

Josef Newgarden Wins the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama

Story by Phillip Prichard/Photos by MSA Staff

Josef Newgarden scored his first win with Team Penske in the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama. This was the second win for Josef Newgarden of Hendersonville, TN at Barber Motorsports Park. Barber Motorsports Park is called the Augusta course of racing due to the way the grounds are laid out and groomed to perfection.

Newgarden won by 1.0495 seconds over Scott Dixon on the 2.3-mile, 17-turn permanent road course and comes two years after he secured his first career Verizon IndyCar Series victory at the same track. Newgarden, in his sixth Verizon IndyCar Series season, collected his first win for Team Penske in just his third race with the prolific organization, whose 188 Indy car wins are the most in history. By comparison it took Power five races, Castroneves seven, and Pagnaud 19 to get their first wins for the team.

Polesitter Will Power, Newgarden's teammate had the best car in the field and was out front four times for 60 laps. He led 60 of the first 77 laps before his Team Penske crew noticed the low air pressure sensor warning on his car with 17 laps to go. He had no choice but to pit, ruining

his shot at victory. He pitted on lap 77 and went from a sure victory to a 14th place finish.

A key moment in the race came just before Power's unscheduled pit stop, when Dixon was in second place and was chased by third-place Newgarden. The two drivers banged into each other in turn 16 and that was enough to knock Dixon's Honda out of the way, proving to be the race-winning pass.

Scott Dixon finished second for the fifth time at Barber and for the 34th time in his Indy car career, tying Michael Andretti for fourth all time. The Chip Ganassi Racing driver has reached the podium seven times in the eight races on the Alabama track, but has never won.

Simon Pagenaud, last year's Barber race winner and Verizon IndyCar Series champion, placed third in the No. 1 Menards Team Penske Chevrolet, just ahead of teammate Hélio Castroneves in the No. 3 AAA Insurance Team Penske Chevrolet.

Rounding out the top ten of the 21 car field were: 4th (2) Helio Castroneves, Chevrolet; 5th (18) Alexander Rossi, Honda; 6. (6) James Hinchcliff, Honda; 7th (10) Tony Kanaan, Honda; 8th (12) Sebastien Bourdais, Honda; 9th (14) Ta-



THE PARTICIPANTS COMING INTO CHARLOTTE'S WEB



THEY'RE OFF FOR 90 LAPS



POLE WINNER (WILL POWER) 14TH PLACE FINISH

kuma Sato, Honda; and 10th (8) Mikhail Aleshin, Honda.

Alexander Rossi, winner of last year's historic 100th Indianapolis 500 presented by PennGrade Motor Oil, gained the most positions from start to finish of any driver. He started 18th on the grid to wind up fifth in the No. 98 Andretti Autosport/

Curb Honda.

Marco Andretti who was fastest in Sunday morning's practice lost three laps to gearbox issues even before the green flag, and finished 21st. Ryan Hunter-Reay picked up damage in a first-lap brush with James Hinchcliff and finished 11th.

Continued on page 13

ALTERNATORS **STARTERS**

Auto E&S
ELECTRIC

**SPECIALIZING IN INDUSTRIAL ALTERNATORS,
STARTERS & D.C. MOTORS**

LEO J. CAGLIANI **770-941-0003** **TERRY D. SMITH**

7020 MABLETON PARKWAY • MABLETON, GA 30126