

Bowyer Hopes to Celebrate Anniversary of Sprint Cup Debut in Victory Lane

The NASCAR Sprint Cup Series resumes its schedule this weekend with its first Saturday night race of the season in Phoenix. Clint Bowyer will be driving the No. 33 Cheerios/Hamburger Helper Chevrolet at the 1.5-mile track, where he has an average finish of 15th place.

Bowyer's first race in the Sprint Cup Series was at Phoenix International Raceway in April 2005. Since then, he has completed 2,177 laps and earned \$677,285 in seven races in Arizona. He finished second in the race staged in Phoenix this time last year, and he also won a Nationwide Series race at this track in 2007. Although his final results have been hit or miss, Bowyer says winning this race is within reach.

"I've won there in the past in the Nationwide Series and I honestly believe that it could happen," Bowyer said. "It's a fun, challenging racetrack. I'd love to win there in the Cheerios/Hamburger Helper Chevrolet. We've always run well there, we've just had some bad luck. We got spun out once. I made my Cup Series debut there. So we've had a couple of rough races in the past, but I see no reason why we can't have a good finish there this time around."

In his fourth season of full-time NSCS competition, Bowyer is off to the strongest start of his brief career. In the seven races held thus far, Bowyer has accumulated three top-five and four top-10 finishes, an average start of 22.0 and an average finish of 10.1. He is currently ranked fourth in the championship point standings, 187 markers behind leader Jeff Gordon but just 25 behind second-place point man Jimmie Johnson.

In addition, Bowyer has been on the track at the end of every race dating to Phoenix in November 2006, a streak of 80 races. He is one race shy of tying the modern era (since 1972) record of 81 races without a DNF (did not finish), held by RCR teammate Kevin Harvick. The all-time record is held by Herman Beam, who did not run his races consecutively but did make 84 starts from 1961-1963 without recording a DNF.

The Subway Fresh Fit 500 will be televised on FOX Saturday, April 18, beginning at 8 p.m. ET and will also broadcast worldwide on MRN and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Qualifying will be televised on SPEED Friday, April 17, beginning at 7 p.m. ET. MRN and Sirius XM Satellite Radio will provide live qualifying updates.