

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Johnson tames monster mile

Jimmie Johnson led 289 laps of Sunday's 400-lap FedEx 400 Cup race, and finished 2.24-seconds ahead of Kevin Harvick.

Johnson made it look easy as he coasted around the track during the last two laps, before heading to Dover's victory lane for the seventh time.

"Great car," said Johnson. "I thought the 24-car (Jeff Gordon) was the one to beat, but he had problems."

"Actually, this car was so good that if I hadn't won, I would have been extremely disappointed."

Johnson ran a near flawless race, while Kevin Harvick and Johnson's teammate, Jeff Gordon had pit road problems.

"I'm just glad we were able to make up for the problem in the pits," said Harvick. "In the past, this hasn't been a good track for us, so we're glad to finish the race in second."

The season's biggest wreck, involving 13 cars came on lap 9, after Tony Stewart nudged Landon Cassill, and he in turn was struck from behind by Regan Smith.

"I got into the back of the 14-car and caused the whole thing," said Smith. "Going into turn-2, you can't see very far ahead, and I was unable to avoid Tony."

However, Stewart did not place any blame on Smith.

"Well, it really wasn't anyone's fault," said Stewart. "We just got jammed up there. We shouldn't have been racing that hard, this early in the race, but since we had to start so far back, I was just too impatient."

Matt Kenseth finished third, followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr., Clint Bowyer, Aric Almirola, Martin Truex, Joey Logano, Kasey Kahne, and Marcos Ambrose.

Jeff Gordon's 2012 racing jinx continued to haunt him at Dover. During a pit stop midway of the race, his team had a tire problem, causing him to lose 2-laps. He fought back and finished 13th, but he is still 21st in points.

Polesitter Mark Martin was 14th.

Engine problems plagued both Kurt and Kyle Busch, and Jeff Burton.

Top-12 Chase leaders after 13 of 36: 1. Biffle-486, 2. Kenseth-485, 3. Earnhardt-476, 4. Hamlin-464, 5. Johnson-453, 6. Truex-441, 7. Harvick-440, 8. Stewart-407, 9. Kyle Busch-406, 10. Bowyer-405, 11. Keselowski-400, 12. Edwards-390.

LOGANO CLAIMS FOURTH NATIONWIDE WIN

Joey Logano overtook pole-sitter Ryan Truex after a restart in Saturday's Nationwide race at Dover, and went on to win his fourth Nationwide race in 10 starts this season.

When Logano came to the pits on Lap 152 of the 200-lap race, after spinning Tim

Bainey Jr. to cause the sixth and final caution on Lap 151 (an incident Logano attributed to a rookie not giving the leader enough room), Truex inherited the lead and appeared headed for a fairy tale finish until Logano caught him with five laps left.

Ricky Stenhouse Jr. lost control of his No. 6 Ford during lap 27 and slammed nose-first into the inside wall on the backstretch.

"I just lost it," Stenhouse said. "I was up on the wheel and just kind of riding around and got behind on the steering. It was driver error, totally my fault."

It was the second straight week, Stenhouse has taken a major hit in the standings. A broken drive shaft May 26 at Charlotte cost him most of his championship lead. With Saturday's trouble, even though he returned to the track on lap 94, Stenhouse finished 32nd and fell from first to second, 12 points behind Elliott Sadler and two ahead of third-place Austin Dillon.

Top-10 finishers: 1. Joey Logano, 2. Ryan Truex, 3. Brian Scott, 4. Kurt Busch, 5. Justin Allgaier, 6. Austin Dillon, 7. Elliott Sadler, 8. Ty Dillon, 9. James Buescher, 10. Jeremy Clements.

Top-10 leaders after 12 of 33: 1. Sadler-454, 2. Stenhouse-442, 3. A. Dillon-440, 4. Hornaday-404, 5. Allgaier-376, 6. Whitt-366, 7. Annett-364, 8. Bliss-302, 9. Nemechek-287, 10. Malsam-282.

BODINE GETS DOVER TRUCK RACE

Todd Bodine took advantage of being in the lead when the showers came, to win the rain-shortened Truck race at Dover on Friday.

He celebrated in a make-shift Victory Lane after the race was called with 147 of 200 laps completed on the 1-mile track.

Harvick had the dominant truck and led most of the race until the first rain delay. Bodine took the lead shortly after racing resumed and posted his third straight top-five finish.

Parker Kligerman was second, followed by Harvick, Nelson Piquet, Cale Gale, Ty Dillon, James Buescher, Matt Crafton, Timothy Peters, and Justin Lofton rounded out the top-10 finishers.

Top-10 leaders after 6 of 22: 1. Lofton-235, 2. Peters-234, 3. T. Dillon-222, 4. Buescher-219, 5. Kligerman-213, 6. Bodine-198, 7. Piquet-195, 8. Hornaday-186, 9. Crafton-180, 10. Coulter-178.

