

= 2010 Kobalt Tools 500 (Phoenix) =

The 2010 Kobalt Tools 500 was a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series stock car race that was held on November 14 , 2010 at Phoenix International Raceway in Avondale , Arizona . Contested over 312 laps , it was the thirty @-@ fifth , and the ninth race in the Chase for the Sprint Cup during the 2010 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series season . The race was won by Carl Edwards , for the Roush Fenway Racing team . Ryan Newman finished second , and Joey Logano clinched third .

Pole position driver Edwards maintained his lead on the first lap to begin the race , as Newman , who started in the second position on the grid , remained behind him . On the seventh lap , Kurt Busch became the leader of the race . Hamlin , the points leader before the race , led the most laps with a total of 190 . On lap 298 , Hamlin made a pit stop and became a lap behind . He didn 't return to the first ten positions afterward . Edwards maintained the lead to win the race .

There were five cautions and 14 lead changes among six different drivers throughout the course of the race . It was Edwards ' first win in the 2010 season , and the 18th of his career . The result kept Edwards in fourth in the Drivers ' Championship , 264 points behind Denny Hamlin and 47 ahead of Matt Kenseth . Chevrolet maintained its lead in the Manufacturers ' Championship , 42 points ahead of Toyota and 88 ahead of Ford , with one race remaining in the season . A total of 75 @, @ 000 people attended the race , while 4 @. @ 201 million watched it on television .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

Phoenix International Raceway is one of five short tracks to hold NASCAR races ; the others are Richmond International Raceway , Dover International Speedway , Bristol Motor Speedway , and Martinsville Speedway . The standard track at Phoenix International Raceway is a four @-@ turn short track oval that is 1 mile (1 @. @ 6 km) long . The track 's turns were banked at 11 degrees , while the front stretch , the location of the finish line , was banked at three degrees . The back stretch , which has a dogleg shape instead of a straight , has 9 degrees of banking . The racetrack has seats for 76 @, @ 800 spectators .

Before the race , Denny Hamlin led the Drivers ' Championship with 6 @, @ 325 points , and Jimmie Johnson stood in second with 6 @, @ 292 points . Kevin Harvick followed in third with 6 @, @ 266 points , 258 ahead of Carl Edwards and 266 ahead of Matt Kenseth in fourth and fifth . Jeff Gordon with 5 @, @ 994 was eight points ahead of Kyle Busch , as Tony Stewart with 5 @, @ 962 points , was nine ahead of Greg Biffle , and thirty @-@ four in front of Clint Bowyer . Kurt Busch and Jeff Burton were eleventh and twelfth with 5 @, @ 890 and 5 @, @ 852 points . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet was leading with 249 points , forty points ahead of their rival Toyota . Ford , with 158 points , was twenty @-@ six points ahead of Dodge in the battle for third . 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 practice session lasted 60 minutes . During the first practice session , Edwards , for the Roush Fenway Racing team , was quickest ahead of Regan Smith in second and Stewart in the third position . Kyle Busch was scored fourth , and Brad Keselowski managed fifth . Juan Pablo Montoya , Kurt Busch , A. J. Allmendinger , Ryan Newman , and Harvick rounded out the top ten quickest drivers in the session .

Afterward , during qualifying , forty @-@ six cars were entered , but only forty @-@ three were able to race because of NASCAR 's qualifying procedure . Edwards clinched his seventh pole position during his career , with a time of 26 @. @ 395 , which made a new track record . He was joined on

the front row of the grid by Allmendinger . Kurt Busch qualified third , Biffle took fourth , and Jamie McMurray started fifth . Hamlin , one of the drivers in the Chase for the Sprint Cup , qualified seventeenth , while Johnson was scored twenty @-@ first . The three drivers that failed to qualify for the race were Joe Nemechek , Michael McDowell , and Jason Leffler . Once the qualifying session completed , Edwards commented , " The first thing that we ? re going to have an advantage Sunday is with our pit stall , that ? s going to help us a lot . I think we have an advantage because [the title rivals] have to be a little bit conservative . Guys like myself we ? re really battling for fourth in points and battling for wins . We can go out and be a little more aggressive and maybe take advantage of that . "

On the next evening , Edwards remained quickest , ahead of Kurt Busch and Gordon in second and third . Kenseth was fourth quickest , and Burton took fifth . Montoya , Dale Earnhardt , Jr . , Joey Logano , Biffle , and Harvick followed in the top @-@ ten . Other drivers in the chase , such as Hamlin , was fifteenth , and Johnson , who was seventeenth . During the third , and final practice session , Edwards , with a fastest time of 27 @. @ 202 , was quickest . Earnhardt , Jr. and Gordon followed in second and third with times of 27 @. @ 328 and 27 @. @ 337 seconds . Hamlin managed to be fourth fastest , ahead of Harvick and Logano . Johnson was scored seventh , Mark Martin took eighth , David Reutimann was ninth , and Biffle took tenth .

