

NTT INDYCAR SERIES

News Conference

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Conor Daly

Alexander Rossi

Scott McLaughlin

Press Conference



THE MODERATOR: We will start with row 4. Starting 12th, the 2016 winner the Indianapolis 500, Alexander Rossi. Starting 10th, seven-time winner in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, Scott McLaughlin. We're waiting on Conor Daly.

Rossi, I was here for your first win as a rookie, with a new team this year, rookie on the pole. Number two this year.

ALEXANDER ROSSI: I hope so. What I've explained to quite a few people throughout this month is when you feel all of the emotions of this place, the heartbreak and the close calls, as well as the good moments, it really just continues to increase your desire to be successful here.

You think each year that, like, Okay, I've reached the most that I could want to win this race. Then you come back and you go through the whole process again and you get a glimpse of you have a good team a good package, a good opportunity, and you can't help but imagine what it would be like to do it again.

Yeah, I mean, I think it was a long time ago at this point. We've come very close multiple times since then. I think we have as good a shot as any this year to try to get number two.

THE MODERATOR: We'll open it up for questions.

Q. Because you won it so soon, do you look back at it now and kind of relish and cherish and appreciate it even more?

ALEXANDER ROSSI: I think it's hard for any athlete to in the moment, right, because you're so focused on trying to get better, trying to improve yourself, it's very hard to look back and, for lack of a better term, relax and reminisce about the good moments.

You so often think about the ones that got away more than you think about the one where it all actually worked out.

Yes, you see clips that bring you back. There's memorabilia that I have in my house that you take a moment. Ultimately you're always focused ahead and trying to figure out how you can get back to that point for a second time.

Q. Scott, we haven't heard much from you since your crash on Sunday, whole bunch of stuff happened with your team, you lost your strategist. How are you feeling? Where are you at in all of this?

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: Well, hi (smiling).

I thought it's Alex's time right now.

ALEXANDER ROSSI: You can be here. Just as long as Conor stays away (laughter). Sick suit, bro.

CONOR DALY: (Smiling.)

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: Ultimately, those three guys are friends of mine and have done a tremendous amount in my career to get me to this point. I guess you could say there's a sadness from my perspective.

At the end of the day I drive for Roger Penske. I respect the decision. I understand the decision. We move forward. I think I'm disappointed in some of my peers and people in this room, just how it was taken out of proportion in some ways.

At the same time, I think people forget just what Roger's done for this sport in general, and that definitely gets thrown to the side a little bit, which I find a hard time not being passionate about that.

But ultimately what's done is done. This happened. We have to move forward. The penalties are accepted. Personally I think I had the fastest car, I put it in the fence. I didn't have what was said. Smart people in this paddock know there was no gain with that, you know?

It's frustrating that this is blown up like it has and it's cost

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three people that I'm very close with their jobs. But overall, my view on it right now is just to focus forward and win Roger his 21st.

I tell you what, there's that much motivation in our garage, within the team, within my stand. I'm excited to work with Ben even closer than I have before. I think we've got amazing people coming in from a substitute perspective helping us out, Jonathan Diuguid, Raul Prados, people that have won this race before.

Yeah, you haven't heard from me because I wanted the chance to just say that. I'm not really going to speak too much more on that.

THE MODERATOR: We are joined by Conor Daly, starting 11th. His 12th start in the 500. Thanks for joining us, Conor.

CONOR DALY: Hi. Thanks (smiling).

Q. Scott, you were talking about your peers.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: I'm not calling anyone out, Bob. I'm not.

Q. There are people out there who are pointing things out.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: There are. There are.

Q. We heard that people told INDYCAR to look at it. Does that make you angry? If you saw something on somebody else's car...

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: That's part of the game, I get it. It's not the that part. That's racing. That's how it is.

It's just I guess I'm disappointed with how Roger's name has been thrown through the mud, his integrity, our team, the people on the floor, the people that spend hours away from their families trying to build these cars. Basically they're being thrown to the mud. I take that personally.

