

The Racing Reporter

Jeff Burton turns season around in Coca-Cola 600

By Gerald Hodges

The Racing Reporter

Jeff Burton, driver of the No. 99 Cigo Ford of Jack Roush Racing was able to do away with some of the frustration of the 2001 Winston Cup season as he won the Coca-Cola 600 at Lowe's Motor Speedway by 3.19 seconds over Kevin Harvick.

Burton's team was supposed to have been a serious contender for the Winston Cup championship this season, but a series of bad finishes in the first eight races of the season prevented that. He started Sunday's 125th place in the points standing and hadn't won a race this year, with only one top-10 finish.

Burton and most of the other Roush drivers had been frustrated by their inability to win a race. There were even rumors that Burton might go over to the Richard Childress team after this season.

But Burton took the lead for the last time on lap 340 of the 400-lap race, which at 600 miles is the longest event of the season, and was never seriously challenged.

"Never give up," said Burton. This is a great race team that never gave up. I had a good car, and I knew we could do it.

"There's been a lot said about our performance this year, but we came here and said, to heck with what others in the garage were doing. We're going to run our own race."

It was Burton's 16th career Winston Cup victory, but his first since Phoenix in 2000.

Tony Stewart, who finished sixth in the Indianapolis 500 earlier in the year was third, followed by Mark Martin and Bobby Labonte.

After completing the Indianapolis 500, Stewart flew back to Charlotte in time to start Sunday's Coca-Cola 600.

He was third, followed by Mark Martin and Bobby Labonte.

"For those who thought I was a danger on the race track, they are a bunch of idiots. I'm the fastest car on the track," said Stewart.

Pole sitter, Ryan Newman lost control of his No. 02 Penske Ford and crashed into the outside wall on the second lap.

Jeff Gordon, who started from the outside pole was one of the early leaders, but he damaged the right front of his No. 24 Dupont Chevrolet coming out of the pits and had handling problems the remainder of the night.

Burton became the 10th winner in 12 races. Finishing order: 1. Jeff Burton, 2. Kevin Harvick, 3. Tony Stewart, 4. Mark Martin, 5. Bobby Labonte, 6. Ricky Rudd, 7. Jimmy Spencer, 8. Dale Jarrett, 9. Wally Dallenbach, 10. Jeremy Mayfield, 11. Mike Skinner, 12. Kurt Busch, 13. Jerry Nadeau, 14. Rusty Wallace, 15. Sterling Marlin, 16. Hut Stricklin, 17. Brett Bodine, 18. Matt Kenseth, 19. Elliott Sauter, 20. Johnny Benson, 21. Ken Schrader, 22. Steve Park, 23. Terry Labonte, 24. Bobby Hamilton, 25. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 26. Bill Elliott, 27. Buckshot Jones, 28. Michael Waltrip, 29. Jeff Gordon, 30. Jason

Leffler, 31. Ricky Craven, 32. Rick Mast, 33. Dave Blaney, 34. Stacy Compton, 35. Kevin Lepage, 36. Ron Hornaday Jr., 37. Todd Bodine, 38. Robert Pressley, 39. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 40. Kenny Wallace, 41. Andy Houston, 42. Casey Atwood, 43. Ryan Newman

Jarrett increases lead to 75 points
The top-10 points leaders after 12 of 36 events: 1. Jarrett 1701, 2. J. Gordon 1626, 3. R. Wallace 1623, 4. Benson 1583, 5. Rudd 1561, 6. Stewart 1552, 7. Martin 1548, 8. Park 1484, 9. Hamilton 1400, 10. Earnhardt Jr. 1390.

Green bumps his way to victory

The defending champion Jeff Green won Saturday's Busch Series Quaker Auto Parts 300 after exchanging several bumps and bounces from Matt Kenseth in the last 30 laps of the 200 lap race.

The win was the second of the season for Green, who also won the spring race at Darlington.