ROBBY GORDON TO LAUNCH NEW TRUCK SERIES

Robby Gordon will introduce a new televised, off road truck series, called Stadium Super Trucks, beginning in 2013.

Modeled after the former infamous Mickey Thompson Off-Road Race Series, SST will feature side-by-side rac-



Jimmie Johnson, won his seventh Dover race Sunday

ing excitement that promises to leave fans wanting more.

"Stadium racing helped Jimmie Johnson, Casey Mears and myself launch our careers," said Gordon. "Bringing off-road racing back to the stadium like Mickey Thompson did has been something that I have wanted to do for a long time, and I am proud to say that we have finally accomplished it. SST offers attractive racing venues, remarkable track designs, substantial purse, and opportunity for network TV a lot like NASCAR because you can visualize the whole track."

SST will kick off the season in April 2013 with a minimum 10-race schedule throughout the country. There will be two events in San Diego and Los Angeles, and the remainder of the calendar will be announced on July 15, 2012.

SST will be a 2-day event. Friday's events consist of qualifying to ensure local media coverage for Saturday's events. Saturday will start off with a fan expo and tailgating, side-by-side ATV heats, Bigfoot heats and finals, SST heats and then on to the main event.

Trucks will be modeled after automobile manufacturer replicas and the SST trucks will consist of 600 horsepower V-8 engines, with 20 inches of wheel travel while racing on DOT approved street tires. Racers will have the opportunity to win a \$60,000 purse each weekend and the overall series champion will be awarded a \$500,000 dollar prize at the conclusion of the season.

Weekend Racing:

The Sprint Cup teams are at the 2.5-mile Pocono Raceway, while the trucks will race at the 1.5-mile Texas Speedway. The Nationwide teams have the weekend off.

Fri., June 8, Camping World Trucks Winstar Casino 400k, race 7 of 22; Starting time: 9 pm ET; TV: SPEED.

Sun., June 10, Sprint Cup Pocono 400, race 14 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: TNT.

Racing Trivia Question: Who won NASCAR's inaugural Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis?

Last Week's Question: Where will the 2012 NASCAR Sprint Cup Banquet be held this year? Answer: Las Vegas, Nev.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Jun6,C)JC

Ladies Day at The Ridges

Thursday, May 31, 2012, twenty-one lady members and three guests participated in Ladies Day at the Ridges. The nineteen ladies playing 18 holes of golf played the 1, 2, 3 on 5, 4, 3 game in which par fives used one best ball of the four person team, par fours used two best balls of the team, and par threes used the three best balls of the team.

The first place winners were the team of Jackie DiChiara, Barbara Boswell, Anita Flood, and Nancy Steck with a low net score of 280. Second place went to the team of Pat Mosteller, Dee Ramsey, Judy Spillett, and Becky Sutton with a low net score of 287. The five ladies, participating in the nine hole competition, played individual low putts. There was a tie for low putts among Star Glock and Karen Whitaker. Each lady took only 17 putts on their nine holes. What a great time to be a member at The Ridges!

The ladies group plays a variety of games each Thursday. They would love to have more players. The eighteen hole golfers tee off at 9 a.m. and the nine hole golfers tee off at 10 a.m. If you would like to be a part of the fun, call The Ridges Golf Shop at 828-389-9000 to sign up for the games. NT(Jun6,Z7)CA

YHC Summer Baseball Camps

2 Camp Weeks: June 18-22 & July 23-27. Three different camps each week for ages ranging from 5-18. Instruction for beginners to advanced Middle School to Elite High School. For more information visit us on the web: TheRockSports.com or call 706-897-2363. NT(Jun6,ZO)CA

VFW Golf League

On 5/31/12 we again had 18 players and beautiful weather. The winning team of Bill Kiser, Tom Moyher and Vince Cooper posted a score of 62 (10 under par). Fantastic shooting fellas. We had 3 teams come in with scores of 67 and 1 team with a 68. All in all, a good day on the course. Pretty even teams I would say. We still would enjoy seeing some ladies join us on Thursday mornings. T(Jun6,G1)SH

2012 Summer Day Camp

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12. This summer The Recreation Department will offer day camp for 3 sessions, each session being two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Session II - June 18th thru June 29th. Session III - July 9th thru July 20th.

The fee for the two week session is \$120. The fee is payable to the Towns County Recreation Department the first Monday of each session.

Day Camp offers children sports game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more. Give your child a lot to do this summer and sign them up for Day Camp. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions. Children need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation department will furnish the drinks for the campers.

Registration will be the first Monday of each session at the Recreation Department located on Hwy. 76 west of Hiawassee. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. T(Jun6,F1)SH

Al-Anon meetings/times

Blairsville: Mountain Presbyterian Church, 2945 Young Harris Hwy. 76, Wednesday 8 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Discussion, open meeting. Saint Clare's Episcopal Church, Friday 12 noon Al-anon Group Discussion, open meeting.

