

= 2010 AAA 400 =

The 2010 AAA 400 was a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series stock car race held on September 26 , 2010 , at Dover International Speedway in Dover , Delaware . The 400 lap race was the twenty @-@ eighth in the 2010 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series , as well as the second race in the ten @-@ race Chase for the Sprint Cup , which ends the season . The race was won by Jimmie Johnson , of the Hendrick Motorsports team . Jeff Burton finished second , and Joey Logano , who started nineteenth , clinched third .

Pole position driver Jimmie Johnson maintained his lead on the first lap to begin the race , as A. J. Allmendinger , who started in the second position on the grid , remained behind him . Fourteen laps later Allmendinger became the leader of the race . Chase for the Sprint Cup participants Clint Bowyer , and Tony Stewart were in the top ten for most of the race , but in the closing laps all of them suffered spins or other problems . Afterward , Johnson became the leader of the race , once Allmendinger made a pit stop because of a loose wheel . Johnson maintained the first position to lead the most laps of 191 , and to win his sixth race of the season .

There were four cautions and eighteen lead changes among ten different drivers throughout the course of the race . It was Jimmie Johnson 's sixth win in the 2010 season , and the fifty @-@ third of his career . The result moved Johnson up to second in the Drivers ' Championship , thirty @-@ five points behind Denny Hamlin and ten ahead of Kyle Busch . Chevrolet maintained its lead in the Manufacturers ' Championship , thirty @-@ five ahead of Toyota and eighty ahead of Ford , with eight races remaining in the season . A total of 88 @,@ 000 people attended the race , while 3 @.@ 966 million watched it on television .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

Dover International Speedway is one of five short tracks to hold NASCAR races ; the others are Bristol Motor Speedway , Richmond International Raceway , 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 1 mile (1 @.@ 6 km) long . The track 's turns are banked at twenty @-@ four degrees . The front stretch , the location of the finish line , is banked at nine degrees with the backstretch . The racetrack has seats for 135 @,@ 000 spectators .

Before the race , Denny Hamlin led the Drivers ' Championship with 5 @,@ 230 points , and Kevin Harvick stood in second with 5 @,@ 185 . Kyle Busch was third in the Drivers ' Championship with 5 @,@ 168 , thirteen ahead of Jeff Gordon and twenty @-@ four ahead of Kurt Busch in fourth and fifth . Jimmie Johnson with 5 @,@ 138 was three points ahead of Carl Edwards , as Greg Biffle with 5 @,@ 122 points , was four ahead of Jeff Burton , and sixteen in front of Tony Stewart . Matt Kenseth and Clint Bowyer was eleventh and twelfth with 5 @,@ 094 and 5 @,@ 045 points . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet was leading with 197 points , thirty @-@ two points ahead of their rival Toyota . Ford , with 123 points , was fourteen points ahead of Dodge in the battle for third . Jimmie Johnson was the race 's defending champion .

= = = Practice and qualifying = = =

Three practice sessions were held before the Sunday race ? one on Friday , and two on Saturday . The first session lasted 90 minutes , while the second session lasted 45 minutes . The third and final session lasted 60 minutes . During the first practice session , Ryan Newman , for the Stewart Haas Racing team , was quickest ahead of Carl Edwards in second and Kasey Kahne in the third position . Clint Bowyer was scored fourth and Greg Biffle managed fifth . Matt Kenseth , Kyle Busch , A. J. Allmendinger , Mark Martin , and Jeff Gordon rounded out the top ten quickest drivers in the session .

Forty @-@ five cars were entered for qualifying , but only forty @-@ three could race because of NASCAR 's qualifying procedure . Jimmie Johnson clinched his twenty @-@ fifth pole position in the Sprint Cup Series , with a time of 23 @. @ 116 seconds . He was joined on the front row of the grid by A. J. Allmendinger . Mark Martin qualified third , Martin Truex , Jr. took fourth , and Denny Hamlin started fifth . Tony Stewart , one of the drivers in the Chase for the Sprint Cup , qualified twenty @-@ sixth , while Kevin Harvick was scored thirty @-@ fourth .

The three drivers that failed to qualify for the race were Ted Musgrave , Josh Wise , and Jeff Green . Once the qualifying session ended , Johnson said , " This is certainly a step in the right direction for momentum . Last weekend , we ran much better than where we finished . It stinks that we finished where we did , but there is nothing we can really do about it . " Mark Martin , who originally qualified third , started forty @-@ second , after having his time disallowed where the right rear shock exceeded the maximum allowable gas pressure .

On the next morning , David Reutimann was quickest in the second practice session , ahead of Kyle Busch and Kurt Busch in second and third . Juan Pablo Montoya was fourth quickest , and Jimmie Johnson took fifth . Greg Biffle , Clint Bowyer , Jamie McMurray , Jeff Burton , and Jeff Gordon followed in the top @-@ ten . Other drivers in the chase , such as Carl Edwards , was twentieth , and Kevin Harvick , who was twenty @-@ sixth . During the third , and final practice session , Joey Logano , with a fastest time of 23 @. @ 802 , was quickest . Clint Bowyer and Jeff Burton followed in second and third with times of 23 @. @ 844 and 23 @. @ 851 seconds . Matt Kenseth managed to be fourth fastest , ahead of Martin Truex , Jr. and Marcos Ambrose . Denny Hamlin was scored seventh , Jimmie Johnson took eighth , A. J. Allmendinger was ninth , and Brad Keselowski .

