

# 10

## Smithfield

Hometown Proud Since 1936



## Almirola Finishes 16<sup>th</sup> at Michigan

*Smithfield Ford Driver Rallies from Handling Issues and Late-Race Damage*

**Date:** Aug. 8, 2020  
**Event:** FireKeepers Casino 400 (Round 21 of 36)  
**Series:** NASCAR Cup Series  
**Location:** Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn (2-mile oval)  
**Format:** 156 laps, broken into three stages (40 laps/45 laps/71 laps)  
**Start/Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> (Running, completed 161 of 161 laps)  
**Point Standing:** 8<sup>th</sup> (635 points, 228 out of first)  
**Note:** Race extended five laps past its scheduled 156-lap distance due to a green-white-checked finish.

**Race Winner:** Kevin Harvick of Stewart-Haas Racing (Ford)  
**Stage 1 Winner:** Kevin Harvick of Stewart-Haas Racing (Ford)  
**Stage 2 Winner:** Kevin Harvick of Stewart-Haas Racing (Ford)

### Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-40):

- Aric Almirola started fourth and finished 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The No. 10 Smithfield Ford driver pitted under the competition caution on lap 17.
- He battled handling issues after restarting 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Almirola pitted at the end of the stage for four tires, fuel, and chassis and air pressure adjustments.

### Stage 2 Recap (Laps 41-85):

- Almirola started 15<sup>th</sup> and finished 20<sup>th</sup>.
- He continued to battle difficult handling conditions throughout Stage 2.
- The No. 10 team pitted at the conclusion of the stage for four tires, fuel, and air pressure and chassis adjustments.

### Final Stage Recap (Laps 86-157):

- Almirola started 20<sup>th</sup> and finished 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The No. 10 Smithfield Ford team pitted multiple times for adjustments to improve the balance of the No. 10 car.
- He opted not to pit on lap 131 to restart.
- Almirola endured damage and had to pit under caution on lap 144.
- On the final restart in overtime, Almirola raced from 17<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> and held the No. 10 Ford Mustang inside the top-20.

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

“That wasn’t the day we hoped for, but we learned a lot about the way we set up our cars as a team. Proud of Stewart-Haas Racing and congrats to Kevin (Harvick) for bringing home the win and the Heritage trophy for Ford. We’re going to take a big swing at it tomorrow and hope to build on that.”

### Notes:

- Almirola’s 16<sup>th</sup>-place finish brought an end to his top-10-streak, which began June 14 at Homestead-Miami Speedway and ended with a seventh-place finish Aug. 2 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon. It is the longest top-10 streak of his career. His previous 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.
- Kevin Harvick’s margin of victory over second-place Brad Keselowski was .284 of a second.
- There were nine caution periods for a total of 43 laps.
- Thirty-two of the 39 drivers in the race finished on the lead lap.
- Harvick remains the championship leader after the FireKeepers Casino 400 with a 94-point advantage over second-place Keselowski.

### Next Up:

The second event of the NASCAR Cup Series doubleheader at Michigan is the Consumers Energy 400 on Sunday. The race starts at 4:30 p.m. EDT with live coverage provided by NBCSN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

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