

Clint Bowyer's Intensity Continues to Escalate as Playoffs Approach

With seven races remaining until the top 12 spots are reserved for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Chase for the Championship, BB&T Racing driver Clint Bowyer knows the intensity is going to reach astronomical heights as he tries to make a move from 15th place.

Bowyer's next opportunity to make a major move arrives this Sunday afternoon at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where Bowyer has finished 19th, 13th, and 4th in three career starts at the most famous race track in the country. Bowyer is 126 points from Matt Kenseth, who occupies 12th place in the standings, and he is 167 points behind Kasey Kahne, who is in eighth place. Bowyer and his Richard Childress Racing team tested the No. 33 Chevrolet at Indianapolis Motor Speedway last month, but a tire problem caused Bowyer to hit one of the walls.

"The good news is that we had really good speed and I think we can stand to improve on what we had at the test," Bowyer explained this week. "I know that Shane and all the guys worked hard to put the car back together after that incident and I think we'll have a pretty good Cheerios/Hamburger Helper Chevrolet for the race."

In last year's event in Indianapolis, tire problems plagued a majority of the 43 competitors, including Bowyer, who finished 19th. Bowyer said Goodyear has done everything it can to reverse last year's misfortunes.

"My hat's off to Goodyear for the effort they've put in for Indy," Bowyer said. "They've gone above and beyond anything that I think was expected of them to make sure that everything is right for that race. They've done their homework by building a good tire."

According to Bowyer, the entire Indianapolis Motor Speedway facility is a spectacle worth visiting. IMS opened in 1909 and was originally a 2.5-mile speedway with a track paved with 3.2 million bricks. The track surface is no longer brick-laden, but the track's nickname is still "The Brickyard."

"From the minute you fly into it, it's cool," Bowyer said. "It's got a golf course in the infield for crying out loud. It's just unbelievable how cool that race track is. It's legendary, and it's a place you want to be at. It's the 100th year of racing there, and it would be pretty special to win this race."

The Allstate 400 at the Brickyard will take the green flag Sunday, July 26, at 2 p.m. ET. Race coverage will be televised live on ESPN beginning at 1 p.m. ET and broadcast worldwide on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Radio Network and Sirius/XM Satellite Radio. Qualifying will be televised live on ESPN2 Saturday, July 26, at 10 a.m. ET.