

EARNHARDT WINS ARCA RE/MAX FINALE

11-19-2001

HAMPTON, GA (November 17) -- Kerry Earnhardt, the eldest son of racing legend Dale Earnhardt, won the ARCA RE/MAX Pork The Other White Meat 400, at Atlanta Motor Speedway on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Earnhardt, before a cheering crowd and a national television audience, captured his fourth series victory in just his 11th start, driving the Diamond Cut Jeans #2 Chevrolet, as the ARCA series concluded it's 49th season of racing competition in grand fashion.

A huge 40 car field took the green flag starting the 162-lap event which had Frank Kimmel starting from the pole position. Kimmel captured his 11th Bud Pole Award of 2001, when he eclipsed the 1.54-mile tri-oval in 29.356 seconds. Kimmel's time set a new track record with an average speed of 188.854 mph.

Shane Hmiel, son of renowned crew chief Steve Hmiel, started fifth, but burst into the lead on the first lap before Frank Kimmel took over the lead on lap two. This would be the first of five times the defending series champion would command the race lead.

All told, there were 17 lead changes among five different drivers. Joining Hmiel and Kimmel as race leaders were rookie Stuart Kirby, who led 8 laps, Rick Thoennes led twice for six laps, while the big story of the day, was Kerry Earnhardt, who led six times for a total of 75 laps.

On lap 136 Stuart Kirby took over the race lead after the final round of pit stops. With everyone opting for four tires, Kirby who took his chances with two fresh tires in an attempt to overcome the lightning quick pit stops Kerry Earnhardt was being afforded via the Winston Cup pit crew members of Dale Earnhardt, Inc..

Kirby's two fresh tires were no match for Earnhardt's four fresh Hoosier's and his quick pit service, as Earnhardt regained the race lead eight laps later on lap 144. Earnhardt led the final 19 laps en route to the win. Earnhardt's margin of victory was 6.313 seconds over second place finisher, Shane Hmiel.

After his victory, Earnhardt credited his win to his friend, Blaise Alexander, who was killed in the race at Lowe's Motor Speedway in October. "It was hard losing Blaise," said Earnhardt. "That race (Earnhardt's victory at Lowe's) wasn't a victory to me; it was a loss. This victory was to celebrate Blaise's life and the racer he was. This race here in November, this is Blaise's. This is his race; he was with us and that's why we won."

After runner-up Hmiel, Frank Kimmel took third place honors, while Stuart Kirby, Tim Steele, Jason Jarrett and Ed Berrier finished fourth through seventh respectively, completing the list of lead lap finishers.

Kevin Belmont won the Hoosier Tire Hard Charger Award after finishing 14th after starting 37th.

In the final series point standings, Frank Kimmel captured his second consecutive ARCA RE/MAX Series championship with 7080 points. Rookie of the Year, Jason Jarrett, took second place with 6000 points. Andy Belmont was third with 5470 points. Ron Cox, Norm Benning, Todd Bowsher, Chuck Weber, Donny Morlock, Tim Steele and Mike Buckley rounded out the list of drivers in the top ten in the final series point standings.

In addition to normal Hoosier track service personnel on hand for the event taking care of mounting and balancing of tires for the many race teams, Hoosier also had engineering staff at the race to monitor tire performance.

Hoosier ARCA product manager, Jeff Speer, who also attended the event commented after the race, "The tires performed exceptionally well today, considering the increase in left side wear we saw in practice on Thursday and Friday. Usually this happens because of the green or unused track. One set could easily go a gas stop (50 - 55 laps), which we try and design the tire to do. I received many compliments from the drivers after the race. Most of the racing was down towards the bottom of the track on the white line, which means the tires had plenty of grip."

Speer continued, "Hoosier has been fortunate to be a part of the phenomenal growth in the ARCA RE/MAX Series over the years. Our relationship continues to strengthen during this time as well. Hoosier has been the exclusive tire supplier to the ARCA Series since 1995, and we are now in our third 3-year agreement to remain the exclusive tire supplier to the series through the 2003 season."

The ARCA RE/MAX Series will hold it's annual championship awards banquet on Saturday, December 8, at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.

Busch Series field filled with veterans

Posted: Wednesday, February 10, 1999

By Tony Fabrizio
Staff Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - With all the attention the young guns have been getting on the NASCAR Busch Series, it's easy to forget the veterans.

Well, they showed up in force Tuesday at Daytona International Speedway in pole qualifying for Saturday's 41st NAPA 500.

