

Geoff Bodine
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MICHIGAN WIN HIGHLIGHTS GEOFF'S IROC SEASON

A victory in the third round of the Budweiser International Race of Champions on August 6th at Michigan International Speedway vaulted Geoff from ninth to first place in the IROC XII point standings and set the stage for a run at a potential second consecutive IROC Crown.

Earlier in the season, Geoff finished fifth at Daytona in February and ninth at Riverside, CA in June.

Geoff started third at Michigan where, according to IROC rules, the starting grid was lined up in reverse order of point standings. IMSA driver, Chris Cord, scheduled to start ahead of Geoff, did not compete. Thereby, Geoff inherited the higher starting spot.

On lap five, Geoff took over the lead from polesitter Roberto Guerrero and held off fellow NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt by .783 seconds and averaged 159.432 mph for the remaining 45 laps of the event.

"We sure needed this good run," said Geoff. "I saw that blue car (Earnhardt) dogging me, and I knew if I let him by, I'd be in big

trouble."

"I'm sure the fans will like a repeat of last year's contest between myself and Al Jr. at Watkins Glen," commented Geoff, "but I don't think he will let me jump him on the start like I did last year."

Geoff's bid for a second consecutive IROC crown was thwarted when Al Jr. charged to the front as the green flag flew. Geoff spun once while challenging Al Jr. and dropped back to fifth. On lap 17, after charging up through the field to third, Geoff slid off the Watkins Glen roadcourse pavement damaging his gold #1 Camaro too extensively to return to competition.

"We were gaining and I was pushing it trying to catch him (Al Jr.)," said Geoff, who finished 12th in the race and sixth in season points. "I was trying, and that's what this series is all about. Then the car went sideways (in Turn Five). I knew I'd hit hard enough to knock me out of competition. I've enjoyed the challenge of the IROC Series and hope to be invited back again."



Pictured above with his Michigan trophy and winning yellow #9 IROC-Z Chevrolet Camaro behind him, Geoff received \$9,500 in bonus money and 26 championship points for his win. The victory gave him a two point lead over second place Al Unser, Jr., setting the scene for a repeat shoot-out with Al Jr. for the title.