

= 2009 AAA 400 =

The 2009 AAA 400 was the twenty-eighth stock car race of the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series and the second in the ten-race season ending Chase for the Sprint Cup . It was held on September 27 , 2009 at Dover International Speedway , in Dover , Delaware before a crowd of 110 ,000 people . The 400-lap race was won by Jimmie Johnson of the Hendrick Motorsports team after he started from pole position . His teammate Mark Martin finished second and Matt Kenseth came in third .

Johnson won the pole position and maintained his lead on the first lap to begin the race . After a competition caution on lap 25 , Ryan Newman became the leader of the race . Chase for the Sprint Cup participants Kurt Busch and Jeff Gordon were in the top ten for most of the race . Johnson reclaimed the lead , after passing Kurt Busch . Johnson maintained the first position to lead the most laps of 271 , and to win his fourth race of the season . There were nine cautions and six lead changes among four different drivers during the course of the race .

The race was Johnson 's fourth win of the 2009 season , as well as the forty-fourth of his career . The result kept Martin in the lead in the Drivers ' Championship , ten points ahead of Johnson , and sixty-five in front of Juan Pablo Montoya . Chevrolet maintained its lead in the Manufacturers ' Championship , forty-five ahead of Toyota and seventy-five in front of Ford , who bumped Dodge , with one hundred and twenty-two points , to fourth place . The race attracted 5.08 million television viewers .

= = 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 , and both the front stretch (the location of the finish line) and the backstretch are banked at nine degrees .

Before the race , Mark Martin led the Drivers ' Championship with 5230 points ; Jimmie Johnson and Denny Hamlin were tied for second with 5195 points each , 35 points behind Martin . Juan Pablo Montoya was fourth with 5175 points , ten ahead of Kurt Busch and nineteen ahead of Tony Stewart in fifth and sixth respectively . Ryan Newman with 5151 was eleven points ahead of Brian Vickers , as Greg Biffle with 5138 points , was ten ahead of Jeff Gordon . Carl Edwards and Kasey Kahne rounded out the top twelve positions in the Chase for the Sprint Cup with 5117 and 5069 points respectively . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet was leading with 199 points , thirty-nine points ahead of their rivals Toyota in second place . Dodge , with 118 points , were one point ahead of Ford in the battle for third place . 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 , and the second 45 minutes . The final session lasted 60 minutes . In the first practice session , Johnson was fastest , placing ahead of Newman in second and Montoya in third . Biffle took fourth position and Kurt Busch placed fifth . A.J. Allmendinger , David Reutimann , Kevin Harvick , Martin and David Gilliland rounded out the top ten fastest drivers in the session . During the session , Bowyer broke a rocker arm , and his team changed engines as a consequence .

Although forty-four 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 third pole position of the season , with a time of 22 @.@ 878 . He was joined on the grid 's front row by Montoya . Newman qualified third , Biffle took fourth and Reutimann started fifth . Kahne , Gordon , Bowyer , Sam Hornish , Jr. and Paul Menard completed the top ten positions . The driver that failed to qualify was Scott Wimmer . During qualifying , Elliott Sadler 's changed his car 's engine , after one failed during the session . After the qualifier Johnson said , " A pole today will make the start of the weekend much better and give us a lot of direction and momentum moving into tomorrow , It does carry you , and there is an aspect of momentum . But at the same time , you 've got to go out and perform . "

On Saturday morning , Kurt Busch was fastest in the second practice session , ahead of Montoya in second , and Newman in third . Johnson was fourth quickest , and Bowyer took fifth . Kyle Busch managed sixth . Stewart , Hamlin , Matt Kenseth and Gilliland followed in the top ten . Of the other drivers in the Chase , Biffle finished with the eleventh fastest time , while Kahne set the fourteenth fastest time . Kahne set the fastest time in the final practice session , while Montoya and Joey Logano followed in second and third respectively . Martin was fourth quickest , ahead of Biffle and Johnson . Kurt Busch was seventh fastest , Jamie McMurray eighth , Gilliland ninth and Martin Truex , Jr. tenth . Other chase drivers included Newman in eleventh and Hamlin in eighteenth .

