

The Racing Reporter

Dale Jarrett and Ford reach Victory Lane

By Gerald Hodges

The Racing Reporter: Dale Jarrett won the Carolina Dodge Dealers 400 at Darlington Raceway, in the No. 88 Yates/UPS Ford, scoring his 25th career victory in his 428th career NASCAR Winston Cup race.

The 1999 Winston Cup champion had a poor pit stop early into the 293 lap race and found himself last car in the 43 car field. But from then on his team got him out of the pits very quick on the remaining pit stops.

The last stop occurred on lap 281. Jarrett entered the pits number two behind Steve Park, who led the most laps (164), but Jarrett went out number one. After one lap, Rusty Wallace slid up and into Mike Skinner causing his No. 31 to hit the backstretch wall. As Skinner's car slid down the track, Terry Labonte couldn't stop his No. 6 Chevrolet, and both cars were totaled.

There was a brief red flag condition while track personnel cleared up fuel and oil from the two cars. When green flag racing resumed there were seven laps remaining. Jarrett pulled away from Park for a 927-second victory margin.

Park who finished second in the No. 1 Pennzoil of Dale Earnhardt Enterprises said, "Nothing happened to our car. It was just great. We just weren't set up for short runs, and D. J. was."

Jarrett scored his fourth top-10 finish in five races this season. He moved into a tie for 21st on the all-time winners list with Jim Paschal. He is the fifth different winner in the 2001 NASCAR Winston Cup season. Jarrett's victory ended a 10-race streak of different race winners that started at Charlotte in October 2000. Jarrett took the lead in the NASCAR Winston Cup point stand-

ings and won the \$50,000 NASCAR Winston Cup Leader bonus, a result of his victory and lead in the point standings. He became the fifth different leader in the point standings this season.

This was the first win for Ford in 2001, ending a four-race winning streak by Chevrolet this season. Polester Jeff Gordon led 72 laps and appeared to have the dominant car until engine overheating problems forced him to park his No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet. He wound up 40th.

Finishing order: 1. Dale Jarrett, 2. Steve Park, 3. Jeremy Mayfield, 4. Jimmy Spencer, 5. Sterling Martin, 6. John Andretti, 7. Johnny Benson, 8. Ricky Rudd, 9. Bobby Hamilton, 10. Rusty Wallace, 11. Bobby Labonte, 12. Ward Burton, 13. Ken Schrader, 14. Kevin Harvick, 15. Robert Pressley, 16. Tony Stewart, 17. Elliott Sessler, 18. Jeff Burton, 19. Matt Kenseth, 20. Jerry Nadeau, 21. Mark Martin, 22. Dave Blaney, 23. Bill Elliott, 24. Joe Nemechek, 25. Michael Waltrip, 26. Casey Atwood, 27. Ricky Craven, 28. Hut Stricklin, 29. Robby Gordon, 30. Kurt Busch, 31. Kenny Wallace, 32. Mike Wallace, 33. Todd Bodine, 34. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 35. Kyle Petty, 36. Brett Bodine, 37. Mike Skinner, 38. Terry Labonte, 39. Jason Leffler, 40. Jeff Gordon, 41. Buckshot Jones, 42. Ron Hornaday, 43. Stacy Compton.

Top-10 points leaders after 5 of 36 events: 1. Jarrett 756; 2. Benson, 691; 3. Gordon 661; 4. Park 615; 5. Rudd 608; 7. K. Wallace 606; 8. Waltrip 597; 9. Elliott 589; 10. Schrader 585.

Fast pit stops help Jeff Green get first Bush win of the season
The finishing order of the Bush Series SunCom 200, run at Darlington Raceway, Saturday, March 17: 1. Jeff Green, 2. Matt Kenseth, 3. Jason Keller, 4. Kenny

Wallace, 5. Mike McLaughlin, 6. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 7. Steve Park, 8. Kevin Harvick, 9. Elton Sawyer, 10. Jeff Purvis, 11. Greg Biffle, 12. Scott Wimmer, 13. Jimmy Spencer, 14. Jamie McMurray, 15. Rich Bickle, 16. Mark Green, 17. Ryan Newman, 18. Tim Fedewa, 19. Ashton Lewis Jr., 20. Mary Houston, 21. Kevin Grubb, 22. Tony Raines, 23. Shane Hall, 24. Chad Little, 25. Hank Parker, 26. Randy Lalio, 27. Kevin LePage, 28. Mike Dillon, 29. Tim Sauter, 30. Larry Foyt, 31. David Green, 32. Jimmie Johnson, 33. Kelly Denton, 34. Todd Bodine, 35. Gus Wason, 36. Jay Sauter, 37. Chad Clafflin, 38. Ron Young, 39. A.J. Frink, 40. Brad Teague.

Top-10 points Bush points leaders after 5 of 33 events: 1. J. Green 807; 2. J. Keller 761; 3. K. Harvick 756; 4. G. Biffle 752; 5. M. McLaughlin 694; 6. K. Wallace 659; 7. T. Bodine 640; 8. J. Purvis 640; 9. J. Johnson 610; 10. C. Little 580.