= = = Race = = =

The race , the thirty @-@ fifth out of a total of thirty @-@ six in the season , began at 3 : 00 p.m. EST and was televised live in the United States on ESPN . Prior to the race , weather conditions were dry with the air temperature around 63 ° F (17 ° C) . Ken Bowers , chaplain of the race track , began pre @-@ race ceremonies with the invocation . Dr. Jesse McGuire performed the national anthem on his trumpet , and Steve Schultz , regional vice @-@ president of Lowe 's , gave the command for drivers to start their engines .

Edwards retained the lead from the pole position throughout the beginning lap . On the second lap , Brendan Gaughan collided into the wall , prompting the first caution to be given . On the lap six restart , Edwards remained the leader . On the following lap , Kurt Busch passed Edwards to become the leader . On lap 7 , Biffle had fallen two positions as David Reutimann overtook him . Three laps later , Johnson moved up to the 13th position . By the fourteenth lap , Harvick had moved up eight positions since the beginning of the race . Harvick continued to move forward while Busch maintained the lead . On lap 28 , Edwards claimed the first position from Busch . By the 30th lap , Hamlin moved up to fifth on the grid after passing Reutimann . The next lap , Kyle Busch , Kurt 's younger brother , hit the wall , but sustained minor damages . On lap 41 , Hamlin moved up to third as Edwards maintained a 1 @. @ 5 @-@ second lead . Three laps later , Hamlin passed Kurt Busch to claim second .

Kyle Busch moved up to fourth after passing Allmendinger on lap 54 . After 55 laps , Stewart had moved up to eighth while Johnson had moved up to 12th . Three laps later , the second caution was given , after Keselowski developed a flat tire and crashed into the wall . All the front @-@ runners made pit stops during the caution , with most asking for tires and adjustments . At the lap 65 restart , Edwards remained the leader before Hamlin moved past him on the following lap . On the 67th lap , Kurt Busch passed Edwards , moving him down to third . During lap 69 , Kenseth passed Busch to move to fifth . Two laps later , Johnson was scored ninth , while Harvick was 12th . Afterward , Kyle Busch fell to the eighth position by the 73rd lap . Stewart moved up to the eighth position three laps later while Hamlin had a lead of 1 @. @ 3 seconds .

On lap 80 , McMurray scraped the wall , sustaining damage to the rear spoiler , which came loose from the rest of the car . Two laps later , McMurray 's team mate Montoya moved up to the 14th position after starting 35th . On the 86th lap , Johnson passed Kenseth to move up to the eighth position . Kenseth fell two positions after being passed by Allmendinger and Harvick . By lap 90 , Hamlin extended his lead to 2 @. @ 3 seconds ahead of Kurt Busch . One lap later , Gordon passed Kenseth to move to the 12th position . During the 96th lap , Stewart moved up to fourth after passing Martin Truex , Jr . Montoya moved up to 13th on the following lap after passing Biffle . On lap 101 ,

the third caution was given for debris . One lap later , the front runners made pit stops , giving the lead to Bobby Labonte , who didn 't come in until the next lap . At the lap 105 restart , Edwards was the leader before Hamlin reclaimed the first position a lap later .

During the 117th lap , Biffle moved up to the eighth position , two laps before Johnson moved up to fifth after overtaking Newman . By lap 123 , Hamlin 's lead was around eight @-@ tenths of a second ahead of Edwards . Six laps later , Stewart passed his team mate Newman for the sixth position . On the following lap , Hamlin had over a one @-@ second lead over second @-@ placed Edwards . On the 131st lap , Kyle Busch passed his brother Kurt for the second position . Harvick passed Biffle to take over the eighth position six laps later . On lap 140 , Kurt Busch fell down to fifth after Johnson passed him . Three laps later , Kurt fell one more position to sixth once Newman overtook him . During lap 147 , Truex. passed Biffle for the ninth position . Kenseth passed Biffle four laps later to claim the tenth position .

