



## **KV RACING TECHNOLOGY – TEAM AUSTRALIA’S WILL POWER TAKES POLE FOR TOMORROW’S NIKON INDY 300**

### **RAIN HAMPERS ORIOI SERVIA’S EFFORT**

SURFERS PARADISE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA – OCTOBER 25, 2008 -- Round #18, 2008 IndyCar Series season – KV Racing Technology – Team Australia Will Power captured the pole for tomorrow’s Nikon Indy 300 in Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia. Teammate Oriol Servia qualified 15<sup>th</sup> after rain hampered his qualifying effort.

Power, KV Racing Technology #8 Aussie Vineyards – Team Australia Honda/Dallara/Firestone, making his third appearance at his home track, captured his third consecutive pole with a lap of 94.9451 seconds (105.977 mph). He is the only driver to have earned three poles on the 2.795-mile, 12-turn Surfers Paradise temporary street circuit, let alone three in a row. Servia, KV Racing Technology #5 Team Australia Honda/Dallara/Firestone, making his ninth appearance in Surfers Paradise, did not advance out of group #1 in the first round of qualifying when heavy rain at the start of his session negated what had been a fast car on a dry track. Servia posted a time of 115.6628 seconds (86.994) and will start on the inside of Row #8.

“I can’t believe I have another pole start here,” Power said. “But, it’s only the pole and the goal is to win the race on Sunday. That’s the big prize here. It was a mega last lap. And I’m really happy for Craig Gore, Kevin Kalkhoven and Jimmy Vasser. They have supported me through my whole professional career so I am really happy for them. I also want to thank everyone at KV Racing Technology – Team Australia. Mark Johnson, Dave Brzozowski, the engineers and the entire crew has done a great job all weekend.”

Commenting on his qualifying session Servia said, “I am obviously very disappointed. I started the weekend bad by crashing in the first practice session. Then, just when I felt I was getting comfortable again with the KV Racing Technology – Team Australia car for qualifying, it rained. I thought I was going to finish fifth on the last lap and didn’t want to risk too much in the wet spots, but it wasn’t enough. It’s not where I wanted to start. It’s not what the car, or myself are capable of, but hopefully we will have a better day tomorrow in the race. The last few years I have qualified well, but haven’t done well in the race, so maybe this year things will be different.”

Power started the day at the top of the speed charts after yesterday’s twin practices with a time of 94.8084 seconds (106.130 mph). In this morning’s practice, which was run in two groups, he went out with the second group and posted the second fastest lap of his session, 94.6523 seconds (106.305 mph), and the second quickest when the times from both groups were combined. Servia, fourth fastest yesterday, 96.4394 seconds (104.335 mph), ran with the first group and posted the third fastest time in his session and the eighth best overall recording a lap of 96.1073 seconds (104.695 mph).

Power, in Group #2 of Round #1, which was run without rain, but still on a very wet track, advanced when he posted the fastest lap in his group with a lap of 110.4357 seconds. During Round #2, with the track was drying, Power ran on slick tires and recorded the fifth fastest time, 100.4642 seconds to advance to the final round, the Firestone Fast

Six. In the finals, the local boy was able to pull out all the stops on a dry track notching his fast lap on the last lap of his run.

This is the sixth time in seven road/street events that KVRT has placed at least one car in the Firestone Fast Six and the fourth time Power has made the final round (Power: St. Petersburg, Edmonton, Sonoma and Surfers Paradise; Servia in Watkins Glen, Edmonton, Sonoma and Detroit).

Power's pole today is the eighth top-10 starting position in 18 races this year, his sixth top five starting spot and first pole of the season. He has now qualified on the pole in three of his four starts here. He finished 15<sup>th</sup> in 2005, 12<sup>th</sup> in 2006 and 16<sup>th</sup> in 2007

Power, who is in his fourth U. S. based open-wheel season (three in Champ Car - 2005-2007), finished 12<sup>th</sup> in his inaugural IndyCar Series season with 331 points and in the Bombardier Learjet Rookie of the Year race (this year's Australia race does not count in the championship standings). The 27-year-old Australian earned six top-10 finishes this season (four on road/street circuits) including three top-five showings (win in Long Beach, fourth in Mid-Ohio and fifth on the oval in Chicago) with one victory. He was the third highest in the standings of the drivers transitioning from Champ Car to the IndyCar Series. Power will be making his 48<sup>th</sup> career start, 37<sup>th</sup> on a road/street course tomorrow. He has earned 25 top-10 finishes including 14 top-five showings with seven podium performances, three wins and six poles in his 47 career starts. In 36 previous starts on road/street circuits, Power has earned 23 top-10 finishes including all 13 of his career top-five showings, all seven podium performances, all three of his career victories (Las Vegas and Toronto in 2007, Long Beach in 2008) and all seven of his career poles.

Servia has now qualified in the top-10 nine times in 18 races this season with a season-high third at Edmonton and Detroit. He has now qualified in the top-10 five times in nine attempts at Surfers Paradise including twice in the top-five with one pole in 2005. He has finished in the top-10 twice with a best showing of fifth in 2005 (ninth in 2000).

Servia, in his ninth season but first IndyCar season, is not considered a rookie because of his extensive oval experience. The 34-year-old native of Pals, Catalonia, Spain, finished ninth in the championship standings, the highest of the drivers transition from Champ Cars to IndyCars, with 358 points, just 21 points out of sixth place. Servia scored seven top-10 finishes (five on road/street circuits) including five top-five showings (season high fourth at Detroit and fifth's at Long Beach, Richmond, Mid-Ohio and Edmonton). Servia will be making his 143<sup>rd</sup> career start and 107<sup>th</sup> on a road/street circuit tomorrow. In 142 career starts, Servia has 77 top-10 finishes including 39 top-five showings with 16 podium performances, one victory (Montreal 2005) and one pole (Surfers Paradise 2005). He has earned 60 top-10 finishes including 29 top-five showings with 13 podiums, one win (Montreal 2005), one pole (Australia 2005) in his 106 road/street races.

The Nikon Indy 300 will be broadcast on ESPN Classic on Saturday, October 2 at 10:30 p.m. ET. There will be a re-air on ESPN 2 on Sunday, October 26 at 10:00 p.m.