



Kurt Busch could only manage a 30th place finish in the eventful race at the Talladega Superspeedway. The result leaves him 312 points behind the NASCAR series leader Jimmie Johnson with just 3 races remaining.



AMP ENERGY 500 November 1ST, 2009

David Stremme and the No. 12 Penske Dodge team scored the top finish for Penske Racing as they earned a 22nd-place result at Talladega Superspeedway. After marching through the field, the Penske Dodge led 10 laps but came up just short on a fuel strategy gamble and instead of fighting for the win, the team had to pit in the closing laps to take on fuel and wound up finishing back in order.

The No. 2 Miller Lite Dodge team and Kurt Busch bounced back from contact earlier in the race. However, starting inside the top-10 for the final green-white-checked flag race restart, Busch suffered contact from behind, which triggered a multi-car pileup. The damage to the "Blue Deuce" left Busch with a 30th-place finish on the day. Busch remained 6th in the Championship standings, 312 points behind series leader Jimmie Johnson.

After a very positive beginning to the race that saw Sam Hornish Jr jump from 27th to 14th place in just a few laps, the team experienced an issue following the first pit-stop. After visiting the garage for repairs, it was determined that the Mobil 1 Dodge couldn't continue.

DRIVERS

KURT BUSCH **2**

Busch started 6th and moved up to lead on lap 2. On lap 51, Busch's tire cut down and he brushed the outside wall in turn 4 before careening down the track and into the tri-oval grass to bring out the caution flag. Another hard bump-draft caused the left rear tire to go flat on lap 181 and Busch was forced to bring his Miller Lite Dodge down pit road. An accident involving Ryan Newman that forced the red flag halted the race a short time later. Busch benefitted from the timing of the crash and was able to stay on the lead lap. The fuel taken on during that stop ensured that the Miller Lite Dodge could go the distance. Busch suffered contact from the rear which triggered the final massive pileup of the day as the race ended under a yellow flag.

DAVID STREMME **12**

"Today's race is indicative of the luck we've had this season. We started towards the back of the field today, but we knew we could battle to the front at Talladega. If we hadn't taken a gamble and run out of fuel, we would've had a real chance of a win today."

SAM HORNISH JR. **77**

Hornish started the race from the 27th position, but when the first caution flag of the day came out on lap 4, he was running securely in the lead pack of cars in the 16th position. After a stop for right side tires and a full tank of fuel on lap 44, Hornish pulled out of the pit stall and noted that he felt something different under the hood of the Mobil 1 Dodge. He returned to the pits on the next lap and was forced to the garage for repairs. Ultimately, Hornish and the Mobil 1 Dodge were unable to continue the race and finished in the 40th position.

Next weekend, the Penske Racing Cup Series teams visit Texas Motor Speedway to compete in the Dickies 500. ABC will provide live television coverage beginning at 2:30 p.m. ET on Sunday, November 8. The event will also be heard live on PRN Radio as well as Sirius Satellite Radio, channel 128.

CAR	DRIVER	START	FINISH	POINTS	DRIVER STANDINGS	Notes
No. 2	Kurt Busch	6th	30th	5858	6th	- 312 points from 1st
No. 12	David Stremme	30th	22nd	2817	31st	- 3329 points from 1st
No. 77	Sam Hornish Jr.	27th	40th	2905	29th	- 3300 points from 1st