

= 2009 Sylvania 300 =

The 2009 Sylvania 300 was the twenty @-@ seventh stock car race of the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series and the first in the ten @-@ race season @-@ ending Chase for the Sprint Cup . It was held on September 20 , 2009 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon , New Hampshire before a crowd of 101 @,@ 000 people . The 300 @-@ lap race was won by Mark Martin of the Hendrick Motorsports team after starting from fourteenth position . Denny Hamlin finished second and Juan Pablo Montoya came in third .

Montoya , who initially held the pole position , was immediately passed by Tony Stewart . One lap later , Montoya reclaimed the lead . Chase for the Sprint Cup participants Hamlin and Kurt Busch were in the top ten for most of the race . Martin became the leader of the race , after the leaders made their pit stops . Martin retained the first position to win the race , his fifth of the 2009 season . There were eleven cautions and twenty lead changes among ten different drivers during the race .

The race was Martin 's fifth win of the season , as well as the fortieth of his career . After the race , Martin maintained his lead in the Drivers ' Championship , thirty @-@ five points ahead of Hamlin , who advanced to second , and equal on points with Johnson . Chevrolet maintained its lead in the Manufacturers ' Championship , thirty @-@ nine points ahead of Toyota and eighty @-@ one ahead of Dodge , with nine races of the season remaining . The race attracted 5 @.@ 04 million television viewers .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

New Hampshire Motor Speedway is one of ten intermediate tracks to hold NASCAR races , the others being Atlanta Motor Speedway , Charlotte Motor Speedway , Chicagoland Speedway , and Darlington Raceway as well as Homestead Miami Speedway , Kansas Speedway , Kentucky Speedway , Las Vegas Motor Speedway , and Texas Motor Speedway . The standard track at New Hampshire Motor Speedway is a four @-@ turn oval track , 1 @.@ 058 miles ( 1 @.@ 703 km ) long . The track 's turns are banked at two to seven degrees , while the front stretch , the finish line , and the back stretch are banked at one degree .

Before the race , Mark Martin led the Drivers ' Championship with 5 @,@ 040 points , followed by Tony Stewart and Jimmie Johnson who were tied for second place on 5 @,@ 030 points . Denny Hamlin , was 5 @,@ 020 points , was tied with Kasey Kahne , with Jeff Gordon , Kurt Busch and Brian Vickers all level with 5 @,@ 010 points . Carl Edwards , Ryan Newman , Juan Pablo Montoya and Greg Biffle rounded out the top twelve with 5 @,@ 000 points each . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet was leading with 190 points , thirty @-@ six points ahead of their rival Toyota in second . Dodge and Ford were tied on points in the battle for third place . Biffle 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 , and the second 45 minutes . The final session lasted 60 minutes . During the first practice session , Montoya was fastest , placing ahead of Kevin Harvick in second and Clint Bowyer in third . Stewart took fourth position , and Martin placed fifth . Kurt Busch , A.J. Allmendinger , Kyle Busch , Johnson and Hamlin rounded out the top ten fastest drivers in the session .

Although forty @-@ five drivers were entered in the qualifier ; according to NASCAR 's qualifying procedure , only forty @-@ three could race . Each driver ran two laps , with the starting order determined by the competitor 's fastest times . Montoya clinched his second pole position of the season , with a time of 28 @.@ 545 . He was joined on the grid 's front row by Stewart . Kurt Busch

qualified third , Hamlin took fourth , and Edwards started fifth . David Stremme , Martin Truex , Jr . , Bobby Labonte and Kyle Busch completed the top nine qualifiers . Jeff Gordon , one of the drivers in the Chase for the Sprint Cup , qualified tenth , while Harvick set the twelfth fastest time . The two drivers who failed to qualify for the race were Derrike Cope and Dexter Bean . After the qualifier Montoya said , " You know how these races go , " If it was a 10 @-@ lap shootout , I 'll say , ' Hey , we 're looking good . ' But it 's like 200 laps , 300 laps or something , or 400 , I don 't even know . It 's a bunch of laps . As long as I lead the last one I don 't care . "

On Saturday morning , Montoya was fastest in the second practice session , ahead of Truex in second , and Martin in third . Stremme ] ] was fourth quickest , and Johnson took fifth . Hamlin managed sixth . Kurt Busch , Biffle , Labonte and Kahne followed in the top ten . Of the other drivers in the Chase , Stewart was eighteenth fastest , while Edwards ended with twenty @-@ third fastest time . Later that day , Montoya paced the final practice session , ahead of Truex in second and Kurt Busch in third . Martin was fourth fastest , ahead of Johnson and Dale Earnhardt , Jr .. Hamlin was seventh fastest , Jeff Gordon eighth , Harvick ninth and Stewart tenth . Other Chase drivers included Kahne in fourteenth and Biffle in twentieth .

