

Late pass gives Keselowski win at Las Vegas

BY AMANDA VINCENT
THE SPORTS XCHANGE

LAS VEGAS — Brad Keselowski won the Kobalt 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race Sunday after he passed Kyle Busch with six laps to go in the **NASCAR** race. It was his second-career win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Keselowski's Team Penske teammate Joey Logano got by Busch on the final lap to give Penske a one-two finish. Jimmie Johnson also passed Busch on the last lap to finish third after leading a race-high 76 laps. Busch was relegated to fourth by

the checkered flag.

Keselowski's journey to victory lane included a pit-road speeding penalty during a caution that came out on lap 178. He was one of several drivers assessed pit-road speeding penalties throughout the race. Austin Dillon overcame a bad pit stop and a pit-road speeding penalty to round out the top five.

Kurt Busch was the first driver to get caught speeding on pit road. He started on the pole and led the first 32 laps before a pit-road speeding penalty during a competition caution. He recovered to finish ninth.

Matt Kenseth, Keselowski and Logano each led laps

before Johnson took over in the middle portion of the race. Johnson took the lead for the first time when he took two tires and got off pit road first during a lap-99 caution. Kenseth retired from the race after wrecking with Chase Elliott with 43 laps to go.

Logano took the lead from Johnson on lap 177. He and Kenseth both led laps before Johnson retook the lead with 57 laps remaining. Johnson gave up the top spot, though, a few laps later by pitting under caution while Logano, Keselowski and Dillon stayed out. Busch, among those who pitted, was quick to get by all

three and others in the first lap after the restart to take the lead.

On Saturday, Kyle Busch finally broke his home-court jinx at Las Vegas Motor Speedway and he did it in style.

Leading 199 of 200 laps, Busch won the Boyd Gaming 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at the 1.5-mile track, pacing a 1-2-3 finish by Joe Gibbs Racing.

The Las Vegas native ended an 0-for-11 drought at his home track, beating teammate Daniel Suarez to the finish line by .817 of a second, with Erik Jones rolling across the stripe in third.

The victory was Busch's second straight in as many starts this season and the 78th of his career, extending his series record.

As dominant as the statistics might have appeared, however, Busch's win was anything but easy.

Suarez was closing fast in the final 20 laps, chopping a lead of nearly three seconds to less than one. And Jones likely had the fastest car in the race, but back-to-back green-flag pit road speeding penalties squelched his chances for victory.

NOTES: The Kobalt 400 was the first of three consecutive races that make up NASCAR's West Coast

swing. ... Kevin Harvick won the 2015 Kobalt 400. He battled the flu in the week leading up to this year's race and finished seventh. ...

Kurt Busch's pole-winning run on Friday set a track qualifying record. It was his second straight pole, as he also was the pole-sitter a week ago at Atlanta Motor Speedway. ... For the second week in a row, the Sprint Cup race was one car shy of a full field at 39 cars. ... Jamie McMurray and Carl Edwards started the race in backup cars after crashes in Friday's qualifying session. McMurray came in 16th, while Edwards finished 18th.



Miesha Tate celebrates after defeating Holly Holm for the bantamweight title at UFC 196 at MGM Grand Garden Arena on Saturday night in Las Vegas.

WALLY SKALJ | TNS

McGregor, Holm upset at UFC 196

BY LANCE PUGMIRE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LAS VEGAS — Miesha Tate's everlasting grip caused Holly Holm to lose hers on the Ultimate Fighting Championship belt, and Nate Diaz quieted the organization's Conor McGregor attraction.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

UFC 196 at MGM Grand became a night of upsets Saturday as Tate wrested the women's bantamweight belt from Holm and Diaz made McGregor pay for his 25-pound move up in weight by causing him to tap out in the second round.

Ireland's popular and quick-witted McGregor, the featherweight (145 pounds) champion who opted to move up to 170 pounds to fight replacement foe Diaz because of lightweight champion Rafael Dos Anjos' foot injury, was wobbled and weakened by a hard Diaz punch earlier in the second round.

Diaz (20-10), a former UFC lightweight title challenger from Stockton, Calif., got the better of McGregor as the stand-up action continued.

Then, when McGregor tried to shoot for a takedown, Diaz gladly accepted the turn to his jiu jitsu specialty and delivered a rear-naked chokehold that forced McGregor (19-3) to tap out 4 minutes 12 seconds into the round.

"Are you surprised?" Diaz said to the crowd after landing the fight less than two weeks ago. "It was a slow start for me. When I'm not in the best shape ... I start slow."