With two laps remaining Green held out for a four-car-length lead over Kenseth. As the cars entered turn one, Green put the nose of his No. 10 Nestle NesQuik Ford on the white line. By this time Kenseth had narrowed the gap.

As the cars exited turn four of the last lap, Green slipped and slid up the track a little. This allowed Kenseth an opening, but Green pulled back and the two cars bumped three different times on the way to the checkered flag.

"I stuck it on the white line," said Green. "He still had me jacked up sideways going under the flag stand, but I wasn't going to let off for anything. I almost ran out of room and hit the wall, but he did what he had to do."

Green's margin of victory was 0.055 seconds, less than a car length.

Greg Biffle, driver of the Roush Racing Ford dominated the early half of the race and led the most laps (105) of any driver.

Finishing order: 1. Jeff Green, 2. Matt Kenseth, 3. Jason Keller, 4. Todd Bodine, 5. Mike Skinner, 6. Greg Biffle, 7. Jeff Burton, 8. Jimmy Spencer, 9. David Green, 10. Jeff Pavesi, 11. Mike McLaughlin, 12. Kevin Lepage, 13. Ashton Lewis Jr., 14. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 15. Hank Parker, 16. Jimmie Johnson, 17. Rick Bickle, 18. Ricky Hendrick, 19. Elton Sawyer, 20. David Donahue, 21. Chad Little, 22. Randy LaJoie, 23. Tim Sauter, 24. Tony Raines, 25. Jamie McMurray, 26. Kevin Harvick, 27. Tim Fedewa, 28. Larry Foyt, 29. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 30. Kenny Wallace, 31. Mike Wallace, 32. Marty Houston, 33. Kevin Grubb, 34. Jay Sauter, 35. Scott Wimmer, 36. Brad Baker, 37. Christian Elder, 38. Robby Faggar, 39. Steadman Rahn, 40. Brad Teague, 41. Shane Hall, 42. Kelly Denton, 43. Michael Waltrip

Green takes over Busch points lead
The top-10 Busch points leaders after 14 of 36 events: 1. J. Green 2075, 2. Harvick 2056, 3. Biffle 1981, 4. Keller 1977, 5. McLaughlin 1800, 6. Purvis 1724, 7. Johnson 1694, 8. Raines 1676, 9. LaJoie 1569,

10. Little 1530.

Nascar drivers oldest, Formula one youngest

Each auto racing series in the world staged some of their biggest events of the season last weekend. Charlotte headlined the NASCAR Winston Cup schedule while the Formula One cars ran through the streets of Monaco and the IRL's Indianapolis 500 occur on Sunday. CART's high-speed cars raced in Japan last weekend.

It's not just the machines that separate these series. The men and women that drive them are different as well. A review of the ages of most of the regular drivers over the last three years shows those drivers' average ages to be significantly different. A NASCAR Winston Cup driver's average age in 2001 is about 36 years old - down from 2000 by three years but still almost ten years older than a Formula One driver. CART, and the Indy Racing League drivers fall in between with a CART driver's average age of 30 and an IRL driver's average age of 33.

"It doesn't surprise me that NASCAR's average age dropped like it did in the last year," said Johnny Benson driver of the No. 10

Valvoline. We have had a lot of changes in our series. NASCAR is becoming a younger man's sport. We are attracting guys like Casey Atwood and Ryan Newman who were on the pole Thursday night. They are very young drivers who are doing a good job.

I think that is what sponsors are looking for in this sport. They want a guy who can build a program around. With that said, NASCAR still allows us drivers to have pretty long careers compared to other forms of racing. I'm 37 so I am right at the average.

"I think NASCAR will always have older drivers. I think the open wheel series require a driver to have both reflexes and daring without the premium on experience like ours requires. You have to have reflexes and daring in NASCAR but I think knowing how to make tires last, or how the track changes, or what to do with chassis setup is just as important as those other skills."

Weekend Racing: Dover Del. is the center of racing, June 1-3. All three of NASCAR's major series compete on separate days.

