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## 29<sup>th</sup>-Place Finish at Martinsville for Custer

### Rookie Ford Driver Completes First Martinsville Cup Race

**Date:** June 10, 2020  
**Event:** Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 (Round 11 of 36)  
**Series:** NASCAR Cup Series  
**Location:** Martinsville (Va.) Speedway (.526-mile oval)  
**Format:** 500 laps, broken into three stages (130 laps/130 laps/240 laps)  
**Start/Finish:** 27<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> (Running, completed 494 of 500 laps)  
**Point Standing:** 26<sup>th</sup> with 166 points, 286 out of first

**Race Winner:** Martin Truex Jr. of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)  
**Stage 1 Winner:** Joey Logano of Team Penske (Ford)  
**Stage 2 Winner:** Jimmie Johnson of Hendrick Motorsports (Chevrolet)

#### Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-130):

- Cole Custer started 31<sup>st</sup> and finished 29<sup>th</sup>.
- On lap 40, Custer told the crew his HaasTooling.com/Jacob Construction Mustang was tight while running 24<sup>th</sup>.
- At the lap-60 competition caution, Custer pitted from 33<sup>rd</sup> with an extremely tight-handling Mustang. He restarted 30<sup>th</sup>.
- On the lap-114 caution, the Ford driver was 30<sup>th</sup> and reported his tight condition had improved a little bit.

#### Stage 2 Recap (Laps 131-260):

- Custer started 28<sup>th</sup>, finished 28<sup>th</sup>.
- On lap 209, Custer reported he got into the wall a little bit, but was able to continue with the race pace.
- The entire stage ran under green and Custer continued to battle with a tight-handling Mustang.
- During the stage break Custer pitted for fuel, four tires and adjustments.

#### Final Stage Recap (Laps 261-500):

- Custer started 28<sup>th</sup>, finished 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Custer reported his Mustang was still “way too tight” in the early going of the stage.
- The 22-year-old visited pit road during a caution on lap 325 for fuel, four tires and an air pressure adjustment.
- The California native was 29<sup>th</sup> when the next caution was displayed on lap 388. Custer stayed out and waved around to get one lap back. Restarted 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Made scheduled green-flag pit stop from 27<sup>th</sup> on lap 479 for fuel, four tires and adjustments.
- The remainder of the stage ran under green and Custer finished 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Notes:

- Custer made his 14<sup>th</sup> career NASCAR Cup Series start and his first at Martinsville.
- Martin Truex Jr. won the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 to score his 27<sup>th</sup> career NASCAR Cup Series victory, his first of the season and his second at Martinsville. His margin of victory over second-place Ryan Blaney was 4.705 seconds.
- There were seven caution periods for a total of 52 laps.
- Only 14 of the 39 drivers in the race finished on the lead lap.
- Kevin Harvick remains the championship leader after Martinsville with a 28-point advantage over second-place Joey Logano.

#### Cole Custer, driver of the No. 41 HaasTooling.com/Jacob Construction Mustang for Stewart-Haas Racing:

“That’s about the most frustrating race I’ve been a part of. It’s tough not having any practice and being a rookie, especially at a place like Martinsville that I haven’t raced at in a few years. We’ll be better next week.”

#### Next Up:

The next event on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule is the Homestead 400 on Sunday, June 14 at Homestead-Miami Speedway. The race starts at 3:30 p.m. EDT with live coverage provided by FOX and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

