

## **Bowyer Rallies to Finish 12th at Pocono**

**Race/Date:** Pocono 500 – June 7, 2009  
**Location:** Pocono Raceway – Long Pond, Pa.  
**Start Position:** 16th  
**Finish Position:** 12th  
**Points Position:** 16th (maintained position)

**LONG POND, PA.** – Although a late-race, green-flag run cost Clint Bowyer and his No. 33 Cheerios/Hamburger Helper team a shot at a top-10 finish, their never-quit attitude allowed the Emporia, Kansas, native to rally and take the checkered flag in 12<sup>th</sup> position.

The finish allowed Bowyer to maintain his 16th position in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series point standings. With 12 races remaining before the 12-team Chase for the Sprint Cup playoff field is set, the 30-year-old driver is 103 markers behind 12th-place Denny Hamlin.

Steady rain on Friday afternoon forced NASCAR to set the field according to the rule book, placing Bowyer's Cheerios/Hamburger Helper Chevrolet 16th on the starting grid. The two-time NSCS winner raced between the 16th and 27th positions in the opening 30 laps of the event before green-flag pit stops would bring the field to pit road for service.

Crew chief Shane Wilson elected to call Bowyer to pit road at lap 46, where quick work by the Helping Hands pit crew allowed Bowyer to maintain his position when the cycle of stops were complete as he resumed his climb toward the front of the field.

The 30-year-old driver patiently worked his way into the top 10, overtaking Jeff Gordon at lap 118 for the position. The race continued under green-flag conditions until a caution period for debris at lap 157 slowed the field. Bowyer came to pit road for service two laps later in what the team hoped would be their final pit stop of the day. However, as the final 35 laps of the 200-lap affair were completed under the green flag, many of the leaders were forced to pit road for a splash of fuel to complete the distance.

As the leaders peeled off the racing surface for their stops, Bowyer advanced to the fifth position. Wilson instructed his driver to stay on track in hopes of a late-race caution; but as the race continued under the green flag, Bowyer was forced to relinquish the spot at lap 186 to come to pit road for right-side tires and fuel.

Bowyer rejoined the field 17<sup>th</sup> and raced hard and benefitted when some of the front runners ran out of fuel. In the process, he gained five spots over the closing laps to finish the 500-mile event 12<sup>th</sup>.

Tony Stewart picked up the win, beating Carl Edwards to the checkered flag by 2.004 seconds. David Reutimann, Jeff Gordon and Ryan Newman rounded out the top-five finishers.

Bowyer's Richard Childress Racing teammates Jeff Burton, Casey Mears and Kevin Harvick finished ninth, 14th and 24th, respectively.

Next week, NASCAR's senior circuit heads to the Irish Hills for the first of two stops in Brooklyn, Michigan.

Live coverage of the LifeLock 400 from Michigan International Speedway will take the green flag Sunday, June 14 beginning at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The race will be televised live on TNT and be broadcast on the Motor Racing Network and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Qualifying for the 15<sup>th</sup> points-paying race on the 2009 schedule will be telecast live on SPEED Friday, June 13 beginning at 3 p.m. EDT.