Track Facts: Distance: 1-mile concrete oval. Banking in turns: 24 degrees; Banking on straights: 9 degrees; Length of front backstretch: 1,076 feet; Grandstand capacity: 140,000.

Friday, June 1: Craftsman Truck Series, MBNA E-Commerce 200, event 8 of 24 events; Distance: 200 miles/200 laps; Starting time: Race begins at 4 p.m. (EST). (will be telecast delayed at 8 p.m.); TV: ESPN. Defending champion: Kurt Busch.

Saturday, June 2: Busch Series, MBNA Platinum 200, event 15 of 33 events; Distance: 200 miles/200 laps; Starting time: 12:30 p.m. (EST); TV: Fox Sports Channel; Defending champion: Jason Keller.

Sunday, June 3: Winston Cup MBNA Platinum 400, event 13 of 36 events; Distance: 400 miles/400 laps; Starting time: 12:30 p.m. (EST); TV: Fox; Defending champion, Tony Stewart.

Racing Trivia Question: What is the flagman's responsibility before and during a race?

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 160711, Mobile, AL 36616, or e-mail it to: 110335.405@compuserve.com

Upcoming Reunions

Ambrose

Roxie Ambrose, Scaffold Cane, Sunday, June 10th. Lunch at 1 p.m. Friends and relatives welcome. Bring a covered dish.

DeBoard

DeBoard Family Reunion, Logan-Hubbs Park, Stanford, Saturday, June 2nd, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner at noon. Silverware and plates will be furnished. Bring a covered dish and something for the white elephant. See you there.

Subscribe to the Signal 256-2244



Derrick McClure, age 13 and son of Randy and Michelle, killed his first turkey the first day of season. It weighed 22 lbs., 11 1/2 in. fed, 1 1/4 in. spurs.

I would like to recognize my Uncle Alan Helton, for having lots of patience and taking the time out to teach me the skills of safe hunting in the wildlife. Thank a lot - Love, Derrick

Sunimart Medical Clinic announces the arrival of Dr. A.H. Sharif Internal Medicine

Now accepting new patients with 2 different locations to better serve our patients.

BEREA
Berea Hospital Ground Floor
Mon. - Fri. 8 to 5 p.m.
Wed. 10 - 7 p.m.
(859) 986-5555

Walk-Ins Welcome
Please call our office for new patient/physical or exam appointments or walk-in

BRODHEAD
27 South Main
Tues. - 9-12- Thurs. 1-5 p.m.
(606) 758-9589
(859) 985-5555

A.M. Sharif, M.D. • Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Annual Rockcastle County Boys Basketball Camp

June 6, 7 and 8

9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Cost: A \$15.00 donation would be appreciated but not required.

(Make checks payable to "RCHS TSP-Off Club")

Fundamentals of basketball will be taught daily.

Lunch will be provided.

All campers will receive a T-shirt

Lots of prizes and awards will be given

(Name) _____ may participate in all activities involving basketball camp.

(Age) _____

(Grade) _____

(Shirt size) _____

Parent signature _____

Send to: Rockcastle Co. High School c/o Clayton Cash

Boys Basketball Coach

PO Box 1410

Mr. Vernon, KY 40456

Any questions? Please call 758-8994 or 256-4816

12th Annual Lady Rockets Basketball Camp June 5-8 • MVES

Ages 5 to 9 - 10:00 - 1:00 • Ages 10-14 - 3:00 - 6:00
Cost: \$20 per camper - \$10 additional family member
Free t-shirt per camper - Trophies & prizes awarded

Camp Application

Name _____

Phone: _____ Grade: _____

Age: _____ Shirt Size: _____

Parent: _____

Work Phone: _____

Please List 2 Emergency Numbers

Name _____ # _____

Name _____ # _____

As parents, we give our approval and permission for the above student to participate in basketball camp. As a parent, I assume all risk and hazards incidental to such participation, including transportation to and from the camp. I agree to hold harmless the coaches from any injury to my child. I certify that my child is in good health and has no physical disability or illness that would prevent my child from participation in all activities. In the event of injury during camp, an all out effort will be made to reach you. If you cannot be reached, your signature below will authorize the head coach to seek whatever medical advice or treatment necessary. Furthermore, I will assume any financial responsibility for such treatment. By signing below, I signify that I have read and will abide by the conditions stated therein.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Mail forms to: Coach Chrysti Noble PO Box 1157 Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

Make checks payable to: Lady Rockets Booster Club

For more info, contact Chrysti Noble at 256-2953 or 256-0008.

