

DAN BEAVER'S FANTASY RACING NEWS

VOL. 2; ISSUE 3

KOBALT 400
LAS VEGAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY



Dan Beaver's Fantasy Racing News

Volume 2, Issue 3

OVERVIEW

Rumors are circulating that Las Vegas Motor Speedway could have a second date as early as 2018, but for now it is one of four "cookie-cutter" courses that host one event per year.

One of the other solo cookies—Atlanta Motor Speedway—was on the schedule last week. The

Club Speedway. A couple of weeks after that, they will be on another "cookie-cutter" course: Texas Motor Speedway. Four of the first seven races of the season are on similarly-configured, 1.5- and two-mile tracks.

Last year, six drivers who scored top-10s at Atlanta, backed that up with another top-10 at Vegas. Jimmie Johnson and Kyle Busch led the

and Busch did not and it will be interesting to see if the dark horses who stepped into their place in the QuikTrip 500 can also unseat them in this week's contest.

Kyle Larson and Jamie McMurray seem to be coming into their own this season and fresh faces are going to mark the early events. Clint Bowyer narrowly missed the top 10 in his new ride and seems to be refreshed.



paucity of data from the single race in Nevada is offset somewhat by the juxtaposition of the Kobalt 400 with the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500.

Drivers can gain some momentum at this stage of the schedule. In a couple of weeks, they will visit the two-mile Auto

charge in 2016 with a pair of top-fives. Joey Logano, Austin Dillon, and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. came close to adding their name to the top-10 sweepers with a worst result of 12th in the two races.

Several of those drivers ran well again last week. Notably, Johnson

A DISTINCTION WITHOUT A DIFFERENCE

The "cookie-cutter" promoters hate that description of their tracks. And to be fair, no two courses are alike. From their point of view, they have a right to bristle. Fantasy players have a different outlook

and should find cookies quite tasty.

Las Vegas went a step further in trying to differentiate itself a decade ago. They added progressive banking to the track. That it failed to make a huge difference in how one would go about handicapping this race can be seen in the fact that Johnson won the 2005 event on the old configuration and went on to take the next two contests. Kyle Busch won in 2004 and then finished in the top five in his next two attempts.

And while promoters do not appreciate having their track lumped into the same category as several others, the proof in their similarity has been made countless times by the drivers who run well on each of these courses: Atlanta, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Texas, Las Vegas, Kansas Speedway, Chicagoland Speedway, Kentucky Speedway, Auto Club, and Michigan International Speedway.

These unrestricted, intermediate speedways require similar skills at the track and corporately demand the same resources. Marquee teams dominate the front of the pack, but last week Chase Elliott and Larson proved that does not necessarily mean the same drivers that fantasy players have accustomed themselves to seeing will be the ones in the lead.

There is also the potential for dark horses of a certain type to run with the leaders. Teams

Driver	Wins
Jimmie Johnson	4
Matt Kenseth	3
Brad Keselowski	2
Kyle Busch	1
Kevin Harvick	1

that are one step below the marquee racers often chose to put additional resources into one event and challenge for top-10s.

Then, there are the third and fourth-ranked drivers within an organization who can step up on certain tracks. That might be precisely what is happening to Kasey Kahne.

There is the final matter of Joe Gibbs Racing (JGR) not getting out of the gates as strong in 2017 as they did in 2016. It is not only the poor results for Denny Hamlin, Busch, and Daniel Suarez—but more the fact that they did not make much noise in the first two weeks.

Top-12 Drivers

1. Brad Keselowski

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$27.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 2/8
Top-fives: 3 (.375)
Top-10s: 4 (.500)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 3.00
Yahoo! Points: 101.33
NASCAR.com Points: 58.17
Draft Kings Points: 65.17
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 15.50

It pays to get off to a strong start in NASCAR. Even with

.	Top-5s
Jimmie Johnson	6
Matt Kenseth	6
Kyle Busch	5
Dale Earnhardt Jr	4
Kevin Harvick	4
Ryan Newman	4
Kasey Kahne	3
Brad Keselowski	3
Denny Hamlin	2
Joey Logano	2
Clint Bowyer	1
Kurt Busch	1
Austin Dillon	1
Jamie McMurray	1
Paul Menard	1
Martin Truex Jr	1

the revised points system that rewards drivers for running strong throughout a race and throughout the season, getting an early win takes a lot of pressure off a team. And now, it also gives them five bonus points that will carry with them into the playoffs.