= = = Race = = =

The race , the twenty @-@ seventh of a total of thirty @-@ six in the 2009 season , began at 1 : 00 p.m. EDT and was televised live in the United States on ESPN . Around the start of the race , weather conditions were sunny with the air temperature around 67 ° F ( 19 ° C ) . Bishop Michael Cote began pre @-@ race ceremonies with the invocation . Universal Music Group Nashville recording artist Josh Turner performed the national anthem , and Tim Leach , Vice President of Sales , Service and Logistics for Sylvania , gave the command for drivers to start their engines . During the pace laps , Tony Raines had to move to the back of the grid because of him changing his engine .

Stewart accelerated faster than Montoya off the line , getting ahead of him by the first turn . One lap later , Montoya reclaimed the lead by passing Stewart at turn one . Stremme moved into fourth on lap three , while Hamlin passed Stewart for the second position . Vickers , who began the race in twenty @-@ sixth , had moved up seven positions to nineteenth by lap five . By the sixth lap , Montoya had increased his lead over Stewart to 1 @.@ 4 seconds . Five laps later , Jeff Gordon moved into sixth position , while Edwards passed Labonte for eighth . By lap 15 , Montoya had a 2 @.@ 3 second lead over Stewart . Seven laps later , Stewart had reduced Montoya 's lead to 1 @.@ 1 seconds .

On lap 24 , Dave Blaney took his car to the garage because of an electrical problem . Seven laps later , Truex lost three positions after running seventh . On lap 37 , Stewart reclaimed the lead from Montoya . On the 39th lap , Michael McDowell drove to the garage because of brake problems . During the 43rd lap , Jeff Gordon passed Hamlin for fourth position . After starting the race in twenty @-@ third , Earnhardt moved up into fifteenth position by lap 46 . Four laps later , Stremme dropped to sixth position , after being passed by Edwards and Johnson . On lap 51 , Jeff Gordon passed Hamlin for the fourth position , while Mike Wallace took his car to the garage because of brake problems .

By lap 56 , Harvick and Labonte were running in nineteenth and twentieth , while Stewart 's lead was 1 @.@ 7 seconds by lap 63 . Three laps later , Kahne 's car suffered an engine problem , causing the first caution of the race . During the caution , all of the leaders elected to make pit stops . Montoya reclaimed the lead during the caution and maintained it at the restart . On lap 79 , Jeff Gordon passed Martin for the seventh position . By the 83rd lap , Montoya 's lead was 1 @.@ 8 seconds over Stewart . Two laps later , the second caution was given because of debris on the track at turn three . None of the leaders elected to make pit stops . Montoya maintained his lead at the restart , followed by Stewart and Hamlin .

On lap 92 , Stewart fell to fifth after contact with Hamlin , allowing Kurt Busch to move into second position one lap later . On lap 95 , Jeff Gordon passed Truex for twelfth position . By lap 101 , Montoya had a lead of 1 @.@ 2 seconds . Kurt Busch managed to close the gap to Montoya by 0

@.@ 7 seconds by lap 110 . On the 113th lap , Jeff Gordon passed Vickers to claim eleventh . Twelve laps later , Kurt Busch claimed the lead off Montoya . Five laps later , Jeff Gordon moved up to ninth , while Newman and Vickers moved up to tenth and eleventh respectively . On lap 131 , Earnhardt passed Martin for the tenth position .

By lap 138 , Kurt Busch had a 2 @.@ 4 second lead over Montoya . On lap 141 , the third caution was given as debris was spotted on the track . During the caution , all of the leaders made pit stops . At the lap 146 restart . Montoya became the leader , ahead of Hamlin and Kurt Busch . Two laps later , Hamlin moved into first , one lap after colliding with Montoya . On lap 153 , Montoya reclaimed the lead through turn four . Five laps later , Johnson passed Martin for the sixth position . Three laps later , the fourth caution was given after Erik Darnell spun sideways in turn two . Most of the leaders made pit stops ( which included a pit road collision between Kurt Busch and David Ragan ) , and Stewart became the leader at the lap 165 restart . Two laps after the restart , the fifth caution was given as a multi @.@ car collision occurred , as Joey Logano and Elliott Sadler collided , collecting Paul Menard , Michael Waltrip , Robby Gordon and John Andretti .