Nascar mum on autopsy photos
A medical expert brought in by NASCAR has analyzed the photos of Dale Earnhardt's autopsy, but officials have declined to say what, if any, conclusions were reached.

"We had a medical specialist look at them," Mike Helton, NASCAR's president, said Saturday. "We have had our own analysis of the report, the photographs."

Helton and Winston Cup series director Gary Nelson answered questions from reporters Saturday at Darlington Raceway, but did not announce any findings from the NASCAR-run investigation into Earnhardt's crash.

Helton's comments came one day after lawyers for the Orlando Sentinel and Earnhardt's family agreed to settle a dispute over access to the photos. A court-appointed mediator will name an expert to review the photos from the autopsy performed after Earnhardt's death in a crash during the final lap of the Daytona 500 on Feb. 18.

Teresa Earnhardt had blocked the newspaper's access to the photos, which are public record under Florida law, until the agreement Friday.

NASCAR had supported her attempts to block an independent review through statements from board Chairman Bill France Jr. and by allowing her to make an appeal for public support before the race two weeks ago at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Weekend Racing: Both the Winston Cup and Busch Series battle it out on the 333 mile high-banks at Bristol, TN. The Craftsman Truck Series has the week off.

Bristol Motor Speedway track facts: Banking in turns: 36 degrees; Banking on straights: 16 degrees; Length of frontbackstretch: 650 feet; Grandstand seating: 147,000.

Saturday, March 24: Busch Series Cheez-It 250, event 6 of 33 events. Distance: 250 laps/133.25 miles; TV: Fox Sports Channel. Starting time: 1 p.m. (EST). Defending champion: Sterling Marlin.

Sunday, March 25: Winston Cup Food City 500, event 6 of 36 events. Distance: 500 laps/266.50 miles; TV: Fox. Starting time: 12:30 p.m. (EST). Defending champion: Rusty Wallace, Ford.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Winston Cup team does Virginia native, Stacy Compton drive for?

Answer: To Last Week's Question: The Buckshot Jones Racing team owns the No. 00. Busch Series Chevrolet driven by Todd Bodine.

Many racing fans have either e-mailed or written us asking for photos of Dale Earnhardt. We have hundreds of photos of the seven-time Winston Cup champion, but we cannot sell them. However, we can give them away free.

Any fan that sends us a self-addressed stamped envelope postmarked by March 25 and tells in 50 words or less, "Why I liked Dale Earnhardt" or "What Dale Earnhardt meant to me," will receive a 4X6 photo of Earnhardt taken at one of the Winston Cup races. Limit one per family. Send it to The Racing Reporter, 913 Lakeside Dr., Mobile, AL 36693.

The top-three winners will also receive an 8x10 Earnhardt photo and have their reply published in the April 2 column.

"Meeting"

(Cont. from front)

on what is occurring in Rockcastle County and the surrounding area. Kentucky Highlands has been a leader in creating development opportunities in Southeast Kentucky, including Rockcastle County. For Rockcastle County to successfully move forward it is important to have the input and different perspectives from the community and strong partnerships with successful entities like Kentucky Highlands.

Speakers will present a "state of the county" overview in the areas of:

- Industrial development;
- Tourism; and
- Small business development.

Local speakers will talk about current issues and update the community on activities under way, including the community assessment recently conducted by the Cabinet for Economic Development and the Kentucky Industrial Development Council.

One local example of cooperative efforts to improve economic development is Integrity Mold & Die, which moved into a new \$1.1 million, 28,000 square-foot facility in the Rockcastle County Industrial Park last fall.

The expansion, along with \$1.7 million in new equipment, is expected to increase annual sales from \$2.4 million to \$4 million as well as create employment from 26 people to 40 people.

In addition, a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will establish a tool-and-die apprenticeship program at the company.

"Census"

(Cont. from front)

up from the 11,579 they had ten years ago.

Kentucky remains largely white state that is leaving its rural roots and becoming more urban, according to the census.

The greatest population growth during the last decade occurred along interstate and in the "Golden Triangle" area between Lexington, Louisville and Northern Kentucky, the census shows.

The opposite occurred on the fringes of the state—the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky and the counties of far Western Kentucky—which lost thousands.

Overall, Kentucky's population stands at just over 4 million—up from 3.6 million in 1990. That's a change of nearly 10 percent during the last decade and a jump from the 1980s, when the state grew less than one percent.

The good news is that we are growing, but the growth is occurring in urban areas, says Stacy Compton, director of the State Data Center in Louisville.

The urban growth reflects a national trend, Croch said, and it will have political and personal implications for Kentucky's future as metropolitan areas attract a larger share of state and federal dollars.

Urban areas also will increasingly pick up political representation, while rural areas lose.

The political lines could increase the growing power of Republicans because population declined in traditionally Democratic areas, such as the City of Louisville, the coalfields of Appalachia and parts of far Western Kentucky—but gained in suburban areas that usually vote Republican.

The state's census figures—the first detailed batch of many to be released in coming months—show Kentucky is also becoming more racially diverse.

The number of Hispanics, for example, nearly tripled during the last 10 years, to about 60,000.

