

Bowyer Posts 10th-Place Finish at New Hampshire

Race: Sylvania 300
Date: September 20, 2009
Location: New Hampshire Motor Speedway
Start Position: 17th
Finish Position: 10th
Points Position: 15th (Maintained position)

LOUDON, N.H. – Clint Bowyer was plagued with handling issues for most of Sunday afternoon's SYLVANIA 300 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, but his Shane Wilson-led Cheerios/Hamburger Helper team's never-quit attitude afforded the Emporia, Kansas, native a 10th-place finish.

His second-consecutive top-10 finish allowed Bowyer to maintain the 15th position in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series point standings.

Bowyer recorded the third-fastest time in Friday's opening practice session, and followed that up by touring the "Magic Mile" in 29.023 seconds, at an average speed of 131.234 mph, later that afternoon in qualifying to earn the 17th-starting spot for the 300-lap event. The Richard Childress Racing driver then recorded the 14th- and 11th-fastest times, respectively, in Saturday's twin practice sessions.

From the onset of Sunday afternoon's race, Bowyer struggled with a tight-handling Cheerios/Hamburger Helper Chevrolet. The field remained under green-flag conditions until lap 67, when the No. 9 machine's engine expired, oiling down the track and placing the field under caution. Bowyer followed the leaders to pit road for service, taking on four tires, fuel and a track bar adjustment. A lightning-fast stop by the Helping Hands pit crew netted Bowyer five positions that advanced him to 16th for the lap-74 restart.

Bowyer continued to maintain his position over the course of the ensuing green-flag run, and as the race neared the mid-point, the two-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series winner continued to hold his position just outside the top 10.

When debris in Turn 3 brought out the caution flag at lap 141, Wilson called Bowyer to pit road to take on four tires, fuel and a pair of chassis adjustments. The changes brought the Cheerios/Hamburger Helper Chevrolet to life. As the laps continued to click off, Bowyer cracked the top 10 at lap 198. The 2007 SYLVANIA 300 winner continued to hold his position over the final 100 laps, giving the fourth-year Sprint Cup competitor his 12th top-10 finish of the 2009 season.

Mark Martin was able to hold off Denny Hamlin and Juan Pablo Montoya to earn his fifth win of the 2009 season. Jimmie Johnson and Kyle Busch rounded out the top-five finishers.

Bowyer's RCR teammates Casey Mears, Jeff Burton and Kevin Harvick finished 13th, 17th and 32nd, respectively.

The NASCAR Sprint Cup Series heads to Dover, Delaware, next weekend for the second and final time in 2009.

Live coverage of the AAA 400 from Dover International Speedway begins Sunday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time and will be telecast live on ABC. The event will also be broadcast live on the Motor Racing Network and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Qualifying for the 28th points-paying race on the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series tour will be broadcast live on ESPN2 Friday, Sept. 25 beginning at 3 p.m. EDT and can be heard worldwide on MRN and Sirius XM Satellite Radio.