Keselowski's win last week in Atlanta means that he is virtually locked into the playoffs and now he can focus on getting even more bonus points. Last year, he got his first win of the season at Las Vegas. He also won on that track in 2014. Kez rides a four-race, top-10 streak at this track and is likely to add to that number.

2. Joey Logano

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$27.75
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/8
Top-fives: 2 (.250)
Top-10s: 4 (.500)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 5.33
Yahoo! Points: 98.00
NASCAR.com Points: 73.17
Draft Kings Points: 61.83
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 4.67

Logano finished second to his teammate Keselowski last year in the Kobalt 400. He

Driver	Top-10s
Dale Earnhardt Jr	10
Jimmie Johnson	9
Matt Kenseth	9
Ryan Newman	8
Kevin Harvick	7
Kasey Kahne	7
Kyle Busch	6
Denny Hamlin	5
Kurt Busch	4
Brad Keselowski	4
Joey Logano	4
Jamie McMurray	4
Clint Bowyer	3
Paul Menard	3
Martin Truex Jr	3
AJ Allmendinger	1
Trevor Bayne	1
Ryan Blaney	1
Austin Dillon	1
Kyle Larson	1
David Ragan	1

was fourth in 2014, and while those are his only two top-fives, he has rarely been far from the leaders when the checkers waved. All but one of his Vegas attempts ended in a result of 16th or better. The only thing left to do on this track is win and scratching that off the list can be difficult on courses that host only one race per year.

3. Chase Elliott

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$26.75
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/1
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 38.00
Yahoo! Points: 16.00
NASCAR.com Points: 43.00
Draft Kings Points: -16.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 9.17

Last year, Elliott had a top-10 run going at Vegas when Matt Kenseth spun in front of him. Elliott tried to go high and made contact with both the wall and the No. 20; they were about 45 laps from the end of the race and the No. 24 was

picking it way toward the lead pack after getting shuffled back on a pit stop. To that point, however, Elliott had spent more than 200 of 225 laps inside the top 10.

Last week, Elliott easily had the second-best car to Kevin Harvick. If he had been in better position following his final pit stop on that track, he probably would have challenged for the QuikTrip 500 victory. The Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series is about learning how to win races, but fantasy players have a different agenda and when racers spend a lot of time in the front, they earn a lot of points.

4. Kevin Harvick

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$28.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/16
Top-fives: 4 (.250)
Top-10s: 7 (.438)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 16.33
Yahoo! Points: 72.67
NASCAR.com Points: 76.17
Draft Kings Points: 61.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 10.67

Harvick dominated last week's QuikTrip 500. That is not always enough, which is evidenced by the fact that he also had a dominant car in 2016. He was beaten by Johnson's pit strategy. Last year, on a number of occasions, Harvick led a lot of laps only to fall victim to a mistake in the pits. Often that error was made by a crewman. Last Sunday, Harvick was caught speeding on his final pit stop and he did not have enough time to reclaim the lead. Still, he earned maximum points in every notable fantasy game.

Driver Rating: Las Vegas			
Rank	Driver	Best	Avg.
1	Jimmie Johnson	140.5	113.4
2	Kyle Busch	118.5	103.4
3	Kevin Harvick	141.5	99.6
4	Matt Kenseth	135.8	96.9
5	Joey Logano	130.6	94.8
6	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	123.5	94.1
7	Kasey Kahne	138.9	89.1
8	Brad Keselowski	134.6	86.6
9	Martin Truex Jr.	117.1	85.7
10	Ryan Newman	121.2	83.2
11	Ryan Blaney	102.9	83.0
12	Austin Dillon	104.4	82.2
13	Chase Elliott	82.2	82.2
14	Kurt Busch	120.0	81.9
15	Denny Hamlin	108.7	81.8
16	Kyle Larson	102.3	77.4
17	Paul Menard	108.1	75.0
18	Jamie McMurray	94.8	74.2
19	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	83.5	72.0
20	Clint Bowyer	93.6	71.0
21	AJ Allmendinger	94.1	67.1
22	Elliott Sadler	102.3	66.0
23	Trevor Bayne	78.5	65.1
24	Aric Almirola	80.0	55.1
25	Reed Sorenson	71.1	54.7
26	Danica Patrick	60.4	53.5
27	David Ragan	83.1	50.4
28	Michael Waltrip	64.4	49.3
29	Chris Buescher	48.4	48.4
30	Matt DiBenedetto	35.8	35.8
31	Landon Cassill	47.8	35.1
32	Alex Bowman	35.7	34.4
33	Michael McDowell	42.9	34.2
34	Cole Whitt	41.5	34.1
35	Jeffrey Earnhardt	29.6	29.6
36	Brendan Gaughan	32.2	29.1
37	Timmy Hill	27.3	27.3

