

Racing Reporter

By Gerald Hodges
the Racing Reporter

Ryan Newman led a trio of Dodge drivers across the finish line first in Sunday's Winston Cup Banquet 400.

Newman and his team stretched the fuel in their No. 12 ALTELL Dodge for a remarkable 78 laps around the 1.5-mile track.

He last posted on lap 189 of the 267-lap race. When he returned to the track, he was back in 22nd place.

A caution came out on lap 249 after Johnny Benson hit the outer wall. Newman was second behind Jeremy Mayfield, driver of the No. 19 Dodge. Bill Elliott, who led 115 laps, was third in another Dodge, followed by Jamie McMurray and Tony Stewart.

Green flag racing resumed on lap 252, and with 10 laps to go, Newman took the lead away from Mayfield with an inside pass.

Elliott, driving the No. 9 Dodge, managed to also get by Mayfield, but at the checkered flag, it was Newman by 8/10ths of a second.

Newman has now won nine Winston Cup races in 74 starts, which is the best winning percentage of any driver for the past three years.

"We just had to do it all we could on that last restart," said Newman. "We didn't really deserve this win because of the poor track position we had earlier in the race, but we'll take it."

The race was less than sensational from a racing standpoint. It was mostly entertainment than racing, because there was very little side-by-side or close racing.

Not to take anything away from Newman, but the race was actually won by Newman's team in the pits and on fuel mileage.

We had a good car, but we just couldn't get there, said Bill Elliott, who led the most laps.

Jeff Gordon and Jamie McMurray bumped near the end of the race, but Gordon was able to finish fifth.

We were just about a third-place car today, so to come home in the top 5 was good to us, said Gordon.

An early-race crash gave Winston Cup Series leader Matt Kenseth his second straight poor finish. Even

though his team was able to equal his No. 17 DeWalt Ford after he spun to avoid hitting Michael Waltrip's No. 15, he wound up 36th.

"It's been a tough week really, said Kenseth. It started last week breaking an engine and then this week I wrecked the first lap on the track. Ultimately, this weekend was 80 or 90 percent my fault. I saw Michael wrecking and I went a little lower to miss him and instead of just staying on the gas and going by him, I thought I'd slow up a little bit more in case he came down the track. The next thing I knew the thing just spun out on me. I wasn't even going fast, so I'm kind of puzzled with what happened."

Kenseth now has a 259 point lead over Kevin Harvick.

Finishing order: 1. Ryan Newman, 2. Bill Elliott, 3. Jeremy Mayfield, 4. Tony Stewart, 5. Jeff Gordon, 6. Kevin Harvick, 7. Jimmie Johnson, 8. Jimmie Johnson, 9. Rusty Wallace, 10. Ricky Rudd, 11. Todd Bodine, 12. Greg Biffle, 13. Jeff Burton, 14. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 15. Jimmy Spencer, 16. Terry Labonte, 17. Bobby Labonte, 18. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 19. John Andretti, 20. Mark Martin, 21. Ward Burton, 22. Steve Park, 23. Kyle Petty, 24. Casey Mears, 25. Robby Gordon, 26. Tony Raines, 27. Jeff Green, 28. Ken Schrader, 29. Mike Skinner, 30. Jason Leffler, 31. Kenny Wallace, 32. Mike Wallace, 33. Dale Jarrett, 35. Johnny Benson, 36. Matt Kenseth, 37. Joe Nemechek, 38. Derrick Cope, 39. Michael Waltrip, 40. Kurt Busch, 41. Ricky Craven, 42. Elliott Sadler, 43. Dave Blaney.

Top-10 points leaders after 30 of 36 races: 1. Kenseth-4282, 2. Harvick-4023, 3. Earnhardt Jr.-3957, 4. Newman-3918, 5. Johnson-3902, 6. J. Gordon-3862, 7. B. Labonte-3645, 8. Stewart-3616, 9. Busch-3575, 10. T. Labonte-3511.

Nascar considering scoring changes.

Jim Hunter, vice president of NASCAR said they are looking at ways to upgrade the scoring system, and changes might come as early as the 2004 season.

During Saturday's Busch series race, which was restarted with just one lap to go, Bobby Hamilton Jr. crashed after being tagged by Greg Biffle. This caused NASCAR officials to throw the yellow with just half a lap left in the race.

