

**Vitor Meira  
Fast Facts:**

**Birthday:**

March 27, 1977

**Hometown:**

Brasilia, Brazil

**Residence:**

Indianapolis

**Height/weight:**

5'7" / 141 lbs.

Vitor Meira began racing go-karts in his native Brazil when he was 12 and won a Brazilian karting title by the time he moved to Europe to race cars in 1995, just before his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. He has also won the South American F3 title and was the inaugural winner of the Indy Racing League's Rising Star Award, given in honor of the late Tony Renna.

Away from the track, Meira is an accomplished triathlete and is often cycling on the roads around his home or running. He is also active in charitable work, becoming auto racing's first Special Olympics ambassador and holding a Brasilia Ambassador award - similar to a Golden Key Award - in Brazil.

## Vitor Meira Signs with A.J. Foyt Racing; Starts at Australia

We're happy to announce that IndyCar veteran Vitor Meira has signed to drive A.J. Foyt's No. 14 ABC Supply car beginning with the IndyCar Series event in Surfer's Paradise, Australia next month and continuing to drive through 2009, with an option for 2010.

The race in Australia is a non-points event and will give Meira and our ABC Supply team an opportunity to work together in a race before the 2009 season begins.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity to work with Vitor," said Larry Foyt, who negotiated the deal to sign Meira. "We're looking forward to getting Vitor his first win in the IndyCar Series and getting A.J. Foyt Racing back into victory lane with ABC Supply."

"We're excited to welcome Vitor to the ABC Supply team," said Keith Rozolis, ABC Supply Senior VP of Strategic Marketing. "He's a very talented driver and we're looking forward to next season."

When asked about joining the ABC Supply/A.J. Foyt Racing team

Many people would give an arm and a leg just to meet A.J. and I am getting to work with him, I think that says it all."

Foyt won't be requiring any body parts from Meira as A.J. already knows that Vitor puts his heart into every race.



The new driver of the No. 14 ABC Supply Car, Vitor Meira

"I've always admired him because he's a hard racer who charges all day long," said team owner A. J. Foyt. "He should have won a lot of races but he hasn't had the best luck. I believe we can

Meira had a lot of great things to say.

"I am definitely going into 2009 with a little extra motivation," said Meira, who yesterday returned to Carmel (IN) from his native Brazil. "I have raced against the team for many years and have heard cool things about them.

change that and I'm looking forward to working with him."

Foyt was the owner when several drivers scored their initial triumphs in the IndyCar Series including Scott Sharp, Kenny Brack, Billy Boat and most recently, Ayrton Dare.

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That fact is not lost on Meira who summarized his approach to the 2009 season.

“This first race we’ll get situated with each other and we’ll quickly learn where we’re at, then we can know where to go—what we need to maintain and where we need to improve,” said Meira. “My goal is to come out and win, and by that I mean to give 100% no matter what is happening. I finished second many times but there were races where I finished fourth or fifth and I felt good about them because I gave 100% and we got the most out of the car that day. Whether it’s in races or in the championship, if we are getting top-fives, it’s because we are putting ourselves in position to win which is what you have to do before you can win. Then the wins will come.”

He is also hoping to bring Foyt Racing sponsor, ABC Supply, their first win too.

“ABC Supply has been with A.J. a long time and that continuity shows that they are a sponsor that believes in the team’s capability. I hope we can reward them with some victories for the trust they’ve had over the years,” said Meira.

The 31-year-old Brazilian’s IndyCar career began in August, 2002 when he drove for the Menard team; three races and two months later, he won the pole and finished third in the season finale at Texas Motor Speedway.

He continued with Menard the next year driving a partial season and then joined the Rahal-Letterman team in 2004

for two full seasons. He moved to Panther Racing in 2006 and raced for them the past three seasons. In 93 career starts, Meira won two pole positions, led 424 laps and posted 27 top-five finishes, including two second-place finishes in the Indianapolis 500 in 2005 and this past May. He claimed 56 top-10 finishes and earned over \$6 million in prize money.

Following the final 2008 event in Australia Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, the IndyCar Series celebrates its season with an awards banquet in Las Vegas, NV on Wednesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. The 2009 season gets underway April 5<sup>th</sup> in St. Petersburg, FL.