

Clint Bowyer Hopes to Reverse His Fortunes in Las Vegas

Las Vegas Motor Speedway has not been a good friend to BB&T Racing driver Clint Bowyer. His best finish is 15th place and his average finish is 26th. Fortunately, the track has never hindered his long-term success since he has finished in the top five in the NASCAR playoff system each of the past two seasons.

Currently sixth in the standings after two races, Bowyer acknowledges his past difficulties at the track, but says his new team and his new crew chief, Shane Wilson, are two excellent reasons to break the spell Las Vegas has over him.

"It's one of our worst tracks, really," Bowyer said. "I got in the wall early last year and that made for a long day. We just haven't had the best of luck out there. Typically, if you run well in California, then you stick with what worked and bring it to Vegas. But, we've struggled a bit with that first California race as well, then shown up to Vegas with something completely different and been way out to lunch. Shane and I have been talking a lot about it and what we need to do to improve there, so we're aiming to be on top of it this weekend. It's a new team with the Cheerios/Hamburger Helper guys, so it's a perfect time for a change in fortune."

Bowyer finished 19th last Sunday in the No. 33 Chevrolet after experiencing handling problems for most of the day. Sometimes a disappointing finish can be good, and Wilson hopes the handling woes that the No. 33 team experienced in California will shed some light on how to produce a stellar finish in Las Vegas.

"We struggled last weekend at Auto Club Speedway, but we feel like it was a positive for us," said Wilson, who lived in Las Vegas from 1999-2003. "California is the first real race of the season since we're not running restrictor plates like we do at Daytona. It was the first opportunity for us to be in race conditions and experiment. We didn't come out of there with the finish we wanted, but we did gain some useful information that will help us when we unload at Las Vegas."

When the green flag waves at approximately 4:30 p.m. ET on Sunday, Bowyer will begin the race as the driver with the longest active streak of completing every race. He has been on the track at the conclusion of the past 75 races. Kevin Harvick, Bowyer's teammate at Richard Childress Racing, holds the record at 81 races. Harvick's streak ended last Sunday when he left the race with engine problems.

FOX will broadcast Sunday's race, and its coverage will begin at 3:30 p.m. ET, one hour before the green flag. Qualifying will be televised Friday at 6:30 p.m. ET on SPEED.