

The Racing Reporter

Million dollar win for Dale Earnhardt, Jr.

By Gerald Hodges
The Racing Reporter

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the Winston Cup EA Sports 500 Sunday with a dramatic pass going into turn one just as the white flag had been given in a race that saw 16 cars crash on the final lap.

Earnhardt Jr. dove to the low side just after he, Bobby Labonte, Tony Stewart and Bobby Hamilton and 28 other cars on the lead lap passed the white flag. Earnhardt Jr. touched Labonte's left rear bumper, but took the lead as Stewart went low and Labonte and Hamilton went high. Labonte and Hamilton collided in turn one setting off the 16-car pileup. Hamilton hit Labonte, who was sliding down the backstretch on the left of his No. 18 Pontiac. None of the drivers were seriously injured. Earnhardt earned a \$1 million bonus in the Winston's No Bull 5 program and a similar bonus for a race fan.

"We were beating and banging," Earnhardt Jr. said. "If I saw one went to pass me, I swerved up in front of them. I wanted to win this race bad."

"This is the same race my father won last year. He won a million, too. I had to run into the side of the 18 and the 20. They would've done the same thing to me, I feel like. We're here in the winner's circle, so it don't matter."

Gordon, who finished seventh, took another huge stride toward his fourth career Winston Cup title. He gained 61 points on second-place Ricky Rudd, who was in the big wreck and finished 26th. Gordon now leads by 395 points with five races left.

Johnny Benson, driver of the No. 10 Valvoline Ford was running third at the time of the big wreck.

"To tell you the truth, I don't know," he said. "Hitting one went to third place, the next thing I know I'm heading straight into the wall. I don't understand what happened. I don't know. I didn't even know anybody was even near us, so I don't know if I got hit from behind or what. It acted like I almost got hit in the side because the car spun so fast that the next thing I knew, I'm in the wall."

Emotions had run very high all weekend with the Tony Stewart team. Immediately after the race ended, Stewart, accompanied by his crew chief, Greg Zippadelli, hurried to the team's motor home without talking with anyone.

"I'm going to be selfish and I'm going to protect him (Stewart), said Zippadelli. "He's my man, and we're not going to do anything that would cause to regret later. We're just going to do what we need to do."

"He's a very significant part to this race team, and we're going to work through all of this stuff, and hopefully things will be a lot better the last four or five races of the year and we can start next year on a little bit more of a positive note and get through some of the problems and issues that we've had and just go on."

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

Top 10 points leaders after 31 of 36 events: 1. J. Gordon 4512, 2. Rudd 4117, 3. Stewart 4043, 4. Martin 4040, 5. Jarrett 3998, 6. Earnhardt Jr. 3925, 7. R. Wallace 3904, 8. Harvick 3806, 9. B. Labonte 3799, 10. J. Burton 3689.

Should Nascar eliminate restrictor plate racing?

The wild finish on the last lap of Sunday's EA Sports 500 proved to be more popular with fans than with drivers. Most of the drivers who wrecked said they were very unhappy with the way the cars remained bunched up.

"It was nobody's fault," said Bobby Labonte. "It was just the nature of the beast. That's typical racing here. If we don't get killed here, I guess it's O.K."

Email or write us if you think NASCAR should change the restrictor-plate and aerodynamic rules before next season's Daytona 500.

If we use your comments we will send you an 8x10 photo of your favorite driver.

Very successful season for ASA

PENDELTON, Ind. — When Johnny Sauter captured the checkered flag at Indianapolis Raceway Park on September 29, following the ASA ACDelco Series season finale, he put a wrap on what was one of the most remarkable seasons in ASA's 34-year history. It was remarkable, not only for the rookie, but for several other ASA rookies and veterans.

The 23-year-old Sauter became the first driver to win both the ASA National Championship and Pat Schauer Memorial Rookie of the Year titles in the same season. He spent all season breaking record after record, including batting .500, winning 10 events in 20 races. He bettered every competitive rookie record, with 10 wins, four poles, 13 podiums, 15 top fives, 16 top 10s and 2,039 laps led. His laps led total was second on the all-time single season list, and only the second time ever someone has Eddy because ASA's all time Money Leader in 2001, after season earnings totaling over \$109,000. Through his 29-year ASA career and 57 victories, Eddy has amassed \$1,589,762, which put him ahead of ASA's all-time event winner Bob Senneker for first on the list.

Gary St. Amant, a two-time ASA National Champion, moved into second after earning nearly \$300,000 during his runner-up finish to Sauter in the standings. St. Amant now has \$1,961,402, only \$28,360 behind Eddy. Both drivers are planning to return in 2002 and will look to become ASA's first "2 million" man.

