

THE ART OF RACING



Big Three are hard to beat

Last Sunday's Foxwoods Resort Casino 301 race in New Hampshire had a little of everything, but in the end, the "Big Three" prevailed.

Starting from the pole, Kurt Busch was strong, leading the first 37 laps and a race high 94. Busch lost valuable time on the last pit stop as he and Ryan Blaney played a "you go, no, I'll go" game while getting in and out of their pit stall.

"Pit road, once in 1,000 years that's gonna happen," Busch said. "We just shouldn't have pitted on that lap. Blaney is a good kid. He wanted to let me go, but then I would have blocked him in. I was like, 'No kid, go.' That just turned into a total disaster."

Besides Kurt Busch, the teams of Chase Elliott and Aric Almirola gave the fans something to cheer about. Elliott had one of his best races of the year, winning stage 2 and finishing 2nd in the first stage. Almirola took charge with 67 laps left and seemed on pace for his first victory with Stewart-Haas Racing. But to beat the "Big Three" you have to be on your game the entire race.

These three teams had strong pit stops after the last caution and restarted the final 39 laps 1-2-3. Busch and Harvick gave the few remaining fans their money's worth as they rubbed sheet metal during the last few laps with Harvick bumping Busch out of the racing groove, passing him for the victory.

Many fans can remember the Michigan July race where Busch moved Kyle Larson out of the way in order to get the win. "I didn't want to wreck him," Harvick said after charging forward after the race's final caution for Clint Bowyer hitting the wall. "But I didn't want to waste a bunch of time behind him."

Kyle Busch took the move in stride. "We weren't the best car on the long run," Busch said. "It was going to be hard to hold him off, I was just backing up. I'm not sure he had to do it, but he did it, that's fine. How you race is how you get raced."

Harvick's win was his 6th of the year, breaking the tie with Kyle Busch.

Only 6 races are left before the playoffs begin.

Alex Bowman is in the final spot, leading Ricky Stenhouse by 28 points. Paul Menard is another point behind Stenhouse. If a driver (other than the 7 winners this year) wins a race before the playoffs, Chase Elliott would be on the bubble. Elliott's 5th place finish puts him a whopping 67 points ahead of Bowman. Drivers like Ryan Newman, Daniel Suarez just about need a victory in order to make the playoffs.

Sunday's race is in Pocono where Truex, Busch and Harvick finished 1st, 3rd and 4th last June.

Night of Champions

Dr Pepper double-dips, claims tournament title

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

Dr Pepper knew the task at hand when Tuesday's tournament finals began at Morrison Ball Park. It would take a double dip to unseat AutoWorld for the youth tournament title.

Led by Christopher Robledo, that's just what Dr Pepper did. The team quenched its thirst for trophies with back-to-back wins over AutoWorld, including a 10-7 victory in the deciding game.

Powerhouses all season, it wasn't a shock when Dr Pepper and AutoWorld met in the finals. After escaping with a close win in the first matchup, Dr Pepper laced up the cleats again in hopes of pulling off the two-game sweep for the title.

AutoWorld jumped out to a 5-0 lead early, getting big hits from Braxton Madewell, Lakelynn Basham and Kasen

Mullican to surge ahead.

Dr Pepper responded with four runs in the second, led by Robledo's two-run single. The speed demon came back with another big knock in the third, scoring two to knot the score at 6-6.

Robledo came around on a single to give Dr Pepper its first lead, 7-6.

Kennerly was vital in keeping her team in the lead in the fourth. Facing a bases-loaded situation, Kennerly snagged a hot shot up the middle. Kennerly wasted little time racing home, beating Lonnie Merriman by a step to squash the scoring opportunity.

Robledo took care of the rest.

AutoWorld's defense was trying to take all precautions in the fourth when Robledo got to the plate with two runners on, but it didn't matter. Robledo blasted a shot into centerfield and set his sights for home.

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Jeffery Simmons photo
Christopher Robledo led Dr Pepper to back-to-back wins over AutoWorld Tuesday to claim the youth tournament title in Morrison.



Jeffery Simmons photo

Ethan Hall was a one-man wrecking ball for Morrison Marathon Tuesday, leading his team to a Morrison youth tournament title.

Morrison Marathon tops Security Federal

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Security Federal coach Matt Brown is certain cloning has been accomplished. How else was Ethan Hall everywhere for Morrison Marathon Tuesday night?

Hall did a little bit of everything to lead Morrison Marathon to a 13-7 victory in the championship game Tuesday night at Morrison Ball Park.

The talented pitcher was a vacuum through the middle, erasing would-be hits with his quick glove and strong arm. He wasn't bad at the plate either, finishing 4-for-4 with an inside-the-park home run.

Hall's big blast came in the second inning, when Morrison

Marathon started building its advantage. Hall rushed a shot into left field, avoiding would-be tags on his way to a three-run homer to make it 8-0.

Security Federal started clawing back in the bottom of the inning, getting a two-out, two-run single from Kaden Mullican to get the team on the board. Ty Myers helped cut the lead to 8-5 when he was able to beat out an infield single, allowing two teammates to score.

Both defenses took over after the early scoring. Jackson Pennington was in the middle of a double play for Morrison Marathon in the top of the fourth, while MacKenzie Felty just missed a triple play in the fifth.

Continued on 4B

Getting hyped

It's almost time for a football frenzy to begin in Warren County.

Prior of the start of the high school football season, a pep rally will be held Thursday, Aug. 16. Players, parents and fans are all invited to attend the event, which is set to begin at 6:30 p.m.

"I think it's important. People in McMinnville love football," said WCHS football coach Tom Moore. "It gets our team fired up. School is starting and they get to see the support. It's a win-win for the town and us too."

The Pioneers will kick off their season Aug. 17 at DeKalb County. Warren County is scheduled to play its first three games on the road, so the pep rally will be the lone time the local squad will be on its home

field in August. Warren County will play its first home game Friday, Sept. 7 vs. Shelbyville.

Also scheduled to appear at the event is the WCMS football team, which opens the season Tuesday, Aug. 14. The Pioneers, led by fifth-year coach Donnie Harris, will start their season against Mt. Juliet at home.

The Warren County High School band will be on hand to provide entertainment. Band leader Duane Farnham has had his team hard at work this summer, readying the band to deliver more halftime entertainment.

Cheerleading squads from WCMS and WCHS are scheduled to perform, while both coaches will speak at the event.

More updates on the pep rally can be found in the Southern Standard as they become available.



File photo

Tom Moore addresses the crowd at the last pep rally held in 2016. Fans are encouraged to attend this year's pep rally, which will be held Thursday, Aug. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

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