

STANDINGS

How the top 10 stack up this week

NEXTEL CUP

Following the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard

- 1. Tony Stewart 2,923; previous: 2
2. Jimmie Johnson 2,848; previous: 1
3. Greg Biffle 2,812; previous: 3
4. Rusty Wallace 2,705; previous: 4
5. Kurt Busch 2,646; previous: 5
6. Mark Martin 2,636; previous: 7
7. Ryan Newman 2,568; previous: 6
8. Jeremy Mayfield 2,554; previous: 8
9. Dale Jarrett 2,493; previous: 10
10. Carl Edwards 2,487; previous: 12

Mark Martin moved up one spot in the standings to sixth following a seventh-place finish at Indianapolis.



BUSCH SERIES

Following the Kroger 200

- 1. Martin Truex Jr. 3,286; previous: 1
2. Clint Bowyer 3,201; previous: 2
3. Reed Sorenson 3,182; previous: 3
4. Carl Edwards 2,955; previous: 4
5. Kenny Wallace 2,890; previous: 5
6. Denny Hamlin 2,847; previous: 6
7. David Green 2,629; previous: 7
8. David Stremme 2,593; previous: 9
9. Ashton Lewis 2,573; previous: 8
10. Paul Menard 2,550; previous: 10

A top-five finish in the Kroger 200 lifted David Stremme one spot to eighth in the Busch standings.



CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Following the Power Stroke Diesel 200

- 1. Dennis Setzer 2,279; previous: 1
2. Ted Musgrave 2,052; previous: 2
3. Bobby Hamilton 2,050; previous: 3
4. Ron Hornaday 2,006; previous: 4
5. Jimmy Spencer 1,974; previous: 5
6. David Reutimann 1,929; previous: 7
7. Matt Crafton 1,918; previous: 9
8. Terry Cook 1,905; previous: 8
9. Ricky Craven 1,891; previous: 6
10. David Starr 1,864; previous: 10

A disappointing 25th-place finish in the Power Stroke Diesel 200 dropped Ricky Craven three spots to ninth in the standings.



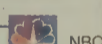
Points leader Dennis Setzer claimed his fourth Craftsman Truck Series victory of the season Friday by winning the Power Stroke Diesel 200 at Indianapolis Raceway Park.

ON TV

All times Eastern

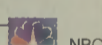
NEXTEL CUP

Sirius Satellite Radio at The Glen 1 p.m., Sunday



BUSCH SERIES

Zippo 200 2 p.m., Saturday



CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Toyota Tundra 200 5 p.m., Saturday



THE RACING 411

NEXTEL CUP

Race: Sirius Satellite Radio at The Glen
Where: Watkins Glen International; Watkins Glen, N.Y.
When: Sunday, 1:30 p.m., ET
Defending champion: Tony Stewart overcame an upset stomach to win last year's Sirius at the Glen.
Track qualifying record: Jeff Gordon, 124.580 mph; Aug. 8, 2003.
Race record: Mark Martin, 103.300 mph; Aug. 13, 1995.
Fast fact: With more than 2.5 million votes cast by race fans, Dale Earnhardt Jr. leads the Chex NMPA NASCAR Most Popular Driver Award balloting. Fans have been voting at www.mostpopulardriver.com.

BUSCH SERIES

Race: Zippo 200
Where: Watkins Glen International
When: Saturday, 2:30 p.m., ET
Track length: 2.45 miles (90 laps, 220.5 miles)
Fast facts: The Busch Series returns to Watkins Glen International for the first time since 2001. This will be the first time the series has competed on road courses twice in one season; Martin Truex Jr. won the historic race in Mexico City on March 6.
Mexico natives Carlos Contreras and Jorge Goeters are scheduled to compete. Both raced in Mexico City, with Goeters winning the pole there.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Race: Toyota Tundra 200
Where: Nashville Superspeedway
When: Saturday, 5:30 p.m., ET
Track length: 1.333 miles
Race length: 225 laps, 300 miles
Defending champion: Bobby Hamilton passed David Starr with eight laps remaining to win last year's Toyota Tundra 200.
Qualifying record: Bobby Hamilton Jr., 160.190 mph; Aug. 14, 2004.
Race record: Scott Riggs, 132.466 mph; Aug. 10, 2001.
Fast fact: Former driver and Fox analyst Darrell Waltrip will serve as grand marshal for the race.

