

JR Motorsports Drivers Dominate the Great Clips 300 at AMS

By Phillip Prichard, MSA

Forty drivers entered the Nationwide Series Great Clips 300 to benefit Feed The Children at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Labor day weekend. JR Motorsports' drivers Kevin Harvick and Chase Elliott dominated the race being the only leaders of the day.

Chase Elliott in the #9 won his first career pole in the NNS series with a qualifying time of 180.240 mph. He was the only driver to crack the 180 mph mark. The 18-year-old Elliott became the youngest pole winner in Atlanta history. Jeff Gordon was 20 when he won the pole in Atlanta in 1992. Elliott led the first 36 laps before he was passed by Harvick. Elliott has won three races thus far in his rookie season on the NASCAR Nationwide Series circuit.

Harvick took the lead on Lap 37 and lead the remaining 159 laps. The victory was Harvick's third victory of the 2014 season and the forty-third in his career. Harvick isn't a regular on the Nationwide Series, but he has been a factor in each of his 11 starts. He has finished in the top five in nine races. He was seventh in his other two starts.

Joey Logano was closing in the final laps, but his effort earned him a second place finish. Kyle Larson was third, Kyle Busch was fourth and Chase Elliott rounded out the top five.

The one lead change in the 195-lap race made history has the fewest ever changes on a 1 1/2 mile track. Only two cautions waved both for debris.

Nationwide driver Chris Cockrum carried a special Capt. Herb paint scheme in the Great Clips 300 to benefit Feed The Children race. There was also an empty seat in the back corner of the media center that was filled for more than two decades by longtime Atlanta radio and TV reporter Capt. Herb Emory who passed away of a massive heart attack. A baseball cap marks Emory's longtime seat at AMS this weekend.

Chase Elliott left Atlanta with Nationwide Series point lead with his other JR Motorsports teammate, Regan Smith in second place.

Photos by MSA Staff



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