

The Racing Reporter

By Gerald Hodges
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Busch spins but still wins

MARTINSVILLE, Vir.—The much talked about and anticipated tire wear never materialized during Sunday's Old Dominion 500 as Kurt Busch, driver of the No. 97 Roush Racing Ford survived an early spinout and just fast to win his second race of the season and his career.

Busch gained the lead on lap 401 and led the remaining 99 laps.

"The team is what put me out front," said Busch. "We came in ninth and went out third. It took me about 20-laps to get the tires worn in, and then I could do a lot of damage and go fast."

Busch came from the farthest back (36) in the history of the Martinsville track to win.

Johnny Benson, Ricky Rudd, Dale Earnhardt Jr., and Ward Burton rounded out the top-five. The sixth place finisher Jimmie Johnson was the highest finishing rookie. Rounding out the remaining top-ten were, Ricky Craven, Dale Jarrett, Rusty Wallace, and Mark Martin.

Points leader Tony Stewart came in 11th and is now 82 points ahead of Johnson.

Ords dominated the early stages of the race. After two caution periods during the first 100 laps, the top-three leaders were Rusty Wallace, Ryan Newman, and Jeff Burton—all Ford drivers.

During a pit stop under caution on lap 103, Jeff Gordon's No. 24 team did not get all the lug nuts tightened on one of his tires and he had to come back into the pits a second time. When green flag racing resumed, he was in 36th position.

By lap 125 Tony Stewart, who had qualified 33rd had worked his way up through the field and was fifth.

Kurt Busch brought out the fifth caution when he spun coming out of turn four of lap 179. The leaders when the race continued were Ward Burton, Tony Stewart, and Robby Gordon.

Jeff Gordon brushed the wall on lap 248 and pitted during lap 252 with damage to both front fenders on his No. 24 Dupont Chevrolet. He came back into the pits several times for repairs and wound up 36th, effectively ending any chance he has to

win this year's championship with just four races left.

Finishing order: 1. Kurt Busch, 2. Johnny Benson, 3. Ricky Rudd, 4.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., 5. Ward Burton, 6. Jimmie Johnson, 7. Ricky Craven, 8. Dale Jarrett, 9. Rusty Wallace, 10. Mark Martin, 11. Tony Stewart, 12. Bobby Labonte, 13. John Andretti, 14. Mike Bliss, 15. Ryan Newman, 16. Steve Park, 17. Jeff Burton, 18. Michael Waltrip, 19. Matt Kenseth, 20. Dave Blaney, 21. Casey Atwood, 22. Terry Labonte, 23. Robby Gordon, 24. Jimmy Spencer, 25. Bobby Hamilton, 26. Ken Schrader, 27. Wallace, 28. Jeremy Mayfield, 29. Ted Musgrave, 30. Todd Bodine, 31. Kevin Harvick, 32. Jeff Green, 33. Mike Skinner, 34. Elliott Sadler, 35. Hermie Sadler, 36. Jeff Gordon, 37. Kyle Petty, 38. Brett Bodine, 39. Geoffrey Bodine, 40. Steve Grissom, 41. Joe Nemechek, 42. Bill Elliott, 43. Hideki Fukuyama.

Top-10 points leaders: 1. Stewart-4263, 2. Johnson-4181, 3. Martin-4140, 4. R. Wallace-4089, 5. Newman-4086, 6. J. Gordon-3972, 7. Busch-3946, 8. Kenseth-3929, 9. Rudd-3923, 10. Jarrett-3862.

Is it the team or the driver? Sterling Marlin, the regular driver of the No. 40 Coors Light Dodge was in the pits at Martinsville this past weekend with a broken neck vertebrae at Kansas, three races ago.

Two weeks ago at Charlotte, Jamie McMurray filled-in for Marlin and won the UAW-GM 500 team manager, Tony Glover talked about the importance of both the team and driver in winning a race.

"I think it's a combination of a lot of things," said Glover. "I don't think a car can be competitive in a race without a good driver. And I don't think a good driver can win a race without having a good car, so it's a combination of everything involved."

Mike Bliss drove the No. 40 Dodge Sunday in the Old Dominion 500 at Martinsville because McMurray had previously committed to running the Busch race at Memphis. After qualifying 27th, Bliss finished 14th.

Jimmy Spencer, the other half of the Felix Sabates/Chip Ganassi team and driver of the No. 41 Target Dodge says the days of driving by the seat of your pants are gone.

"Dale Earnhardt was one of the greatest drivers that ever lived, but today, he wouldn't win as many races as he did during his career," said Spencer. "You guys don't realize how critical the decisions that are being made at the shops on Monday morning and the engineering that goes into these cars and the crews making the right decisions."

"I think the Dale Earnhardt period is over. Dale Earnhardt is the best there ever was at taking a fifth-place race car and winning a race with it."

Today, I don't think you can take a fifth-place race car and win a race with it.

"When Chip (Ganassi) picked Jamie, he picked the right guy, but also that team is very, very strong. That's what you're seeing with Ryan Newman, Jimmie Johnson and Tony Stewart—they all have strong race teams."

"The drivers are confident in these teams. They'll tell you to jump off a bridge and you'll survive it and some-

times you believe them. That's the confidence you need in your team. It's showing every week in Winston Cup."