When the fight went to the canvas, "I knew I had it,"



MARK J. REBILAS | USA TODAY

Welterweight Nate Diaz lands punches against Conor McGregor during UFC 196 at MGM Grand Garden Arena on Saturday night. Diaz submitted McGregor using a choke hold in the second round.

said Diaz, trained by members of the Gracie family who brought UFC to America. "My jiu jitsu's always there when I hit the ground. I'm a warrior. There's a new king, right here."

McGregor can now choose to fight Dos Anjos (at 155 pounds) in July or return to defend his featherweight belt.

"I took a chance," moving up in weight, McGregor said. "It didn't work out. I'll come back."

The other stunner happened because Holm couldn't stave off Tate's chokehold and, more importantly, attached uncertainty to the fight everyone wanted to see most — Holm's rematch with Ronda Rousey.

Leaving sick looks on the faces of UFC executives, Tate took down Holm in the final two minutes of the fifth and final round and produced a fight-ending chokehold on Holm that complicates plans for Holm's mega-million-dollar

rematch with Rousey in the fall.

"We had a great gameplan. I knew I had to be patient ... and find the perfect moment," Tate said.

The end, after Holm failed to flip Tate off her and wound up allowing Tate a stronger choking position, came 3:30 into the fifth round.

"She has a lot of heart, I respect her so much as a champion for stepping in there," Tate said.

In her second UFC title shot — she has lost twice overall to Rousey — Tate (18-5) seemed headed to losing a decision to Holm, appearing beat in three of the first four rounds because of the striking and kicking prowess that won Holm the Rousey bout.

Holm (10-1), fighting for the first time since her upset of Rousey in November, won a slow first round with more strikes and a couple clean kicks, one to Tate's midsection.

Hockey

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It was Northeastern's fourth straight Hockey East playoff overtime game dating back to last season, and Maine's third in a row.

Freshman Ryan Huck made 33 saves for the Huskies while McGovern had 26 stops for Maine.

Defenseman Williams opened the scoring with a screened shot from the point off a Brendan Collier faceoff win and a Roy pass. It was his seventh goal of the sea-

son and third at Maine's expense.

Nolan Stevens increased the lead just 1:18 later by deflecting Garret Cockerill's shot past McGovern after Zach Aston-Reese's shot had hit the post.

Roy scored when he was left alone behind the net and he was able to stuff a wraparound behind McGovern.

Maine dominated the second period to the tune of a 16-5 shots advantage and Brown scored for the second straight game and for the third time in five games by converting a Will Merchant rebound.

Lacroix scored at the 4:40

mark of the third period as Andrew Tegeler fed him from behind the net and he beat Ruck with a one-timer from the right circle.

Freshman defenseman Muehlbauer tied it with a slap shot from the top of the right circle off assists by fellow freshmen Brendan Robbins and Danny Perez.

It was Muehlbauer's first career point.

"It would have been easy for us to roll over down 3-0 but we never quit. We showed the kind of character we have. The second period was one of our best of the year," junior right wing Blaine Byron said.

Both teams had chances

to win it in regulation and overtime but couldn't convert until Roy decided it.

Maine had a two-on-one in overtime but Nolan Vesey had to elevate his pass over a sprawled Northeastern defenseman and Tegeler couldn't get much on it and shot it wide.

"I think it was our best performance of the year," Maine junior defenseman Dan Renouf said. "I was proud of how the boys responded after being three goals down. Their three goals woke us up and we dictated the play after that. It was a great effort."

"We just didn't get the last bounce."

Men

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to Ken Pomeroy's ratings, which ranked third in the country. However, its 113.2 points allowed per 100 possessions ranked 330th.

The challenge for Walsh and his staff during the off-season is to find ways to help UMaine get enough stops to win what most often are going to be high-scoring games because of its propensity for getting shots up early and often.

UMaine must replace two seniors in post player Till Gloger and shifty guard Shaun Lawton. Gloger (8.9 ppg, 2.7 rebounds per game, .558 FG pct.) was a dependable scoring weapon but proved a defensive liability.

Lawton averaged 8.5 points, 3.8 rebounds, 2.1 assists and a team-leading 1.9 steals. He was a sparkplug on the press and in transition.

UMaine will bring back a high-energy nucleus led by guards Little (14.7 ppg, 2.6 apg, 1.2 spg) and Aaron Calixte (10.8 ppg, team-best 2.7 apg), who will be juniors, along with sophomore forwards Issac Vann and Devine Eke.