But several drivers, including race winner David Green, reacted to the yellow and checkered flags anyway. That meant the results on NASCAR's scoring computer -- which records where the cars are at the finish line -- were incorrect. The new rules dictate the cars' being scored exactly when the yellow flag comes out.

That's the problem Hunter said NASCAR knew it was going to be difficult to score the cars "because we can't freeze the cars at the exact moment that the yellow is displayed."

Hunter said the cars were scored halfway between Turns 1 and 2 when the caution lights came on. After officials conferred for almost an hour, the unofficial results were released.

Several positions had changed, most dramatically, Jason Keller's. Keller had rolled out of the throttle and was passed by every car on the lead lap. But since he was running fourth when the yellow waved, he was given that position.

Several drivers complained to NASCAR after the race, and Hunter said NASCAR is hoping to improve the current system.

NASCAR is considering two systems. The first will use electronic sensors around the racetrack, just like the one currently at the start-finish line, in quadrants around the track.

The second is an effective global positioning satellite system that would freeze the field when the caution is waved. NASCAR has a GPS

system, but Hunter said exact positions can't be determined.

David Green wins at Kannapolis, retakes Busch lead.

Top-10 Busch Series points leaders after 28 of 34 races: 1. D. Green-3833, 2. Ruggs-3812, 3. Vickers-3787, 4. Hornaday-3785, 5. Kellie-3774, 6. Hamilton Jr.-3567, 7. Wimmer-3351, 8. Kahne-3322, 9. J. Sauter-3310, 10. Compton-3302. Gaughan maintains truck lead.

Top-10 Craftsman Truck Series points leaders after 20 of 25 races: 1. Gaughan-3274, 2. Kvapil-3254, 3. Mangrove-3216, 4. Setzer-3200, 5. Wood-3011, 6. Hamilton-2999, 7. Crawford-2970, 8. Edwards-2829, 9. Cook-2715, 10. Chaffin-2661.

Weekend Racing: The Winston Cup and Busch series race at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte, while the Craftsman Trucks race at Texas Motor Speedway.

Saturday, Oct. 10, Busch Series: 1. D. Green, 2. Ruggs, 3. Vickers, 4. Hornaday, 5. Kellie, 6. Hamilton Jr., 7. Wimmer, 8. Kahne, 9. J. Sauter, 10. Compton. Gaughan maintains truck lead.

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Winston Cup UAW-GM Quality 600, race 31 of 36, Starting time: 7 p.m. (EST); TV: TNT; Distance: 200 laps/300 miles; Defending champion: Jeff Burton, Ford.

Sunday, Oct. 11, Craftsman Truck 250, race 21 of 25, Starting time: 3 p.m. (EST); TV: Speed Channel; Distance: 146 laps/219 miles; Defending champion: Brendan Gaughan, Dodge.

Loves Motor Speedway track information: Size: 1.5 mile, oval; Banking in turns: 24 degrees; Banking on straights: 5 degrees; Length of frontstretch: 1,952 feet, backstretch: 1,360; Grandstand capacity: 175,000.

Racing Trivia Question: Mamie Reynolds became the first female winning car owner in 1962, who was the driver?

Last Week's Question: Who is the crew chief on Jimmie Johnson's No. 48-Lowes Chevrolet? Answer: Chad Knaus.

Gerald Hodges/Racing Reporter is 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: hodgesnews@earthlink.net.

Youth League Football

Submitted by David Brock
Vikings 25 - Redskins 0
Vikings: Zack Reams scored 3 TDs, Travis Carpenter, 1 TD and Ty Smith a one point conversion.

Bengals 43 - Wildcats 1
Bengals: Josh McKinney, 3 TDs; Boone Saylor, 1 TD; Brandon Burkhardt, 1 TD and three two point field goals; Casey Crank, 1 TD and Sean King a one point conversion. Wildcats: John Wilson, 2 TDs and one 1 point conversion.

In last week's Signal, it should have been noted that Corey Baker Scored a touchdown for the Redskins.

Standings:
Bengals 15-0; Vikings 4-1; Redskins 1-4 and Wildcats 0-5.
6th Grade: 12-0
7th Grade: 5 wins and 1 tie.
8th Grade: 4-4.

