

The Racing Reporter

BIG EMOTIONAL WIN FOR DALE JR.

By Gerald Hodges
The Racing Reporter
Dale Earnhardt Jr. scored an emotional victory in the Pepsi 400 at Daytona International Speedway Saturday night. He had dominated the race, leading 116 of the 160 laps in his No. 8 Chevrolet, but was forced to come from seventh to first in the final six laps after a crash during the final round of pit stops threatened to cost him the victory.

Emotions ran high all weekend at the track where his legendary father was tragically killed in February, but Dale Jr. and the team were able to put emotion to the side until after the checkered flag. After the victory, he spun his car through the infield grass, and then climbed on top of the car, raising his arms in triumph in front of a crowd of more than 170,000 spectators. He was soon joined there by his Dale Earnhardt, Inc. teammate Michael Waltrip, who finished second. It is Earnhardt's first win of the season, and the third Winston Cup victory of his career.

"It was a really good day," said Rusty Wallace, who finished seventh in the Miller Lite Ford. "We had a great car today and we ran second behind Junior forever and ever. I thought we were just gonna get a stop-and-go for some fuel and get out there and get after it, and then a caution flag flew and bunched us all back up. It was each man for himself the last five or six laps. It was a real great run."

"I think that's perfect. I can't think of a better script to play than to come back to the track that took his father away from him. To have him be able to honor him with the victory is pretty cool. I wish I would have been the one showing him across the line. I almost was."

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

JARRETT CUTS GORDON'S POINT LEAD

The top-10 points leaders after 17 of 36 events: 1. J. Gordon 2403, 2. Jarrett 2355, 3. Rudd 2327, 4. Stewart 2202, 5. R. Labonte 2184, 6. Marlin 2159, 7. B. Labonte 2061, 8. Benson 2051, 9. Earnhardt Jr. 2010, 10. Harvick 1897.

STEWART PENALIZED 65 POINTS BY NASCAR

Tony Stewart was severely punished by NASCAR on Saturday night for breaking a strict racing rule and ignoring a black flag in the final laps of the Pepsi 400. Stewart, who drew the yellow line on the track, was docked 20 finishing positions—a punishment that cost him 65 points in the standings.

Long before the punishment was announced, an angry Stewart tried to allege his case with NASCAR officials. But he was rebuffed in his effort to approach Winston Cup director Gary Nelson at the NASCAR hauler and had to be restrained by car owner Joe Gibbs and his crew chief.

Stewart also slapped a reporter's tape recorder away and kicked it under a car. Gibbs then went into the NASCAR hauler to speak to Nelson as the on-track incident was reviewed.

Stewart, already on probation unaided, struggled on hitting Jeff Gordon's car on pit road earlier this season, left the track without committing long before NASCAR announced its penalty.

Stewart was running in second place with four laps to go as he neared the start/finish line. A pack of cars behind his Pontiac challenging him for position, he slid his car down on the track below the yellow line on the bottom of the track.

That's a rules violation in NASCAR that the drivers were warned of during their pre-race meeting. So when Stewart's left-side tires went below the line, Hooks immediately called him into the pits for the black flag.

His defense for breaking the rule was that he was forced below the line when Johnny Benson, driver of the No. 10 Valvoline and several other drivers all tried to pass him in a four-wide pack.

NASCAR spokesman John Griffin said Stewart might face further penalties for his post-race behavior.

RON FELLOWS CLAIMS

THIRD WATKINS GLEN BUSCH VICTORY

Ron Fellows won his third Busch Series event in four years at Watkins Glen, NY Sunday, July 8 in the GNC Live Well 200.

Finishing order: 1. Ron Fellows, 2. Greg Biffle, 3. Kevin Harvick, 4. Boris Said, 5. Bobby Gordon, 6. Elton Sawyer, 7. Lyndon Amick, 8. Scott Pruett, 9. Jason Keller, 10. Ron Hornaday, 11. Kenny Wallace, 12. Jay Sauter, 13. Kevin Grubb, 14. Jamie McMurray, 15. David Donohue, 16. Chad Little, 17. Mike McLaughlin, 18. Andy Santerre, 19. Randy LaJoie, 20. Geoffrey Bodine, 21. Jimmie Johnson, 22. Rich Bickle, 23. Scott Wimmer, 24. John Fingers, 25. Kelly Denton, 26. Shane Hall, 27. Tony Raines, 28. Tom Hubert, 29. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 30. Larry Foyt, 31. Jeff Green, 32. Hank Parker, 33. Bill Hoff, 34. Joe Varde, 35. David Green, 36. Drew White, 37. Ashton Lewis Jr., 38. Brad Teague, 39. John Weber.

