

Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500

325 Laps at Atlanta Motor Speedway

Hampton, Georgia

500.5 Miles on 1.54 mile Super Speedway

Fin	St	No	Driver	Sponsor	Make	Laps	Laps Led	Race Pts	Bonus Pts	Pts	Status	Earnings
1	19	2	Brad Keselowski	AutoTrader	Ford	325	33	40		40	running	
2	9	19	Martin Truex, Jr	Bass Pro Shops	Toyota	325	4	35		49	running	
3	8	1	Kurt Busch	ComSurv	Chevrolet	325	1	34		45	running	
4	18	4	Kevin Harvick	Busch Beer	Ford	325	45	33		52	running	
5	3	14	Clint Bowyer	Haas Automation	Ford	325	0	32		34	running	
6	6	18	Kyle Busch	Snickers Creamy	Toyota	325	0	31		33	running	
7	15	20	Erik Jones	DeWalt	Toyota	325	0	30		33	running	
8	1	10	Aric Almirola	Smithfield	Ford	325	36	29		37	running	
9	30	37	Chris Buescher	Scott Comfort Plus	Chevrolet	325	0	28		28	running	
10	5	41	Daniel Suarez	Arris	Ford	325	0	27		27	running	
11	4	11	Denny Hamlin	FedEx Ground	Toyota	325	0	26		35	running	
12	7	42	Kyle Larson	McDonald's	Chevrolet	325	142	25		44	running	
13	13	6	Ryan Newman	Acorns	Ford	325	0	24		24	running	
14	14	21	Paul Menard	Menards / Moen	Ford	325	0	23		23	running	
15	16	88	Alex Bowman	Axalta	Chevrolet	325	0	22		22	running	
16	23	38	David Ragan	FireAde	Ford	325	0	21		21	running	
17	17	24	William Byron	Liberty University	Chevrolet	325	0	20		20	running	
18	2	17	Ricky Stenhouse,	Little Hug	Ford	324	1	19		21	running	
19	22	9	Chase Elliott	NAPA Auto Parts	Chevrolet	324	0	18		18	running	
20	28	8	Daniel Hemric	Red Kap / Alsc	Chevrolet	324	0	17		17	running	
21	10	3	Austin Dillon	Dow	Chevrolet	324	0	16		16	running	
22	26	12	Ryan Blaney	PPG	Ford	324	41	15		27	running	
23	27	22	Joey Logano	Shell / Pennzoil	Ford	324	22	14		23	running	
24	11	48	Jimmie Johnson	Ally	Chevrolet	323	0	13		13	running	
25	21	13	Ty Dillon	GEICO	Chevrolet	323	0	12		12	running	
26	20	95	Matt DiBenedetto	Procore	Toyota	322	0	11		11	running	
27	29	43	Darrell Wallace,	McDonald's	Chevrolet	322	0	10		10	running	
28	31	36	Matt Tift	Surface Sunscreen / Tunity	Ford	319	0	9		9	running	
29	24	32	Corey LaJoie	Old Spice	Ford	319	0	8		8	running	
30	34	96	Parker Kligerman	Gaunt Brothers Racing	Toyota	318	0	7		0	running	
31	32	15	Ross Chastain	Rim Riderz	Chevrolet	313	0	6		0	running	
32	37	52	B.J. McLeod	Trick Shot	Chevrolet	313	0	0		0	running	
33	36	51	Cody Ware	Jacob Companies	Ford	303	0	4		4	running	
34	33	0	Landon Cassill	StarCom Fiber	Chevrolet	284	0	3		3	running	
35	25	47	Ryan Preece	Kroger	Chevrolet	271	0	0		2	crash	
36	35	77	Tyler Reddick	Overkill Motorsports	Chevrolet	254	0	1		0	running	
37	12	34	Michael McDowell	FR8 Auctions	Ford	222	0	1		1	running	

Race Time: 3:30:33 A

Average Speed: 142.626

Lead Change: 26

LeadDrivers: 9

Cautions: 5

Caution Laps: 30

Margin: .218 sec

Qualifying Speed: 181.473

Qualifying Notes Failed to Qualify: n/a

Leaders: A. Almirola 0; R. Stenhouse Jr. 1; A. Almirola 2-37; K. Larson 38-87; M. Truex Jr. 88; K. Harvick 89-91; K. Larson 92; K. Harvick 93-111; K. Larson 112-125; K. Harvick 126; J. Logano 127-128; K. Larson 129-152; K. Harvick 153; K. Larson 154-161; K. Harvick 162-172; M. Truex Jr. 173; K. Harvick 174-177; K. Larson 178-220; M. Truex Jr. 221; K. Larson 222-223; M. Truex Jr. 224; K. Harvick 225-230; R. Blaney 231-271; J. Logano 272-282; K. Busch 283; J. Logano 284-292; B. Keselowski 293-325.

