



**STANDINGS**

How the top 10 stack up this week

**NEXTEL CUP**

Following the MBNA RacePoints 400

1. Jimmie Johnson 5,362; previous: 6
2. Rusty Wallace 5,355; previous: 2
3. Ryan Newman 5,350; previous: 3
4. Mark Martin 5,341; previous: 7
5. Tony Stewart 5,339; previous: 1
6. Greg Biffle 5,339; previous: 2
7. Jeremy Mayfield 5,281; previous: 8
8. Carl Edwards 5,259; previous: 9
9. Matt Kenseth 5,238; previous: 5
10. Kurt Busch 5,192; previous: 10



A victory in Sunday's race at Dover lifted Jimmie Johnson five spots to the top of the Nextel Cup standings.

**BUSCH SERIES**

Following the Dover 200

1. Martin Truex Jr. 4,063; previous: 1
2. Clint Bowyer 4,037; previous: 2
3. Reed Sorenson 3,805; previous: 3
4. Carl Edwards 3,733; previous: 4
5. Denny Hamlin 3,496; previous: 6
6. Kenny Wallace 3,483; previous: 5
7. Paul Menard 3,330; previous: 7
8. David Stremme 3,194; previous: 9
9. David Green 3,193; previous: 8
10. Jason Keller 3,147; previous: 10



Denny Hamlin rose one spot in the standings to fifth following a sixth-place finish in the Dover 200.

**CRAFTSMAN TRUCK**

Following the Las Vegas 350

1. Dennis Setzer 2,877; previous: 1
2. Ted Musgrave 2,872; previous: 2
3. Ron Hornaday 2,677; previous: 3
4. Mike Skinner 2,627; previous: 5
5. Todd Bodine 2,593; previous: 7
6. Jimmy Spencer 2,593; previous: 4
7. Bobby Hamilton 2,577; previous: 6
8. David Starr 2,507; previous: 10
9. David Reutimann 2,493; previous: 8
10. Matt Crafton 2,483; previous: 9



A second-place finish in the Las Vegas 350 brought Ted Musgrave to within five points of standings leader Dennis Setzer.

Todd Bodine passed Ted Musgrave on the final lap in a green-white-checker finish Saturday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway for his second Craftsman Truck Series victory of the season.

**ON TV**

All times Eastern

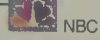
**NEXTEL CUP**

UAW-Ford 500  
1:30 p.m., Sunday



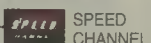
**BUSCH SERIES**

Kansas 300  
2 p.m., Oct. 8



**CRAFTSMAN TRUCK**

Kroger 200  
1 p.m., Oct. 22



**THE RACING 411**

**NEXTEL CUP**

Race: UAW-Ford 500  
Where: Talladega Superspeedway, Talladega, Ala.  
Track length: 2.66 miles (188 laps, 500 miles)  
When: Sunday, 2 p.m., ET  
Defending champion: Dale Earnhardt Jr.  
Track qualifying record: Bill Elliott, 212.809 mph; April 30, 1987.  
Race record: Mark Martin, 188.354 mph; May 10, 1997.  
Fast facts: Jeff Gordon won the Aaron's 499 at Talladega Superspeedway earlier this season. Sunday's race will be the 72nd Cup race held at the Alabama track. Talladega is the longest track on the NASCAR circuit.