Young Harris: Sharp Memorial Methodist Church, Tuesday 12 noon Al-Anon Family Group discussion, open meeting.

Hiawassee: Chatuge Regional Hospital, 110 South Main Street, Sunday 7 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Discussion, open meeting. Christ the King Church, Monday 7 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Discussion, open meeting. Al-Anon is open to anyone who has been affected by another person's drinking. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or a friend.

Call 706-835-5827, 706-897-0628 or 828-389-8981. For more information. NT(Jun6,Z1)CA

Memorial Day Scramble at the Ridges

Monday, May 28, fifty-two members and three guests of the Ridges Golf Club participated in a Memorial Day Scramble. This classic annual event kicked off at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start of 14 teams. The golfers completed eighteen holes of competition with low gross honors going to the team of John and Jackie DiChiara, Jerry Gibson, and Jim Ackerly with a 12 under 58. Second low gross was claimed by the team of Eric Wells, John Outlaw, Frank Ramsey, and John Moreland with a 7 under 63. The low net winners were the team of Mike and Karen Whittaker and Linda and Rick Wark with

a low net score of 50. Close on the heels of this team was the team of Dennis and Anita Trosky, Nick Fisk, and Randy Rau with a low net score of 51. Congratulations to the winners and all that participated in the event. Following the golf, the teams enjoyed burgers, dogs, chicken, baked beans, and fries prepared in the Cherokee Grill. As the saying goes, a good time was had by all.

If you are interested in participating in future Ridges events or becoming a member, call us at 828-389-9000. We are planning many fun-filled events for the summer. Come be a part of the fun! NT(Jun6,A3)SH

Vogel's Kids Fishing Rodeo

Vogel State Park and the Vogel Volunteers will host a Kid's Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, June 9, 8 a.m. - noon. Wolf Creek will be stocked with trout for children 12 years and younger to fish. Your child must be present at the registration tent for sign-in and to receive a free tee shirt prior to fishing. The first 300 children will receive a tee shirt. Also the lucky ticket holders will receive a prize. Park staff and volunteers will be helping by

giving out bait, baiting hooks, taking fish off, and giving out prizes. Prizes are donated by local businesses. A limited supply of loaner rods/cane poles, corn and worms will be available. So please, bring your own if possible. All fishing laws are to be followed. We want to teach the children to protect and conserve the resources while having fun.

Information: 706-745-2628 or www.GeorgiaStateParks.org. NJ(Jun6,Z1)CA

TCCC announces fishing tournament results

The first Saturday of April and cash prizes are awarded for the top 10 teams, and for biggest and smallest fish. In addition, ALL participants received a door prize from at least one of the tournament sponsors.

The 2012 tournament sponsors included: Pepsi, Murphy Electric Power Board, Snap-On, Bullet Boats, TVA, Lowrance, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Signs Fast, Bass Pro Shop, FLW, PureFishing.com, Amos Refrigeration, First Citizens Bank, Industrial Opportunities, Inc., Ingles of Andrews, Ingles of Hayesville, Ingles of Murphy, Jacky Jones Chevrolet of Murphy, Jacky Jones Dodge of Hayesville, KIA of Murphy, Mi Pueblito Restaurante Mexicano, United Community Bank of Hayesville, Tri-County Bass Club, and United Grocery Outlet.

The Biggest Fish prize of \$250 was split between two teams: Second place winners Robinson and Anderson landed a 6.6 pounder, which tied a bass hooked by Chris Gillespie of Mills River and Dusty Williams of Robbinsville.

The Smallest Fish weighed only .35 ounces and the \$100 prize went to the team of Brian Carter of Murphy and Jason Nelson from Brasstown.

Basketball camps at Young Harris College

1st Camp is our "Junior Mountain Lion Camp" July 9-12th - 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Boys & Girls Ages 5-10 years old. T-shirts will be provided. Fundamental Individual/Group Work and Fun Games. Cost: \$100.

2nd Camp is our "Young Harris Basketball Camp" July 16-19th - 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Boys & girls ages 8-15 years old. Cost: \$150. Lunch Pro-

vided w/ t-shirts. Fundamental Stations, Games and Tournament Play.

Learn with YHC Coach's & Players. Contact Information for Both Camps: Heath Hooper hwhooper@yhc.edu (706) 781-5974.

To download camp brochures please visit our website www.yhcathletics.com and click on the link inside athletics - 2012 Summer Camp. NT(Jun6,A1)SH

Bagpipe instruction

The Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums Bagpipe Band is offering free instruction to all who want to learn how to play the Great Highland Bagpipe or to learn Regimental Drumming.

The band meets each Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon in the Parish Hall of Saint Clare's Episcopal Church for instruction and practice.

For further information, call 706-781-3382 or 1-828-557-3812. NT(Jun6,Z1)CA