

= 2010 Crown Royal Presents the Heath Calhoun 400 =

The 2010 Crown Royal Presents the Heath Calhoun 400 was a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series stock car race held on May 1 , 2010 at Richmond International Raceway in Richmond , Virginia . Contested over 400 laps , it was the tenth race of the 2010 Sprint Cup Series season . The race was won by Kyle Busch for the Joe Gibbs Racing team . Jeff Gordon finished second , and Kevin Harvick , who started seventh , clinched third .

Pole position driver Kyle Busch maintained the lead after the start of the race . Kyle Busch would eventually lead to the race high of 226 laps . Afterward , Gordon became the leader during the final laps . He remained the leader until Kyle Busch passed him with four laps remaining . Kyle Busch crossed the finish line first to clinch his first win of the season , and his third at Richmond International Raceway .

There were six caution flags and twelve lead changes among eight different drivers throughout the course of the race . The result moved Kyle Busch up two spots to third in the Drivers ' Championship , 109 points behind of leader Kevin Harvick and ten ahead of Matt Kenseth . Chevrolet maintained its lead in the Manufacturers ' Championship , eighteen points ahead of Toyota and thirty ahead of Ford , with twenty @-@ six races remaining in the season .

= = Race report = =

= = = Background = = =

Richmond International Raceway is one of five short tracks to hold NASCAR races , the others being Bristol Motor Speedway , Dover International Speedway , Martinsville Speedway , and Phoenix International Raceway . The NASCAR race makes use of the track 's standard configuration , a four @-@ turn short track oval that is 0 @. @ 75 miles (1 @. @ 21 km) long . The track 's turns are banked at fourteen degrees . The front stretch , the location of the finish line , is banked at eight degrees while the back stretch has two degrees of banking . The racetrack has seats for 97 @, @ 912 spectators .

Before the race , Jimmie Johnson led the Drivers ' Championship with 1 @, @ 323 points , while Kevin Harvick stood in second with 1 @, @ 297 points . Greg Biffle was third in the Drivers ' Championship with 1 @, @ 237 points , Matt Kenseth was fourth with 1 @, @ 224 points , and Kyle Busch was in fifth with 1 @, @ 163 points . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet was leading with seventy points , twenty @-@ one points ahead of their rival Toyota . Ford , with forty @-@ two points , was four points ahead of Dodge in the battle for third .

= = = Practices and qualifying = = =

Two practice sessions were held on Friday before the Saturday race . In the first session , the fastest drivers were Jamie McMurray , Clint Bowyer , Joey Logano , Dale Earnhardt , Jr . , and Kyle Busch . During the second practice session , Kyle Busch , David Reutimann , Logano , Juan Pablo Montoya , and Jeff Gordon had the quickest times .

During qualifying , forty @-@ six cars were entered , but Michael McDowell , Max Papis , and Dave Blaney did not qualify ; NASCAR 's qualifying procedure only allow forty @-@ three cars to make the race . Kyle Busch clinched the pole position with a fastest lap time of 21 @. @ 247 seconds . He was joined on the front row of the grid by Reutimann . Johnson qualified third , Gordon took fourth , and Newman started fifth .

= = = Race summary = = =

The race , the tenth out of a total of thirty @-@ six in the season , began at 7 : 30 p.m. EDT and was televised live in the United States on Fox . Conditions were clear with a high of 88 ° F (31 ° C)

. Joe Ellison , from Essex Village Community Church , began pre @-@ race ceremonies , by giving the invocation . Next , the Commandants own United States Marine Drum and Bugle performed the national anthem , and Heath Calhoun gave the command for drivers to start their engines .

Kyle Busch held the lead going through the first corner with David Reutimann behind him . One lap later , Jeff Gordon moved into the third position . On lap 6 , Gordon emerged in second , after passing Reutimann . Jimmie Johnson , who had started third , fell to fourth by lap 7 . By lap 8 , Kyle Busch had a lead of 1 @.@ 5 seconds . One lap later , Kevin Harvick moved into fourth , after passing Johnson . On lap 18 , Harvick moved into third , as Jamie McMurray moved to the sixth position . Six laps later , Reutimann had fallen to the fourth position , after starting second . By lap 35 , Gordon had caught Kyle Busch for the first position , but after six laps he was two seconds behind Kyle Busch . On lap 42 , the first caution came out because Joe Nemechek collided with the wall after suffering a blown tire . During this caution , drivers made there pit stops . On lap 49 , Kyle Busch led on the restart .

