



NOVEMBER 2, 2020

# FastTrack

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# The Best of Times

# The Dream Up in Smoke



# On to Phoenix

The four drivers who've qualified for the Championship Round of the NASCAR Playoffs didn't get as much attention as one driver who failed to make the cut last Sunday at the Martinsville Speedway.

So going into Sunday's season finale at the Phoenix Raceway, the only thing that's certain is regular season champion and

wins leader Kevin Harvick can't win the championship. Nothing else, including a clear championship favorite, is clear.

Chase Elliott, Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano are the last men standing in the season-long race to be the face of stock-car racing for the next year. Logano and Elliott earned their spot in

Sunday's winner-take-all race in the Arizona desert by winning a race in the third round of the playoffs. Logano and Keselowski both slipped through the back door by one finishing position in the last three races to push Harvick to the sidelines.

Despite leading the Cup Series in wins (nine), top-fives (20) and top-10s (26), Harvick will be nothing more than a spectator – and a likely spoiler – in the final race of a season that's been racked with the challenges of COVID-19 and the scheduling nightmares that followed. Harvick's elimination only adds to a frustrating and perplexing year that is 2020.

Odds makers in Las Vegas have installed Elliott and Hamlin as co-favorites at +235, which means a better can make \$235 on a \$100 wager. Logano is posted at +265, while Keselowski is at +280. In short, nobody is a clear favorite – and for good reason. A loose lug nut, speeding penalty, slow lapped car, flat tire or another driver's mistake is likely to affect the outcomes. Add that to 1,000 moving parts inside each car, and nothing is guaranteed.

To win the championship, all one of the Final Four drivers has to do is finish ahead of his three competitors. No bonus points for leading laps or winning stages. Line them up and let the best man win.

Of the four, Logano is the only

one who's confident in winning. He believes he will back up his 2018 championship with his second title in three years.

"I think we've proven our team is definitely the team to beat," he said. "We're well-rounded. I think that's something that can help us [this] week."

Logano has a big advantage. He won the first race of the third round at the Kansas Speedway to lock his spot into the Final Four, which gave his team two weeks to work on his Phoenix car. Elliott didn't advance until his win last Sunday night at Martinsville, while Keselowski and Hamlin barely squeaked in just one point above the cut line.



DON COBLE

"Really the past two weeks the advantage we earned was to be able to focus on our Phoenix car before everybody," Logano said. "That's the advantage we had. We get to go to these races not having our tongues

hanging out trying to get in. Our batteries are charged up and we're ready to go. That part is nice."

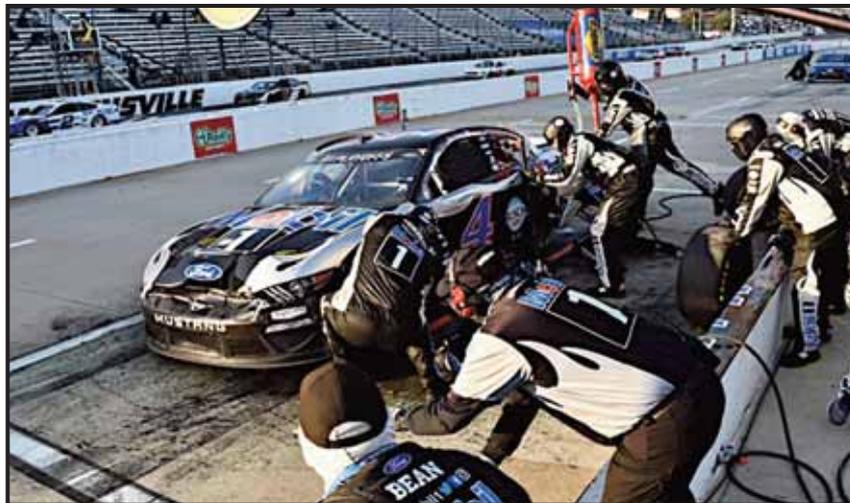
Logano also has the momentum of winning on the mile-long track on March 8 – the last race before the nation shut down for more than two months for the coronavirus.

Hamlin has two victories at Phoenix, including the fall race last year.

"I think we can win any given week for sure," Hamlin said. "The short tracks haven't been great for us all year, but you just never know. Last year, we went there and nearly lapped the field, so who knows how it's going to turn out. One race, winner take all, you never know. It's an entirely different ballgame now. It really is. The aerodynamic package is a lot different. There're no similarities that you can really draw to it. You just never know. Obviously, we're going to be ready and we're going to be prepared and hopefully we'll go out there and show what we've got."

Keselowski and Elliott have never won at Phoenix.

"I mean, I think the worst thing we can do is to sit back and worry and watch everybody else," Elliott said. "I just think we need to focus on ourselves this week and really think about what we struggled with there at the first race this year, what we might need to do to be better, put our best guess on that, go run the race. I think if we sit back, start



A cut tire, resulting in an unscheduled pit stop, lost two laps early in the race for then contender Kevin Harvick (4). Making up the laps became nearly impossible, but he did at the end of the race, just not enough time to make up the playoff points. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

worrying about who is favorite, who is not, who is the underdog, getting everybody running their mouths deal, I'm just not about that. I think it's unproductive.

"We're going to worry about ourselves, try to give it our best shot to win."

Keselowski is just as guarded about his chances.

"I know we've got great cars on these short tracks and one-mile tracks," he said. "At the end of the race we might have had the best car. If we bring this kind of an effort at the end of the race at Phoenix, we've got a great shot at it."

"I think all of us are pretty evenly matched going into Phoenix. I think it's about as even matched as it's

going to get."

Logano knows Harvick would have not only been formidable at Phoenix, but an overwhelming favorite. Nine of his 58 career wins have come there. And while he can't leave with a championship trophy, most expect him to play a role in who does.

"I believe the system is very fair. It's just like any other sport, right? In the NFL you can have an amazing regular season, lose the first time and you're out," Logano said. "That's just what Playoffs are."

"I'm glad we have it in our sport because it produces some amazing moments. There will be another amazing one next week when you have four cars going for it."

## The Championships!

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CHASE ELLIOTT - JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP

#4 AND #18 WRECK - JARED TILTON/GETTY IMAGES

# Duel In the Desert for All the Marbles

Race fans, believe it. It's finally here! NASCAR Championship Weekend is set for next weekend at Phoenix Raceway in Arizona. What started out as a "normal" NASCAR season in February turned into one of the strangest and unusual racing seasons in history.

When the NASCAR teams rolled into Atlanta in early March, the nation and the world would change forever when the COVID-19 virus and pandemic struck. Races were postponed, not only at the major NASCAR level, but at short tracks throughout America. It wasn't until mid-May that NASCAR racing resumed action at Darlington. The schedule for all three major divisions of NASCAR – Gander RV & Outdoors Truck, Xfinity, and Cup Series – had to be adjusted in order to accommodate the designated number of regular season races prior to the playoffs. Several tracks were scheduled races based on availability and location. Doubleheaders were scheduled at multiple tracks with different divisions in order to make travel and expenses less of an obstacle. Bottom line – this past weekend at Martinsville Speedway, all three divisions competed and determined their "Championship Four" for Phoenix.

Now, the focus of the entire racing season moves to Phoenix, Arizona for Championship Weekend. Only four drivers in each of the three divisions are eligible to race for the coveted 2020 Champion trophy in their respective division. It's been a tough and challenging playoff system for each division, but it's finally been narrowed to four competitors and teams in each division. The driver who has the best finish of the four eligible competitors in each division is declared the champion. The driver doesn't have to win the race, just finish highest among the four. Bonus points and regular points don't matter, it's which driver finishes first of the four.

Let's examine the "Championship Four" in all three divisions, take a look at their statistics, and

make our pick for the eventual champion of each series.

The four drivers racing for the Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series title are Sheldon Creed, Grant Enfinger, Brett Moffitt, and Zane Smith. Creed, Moffitt, and Enfinger won races in the final round of eight to earn their title shot. Smith advanced based on points. Each of the title contenders scored victories during the 2020 season. Creed and Enfinger won four each; Smith, two; and Moffitt one.



**DENNIS PUNCH**

When you look at the record of these four drivers at Phoenix, only one has visited victory lane in the desert. Brett Moffitt won at Phoenix in 2018 on the way to his Truck Series title. Enfinger's best finish is fourth in 2018, while

Creed posts a best finish of tenth in his two desert starts in trucks. Smith has never raced at Phoenix in the NASCAR trucks, but did finished fifth earlier this season in an ARCA event there.

The 35-year old veteran Enfinger has 16 career wins, followed by Moffitt with 12. Creed won all four of his career truck series races this season, while Smith has two career truck wins. However, the experience and past record of these four at Phoenix doesn't make picking a champion any easier. Moffitt has the only previous win on the mile track, but I'm picking 21-year old Zane Smith to hoist the trophy on Friday.

The Xfinity Series final four are Chase Briscoe, Justin Allgaier, Austin Cindric, and Justin Haley. Only Briscoe won during the final playoff round to earn his title shot. The other three positions advanced based on points. The four drivers won a combined twenty Xfinity races in 2020 with Chase Briscoe leading the way with nine. Cindric won five, with Allgaier and Haley three each.

When you take a look at the Phoenix record for these four competitors, one driver stands out. Justin Allgaier has raced twenty Xfinity races at Phoenix and earned two wins. His victories in 2017 and 2019 are the only wins among the final four drivers at this track. However, when you look at the average finish at Phoenix, Briscoe leads at



**CHASE BRISCOE**

6.7. Cindric's average is 7.8, Haley 8.0. and Allgaier 8.8.

It should be noted that none of these four have ever won the Xfinity title. Allgaier, the 2009 Xfinity Rookie-of-the-Year, finished third in the title race three times, 2011, 2016, and 2017. Briscoe was the 2019 Xfinity Rookie winner and has been the most dominate competitor all season. After careful examination of these four title contenders, I'm going to select Justin Allgaier to earn his first major NASCAR title and celebrate the Xfinity Series championship on Saturday.

Now, let's look at the NASCAR Cup Series title contenders. It would be hard to imagine a more exciting and close finish to the Martinsville race on Sunday to determine the "Final Four". Joey Logano had secured his spot in the championship race with his victory at Kansas in the final playoff round. When Kyle Busch won at Texas, the final three drivers to earn a shot at the 2020 Cup title would be set at Martinsville. With Chase Elliott in firm control of the race in the final laps, the trio of Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski, and Kevin Harvick battled for the final two playoff positions. Mere points separated the three as the laps wound down. Each pass of a competitor earned a valuable championship point and could be the deciding factor in advancing to Phoenix eligible to compete for a crown. Elliott went on to capture the win and earn his championship opportunity. Hamlin and Keselowski earned the final two spots, with Kevin Harvick failing to advance to Phoenix with an opportunity to race for the championship. Therefore, next Sunday, Joey Logano, Chase Elliott, Brad Keselowski, and Denny Hamlin will

compete to determine the coveted Cup Series title.

