

Marlin becomes first two-time winner of 2002

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Sterling Marlin, who had to start from dead last in Sunday's Carolina Dodge Dealers 400, narrowly missed a spinning Tony Stewart and multicar pileup on lap 225, and then held off Elliott Sauter to become the season's first two-time winner.

Tony Stewart had taken the lead from Jeff Gordon on lap 218, but ran into the back of Buckshot Jones No. 44. The results was a massive pileup involving 14 cars. Stewart was taken by helicopter to a Florence, SC hospital.

"He's getting some x-rays [taken] to make sure everything is OK," said Greg Zsigmond, Tony Stewart's crew chief. "I talked to him. He's hurting pretty good, but he is fully conscious. We'll just keep our fingers crossed and pray for him." They said he was out for a few minutes, but (Gibbs) said he didn't really know what happened. They'll get a good look at him."

Marlin and his team changed motors after practice on Saturday, which meant they had to start last. "I knew yesterday we had a good car," said Marlin. "Tony (Gibbs) looked at the motor after practice and found a bad lifter. We decided not to take the chance and just put in another one and were in the race."

"Pete Luck. I hope everybody was all right in that big wreck. The No. 24 car is real good at missing wrecks, so I just followed him."

Robby Ligonetti, driver of the No. 18 Interstate Batteries Pontiac was able to dodge most of the wreck. "I probably didn't see as much as I should have because I was just passing the 36 car (Ken Schrader) and kind of glanced to the mirror to see if I had cleared him. If I had, I'd be trying to do that I probably would have seen more, but I just happened to look back in the mirror and when I looked up it was too late. I went to the outside of the 41 (Jimmy Spencer) and the 20" was going down and I clipped in the front with my left front. I looked in the mirror and there was a lot of people crashing behind me, so I guess I'd have been slower, maybe I would have been in it, too."

Finishing order: 1. Sterling Marlin, 2. Elliott Sauter, 3. Kevin Harvick, 4. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 5. Ryan Newman, 6. J. R. Johnson, 7. Rusty Wallace, 8. Matt Kenseth.

9. Jeff Gordon, 10. Bill Elliott, 11. Jeff Burton, 12. Ricky Rudd, 13. Bobby Hamilton, 14. Kyle Petty, 15. Michael Waltrip, 16. Jeremy Mayfield, 17. Joe Nemechek, 18. Jerry Nadeau, 19. Buckshot Jones, 20. Mike Skinner, 21. Bobby Labonte, 22. John Andretti, 23. Terry Labonte, 24. Rick Mast, 25. Jeff Green, 26. Casey Atwood, 27. Stacy Compton, 28. Kurt Busch, 29. Mark Martin, 30. Dave Blaney, 31. Ward Burton, 32. Hut Stricklin, 33. Johnny Benson, 34. Robby Gordon, 35. Ken Schrader, 36. Jimmy Spencer, 37. Tony Stewart, 38. Brett Bodnar, 39. Steve Park, 40. Dale Jarrett, 41. Ricky Craven, 42. Shavna Robinson, 43. Andy Hillenburg.

Top-10 points leaders after 5 of 36 events: 1. Marlin-225, 2. Newman-220, 3. Kenseth-212, 4. R. Wallace-207, 5. Johnson-207, 6. J. Gordon-204, 7. J. Burton-200, 8. W. Burton-200, 9. Martin-200, 10. Earnhardt Jr-200.

GM not happy with NASCAR rules: "Without question, we're disappointed by the lack of action taken by NASCAR this week with regard to adjusting the rules for the Winston Cup Series," said Doug Dacht, GM spokesman. "It has been our belief for some time that a number of things need to be adjusted to bring the field back together, and not just with one make. The wind tunnel data we received Monday, coupled with the overall on-track performance this season, reinforces those beliefs."

"We certainly remember how quickly NASCAR moved prior to the Daytona 500 to help Dodge and Ford. With the data from Monday's test and the problem set in Daytona, we expected consistent and equitable treatment this week."