HARVICK REMAINS BUSCH LEADER

The top-10 points leaders after 18 of 33 events: 1. Harvick 2751, 2. Biffle 2649, 3. Keller 2515, 4. J. Green 2449, 5. McLaughlin 2209, 6. Raines 2191, 7. Sawyer 2129, 8. Purvis 2072, 9. Johnson 2050, 10. Little 2028.

RICKY HENDRICK WINS KANSAS TRACK RACE

The results of the Craftsman Truck Series O'Reilly Auto Parts 250 run Saturday, July 7 at Kansas City, KS: 1. Ricky Hendrick, 2. Ted Musgrave, 3. Dennis Setzer, 4. Joe Wood, 5. Billy Biegley, 6. Travis Kvapil, 7. Scott Riggs, 8. Rich Crawford, 9. Coy Gibbs, 10. Nathan Haseluis, 11. Lance Norriss, 12. Carlos Contreras, 13. Randy Tolma, 14. Steve Portenga, 15. Willy T. Ribbs, 16. Larry Gibbselman, 17. Aaron Daniel, 18. Randy Briggs, 19. Brian Roser, 20. Terry Cook, 21. Tom Powers, 22. Matt Crafton, 23. Jack Sprague, 24. Joe Rutman, 25. Bobby Dotter, 26. Brendan Gaughan, 27. Chris Horn, 28. David Hall, 29. Jason Small, 30. Rick Beebe, 31. Phil Bonifield, 32. Morgan Shepherd, 33. Brian Socckwell, 34. Trent Owens, 35. Rich Sanders, 36. Jason Whitt.

RIGGS LEADS TRUCK POINTS

The top-10 points leaders after 12 of 24 events: 1. Riggs 1872, 3. Rutman 1823, 3. Sprague 1777, 4. Musgrave 1775, 5. Hendrick 1766, 6. Kvapil 1740, 7. Cook 1651, 8. Crawford 1585, 9. Setzer 1544, 10. Gibbs 1488.

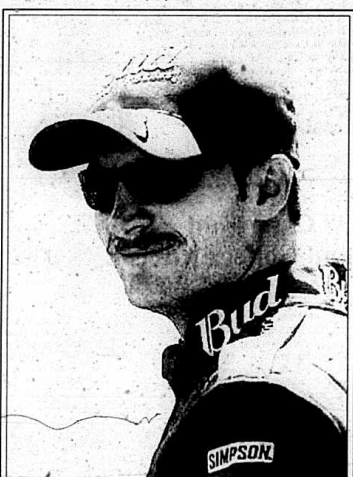
Weekend Racing: The Winston Cup and Busch Series tackle the new Chicagoland track, while the Craftsman Truck Series is at Kentucky Motor Speedway in Lexington.

Chicagoland Track information: Location: Joliet, Ill. Size: 1.5-mile trioval; Banking in turns 1-4: 18 degrees; Banking on backstretch: 5 degrees; Length of frontstretch: 2,400 feet; backstretch: 1,700 feet; Grandstand seating capacity: 75,000.

Saturday, July 14; Busch Series Hills Grove, Coffee 300, event 19 of 33 events; Distance: 200 laps/300 miles; Starting time: 3:30 p.m. (EST); TV: TNT; Defending champion: This is the inaugural event.

Craftsman Truck Series Kroger 225, event 13 of 24 events; Distance: 275 laps/262.5 miles; Starting time: 8 p.m. (EST); TV: ESPN; Defending champion: Greg Biffle, Ford.

Sunday, July 15; Winston Cup



Dale Earnhardt Jr. wins the Pepsi 400 at Daytona Speedway in Florida.

Richmond Raceway

"The Action Track"

The mid-season championship was held here Saturday night and a strong field of cars showed up to compete on "The Action Track" and three and four wide racing was the rule.

After being nipped at the line last week, Bobby Carrier, Jr. seemed determined to cross the line first this week. Scott Douglas would lead the first six laps until Carrier got a nut and drove under him to take the lead, that pair would battle the remaining laps but Carrier prevailed in the end.

Chasing the leaders was Paul Benton in third, fourth through seventh was a mass of cars door to door and bumper to bumper for the entire 25 laps. Those spots would go to Dennis Robertson, Marty Steep, Joe Cooper and Donnie Gumm.

Jimmy Craftree finally won his first feature of the season in his #8 modified when he managed to get past defending track champ Tim Littrell on Lap 15 and go on to victory. Jimmy Morrison was third and a strong showing netted Arnold Adams the fourth spot. Keith Denny ran fifth.

Bomber feature time saw the Filmer #8 on the pole, however, this time Terry Linville was watching his buddy Keith Denny behind the wheel as he nurses his broken leg. Denny would take the Monte Carlo to the lead on Lap 2 and to battle with Joe Todd and Steve Gaunce for the top spot until Lap 13 when Gaunce made a nice move using the lap car of Jerry Vermillion to shoot out in front. From there he was able to hold on for the win. Denny and Todd ran second and third. Roy Cox and Bill Friend rounded out the top five.