Sauter's single season money earnings of \$501,000 was the highest in ASA history, the first time any driver has won over half a million in a single season. St. Amant's total season earnings were good enough for third on the all-time single season list, while Joe Clayton's \$261,000 is seventh best.

St. Amant collected two wins in 2001, both of which were among the highest payouts to a winner in ASA history. St. Amant's win at Salem Speedway during the Tecumseh 300, the Columbus, Ohio driver earned \$26,830, the fourth highest single race payout in ASA history. His win at Irwindale Speedway earned him \$23,580, 10th highest all time. Sauter also had a piece of the action in this category, as his victory from the pole at Chicago Motor Speedway earned him \$25,380, good for eighth all time.

Three-time ASA National Champion Butch Miller led the series with six poles in 2001, giving him 43 for his career. That moved him ahead of Mark Martin into third on the all-time pole position list, behind Senneker (89) and Dick Trickle (45). His one win in 2001, coming at Berlin Raceway in Marne, Mich., gave him 43 wins for his ASA career, which is also good for third on the all time list.

Other Race Results:

Bobby Gerhardt wins

ARCA race at Talladega

The results of the ARCA/RE/MAX Food World 300, held Saturday, Oct. 20 at Talladega Superspeedway: 1. Bobby Gerhardt, 2. Bob Strait, 3. Rick Carrelli, 4. Andy Kirby, 5. Richard Mitchell, 6. Bobby Benton, 7. Chad Blount, 8. Robert Burroughs, 9. Casey Means, 10. Tina Gordon, 11. Nate Monticelli, 12. Mike Buckley, 13. Stuart Kirby, 14. Rick Markle, 15. C.W. Smith, 16. Damon Lusk, 17. Justin Labonte, 18. Frank Kimmel, 19. Mark Gibson, 20. Todd Bowsher, 21. Jason Jarrett, 22. Kevin Belmont, 23. Tim Mitchell, 24. Brian Conz, 25. Gregg Sarff, 26. Dennis English, 27. Darrell Basham, 28. Eric Martin, 29. Chuck Weber, 30. Ron Cox, 31. Norm Benning, 32. Billy Venturini, 33. Donny Morelock, 34. Andy Belmont, 36. Dale Kreidler, 37. Keith Segars, 38. Bob Kelly, 39. Doug Reid, 40. Dion Ciccarelli, 41. Mike Harmon.

Weekend Racing: All of NASCAR's top guns will be at Phoenix International Raceway, Avondale, AZ this weekend for a three-day show.

Friday, Oct. 26: Craftsman Truck Series Chevy Silverado 150, event 23 of 24 events; Starting time: 4 pm (EST); TV: ESPN; Distance: 150 laps/miles; Defending champion: Joe Ruttman; Dodge.

Saturday, Oct. 27: Busch Series Outback Steakhouse 200, event 31 of 33; Starting time: 3 pm (EST); TV: TNT; Distance: 200 laps/200 miles; Defending champion: Jeff Burton, Ford.

Sunday, Oct. 28: Winston Cup Checker Auto Parts 500K, event 32 of 36 events; Starting time: 2:30 pm (EST); TV: NBC; Distance: 325 laps/325 miles/500K; Defending champion: Jeff Burton, Ford. Track information: Size: 1.0 mile oval; Banking in turns 1-2: 11 degrees, turns 3-4: 9 degrees; Banking on straights:

none; Length of frontstretch: 1,179 feet, backstretch: 1,551 feet, seating capacity: 78,000.

Racing Trivia Question: Who is

the crew chief on the No. 2 Penske Ford, driven by Rusty Wallace? Answer: To Last Week's Question: Bill Elliott won the Winston Million, the first year it was offered in 1985. 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

Tony Glover likes the team chemistry

The 2001 season is going well for Tony Glover, Team Sabco manager of the No. 40 Coors Dodge driven by Sterling Marlin.

Marlin has brought Dodge its first two victories since 1978, and Glover is all smiles. In late 1996, Team Sabco owner Felix Sabates took a major step in strengthening his No. 40 Winston Cup team by hiring Tony Glover away from the No. 4 Kodak team. Not surprisingly, it took time for Glover to produce results. Just four races into the 1997, rookie driver Robby Gordon earned Sabco's first Bud Pole since 1997. Mid-April saw Glover coming over from the pits to call the shots for Joe Nemechek, too. By the end of the '97 season, Glover's drivers had earned a combined total of five front-row starts. Glover was elevated to team manager in 1998 to further bolster the Sabco operation.