"On our side of the equation, the Chevrolet pleads help to counter the revised inspection process implemented this year by NASCAR. The changes made to that process have hurt the Monte Carlo more than any of the four makes. The data received Monday indicates that we are dealing with a 10 percent decrease in performance between the Dodge and Chevrolet, which is a significant and evident amount in this series. We offered NASCAR a number of suggestions this week, which would have gone a long way towards putting the races back in the hands of the drivers and teams."

"GM Racing has always been in agreement with NASCAR in dealing with the problem set in the Winston Cup Series. Unfortunately, it is

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appears we will go to least another week without taking steps to get there."

Other Race Results
Burton led every lap in Busch race
DARLINGTON, S.C. — Jeff Burton registered his second Busch series win of 2002 as he led all 147 laps of the Darlington raceway.com 200 Saturday.

Finishing order: 1. Jeff Burton, 2. Greg Biffle, 3. Jeff Green, 4. Jason Keller, 5. Kenny Wallace, 6. Mike McLaughlin, 7. Tony Raines, 8. Todd Bodine, 9. Jack Sprague, 10. Stacy Compton, 11. Johnny Sauter, 12. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 13. Hank Parker Jr., 14. Michael Waltrip, 15. Ron Hornaday, 16. Jamie McMurray, 17. Mark Green, 18. Kerry Earnhardt, 19. Shane Hmiel, 20. Scott Riggs, 21. Kevin LePage, 22. Tim Sauter, 23. Dan Pardus, 24. Jimmy Spencer, 25. Ashton Lewis, 26. Mike Laughlin, 27. Randy LaJoie, 28. Derrick Cope, 29. Ken Alexander, 30. Jeff Purvis, 31. Andy Kirby, 32. Kevin Guff, 33. Butch Miller, 34. Scott Wimmer, 35. Mike Harmon, 36. Chad Chaffin, 37. Brian Vickers, 38. Larry Foy, 39. Casey Means, 40. Dwayne Lee, 41. Lyndon Amick, 42. Brad Teague, 43. Joe Buford.

Top-10 Busch Series points leaders after 2 of 23 events: 1. Musgrave, 2. Presley, 3. Rose, 4. Starr, 5. Contreras, 6. Norick, 7. Wood, 8. Crawford, 9. Wood, 10. Small.

Weekend Racing Schedule: The Winston Cup and Busch series travel to Bristol, TN this weekend. The Craftsman Trucks do not race again until April 13.

Saturday, March 23: Busch Series, Channellock 250, event 5 of 34 events. Starting time: 12:30 p.m. (EST). TV: FX Sports Channel. Defending champion: Matt Kenseth, Chevrolet.

Sunday, March 24: Winston Cup Food City 500, event 6 of 36 events. Starting time: 12:30 p.m. (EST). TV: Fox. Distance: 500 laps/266 miles. Defending champion: Elliott Sauter, Ford. Bristol-Motor Speedway track information: Size: .533 mile oval. Banking in turns: 36 degrees. Length of frontstretch: 650 feet. Grandstand capacity: 150,000.

Racing Trivia Question: Ryan Newman is an up and coming rookie in the Winston Cup series. What is his team name?

Answer To Last Week's Question: Rookie Busch Series driver Jack Sprague competed in the Craftsman Truck Series before moving to Busch.

SOUND OFF: If you have an opinion about NASCAR or Sunday's Winston Cup racing and want to be heard, call us within one hour after the end of the race at 1-800-726-7022. The call is free, and if we use your comments in our next column, we will send you a photo of your favorite driver.

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

Fifteen years together

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jason Keller, the current Busch Series points leader, and crew chief Steve Addington share one unique quality — loyalty. While their road to success has not been easy, 2002 marks their 10th full season together as driver and crew chief and sixth season together in the NASCAR Busch Series.

Keller and Addington both began their respective careers racing on the short tracks of South Carolina. Keller was just 15 years old when he began competing in Late Model Sportsman Dirt cars, but in another pit was his fierce competition in crew chief Steve Addington.

"Steve's team was beating us week after week," said Keller. "So I went over to him and hired him to help me out. That was 1988, and a year later he became the first full-time employee of Kel Racing."

