

Gordon dominates in Martinsville win

By Gerald Hodges/Racing Reporter
Fourth-time Winston Cup champion Jeff Gordon dominated Sunday's Subway 400 by leading 232 of the 500 laps, and holding off his teammate Jimmie Johnson by 1.036 seconds.

Gordon now has five wins and five points at the Martinsville track. It was Gordon's second victory of the 2003 season, his other win coming in the spring race at Martinsville. "Right now, I love this place," said Gordon. "I wish we could race at Martinsville every weekend. The team is on top of their short track program, and really they have been on top for the past five races."

Gordon, who was also the polester, led the first 107 laps before a pit stop. He regained the lead on lap 295 and was clearly the dominant car for the remaining 125 laps. Dale Earnhardt Jr. pressured Gordon during the middle stages of the race, but could never make a pass. Earnhardt Jr., Jeff Burton and Kevin Harvick joined for fresh tires during a caution on lap 403, with Gordon and Johnson remaining on the track.

When green flag racing resumed on lap 428, Earnhardt was back in 12th spot. He worked his way through the field but he only made it to fourth, behind Gordon, Johnson and Stewart when the checkered flag was given.

"I struggled all weekend," said Johnson. "To be able to finish second, behind Jeff is wild. Even after being spun out and all the other things that happened, it's just amazing. I hate getting second, but he (Jeff Gordon) is the master here."

Stewart's No. 14 Home Depot Chevrolet was strong all day. "That was pretty good," said Stewart. "Yesterday, I was praying that the throttle would hang up and we could stick it in the fence and get the backup car."

There were 15 cautions for 117 laps. The record is 18 cautions: Gordon earned \$183,018, plus a grandfather clock for his win.



Congratulations Jeffrey on your first deer! From Mom, Dad, Jordan & Bailey



10-year-old Donald Devine got his first seven point buck and one on October 11, 2003 on a hunting trip with his Uncle Rick in Mercer County. Donald is the son of Troy and Jeanette Devine.

Great Job Donald!

Happy Birthday on October 16th.

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Matt Kenneth, the Winston Cup points leader finished 13th, and now has a 240 point lead with six races left.

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

"Hammond"

(Cont. From A-8)
victory with swims in the 50 free and 100 free. The Red team defeated the White team 271-224. He is one of 10 sprint free swimmers this year whose names perhaps the best recruiting class in WKU's history. The team has swimmers from six foreign countries and 20 states. Freshman Nick Hurt, last year's Oklahoma state champion, won the 100 free in 46.81 and freshman Evan Mulliken (Louisville Xavier), last year's bronze medalist in state competition in Kentucky, won the 50 free in 21.70. Andrew Best times to date are: 22.17 in the 50 free and 48.3 in the 100 free. His goal is to swim the 50 in under 21 and the 100 in under 47 seconds.

Head coach Bill Powell enters the season needing their wins to move into second place in the NCAA's all-time list for men's dual meet victories. You can check out Andrew and WKU's progress at www.wkuports.com and selecting swimming from the menu.

"Rockets"

(Cont. From A-8)
The date of the game has also been changed from Friday night to Thursday night because of the RCHS's volleyball team's first round game in the state tournament, which is being held in Franklin. Next week's game against Knox Central has also been changed to Thursday night because of Halloween on Friday night. That game is away and will start at 7:30 p.m.

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Top-10 points leaders after 31 of 36 races: 1. Kenneth-4548, 2. Harvick-4308, 3. Earnhardt Jr.-4265, 4. Newman-4248, 5. Johnson-4242, 6. J. B. Labonte-4202, 7. Stewart-3971, 8. B. Labonte-3840, 9. T. Labonte-3775, 10. Elliott-3683

Dodge teams will feel financial pinch in 2004

Dodge announced they are dropping their diversity program which gives supplemental funding to several teams, including that of Bill Lester's No. 8 Craftsman Truck team. They also may cut back their NEXTEL Cup operations next season by limiting car owners to a single team sponsorship. This would affect all Dodge owners, who field more than one team.

Should provisional rules be changed

The NASCAR rules regarding provisional status have been a point of controversy for the past couple of years. Currently, seven starting positions are set aside in each Winston Cup race for provisional starters—starting positions determined by car owner standings, not speeds.

