

Up Next...

The IndyCar Series heads to its first oval track of the season next weekend with the Kansas 300 at Kansas Speedway.

Television Schedule:
Qualifications Show
Saturday, April 25th
6:00 pm EST
VERSUS

Live Race Coverage
Sunday, April 26th
4:00 pm EST
VERSUS

Race Report: Long Beach Grand Prix

LONG BEACH, CA April 19, 2009—It was the first race for the ABC Supply/A.J. Foyt Racing team at the Streets of Long Beach in Southern California and over 300 ABC Supply associates, customers and their families came out to enjoy the beautiful day and cheer on the #14 car.

Vitor Meira and the ABC Supply team weathered a frustrating weekend in sunny southern California, finishing 14th in the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach.

Meira, starting 20th, began the 85-lap race on the red-rimmed alternate tires which he was able to run until the team's first fuel stop window which came on lap 26 during the race's second full course yellow. The team executed an efficient stop in 8.2 seconds. Now on the more durable, black-rimmed primary tires, Meira came out in 16th position, having gained a position, and had moved into 14th by lap 33. He moved into 13th on lap 41 but then slipped to 15th by lap 46. As the pit stops cycled through, he moved into 11th on lap 53 when another full course yellow was called, allowing Meira to pit under caution on lap 55.

Another efficient fuel stop, which



An overhead view of the #14 car on the Streets of Long Beach



Vitor Meira on track at the Streets of Long Beach on April 19th

included an adjustment to the front wing, and the No. 14 ABC Supply Dallara was set for the rest of the race. He emerged in 13th and ran there until another full course yellow came out on lap 73. He moved up two spots into 11th when Ryan Briscoe ran into Scott Dixon on the restart, causing Dixon to spin out and lose a lap.

Both of those cars restarted at the rear of the field; Briscoe was charged with a 30-second penalty stop. The race was restarted on lap 78 and Alex Tagliani passed Meira on the back part of the course and Graham Rahal also snuck by as Meira gathered up his car. Meira was digging in the final laps to regain 12th position from Rahal to no avail. With just two turns to go in the race, however, the No.14 car slid into the turn 10 tire barrier, damaging the front wing and right side suspension. He placed 14th and is now 14th in the standings.

“On the last lap, I don’t know what happened,” said Meira. “I couldn’t improve my position there so I was very cautious and I went to brake slightly and the car just went straight. But our

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Race Report: Long Beach

problems here started well before that. We have to find something for this track and we will. We're all in this together."

"I had a feeling that we'd struggle a bit here especially when I looked at how much experience the other teams and drivers had here," said Team Director Larry Foyt. "That being said, as soon as the first practice starts and

you're not upfront, it's still completely frustrating. In the end, we just needed to survive. It was very frustrating weekend for all of us. We're glad it's over."

Dario Franchitti won the race after starting outside pole while pole winner Will Power finished second. Second through fifth were Tony Kanaan, Danica Patrick and Dan Wheldon.



Vitor Meira in the #14 ABC Supply/A.J. Foyt Racing car at the Streets of Long Beach



Vitor Meira staying ahead of some traffic during the race at Long Beach