

POCONO 400 JUNE 2 2019

Story Nancy Elles/Photos MSA Staff

The 14th race of the season kicked off with the Pocono 400 in Long Pond, Pa. On June 2.

Rain in the whole North East region threatened to postpone but when it came down to race, all sunny skies.

The racetrack known as the tricky triangle is a 2.5-mile triangle shaped track. The race itself is 160 laps broken into 3 stages of 50, 50, and 60 laps. William Byron had the pole.

Other than a competition caution at lap 20, Stage 1 was almost event free until Austin Dillion hit the wall in turn 3 after contact with Paul Menard on lap 30. He suffered extreme damage and this ultimately took him out of the race. He was listed as finishing 37th. Kyle Larson was the winner of Stage 1. Kyle Busch took tires and fuel on lap 22 and restarted 10 and climbed to eighth by lap 45. He pitted again at lap 47 to set up for Stage 2.

Stage 2 restart did not go back to green until lap 55. Brad Keselowski has taken the lead as a result of not pitting. Caution comes out in lap 58 after Matt DiBenedetto goes into the wall. After restart, another caution when Matt Tift spins out. Back to

green at lap 65. Kyle Busch takes the lead until lap 72 when Clint Bowyer manages to get around him to take the lead. Three laps later Kyle again regains the lead, which he will keep until lap 94.

Crew Chief Adam Stevens calls him in for tires and fuel. Busch and Truex continue to battle until Truex is forced to the garage after a motor blow up. Chase Elliot takes the lead for a few short laps until Kyle Larson passes and takes the win for Stage 2.

Stage 3 starts with Kyle Busch in the lead at 4 laps in. William Byron spins out but manages to save. No caution. Kevin Harvick begins to gain on Busch at 15 laps in. Brad Keselowski is the first to pit and takes two tires. Harvick and Busch have yet to pit and will stay out until there are 35 laps to go. Harvick gained the lead after his stop but was given a pit road penalty, which gave Busch the lead. At 25 laps, all drivers have pitted and Busch is still in the lead. Caution will come out 14 laps remaining after Ricky Stenhouse hits the wall. He's out and goes to the garage. Restart begins with 9 to go. Busch opted to stay out and remains in the lead. Larson and Keselowski battle for second until Larson hits the wall. No caution and he stays on the track. Busch keeps the lead for the rest of the race and wins. Keselowski second, Erik Jones third. Race had a total of 8 cautions and 13 lead changes.

This marks the 55th victory for Kyle Busch, third at Pocono, tying him with Rusty Wallace for 9th on all time Nascar Cup series wins. I have no doubt he will pass this milestone soon. Kyle now has a 4-point lead over Joey Logano. They were tied coming into this race.

Describing his runs at Pocono Busch said "this place was a real struggle for me early on, but the last two years it's been pretty good to me."

Pocono Raceway has another racing weekend coming up July 26- 28th. Pennsylvania 150 Arca series July 26. Gander RV 150 Truck series July 26, and Gander RV 400 Monster Energy Nascar Cup series. Also ABC Supply Indy series August 17 and 18th, 2019.



RACE TIME IN THE POCONOS



BUBBA GETTING LAST MINUTE
ADVICE FROM THE KING



KYLE #2 & #3 CLINT QUALIFIERS
WAITING BACKSTAGE FOR INTRO



THE START!



UNFIXABLE...



COMING OUT OF TURN 3



PIT ROW ACTION



FINAL RESTART



Owners:

Michael Hillman • Cory Hillman

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE
MACHINE SHOP DIESEL INCLUDING
6.0, 6.4, 7.3 ENGINES

ENGINES: CUSTOM
DOMESTIC & IMPORTS HIGH PERFORMANCE
RACE ENGINES