



Qualifying Results in Australia:

1. Will Power
2. Scott Dixon
3. Ryan Briscoe
19. Ed Carpenter
24. A.J.Foyt

**VISION RACING
AUSTRALIA QUALIFYING NOTES & QUOTES**

Nikon Indy 300 - Oct. 26, 2008
Streets of Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast, Australia

Surfers Paradise, Australia (Saturday Oct. 25, 2008)- Weather played a big part in mixing things up in qualifying for Vision Racing and the rest of the field at Surfers Paradise in preparation for the Nikon Indy 300. A significant rainstorm hit the track at the tail end of the morning practice with conditions drying out until just after the green flag dropped for the first qualifying group. A consistent drizzle then began to fall as the first group, including Ed Carpenter, headed out on rain tires. The track slowly dried throughout the next 60 minutes, but wet patches remained for the second group, which included A.J. Foyt IV, and through to the Firestone Fast Six session.

Ed Carpenter and the No.20 Menards sponsored Vision entry will take his place in row 10 on the grid after qualifying 19th in wet conditions with a fast lap time of 1 min 58.7664 (84.721 mph) on the 2.795-mile, 12-turn circuit. A spin during his qualifying Group 1 session hampered him from getting in one more lap to improve his time.

The second qualifying group session also contended with wet, slippery conditions and A.J. Foyt IV was disappointed to have his fast laps taken away after causing two cautions by spinning twice in the same corner without hitting a wall. He will start the No.2 Lilly car from the final row on the grid in 24th spot next to Danica Patrick who also had her times invalidated for causing full course cautions.

Following an exciting finish to the Top-12 group session that saw all top six positions change in the final seconds, and much to the pleasure of the local fans, the final top three positions were taken up by two Aussies and a Kiwi. The Team Australia driver Will Power took the pole position on his home soil with a best lap of 1 minute, 34.9451 seconds (105.977 mph). Target Chip Ganassi Racing's Scott Dixon was second quick (1 min 35.7672 / 105.067 mph) and Penske's Ryan Briscoe will start third (1 min 35.8007; 105.031).

QUOTES:

Ed Carpenter (on qualifying): "It was pretty crazy. It obviously rained after our practice this morning and everyone kind of thought it would dry out for qualifying and it did but just as the green flag dropped for the first group so did the rain. It made it pretty interesting especially as the track started to dry. I'm okay with how we did but I made a mistake and ran off into a run-off and cost myself another lap of track time and a better time. Overall I'm happy with our progress but disappointed that we haven't been able to really show that yet."

A.J Foyt IV (on qualifying): "I'm really disappointed. Driving in wet conditions made things pretty difficult but I really felt like we could gain some spots. I just didn't want to put it in the wall trying like I did yesterday. I spun it twice without hitting anything but lost my times. On the flip side, things can only get better I guess. We'll just have to be patient tomorrow and take advantage of all opportunities and get some more experience on a street course under my belt."



MORE Vision Racing NOTES:

OFF AND ON THE BEATEN PATH: Ed Carpenter and A.J Foyt IV traded in their Vision Racing Honda-powered Dallaras for some Australian V8 off road buggies on Wednesday putting their dirt track skills to the test for more than an hour at the Off Road Rush track at Alberton, north of the Gold Coast. Carpenter fell back on his experience racing midgets and sprint cars to handle the four-liter V8-powered buggies, but also took in some hair-raising laps as a passenger when track owner Chris Western took the wheel and got some big air over a two-metre jump which is the highlight of the 1.3km circuit. "It's fun," Carpenter said. "Any time you take a race car driver out and let them drive, they get pretty excited. I've never gone and tested another car like this before a race, like this, but it's a good experience."

TAKING THE VISION TO AUSTRALIA: Vision Racing hopes to have the "Midas Touch" for its first venture to the Gold Coast of Australia as the IndyCar Series makes its debut there in a non-points race on the streets of Surfers Paradise. Team drivers Ed Carpenter and A.J. Foyt IV will both make their first attempt Down Under as well. Also making the trip will be team road-course consultant, Bryan Herta, who will continue his role behind pit wall with advising the team and drivers on their road racing approach.

A NOT-TOO EXTREME MAKE-OVER: The Vision Racing cars will sport a new paint scheme for the race Down Under. The two team entries will both feature a predominantly grey scheme with some yellow and red accents for the Nikon Indy 300. The paint scheme change is not so much a fashion statement as one of convenience, as the team will be able to bring along just one back-up car to the Gold Coast street event and with a uniform scheme, the cars' body work parts will be more aesthetically interchangeable.

ON ROAD/STREET COURSES: The team's best finishes on a road or street course is fourth scored by Paul Tracy this season at Edmonton. Prior to that a pair of sixth place drives by Tomas Scheckter on the streets of St. Petersburg last year and by Ed Carpenter in 2006 at Watkins Glen International remained the team's best road and street drives. Overall the team's highest finishes on any track are third place drives by Scheckter in 2006 at the Milwaukee Mile (oval) and by A.J. Foyt IV last year at Kentucky Speedway (oval).

ABOUT THE NIKON INDY 300: The 60 lap Nikon Indy 300 will air live on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 10:30 p.m. ET on ESPN Classic, as well as IMS Radio Network, XM IndyCar Series Racing Channel 145, XM Sports Nation Channel 144 and on the web at www.IndyCar.com. The race will re-air on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 11 p.m. on ESPN2.