

POCONO: TAKE 2

Story: Nancy Elles/Photos: Fred Hanyon

Nascar returned to Pocono for the second time in as many months for the 21st race of the season. Known as the Tricky Triangle in Long Pond, Pa., it has the longest straight stretch of any other track on the circuit at 3740 feet long.

First race up was the Gander Outdoors Truck Race. Austin Hill and Ross Chastain (The Melon Man) set the front row. Stewart Freison brings out first caution when he spins backwards and takes out Anthony Alfredo. Both trucks badly damaged. As the green flag drops again Ross Chastain has the lead by one truck length. Behind him is Bryan Danzart who spins into fence bringing out second caution. With 5 laps to go in Stage 1, Johnny Sauter heads to pit and he will go down one lap. Chastain wins Stage 1 in the Neice/Acurlite Chevy.

Stage 2 Leader stays out. Austin Hill heads to pit for minor damage repair. After a few more laps he heads to the garage with a mechanical issue in the clutch. With three to go Chastain heads to the pits and many follow. Four tires for Chastain. Harrison Burton stays out and takes the win for Stage 2.

Rest of the field heads to pits. Matt Crafton is first out. He will restart on the outside front row. Crafton gives Chastain a push and Chastain heads to the bottom in turn 1. With 15 of 30 laps to go, Ross Chastain leads Tyler Ankrum by 1 second. 8 to go, Chastain now leads Ankrum by 4 seconds. He's dropped into fuel saving mode.

Chastain takes the win in the Chevy. Second is Tyler Ankrum and third Har-

rison Burton both in Toyotas. Austin Hill ends up finishing 30th.

Next up Monster Energy Gander RV 400. Kevin Harvick has the pole. At the green flag Harvick is clear into turn one as they fan out 5 wide behind him. Joe Gibbs drivers Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin and Erik Jones battle for third. Jones takes that place.

Brad Keselowski, who started 11 has problems by the 4th lap and heads to the pits. His fenders are pushed in. Further trouble when the car falls off the jack. Kyle Busch takes third place by lap 5. He and Erik Jones head to pits under green for two tire change in lap 20. Lap 21 Kyle heads to pits under green for fuel and right side tires. He comes back in at 24th place. By lap 33 he is in the top 10. Lap 38 Harvick and Hamlin head to pits, and Kyle takes the lead on lap 40 and maintains that lead to the end of Stage 1.

Stage 2, Kyle heads to pits while Harvick stays out. Kurt Busch has a huge run on Chase Elliott. He looks to his outside, Elliott blocks and Busch tags him in the right rear. Elliott saves it but later will go into the wall and loses a front tire. Caution out and Kyle stays out while most others come in to pit. Light rain starts to fall in lap 91 and forces a caution but no red flag. Busch stays out and green flag comes back out at lap 95. Busch is called in for fuel on lap 98 and while driving down pit road caution comes out for wreck. Stage 2 ends during caution and Jimmie Johnson takes the win for his (only) second stage win.

Continued on next page

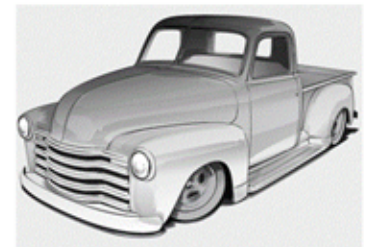


OVERTIME WIN



SMALL JOBS - BIG JOBS - HUGE JOBS
- WE CAN DO IT! -

- Restoring - Refinishing -
- Renewing - Redoing -



- POWDER COATING - SANDBLASTING -