

KV Racing race summary Edmonton

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KV RACING TECHNOLOGY'S ORIOLO SERVICIA FINISHES FIFTH AT REXALL EDMONTON INDY

MECHANICAL FAILURE FOILS POWER'S DAY

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA – SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2008 -- Round #13 2008 IndyCar Series season – KV Racing Technology's Oriolo Servica finished a season high tying fifth yesterday at the Rexall Edmonton Indy on the City Centre Airport temporary circuit in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Teammate Will Power suffered a mechanical failure, but returned to finish 22nd.

Servica, KV Racing Technology #5 Honda/Dallara/Firestone, making his fourth appearance in Edmonton, qualified a season high third. He ran there until pitting for the first time on lap 22 taking advantage of an early caution flag. Rejoining the contest in seventh, Servica quickly moved up to fourth where he ran until his second and final pit stop, on lap 51. Servica emerged from the stop in 12th place, but immediately passed three cars, gained another three positions when other teams pitted, then passed two more competitors to retake fourth. On lap 81, he was attempting to pass Dan Wheldon for third when Marco Andretti checked-up causing Servica to hit Wheldon. Servica suffered damage to his front wing, but was able to continue, still in fourth place. However, with two laps remaining in the race, which was shortened from 95 to 91 laps due to a time limit, Servica began to experience a handling problem forcing him to slow in an effort to finish the race. As a result he was passed at the finish line by Paul Tracy and fell to fifth place.

"It was just one of those races," Servica said. "The KV Racing Technology car was as good, if not better than any car out there, but the race just didn't go our way. We had a couple of issues on pits stops and lost some places, but the car was good enough to pick them back up. Then, I was racing with Dan Wheldon, and Marco (Andretti) came out of the pits and parked it in the chicane. Wheldon braked hard, I tried to slow down, but had nowhere to go and hit him really hard. I broke the front wing, but the car didn't lose too much lap time. It was just the last two laps, the steering arm started to break and on the last lap it completely broke. So, in a way we were unlucky, but lucky to finish at all. We still managed to get some good points for the championship, but it was disappointing because we had a car to battle with whoever we wanted today."

Power, KV Racing Technology #8 Aussie Vineyards – Team Australia Honda/Dallara/Firestone, contesting his third race at Edmonton, started fifth. Unfortunately, after a solid start, he experienced a mechanical failure on lap six forcing him into the pits and eventually to the garage where his crew affected repairs. Rejoining the race 19 laps down, Power showed determination and patience eventually fighting his way up to 22nd place, out of 27 cars, and earning valuable championship points.

"I am just really disappointed," Power said "The Aussie Vineyards – Team Australia car was really quick, we were getting good fuel mileage and then there was a mechanical failure. The KVRT crew did a great job getting me back in the race, but being so many laps behind we were really in it to try and get as many points as possible."

Servica, 34, has now finished in the top-six in all four of his races at Edmonton with a best showing of second in 2005. The native of Spain, who is in his first IndyCar season, but is not a rookie, has finished

in the top-10 in six of the 13 races this year with four top-five showings (fifths at Long Beach, Richmond and back-to-back fifths at Mid-Ohio and Edmonton). Servia earned 30 points and jumped two places in the championship standings to eighth with 280 points, just 44 points out of fifth place. He is the highest ranked driver not a member of Andretti Green, Ganassi or Penske Racing. Now in is in his ninth U.S. based open-wheel season, Servia made his 138th career start and 103rd on a street/road circuit yesterday. He has earned 59 of his 76 career top-10 finishes, 28 of his 38 top-five showings and 13 of his 16 podiums on road or street circuits. Servia's only career victory came on the road course in Montreal, Canada, 2005, and his only pole on the streets of Surfers Paradise, Australia, 2005.

Power 27, who captured the pole here last year and had a best finish of sixth in his Edmonton debut in 2006, has finished in the top-10 in four of the 13 races this year (three times on road or street circuits) including two top-five showings and a win at Long Beach (Champ Car's final event where he earned IndyCar points, but did not compete against the majority of the IndyCar teams). The 27-year-old Australian, who earned an IndyCar season-high fourth last weekend in Mid-Ohio, scored 12 points yesterday to remain 11th in the standings with 257 points. He is 19 points out of 10th place and, equally as important, cut the deficit to Hideki Mutoh in the Bombardier Learjet Rookie of the Year to just 29 points.

KVRT has now raced in Edmonton four times making eight starts and earning three top-10 finishes (Servia fourth, 2006; Jani ninth, 2007, Servia fifth, 2008). This is the fifth time this year, fourth with all the IndyCar teams, that KVRT has competed on a track they have been to before, but it is the first time that the teams transitioning from Champ Car to IndyCar raced on a circuit that they have been on, but the established IndyCar Series teams had not.

The second half of the 2008 season which includes five road/street races has presented KVRT with its best opportunity to earn the championship points necessary to claim a spot in the top-10 in the final standings. KVRT has been competitive on the road/street circuits this year. In addition to today's fifth place finish by Servia, KVRT has finished fourth (Power) and fifth (Servia) at Mid-Ohio; seventh (Servia) and eighth (Power) at St. Petersburg, and was among the fastest at Watkins Glen before both drivers dropped out of the race. KVRT has also been extremely consistent on ovals. Servia has the best finish of any transition driver on an oval placing fifth at Richmond and the team has had the best finish of the transition teams at five of the eight oval events contested this year and the best or second best finish in all eight.

The Rexall Edmonton Indy concludes the most grueling part of the 2008 IndyCar Series season which featured six races in six weeks. Following a week off the series resumes with the Meijer Indy 300, August 8-9, at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Kentucky. This is round #14 of the 2008 IndyCar Series season will be televised live on ESPN at 6:30 p.m. ET.

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