

The Racing Reporter

Kevin Harvick is the man at Chicagoland

Gerald Hodges
The Racing Reporter

Kevin Harvick won his second Winston Cup victory in 17 career starts as he led 113 of the 267 laps in Sunday's Tropicana 400, the inaugural race at Chicagoland Speedway. His first win came March 11 at Atlanta.

"Kevin did a super job," said car owner, Richard Childress. "With Dale's win last week, it just feels great."

Robert Pressley, driver of the No. 77 Jasper Engines Ford finished a close second. It was Pressley's best Winston Cup finish.

"It was a great day," he said. "I mean, you couldn't ask for anything better except to win. Our car was just terribly loose on new tires, but we just kept hanging in there. When we got within the pit window I said, 'We don't want any more tires. Let's keep what we've got,' because they were

faster than new tires."

Ricky Rudd moved to within 18 points of the leaders with his third-place finish.

"I owe it to this Texaco Havoline team," said Rudd. "Everyone on this team, I owe them a lot. We came back from a long way. We started off and had the lead early on. I thought we had a great race car, but I found out we were way too tight. We pushed all day and they kept freeing the car up. I thought we might have been doomed there at the end. We got four tires when most everybody else got two and it ended up turning out to be the way to go at the end of the race."

Jeff Gordon had engine problems late in the race and wound up 17th. Dale Jarrett, who finished fourth, is now tied with Gordon for the points lead.

Finishing order: 1. Kevin Harvick, 2. Robert Pressley, 3. Ricky Rudd, 4. Dale Jarrett, 5. Jimmy Spencer, 6. Mark Martin, 7. Matt Kenseth, 8. Kurt Busch, 9. Sterling Marlin, 10. Bill Elliott, 11. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 12.

Dave Blaney, 13. Rusty Wallace, 14. Todd Bodine, 15. Elliott Sadler, 16. Joe Nemechek, 17. Jeff Gordon, 18. Jeff Burton, 19. Brett Bodine, 20. Ward Burton, 21. Ricky Craven, 22. Michael Waltrip, 23. John Andretti, 24. Jason Leffler, 25. Terry Labonte, 26. Stacy Compton, 27. Johnny Benson, 28. Casey Atwood, 29. Ken Schrader, 30. Bobby Hamilton, 31. Hut Stricklin, 32. Jeremy Mayfield, 33. Tony Stewart, 34. Kevin Lepage, 35. Robby Gordon, 36. Jeff Green, 37. Jerry Nadeau, 38. Buckshot Jones, 39. Bobby Labonte, 40. Ron Hornaday, 41. Steve Park, 42. Mike Skinner, 43. Andy Houston.

Gordon and Jarrett tied for points lead

The top-10 Winston Cup points leaders after 18 of 36 events: 1. J. Gordon & Jarrett 2515, 3. Rudd 2497, 4. R. Wallace 2308, 5. Marlin 2297, 6. Stewart 2266, 7. Harvick 2172, 8. Earnhardt 2149, 9. Benson 2138, 10. B. Labonte 2112.

Ratings soar over NASCAR controversy

The Pepsi 400 at Daytona was a winner for NBC, which reported that the race was the highest-rated prime-time NASCAR race in history.

While the ratings for racing under the lights was a boost for the network, NASCAR has had its share of criticism over controversy about just how legitimate Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s victory was.

Having covered NASCAR events since 1993, it is difficult for me to believe this race could have been "fixed" in any manner. With the points leadership at stake, it simply does not make sense that drivers and owners would allow any driver to win in order to create the most interest and emotion possible.

However, I do think NASCAR should be more careful about the impression they leave when some of its races and scenarios are staged for the benefit of television.

Last week, the Dallas Morning News reported that NBC officials met with team publicists prior to the Pepsi 400, and asked them to relay the message to their driver "to have the winning driver show plenty of emotion in Victory Lane."

NBC officials also attended a drivers' meeting on Friday and told the drivers to remove their helmets if they finished in the top-five so they could be interviewed with a full view of their face, which they hoped would include a smile.

All this does suggest that NASCAR racing is getting to be as

much about sports exhibition as it is sports competition.

I think NASCAR should take steps to limit just how much control and direction television should have in influencing drivers.

Television is paying big bucks to televise NASCAR events. Reportedly, they are working on a \$2.8 billion contract and people will set aside a lot of principles for that kind of money.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. said he felt confident going into the race, partly because he knew his team had worked hard and partly because of things he'd learned from watching his father race in restrictor-plate events at Daytona and Talladega.

"I learned a lot from him," Earnhardt Jr. said. "I always kind of got toward the front and then it was always him who was the one pulling the tricks on me that made me fall back. ... I was always worried about where he was."

"Without him in the race this past weekend, I felt invincible. I had everything that he had, knowledge and confidence, what he had and what he took to those races he had. I just felt like I couldn't be touched."

