

= 2010 Carfax 400 =

The 2010 Carfax 400 was a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series stock car race that was held on August 15 , 2010 at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn , Michigan . Contested over 200 laps , it was the twenty @-@ third race of the 2010 Sprint Cup Series season . The race was won by Kevin Harvick for the Richard Childress Racing team . Denny Hamlin finished second , and Carl Edwards , who started twenty @-@ fourth , clinched third .

Pole position driver Kasey Kahne maintained his lead into the first corner to begin the race , but Jimmie Johnson , who started in the second position on the grid , took the lead before the first lap was over . Afterward , Greg Biffle became the leader , and would eventually lead to the race high of 66 laps . Tony Stewart led after the final pit stops , ahead of Hamlin and Harvick . Harvick helped Hamlin to become the leader , but with twelve laps left , Harvick gained on Hamlin and claimed the first position with eleven lap remaining . Harvick maintained his position to claim his first Sprint Cup victory at Michigan International Speedway .

There were five cautions and nineteen lead changes among nine different drivers throughout the course of the race , Harvick 's third win of the season . The result maintained the first position in the Drivers ' Championship and clinched him a position in the Chase . He remained 293 points ahead of second place driver Jeff Gordon and 353 ahead of Denny Hamlin . Chevrolet maintained its lead in the Manufacturers ' Championship , thirty points ahead of Toyota and sixty @-@ one ahead of Ford , with thirteen races remaining in the season . A total of 105 @,@ 000 people attended the race , while 4 @.@ 917 million watched it on television .

= = Race report = =

= = = Background = = =

Michigan International Speedway is one of six superspeedways to hold NASCAR races ; the others are Daytona International Speedway , Auto Club Speedway , Indianapolis Motor Speedway , Pocono Raceway and Talladega Superspeedway . The standard track at Michigan International Speedway is a four @-@ turn superspeedway that is 2 miles ( 3 @.@ 2 km ) long . The track 's turns are banked at eighteen degrees , while the front stretch , the location of the finish line , is banked at twelve degrees . The back stretch , has a five degree banking . Michigan International Speedway had a seating capacity of 119 @,@ 500 people for the race .

One team chose to replace their regular driver with a substitute . Prior to the first practice session , Extenze decided to cancel their sponsorship with Front Row Motorsports , prompting the team to replace Kevin Conway with Tony Raines . During the week leading up to the race , Gordon 's wife gave birth to their son , Leo Benjamin Gordon . Gordon said that he was not planning to retire until his son could see him in victory lane .

Before the race , Kevin Harvick led the Drivers ' Championship with 3 @,@ 210 points , and Jeff Gordon stood in second with 3 @,@ 025 points . Jeff Burton was third in the Drivers ' Championship with 2 @,@ 895 points , Kurt Busch was fourth with 2 @,@ 892 points , and Jimmie Johnson was in fifth with 2 @,@ 882 points . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet was leading with 158 points , twenty @-@ seven points ahead of their rival Toyota . Ford , with 102 points , was nine points ahead of Dodge in the battle for third . Brian Vickers 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 . The Saturday morning session lasted 45 minutes , and the final practice session was 60 minutes in length . During the first practice session , Jeff Burton was quickest with a time of 38 @.@ 479 , ahead of Juan Pablo Montoya and Kevin Harvick in second and third . Carl Edwards followed in the fourth position , ahead of Greg Biffle in fifth . In the Saturday

morning session , Biffle was quickest , ahead of Ryan Newman and Kasey Kahne in second and third . Burton and Kurt Busch followed in the fourth and fifth positions . In the final practice session for the race , Jimmie Johnson was quickest with a time of 38 @. @ 742 . David Ragan followed in second , ahead of Jeff Gordon and Harvick in third and fourth . Biffle , who was quickest in second practice , only managed fifth quickest .