Is it the driver, team, or both? You decide. But don't jump off a bridge yet.

Weekend Racing

The Busch and Winston Cup series are in Atlanta. The Craftsman Trucks do not race again until Nov. 2.

Saturday, Oct. 26: NASCAR Busch Series Aaron's 312: Starting time: 1 p.m. (EST); TV: TNT; Distance: 203 laps/312 miles; Defending champion: Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet.

Sunday, Oct. 27: Winston Cup NAPA 500: Starting time: Noon (EST); TV: NBC; Distance: 325 laps/500 miles; Defending champion: Bobby Labonte, Pontiac.

Atlanta Motor Speedway track information: Size: 1.54 mile oval; Banking in turns: 24 degrees; Banking on straights: 5 degrees; Length

of frontstretch: 1,415 feet, backstretch: 1,320 feet; Grandstand capacity: 125,000.

Racing Trivia Question: Which is the oldest track on the Winston Cup circuit?

Answer To Last Week's Question: Jeff Gordon has the most Winston Cup wins (61) of any active driver. Rusty Wallace is second with 58, and Bill Elliott is third with 43.

Gerald Hodges/The Racing Reporter is a syndicated NASCAR columnist. If you have a racing question to which 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.

Wimmer wins Busch race
Here are the results of the NASCAR Busch Series Sam's Town 250 run at Memphis Motorsports

Park, Sunday, Oct. 20: 1. Scott Wimmer, 2. Stacy Compton, 3. Jamie McMurray, 4. Hank Parker Jr., 5.

Kerry Earnhardt, 6. Tim Sauter, 7. Ron Hornaday Jr., 8. Jay Sauter, 9. David Greig, 10. Jason Keller, 11. Shane Hmiel, 12. David Reutimann, 13. Brian Vickers, 14. Johnny Sauter, 15. Tony Raines, 16. Mike McLaughlin, 17. Brad Baker, 18. Jack Sprague, 19. Kenny Wallace, 20. Tim Fedewa, 21. Larry Foyt, 22. Stanton Barrett, 23. Casey Mears, 24. Kertus Davis, 25. Ron Young, 26. Lowell Bennett, 27. Dana White, 28. Clay Dale, 29. Kevin Grubb, 30. Coy Gibbs, 31. Butch Miller, 32. Ashton Lewis, 33. Larry Guseman, 34. Greg Biffle, 35. Randy LaJoie, 36. Scott Riggs, 37. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 38. Mark Green, 39. Regan Smith, 40. Richard Jarvis, 41. Joe Buford, 42. Chad Chaffin, 43. Kevin LePage.

Top-10 points leaders after 30 of 34 races: 1. Biffle-4244, 2. Keller-4139, 3. Wimmer-3887, 4. Sprague-3808, 5. McLaughlin-3755, 6. K. Wallace-3667, 7. McMurray-3617, 8. Riggs-3594, 9. Hamilton Jr.-3589, 10. LaJoie-3473.

Printed below is a facsimile of PAGE 2 of the ballot which will be used in the East Mt. Vernon precinct in the General Election in Rockcastle County on Tuesday, November 5th.

Norma Houk, County Clerk

SAMPLE BALLOT

"QUESTION"		NONPARTISAN CITY BALLOT	
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #1		City of Mt. Vernon MAYOR (Vote For One)	
Are you in favor of family courts in Kentucky by amending the Kentucky Constitution to allow the Supreme Court to designate a division of circuit court as a family court?	Doug BULLOCK 99		
	Jackie R. RENNER 100		
	Jody ADAMS 101		
69 YES	Karen K. KING 102		
70 NO	Rebekah HAMMOND 103		
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #2		Kevin G. FLETCHER 104	
Are you in favor of permitting the General Assembly to provide by general law for the formation, organization, and regulation of corporations by repealing certain sections of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to corporations?	Clarice Renner KIRBY 105		
74 YES	WRITE - IN 106		
75 NO	City of Mt. Vernon CITY COUNCIL (Vote For Two)		
	Steve RENFRO 108		
	Clag "Joe" MULLINS 109		
	Barbara BENNETT 110		
	Lou VANHOOSE 111		
	Lonetta G. DAUGHTERY 112		
	Don JONES 113		
	Wayne BULLOCK 114		
	Matthew J. BRYANT 115		
	Betty Carter BUSSELL 116		
	Bryan HANSEL 117		
	Shelley R. LEWIS 118		
	WRITE - IN 119		
	WRITE - IN 120		
	WRITE - IN 121		
	WRITE - IN 122		
	WRITE - IN 123		
	WRITE - IN 124		

Benefit Ride

For Frankie Marler Family

Saturday, November 2nd

Ride will begin at 11 a.m. at Marler
Holler in Sand Springs

\$10 Registry fee for each 4-wheeler

Registry fee will register you to win a cash prize at the end of the ride. (Donations are accepted, you may register and not participate in the ride. You don't have to be present in order to win!)

3 Drawings to win \$50 and two for \$25

For information, call 256-9135 or 256-0078

Annual Year End Inventory Clearance Sale

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No Wax Vinyl 2.98/sq. yd.

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.49 cents each

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starting at \$1.98 sq. yd.

INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

"With God All Things Are Possible"

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INFORMATION WINDOW

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