

Bowyer Moves Up In Points Standing at Rain-Soaked New Hampshire

Race: LENOX Industrial Tools 301
Date: June 28, 2009
Location: New Hampshire Motor Speedway
Start Position: 16th
Finish Position: 20th
Points Position: 15th
(Advanced one position)

LOUDON, N.H. – Clint Bowyer and the Hartford Racing team appeared to be in contention for a top-10 finish at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday, but rain came at an inopportune time and left them with a 20th-place finish.

With nine races remaining before the 12-team Chase for the Sprint Cup playoff field is set, the 30-year-old driver is 15th in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series point standings, 94 markers behind Juan Pablo Montoya in 12th.

Bowyer's weekend began on a promising note by posting the ninth-fastest time in Friday's opening practice session. Steady rain later that afternoon forced NASCAR to cancel qualifying and set the field according to the rule book, placing Bowyer's Hartford Chevrolet 16th on the starting grid.

The Shane Wilson-led crew focused on long runs in Saturday's dual practices, clicking off 30 laps in the first and 53 in the latter session. Later that afternoon, Bowyer overcame a mid-race setback to finish 14th in the NASCAR Nationwide Series Camping World RV Sales 200 presented by Turtle Wax.

The Emporia, Kansas, native was a mainstay inside the top15 during the opening 100 laps of Sunday's 301-lap event but changing weather conditions left Bowyer struggling with a temperamental Hartford Chevrolet. Feeling that the race might only make it to the halfway mark as a result of impending rain, crews began employing various strategies in hopes of being in the right place at the right time.

Wilson called for several chassis adjustments to be made to the No. 33 Impala SS throughout the event in an effort to adjust to the changing track conditions and it seemed progress was being made as the laps clicked off.

Just after the race's halfway point, Bowyer narrowly escaped two potential catastrophes with the first incident taking place on pit road on lap 152. As Kyle Busch was exiting his pit stall, his car made contact with The Hartford Chevrolet and jack man Bill Ferguson, Jr., sending the crew member airborne. Fortunately, both Ferguson and Bowyer's Impala SS came out of the incident relatively unharmed. Twenty laps later, savvy driving by the two-time NSCS winner kept him from being involved in an incident that collected eight cars, including those of Richard Childress Racing teammates Jeff Burton, Casey Mears and Kevin Harvick.

As strategies continued to unfold up and down pit road, Bowyer came to the attention of the Hartford crew at lap 236 for his final stop of the day. As the rest of the front runners slowly began to do the same, the inevitable downpour came at lap 273. With the radar showing little hope for a return to racing, NASCAR elected to call the race official 29 laps before the scheduled distance was completed, crediting Bowyer with a 20th-place finish.

Joey Logano won his first NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race when by stretching his fuel mileage and being in the cat bird's seat when the race was declared official. Jeff Gordon, Kurt Busch, David Reutimann and Tony Stewart rounded out the top-five finishers.

Bowyer's RCR teammates Mears, Burton and Harvick finished 11th, 31st and 34th, respectively.

NASCAR takes its premier series south to the Sunshine State next week for the third restrictor plate race of the season at the historic "World Center of Racing."

Flag-to-flag coverage of the Coke Zero 400 from Daytona International Speedway will take the green flag Saturday, July 4 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The race will be televised live on TNT and broadcast on the Motor Racing Network and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Qualifying for the 18th points-paying race on the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series schedule will be telecast live on SPEED Friday, July 3 beginning at 4 p.m. EDT.