

Austin Hill scores in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (September 13, 2019) – Austin Hill drove from the back of the field to the lead with 12 laps to go to earn his first win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. With the win, Hill advanced to the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series Playoffs Round of 6. He is joined by fellow Toyota driver, Tyler Ankrum, who moved inside the cutoff line with his 11th place finish.

- Austin Hill drove his Tundra to the win for the third time this season.
- It was Toyota's series-leading 10th win of the season.
- Hill and Tyler Ankrum give Toyota two drivers in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series Playoffs Round of 6 for the second consecutive season.
- Christian Eckes earned his second-career pole position in his 10th series start and earned a career-best third-place finish.

AUSTIN HILL, No. 16 Gunma Toyopet Toyota Tundra, Hattori Racing Enterprises
Finishing Position: 1st

What does this win mean to you?

"It means the world to me. This is the hardest one I've had to win. We were going to stay out that last caution and we stayed out and everybody else pitted."

Did you make a statement to the field with this win tonight?

"We for sure made that statement. When I saw the 45 (Ross Chastain) in my sights, we were running close to lap times and I started changing my line a little bit. We picked up

two or three-tenths there changing my line. That was a big statement win. We drove by the 45 like he was sitting still and then just kept pulling. We were a little scared there for a little bit – our truck was cutting in and out. I don't know if fuel pressure was messing up or what."

Did you think you could make it back to the front of the field after the pit stop?

"When we first went back green, I thought it would be nice to pick off a few of these guys and have a caution."

What does this drive carry further into the Playoffs?

"It means a lot. Coming into tonight, our number one goal was getting stage points and we did that, we got stage points in stage one and stage two. Got through that and after the second stage and we knew that some of the Playoff drivers had some issues, my only concern was going for the win."

SCOTT ZIPADELLI, crew chief, No. 16 Gunma Toyopet Toyota Tundra, Hattori Racing Enterprises

Did you know you had clinched to the next round of the Playoffs during the race?

"It wasn't until late in the race that NASCAR had told us we had been locked in. Our strategy was pretty much race hard, try to gain as many stage points as we could through stage one and two then see where we ended up."



How has Austin Hill matured as a race car driver since Daytona?

"I think if you look at what he did in Michigan as far as his race craft and then we executed very well at Toronto. I think he's very underrated and was at the beginning of the year. I think if you look at the results, it's pretty clear that the kid can drive a race car and he's got a big heart. He's a great, great individual and great father, great husband – very nice people to be around. We're glad to have him here as a part of HRE."

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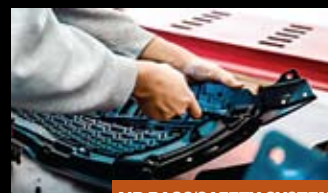
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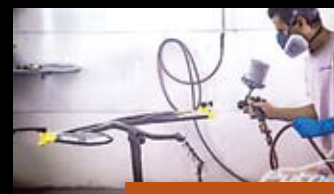
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