Harvick won the 2015 Kobalt 400 and he has another runner-up finish in 2010.

5. Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$22.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/17
Top-fives: 4 (.235)
Top-10s: 10 (.588)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 4.67
Yahoo! Points: 89.67
NASCAR.com Points: 59.00
Draft Kings Points: 58.25
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 33.50

Fans may have to come to terms with the possibility that Earnhardt is not the driver he once was. Injuries can have lasting effects and in a sport where the smallest margins



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make the biggest difference, a slight loss of reflex could result in finishes in the teens instead of top-10s. It is too soon to know if that is what is happening inside the cockpit of the No. 88. And for the moment, we need to handicap him based on his numbers.

Las Vegas will show us a lot. Junior has been stellar on this track with a current streak of six top-10s and eight such finishes in his last nine attempts. He has three runner-up finishes, with the most recent of these coming in 2014.

Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 8.00

It is notable that both Larson and Elliott had a shot at winning the first two races of the year. There is a changing of the guard afoot in NASCAR and early indications are that these two Young Guns are going to lead that charge.

Larson's second-place finish last week in Atlanta came soon after he scored a fifth in Charlotte last fall. Those are his only top-10s in his last 14 efforts on similarly-

Driver	Top-5s
Ryan Blaney	1
Paul Menard	1
Matt Kenseth	1
Kyle Larson	1
Kurt Busch	1
Kasey Kahne	1
Chase Elliott	1
Brad Keselowski	1
Aric Almirola	1
AJ Allmendinger	1

Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 17.33

Johnson is another driver who is becoming difficult to handicap. He was far from the strongest racer last year despite getting one solid run in the final race of the season and it is unclear if that had anything to do with the method of rewarding points. His supporters will say he ran only as well as he needed to and that the team was experimenting. His detractors will say that his skill is beginning to slip.

Whichever is the case, Johnson represents some significant risk for fantasy players. Last week's pit road speeding penalties were they kind of mental error drivers simply cannot make if they want to consistently contend for victories. His 19th in the QuikTrip 500 was the fifth time in his last eight attempts on similarly-configured, 1.5-mile tracks that he finished outside the top 10. In that span of races, he has an average finish of 12.4.

8. Kasey Kahne

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$22.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/13
Top-fives: 3 (.231)

7. Jimmie Johnson

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$27.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 4/15
Top-fives: 6 (.400)
Top-10s: 9 (.600)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 16.67
Yahoo! Points: 72.00
NASCAR.com Points: 56.00
Draft Kings Points: 48.23

If he struggles this weekend, however, it is probably best to leave him in the garage for quite some while—maybe even until May and the next plate race at Talladega SuperSpeedway.

6. Kyle Larson

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: 26.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/3
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 1 (.333)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 20.33
Yahoo! Points: 51.33
NASCAR.com Points: 24.17
Draft Kings Points: 18.00

configured, 1.5-mile tracks. He might not be a great by-the-numbers pick, but players willing to gamble just a little could earn major points and differentiate their lineup from the competition.

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MATT SULLIVAN / GETTY IMAGES NASCARMEDIA.COM

DAILY FANTASY MOCK DRAFT

Victoria Beaver

As week three begins in the 2017 season, we now have stats from two distinct track types: Daytona, a super-speedway and Atlanta, a “cookie-cutter” track. Throw out the first track. We won’t need those statistics for the majority of the season. But last week, the drivers raced in Atlanta on a track similarly configured to Las Vegas, where they’ll be putting down rubber this weekend.

