

THE ART OF RACING



Busch on a roll

Kyle Busch won his third Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race last Saturday night after starting in 32nd place.

He really didn't have a 32nd place car, but he had a very poor qualifying run because of the wrong strategy. Trying to save tires, he gambled on making the top 24 in the first round of qualifying, but it didn't pan out. Busch's win set a Richmond record for the deepest starting spot for a winner, and it certainly provided for an entertaining run as Busch sliced his way to the front. It took just 35 laps for him to crack into the top 10, and soon after, the top five.

It wasn't until late in the race that Busch's crew won the race off pit road, and put the No. 18 car out front. From there, he went on to lead 29 of the final 30 laps, en route to his third consecutive victory this season.

"You just gotta work, man," Busch said in Victory Lane. "Can't say enough about Adam Stevens and my guys. Pit crew, they won the race for me. Got us where we needed to be. It's definitely cool we won three in a row. I don't know if you can shoot for four in a row at Talladega but we're going to go and give it a shot."

Joey Logano swept the first two stages, leading 92 laps. Starting third, Logano took care of his tires early and soon tracked down the leader Martin Truex Jr. and passed him on lap 39. He never was challenged during the rest of stage 1. Kurt Busch and teammate Clint Bowyer led most of the second stage but Logano once again did a better job of saving his tires, passing the leaders with eight laps to go to win the second stage.

The 400-lap race was caution free for the first 355 laps, (except for the two cautions for the end of the two stages). Most fans regarded the race as boring, but there was plenty of excitement, especially among the top-10 drivers. With 45 laps to go, the competition heated up as drivers raced hard to the end of the race. Four caution flags flew during the final 45 laps causing the race to go into overtime.

The race started in daylight and finished up at night. Track conditions changed drastically as the race progressed, but the lack of cautions prevented teams from making changes to the car. An incident on lap 391 had Truex leading the pack into the pits for the final time, but a mistake by the jack man allowed Kyle Busch to leave the pits with the lead, a lead he did not relinquish over the final laps.

Busch's win was his third in a row in 2018, and 46th career victory in Cup racing.

After Harvick's three early wins, a lot of people were conceding the Championship to him. Now, after Busch's three wins, he has joined Harvick as the Championship favorites.

Double dipping

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS
Sports Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The Pioneers' strategy of winning all their district games seems to be a solid plan.

Warren County ran its winning streak in District 6AAA games to eight on Wednesday, sweeping a doubleheader against the Rhea County Eagles at Patrick Ramsey Field. Tyler Hollingsworth threw a complete game shutout in the first game to win 3-0, then the Pioneers followed with a 5-1 victory in game two.

"I thought our kids did a good job of staying focused mentally," said coach Trice Powers. "The rain changed things up and we had to schedule the doubleheader on short notice. There were a lot of changes and I thought they handled it well."

The Pioneers have been hit or miss in out-of-district games since March 22 – the last time the team lost in district play. Warren County is just 4-5 in games out of district in the last month, but has swept series in district against Cookeville, White County, Stone Memorial and now the Eagles.

Rain forced the teams to schedule an impromptu doubleheader Wednesday, one the Pioneer pitching staff was ready to dominate.

Hollingsworth continued to cement his case for the district's best pitcher honors, throwing his second shutout while improving to 5-1 in district starts. Hollingsworth lowered his

ERA to 0.76 against district opponents, highlighted by his two-hit, five-strikeout night against Rhea County.

Jack Keele and Brooks Helton were nearly as impressive in the second game, combining to hold Rhea County to just four hits and one run while fanning 11 combined.

It's the kind of outings coach Powers has come to expect from his staff.

"We've really succeeded at doing two things in district games – pitch the baseball and play defense," said Powers. "They were key factors in both games. Our pitching has been solid all season, but I also think our defense has done a good job backing up our pitchers."

"Sometimes the defense gets overshadowed, but it's something you can't live without."

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Photos courtesy of Painted Barn Media
Braden Bottoms tags out a runner during the first game of Wednesday's doubleheader. The Pioneers won both games, improving to 9-3 in district play.



Ethan Smith swipes second base during the second game of Wednesday's doubleheader.



Photos provided
Above, Tommy Kell and James Zahn, right, pose near the starting line before this year's Boston Marathon. Kell and Zahn are training partners and participated in this year's event, which was dampened by rain, sleet and windy conditions.

At left, Sarah Hoover was all smiles before last week's marathon. Hoover completed the race in under four hours, putting her in the top third of the over 25,000 competitors.

Against the wind

Weather wrecks run for locals

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Runners can dedicate months or even years to training for a marathon. Every movement, every step is planned and taken in hopes of finishing a grueling 26.2-mile race. To finish is the reward of all the time spent working towards a goal.

There was nothing that could have prepared four local runners for this year's Boston Marathon.

Tommy Kell, James Zahn, Sarah Hoover and Anne Hunter Myers were all able to finish one of the most grueling marathons in the race's 122-year history. The quartet faced rain, sleet, frigid temperatures and wind gusts reaching 50 mph while running through the streets of Boston.

"I consider myself a survivor.

Mother Nature threw everything it had at you," said Kell, who completed his second Boston Marathon and 30th marathon overall. "The weather was disappointing. You put all the training in and get up there with high expectations, only to get to race in those conditions."

"It's so cold you can see your breath and the wind is blowing. It was some of the worst weather I've ever seen in competition."

The local runners were on hand to witness a historic event, with Des Linden becoming the first American female to win the event in 33 years. Linden's time of 2:39:54 was the slowest winning time in 40 years, something each local runner could understand after competing in the freezing temperatures.

Continued on 2B



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