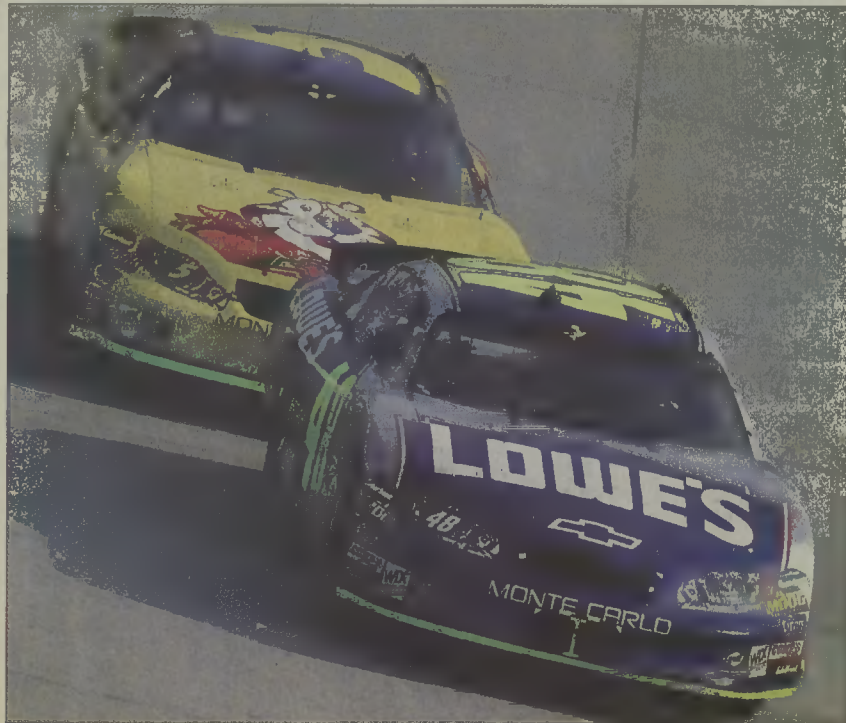
**BUSCH SERIES**

Race: Kansas 300  
Where: Kansas Speedway  
When: Oct. 8, 2:20 p.m., ET  
Track length: 1.5 miles  
Defending champion: Joe Nemecek recorded his 16th victory of his career by beating Tony Stewart on a late-race restart to win last year's Mr. Goodcents 300.  
Track qualifying record: Michael Waltrip, 178.365 mph; Oct. 4, 2003.  
Race record: Jeff Green, 129.125 mph; Sept. 29, 2001.  
Fast fact: Following its second off-weekend in three weeks, the Busch Series will make its fifth trip to Kansas Speedway on Oct. 8.

**CRAFTSMAN TRUCK**

Race: Kroger 200  
Where: Martinsville Speedway  
When: Oct. 22, 1:30 p.m., ET  
Race length: 0.526 mile (200 laps, 105.2 miles)  
Defending champion: Jamie McMurray held off Dennis Setzer on a restart with 12 laps to go to win last year's Kroger 200.  
Qualifying record: Mike Bliss, 94.275 mph; April 16, 1999.  
Race record: Jon Wood, 72.069 mph; Oct. 18, 2003.  
Fast fact: Greg Biffle holds the Craftsman Truck Series record for wins in a season — nine. He broke Mike Skinner's eight-win record at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sept. 24, 1999.

**DOVER REVIEW**



Jimmie Johnson leads Hendrick Motorsports teammate Kyle Busch in the closing laps of Sunday's MBNA RacePoints 400. Johnson won the race, the second in the Chase.

**Johnson wins at Dover**

Hendrick driver holds off teammate to grab victory

By JEFF HOOD  
Cox News Service

**Dover, Del.**  
With the lead in the Chase for the Nextel Cup championship hanging in the balance, Jimmie Johnson sat in an ideal position in the closing laps of Sunday's MBNA RacePoints 400 with Kyle Busch locked on his rear bumper.  
But Johnson's rookie teammate had other ideas after a race caution set up a two-lap dash to the finish.

Despite being pushed to the limit, Johnson managed to eke out a .08 second victory over the 20-year-old Busch and vault into the lead in the Chase for the Cup.  
Busch, who closed in on Johnson twice during the final two-lap sprint, said he was never operating under a team directive after he was forced to settle for second.

