

"Racing"

(Cont. from A6)

him up during the race.

One of the strongest cars during the middle of the race was that of Tony Stewart. But Stewart, who was still sore from a wreck last week at Darlington, pined on lap 373, and was pulled from the race. He was replaced by Todd Bodine, who eventually finished 15th.

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

Top-25 points leaders after 6 of 36 races: 1. Martin-931, 2. Kenseth-822, 3. Wallace-815, 4. Johnson-823, 5. Busch-794, 6. Earnhardt Jr.-791, 7. Newman-778, 8. Martin-768, 9. Burton-740, 10. J. Gordon-739, 11. W. Burton-728, 12. Stewart-727, 13.

Elliott-694, 14. Rudd-682, 15. Craven-666, 16. B. Labonte-665, 17. Sadler-640, 18. Mayfield-627, 19. Nadeau-614, 20. Harvick-599, 21. T. Labonte-597, 22. Blaney-596, 23. Spencer-554, 24. Jarrett-552, 25. Petty-541.

Green stays out of trouble to win at Bristol

BRISTOL, Tenn.—Jeff Green managed to survive all 17 different wrecks that plagued the drivers of Saturday's Charlotte 250 to pick up his first Busch Series win of the season.

Finishing order: 1. Jeff Green, 2. Mike McLaughlin, 3. Scott Wimmer, 4. Jimmy Spencer, 5. Greg Biffle, 6. Kenny Wallace, 7. Randy LaJoie, 8. Todd Bodine, 9. Scott Riggs, 10. Shane Hmiel, 11. Tony Raines, 12. Kevin Grubb, 13. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 14. Brian Vickers, 15. Butch Miller, 16. Tim Senter, 17. Mark Green, 18. Ashton Lewis, 19. Jack Sprague, 20. Larry Foyt, 21. Derrick Compton, 22. Lyndon Amick, 23. Casey Mears, 24. Kevin Harvick, 25. Brian Weber, 26. Jamie McMurray, 27. Jeff Purvis, 28. Kerry Earnhardt, 29. Jason Keller, 30. Michael Waltrip, 31. Ken Alexander, 32. Casey Kahne, 33. Hank Parker Jr., 34. Kevin LePage, 35. Johnny Sauter, 36. Stacy Compton, 37. Joe Rufford, 38. Ron

Hornaday, 39. Andy Kirby, 40. Chad Chaffin, 41. Brad Baker, 42. Mike Hammon, 43. Brad Teague.

Top-10 points leaders after 5 of 34 events: 1. Biffle-740, 2. J. Green-733, 3. K. Wallace-708, 4. Sprague-690, 5. Keller-673, 6. LaJoie-671, 7. McLaughlin-661, 8. Waltrip-629, 9. Riggs-622, 10. Spencer-601.

Scott Riggs earns Busch Raybestos Rookie of the Race

Scott Riggs drove his No. 1 Ford to a sixth-place finish in the Charlotte 250 at Bristol. He led the race once for five laps and is now ninth in the points standings.

"We had a better car than where we finished. We were a little loose at first when our air pressure was low. We just a couple of positions there at the beginning and we had to take our time and be patient. The car got tight on me once the air pressures got up. We came in and made two pit stops where most guys made one here. We made two and kept working on it, getting us better. We started marching our way back to the front there and then all of a sudden something happened. I can't figure out what it was. The car got loose after we got up to about fifth. Looking at how I think we had a right rear (tire) going flat. The last 20 laps I was just hanging on."

Fan Response: L. Stearns, KY: "I don't understand why everyone is criticizing Jeff Gordon for his driving. I see no difference in his and other drivers, including Dale Earnhardt Sr. I believe the nudes he gives other drivers is just part of racing. Where did Earnhardt get that idea?"

name, "Intimidator"? I think he drove much rougher than Gordon ever has."

B. M. Lovellville, KY: "I don't agree with NASCAR allowing Winston Cup drivers to go down and run in the Busch Series. Usually the guys that do are those that can't win in Cup. They're taking money and win away from the younger kids."

J.M. Bolton, NC: "How long is NASCAR going to let the bumping go on? There might be a reason for some of it, but I think it's a reason to get out of hand."

J.P. Squeghehna, PA: "Jimmy Spencer is my favorite driver. He's going to be in Victory Lane, soon."

E. T. Dushore, PA: "I don't believe NASCAR should let a driver start a race if he isn't physically able to finish. Tony Stewart knew he was hurt, but he was allowed to start. If I think it gave the team an unfair advantage. When Todd Bodine took over for him, Bodine was fresher than the other 42 drivers."

Weekend Racing: Next weekend is Easter Weekend, and since NASCAR traditional celebrates it as a holiday, there will be no live NASCAR racing. All three of NASCAR's major series will be idle.

Racing Trivia Question: Which cars do Petty Enterprises field in the Winston Cup circuit?

Answer: To Last Week's Question: Winston Cup driver Ryan Newman is teamed up with Rusty Wallace.

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

Jimmy Watts doesn't dwell on danger

But danger is never far away. Monday through Saturday Watts is a captain with the Charlotte, N.C. Fire Department.

On Sunday he goes over pit wall just inches away from 43 swarming cars to gas Johnny Benson's No. 10 Valvoline Pontiac.