Looking at the Phoenix record for each championship driver, only Logano and Hamlin have won on the desert mile. Logano won in 2016 and earlier this season at Phoenix. Hamlin's two wins came in 2012 and 2019. Keselowski's best Phoenix finish is second in the fall 2018 race. Elliott's best is second in the second 2017 Phoenix Cup race.

Hamlin leads the final four in 2020 wins with seven. Elliott and Keselowski have four victories each, with Logano earning three wins this season. All four title contenders have made at least nine Cup Series starts at Phoenix. Hamlin has the best average finish at Phoenix at 11.3 in his thirty starts. Elliott's average is 13.0 in nine starts. Keselowski's average is 13.5 in 22 starts, and Logano 14.3 in his 23 races at the mile track.

Two of the four Cup title contenders will be looking for their second title. Brad Keselowski won the 2012 title, with Joey Logano the champ in 2018. Elliott and Hamlin are racing for their first Cup title.

For the first time since 2016, all three manufacturers will have at least one representative racing for the title. When Chase Elliott earned his title shot at Martinsville, he became the first Chevrolet driver in the Final Four since Jimmie Johnson in 2016. Also, this is the first year that that Championship Weekend will be held at Phoenix Raceway. Previously, the three championships were decided at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Florida.

While many veteran motorsports "experts" figured that Kevin Harvick and Martin Truex Jr., as well as Kyle Busch, would race in Phoenix for a title, none of them made the final cut. However, the somewhat unlikely quartet of Logano, Hamlin, Elliott, and Keselowski survived and advanced to "Championship Sunday" next weekend. And, when the dust settles and the sun sets on Phoenix Raceway and the 2020 NASCAR season, I believe Denny Hamlin will celebrate his first NASCAR Cup Series title. And, as has been the case in recent seasons, he will probably need to win the race to finish ahead of his challengers. It's been that kind of year.

Best of luck to all twelve of the title contenders in the three premiere divisions of NASCAR. You have fought, battled, and earned the right to race for a championship this week. Now, one final race to a title!

# Chase Elliott Wins Thrilling Playoff Race at Martinsville and Advances to Championship 4

in the race causing him to make a green flag pit stop and lose two laps putting him in catch-up mode on the half-mile Martinsville track - one of the most challenging venues on the circuit.

“For sure with the way we’ve run

Chase Elliott cruised to an impressive 6.577-second victory over Ryan Blaney Sunday in the Xfinity 500 at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway for the most clutch victory of the 24-year old’s young career – earning a position in next

week’s NASCAR Cup Series Championship 4 season finale.

Equally as dramatic was a failed last lap pass for position that has eliminated the regular season champion and nine-race winner Kevin Harvick from advancing to that final round. Harvick had to pass 2019 series champ Kyle Busch for one position – one point – to be able to advance to next week’s title race and instead the cars crashed after making contact. Harvick ended up 17th, eight points shy of a Playoff berth.

With his victory, the Hendrick Motorsports driver Elliott joins Team Penske’s Joey Logano, who advanced to the title race with a victory two weeks ago at Kansas. Joe Gibbs Racing’s Denny Hamlin, a seven-race winner, raced his way into the Championship 4 with an 11th-place finish at Martinsville and Logano’s Team Penske teammate Brad Keselowski, who finished fourth Sunday, was the final driver to earn a championship opportunity.

“Just so proud,” said Elliott, who was ranked sixth in the championship, 25 points below the cutoff line entering the race and was in a must-win position to earn his career first chance at NASCAR’s most prestigious championship.

“To be backed into a corner like



Nothing but positive excitement on Chase Elliott’s face after winning the Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway and making it into the Championship 4 next weekend at Phoenix. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

that and have to win tonight, I feel like that’s what we’ve been missing these past four of five years. To perform when we don’t have a choice. And to do that tonight, I couldn’t ask for a better night. It’s just unreal.”

Elliott, who led a race best 236 of the 500 laps, took the lead for good with 43 laps remaining after passing Martin Truex Jr., who thought he had a loose wheel. Truex, who also needed to win to advance to the Championship 4 for the fourth straight year, nursed his car home in 22nd place instead.

After taking the lead, Elliott was able to drive away from the field and the three Team Penske teammates Blaney, Logano and Ke-

selowski who finished second, third and fourth, respectively. Playoff drivers Kurt Busch and Alex Bowman – both needing a victory to advance – finished fifth and sixth, followed by Harvick’s Stewart-Haas Racing teammates Aric Almirola and Clint Bowyer. Matt DiBenedetto rounded out the top 10.

Ultimately eight points separated Keselowski from Harvick after the checkered flag, but it was a long, tense day of math and motivation for both former series champs. Had Harvick been able to pull off that last lap pass on Busch, he would be challenging for a title instead of Keselowski.

Harvick had a tire go down early

here in the past,” Harvick said, acknowledging he and his No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford team expected the Martinsville race to be a challenge.

“Everybody kept battling there and I tried to run into the door of the 18 as a last-ditch effort there and spun him out there so sorry to put him in the middle of trying to gain a point.

“Not a great three weeks. It didn’t go our way. We fought for everything we had and it just came up short.”

While Hamlin, who will be making his second consecutive Championship 4 appearance, said as excited as he was to make the title round, he still felt badly that after a season like Harvick had, that he ultimately would not be championship-eligible. The two won 15 of the 35 races.

“I feel badly for Kevin, they probably deserve a little better than that, it’s just the format, I guess, it’s just three races and everything you do for eight innings doesn’t matter if you don’t have a great ninth inning,” Hamlin said.

The Season Finale 500 at the one-mile Phoenix Raceway takes place next Sunday at 3 p.m. ET (NBC, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



After a long, hard battle Chase Elliott (8) beat Martin Truex Jr. (19) to the flag. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY)

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# Martinsville's Victor Harrison Burton Snatches Another Xfinity Playoff Win

Harrison Burton may have fallen out of championship contention weeks ago, but the 20-year old is driving every bit like one right now earning his second consecutive NASCAR Xfinity Series victory Saturday afternoon in the Draft Top 250 at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

The driver of the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota held off veteran and NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoff contender Justin Allgaier by a mere .355-seconds and led the final 53 laps of the race to become the youngest winner (20 years, 22 days) in series history at the famed half-mile track – bettering his own father Jeff Burton's mark (23 years, two months, 24 days).

Burton's 81 laps out front on the day was best in the field and his win was the rookie's fourth on the season. It came in the series first race at Martinsville Speedway since 2006.

"Great race car and best team in the garage," Burton excitedly told his father, a broadcaster on the NBC race telecast as he made his way to the finish line for a victory

burnout.

And while it was an important personal triumph for the second-generation driver, Burton's victory had an important impact on the ultimate championship battle - three of the final four championship-eligible positions were decided by points. Allgaier's runner-up effort was good enough to allow him to transfer to the title round next week at Phoenix, joining Saturday's 10th-place finisher Austin Cindric, 12th-place finisher Justin Haley and seventh-place Chase Briscoe, who had already advanced with a win two weeks ago.

Crossing the line just behind Burton and Allgaier to round out the top five Saturday were Noah Gragson, the winner's cousin, Jeb Burton and Ross Chastain – with Gragson and Chastain falling just short of advancing into the Championship 4 round. Brandon Jones (ninth place) and Ryan Sieg (11th place) also failed to earn a position in the Championship 4.

Those motivated to earn a title shot certainly put in the effort, however. Gragson won the Stage 1 and led 23 laps on the day. Chastain won Stage 2 and led 31 laps on the afternoon.



Race winner Harrison Burton makes sure that a special fan will get his checkered flag after making it two-in-a-row victories. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

Pit strategy ultimately played a big role, however. Non-championship contenders such as Burton and veteran A.J. Allmendinger, who led 68 laps, were able to gamble on pit stop timing and track position. Allmendinger had the lead after the Stage 2 restart and he and Burton were the only two drivers to trade the top position from there out while the early leaders navigated back up through the field in traffic – dicing through cars pursuing their own agendas.

Of the four drivers who have advanced to decide the championship next week at Phoenix, Allgaier is the only one with previous experi-

ence in the Championship 4. This will be the 34-year old driver of the JR Motorsports No. 7 Chevrolet's fourth chance to earn the title. His previous best championship finish in this Playoff format was third – both in 2016 and 2017. He is a three-race winner this season.

Briscoe, 25, who has a series best nine victories in the No. 98 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford, has a best championship finish of fifth – last year. Cindric, the regular season champion and a five-race winner in the No. 22 Team Penske Ford, is also making his Championship 4 debut. His previous best showing was sixth place in last year's championship. Haley, 21, the driver of the No. 11 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet and three-race winner in 2020, will also be making his Championship 4 debut.

"A lot of boxes checked for us today, I feel like we've had to points race the entire Playoffs," Cindric said. "And it's been really annoying. We've brought some really fast race cars to the tracks in the last few weeks and our guys did an incredible job coming to the race track with no notebook and really basing it off the Ford simulator of notes from the Cup guys. Really proud of that effort. It's a year's worth of work and going to try to go take advantage of it next week."

"I think we have to go there prepared to win the race," Cindric added.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series returns to action to decide the 2021 championship, Saturday, Nov. 7 in the Desert Diamond Casino West Valley 200 at Phoenix Raceway (at 5 p.m. ET on NBCSN).



Harrison Burton (20) leads Brandon Jones (19) through the turn at Martinsville Speedway. (BRIAN LAUDERMILK/GETTY IMAGES photo)

# Enfinger Advances with Truck Playoff Win at Martinsville, Smith Clinches Final Championship 4 Spot

There was no mistaking the raised intensity level in Friday night's NASCAR Hall of Fame 200 – the final race to set the

NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series Championship 4. And ultimately, veteran Grant Enfinger rallied when he needed to holding off his ThorSport Racing teammate Ben Rhodes for the victory necessary to punch his ticket into next week's championship finale.

Enfinger, 35, of Fairhope, Ala., earned this win managing two restarts in a frantic final 10 laps of racing on the half-mile Martinsville (Va.) Speedway notorious for its rough-and-tumble high-action brand of competition. He held off Rhodes by a mere .802-second to earn his career-best fourth win of the year and join Brett Moffitt, Sheldon Creed and rookie Zane Smith as the four drivers who earned a shot to challenge for the 2020 season title next week in Phoenix.

