

= 2009 Ford 400 =

The 2009 Ford 400 was the thirty @-@ six and final stock car race of the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series as well as the tenth and final race of the season @-@ ending Chase for the Sprint Cup . It was held on November 22 , 2009 at Homestead @-@ Miami Speedway , in Homestead , Florida before a crowd of 70 @,@ 000 people . The 267 @-@ lap race was won by Denny Hamlin of the Joe Gibbs Racing team after starting from thirty @-@ eighth position . Jeff Burton finished second and his teammate Kevin Harvick came in third .

Jimmie Johnson won the pole position and maintained his lead on the first lap of the race . Many Chase for the Sprint Cup participants , including Johnson , Kurt Busch and Mark Martin , were in the top ten for most of the race , although some encountered problems in the closing laps . Kyle Busch was leading the race with forty @-@ four laps remaining , giving the lead to Hamlin who maintained it to win the race . There were seven cautions in the race , as well as eighteen lead changes among ten different drivers .

The race was Hamlin 's fourth win in the 2009 season , and the eighth of his career . Johnson became the first driver to win four consecutive Drivers ' Championships and was 141 points ahead of Mark Martin . Johnson 's team owner Jeff Gordon won the Owners ' Championship . Chevrolet won the Manufacturers ' Championship with 262 points , fifty @-@ five points ahead of Toyota and ninety @-@ eight ahead of Ford . The race attracted 5 @.@ 60 million television viewers .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

Homestead Miami Speedway is one of ten intermediate tracks to hold NASCAR races , the others being Atlanta Motor Speedway , Kansas Speedway , Chicagoland Speedway , Darlington Raceway , Texas Motor Speedway , New Hampshire Motor Speedway , Kentucky Speedway , Las Vegas Motor Speedway , and Charlotte Motor Speedway . The race was held on the standard track at Homestead Miami Speedway ; a four @-@ turn oval track that is 1 @.@ 5 miles (2 @.@ 4 km) long . The track 's turns are banked from 18 to 20 degrees , and both the front stretch (the location of the finish line) and the back stretch are banked at three degrees .

Before the final race of the season , Jimmie Johnson led the Drivers ' Championship with 6 @,@ 492 points ; Mark Martin was second with 6 @,@ 384 points , 92 points behind Johnson . A maximum of 195 points were available for the final race . Behind Johnson and Martin in the Drivers ' Championship , Jeff Gordon was third with 6 @,@ 323 , and Kurt Busch was fourth with 6 @,@ 281 points . Chevrolet had already secured the Manufacturer 's Championship , and entered the race on 256 points , 58 points ahead of Toyota on 198 points , with a maximum of nine points available at the Ford 400 . Carl Edwards 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 . In the first practice session , Kurt Busch was fastest , placing ahead of Juan Pablo Montoya in second and Clint Bowyer in third . Ryan Newman took fourth position and Joey Logano placed fifth . Tony Stewart , Edwards , Dale Earnhardt , Jr . , Kevin Harvick and David Reutimann rounded out the top ten fastest drivers in the session .

Although forty @-@ eight 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 . Johnson clinched his fifth pole position of the season , with a time of 31 @.@ 049 . He was joined on the grid 's front row by Scott Speed . Marcos Ambrose qualified third , Martin took fourth and Stewart started fifth . Harvick , Newman , Greg Biffle

, Bill Elliott and Bowyer completed the top ten fastest qualifiers . Kurt Busch , one of the drivers in the Chase for the Sprint Cup , qualified twelfth , while Jeff Gordon set the twentieth fastest time . The five drivers who failed to qualify were Joe Nemechek , Dave Blaney , Mike Skinner , Max Papis and David Stremme . After the qualifier Johnson said , " I had a talk with myself to do what I could today and don 't freak out if it 's not as good as what Mark [Martin] ran . I kept my emotions in check and drove the car with the right touch and feel , and that comes from being relaxed , so it went well . "

On Saturday morning , Martin was fastest in the second practice session , ahead of Denny Hamlin in second , and Johnson in third . Newman was fourth quickest , and Kyle Busch took fifth . Jeff Burton managed sixth . Biffle , Kasey Kahne , Joey Logano and Martin Truex , Jr. followed in the top ten . Of the other drivers in the Chase , Jeff Gordon finished with the seventeenth fastest time , while Stewart set the twenty @-@ fourth fastest time . Burton paced the final practice session , with Harvick and Martin followed in second and third respectively . Truex was fourth fastest , ahead of Newman and Logano . Johnson was scored seventh , Casey Mears eighth , Brad Keselowski ninth and Hamlin tenth . The other Chase drivers , Jeff Gordon and Kurt Busch were scored fifteenth and eleventh respectively .

