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Smithfield



ARIC ALMIROLA

Heading to Homestead with a New Goal

KANNAPOLIS, North Carolina (June 11, 2020) – Aric Almirola and the No. 10 Smithfield Ford team for Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR) are used to racing at Homestead-Miami Speedway as the 36th and final points-paying race of the season, when a champion is crowned. This weekend, drivers will race there with the goal of simply winning the race to lock themselves into the NASCAR Cup Series playoffs, which this year will conclude at Phoenix Raceway.



“It’s definitely a different feel this time around,” Almirola said of Sunday’s Homestead 400. “We’re used to this being the last race of the year after a long, grueling season. If you’re not in the final four, you’re racing with the mindset to finish well or win, but not if it puts your teammate or a potential champion in jeopardy. I think you’re going to see guys who don’t normally race well there race better – especially teams like ours as we look to lock ourselves into the playoffs. It will be exciting for fans to see who steps up his game at Homestead.”

Almirola’s history at Homestead includes one top-five finish and three top-10s in nine starts on the 1.5-mile oval south of Miami.

In addition to his Cup Series races, Almirola has two Homestead starts in the NASCAR Xfinity Series, both resulting in top-10 finishes. He also has three starts in the NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series with one top-five finish and 15 laps led.

Wednesday night at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway, Almirola started second and led the first 19 laps of the race. But tire and battery issues relegated him to a 33rd-place finish, multiple laps down.

Almirola has career totals of two wins, two poles, 18 top-five finishes, 64 top-10s and 562 laps led in 327 starts. His last win came in October 2018 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway. Almirola has collected three top-10 finishes in the first 11 races this season.

His No. 10 Ford will again sport the iconic black, white and gold of partner Smithfield Foods Inc., at Homestead. Smithfield, which is sponsoring Almirola’s car at the majority of races this season, is an American food company with agricultural roots and a global reach. Its 40,000 U.S. employees are dedicated to producing “Good Food. Responsibly®,” and have made it one of the world’s leading vertically integrated protein companies.

Almirola continues to provide fans with content from his documentary series Beyond the 10, where they can get VIP, behind-the-scenes access by subscribing to his YouTube channel. Episodes showcase never-before-seen footage of Almirola at the racetrack, on family trips, and “A Day in the Life” during the week, as well as all that goes into a NASCAR Cup Series driver’s season. Click [here](#) to subscribe on YouTube and watch the latest episode.

Almirola arrives at Homestead 14th in the season standings with 260 points – 161 behind leader and SHR teammate Kevin Harvick.

Throughout the past four races, Almirola and the No. 10 Smithfield team have endured loose wheels, contact with debris on track, and electrical issues that have cost positions in the standings. Almirola knows what the team is capable of and looks forward to a shift in momentum.

“Hopefully, we’re done with all of the small things that have added up to large issues,” Almirola said. “We’ve yet to run a clean race and we have had the speed to run up front every weekend. I know we’ve got it in us and I have full faith in ‘Buga’ (crew chief Mike Bugarewicz) and our guys. There’s a lot of racing left this year.”

ARIC ALMIROLA, Driver of the No. 10 Smithfield Ford Mustang for Stewart-Haas Racing:

What kind of physical toll does racing on Wednesday in extremely hot conditions take on you, knowing you’ll be back in the car just four days later?

“It shows you how important it is to stay hydrated and rest in between. Martinsville was tough with our alternator going bad. You have to let your body recover and begin to hydrate immediately after to get your body ready for Sunday.”

What does racing at Homestead over the years mean to you?

“Homestead for me has been a great racetrack. It’s really how I got my start to go Cup racing. I filled in for Richard Petty Motorsports back in 2010 and I finished fourth after running up front. That opened some people’s eyes. Sure enough, I got my first start in the Cup Series because of it.”

ARIC ALMIROLA’S HOMESTEAD PERFORMANCE PROFILE

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	11/17	Ford EcoBoost 400	14	22	RUNNING, 267/267	0	N/A
2018	11/18	Ford EcoBoost 400	10	9	Running, 267/267	0	N/A
2017	11/19	Ford EcoBoost 400	20	18	Running, 265/267	0	N/A
2016	11/20	◊Ford EcoBoost 400	25	40	Running, 213/268	0	N/A
2015	11/22	Ford EcoBoost 400	14	41	Running, 209/267	0	\$91,666
2014	11/16	Ford EcoBoost 400	18	19	Running, 267/267	0	\$116,276
2013	11/17	Ford EcoBoost 400	19	16	Running, 267/267	0	\$116,421
2012	11/18	Ford 400	5	7	Running, 267/267	0	\$132,446
2010	11/21	Ford 400	24	4	Running, 267/267	0	\$172,840
2008	11/16	Ford 400	40	35	Running, 265/267	0	\$97,783

* Race cut short due to weather.

× Race length extended due to green-white-checkered finish.

= Qualifying canceled due to weather, starting position set via practice speed.

◊ Race length was extended due to overtime finish

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