"Thank you guys, thank you guys, this is unbelievable," Enfinger told his team as his No. 98 ThorSport Racing Ford took the checkered flag.

"It was tough, we knew we were going to have to take our gloves off and fight for this one," Enfinger said after celebrating with his team. "It's been an up and down season for us, but we tended to peak when we needed to. And now I feel really good about our chances at Phoenix."

Smith finished third followed by Christian Eckes and reigning series champion Matt Crafton.

Both the runner-up Rhodes and Crafton failed to advance to the Championship 4 round. While Rhodes' hopes were lost in a blink of an eye behind Enfinger, Crafton finished fifth, and came within three painstaking points of Smith for that fourth and last championship-eligible position.

"We had a shot, but first off, congrats to Grant they worked their butts off all year," Rhodes said of his teammate. "They have three wins, this is their fourth, they deserve it."

"We were racing as hard as we can. Didn't have the speed we needed but we hung around and my team had good strategy all day long. It's just unfortunate."

With nine laps remaining three of the front-running trucks spun in a big chain reaction crash that involved Rhodes, Raphael Lessard and sidelined Moffitt. Rhodes was able to continue and rejoined the field in second place right behind his teammate Enfinger.

With the field set for the final two-lap sprint to the finish, Rhodes had to line up directly in front of Christian Eckes with his championship hopes on the line – one week after the two had an incident in the Texas race followed by post-race confrontation in the garage. Rhodes and Eckes had contact but Rhodes was just not able to catch and pass Enfinger, who led 49 laps



Grant Enfinger celebrates in Martinsville Speedway's victory lane after winning and making sure he is in the Championship 4 next weekend in Phoenix. (JOHN HARRELLSON/NKP photo)

on the night.

Perhaps the most unexpected competitive moment of the race came when regular season champion Austin Hill brought his hobbled truck onto pit road and called it a night only 117 laps into the 200-lap race.

A two-race winner, who has led the championship points standings since the second week of the season, it was an unexpected and gut-wrenching turn of events. He came into the race the highest ranked

driver without a victory in this Playoff round – holding a healthy 27-point advantage on the cut-off line.

Unfortunately, Hill started sensing a problem in his No. 16 Hattori Racing Enterprises Toyota by the start of the second stage of racing. The team tried to diagnose and correct the problem on multiple pit stops, but the truck had to retire and a disappointed Hill could only hope something major would happen in the final laps that may put him back in position to race for the title. It did not.

"We're not a 100 percent sure what happened but it was definitely blowing up on us," Hill said adding, "It's just frustrating to potentially end your season on an engine failure like that. ...we should definitely be in this Final Four."

"I can't even put into words what I'm feeling right now," he said.

Creed won the first stage and finished eighth.

The Lucas Oil 150 championship finale at the one-mile Phoenix Raceway is set for next Friday at 8 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.



Race winner Grant Enfinger had plenty of space to make it to the checkered flag without any problems to win the Hall of Fame 200. (NIGEL KINRADE PHOTOGRAPHY photo)

## Ford Captures 2020 NASCAR Cup Series Manufacturers' Championship

DEARBORN, MI - Ford claimed its first championship of the 2020 NASCAR season earlier today when it clinched the manufacturers' title at Martinsville Speedway.

Ryan Blaney's second-place finish enabled Ford to win the coveted crown for the second time in three years and give Mustang its first championship since debuting in the series last season.

"We're in motorsports to win races and championships, so to clinch this year's manufacturers' championship before the end of the season with all of the challenges everyone in the sport has faced is a real source of pride," said Mark Rushbrook, global director, Ford Performance Motorsports.

"An accomplishment like this wouldn't be possible without the dedication from everyone who works in Ford Performance, our race teams, and Roush Yates Engines," continued Rushbrook. "We all work together on a daily basis to put the best Mustangs we can on the track every week and being able to see that effort rewarded in this way is a point of pride for our customers and employees, and a true testament of the engineering strength inside Ford Motor Company."

Ford leads all manufacturers with 18 wins in 2020 with Kevin Harvick leading the way with a series-best nine. Brad Keselowski (four), Joey Logano (three), Ryan Blaney (1) and Cole Custer (1) also registered at least one victory.

Ford will now turn its focus to Phoenix Raceway, where Team Penske drivers Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski will have a chance to win the NASCAR Cup Series championship on Sunday, Nov. 8. Chase Briscoe and Austin Cindric will compete for the NASCAR XFINITY Series title on Saturday, Nov. 7 while Grant Enfinger goes for the NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series crown on Friday, Nov. 6.

**FORD MANUFACTURER CHAMPIONSHIP SEASONS:** 1956, 1957, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1992,

1994, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2018, 2020

About Ford Performance: Ford's racing program is part of the Ford Performance organization based in Dearborn, Mich. It is responsible for major racing operations globally, including NASCAR (Cup Series, Xfinity Series, Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series), IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge, FIA World Rally Championship, Virgin Australia Supercars, Formula Drift, and NHRA Funny Car and sportsman drag racing. In addition, the organization also oversees the development of Ford's racing engines, as well as the outreach programs with all Ford Clubs and Ford enthusiasts. For more information regarding Ford racing's activities, please visit [www.fordperformance.com](http://www.fordperformance.com), [www.facebook.com/FordPerformance](http://www.facebook.com/FordPerformance), Ford Performance on Instagram and @FordPerformance on Twitter.

About Ford Motor Company: Ford Motor Company is a global company based in Dearborn, Michigan. The company designs, manufactures, markets and services a full line of Ford cars, trucks, SUVs, electrified vehicles and Lincoln luxury vehicles, provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company and is pursuing leadership positions in electrification, autonomous vehicles and mobility solutions. Ford employs approximately 202,000 people worldwide. For more information regarding Ford, its products and Ford Motor Credit Company, please visit [www.corporate.ford.com](http://www.corporate.ford.com).

## Hendrick Motorsports Signs Kyle Larson, Team to Reintroduce Flagship No. 5 Chevrolet in 2021

CONCORD, NC - Hendrick Motorsports this morning signed driver Kyle Larson to a multi-year contract that will see him join the 12-time NASCAR Cup Series champions beginning with the 2021 racing season. He will pilot the No. 5 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 1LE, which the organization will field for the first time since 2017.

Larson has won more than 250 events across a variety of sanctioning bodies and vehicle styles. The Elk Grove, California, native began driving at age 7 and has raced stock cars, winged and non-winged sprint cars, karts, trucks, and sports cars. In 2021, he will be paired with crew chief Cliff Daniels,

32, who currently leads the No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports team with seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson.

"Kyle is unquestionably one of the most talented race car drivers in the world," said Rick Hendrick, owner of Hendrick Motorsports. "He has championship-level ability and will be a significant addition to our on-track program. More importantly, I have full confidence that he understands our expectations and will be a tremendous ambassador for our team, our partners and NASCAR. Kyle and I have had many, many conversations leading up to today's announcement. I'm confident about what's in his heart and his desire to be a champion in all aspects of his life and career. Kyle has done important work over the past six months, and Hendrick Motorsports is going to support those continued efforts."

Larson, 28, is half Japanese and the only Asian-American to regularly compete in NASCAR. He is the first NASCAR Drive for Diversity graduate to race full-time at the Cup level and now serves as a mentor for the program. Since 2018, he has been a volunteer with the Urban Youth Racing School in Philadelphia, which helps expose students of color to motor sports. In May, Larson also began working with the Minneapolis-based Sanehe Foundation to advance diversity, equity and community well-being. He and wife Katelyn live in North Carolina with their son Owen and daughter Audrey.

"Hendrick Motorsports is a championship organization that

the team and its partners," Larson said. "My goal is to win races, be a great teammate, continue my personal efforts to grow, and hold myself to that high standard personally and professionally. Making the absolute most of this platform and the opportunity in front of me is my focus. I know what's expected of me and what I expect of myself, on and off the track."

"Mr. Hendrick is one of the people who extended a hand to me over the past six months. Our initial conversations were not about racing. He cares about me as a person and wants to see me succeed beyond driving. I can't put into words how grateful I am for the commitment, the faith and the confidence from him and everyone at Hendrick Motorsports."

Larson made his NASCAR Cup Series debut in 2013 and was named its 2014 rookie of the year in his first full-time season. In 223 starts at NASCAR's top level, he has scored 101 top-10 finishes and secured four playoff berths (2016-2019). His tally of 20 points-paying NASCAR national series victories includes six at the Cup level, all with Chip Ganassi Racing. In addition, he won the NASCAR All-Star Race in 2019 and most recently has dominated on dirt, winning 38 times since May while primarily racing sprint cars.

With the addition of Larson, the average age of Hendrick Motorsports' 2021 driver lineup, which includes Chase Elliott, William Byron and Alex Bowman, will be 26 years old at the opening of next season. Combined, the four drivers have al-



**Kyle Larson is all smiles after the Hendrick Motorsports announcement that he will be the driver of the #5 in 2021. (HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS photo)**

has set a high bar for performance and for how its drivers represent

ready won 18 Cup Series

**(Continued on Next Page...)**

**(Continued...)**

races and earned 14 playoff berths.

"I'm excited about our roster of young talent," Hendrick said. "We have a team that is built to win races and compete for championships for years to come."

**RETURN OF THE '5'**

Next season will mark the return of Hendrick Motorsports' No. 5 Chevrolet, which is currently unsponsored for 2021. The organization will no longer field the No. 88 car number it has raced in the NASCAR Cup Series since 2008.

The No. 5 was the original car number campaigned by Hendrick Motorsports when Rick Hendrick founded the team in 1984. That year, Geoff Bodine drove it to three victories, including Hendrick's first as a Cup Series car owner on April 29, 1984, at Martinsville Speedway.

"The '5' is special to me. It's the original," Hendrick said. "I view it as Hendrick Motorsports' flagship team in a lot of ways. To bring the car back to the racetrack is meaningful for my family and for many of our team members and fans. We plan to build on its winning history with Kyle and Cliff."

With 1,129 NASCAR Cup Series starts, the No. 5 has appeared in more races for Hendrick Motorsports than any other car. Larson will be the 10th driver to field the number for the organization and will look to be the seventh to record a Cup win behind the wheel. It was most recently driven by Kasey Kahne in 2017.