There are quirks—for example, a team in the top-25 of the standings is not "charged" a provisional. In addition, there is a limit to the number of "charged" provisionals for each team throughout the season. "I think the provisional rule has outgrown itself," says Kyle Petty, driver of the No. 45 Georgia-Pacific/Goodyear Dodge. "I might be the wrong person to talk about because right now we are in that boat. That's an antiquated rule right now just because of the way the sport is. If you look around today, and not just today, there are really only 40 or 41 cars showing up on a consistent basis. You've got guys like the Morgan-McClures, the Morganthauers, and others who have shown up all year long. They have gone to California, and have towed all around the country, to make these shows happen. Then you have guys come in and cherry pick. They run one-off races and they make the race. They might have had to use a provisional, but they had one because some of the other guys didn't."

At the same time, you have some of the older teams, like the No. 4 team, that have been around for so long and have done so much for the sport and they are looking for a sponsor. Every week they are trying to sell themselves to sponsors, but at the same time have the chance of going home. It stinks a bad message. I think NASCAR is looking at the rule change, but I think it will be next year before anything happens. I wish

Youth Football

Wildcats 12 - Vikings 6 OT

For the Wildcats: John Wilson, one touchdown and Steven Thomason, one touchdown. For the Vikings: Tyler Smith, one touchdown.

Bengals 46 - Redskins 7
For the Bengals: Brandon Burkhardt, two touchdowns and two five point field goals; Boone Saylor, two touchdowns and Josh McKinney, one touchdown.

For the Redskins: John Miller, one touchdown and a conversion.
Rockets 20 - S. Laurel 14
Tanier Perkins, one touchdown; Sean Gadd, two touchdowns and Cody Mize, one two-point conversion.

Standings
Bengals 7-0
Vikings 4-3
Wildcats 4-3
Redskins 1-6
6th Grade 14-0
7th Grade 7-2-1
8th Grade 5-6



Clifton Boone, son of Daniel and Tara Boone, won this trophy for participating in Long Hollow Coy Club's annual Youth Hunt on October 11, 2003. With him is his paper Den Mink, president of Long Hollow Coy Club. Clifton wants to thank his parents for taking him cove hunting and wants to wish him a Happy Birthday on October 31st.

they would change it now, but it will probably be next year."

Eddie Jones is general manager of the No. 49 JAM Racing team. "The provisional rule has always served well, but the intent of the rules no longer applies," said Jones. "People have begun abusing the system, especially in the second half of this year. Running a 'new' number on a car just to pick up provisionals... I'm not sure that's very ethical. But, the way the system is formulated it's perfectly legal."

"My suggestion to NASCAR would be to qualify 42 cars on speed and save one spot for either the 43rd fastest or if you do have one car that is in the thick of the title hunt that just happens to have some sort of mechanical failure or 'freak' deal, allow that car the 43rd position. Very seldom does more than one contender have a problem during qualifying. If you want to be generous, save two spots. I'll include us in this; if we can't qualify in the top 47 slots, hey, we don't deserve to be here."

Hamilton, Jr. was a Memphis

Busch Race

"The results of the Busch Series Sam's Town 250, run Saturday at Memphis Motorsports Park: 1. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 2. Jason Keller, 3. Johnny Sauter, 4. Ron Hornaday, 5. Brian Vickers, 6. Scott Wimmer, 7. Casey Atwood, 8. Mike Bliss, 9. David Stremme, 10. Ashton Lewis, 11. Stacy Compton, 12. Scott Riggs, 13. Jay Sauter, 14. Ron Young, 15. Casey Kahne, 16. Kyle Busch, 17. Mike Wallace, 18. Jay Sauter, 19. David Green, 20. Tim Fedewa, 21. Chad Blount, 22. Larry Gunselman, 23. Jason Sauter, 24. 24. Mike Bliss, 25. Coy Gibbs, 26. Chase Montgometry, 27. Justin Hogbold, 28. Tammy Jo Kirk, 29. Jeff Streeter, 30. Randy LaRue, 31. Shane Hall, 32. Dan Keith, 33. Jimmy Hensley, 34. Michael Lewis, 35. Josh Richardson, 36. Mike Harmon, 37. Brad Teague, 38. Jerry Reary, 39. Greg Biffle, 40. Jeff Fuller, 41. Jonny Dallen, 42. Stanton Barrett, 43. Brian Tyler

