

The Racing Reporter

Harvick gets unbelievable win

By Gerald Hodges

The Racing Reporter
The tradition continues. It's a different driver, new car number and paint scheme, but the excitement is still there.

Rookie Kevin Harvick, driver of the No. 29 Richard Childress Chevrolet saved the best for last, then held off Jeff Gordon for his first career Winston Cup victory by six-tenths of a second in Sunday's Cracker Barrel 500.

It was the closest margin of victory ever at the Atlanta Motor Speedway.

The second-closest finish was at the 2000 Cracker Barrel 500 when Dale Earnhardt edged out Bobby Labonte by 10/100ths of a second.

An emotional carwyner, Richard Childress said, "It was incredible the way Kevin won. I'm thrilled. I'm speechless."

Jeff Gordon got a lap down when he ran out of fuel on lap 144. A few laps later, his teammate Jerry Nadeau showed and allowed Gordon to cross the finish line ahead of him, and get his lap back.

"I gave it everything I had," said Gordon. "It was pretty hairy out there the last few laps, but it was fun driving out there today. I just drove the wheels off all day."

"I don't think Harvick had the best car but he made the move of the race, and drove right by Jarrett and Nadeau, it wasn't a rookie move to believe me."

Jerry Nadeau, Gordon's teammate finished third and was leading the race until five laps to go.

"The car was tight, I was doing everything even tighter the car in the turns to make it turn. The track got hot, we did everything we could, but we didn't have the car to win," said Nadeau.

After the race most drivers including Jeff Gordon and Dale Jarrett went over to the No. 3 pit and congratulated Richard Childress and his team, many of whom were in tears.

Finishing order: 1. Kevin Harvick, 2. Jeff Gordon, 3. Jerry Nadeau, 4. Dale Jarrett, 5. Terry Labonte, 6. Ricky Rudd, 7. Johnny Benson, 8. Ken Schrader, 9. Mike Skinner, 10. Kurt Busch, 11. Ward Burton, 12. Rusty Wallace, 13. Ricky Craven, 14. Jody Anderson, 15. Dale Jarrett, 16. Bill Elliott, 17. Joe Nemechek, 18. Todd Bodine, 19. Buckshot Jones, 20. Bobby Gordon, 21. Andy Houston, 22. Bobby Hamilton, 23. Michael Waltrip, 24. Stacy Compton, 25. Jimmy Spencer, 26. Ben Bodine, 27. Tony Stewart, 28. Hut Stricklin, 29. Kenny Wallace, 30. Jeff Burton, 31. Elliott Sadler, 32. Jason Leffler, 33. Bobby Labonte, 34. Dave Blaney, 35. Sterling Marlin, 36. Robert Presley, 37. Matt Kenseth, 38. Jeremy Mayfield, 39. Ron Hornaday, 40. Mike Wallace, 41. Mark Martin, 42. Kyle Petty, 43. Steve Park.

Gordon takes over points lead

The top 10 points leaders after 4 of 36 events: 1. J. Gordon 613, 2. Jarrett 576, 3. Benson 540, 4. Marlin 513, 5. Waltrip 509, 6. Elliott 495, 7. Nadeau 478, 8. R. Wallace 472, 9. Rudd 467, 10. Schrader 461.

Nemechek takes Aaron's 312

Joe Nemechek, who qualified third for Saturday's Busch Series Aaron's 312 took on four fresh tires with 26 laps remaining in the 203 lap race and went on to his first victory of the season by 10.647 seconds over second-place finisher Greg Biffle.

"I didn't hit the wall and I didn't have to go to the hospital, so it's been a good day," said Nemechek. He was referring to the fact that seven different cars hit the outside retaining wall, including Biffle and third-place finisher Michael Waltrip. The driver of the No. 87 Cellular One Chevrolet led four times for 74

laps. He took the lead for the last time on lap 174. Once he returned to the track he steadily pulled away from Biffle and the rest of the field.

There were five cautions for 25 laps. On lap 104 Elton Sawyer, driver of the No. 98 Starter-Hot Tamales Ford hit the No. 61 Stoops Chevrolet driven by Tim Sauter-head-on.