= = = Race = = =

The race , the last in the 2009 season , began at 3 : 15 pm EDT and was televised live in the United States on ABC . Around the start of the race , weather conditions were partly cloudy with the air temperature 28 ° C (82 ° F) . Fidel Gomez , assistant pastor of Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale in Fort Lauderdale , Florida , began pre @-@ race ceremonies with an invocation . Actress Anika Noni Rose performed the national anthem , and Actor Mike Rowe commanded the drivers to start their engines . During the pace laps , Robby Gordon had to move to the back of the grid because of him changing his engine .

Johnson retained his pole position lead into the first corner , with Speed behind him . Two laps later , Harvick had moved into fourth position ; Jamie McMurray , who began the race in eleventh , had moved up four positions to seventh place . By lap six , Ambrose began to reduce the lead of Johnson , and Martin got loose on the same lap but regained control of his car . On lap nine , Stewart passed Martin for fourth . One lap later , Ambrose passed Johnson to become the new race leader . On lap 13 , Johnson retook the lead off Ambrose . After having made three positions early , Harvick moved up into second position by passing Ambrose . On lap 16 , Ambrose 's car suffered a flat tire and came into the pit road .

Earnhardt who began the race in thirty @-@ second , had moved up nineteen positions to thirteenth by lap 24 . Two laps later , Ambrose began to slow and made a pit stop three laps later to change his car 's battery . On lap 33 , Stewart passed Johnson to become the new race leader while Ambrose 's car went into his garage . Three laps later , Earnhard. had passed McMurray for tenth position . On lap 38 , Clint Bowyer passed Martin for fourth position , as Ambrose rejoined the race four laps later . On lap 47 , Kurt Busch passed Martin to claim sixth position . Three laps later , green flag pit stops began , as Matt Kenseth and Martin were the first to pit . Johnson made his pit stop one lap later .

On lap 53 , Kurt Busch became the new race leader after Stewart came into his pit stall . One lap later , Kurt Busch came onto pit road and Bowyer became the new race leader . On lap 57 , Harvick passed Bowyer to clinch the lead . Two laps later , Bowyer moved into second position by passing Stewart . Four laps later , Stewart reclaimed the lead after passing Harvick . On lap 64 , Johnson passed Martin to move into ninth . By lap 73 , Stewart had a 2 @.@ 4 second lead over Harvick . One lap later , Newman collided with the wall , falling to eleventh place , and escaped with minor damage . On the 79th lap , Truex moved into seventh after passing Jeff Gordon . Two laps later , Ambrose spun at turn four but avoided contact with the barriers , causing the first caution of the race , and the pace car came out on track . During the caution , most of the leaders made pit stops .

Stewart maintained his lead on the restart , but Harvick reclaimed the lead immediately afterward , and Stewart was passed by Bowyer for second . One lap later , Stewart dropped to sixth as he was

passed by Johnson , Montoya and Kurt Busch . On lap 89 , Montoya passed Kurt Busch to move into fourth position . Two laps later , Montoya moved into third position after passing Johnson . On lap 92 , Montoya passed Bowyer for second , as Burton moved into third . Three laps later , Kurt Busch moved up into sixth after passing Johnson . On lap 101 , John Andretti collided with the wall , causing the second caution of the race . As with the first caution , most of the leaders made their pit stops .

