

*Up Next:*

**Firestone Indy 200**  
Nashville  
Superspeedway  
Saturday, July 14  
7:30 pm EST  
ESPN

**Honda 200**  
Mid-Ohio Sports  
Car Course  
Sunday, July 22  
1:30 pm EST  
ABC

## Race Report: Watkins Glen International

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. July 8 -- After six straight oval track races, the IndyCar Series returned to the road courses with the running of the Camping World Watkins Glen Grand Prix at Watkins Glen International, an historic 3.3 mile course in New York's Southern Tier. Scott Dixon won the race for the third straight year.

Although the weather the past two years had been less than desirable at The Glen, this year over

250 guests from the Northeast Region came out to enjoy the hot sunny day at Watkins Glen International and see the No. 14 ABC Supply car driven by Darren Manning in action on the road course.

The afternoon start gave guests plenty of time to see the expansive 3.3 mile course and the pit and garage area at the beautiful track. Guests even had an chance to meet Darren Manning

at the ABC hospitality tent prior to the start of the race on Sunday.

The winners of the "Your Name Here" promotion for Watkins Glen, All Star Insulation & Siding, customers of ABC's Springfield, MA branch also had the opportunity to have their picture



Darren Manning, getting in the car to practice at The Glen

taken with their car and team owner, A.J. Foyt prior to the start of the race. They even had a chance to hear some of the many stories from Foyt in

the team transporter where they spent some time chatting with the racing legend.

The race began on time and Darren Manning ran strong for most of the 60-lap event Sunday afternoon in his first ever race at the Glen. Starting ninth in A.J. Foyt's No. 14 ABC Supply Dallara/Honda Manning moved to eighth immediately. He ran in the top ten the entire race except

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for a short stint during differing fuel strategy runs when he dropped briefly to 14th. A slow pit stop during a caution period on lap 25 cost him a couple positions but he reclaimed them on the restart lap.

As the pit stops cycled through, it appeared that Manning was looking at a solid seventh place and possibly a sixth place finish. However, in the final ten laps of the race he dropped back to ninth which is where he finished.

“Overall, I was quite pleased with the way the car handled,” said Manning afterwards. “I was able to run with the front guys. We dropped back a bit on that one pitstop but I got the two positions back on the restart. I was a bit disappointed with the last part of the race. I lost power in my arms with the track grip-

ping up as much as it did. I lost strength. I need to get in the gym a little more and get a bit more like A.J.”

The tough track conditions were a first for the IndyCar Series regulars because the past two races had been



#14 Car on track at Watkins Glen International

characterized by rain. This race started out under partly sunny skies and ended without a drop of rain falling until the teams were packing up their equipment onto the trucks.

“Darren drove a good race, but he got tired at the end,” said team owner A.J. Foyt. “I knew what happened. He

said he could have run harder but he probably would have crashed which is what happened in St. Pete so I think he made the right decision. He could have blamed the car but he was honest and I respect him highly for that. We’re still coming together as a team but the improvement is there with every race.”

Manning moved to 13th in the standings with 188 points. Marco Andretti is 12th with 197 markers.

Following Dixon across the line were Sam Hornish, Dario Franchitti, Tony Kanaan, Marco Andretti, Buddy Rice, Dan Wheldon and Kosuke Matsuura.

The next race is the Firestone Indy 200 at Nashville Superspeedway Saturday night, July 14th. The race will be televised live on ESPN starting at 7:30 pm eastern time.