

**NOTES AND QUOTES FROM WEDNESDAY AT THE
2018 NASCAR MEDIA TOUR IN CHARLOTTE**



HAMPTON, Ga. (Jan. 24, 2018) – The third and final day of the 2018 NASCAR Media Tour presented by Charlotte Motor Speedway took place on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at the Charlotte Convention Center in Downtown Charlotte, with media availabilities and individual break-out sessions with several of NASCAR's top drivers across all three national touring series.

Notable drivers featured Wednesday included Christopher Bell, Chris Buescher, Daniel Suarez, Kasey Kahne, David Ragan, Johnny Sauter, Ryan Blaney, Brad Keselowski, Darrell Wallace, Jr., Ryan Newman, Martin Truex, Jr. and Joey Logano among others.

David Ragan, driver of the No. 38 Ford Fusion for Front Row Motorsports:

Georgia native David Ragan will make his 400th career NASCAR Cup Series start at his home track, Atlanta Motor Speedway, at the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 on Sunday, Feb. 25. He is a two-time winner at NASCAR's top level and enters his 12th fulltime season in 2018.

"It is very special that I made it to 400 consecutive starts. I think that is a huge accomplishment. As a young kid, I dreamed of being able to race at some of these large tracks to get my NASCAR license. I remember being so happy to get my first NASCAR license when I was an 18-year-old going to race a late-model stock car. To be able to have raced all these different race tracks and to have met all of these great people and to have won a few races and to do all that consecutive to have been fortunate to not be injured and be able to continue racing and have team owners that would let me drive their race cars, that's really special.

"For it to happen at Atlanta Motor Speedway is pretty neat too. I couldn't have scripted it any better. Atlanta Motor Speedway is where I got my start racing – my Bandolero car and my Legends car back in the late '90s. I'm from Georgia. My dad still

has an office at AMS.

"I can remember watching the track in 1996 go through its reconfiguration and taking my dad's El Camino, taking laps around the new track surface when they were working it. Atlanta Motor Speedway is a special place to me and my family, and it's pretty cool that I'm going to run my 400th race there."

Joey Logano, driver of the No. 22 Ford Fusion for Team Penske:

Logano enters his 10th season in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup series in 2018. He won the pole at Atlanta in 2015.

On his earlier struggles at Atlanta Motor Speedway and his recent newfound success there:

"Why would I tell you? (laughter) It took me a long time to figure it out; I'm just going to spill the beans right here, huh? It was about two or three things – really, in all honesty, following Kevin Harvick. He's really good there (Atlanta Motor Speedway). Just kind of seeing what he does and watching that and then kind of evolving from there.

"Once you kind of get the gist of what it takes to go around Atlanta, you can start to fine-tune it and adjust your car to it and try to catch up. And now, I look at Atlanta as one of our best race tracks, where it was probably my worst race track. Kind of cool to be able to see that evolve.

"What a fun race track, anyways. It's bumpy; it's rough. You're all over the place out there. It's a fun race track for us to go around. That surface is a lot of fun. I know they're getting to the point where they're going to have to repave it at some point, but the longer they can keep it this way, the better for everyone, I think."

NASCAR racing returns to Atlanta Motor Speedway Feb. 23-25, 2018. For more information or purchase tickets today, call the AMS ticket office at (770) 946-4211, (877) 9-AMS-TIX or visit www.atlantamotorspeedway.com.

**Dale Earnhardt Jr. Named Grand Marshal
for 60th Annual DAYTONA 500**
Two-Time DAYTONA 500 Champion Will Give Command to
Start Engines Prior to 2018 'Great American Race'

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Dale Earnhardt Jr. is indeed returning to the DAYTONA 500, although in a different role than the previous 20 Speedweeks at Daytona International Speedway. Earnhardt, who has retired from Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series competition, will serve as the Grand Marshal for the 60th running of "The Great American Race" on Feb. 18, 2018.

Earnhardt, who will deliver the famous "Drivers, start your engines" command, won a total of 17 races at the "World Center of Racing" during his career from 1998-2017. The only drivers to equal or surpass in DIS victories are his father Dale Earnhardt (34), Tony Stewart (19) and Bobby Allison (17).

In addition to his DAYTONA 500 victories in 2004 and 2014, in other Monster Energy Series competition at DIS Earnhardt won both the Coke Zero 400 Powered By Coca-Cola and the Advance Auto Parts Clash twice and captured Can-Am Duel victories five times. He also won the PowerShares QQQ 300 and the Coca-Cola Firecracker 250 – both NASCAR Xfinity Series events – three times apiece.

Earnhardt capped his career at Daytona in style this season, qualifying second for the DAYTONA 500 and winning the pole for the Coke Zero 400.

Earnhardt joins a star-studded alumni of DAYTONA 500 Grand Marshals. That list includes luminaries from the entertainment field such as actors Matthew McConaughey and Owen Wilson; politicians such as President George W. Bush; and, of course, past DAYTONA 500 champions Junior Johnson and Richard Petty.

"Talk about a perfect fit – on the historic 60th running of the DAYTONA 500, we will have a man responsible for so much of our history serving as the Grand Marshal," said Daytona International Speedway President Chip Wile. "He has meant so much to our facility, to NASCAR and all race fans through the years. It's an honor to have him back in this capacity for the 2018 DAYTONA 500."

"I was humbled when asked to be the Grand Marshal of next season's DAYTONA 500," Earnhardt Jr. said. "The race has so much history and being a two-time winner of the event is something I am extremely proud of. The list of names who have Grand Marshaled the race is one I'm honored to add my name to. Speedweeks is an exciting time for our sport, and this assures me an opportunity to witness the thrills of it all."

Tickets for the 60th annual DAYTONA 500 and other Daytona International Speedway events can be purchased online at www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com or by calling 1-800-PITSHOP.

Fans can stay connected with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and Snapchat, and by downloading Daytona International Speedway's mobile app, for the latest news throughout the year.