On lap 156 , Truex moved into eighth , after overtaking Kurt Busch . By lap 159 , Hamlin had a 2 @. @ 5 @-@ second lead over Edwards in the second position . Three laps later , Kenseth moved up to ninth while Kyle Busch moved to second after passing Edwards . On lap 166 , green flag pit stops began as Paul Menard made a pit stop . On the following lap , Elliott Sadler made a pit stop , four laps earlier than Hamlin . During the pit stops , three drivers were able to lead the race , Hamlin , Kyle Busch , and Kenseth . Once the pit stops concluded , Hamlin was scored the leader . On lap 180 , Kyle Busch moved up to the second position after passing Edwards . Six laps later , Mark Martin passed Kurt Busch to move into 13th . By lap 192 , Hamlin had a 1 @. @ 5 second lead over his team mate Kyle Busch . Six laps later , Harvick overtook Johnson to claim the fourth position . At lap 210 , Stewart passed Johnson for the fifth position as Jeff Burton moved up to the seventh .

Afterward , Stewart passed Harvick for the fourth position on the 219th lap . Three laps later , Robby Gordon spun sideways , prompting the fourth caution to be given . All the front runners made pit stops during the caution , and Kyle Busch became the leader . At the lap 228 restart , Kyle Busch was first ahead of Hamlin , Edwards , Johnson , and Burton . On the following lap , Hamlin passed Busch for the first position . During the 231st lap , Edwards passed Busch to take over the second position , making Busch fall to third after two laps . Two laps later , the fifth caution was given because Travis Kvapil spun sideways . During the caution , the first eight cars did not pit , while the others did . Hamlin led on the restart ahead of Carl Edwards in second . At lap 242 , Kurt Busch moved up to ninth , after passing Stewart . Three laps later , Stewart fell to 12th , after being passed by Martin and Logano . By lap 249 , Hamlin had a 0 @. @ 75 second lead over second . On lap 252 , Jeff Burton moved up to the seventh position .

Fourteen laps later , Edwards reclaimed the lead from Hamlin . On lap 268 , Montoya moved up to fourth after passing Johnson . By lap 274 , Edwards had a one @-@ second lead over Hamlin in second . On the following lap , Newman passed Johnson for fifth as Harvick moved to twelfth . Edwards continued to expand his lead to two seconds on lap 287 . At the 292nd lap , Johnson fell to sixth after being passed by Burton . Six laps later , Hamlin made a pit stop for fuel and two new tires , which caused him to fall to nineteenth . On lap 301 , Hamlin moved back on the lead lap , after passing Edwards . Logano passed Johnson for fourth as Burton made a pit stop on lap 303 . With six laps remaining , Johnson fell to sixth as Harvick moved to seventh . Edwards maintained the lead to win his first race of the 2010 season . Newman finished second , ahead of Logano in third and Biffle in fourth . Johnson clinched the fifth position , after starting twenty @-@ first .

== = Post @-@ race == =

Race winner Carl Edwards appeared in victory lane after his victory lap to start celebrating his first win of the season , in front of a crowd of 75 @, @ 000 people . After winning the race , he described his happiness saying , " A win is very important to us . It 's a very big accomplishment for us . " He continued , " I think it 's something that we needed for our confidence . We needed it as a payoff for all the hard work the guys have put in at the shop , the engine department . "

Hamlin , who led the most laps , described his frustration : " The strategy and what @-@ not at the end just didn 't work our way . That 's all I can ask for , is to have the better car than those two guys

? and we did . But , unfortunately , the strategy bit us . We 're just going to have to go there and do it the old @-@ fashioned way next week and try to beat them on the race track . " Afterward , Newman , who finished second , commented , " We were saving fuel the whole time . Made more sense to save fuel . We were two laps short . We just did what I thought we needed to do . If Carl made it , Carl made it . " Fifth place finisher Johnson described his happiness by saying : " We 're going to go home and we 're going to make sure we have the best engines , go through our simulation stuff , make sure our car is as fast as it can be and then race . We were in a good situation and could take the risk , take the chance . It worked out for us .

In the Drivers ' Championship , Hamlin remained first with 6 @,@ 462 points , 15 ahead of Johnson in second . Harvick followed in third with 6 @,@ 416 points . Edwards and Kenseth rounded out the first five positions with 6 @,@ 198 and 6 @,@ 151 . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet maintained first place with 255 points , 42 ahead of Toyota and 88 ahead of Ford . Dodge remained fourth with 135 points . 4 @.@ 201 million people watched the race on television . The race took two hours , forty @-@ nine minutes and one second to complete , and the margin of victory was 4 @.@ 770 seconds .

= = Results = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

= = = Race results = = =

= = Standings after the race = =