



# Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series

*Round Twelve*

*Indianapolis Motor Speedway*

Trackside Report

May 3, 2020

35 drivers will be on the grid for this evening's Indy Elite Series Indianapolis 500. The race is scheduled for 200 laps. Philip Kraus is the points leader after 11 rounds completed in the 2020 Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series season, leading Henry Bennett by 81 points.

## Qualifying

Chris Cahoe grabbed the pole for today's 500-mile race after winning the Fast Nine Shootout last weekend. His four-lap average speed was 231.5113mph, just ahead of Jason Brophy's four-lap average of 231.4294mph.

33 drivers posted times in qualifications, and professional drivers Tony Kanaan and Kyle Kaiser will also be joining the field this evening to make for a 35-car grid.

Matt Pawelski and Liam Quinn will start from the rear of the field for tonight's race due to penalties from the Circuit of the Americas round.

## Race

The air temperature is 70 degrees Fahrenheit and the track temperature is 113 degrees Fahrenheit, according to Firestone.

LAP 1: GREEN: Chris Cahoe leads the field to green and the full field makes its way through the first few corners without issue.

LAP 4: YELLOW: Matt Pawelski is hit by Gabriel Perez and spins into Philip Kraus on the frontstretch to bring out the first caution of the day. Jason Brophy is the leader at the moment.

LAP 5: Drivers towards the middle and rear of the field come down the pit lane for service while the leaders remain on the track.

LAP 6: GREEN: Brophy leads the field back to green for the second time of the day. All drivers safely come up to speed and Chris Stofer assumes the lead.

LAP 10: Stofer leads Austin Espitee, Brophy, Andrew Wood and Chad Simpson in the top five. The first 11 cars are running within one second of the leader.

LAP 13: CAUTION: Bradley Walters gets loose when his car hits the rumble strips and drifts into Adam Blocker, which puts Blocker in the Turn 4 wall. Blocker then collects John Downing in the carnage.

LAP 17: GREEN: Liam Quinn leads the field to green ahead of Kyle Kaiser, Austin Espitee and Andrew Wood.

LAP 18: Kaiser drops from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> on the first lap of the restart with front wing damage.

LAP 20: Zachary Campbell is up to fourth place from 17<sup>th</sup> on the grid.

LAP 22: Espitee and Stofer continue to swap draft for the lead while Campbell runs in third.

LAP 23: Firestone reports that the track temperature is up to 118 degrees Fahrenheit and the air temperature is 71 degrees Fahrenheit.

LAP 25: CAUTION: Ray Kingsbury spins to the inside of the track and collects Chad Simpson. Simpson slides down the backstretch and collects Joshua Chin and Joe Branch. Other cars later involved include David Adams, Kyle Kaiser, Tony Kanaan, Philip Kraus, Riley Thompson, Gabriel Perez, and Rob Powers.

LAP 29: GREEN: Bradley Walters leads the field to green. 25 cars are on the lead lap while Philip Kraus, Matt Kingsbury, Kyle Kaiser, Chad Simpson, David Adams, Rob Powers, John Downing, Adam Blocker and Matt Pawelski are out of the race.

LAP 33: Campbell leads in the front group with Espitee, Wood, AJ Burton and Andrew Kinsella.

LAP 39: Early risers in the race: Campbell from 17<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, Burton from 18<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, Flinn Lazier from 32<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, Walters from 21<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> and Quinn from 35<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

LAP 44: Espitee continues to lead ahead of Wood, Campbell, Burton and Kinsella.

LAP 50: Drivers moving through green flag pit cycles now.

LAP 56: Espitee pits from the lead, giving Campbell the lead. Burton, Kinsella, Cahoe and Lazier tailing them in the top five.

LAP 58: Campbell comes to pit lane, forfeiting the lead to Burton.

LAP 59: Burton, Kinsella, Brophy among the drivers who have hit the pit lane. Bennett and Stofer now lead ahead of Adam Crane.

LAP 60: Bennett pits from the lead, bringing Stofer, Crane, and Eik with him to the pit lane.

LAP 63: Espitee and Wood are swapping at the front with Wood and Burton running with them in the top four.

LAP 65: Campbell and Burton have moved to the point while Espitee, Wood, Quinn, and Kinsella trail them. The front group is composed of nine drivers.

LAP 68: Track temperature is 122 degrees Fahrenheit and the ambient temperature is 71 degrees, according to Firestone.

LAP 72: Burton leading Campbell, Espitee, and Lazier in the front four. First six cars are within one second of the leader, while the first eight are within two seconds.

LAP 76: Espitee and Lazier have a bit of a run in between Turns 1 and 2, but both drivers continue on without too much issue. Espitee drops to P6 while Lazier rides in P3.

LAP 83: There are 22 cars still on-track, with Bradley Walters running one lap down. Campbell and Burton lead the race ahead of Lazier, Wood and Espitee.

LAP 85: Wood is the first leader to pit, coming in from P4. Walters has unlapped himself and passed Campbell.

LAP 88: Campbell, Quinn, Espitee and Lazier all pit at the same time. Burton, Cahoe, Brophy and Stofer lead the race now.

LAP 90: Burton pits from the lead. Eik now leads ahead of Brophy and Crane.

LAP 94: Eik has pitted and Campbell now leads Lazier, Burton, Wood, Quinn, Cahoe, Kinsella, Espitee, Walters and Brophy in the top ten.

LAP 98: Track temperature has risen to 124 degrees Fahrenheit. Campbell, Lazier, Burton, Quinn, Wood, Cahoe, Espitee leading.

