

= 2009 Dickies 500 =

The 2009 Dickies 500 was the 34th stock car race of the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series and the eighth in the ten @-@ race season @-@ ending Chase for the Sprint Cup . It was held on November 8 , 2009 at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth , Texas before a crowd of 167 @,@ 000 . The 334 @-@ lap race was won by Kurt Busch of the Penske Racing team after he started from third position . Denny Hamlin finished second and Matt Kenseth came in third .

Jeff Gordon won the pole position , although he was almost immediately passed by Kasey Kahne at the start of the race . Many Chase for the Sprint Cup participants , including Jimmie Johnson and Carl Edwards encountered problems during the race . Kyle Busch was leading the race with three laps remaining but ran out of fuel , giving the lead , and the win , to Kurt Busch . There were a total of eight cautions during the race and thirteen lead changes among four different drivers during the race .

The race was Kurt Busch 's second win of the 2009 season , his first at the Texas Motor Speedway , and the 20th of his career . The result advanced Busch to fourth in the Drivers ' Championship , 171 points behind the leader Johnson and seven ahead of Tony Stewart . Chevrolet maintained its lead in the Manufacturers ' Championship , fifty @-@ five ahead of Toyota , eighty @-@ nine ahead of Ford , and ninety @-@ six in front of Dodge . The race attracted 5 @.@ 82 million television viewers .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

The Dickies 500 was the 34th scheduled stock car race of the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series , out of 36 @.@ it was held on November 8 , 2009 in Fort Worth , Texas at Texas Motor Speedway , one of ten intermediate tracks to hold NASCAR races ; the others are Atlanta Motor Speedway , Kansas Speedway , Chicagoland Speedway , Darlington Raceway , Homestead Miami Speedway , New Hampshire Motor Speedway , Kentucky Speedway , Las Vegas Motor Speedway , and Charlotte Motor Speedway . The standard track at Texas Motor Speedway is a four @-@ turn quad @-@ oval track that is 1 @.@ 5 miles (2 @.@ 4 km) long . The track 's turns are banked at twenty @-@ four degrees , and both the front stretch (the location of the finish line) and the back stretch have a five degree banking .

One team chose to replace their regular driver with a substitute . Penske Championship Racing driver David Stremme (who was unable to secure a top @-@ ten finish) was replaced by the 2009 Aaron 's 499 winner Brad Keselowski for the final three races of the 2009 season , so Keselowski would gain experience before driving full @-@ time with the team the following season .

Before the race , Jimmie Johnson led the Drivers ' Championship , with 6 @,@ 248 points , with Mark Martin in second and Jeff Gordon third . Juan Pablo Montoya and Tony Stewart were fourth and fifth , and Kurt Busch , Greg Biffle , Ryan Newman , Kasey Kahne , Carl Edwards , Denny Hamlin and Brian Vickers rounded out the top twelve drivers competing for the 2009 Chase for the Sprint Cup . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet were leading with 244 points , sixty @-@ two points ahead of their rivals Toyota . Ford with 145 points , were nine points ahead of Dodge in the battle for third . 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 , while the second session lasted 45 minutes . The third and final session lasted 60 minutes . In the first practice session , Clint Bowyer was fastest , placing ahead of Biffle in second , and Johnson in third . Gordon was fourth fastest , and Edwards placed fifth . Kurt Busch , David Ragan , Jeff Burton , Keselowski and Kevin Harvick rounded out the top ten fastest

drivers in the session . Max Papis damaged the right @-@ hand side of his car when he hit the turn two wall ; Jamie McMurray , David Reutimann and Mike Bliss also hit the turn two wall . Bliss went to a back @-@ up car because the right side of his car was heavily damaged . John Andretti 's engine failed during the early phase of the session , and Andretti changed engines . Burton switched to a back @-@ up car after he collided with the turn two outside wall .

Although forty @-@ seven 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 . Gordon clinched his second pole position of the season , with a time of 28 @. @ 255 . He was joined on the grid 's front row by Kahne . Kurt Busch qualified third , Stewart took fourth , and Kyle Busch started fifth . Edwards qualified sixth , while Martin set the seventh fastest time . Biffle qualified eighth , Dale Earnhardt , Jr. ninth and Clint Bowyer tenth . The four drivers that failed to qualify were Tony Raines , Dave Blaney , Papis and Mike Bliss . Derrike Cope withdrew from the race prior to qualifying . After the qualifier Gordon said , " Our efforts here have improved because we 've really focused on it , They started with qualifying , and luckily last time they showed up in the race So we certainly hope we can take this qualifying effort and create those types of results as well . "

