

Auto Club 400

200 Laps at California Speedway

Fontana, California

400 Miles on 2 mile Super Speedway

Fin	St	No	Driver	Sponsor	Make	Laps	Laps Led	Race Pts	Bonus Pts	Pts	Status	Earnings
1	4	18	Kyle Busch	Interstate Batteries	Toyota	200	134	40		60	running	
2	5	22	Joey Lagano	AAA Southern California	Ford	200	3	35		51	running	
3	13	2	Brad Keselowsk	Wurth	Ford	200	42	34		43	running	
4	2	4	Kevin Harvick	Jimmy John's	Ford	200	0	33		45	running	
5	10	12	Ryan Blaney	PPG	Ford	200	2	32		42	running	
6	21	1	Kurt Busch	Monster Energy	Chevrolet	200	0	31		34	running	
7	6	11	Denny Hamlin	FedEx Express	Toyota	200	8	30		40	running	
8	27	19	Martin Truex,	Bass Pro Shops / Tracker ATV	Toyota	200	0	29		29	running	
9	3	10	Aric Almirola	Farmer John	Ford	200	7	28		40	running	
10	1	3	Austin Dillon	Dow	Chevrolet	200	0	27		27	running	
11	8	9	Chase Elliott	NAPA Auto Parts	Chevrolet	200	0	26		27	running	
12	15	42	Kyle Larson	Credit One Bank	Chevrolet	200	0	25		25	running	
13	20	41	Daniel Suarez	Haas Automation	Ford	200	0	24		28	running	
14	12	17	Ricky Stenhous	Fastenal / Louisville Ladder	Ford	200	1	23		23	running	
15	22	24	William Byron	Axalta	Chevrolet	200	3	22		22	running	
16	14	37	Chris Buescher	Kroger Flavor Fill Up / Slim	Chevrolet	200	0	21		21	running	
17	11	48	Jimmie Johnson	Ally	Chevrolet	200	0	20		23	running	
18	24	95	Matt DiBenedet	Procore	Toyota	200	0	19		19	running	
19	18	20	Erik Jones	Craftsman	Toyota	200	0	18		27	running	
20	25	21	Paul Menard	Menards / Moen	Ford	200	0	17		17	running	
21	23	88	Alex Bowman	Nationwide Pet Insurance	Chevrolet	200	0	16		16	running	
22	7	6	Ryan Newman	Performance Plus Motor Oil	Ford	199	0	15		15	running	
23	26	47	Ryan Preece	Kroger.com / Pringles / Klon	Chevrolet	199	0	14		14	running	
24	29	34	Michael McDowe	Love's Travel Stops	Ford	198	0	13		13	running	
25	19	38	David Ragan	MDS Trucking	Ford	198	0	12		12	running	
26	32	36	Matt Tift	Surface Sunscreen / Tunity	Ford	197	0	11		11	running	
27	16	13	Ty Dillon	GEICO	Chevrolet	197	0	10		10	running	
28	31	15	Ross Chastain	Southern California Chevy De	Chevrolet	195	0	9		0	running	
29	33	0	Landon Cassill	ManScaped / Goodwin & Son's	Chevrolet	195	0	8		8	running	
30	28	43	Darrell Wallac	PlanBSales.com	Chevrolet	194	0	7		7	running	
31	30	32	Corey LaJoie	Hartford Gold Group	Ford	193	0	6		6	running	
32	34	51	Cody Ware	Jacob Companies	Chevrolet	192	0	0		5	running	
33	17	8	Daniel Hemric	Liberty National	Chevrolet	192	0	4		5	running	
34	35	27	Reed Sorenson	Rim Ryderz	Chevrolet	192	0	3		3	running	
35	38	66	Joey Gase	Nevada Donor Network	Toyota	188	0	0		0	running	
36	37	77	Garrett Smithl	CDF Benevolent Foundation	Chevrolet	188	0	1		0	running	
37	36	52	B.J. McLeod	Mtel-One	Ford	172	0	1		0	running	
38	9	14	Clint Bowyer	Rush Truck Centers / Haas Au	Ford	130	0	1		1	overheating	

Race Time: 2:47:42

Average Speed: 143.113

Lead Change: 18

LeadDrivers: 9

Cautions: 4

Caution Laps: 22

Margin: 2.354 sec

Qualifying Speed: 0

Qualifying Notes Failed to Qualify: None

Leaders: A. Dillon 0; D. Hamlin 1-2; A. Almirola 3-9; D. Hamlin 10-12; K. Busch 13-30; W. Byron 31-33; K. Busch 34-56; D. Hamlin 57-59; K. Busch 60-69; J. Logano 70-71; K. Busch 72-122; B. Keselowski 123-160; K. Busch 161-165; R. Stenhouse Jr 166; R. Blaney 167-168; K. Busch 169; B. Keselowski 170-173; J. Logano 174; K. Busch 175-200.