Earnhardt Jr. said the crowd's initial reaction Saturday night as he pulled into the infield grass at Daytona let him know just how big his victory was.

"It was just an awesome feeling to be that close to the race fans," he said. "When you're in Victory Circle you're disconnected from all of that. To get out there in front of the fans, they will tell you just exactly how important that race was."

"No matter what controversy or questions you have, that initial reaction is... the one I will always be able to take with me. Those people knew then and there it was real and that it was genuine. I feel like I will always have that."

Jimmie Johnson gets first career Busch win

The results of the Busch Series Hills Bros. 200 at Joliet, Ill.: 1.

Jimmie Johnson, 2. Mike Skinner, 3. Jeff Burton, 4. Joe Nemechek, 5. Jason Keller, 6. Jeff Green, 7. Buckshot Jones, 8. Elton Sawyer, 9. Kevin Grubb, 10. Kevin LaPage, 11. Tony Raines, 12. Michael Waltrip, 13. Scott Wimmer, 14. Kenny Wallace, 15. David Green, 16. Ron Hornaday, 17. Chad Little, 18. Jimmy Spencer, 19. Randy LaJoie, 20. Jamie McMurray, 21. Steadman Marlin, 22. Larry Foyt, 23. Geoff Boudine, 24. Mark Green, 25. Mike McLaughlin, 26. Ryan Newman, 27. Kevin

(Cont. to A8)

Volleyball Try-Outs

Try-outs for the first ever girl's volleyball team at Rockcastle County High School will take place on July 25th and 26th at the Rockcastle County Middle School gymnasium from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All participants are required to have a complete medical physical by a physician on the form provided by the KHSAA. You can pick up one of the forms at the high school any weekday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For those making the team, practice will take place the following week (July 30 through August 2) at RCMS from 10 a.m. until 12 noon daily.

Mt. Vernon Elementary Schedule of Important Events

August 6-10, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Open Enrollment

All new students must have the following items to complete registration:

1. official birth certificate*
 2. social security card*
 3. updated immunization record on KY form
 4. physical on KY form
 5. vision exam by eye doctor
 6. name and phone number of previous school
- *if you do not have this item, you may stop by the school M-F, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to fill out an application to request one.

August 9 - 4:30-6:30 Open House

*Meet new teachers

*Visit classrooms

August 15: Opening Day of School for Entry-5th grade (1/2 Day)

August 20: Preschool Begins



Golf Team Practice

Anyone interested in playing for the RCHS varsity golf team for the 2001-2002 school year needs to report to practice beginning July 23, 2001 at 3:30 p.m. at Cedar Rapids Contry Club. Each individual must be in have evidence of a completed medical physical by a physician on the appropriate KHSAA Medical Physical Examination sheet, plus a written note of permission from their parent/guardian granting them permission to practice and try-out for the team. Come dressed appropriately for the conditions as we will walk at least nine holes of gold on the first date of practice. Please remember that if numbers warrant, a cut will be made to reduce the roster to the appropriate size.

For more information contact Barry Noble at the high school on weekdays from 8:00-3:00 at 256-4816.

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 _____

All-Star Update

Submitted by David Brock

11-and-12-Year-Olds
Rockcastle 4 Tri-City 1
Rockcastle 7 Middleboro 2

9-and-10-Year-Olds
Rockcastle 4 Hazard 1
Rockcastle 9 Laurel 7

Bluegrass Games begin this weekend

Amateur athletes from throughout the state, some 14,820 of them, are getting set to play in the 2001 Bluegrass Summer Games.

As of this week, the number of Kentuckians from 107 counties had registered to participate in the Games, which will be held in Fayette and surrounding counties this month.

Those registered to participate from Rockcastle County include Brittany Calhoun in swimming and Matthew Whitaker in the 5K.

To date, Soccer is the team sport with the largest registration with 354 teams representing 6,372 players. Softball is the second largest team sport with 314 teams or 5,024 team players.

Other team sports and their registrations so far are: Basketball, 89 teams; Tee-ball, 38 teams and Volleyball, 36 teams.

Approximately 415 people have signed up to compete in Track and Field, the individual sport with the largest number of registrants so far. The next largest individual sports are Tennis with 249 players; Golf, 220; Swimming with 211 participants; Martial Arts, 191; and Gymnastics, 152.

The Games will kick off this weekend with a limited schedule of events. The opening ceremonies will be held July 27 in the new Lexington Legends baseball stadium. Most of the Games will follow on the weekend of July 27-29. Some equestrian events will be held Aug. 4-5.

There are 29 sports in the Games this year. Some sports are still open for registration or will take on site registration.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW...

We're Here When You Need Us.

This year we are celebrating 25 years of caring for the people of our Lake Cumberland area. Over the years we have been here for you when you needed us. We've expanded services and added new technologies to make sure you get the best care. We're your friends and neighbors, and our mission is to continue to provide you with the most advanced, compassionate care possible.



LAKE CUMBERLAND
REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Heartbeat of Our Community