In the No. 5 Chevy for Hendrick Motorsports, Terry Labonte recorded 12 victories and won the 1996 Cup Series championship. Bodine won seven races, followed by Kahne (six), Mark Martin (five), Kyle Busch (four), and Ricky Rudd (four). The No. 5's total of 38 wins for Hendrick Motorsports trails only its Nos. 24 and 48 teams, which have 94 and 83 victories, respectively.

### Road Courses, New Venues Highlight 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series Slate

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - NASCAR today announced the 2021 schedule for the NASCAR

Xfinity Series™, which will mirror many of the historic changes in the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series schedule that was announced in September.

The Xfinity Series will join the Cup Series for 32 of its 33 weekends, including running for the first time at Circuit of the Americas (May 22) and for the first time since 2011 at Nashville Superspeedway (June 19).

The series will return to Mid-Ohio on June 5 for the only event at a venue apart from the Cup Series.

"As was the case with the Cup Series, we're thrilled to have worked with the industry and our broadcast partners to deliver an exciting Xfinity Series schedule for our fans," said Ben Kennedy,

NASCAR vice president of racing development. "We saw phenomenal Xfinity Series racing in 2020, and this schedule allows us to build on that momentum by adding compelling new venues to an already fantastic mix of traditional race-tracks."

The Xfinity Series will make its lone Sunday appearance in Pocono on June 27 as part of an action-packed NASCAR Cup Series doubleheader weekend in Long Pond, Pennsylvania.

After a pair of off weekends in late July, the series returns to action for back-to-back road course racing in Watkins Glen (August 7) and on the Indianapolis Road Course (August 14). Those events will kick off 14 consecutive weekends of racing, including seven

straight Playoff races culminating with the crowning of an Xfinity Series champion in Phoenix (November 6).

Bristol Motor Speedway will again host the regular-season finale (September 17), while Las Vegas Motor Speedway will open the Playoffs (September 25). The Charlotte ROVAL (October 9) and Martinsville Speedway (October 30) will once again serve as the cutoff races, trimming the Playoffs field to eight and four, respectively.

Broadcast times and networks will be announced at a later date, as will the 2021 schedule for the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series.

Below is the full 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series schedule (Playoff races in bold font):

## 2021 NASCAR XFINITY SERIES SCHEDULE

**DATE**

**RACE / TRACK**

<b>Saturday, February 13</b>	<b>Daytona</b>
<b>Saturday, February 20</b>	<b>Homestead-Miami</b>
<b>Saturday, February 27</b>	<b>Auto Club</b>
<b>Saturday, March 6</b>	<b>Las Vegas</b>
<b>Saturday, March 13</b>	<b>Phoenix</b>
<b>Saturday, March 20</b>	<b>Atlanta</b>
<b>Friday, April 9</b>	<b>Martinsville</b>
<b>Saturday, April 24</b>	<b>Talladega</b>
<b>Saturday, May 8</b>	<b>Darlington</b>
<b>Saturday, May 15</b>	<b>Dover</b>
<b>Saturday, May 22</b>	<b>COTA</b>
<b>Saturday, May 29</b>	<b>Charlotte</b>
<b>Saturday, June 5</b>	<b>Mid-Ohio</b>
<b>Saturday, June 12</b>	<b>Texas</b>
<b>Saturday, June 19</b>	<b>Nashville Superspeedway</b>
<b>Sunday, June 27</b>	<b>Pocono</b>
<b>Saturday, July 3</b>	<b>Road America</b>
<b>Saturday, July 10</b>	<b>Atlanta</b>
<b>Saturday, July 17</b>	<b>New Hampshire</b>
<b>Saturday, August 7</b>	<b>Watkins Glen</b>
<b>Saturday, August 14</b>	<b>Indianapolis Road Course</b>
<b>Saturday, August 21</b>	<b>Michigan</b>
<b>Friday, August 27</b>	<b>Daytona</b>
<b>Saturday, September 4</b>	<b>Darlington</b>
<b>Saturday, September 11</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>Friday, September 17</b>	<b>Bristol</b>
<b>Saturday, September 25</b>	<b>Las Vegas</b>
<b>Saturday, October 2</b>	<b>Talladega</b>
<b>Saturday, October 9</b>	<b>Charlotte Roval</b>
<b>Saturday, October 16</b>	<b>Texas</b>
<b>Saturday, October 23</b>	<b>Kansas</b>
<b>Saturday, October 30</b>	<b>Martinsville</b>
<b>Saturday, November 6</b>	<b>Phoenix</b>

## Fryar Holds on to Win LMSC Title, Berry Earns Old North State Nationals Win

EASLEY, SC - Jared Fryar won the 2020 Solid Rock Carriers CARS Tour Late Model Stock Car championship in Sunday's second annual Heritage Transportation Risk Management Old North State Nationals presented by GXS Wraps at Greenville-Pickens Speedway, while JR Motorsports' Josh Berry won the race and \$30,000.

Fryar won the title by a single point over Layne Riggs. With the championship, Fryar became the first driver in Solid Rock Carriers CARS Tour history to win both the LMSC and Super Late Model titles. Berry's race win capped off a week that included a NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series national championship and an announcement that he will drive 12 races next season for JR Motorsports in the NASCAR XFINITY Series.

Sunday was the first time Berry had competed in a Solid Rock Carriers CARS LMSC Tour event since his suspension following an on-track incident with Bobby McCarty at Ace Speedway, but he provided the field a strong reminder as to why he is the CARS Tour's all-time wins leader.

"This is truly unbelievable," Berry said. "These guys have done such a great job all year staying on top of things. We ran a lot of laps Friday and Saturday, and all of that paid off today. I knew taking tires with 100 laps to go was too early, and we were in a prime position with new tires by restarting eighth after the second rain delay."

Berry surrendered the lead from the pole to Deac McCaskill before Layne Riggs passed both of them to take the lead early. Riggs had explored the high line during the three heat races on Saturday and used it to assume control of the race.

After passing McCaskill for second, Josh Berry attempted to use the bottom line to power his way by Riggs, but the 2017 CARS LMSC Tour champion was forced to tuck in line and ride behind Riggs until a competition caution was displayed at Lap 68.

On the ensuing restart, Berry worked his way by the slower cars

of Chad McCumbee and Peyton Sellers, both of which had stayed out under caution, to retake the lead. Berry led the race until an incident between Boo Boo Dalton and Taylor Satterfield brought out the yellow just before the halfway point.

Berry, Mike Looney and several other front runners elected to save a set of tires for the end of the race while Riggs led a group of cars down pit road. Riggs and the other cars that pitted used their fresh tires to race back towards the front of the field.

Berry believed that the race was in his hands when a rain delay halted the action with 52 laps remaining, but he admitted that patience would be imperative depending on how many cars decided to come with him to get fresh tires once the yellow flag was displayed.

Berry wasted no time charging towards the lead and found himself on Riggs' rear bumper after only ten laps. A strong run by Berry under Riggs in Turn 3 gave him the momentum to drive away from Riggs and easily claim his 19th win in CARS Tour Late Model Stock Car competition.

While Berry celebrated in victory lane, Fryar was overcome with emotion after backing up his 2018 SLM title with the 2020 LMSC crown, despite dealing with an ill-handling car for most of the weekend.

Fryar was confident in his chances about battling Berry for the \$30,000 paycheck on Sunday evening, but he said that his car did not agree with some adjustments



**Jared Fryar celebrates winning the 2020 LMSC Championship after the Old North State Nationals at Greenville-Pickens Speedway. (Adam Fenwick photo)**

that his crew made following the heat races on Saturday.

Fryar and his crew kept trying to diagnose the issues with his No. 14 once the green flag dropped, but Fryar ended up spending most of the event's opening half clinging to a Top 10 running position.

With Riggs collecting a bonus point for leading laps, Fryar knew how important track position would be to maintaining the points lead, but he believed that his crew finally got the car right after they put tires on it during a Lap 102 caution.

Fryar used the fresh rubber to work his way through slower traffic up to the ninth position before weather brought another yellow flag out with 52 laps to go. Fryar elected to stay out on track with Riggs and a handful of others once the race got back going, meaning that he would have to fight to keep his points lead.

The final green flag run of the evening saw Fryar struggle to corral his car as drivers like Looney, Connor Mosack and more passed him. For most of the last 50 laps, the live points lead swapped between Riggs and Fryar on multiple occasions.

"It just went away there at the end," Fryar said about his car. "I don't know if we made the wrong changes or if there was just something wrong with the car. We'll celebrate and go back to the shop and look at the car."

With six laps to go, Riggs and Fryar were tied in the points standings. At that point, Riggs would have won the title off the first tiebreaker — most wins. However, Fryar's fortunes turned when Timothy Peters retired from the race. Peters' retirement moved Fryar into the 13th position and gave him the championship by just one point.

Riggs, who spent a good portion of the closing stages battling Corey Heim for second, did everything he needed to do in order to have an opportunity to win both the race and the championship, but he said that consistency ultimately decided which driver celebrated on the frontstretch.

"We had a good race," Riggs said. "We got off on strategy when we changed tires early, and the fresh rubber that Josh [Berry] and Corey [Heim] at the end prevailed. I enjoyed racing with Corey, but we came up short. Congrats to Jared on being super consistent all year, but without those DNFs at Hickory and Florence, I think we would have had a good shot at it."

Fryar was unaware of the actual points situation until he received confirmation from CARS Tour officials after the race, as he was focused on nursing his struggling car to the checkered flag while simultaneously respecting everyone out on track.

"I knew it was close," Fryar said. "I was just trying to hold off all those guys behind me, but Josh was trying to lap me and I was trying to stay off of him. This wasn't the prettiest way to win the championship, but my name is on the trophy at the end of the day."



**Josh Berry celebrates in victory lane after winning the Heritage Transportation Risk Management Old North State Nationals presented by GXS Wraps at Greenville-Pickens Speedway. (Adam Fenwick photo)**

## ACT & PASS Announce Outlaw Open Modified Series for Thompson in 2021

THOMPSON, CT - The high banks of Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park will roar once again in 2021. American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) have announced a six-event schedule for the coming season that features the new

Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series.

The Outlaw Open Series consists of half a dozen high-paying events for Tour-type Modifieds that are expected to attract the top teams in the region. The series begins at the 46th annual Thompson Icebreaker from Friday, April 9 to Sunday, April 11. A 150-lap, \$10,000-to-win Outlaw Open Series event will highlight the weekend card.

The stakes get even higher at the season-sending 59th Annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing from Friday, October 8 to Sunday, October 10. ACT and PASS have organized the return of the historic Thompson 300, which was last contested in 2005. A \$20,000 minimum prize has been posted for the winner of the 300-lap showdown.

