

Dillon earns first win at Coca-Cola 600

Story by Jenelle Hanyon, photo by NASCAR MEDIA

Hall of Fame car owner Richard Childress finally let the emotions flow when he saw the scoring board after the Coca-Cola 600. He saw the iconic No. 3, driven by his grandson Austin Dillon, had won the race.

“Can you believe it?” Childress asked. “The Coke 600, Austin Dillon and the No. 3!”

Dillon passed an out-of-gas Jimmie Johnson two laps before the end of the race for his first Cup victory.

It had been a long time coming for the No. 3, made famous by the late Dale Earnhardt, who drove it to championships seven times. The last time the two celebrated was when Earnhardt won at Talladega Oct. 15, 2000.

Dillon did his signature belly slide celebration in the damp grass at Charlotte. The driver outlasted a rain delay and sweating it out by not running out of gas before crossing the finish line.

Dillon closed racing’s biggest day with his surprise victory, following Andretti’s Takuma Satō’s win at the Indy 500.



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