Brad Keselowski battles through illness for Atlanta victory

By Reid Spencer NASCAR Wire Service February 24, 2019 at 5:55 pm
 HAMPTON, Ga. - Too sick to start practice on Saturday, Brad Keselowski found the cure to what ailed him in Sunday's Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Still suffering from the effects of stomach flu, Keselowski held off a charging - and frustrated - Martin Truex Jr. in the closing circuits of the 325-lap Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race and powered his No. 2 Team Penske Ford across the finish line .218 seconds ahead of Truex's No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.



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The victory was Keselowski's first of the season and the first for the new Ford Mustang in the Cup series. The 2012 champion won for the second time at Atlanta and for the 60th in Roger Penske equipment (all series combined), breaking a tie with the late Mark Donohue.

Despite his illness, Keselowski reveled in the accomplishment.

"I think any win means a lot, but that's a big number," Keselowski said. "Now I get to wear that yellow Mark Donohue helmet, so here we go - we're going to wear it next week.

"But what a tremendous honor. This day is ... Wow, I don't even know how to put it in words. I'm just excited for this team, first race with the new rules or whatever they're called now, and to be able to win it, that's really special."

After he pulled out to a substantial lead after the final restart on Lap 283 - following a caution for a pit road accident involving Ryan Preece and B.J. McLeod - Keselowski had two concerns: an overheating engine and tire issues that had forced teammates Joey Logano and Ryan Blaney to pit road for unscheduled stops late in the race.

As Keselowski was nursing his car toward the finish in the final 10 laps, Truex closed dramatically, cutting Keselowski's advantage to .181 seconds with two circuits left. On Lap 324 Keselowski blocked Truex's line off Turn 4 and hammered it to the finish line a lap later.

"We ran over a piece of debris with, I don't know, probably 50 laps to go and overheated really bad, and I thought there was no way this engine would make it to the end," Keselowski said. "But (engine builder) Doug Yates and his team, they do a great job.

"I'm pretty sure it's all used up, Doug, but it's in Victory Lane, so that's OK, right?"

As he chased Keselowski, Truex grew frustrated with lapped traffic, particularly with outside front-row starter Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who was running in the "lucky dog" position, hugging the bottom lane of the race track.

Because the fifth and final caution had interrupted a cycle of pit stops after all the lead-lap drivers save Logano and eventual third-place finisher Kurt Busch had come to pit road, Truex restarted behind lapped cars on Lap 283 after he and the majority of the field took wave-arounds.

"It was a shame we got put in that position on that last restart, but that's the way the caution fell," Truex said. "Man, I could taste that one. I really wanted that first Atlanta win. Just the 17 (Stenhouse) rode there in front of us forever and ever running the bottom, and I kept telling him I needed the bottom (through spotters), and these cars are just so bad in dirty air that he was holding me up really bad.

"Once I got around him, I got to the 2 car (Keselowski) in two laps. I just needed one more. Unfortunate we had a great car, and like I said, the guys did a great job. Just a little upset. We had the best car. We probably should have won that one."

Stenhouse Jr. got a strong start from the top lane at the initial green flag and charged past pole winner Aric Almirola off Turn 4 to lead the first lap. Almirola got the spot back on Lap 2, but two lead changes in the first two laps was nevertheless a promising omen for the new higher-downforce, lower-horsepower competition package NASCAR introduced this year.

The second stage of the race produced a compelling battle for the lead between defending race winner Kevin Harvick and first stage winner Kyle Larson. Those two drivers swapped the top spot nine times between Laps 88 and 162, with Harvick prevailing in the second stage.

But the handling of Harvick's Ford tightened up in the late going as shadows shrouded Turns 1 and 2, and the 2014 series champion rolled home in fourth place. Zapped with a pit road speeding penalty and sent to the back of the field for a restart on Lap 228-after Kyle Busch cut a right rear tire to cause the fourth caution-Larson struggled in traffic and finished 12th.

Clint Bowyer ran fifth, with Kyle Busch recovering to finish sixth. Erik Jones, Almirola, Chris Buescher and Daniel Suarez completed the top 10.

