

THE ART OF RACING



Season lacking drama

Rain played a big part of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Fire Keepers Casino 400 race in Michigan. Because of rain, the start of the race was delayed about 2-1/2 hours and only 133 of 200 laps were completed. An official race is anytime after the 2nd stage is complete. Strategy plays a big part in any race and Clint Bowyer used a two-tire stop after the second stage, which got him out front of the field. He held off teammates Kurt Busch and Kevin Harvick for four laps when a spinning car brought out another caution. Then the rains came and NASCAR declared the race official with Bowyer declared the winner.

Fifteen races have been completed this season and with Bowyer's two wins and Harvick's five wins, Stewart-Haas Racing is taking home its seventh trophy. Harvick and Kurt Busch finished second and third, giving Stewart-Haas Racing its first 1-2-3 finish in team history. Currently, Busch and Aric Almirola are also play-off eligible giving Stewart-Haas Racing a huge role in the championship battle.

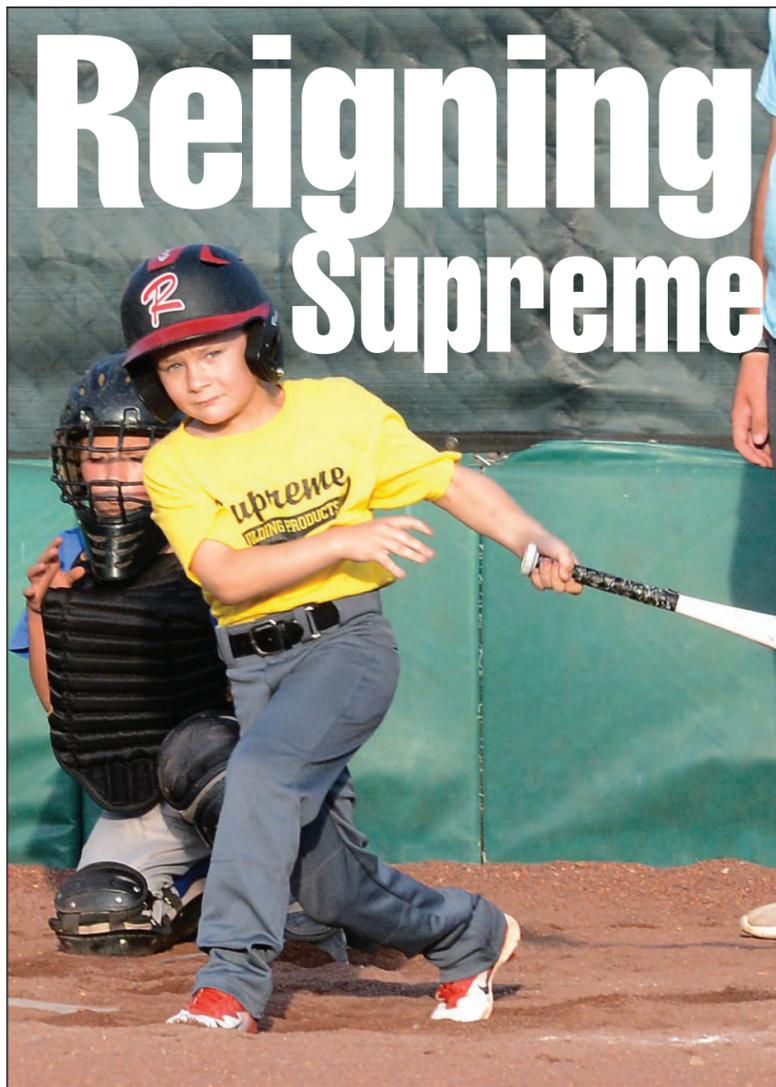
Eleven regular season races remain and the odds of 17 unique winners are incredibly thin this year. Harvick, Truex, Kyle Busch and Bowyer have multiple wins this year and are locked into the playoffs, provided they start the remaining regular-season races. Six different drivers have victories this year so 10 drivers would be selected to fill out the playoffs by point standings.

Only 31 drivers have started every Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race this year - 16 of them will make the playoffs. That means it's easier to qualify for the NASCAR postseason right now than almost any stick-and-ball sport. To make the playoffs, a driver must start every regular-season race unless they're given a medical waiver. Slots are given to 16 drivers for either their position in points or winning a race, as long as they finish 30th or better in the standings. There are currently 31 drivers, giving each of them a 51.6 percent chance to make the postseason.

Somewhat makes the regular season somewhat meaningless. Austin Dillon won the Daytona 500 and has done very little since. He currently sits 18th in the point standings but he still qualifies for the playoffs because of his win. By winning races early in the season, is there any incentive to race hard until the playoff?

