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Klein Drives To Career-Best Second at Kentucky

Klein Tools/Turn-Key Forging and Design driver Jonathan Klein scored his career-best Indy Pro Series result Sunday at Kentucky Speedway as part of the second-closest finish in the history of the series.

Klein, who won his first career pole on Saturday, dropped to third on the opening lap of the race and then battled among the contenders throughout the remainder of the 100-mile event. The 19-year old series rookie endured several close calls throughout the race, which featured wheel-to-wheel battles in and among the front of the field.

For Klein, the race came down to a lap 65 restart that saw him fourth in the lineup. Klein made a bold, but calculated move on the leaders entering Turn 1 to position himself for a shot at the win, and moved to third by the time the white flag flew. He then surged into the lead ahead of Jay Howard midway down the backstretch with only the final two corners to go. With Howard to his outside, Klein was forced to hold the lowest line through the corner and lost some valuable momentum on the way to the stripe. Howard beat Klein to the line by .019 of a second.

With the result, Klein moved up to second in the championship standings and now trails only Howard with two races remaining (319-279).

Saturday's 67-lap race will air on a tape-delayed basis on ESPN2 on Monday, Aug. 14, at 2:30 p.m. (EDT).

Next up for the Klein and the rest of the Indy Pro Series is a double-header weekend at Infineon Raceway, with races slated for both Aug. 26 and 27.

Jonathan Klein, #27 Klein Tools/Turn-Key Forging & Design Dallara/Firestone Finished Second, Now Second in Championship Standings:

"My plan on the restart was to go all out as soon as the flag dropped and that's what I did. I stuck my nose inside Guthrie, which is kind of a risky thing to do, but it turned out OK. I felt pretty good with the lead on the backstretch on the last lap, but I really needed to be a little higher in three and four than what I was able to do with all of us three wide like we were. All in all, I feel quite fortunate to finish second because I had more than my share of close calls out there today. I just wanted to stay patient, stay calm and bring it home to the finish and that's what we did. We just need to keep doing what we're going and see what happens in Chicago."