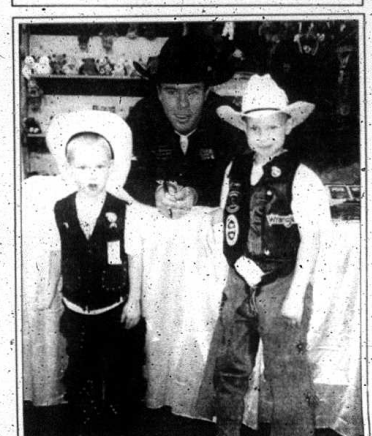
That still represents just 1.5 percent of the population, but Croch and others believe many Hispanics were not counted in the census. Croch expected the number of Hispanics to top two percent of the state's population.

Claudia Peralta, president of the local Hispanic-Latino Coalition, said part of the problem is that Hispanics living in the United States illegally are unlikely to fill out forms that they think will expose themselves—even though the information is said to be confidential.

Whites account for 90 percent of the state's 4 million people, followed by blacks at about seven percent.



Lane is shown here with Ty Murray.



Lane and his brother Cass, left, pose with Tuff Hedeman, World Grand Champion and announcer on TNN. Tuff is Lane Frost's best friend.

"Lane Ponder"

(Cont. from front)

ans, Ohio and Georgia. The International Christian Fellowship church in Honduras, where Todd and Lynelle Fields are missionaries for Global Outreach, has offered up prayers in Spanish. The family also received word that a Honduran orphanage was praying for Lane. "Isn't that just incredible that an orphanage in a third-world country is praying for him?" Jill said.

Spirituality comes naturally for Lane. His mother said she has seen him leave the church nursery to request special prayer on his own.

The family expresses gratitude for the prayers, gifts, money and donated sick days that have allowed Jill to spend more time with Lane. As an example of the family's support, the staff at Mt. Vernon Elementary School last year sent an Easter basket with cards, notes and plastic eggs containing a total of more than \$200.

"It has taken the support of all of us to get through it," his grandmother said. "It makes you realize you can, if you have to, go through the maximum." Jill said she will feel like she has "gotten over some big mountain" when March and April come and go, the anniversaries of the discovery and recurrence of Lane's cancer.

In the meantime, the family lives in the precious present, and counts its blessings for lessons learned. "In some ways it's like being let in on a secret," she said. "Our lives are better because it's like knowing something we didn't know before."

You know what it is like to suffer and you know that you are strong enough to do it and you know the Lord is indeed everything you have been told to have. And you have what it takes even though it's tipping your heart out. Ultimately, you know it's going to be all right."

The Dream Factory of Lexington can be reached at P.O. Box 707, Lexington, Ky. 40506 or by phone at (859) 254-9074.

Wyllie Huatt, the son of Barbara and Billy Huatt of Mt. Vernon, is special sections coordinator for the Lexington Herald-Leader.

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Mr. Stewart was public servant

Richard Anderton
Editor
Mount Vernon Signal

Many of us Rockcastle countians do very little for the betterment of our county.

But that certainly could not have been said for one of Rockcastle County's leading citizens who passed away earlier this month.

Wayne Stewart was one person who always had the county's best interest at heart. He donated countless hours of his time and even more energy in an effort to make Rockcastle County a better place to live.

Creating jobs was a top priority of Mr. Stewart, who served as chairman of the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation for 25 years.

Mr. Stewart spent his own time and money so that there would be places for people to work, so they could live at home and raise their families where they desired without having to live somewhere just because of employment.

Before his death, Mr. Stewart was the main person behind the recent relocation of Integrity Mold and Die in the Rockcastle Industrial Park.

One of the owners, Kyle Thompson said that without Stewart's efforts the new state of the art facility would have never been built.

A lot of people, including myself,

cringe at the thought of setting through two, three, four and even five hour meetings.

But, Mr. Stewart would do it. He did it at time and time again, because as he told me once, "When you want something you just have to keep asking and sometimes you will finally talk to the right person."

Besides his work with Kentucky Highlands he served on the Rockcastle Hospital board and he was also administrator for several years.

We all know what an asset the hospital is to the county and Mr. Stewart did his part to see that the hospital expanded, not only to provide healthcare to the county, but to also provide the hundreds of jobs that it now does.

It was to use Mr. Stewart from time to time about being a Democrat and working so hard for a Republican county. He would just grin and say that he would hold his end up with the Democrats and he hoped the Republicans would do the same.

When it was all said and done Mr. Stewart had the best interest of the county at heart, whether his efforts benefited a Republican, Democrat, Independent or someone who had no political affiliation.

The county has many, many volunteers, from firefighters to baseball coaches to parents working in the schools to those who serve on boards for no pay and those who help pick up trash.

Last week we lost a volunteer who the county owes a great deal of gratitude.



Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlifotis, center, signed a proclamation last week proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Rockcastle County. The ceremony took place at the Department of Social Services in Mt. Vernon. Shown above, front row, from left: Amy Yates, Carlifotis and Kathy Bobo. Back row, from left: Jennifer White, Rachel Johnson, Charlie Napier and Tricia Buehle.