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Kyle Busch, No. 18 M&M'S Fudge Brownie Toyota Camry ***Race Recap for the Homestead 400***

Date: June 14, 2020
Event: Homestead 400 (Round 12 of 36)
Series: NASCAR Cup Series
Location: Homestead-Miami Speedway (1.5-mile oval)
Format: 267 laps, broken into three stages (80 laps/80 laps/107 laps)
Start/Finish: 4th /6th (Running, completed 267 of 267 laps)
Point Standing: 9th (359 points, 104 behind leader)

Race Winner: Denny Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)
Stage 1 Winner: Denny Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)
Stage 2 Winner: Denny Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)

Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-80):

- Kyle Busch started fourth and finished 11th.
- The M&M'S Fudge Brownie driver started inside the top-five, and dropped to eighth by lap five when the caution waved for lightning in the area.
- Following multiple lightning delays, the race got back going a little after 7 p.m., with Busch falling to 11th when the caution waved on lap 21.
- Crew chief Adam Stevens called Busch to pit road on lap 22 to take on four tires, fuel, and adjustments.
- On lap 33, more bad news, as yet another lightning delay held the race up another 45 minutes.
- When the red flag was lifted, Busch came to pit road again, taking on four tires, fuel and adjustments in order to get the M&M'S Fudge Brownie Toyota to stop dragging the splitter on the restart.
- Busch settled into 10th for most of the rest of the stage, telling Stevens he was tight on entry and loose on exit, as he ended Stage 1 in 11th.

Stage 2 Recap (Laps 81-160):

- Busch started 10th and finished ninth, earning two bonus points.
- The M&M'S Fudge Brownie driver came down pit road following Stage 1 on lap 83, taking on four tires fuel and adjustments, as he gained one spot on pit road to restart Stage 2 in 10th.
- Busch moved up to sixth by 112, as Busch told Stevens his car's balance was good, but it lacked the speed he was looking for as he fell to ninth at the end of the stage.

Final Stage Recap (Laps 161-267):

- Busch started seventh and finished sixth.
- Busch came to pit road following Stage 2 on lap 163, taking on tires, fuel and adjustments, as the M&M'S Fudge Brownie over-the-wall crew gained him two spots coming off pit road to start the final stage in seventh.
- The defending Cup Series Champion came to pit road for the final time on lap 220, taking on four tires, fuel and adjustments.
- The Las Vegas native moved up a few spots over the course of the last 47-lap run of the race and brought home his M&M'S Fudge Brownie Camry in sixth-place.

Notes:

- Busch now seven top-10 finishes in the 2020 NASCAR season.
- This marks his ninth top-10 in 16 career starts at Homestead.

Kyle Busch, driver of the No. 18 M&M'S Fudge Brownie Toyota Camry for Joe Gibbs Racing:

“We were hoping to be a bit better with our M&M'S Fudge Brownie Camry. Just couldn't take off on restarts, and as the run went on and the tires wore down, we could gain some of those spots back. The balance was good on the car most of the night, we just didn't have the speed we were looking for. We'll take our sixth-place and move on to Talladega.”

Next Up:

The next event on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule is the GEICO 500 on Sunday, June 21 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway. The race starts at 3 p.m. EDT with live coverage provided by FOX and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

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