

Carl Edwards rallies late for Southern 500 victory

BY AMANDA VINCENT
THE SPORTS XCHANGE

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Carl Edwards got off pit road first during a track-record 18th caution with 13 laps to go in the Bojangles’ Southern 500. **NASCAR** N A S C A R Sprint Cup Series race at Darlington Raceway on Sunday night, and he claimed his second win of the season.

“Our guys never quit,” Edwards said. “JGR (Joe Gibbs Racing) is unbelievable. These guys have been working so hard. ... I know a lot of fans came down to enjoy this race. It’s the 75th Cup win for Toyota — Toyota, TRD (Toyota Racing Development) — everyone has been so amazing. We started this team, and they believed in us.”

Brad Keselowski finished second. Denny Hamlin was third, Joey Logano fourth, and Kevin Harvick rounded out the top five.

“I just needed Carl to move up into the race track a little bit to give me a little bit of air on the inside and I maybe had a run at him,” Hamlin said. “My guess is he wanted to win the race just as bad as I did.

“Congratulations to those guys. (They) had a great restart. (The) Sport Clips Toyota was really fast on the long run; we just never got long runs today. I’ve never seen a

Darlington with that many cautions before, and our car was so fast once we got 20 laps on our tires, but we struggled on restarts. I’m happy with third considering where we were with about 20 or 30 to go.”

For the win, Edwards had to recover from going two laps down earlier in the race when miscommunication left him on the track during a caution and resulted in a green-flag stop later.

“We call Darian (Grubb, crew chief) ‘Kenny Rogers’ because he’s a gambler, and someone actually put a Kenny Rogers poster up in the hauler. He’s not scared to try things and make it happen, and everybody just did a great job tonight. My pit crew was amazing. I mean, these guys, they’re unreal. They won the race for us, and just so proud to be driving this car with these people,” Edwards said.

Keselowski led a race-high 196 of the 367 laps. He was up front at the halfway point of the race but lost the lead to Kurt Busch on a restart following a lap-198 yellow flag.

“I needed to be a little bit better everywhere,” Keselowski said. “Needed to be better on the restarts and a little better probably because I brushed the wall a little bit here. I just needed to be a little bit better everywhere to have

a shot at the win.”

Tony Stewart took the lead after staying out during another caution a few laps later, but cars with newer tires got back to the front, with Hamlin taking over the lead on lap 222 and Harvick moving into second a few laps later.

Harvick and Logano each led laps before Keselowski got back to the front by getting off pit road first during a lap-301 caution. Keselowski continued to lead while Harvick and Edwards battled back and forth for second until the final yellow flag.

“We had a great Budweiser/Jimmy John’s Chevrolet all night long,” Harvick said. “I’m definitely happy with that part. All in all, the car performed really well when we needed it to. We were in the race, and we just got a little too far behind with eight laps to go and never made that up. We’ve got to brush up on that, but all in all, the car performed well. We just got bit there at the end.”

Keselowski dominated the first half of the race. After starting on the pole, he led until the third caution on lap 61. Edwards stayed out, and Kasey Kahne took only two tires as they restarted first and second. Their strategies didn’t pan out, as they both lost several positions when the race returned to green.

Football

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for the Black Bears, especially on defense.

“We really played a lot of guys, which was exciting,” UMaine head coach Jack Cosgrove said during Monday’s weekly CAA teleconference. “A couple of younger players really played well.”

The defensive effort came even as UMaine used several players who were either first-time starters or stepped into key roles after serving as backups.

That group included red-shirt freshman free safety Sinmisola Demuren (5 tackles), sophomore strong safety Darrius Hart (4), senior line-backer John McCabe of Winslow (3), defensive lineman Schuyler Huntington (3) and sophomore free safety Jason Matovu (2).

“I was impressed with the guys that played. They stepped up and played their roles,” Hart said.

“We could have tackled a little bit better, defeated a couple more blocks on the edge, but other than that, we did a good job,” he added.

Christophe Mulumba Tshimanga’s injury early in the game and Goncalves’ heavy load at tailback also meant freshman linebacker Sterling Sheffield made his collegiate debut.

