

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Middle School Indians close out season with 40-0 victory at Lakeview



The TCMS Indians closed out 2020 with an impressive 40-0 rout at Lakeview Academy last Thursday, Oct. 15. Keagan Ellis had himself a game with four touchdowns, while QB Elijah Newberry added a score and a 2-point conversion before leaving the game due to injury. Backup QB Kruz Kitchens entered and the offense didn't miss a beat with Kitchens tacking on a 2-point try. Braeden Teal rounded out the Towns County scoring with one touchdown. Photos submitted

NASCAR 2020

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Logano Wins, Makes Championship Round

KANSAS CITY, KS - Joey Logano and Kevin Harvick battled each other hard for the last 40 laps of Sunday's 267 lap Cup Series race at Kansas City, but at the checkered flag, it was Logano by less than a third of a second over Harvick. Logano's win automatically guarantees him a spot in Round Four for the series championship.

"You gotta want it to win races like this, and we wanted it bad," said Logano. "The last pit stop put us in the lead and I knew it was my race to win or lose. It was important to win this one, because it gives us a great advantage."

Even though Harvick led the most laps (85), he had to settle for runner-up, but still maintains the points lead by virtue of his nine wins.

"We lost the lead on the last restart," said Harvick. "I moved all over the race track, but Joey is a good blocker and he had a fast race car today."

Alex Bowman was third, followed by Brad Keselowski, Kyle Busch, Chase Elliott, Ryan Blaney, William Byron, Martin Truex Jr., and Christopher Bell.

Chase Elliott (Stage 1) and Denny Hamlin (Stage 2) divided the stage wins to add one playoff point each to their season-long totals, but each ran into their own pitfalls. Elliott started from the Pole and led 48 laps but battled radio communications issues through most of the event.

Hamlin pitted on Lap 180 after scraping the Turn 4 retaining wall, losing one lap and falling to 29th place before he rallied to finish 15th.

Kurt Busch had engine problems late in the race.

Busch entered the race eighth among the remaining championship-eligible drivers. He reported on Lap 193 that his car was losing power. Just a few laps later, the engine expired in a plume of smoke, and Busch drove to the garage after just 197 laps.

"Yeah, usually there's no warning," Busch said of the engine failure. "Everything is so buttoned up these days in the engine department. I haven't seen an engine problem in years. No fault of anybody at Hendrick engines. We're running hard here."

Busch was officially scored in 38th place for the race and fell to 73 points below the playoff cut line. He is in a must-win situation in order to advance to the Championship 4 at Phoenix Raceway.

The eight playoff drivers: 1. Harvick-4115, 2. Hamlin-4094, 3. Keselowski-4082, 4. Elliott-4074, 5. Logano-4064, 6. Bowman-4055, 7. Truex-4051, 8. Kurt Busch-4009.

BRISCOE GRABS WINNING TICKET AT KANSAS
Chase Briscoe won Saturday's Xfinity Series race to secure himself a spot in the final Playoff Round.

The driver of the No. 98 Stewart Haas Ford dominated the 200-lap race around the 1.5-mile oval. Briscoe led four times for a race-high 159 laps and swept both stages before taking his series-leading ninth victory of 2020. Briscoe is just the fifth driver to earn nine or more wins in a single Xfinity Series season and he has the most wins of any Ford driver in any Xfinity Series season - a mark previously held by Carl Edwards.

"I am super happy to be locked into the Championship 4 at Phoenix," Briscoe said. "It's going to be a lot less stressful the next two weeks and will allow the team to focus on preparing our cars instead of worrying about points. This is the car we had at Vegas and I want to take it to Phoenix now because of how good it was."

The remaining top-10 finishers: 2. Daniel Hemric, 3.



Joey Logano Wins, Makes Championship Round

Ryan Sieg, 4. Justin Haley, 5. Austin Hill, 6. Josh Williams, 7. Brett Moffitt, 8. Michael Annett, 9. Brandon Jones, 10. Justin Allgaier.

