton and Ray Kingsbury, Kingsbury drifts up into Burton, making contact which eventually cleans out Kinsella as well. The drivers were fighting for sixth place; Kingsbury continues on while Kinsella (25th) and Burton (26th) end their nights early.

LAP 140: RESTART: Brophy leads Doyle to the green ahead of Kingsbury, Bennett and Simpson.

LAP 143: Brophy continues to lead as Doyle and Stofer apply immense pressure on the race lead.

LAP 145: CAUTION: Adam Blocker's night ends in the Turn 2 fencing in an accident with Ray Kingsbury. Appeared that Kingsbury and Thompson had a netcode issue which unsettled Kingsbury's car, then colliding with Blocker. Blocker's night would end in 24th place while Kingsbury will place 20th.

CHECKERED FLAG: Jason Brophy wins the season-opening Triptacular Memories 225 at Homestead-Miami Speedway to begin the Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series 2020 season. Chris Stofer and Tim Doyle round out the podium. Brophy led 31 laps en route to victory, second only to Blocker (47).

This is the first win of Brophy's Indy Elite Series career – in his first career start. He is a former race winner in the FUEL Racing League, winning in September at Pocono Raceway.

Tony Showen, who finished 7th, made up 18 positions on his grid starting spot of 25th.

DRIVER QUOTES:

Jason Brophy, First Place: "I am pretty much speechless, to be honest. I never in a million years would have guessed that I could pull off a win in my first (Indy Elite Series) race. I just wanted to finish, to run well. It was a really clean race... but I would have never guessed in a million years that I could be out front, so, speechless."

Chris Stofer, Second Place: "I definitely had something for (the leaders). I had a plan for the last lap, last turn kind of thing, but the caution flag came out and sealed it for second. I'll take second (place) for the first race of the season."

OFFICIAL COCA-COLA of KOKOMO ELITE SERIES POINT STANDINGS (Top 10)

1. Jason Brophy, 101
2. Chris Stofer, 80
3. Tim Doyle, 71
4. Joe Branch, 65
5. Henry Bennett, 60
6. Riley Thompson, 56
7. Tony Showen, 52
8. Philip Kraus, 48
9. Chad Simpson, 44
10. Chris Cahoe, 42

The next Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series race will be held on Sunday, January 12 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway for the Coca-Cola 150. The event will be shown live by SYMTV.