NOTICE
A personal checkbook was stolen from me sometime during September. This account has been closed for a year and this will serve as notice that I will not be responsible for any checks forged on this account after the 10th of September. 59 James Miller Rd., Berea, Ky. 40403

Yard Sale
Saturday, Oct. 11, beside Application Service Center in Mt. Vernon.

Employee Yard Sale
Saturday, Oct. 11, Rockcastle County Senior Citizens Center, located next to Lumber King. Inside in case of rain.

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Wednesday, October 22 2:15 - 2:45 p.m. Tri-County Farm Mart

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Sponsored by HEALTH ESSENTIALS

BITTERSWEET FESTIVAL

RUN AND HEALTH WALK

OCTOBER 11, 2003

Place: Start & Finish Line - Rockcastle Courthouse

Date & Time: Sat., October 11, 8 a.m.

Entry Fee: \$12.00 (must be postmarked before October 4, 2003) \$15.00 Late Entry Fee.

Parking: Free in courthouse area. Course: Marked, paved course within city limits.

Packets: All race numbers will be available the morning of the race starting at 7 a.m.

Group Classifications

Wheelchairs 14 and under

15-19 20-29
30-39 40-49
50-59 60+

Awards
\$100 Cash awards to best overall male & female finishes
\$100 Cash awards to best 50+ male & female finishes
\$300 cash award to best wheelchair finish and 1st, 2nd, 3rd recognition in each group

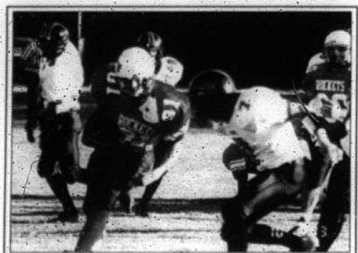
Entry Form

Name
Address
City State
Phone ()
Birthdate Sex
Age on Race Day
T-Shirt, Adult Size Preference (circle one) M L XL

Race Participation Agreement
I understand that my consent to these provisions is given in consideration for being permitted to participate in this event. I am in adequate physical condition to participate in this event. The race administrator may remove me from the race if they believe that my health may be endangered. I am aware of and voluntarily assume the risks of competing in this event. I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise try to hold responsible any race sponsor or its employees. I understand that I may be removed from the competition if I do not follow all the rules of this event. I give my permission to use any photographs, videotapes, or other recordings of me that are made during this event.

Signature (Parent's Signature if under 18)
Send check and this form to: Bittersweet 5K Run, PO Box 1350, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

Race conducted by John's Running Shop
Proceeds to Benefit Mt. Vernon Fire Department



#1 Shaun Childress returns a punt back against South Laurel. The Jayvee won the game 40-0.



#12 Paul Pryne makes a carry against Knox Central. Rockcastle freshmen won the game 48-6.

Rockcastle Fall Ball a success

Rockcastle County Fall Baseball League recently concluded their first season. This experimental league was designed to teach and further develop fundamentals of the game with lots of patience, hard work and dedication from sponsors, parents, coaches and over forty players they achieved more success than expected.

The league was made up of four teams -- two 8-9 year old teams, the Rangers, coached by Mark Parsons, Dwayne McKinney, Billy Cameron and Kevin Russell and the Royals, coached by Don Roberts, Glen Smith, Mike Wren, Rodney Stewart and Wade Johnson and two 10-14 year old teams -- the Reds, coached



Rockcastle Fall Ball league players were, from front left: R.J. Smith, Tyler Parsons, Dylan Cromer, T.J. Busell, Brandon Stewart, Jacob Lawson, Nathan Whitaker, Bryon Amys and Eric Roberts. Second row from left: Munsford, Brent Callahan, Johnathon Singleton, Robert Reynolds, Chris Wren, Charles Kirby, Derrick Pittman and Anthony McKinney. Back row from left: Anthony Pratt, Danny Jones, Freddie Moore, T.J. Singleton, Dustin Reynolds, B. Cameron, Johnathon Callahan and Logan Funder. Not shown in photo: Sam Payne, Jasmin Johnson, Garrett Harty, Corey Johnson, Spencer Childress, Zach Dixon, Shane Winkler, Dalton Rhoads, Ben Purcell, Brandon Burdette, Johnathon Rhoads, R.J. Hopkins and J.T. Winkler.