Over half the playoff tracks are where aero push and down force are needed, and the teams of Harvick, Kyle Busch and Truex seem to have that figured out.

This week is an off-week with the next race on June 24 at Sonoma Raceway in California. This is the first road course of the season.



A.J. Whitman drills a shot into left field during Tuesday's games in the boys 6-8 league. Whitman helped Supreme Building stay undefeated with six hits in wins over Citizen's Bank and Triple C Nursery.

Jeffery Simmons photo

Supreme Building wins in battle of unbeatens

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

It seems the wait was worth it.

After two rainouts kept Triple C Nursery and Supreme Building from clashing in the boys 6-8 league, the pair of undefeated teams finally met Tuesday night. The battle of unbeatens went down to the wire, with Kiptin Medley lifting Supreme Building to a 12-11 victory with a walk-off single in the fifth.

Supreme Building (8-0) found itself trailing 11-9 entering the fifth after Triple C Nursery exploded for five runs in the top of the frame. Bryce Majors was able to quickly rally his team, banging a single to get his teammates on their feet.

Ledger Higgins followed with a single of his own, then both moved up on a Walker Beaty groundout. Conor McCormack continued the station-to-station movement for Supreme Building, putting runners on the corners when his single scored Majors.

Reaching the top of the order at the best possible time, Supreme's lead-off Owen McGee knotted the score with a single while putting the winning run in scoring position. Once Medley cracked a shot into the grass, Supreme's coaches decided the roll the dice

and send McCormack toward home.

McCormack was able to beat the throw home, sending Supreme Building into celebration while handing Triple C Nursery its first loss.

Triple C Nursery (8-1) wouldn't go quietly, scoring five runs in the first and fifth innings to push Supreme Building to the brink. Huck Damon had RBI triples to spark each big outburst, including his two-run shot in the fifth which drew his team to within one at 9-8.

Isaac Smith made sure Supreme Building would have to bat in the fifth when he followed Damon's blast with a triple of his own to even the score. Auden Green pushed Triple C Nursery ahead with a RBI single, followed by Brystan Cantrell's RBI double.

It wasn't enough though, as Supreme's offense got a huge boost from the bottom of the order to come back and win.

Medley finished with three hits in the victory, as did teammate A.J. Whitman, who added four RBIs. McGee, Majors, Higgins, McCormack, Jackson Moore and Grayson Todd had two hits each for Supreme Building, while Miguel Garcia's lone single capped a three-run first inning for his squad.

Continued on 2B

Moose Lodge squeezes Juicy's

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

Moose Lodge's matchup with Juicy's Café Tuesday turned into a walk in the park for both teams. Moose Lodge just happened to start throwing strikes first.

In a two-inning game which featured 17 free passes, Moose Lodge topped Juicy's 12-8 to clinch second place in the boys 9-11 league.

Moose Lodge (8-2) jumped out to a big advantage in the first, plating seven runs before Juicy's - which used three pitchers - could get out of the inning.

Jacob Holt and Andrew Key got the scoring started with RBI singles before Aiden Miller flared a double into the gap.

Creed Adams and Keegan Thompson kept the ball rolling with run-scoring doubles of their own before Korbyn Harris made it 6-0 with a RBI single. By the time Harris scored on a Jaelyn Munoz groundout, Moose Lodge had a commanding lead.

Back-to-back walks to Josiah Laxson and Daylen Holguin jump-started Juicy's (4-5) in the bottom of the frame. Laxson was able to steal around and take home on a passed ball, but Adams - the starter and winning pitcher - got out of the inning with no more damage by striking out three straight.

Miller barely missed his third home run this season in the second, settling for an RBI ground-rule double. Thompson added his second RBI double in the second as well, while Harris pushed the advantage to 12-1 after scoring on a passed ball following a walk.

After two quick outs, Juicy's was able to close the gap with patience. Nine straight walks put eight runs on the board before Moose Lodge's Jacob Holt ended the game with a strikeout.

In Tuesday's second game, Custom Collision (2-7) won 9-4 over World Finance (1-8).



Creed Adams earned the victory on the mound in Moose Lodge's 12-8 victory over Juicy's Wellness Cafe Tuesday.

Jeffery Simmons photo



July 21st



1ST ANNUAL TREE CITY INVITATIONAL

Ages: U8 - Adult (Coed 3v3)

Team Registration Fee: \$100 | Deadline to Register: June 30

Late Registration: July 1-10 (\$120)

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