Splurge

Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Fantasy Power Avg. 6.13

Earnhardt is a consistent top-10 at Las Vegas. He’s finished in the top 10 for the last six years, and 10 times in his 17 starts. He has moved up an average of 7.25 spots in these last four starts. The No. 88 driver has led laps in two of the four. Earnhardt has yet to win at this track, but has finished second three times. Earnhardt is a cheaper option in the top category leaving fantasy owners enough salary to add fellow A-listers Brad Keselowski.

Brad Keselowski

Fantasy Power Avg. 6.72

Keselowski has two wins at Las Vegas. The first came in 2014 and the second was last March. Keselowski has led laps in each of his last four starts at the tracks, the highest coming in his 2014 win with 54 laps. Last year, he led 24. His career-average finish is brought down by his first four finishes, which were all outside of the top-25. In each of those he started closer to the front than he finished and lost place-differential points. He has top-10s in each of his last four races and positive place differential in three out of four.

Mid-Range

Kasey Kahne

Fantasy Power Avg. 8.49

Kahne has an average finish of 9.25 in the last four races at Las Vegas, finishing in the top 10 three times. His best finish on the track is second which has happened in twice: once in 2013 and once in his rookie season of 2004. Kahne has only led laps in one of his last four starts at Las Vegas, but when he led 2013, he led the most laps with 114. He’s only had one positive place-differential, with an average over the last four races being -2.25. Kahne is coming off of

Top-10s: 7 (.538)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 11.67
Yahoo! Points: 69.67
NASCAR.com Points: 32.00
Draft Kings Points: 33.17
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 13.33

Racing is a zero sum game.

That is not the first time this has been noted in this preview and it will not be the last. But it is even more significant when referring to Kahne and Elliott because those two drivers seem to be supplanting their teammates Johnson and Earnhardt. Kahne has been a pleasant surprise in recent weeks—and the word surprise is used purposefully. The No. 5 team has been inconsistent

during the past few years and that means they are still flying under the radar.

Kahne currently has a five-race streak of top-10s on similarly-configured, 1.5-mile tracks.

9. Matt Kenseth

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$26.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 3/17
Top-fives: 6 (.352)
Top-10s: 9 (.529)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 18.67
Yahoo! Points: 65.67
NASCAR.com Points: 45.33
Draft Kings Points: 24.67
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 13.67

Kenseth has an eight-race streak of “cookie-cutter” top-

10s stretching back to Kansas’ GoBowling.com 400. His average finish in that span of races is 6.1. That nearly came to an end last week in Atlanta when he was caught speeding during the first segment, but Kenseth had one of the fastest cars on the track, finally got to use NASCAR’s no-driver-left-behind policy, and finished third.

NASCAR added and shortened the segment lines on pit road at all tracks last year, but the venues that host only one race early in the season did use them until 2017. Nearly a quarter of the field was caught speeding in Atlanta and there will be a high number in Vegas as well, but one

a fourth-place finish at Atlanta last week, another “cookie-cutter” track. He is also one of only three drivers who have back-to-back, top-10s to start the season. His momentum going into this race could make the difference between a good finish and a great finish in daily fantasy.

Kyle Larson

Fantasy Power Avg. 15.08

Larson only has three races under his belt at Las Vegas. His last one ended with a disappointing finish of 34th, but the year before he finished eighth and has an average finish of 20.33. Larson finished second last week at Atlanta, a similarly configured track. Larson has yet to lead laps at Las Vegas and has a negative place differential in his last three starts there. He’s also the fourth best in the last 18 races, and is on a seven week streak of top-15 finishes.

Steals

AJ Allmendinger

Fantasy Power Avg. 18.58

Allmendinger has an average finish of 18.75 over the last four races at Las Vegas. His high

came in 2015 when he finished sixth, this was his first top-10 at the track. He has a negative place-differential rating of -2.25 in the last four races at Vegas. Allmendinger has only led one lap in these last four races. He’s had five top-10s in his last eight starts but finished in the back half of the pack last week at Atlanta. Allmendinger is a consist driver at a bargain fantasy price.