Winston cup regular Ken Schrader captured the pole position with a one-lap speed of 189.865 mph in a Chevy. He was followed by two-time Busch Series champion Randy LaJoie at 198.661 mph in a Chevy and longtime driver Mike McLaughlin at 189.386 mph in a Chevy.

The next wave wasn't far behind, though.

Eighteen-year-old Casey Atwood was fourth fastest, and 21-year-old Bobby Hamilton Jr., the son of Winston Cup regular Bobby Hamilton, was sixth fastest.

Farther back were defending series champion Dale Earnhardt Jr., 24, in 17th; Matt Kenseth, 26, in 19th, Adam Petty, 18, in 22nd; Lyndon Amick, 20, in 26th; Kerry Earnhardt, 29, in 28th; and Jason Jarrett, 23, in 23rd.

The Earnhardts, Petty and Jarrett are sons and grandsons and, in one case, a great grandson, of current and former prominent drivers.

"There's a lot of great young talent coming into this series," said Petty, the son of Kyle, grandson of Richard and great grandson of Lee Petty. "The joke going around the garage is if you add up all our ages, that's how old Randy LaJoie is."

LaJoie, 37, wasn't offended by the dig.

"Adam and Casey Atwood's ages don't add up to mine or Mikey's (McLaughlin is 42), but I'm glad they're coming in," LaJoie said. "They have some talent, and when you go door-handle to door-handle with these guys, it doesn't (put us in jeopardy) as bad as some of these other guys that we've raced with that I wouldn't let valet park my car."

Earnhardt's son finds success outside of sports

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By [Jeff Birchfield](#) - Press Sports Writer



Kerry Earnhardt, the eldest son of seven-time NASCAR champion Dale Earnhardt, is finding success outside of auto racing.

The Earnhardt Collection, a signature series of homes designed by Kerry and his wife Rene' in collaboration with Schumacher Homes, earned two gold awards at the 2013 International Builders Show in Las Vegas.

The collection's Blue Ridge Floor plan earned the award for Best Architectural Design. It also won the category of Best Special Promotion for its work in the Earnhardt Collection's grand opening last year. The awards were presented by the National Sales and Marketing Council of the National

Association of Home Builders.

Earnhardt, who physically resembles his late father more than his famous half-brother, began racing in 1992 at the local level. He was Hickory Motor Speedway Rookie of the Year in 1994 and made his NASCAR Nationwide Series debut in 1998.

He made his Sprint Cup debut at Michigan in 2000, racing against his father and brother.

From 1998-2009, he competed in seven Sprint Cup races, 72 Nationwide Series races and 27 Truck Series races. His only full season of competition was 2002 in the Nationwide Series, highlighted by a runner-up finish to Jeff Burton at Kansas.

Earnhardt, 43, has focused on other interests in recent years as well as helping promote his son's racing career.

Kerry's son, Jeffrey, is a current NASCAR Nationwide Series driver as well as a Mixed Martial Arts competitor.

Jeffrey Earnhardt made six starts in the Nationwide Series last season, but recently announced plans to run the full 2013 schedule. To date, his best finish in major NASCAR competition is a seventh-place at the 2011 season-opening Truck Series race at Daytona.

Read more: <http://www.johnsoncitypress.com/Sports/article.php?id=104719#ixzz2KhSW7LeX>

Burton cruises to fourth Busch Series win of season

KANSAS CITY, Kan. -- Jeff Burton made his fourth Busch Series victory of the season look easy, beating rookie Kerry Earnhardt by more than three seconds in the Mr. Goodcents 300 on Saturday at Kansas Speedway.

Burton, who started on the outside front, took control after driving his Ford past Earnhardt's Chevrolet on the 172nd of 200 laps on the 1.5-mile tri-oval. Burton led 48 total laps.

"I wanted to win real bad, but I knew couldn't hold Jeff off," said Earnhardt, who led for nine laps -- his first lead of the season -- en route to his best finish of the season. "Once he got an open track, he just ran me down in nothing flat."

Joe Nemechek was third, followed by series leader Greg Biffle, who widened his lead over Jason Keller from 35 to 127 points. Tony Raines was fifth, followed by Jimmy Spencer, Jeff Green, Bobby Hamilton Jr., Lyndon Amick and Jamie McMurray.

Keller, who ran second for much of the early race, lost his engine after 169 laps and finished 30th.

"We're counting races down to the end here, and it's disappointing," Keller said. "But there again, it's something we can't control. We felt like we were doing the things right that we can control -- running well, the pit stops were good."

