

**Carson Etter and Tim de Silva split wins as Petty regains points lead**

Rounds 5 and 6 of the championship turned out to be exactly what we had expected, fast newcomers doing battle with the veterans for supremacy at the famed Sonoma Raceway.

The drama unfolded even before the green flag as the outside pole car of Etter stalled when cars were being released onto the track from pit lane. This stacked up his row, causing all sorts of commotion. He re-fired and took off but the damage was done and he, Jase Petty and newcomer Jake Walker were forced to the tail end of the field.

Once the green finally came out after an aborted try it was pole sitter de Silva who made the quick getaway and got out to a 3 car length lead. Things seemed to settle down before the Van Diemen of Nick Coe found the turn 8 barriers, bringing out a full course yellow. This allowed Etter, making his first Pacific start after just finishing 6th at the Portland USF Pro2000 event the previous week, a chance to take advantage after he had charged through the field. He made the pass on de Silva, took the lead and never looked back. Buttonwillow race winner Jase Petty was also coming fast and also made a move on de Silva to take over 2nd.

The three cars up front would maintain position until the checkered flag came out, with Etter victorious by a slim margin while also breaking the track record and de Silva, a recent MIT doctoral grad and also newlywed, not far behind.

Sunday would start on a somber note with the news that past Pacific F2000 race winner Ira Fierberg had passed away. The perennial #27 runner spent 25 years running F2000 cars in USF2000 and Pacific F2000, racking up countless wins, and will be missed.

Sunday was all about redemption for de Silva. He secured pole again, by a hefty margin, and this time he wasn’t going to settle for anything less than the top step of the box. That being said, Etter wasn’t going to just sit back and let it happen.

The action up front was insane for the first part of the race. Jake Walker, the IMSA transplant with Daytona 24 hr and Sebring experience behind him, made a move on de Silva in T1 and almost pulled it off. Walker was running a DFR prepared car being entered jointly by DFR/Tom Hope with Buddy Rice doing the engineering. Quite a combo. The two made slight contact but that contact would hinder Jake the rest of the race as his front wing suffered damage. He would end up a respectable 4th.

The battle up front was relentless. Etter was doing all he could to get by the Van Diemen of de Silva and finally he made a pass stick, slowly pulling out a lead that grew to 2 seconds. Just when you thought he had it in the bag, de Silva started to bang out fast lap after fast lap. He destroyed the lap record set the day before and was hunting down the #91 of Etter. It seemed as if Carson would hold him off but they caught traffic in the worst place at the worst time (for Carson) and Timmy pounced in T10. He made the pass stick and the two went into T11 almost side by side, with Doctor de Silva holding on to the well-earned victory, a victory he and the entire DFR crew decided to their buddy Fierberg.

Rounding out the all DFR podium was Jase Petty, ironically driving the ex-Fierberg Van Diemen, with Walker hanging in there with 4th. Troy Shooter would come home 5th to pick up valuable points, vaulting him into 2nd overall, just behind Petty the points leader.

With the momentum of this fine event, an event sponsored by car care products producer Detail Gurus, the circus moves to Buttonwillow for rounds 7 and 8 October 24-26 at the famed Buttonwillow Raceway. We hope to see you there!