

The Racing Reporter

Gordon gains 100th win for Hendrick Motorsports

By Gerald Hodges The Racing Reporter

Jeff Gordon held off a furious charge by Ricky Rudd during the last two laps of the 200-lap Knott 400 for his second consecutive Winston Cup victory.

Gordon's win Sunday also gave Hendrick Motorsports its 100th Winston Cup victory. Gordon claimed the organization's 98th win at Las Vegas in March and picked up the 99th last weekend at Dover, Del.

Hendrick Motorsports becomes only the second racing team to reach 100 Winston Cup wins since 1972, the start of NASCAR's "modern era." Only Junior Johnson (135) holds more wins during the period.

Gordon's win, combined with Dale Jarrett's 10th-place finish, gave him the lead in the Winston Cup points race. Gordon now is tied with Jarrett with the most wins this season (three).

Gordon held off Rudd by .085 seconds for the victory, followed by Sterling Marlin, Jeremy Mayfield, and Ryan Newman.

"We had a good race car," said Marlin. "We had a good car on the

long runs, but they could beat us on the get-go. We ran in the corner on the restart and the car wouldn't stick. Jeff got by us and that was it. I hate it for the guys on the crew, and I hate it for Dodge. I thought we were going to get that first Dodge win today, but we'll stick with it and we'll get one soon. I think we would have got it today. Me and Jeff were running the same lap times. I feel like we had it. The season ain't half over yet. We'll just keep digging."

Dale Jarrett, who finished 18th and lost the points lead to Gordon said, "I could not be aggressive with the car. I could get hit hard on the gas. We short-pitched and got a lap down when the caution came out (on lap 173), but something was wrong with the right-front. The car was extremely loose the last 75 laps."

Three Dodies during by Marlin, Dave Blaney and Bill Elliott finished in the top 10.

Finishing order: 1. Jeff Gordon, 2. Ricky Rudd, 3. Sterling Marlin, 4. Jeremy Mayfield, 5. Ryan Newman, 6. Hut Strickland, 7. Jeff Burton, 8. Dave Blaney, 9. Bill Elliott, 10. Kevin Harvick, 11. Jimmy Spencer, 12. Johnny Benson, 13. Bobby

Labonte, 14. Ken Schrader, 15. Matt Kenseth, 16. Mark Martin, 17. Jeff Green, 18. Dale Jarrett, 19. Jason Leffler, 20. Mike Skinner, 21. Robert Presley, 22. Bobby Hamilton, 23. Steve Park, 24. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 25. Tony Stewart, 26. Terry Labonte, 27. Kyle Petty, 28. Jerry Nadeau, 29. Michael Waltrip, 30. Casey Atwood, 31. Kevin LePage, 32. Ron Hornaday, 33. Brett Bodine, 34. Shawn Robinson, 35. Ricky Craven, 36. Buckshot Jones, 37. John Andretti, 38. Ward Burton, 39. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 40. Elliott Sadler, 41. Rusty Wallace, 42. Todd Bodine, 43. Kurt Busch

Gordon is new points leader

The top 10 points leaders after 14 of 36 races: 1. J. Gordon 1996; 2. Jarrett 1970, 3. Marlin 1869, 4. Rudd 1866, 5. Stewart 1791, 6. R. Wallace 1768, 7. Benson 1755, 8. Park 1748, 9. Harvick 1655, 10. B. Labonte 1613

Earnhardt gets emotional ARCA victory

The crowd roared for the last laps while the leader and eventual winner, Kerry Earnhardt cruised around with a near six-second advantage at Michigan Int'l Speedway, Saturday, June 8. An estimated 60,000 fans roared their approval as the eldest son of NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt, dominated the 200-mile ARCA Re-Max Series race, leading 64 of 100 laps, and joining his father and brother Dale, Jr. as winners at MIS.

Finishing order: 1. Jeff Gordon, 2. Ed Berrier, 3. Stuart Kirby, 4. Jerry Glanville, 5. Andy Belmont, 6. Blaise Alexander, 7. David Keith, 8. Rick Cardoli, 9. Tim Steele, 10. A.J. Hendriksen, 11. Jeff Finley, 12. Larry Hollenbeck, 13. Richard Mitchell, 14. Todd Bowsher.



David Colley and his Maw were fishing at Reid's Pay Lake and David caught this 27 pound catfish.

