



JULIAN H. GONZALEZ/Detroit Free Press

Helio Castroneves celebrates during his victory lap: "It's just such a great feeling."

# Reality is better than his dreams

*Teary Castroneves truly savors his first victory*

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Funny thing about other people's dreams: They don't come true every day, either.

It's what Helio Castroneves was able to laugh about more than an hour after getting his first CART FedEx win in Sunday's Detroit Grand Prix. Most of his first 30 post-win minutes were taken by tears.

"You know, I kind of have a lot of winning dreams," Castroneves said. "And people around me also said, 'Oh, I dreamed that you won a race.' And I say, 'Damn it, stop dreaming it, or tell me about it after I get it.' The pressure, that was getting pretty bad.

"But it's just such a great feeling. Great feeling."

In the dream he lived out Sunday, after taking a fist-pumping victory lap, he stopped on the front stretch. "When I got there, I didn't see nobody," Castroneves said of Team Penske mates who were already celebrating on the other side of pit road.

"Normally, they would just stay there. And I had to share that feeling with somebody. So I went up the wall and yelled with the people. It was wild. It is just the way I express myself."

**KICKING WHEN DOWN:** If you weren't from Detroit and didn't appreciate Belle Isle's beauty, you might have chuckled at an offhand remark new CART chief executive officer Bobby Rahal made to reporters and others as the rain fell Sunday morning.

"This is supposed to be a world-class motorsports facility, not Woodstock," quipped Rahal, who was given the job on an interim basis when Andrew Craig was forced out Friday.

CART announced earlier this year that next year would be its last racing on Belle Isle. Poor drainage and attendance were cited among the reasons CART can't wait to leave.

Rahal was perhaps somewhat confused. Unlike CART, a wet Woodstock drew crowds of several hundred thousand people. Sunday's race drew an estimated 50,500, down from last year's 53,000 and the event's fourth straight attendance dip.

Spurred by a slightly larger Free Prix Friday crowd, the three-day total of 138,000 was up from last year's 132,000.

**TIME FOR TONY:** Castroneves had one more stop before catching a flight to his Miami home. That was Detroit Receiving Hospital to visit his close friend and fellow CART driver Tony Kanaan, also a Brazilian.

Kanaan, hurt in a crash during qualifying Saturday, had successful surgery Saturday night on his compound left-forearm fracture. Kanaan, 25, suffered breaks in both forearm bones. Two plates and 14 screws were inserted during the two-hour, 15-minute operation.

Kanaan, who also sustained a mild concussion and fractured ribs, is expected to be released today.

"We're very close, from go-karts and when we were teammates with Tasman," Castroneves said of their Indy Lights days together with Tasman Motorsports. In 1997, Castroneves finished second to Kanaan in points.

"It changed, of course, when we came over here to champ cars. We were each doing our own thing with different teams. But we've kind of come closer again and we've talked, and I just feel terrible about the accident like that.

"I wish he was here with us today. I would share this with him, but I don't think he would like it. He would be jealous. And I would say, 'Hey, you will have your time.'"

Kanaan is winless in 45 CART starts.

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