

## Clint Bowyer, No. 33 Team Finish Sixth in Atlanta

Race/Date: Kobalt Tools 500 – March 8, 2009  
Location: Atlanta Motor Speedway – Hampton, Ga.  
Start Position: 21st  
Finish Position: Sixth  
Points Position: Second (Maintained position)

**Hampton, Ga.** – Clint Bowyer's strong BB&T Chevrolet coupled with some early luck put the No. 33 Richard Childress Racing team in contention for much of Sunday afternoon's Kobalt Tools 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway where he went on to finish sixth.

The strong run ties his best finish at the 1.54-mile speedway where, in seven NASCAR Sprint Cup Series starts, Bowyer has now finished sixth four times. It was also his third top-10 finish in the first four races of the 2009 season.

Bowyer and the No. 33 team remain second in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series point standings, 43 markers behind point leader Jeff Gordon. Bowyer recorded his third top-10 finish in the first four races of the 2009 season.

The Emporia, Kan., native took the green flag from the 21<sup>st</sup> position but two caution periods in the opening 12 laps prevented Bowyer from improving his position. Once the field settled into a long green-flag run, Bowyer wasted little time showing how strong his BB&T Chevrolet Impala SS was. He worked his way to 10<sup>th</sup> at lap 49 and continued his climb as the field began to come to pit road for green flag pit stops.

As Bowyer readied to give up the fifth position to head to pit road, a crew member from the No. 47 team ran into the infield grass to recover a stray tire, forcing NASCAR to throw the caution flag. Crew chief Shane Wilson instructed Bowyer to stay on the race track, allowing him to maintain his position and become one of only six cars scored on the lead lap. Bowyer came to pit road under caution to take on four tires and fuel, and quick work by the BB&T crew allowed Bowyer to restart in the second position for the lap 72 restart.

Bowyer ran with the leaders over the next 100 laps but a tight handling condition off the corners began to hinder his efforts. He dropped as far back as ninth, but Wilson made adjustments each time Bowyer hit pit road that seemed to help the handling condition as the laps clicked off.

As the sun began to set and the weather conditions changed, the BB&T Chevrolet followed suit. The handling began to go away and, as the field continued under an extended period of green-flag racing, it appeared with only a handful of laps remaining that Bowyer would be relegated to a ninth-place finish. But, when Robby Gordon experienced a tire failure with only three laps to go, NASCAR put the race into its version of overtime, a green-white-checkered finish.

Wilson called Bowyer to pit road for one final shot at improving their position. The BB&T crew changed four tires and added a splash of fuel, sending the No. 33 Chevy back on track in the eighth position. When the green flag flew for the final time, Bowyer made a daring three-wide entry into Turn 1, a move that gained him two positions. While Bowyer fought hard for fifth in the final lap, he ran out of time and could not complete the pass.

RCR teammates Kevin Harvick, Jeff Burton and Casey Mears finished fourth, 14th and 16th, respectively.

The NASCAR Sprint Cup Series drivers and teams have their first off-week of the 2009 season next week before heading to Bristol Motor Speedway for the March 22 Food City 500.

The race will be televised live on FOX Sun., March 22 beginning at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The Performance Racing Network and Sirius/XM Satellite Radio will also provide live lap-by-lap coverage. Qualifying for the fifth of 36 points-paying races will be televised on SPEED Fri., March 20 beginning at 3:30 p.m. EDT.