Denny Hamlin , who won at Michigan International Speedway in the spring , was having a difficult time trying to improve the car handling of the race car he won with . Hamlin said , " It 's going all right . We were about like we were here in [ June ] as far as speed . We 're a little bit slow on speed as far as qualifying , but we feel like the race stuff is pretty competitive . " His teammate Kyle Busch was also struggling , adding , " Our [ car ] was loose off . We jumped back and forth in practice from tight to loose . We picked up from practice , but we couldn 't rotate the center like I wanted to . "

During qualifying , forty @- @ seven cars were entered , but only forty @- @ three will be able to race because of NASCAR 's qualifying procedure . Kasey Kahne clinched his eighteenth career pole position , with a time of 38 @. @ 465 . After his qualifying run , Kahne commented , " [ Turns ] 1 and 2 were really strong . Coming to the green , I felt like I was a little bit free , and it was the same through 1 and 2 , but I got through there really good and carried a lot of speed down the backstretch . Then , when I got to Turn 3 , I couldn 't get it to turn enough , so I kind of just floored it and actually used up a lot of the racetrack , went up the track a little bit loose off [ the corner ] and definitely didn 't have as good a 3 and 4 as I would have liked . At that point , I thought I probably gave the pole away , but we were able to still hang on just from the speed that we had in 1 and 2 . " He was joined on the front row of the grid by Jimmie Johnson . Clint Bowyer qualified third , Tony Stewart took fourth , and Montoya started fifth , after being scored ninth in the final practice session . The four drivers that did not qualify were J. J. Yeley , Scott Riggs , Casey Mears , and Mike Bliss .

= = = Race summary = = =

The race , the twenty @- @ third out of a total of thirty @- @ six in the season , began at 1 p.m. EDT and was televised live in the United States on ESPN . Conditions were partly cloudy with a high of 80 ° F ( 27 ° C ) . Pastor Doug Bradshaw began pre @- @ race ceremonies by giving the invocation . Next , Virgin Records recording artists Saving Abel performed the national anthem , and Virginia Craig and Evander Holyfield gave the command for drivers to start their engines .

Kasey Kahne held the lead going through the first corner but was passed by Jimmie Johnson before the second lap . Tony Stewart then passed Kahne for the second position . Five laps later , Greg Biffle emerged in third . By lap ten , Johnson had built 1 @. @ 7 second lead over Stewart , who was passed by Biffle for second . Biffle caught Johnson by lap 14 , but he did not snatch the lead until lap 15 . On lap 18 , Stewart took second place from Johnson , as Kevin Harvick emerged in fourth . Harvick moved into third after passing Johnson on the next lap . On lap 23 , Michael McDowell and P.J. Jones drove to the garage , followed by Joe Nemechek two laps later . On lap 28 , Harvick began closing in on Biffle , but before he could pass him , the first cautions was called . Kurt Busch 's engine had failed . On lap 39 , Biffle led the drivers in the restart . Juan Pablo Montoya moved to fifth after passing Clint Bowyer on the next lap . Johnson reclaimed third position on lap 41 but was passed by Harvick after five laps . By lap 48 , Harvick had caught and passed Stewart for the second position , and by lap 55 , Harvick had caught Biffle . Five laps later , light rain falling in turn three ( the turn following the back stretch ) prompted the second caution . On lap 61 , teams made their pit stops for fuel and tires . Biffle remained the leader when the green flag waved on lap 66 .

On lap 70 , Joey Logano collided with Paul Menard , and both sustained minor damage . After starting thirty @- @ sixth , Jeff Gordon moved into the tenth position by lap 73 . Eleven laps later , Stewart took the lead from Biffle . On lap 92 , Harvick passed Biffle to claim the second position . Gordon passed Johnson for seventh as Montoya and David Reutimann began a run of green flag pit stops on lap 98 . They were followed by Johnson , Kyle Busch , and Denny Hamlin two laps later . When Stewart went to pit the next lap , Harvick became the leader . Stewart managed to reclaim the lead on lap 103 . Seven laps later , Bowyer passed Kahne for the fourth position , and Harvick

moved into the first position .