“That’s two three-year starters that aren’t playing for you [at linebacker],” Cosgrove said of Goncalves and Mulumba Tshimanga.

A total of 23 Black Bears made at least one tackle, including junior transfer punter James DeMartini.

The Black Bears were largely untested at safety with Demuren, Matovu, Hart and redshirt freshman Mozai Nelson. That group, led by Demuren and Hart, along with a cornerbacks unit featuring Sherrod Baltimore, Najee Goode, Dawson and Tayvon Hall, more than held its own.



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Boston College Eagles quarterback Darius Wade (left) throws a pass while Maine Black Bears defensive back Darrius Hart pursues him during the second half at Alumni Stadium on Saturday. BU defeated UMaine.

“Our secondary, which was brand-spanking new for the most part, I was really impressed with our two young safeties’ tackling ability, toughness, ability to be in the right place at the right time,” Cosgrove said. “There was a lot of optimism on that side of the football for us.”

The Black Bears did not have many glaring defensive coverage breakdowns, and as a result, BC quarterback Darius Wade completed only 14 of 25 passes for 155 yards with one touchdown.

Cosgrove attributed some of that to the play of UMaine’s defensive line, which is led by ends Trevor Bates of Westbrook and Mike Koslowski, along with tackles Pat Ricard and Darius Greene.

“Those guys up front played very well and really went toe-to-toe with a bigger group of guys but fought them hard and really competed,” Cosgrove said.

UMaine was credited with only two sacks, by linebacker Randy Samuels and Bates, but was able to get fairly consistent pressure on Wade.

UMaine’s offensive struggles against BC were not unprecedented as the Black Bears have scored only 16 points in four meetings with the Eagles since 2006.

Goncalves netted only 29 yards on 10 carries — UMaine finished with 7 yards rushing overall — but gave his team a solid, physical presence in the backfield.

“What he gave us back there was a guy that knew his assignments, competed hard, didn’t turn the ball over on his carries and protected well, caught a couple passes,” Cosgrove said, “did enough for us to know that we did the right thing by putting him there.”

DeMartini was effective in his first Division I contest, averaging 43.1 yards on seven punts. His emergence should help lighten the load for senior place-kicker Sean DeCloux, who handles field goals, PATs and kickoffs for the Black Bears.

Injury update: UMaine appears to have escaped Boston relatively healthy, with junior Mulumba Tshimanga the only obvious casualty. X-rays on the leg were negative, but he reportedly suffered a significant bruise on his lower left leg that could keep him out of action for two to four weeks.

UMaine returns to the practice field Tuesday to start what will be a bye week. The Black Bears next play on Sept. 19 at Tulane of the Southeastern Conference.

UMaine

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But the Black Bears equalized with 9:40 remaining when Danielle Aviani and Jessica Skillings worked a nifty give-and-go off a two-on-one, and Aviani chipped the ball over the helpless Jensen.

Aviani nearly won it with two minutes left in regulation, but her deflection off a Sydney Veljacic shot sailed inches wide of the far post.

“We had a lot of chances. It would have been nice to convert more of them. But we played unreal. It’s the best field hockey I’ve seen us play,” said Aviani.

BU also had 11 shots at goal with Corbett making three saves and Cochran stopping one shot.

High school football players investigated for hit on ref

REUTERS

Two San Antonio high school football players are under investigation after they smashed into a referee during a game, according to local media.

In a play during John Jay High School’s game Friday night, one of the team’s defensive players ran into a referee’s back, sending him to the ground, where another player dove on him, according to a video posted on the San Antonio Express News website.

The unidentified players were immediately ejected from the game, a 15-9 loss to Marble Falls High School, according to the San Anto-


nio newspaper.

Two other John Jay High School players were ejected from the game shortly before the incident, the newspaper reported.

Northside Independent School District officials and officials with the University Interscholastic League, the state’s high school competition organization, are investigating the incident, the newspaper said.

“The question of what instigated that is what we’re trying to figure out,” Northside ISD athletic director Stan Laing said in the newspaper report.

School and state officials were not immediately available for comment.



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