



# Smithfield



## Almirola Finishes 17<sup>th</sup> at Atlanta

*Smithfield Ford Driver Endures Loose Wheel*

**Date:** June 7, 2020  
**Event:** Folds of Honor 500 (Round 10 of 36)  
**Series:** NASCAR Cup Series  
**Location:** Atlanta Motor Speedway (1.54-mile oval)  
**Format:** 325 laps, broken into three stages (105 laps/105 laps/115 laps)  
**Start/Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> (Running, completed 324 of 325 laps)  
**Point Standing:** 11<sup>th</sup> (260 points, 161 out of first)

**Race Winner:** Kevin Harvick of Stewart-Haas Racing (Ford)

**Stage 1 Winner:** Martin Truex Jr. of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)

**Stage 2 Winner:** Martin Truex Jr. of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)

### Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-105):

- Aric Almirola started second and finished 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Almirola raced inside the top-five before the competition caution on lap 25.
- He pitted for four tires, fuel and air pressure adjustments to correct tight-handling conditions.
- Almirola made an unscheduled pit stop on lap 75 due to a loose wheel.
- The Smithfield driver was put back on the lead lap when he opted not to pit and take the wave around under caution on lap 95.
- At the end of the stage, he pitted for four tires, fuel and major adjustments.

### Stage 2 Recap (Laps 106-210):

- Almirola started 25<sup>th</sup> and finished 16<sup>th</sup>.
- On lap 126, Almirola began to race in the higher groove and quickly raced to 18<sup>th</sup> place.
- Under caution on lap 202, Almirola pitted for four tires, fuel, and air pressure and chassis adjustments.
- Almirola restarted 17<sup>th</sup> with five laps to go in the stage and gained one position.
- He pitted when the stage concluded for four tires and fuel.

### Final Stage Recap (Laps 211-325):

- Almirola started 16<sup>th</sup> and finished 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Almirola brought the Smithfield Ford to the pits on lap 264 for four tires, fuel and air pressure adjustments to correct loose-handling conditions.
- The No. 10 Ford driver was scored a lap down in 19<sup>th</sup> place on lap 288.
- Almirola advanced two more positions before the checkered flag waved and successfully remained inside the top-12 in points

### Notes:

- This was Almirola's third straight top-20 at Atlanta. He finished eighth in the series' previous visit to the track in February 2019.
- Harvick's margin of victory over second-place Kyle Busch was 3.527 seconds.
- There were five caution periods for a total of 24 laps.
- Only 10 of the 40 drivers in the race finished on the lead lap.
- Harvick remains the championship leader after Atlanta with a 48-point advantage over second-place Joey Logano.

### Aric Almirola, driver of the No. 10 Smithfield Ford Mustang for Stewart-Haas Racing:

“We’ve got a lot of things to work on. Our Smithfield Ford Mustang was good for 24 laps before we lost position on pit road and a loose wheel put us a lap down. We couldn’t recover from that in dirty air. Atlanta is such a tough track to rebound at. If there’s one positive takeaway it’s that we remained top-12 in the point standings, so we’ll have a shot at a good starting position in Martinsville.”

**Next Up:**

The next event on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule is the Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 on Wednesday, June 10 at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway. The race starts at 7 p.m. EDT with live coverage provided by FS1 and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

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