During the third practice session , Denny Hamlin and Kevin Harvick collided with each other . Once they both drove to the garage , they were talking out of anger from the comments that Denny Hamlin had about Clint Bowyer 's penalty after New Hampshire . Once the argument ended , Denny Hamlin stated , " There really was just a lot of cursing . That 's all that was being said . There was really nothing logical being said between the two teams . " Richard Childress , the owner of the Bowyer 's racecar , commented , " When you 're talking about comments , you can 't win a pissing match with a skunk . There are two things I 've learned . One thing is that . The other is that you don 't throw stones if you live in a glass house . " Afterward , Robin Pemberton commented about the collision by saying , " They just got together in practice , and that 's fine . Sometimes you get together in practice like that . "

== = Race == =

The race , the twenty @-@ eighth out of a total of thirty @-@ six in the season , began at 1 : 00 p.m. EDT and was televised live in the United States on ESPN . Prior to the race , weather conditions were partly cloudy with the air temperature around 70 ° F (21 ° C) . Dan Schafer , pastor of Calvary Assembly of God in Hightstown , New Jersey , began pre @-@ race ceremonies , by giving the invocation . Next , Mercury recording artisit Jessie James performed the national anthem , and Marke Dickinson , senior vice president of AAA Mid @-@ Atlantic , gave the command for drivers to start their engines .

Jimmie Johnson retained his pole position lead into the first corner , followed by A. J. Allmendinger in the second position . Denny Hamlin , who started fourth , had fallen into fifth by the second lap . One lap later , Juan Pablo Montoya moved into fourth , as Ryan Newman emerged in twelfth . After the seventh lap , Johnson remained in first , as Jeff Gordon moved into thirteenth . Allmendinger emerged in first after passing Johnson on lap 14 . Mark Martin had gained the most positions , with eleven , by the eighteenth lap . On lap 23 , Allmendinger remained the leader ahead of Johnson and Martin Truex , Jr. . Allmendinger began putting other drivers a lap behind by lap 24 , with Mike Bliss . After 28 consecutive laps under the green flag , Allmendinger was 1 @. @ 2 second ahead of Johnson in the second position . Joe Nemechek was put a lap down on lap 31 ; Bobby Labonte followed Nemechek six laps later .

Allmendinger 's lead of 1 @. @ 2 seconds was reduced to nothing when the pace car was on track

for the first caution . It was given because a cover for one of a caution light 's cover had loosened . When the drivers made pit stops , Allmendinger remained the leader , but Johnson lost three positions , falling to fifth . Tony Stewart was the only team to change only two tires , which resulted him to move toward the front of the grid . However , once the race resumed he was losing positions quickly . Gordon , who started fifteenth , had gained seven positions to eighth by lap 47 . The second caution followed three laps later because David Reutimann collided into the wall after contact from Newman . Reutimann 's car sustained only minor damages . Kevin Harvick went to pit road under the caution , in which afterward his rear tire changer fell and hurt his wrist . Allmendinger led on the restart , ahead of Martin Truex , Jr. in second . On lap 61 , Montoya moved into the third position after passing Greg Biffle .

Johnson followed Montoya , by passing Biffle one lap later for fourth . After the sixty @-@ sixth lap , Allmendinger had led more laps in the race so far than his 107 previous starts . Joey Logano , after starting nineteenth had moved to twelfth by lap 68 . Five laps later , Hamlin fell to the eighth position . Stewart , who chose only two tire changes on his first pit stop , had fallen to twentieth after eighty laps . By lap 85 , Allmendinger had a 2 @.@ 9 second lead over Martin Truex , Jr . Afterward , Scott Speed was put a lap down and Kurt Busch moved to the fifth spot . On lap 93 , Johnson emerged in second after passing Montoya and Truex . Five laps later , Casey Mears went a lap down after Allmendinger passed him . After 104 laps , Carl Edwards rounded out the top @-@ ten positions .

Eight laps later , Allmendinger began green flag pit stops . Truex became the new leader , followed by Logano , Reed Sorenson , and Labonte . On lap 122 , Allmendinger reclaimed the first position and extended his lead to over five seconds . On lap 138 , Edwards moved to ninth while Truex remained second . Montoya maintained the seventh position until 145 , when Edwards passed him . After 147 laps , Hamlin was running in sixth , and Jeff Gordon was tenth . By lap 155 , Allmendinger had a 4 @.@ 3 lead over second place . Clint Bowyer collided with the wall three laps later , and only sustained side damage . On lap 162 , Johnson claimed the second position from Truex . Ten laps later , Johnson reclaimed the lead after Allmendinger fell to 27th while making a pit stop . On lap 186 , the third caution was given when Matt Kenseth gathered damage from a flat tire because of missing the entrance of pit road . Johnson maintained the first position under the pit stops , ahead of Truex and Kyle Busch . One lap later , Gordon moved into third , as Hamlin fell to sixth .

