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Mobil 1



Bowyer Finishes Sixth in 62nd Daytona 500

No. 14 Rush Truck Centers/Mobil 1 Ford Makes Late Charge to Front

Date: Feb. 16-17, 2020
Event: 62nd Daytona 500
Series: NASCAR Cup Series
Location: Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway (2.5-mile oval)
Format: 200 laps, broken into three stages (65 laps/65 laps/70 laps)
Note I: Rain 20 laps into the Daytona 500 postponed the remainder of the race to Monday.
Note II: Race extended nine laps past its scheduled 200-lap distance due to a green-white-checkered finish.
Start/Finish: 29th/6th (Running, completed 209 of 209 laps)
Point Standing: 7th with 31 points, 19 out of first

Race Winner: Denny Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota) in overtime

Stage 1 Winner: Chase Elliott of Hendrick Motorsports (Chevrolet)

Stage 2 Winner: Denny Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)

Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-65):

- Started 29th, finished 38th.
- The No. 14 Rush Truck Centers/Mobil 1 Ford Mustang avoided potential early race trouble by staying at the back of the field until the race was red flagged for rain on lap 20.
- The race resumed Monday under the late-afternoon Florida sun, and Bowyer continued his strategy of running at the back to avoid damage in case of an accident.
- Accidents on lap 59 eliminated a few cars, and Bowyer was able to dodge the calamity.
- In the closing laps of the stage, Bowyer reported his side mirror had broken off, so the team used the stage break to make repairs.

Stage 2 Recap (Laps 65-130):

- Started 38th, finished 27th.
- Bowyer started at the back of the field, continuing his conservative strategy and knowing “we can catch up to the front pack when we need to.”
- The Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR) Fords joined up midway through the stage and safely ran together.
- No. 14 Rush Truck Centers/Mobil 1 Ford Mustang stayed clear of a lap-90 accident that eliminated two more cars.

Final Stage Recap (Laps 131-209):

- Started 30th, finished sixth.
- Bowyer told his crew to expect to ride until about lap 150, when he would make his move toward the front of the field.
- Business began picking up at the front of the field as the leading cars ran three-by-three with 60 laps remaining in the race.
- The SHR teammates continued to run together in a safe area with 40 laps remaining as the laps wound down and tensions built.
- Bowyer and the SHR Fords pitted under green for two tires each and returned to the track with 30 laps remaining.
- The strategy moved Bowyer into the top-five.
- Bowyer stayed at the front for the remainder of the race, dodging several more massive wrecks.
- His chance for victory ended on a restart in overtime when contact from behind sent him to the grass, damaging the Ford.

Notes:

- Bowyer earned his 13th top-10 in 29 career, points-paying NASCAR Cup Series starts at Daytona.
- Denny Hamlin won his second-straight Daytona 500. It was his third victory in the Great American Race and his 38th career NASCAR Cup Series victory. Hamlin is now tied with Bobby Allison, Dale Jarrett and Jeff Gordon for third-most on the all-time Daytona 500 win list.
- Hamlin’s margin of victory over second-place Ryan Blaney was .014 of a second, the second-closest victory in Daytona 500 history.
- There were nine caution periods for a total of 39 laps.
- Only 17 of the 40 drivers in the Daytona 500 finished on the lead lap.
- Hamlin leaves Daytona as the championship leader with a seven-point advantage over second-place Blaney.

Next Up:

The next event on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule is the Las Vegas 400 on Sunday, Feb. 23, at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The race starts at 3:30 p.m. EST with live coverage provided by FOX and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.