



# Race

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the first lap in an effort to avoid Masami Kaggeyama at the chicane placed at the end of the tri-oval. Later in the race, while leading, Matsuda was tagged in the rear by Katsutomo Kaneishi, also in a factory NSX.

"There was no damage," Lotterer said about the two incidents, "but we lost plenty of time."

There was more concern about the radiator problems. Just 20 laps into the 200-mile race, Lotterer first spotted the rising temperatures. Matsuda later reported that the temperatures were reaching the 100-degree (Celsius) mark.

"I was just concentrating on finishing," said Matsuda through an interpreter. "Luckily for us, there was nobody going faster to catch us. The NSX showed its power and potential in the race."

Only after Lotterer rallied following his spin on the opening lap.

"I went in too hot-headed in the first turn on cold tires," said Lotterer. "I just didn't want to hit him, so I spun the car. After that, I just started passing cars. I didn't know how fast we were going."

The German driver said the Fontana track was "a good change" from the courses the series competes on in Japan.

"It was challenging," said Lotterer. "There were different bumps and at the exits. It was a good change. It would



John Valenzuela / Staff photographer

Original race winner Andre Lotterer is swarmed by the media after finishing Saturday's race first. Lotterer and teammate Tsugio Matsuda were later penalized 60 seconds and were dropped into second position at the JGTC All-Star 200 at California Speedway.

have been cool to use a part of the oval in the turns, but it was too risky for the tires."

He also learned the hard way the chicane was not wide enough for two cars.

"One time I tried to pass two cars," said Lotterer. "I got past one, but I hit the tires (barrier). I lost positions but didn't damage the car. Our team strategy paid off."

Pole-sitter Satoshi Motoyama was not a factor after being hit by Ryo Michigami eight laps into the race. As a result, 2004 series champion Richard Lyon did not get into the Nissan-Z.

In the GT300 class, Yamano said the track resembled a parts store.

"There were so many things happening," said Ya-

mano. "People were crashing and there were parts all over. I was happy to win in California, my second home."

A total of 15 cars were running at the finish from the original field of 22 in the GT500 class, and six of 10 cars in GT300.

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