

Smithfield
**VOTE FOR
BACON**



ARIC ALMIROLA

Vote for Bacon!

KANNAPOLIS, North Carolina (July 13, 2020) – Aric Almirola, driver of the No. 10 Smithfield Ford Mustang, looks to race for \$1 million Wednesday night at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway, where the venue will host the NASCAR All-Star Race for the first time.

Sunday at Kentucky Motor Speedway in Sparta, Almirola started second and led a race-high 128 laps, and showed a promising run before he emerged in 20th after the first sequence of green-flag pit stops. The No. 10 Smithfield Ford driver managed to race his way back to eighth place to earn his sixth-straight top-10.

He finished fifth June 14 at Homestead-Miami Speedway, third June 22 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway, third and fifth in the June 27 and 28 doubleheader at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway, and third July 5 in the Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the best finishing streak of his career. Almirola's next-best streak was a run of six consecutive top-10s in 2019 that began with the second race at Atlanta Motor Speedway and lasted through the series' seventh race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth.

Almirola has led 218 laps this season, surpassing his previous number of laps led in a single season in 2018, when he led 181.

“It’s been awesome to go to every track and be able to compete for a win,” Almirola said. “This team is busting it in the shop every week and it shows. We’ve been so consistent lately. When we came to Bristol earlier this year, we had a great car and got caught up in a wreck. That’s Bristol. I know this Smithfield team will unload with a car capable of getting us into the All-Star Race.”

Almirola is not locked into the All-Star Race and will have to race his way in through the All-Star Open that precedes it, unless he wins the fan vote. To aid the team’s endeavor to make the All-Star Race, Almirola’s longtime sponsor Smithfield Foods has given fans an opportunity to “vote for bacon” in order to secure their driver’s eligibility.

“A vote for me is a vote for bacon,” Almirola said. “I’m not one to promote myself and ask for popularity or votes, so fans can vote for bacon for a chance to earn free bacon for a year and we might make it into the All-Star Race. Smithfield is always giving back to our fan base, as we saw in Talladega when we gave away bacon for life.”

To “vote for bacon” and help secure Almirola’s eligibility in the All-Star Race, visit www.voteforbacon.com for a chance to win Smithfield bacon for a year, a private meet-and-greet with Almirola, and free SHR merchandise.

The No. 10 Ford driver sits eighth in the playoff standings for his career-best points position after 17 races. In his first two seasons at SHR in 2018 and 2019, Almirola was 11th in the standings after 17 races.

Almirola has career totals of two wins, two poles, 23 top-five finishes, 70 top-10s and 755 laps led in 333 starts. In addition to his recent string of top-fives, he has nine top-10s.

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.

“Bristol is one of my favorite tracks,” Almirola said. “It would be awesome to be voted in by the fans, but I’m excited to try and race my way in for the million with all of the momentum that we have.”

ARIC ALMIROLA, Driver of the No. 10 Smithfield Ford Mustang Ford Mustang for Stewart-Haas Racing:**What do you think about the All-Star Race being at Bristol?**

“I’m always open to change. I think this is going to be a lot of fun. I mean, you have guys battling for \$1 million at a track that is known for conflict and the bump-and-run. If it comes down to winning, you know what’s going to happen.”

How does Bristol’s track surface change during the race?

“Bristol is one of those places where the track changes throughout the run, especially in the last couple of years, when they put the (traction) compound down on the bottom groove. That has tended to get rubbered up and get really slick as the run moves on and the cars migrate to the top of the racetrack. The top of the racetrack is not very good when it’s clean but, when it starts to rubber up, it actually gains momentum and gets faster, so the groove moves around a lot from run to run and throughout the run, and that makes it fun and it makes it exciting. As a driver, it gives you the option to search around and look for speed.”

ARIC ALMIROLA’S BRISTOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2020	5/31	Food City 500	2	29	Running, 470/500	0	N/A
2019	4/7	Food City 500	6	37	Accident, 3/500	0	N/A
	8/17	Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race	5	29	Accident/482/500	0	N/A
2018	4/16	Food City 500	19	6	Running, 500/500	0	N/A
	8/18	Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race	8	31	Running, 428/500	0	N/A
2017	4/24	†Food City 500	18	22	Running, 497/500	0	N/A
	8/19	Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race	28	37	Accident, 390/500	0	N/A
2016	4/17	Food City 500	22	34	Running, 479/500	0	N/A
	8/21	Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race	17	14	Running, 500/500	0	N/A
2015	4/19	×Food City 500	30	13	Running, 511/511	0	\$134,176
	8/22	Irwin Tools Night Race	31	17	Running, 497/500	0	\$150,171
2014	3/16	×Food City 500	23	3	Running, 503/503	0	\$160,161
	8/23	Irwin Tools Night Race	42	41	Accident, 123/500	0	\$116,101
2013	3/17	Food City 500	20	37	Accident, 245/500	0	\$125,439
	8/24	Irwin Tools Night Race	10	15	Running, 499/500	0	\$146,041
2012	3/18	Food City 500	7	19	Running, 498/500	0	\$127,446
	8/25	=Irwin Tools Night Race	5	35	Accident, 235/500	0	\$127,116
2010	3/21	Food City 500	27	39	Brakes, 59/500	0	\$80,650
2009	3/22	×Food City 500	18	35	Running, 494/503	0	\$91,825
2008	3/16	×†Food City 500	16	8	Running, 506/506	0	\$126,483
	8/23	Sharpie 500	23	13	Running, 500/500	0	\$136,733
2007	8/25	Sharpie 500	35	36	Running, 485/500	0	\$91,890

* 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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