



Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series

Round Nine

Barber Motorsports Park

Trackside Report

March 29, 2020

34 drivers will be on the grid for this evening's Elite Grand Prix of Alabama. The race is scheduled for 43 laps. Philip Kraus is the points leader after eight rounds completed in the 2020 Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series season.

Qualifying

Zachary Campbell takes the pole for this evening's race at Barber Motorsports Park, just ahead of Adam Blocker, Henry Bennett, and Eric O'Connor in the first two rows.

39 drivers posted times in qualifications, and Aaron Roufs, Coen Evans, Dakota DiCienzo, Caleb Weekley, and Dan Lee Ensich were not quick enough to qualify for the race.

Ray Kingsbury will start the race from the back of the pack with an end-of-line penalty, and Joshua Chin was forced to start the race from the pits due to technical issues.

Race

The air temperature is 75 degrees Fahrenheit and the track temperature is 88 degrees Fahrenheit, according to Firestone.

LAP 1: GREEN: Zac Campbell leads the field to green but a series of multi-car crashes ends the night early for multiple cars before reaching the start/finish line.

Adam Blocker, Joe Flanagan, Tony Showen, Flinn Lazier, Henry Bennett, Eric O'Connor, Ray Kingsbury, Simon Briant, Marshall Stanley, and Brendan Lichtenberg are all involved with significant damage.

The race is under full course yellow conditions. In the accident sequence, Chin took to the pit lane and was incorrectly marked a lap down. He was allowed to bypass the pace car to be scored on the correct lap for the ensuing restart.

LAP 4: RESTART: Campbell leads the field back to green flag conditions. Christian Steele is up to P2, and Clark Archer had an off-track issue in Turn 2 without collecting any additional cars.

Chris Cahoe and Josh Chin end up together in the downhill Turn 11 complex and make contact to push them off-track. Cahoe takes a tow back to pit lane and retires from the race.

LAP 6: The five as we run currently include the leader Campbell, then Steele (-2.2s), Riley Thompson (-3.4s), Andreas Eik (4.5s) and Frank Levick (-7.9s).

LAP 8: A multi-car accident in the Turn 11 complex involves Bradley Walters, Charles Anti, Joshua Chin, Adam Crane, Matt Kingsbury, and Ray Kingsbury.

Anti and Matt Kingsbury have retired from the race. Out of 34 original starters, only 23 are left running on-track.

LAP 11: Walters has exited the race with 10 laps completed. He will finish 23rd overall.

LAP 12: Brief off-track excursion for Andrew Wood, currently running 15th.

LAP 13: Campbell continues to lead the race by 4.4 seconds over Steele, followed by Thompson, Eik and Levick in the top five. Bryan Carey, Andrew Kinsella, Philip Kraus, John Downing, and Henry Bennett in the top ten.

LAP 14: Jason Brophy takes a trip off-track all on his own and re-joins the race in 22nd place.

LAP 15: Levick makes a pass on Eik for fourth place, now 12 seconds back of the race leader in Campbell.

LAP 18: Campbell pacing the field ahead of Steele, Thompson, Levick, Eik, Kinsella, Carey, Kraus, Bennett, and Downing in the top ten.

LAP 19: Frank Levick is the first leader to hit the pit lane for a scheduled green flag pit stop.

LAP 20: Quinn gets around Downing in Turn 5 for P10. Steele visits pit lane for service from P2, moving Thompson to the second place.

LAP 22: Thompson comes to pit lane for service, as does the race leader Campbell. Andreas Eik becomes the race leader.

LAP 23: Kinsella, Eik, Chin, Espitee, and Perez all visit the pit lane for service.

Lap 24: Bennett, Carey pit for tires and fuel, leaving Kraus as the only driver in the lead group who has yet to pit in this round of green flag stops.

LAP 25: Kraus surrenders the lead by visiting pit lane, putting Campbell back into the race lead on Lap 25. Steele is 6.2 seconds behind Campbell, running in second, followed by Thompson, Levick and Eik.

LAP 27: Kinsella takes a quick trip off-track and concedes sixth place to Kraus.

LAP 28: Kinsella yields P7 to Bennett and he now drops to P8.

LAP 29: Levick makes a clean pass on Thompson for P3 into the downhill Turn 5 section. Levick started the race 10th on the grid and has moved up seven positions.

LAP 33: Chin has worked his way into the top ten after a difficult race starting from the back. Currently P10 with 10 laps remaining in the race.

LAP 35: Campbell safely leads ahead of Steele, Levick, Thompson and Eik in the top five. Eight laps remain in the race and Campbell is ahead of P2 by more than 14 seconds.

LAP 39: Frank Levick has to pit for fuel, forfeiting third place. He will drop back to 10th. Thompson moves up into the podium position.

LAP 40: Eik passes Thompson for third place, and now the Team Talent driver has his chance at a podium finish. Campbell pits from the lead and holds the lead through the cycle. Steele has to pit from second place for fuel, and he drops back to fifth place.

LAP 45: CHECKERED: Zachary Campbell wins the Elite Grand Prix of Alabama from Barber Motorsports Park. The margin of victory is 19.139 seconds over Andreas Eik and Philip Kraus on the podium.

Kraus passed Thompson on the final lap of the race to reach the podium, Kinsella finished seventh after starting 20th, and Chin moved up to 9th as part of a challenging charge from the back.

It is the first win of the 2020 season for Campbell, leading 41 of the 43 laps along the way. This is the fifth time Campbell has won a Coca-Cola of Kokomo Indy Elite Series round – his first since an October 2019 triumph at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

Philip Kraus retains the points lead and paces the field by 70 points over Henry Bennett. Jason Brophy, Joe Branch and Andrew Kinsella round out the current top five in point after nine completed rounds.

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

1. Philip Kraus, 375
2. Henry Bennett, 305
3. Jason Brophy, 249
4. Joe Branch, 222
5. Andrew Kinsella, 212
6. Riley Thompson, 200
7. Andreas Eik, 198
8. Tony Showen, 194
9. Adam Blocker, 193
10. Frank Levick, 191

The next Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series race will be held on Sunday, April 5 at the Long Beach Street Circuit for the Elite Long Beach Grand Prix. The event will be shown live by SYMTV.