

# Chase Elliott Scores His 1st MENCs Race

Story: Jenelle Hanyon/Photos: MSA Staff

Chase Elliott, the 22-year-old son of Hall of Famer Bill Elliott, led the final 34 laps of the Go Bowling at The Glen on the road course at Watkins Glen International for the first victory of his Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series career after eight runner-up finishes.

The 90-lap race came down to a two-driver battle between defending champion Martin Truex Jr. and Elliott over the final 20 laps. Elliott stayed in front the entire way, finally pulling away when Truex ran out of fuel on the last lap.

With a lap and a half to go, Truex missed the exit of the Inner Loop and Elliott gained some breathing room. Elliott gave most of his lead right back at the start of the final lap after he wheel-hopped Turn 1. He recovered in time to maintain the lead before winning by 7.5 seconds when Truex ran out of fuel.

I started to wheel-hop and I knocked it out of gear to not spin out," Elliott said. "Luckily I had a big enough gap where he couldn't get me. What a day."

Truex who was seeking a third consecutive road-course victory but came in second place.

Elliott, making the 99th start of his Cup career, ended up running out of fuel himself on the celebration lap. Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson gave Elliott a push back around.

Elliott said he was satisfied that his victory came down to racing instead of fuel, maintaining the lead under pressure from Truex for the last several laps.

The victory ended a streak of 37 consecutive races without a Cup win for Hendrick Motorsports, which collected its 250th win in the series.

Elliott's triumph also came one day after it was announced his dad will make a one-off return to racing at the road course at Road America on August 25.

Bill Elliott, 62, hasn't raced in more than six years after earning 44 career victories.

The win will send Elliott into the 16-driver field for the 10-race playoffs. He moved to 11th overall in points. Busch remained atop the standings with 934 points, including 35 playoff points. Harvick, who took 10th Sunday, is second at 864 (33) and Truex is third with 813 (27).



THE START



HARVICK FINISHED 10TH



ENTERING THE BUS STOP!



HOLDING BACK TRUEX



WELL DESERVED CHECKERED FLAG FINALLY!!!



PROUD SPOTTER AND DAD



CHASE SALUTES ATLANTA DURING HAT DANCE



HEADED INTO THE SSS'S



ON THE MOVE



CHASE TAKING LEAD OVER POLE WINNER HAMLIN



EARLY DAMAGE ON ARIC ALMIROILA STEWART-HAAS FORD



FAMILY TRADITION???



MONSTER BEAUTIES ENJOYING THE MOMENT



FAVORITE JOEY LOGANO FINISHED 37TH



KYLE ENDED UP 3RD