LAP 100: Campbell is the leader at halfway. Eight drivers are within two seconds of the lead.

LAP 103: Lazier, Campbell and Burton are racing very tightly for the lead, all separated by less than a tenth of a second the last time by the start/finish line.

LAP 106: CAUTION: Wood hits the wall exiting Turn 1 and collides with Walters. Both drivers have enough damage to exit the race.

LAP 107: All cars come to pit lane for service. 18 cars on the lead lap currently. Lazier, Campbell, Burton, Espitee, and Cahoe are first drivers off of pit lane.

LAP 110: GREEN: Lazier leads the field back to green. All cars get through the first lap cleanly.

LAP 114: Stofer jumps from P7 to P2 in one lap and is attacking Cahoe.

LAP 115: CAUTION: Campbell has internet issues and ends up in the wall, tumbling down the frontstretch.

LAP 116: All drivers hit pit lane except for Chris Cahoe, Tony Showen and Henry Bennett. Stofer, Burton, Lazier and Kinsella are first off of pit lane.

LAP 119: GREEN: Cahoe leads Showen and Bennett to the green. Stofer, Burton and Lazier are behind them.

LAP 122: Stofer leads Lazier, Cahoe, Showen and Kinsella for the top five.

LAP 124: Showen, Burton and Kinsella are battling tightly in P4 through 6. Burton and Kinsella nearly make contact but continue on through Turn 2.

LAP 130: Stofer leads Lazier, Cahoe, Showen and Kinsella. Burton, Quinn, Espitee, Brophy and Lichtenberg fill out the top ten. Bennett is P11, the final driver who stayed out.

LAP 134: Top six drivers are within one second of the race lead, and the top ten is within two seconds.

LAP 139: Lazier leads Stofer, Cahoe, Quinn and Showen in the top five. Track temperature still at 122 degrees Fahrenheit.

LAP 141: CAUTION: Kinsella pounds the wall exiting Turn 2 and then Lazier and Stofer wrecks in the North Chute, the top two drivers in the order. Quinn, Cahoe, Showen and Burton are the top four as we run under yellow.

LAP 142: Leaders come to the pit lane under caution. There are now 15 cars left on the lead lap. Burton, Cahoe, Quinn and Brophy are the first four off of the pit lane.

LAP 145: GREEN: Burton leads the field to green. Quinn and Burton battle on the first lap back to green, but the front pack is a dogfight with 10 cars within one second.

LAP 149: Burton leads Cahoe, Espitee and Brophy. Lichtenberg has moved into the top five, while Quinn, Andreas Eik, Frank Levick, Tony Showen, and Henry Bennett round out the top ten.

LAP 152: Track temperature has plummeted to 111 degrees Fahrenheit according to Firestone.

LAP 160: Burton, Cahoe, Espitee and Quinn have a small breakaway from Brophy and Showen. Eik is a bit further back, followed by Lichtenberg, Levick and Bennett in the top ten.

LAP 166: Burton beginning to struggle a bit behind Cahoe, who leads. Espitee and Quinn are next in line, and then it is nearly a second back to Brophy and Showen in the next pack.

LAP 170: Cahoe leads Burton, Espitee and Quinn. The pit window is open to make one more stop to the end.

LAP 173: CAUTION: Carey and Lichtenberg crash exiting Turn 2, bringing out the yellow.

LAP 174: Field comes down for service, and Eik stays out on the lead lap. Eik will assume the lead since he just pitted before the yellow came out. Quinn, Cahoe, Espitee and Burton are the first four off of pit lane.

LAP 177: GREEN: Eik leads Quinn, Cahoe, Espitee and Burton to the green flag.

LAP 178: Only 14 cars running on the lead lap. That includes Lichtenberg (P13) and Kinsella (P14) running with damage.

LAP 180: Burton has hopped to the lead ahead of Quinn, Espitee and Eik. Brophy beginning to lose a bit of ground.

LAP 187: Burton and Espitee have swap-drafted for the last five laps or so, with Quinn and Eik holding steady in the top four. Showen and Cahoe holding on in the next two positions.

LAP 191: Espitee, Burton, Quinn and Eik are the contenders currently. Showen and Cahoe are battling for fifth but can't close on the lead group.

LAP 193: CAUTION: Burton clips Espitee exiting Turn 3 and brings out the caution. Quinn had just taken the lead and will be out front.

LAP 195: Quinn, Eik and Cahoe stay out while the rest of the field pits for tires. First four off pit lane: Levick, Brophy, Showen, and Bennett.

LAP 197: GREEN: Quinn, Eik and Cahoe lead the field to green on old tires ahead of Levick, Brophy and Showen.

LAP 199: CAUTION: Multi-car accident in Turn 2 ends the race under yellow, and Quinn was the leader when the yellow came out.

LAP 200: CHECKERED: Liam Quinn wins the Indy Elite Series' Fifth Annual Elite Indianapolis 500, finishing ahead of Andreas Eik and Henry Bennett on the podium. Chris Cahoe finishing fifth, and John Poole III picks up the top five finish.

Quinn led 11 of the 200 laps, and Bennett finished 30 points short of Philip Kraus in the final points standings to win the Coca-Cola of Kokomo Elite Series championship. Jason Brophy finished third in the points standings, 94 points back of Kraus.

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

1. Philip Kraus, 434
2. Henry Bennett, 404
3. Jason Brophy, 310
4. Andrew Kinsella, 299
5. Andreas Eik, 297
6. Joe Branch, 291
7. Frank Levick IV, 247
8. Chris Cahoe, 243
9. Riley Thompson, 238
10. Liam Quinn 237