In addition, ACT and PASS are selling \$50 lap sponsorships for the Thompson 300. All laps that are sold will award the full \$50 to the leader of that lap. This means a driver could earn up to \$35,000 that weekend.

Four other events are scheduled in-between the Icebreaker and World Series. The additional race dates are Wednesday, June 16; Wednesday, July 7; Wednesday, August 11; and Wednesday, September 8. These dates were chosen to minimize conflict with other tracks and series in the region, allowing teams and fans to attend as many events as they wish.

The Outlaw Open Series features at the Wednesday events will pay at least \$5,000-to-win and potentially more.

Furthermore, drivers and teams that attempt to qualify for all six events will be eligible for potential provisional starting spots at the Thompson 300.

"We think the Outlaw Open Modified Series is going to be huge

for teams and fans," ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. "The open-event model for the Modifieds has gotten a lot of traction in recent years, and we got to see it firsthand at the most recent World Series. We're especially excited for the return of the Thompson 300. Somebody will be walking away with at least \$20,000 that weekend, and it's going to take the intensity to a whole other level."

Thompson Speedway's local divisions will also be part of all six events, including the Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, Limited Sportsmen/Street Stocks, SK Light Modifieds, and Mini Stocks. Although details are still being finalized, ACT and PASS officials hope to organize special events for the local divisions throughout the summer, giving each class a chance in the spotlight.

A variety of touring series and open shows will also be part of the Icebreaker and World Series weekends. More information regarding all events will be announced over the coming weeks.

"The most important part of all of this is that Thompson oval track racing will continue," PASS owner Tom Mayberry said. "We were very satisfied with how the Thompson 150 and World Series went in 2020, and those events showed the appetite is still there for racing

in eastern Connecticut. With those events to build on, we think the excitement for Thompson Speedway is going to be even bigger in 2021.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, [media@acttour.com](mailto:media@acttour.com), or visit [www.acttour.com](http://www.acttour.com). You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact [passracing@roadrunner.com](mailto:passracing@roadrunner.com). Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email [oval@thompsons Speedway.com](mailto:oval@thompsons Speedway.com), or visit [www.thompsons Speedway.com](http://www.thompsons Speedway.com). You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

### ACT & PASS Confirm Weekend for Inaugural Northeast Classic at NHMS

WATERBURY, VT - American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials have confirmed the dates for the inaugural Northeast Classic at Loudon's New Hampshire Motor Speedway. The long-awaited event will be held on the weekend of April 16-18, 2021.

A two-day schedule is planned with open practice on day one and qualifying/features on day two. Whether the event has a Friday-Saturday or Saturday-Sunday schedule will be determined over the winter.

The Northeast Classic was originally scheduled to debut in April 2020 before ultimately being cancelled due to the outbreak of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The event was highly-anticipated throughout the region, and this coming April, the first running will finally be held on the "Magic Mile".

"We can't wait to finally get the Northeast Classic off the ground," PASS owner Tom Mayberry said. "The buzz leading up to the expected debut last April was incredible. Unfortunately, world circumstances didn't allow it happen, much to everyone's disappointment. With another year to look forward to it, we think the inaugural Classic will be just as big if not bigger than it would have been."

The event schedule for 2021 is expected to be much the same as what was planned for 2020. A five-division card includes the PASS North Super Late Models, ACT Late Model Tour, a Tour-Type Modified Open, an 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open, and the North East Mini Stock Tour.

Rules, entry forms, and other Northeast Classic information will be released over the coming months. ACT and PASS both expect to finalize their full 2021 schedules soon.

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## Kyle Larson Debuting with World of Outlaws Late Models at Last Call

CONCORD, NC - All Dirt Roads Lead to Charlotte, even for Kyle Larson.

The Elk Grove, Calif. native, a winner of 42 features in 84 starts this year, will write the next chapter of his magical season next week when he makes his debut with the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series at The Dirt Track at Charlotte.

Pulling double duty at Last Call, the 28-year old nicknamed "Yung Money" will hit the half-mile oval for four consecutive nights of racing, all of which can be seen LIVE with the DIRTVision Fast Pass.

He'll go head-to-head with The Most Powerful Late Models on the Planet for the first time in his career on Wednesday & Thursday, November 4-5 aboard the K&L Rumley Enterprises No. 6 Longhorn Chassis, before re-joining the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series on Friday & Saturday, November 6-7 in his Paul Silva owned No. 57 entry.

While this week will mark Larson's first attempt with the World of Outlaws Late Models, he's not entirely green to the discipline, while still admitting he's got tons left to

learn.

In August, he stunned the nation with his spectacular dirt late model debut with the Lucas Oil Late Models at Port Royal (Pa.) Speedway. Following a fifth-place outing on night one, Larson ensued to out-drive them all in the finale, beating soon-to-be World of Outlaws champion Brandon Sheppard to the checkered flag in his second career start.

"The Late Model has been a fun challenge," Larson noted. "It's so much of a different feel than anything I've ever driven before. They have a lot of grip, until they don't and that's when they become a struggle. I still don't feel comfortable at all in them. I know I've still got a ton left to learn and figure out."

On top of his natural ability, which he's shown being successful in Sprint Cars, Midgets, Silver Crown, and now Late Models, the six-time NASCAR Cup Series winner has the added advantage of Kevin & Lee Roy Rumley in his corner.

With Lee Roy, an iconic owner involved in motorsports since 1956, and son Kevin, a UNC-Charlotte Mechanical Engineering graduate, Larson walked into the perfect situation. Kevin, the founder of Rumley Engineering, has most recently been known for his overwhelming

success with stars Jonathan Davenport, Tim McCreddie, and Mike Marlar, along with his work at Longhorn Chassis.

From the very beginning, Rumley knew Larson was going to be special.

"I knew the first lap when we tested at Cherokee that we could go and out win," Kevin noted on Larson's potential. "He's like the modern-day A.J. Foyt or Mario Andretti. I think he could probably win in anything he gets in."

"I've enjoyed working with the Rumley's a lot," Larson said on his pairing with K&L Enterprises. "The crew is full of great people and Kevin is just extremely smart. Being around him and listening to his ideas is really cool. Stepping back and trying to be a student again like talking to other drivers has been great too. Everyone has been really helpful honestly."

Bringing a 50% winning percentage into his foray against the World of Outlaws Late Models, Larson will look to up his already absurd numbers which include: 14 wins with All Stars Circuit of Champions, 12 wins with World of Outlaws Sprint Cars, four wins with USAC National Midgets, four wins at Pennsylvania Speedweek, two wins with USAC Silver Crown, two wins in local sprint car competition, two wins at the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals, and one win in New Zealand with the International Midgets.

To continue his stellar season, Larson will not only have to beat the likes of World of Outlaws stars like Brandon Sheppard, Scott

Bloomquist, Ricky Weiss, Cade Dillard, Darrell Lanigan & Chase Junghans, but also the invaders coming to town such as Brandon Overton, Jimmy Owens, Tim McCreddie, Jonathan Davenport, Josh Richards, Chris Madden and more.

Just last week, Larson and Rumley, along with additional teams such as Rocket1 Racing and Team Zero, had the chance to go testing at The Dirt Track at Charlotte and pad their notebook heading into the season-ending Last Call.

"I'm excited to get to racing at Charlotte after getting some test laps," Larson stated. "I think if we can qualify well we can have a good couple of nights, that will be the key."

The limited fans in attendance (due to COVID-19 restrictions) along with the thousands watching at home on DIRTVision, can see Larson compete against the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Models on Wednesday & Thursday, November 4-5 and then the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Cars on Friday & Saturday, November 6-7.

### Drivers Jockey for Championship Position at Last Call

CONCORD, NC - For four drivers, next week's Last Call is the last shot to solidify or improve their championship finish in 2020.

In the midst of a wide open race **(Continued Next Page)**

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for points, fans will witness a season-ending clash between Cade Dillard, Darrell Lanigan, Chase Junghans, and Dennis Erb Jr., all squaring off for third-through-sixth in the World of Outlaws Late Model Series standings.

Entering the Wednesday & Thursday, November 4-5 doubleheader at The Dirt Track at Charlotte, this furious foursome

is separated by only 82 points from top-to-bottom, but a big \$16,000 difference could have a massive impact on their drives next week.

While this quartet still wages war for position, in front of them, the top two spots have essentially been locked up. Brandon Sheppard just needs to sign-in on Wednesday and he'll secure his third career World of Outlaws championship, while Ricky Weiss requires two feature starts to claim his best career points finish of second.

- Cade Dillard (4,973 PTS), comes into the finale holding the third spot over Lanigan, Junghans and Erb. In the midst of a career year, Thriller brings in a 38-race resume which includes 23 top tens and 13 top fives to go along with his first two career wins - at Vado Speedway Park and Lernerville Speedway. In Cade's only two previous starts at The Dirt Track at Charlotte, he finished fifth and 29th at last year's World Finals aboard his MB Customs No. 97.

- Darrell Lanigan (-30 PTS), is a newly-announced National Dirt Late Model Hall of Fame inductee and aims for his best championship finish since he won his third World of Outlaws title in 2014. Leading into Last Call, The Bluegrass Bandit owns 24 top tens, 12 top fives, and one win this year, which was his 74th career series victory. Returning to a comfortable track with pivotal points on the line, Lanigan and his No. 29V are back at The Dirt Track at Charlotte where he's won twice before in 2013 and 2014.

- Chase Junghans (-72 PTS), is also chasing down a potentially career best championship finish. Becoming a top ten machine in 2020, the Kansas racer only nabbed two podiums and six top five finishes, but recorded 26 top ten results to slot himself fourth in points at the moment. In 12 career starts at The Dirt Track at Charlotte, Junghans

have earned four top ten finishes with a career-best of fourth-place in 2018.

- Dennis Erb Jr. (-82 PTS) has used a phenomenal late-season comeback to claw his way back into contention for these top five spots in the World of Outlaws standings. With ten top fives and 21 top tens to his credit, The One Man Band sits on the cusp of fifth and not far from fourth or third following his win at Pennsylvania's Eriez and his top five streak which brought him back from the brink. Erb has won before at The Dirt Track at Charlotte, taking the cake back in 2017 at the World Finals.

Pursuing not only points, but money as well, these drivers are after championship payouts which include \$40,000 for third, \$35,000 for fourth, \$30,000 for fifth, and \$24,000 for fifth.

The points chase for these four drivers will resume this coming Wednesday & Thursday, November 4-5, with the World of Outlaws Last Call at The Dirt Track at Charlotte. Offering #2ForTheRoad, this unique replacement event for the postponed World Finals, serves as the 2020 season finale.