Burton is 13th in the Winston Cup standings going into Sunday's Protection One 400 and hasn't won on NASCAR's top circuit since his Coca-Cola 600 victory in May 2001. He has spent much of this race weekend defending Winston Cup drivers who also race in the Busch Series.

"You can make a case that the Busch Series is easy to win in," he said. "But if you beat these guys, you've done a good day's work."

While his Busch wins don't make up for his lack of Winston Cup success this year, he said, they do serve a purpose.

"If I run poorly tomorrow or run well tonight, I'll be able to separate the two (results)," he said. "On the other hand, if the Busch program had struggled like the cup program, that would hurt my confidence as a driver."

Jeff Green, who won the inaugural Busch race at Kansas Speedway a year ago, finished seventh after taking a controversial -- but short-lived -- lead in the 156th lap.

Nemechek, who was leading when pole winner Michael Waltrip hit the wall in the third turn, slowed near the start-finish line to let teammate Randy LaJoie get back onto the lead lap. Green passed him just before crossing the line, then declined to give the lead back when NASCAR gave him the choice.

"I was trying to back off and let some guys get their laps back," said Nemechek, who passed Green in the 162nd lap but was passed by Earnhardt on the next lap. "It's kind of interesting what happened, because you're not supposed to be racing to the line. I guess that's why nobody lets the other guys get their laps back any more."

There were 15 leaders in the race, a season high, and 19 lead changes. The previous high was 11 in the Sam's Town 300 on March 2 at Las Vegas. Burton also won that race, and has two Busch wins at Darlington this season.

Waltrip led 27 laps and was running third when he crashed.

Scott Riggs led a race-high 52 laps but dropped out of contention when he left the pits too soon near the midpoint of the race and was hit with a stop-and-go penalty. He finished 23rd.

Earnhardt's oldest son earns place in family legacy

LONG POND, Pa. -- The voice over the two-way radio Saturday afternoon told Kerry Earnhardt not to look in the rearview mirror. Then came instructions not to drive so hard in the first turn, followed by orders not to abuse the tires.

And when Earnhardt finally crossed the finish line following his victory in the Pocono ARCA 200, seven-time NASCAR Winston Cup Series Champion Dale Earnhardt keyed the microphone one final time and offered the words his oldest son had never heard before:

"Good job son. Winning is why we came here."

Kerry Earnhardt, the oldest and sometimes forgotten son of the racing legend, took his place in the family's proud legacy by winning the ARCA Bondo/Mar-Hyde Series race at the Pocono Raceway. It was his first win in nine years at any level of stock car racing, and it came with his famous father nervously watching from the infield.

"Things are getting better and better," Dale Earnhardt said. "I'm pretty proud of them."

Now both of Earnhardt's sons have enjoyed racing success this year. His youngest son, Dale Earnhardt Jr., already has two victories in this NASCAR Winston Cup Series rookie season.

Kerry Earnhardt had struggled for nine years to get a ride in a legitimate car. It finally happened this year when his father agreed to finance 10 superspeedway appearances on the ARCA Series. In Kerry's four ARCA starts, he's wrecked, finished second, third and first.

"I knew if we kept hanging around the top three every week, a win would have to come," Kerry said after winning \$23,070.

Earnhardt led 55 of 80 laps, including the final 23. He once led by 1.6

seconds, only to have it cut to just six car lengths with eight laps to go. That's when his father's voice boomed on the radio. Three laps later, the 30-year-old son was ahead by a football field.

"Daddy kept me calm," young Earnhardt said. "He kept telling me to back off a bit. He told me not to look in the rearview mirror so I could concentrate on what I was doing. I think the only time I looked back was during a caution. Other than that, I concentrated on hitting my marks."

After the win, Earnhardt steered his black Chevrolet Monte Carlo into several victory doughnuts along the main straightaway. His final spinout ended a couple inches short of hitting the wall head-on.

"They got on the radio and told me not to wreck the car because we had to run this car at the next race," Earnhardt said.

With one Earnhardt already in Victory Lane on Father's Day weekend, Kerry Earnhardt said he now hopes for an Earnhardt-Earnhardt one-two finish in today's Pocono 500 for the Winston Cup Series.

"I don't care which Earnhardt wins," he said. "As long as they finish one-two, it's fine by me."

Mike Swaim Jr. finished a distant second, followed by Dan Pardus in third, Shawna Robinson with relief help from Ed Berrier in fourth, Frank Kimmel in fifth, Tim Steele in sixth, Morgan Shepherd in seventh, A.J. Henriksen in eighth, Matt Hutter in ninth and Bob Strait in 10th.