Sawyer was one of several Busch Series drivers wearing a HANS device.

"Wow, what a hit in my life. I saw the smoke and the next thing I saw was the 61 coming down. I'm a little sore in my chest area, but if I didn't have that device, my head would have been holding the steering wheel...it probably saved me from serious injury today."

Finishing order: 1. Joe Nemechek, 2. Greg Biffle, 3. Michael Waltrip, 4. Jeff Green, 5. Todd Bodine, 6. Jeff Purvis, 7. Jason Keller, 8. Kevin Harvick, 9. Jimmie Johnson, 10. Tony Raines, 11. Mike McLaughlin, 12. Blaine Alexander, 13. Jay Sauter, 14. Scott Wimmer, 15. Chad Little, 16. Chad Chaffin, 17. P.J. Jones, 18. David Green, 19. Kenny Wallace, 20. Mike Dillon, 21. Randy LaJoie, 22. Larry Foy, 23. Brad Baker, 24. Jamie McMurray, 25. Kevin Grubb, 26. Christian Elder, 27. David Starr, 28. Shane Hall, 29. Rich Bickle, 30. Matt Kenseth, 31. Tim Fedewa, 32. Ryan Newman, 33. Marty Houston, 34. Tim Sauter, 35. Elton Sawyer, 36. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 37. Kelly Denton, 38. Hank Parker Jr., 39. Ashton Lewis Jr., 40. Kevin LePage, 41. Mark Green, 42. Carl Long, 43. Brad Teague.

Jeff Green is new points leader

The No. 10 Busch points leaders after 4 of 33 events: 1. J. Green 727, 2. Biffle 622, 3. Harvick 609, 4. Keller 596, 5. T. Bodine 579, 6. Johnson 549, 7. McLaughlin 539, 8. Purvis 506, 9. K. Wallace and Little 489.

Earnhardt tribute continues

Atlanta Motor Speedway held a fan tribute Sunday during the Winston Cup Cracker Barrel 500 for Dale Earnhardt. At the beginning of lap three, fans stood and raised three fingers. They remained standing for the entire lap, as 7,000 black balloons were released 1:00 for each championship he won.

Officials also announced that the North Turn Grandstand will be renamed for seven-time, Earnhardt, who had nine wins on the 1.54-mile track, more than any other driver in track history. His last win came in last year's Cracker Barrel 500. A photo finish over Bobby Labonte.

Billed as the largest moving tribute to Earnhardt, a Sunday automobile caravan lived up to its hype. At least 785 cars joined the rolling memorial down Interstate-75 to the track. At one point, the caravan

stretched over 26.5 miles from the Ford Plant in Hapeville, GA to Marietta, GA, origin of the route.

Weekend Racing: The Winston Cup and Busch Series will race at Darlington, while the Craftsman Truck Series travels to Bakersfield, CA. Darlington Raceway track facts: Location: Darlington, SC, Size: 1.33-mile; Length of frontbackstretch: 1,290 feet; Degree of banking in turns 1-2: 25 degrees; Degree of banking in turns 3-4: 23 degrees; Degree of banking on straightaways: 2 degrees. Saturday, March 17: Busch Series SunCom200, event 5 of 23 events. Starts: 147 laps/200 miles, TV: FX Sports Channel; Starting time: 1 p.m. (EST); Defending champion: Mark Martin. Craftsman Truck Series California 250, event 3 of 24 events; Location: Mesa Marin Speedway; Distance: 250 laps/125 miles; TV:

ESPN2. Starting time: 5 p.m. (EST); Defending champion: Mike Wallace.

Sunday, March 18: Winston Cup Carolina Dodge Dealers 400, event 5 of 36 events. Distance: 293 laps/400 miles; TV: Fox. Starting time: 12:30 p.m. (EST); Defending champion: Ward Burton.

Racing Trivia Question: Who is the owner of the No. 00 Busch Series Chevrolet driven by Todd Bodine?