On Saturday morning , David Reutimann was fastest in the second practice session , ahead of Stewart in second , and Montoya in third . Kyle Busch was fourth quickest , and Kurt Busch took fifth . Kahne managed sixth . Matt Kenseth , Hamlin , Martin and Johnson followed in the top ten . Of the other drivers in the Chase , Gordon set the eleventh fastest time , while Biffle was placed thirteenth . Later that day , Johnson paced the final practice session , with Edwards in second , and Hamlin in third . Biffle was fourth quickest , and Bill Elliott took fifth . Ragan managed sixth . Robby Gordon was seventh fastest , Earnhardt eighth , Reutimann ninth , and Martin Truex , Jr. tenth . Other Chase drivers included Montoya in fourteenth and Newman in sixteenth . Harvick collided with the turn two wall ; he sustained minor damage , allowing his team to repair his car .

= = = Race = = =

The race began at 3 : 15 p.m. EST and was televised live in the United States on ABC . At the start of the race , weather conditions were cloudy . Dr. Roger Marsh began pre @-@ race ceremonies by giving the invocation . The Texas Christian University Marching Band performed the national anthem , and rock band ZZ Top gave the command for drivers to start their engines . During the pace laps , two drivers moved to the back of the grid due to unapproved changes : Bill Elliott because of an transmission change , and Andretti because he changed his engine .

Jeff Gordon retained his pole position lead into the first corner . Reutimann made contact with Johnson , forcing him to collide with the wall and damage his car 's suspension on lap two . The first caution of the race was subsequently given . None of the leaders elected to make pit stops during the caution , and Johnson drove to his garage to change his front and rear suspension . Jeff Gordon maintained his lead on the lap eight restart . Kurt Busch passed Jeff Gordon on the low side of the track for the lead position four laps later . After starting twenty @-@ ninth , Robby Gordon had moved up thirteen positions to sixteenth by lap 34 . One lap later , Johnson 's car was fitted with a new driveshaft .

Earnhardt had moved into fourth by lap 38 and was closing the gap to Gordon in third . Six laps later , Kurt Busch was leading by more than three seconds from Kyle Busch . By the 48th lap , Reutimann , who started thirteenth , had moved into the third position . Green flag pit stops for tires , fuel and car adjustments began on lap 52 , when Elliott Sadler became the first driver to pit . Stewart became the new leader after Kurt Busch came onto pit road . Stewart made his pit stop on lap 56 , handing the lead to Michael Waltrip . After the leaders made their pit stops , Kyle Busch claimed the lead on lap 58 . Six laps later , Kyle Busch had a 2 @. @ 5 second lead over Kurt Busch . On lap 70 , Jeff Gordon fell to eleventh position due to a slow pit stop . Two laps later , Marcos Ambrose , who started thirty @-@ fifth , had moved up twenty @-@ nine positions to sixth .

By the 84th lap , Kyle Busch 's lead was half a second from Kurt Busch . Two laps later , Sam Hornish , Jr. collided with the wall and suffered three flat tires , prompting the second caution .

During the caution , most of the leaders made pit stops . Kyle Busch remained the leader after the pit stops and maintained it at the lap 91 restart . Montoya moved into ninth , as Stewart passed Reutimann for third on the same . Two laps later , Jeff Gordon had moved up into ninth . Sunlight came off the track surface by lap 99 , causing track temperatures to cool and drivers were reminded by their crew chiefs to drive cautiously in the turns . Martin moved into the thirteenth position by lap 102 . Ambrose had moved into third nine laps later . On lap 113 , Johnson rejoined the track , albeit without his car 's rear bumper . Kyle Busch had built up a one and a half second lead over Kurt Busch by lap 116 . Johnson drove to pit road to resolve tire rubbing problems two laps later .

Martin moved into the top ten positions by lap 122 , as Gordon fell down to fourteenth four laps later . On lap 134 , Johnson moved back on track , however he returned to pit road eight laps later as the green flag pit stop period began . Hamlin gained the lead on lap 146 . After pit stops , Kyle Busch reclaimed the first position . Drivers reported track conditions were changing as cooler air came over the circuit by lap 148 . Jeff Gordon reported seeing debris at turn one on the 165th lap , which triggered the third caution . Some of the leaders chose to make pit stops during the caution as race officials cleaned the debris . Kyle Busch maintained his lead at the restart , ahead of Kurt Busch and Earnhardt .

