

The Racing Reporter

Dale Jarrett gets second win of season

By Gerald Hodges
The Racing Reporter

Dale Jarrett became the first repeat Winston Cup winner of the 2001 season as he came on strong in the closing laps of the 325 lap Harrah's 500, Sunday at Texas Motor Speedway.

Jarrett's team put four tires on during a pit stop after a late-race caution on lap 301 and made them five off as he chased down and passed five cars that had restarted ahead of him with 18 laps to go.

Jarrett caught and passed Johnny Benson for the lead with six laps left and held on from there in the No. 88 UPS Ford to beat Steve Park and Benson to the finish line.

It was Jarrett's second win in three races. Park has finished second to him in both of them.

Johnny Benson, who stayed out on the final caution flag, couldn't make his team's gamble pay off for the victory but did finish third in his Pontiac. Rookie Kurt Busch recovered from an early spin for a fourth-place finish in his Ford.

Polystir, Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished eighth. He was leading the race with 24 laps remaining when a caution flag came out. He, along with the others pitted, but he lost eight positions in the pit and was never able to challenge for the lead.

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

Jarrett increases points lead

The top-10 points leaders after 7 of 36 events: 1. Jarrett 1056, 2. J. Gordon 981, 3. Benson 946, 4. Park 933, 5. Martin 889, 6. R. Wallace, 879, 7. Hamilton 825, 8. Sadler 824,

9. Elliott 822, 10. Harvick 811.

Kevin Harvick holds off Jeff Burton in Texas Busch

Kevin Harvick led 114 of the 200 laps in the Jani-King 300 to get his first Busch Series win of the season, Saturday, March 30.

Harvick took the lead for good on Lap 161, powering past Jimmie Johnson on a restart after Johnson had gambled by taking only two tires his final pit stop. Burton closed in on Harvick over the final laps in a Ford and said he felt he had the quicker car near the end of the race.

"You can be a lot faster but you can't pass him because you lose the air on the nose of the car," Burton said. "We were the only guys that had a chance to beat (Harvick). If we were in front of him, we would have beat him (but) he was in front of us, so he beat us."

Finishing order: 1. Kevin Harvick, 2. Jeff Burton, 3. Jay Sauter, 4. Joe Nemechek, 5. Matt Kenseth, 6. David Green, 7. Greg Biffle, 8. Jimmie Johnson, 9. Mike Skinner, 10. Kevin LePage, 11. Ashton Lewis, 12. Jeff Purvis, 13. Randy LaJoie, 14. Ryan

Newman, 15. Scott Wimmer, 16. Jamie McMurray, 17. David Sauter, 18. Kevin Grubb, 19. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 20. Tony Raines, 21. Elton Sawyer, 22. Larry Foyt, 23. Rich Bickle, 24. Jason Keller, 25. Marty Houston, 26. Tim Fendret, 27. Chad Chaffin, 28. Kelly Denton, 29. Hank Parker, 30. Jimmy Spencer, 31. Chad Little, 32. Jeff Green, 33. Andy Hillenburg, 34. Tim Sauter, 35. Todd Bodine, 36. Mark Day, 37. Mike McLaughlin, 38. Shane Hall, 39. Shawn Robinson, 40. Bobby Gerhardt, 41. Mark Green, 42. Robby Faggett, 43. Kenny Wallace.

Harvick continues to lead points

The top-10 points leaders after 7

of 33 events: 1. Harvick 1007, 2. Keller 982, 3. Biffle 971, 4. J. Green 923, 5. Johnson 917, 6. McLaughlin 870, 7. Purvis 858, 8. K. Wallace 848, 9. Kenseth 824, 10. T. Bodine 809.

The top-5 rookie points leaders:

1. Biffle 98, 2. T. Sauter, Wimmer 63, 4. McMurray 61, 5. M. Houston 53.

Rick Mast on Martinsville Speedway

The Rockbridge, Bath, Virginia native was on his way home from a race at a dirt track in North Carolina in 1977 when he and his team stopped at the historic Virginia track.

"I forget exactly what happened if the race was rained out or whatever," Mast said. It was in the day-

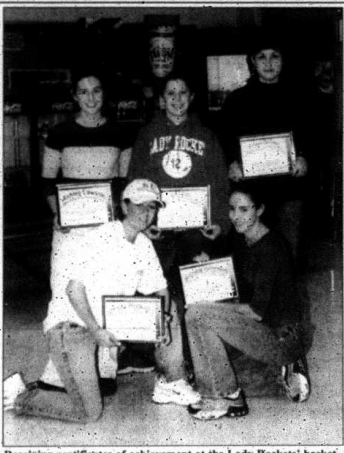
time and I remember pulling up to the fourth turn gate. I remember peering out at the racetrack and looking down the straightaway. I told the guys that if I could ever once run this race, track my life would be fulfilled."

Mast won his first career Busch Series race at Dover Downs and followed it up by winning the Nationwide 150 at Martinsville. He averaged 67.436 mph in his Pontiac that afternoon.

"I remember that Jimmy Hensley ran second to me and that was pretty cool because he is so good at Martinsville. My guys were real happy after the race. They were push-

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Rockets and Lady Rockets hold banquets



Receiving certificates of achievement at the Lady Rockets' basketball banquet were front row from left: Jessie Rickels and Rachelle Hammond. Back row from left: Ashley Lawson, Amber Fajin, and Amber Denney.



