

Up Next:

Firestone Indy 400
Michigan
International
Raceway
Sunday, Aug. 5th
Noon (EST)
ESPN2

Race Report: Mid-Ohio

LEXINGTON, OH July 22, 2007-- Over 300 ABC Supply associates and customers from the Central Ohio area came out Sunday to see Darren Manning and the ABC Supply IndyCar team post another strong performance in their first ever start at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio.

Guests had to fight the heavy traffic to get into the track where they had an opportunity to explore the grounds and see our team in action preparing for the race in the garage area. Darren Manning, driver of the No. 14 ABC Supply car also took some time before the race to sign autographs for guests in the hospitality area.

When it was time for the race to start, there were many great spots to watch the action, but the most exciting was the ABC Hospitality tent located directly across from the ABC Supply/A.J. Foyt Racing Pit

and the Start/Finish line.

Manning qualified eighth and finished sixth in the 85-lap race around the 2.25 mile track. It was his third straight top-ten finish and fourth top-ten in the last five races.

At the start, Manning moved past seventh place Sam Hornish in turn one and was alongside Dario Franchitti when a multi-car wreck occurred ahead of him

which resulted in Marco Andretti flipping upside down. He escaped uninjured. As cars veered and slowed, Manning slipped through into third place behind pole sitter Helio Castroneves and sixth place starter Scott Dixon.

Manning ran in third as the top five—Castroneves, Dixon, Manning, Franchitti and Hornish--were nose to tail until the first pitstop. He ducked

into the pits on lap 28 a lap earlier than the other leaders. When he returned to action, he was in sixth,



Darren Manning signing autographs in the ABC Hospitality tent



Pit Stop at Mid-Ohio

(Continued on page 2)

Race Report: Mid-Ohio

(Continued from page 1)

partly due to Tony Kanaan being out of sequence after being involved in the first lap melee.

“The stop was good but we were conservative on fuel strategy and it hurt us a little,” said Manning. “We came in a lap earlier than the others so they had an extra lap to run hard while I was running a bit slower because of having a full fuel load and cold tires. When they pitted, they came out barely ahead of me but with the track being so narrow, I couldn’t pass them even though I was faster than they were at that point.”

A spin by Sam Hornish brought out the next yellow on lap 47. The lap 49 pit stop went off without a hitch but on the restart, Manning lagged in a rare miscue for the talented

road racer as he was flicking his fuel button when the leaders took off. He tried to stave off seventh place Danica Patrick but clipped a curb giving her an opportunity to pass which she seized.



No. 14 car on track at Mid-Ohio

Manning lost some ground and was seventh but was back on pace charging into sixth past Scott Sharp who was on an alternate fuel strategy. Teams’ fuel strategies played with the

order of cars over the final stint with Manning advancing briefly to fourth before he had to duck in for a splash of fuel with less than ten laps remaining. As the fuel stops cycled out, Manning was again in sixth which is where he finished.

“It was a good race for us,” said Manning afterwards. “There’s still a lot of potential in the car but it’s good being so near the pace but still having work to do in the car handling-wise. We have a good starting point for the road courses and we can build on that.”

The next race is the Firestone 400 at Michigan International Raceway’s two-mile oval. It will be televised live Sunday, August 5th starting at 12 noon on ESPN2.