Answer To Last Week's Question: There are 43 cars that normally start a Winston Cup race? **Gerald Hodges' Racing Reporter** is a syndicated NASCAR columnist. If you have a racing question that you would like answered send it to The Racing Reporter, P.O. Box 160711, Mobile, AL 36616, or e-mail to: h10335403@compuserve.com

Rockcastle County Health Fair

Sponsored by 21st Century Community Learning Center at Rockcastle County High School and Rockcastle County Area Technology Center and Community Education

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Time: 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Rockcastle Co. Area Technology Center

Receive information in the following:

- Nutrition • Alcohol Awareness • Substance Abuse
- A Healthy Heart • Smoking Cessation
- Breast Cancer • A Healthy Mind

For further information, contact Ralph Baker at (606) 256-1111 or Kathy Bobo at (606) 256-2125

Rockcastle Co. Community Education

Classes Offered at the Rockcastle County High School

For information or registration contact: Tracy Burtch at (606) 256-4416

Class Title	Date	Location	Time	Sponsoring Organization
Basic Computer Skills	Begin March 6 th Tuesday	Rockcastle County High School	4:00-5:30 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC
Basic Computer Skills	Begin Wednesday March 7 th	Rockcastle County High School	4:00-5:30 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC
IT I (Introduction)	Begin Tuesday March 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , and 27 th	Rockcastle County High School	6:00-8:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC
Computer Literacy	Tuesday Beginning March 6 th	Basement of Center and Cox Building	6:00-8:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC
Parenting Class: Antism Workplace	Thursday March 15 th	Brookfield Elementary School	4:00-7:00 pm	Rockcastle County Community Education, 21 st Century Community Learning Center and Tammie Gabbard, Upper Cumberland Valley Education Cooperative
Parenting Class: Introduction to Parenting	Tuesday April 3 rd	Rockcastle County High School	6:00-8:00 pm	Rockcastle County Community Education, 21 st Century Community Learning Center and Tammie Gabbard, Upper Cumberland Valley Education Cooperative
Parenting Class: Introduction to Parenting	Tuesday April 17 th	Rockcastle County High School	6:00-8:00 pm	Rockcastle County Community Education, 21 st Century Community Learning Center and Tammie Gabbard, Upper Cumberland Valley Education Cooperative
Parenting Class: Introduction to Parenting	Tuesday April 24 th	Rockcastle County High School	6:00-8:00 pm	Rockcastle County Community Education, 21 st Century Community Learning Center and Tammie Gabbard, Upper Cumberland Valley Education Cooperative
Parenting Class: Introduction to Parenting	Tuesday May 1 st	Rockcastle County High School	6:00-8:00 pm	Rockcastle County Community Education, 21 st Century Community Learning Center and Tammie Gabbard, Upper Cumberland Valley Education Cooperative

Activities at the Rockcastle County Public Library

For information or registration contact: Katherine Burtch at (606) 256-2300

Event Title	Date	Event	Sponsoring Organization and Location
Community Survey	Wednesday March 14 th through Thursday March 15 th	The library will be taking surveys around town to gather key information about the needs of the community and how the library can help.	Rockcastle County Public Library
Reading to Mothers	Tuesday March 20 th , April 10 th and 24 th May 8 th	Reading to Mothers - The Rockcastle that reads. A book club that focuses this spring on The South and Southern Writers. We will be taking a trip May 17 th 22 nd to the place of the writings, "Richmond, VA."	Rockcastle County Public Library
Highway 218	Wednesday March 21 st	Health Fair Booth 12:00-5:00 pm	Rockcastle County Public Library
Community Survey	Thursday March 29 th	Work accepted for an exhibit to be displayed "in April for National Library Week. Work will reflect the theme "Celebrating Our Community." Handwritten, audio, network, writings and more are all acceptable. Contact the library for a display guidelines sheet and more information. An exhibit will be displayed for the entire week.	Rockcastle County Public Library
Book Sale	Begin Monday April 2 nd	Book Sale Booth	Rockcastle County Public Library
Community Survey	Tuesday April 3 rd	Dreadnought Story Hour and Crafts - 1:00-2:00 pm	Rockcastle County Public Library
Community Survey	Thursday April 5 th	Read to Local City Officials, Community Members and Business People Reading Favorite Children's Books 1:00-2:00 pm	Rockcastle County Public Library
Community Survey	Thursday April 5 th	Sale and Book Sale for Parents and Kids 1:00-2:00 pm	Rockcastle County Public Library
Community Survey	Thursday April 12 th	Monthly Radio Program Held in the Morning	Rockcastle County Public Library
Community Survey	Saturday April 14 th	Health Fair- Preschool Storytime Booth 10:00-1:00 pm	Rockcastle County Public Library