"As far as team orders or anything, there was none of that,"

said Busch, who became the youngest winner in Cup history with his victory at California three weeks ago. "It was go out and get it. I know he's a Chase factor, but it doesn't much matter to me. I'm trying to race as hard as I can to win."  
Johnson, the runner-up in the title battle the past two seasons, said he was confident Busch wouldn't resort to tactics seen the previous week at Loudon, N.H., by drivers who used their front bumper to nudge fellow drivers.  
"That's all you can ask for, just enough room to race," said Johnson, who jumped from sixth to the lead in the Chase standings. "You know, everybody gets aggressive at times."  
"But I felt comfortable leading the race, knowing my teammate was back there. If it was somebody else, I don't think I would have had the same comfort."

Rusty Wallace, who finished third, climbed to second in the Chase, seven points behind Johnson. The veteran driver said he needed more green-flag laps in the closing stages.  
"Those guys beat me on the

restarts," Wallace said. "I was spinning the tires."  
"And second gear in my transmission was really killing me today. When I'd go to third gear there was just too much of a spread, and those guys would pull away from me."  
Mark Martin edged pole sitter Ryan Newman for fourth. Elliott Sadler, Jeremy Mayfield, Kyle Petty, Carl Edwards and Casey Mears rounded out the top 10.

Tony Stewart, the leader in the Chase entering Sunday's event, was a nonfactor in an event extended to 404 laps following a caution on Lap 398.  
Stewart, who struggled to stay on the lead lap throughout the afternoon, dropped to fifth in the standings, 23 points behind Johnson.  
"Nobody saw this coming for sure," said Stewart, whose 18th-place run was his first finish outside the top 10 in the past 13 events. "I don't know why it was so bad."  
"We've got to just go back to what we've been doing. We'll be fine. We'll get caught up."

**DOVER NOTEBOOK**

**Roush drivers sputter in second Chase race**

By JEFF HOOD  
Cox News Service

**Dover, Del.**  
Two races into NASCAR's 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup, three of Roush Racing's five drivers appear on the brink of elimination.

For the second consecutive week, defending Cup champion Kurt Busch finished outside the top 20 and remains 10th in the standings, 170 points behind new Chase leader Jimmie Johnson.



BUSCH

Despite leading a race-high 192 laps, Busch, who finished 23rd, was hurt by untimely pit strategy and a punctured tire in the closing moments of the MBNA RacePoints 400.  
Matt Kenseth ran in the top five much of the afternoon until a tire blew under green on Lap 216.  
Kenseth managed to climb back to 10th with 50 laps remaining, just 17 laps before his Roush Ford slammed into the Turn 1 wall.

"Eight races is a lot of racing to do," said Kenseth, who finished 35th and fell to ninth in the Chase, 124 points behind Johnson.  
Teammate Carl Edwards climbed one position to eighth in the standings after soldiering a poor-handling car to a ninth-place finish.

**A replacement named?**

Rusty Wallace may have inadvertently announced who will replace him in the No. 2 Dodge next season when he said "this is the last hurrah for me in this car before I turn it over to Kurt [Busch]."  
Busch, who is set to leave Roush Racing and move to Penske Racing South in 2007, might make the transition next season instead.



WALLACE

"I know those lawyers are still fighting around, trying to get him out of that deal [with Roush]," Wallace said. "I was with him last week golfing and he wants to drive the [No. 2] car. They'll work it out. I'm pretty confident something will happen."

**RACE STATISTICS**

- Time of race: 3 hours, 30 minutes, 41 seconds
- Margin of victory: 0.080 seconds
- Winner's average speed: 115.054 mph
- Caution flags: 11 for 50 laps
- Lead changes: 15 among seven drivers
- Lap leaders: Ryan Newman, 1-30; Jimmie Johnson, 31-70; Greg Biffle, 71-75; Johnson, 76-108; Kurt Busch, 109; Michael Waltrip, 110; Busch, 111-177; Biffle, 178-186; Busch, 187-203; Elliott Sadler, 204-229; Busch, 230-319; Mark Martin, 320; Busch, 321-337; Johnson, 338-370; Martin, 371-376; Johnson, 377-404.

