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Kyle Busch, No. 18 SNICKERS Toyota Camry ***Race Recap for the Go Bowling 235***

Date: Aug. 16, 2020
Event: Inaugural Go Bowling 235 (Round 23 of 36)
Series: NASCAR Cup Series
Location: Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway (14-turn, 3.61-mile road course)
Format: 65 laps, broken into three stages (15 laps/15 laps/35 laps)
Start/Finish: 4th/37th (Accident, completed 53 of 65 laps)
Point Standing: 10th (652 points, 287 behind leader)

Race Winner: Chase Elliott of Hendrick Motorsports (Chevrolet)
Stage 1 Winner: Chase Elliott of Hendrick Motorsports (Chevrolet)
Stage 2 Winner: Denny Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)

Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-15):

- Kyle Busch started fourth and finished 26th.
- The SNICKERS driver rolled off the grid fourth, and took the lead coming to the start/finish line on lap 2. However, Busch was hard on the brakes through the frontstretch chicane which caused his tires to flat spot.
- Two laps later, Busch decided to bring his SNICKERS Camry to pit road to change four tires, with crew chief Adam Stevens telling Busch that his decision to pit was a good one as the tire might not have lasted another lap. He returned to the race in 34th-place but still on the lead lap.
- The defending Cup Series champion moved his way back up to 26th by lap 9. But with fuel strategy, Busch again came to pit road on lap 12 to take on four tires and fuel three laps before the end of Stage 1.

Stage 2 Recap (Laps 16-30):

- Busch started 12th and finished 19th.
- The SNICKERS driver stayed out at the caution following Stage 1 and restarted 12th to start Stage 2.
- Busch steadily moved his way up through the field, as he found himself in ninth by lap 19 and up to sixth by lap 22. However, on lap 24 as he was entering back onto the track in oval turn 1, Busch spun without hitting anything, dropping him to 13th-place.
- Stevens called Busch to pit road on lap 27 to take on four tires and fuel, as Busch finished Stage 2 in the 19th position.

Final Stage Recap (Laps 31-65):

- Busch started 10th and finished 37th.
- The Las Vegas native started the final stage in the 10th position, and he quickly moved up to sixth by lap 35 right before the race was red flagged for lightning in the area.
- Once the race resumed after the lightning delay, Busch made quick work of several cars ahead of him, as he passed Jimmie Johnson and then his older brother Kurt Busch to move up into the runner-up spot behind race leader Chase Elliott starting on lap 42.
- But as Busch was set to make his final pit stop of the day on lap 47, the SNICKERS driver had a brake failure and took his car behind the pit wall so the No. 18 team could make repairs to what was diagnosed as a brake rotor failure and resulted in a disappointing 37th-place finish.

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

“We had a good SNICKERS Camry today. I was just biding my time and waiting for the last pit stop and maybe a caution so we could have a shot at racing Chase (Elliott). Just went down into the chicane and had no brake at all. We had ourselves in good position there and nothing to show for it.”

Next Up:

The next event on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule is a doubleheader Aug. 22-23 at Dover (Del.) International Speedway. Each race is 311 laps around the 1-mile, concrete oval. Start time for each race is 4 p.m. EDT and live coverage of both will be provided by NBCSN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

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