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9-8-2006

Klein Qualifies Second in Chicagoland Title Showdown

Jonathan Klein qualified second for Saturday's Chicagoland 100, the final round in the 2006 Indy Pro Series, setting up a shootout with teammate and pole qualifier Jay Howard for the series championship.

The most consistent points scorer in Indy Pro Series competition, Klein comes into his "home" race in Chicago just nine points behind Howard. The remaining title contenders include Bobby Wilson, currently third in the standings and 20 points behind the leader; and defending series champion Wade Cunningham, 28 points behind in fourth.

Klein is coming off a streak of five consecutive top-four Pro Series finishes: a fourth two weeks ago at the Infineon Raceway double-header, third-place runs at the second Infineon race, Indianapolis, Nashville and Milwaukee; and a second-place finish at Kentucky Speedway, where he also recorded his first IPS pole qualifying run.

Jonathan Klein, #27 Klein Tools/Turn-Key Forging & Design Dallara/Firestone Qualified 2nd at 28.0623 seconds, 188.285 mph

"We're on the front row and that's great, but I really wanted that [championship] point for the pole. In a way, it makes my job harder, because now I'm nine points behind and I *have* to win tomorrow. But it also makes my job more clear cut: I've got to get out front, lead the most laps and win the race. I think our race car is the best car in the field, we demonstrated that in practice earlier today, and that gives me a lot of confidence heading into the race. Jay [Howard] is my best friend, but I'm going to race him hard – tough but respectful – tomorrow."

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