In 1998, Marlin also led the No. 4 team where he had scored two Daytona 500 wins (1994 and 1995), and reunited with Glover, his former crew chief.

"The driver/crew chief manager combination is a unique situation," said Glover. "Myself and Sterling have been really good friends for a long time and we get along real well. There might be other drivers that could drive this 40 car that I wouldn't be as comfortable with."

"What we've got going now is really good chemistry among the teams and drivers. You got to have that good relationship with everyone. I think that in the future when you see a driver move, the crew chief might move also. One might take the other with him. If it's not the crew chief, then it will be the chassis guy or somebody else used to working with."

"One of the reasons for our success this season has been the good chemistry and personal relationships we have between all the members of this team. I mean, sometimes, one person will know what the other one is thinking."

"You've got to have that in order to win. You can have the best equipment and engineered car, but this team doesn't have the right chemistry, you don't have a team that is capable of winning the Winston Cup championship." Tony Glover statistics: Born: April 17, 1957, Kingsport, TN; Married to Christy; Children: Daughters: Brittany and Ashton; Residence: Mooresville, NC; Height: 5'6"; Weight: 140 lbs.

1968-Began working with his father Gene Glover in the Sportman series.

1970-Worked as a fabricator for his father.

1982-Fabricator for Petty Enterprises.

1983-joined-Morgan-McClure, Motorsports as crew chief.

1990-Won his first race.

1991-Wins Skoal/Copenhagen Crew Chief of the Year.

1994 & 1995-Prepares car for Daytona 500 wins by Sterling Marlin.

Classified Deadline is Noon Tuesday



Major Routes, Distances & Shops



Tyler Mobley, Jr. killed this nice Doe during Youth Hunt on Saturday, while hunting with his dad on Copper Creek. Tyler is the son of Jon and Dana Mobley of Mt. Vernon.



Jesse Hayes, Jr. killed this 4 pt. buck on October 21st on his first youth hunt in Rockcastle County. He was accompanied by his uncle, Jimmy Mason. Jesse is the son of Henry and Regina Hayes of Mt. Vernon.

Rock vs. Cawood

By Preston Parrett
It was senior night at Rock field And beauty was all around.

With the glory of God and nature A kaleidoscope of fall color did abound.

It was a fitting night for the seniors Who had laid down a winning trail, Setting an example of excellence As over foe after foe they did prevail.

Team and coaches had worked hard Developing talent and skills.

The epitome of hard nose football Found here in the Rockcastle hills.

It was a night of joy and sadness That brought a tear to the eye.

For after years of playing The time had come to say goodbye.

Moms and Dads had supported them Had stood by them over the long haul,

And they were always there for them No matter when they got the call.

It was the last regular season home game And a large crowd was on hand, To see the Rock take on the Trojans And put a dent in their plans.

The Trojans kicked off to Marty Reagan And it took him nine seconds to score, Then Aaron Andersen; a top rated quarterback, Rammed one in from the four.

Marty put on a great show As he ran a pair in from the 24 and 4, Then Clay Dooley got fired up And ran one in for another score.

When the first quarter ended, The Trojans were in shock, For the score was thirty five to zip And that happens a lot at the Rock.

Josh Taylor, ran for two touchdowns In the second period of the show, And the Trojans would never recover From the first half flow.

After the halftime festivities Big "A" struck Coxy Reams through the air, And Coxy out gunned the Trojan defense And crossed over the goal line there.

This finished off the scoring With the final being 56 to 0 And the team and seniors of 2001 Had put on a great show.

Youth Football Results

By Gridiron Dave
Tuesday, October 16th
Redskins 18
Wildcats 12
Redskins: Grant Burdette, 2 TD;
Chris Perez, 1 TD.
Wildcats: Casey Hayes, 1 TD;
Daniel Martin, 1 TD.

Bengals 36
Yellow Jackets 12
Bengals: Tanner Perkins, 4 TD;
Dylan Hughes, 1 TD; Brandon Burkhardt, 3 - 2 FG.
Yellow Jackets: Jeff Smith, 1 TD;
Coty Mize, 1 TD.

Last week's stats for the Redskins - Grant Burdette made the 1TD, not Chris Perez.

Saturday Games

Yellow Jackets vs. Redskins - 11 a.m.
Bengals vs. Wildcats - 12:30 p.m.
Anderson Co. vs. RCMS - 6th grade - 2 p.m.

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FOX SPORTS NET COLLEGE BASKETBALL

November 15 Marshall vs. George Washington 6:00PM Kentucky vs. Western Kentucky 8:00PM	November 16 Consolation game: 6:00PM Championship game: 8:00PM
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