

Day Three

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Practice

Welcome to the 2020 Open-Wheels 500 Mile Race presented by Mitchell Transmissions. These Daily Trackside Reports are compiled for the media's use, as well as for official record-keeping for Open-Wheels Motorsports Sanctioning. Tanner Watkins, president of the Open-Wheels 500 Mile Race, is here to assist you and answer your questions during the month of November.

This is the second edition of the Open-Wheels 500 Mile Race Daily Trackside Report, but the tradition of these reports comes via the Indianapolis 500. The Daily Trackside Report was first distributed at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1967, and this year's event featured the 54th edition of the "DTR." As mentioned on the first page of the 1967 Daily Trackside Report, "This press information has been compiled as an added source of your information in your coverage of the '500.' It is our sincere wish that it will be of assistance in your assignment."

Timing and scoring links may be found at <https://open-wheels.com/timing/> where up-to-the-second lap times and speeds will be posted.

Feature stories, reports, driver quotes and notes, and photos will be posted on the Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race Media Site, <https://open-wheels.com/media/> where detailed information, including media advisories and audio/video clippings, are also posted. Updates will also be provided on Twitter via @OpenWheels500. Media information will also be distributed via the official Open-Wheels.com 500 Mile Race Discord server. Contact Open-Wheels Motorsports Sanctioning (Media@Open-Wheels.com) to be added to the Discord server.

TUESDAY'S SCHEDULE (All Times Eastern)

1:00-9:00 PM Open-Wheels 500 Mile Race Practice (OWTV)
8:00 PM *Qualifications Draw Special on RaceSpot TV*

ENTRY UPDATES

- A handful of drivers are not eligible to take to the track as they have not accepted the league invite to Open-Wheels Motorsports Sanctioning on the iRacing site. These drivers are: #82 Nathan Byrd, #81 Frederick Campbell, #38 Brian Greenlee, #222 Christian Macrelli, #718 Michael O'Hora, and #77 Thales Toledo.

OPEN-WHEELS 500 MILE RACE PRACTICE

- 1:00 PM – **GREEN**. The Speedway is open for practice for all entrants.
- 1:05 PM – Cesare Manzato, Christopher Kresge, and Jalberillo Garcia are the first drivers to take to the Speedway today.
- 1:28 PM – Jesper Öhrman places his No. 87 3-Crowns Racing machine at the top of the board early on with a best lap of 38.885s.
- 1:40 PM – Micael Hagstrom joins Öhrman under the 39-second range with a best lap of 38.991s. Hagstrom has completed 31 laps today.
- 1:54 PM – Dave Steadman is out on-track for the first time today. He has been one of the more active participants in practice this week, and posts a best lap early on of 39.187s.
- 1:56 PM – Nehuen Flores moves to P4 with a best lap of 38.965s in his DM eSport machine. There are now four drivers with laps under 39 seconds.
- 1:58 PM – AJ Musselman, who has had a strong week on the time sheets, goes P2 with a lap of 38.902s.
- 2:50 PM – Musselman moves to the top of the charts with a lap of 38.796 seconds, followed by Flores (38.821s) and Öhrman (38.885s).
- 4:30 PM – Fábio Vianna posts a new fastest lap in the session at 38.793 seconds, just ahead of the mark set previously by Musselman at 38.796s.
- 5:07 PM – Marco Brasil – the driver with the best lap on Tuesday, moves to P4 in the session with a lap of 38.880 seconds.
- 5:10 PM – While he is known for his draft-aided “Marco” laps, Brasil puts in a no-tow lap of 38.900 seconds – one of the better no-tow marks of the week.
- 5:33 PM – Brazilian drivers Vianna (144) and Wilson Neto (136) have completed the most laps in practice today. Neto completed more laps in practice last year (1,100) than any other driver at the Open-Wheels 500.
- 5:34 PM – Marco Brasil goes to the top of the leaderboard with a lap of 38.635 seconds, or 232.949 miles per hour.
- 6:10 PM – Evan Adams moves his All American iRacers machine to sixth overall at 38.924s.
- 6:20 PM – A total of 30 drivers have posted times thus far in today’s practice.

7:27 PM – Just after Open-Wheels TV signs off the air for the day, Ryan Schuld of JHR Racing posts the fastest time of the day at 38.604 seconds – 233.137 miles per hour.

8:00 PM – For the first time in the race's history, the qualifications draw is shown live on RaceSpot TV. Stephen Aboagye is drawn first out of 99 eligible draw participants.

