

# 10

# HIGH POINT.COM



## Almirola Finishes 17<sup>th</sup> at Las Vegas

*HighPoint.com Ford Driver Now 11<sup>th</sup> in Playoff Point Standings*

**Date:** Sept. 27, 2020  
**Event:** South Point 400 (Round 30 of 36)  
**Series:** NASCAR Cup Series  
**Location:** Las Vegas Motor Speedway (1.5-mile oval)  
**Format:** 267 laps, broken into three stages (80 laps/80 laps/107 laps)  
**Start/Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> (Running, completed 268 of 268 laps)  
**Point Standing:** 11<sup>th</sup> with 3,025 points, 27 points below top-eight cutoff  
**Note:** Race extended one lap past its scheduled 267-lap distance due to a green-white-checkered finish.

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

### Stage 1 Recap (Laps 1-80):

- Aric Almirola started fourth and finished 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The No. 10 HighPoint.com Ford driver said his car was tight and needed more turn at the start of the race.
- He pitted for four tires, fuel, and air pressure and chassis adjustments at the lap-25 competition caution.
- Almirola came off pit road 19<sup>th</sup> and raced back to 13<sup>th</sup> before the stage ended.
- He pitted the No. 10 Ford at the end of the stage for four fresh tires, fuel and more adjustments.

### Stage 2 Recap (Laps 81-160):

- Almirola started 17<sup>th</sup> and finished 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Almirola pitted the No. 10 Ford Mustang under green on lap 119.
- He was scored just outside the top-10 once pit stops cycled through.
- Almirola pitted at the end of the stage for four fresh tires, fuel, and more air pressure and chassis adjustments.

### Final Stage Recap (Laps 161-267):

- Almirola started 15<sup>th</sup> and finished 17<sup>th</sup>.
- A caution was thrown for debris on lap 192. Almirola pitted for four fresh tires, fuel and reversed previous adjustments to help the balance of the No. 10 Ford.
- Almirola restarted 13<sup>th</sup> and pitted under green on lap 231 for four tires and fuel from 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Another debris caution was called on lap 235. Almirola took the wave around to rejoin the lead lap.
- The caution was called on lap 261.
- Almirola did not pit and restarted 19<sup>th</sup> for the final two-lap shootout.

### Notes:

- Kurt Busch won the South Point 400 to score his 32<sup>nd</sup> career NASCAR Cup Series victory, his first of the season and his first at Las Vegas. His margin of victory over second-place Matt DiBenedetto was .148 of a second.
- There were seven caution periods for a total of 36 laps.
- Twenty-five of the 39 drivers in the race finished on the lead lap.
- Kevin Harvick remains the championship leader after Las Vegas with a three-point advantage over second-place Denny Hamlin.

### Playoff Standings (with two races to go before Round of 12):

1. Kurt Busch (3,041 points) 1 win
2. Kevin Harvick (3,104 points) +61 points
3. Denny Hamlin (3,101 points) +58 points
4. Brad Keselowski (3,059 points) +16 points
5. Martin Truex Jr. (3,058 points) +15 points
6. Joey Logano (3,054 points) +11 points
7. Chase Elliott (3,053 points) +10 points
8. Alex Bowman (3,052 points) +9 points
9. Kyle Busch (3,043 points) -9 points
10. Clint Bowyer (3,032 points) -20 points
11. **Aric Almirola (3,025 points) -27 points**
12. Austin Dillon (3,020 points) -32 points

**Aric Almirola, driver of the No. 10 HighPoint.com Ford Mustang for Stewart-Haas Racing:**

“It wasn’t the day our HighPoint.com Ford team wanted, but we’re headed to one of my favorite tracks next. We raced right back around the top-10 and that caution put us back in 21<sup>st</sup>. We know what we have to do at Talladega. We won there in 2018 to advance to the Round of 8 and we can do it again.”

**Next Up:**

The next event on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule is the YellaWood 500 on Sunday, Oct. 4 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway. It is the fifth race of the 10-race playoffs and the second race in the Round of 12. It starts at 2 p.m. EDT with live coverage provided by NBC and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

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Contact Dakota Hunter with True Speed Communication

Dakota.Hunter@TrueSpeedCommunication.com

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