Trevor Bayne

Fantasy Power Avg. 27.98

Bayne has a positive place differential in each of his last four races at Las Vegas with an average of +11.25. He qualifies near the back of field and moves to mid-pack by the end). His average finish in the last four starts is 22nd, finishing in the top-20 twice. His best finish at Las Vegas came five years ago in the 2012 race where he came in sixth. Bayne has been running at the end of each Vegas race that he’s started. With Bayne running in the middle of the field he has not led any laps at Las Vegas, but only around five drivers do any given race and that is not an impediment at this level.

has to trust that the marquee drivers affected last week will have learned from their mistake.

10. Martin Truex Jr.

Yahoo! Group: A

NASCAR.com Cap: \$27.25

Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/11

Top-fives: 1 (.091) / Top-10s: 3 (.273)

Last 3 Years

Current Track: 9.00

Yahoo! Points: 77.33

NASCAR.com Points: 37.33

Draft Kings Points: 38.08

Avg. Last 6 races ^

Cup results: 17.83

Truex was another driver who had to overcome adversity to finish on the lead lap. He crossed under the QuikTrip 500 checkers in eighth, which was his 15th consecutive top-15 on a similarly-configured, 1.5-mile track. It was also his

12th top-10 in the past 14 races.

Vegas fits into that same category, but skews toward the high side. Truex has finished 17th or better in his last six races on this course and even has a runner-up finish. His average in that span is 9.7, however, and that is close to where he will finish this week.

11. Kurt Busch

Yahoo! Group: B

NASCAR.com Cap: \$23.00

Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/15

Top-fives: 1 (.067)

Top-10s: 4 (.267)

Last 3 Years

Current Track: 17.50

Yahoo! Points: 67.00

NASCAR.com Points: 36.25

Draft Kings Points: 29.38

Avg. Last 6 races ^

Cup results: 11.33

From May 2015 at Kansas through last July at Kentucky, Busch strung together 13 consecutive top-10s. On average, he has not been quite as strong in the last five races, but he managed to record four top-15s including last week’s seventh. His worst finish in the past 21 races on this track type is a 20th—earned last year in the Chase—and that suggests he will likely score another top-15 at Vegas.

12. Kyle Busch

Yahoo! Group: A

NASCAR.com Cap: \$27.25

Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/12

Top-fives: 5 (.417)

Top-10s: 6 (.500)

Last 3 Years

Current Track: 7.50

Yahoo! Points: 87.00

NASCAR.com Points: 63.25

Draft Kings Points: 68.00

Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 12.00

Two bad races are not enough to judge a season, but fantasy players do not have the luxury of waiting very long to see how marquee drivers will perform. Daytona International Speedway is not representative of any other track type and so one really only has Atlanta to inform their opinion. Based on that race alone, Busch would be listed as one of the drivers to avoid this week instead of barely being in the top 12.

Vegas has been occasionally good to Busch. He won there in 2009 and has two top-fives in his last three starts. He also has three sub-20th-place results on this track and creates a little doubt as to how

Top-fives and Top-10s					
By Car Owner, Last Three Years					
Owner	Attempts	Top-5s		Top-10s	
Roger Penske	6	4	67%	6	100%
Barney Visser	3	1	33%	1	33%
Richard Childress	10	3	30%	4	40%
Rick Hendrick	12	3	25%	8	67%
Joe Gibbs	11	2	18%	4	36%
Jack Roush	9	1	11%	1	11%
Tony Stewart	12	1	8%	3	25%
Tad Geschickter	3			1	33%
Wood Bros	3			1	33%
Chip Ganassi	6			1	17%
Front Row Motorsports	8				
BK Racing	7				
Petty Enterprises	6				
Harry Scott	5				
Michael Waltrip	5				
Jay Robinson	4				
Tommy Baldwin	4				
Bob Leavine	3				
Frank Stoddard	3				
Germain Bros	3				
Johnathan Cohen	2				
Michael Hillman	2				
Mike Curb	2				
Swan Racing	2				
Curtis Key	1				
Joe Falk	1				
Randy Humphrey	1				
Robby Benton	1				