The Rockcastle County High School Rocket basketball team held their awards banquet on March 24th. Members of the junior varsity and varsity team are shown above, front row, from left: Head Coach Clayton Cash, assistant coaches Jerry Reynolds and Jason Cogger. Second row, from left: Jeremy Rowe, Josh Rowland, Jeremy Neely, Thomas Coffey, Andrew Hammond and Jason Reynolds. Back row, from left: assistant coach Corey Craig, Aaron Anderkin, Chris Settles, Austin Miller, Devin Taylor, Chris Childress, Anthony Stevens, Stephen Boring and Aaron Cash. Award winners on the night were: Jeremy Neely, MVP and offensive award. Aaron Anderkin, best free throw percentage and best three point percentage. Thomas Coffey, 110 percent award and sixth man award. Aaron Cash, most assists and defensive award. Andrew Hammond, leading rebounder award and defensive award. Josh Rowland, best field goal percentage award and 110 percent award. Stephen Boring, coaches award. Jason Reynolds and Jessie Hamm, most improved award. The Rockets ended the season with an 18-8 mark.



Members of the Rocket freshman football team are shown above, front row, from left: Shane Lynch, Brandon Reams, Devon Bussell, David Miller, Nick Thomas, Cody Alexander, Blake Lovell, and Brandon Fajin. Back row from left: Billy Hales, Devin Taylor, Jason Leger, James Isaacs, Josh Hayes, Brandon Campbell, Brad Wesley, Josh Prescott, Caleb Blair, and Jameon Cable.

Football team holds awards banquet

The Rockcastle County High School Rocket football team held their annual awards banquet at the Rockcastle County High School several weeks ago.

The Rockets were 13 and 1 on the season and were, regional champions.

Award winners for the 2000 season were:

Derrick Bussell, offensive MVP, best defensive back and academic award.

Travis Ingram, defensive MVP, best inside linebacker and most tackles.

Greg Harper, best outside linebacker and defensive big play.

Sean Smith, most improved defensive end and best defensive lineman.

Christopher Parsons, best offensive back.

Heath Payne, best attitude.

Dackery Larkey, best utility player.

Chaz Cable, hit man award.

Josh Hale, offensive big play award.

Greg Terry, Golden Toe II award.

Clay Dooley, most improved of

fense award.

William Blair, best of offensive lineman award.

Aaron Anderkin, junior varsity MVP.

P.J. Rowe, junior varsity defensive MVP.

Devin Taylor, freshman team, offensive MVP.

David Miller, freshman team, defensive MVP.

2000 all district team:

First team: Derrick Bussell, player of the year, Greg Harper, receiver of the year, Greg Terry, special teams player of the year, Christopher Parsons, Dackery Larkey, Sean Smith, Josh Hale, and William Blair.

Second team: Adam Childress, Clay Dooley and Marty Reagan.

Honorable mention: Tanner Abney, Michael Brummett and Jason Leger.

2000 junior varsity all conference team:

Aaron Anderkin, P.J. Rowe, Josh Taylor, Steve Blair, Benny Northern, Stephen Boring and James M. Bussell.

Other awards:

Death Valley Bowl MVP, Christopher Parsons, Jamboore Bowl Offensive MVP, Derrick Bussell, Jamboore Bowl, Defensive MVP, Sean Smith and Marty Reagan.

Big Dipper All Mountain Senior Team: Derrick Bussell and Travis Ingram.

WYMT All Mountain Team: Derrick Bussell, Sean Smith, Travis Ingram, Greg Terry, Christopher Parsons and Marty Reagan.

Best Defensive Line in the Mountains: Sean Smith, Dackery Larkey, Tanner Abney, Adam Childress, William Blair and Greg Harper.

Derrick Bussell, first team associated press defensive back and first team Courier-Journal defensive back.

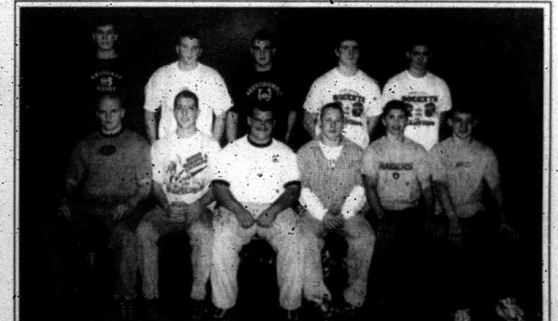
Greg Terry, third team local kicker Courier-Journal.

Sean Smith, third team Courier-Journal, defensive end.

Greg Harper, honorable mention wide receiver, Courier-Journal and Travis Ingram, honorable mention Courier-Journal linebacker.



Senior members of the Rocket 2000 region championship team are shown above, front row, from left: Derrick Bussell, Sean Smith, Greg Terry, Greg Harper and Christopher Parsons. Back row, from left: Dackery Larkey, Chaz Cable and Heath Payne. Not present was Travis Ingram.



Sophomore members of the Rocket football team are shown above, front row, from left: Tanner Abney, Aaron Anderkin, Doug French, Marty Reagan, James Bussell and J.T. Lovell. Back row, from left: Stephen Boring, Michael Brummett, Brian Mullins, Benny Northern and Michael Hayes.