



2019 Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race

Press Conference

Sunday, November 17, 2019

Liam Quinn

Driver, No. 44 Team Talent Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet

MODERATOR: Now joining us in the Media Center, the driver of the No. 44 Team Talent Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet, Liam Quinn. Liam was our runner-up finisher today in the 2019 Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race – Liam walk us through your day that was and sum up the result.

LIAM QUINN: Yeah, thanks Tanner. I'm really happy with the finish – lets be honest. P2 is an excellent result, and anything better than that is only one position better.

The start was a bit difficult – I think we were a bit too cautious, myself and Riley (Thompson), and my first (pit) stop was a bit messy as well. But it worked out with the first caution 100 laps in, that we had kind of committed to a strategy at the front with me, Josh (Chin), and Jeff (Drake) by just going full-speed, full laps, swapping as fast as you can to get to the end.

Unfortunately, Michele just pulled off an absolutely magnificent strategy and just pipped us at the line there. I think even without the caution, he would have beaten us. At the end of the day, didn't put a foot wrong, and with P2, we will take it.

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MODERATOR: How did the balance of your car play out over the course of the 500 miles?

QUINN: The caution did split the race into two races, really. The first 100 laps was a lot more packed up with lower track temperatures. It was easy to follow, but there was some (tire) wear and we struggled quite a bit.

That second half (of the race) when we broke away, it was much hotter and I think our set really started to come to the fore. It was really difficult to actually make time (up) as much as we could because the car would slip and slide all over the place.

You would be aero-loose on the entry (of the corner), aero-tight in the middle, and then hanging on for dear life on the exit. It was a lot of fun.

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MODERATOR: Talk about the evolving track temperatures – we knew it would be hot, but were you more or less prepared than you expected to be?

QUINN: I think we were well-prepared for it, definitely. We committed to a certain strategy on the setup side, and it paid off quite well. We assumed the worst – that it would be 125 (degrees Fahrenheit) or 130 at most – so our expectations were so high on it that we could deal with it being as bad as it was.

I think it was manageable as long as you weren't caught out at any point, which is what it looked like (most) guys did because almost the entire field finished on the lead lap – which was good to see.

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MODERATOR: Talk about the standard of driving that we saw out there today. We went 500 miles



and only had two single-car accidents – were guys pretty courteous for the most part?

QUINN: It definitely seemed that way – there was no ill-will that I saw. I didn't see too many drivers in my stints – usually in Indy 500's, I tend to drop back at the start and then push my way through. Which we did at the start of the stint and we really didn't get anywhere, which is why we committed to not pitting (at the early) caution.

But the lapped cars tended to be pretty courteous, and not only got out of the way, but didn't even get involved which was nice to see. I didn't see any blocking or weaving or anything like that, so yeah, really happy.

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MODERATOR: As we close this month of November, who helped out this Team Talent entry along the way?

QUINN: All of the guys at Team Talent are to thank. Jeff (Drake) said it yesterday – we have 10 guys in the race, and every single one of them has the same goal and are all behind each other and committed to the same strategy, which is seriously helpful.

John Hajek-Doggett didn't get the result he wanted today, but he made an absolutely outstanding car and it kind of drove itself to a point. Obviously, need to thank you, Tanner, for the amazing job this month and obviously the preparation before that. And finally my teammates with Kinetic (Racing) that have really helped me in the last year or so.