3 Yr. Avg. Yahoo! Points at Las Vegas			
Rank	Driver	Avg. Points	Attempts
1	Brad Keselowski	101.33	3
2	Joey Logano	98.00	3
3	Dale Earnhardt Jr	89.67	3
4	Kyle Busch	87.00	2
5	Ryan Newman	80.00	3
6	Martin Truex Jr	77.33	3
7	Paul Menard	75.33	3
8	Denny Hamlin	74.67	3
9	Kevin Harvick	72.67	3
10	Jimmie Johnson	72.00	3
11	Kasey Kahne	69.67	3
12	Austin Dillon	68.33	3
13	Ryan Blaney	67.00	2
14	Kurt Busch	67.00	2
15	AJ Allmendinger	66.67	3
16	Matt Kenseth	65.67	3
17	Jamie McMurray	64.00	3
18	Kyle Larson	51.33	3
19	Clint Bowyer	49.00	3
20	Trevor Bayne	48.67	3
21	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	46.67	3
22	Danica Patrick	46.00	3
23	Aric Almirola	42.00	3
24	Chris Buescher	40.00	1
25	David Ragan	34.67	3
26	Matt DiBenedetto	30.00	1
27	Landon Cassill	29.00	2
28	Jeffrey Earnhardt	26.00	1
29	Michael McDowell	24.00	3
30	Reed Sorenson	24.00	1
31	Cole Whitt	20.67	3
32	Chase Elliott	16.00	1
33	Timmy Hill	16.00	1

he will run this week.

SLEEPERS

15. Clint Bowyer

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$15.50
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/11
Top-fives: 1 (.091)
Top-10s: 3 (.273)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 22.00
Yahoo! Points: 49.00
NASCAR.com Points: 17.33
Draft Kings Points: 20.33
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 23.83

It has been 29 races since Bowyer scored a top-10 on a similarly-configured, 1.5-mile track. That dry spell cannot only be attributed to his disappointing season with HScott Motorsports because it

stretches well back into the Michael Waltrip Racing era. He came close to breaking that streak last week at Atlanta.

Bowyer is a driver to watch because he showed perseverance. He lost a lap early last week and was forced to battle back. This was the second week in a row that he had to overcome adversity and he is much more capable of doing that in the No. 14 that he was with last year's team.

Bowyer is mentally in a good place and his results will follow.

17. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$14.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/4
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 22.67
Yahoo! Points: 44.67
NASCAR.com Points: 9.83
Draft Kings Points: 16.83

Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 25.50

Actually, Stenhouse and his teammate Trevor Bayne could both be considered sleepers this week. They came to Daytona with a spring in their step that carried over to Atlanta. Both drivers ran well in both events, but an accident kept Stenhouse from realizing a strong finish on the plate track.

Last week, Stenhouse was 13th; Bayne was 12th. The No. 17 gets the nod this week because he had a little better record at Vegas in 2016. His finish of 12th will earn enough points to make him an attractive fantasy value; Bayne finished 17th.

19. Erik Jones

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$19.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 26.50

The rookies still have plenty of time to turn their season around, but fantasy owners remember just how strong Elliott and Ryan Blaney were at this stage last year and that reality impacts the current freshmen's handicap.

Jones challenged for a top-10 at Atlanta, but he slipped outside that mark in the final laps when NASCAR waved a bunch of veterans around and changed the complexion of the race. Before Suarez entered

