NASCAR: Talladega

Joey Logano Win's Dega to Advance Into the Final 8!

Story by Jenelle Hanyon /Photos by F.L. Hanyon

Logano was not in a must-win situation at Dega but the victory sure didn't hurt. A blown engine earlier in the race eliminated Penske teammate Brad Kieslowski from the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship field, and Martin Truex had the same fate.

The race was completely opposite from the spring stop in Alabama, when 35 cars were involved in at least one accident and two cars went airborne. And last year, it appeared that Kevin Harvick intentionally caused an accident on an overtime restart to help his championship chances.

But for mile after mile Sunday, the drivers behaved.

Early in the race three Championship Contenders had major problems within minutes of each other. First Logano left pit road with a jack wedged under his Ford, and he had to return to pit road to have it removed. Then Hamlin was flagged for speeding, and then Truex lost an engine.

Keselowski's engine went with 43 laps remaining because of debris on his front grille.

Kasey Kahne spun with sic laps remaining to bring out a caution.

The caution had terrible timing for Hamlin, and was a gift for Dillon. Hamlin was trying to hold off Dillon for the last transfer position and the Kahne spin gave Dillon another chance to gain points that would keep him in contention and bump Hamlin from the Chase for the Sprint Cup.

The restart was with three laps remaining.

The push was intense for a lap, and then a spin by Alex Bowman brought out the caution again for an extended finish.

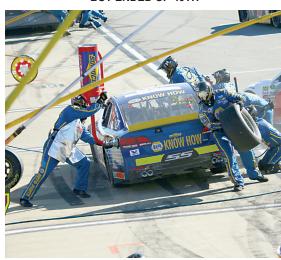
Also eliminated Sunday was Chase Elliott. Advancing are: Jimmie Johnson, Kevin Harvick, Matt Kenseth, Kyle Busch, Carl Edwards, Joey Lagano and Denny Hamlin. There are four Toyota's remaining in the field, all from Joe Gibbs Racing. Stewart-Haas racing has Kurt Busch and Harvick- but the two had a heated exchange after the race over an alleged contact on the last lap- while Hendricks Motorsports has Johnson for three Chevrolets in the Field. Logano is the only Ford driver.



TRUEX JR STARTED ON THE POLE BUT ENDED UP 40TH



THE START



ELLIOTT PIT STOP



CHEEZE IT SQUEEZE



16 CREW KEPT BIFF IN THE RACE FINISHING 15TH



BYE BYE MOTOR

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