Harvick maintained his lead on the restart . Three laps later , Ambrose collided with the wall which prompted the third caution . Most of the drivers stayed on track during the caution , allowing Harvick to remain the leader on the restart . A collision involving Montoya and Stewart occurred on lap 116 and the third caution was given as a result . Harvick led on the restart , although he was passed by Kurt Busch within eleven laps . By lap 143 , Kurt Busch had a 1 @. @ 5 second lead over Harvick . Two laps later , Hamlin passed Harvick to claim second . On lap 155 , Montoya and Stewart were involved in a collision and prompted the fifth caution . During the caution , all of the leaders made pit stops and Montoya was black @- @ flagged for two laps . On lap 158 , Hamlin reclaimed the lead , followed by Kurt Busch and Burton .

On lap 165 , Johnson moved into seventh . Afterward , Johnson passed Jeff Gordon for sixth position . Seven laps later , Kurt Busch reclaimed the lead off Hamlin . During the 184th lap , Burton passed Hamlin for second . Ten laps later , a sixth caution came out as Robby Gordon spun sideways . All leading cars made pit stops , with Hamlin maintaining his lead until Burton passed him on the restart . By lap 205 , Burton had a lead of over two seconds . On lap 216 , debris was spotted on the track and the seventh and final caution was prompted . The lead drivers made their pit stops . One lap later , Michael Waltrip became the new leader , followed by Andretti . Kurt Busch regained the lead one lap later , when Waltrip and Andretti made their pit stops . Kyle Busch immediately passed Kurt Busch on the restart for the lead . One lap later , Hamlin reclaimed the lead off Kyle Busch .

On lap 229 , Jeff Gordon passed Johnson for the seventh position . Seven laps later , Martin moved into twelfth . After 247 laps , Hamlin 's lead over Kyle Busch was 2 @. @ 3 seconds . During the 249th lap , Edwards passed Bowyer for eighth . Six laps later , Kurt Busch passed Kyle Busch for third , and Kyle Busch lost fourth place to Johnson on lap 256 . Hamlin maintained the lead to win his fourth race of the 2009 season . Burton finished second , ahead of Harvick and Kurt Busch . Johnson , who finished fifth , became the first driver to clinch four consecutive Drivers ' Championships . Gordon , Edwards , Kyle Busch , Truex and A.J. Allmendinger rounded out the top ten finishers .

= = = Post @- @ race = = =

Hamlin appeared in victory lane to start celebrating his fourth win of the season in front of 70 @, @ 000 who attended the race . Hamlin also earned \$ 347 @, @ 975 in race winnings . After winning the race , Hamlin described his disappointment by saying , " The car took off and it was game @- @ over , Everyone 's got a little fight in them , especially when they get done wrong . After our performance today , it 's easy to put yesterday behind me .

Afterward , Johnson began celebrating his fourth consecutive Sprint Cup Series championship . During the celebration , Johnson was delighted with his performance , saying , " The truth of it is , to do something that 's never been done in this sport -- to love the sport like I do and respect it like I do -- and the greats : Petty , Earnhardt , Gordon ... to do something they 've never done is so awesome . To win four championships in eight years , what this team has done ... I don 't know where to start . It 's unbelievable . " Burton , who finished second , commended Johnson 's achievements saying , " It ? s hard to say he ? s the best when you ? re out there racing against him , but you have to put him on the list . ? Martin , who finished second in points , said ,

" Our car didn 't work well [Sunday] , It didn 't work well , and we really struggled with it . And as the sun went down , we went to the back . We came in and pitted and tried to do some work on it to try to improve it , and it didn 't really improve it a whole lot , so then we were stuck with sorry track position on top of not having a great race car . We just fought and fought and fought , and actually

the last adjustment perked it up , and we drove from 21st to 10th , and then right at the end a couple of the guys got the high line going and got me back . "

In the Drivers ' Championship , Johnson finished first with 6 @, @ 652 points , one @-@ hundred and forty one ahead of Martin in second . Jeff Gordon followed in third with 6 @, @ 473 . Kurt Busch and Hamlin rounded out the top five positions with 6 @, @ 446 and 6 @, @ 335 points respectively . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet won with 262 points , fifty @-@ five ahead of Toyota and ninety @-@ eight ahead of Ford . Dodge finished fourth with 159 points . 5 @. @ 60 million people watched the race on television . The race took three hours , six minutes and eighteen seconds to complete , and the margin of victory was 2 @. @ 632 seconds .

= = Results = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

= = = Race results = = =

= = Standings after the race = =