"You can't dwell on the danger. If you dwell on the danger then you can't do your job," said the 30-year-old gasman. "You have to do both jobs with a clear mind. Any hesitation in either one of those jobs can get you hurt."

And he's seen people hurt. Another pit crew was struck at Miami last year and Watts was alongside a 23-year-old firefighter buried to death in a Charlotte area fire last week.

"There are inherent dangers in both

jobs, but you know what you are getting into when you sign up for both jobs," Watts said. "You practice pit stops, just as you train at the fire department, to keep sharp so you learn more about what you are doing and minimize the risks you encounter."

When something goes wrong there's a support group that stretches wider than just his immediate family of wife Jori and their twin infants Mitchell and Adam. NASCAR fans support their heroes while the public support for firefighters has never been greater.

"I've been around long enough to know how close-knit the NASCAR community is and firefighters are just as tight of a group. Firement spend more time at the fire station with their firefighter family than they do with their real families. They fight together, sleep together and they fight together."

The firefighter's funeral last week showed Watts the depth of the public's grief was even greater than he thought.

"To see the outpouring of support that came from all over the country was something I can't describe," Watts said. "There were guys from New York City who came down to help us bury one of our own. I have never experienced anything like what happened these past few days and I hope I never have to again. It's been so much tough times."

Watts pauses a few seconds before beginning an explanation, in his soft-spoken southern drawl, of why he does what he does.

"I love what I do. Both jobs. I have always wanted to be a fireman since I was a little and knew what the job was. I also always wanted to be involved in racing. All these guys who are mechanics grew up in the sport. They've done this since they were little boys. I never had that upbringing. I'm lucky to be in the position. I'm in because I don't have the mechanical background that all these

other guys have. I'm very fortunate because there are a lot of people who would want to take my place."

And a lot of those who would like to take his place are fellow firefighters.

"They think it's cool. I can't tell you how many people ask me about it. I've created more fans of NASCAR among firefighters. They watch us and keep up. Johnny has picked up a lot of fans among the firemen."

Watts' goal as a gasman is to win races. His driver hopes he can help his firefighter friend reach that goal.

"Yeah we'd like to get Jimmy to

Victory Lane," Benson said. "What we do out here is a lot of fun and we take it very seriously because it is important to us and to a lot of people."

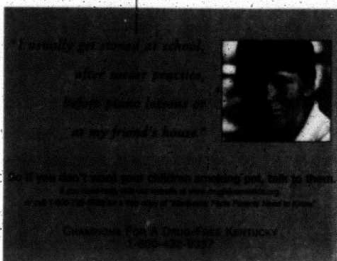
But it doesn't compare to the importance of what they do.

"While a checkered flag is Watt's goal on race day, his weekday goal is a bit broader."

"I guess going home in the morning is the goal in that job," said Watts. "This week has kind of driven that point home. There's nothing like fighting fires. That's the biggest rush in the world. But, if you can save a life that would be the biggest thing."

JUST BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE DOESN'T MEAN YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

"My kid doesn't smoke pot. He's either at school, soccer practice, piano lessons, or at a friend's house."



SCC announces classes

Students currently enrolled at Somerset Community College are eligible for advance fall registration. Somerset Community College will be holding advance registration for students wishing to take classes at Rockcastle County High School on April 10th, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Currently enrolled students will also be eligible for summer school at this time. New students who submit an application will be able to attend a New Student Orientation program during the summer. At New Student Orientation, a student receives valuable college information as well as their course schedule for this fall. The following classes, days & times will be available at Rockcastle County High School for the fall term:

- BIO 103 - Basic Ideas of Biology, Tuesday, Blankenship.
- CIS 100 - Intro to Computers, Thursday, Callender.
- CON 101 - Basic Public Speaking, Wednesday, J. Lewis.
- ENG 101 - Writing I, Tuesday, Music.
- HIS 108 - History of US through 1865, Monday, R. Purrell.
- MAH 083 - Intermediate Algebra, Thursday, Craft.
- MT 107 - Contemporary College Algebra, Monday, Bustle.
- PY 110 - General Psychology, Thursday, Hall.

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Pursuant to KRS 231.050, notice is hereby given that William Cope and Donnie Cope has filed an application, with the County Clerk of Rockcastle County, to operate a place of entertainment in Rockcastle County, the location of which is outside the corporate boundaries of the city of Mt. Vernon. The County Judge-Executive of Rockcastle County has set a hearing on this application for the 30th day of May, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at the Rockcastle County Courthouse. Any person desiring to oppose the permit shall have filed in writing allegations that show cause why the application should not be granted.

/s/ Norma Houck, County Clerk

Doan for Sheriff

"A Servant of the People"

Voters of Rockcastle County, I need your help in the upcoming Primary. I have stated my qualifications and training in previous ads.

If elected, I intend to have my deputies have the highest quality of training, a sixteen week basic course, as is required by Kentucky state law.

I intend to run a very reliable and dependable office and serve the people with the utmost importance as I have always done in the past as deputy sheriff.

My office and I will respond as quickly and effectively as is possible to all calls. If experience, service and being on-call when need is important to you, then I need your vote in the May 28th Primary.

On May 28th vote for Darrell Doan for Sheriff of Rockcastle Co.

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Pull Lever #7



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