

Late Penalty Ends Top-10 Run for Bowyer at Martinsville

Race: Tums Fast Relief 500
Date: Oct. 25, 2009
Location: Martinsville Speedway
Start Position: 19th
Finish Position: 19th
Points Position: 15th (Maintained position)

Martinsville, VA - Clint Bowyer appeared to have a top-10 finish lined up in Sunday's Tums Fast Relief 500 at Martinsville Speedway; but after being hit with a late-race speeding penalty exiting pit road, Bowyer was credited with a 19th-place finish that does not reflect the strong performance of the BB&T Racing Team.

Despite the less-than-desired result, Bowyer maintained the 15th position in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series point standings with just four races remaining in the 2009 season.

Bowyer recorded the seventh-fastest time in Thursday's opening practice session; and later that afternoon, ran a lap of 19.742 seconds, at an average speed of 95.917 mph, to place him 19th on the starting grid for Sunday's race.

The Emporia, Kansas, native wasted little time showing the strength of his BB&T Impala SS in the early going of Sunday's 500-mile event, advancing to the 10th position at lap 32. Despite changing weather conditions that altered the handling of his Chevrolet, Bowyer continued to hold his place inside the top 10 for the first half of the event.

Despite a lack of overall grip that hindered his ability to exit the corners, Bowyer continued to hold his own over the second half of the event. As drivers began to hit pit road for their final scheduled service of the day under green-flag conditions, Bowyer followed suit at lap 418 to take on four tires and fuel. As he exited pit road, NASCAR reported that the No. 33 Chevy was going too fast exiting pit road, resulting in a pass-through penalty. Despite the unfortunate circumstance, Bowyer was able to gain positions in the closing laps of the event to finish 19th.

Virginia native Denny Hamlin captured his third win of the 2009 season, beating Jimmie Johnson to the checkered flag. Juan Pablo Montoya, Kyle Busch and Jeff Gordon rounded out the top-five finishers.

Bowyer's RCR teammates Kevin Harvick, Jeff Burton and Casey Mears finished 10th, 15th and 18th, respectively.

Next weekend, NASCAR's senior circuit heads to Talladega Superspeedway for the final restrictor plate race of the season.

Live coverage of the AMP Energy 500 from Talladega Superspeedway begins Sunday, November 1 at 12 Noon Eastern Standard Time and will be telecast live on ABC. The event will also be broadcast live on the Motor Racing Network and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Qualifying for the 33rd points-paying race on the 36-race tour will be broadcast live on SPEED Saturday, Oct. 31 beginning at 12 Noon Eastern Daylight Time and can be heard worldwide on MRN and Sirius XM Satellite Radio.