

Race Report

Pit Strategy Backfires at Infineon

SONOMA, Calif. Aug. 24, 2008—Darren Manning and the ABC Supply team soldiered through a tough weekend at Infineon Raceway to finish 22nd in the PEAK Antifreeze Indy Grand Prix.

Manning started 21st in the race and ran as high as 15th during differing fuel strategies. Pitting early in the fuel window on their second stop, the team was attempting a different strategy to improve track position at the end. Unfortunately, it didn't work.

"It was a frustrating day for all of us," said Manning afterwards. "We tried to be aggressive on the pit strategy and it bit us. We got behind some slower cars and because it is so tough to pass here, we were stuck behind them, causing us to lose more than we gained by trying a different strategy.

"The car was alright but we still need to do a lot of work to get around here better than we have the last two years."

The day capped off what was a frustrating weekend for the ABC Supply team. Although they continued to make gains with each successive practice to narrow the gap, it wasn't enough to make a difference in the end.

Manning maintained his 14th position in the point standings.

Helio Castroneves led a Team Penske sweep this weekend as he and Ryan Briscoe started one-two and finished one-two following a devastating week in which the No. 3 car transporter burned to the ground enroute to Sonoma due to a faulty wheel bearing. Castroneves won with his back-up car. Third through fifth were Tony Kanaan, Dan Wheldon and Danica Patrick.

The ABC Supply team heads to Michigan this week for the Detroit Indy Grand Prix at Belle Isle where Manning finished fourth last year. The race will be broadcast live Sunday afternoon on ABC starting at 3:30pm ET.