8:45 PM – Raúl Alvarez has what appears to be the fastest trap speed of the day at 242.3 miles per hour.

9:00 PM – Practice concludes for Thursday of qualifications week. Ryan Schuld was fastest at 233.137 miles per hour, and a total of 2,210 laps were turned today in practice with 425 incidents accounted for.

A total of 37 cars were on-track today, and 62 cars are at the Speedway in total. Every driver appearing on-track on Thursday piloted a Dallara IR-18 chassis. There were zero yellow flag periods. The high today was 78 degrees Fahrenheit and the track temperature was at 119 degrees Fahrenheit. Winds were out of the North at 2 mph.

Cars on the track today (in order of speed): #06 Ryan Schuld, #47 Rob Powers, #812 Marco Brasil, #35 Hunter Smith, #48 Connor Baldwin, #63 Fábio Vianna, #53 AJ Musselman, #888 Nehuen Flores, #87 Jesper Öhrman, #59 Evan Adams, #61 Micael Hagstrom, #99 Cesare Manzato, #41 Niall McBride, #30 Jimmil Hawkins, #313 Dylan Freckelton, #845 Andrew Marquez, #55 Marshall Stanley, #17 Brian Barney, #16 Luis Gonzalez Nuñez, #36 Eric Peterson, #777 Christopher Kresge, #83 Andrea Giacometti, #29 Christopher Mitrision, #89 Joshua Huffine, #26 Aaron Roufs, #72 Dave Steadman, #85 Jalberillo Garcia, #96 Manuel Gomez, #32 Chris Wilhite, #33 Taylor Cox, #97 DJ Johnson, #924 Filippo Filippini, #12 Raul Alvarez, #31 Tyson Landis, #19 Craig Hawkins, #80 Wilson Neto, and #40 Justin Carey.

FASTEST TIMES/SPEEDS OF THE DAY

Pos.	Car	Name	Team	Time	Speed (mph)
1.	06	Ryan Schuld	JHR Racing	38.609s	233.106
2.	47	Rob Powers	Team Talent with Kinetic Racing	38.633	232.961
3.	812	Marco Brasil	TENT FACTORY SIMRACING	38.635	232.949
4.	35	Hunter Smith	JHR Racing	38.698	232.570
5.	48	Connor Baldwin	Happy Cow Racing	38.745	232.288
6.	63	Fábio Vianna	Black Stripe Motorsports	38.793	232.001
7.	53	AJ Musselman	Turn 4 Racing	38.796	231.983
8.	888	Nehuen Flores	DM eSport	38.821	231.833
9.	87	Jesper Öhrman	3-Crowns Racing	38.846	231.684
10.	59	Evan Adams	All American iRacers	38.924	231.220

POSTED TO OPEN-WHEELS.COM

SCHULD PACES THIRD OPEN-WHEELS 500 PRACTICE ON THURSDAY

With preparations shifting even further to Pit Lane Parley Qualifications Weekend, the drivers and teams of the second annual Open-Wheels 500-Mile Race had another eight hours of practice on iRacing's Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Thursday.

Following yesterday's session, Ryan Schuld of JHR Racing was atop the leaderboard. After posting the second-fastest lap in Tuesday's session, the No. 06 Daredevil Brewing JHR Honda clocked a best lap of 38.609 (233.106 miles per hour).

"Went after another big tow for fun and found one in Happy Hour," Schuld reflected.

"We still have some speed to find for quals. At least we think so. A busy couple days lie ahead and we'll see what we have come Saturday morning."

In second, Team Talent with Kinetic Racing's Rob Powers clocked in just .024 of a second behind Schuld, Powers also noted that he caught a big tow during his best lap.

In third, Marco Brasil led the Chevrolet-powered drivers in the field, two days after posting the fastest lap in Tuesday practice. Rounding out the first five were Schuld's teammate Hunter Smith, and Connor Baldwin for Happy Cow Racing.

Following Thursday's practice, Smith noted the challenges he and his team faced.

"Honestly it's tough to predict where we stand at the moment," he noted.

"Our Dare Devil car is very quick in the corners, but we are struggling to find the speed on the straights without unsettling the car. It's a real grind but Ryan Schuld and I are pretty happy with the work we've put in this week and look forward to Fast Friday."

The 110 participants will look to put up a big lap during "Fast Friday" in the last pre-qualifying session.

Following Thursday's on-track time, positions were drawn for Saturday's Day 1 Qualifying.