Afterward , Gordon moved into the third position , after passing Jamie McMurray . By lap 55 , Juan Pablo Montoya had moved from nineteenth to eighth . On lap 59 , Harvick moved into second , but four laps later , Gordon passed him for the second position . By lap 66 , Kyle Busch had a 2 @.@ 3 second lead over Gordon . After starting tenth , Clint Bowyer had moved to the fifth position by lap 68 . Kyle Busch remained the leader until green flag pit stops began . On lap 143 , Jeff Gordon received the lead , as Kyle Busch made a pit stop . Two laps later , Kyle Busch reclaimed the lead . On lap 153 , the second caution came out because of debris . Kyle Busch , again , led the field to the restart . Ten laps later , on lap 170 , the third caution came out because of debris . Ryan Newman , because of a two tire change , was in the lead on the restart . On lap 177 , one lap after the restart , Kyle Busch took the lead away from Newman .

Kyle Busch kept the lead until Jeff Burton passed him on lap 230 . Burton led only twenty laps before Jeff Gordon claimed the lead . Jeff Gordon made a pit stop on lap 266 , allowing Kevin Harvick to pass him . Green flag pit stops continued , as Carl Edwards received the lead on lap 268 . Three laps later Tony Stewart passed Edwards for the lead . On lap 272 , Jeff Gordon reclaimed the lead . By this time , the race was under green flag conditions for 102 laps , but the green flag run only continued until lap 367 , 265 laps after the last restart , when the fourth caution came out . The cause for the caution was that Elliott Sadler had a tire that blew . On lap 377 , Jeff Gordon led the field toward the green flag . Two laps later , though , the fifth caution , caused by a spin from Sam Hornish , Jr . , came out .

On lap 385 , Jeff Gordon led the field to the green flag . Four laps later Hornish , Jr. spun and collided with the inside wall , to bring out the sixth caution . Jeff Gordon , on lap 395 , led toward the restart . With four laps remaining , Kyle Busch passed Gordon for the lead . Busch kept the lead to win his first race in 2010 .

= = = Post @-@ race = = =

Kyle Busch appeared in victory lane after his victory lap to start celebrating his first win of the season , and his third at Richmond International Raceway . Following his win , he added , " I don ? t even remember what just happened . I drove it down into Turn 1 and hoped it stuck . I knew I had to baby it into Turn 3 and finally got to clear Jeff . We set sail there from there . "

After finishing second , Jeff Gordon stated , " A little disappointed again that we are coming up short , but we are getting plenty of practice . It ? s a little disappointing we haven ? t won some races yet . If we keep doing this , those will come . We ? ve got to keep putting ourselves in position . " Gordon followed the race by saying , " I ? ve been doing this long enough to know that they don ? t give out trophies for leading any lap other than the last one . " In the subsequent press conference , Kyle Busch said , " I can ? t thank Dave enough , it ? s unbelievable to be back in victory lane . A lot of people doubted what we were doing , but I never did . " Gordon stated :

" I figured I was going to get the outside [for the last restart] . All I wanted to do was just get into Turn 1 smooth and get a good launch up off Turn 2 down the backstretch ? and then make sure I got into [Turn] 3 without over @-@ driving it I knew if I could just get through Turn 3 OK and

hammer down off Turn 4 and get him cleared that it would be pretty good ? and it worked . That ? s what I did . Did I have a plan ? Was that exactly my plan ? No . I was just going to drive it as hard as I could , and make whatever happened happen . It worked , just off the cuff . "

Dave Rogers , Kyle Busch 's crew chief , stated , " It would have been great to keep that many cars a lap down , but it would have been selfish . Everybody behind us was going to pit . If we stay out , we keep all those guys down . Then the seven guys behind us are going to drive by us , we ? re going to lose our track position just to keep cars a lap down . It ? s not worth it . " The race result moved Kevin Harvick in the lead for the Driver 's Championship with 1 @,@ 467 points . Jimmie Johnson , who finished tenth , was second on 1 @,@ 457 , ninety @-@ nine points ahead of Kyle Busch and 149 ahead of Matt Kenseth . Greg Biffle was fifth with 1 @,@ 334 points . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet maintained their lead with 76 points . Toyota maintained second with 58 points . Ford followed with 46 points , six points ahead of Dodge in fourth .

= = Results = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

= = = Race Results = = =

= = Standings after the race = =

Note : Only the top five positions are included for both sets of standings .