On lap 202 , Kyle Busch reclaimed third away from Gordon . Truex had a loose wheel after pit stops , resulting in him coming to pit road . Once his pit stop completed , his rear axle broke . Edwards , then , passed Gordon for fifth , as Jeff Burton moved into fourth . On lap 219 , Gordon had fallen to sixth while his teammate Jimmie Johnson had led sixty @-@ four laps to this point in the race . After 230 laps , there were only nineteen drivers on the same lap as Johnson . Five laps later , Edwards passed Jeff Burton to move into fourth . Afterward , Paul Menard passed Jamie McMurray for the tenth position . By the 249th lap , Johnson had a 3 @.@ 21 second lead , ahead of Kyle Busch , who collided with the wall once lap later . On lap 266 , another set of green flag pit stops began . Afterward , Johnson led Kyle Busch by 1 @.@ 95 seconds . On lap 290 , debris prompted the fourth caution of the race . Kyle Busch passed Johnson during pit stops to lead on the restart .

Two laps later , Logano passed Johnson for the second position . On lap 299 , Kyle Busch had a 1 @.@ 36 second lead over second place . Three laps later , Paul Menard moved into the seventh position while Kurt Busch challenged Jeff Burton for fourth . Johnson then moved into second after passing Logano on lap 320 . Less than five laps later , Kevin Harvick complained to his crew about his car handling problems . Allmendinger , after his unscheduled pit stop earlier in the race , had moved up to tenth by lap 330 . Seven laps later , Johnson reclaimed the first position from Kyle Busch . Afterward , Jeff Burton moved into the third position . Burton , then passed Kyle Busch for second seven laps later . By the 349th lap , Johnson has a 1 @.@ 23 second lead over Burton , as Harvick made a pit stop . On lap 360 , more green flag pit stops began , as Hamlin and Gordon made pit stops . Three laps later , Johnson made a pit stop , giving the lead to Edwards who subsequently made a pit stop himself , returning the lead to Johnson . On lap 371 , McMurray moved into eleventh after Sam Hornish , Jr . ' s car ignited on pit road . Johnson had a lead of 2 @.@ 37 seconds over Burton after pit stops ended . Jimmie Johnson maintained the lead to win his sixth race of the 2010 season . Jeff Burton finished second , ahead of Joey Logano in third and Kurt

Busch in fourth . Carl Edwards clinched the fifth position , after starting tenth .

== Post @-@ race ==

Jimmie Johnson appeared in victory lane after his victory lap to start celebrating his sixth win of the season , in front of a crowd of 88 @, @ 000 people . Afterward , his crew chief , Chad Knaus said , " We really had our hands full this weekend . " He continued with , " We came in qualifying trim , and as we unloaded , the car wasn't reacting the way we anticipated . So we had to make some pretty significant changes , and when it came time to qualify , we had to put a setup under there that Jimmie hadn't felt yet . For race practice , we weren't where we needed to be then either . Honestly , we could adjust the car and make it do some different things , but we couldn't really make the car better . The difference today was definitely the driver . "

" It was a mediocre day . I hate that we didn't run better , but we got close to where we wanted to be leaving Dover . It's frustrating that we still can't get a grasp on this race track and didn't run as well as we did in the spring . But if you told me I'd be taking a 35 point lead out of Dover , I'd take it , " said ninth @-@ place finisher , Denny Hamlin . Next , Jeff Burton , who finished second , said :

" We thought we had a really good car coming into the race today . We took off and struggled a little bit with rear grip , and worked all day to get the grip level right . About halfway through that next to last run , my car got really happy and took off . I'm proud of us for getting the car right at the right time . About 15 laps into that next to last run , Jimmie cleared Logano and got really fast . He was just a little quicker than we were today . "

Hamlin maintained the Drivers ' championship lead with 5 @, @ 368 points . Johnson stood in second , thirty five points behind Hamlin , and ten ahead of Kyle Busch . Kurt Busch , after finishing fourth in the race , remained in the fourth position with 5 @, @ 309 points . Kevin Harvick was fifth , as Carl Edwards , Burton , Jeff Gordon , Greg Biffle , and Tony Stewart followed in the top @-@ ten positions . The final two positions available in the Chase for the Sprint Cup was occupied with Matt Kenseth in eleventh and Clint Bowyer in twelfth . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet maintained their lead with 206 points . Toyota remained second with 171 points . Ford followed with 126 points , thirteen points ahead of Dodge in fourth . 3 @. @ 966 million people watched the race on television . The race took three hours , two minutes and twenty @-@ seven seconds to complete , and the margin of victory was 2 @. @ 637 seconds .

== Results ==

== Qualifying ==

== Race results ==

== Standings after the race ==