The eight playoff drivers: 1. Briscoe-3120, 2. Allgaier-3068, 3. B. Jones-3066, 4. Cindric-3059, 5. Haley-3057, 6. Chastain-3047, 7. Sieg-30142, 8. Gragson-3026.

MOFFITT TAKES KANSAS TRUCK RACE

Here are the results of Saturday's Truck Series race: 1. Brett Moffitt, 2. Sheldon Creed, 3. Austin Hill, 4. Grant Enfinger, 5. Chandler Smith, 6. Christian Eckes, 7. Timothy Peters, 8. Matt Crafton, 9. Derek Kraus, 10. Trevor Bayne.

The eight playoff drivers: 1. Creed-3083, 2. Hill-3076, 3. Smith-3064, 4. Moffitt-3060, 5. Enfinger-3057, 6. Crafton-3049, 7. Rhodes-3031, 8. Ankrum-3008.

Note: The 2020 NASCAR Playoffs will be reduced to four drivers in each series after the Nov. 1 race at Martinsville. The highest finishing driver at Homestead on Nov. 8 will win the series title.

PERFORMANCE IS WHAT IT TAKES

In an interview with Jim Utter of Motorsports.COM, Kevin Harvick said that if you plan on staying in NASCAR you must perform.

"Performance on the race track is really the bread and butter of what we do and no matter if you have a funny personality or you have a famous last name it doesn't matter," said Harvick.

"In the end, Danica Patrick is probably the best example that I can think of that, is just the fact of having the results on the race track."

Patrick, who moved to fulltime NASCAR racing in 2013 with IndyCar, brought a ton of headlines and her passionate fan base to the sport.

However, her performance on the track never lived up to the hype. When she left NASCAR following the 2018 Daytona 500, she had seven top-10 finishes in 191 starts and never finished better than 24th in the series standings.

Harvick, 44, said confidence with his No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing team and its confidence in him continues to propel their successful relationship.

"I think every week we've put a lot of pressure on ourselves to figure out why we didn't run like we did or why we ran like we did in order to try to continue that trend forward," Harvick continued. "I like what I do."

"I like my team more than anything and that's really the driving factor in what makes all of this go around is having a team that believes in you, and I have an organization that believes in me and we've been fortunate to have a lot of suc-

cess on the race track. "Look, in the end it's the same in every sport. You have to be successful at what you're doing."

Meanwhile, Kyle Larson has asked NASCAR to reinstate him. Larson appeared on Friday's CBS This Morning show to discuss his suspension.

NASCAR says Larson applied for reinstatement earlier this week. He has not been reinstated yet as NASCAR continues the internal discussions on reinstatement as well as discussions with Larson.

Racing Joke: A former race car driver had fallen on hard times. His farm was about to be foreclosed on and he decided to rob a bank. He was caught a few days later and sent to prison. He received a letter from his wife that said: "Here you are in jail smoking cigarettes from the State, eating their food and having a good time. I'm at home alone, so who's going to plow the fields so that I can plant the potatoes?"

He wrote her back saying, "Don't plow the field; that's where I buried the money."

She wrote a note back and said, "Someone must be reading your mail. The sheriff and his men came out yesterday and plowed every inch of the field. What should I do now?"

He wrote back and said, "Now plant the potatoes."

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series will be at the 1.5-mile Texas Motor Speedway just outside Ft. Worth, Tex.

Sat., Oct. 24; Xfinity Series race; Starting time: 4:30 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sun., Oct. 25; Truck Series race; Starting time: 12 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., Oct. 25; Cup Series race; Starting time: 3:30 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Racing Trivia Question: Which series does Christopher Bell drive in?

Last Week's Question: How many Cup teams does Roush Fenway Racing field this year? Answer: Two, the No. 6 driven by Ryan Newman and the No. 17 piloted by Chris Buescher.

Gerald Hodges is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. His books may be viewed and ordered online at Amazon.com. You may contact him by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.

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