

Bowyer, Former Truck Winner at Texas, Aims for a Sprint Cup Win this Sunday

Clint Bowyer reclaimed second place in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series standings after his fifth-place finish in the No. 33 BB&T Chevrolet at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia last Sunday. This Sunday the 29-year-old driver from Kansas will have to employ a different set of driving skills to navigate the 1.5-mile Texas Motor Speedway near Fort Worth.

Martinsville Speedway is one of the toughest physical challenges for a driver. It is just a half-mile in length, and the drivers physically work hard to maneuver their cars and mentally challenge themselves when trying to pass lapped cars. Drivers are more concerned with speed and handling at Texas, and the physical and mental challenge is less grueling.

In his six trips to Texas Motor Speedway, Bowyer has two top-five finishes and a 10th-place finish among his best efforts. Last season Bowyer finished 10th in April and fourth during the Chase for the Sprint Cup in November. Last season's success appears to have contributed to a positive attitude as he prepares for the challenge.

"Texas is a track where as it ages and you've got more options, and those options seem to be more fitting for me," Bowyer said. "We've had good runs at Texas in the past; we've just struggled to get the finishes that we deserved. Last year we finally got the finish to show for it. We led laps in the fall race and looked like we had a shot to win it, but we fell a little short. It's a track I really look forward to getting to."

Throughout his racing career, Bowyer has competed in a number of different forms of racing, including dirt bikes, dirt cars and a variety of stock cars. In 2006 Bowyer competed in a NASCAR Truck Series race at Texas Motor Speedway in a Chevy Silverado. Bowyer won the pole position for that race and also claimed the victory.

When Bowyer starts Sunday's race, he will attempt to be on the track at the end of the race instead of in the garage due to mechanical problems for the 80th consecutive race. Bowyer owns the longest active streak at 79, and the record is 81 races, a streak accomplished by Kevin Harvick that ended earlier this year.

The Samsung 500 will be televised live Sunday, April 5, beginning at 1:30 p.m. ET on FOX and broadcast live on the Performance Racing Network and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Qualifying will be televised live on SPEED Friday, April 3, at 4:30 p.m. ET. PRN and Sirius XM Satellite Radio will carry qualifying updates live.