On lap 116 , Gordon emerged in fourth while Harvick held a 1 @. @ 5 second lead over Stewart . Ten laps later , Gordon moved into the third position . By lap 129 , Harvick had a 6 @. @ 45 second lead over Biffle , who had passed Stewart for second . On lap 137 , green flag pit stops began for the second time . Two laps later , Biffle made his pit stop . Harvick stayed on the track for another lap before pitting fast enough to hold off Biffle , therefore remaining the leader at the conclusion of the pit stops . On lap 148 , Joey Logano and Ryan Newman collided , causing Newman 's car to turn sideways , causing the third caution flag to be waved . On lap 152 , Harvick led the drivers to the green flag . Two laps later , the fourth caution came out because Jeff Gordon and Jeff Burton sustained damage to their race cars . Most drivers made a pit stop for fuel only , but Elliott Sadler stayed on track to leader the race . Sadler led on the restart , but Martin Truex , Jr. and David Ragan passed him on the following lap , relegating him to third position .

On lap 166 , Ragan passed Truex , Jr. for the lead . The next lap , Stewart emerged in the first position as the fifth caution came out because of debris on the track . On lap 169 , Stewart , Harvick , Regan Smith , Scott Speed , and Hamlin stayed out on the track while the rest of the field made pit stops . Stewart led on the restart , followed by Harvick . On lap 174 , Hamlin passed Harvick for the second position and Biffle moved into fourth . Harvick helped Hamlin into the lead four laps later , but passed him for the lead on lap 189 . By lap 193 , Harvick had a 1 @. @ 35 second lead over Hamlin . Carl Edwards passed Stewart for third on the next lap . Kevin Harvick crossed the finish line in first to take his third win of the season . Denny Hamlin followed in second , ahead Edwards in third , Biffle in fourth , and Matt Kenseth in fifth . The race had five cautions and ten lead changes among five different drivers .

== = Post @-@ race == =

Kevin Harvick appeared in victory lane after his victory lap to start celebrating his third win of the season , and his first Sprint Cup win at Michigan International Speedway , in front of a crowd of 105 @, @ 000 people . " Our cars had run good here before , but I hadn 't . The last couple of times we 've really committed ourselves to driving in different spots on the race track and doing different things from inside the car and trying to manage the practice as well as we can to not fool ourselves , " said Harvick of his triumph .

Although Denny Hamlin was leading the race near the end , Harvick passed him with eleven laps left . Hamlin , who finished second , said , " He would catch me getting into turn three , I would pull away in three and four . He was quite a bit better than me in one and two . So it was kind of split . It 's pretty much all we had . Obviously the fastest car won today . So it was at least good to see that . " In the subsequent press conference , Harvick stated , " A lot of the places we would classify as places we don 't run good , we 've ran as good at those places this year as we do at the short tracks , road courses , the places you can typically count on us running good . " Richard Childress , the owner of Richard Childress Racing , expressed his enjoyment of winning the race after reminiscing about one of his other victories at the track :

" I remember winning here and how proud we were to win for GM Goodwrench back in those days and to win in a GM product up here . There ? s a lot of pride . It ? s great to be here today and win . "

Harvick spoke about the difficulty of winning at the track , saying " It 's just a lot of years of getting beat by people running up there to be honest with you . I never really could figure it out . So probably end of last year ... I went home and watched some tapes of Dale [ Earnhardt ] Jr . , some of his previous races here , because he always seemed to have a good handle on running the top groove . It was just more of a rhythm thing and some things that I needed to change in my approach to run up there . For us , I think the biggest change was not only the race cars being good , but just the approach to where we ran on the race track during the race and making that commitment . It worked out for us today . " The race result left Harvick leading the Driver 's Championship with 3 @, @ 400 points , assuring him a position in the Chase for the Sprint Cup . Jeff Gordon , who finished twenty @-@ seventh , was second on 3 @, @ 107 , sixty points ahead of Hamlin and eighty

@-@ seven ahead of Tony Stewart . Jimmie Johnson was fifth with 3 @, @ 014 points . Chevrolet maintained their lead in the Manufacturers ' Championship with 167 points . Toyota placed second with 147 points , and Ford followed with 106 points , ten ahead of Dodge in fourth . 4 @.@ 917 million people watched the race on television . The race took two hours , forty @-@ six minutes and thirty @-@ eight seconds to complete , and the margin of victory was 1 @.@ 731 seconds .

= = Results = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

= = = Race results = = =

= = Standings after the race = =