

Conway wins back end of Toronto doubleheader

By Dave Lewandowski, www.indycar.com:

Mike Conway earned his second Verizon IndyCar Series victory of the season by holding off Tony Kanaan over a three-lap sprint to the finish in the second race of the Honda Indy Toronto doubleheader.

Conway, driving the No. 20 Fuzzy's Ultra Premium Vodka car for Ed Carpenter Racing, won by 3.5418 seconds following the Lap 54 restart after a red flag with 4 minutes, 23 seconds left in the 80-minute race. The race director called for the red flag to freeze the field on Lap 52 after a multiple-car incident in Turn 3 the previous lap.

Racing brought out the rain tires Will Power finished third in the No. 12 Verizon Team Penske car and Charlie Kimball advanced 14 positions relative to his starting spot in the No. 83 Levemir FlexTouch Chip Ganassi Racing car to finish fourth. Takuma Sato rebounded from 23rd place in Race 1 to finish a season-high fifth in the No. 14 ABC Supply A.J. Foyt Racing entry.

Verizon IndyCar Series championship front-runner Helio Castroneves, the pole sitter as the race lineup for the standing start was determined by entrant points, sustained wing damage on the No. 3 PPG Team Penske car on the penultimate lap and dropped to 12th place. He holds a 13-point lead over Power through 14 of the 18 races.

Conway was the second to switch from

Firestone rain tires to alternate tires on Lap 43 as the 1.755-mile, 11-turn street circuit was drying following a light rain that started on Lap 12. He was running third after gaining one position on a Lap 49 restart and overtook Justin Wilson and Josef Newgarden – both still on rain tires – for first on Lap 50.

"The tire temperatures came in really fast and that's what you need in those types of conditions so I could just control it and not have to push too hard and enjoy those last few laps," said Conway, who had not recorded a top-10 finish since his win at Long Beach on April 13.

WOW! A big pile up. Conway, earning his second victory of the season and the third for Ed Carpenter Racing, won the 250th race for Firestone since its return to Indy car racing in 1995.

"Mike said he was ready for drys. This one is all Mike; he did a great job," said team owner/driver Ed Carpenter, who won at Texas Motor Speedway in June. "A big part of the reason why we brought Mike in (this season to run road/street courses) was just to try to be stronger all the time. We believed as a team, we had won before as a team. We're trying to grow the business, grow the team and get results for all our partners. It's been nice to be able to do that more consistently so far this year."

Castroneves finished 2nd, Kanaan, who finished third in Race 1, and started ninth in Race 2, brought out a Lap 1 caution when the No. 10 Target Chip Ganassi Rac-

ing car nosed into the tire barrier in Turn 3. He fell to 23rd leading to the restart.

"I made a little mistake on the start. I got too excited and I had to make it up," said Kanaan, who had podium finishes in the past three races. "You have to believe. You can't give up. We're here racing. I hate when I make mistakes, so I had to make it up."

Ryan Hunter-Reay finished 14th. In Race 1, Sebastien Bourdais, driving the No. 11 Hydroxycut KVSH Racing car, claimed his 32nd Indy car career win. Bourdais broke a tie with Dario Franchitti and Paul Tracy for eighth on the all-time win list.

"It's really sweet. We had to fight and wait for it for a long time but today was just kind of one of these days when the stars align," said Bourdais, who led 58 of the 65 laps and won by 3.3 seconds over Castroneves. "I guess I was not expecting it because here I know how things can go. Last year we were second and third and it's great to get this win."

Photos by Joe Proetti, MSA



FUZZY LEADING THE PACK



RACING BROUGHT OUT RAIN TIRES



A BIG PILE UP



CONWAY BRINGING HOME FOR WIN, 2ND RACE

Rex White - 2015 NASCAR Hall of Fame Inductee

By Phillip Prichard, MSA: White, 84 years young, will be inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2015, along with Bill Elliott, Fred Lorenzen, Wendell Scott and Joe Weatherly. Many of today's NASCAR fan are unfamiliar with Rex White and his legacy of being Chevrolet's best driver in 1960 driving the gold and white number 4 and finishing fourth in All-Time Finishes with an average of 8.983 in 233 starts.

He finished among the top five in nearly a half of his 233 races and outside the top 10 only 30 percent of the time. White was a short track specialist in an era in which those tracks dominated the schedule. Of his 28 career wins in NASCAR's premier series, only two came on tracks longer than a mile in length. Driving his own equipment, White won six times during his 1960 Grand National championship season, posting 35 top 10s in 40 starts. In 1960, he

received the Most Poplar Driver Award and the Driver of the Year. He finished in the top 10 six of his nine years in the series including a runner-up finish in 1961. Consistency was the hallmark of Rex White's NASCAR career.

White started racing in NASCAR in 1956, where he started 24 races and finished in the top 10 on 14 occasions. In 1958, he ran 23 of 44 NASCAR races, winning five times, capturing five pole positions, finishing in the top 5 eleven times and finishing in the top 10 thirteen times. White stated one of his most memorable races was the 1962 Dixie 400 at Atlanta Speedway battling Marvin Panch. In the 1962 season, white had his best career wins of a season winning eight times. He ran his last race in 1964 driving a Mercury after Chevrolet pulled out of racing in 1963.

White has written two books with Anne B.

Jones: Gold Thunder: Autobiography of a NASCAR Champion and All Around The Track. In the Gold Thunder, it chronicles his boyhood during the Depression in the poverty-wracked mountains of North Carolina, where about the only way to earn a dollar was mill work or moonshine.

White, with a third-grade education, found another way. "I was always good with cars," he said. "I had a natural racing ability. I started running on some local tracks, did pretty good, and before long I had an offer to drive for Chevrolet." White is avid racing historian and has many stories of his career and his rivals such as the Petty's, Ned Jarrett, Fireball Roberts, Curtis Turner, Joe Weatherly and Buck Baker. In his book, All Around The Track, 60 Histories of Drivers, Mechanics, Officials, Owners, Journalists Others in Motorsports are profiled. Rex White is to be congratulated on his NASCAR Hall of Fame induction.



Photo: MSA staff



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