= = = Race = = =

The race , the twenty @-@ eighth of a total of thirty @-@ six in the 2009 season , began at 2 : 00 p.m. and was televised live in the United States on ESPN . Around the start of the race , weather conditions were cloudy with the air temperature 71 ° F (22 ° C) ; a moderate chance of rain was forecast . Pastor Dan Schafer began pre @-@ race ceremonies by giving the invocation . Country music group and Show Dog @-@ Universal Music recording artists Trailer Choir performed the national anthem , and Sergeant Major John Jones of the Pennsylvania National Guard gave the command for drivers to start their engines . During the pace laps , Bowyer , Sadler and Tony Raines all had to move to the rear of the grid because of them changing their engines . NASCAR announced that a competition caution would take place on lap 25 , meaning drivers would make mandatory pit stops .

Johnson maintained his pole position lead into the first corner . One lap later , Newman passed Montoya for the second position . After starting the race in twelfth , Martin had lost four positions to run eighteenth by lap 4 . By the 10th lap , Johnson had built up a 1 @.@ 2 second lead over Newman . Bowyer , who began the race at the rear of the grid , had moved up thirteen positions to twenty @-@ ninth by lap 15 . Two laps later , Raines drove to his garage . On lap 18 , Kurt Busch passed Vickers for ninth , as Kahne claimed fourth position from Biffle , two laps later . On lap 25 , the competition caution came out . During the caution , all of the leaders made pit stops ; Gilliland became the new leader on lap 28 . After pit stops , Newman claimed the first position and held it at the restart .

On lap 31 , a multi @-@ car collision occurred in turn 3 as Logano was bumped by Stewart , causing him to flip sideways , which collected Truex , Robby Gordon and Reed Sorenson , prompting the second caution . On the same lap , the red flag was shown to allow race officials to clear the track of debris . The race was restarted 24 minutes later under caution . Newman maintained his lead at the restart , followed by Kurt Busch and Menard . Three laps later , Montoya and Gordon passed Menard for fifth and sixth respectively . On lap 43 , Jeff Burton fell to ninth after being passed by Hamlin and Martin . Four laps later , Martin passed Hamlin for the thirteenth position .

By lap 50 , Johnson passed Reutimann to move back into the top ten . On lap 58 , Kurt Busch passed Newman to claim the lead . Three laps later , Jeff Gordon claimed fifth position off Kahne , while Menard was passed by Johnson for eighth . On lap 63 , Montoya moved into the third position after passing Biffle , while Gilliland went to his garage to retire from the race . Two laps later , Kyle Busch claimed seventh position off Kahne , as Montoya passed Newman for second on lap 66 . On lap 67 , Gordon and Biffle passed Newman for third and fourth positions . Four laps later , Johnson

claimed seventh from Kahne . On lap 80 , Reutimann ran out of fuel , forcing him to make a pit stop .

On lap 83 , Biffle was passed by Johnson for the fourth position . One lap later , Michael Waltrip lost his car 's right @-@ front tire and collided with the wall , causing the third caution . All of the leaders elected to make pit stops . Kurt Busch remained the leader at the restart , ahead of Biffle and Kyle Busch . On lap 93 , Kyle Busch passed Biffle for second position , while McMurray was passed by Kahne for ninth on lap 96 . Three laps later , Biffle dropped to sixth after being passed by Jeff Gordon , as Montoya passed Kyle Busch for the third position on lap 113 . Sixteen laps later , Kahne passed Jeff Gordon for sixth , while Stewart moved into the eighteenth position on lap 137 . On the 147th lap , Kurt Busch was blocked by Bobby Labonte , allowing Johnson to claim the lead . By the 150th lap , Kyle Busch dropped three positions to sixth after being passed by Martin , Kahne and Jeff Gordon .

Green flag pit stops began on lap 152 , when Hornish made a pit stop . Eleven laps later , the fourth caution came out . During the caution , which was caused by liquid on the track , all of the leaders made pit stops . Kurt Busch reclaimed the lead for the lap 168 restart . Stewart moved into the eleventh position on lap 170 . Six laps later , Johnson reclaimed the lead off Kurt Busch . By the 183rd lap , Johnson opened out a 1 @.@ 6 second lead over Kurt Busch . Twenty @-@ four laps later , Kyle Busch collided with the wall in turn 3 and turn 4 , prompting the fifth caution . All of the leaders chose to make pit stops during the caution . The race resumed on lap 211 , with Johnson leading from Jeff Gordon and Kurt Busch .