Kyle Busch rallies at Auto Club, lands 200th NASCAR national-series win

NASCAR Wire Service March 17, 2019 at 6:45 pm
FONTANA, Calif. - Let the debate begin.

Recovering from a pit road speeding penalty with the help of a timely caution, Kyle Busch collected his 200th NASCAR national series victory with a dominating win in Sunday's Auto Club 400 at Auto Club Speedway.

At the same venue that gave Busch his first Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series victory in 2005, the driver of



Auto Club 400

the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota beat runner-up Joey Logano to the finish line by a comfortable 2.354 seconds to earn his 53rd win in the series and his second straight this season.

With 53 victories in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series and 94 in the NASCAR Xfinity Series – both records – Busch reached the milestone a day after a pit-road penalty cost him a chance to hit the magic number in the Xfinity race at the 2-mile track.

But on Sunday, he overcame the pit road speeding penalty incurred during the break after Stage 2 and powered back to the lead with 26 laps left. Now Busch will leave it to others to debate where his 200 victories stack up against the record 200 Cup wins accumulated by NASCAR Hall of Famer Richard Petty.

Driving a Day-Glo green Camry carrying the livery of longtime sponsor Interstate Batteries, Busch led 134 of 200 laps despite the penalty and became the season's first multiple winner.

"Feels just like number one," Busch said after taking the checkered flag. "Feels just like yesterday. Man, that was such an awesome race car. I mean, dang! This Interstate Batteries Camry was awesome today. I'm glad we put on a heck of a show for all these fans out here in California at Auto Club Speedway.

"It takes green to get in Victory Lane today. Today is St. Patty's day. All these other guys were at a disadvantage. The Interstate Batteries Green Machine was flying today. Just awesome. Just awesome. To win 200, I mean, whatever it means, it means a lot to me. It means a lot to all my guys, everybody at Joe Gibbs Racing. You guys are all the best.

"It's an amazing opportunity to drive for Joe Gibbs. I cherish every minute of it, love it always. Just wish that we could keep it going, keep it going like this, running strong, running well, and winning these races."

Busch's crew chief, Adam Stevens helped put the milestone in perspective.

"Two hundred is just another number," Stevens said. "He was going to get there – it was inevitable. But it's an honor to be the guy on the pit box when he does it."

Brad Keselowski came home third, followed by Kevin Harvick and Ryan Blaney, as Ford drivers grabbed the next four positions behind Busch's Toyota. Sixth-place Kurt Busch, brother of the race winner, drove the highest-finishing Chevrolet.

As he had done a day earlier in the NASCAR Xfinity Series race, Kyle Busch swept the first and second stages of the Auto Club 400. But if Busch sailed to the stage wins with relative ease – finishing more than five seconds ahead of second-place Brad Keselowski in Stage 2 – other potential contenders had issues in the early going that cost them dearly.

For Clint Bowyer, it was simply a matter of a sour engine that caused him to fall two laps down by the end of the second stage. For pole winner Austin Dillon, it was a flat right-rear tire that interrupted a promising top-five run with four laps left in the first stage. Dillon battled back to finish 10th.

For defending race winner Martin Truex Jr., it was hard contact with the No. 17 Ford of Ricky Stenhouse Jr. in Turn 2 after a restart on Lap 60. The accident, which caused extensive damage to the right rear of Truex's No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, took the 2017 champion out of contention. Nevertheless, Truex soldiered on to an eighth-place result.

The race winner had a turn with adversity, too. His stroll to victory in the Inland Empire hit a major obstacle with the pit road speeding penalty under caution during the break after Stage 2, as his No. 18 was just .04 mph over the speed limit tolerance leaving pit lane. After restarting 18th on Lap 128, Busch diced his way through the field and was running fifth at the start of a green-flag pit stop cycle on Lap 160.

Stevens kept Busch on the track after all the other front-runners had come to pit road, and on Lap 164, the gamble was rewarded. The left-front tire on Bubba Wallace's Chevrolet exploded, strewing debris on the track and causing the caution Busch desperately needed.

With fresh tires after a pit stop on Lap 166, Busch restarted second on Lap 170, fell back to fourth briefly and but charged forward and passed Logano for the lead on Lap 175. Game over.

"We only raced for two laps before the 18 blew our doors off and drove away from us," Logano said. "Fastest car in the race. We've got a little bit of work to do.

"Solid run for the Auto Club Mustang here. You want to win at your sponsor's home track. Gosh, we came so close. Proud of the effort. Hung in there all day, hung strong. Just didn't have enough for the green car."

The next race for the Monster Energy Series comes next Sunday with the STP 500 (2 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM) at Martinsville Speedway. It's the sixth of 36 points-paying races for the series this season.