Classes Offered at the Rockcastle County Area Technology Center

For information or registration contact: Ralph Baker at (606) 256-1111

Class Title	Date	Location	Time	Sponsoring Organization
Microsoft Access	Begin March 26 th	Rockcastle County Area Technology Center	4:00-6:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC
Microsoft Word	Begin Wednesday April 4 th	Rockcastle County Area Technology Center	4:00-6:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC
Health and Wellness	To Be Announced	Rockcastle County Area Technology Center	4:00-6:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC
Health Fair	Wednesday March 21 st	Rockcastle County Area Technology Center	12:00-5:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC

Classes Offered at the Rockcastle Extension Service

For information or registration contact: Kathy Bobo at (606) 256-2125

Class Title	Date	Location	Time	Sponsoring Organization
Financial Literacy: With an Interpreter	Tuesday March 13 th and 20 th	Rockcastle County Extension Service 3 rd Floor of the Courthouse	6:30-8:00 pm	Rockcastle County Community Education and 21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC
Financial Development	Thursday March 15 th	Rockcastle County Extension Service 3 rd Floor of the Courthouse	8:00-10:30 pm	Rockcastle County Community Education and 21 st Century Community Learning Center at RCHS and RATIC

Classes Offered by the Extension Service

For information or registration contact: Kathy Bobo at (606) 256-2125

Class Title	Date	Location	Time	Sponsoring Organization
Alzheimer's Education School	March 4-15	Brookfield Elementary	3:00-5:00 pm	Rockcastle County Extension Service
Alzheimer's Education School	April 5-15	Brookfield Elementary	3:00-5:00 pm	Rockcastle County Extension Service
Alzheimer's Education School	March 19-27	Brookfield Elementary	3:00-5:00 pm	Rockcastle County Extension Service
Alzheimer's Education School	March 28-29	Mt. Vernon Elementary	3:00-5:00 pm	Rockcastle County Extension Service
At the Extension Office	Monday March 12 th	Extension Office	9:00-10:00 pm	Rockcastle County Extension Service
Health Supplement	Tuesday March 13 th	Extension Office	10:00 am	Rockcastle County Extension Service
Uplifting Your Business	Monday April 30 th	Extension Office	10:00 am	Rockcastle County Extension Service
At the Extension Office	Monday April 30 th	Extension Office	8:30 am-2:30 pm	Rockcastle County Extension Service
At the Extension Office	Monday April 30 th	Extension Office	9:00-10:00 pm	Rockcastle County Extension Service
At the Extension Office	Friday March 31 st	Extension Office	9:00-11:00 pm	Rockcastle County Extension Service

Classes Offered by the Rockcastle County Middle School

For information or registration contact: Anthony G. Goff at (606) 256-3128

Class Title	Date	Location	Time	Sponsoring Organization
Spanish	Wednesdays	Rockcastle County Middle School	3:30-5:30 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at Rockcastle County Middle School
Computer Basics	Tuesdays	Rockcastle County Middle School	4:00-6:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at Rockcastle County Middle School
Computer Basics	Mondays	Rockcastle County Middle School	4:00-6:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at Rockcastle County Middle School
Computer Basics	Thursdays	Rockcastle County Middle School	6:00-7:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at Rockcastle County Middle School
Computer Basics	Mondays	Rockcastle County Middle School	4:00-6:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at Rockcastle County Middle School
Computer Basics	Tuesdays	Rockcastle County Middle School	4:30-6:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at Rockcastle County Middle School
Computer Basics	Monday March 5 th and 12 th	Rockcastle County Middle School	5:00-6:00 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at Rockcastle County Middle School
Computer Basics	Saturdays	Rockcastle County Middle School	8:15-10:15 pm	21 st Century Community Learning Center at Rockcastle County Middle School