ALLSTATE 400 AT THE BRICKYARD REVIEW

Hometown HERO

Stewart experiences his lifelong dream with victory at Indianapolis

By RICK MINTER
Cox News Service

All week long, Tony Stewart's neighbors in his hometown of Columbus, Ind., have talked about the NASCAR star's early days. Like when, as a 10-year-old go-kart racer, he and his family of modest means dared to dream of winning a race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the most prestigious track in motorsports.

Throughout Stewart's successful, championship-winning careers in USAC, IRL and NASCAR, he won early and often, but still felt unfulfilled.

His one elusive dream — winning at the Brickyard — always seemed just beyond his grasp.

On Sunday, the dream became reality. There was no stopping his No. 14 Chevrolet. Stewart passed one of his protégés, Kasey Kahne, with 11 laps remaining and won the 12th running of the NASCAR race now known as the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard.

After a slow lap around the track, soaking up the cheers of the partisan Hoosier crowd, Stewart stopped on the frontstretch for festivities that included the ceremonial kissing of the bricks at the start-finish line.

In one of the more touching scenes of one of the most heart-warming days in NASCAR history, Stewart knelt beside his family — mom and stepfather Pam and Mike Boas, his sister Natalie, and his



NASCAR

Tony Stewart kisses the bricks after winning the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

father Nelson Stewart. Together they kissed the bricks.

Nelson Stewart, wearing his trademark jeans and cowboy boots, said that from the time he and his son, then 6 years old, began watching Indy 500s from the cheaper seats in the grandstands, they never doubted that one day they'd be in Indy's winner's circle.

"We've talked about being here for a long, long time," Nelson Stewart said, adding that he still holds out hope that one day his son will return to the winner's circle after winning the Indy 500, arguably the world's best-known race.

"I'm not downplaying this, but I want to win that 500 so bad I could

taste it," he said.

While Nelson talked about coming back one day and winning the Indy 500, Tony seemed content with what he'd just accomplished.

"This is everything I've ever wanted, everything I've ever dreamed of," he said. "If I died right now, my life's complete."

Almost lost in the post-race celebration was the fact that Stewart took the Nextel Cup lead by 75 points over former front-runner Jimmie Johnson.

Stewart's crew chief Greg Zipadelli, suffering flu-like symptoms throughout the race, was as emotional as anyone in the dramatic closing laps, and afterward.

"Thank the Good Lord," Zipadelli said. "I never prayed that hard in my life."

Zipadelli and others repeated earlier assertions that Stewart entered this 400 more relaxed than he has ever been, in large part due to a recent move back to Columbus, Ind., where he's found renewed happiness living among family and friends.

"He was more relaxed than I've ever seen him at any race," Nelson Stewart said. "He's at ease, but he's just as competitive as he's ever been, and you saw that [Sunday]." "He just handles adversity better now."

RACE STATISTICS

Time of race: 3 hours, 22 minutes, 3 seconds

Margin of victory: 0.794 seconds

Winner's average speed: 118.782 mph

Caution flags: 10 for 43 laps

Lead changes: 15 among 10 drivers

Lap leaders: Elliott Sadler, 1-22; Robby Gordon, 23; Sadler, 24-39; Brian Vickers, 40-50; Matt Kenseth, 51-59; Casey Mears, 60-69; Kasey Kahne, 70-92; Sadler, 93; Kyle Petty, 94; Terry Labonte, 95-96; Vickers, 97-99; Tony Stewart, 100-117; Scott Wimmer, 118; Stewart, 119-133; Kahne, 134-149; Stewart, 150-160

COMMENTARY

NASCAR doesn't waste time on reactions

By JEFF GLUCK
Cox News Service

The steroid talk in baseball picked up again this month, with most fans asking the obvious question: Why won't the sport's leaders do anything?