3 Year Avg. Finish on Cookie Cutters			
Rank	Driver	Avg.	Attempts
1	Kyle Busch	8.11	27
2	Joey Logano	9.77	31
3	Brad Keselowski	10.10	31
4	Kevin Harvick	10.65	31
5	Martin Truex Jr	11.06	31
6	Matt Kenseth	11.07	30
7	Ryan Newman	11.90	31
8	Jimmie Johnson	12.23	31
9	Dale Earnhardt Jr	12.93	27
10	Kurt Busch	13.34	29
11	Kasey Kahne	14.16	31
12	Denny Hamlin	15.94	31
13	Chase Elliott	16.08	12
14	Jamie McMurray	16.68	31
15	Kyle Larson	18.03	31
16	Austin Dillon	19.48	31
17	Paul Menard	19.97	31
18	AJ Allmendinger	20.71	31
19	Aric Almirola	20.74	31
20	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	20.81	31
21	Danica Patrick	21.19	31
22	Ryan Blaney	21.83	18
23	Erik Jones	22.00	3
24	Ty Dillon	22.14	7
25	Trevor Bayne	23.08	26
26	Clint Bowyer	23.65	31
27	Chris Buescher	26.67	12
28	David Ragan	28.77	31
29	Michael McDowell	30.88	24
30	Landon Cassill	31.00	31
31	Cole Whitt	31.17	30
32	Matt DiBenedetto	32.85	21
33	Jeffrey Earnhardt	33.25	8
34	Corey LaJoie	34.50	2
35	Reed Sorenson	34.50	26
36	Timmy Hill	39.00	8

the series in Carl Edwards' No. 19, Jones was going to be our pick for the top rookie. His strong QuikTrip 500 run should be duplicated in the Kobalt 400.

21. AJ Allmendinger

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$16.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/9
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 1 (.111)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 12.67
Yahoo! Points: 66.67
NASCAR.com Points: 32.67
Draft Kings Points: 39.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 13.50

Allmendinger represents a risk.

Last week, he finished only 26th in the QuikTrip 500.

More was expected of an organization that is currently receiving significant support from Roush-Fenway Racing (RFR). They may still find a way to be fantasy relevant, however. Vegas has been relatively kind to Allmendinger in the past three years. He finished 18th in 2014, sixth in 2015, and 14th last year. If he can record another result in the mid-teens, he is a risk worth taking in Yahoo!'s Group B or at his salary cap level in other games.

23. Ty Dillon

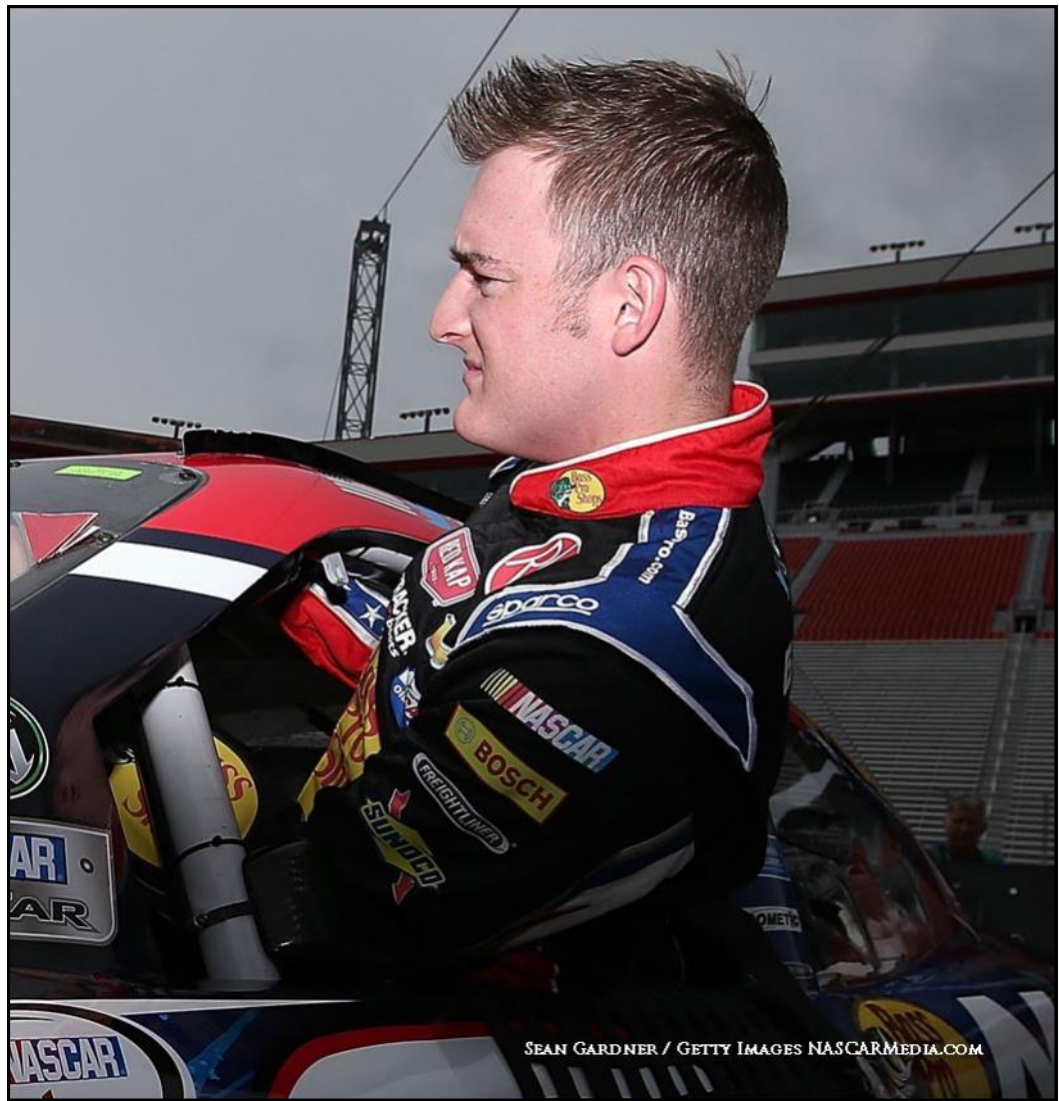
Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$12.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 26.00

