



2019 Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race

Press Conference

Saturday, November 9, 2019

John Hajek-Doggett

Driver, No. 33 Team Talent Dallara IR-18 Honda

MODERATOR: Now joining us in the Media Center, today's provisional third place qualifier on Pole Day, John Hajek-Doggett. John is the driver of the No. 33 Dallara IR-18 for Team Talent. John, thanks for joining us – how was your day?

JOHN HAJEK-DOGGETT: Thanks for having me Tanner. I feel like things went about as well as I could have expected them to. The late draw, I was originally not super-duper thrilled about, but it gave me time to have some breakfast and do some practice laps and not feel rushed.

When I got out there, I'm not sure what to say, but somehow to my own surprise, I managed to put down a pretty much mistake-free run. I've been putting a lot of time into the setup and practice laps, and it certainly paid off today.

###

MODERATOR: For someone who hasn't been involved in iRacing competition – especially the Indianapolis 500 competitions – how much time, effort, and mental energy is spent on refining these setups for Speedway competition?

HAJEK-DOGGETT: I would say it is probably more than most people would think. We are definitely not talking about something like the Codemasters F1 series when it comes to the garage – this is a true simulator, and the setup permutations available are largely infinite. It is pretty amazing the number of totally different combinations that you could come across that can give you a similar lap time at the end of the day. It is literally hundreds and hundreds of hours, and hundreds

and hundreds of laps to find something that is reasonably competitive.

###

MODERATOR: What do you need out of your race trim car between now and next Sunday to be competitive in the 500 Mile Race?

HAJEK-DOGGETT: We will be definitely shifting focus to the race car for sure. I would hope that my current position will be safe through tomorrow – we will keep an eye on things, but for now I will make that bold assumption.

Got to shift focus to race testing... we are starting off with the setup we used in the official "500" in May, and I have run a few test laps with it – as have our boys at Team Talent. We are at a decent starting point I think, but definitely planning on grinding out this next week here and hitting a lot of practice sessions; doing a lot of tuning and just trying to get hyper-dialed in for where we need to be for next Sunday.