The NHL lockout finally ended, but the lost hockey season indicated that both owners and players turned a blind eye to the fans' feelings.

Look at the college bowl system. Millions of fans scream about how college football should have a national playoff. But no one listens.

In NASCAR, people do listen. They're always listening. And as a result, the sport is in a state of constant change.

Some would argue that change means forgetting the traditional, core group of fans, a sign that the sport is turning its back on the people that made it popular in the first place.

But during a time when fans in other sports are fed up with their organizations, NASCAR's willingness to change — often accompanied by the words "effective immediately" — is something motorsports enthusiasts should embrace.

NASCAR's changes work because they're reactionary. The sport's executives see the problem, realize they should do something and, most of the time, act on their thoughts.

Look at the green-white-checked rule: Jeff Gordon won the Talladega race under caution on April 25 of last year. It then took just 50 days for the sport to change the rules.

If this were baseball, we might not have seen a green-white-checked until 2015.

Similar changes have also occurred swiftly. Matt Kenseth wins the Cup title in a massive blowout, the points system is altered by the beginning of the next season. Dale Jarrett is a sit-

ting duck at New Hampshire while cars race back to the finish line under caution; NASCAR makes a new rule that freezes the field a few months later.

It's been interesting to listen to all the gripes about baseball. The commissioner gave cameraman attacker Kenny Rogers a 20-game suspension for his actions. Then Rafael Palmeiro tests positive for steroids, and the maximum for a first offense is just 10 days.

Fans just can't figure that out. In NASCAR, Palmeiro's punishment would have been simple: Bye bye (see Shane Hmiel if you don't believe it).

Then there's hockey. NASCAR drivers at all levels are clearly schooled in the business of racing, which is necessary considering that racing teams must constantly woo sponsors for income.

Hockey players apparently don't have the same knowledge. During the lockout, star Jeremy

Roenic actually insulted fans, saying "we don't want you" to fans who dare call the players greedy.

Does NASCAR get it? Does NASCAR listen to suggestions, make smart changes and always look out for the best interests of the sport?

Of course. This isn't the NHL. "The hockey lockout is like walking out on your wife for a week," Craftsman Truck Series driver Brandon Whitt said. "You can't walk back in the door; give her a wave, tell her you missed her and expect her to start cooking dinner. You break somebody's heart and you don't know if you will ever win it back. But you had better start quick and work hard to do it."

NASCAR may lighten your wallet. But it probably won't ever break your heart.

Jeff Gluck writes about NASCAR for Cox News Service. E-mail: jgluck@coxnc.com.

Truex wins Busch race

Martin Truex Jr. (right) got the 100th victory for Dale Earnhardt Inc. by winning the Kroger 200 Saturday at Indianapolis Raceway Park.

It was Truex's 12th Busch Series win and sixth this year, gained by outrunning Clint Bowyer and Reed Sorenson, a rookie who won in St. Louis a week earlier.

The race was interrupted by a rain delay of 1 hour, 35 minutes. — Rick Minter



NASCAR

Gordon's a Hoosier at heart

He's not a native Hoosier. Jeff Gordon did not need to be reminded of this, but South Bend, Ind., product Ryan Newman playfully pointed it out the other day.

"The thing is, when I moved to Indiana (from Vallejo, Calif., as a kid), we started saying Pittsboro, Ind., for where my home was," Gordon said, "and everyone started to pick up on that and all of a sudden I come from Indiana."

Gordon, who considers Indianapolis Motor Speedway his home track, has won four of the 12 Brickyard races.

"I'll be the first to admit that I'm not a native Indiana person and that I'm a Californian," he said. "But my racing really kicked off here and the fans recognize that."