Michael McDowell Wins Daytona 500

Michael McDowell won for his first time after 358 starts. He definitely picked the biggest race, the season opener the Daytona 500!

It was his 20th start at Daytona. The 36-year old put himself in the playoffs. His best before that at Daytona was in 2017 in the July race where he finished in fourth.

The race was resumed after a 16 car accident on lap 15 of 200 and a lengthy delay because of lightning and heavy rain showers that rolled in. The storm caused officials to order everyone including the 20,000 socially distanced fans to safety.

Drying the track usually takes two or more hours but lightning held that back for another two hours. After a five hour delay with 11 cars out of the race, drivers stayed mostly single file until the last lap when the #2 car of Keselowski went airborne and landed on top of Kyle Busch which caused a fireball just before the finish line.

Keselowski had a good run from a push by McDowell but Brad's teammate Joey Lagano who was ahead of both Brad and Michael would have none of it and cut in front of both which caused the second big wreck. McDowell was able to make it by to the finish line at 12:15 AM on Mon-

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day for his Daytona win.

McDowell drag-raced Chase Elliott who finished 2nd and Austin Dillon followed behind in 3rd. Denny Hamlin led 98 laps of the race but with only five Toyotas left after pitting with 27 laps to go he fell behind. Being behind four Fords and several Chevys running single file Hamlin could not make it back to the front. This took away Hamlin's chances to make him the 1st driver to win three straight Daytona 500 wins. Hamlin finished 5th behind Kevin Harvick.   *- Story by Jenelle Hanyon*