

The No. 33 BB&T Chevrolet Returns to the Track Sunday in Talladega

Clint Bowyer will drive the No. 33 BB&T Chevrolet this weekend at Talladega Superspeedway in the first of four consecutive races in which the BB&T paint scheme will be featured.

Talladega is the longest track in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series at 2.66 miles and its combination of length and high-banked result in one of the most exciting races of the season. NASCAR requires teams to use a restrictor plate on its cars at this track that dampens the speed of the cars and makes the race safer than in years past. Before restrictor plates were introduced, Bill Elliott attained a speed of almost 213 miles per hour during qualifying in 1987.

Bowyer earned a ninth-place finish in this race last year and finished fifth at Talladega Superspeedway last fall. He has competed well at Talladega and at Daytona, where a restrictor plate is also required, in the last two years. One of the keys to success at Talladega is to avoid the many wrecks that always seem to occur at the track.

“You’ve got to take care of your car there,” Bowyer said. “It’s so easy to get caught up in the big wreck. We had a lot of speed there and Daytona went really well for us so I’m looking forward to getting there this weekend and running up front in the BB&T Chevrolet.”

Drafting behind the car or a line of cars in front of you to reduce air drag is another key to success at Talladega. One minute a driver could be in 26th place, but if he can find a few drafting partners, the locomotive affect can propel the group to the top 10 in just a few laps. The new car that was introduced during the second half of this decade has made drafting easier, according to Bowyer.

“I think the biggest thing with the new car is that you can bump draft and not pick up the rear wheels of the car in front of you and spin them out,” Bowyer explained. “It’ll shove them forward and it’ll actually hurt you, whereas, with the old car, you could knock the guy out of your way and get back going again and it would help you. I like the way the car is built for the superspeedways and I think it produces some great racing.”

Bowyer has been on the track instead of in the garage after an accident or a failed motor at the end of every race dating back to Phoenix in November 2006, a streak of 81 races. When the Emporia, Kan., native crossed the finish line at Phoenix, he tied the current modern-era record of 81 races without a DNF (did not finish), held by RCR teammate Kevin Harvick. Bowyer now sets his sights on the all-time record held by Herman Beam, who did not run his races consecutively but did make 84 starts from 1961-1963.

The Aaron’s 499 at Talladega Superspeedway will be televised live Sunday, April 26th beginning at 1 p.m. ET on FOX and broadcast live on the Motor Racing Network and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Qualifying will take the green flag at 11 a.m. ET Saturday, April 25th and will be telecast live on SPEED.