

Clint Bowyer, BB&T No. 33 Team Finish 13th at Bristol

Race/Date: Food City 500 – March 22, 2009
Location: Bristol Motor Speedway
Start Position: 31st
Finish Position: 13th
Points Position: Third (Fell one position)

Bristol, Tennessee – Clint Bowyer overcame a disappointing qualifying effort to finish 13th at Bristol Motor Speedway on Sunday afternoon. Bowyer, who started 31st, recorded his fifth-consecutive top-15 finish at the .533-mile Tennessee bullring.

The Emporia, Kansas, native fell one spot, to third, in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series point standings and now sits three markers behind Kurt Busch in second and 79 behind leader Jeff Gordon.

The driver of the No. 33 BB&T Chevrolet took the green flag from the 31st position but a loose-handling Impala SS prevented Bowyer from improving his position. By the time the first caution flew at lap 26, the No. 33 showed in the 36th position. Crew chief Shane Wilson took advantage of the yellow flag by calling Bowyer to pit road to take on four tires, fuel, wedge and track bar adjustments to help tighten up the BB&T Chevrolet.

The adjustments made to the BB&T Chevrolet improved the handling and allowed Bowyer to begin his charge through the field. The two-time NSCS winner ran as high as 18th at lap 130 before settling into the 20th spot over the course of a long green-flag run.

The Nos. 26 and 77 cars got together at lap 190, allowing the field to come to pit road under the ensuing caution period. The BB&T crew performed routine service of four tires and fuel flawlessly, sending Bowyer back to the racing surface 17th when racing resumed racing at lap 196. Bowyer exercised patience as he began his climb towards the front of the field, advancing to the 12th position at lap 311.

As Bowyer battled Penske Racing teammates David Stremme and Kurt Busch in the closing stages of the event, it appeared that Bowyer would be relegated to a 16th-place finish. But, when NASCAR reported oil on the track at lap 495, 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 right side tires and sent the No. 33 Chevy back on track in the 13th position. While Bowyer fought hard to advance his position in the two lap sprint, he could not improve his finish and took the checkered flag 13th.

Richard Childress Racing teammates Jeff Burton, Casey Mears and Kevin Harvick finished eighth, 24th and 30th, respectively.

Next weekend, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series heads to Virginia's Martinsville Speedway for the Goody's Fast Relief 500. The race will be televised live on FOX Sun., March 29 beginning at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The Motor Racing Network and Sirius/XM Satellite Radio will also provide live lap-by-lap coverage. Qualifying for the sixth of 36 points-paying races will be televised on SPEED Fri., March 27 beginning at 3:30 p.m. EDT.