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Klein Scores First Indy Pro Series Podium at Indianapolis

On a hot day at the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway, rookie Jonathan Klein had his strongest race of the 2006 Indy Pro Series season, besting Scott Mansell in an early duel and passing Raphael Matos after a late-race caution to finish third in Saturday's Liberty Challenge IPS race, a supporting event to the U.S. Grand Prix.

With track temperatures approaching 130 degrees on a hot and sultry day, Klein started ninth in his Klein Tools/Turn-Key Forging & Design Dallara/Firestone, but immediately began his battle with Mansell. By Lap 15, Klein was around the Briton and running sixth when the caution flag waved for the first and only time in the 23-lap event.

On the restart, Klein passed first Nick Bussell, then Matos, to finish third, his best IPS result in six races this season. The finish also solidified Klein's hold on third place in the IPS point standings, with 168 points to 193 for series leader Jay Howard, and Bobby Wilson second with 181 points.

Jonathan Klein, #27 Klein Tools/Turn-Key Forging & Design Dallara/Firestone Started 9th, Finished 3rd, First Indy Pro Series Podium, 3rd in Points

"For the first half of the race I was stuck behind [Scott] Mansell. He was quick on the straights, and that made it hard to get by him. I finally managed to pass him and then kind of got hung out to dry. We were just out there running by ourselves, and the leaders were too far in front. But when the [full course] yellow came out, it really worked to our advantage. I just stayed clear on the restart and got in front of [Raphael] Matos, and was able to stay there until the end. It was a great feeling to stand on my first Pro Series podium here at Indy. This was a good event to strengthen our position in the standings."

