

Using Strategy Truex Grabs His First Victory at Watkins Glen

Story: Phillip Prichard / Photos: MSA Staff
Martin Truex Jr. won the I Love New York 355 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race by slowing down over the closing laps. Truex let Brad Keselowski pass him for the lead on Lap 77 of 90. On instructions from crew chief Cole Pearn, Truex also let Ryan Blaney pass his No. 78 Furniture Row Racing Toyota on Lap 83. As Keselowski and Blaney had to pit for fuel, Truex took the lead. This was his 4th win of 2017, 1st win at Watkins Glen, and 11th career win.

Truex said a win at Watkins Glen was special, at a track where his father raced, and a track where he was a "garage rat" as a child.

Truex had one of the fastest cars throughout Sunday's Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race, but didn't really take command of the race until the final stage. He finished second to rookie Daniel Suarez in the second stage, but quickly rocketed into the lead during the start of the third stage on lap 45.

Kyle Busch had many ups and downs this weekend. After winning the Xfinity Series race on Saturday, Busch won the pole position with a lap of 69.49 seconds, 126.925 mph. Kyle Busch dominated the beginning on Sunday's race, leading every lap of stage 1. That ended after a pit stop when a lug nut got caught between the wheel hub and the brake caliper. Busch rallied back only to make contact with Keselowski at the Bus Stop on lap 55. He made contact with #2-Keselowski and spun out. He had to pit, putting him off sequence from the leaders, and he could not get back to the lead. Busch



KYLE LEADING THRU THE BUS STOP ON SATURDAY



Photo: Judge David Boland

ANOTHER X-FINITY WIN



LINE THEM UP FOR QUALIFYING...



KYLE GETS THE POLE: 3 HOURS BEFORE START OF RACE



THE START: HARVICK & TRUEX COMING OUT OF TURN 1



CONTACT BETWEEN KYLE & BRAD



JR'S LAST TRIP THRU THE GLEN



LAST CORNER: SAVING GAS!!!

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