



# Smithfield



## ARIC ALMIROLA

### Smithfield Racing Team Report

#### Round 3 of 36 – Auto Club 400 – Fontana

**Car No.:** 10 – Smithfield Ford Mustang

**At-Track PR Contact:** Dakota Hunter, True Speed Communication (704-875-3388 ext. 813, Dakota.Hunter@TrueSpeedCommunication.com)

**Primary Team Members:**

Driver: Aric Almirola  
Hometown: Tampa, Florida  
Car Chief: Jerry Cook  
Hometown: Toledo, Ohio  
Engine Tuner: Matt Moeller  
Hometown: Monroe, New York

Crew Chief: Mike Bugarewicz  
Hometown: Lehighon, Pennsylvania  
Engine Builder: Roush Yates Racing  
Headquarters: Mooresville, North Carolina  
Spotter: Joel Edmonds  
Hometown: Dobson, North Carolina

**Over-The-Wall Crew Members:**

**Gas Man: James “Ace” Keener**  
**Hometown: Fortuna, California**  
Tire Carrier: Tyler Bullard  
Hometown: King, North Carolina  
Jackman: Corbin Martin  
Hometown: Winston Salem, North Carolina

**Front Tire Changer: Clay Robinson**  
**Hometown: Simi Valley, Calif.**  
Rear Tire Changer: Chris McMullen  
Hometown: Canton, Michigan

**Road Crew Members:**

Truck Drivers: Dale Lackey and Christopher Hamilton  
Hometowns: Taylorsville, North Carolina and Muncie, Indiana, respectively  
Engineers: Lee Deese and James Kimbrough  
Hometowns: Rockingham, North Carolina, and Pensacola, Florida, respectively  
Mechanics: Tony Silvestri and Robbie Fairweather  
Hometowns: Sylvania, Ohio, and Westbrookville, New York respectively

Tire Specialist: Russell Simpson  
Hometown: Medford, New York  
Shock Specialist: Wayne Smith  
Hometown: Melbourne, Australia

**Auto Club Notes of Interest:**

- Almirola will make his 13<sup>th</sup> Cup Series start at Fontana this weekend to bring his total **Cup Series career starts to 319**.
  - The Smithfield driver is looking to capture his second straight Fontana top-10 finish.
- Almirola has made three NASCAR Xfinity Series starts and one Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series start at Fontana.
  - He has garnered two top-10 finishes in the Xfinity Series, and hasn't finished lower than 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Fontana is the first 2-mile track of the season for Almirola and the No. 10 team led by crew chief Mike Bugarewicz.
- **Career:** Almirola has career totals of two wins, two poles, 18 top-five finishes, 61 top-10s and 543 laps led in 318 starts.
- **Last weekend at Las Vegas Motor Speedway,** Almirola had the promise of a top-10 start fall by the wayside when his left-rear fender was damaged when another car made contact with his under caution. He was able to finish 21<sup>st</sup> and on the lead lap.
- **Last win:** Almirola's Oct. 14, 2018 win at Talladega was his most recent in the Cup Series.
- **'Beyond the 10'** – Almirola is back with season two of his YouTube documentary series, where fans can get VIP, behind-the-scenes access by subscribing to his YouTube channel. Episodes showcase never-before-seen footage of Almirola at the racetrack, on family trips, and “A Day in the Life” during the week, as well as all that goes into a NASCAR Cup Series driver's season. Click [here](#) to subscribe on YouTube and watch the latest episode.

- **Smithfield** rejoined SHR this season and is the primary partner for the majority of the season on the No. 10 Ford Mustang piloted by Almirola. Headquartered since 1936 in Smithfield, Va., Smithfield Foods Inc., is an American food company with agricultural roots and a global reach. Its 40,000 U.S. employees are dedicated to producing “Good food. Responsibly®” and have made the company one of the world’s leading vertically integrated protein companies. It has pioneered sustainability standards for more than two decades, including many industry firsts, such as its ambitious commitment to cut carbon impact by 25 percent by 2025. The company believes in the power of protein to end food insecurity and has donated hundreds of millions of food servings to neighbors in need. Smithfield boasts a portfolio of high-quality iconic brands, such as Smithfield®, Eckrich®, and Nathan’s Famous®, among many others. For more information, visit [www.smithfieldfoods.com](http://www.smithfieldfoods.com), and connect on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).
- **Crew chief** Mike Bugarewicz is in his fifth full-time season at SHR and his first with Almirola. To learn more click [here](#).

#### Crew Chief Mike Bugarewicz’s Top-3 Finishes at SHR (2016-Present):

- **Wins:**
  - Martinsville (Va.) Speedway (Bowyer, March 27, 2018)
  - Michigan Intl. Speedway (Bowyer, June 10, 2018)
  - Sonoma (Calif.) Speedway (Stewart, June 26, 2016)
- **Second place:**
  - Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth (March 31, 2019)
  - Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway (Oct. 14, 2018)
  - Dover (Del) International Speedway (May 6, 2018)
  - Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway (April 24, 2017)
  - Sonoma (Calif.) Raceway (June 25, 2017)
  - Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway (July 1, 2017)
- **Third place**
  - Richmond (Va.) Raceway (April 13, 2019)
  - Charlotte (N.C.) Motor Speedway Roval (Sept. 30, 2018)
  - Sonoma (Calif.) Raceway (June 24, 2018)
  - Atlanta Motor Speedway (Feb. 25, 2018)
  - Martinsville (Va.) Speedway (Oct. 29, 2017)
  - Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif. (March 26, 2017)

#### Aric Almirola’s History at Auto Club Speedway:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	2/20	Auto Club 400	3	9	Running, 200/200	7	N/A
2018	3/18	Auto Club 400	27	12	Running, 199/200	0	N/A
2017	3/26	◇Auto Club 400	31	19	Running, 202/202	0	N/A
2016	3/20	◇Auto Club 400	25	21	Running, 205/205	0	N/A
2015	3/22	×Auto Club 400	23	11	Running, 209/209	0	\$141,546
2014	3/23	×Auto Club 400	21	43	Accident, 68/206	0	\$98,351
2013	3/24	Auto Club 400	23	14	Running, 200/200	0	\$136,516
2012	3/25	*Auto Club 400	28	25	Running, 128/129	0	\$124,016
2010	2/21	Auto Club 400	24	43	Engine, 34/250	0	\$80,347
2009	2/22	Auto Club 500	31	35	Engine, 242/250	0	\$91,475
2008	8/31	Pepsi 500	10	30	Running, 249/250	0	\$124,533
2007	9/2	Cal 500	40	31	Running, 248/250	0	\$97,200

\* Race cut short due to weather.

× Race length extended due to green-white-checkered finish.

= Qualifying canceled due to weather, starting position set via practice speed

◇ Race length was extended due to overtime finish