

Super Dario II: Franchitti earns '500' win

By Dave Lewandowski

Fifty years ago, a wreath was placed around Jim Rathmann's neck in Victory Circle at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to start another Indianapolis 500 tradition. Dario Franchitti, a motorsports historian, savors the heritage of the Speedway and soaks up the ceremony of the 500 Mile Race, which celebrates its centennial in 2011.

So the Scot especially has enjoyed the customs during his two trips to Victory Circle. Though both wins have come under caution, the swig of milk (a tradition started in 1936) still tastes as sweet.

Franchitti handed Target Chip Ganassi its fourth Indy 500 victory in a dominating performance under a searing sun (90 degrees at the green flag) and worldwide spotlight – 45 years after his hero, Jim Clark, won at Indy.

"This tastes just as good the second time," said Franchitti, who in 2007 won the race shortened 34 laps because of rain. "To come back from a year away and win the championship and then win the Indy 500 it just means so much."

The No. 10 entry led 155 of the 200 laps, inheriting the point for the final time on Lap 192 when pole sitter Helio Castroneves ducked into the pits for a splash of 100 percent fuel-grade ethanol.



Reynaldo Riojas



Reynaldo Riojas



IRL

TIRE ROTATION & OIL CHANGE \$24.90 (Most vehicles)
Neighborhood Auto Center, Inc.

Improve your vehicle's gas mileage with a properly tuned engine!

770-941-4180 Neighborhood Auto Center, Inc.
 3800 Bankhead Hwy in Lithia Springs, GA

We Will Beat Any Competitor's Price!

west georgia DISCOUNT TIRE Sales
 A Division of Best Tire Sales, Inc.

Largest Selection of Tires - Since 1990
THE ORIGINAL DISCOUNT TIRE

6423 Fairburn Road in Douglasville, GA
 Between Hospital Drive & Bankhead Highway
770-949-7382