DENNIS GREEN EYES OWNERSHIP: Minnesota Vikings coach Dennis Green said he plans to own a race team next year that will campaign either on the ARCA or NASCAR Busch series circuits.

Green was at the Pocono Raceway Saturday as the Grand Marshal for the ARCA Series race.

"I always thought that anyone who drives is interested in racing," Green said. "I've always had a keen interest in it."

Green said his team will be known as Doc Watson/Dennis Green Motorsports.

Other sports figures who've joined the stock car circuits include former Washington Redskins coach Joe Gibbs (who owns two Winston Cup Series teams), hall of fame basketball player Julius Erving and former Washington running back Joe Washington (who co-own a Busch Series team) and Bret Favre (who co-owns a Busch Series team).

SPENCER EARNS PRAISE: The same week driver Jimmy Spencer blasted his car owner, Travis Carter, and teammate, Darrell Waltrip, he earned praise by raising more than \$50,000 for local charities. The native of nearby Berwick, Pa., held a golf tournament this week. That tournament, along with a sports memorabilia auction raised the money to help the Berwick Fire Department, Berwick area DARE, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Berwick public library, the Beyond Violence Women's Shelter and the John Heinz Rehabilitation Institute.

PIT STOPS: Today's Father's Day Special includes the eighth row of the starting lineup for the Pocono 500. That's where Dale Earnhardt Jr. starts next to his father, Dale Earnhardt ... For the third time this season, Darrell Waltrip missed the starting lineup in his farewell tour ... Chad Little, Kenny Irwin, Stacy Compton, Geoffrey Bodine, Scott Pruett, Ed Berrier and Dave Marcis each used a provisional exemption to make the starting lineup.

Earnhardts roar at Kansas Speedway

Burton holds off crowd favorite Kerry Earnhardt to win Busch race

Posted: [Sunday, September 29, 2002](#)

By Rick Peterson
The Capital-Journal

KANSAS CITY, Kan. -- Jeff Burton was the big winner in Saturday's Mr. Goodcents 300, as the Winston Cup regular notched his fourth Busch Series victory of the season in just 11 starts.

But Kerry Earnhardt and Greg Biffle also had plenty of reason to celebrate after their performances at Kansas Speedway.

Burton, who qualified No. 2, led 48 of 200 laps and dominated the final 29 laps en route to winning by a margin of 3.272 seconds over Earnhardt, who provided the feel-good story of the day.

Earnhardt, the 32-year-old son of the late Dale Earnhardt and half-brother of Winston Cup regular Dale Earnhardt Jr., started 20th but worked his way through the field and led from lap 163 to 171, the first time he has led a Busch race in his rookie season.

Burton blew past Earnhardt on lap No. 172 and steadily increased his advantage, but Earnhardt cruised in ahead of third-place finisher Joe Nemechek for a career-best finish. His previous best finish was seventh.

"I wanted to win real bad, but I knew that I couldn't hold Jeff off," Earnhardt said. "Once he got around traffic he ran me down in no time. He's like that everywhere he goes.

"Just to be able to run with Joe and Jeff, all these guys up front, you don't know how good it feels. It's great to know that we can do this."

Burton realized that Earnhardt was the sentimental favorite to win Saturday, but said he couldn't afford to give him any breaks.

"We have a job to do, no matter who's in front of us," said Burton, who earned \$71,125. "It's our job to go and get in front of them.

"I would love to see Kerry win as long as I wasn't in the race."

Fourth-place finisher Biffle was the day's big winner as far as points.

Biffle, last year's Busch rookie of the year, started the day with a 35-point lead over second-place Jason Keller in the championship race, but he will leave Kansas City with a 127-point lead after Keller blew an engine and finished 30th.

"It was just a good day for the Grainger car; the guys did a good job of working on it all day," Biffle said. "I stalled it on pit road and couldn't get it started -- I'm not sure why, I've never had that happen before -- but overall it was a good day.

"I wish I would have been a little closer on the chassis setup to run with the top three guys, but we're happy with fourth."

Keller, meanwhile, will have to regroup in the final six races.

"Some things you can't control, and this is one of them," Keller said. "It's disappointing. We just have to try hard to recover from it and see what happens."

Pole-sitter Michael Waltrip led three different times for 27 laps, but he crashed in turn three on lap 157 while running third.

It also was a frustrating day for Scott Riggs, who led a race-high 52 laps but saw his chances for victory erased by a NASCAR stop-and-go penalty after a tire rolled out of his pit area during a stop. Riggs finished 23rd.

"I don't know what the call was; they still haven't told me," Riggs said. "They (his team) just said it was not right; it was wrong."