

# 10

## Smithfield

Hometown Proud Since 1936



## Almirola Finishes 17<sup>th</sup> at Dover

*Loose Wheel Derails Smithfield Ford Driver's Day; Still Eighth in NASCAR Cup Points*

**Date:** Aug. 22, 2020  
**Event:** Dover 311 (Round 24 of 36)  
**Series:** NASCAR Cup Series  
**Location:** Dover (Del.) International Speedway (1-mile, concrete oval)  
**Format:** 311 laps, broken into three stages (70 laps/115 laps/126 laps)  
**Start/Finish:** 17<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> (Running, completed 309 of 311 laps)  
**Point Standing:** 8<sup>th</sup> (703 points, 278 out of first)

**Race Winner:** Denny Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)  
**Stage 1 Winner:** Denny Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)  
**Stage 2 Winner:** Denny Hamlin of Joe Gibbs Racing (Toyota)

### Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-70):

- Aric Almirola started 17<sup>th</sup> and finished 10<sup>th</sup> to earn one bonus point.
- Almirola pitted under the competition caution for two tires and fuel to restart eighth.
- He held the Smithfield Ford inside the top-10 before the stage ended.
- Almirola pitted after Stage 1 for four tires, fuel and adjustments to correct loose-handling conditions.

### Stage 2 Recap (Laps 71-185):

- Almirola started ninth and finished 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Almirola was forced to pit under green on lap 164 due to a loose wheel.
- He was put two laps down and did not pit at the end of the stage to gain a lap back.

### Final Stage Recap (Laps 186-311):

- Almirola started 27<sup>th</sup> and finished 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Almirola pitted on lap 251 for four tires, fuel and adjustment from the 20<sup>th</sup> position and one lap down.
- The No. 10 Ford driver successfully held off the leaders until lap 305 and finished the race two laps down.

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

“We had good speed in our Smithfield Ford Mustang today. A loose wheel put us behind and, without any cautions in the last stage, we had no way to get back on the lead lap. I think we could have been contenders today, but we’ll get back to it tomorrow with a good car and hope for a clean day.”

### Notes:

- Denny Hamlin won the Dover 311 to score his 43<sup>rd</sup> career NASCAR Cup Series victory, his sixth of the season and his first at Dover. His margin of victory over second-place Martin Truex Jr., was 1.179 seconds.
- There were four caution periods for a total of 21 laps.
- Only 12 of the 40 drivers in the race finished on the lead lap.
- Kevin Harvick remains the championship leader after Dover with a 100-point advantage over second-place Hamlin.

### Next Up:

The second event of the NASCAR Cup Series doubleheader at Dover is a 311-mile race on Sunday. It starts at 4 p.m. EDT with live coverage provided by NBCSN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

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