

# Sports

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## THE ART OF RACING

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## Three teams surging

The Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series held its first road course race with the top teams continuing their dominance. Martin Truex Jr. claimed his third victory while Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch finished second and fifth, respectively. It doesn't seem to matter what type of race is on the schedule, these three teams continue to dominate.

The Toyota Save Mart 300 in Sonoma, Calif., was very uneventful as there was only one caution flag for an on-track incident (A.J. Allmendinger's blown engine). The only thing that occurred to keep the race interesting was the strategy used by Truex to win the race. Giving up stage points, Truex pitted near the end of Stage 1 so he could be in, or near, the lead at the start of Stage 2. He led most of the second stage until Harvick passed him near the end of the stage.

The final stage began with Harvick leading the first 21 laps. As the stage neared the 20-lap completed mark, Cole Pearn - Truex's crew chief - began talking about pitting the car. But Pearn, by design, called off the pit stop at the last second, and Truex picked up the lead, which he surrendered on Lap 81 when he pitted for the only time during the final stage.

With fresher tires, Truex quickly ran down the leader, Harvick. Continuing to pull away, Harvick pitted once more for fresher tires, but had to hope for a caution in order to close the gap behind Truex. The yellow flag never flew and Truex beat Harvick to the finish by more than 10 seconds.

"All you're doing is begging, hoping the caution doesn't come out," Truex said of the end of the race. "Then you'd have to pit and you don't know what could happen."

"We knew we were going to do one stop - that was kind of our plan," Pearn acknowledged. "We just really needed them to pit earlier for it to work out. It was a bit of a gamble, but obviously, it paid off."

The victory was Truex's second at Sonoma and 18th of his career. With his first win coming in 2013, Truex's triumph also broke a streak of nine straight different winners at the 1.99-mile road course.

With only 10 races left before the playoffs, there are still only six different winners: Harvick, Busch, Truex, Joey Logano, Clint Bowyer and Austin Dillon. The point race is becoming more important each week.

Alex Bowman has moved ahead of Ricky Stenhouse for the last spot for the playoffs. The two racers seem to be swapping places week to week. Stenhouse is currently 17 points behind Bowman, so stage points and finishing positions are becoming critical.



# On a roll



Dennis Parrish is one of the top bowlers in the regular leagues held at KP McMinnville Lanes. Parrish estimates he has rolled 11 or 12 perfect games.

Jeffery Simmons photos

## Bowling leagues packing the lanes

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

One league never has to worry about rain delays. The only concern is staying away from 7-10 splits.

Leagues at KP's McMinnville Lanes have been hopping this summer, with eight teams competing in the Wednesday Summer Trios and 12 more taking the lanes Thursdays in a summer league. Competitors come from far and wide to compete against some of the best bowlers around, many groomed over the years at the local alley.

"I love the league here," said Dustin Smith, one of the league's top bowlers who makes the trip each Wednesday from Cookeville. "It's really well run and the prizes are more than worth the trip."

Betty Perry, who runs the lanes with her husband Kent, loves seeing people come through the summer, though the winter is when the crowds really pile up.

"We run the mixed leagues throughout the summer, then we'll start signups for our fall leagues in August," said Perry. "In the winter time, sometimes we'll see 20 families on our wait list. We offer great deals and a great atmosphere for the whole family to enjoy."

One personal touch the Perrys have added to the lanes is how they honor perfect games in league play. When a bowler rolls a 300, they get a decorated ceiling tile hung over the lane where they achieved perfection.

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James Elam is one of the top bowlers for the Brew Crew. After six weeks, all teams are chasing the Pocket Pounders, who sit atop the standings.



Tina Craig, left, gets a high-five from teammate Liberty Dickman after picking up a spare Wednesday night.



Christy Perry, 25, is one of the youngest bowlers in the eight-team Wednesday league.



Elvis Wood got a special delivery of fries from Bucklesley Haney, the grandson of KP Lanes owners Kent and Betty Perry.

**MOVIES IN THE PARK**

**PADDINGTON**

Admission **FREE** June 30 at Dusk  
Cat Walker Field

\* If weather is too cold or wet, movie will be shown inside the Civic Center  
500 Garfield Street | McMinnville Civic Center | 931-473-1212

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