

WILL POWER PUTS CHEVY ON PODIUM AT SEASON FINALE

Josef Newgarden Crowned Champion-2nd for Team Penske Chevrolet Driver and 12th Driver Title for Chevrolet

MONTEREY, CALIF. – Will Power put Chevy on the podium with a second-place finish in today's NTT IndyCar Series season finale at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca. Starting seventh in the 24-car field, the 2014 Series' champion and 2018 Indianapolis 500 winner methodically worked his way to his strong finish in the 90-lap Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey. He was credited with leading six laps.

With two wins, three poles and six podium runs, Power, No. 12 Verizon Team Penske Chevrolet, finished fifth in the final standings.

One of four contenders for the 2019 title coming into today's race, Simon Pagenaud battled to a fourth-place finish and led one lap that secured second in the final standings. Piloting the No. 22 DXC Team Penske Chevrolet, the 2019 Indianapolis 500 winner secured the runner-up spot on the strength of three wins, three poles and four podiums.

Josef Newgarden knew exactly what he had to do coming into today's race and he and his No. 2 Hitachi Team Penske Chevrolet team executed perfectly.

Newgarden finished eighth, but it was exactly what the Tennessee native needed to secure his second NTT IndyCar Series championship. With a series high four wins plus two poles and seven podiums, Newgarden took home the crown with a 25 point margin over his teammate Pagenaud.

Colton Herta and Scott Dixon (both Honda) completed the podium. Felix Rosenqvist (Honda) won the Rookie of the Year award.

Newgarden's title was Chevrolet's sixth driver championship since returning to IndyCar competition in 2012. Chevrolet competed previously in Indy car competition as an engine manufacturer in 1986-93 and 2002-05 with V-8 engines that powered six driver champions. Today's crowning of Newgarden brings the historical total to 12.

Newgarden will begin his title defense at the NTT IndyCar Series opening race on the Streets of St. Petersburg on Sunday, March 15, 2020.

POST RACE TRANSCRIPTS:

THE MODERATOR: Welcome, champ.

JOSEF NEWGARDEN: I'm worn out. Emotionally worn out.

THE MODERATOR: I bet you are emotionally worn out. We all noticed a little edginess from you over the last couple weeks and maybe the last couple days, and I think by your reaction at the end of the race and Victory Lane suggested that there was more in there than we realized.

JOSEF NEWGARDEN: I'm just happy it's done with, to be honest with you. I've been dreading the last couple weeks because I don't think it really hits you until you get finally to Laguna or after Portland I should say, two weeks to go, because then you really realize the points situation.

It's just such a stressful deal with double points. I hated it. I hated thinking about it, and I know we didn't build up enough of a gap to make it super easy on ourselves, and I was just kind of dreading it, to be honest with you.

Just didn't know what was going to happen today, and I just wanted to



make sure we secured the championship because I felt like our guys deserved it. Everyone works really hard in this paddock. It doesn't matter which team or what driver you are. I think everyone works really hard. I'm pretty intimate with my guys and know how hard they work personally, and I just wanted them to be rewarded with the championship.

THE MODERATOR: Is the second championship more meaningful or do you have a better perspective because you've been around a little bit longer?

JOSEF NEWGARDEN: Yeah, I don't know why, but it feels more special. It really hit me. It just really, really hit me on the in-lap. I don't know why. I was just so emotional. I didn't quite get that way in the first one. I don't know if you don't have quite the respect for it or what it is. Maybe the way you said it is more appropriate. You just have more perspective on how difficult it is to be -- you can win a race every week.

Q. Alexander Rossi said that, yes, he wanted to win, but he said from a sporting perspective the right guy won. Do you appreciate hearing that from your competitor?

JOSEF NEWGARDEN: I think that's very kind of him to say. You know, yeah, I don't know. I think we were all very deserving. I think Alex has had a tremendous year. He's certainly a tremendous competitor, very talented, very skilled at what he does, and he has a great organization behind him, too.

So you've got to respect the competition, and I think we've had incredible competition between him and Simon and Scott and Will. Those five guys have really been the core people I think at the top of this championship, and I think they were all deserving in a lot of ways to win

the championship.

I think we've had the most consistent year. I think I really do believe we've put together the best championship run, and I'm glad that found its way to sealing the championship.

In a lot of ways, under the traditional points system, this would have been kind of a done deal. But it becomes a lot more exciting, and it obviously mixes things up with double points. That's where the wild card kind of comes in.



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