During the random draw for qualifying positions, Stephen Aboagye drew first and the rookie independent will be the first on track during Saturday morning qualifications in his Dallara-Chevrolet. In fifth, Simon Briant of Sadi Sim Autosport will be the first former iRacing Indianapolis 500 winner to attempt a run to make the field of 33.

After winning the pole for last year's inaugural running, Yang Ou will be the 30th driver to qualify. Late in the afternoon, 2019 race winner Michele Costantini will be the 95th entrant to make a qualifying attempt. Each driver will be allowed three attempts at qualifications, in keeping with past traditions at the "500".

POST-PRACTICE DRIVER QUOTES

P1. RYAN SCHULD (No. 06 JHR Racing Dallara IR-18 Honda): “Went after another big tow for fun and found one in happy hour. We still have some speed for find for Quals, at least we think so. A busy couple days ahead, and we’ll see what we have come Saturday morning!”

P2. ROB POWERS (No. 47 Team Talent with Kinetic Racing Dallara IR-18 Honda): “Sometimes it’s just fun to go out and see if you can catch a tow. I caught a good one today.”

P3. MARCO BRASIL (No. 812 TENT FACTORY SIMRACING Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet): “It was a good practice! The Chevrolet engine behaved well again. We tested some different things in the aero (department) – step 2/3 (wickers), tire calibration with the more rubberized track – but today it was only 30% different from the other session that was 50%. I believe in a very tough dispute. I’m working hard to be among the (top) 33, but it won’t be easy for high level competitors, and for equality. Thanks to TENT FACTORY SIMRACING and iRacing Setup Services that are accompanying me with two real engineers - and to the eternal and always good friend Charles Berger. This is it!”

P4. HUNTER SMITH (No. 35 JHR Racing Dallara IR-18 Honda): “Honestly it’s tough to predict where we stand at the moment. Our Dare Devil car is very quick in the corners, but we are struggling to find more top speed on the straights without unsettling the car. It’s a real grind, but Ryan Schuld and I pretty happy with the work we’ve put in this week and look forward to Fast Friday.”

P5. CONNOR BALDWIN (No. 48 Happy Cow Racing Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet): “I’ve been struggling this week to try and find a good line to run during qualifying, and I think I finally found it. Of course, having the draft always helps to get that extra tenth of a second or two you don’t get for qualifying, but I’m hoping I can make something happen on Saturday.”

P6. FABIO VIANNA (No. 63 Black Stripe Motorsports Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet): “I only have a year and a half in iRacing, so everything is somewhat new to me. I think Dallara IR18 is the most challenging car in iRacing and Indianapolis has its secrets in every part of the track, so for me every minute of practice is valid, mainly because all the drivers are very fast and Open-Wheels is a competition of the highest level. The goal today is to have a competitive and fast enough car to have an average of 4 constant and fast laps to qualify. After this first big challenge, I will work hard next week to have a good race pace and to be prepared for all situations that can occur in 200 laps. I confess that I am a little anxious about the Qualification, preparing myself mentally to keep calm and do my best at the right time, a little anxious but hopeful.”

P7. AJ MUSSELMAN (No. 53 Turn 4 Racing Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet): “It was a frustrating afternoon for the #53 AJM Consulting / AJMusselman.com Chevy Powered Dallara, and the pressure of Indianapolis is like no other event. We spent the entire day in Q-Trim because that’s all that matters at this point. We’re really struggling with getting four laps out of the tires, but we’ll give it our all on Saturday. Hoping we can find some magic during Fast Friday!”

P8. NEHUEN FLORES (No. 888 DM eSport Dallara IR-18 Chevrolet): “I was testing some setup changes for the qualy (on Thursdy). I still need to find some more speed but I think I am on the right path to have a good run on Saturday. Hopefully I will be between the 33 drivers that make the grid.”

P9. JESPER ÖHRMAN (No. 87 3-Crowns Racing Dallara IR-18 Honda): “The car feels good. I’m ready.”

P10. EVAN ADAMS (No. 59 All American iRacers Dallara IR-18 Honda): “Was just testing out the race set for the team for me, Matt (Hollibaugh) and Doug (South). We were finding it to be somewhat feisty on the right rear, so that's something that is being looked at. The fastest lap was just an aborted Q-run, and was a tow lap, so I'm not putting much stock in it. I'm expecting that Saturday and Sunday are going to be rough, but the goal is to get the Blacksite Apparel #59 Honda into the show.”

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8:00 PM *Today at the 500* Airing (OWTV)