

Next Up:

Sunday, April 27
Kansas Speedway
5:00 p.m. EST
ESPN2

*All TV times are subject
to change*

Race Report: Indy Japan 300

MOTEGI, Japan April 20, 2008—History was made in IndyCar racing at Japan's Twin Ring Motegi superspeedway when Danica Patrick used patience and team strategy to become the first woman ever to win an IndyCar race Sunday afternoon. Conserving fuel in the last quarter of the race, Patrick completed the 200 laps with one less fuel stop than most of her male competitors. Only championship points leader Helio Castroneves was on the same fuel strategy and Patrick passed him on lap 198.

Darren Manning drove one of his best oval races to date since joining A.J. Foyt's team last year and while the yellow flags worked to

Patrick's advantage, Manning wasn't so fortunate. Starting 12th according to points when qualifying was rained out, Manning



Leading a pack at Twin Ring Motegi in Japan

jumped into the top ten immediately.

He moved steadily up through field and was running sixth when he pitted during the first round of pitstops. However, the yellow came out halfway

through that cycle so the crew waved him through the pits and he had to pit again when the pits opened. He lost some track position and

was seventh on the restart. He passed Townsend Bell on the restart and ran sixth until lap 91 when another yellow (for debris) came out.

Manning pitted and maintained his sixth position

but on the restart he was passed by Patrick who also passed Ryan Briscoe for fifth.

Manning ran in seventh until he pitted again under green on lap 140 only to have the yellow wave again a lap later when Roger Yasukawa stopped on track.

The leaders pitted, putting Manning at the tail end of the lead lap. He dropped to ninth at that point but passed Bell to



A pit stop during the Indy Japan 300

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take eighth which is where he ran until the checkered flag fell.

Following Patrick and Castroneves across the line were Scott Dixon, Dan Wheldon and Tony Kanaan.

“Darren drove a good race and our ABC guys gave Darren solid pit stops but we just didn’t have any luck with the yellows,” said Team Director Larry Foyt. “Still it’s our best

run ever at this track so we’re encouraged by that.”

The IndyCar teams’ tight schedule became even tighter as the race was delayed a day by morning rain on Saturday and subsequent weeping track conditions which couldn’t be adequately repaired until late that day. The teams will leave Tokyo on Monday and arrive in Indy Monday evening, uncrate their cars and equipment and head to Kansas Speedway on Friday.

The race at Kansas Speedway will be televised live Sunday afternoon, April 27th, on ESPN2 starting at 5 pm Eastern time.