Yeah, yeah...

Q. Scott, you and Ed just made a wager for the Knicks/Pacers series.

ALEXANDER ROSSI: How did that go last night?

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: Real bad. We lost the unloseable.

We had a good wager. I don't know how Ed is behind Rossi and Rasmussen, but -- Edsters, are they called? I

have to buy the equivalent -- if the Pacers win in six games -- if they win in seven, the bet is off, or I win -- I have to buy the equivalent up to 2500 bucks of his milk. What is it?

ALEXANDER ROSSI: Coffee. Java.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: But, yeah, I'm going to do that.

ALEXANDER ROSSI: What's funny, I don't think 2500 will get him there.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: That's why I capped it. Then the other way, if the Pacers win in seven, or Knicks, which I think will happen, we have to figure it out, but buy some steaks from Good Ranchers maybe, donate to charity, I don't know. No one gets much out of this, apart from maybe Ed's reputation.

Q. Scott and Conor, where did y'all watch the game from last night? How much fun was that?

CONOR DALY: I sent Scott a text and he lied to me. He said he wasn't watching the game. What were you watching?

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: "Summer House."

CONOR DALY: You're a liar.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: I was watching it.

CONOR DALY: I was in the bus lot. Felt really good, honestly.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: 20 minutes of that game I paced around my bus.

CONOR DALY: I shouted a lot, yeah.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: The port-a-potty -- I was actually out for dinner. I'm not happy about that, by the way. Whoever did that pissed me off again. It's been a wild couple days. I'm ready to go. Ready to swing.

The porta-potty blocked the door to get in my bus. I was worried for Karly and my daughter. I respect the prank game, but they got to think a little bit. Whoever it is, they're going to go down hard (smiling).

Q. (No microphone.)

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: I moved it myself. You should have seen me out there just pushing this sloshy little porta-potty around. And moving my golf cart. I thought it was someone else. I parked the golf cart next to their bus,

said person, and left the reverse light on. It was, like, 11:30 at night. They had to come out and turn it off. Which they did. It was funny. I saw them do it at the time.

Q. (No microphone.)

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: Yes, yes. It's a guy that said goodnight to everyone. I thought straightaway it was him. I don't think it was. Seems too lame for Colton. He was hanging out with us on Monday night.

CONOR DALY: Colton said earlier he was waiting for someone to play a prank on him.

Q. I'm curious, the verbiage, with somebody else new on a timing stand, is that something you want to get down in tomorrow's practice, or is that something where it's already down and you're on the same page?

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: No, we're good. Me and Benny have known each other for a long, long time now. He's one of my best friends. It sounds crazy, but we play a lot of video games together, we talk together all the time, we hang out. I'm excited to work with Ben. Even on test days he takes over that part of the role. It's not an unknown voice that I'm hearing.

Q. Conor, you've had some really good race cars here, led laps. Compare this to your previous cars going into a Carb Day and your confidence level for Sunday.

CONOR DALY: You know what, thanks for asking the question. I'm excited.

This has been a fun one so far. This is going to be a crazy one. I feel really lucky. I think I've been in multiple different situations at this race before, obviously with some fantastic cars and some cars that have struggled to make the race.

This one all month -- actually, the first day, I would say, Tuesday I was a little nervous, didn't have the best day, found our issue. Every day since then, the car has been a joy to drive. That doesn't happen often here. Qualifying trim stuff was hard. That was challenging for sure at times.

This car in race trim, it's very good. I don't see any reason why we shouldn't be fighting for the win. We have a decent starting position as well, obviously. This team has just done a great job. For ampm to be here with ARCO as well for their first Indy 500, they love it. The car looks awesome, everybody is pumped.

A lot of wild number stats people have thrown at me about cold days, pit box numbers, moon signs, but I'm just going

to stay focused on one day at a time and do my job every lap and see what happens.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: When Rossi won, I was in the middle of the one and two on the silver bullets.