Stewart led on the restart ; On the next lap , the sixth caution was given as Jeff Burton spun sideways . At the lap 180 restart , Stewart was the leader , ahead of Johnson , Newman , Earnhardt and Hamlin . On the next lap , Johnson claimed the lead through turn one , while Sam Hornish , Jr. went to his garage due to oil issues . Two laps later , Earnhardt and Montoya moved up into third and fifth positions respectively . Five laps later , Montoya passed McMurray for the fourth position ; Earnhardt passed Stewart for second . By the 190th lap , Johnson had a lead of three seconds , while Montoya passed Stewart for third . On lap 193 , Allmendinger made contact with Stremme who spun into the wall at turn two , prompting the seventh caution . Most of the leaders made pit stops during the caution . Kurt Busch became the leader by the lap 197 restart , from Martin and Sadler .

On lap 199 , Burton and David Reutimann moved into third and fourth respectively after passing Sadler . Five laps later , Martin passed Kurt Busch to claim the lead . On lap 208 , Jeff Gordon had fell to fourteenth position after minor contact with Johnson , while Hamlin and Montoya moved into fourth and sixth positions respectively . Three laps later , Montoya moved into fifth after passing Reutimann . On the 219th lap , Johnson passed Sadler for the seventh position . Nineteen laps later , Johnson passed Montoya to take over fifth , while Hamlin passed Burton to claim the second position . On lap 243 , green flag pit stops began , as Martin was the first to pit , handing the lead back to Kurt Busch . On lap 248 , Hamlin became the new race leader after Kurt Busch came into pit road . Twenty @.@ one laps later , Kevin Harvick drove to pit road due to mechanical problems .

On lap 272 , Martin reclaimed the lead as the previous leaders had made their pit stops . Four laps later , the eighth caution was given because of debris on the track in turns three and four . Most of the drivers made pit stops during the caution , although Martin stayed out and remained the leader on the restart . After the restart , the ninth caution was given after Reutimann and Earnhardt made contact , causing Earnhardt to collide with the turn two wall . At the lap 287 restart , Martin remained the leader ahead of Kurt Busch . One lap later , Montoya moved up into third after passing Hamlin and Johnson . On lap 289 , Montoya passed Kurt Busch at the first turn for the second position . One lap later , Kurt Busch lost a further position when he was passed by Hamlin . On lap 292 , Martin had a 1 @.@ 1 second lead . Two laps later , the tenth caution came out after Allmendinger spun in turn two after he made contact with Marcos Ambrose . Martin led on the restart , followed by Montoya and Hamlin . On the final lap , Allmendinger spun sideways , bringing out the eleventh and final caution , and the field was frozen , with the finishing order determined by where the drivers were running at the moment of caution . The result gave Martin the victory , which was his fifth win of the 2009 season . Hamlin finished second , ahead of Montoya in third , Johnson in fourth , and Kyle Busch in fifth . Kurt Busch , Newman , Sadler , Biffle and Bowyer rounded out the top ten finishers .

== = Post @.@ race == =

Martin appeared in victory lane to celebrate his fifth win of the season , and his first at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway , in front of 101 @.@ 000 who attended the race . Martin also earned \$

232 @, @ 750 in race winnings . Montoya was somewhat frustrated with the result , saying : " Martin just screwed me -- he just stopped the car on the apex , right on the bottom , and I had nowhere to go , " Montoya said . " I could have pushed him out of the way ... but I respect him a lot . " Martin was delighted with his victory : " Alan [ Gustafson ] won the race , Alan 's the man . This is a dream come true . ... We still have the lotto at Talladega [ Nov. 1 ] , and [ I ] think we 'll run OK at Martinsville . We finished [ seventh ] in the spring , but I don 't run good there -- but this is my hardest place . It 's a tough place . " Martin also argued that his driving did not cause the final caution : " Once you got the lead , you need to make sure you don 't drive it in there and turn it sideways ( and ) slide it up the racetrack . I mean , how stupid would I look then ? "

The race result kept Martin in the lead of the Drivers ' Championship with 5 @, @ 230 points . Hamlin , who finished second , moved into second , tied on points with Johnson on 5 @, @ 195 , twenty points ahead of Montoya and thirty ahead of Kurt Busch . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet maintained the lead with 199 points . Toyota remained second with 160 points . Dodge advanced to third with 118 and Ford was bumped to fourth with 117 . 5 @. @ 04 million people watched the race on television . The race took three hours , nine minutes and one second to complete ; because it ended under caution , no margin of victory was recorded .

Three days after the race , Joe Gibbs Racing were given penalties for Kyle Busch 's car . Joe Gibbs Racing 's penalty , for unauthorized alterations to the ride height of Kyle Busch 's car , included a fine of \$ 25 @, @ 000 for crew chief Steve Addington , and the loss of 25 owner and driver points for Joe Gibbs and Kyle Busch respectively . Addington was also placed on probation until December 31 , 2009 .

= = Results = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

= = = Race = = =

= = Standings after the race = =