Top-10 points leaders after 31 of 36 races: 1. Vickers-4117, 2. D. Green-4094, 3. Keller-4083, 4. Hornaday-4077, 5. Riggs-4073, 6. Hamilton Jr.-3893, 7. Wimmer-3604, 8. Kahne-3582, 9. Jay Sauter-3580, 10. Compton-3520

Roush drivers finish 1-2 in Martinsville track

The results of the Advance Auto Parts 200, run Saturday at Martinsville, VA: 1. Jon Wood, 2. Carl Edwards, 3. Dennis Setzer, 4. Rick Crawford, 5. Bobby Hamilton, 6. Jimmy Spencer, 7. Darrell Waltrip, 8. Ken Schacher, 9. David Suter, 10. Ted Musgrave, 11. Brendan Gaughan, 12. Rich Bickle, 13. Tracy Hines, 14. Chad Chaffin, 15. Mark McFarland, 16. Travis Kvapil, 17. Matt Carter, 18. Andy Petree, 19. Terry Cook, 20. Matthew McFarland, 21. Jay Godley, 22. Bill Lester, 23. Randy McDonald, 24. Jimmy Aubrey, 25. Alex Mueller, 26. Jody Linder, 27. Robert Pressley, 28. Matt Crafton, 29. Morgan Shepherd, 30. Elliott Sadler, 31. Brian Skowfeld, 32. Lance Hootner, 33. Wayne Pless, 34. Roland Isaacs, 35. Phil Bonifield, 36. Kenny Hendrick

Top-10 points leaders after 31 of 36 races: 1. Gaughan-3519, 2. Kvapil-3544, 3. Musgrave-3520, 4. Setzer-3517, 5. Wood-3366, 6. Hamilton-3287, 7. Crawford-3273, 8. Edwards-3169, 9. Cook-2967, 10. Chaffin-2900

Weekend Racing

The NASCAR Busch and Winston Cup series are racing at Atlanta, while the trucks' have an off week-end.
Saturday, Oct. 25, Busch Series, Aaron's 312, race 31 of 34. Starting time: 1 p.m. (EST); TV: TNT. Distance: 203 laps/312 miles. Defending champion: Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet.

Sunday, Oct. 26, Winston Cup, Bass Pro Shops/MBNA 500, race 32 of 36. Starting time: Noon (EST); TV: NBC. Distance: 325 laps/500 miles. Defending champion: Kurt Busch, Ford.

Racing Trivia Question: Where was the first NASCAR truck race held?

Late Week's Question: How long was the beach-road course that NASCAR raced on between 1948 and 1958? Answer: It was 4.1-miles in distance.

Gerald Hodges/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 1407711, Mobile, AL 36616, or e-mail it to: hodgenew@icq.com



In late September, Master Eric Bullock's Mt. Vernon Shaolin Karate Club had three black belt students who tested before Grandmaster Sin The' and a committee of higher ranking blackbelts in Lexington. They each passed their tests and received rank advancement certificates from Grandmaster Sin The'. They are shown above, from left: Grandmaster Sin The', Thurman Simpson, who tested from second degree blackbelt to third degree blackbelt; Jason Napier, who advanced from first degree blackbelt to second degree blackbelt; John Wells, who tested from second degree blackbelt to third degree blackbelt and instructor Master Eric Bullock.



Master Eric Bullock's Mt. Vernon Shaolin Karate Club had five students who tested in September and received higher ranks from Grandmaster Sin The'. Three are shown above, from left: Grandmaster Sin The', Aaron Graves tested from yellow to blue belt, Brian Morrison advanced from white to yellow belt, Mike Estes double tested white to yellow to blue belt and instructor Master Eric Bullock. Not pictured were Johnathan Payne who tested from white to yellow belt and Clayton Caudill, who double tested from white to yellow to blue belt.



At the National Shaolin Karate Tournament, Eric Bullock was promoted to Fifth Degree Blackbelt and presented with his certificate of rank by Grandmaster Sin The'. With this rank, Eric was also awarded the title of Associate Master. Eric has been active in this style of martial arts for 20 years. He is the instructor at the Mt. Vernon Shaolin Karate Club. He is the son of Donna June Bullock and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Bullock, Jr., all of Mt. Vernon.

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