*Money for camp will be used for the Lady Rockets High School to attend camp. FRC Scholarships available for camp.

Good Cars + Low Prices + Low Interest Rates = Lots of Pleased Customers!!

2001 Dodge Neon
Auto "Gas Saver"
\$9,995/189 Mo.

2001 Dodge Stratus
Loaded, Spoiler, 2 to Choose
\$13,995/269 Mo.

2000 Mitsubishi Gallant
Loaded
\$12,995/256 Mo.

2000 Pontiac Grand Prix
Loaded
\$12,750/252 Mo.

2000 Ford Taurus
SES
\$13,995/275 Mo.

2000 Chevy Impala
Tinted Windows, Spoiler
\$14,995/289 Mo.

2000 Chevy Monte Carlo, Tint, Alloy, Spoiler, 16K \$16,500/305 Mo.

2000 Buick Century, All Power \$12,995/257 Mo.

2000 Nissan Altima GXE, Fully Equipped, Spoiler \$13,750/265 Mo.

2000 Toyota Camry LE, Loaded, 18K \$14,995/289 Mo.

2000 Dodge Intrepid, Fully Equipped \$12,995/256 Mo.

1999 Chevy Malibu, V6, Spoiler, Tint, Loaded \$10,995/218 Mo.

1999 Olds Intrigue GL, Loaded, Local Trade \$11,500/225 Mo.

1998 Chevy Cavalier, 4 Dr., Auto, Good on Gas \$7,995/169 Mo.

1998 Mitsubishi Eclipse, Only 29K \$11,250/239 Mo.

1998 Saturn SLI, Low Miles, Gas Saver, 2 to Choose \$7,500/149 Mo.

1998 Lincoln Continental, Low Miles, Perfect \$ave

1997 Ford Taurus, Local Trade \$6,995/165 Mo.

1997 Ford Escort LX, 4 Dr., Auto, Local Trade \$4,995/118 Mo.

1997 Cadillac Sedan DeVille, Low Miles, Nice \$14,995/325 Mo.

1995 Toyota Tercel, 2 Dr., 5 Speed, 55K, Local Trade \$4,500/181 Mo.

Trucks • Vans • SUVs

2000 Chevy S-10
"Extreme" • 9K
\$11,995/237 Mo.

2000 Dodge Caravan
Loaded, 4 Dr.
\$13,500/263 Mo.

1999 Ford Explorer
4 Dr., 4x4, Loaded
\$16,500/325 Mo.

1999 Chevy S-10 LS
11K
\$9,995/198 Mo.

1999 Nissan Frontier
X-Cab, Auto
\$10,750/212 Mo.

1998 Chevy C-2500
X-Cab, Silverado, Loaded
\$16,500/325 Mo.

1998 GMC Sonoma
SLE, 24K
\$9,450/199 Mo.

1997 Chevy Blazer
4 Dr., 4x4, All Power, Low Miles
\$12,995/299 Mo.

1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee
Laredo, 4x4, Leather, Sunroof, Low Miles
\$16,995/317 Mo.

1997 Nissan XE
4x4, Local Trade, Low Miles
\$8,450

1998 Ford Windstar Van
Loaded, 35K
\$12,250/283 Mo.

Plus Tax and License Only

Lots more inventory by week end!

Town & Country Motors

MT. VERNON

Across From High School

481 By Pass

256-8049

LANCASTER

1236 Standard Rd.

Near In Burgett Street

792-6958

Our Reputation Speaks for Itself