Tony Hunter posted fast time and used his pole position to get out front and lead every lap in the Roadhog

Tropicana 400, event 18 of 36 events; Distance: 267 laps/400 miles; Starting time: 2 p.m. (EST); TV: NBC; Defending champion: Inaugural event.

Racing Trivia Question: When was the last year NASCAR ran their major series on a dirt track?

Answer To Last Week's Question: Petty Enterprises fields three Winston Cup teams, driven by Kyle Petty, John Andretti and Buckshot Jones. Gerald 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 106711, Mobile, AL 36616, or e-mail it to: 110335.405@compuserve.com

Dustin Linville continued his winning ways in the Jr. Non-Restricted Class. T.R. Bishop and Chris Daniel would follow. Next in line was Greg Hoskins and Ricky Burchfield. Lee Richardson was the heat winner.

In Modified/Kart action Chris Johnson would beat Jeremiah Hunt to the finish for the victory. That was the heat finish as well.

The Jr. Restricted Purple Plate win was posted by Chase McWhorter, second and third went to Brandon Coffman and Cameron Wilcoxen. McWhorter won the heat too. Jeremy Roberts was the gold winner. Shelton Martin dominated the yard kart action to pick up the winners trophy. Matt Long ran second with Chad Mulligan, Corey Rohre, Kelsea Cochran following. Martin won the heat race earlier.

Mike Estes posted his second straight win in the Super Heavy Class. Jason Ward finished second and Wally Burton third. Fourth and fifth went to Tommy Gibson and Don Stephens. The heat went to Estes.

A pair of number sixes finished one and two in Limited Modified action. The first one belonged to Travis DeBord, the second one to Troy Conquest. Paul Daniels was third, with Tracie Soper and Calvin Howard next in line. Quincy Allen won the Limited Heat.

Eddie Litteral lead every lap of the Stock Medium Feature to collect the top money. Joey Terry settled for second. Joe Joe Earls was third, followed by Chris Thyngner and Dean Stephens. Joey Terry won the heat race.



Quincy Allen of Brodhead has four Limited Modified and Stock Lite feature wins in June at Richmond Raceway and Lightning Valley. On May 25th, Allen led all competitors to the checkered flag and won the \$200 payday event. --Taken from Kv. Racing News

Too Late To Classify
House For Rent: In Mt. Vernon. Good location. \$350 mo. \$250 dep. References required. Call 256-4553.
For Sale: AKC Registered male black Lab puppies. 8 weeks old. Good blood line. Call 256-0728.
For Sale: Neon lights that go under a car. \$50. Call 256-5393.

Free

Non-Contact

Rockcastle County Youth League Football Camp
Grades 3rd - 8th
July 23 - 25, 2001
Time 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
Rockcastle County High School
Teaching the fundamental of all positions, including the kicking game.
Instructors: High School and Middle School Coaches
Free T-Shirt

Free Pizza Party

Super Bowl on Last Day
Camp Application
(Please bring with you to first day of camp!)

Player's Name: _____

Player's Grade in 2000-2001: _____

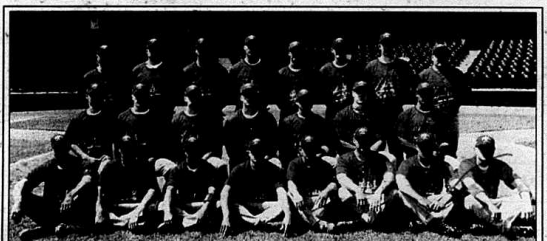
Player's Birthdate: _____

Player's Phone Number: _____

By my signature below, I hereby give my permission for my child, _____, to participate in the 2001 Rockcastle County Youth League Football Camp. Furthermore, I also agree that I will not hold the Coaches, instructors, sponsor, or members of the Rockcastle County School System responsible for any accidental injury to my child while participating in the camp.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Date _____



Rockcastle County High School baseball coach J.D. Buswell and assistant coach Chris Hendrickson were chosen as coaches of the West team in the Kentucky East-West All-Star game in Louisville in June. RCHS seniors Derrick Buswell, first row, fourth from left, Greg Harper, second row, second from right, and Christopher Parsons, third row, second from left, were chosen to play in the game. The West and East split a double header. Buswell and Hendrickson are shown at each end of the back row.



Josh Prewitt hit a grand slam home run in Saturday's game against Garrard Co. and his team went on to defeat Garrard Co. 16-6 in six innings. Josh is the son of Carolyn Prewitt of Mt. Vernon and has three sisters and a brother. We love you and are very proud of you Josh. Josh plays for the Babe Ruth Reds. Coaches are Ronnie Brown, Keith Graves and Tim McIntosh.