



**JIMMY  
JOHN'S**



# KEVIN HARVICK

## Here We Go

KANNAPOLIS, North Carolina (Sept. 29, 2020) – Every year, the fall NASCAR Cup Series playoff race at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway is circled on the calendar. Of the 10 playoff races, it is a wild card.

This year's Round of 12 cutoff race at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway was circled, as is next week's Round of 8 cutoff race on the "roval" at Charlotte (N.C.) Motor Speedway, and the Nov. 1 Championship Four cutoff race at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

But even though Talladega is not a cutoff race, cue the playoff music anyway because it is simply a wild card race that anyone can win.

The good news for Kevin Harvick, driver of the No. 4 Jimmy John's Ford Mustang for Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR), is that he has 3,104 points with a 61-marker lead over the Round of 8 cutoff position. The bad news is that if he gets involved in an early accident at Talladega, most of that big lead could disappear.

The truth is, Talladega and its sister track Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway are different animals when it comes to stock car racing because they are races that, literally, anyone can win. Drivers must draft together, side-by-side, at speeds approaching 200 mph, and a lot of the race is spent getting into the best position on the final lap to try and win the race.

Harvick has started 78 races in his career at Talladega and Daytona with three total victories in point-paying races. He will make his 40<sup>th</sup> Talladega start in the NASCAR Cup Series Sunday, where he has one win, two poles, seven top-five finishes, 16 top-10s and has led 262 laps there.

He scored his lone win at the 2.66-mile superspeedway in April 2010, when he started fourth, led two of 200 laps and beat runner-up Jamie McMurray by .011 of a second.

Harvick earned his first Talladega Cup Series pole in May 2005 with a speed of 189.804 mph. He won his second Cup Series pole there in April 2018, when he recorded a lap of 49.247 seconds at 194.448 mph. Harvick has three career Cup Series runner-up finishes at Talladega, most recently in October 2010, when he started 14th, led 12 laps and was beaten by now-SHR teammate Clint Bowyer.

And while his superspeedway win percentage isn't his best, Harvick did win the biggest race of them all when he led just four laps to take the 2007 Daytona 500 victory.

***KEVIN HARVICK, Driver of the No. 4 Jimmy John's Ford Mustang for Stewart-Haas Racing:***

### **Talladega vs. Daytona – what's the difference for the spotter?**

"Talladega is a lot bigger. It's a lot wider. The track itself is bigger. The shape of Talladega is different than Daytona because of the track being wider and the way the tri-oval is shaped. The start-finish line is almost all the way down into turn one, which seems to change some of the outcomes of the finishes, because you have to go all the way down the front straightaway before you get to the finish line. Talladega's tri-oval is a little bit different than Daytona's. That bottom groove has a little less banking than the rest of the racetrack, so it's almost like you're dipping down into a hole. Sometimes you see guys get loose down into the tri-oval and spin out, so it ends up being where some of the wrecks are caused. It's really hard to push through that tri-oval, especially as you are heading down into that bottom lane. It's tough to know exactly where you need to be at the end of the race but, for me, I've only won one of them there. In that particular race, we were tandem racing and I was second coming into the tri-oval and was able to get past Jamie McMurray. But I would still rather be leading and in control. If I've made it to the white flag, then I've made it a lot farther than I've made it lately, so it's a chess match all day. You have to have a little bit of luck on your side, but you can also put yourself in a good position by making the right moves, having a good day on pit road and not making any mistakes."

### **Thoughts on Talladega?**

"I have no idea. You just show up and see how it develops. All you can do is show up for a weekend at Talladega and see how it develops and go from there."

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## Kevin Harvick Talladega Performance Profile:

Year	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2020	×Geico 500	10	5	Running, 191/191	2	N/A
2019	Geico 500	19	38	Crash, 11/188	0	N/A
	1000Bulbs.com 500	15	17	Running, 188/188	0	N/A
2018	Geico 500	1	4	Running, 188/188	12	N/A
	×1000Bulbs.com 500	3	28	Running, 193/193	46	N/A
2017	Geico 500	6	23	Running, 191/191	15	N/A
	Alabama 500	22	20	Running, 176/188	0	N/A
2016	Geico 500	29	15	Running, 188/188	9	N/A
	×Hellmann's 500	22	7	Running, 192/192	0	N/A
2015	Geico 500	24	8	Running, 188/188	1	\$168,570
	×CampingWorld.com 500	7	15	Running, 196/196	4	\$138,305
2014	Aaron's 499	8	7	Running, 188/188	15	\$158,778
	×Geico 500	39	9	Running, 194/194	2	\$134,261
2013	†×Aaron's 499	24	40	Accident, 47/192	0	\$122,021
	†Camping World RV Sales 500	33	12	Running, 188/188	0	\$134,071
2012	×Aaron's 499	20	25	Accident, 184/194	1	\$136,016
	×Good Sam Roadside Assistance 500	21	11	Running, 189/189	12	\$132,621
2011	Aaron's 499	38	5	Running, 188/188	9	\$175,711
	Good Sam Club 500	13	32	Running, 179/188	13	\$121,786
2010	×Aaron's 499	4	1	Running, 200/200	2	\$344,501
	AMP Energy Juice 500	14	2	Running, 188/188	12	\$201,999
2009	Aaron's 499	19	38	Running, 127/188	0	\$118,353
	†×AMP Energy 500	21	21	Running, 191/191	28	\$122,678
2008	Aaron's 499	39	24	Running, 188/188	1	\$129,736
	×AMP Energy 500	39	20	Running, 179/190	22	\$129,486
2007	×Aaron's 499	41	6	Running, 192/192	0	\$164,536
	UAW-Ford 500	37	20	Running, 188/188	1	\$125,236
2006	Aaron's 499	42	23	Running, 187/188	0	\$121,811
	UAW-Ford 500	14	6	Running, 188/188	0	\$137,161
2005	×Aaron's 499	1	12	Running, 194/194	12	\$139,706
	×UAW-Ford 500	42	10	Running, 190/190	6	\$137,161
2004	Aaron's 499	14	3	Running, 188/188	14	\$185,808
	EA SPORTS 500	15	2	Running, 188/188	3	\$165,208
2003	Aaron's 499	2	2	Running, 188/188	12	\$179,233
	EA SPORTS 500	30	7	Running, 188/188	4	\$101,953
2002	Aaron's 499	14	28	Running, 181/188	0	\$98,498
	†EA SPORTS 500	19	27	Running, 186/188	3	\$91,288
2001	Talladega 500	9	12	Running, 188/188	0	\$96,197
	EA SPORTS 500	19	32	Running, 187/188	0	\$85,712

\* Race cut short due to weather. × Race length extended due to green-white-checked finish. † Qualifying canceled due to weather, starting position set via car owner points.