

2009 IndyCar Series Schedule

Apr. 5	Streets of St. Petersburg
Apr. 19	Streets of Long Beach
Apr. 26	Kansas Speedway
May 24	Indianapolis Motor Speedway
May 31	The Milwaukee Mile
Jun. 6	Texas Motor Speedway
Jun. 21	Iowa Speedway
Jun. 27	Richmond International Raceway
Jul. 5	Watkins Glen International
Jul. 12	Streets of Toronto
Jul. 26	Edmonton City Centre
Aug. 1	Kentucky Speedway
Aug. 9	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course
Aug. 23	Infineon Raceway
Sept. 19	Twin Ring Motegi
Oct. 10	Homestead-Miami Speedway

Race Report: Indianapolis 500

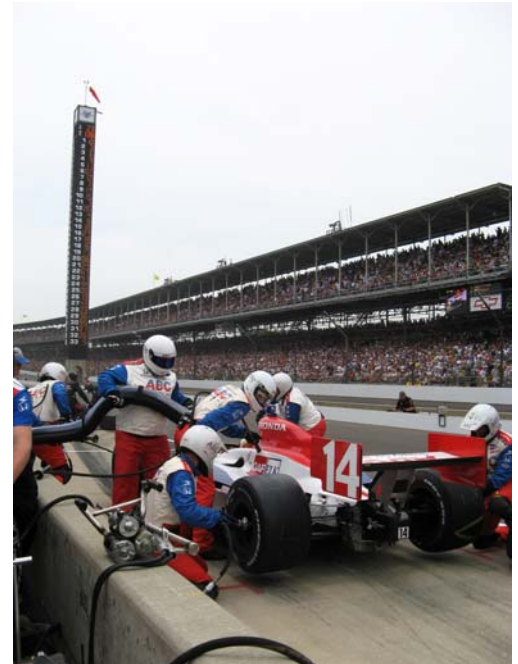
Vitor Meira and his No. 14 ABC Supply Indy car endured a trouble-filled Indianapolis 500 Sunday afternoon to provide the most spectacular action of the race while A. J. Foyt IV ran one of his quietest races ever at Indy in the No. 41 ABC Supply car.

For Meira, the drama started with a blazing pit fire during a pit stop on lap 134. He emerged unscathed but his troubles continued later in the race when rookie Raphael Matos tangled with Meira entering turn one. Meira shot straight into the SAFER barrier and then rode the wall backwards in the style of a Velodrome motorcycle racer, finally coming to rest in the short chute.

Meira's accident was one of eight different accidents that slowed the race and allowed teams to make all of their pit stops under caution.

Meira started 14th and soon moved into ninth place. He dropped to tenth after his first stop on lap 23 and was running 11th when he stopped again on lap 59. He dropped to 15th before his next stop on lap 85 and was running 16th when he pitted again on 100. Complaining about lack of mechanical grip, the team made an air pressure adjustment. The ABC Supply crew gained him four spots with their quick work in the pits and he emerged in 11th.

Meanwhile, A.J. Foyt IV, who started 19th, endured an ill-handling race car in the beginning, radioing in that, "It's way too loose", to which his



The #14 ABC Supply/A.J. Foyt Racing team completing a pit stop during the 93rd Indianapolis 500 on May 24th

grandfather/engineer/race strategist replied, "Just hang on and we'll make it better on the first stop." Foyt did, but a slow stop, over 15 seconds, dropped him from 23rd to 27th when the green came out. The ABC Supply team continued to adjust on the No. 41 car and by the third stop Foyt IV was satisfied with the car's handling.

Cars driven by rookies and veterans hit the wall in six single car incidents, many the result of drivers lifting for slower cars ahead of them, losing downforce and sliding up into the marbles and eventually the wall.

When the yellow came out on lap 132, Meira ducked into the pit running 11th.

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Race Report: Indy 500

However, an unauthorized early release saw him exit the pit box with his fuel hose still attached which resulted in a blazing car fire. Meira showed coolness under pressure, flipping his visor down and tucking his head as he waited for firemen to extinguish the flames. Incredibly, he rejoined the race without losing a lap.

Texas-tough fueller Rodney Klausmeyer was injured during the botched stop, sustaining light burns to his face and stomach as well as contusions to his elbow, thigh and knee from dropping to the ground to extinguish the ethanol fire. Despite his injuries, he remained to fuel the No. 14 for the rest of the race.

Running 20th, Meira never showed the speed he had earlier but that was partly due to running with slower cars, as most of the passing in this race was done in the pits, either through quick stops or pit strategy. Foyt IV had the same problem, as all but a select few drivers complained about the inability to pass cars on the track.

On lap 174, Meira and Matos were battling for position when both cars entered turn one with Meira in the groove and Matos outside of him. Matos, running out of track, didn't slow enough entering the turn and turned into Meira. Matos' left front tire hit Meira's right rear tire, turning Meira who shot straight into the turn one SAFER barrier. The impact sheared off the No. 14's nose and the car spun and then climbed the wall backwards with two wheels on track and two wheels atop the wall for a horrific rim-riding excursion.

Meira was conscious throughout and said, "I knew it was going to be a big hit. Before the car came to a stop, I began wiggling my feet because I thought they would be broken."

He was extricated from the car and complained of severe lower back pain. After a preliminary exam at the track's Clarian Medical Center, he was transported to Methodist Hospital. He sustained fractures to his L-1 and L-2 vertebra although there is speculation that the slight L-1 fracture was actually an old injury from a previous hard hit. Meira said he knew of two accidents (one in 2008 and another in 2007) where he didn't reveal how badly he

felt because he didn't want to be sidelined by injury.

Doctors chose to treat his injury by fitting him with a hard plastic back brace which he'll wear for three months (depending on his healing). He is expected to be cleared to drive in four months although Meira is already aiming to be back behind the wheel of the no. 14 ABC Supply car in three months.

Meira's accident set up a 'save fuel' situation for the remaining competitors. Foyt IV did not pit during that caution and was able to jump from 21st to finish 16th, losing a spot only to Ryan Briscoe who finished 15th. Running with quicker cars, Foyt IV logged his quickest lap of the race on 190. It was the first time

he finished the entire 500 miles, and the second time he finished on the lead lap, the first coming in the rain-shortened 2007 race when he placed 14th.

"It's hard to say you're really happy with a 16th-place finish but just coming in for the one race here, I was pretty happy with the car. We worked on it a little bit throughout the day and got it good there at the end. We really never could get

any track position to show how good the car was until there at the very end. That's when we ran our quickest laps. Back there with the slower cars, I myself was probably a little rusty. I couldn't get my timing down to make some passes that I should have been able to make on the restarts, but we finished all 200 laps and we held our own against whoever we were racing against, so we've got to be a little bit happy that we brought the car home in one piece. I just hope Vitor is OK."

Helio Castroneves continues to soar after his acquittal from tax evasion charges as he won his third Indianapolis 500 in dominant fashion, giving rise to speculation that the 33-year-old driver may become the first five-time winner of the race. A.J. Foyt, who won his third Indy 500 at age 32, became the first four-time winner at age 42.

The driver of the No. 14 ABC Supply car for the upcoming ABC Supply/A.J. Foyt 225 at the Milwaukee Mile has yet to be determined although a decision will be made by Tuesday afternoon. The race will be televised on ABC-TV starting at 3:30pm eastern time.



Vitor Meira on track at Indianapolis Motor Speedway during the Indy 500