



## Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series

*Round Seven  
Iowa Speedway*

Trackside Report  
March 8, 2020

37 drivers are on the entry list for this evening's Alzheimer's Association 160. The race is scheduled for 160 laps.

Philip Kraus takes an 86-point lead into tonight's event, leading Henry Bennett, Jason Brophy, Joe Branch and Chad Simpson in the top five of this season's championship standings.

### **Qualifying**

Andreas Eik takes the pole for this evening's race at Iowa Speedway, just ahead of Riley Thompson and Liam Quinn for the top spot.

36 drivers posted times in qualifications, and Rob Powers and Bradley Walters were not quick enough to qualify for the race. Niles Anders was the 37<sup>th</sup> driver on the entry list, but did not post a qualifying time.

### **Race**

The air temperature is 71 degrees Fahrenheit and the track temperature is 74 degrees Fahrenheit, according to Firestone.

LAP 1: GREEN: Andreas Eik and Riley Thompson leads the field to green to start the 160-lap contest at Iowa Speedway this evening. Eik gets a good start and is first to Turn 1 before a massive multi-car accident on the first lap.

Adam Crane, Bryan Carey, Gabriel Perez, Chad Simpson, and Frank Levick are all involved, with Simpson and Perez sustaining the most damage. Simpson, Carey and Perez all retire from the race.

LAP 7: RESTART: Eik leads the field back to green flag conditions.

LAP 8: CAUTION: Henry Bennett takes second place from Riley Thompson as Frank Levick spins on the frontstretch to bring out the yellow flag. He had some damage on the right side of the car that likely prompted the spin at high speed.

LAP 11: A slew of cars hit the pit lane for service. Most of the leaders will stay out, though, to retain track position.

LAP 15: RESTART: Eik continues to lead with Bennett and Thompson behind. Andrew Wood has held position in fourth place.

LAP 16: Bennett takes the lead from Eik while the two drivers continue to battle in the grippy late-afternoon conditions.

LAP 21: The first six drivers are separated by less than one second of the lead. Bennett leads Eik, Thompson, Wood, and Liam Quinn in the top five.

LAP 22: Ray Kingsbury, Logan Simmons and Flinn Lazier have a run-in on the frontstretch that brings damage to all three cars, though no caution flag flies.

LAP 28: Wood takes third place from Thompson.

LAP 29: Joe Flanagan hits pit lane after understeering off of Turn 4 and making heavy contact with the right side.

LAP 35: CAUTION: Coen Evans spins in the middle of Turns 3 and 4 while on the apron, and while sitting in the middle of the track, Simon Briant is collected by Evans and makes heavy contact with the outside wall on the exit of Turn 4. Joe Flanagan was also clipped by Evans, just as he was re-joining the race after pitting.

LAP 36: The leaders hit pit lane under yellow flag conditions. Bennett retains the lead while Wood drops to eighth place following a mistake on pit lane.

LAP 40: RESTART: Bennett paces the field to another restart, with 120 laps remaining in the race.

LAP 42: Bennett continues to defend the low line as Eik badgers him for the lead on the high side. Quinn, Thompson, Adam Blocker and Chris Cahoe are also in-tow.

LAP 44: John Downing spins off of Turn 2 and makes rear-end contact with the inside SAFER Barrier. No caution flag displayed.

LAP 50: Clark Archer is well off of the pace and brings his car to pit lane with aero damage.

LAP 57: Bennett continues to narrowly lead Eik by 0.4 seconds, while Quinn, Blocker, and Cahoe are more than a second behind the lead.

LAP 64: Adam Blocker and Liam Quinn come together battling for third place, making contact between the two cars (Blocker also with the wall). With substantial damage, Blocker attempted to bring the car off of the track, but the car wiggles out of control and makes heavy contact with Brendan Lichtenberg on the entry to Turn 3. Both Blocker and Lichtenberg retire from the race.

LAP 67: Eik gets around Bennett for the race lead on pit lane as the leaders come down pit road for service.

LAP 69: Tony Showen started the race in 33<sup>rd</sup> and has moved into 10<sup>th</sup>.

LAP 70: RESTART: Eik gets the race restarted with Bennett running behind him, followed by Quinn, Cahoe and Wood in the top five.

LAP 71: Bennett takes the lead back from Eik, passing on the low side exiting Turn 2.

LAP 74: The first seven cars in the lead group are separated by less than one second.

LAP 77: Kraus into fifth place after making a pass on Wood.

LAP 78: Chris Stofer has gone from 31<sup>st</sup> on the grid to seventh place now.

LAP 85: Now just three cars within the lead – Bennett, the leader, plus Eik and Cahoe. Quinn, Kraus, Stofer and Wood in the next group battling.

LAP 92: CAUTION: Stofer and Wood make contact on the exit of Turn 2 that pushes Stofer into the wall with heavy contact. Stofer retires from the race shortly thereafter. Riley Thompson has an issue and also retires from the race.

LAP 98: RESTART: Only 18 cars running on-track after starting with a full field of 33. Bennett leads Eik and the rest of the field to green. Kraus gets loose exiting Turn 2 and loses many spots on the restart.

LAP 105: Chris Cahoe takes second place away from Eik. Quinn begins to apply pressure to Eik for third place, along with Kraus, Wood and Matt Kingsbury.

LAP 109: Cahoe fighting side-by-side with Bennett for the top spot now, the first time Bennett has been pressured by a driver other than Eik for the lead.

LAP 117: Bennett has opened up a 0.6-second lead on Cahoe, followed by Eik, Wood, Kraus, Quinn, Brophy, Kingsbury, Showen, and Joe Branch in the top-10.

LAP 137: Dakota DiCienzo spins on the exit of Turn 2 and makes heavy contact with the inside wall. He was running in 11<sup>th</sup> position at the time of the accident.

LAP 138: The leaders come down pit road for service. Bennett is first off, followed by Kraus, Brophy, Eik, and Kingsbury.

LAP 142: Bennett leads the field to green for what would be the final restart of the race.

LAP 147: Kraus applies heavy pressure to Bennett for the lead, but the No. 007 car is too good on the low line and holds the lead. Brophy begins to challenge Kraus for P2.

LAP 150: Brophy and Kraus nearly touch on the exit of Turn 4 while battling for position.

LAP 154: Brophy drops back to P4.

LAP 157: Bennett has extended his lead to nearly a second on Kraus in the race's final moments.

LAP 160: CHECKERED: Henry Bennett wins the Alzheimer's Association 160 at Iowa Speedway by 0.420 seconds over Philip Kraus. Jason Brophy finished third, coming from the 20<sup>th</sup> starting position on the grid.

It is the first win of the 2020 season for Bennett, leading 140 of the 160 laps along the way. This is the fourth time Bennett has won a Coca-Cola of Kokomo Indy Elite Series round.

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

1. Philip Kraus, 330
2. Henry Bennett, 257
3. Jason Brophy, 233
4. Joe Branch, 196
5. Chad Simpson, 174
6. Tony Showen, 170
7. Chris Stofer, 169
8. Chris Cahoe, 165
9. Adam Blocker, 163  
Riley Thompson, 163

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The next Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series race will be held on Sunday, March 22 at Kentucky Speedway for the Kentucky Elite 225. The event will be shown live by SYMTV.