15. Mike Buckley, 16. Vern Slagh, 17. Rick Thomas, 18. Ron Cox, 19. Robert Burroughs, 20. Donny McDuck, 21. Jeff Pugh, 22. Norm Benning, 23. Kevin McGuire, 24. Greg Sarff, 25. Jason Hedgesley, 26. Mark Hockensmith, 27. Tim Mitchell, 28. Bobby Gerhardt, 29. Jason Jarrett, 30. Frank Kimmel, 31. Bill Eversole, 32. Brad Smith, 33. Todd Shafer, 34. Todd Antman, 35. Chuck Weber, 36. Kevin Belmont, 37. Roger Blackstock, 38. James Hylton, 39. Eric Martin

Sprague wins Texas Truck Race

The results of the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series O'Reilly 400k, run Friday, June 8 at Texas Motor Speedway, Ft. Worth, 1. Jack Sprague, 2. Brendan Gaughan, 3. David Starr, 4. Joe Rutman, 5. Ricky Hendrick, 6. Dennis Setzer, 7. Coy Gibbs, 8. Randy Tolson, 9. Carlos Contreras, 10. Nathan Hase, 11. Travis Kviegi, 12. Lance Norick, 13. Terry Cook, 14. Ted Musgrave, 15. Lance Hooper, 16. Matt Crafton, 17. Eric Norris, 18. Trent Owens, 19. Donnie Neuenberger, 20. Rick Crawford, 21. Morgan Shepherd, 22. Billy Blyley, 23. Bobby Dotter, 24. Ricky Sanders, 25. Willy T. Ribbs, 26. Scott Riggs, 27. Chuck Hossfeld, 28. Stan Boyd, 29. Patrick Lawler, 30. Larry Gosselink, 31. Phil Bonifield, 32. Jimmy Hendley, 33. Tom Powers, 34. Rich Woodland, 35. Brian Sockwell, 36. Gene Christensen

Weekend Racing: It's an off week for the Craftsman Trucks. The Winston Cup Series will be on the road, coarse at Pocono, PA, while the Busch Series is at the new Kentucky Speedway.

Kentucky Speedway Track Facts: Location: Sparta, KY. Size: 1.5 miles. Degree of banking in corners: 14 degrees; Degree of banking on straights: 8 degrees; Length of backstretch: 1,600 feet.

Saturday, June 16, Busch Series Kentucky 300, event 16 of 33 events. Distance: 200 laps/300 miles; Starting time: 7:30 p.m. (EST); TV: Fox Sports Channel; This is the inaugural event, there is no defending champion.

Sunday, June 17, Winston Cup Pocono 500, event 15 of 36 events. Distance: 200 laps/500 miles; Starting time: 12:30 p.m. (EST); TV: Fox; Defending champion: Jeremy Mayfield; Pocono Speedway track Facts: Location: Long Pond, PA; Size: A 2.5 mile road course with three distinct turns. Length of frontstretch: 3,740 feet, backstretch: 3,055 feet, shortstretch: 1,780 feet. Qualifying record: Tony Stewart.

Racing Trivia Question: What make car does Rusty Wallace drive?

Shawna made history

By Gerald Hodges
The Racing Reporter
Shawna Robinson and the Aaron's Sales and Leasing Taurus team didn't set the racing world on fire with her on track performance, but she did make history this weekend at the two-mile Michigan Speedway.

Robinson became the first female driver since Patty Moore competed at Talladega, Ala., on July 30, 1989, to start a NASCAR Winston Cup event. With the addition of four more races currently on her schedule this season - Chicago (July 15); Indianapolis (Aug. 5); Kansas (Sept. 30); and Atlanta (Nov. 18) - she will become the first female to run a regular schedule of NASCAR Winston Cup events since Janet Guthrie in 1990. The last female driver to finish a NASCAR Winston Cup race was Janet Guthrie at Pocono, Pa., who was 28th and running at the finish on July 27, 1980.

The 36-year-old mother of two can now appreciate her spot in NASCAR's history book. Her children in the past have rooted for Dale Earnhardt Jr. because their daddy is an engine tuner on his crew.

"The only thing in racing they call relate to is Mommy and Dale Jr.," she said. "So they're happy, but they want me to keep up with Dale."

She started 32nd and finished 34th Sunday after spinning out on lap 194. She did not wreck but wound up three laps down to the leaders.

"We finished, we learned, and now our focus is on our next race at Chicago," she said. "Now, we have an outlook for the future."

Aaron's Sales and Leasing of Atlanta is sponsoring MK Racing and Robinson in the races at California, Michigan, Indianapolis and Atlanta. MK Racing is owned by former Ford Racing executive and NASCAR Winston Cup car owner Michael Kneafuss. The team is planning on following its six races this season with a full NASCAR Winston Cup schedule in 2002, and Robinson competing for Rookie of the Year honors.

She had failed to make a earlier Winston Cup race at California Speedway.

"I don't think words could ever describe how disappointed I was all at California. Our practice times had been getting better and we felt we were going to turn a really good qualifying lap. Don't get me wrong. We weren't going to win the pole or anything like that but we felt we had

a great chance of sitting in the top 20 or top 25, and having a good, solid race on Sunday."

"When I got into the first turn at California on her qualifying lap, I was thinking, 'They were going to be really good.' Joe [Dan Bailey, crew chief] told me later that it looked like a great entrance into (turn) one and good through (turn) two. That's as far as we got, though. The rear end broke and, all of the sudden, it was over."

"No points... no provisionals... no hope. It was over. And let me tell you, it's been a long, long time since California until this week. But I'm looking forward to a lot more races."

Gerrill Hodges/The 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 it to: 110335.405@compuserve.com

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