

POCONO RACEWEEK 2021

Story: Nancy Elles, Photos: Frederick Hanyon for MSA

Pocono race weekend in Long Pond, PA was held on June 26th and 27th. Trucks on Saturday, and in a twist Xfinity ran Sunday while Cup Series split the weekend with a double header running one race on Saturday and one on Sunday.

Trucks ran 60 laps without much drama. Truck #52, Stewart Friesen, spun out and hit the wall on lap 51, in the first turn and damaged both ends of his truck. The caution on lap 53 sends nine of the trucks behind the wall.

Kyle Busch (#51) and Brad Keselowski (#2) continued their personal battle on lap 57 and made contact.

John H. Nemecheck (#4) wins on lap 60. Local favorites Austin Hill (#16) finished 5th.

In the Xfinity Race held on Sunday, Riley Herbst in the #98 car started at the rear for unapproved changes to his car and Jesse Iwuji (#74) for driver changes.

First caution came out on lap 12 after Josh Williams (#92) spun out after Santini Ferrucci (#26) cuts Williams off.

Green Flag, comes back on lap 18 led by Harrison Burton in the number 20 car leading the field. Burton holds off Daniel Hemric (#18) to win stage one.

Nine cars stay out while all others pit.



KESLOWSKI AND KYLE

Justin Allgaier in the number 7 car leads out of the pits on lap 25. Sam Mayer (#8) and Justin Haley (#11) battle for 3rd. They make contact and J. Haley hits the inside wall hard before coming back into the field and gets hit again. J. Haley gets out of his car after some delay and lies on the ground, race was red flagged and J. Haley is out of the race.

Race resumes in lap 29 and Daniel Hemric in the 18 car takes the lead on lap 32 by passing number 7, Jeb Burton.

Lap 35 Harrison Burton Spins out passing Justin Allgaier and hits the wall bringing out the caution. Fifteen cars pit.

Ty Gibbs (#54) leads them out of the pits on lap 39 and takes stage two on lap 41.

Ty Gibbs leads the pack on green and lap 46 brings out the caution again when Ty gets loose in turn 1. Riley Herbst goes into the wall hard.

Austin Cindric (#22) leads lap 57. Most drivers cycle through pit stops and Hemric takes the lead on lap 58. Hemric leads from pits but was speeding. Cedric takes the lead after last pit cycle and goes on to win the race at lap 90. Our other local favorite Mason Massy (#99) finishing 30th. When the race was over it was announced Justin Allgaier would replace Justin Haley in the same day Cup Series race as a precaution.

First cup series race of the weekend on Saturday, June 26th. Cole Custer (#41) starts at the rear for inspection failures.

Kyle Larson (#5) leads at green but the 1st lap brings trouble for Chase Elliot (#9) and Ryan Preece (#37) both receive damage. No Caution. William Byron in the 24 car passes Kyle Larson to take the lead at lap 5. Debris on the track on lap 9 bring out the caution. This will serve as the competition caution.

Fourteen cars pit, Corey Lajoie (#7) gets caught speeding and Chase Elliot fixes the damage from lap 1.

William Byron takes the lead at green and Larson fall to 4th. On lap 14 Brad Keselowski (#2) spins out Cole Custer after the 41 makes

a big run below to avoid him. Custer hits the inside wall hard and sustains a lot of damage. Caution on lap 15 as Keselowski pits to fix damage. Byron leads on green and Kyle Busch takes the lead on lap 18.

Christopher Bell (#20) goes down a lap on lap 23 after a 16 second pit stop. Lap 26 ends the first stage with Kyle Busch the winner and Bell gets the free pass.

Thirteen cars stay out as the rest pit, Joey Lagano (#22) leads a green on lap 30 for the start of stage 2.

Kyle Busch comes close to hitting the wall on lap 42 while in 12th place. Keselowski and Kurt Busch (#1) both pit giving Ross Chastain the lead (#42). Ryan Newman (#6) hits the wall in turn 1. Several drivers



JACK WOOD ON LAP 1 BED COVER UP!!!

concerned about fuel pit on lap 54 when the caution comes out. Only 5 cars stay out while the rest pit.

Kyle Busch leads the green on lap 58 and on lap 60 Corey Lajoie (#7) has a hard accident on lap 60 bringing out another caution. Kyle Busch once again leads the group off pit road on lap 64. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. receives a restart violation.

Chastain gets into the wall on lap 72 and loses a tire and spins out bringing out another caution. Thirteen cars pit.

Kurt Busch leads the field on green on lap 76 and Kurt Busch goes on the win stage 2. No cars pit while others stay out.

At the start of stage 3 Kurt Busch leads the field on lap 82. Kyle Larson takes the lead from Busch on lap 84. Lap 91 seven cars pit. Austin Dillion cited for speeding down pit road. Matt DiBenedetto (#21) also penalized when his gas can gets stuck. Lap 97 Kyle Busch takes the lead back from Larson.

Lap 108 debris brings out the caution. Kyle Busch has the lead on green but is quickly passed by Alex Bowman (#48) on lap 112. Lap 127 Kyle Larson takes the lead. Larson loses a tire and hits the wall, Bowman passes and wins the race.

Race 2 on Sunday, June 27th. Seven divers in backup cars start in the rear. The number 77 of Justin Haley at the rear for diver change. Justin Allgaier will drive for him. Chris Buescher leads the pack on green.

Anthony Alfredo (#38) hits the wall in the second lap after blowing a tire brings a caution.

Buescher leads the pack on green on lap 7 but goes way up the track and drops to 10th. Larson receives nose damage after making contact with Denny Hamlin in the number 11. No more cautions come out for the rest of stage and Martin Truex (#19) wins stage 1 at lap 31. Tyler Reddick (#8) loses some position for not maintaining his position on yellow. Larson pits to work on car under yellow.

Brad Keselowski (#2) leads at green. Kyle Busch is reporting transmissions problems

on lap 36. Fourth gear keeps popping out. Larson reported overheating after repairs. No cautions for next 38 laps. Kyle Busch reports in lap 73 he cannot get the car out of fourth gear and his car is barely moving. Stage ends in lap 86, and William Byron wins the stage. Sixteen cars pit including Kyle in the number 18. A crew member gets in the car to try and fix the shifting issue but cannot get it out of fourth. Caution still out on lap 89 and Kyle pits again after the team had to cut the boot. NASCAR did not like that. Byron leads the pack on green. Lap 92 Erik Jones in the number 43 has left front tire flat and some damage. This brings out caution for debris.

Chase Elliot tired to fake a pit stop but was ruled he did not maintain position on yellow so the lead goes to Christopher Bell. Bell leads the pack at green. Bell and Chastain make contact resulting in a flat tire for Chastain and Bell goes into the wall and makes contact with Elliot. Elliot has a flat and pits. He has a second flat on lap 106.

Lap 111, Stenhouse goes to garage with a cylinder down. Fuel becomes an issue for most drivers. William Byron has to pit on lap 138 for fuel. Denny Hamlin runs out of fuel and needs to go into pit and Kyle Busch passes for the lead. Lap 140, Kyle Busch wins the race still stuck in the fourth gear.

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5TH WIN FOR NEMECHECK