Race fans can see four straight nights with the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Model Series on Wednesday & Thursday followed by the World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series on Friday & Saturday.

For those that can't make it, you can watch all the action LIVE with the DIRTVision Fast Pass.

## Schatz Running Late Model, Sprint Car at Last Call

CONCORD, NC - Donny Schatz will join Kyle Larson in having an extra shot of fun during the Nov. 4-7 World of Outlaws Last Call at The Dirt Track at Charlotte.

He'll break out his own #15 Late Model to compete with the World of Outlaws Morton Buildings Late Models, Wednesday and Thursday, before stepping behind the wheel of the #15, Friday and Saturday, to contend for his 11th World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series title.

"The Late Model is something I've enjoyed for quite sometime," Schatz said. "Charlotte gives us a perfect opportunity. Two nights of Late Models. Two nights of Sprint Cars. I feel like we'll have the best of both worlds and have a little fun. No pressure leading into the Last Call (with the Sprint Cars)."

Schatz enters the season finale

weekend third in the Sprint Car championship standings with a 64-point deficit to points leader and reigning champion Brad Sweet.

He's made three Feature starts with the World of Outlaws Late Models this season, earning a top-10 finish in each event. Before this year, Schatz had one top-five and four top-10s with the Series in total.

Of his 21 starts with the Late Models, six of them were at The Dirt Track at Charlotte. In those six starts, he finished 15th, ninth, 11th, 15th, 15th and 16th.

In comparison to running his Sprint Car at Charlotte, there's little to be learned from running the Late Model ahead of time.

"Charlotte is different for the Late Models," Schatz said. "It's really high speed, not super technical.

The cars are so close from when I started racing them to today. It seems like fifteen pounds of spring rate here or there could be the difference between great and terrible. It makes it pretty touchy."

Before then, Schatz's main focus will be on his Sprint Car at Charlotte. A win during the Last Call would give him a career milestone of 300 World of Outlaws Sprint Car victories.

"For 15 years I've been in a championship hunt," Schatz said. "You don't ever want to lose that. Here we are. We find ourselves in that again and feeling damn good about it. If we win it, great. If we don't, we're not going to hang our heads. It's been a trying year for everyone. We'll just do our best to see where we end up."

## Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series

# Dennis Gile Captures ASCS Desert Non-Wing Victory at Arizona Speedway

QUEEN CREEK, AZ - Capturing his fourth career victory with the San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Non-Wing Series, Dennis Gile utilized a mid-race caution for the race-winning pass at Arizona Speedway on Saturday night.

Rolling from seventh, Gile shot to the runner-up spot by the second lap. Chasing Stevie Sussex, the No. 12 had pulled the field by over three seconds before the caution on Lap 15 brought Dennis Gile into the mix with the No. 13 taking the point on Lap 18.

Steadily pulling away over the closing laps, Gile crossed the line with 2.273-seconds to spare. Making moves in the closing laps, Josh

Castro made it to second with Stevie Sussex slipping to third. Dustin Burkhart and Bruce St. James completed the top five.

Joe Scheopner, Tyler Most, Jonas Reynolds, Shon Deskins, and Ryan Murphy made up the top ten.

The finale round of competition for the San Tan Ford ASCS Desert Non-Wing Series in 2020 will be during the Copper Classic on Friday, November 27, and Saturday, November 28 at Arizona Speedway. The event will also include the ASCS Southwest Region.

For other news, notes, and information on the American Sprint Car Series, from the National Tour to any of the nine Regional Tours that make up ASCS Nation in 2020, log onto [www.ascsracing.com](http://www.ascsracing.com), follow on Facebook, on Instagram, and Twitter (@LucasOilASCS).



Dennis Gile raced his way to victory lane for the ASCS Desert Non-Wing Series at Arizona Speedway, his fourth career win with the series. (Ben Thrasher photo)

## Bobby Labonte Challenges Race Fans at Virtual Phoenix Raceway

CHARLOTTE, NC - Now an experienced, competitive virtual racer, NASCAR Hall of Famer Bobby Labonte is preparing to take on some of his biggest fans on November 5, just 72 hours before NASCAR crowns its 2020 champion at Phoenix Raceway. It's a unique opportunity

for ultimate racing fans who've dreamed of competing against one of the best in the sport.

A limited number of tickets for the iRacing event are still available for purchase through Engage, which allows fans to not only race Labonte, but also to participate in a 30-minute virtual Q&A session.

The event is set for 8:30 pm EST on Thursday, November 5, with 30 minutes of practice laps around Phoenix Speedway's one mile, low-banked tri-oval before they begin running qualifying laps. The fastest driver after two qualifying laps will win the pole and start the 40-lap race against a field that includes Labonte.

Once the checkered flag flies, fans will have the exclusive opportunity to hang out with Labonte over Discord, ask questions about his racing career or pick up some expert tips on virtual racing. Each guest will receive a personalized video from Labonte thanking them for participating in the iRacing experience.

"It's been a lot of fun taking part in iRacing this season with so many great drivers, and I'm thrilled to be able to do this with race fans," said Labonte.

"I love iRacing and I am excited to finally get to connect with fans who love it, too. This experience will be extra special for everyone, including me, because we will have just raced against each other when the Q&A starts."

As a virtual racer this season, Labonte participated in NASCAR Cup Series races broadcast on Fox Sports and also jumped into several other series including Fox's Wednesday Night iRacing Series. As an experienced iRacer known to race anything, Labonte also made a guest iRacing appearance in the Ferrari Challenge Series and has been spotted in iRacing events around the virtual world - from In-

dycar to Sport Car to dirt racing.

"I got on board with virtual racing back in the 90's, consulting on an old Windows video game called NASCAR Racing 2," said Labonte. "It's impressive to see how far the technology has come, and what a great platform iRacing has created for drivers and fans alike."

This November marks 20 years since Labonte took home the NASCAR Cup Series trophy. More recently, he's competed in the NASCAR Whelen Euro Series and was a first-timer in the Modified Division at NASCAR's famed Bowman Gray Stadium. For 2021, Labonte is one of eight professional drivers currently slated to compete in the newly-formed Superstar Racing Experience, an IROC-style series for racing legends.

Tickets for his virtual racing event can be purchased for \$82 each at [letsengage.com/Bobby](https://letsengage.com/Bobby). Participants must have their own iRacing software and a suitable wifi connection for both the race and the Discord chat.

### **NASCAR and Wynn Resorts Announce National Multi-Year Sports Betting Partnership**

MARTINSVILLE, VA - NASCAR and WynnBET, the digital gaming division of Wynn Resorts Ltd. that is responsible for Wynn's mobile sportsbook and casino app, announced today a multi-year national sports betting partnership.

As an Authorized Gaming Operator of NASCAR, WynnBET will collaborate with NASCAR to create and promote engaging sports betting experiences for racing fans across the United States.

"We're excited to partner with such a deeply experienced and innovative team to drive engagement and expand our sports betting offerings," said Tim Clark, SVP and Chief Digital Officer, NASCAR. "Wynn is a trusted and iconic brand and our new relationship advances NASCAR's position in the rapidly evolving gaming space while delivering fans with yet another live-in race engagement tool."

WynnBET is launching a nationally scaled sports betting business that is built upon the strength of its best-in-class brand offering with an innovative approach to sports betting products. WynnBET offers unique products comprised of one-of-a-kind experiences, unique social betting mechanics and a high-quality user experience evocative of the Wynn brand to drive engagement and to attract both new and existing loyal customers.

As the historic 2020 NASCAR season reaches its penultimate race in Martinsville, Va. this weekend, WynnBET is formally submitting an application to become a legal gaming operator in the state of Virginia. Earlier this year, the Virginia state legislature passed a bill that will legalize sports betting and could grant up to 12 online sports betting licenses by the end of the year.

"Like Wynn, NASCAR is an iconic brand," said Craig Billings, President of Wynn Resorts. "Together, Wynn Interactive and NASCAR will provide sports bettors in Virginia with one-of-a-kind experiences, both digitally and at NASCAR facilities in the Commonwealth."

NASCAR has deep-rooted history in Virginia, with two of its most iconic tracks, Richmond Raceway and Martinsville Speedway, located in the state. Pending Wynn's approval within Virginia, WynnBET will become the Official Online Sportsbook of Martinsville Speedway and Richmond Raceway, re-

sulting in the construction of Wynn-BET Lounges at each venue. Martinsville Speedway and Richmond Raceway will combine to host four NASCAR Cup Series races per year, the most of any state in the country.

"We take great pride in providing fans with an unforgettable experience at our racetrack and Wynn-BET is best-in-class in delivering a premium experience to its customers," said Clay Campbell, President Martinsville Speedway.

"We are excited about what this new venture could mean for the Commonwealth of Virginia and for our loyal fans visiting our track in the years to come."

"Richmond Raceway and Wynn-BET have a number of shared attributes. We are both strong, trustworthy brands that believe deeply in customer hospitality and creating incredible experiences," said Dennis Bickmeier, President, Richmond Raceway.

"We wish the Wynn well in their future endeavors here in the great Commonwealth of Virginia and look forward to years of successful partnership."

WynnBET will expand the portfolio of bet types offered on its mobile app throughout the NASCAR season, including pre-race and in-play bets.

Bet types currently being explored include top-finishing drivers, driver matchups, stage winners and bets tied to the number of the winning car (over/under), among others. Beginning in 2021, WynnBET will offer live, in-play betting through a partnership with Genius Sports and live betting product, Betgenius, as the sport continues to strengthen its position around in-play sports betting.

NASCAR has experienced across-the-board growth in its sports betting handle and has added blue chip partners in the space in the last year including Penn National Gaming, BetMGM and IMG Arena.

**Racing is almost over for 2020 but you can read all this year's as well as past issues of FastTrack Racing Journal Online at**

**[www.fastrackracingjournal.com](http://www.fastrackracingjournal.com)**

**Short Tracks can send us stories and photos to put in the paper at [fastrack01@aol.com](mailto:fastrack01@aol.com)**

**We'd love to hear from you!**

## **Bristol Motor Speedway**

BRISTOL, TN -

The Food City Speedway in Lights 5K presented by Fleet Feet will return for its milestone 10th year on Sunday, Nov. 8, inviting a limited number of participants to be the first to see the region's largest and most tradition-rich holiday lights display as they run along the route that will circle all around the BMS property, including past the historic Bristol Dragway before crossing the Home Trust Bank Finish Line inside the infield of the iconic high-banked half-mile speedway.