In 1990 the two moved to the old NASCAR Winston All-American Challenge where Keller not only finished fourth in the overall standings, but captured rookie of the year honors as well. The following year it was on to the NASCAR Slim Jim All-Pro Series where Keller and Addington racked up four wins and topped the series in the number of laps led during the season. They finished third in the standings.

"Back in those days we spent every day together, we were like brothers," said Addington. "Since I was his only full-time employee, I was responsible for preparing the car, loading the truck and driving the truck to the track. It would have been tough to do if it wasn't for my relationship with Jason."

The pair entered their first NASCAR Busch Series race in 1991 at Limer Raceway in Georgia. Keller qualified the car in the top 10 and went on to finish 29th, earning \$575. Three years later, they ran their first full season in the Busch Series capturing three poles with one each at Richmond, Myrtle Beach and Orange County Speedway in Rougemont.

"The more successful their team became, the tougher it was on Keller and Addington's relationship. Keller was trying to run Kel racing and drive competitively against the likes of Johnny Benson, Steve Park and

David Green. The two eventually parted ways in 1996.

"The reason we split up had nothing to do with our relationship as driver and crew chief, but rather the pressure I was under as a team owner," said Keller. "I regret that decision to this very day, but the end result has been for the best. Fortunately, it led us to where we are today at Kel Racing."

"Once Steve left, I didn't achieve the same success on the track. Eventually I sold my team to Greg Pollex and began driving for him in 1998. I spent through a couple of good crew chiefs, but in my heart and mind I knew that to achieve the success I wanted, it would take Steve."

Meanwhile, Addington couldn't find his niche away from Keller either. He spent their two-year separation with different teams, but couldn't find the chemistry he had with Keller.

"It was a long two years," said Addington. "I worked for about four or five different teams including The Craftsman Truck team, Mike Cope's Craftsman Truck team and driver Shane Hall. They just weren't what I was looking for or wanted. When Harold Holly called me at the end of the 1998 season, he said they were starting a second team and Jason wanted me to be his crew chief. I don't think I hesitated before I said yes."

The 2002 season marks their third season together at ppc Racing. In that time Keller has finished in the top five in points two consecutive years.

This year their Albertson's team is a favorite for the Busch Series championship, a title Addington and Keller have been chasing since the early '90s.

"I don't think I would be where I am without Steve," said Keller. "We basically grew up together, from a personal standpoint and a racing standpoint. Our success in the Busch Series has been due to our respect for one another. Not too long ago we were young and wild running around South Carolina like we owned it, today we're contenting for a NASCAR championship."

With two top-five finishes, including a win at Rockingham, the dynamic duo is well on their way to achieving a goal set over 15 years ago.

Auction

of Mr. and Mrs. Connel Anderson's

Brick House and 7.1 Acre Mini-Farm

Saturday, March 30, 2002 at 10:30 a.m.

Brook Road (State Route 3244) Broughtontown Section of Lincoln County

Location: 7 miles south of Oak Orchard, CR 600, turn off Highway 39 at Dogwood onto State Route 3244 (between the two churches). Follow 618 approximately 2 miles. Turn south on 1781 and go about 500 feet to Brook Road. Turn left on Brook Road and proceed approximately 310 miles to the property. Auction signs are posted.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have purchased a larger farm only a few miles away and have no need to keep this property. Therefore, they have authorized our firm to sell it for the absolute high dollar.

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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Hey, this is it if you've been looking for a quality home with a great location and a few acres, look no further. With the barn and pond, you can enjoy riding your horses, looking after the calves, or relax on a warm evening and fish. Remember, it's going to sell to the highest bidder regardless of price.

NOTE: The purchaser of a single family residence, built before 1978, has a maximum of 10 days to inspect the property for the presence of lead based paint. The period for inspection begins March 20th through March 30th. The successful bidder must sign a waiver of the 10 day post sale inspection period.

TERMS: 20% down day of sale, balance in 30 days.

Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed matter.

For additional information, contact the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Wren - 606-355-7544 or the auctioneers:

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