

# Harvick Wins The Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta

Story: Phillip Prichard, MSA / Photos: MSA Staff

After 17 years, Kevin Harvick finally completed the second chapter of his love affair with Atlanta Motor Speedway. In the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 race, Harvick dominated the rest of the field, leading 181-of-325 laps and finishing ahead of runner-up Brad Keselowski by 2.690 seconds.

Early in 2001, after Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a last-lap crash in the Daytona 500, Harvick was thrust prematurely into a replacement role that would have intimidated most rookies. Three weeks later, he notched his first Cup victory in a photo finish (.006 seconds) over Jeff Gordon.

Afterwards, in his victory celebration, Harvick gave a "3" salute to Earnhardt, a tribute he had waited years to perform. "I'm just so proud of everybody on our team," Harvick said.

Harvick has led the most laps in the last four Monster Energy events at Atlanta, but victory continued to elude him.

Denny Hamlin and Joey Logano tried divergent strategies, opting for a two-pit-stop strategy, instead of the typical three, over the last stage of the race. After Harvick came off pit road on Lap 289, Hamlin held a 1.819-second second advantage. On Lap 291 Harvick passed Hamlin for the lead and took off.

Brad Keselowski finished second and Clint Bowyer finished third, putting Fords in all three of the podium positions. Hamlin was fourth and Martin Truex Jr. came

from a 35th-place starting position to run fifth. Logano, pole winner Kyle Busch, Kurt Busch, Kyle Larson and Chase Elliott completed the top 10.

Joey Logano took over the series lead by six points over Ryan Blaney, who finished 12th.

## Rinnai 250

Kevin Harvick dominated the Rinnai 250 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. He surged to the front on a one-lap shootout to end Stage 1.

Harvick has won the Xfinity Series race at AMS four of the last six years and five times overall.

Only seven cars finished on the lead lap as Harvick set a strong pace after starting fifth. The No. 98 car led 137 of 163 laps.

"It's just been a really good place for me," said Harvick, whose first ever Cup Series win came at Atlanta in 2001. "The race track has stayed very similar to what it's been for a number of years. It's been a great race track for us. I was frustrated last year when we didn't leave here with a trophy on either day and that's always our goal."

Joey Logano was second, but never seriously challenged Harvick and finished 4.183 seconds back.

Pole-sitter Christopher Bell, a rookie in Xfinity after winning last year's Camping World Truck Series championship, led 11 laps and ended up third. His rear tire tagged the wall with five laps to go and the No. 20 car lost a spot to Logano.

Chevy drivers occupied the next three spots. John Hunter Nemechek was fourth in his series debut, fol-



**3 WIDE!**

lowed by Elliott Sadler and Justin Allgaier. Austin Cindric was seventh and the rest of the field finished a lap, or more, off the lead.

## Active Pest Control 200

Brett Moffitt slid down to the bottom edge, surged to the lead in overtime and won the Active Pest Control 200 benefiting Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Moffitt got a chance to claim just his second Camping World Truck Series win after pole-sitter Kyle Busch had a pit miscommunication under caution.

The field pitted with six laps to go and Busch, who led 67 laps, left his pit box before the lugs on his left rear tire were secure. Busch made it off pit road and the tire fell off. He reverse to get it fixed, but a win was no longer in the cards.

Moffitt powered away from defending series champion Johnny Sauter and Noah Gragson to win in the two-lap overtime finish.

Gragson, who won Stage 1, finished second. Sauter jumped to the lead after a shuffle at the top to start Stage 2 and led 12 laps before Busch took control in the final stage. Only Sauter was in striking distance of Busch when Josh Reaume wrecked with six laps to go.

Under caution, teams were able to pit and that's when the door opened for Moffitt.

Ben Rhodes struggled with his engine all night, but slogged through the difficulties to finish fourth.

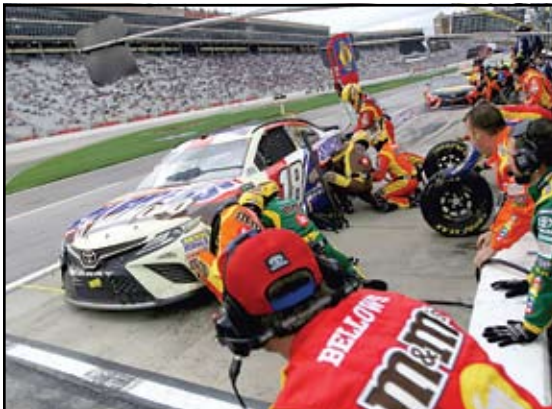
Two-time truck champion Matt Crafton was fifth. Stewart Friesen, rookie Myatt Snider, Jesse Little, Grant Enfinger and Austin Dillon rounded out the top 10.



**POLE WINNER AND AMS PRES. ED CLARK**



**CHRIS JANSON ENTERTAINED FANS DURING RACE DELAY**



**PIT CREW ON SUNDAY HELPED ROWDY TO PLACE IN THE TOP 10**



**CHASE FINISHED IN 10TH**



**UGA #9 JERSEY DID'T HELP CHASE GET HIS 1ST WIN!**