Growing in stature as the beloved holiday 5K of the Appalachian Highlands Region, the event officially kicks off Speedway Children's Charities-Bristol's annual winter festivities and serves as a major fundraiser for the organization.

"There's nothing better than running for a great cause while being the first to see the amazing Christmas displays that make up The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights," said Claudia Byrd executive director of SCC-Bristol. "We can't thank our sponsors, participants and volunteers enough for what they do to support our chapter, which has raised nearly \$17 million throughout its history to support local children in need. It's time to kick off another amazing holiday season with the Food City Speedway in Lights 5K presented by Fleet Feet."

This year's 5K will operate a little differently with several protocols put into place to ensure all participants maintain proper social distancing and follow all required COVID-19 guidelines.

- The event will be limited to the first 500 participants who register in advance of event day.

- The start of the race will be staggered as socially-distanced groups of 20 runners will begin 30 seconds apart.

- The 5K will start earlier this year, at 5:30 p.m., and will get underway following a shortened pre-race announcement (there will not be a pre-race ceremony on the big stage).

- All participants are required to wear masks while on BMS property except during the time they are running/walking in the 5K. All non-participants attending the event will be

required to wear masks at all times.

- Water bottles will be available to runners, but food will not be provided this year.

- Face masks provided by BMS partner AlSCO will be distributed to each runner as they cross the Home Trust Bank Finish Line.

- All division winners will receive their awards in the mail following the event.

Participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration is available online, with an entry fee of \$35 for adults and \$20 for kids 12-under until Tuesday, Nov. 3. All participants will receive a special commemorative 2020 Food City Speedway in Lights 5K t-shirt. On-site registration will not be available the day of the event. Participant arrival is scheduled between 3-5 p.m., and instructions for parking and packet pickup, which will include each person's commemorative event t-shirt, will be sent via email a week before the event.

For those runners who are not able to attend the Food City Speedway in Lights 5k presented by Fleet Feet in person, a virtual option of the event is available for the same entry fees. Those who participate in the virtual option will receive a Food City Speedway in Lights 5K t-shirt and are asked to post a photo from their 5K run on social media using the #sil5k hashtag. BMS will offer a special prize for the best photo. To submit a photo for consideration, please download the free Bristol Mobile App and snap your picture with the Fan Cam (in the explore section).

For more information on SCC's winter events at Bristol Motor Speedway, please visit [www.SpeedwayCharities.org/Bristol](http://www.SpeedwayCharities.org/Bristol). The 24th annual Pinnacle Speedway in Lights, the biggest annual fundraiser for SCC-Bristol, runs from Friday, Nov. 13 through Saturday, Jan. 2. The event costs \$20 for cars from Sunday through Thursday and \$25 per car on Friday and Saturday nights. As always, a sizeable portion of the proceeds from The Pinnacle Speedway in Lights benefits SCC in its longstanding mission to support of numerous children's organizations in the 18-county area surrounding Bristol Motor Speedway.

## **Atlanta Motor Speedway**

HAMPTON, GA - NASCAR and Atlanta Motor Speedway have announced two dates for the NASCAR Xfinity Series at the 1.54-mile track in 2021.

The series will make the trip to Georgia during the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 weekend on Saturday, March 20, 2021 for the EchoPark 250, which has been the main event for Atlanta's same-day NASCAR doubleheader since 2015.

The rising stars of the NASCAR Xfinity Series return for a second event on Saturday, July 10 as part of the Quaker State 400 Presented by Walmart weekend.

"Whenever you take NASCAR's up-and-coming drivers and put them on this challenging track, the result is always thrilling," said AMS Executive Vice President and General Manager Brandon Hutchison. "We're excited to see the action of the EchoPark 250 return in March and how these young guns will fare on a hot, slick track during our new summer weekend."

The Xfinity Series races will complement the previously announced NASCAR Cup Series races at AMS: the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 on Sunday, March 21, and the Quaker State 400 Presented by Walmart on Sunday, July 11.

Weekend packages are available for both the spring and summer NASCAR weekends at Atlanta Motor Speedway. AMS plans to host fans in a socially distanced, limited capacity for each of its 2021 events at this time. Due to the planned limited capacity, fans interested in attending these events are encouraged to make their plans and contact AMS as soon as possible.

Seating and camping accommodations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis starting with fans who originally had tickets for the 2020 NASCAR race followed by fans who make a deposit. Fans looking to secure seats or camping locations for the 2021 events should visit [AtlantaMotorSpeedway.com](http://AtlantaMotorSpeedway.com) or call the AMS ticket office at 877-9-AMS-TIX.

## **Michigan Int'l Speedway**

BROOKLYN, MI - In addition to the previously announced NASCAR Cup Series FireKeepers Casino 400 being run on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at Michigan International Speedway, the track will also host an Xfinity Series race as part of that weekend, as NASCAR announced the schedule for that series on Friday. The race will be held on Saturday, August 21, and Draft Top will be the entitlement part-

ner.

Draft Top developed the world's first bar tool in 2019 which safely removes the top of aluminum can beverages, essentially transforming the can into a cup and creating a more pleasurable drinking experience.

"Draft Top is a tremendous fit with our sport and our fans, as they have developed a unique product which has made drinking from a can a true experience," said Michigan International Speedway President Rick Brenner. "They will have an extensive presence at our track during the course of the entire race weekend, we look forward to working with them for many years to come."

"The Draft Top team is excited for this partnership with Michigan International Speedway and being a part of their NASCAR weekend. There is nothing more picturesque than the iconic Irish Hills during the month of August," said Sean Kelly, co-Founder of Draft Top. "We know canned beer is a big part of the culture of NASCAR and we are excited to elevate that experience for the fans who come to MIS."

With the exception of 2020, Michigan International Speedway has hosted a NASCAR Xfinity Series race each year since 1992. Two of the previous four Xfinity Series winners at MIS have gone on to win the Series Championship that same year, including Daniel Suarez (2016) and Tyler Reddick (2019).

Dates for the 2021 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series will be announced in the near future. Start times and television networks for all series will be also announced at a later date.

The full 2021 NASCAR Cup Series and Xfinity Series schedules, as well as ticket information for both can be found at [nascar.com/tickets](http://nascar.com/tickets).

Tickets for the 2021 NASCAR race weekend at MIS are available at [mispeedway.com/tickets](http://mispeedway.com/tickets).

For more information, fans can call 888-905-RACE (7223).

## **Talladega Superspeedway**

TALLADEGA, AL - NASCAR today announced the 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series schedule, and for the second straight year,

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the series will visit Talladega Superspeedway for two exciting races – one in April and the other in October during the track's NASCAR weekends.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series, which has been a staple at the track since 1992, will be back for its traditional springtime event, on Saturday, April 24, 2021, the day before the GEICO 500 NASCAR Cup Series

race. After its first fall trip to the 2.66-mile venue just a few weeks ago, the Xfinity Series will return again next fall for the second race in the Round of 12 Playoffs on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021. It will come the day prior to the Cup Series Yella-Wood 500, set for Sunday, Oct. 3.

Justin Haley swept both of the Talladega Xfinity Series races this year, cementing his place in the NASCAR Playoffs with his win in April, while his triumph in October was an automatic ticket to the Xfinity Series Playoffs' Round of 8.

Scheduled to return in '21 is the Talladega Garage Experience, which debuted last fall to rave reviews. The Talladega Garage Experience gives fans the chance to be immersed into the sport of NASCAR like never before, including being able to be up-close to the NASCAR's top drivers and teams via a fan walkway under the same roof as the Cup Series garage car bays. In addition, there's the unique 35,000 square foot "Big Bill's," covered Open-Air Social Club, complete with ample seating, a bar and a 41-foot diagonal video screen, the opportunity to be a part of Gatorade Victory Lane, and lots more.

Fans wishing to attend the Cup Series races at 'Dega in '21 can take advantage of an early access pre-sale. Tickets for the general public start at \$65 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and younger. For NASCAR Xfinity Series races on the 33-degree banked track, children 12 and under are admitted free to the grandstands and towers.

Account holders from '20 can take advantage of even lower pricing when renewing their tickets & camping. For information on the 2021 event weekends, fans can visit [www.talladegasuperspeedway.com](http://www.talladegasuperspeedway.com) or call 1-877-Go2-DEGA (1-877-462-3342).

The full '21 Cup and Xfinity

schedules can be found at [www.nascar.com](http://www.nascar.com). The schedules for the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and ARCA Menards Series '21 seasons will be announced in the near future. Start times and television networks for Cup Series and Xfinity Series races will be also announced at a later date.

Fans can keep up with all the happenings at the biggest, baddest race track on the planet by following Talladega Superspeedway on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and by downloading the track's mobile app.

### Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, P - NASCAR fans will have the chance to enjoy two races for the price of one. The Pocono Green 225 Recycled by J.P. Mascaro & Sons NASCAR Xfinity Series race and a NASCAR Cup Series race will take place on the same day at 'The Tricky Triangle' on Sunday, June 27.

- NASCAR Xfinity Series Date Announced: Pocono Raceway will host the Pocono Green 225 Recycled by J.P. Mascaro & Sons NASCAR Xfinity Series race on Sunday, June 27, 2021. This is scheduled to be the only Sunday race for the Xfinity Series next year. It will also be the sixth annual Xfinity Series race held at 'The Tricky Triangle.'

- Great Value – One Ticket for Two Races: A Pocono Raceway ticket for Sunday, June 27, 2021, includes a seat for both the Pocono

Green 225 Recycled by J.P. Mascaro & Sons race and the NASCAR Cup Series Race #2, as well as access to Fan Fair.

- Kids Attend Free: Kids, ages 12 and under, will receive free admission to the NASCAR races at Pocono Raceway in 2021. This includes free access to the 100 and 200 levels of the Grandstand, Fan Fair and camping areas. (Note: All attendees, regardless of age and including kids, must have a ticket for Grandstand access on Saturday and Sunday. Kids tickets are available for free.)

- 2021 NASCAR Doubleheader Schedule: Pocono Raceway will host a NASCAR Cup Series race on Saturday, June 26, 2021, as well as the Pocono Green 225 Recycled by J.P. Mascaro & Sons NASCAR Xfinity Series race and a second Cup Series race on Sunday, June 27. 'The Tricky Triangle' will be the only track to host two NASCAR Cup Series races on back-to-back days next year. Additional race events will be announced later.

- Tickets On Sale Now: Select ticket and camping options for the NASCAR events at Pocono Raceway are available online at [www.poconoraceway.com/tickets](http://www.poconoraceway.com/tickets) or by calling 1-800-RACEWAY (1-800-722-3929.)

