

Up Next...

The IndyCar Series heads to Indianapolis Motor Speedway beginning on May 4th.

Television Schedule:

Qualification Shows
Sat, May 9 – Noon (ET)
on VERSUS

Sun, May 10 – Noon (ET)
on VERSUS

Sat, May 16 – Noon (ET)
on VERSUS

Sun, May 17 – Noon (ET)
on VERSUS

Carb Day:

Fri, May 22 – 11 a.m.
(ET) on VERSUS

Indy 500 Race Time:
Sun, May 24 - Noon (ET)
on ABC

Race Report: Kansas Speedway

KANSAS CITY April 26, 2009--Vitor Meira's record at Kansas Speedway remained intact but not for the right reasons in Sunday's Road Runner Turbo Indy 300. Meira has always finished in the top-ten when he has finished the race at the 1.5-mile superspeedway, but today his race ended on lap 14 when Helio Castroneves rear-ended Meira hard enough to send the No. 14 car spinning into the turn four wall.

Starting 14th in the ABC Supply Dallara/Honda/Firestone Indy car, Meira had passed four cars on the first lap to slip into tenth. He challenged Ryan Briscoe for ninth for several laps before settling in behind. About ten laps into the run, the car started to push and Meira began to fade back. Once he lost the lead pack, the second pack caught him quickly. Marco Andretti passed him for 11th on lap 13. The next lap Meira was battling with Hideki Mutoh when Meira's race ended with the hit from Castroneves, who had started at the rear due to a penalty levied after qualifying.

"To me, it was very clear what happened," said Meira. "In every drivers' meeting, the rule is on ovals you enter high, stay high and exit high. Obviously, (Hideki) Mutoh didn't understand that and just came down on me. He entered high and just tried to use the whole track in front of me. I washed out a little bit. Matos was outside of me. I couldn't go anywhere, so I had to lift. (Helio)

Castroneves came and hit my attenuator and I spun around. I would understand if it was the 15 laps from the end, but not 15 laps from the start. It was wrong."

The No. 14 car spun backwards into the turn four wall, knocking the rear wing askew and bending the lower wishbone in the rear suspension. Meira wasn't injured. When the car was brought back to the garage, the ABC Supply crew set about to repair the damage with the intention of returning to the race.

However, by the time the car was ready for the race, team owner A.J. Foyt had decided too many laps had gone by. After five laps of caution for Meira's accident, the race stayed green until lap 96.



Vitor Meira holding off the #13 car at Kansas Speedway on April 26, 2007

"We didn't have that much to gain in points and we risked losing a lot

by going back out under those circumstances," said Foyt. "With Indy coming up, it just wasn't worth it to risk getting Vitor hurt. We'd lost too many laps. As it turned out, we wouldn't have gained any more points by going back out, so we made the right decision."

Meira was credited with 22nd and is now 15th in the IndyCar Series point standings.

Scott Dixon won the race. Castroneves, whose crew replaced the front nose assembly on his car, finished second. Tony Kanaan, Ryan Briscoe, Danica Patrick, and Marco Andretti rounded out the top six.