The versatile Vann, who missed 13 games because of injury, led the Black Bears with 16.4 ppg and a .412 3-point shooting percentage while grabbing 5.8 rpg. Eke, who used his 6-foot-7 frame in the post with high energy, posted 9.5 points and a team-leading 6.8 rebounds per game while averaging 1.6 blocked shots.

UMaine received solid production from rugged freshman guard Lavar Harewood (5.1 ppg) and always-hustling junior guard Troy Reid-Knight (4.8 ppg), while walk-on point guard Ryan

Bernstein (3.7 ppg, 2.0 apg) was a capable floor leader. Ilija Stojiljkovic had a solid debut season (3.6 ppg, 1.6 apg).

Beal provided 5.4 points and 1.2 assists in his limited action, but he is joined by off-injured junior Marko Pirovic (1.9 ppg) among players whose potential has yet to be displayed consistently.

UMaine's supporting cast included three walk-on guards in sophomore Garvey Melmed of Greenbush, junior C.J. Ward and freshman Dennis Ashley, who did not see any action.

The Black Bears appear to have plenty of offensive weapons with their returnees after connecting for 76 ppg to rank second in America East and 110th in the nation.

UMaine's eight wins were only five more than the first season under Walsh, but the team improved its stock and its fan appeal by virtue of its uptempo style and its dynamic offensive capabilities spearheaded by the quick-trigger 3-pointers of Little and the high-flying, dunking talents of Vann and Eke.

UMaine boosted its scoring production 15.6 points (60.4 ppg to 76 ppg) from last season but surrendered 86.9 ppg compared with 74.8 a year ago, an increase of 12.1 ppg.

The Black Bears' shooting percentages slipped slightly, while those of opponents were a bit higher.

Looking ahead, the program also will welcome in another scorer in 6-7 left-handed forward Andrew Fleming out of Oxford Hills High School in South Paris. But in the final analysis, it will be UMaine's defense that will determine whether it takes the next step toward fulfilling Walsh's goal of becoming a championship-level program.

Champs

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first game, the South champion Clippers (16-5) got off to a surprising 2-0 lead against the flow of the game, which otherwise favored Waterville.

The Panthers were dominating possession and had an advantage in shots on net, but Yarmouth's Walter Conrad blocked a shot in the slot and started a 2-on-1 with teammate Patrick Grant going the other way. Grant passed it back to Conrad in the offensive zone and Conrad fired a shot in tight on Pinnette. Grant shoveled the rebound into the cage to net the shorthanded goal.

Noah Grondin made it 2-0 with just over three minutes left in the first, stealing the puck just outside the Waterville zone and sniping a shot from the top of the left circle that snuck inside the top-right corner of the goal.

Waterville finally got on the board to cut the deficit in half less than a minute later. Roderigue sauced the puck from the left side to Michael Bolduc, who beat Latham at the left post.

Waterville coach Dennis Martin said there's "no quit" to his team. The Panthers proved that, putting nine shots on net in the third. Only one went in, but that's all they needed.

The play, naturally, started with Roderigue, who fired a shot from the left that Latham saved with his left leg. But freshman Cooper Hart was there to get the rebound in the right circle and beat Latham on the second-chance shot.

"Cooper came in after (Jackson Aldrich) got hurt," Roderigue said. "He came through for us. Very nice one-timer."

The title is the Purple Panthers' first in Class B, after winning 20 in Class A.

In the Class A final, Jeremy Rancourt was the right guy, in the right place, at the right time.

Scarborough goalie Ross LeBlond made one save, then a second, but the third time was the charm for Lewiston.

The win gives Lewiston its 21st Class A boys' hockey title, but first since 2002. That 14-year drought was the second-longest in the history of the storied program.

Rancourt led the North champion Blue Devils (17-2-2) in points during the regular season with 31, then added three assists in two playoff games leading up to Saturday's state final. He added another on Lewiston's first goal of the game.

It was his turn to do the scoring honors when the Blue Devils needed it most to end that long drought. Jon Sturgis blasted a shot from the right point, which LeBlond stopped. Then Alex Rivet got the rebound for a put-back shot, which LeBlond also stopped. Rancourt was at the left post for the next rebound, and he had the put-in shot.

LeBlond couldn't stop it. "Rivet tipped it in, and it went right to me off the goal stick, and I put it home," Rancourt said. "It was right there. I went mind-blank. It was right there, I just put it in."

That game-winning goal came with 29 seconds left and Scarborough (16-3-3) was unable to answer.