**NASCAR president issues warning**

Helton says NASCAR won't tolerate incidents of retaliation on track

By JEFF HOOD  
Cox News Service

**Dover, Del.**  
One week after a series of retaliation incidents at Loudon, N.H., NASCAR President Mike Helton fulfilled a promise to address the issue in the drivers' meeting at Dover.  
"Those of you who have been around for a while understand the way NASCAR approaches the attitude of the sport when it comes to you in relationship with each other," Helton said. "But if that attitude starts going in a direction where it is conflicting with the orderly conduct of the events, then we get involved."  
"And if we see things continue in the direction that we've seen the last two or three weeks, then we will continue to ramp up our reaction to be more severe than even the last

one we issued out Monday [Sept. 19]."  
Helton defended the penalties issued last week, which were viewed as relatively light. NASCAR Vice President Jim Hunter had hinted at New Hampshire that a suspension might be forthcoming.  
"I don't think Jim's comments were specific as to what had already happened [at Loudon] as much as it was an expression of NASCAR's desire going forward," Helton said.  
After holding drivers for two to five laps for similar retaliatory incidents at Bristol and Richmond, Helton said NASCAR increased the punishment by disallowing Kasey Kahne and Robby Gordon's teams to make repairs to their battered cars.  
"We parked them for the day. And on top of that, the penalties they received [on Sept. 19] were far more severe than what we had done in the past."  
Michael Waltrip said he phoned Gordon last week in an

effort to settle their dispute, which erupted after Waltrip's Chevrolet turned Gordon's No. 7 into the backstretch wall at New Hampshire.  
"The bottom line is I did not mean to crash him," said Waltrip, who offered to loan Gordon a car from his Michael Waltrip Racing-owned team.  
"And he obviously felt like I did. He was really, really mad, as you might expect."  
"Once I gave him a day or two to cool off, I just wanted to call him and say, 'Look, I know I did wreck you. My intent was not to crash you, and I'm sorry it happened.'"  
Gordon briefly acknowledged the exchange.  
"I had a conversation with Michael," Gordon said. "We talked to each other. It's all good, and on to the next weekend."  
Gordon, an independent car owner, appeared relieved that NASCAR's \$35,000 fine and 50-point penalty against him were not more severe.  
"Suspensions would definitely

get everybody's attention," Gordon said. "But it might just put us out of business."  
Helton said one of his responsibilities is maintaining the fine line between entertaining fans and maintaining sanity, on and off the track, between competitors.  
"I think we deal with balance every day," Helton said. "This is a sport, and anybody that follows it needs to remember that it is a sport, and it's emotionally charged, just like any other. And it's pretty aggressively charged."  
Helton is confident the tantrums at New Hampshire won't overshadow this year's Chase for the Nextel Cup.  
"I think the first race of the Chase sets the tone for the balance of the season, from a competition element and competitiveness on the race track."  
"And that's going to be the lasting force the rest of this season. It won't be Robby Gordon and Michael Waltrip. It's going to be more of Tony Stewart and Ryan Newman."

**Newman gets past wrecks to win 4th in row, tie record**

Ryan Newman led 193 laps to easily win Saturday's crash-filled Busch Series Dover 200. It was Newman's fourth consecutive victory in NASCAR's junior circuit.  
"It feels good to win four straight," said Newman, who tied a mark established by Sam Ard in 1983. "To get to Victory Lane at Dover is special for me because I enjoy the racetrack."  
Clint Bowyer finished second, ahead of Jason Leffler, Reed Sorenson and Greg Biffle.  
Busch Series points leader Martin Truex Jr., who finished 12th, saw his championship lead shrink to 26 over Bowyer after he got a cut tire with four laps remaining while running second.  
The winner averaged 115.644 mph in a race slowed three times by 21 laps run under caution.



NASCAR

Ryan Newman crosses the finish line to win Saturday's Busch Series Dover 200.

— Jeff Hood