CONOR DALY: When he won, I was sitting on the couch in my bus because I already crashed.

ALEXANDER ROSSI: Good job.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: The winner is coming from this row.

CONOR DALY: Does feel right.

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: Could be a party.

Q. Scott, you're in the team backup car, if memory serves. The team spends months building these cars. In theory the backup car shouldn't be as primed as the prime cars. Do you feel like it's going to be close to what you originally had or too far off?

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: No, it's right there. It's a brand-new car, brand-new chassis, brand-new speedway car. It's a purpose-built speedway car. Unfortunately in the circumstance we have a crash like this, we had a car like that ready to go. Just bolted my race motor, all the race uprights, everything that I had one earlier in practice.

Honestly Monday felt very close. We just had a couple things not quite at upright that affected some setup and stuff. Ironed that out, had a good week to prepare, and things should be just as fast.

Q. How was it at the card shop? Did you get anything fun?

CONOR DALY: Shout-out Parkside. We got new INDYCAR trading cars. Go get 'em. I got some Alexander Rossi autographs. That was cool. A lot of great stuff out there.

Again, INDYCAR, a lot of good things going for INDYCAR. I think that's one of them. Our fans have been super pumped about that, which has been awesome.

Q. You've been doing this for a while. First sellout in decades. There's a lot of energy in Indy right now. How does it compare to years past? How excited are you for Sunday?

CONOR DALY: He won that one last time it was sold out, so he can start.



ALEXANDER ROSSI: Yeah, just waiting for it to sell out again so I could drink more milk.

It's amazing. I think INDYCAR as a whole has been on a pretty amazing trajectory since I joined in 2016. This race in particular. Every year, Doug would talk about, when we started in '17, it's been the most amount of tickets we've sold other than the 100th running. Finally we're at as many tickets as the 100th running. It's not an anniversary event.

I think a lot of people that came in '16 were there because they wanted to be there for the 100ths. I think it just shows the appetite that everyone has for INDYCAR, for the Indy 500.

As Scott said, it's a representation of what's been done by the leadership to get to this point.

Q. Scott, you said you're determined, you're motivated if you got the fastest car that should have won the pole, probably would have happened. You're going to race your way up to the front. How long do you think it will be before the 2 and 12 will be able to get up there with you?

SCOTT McLAUGHLIN: I'm not taking for granted. It's going to be a tough race regardless. I know we have fast cars. Everyone feels that way, as well.

I don't know. For me, I'm not worried about their race. I'm focused on my own. But we know what we need to do to sort of keep ourselves in the game. I've said it all month. It's been so nice to be able to come into a month where I was up the front a little further than I had been in my career. I understand the cadence a little bit more, you could say.

But yeah, not really focused on what they're doing. I'm just focused on myself.

Q. It feels like this year it's really a little bit more wide open. No one has come in and said this person is absolutely the favorite. Nor has anyone completely dominated every session. Is that fair? Do you feel this is perhaps a little bit more wide open? Can you think of someone or some team that you think is the absolute favorite going into the race?

CONOR DALY: I mean, I guess, yeah. You see the grid. I would say there's cars scattered all over the place that you're like, We didn't expect that.

After the open test, I would have honestly predicted these fellas over to my left to kind of sweep the front row.

Penske front row sweep. I was very wrong.

What PREMA did, what a cool story. Takuma Sato on the front row. Cool story. Pato. All of it's just, like, cool. The Fast 12, that was I thought pretty exciting. You have Felix Rosenqvist in the Creed car, that was cool. There's people all scattered throughout this field you wouldn't really expect.

Qualifying was really difficult I think for a lot of people. ECR, those guys, again, solid, but normally they're always in the front row. That kind of throws in a little bit of a new, Hey, seems like a different year. Something about the car that's definitely challenging.

I think that again makes it must-see television on Sunday. I completely think there's going to be more overtaking. After Monday, it was cool to see that. Cool temperatures. That helps racing, as well.

All of it leads to hopefully just a great event.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, guys.

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