The fourth caution was given on lap 174 when Montoya collided with the wall , damaging his car . Edwards , who was hit by Montoya , had sustained a similar amount of damage to his car . Keselowski was caught up in the crash , and Jeff Gordon was forced to spin sideways . None of the leaders made pit stops during the caution . Officials cleared the surface at turn one and checked turn two for a brake motor . The race restarted on lap 181 with Kyle Busch leading , ahead of Kurt Busch , and Reutimann . Five laps later , Kyle Busch had built up a 1 @. @ 4 second lead . On lap 206 , Reed Sorenson damaged his car , after colliding with the wall , which caused the fifth and final caution . Most of the leaders made pit stops for fuel and car adjustments during the caution . Kyle Busch led on the restart on lap 212 , followed by Kurt Busch and Reutimann . Seven laps later , Kahne moved into ninth position . On lap 221 , Earnhardt. dropped two positions to seventh . Eight laps later , Martin moved into the fifth position . On lap 238 , Martin passed Stewart to claim fourth .

Kyle Busch maintained a 1 @. @ 4 second lead over Kurt Busch by the 249th lap . Three laps later , Keselowski drove out of his garage to rejoin the race . By lap 262 , drivers reported their cars were sliding in the corners as their tires became worn . Green flag pit stops began on lap 265 ; Kyle Busch maintained the lead at the end of the cycle , ahead of Reutimann and Kenseth . On the 290th lap , Kurt Busch 's crew reported to him that he was running two laps short of fuel . Six laps later , Kyle Busch started to slow in the corners to conserve fuel . On the 298th lap , Martin dropped one position to run fifth . By the 302nd lap , overall speeds had dropped due to drivers starting to conserve fuel . Green flag pit stops began on lap 311 , as Truex made a stop for fuel . Kyle Busch elected not to make a pit stop and increased his lead to four seconds by lap 314 . Eight laps later , Kyle Busch was told by his team to reduce his speed . On lap 330 , Kyle Busch drove to pit road , having run out of fuel , handing the lead to Kurt Busch . One lap later , Ambrose ran out of fuel , as Kurt Busch held the lead to win his second race of the 2009 season . Hamlin finished second , ahead of Kenseth in third , Martin in fourth , and Harvick in fifth . Stewart , Bowyer , Biffle , Burton and A.J. Allmendinger rounded out the top ten finishers .

== = Post @-@ race == =

Kurt Busch appeared in victory lane to celebrate his second win of the season , and his first at the Texas Motor Speedway , in front of 167 @, @ 000 who attended the race . Busch also earned \$ 440 @, @ 575 in race winnings . Afterward , he said , " I knew what we had for fuel mileage -- I was confident in our guys ' numbers . They gave me what I needed to win [Sunday] . We were fast , we were playing cat @-@ and @-@ mouse with Kyle on restarts -- you know , it 's the first true time that Kyle and I have raced each other hard for a victory like this . "

Hamlin , who finished second , said " Hats off to Mike (Ford , crew chief) and this whole FedEx Office Camry team . We have a really good car , we just had to learn to stay in the pits . We just lost too many spots on pit road that we couldn 't overcome that track position . I was trying to make

something happen and got in the wall which ended up killing our car . The good part about that is I was able to save fuel because there was no pressure from behind . I was able to save fuel and our Camry got the best fuel mileage it got all day . " Kyle Busch 's crew chief Dave Rogers said of his drivers ' performance , " I think he handled it well -- it 's tough . You lead all these laps and he could have gone for the clean sweep this weekend -- win all three in a row . He deserved to win all three in a row and to get beat -- it 's tough . " , he continued , " We 're disappointed -- this Toyota deserved to be in Victory Lane . I thought we had one of the best cars throughout the entire race , but it just didn 't work out that way . We were a little short on fuel . "

Two days after the race , Earnhardt Ganassi Racing were given penalties for Martin Truex , Jr . ' s car . Earnhardt Ganassi Racing 's penalty , for actions " detrimental to stock car racing " , race equipment that did not conform to NASCAR rules , and for the ride height of Truex 's car being too low , included a fine of \$ 50 @, @ 000 for crew chief Kevin Manion , and the loss of 50 owner and driver points for Teresa Earnhardt and Truex . Manion was also placed on probation until December 31 , 2009 .

The race result left Johnson leading the Drivers ' Championship with 6 @, @ 297 points . Martin stood in second , seventy @-@ three points behind Johnson , and thirty @-@ nine ahead of Jeff Gordon , Kurt Busch who finished first , moved into fourth position with 6 @, @ 126 points . Stewart was fifth , as Montoya , Biffle , Hamlin , Newman , and Kahne followed in the top ten positions . The final two positions available in the Chase for the Sprint Cup was occupied with Edwards in eleventh and Vickers in twelfth . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet maintained their lead with 247 points . Toyota remained second with 192 points . Ford followed with 158 points , seven ahead of Dodge in fourth . 5 @. @ 82 million people watched the race on television . The race took three hours , twenty @-@ four minutes and eighteen seconds to complete , and the margin of victory was 25 @. @ 686 seconds .

= = Results = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

= = = Race = = =

= = Standings after the race = =