- Additional Information: Parking is free of charge for all NASCAR events at Pocono Raceway in 2021. All Saturday and Sunday tickets, purchased directly through the track, include the complimen-

tary Worry-Free Weather Guarantee. There are also flexible payment options available for ticket purchasers. To learn more, visit [www.poconoraceway.com](http://www.poconoraceway.com).

Note: All events, dates and times are subject to change without notice. Children must be accompanied by an adult ticket holder for gate admission and at all times while on Pocono Raceway property. Certain terms, conditions and fees may apply for ticket purchases. Pocono Raceway reserves the right to determine changes in seat/camping locations or to make changes to seating/camping assignments.

### Homestead-Miami Speedway

MIAMI, FL - NASCAR announced its 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series schedule today, and Homestead-Miami Speedway will showcase the sport's second Xfinity Series race of the new year on Saturday, Feb. 20.

Already set to host the second race of the NASCAR Cup Series season for the first time in history with the Dixie Vodka 400 on Sunday, Feb. 21, the NASCAR Xfinity Series event will be held one day prior. The Homestead-Miami Speedway races will mark two consecutive weeks of racing in the state of Florida as the season kicks off at Daytona International Speedway, headlined by the 63rd annual DAYTONA 500 on Sunday, Feb. 14. For the full '21 Xfinity Series schedule, visit [www.nascar.com](http://www.nascar.com).

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### Carteret County Speedway

PELETIER, NC - Racing is returning to Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway once again with the Carolina Mini-Stock 4-Cylinder Nationals taking place on November 14th – two months after the track suspended the season.

The 4-Cylinder Nationals, which are organized by Travis Provost and the Carolina Mini-Stock Challenge, will be headlined by the \$1,500-to-win Mini-Stock feature and will also feature Street Stocks, Bombers, Mod-4s, Champ Karts and the Kinetic Competition Racing engines Mini Cup Nationals for Jr. and Sr. Mini Cups.

"It's been a long time to wait but we're finally ready to kick off the

2020 4-Cylinder Nationals," Provost said. "I look forward to seeing everybody who can make it there and make it a big one. We've already gotten commitments from Indiana, New Hampshire and all the way down the East Coast so we're looking to have a great group of cars and a competitive race. If you want to say you can beat the best in four-cylinders, come on out to the show."

The 4-Cylinder Nationals were first held at Carteret County Speedway in November 2018, with Adam Resnick scoring a surprising victory. The race was supposed to be held once again in November 2019 but was postponed due to weather and ultimately canceled earlier this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We're excited to get back to racing at Carteret County Speedway," track owner Bob Lowery said. "Our drivers and fans have all been eager to get back to racing and we're glad Travis is bringing

the Mini-Stock Nationals back to Carteret County Speedway once again."

The event will be run in strict compliance with North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services guidelines pertaining to COVID-19.

Attendance for the event will be limited, temperature checks will be done for everyone entering the complex, and masks will be strongly recommended.

More information on the Carolina Mini Stock Challenge's 4-Cylinder Nationals will be released in the coming days. Along with the 4-Cylinder Nationals, Carteret County Speedway is looking to add more events before the winter.

For more information about Bobby Watson's Carteret County Speedway, visit the track's official website at [www.carteretspeedway.com](http://www.carteretspeedway.com), "like" Carteret County Speedway on Facebook or follow @carteretcoswy on Twitter and Instagram.

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Fans wishing to attend the 2021 Dixie Vodka 400 and the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Homestead-Miami Speedway can take advantage of early access pre-sale that includes multi-day packages.

For information visit [www.Homestead-MiamiSpeedway.com](http://www.Homestead-MiamiSpeedway.com) or call (866) 409-RACE (7223). For the

NASCAR Xfinity Series race, children 12 and under are admitted free in select grandstands.

In addition, tickets to the Dixie Vodka 400 are available by phone or online for the general public, and

start at \$35 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and younger. Fans who originally purchased tickets to the 2020 Dixie Vodka 400 can take advantage of even lower pricing when renewing by the deadline of Nov. 16.

Hosting the NASCAR Xfinity Series at Homestead-Miami Speedway is a tradition that goes all the way back to the initial opening of the track in 1995 when NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Jarrett won the inaugural Xfinity Series event on the last lap after leaders Kenny Wallace, Hermie Sadler and Larry Pearson crashed, vying for the lead going into turn three.

As part of NASCAR's return to racing earlier this year, Homestead-Miami Speedway served as the first venue to have guests back to the track with local military personnel attending the Dixie Vodka 400 on June 14. In addition, the track held two Xfinity Series events, won by Harrison Burton and Chase Briscoe during the weekend.

With the first two event weekends at Daytona and Homestead-Miami, it marks the first time since 1952-54 that the NASCAR Cup Series season has opened with the first two events in the state of Florida. In both '52 and '54, the first three events kicked off the season in Florida – Palm Beach Speedway, the DAYTONA Beach/Road Course and Speedway Park in Jacksonville. The '53 season began at the Palm Beach track followed by road course at Daytona. All three of the venues are no longer in existence.

The schedules for the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and ARCA Menards '21 seasons will be

announced in the near future. Start times and television networks for Cup Series and Xfinity Series races will be also announced at a later date.

### New Hampshire Motor Speedway

LOUDON, NH - New England race fans can add another race to their plans for the 2021 NASCAR race weekend at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. The 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series schedule includes its traditional mid-summer visit to "The Magic Mile" on July 17.

"We're thrilled to welcome the NASCAR Xfinity Series back to 'The Magic Mile' in 2021," said David McGrath, executive vice president and general manager of New Hampshire Motor Speedway. "As New Englanders, we're all about tradition, and the Xfinity Series has been with us since day one. We're very much looking forward to next season and NASCAR's rising stars putting on an exciting show for New England race fans."

The NASCAR Xfinity Series was the first NASCAR-sanctioned race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in 1990 when the speedway opened, making the 2021 race the 34th Loudon appearance by the series. The event will again be part of the annual Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 race weekend and the only visit to the six-state New England region for the NASCAR Cup and Xfinity Series.

Tickets: Adult tickets are available at [www.NHMS.com/Events/Foxwoods-Resort-Casino-301/Tickets](http://www.NHMS.com/Events/Foxwoods-Resort-Casino-301/Tickets) starting at \$35 for Saturday's Lakes Region 200 and \$49 for Sunday's Foxwoods Resort Casino 301. Tickets for kids 12 and under are free on Saturday and just \$10 on Sunday. Further details can be found on the New Hampshire Motor Speedway website or by calling 833-4LOUDON.

Follow Us: Keep track of all of New Hampshire Motor Speedway's events by following on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Keep up with all the latest news and information on the speedway website and NHMS mobile app.

### Kansas Speedway

KANSAS CITY, KS - In addition to the previously announced NASCAR Cup Series Hollywood Casino 400 being run on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at Kansas Speedway, the track will also host an Xfinity Series race as part of that weekend, as NASCAR announced the schedule for that series today.

The Kansas Lottery 300 will be held on Saturday, October 23. Both races will mark the second in the Round of 8 for the Playoffs in each of the respective series.

It had also been announced earlier that Kansas Speedway will play host to a NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday, May 2, 2021.

Kansas Speedway has staged Xfinity Series races each year since the track opened in 2001. In 2020, it held Xfinity events in both July and October, the first of which was a realigned race due to the ongoing pandemic. Brandon Jones won the Xfinity Series Kansas Lottery 250 on July 25, 2020, his second straight win at Kansas. Chase Briscoe took the checkered flag in the Kansas Lottery 300 on October 17, propelling him into the NASCAR Xfinity Series Championship 4 in Phoenix on November 7.

Dates for the 2021 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series will be announced in the near future. Start times and television networks for all series will be also announced at a later date.

The full 2021 NASCAR Cup Series and Xfinity Series schedules, as well as ticket information for both can be found at [nascar.com/tickets](http://nascar.com/tickets).

For the latest news on everything Kansas Speedway please visit [www.kansasspeedway.com](http://www.kansasspeedway.com).

Fans can follow Kansas Speedway on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/kansasspeedway](http://www.facebook.com/kansasspeedway), Twitter (@kansasspeedway) and Instagram (kansasspeedway).

### Daytona Int'l Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, FL - The 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series schedule was announced today, and like it has since 1982, the February Xfinity Series race at iconic Daytona International Speedway – the NASCAR Racing Experience 300 – will kick off another exciting season.

While the NASCAR Racing Experience 300, set for Saturday, Feb. 13, will be the first opportunity for drivers to win - and thus become eligible for the 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs – the Aug. 27 Wawa 250 Powered by Coca-Cola on the 2.5-mile venue again be a part of the track's summer classic, set for the last weekend in August for the second consecutive year.

The NASCAR Racing Experience 300 will be the day before the 63rd Annual DAYTONA 500 on Sunday, Feb. 14, President's Day Weekend. It will mark the 40th straight time (dating back to 1982) The Great American Race has started off NASCAR's Cup Series season. Next year's Wawa 250 Powered by Coca-Cola will be held the evening prior to the traditional Coke Zero Sugar 400 Cup Series race, set for Saturday, Aug. 28, the final regular season Cup Series race.

For the first time in history, Daytona International Speedway hosted three Xfinity Series events in 2020 as Noah Gragson won the season-opener and Justin Haley was victorious on the high banks in August. The monumental first-ever DAYTONA Road Course race for the Xfinity Series also took place, in early August, with Austin Cindric taking the victory. All three drivers are currently in the Xfinity Series Playoffs.

Families attending both the NASCAR Experience 300 and Wawa 250 Xfinity Series races can take advantage of free grandstand admissions to all kids 12 years of age or younger. Tickets to the DAYTONA 500, the NASCAR Racing Experience 300 and all events part of Speedweeks Presented by AdventHealth, can be purchased by calling 1-800-PITSHOP or visiting [www.DAYTONA500.com](http://www.DAYTONA500.com). Denny Hamlin can rewrite history and become the first driver to capture three consecutive checkered flags in the DAYTONA 500.

Fans wishing to attend the 2021 Coke Zero Sugar 400 and the Wawa 250 Powered by Coca-Cola can take advantage of an early access pre-sale. Available online or by phone, tickets for the general public for the Coke Zero Sugar 400 start at \$49 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and younger. Fans who had tickets for the 2020 event can take receive even lower pricing when renewing by the deadline of Dec. 4. For ticket information, fans can log onto [www.daytonainternational-speedway.com](http://www.daytonainternational-speedway.com) or call 1-800-PITSHOP.

