

# 14



## Bowyer 17<sup>th</sup> in NASCAR'S Darlington Return

***No. 14 Rush Truck Centers/Mobil 1 Ford Mustang Runs Up Front Until End***

**Date:** May 17, 2020  
**Event:** The Real Heroes 400  
**Series:** NASCAR Cup Series  
**Location:** Darlington (S.C) Raceway (1.366-mile oval)  
**Format:** 293 laps, broken into three stages (90 laps/95 laps/108 laps)  
**Start/Finish:** 13<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> (Running, completed 293 of 293 laps)  
**Point Standing:** 10<sup>th</sup> with 135 points, 83 out of first

**Race Winner:** Kevin Harvick of Stewart-Haas Racing (Ford)  
**Stage 1 Winner:** William Byron of Hendrick Motorsports (Chevrolet)  
**Stage 2 Winner:** Brad Keselowski of Team Penske (Ford)

### Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-90):

- Clint Bowyer started 13<sup>th</sup> and finished seventh to earn four bonus points
- Despite no track time before the race, the No. 14 Rush Truck Centers/Mobil 1 Ford Mustang enjoyed a smooth start until a crash at the back of the field brought out the caution on lap one.
- Bowyer reported his car was tight and dropped to 17th before rallying back to 14th at the lap-30 competition caution.
- The Kansas native restarted the race in 14th on lap 40 and moved to 10th within two laps turning top-five lap speeds.
- Bowyer continued a steady climb to the front turning ultra-quick times before finishing the stage in seventh.
- Minor air pressure changes plus a quick stop by the No. 14 crew moved Bowyer from seventh to fifth during the stage break.

### Stage 2 Recap (Laps 91-185):

- Started fifth, finished fifth to earn six bonus points.
- The No.14 Rush Truck Centers/Mobil 1 Ford Mustang stayed in the top eight through cautions on lap 109 and 123.
- Bowyer raced in fifth at the lap-135 mark as he searched for the fastest way around the 1.33-mile, egg-shaped oval.
- The Ford driver battled for fourth midway through the stage with Denny Hamlin before another round of stops for a lap 154 caution.
- After all cars pitted under caution, Bowyer restarted the race in sixth for an eight-lap shootout to conclude the stage.
- Bowyer used a good restart to climb to fifth before the stage ended.

### Final Stage Recap (Laps 186-293):

- Started seventh, finished 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The No. 14 Rush Truck Centers/Mobil 1 Ford Mustang dropped to ninth on the restart but moved to sixth with 70 laps remaining.
- Bowyer raced in seventh with 60 to go when he reported his car was starting to get very loose.
- Bowyer faded to 10th with 50 laps to go telling the crew, "I'm in trouble. I don't know what happened here."
- A caution allowed Bowyer to visit pit road to tighten the car, but trouble during the stop dropped him to 15th with 34 laps to go.
- Bowyer suffered debris on the grill in the final laps and dropped to 17th by the time the checkered flag flew.

### Notes:

- Bowyer's 17th-place finish plus 10 bonus points earned in the first two stages moved him from 13th to 10th in the standings.
- Harvick's victory marked the 73<sup>rd</sup> overall win for SHR. It was the organization's 56<sup>th</sup> points-paying NASCAR Cup Series win, its first of the season and its second at Darlington.
- This was SHR's 20<sup>th</sup> NASCAR Cup Series victory with Ford. The team won its first race with Ford when former driver Kurt Busch captured the 2017 Daytona 500.
- Harvick is responsible for SHR's previous win at Darlington (2014 Southern 500).
- This was Ford's milestone 30<sup>th</sup> NASCAR Cup Series victory at Darlington. NASCAR Hall of Famer Curtis Turner won Ford's first race at Darlington in 1966.

### Clint Bowyer, driver of the No. 14 Rush Truck Centers/Mobil 1 Ford Mustang for Stewart-Haas Racing:

"That stunk. I don't know how that got away from us. Really disappointed with what happened. I'll be mad about this for a while, but we'll get over it and be ready for Wednesday night. Our Rush Truck Centers/Mobil 1 Ford was fast and it was cool to be back racing today, just wish we had a better finish. Glad Kevin (Harvick) got SHR and Ford to victory lane."

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**Next Up:**

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to Darlington on Wednesday, May 20 for a 500-kilometer race. It starts at 7:30 p.m. EDT with live coverage provided by FS1 and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

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