



**Right Rear Mechanical Failure Ends Meira's Chicagoland Run in 27th Position  
Firestone Indy Lights Newcomer Bobby Wilson Finishes Fourth, Brent Sherman 19th**

**JOLIET, Ill. (September 7, 2008)** – Delphi National Guard driver Vitor Meira finished 27th Saturday at Chicagoland Speedway in the PEAK Antifreeze and Motor Oil Indy 300, where a right-rear mechanical failure ended the driver's three-year run at the helm of the team's No. 4 car.

As a result, Meira concludes the 2008 IndyCar Series season in the 13th position in the championship standings, after making a mid-season climb from 18th to 11th in the championship. An incident with Danica Patrick last weekend in Detroit combined with today's mechanical failure forced the team to slip two positions in the final two events.

Vitor started in 8th position on Sunday, and was fighting within the Top Five contenders for the first part of the race. He battled with Patrick, A.J. Foyt IV, and Ryan Hunter-Reay before the first round of pit stops. Meira beat Foyt IV out of the pits, and was running in seventh place when he experienced a mechanical failure on the right-rear on this No. 4 Delphi National Guard car. He spun in the second turn of the 1.5-mile oval and might light contact with the wall.

Ganassi Racing driver Scott Dixon secured the 2008 IndyCar Series championship with a second place finish. The series will have its final race of the year in Surfers Paradise, Australia on Oct. 26th, in what will be a non-points event.

**Vitor Meira, No. 4 Delphi National Guard:**

"We had some kind of failure on the right rear tire. I could feel something going wrong the lap before, and I was getting ready to radio that we had a tire going down. We'll figure out what happened, but it was a failure of some kind. We all hate to finish this way. The car was great and we wanted to end this on a great note. I've said it before, but these guys are my friends and I'd like to thank everybody at Panther, Delphi and the National Guard for the last three years."

**Brent Sherman, No. 16 National Guard Delphi (Indy Lights):**

"In the beginning the 5 car spun and veered in front of me. He went high and I went low through the grass. I think he took out a few others in it as well. We've had a strong car on ovals all season, I hate to say it, but it was just bad luck. It seems every race I was fighting my way through the field;



something would happen and I'd have to fight my way to the front. Today, we were coming up through the pack, and just got swallowed up by the group. They all kind of ganged up on me."

**Bobby Wilson, No. 15 National Guard Delphi (Indy Lights):**

"I have to give it to the guys; they're a well-oiled machine at Panther Racing. Their attention to detail is impeccable, and they gave me a good car to run up front. I started 12th and kept working forward and working forward."