

Wine Country Road Course Hosts NASCAR Circuit This Weekend

The action provided by the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series will drastically change this weekend as Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, Calif., hosts the circuit. Sonoma is just north of San Francisco in the heart of California wine country.

The road course is two miles long, and the drivers will complete at least 110 laps. Each lap has 10 turns, some left and some right, some uphill and some downhill.

BB&T Racing driver Clint Bowyer, who spent most of his formative driving years on dirt, has two fourth place finishes in three starts at the track.

“Believe it or not, I really enjoy racing at Infineon,” Bowyer admitted. “I’ve been halfway decent there and I look forward to having another good run. You’ve got to be solid all day. It seems like it always comes right down to the end. There’ll be a late caution and everybody goes a little berserk and ends up wrecking. You’ve got to make sure you can get through that and, if you do, you’ll probably come out of there with a good finish.”

The first time Bowyer competed at Infineon Raceway, he finished 16th. He had competed on a road course in the NASCAR Nationwide Series, but it did not have the same characteristics of Infineon.

“I was scared to death to be honest with you,” Bowyer said about his first race there. “You hear the horror stories of the elevation changes and the blind corners, but I took to it fairly quickly. I really do enjoy racing there, and I am excited to get back out there.”

Bowyer enters Infineon 16th in the championship point standings. With 11 races remaining before the Chase for the Sprint Cup kicks off in September at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Bowyer sits 100 markers behind 12th-place point man and teammate Jeff Burton. The top 12 in the Sprint Cup Series points following the September 12 Chevy Rock & Roll 400 at Richmond International Raceway are locked into NASCAR’s 12-team Chase for the Sprint Cup playoff field.

Live coverage of the Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Infineon Raceway will take the green flag Sunday, June 21, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The race will be televised live on TNT and broadcast on the Performance Racing Network and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Qualifying will be telecast live on SPEED Friday, June 19, beginning at 6:30 p.m. EDT.