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Kyle Busch, No. 18 Skittles Toyota Camry ***Race Recap for Food City presents the Supermarket Heroes 500***

Date: May 31, 2020
Event: Food City presents the Supermarket Heroes 500 (Round 9 of 36)
Series: NASCAR Cup Series
Location: Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway (.533-mile oval)
Format: 500 laps, broken into three stages (125 laps/125 laps/250 laps)
Start/Finish: 7th/ 4th (Running, completed 500 of 500 laps)
Point Standing: 9th (256 points, 114 behind leader Kevin Harvick)

Race Winner: Brad Keselowski of Team Penske (Ford)
Stage 1 Winner: Chase Elliott of Hendrick Motorsports (Chevrolet)
Stage 2 Winner: Chase Elliott of Hendrick Motorsports (Chevrolet)

Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-125):

- Kyle Busch started seventh and finished 17th.
- Busch moved up to the top-five by lap 42, as he reported to crew chief Adam Stevens that his racecar lacked grip.
- During the second of two competition yellow flags, the Skittles driver was called to pit road on lap 64 for four tires and adjustments.
- Busch came out of pit road fifth, but was informed by NASCAR that he was too fast exiting pit road, a penalty that sent him to the rear of the field, as he restarted 34th on lap 68.
- The Las Vegas native wasted no time moving back up through the field, as he took his Skittles Camry back up into the top-20 by lap 111.

Stage 2 Recap (Laps 126-250):

- Busch started 16th and finished fifth, earning six bonus points.
- The defending Cup Series champion brought his car to pit road on lap 130, for tires and adjustments, as Busch started stage 2 in 16th.
- Busch continued to move back up through the field during the early part of stage 2, moving up to 13th by lap 145 and 11th by the lap 199 caution.
- The Las Vegas native slowly moved up through the field, as several cautions helped Busch pick up spots on restarts, and he made his way up to fifth by the end of stage 2.

Final Stage Recap (Laps 251-500):

- Busch started second and finished fourth.
- Busch stayed out between stages, and restarted in the second spot behind Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Denny Hamlin.
- The Skittles Camry took the lead for the first time on lap 302, moving by Hamlin and extending his lead.
- The caution waved on lap 328 and Busch came to pit road two laps later for four tires, fuel and adjustments, as the No. 18 Skittles Camry came off pit road with the lead.
- Busch lost the lead to Hamlin on lap 363 shortly after the restart, and settled into second-place until he was able to get back around Hamlin on lap 422.
- The caution waved on lap 435 and Busch came to pit road for tires and adjustments, coming out of pit road in third-place.
- A flurry of cautions at the end of the race had Busch having to avoid contact with the leaders on two different occasions. However, Busch could not get back up to the front and brought home a fourth-place finish.

Notes:

- Busch led three times for a total of 100 laps.
- Busch's fourth-place finish at Bristol was his fifth top-five result of 2020.
- This is Busch's 13 top-five and 18 top-10 finish at Bristol in 30 career starts.

Kyle Busch, driver of the No. 18 Skittles Toyota Camry for Joe Gibbs Racing:

“We had a good Skittles Camry today. We lost the lead there towards the end but just didn’t have the luck to be where we needed to be at the right time. The leaders got together in front of me and I was able to avoid them, but lost my momentum and didn’t get another shot at a restart to see what we could do. We led some laps and were very competitive today, so we’ll take that and head to Atlanta and try to get a win there.”

Next Up: The next event on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule is the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 on Sunday, June 7 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. The race starts at 3 p.m. EDT with live coverage provided by FOX and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

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