By the 223rd lap , Johnson had a lead of 1 @.@ 6 seconds . Twenty @-@ seven laps later , Sorenson rejoined the race track . On lap 252 , Stewart passed Allmendinger for the ninth position . Seven laps later , Stewart moved into eighth after passing Newman , and passed Bowyer for seventh on the 262nd lap . On lap 272 , Johnson 's lead of 3 @.@ 5 seconds was reduced to nothing when the pace car moved on track . During the caution , which was caused by David Stremme making contact with the wall at turn 4 , all of the leaders made pit stops . Johnson remained the leader at the restart . On lap 286 , Kahne was passed by Newman for ninth . By lap 290 , Johnson built up a lead of two seconds . Seventeen laps later , Martin passed Kenseth for the fourth position . Johnson 's lead had increased to 2 @.@ 2 seconds by lap 319 . Five laps later , debris was spotted on the track and the seventh caution was prompted . All of the leaders elected to make pit stops during the caution .

Johnson maintained his lead at the restart , followed by Martin and Kenseth . One lap later , Montoya moved into the second position , as Martin fell to fifth . On lap 336 , Martin moved into fourth after passing Kurt Busch , and passed Kenseth for third two laps later . On lap 341 , the eighth caution came out when Regan Smith spun off , collecting Stremme , Truex and Sadler . Johnson kept the lead at the lap 347 restart . One lap later , Kenseth moved into the second position , as Stewart and Gordon moved into fourth and tenth respectively . On lap 349 , Gordon passed Newman for ninth , before falling to eleventh position after contact with Newman one lap later . On the 354th lap , Stewart was passed by Martin for the fourth position , as Johnson had built a 2 @.@ 2 second lead by lap 357 . One lap later , Jeff Gordon moved into the ninth position after passing Newman .

On the 368th lap , Hornish , spun on the backstraightway , prompting the ninth and final caution of the race . During the caution , some of the leaders made pit stops . Johnson maintained the lead on the lap 373 . Four laps later , Newman passed Mears for eighth , as Edwards was passed by Stewart for twelfth . On the 383rd lap , Kahne , Allmendinger and Stewart passed Newman for seventh , eighth and ninth respectively . On the next lap , Kenseth was passed by Martin for second position . On the 391st lap , Kahne was passed by Allmendinger for the second position . Two laps later , Johnson 's lead had increased to 2 @.@ 2 seconds and held it to win the race . Martin finished second , ahead of Kenseth in third , Montoya fourth , and Kurt Busch fifth . Gordon , Allmendinger , Kahne , Stewart and Newman rounded out the top ten finishers .

== = Post @-@ race == =

Johnson appeared in victory lane to celebrate his fourth victory of the season in front of 110 @, @ 000 people who attended the race . Johnson also earned \$ 276 @, @ 076 in race winnings . Afterward , he said , " I woke up (on Sunday) morning very optimistic . By about lap two or three I knew we had a very balanced car and we 'd be competitive all day long , get a solid finish . " , he continued , " I see guys get so worried about what other people think , what other people say and spend a lot of time in those areas . That 's not what works for me . (I) don 't watch television ; don 't watch or read any of the trade papers or magazines . Just ignore , ignore , ignore and focus on my world and what 's going on with my race car . That 's what I 'll do through the rest of the Chase . "

Martin , who finished second , was candid about the result , " We did really well to finish second . I just don 't think we were in [Johnson 's] league today . " In the post @-@ race press conference , Kenseth said of his result , " We didn 't qualify very good , but we were really happy with our car . When the race started , I didn 't think we were quite as good as we were yesterday (in practice) , but we were able to have really good pit stops . " Logano , who was involved in the biggest accident of the race , " The biggest thing was , I was fine the whole time , [but] I 'm not really sure what happened . The spotter was clearing me low . When I got down there , they checked up going into the corner and I got tagged from behind . "

The race result kept Martin in the lead of the Drivers ' Championship with 5 @, @ 400 points . Johnson , who won the race , stood in second , ten points behind Martin , and sixty @-@ five ahead of Montoya . Kurt Busch moved into fourth position with 5 @, @ 325 points . Stewart with fifth , Hamlin sixth , and Newman , Jeff Gordon , Biffle and Vickers followed in the top @-@ ten positions . The final two positions available in the Chase for the Sprint Cup were occupied by Edwards in eleventh and Kahne in twelfth . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet maintained their lead with 208 . Toyota remained second with 163 . Ford followed with 123 points , one point ahead of Dodge in fourth . 5 @. @ 08 million people watched the race on television . The race took three hours , twenty @-@ two minutes and eleven seconds to complete , and the margin of victory was 1 @. @ 970 seconds .

= = Results = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

= = = Race = = =

= = Standings after the race = =