Handicapping is often about admitting one's mistakes before they become an impediment.

Before Suarez entered the ROTY race, we anticipated a good battle between Dillon and Jones.

With the extra horsepower that JGR makes and the affiliation between the No. 19 and 77, suddenly the Richard Childress Racing (RCR)-backed 13 did not look as appealing. Dillon is making up the difference as a driver.

In the past, we have said that there is a strong possibility that Ty is a better racer than Austin. So far, he has outpaced his brother often



SEAN GARDNER / GETTY IMAGES NASCARMEDIA.COM

BUSTS

13. Denny Hamlin

Yahoo! Group: A
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$25.50
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/11
 Top-fives: 2 (.182)
 Top-10s: 5 (.455)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 12.00
 Yahoo! Points: 74.67
 NASCAR.com Points: 42.17
 Draft Kings Points: 40.25
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 13.83

It is too soon to discount JGR based on a couple of mediocre performances. However, one needs to remember that there is only so much room at the top of the order and as Hendrick Motorsports (HMS) improves the performance of Kahne and Elliott, Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR) has added another contender to their stable with Bowyer, and RFR is at least an occasional threat to finish in the top 10, the available slots shrink.

enough in lesser equipment that assessment just be correct. For the moment they are not running head-to-head in either salary cap or pick 'em

games.

Ty is by far the better value, even when he finishes a few positions behind his brother.

If HMS places three of their drivers in the top 10, SHR gets another three, Penske gets one or two, Chip Ganassi Racing excels during a week-

Points' Leaders						
Rank	Driver	Points	Race Wins	Stage Wins	Playoff Points	Points' stand-ings
1	Kevin Harvick	90		3	3	1
2	Kurt Busch	86	1		5	2
3	Brad Keselowski	84	1		5	3
4	Chase Elliott	82				4
5	Joey Logano	80				5
6	Kyle Larson	79				6
7	Martin Truex Jr.	67				7
8	Ryan Blaney	63				8
9	Kasey Kahne	63				9
10	Trevor Bayne	58				10
11	AJ Allmendinger	50				11
12	Jamie McMurray	49				12
13	Aric Almirola	47				13
14	Clint Bowyer	46				14
15	Paul Menard	44				15
16	Matt Kenseth	41				16
	Kyle Busch	32		1	1	25

Track Sweeps (Drivers Sweeping Top-5, -10, and -15s in a season)			
Track	top-5s	10s	15s
2016 Michigan		4	7
2016 Texas		3	7
2016 Road Courses		3	5
2016 Phoenix	2	6	7
2016 Kansas	2	5	10
2016 Richmond	1	7	10
2016 Dover	2	5	8
2016 Martinsville	2	4	9
2016 New Hampshire	2	3	8
2016 Charlotte	1	5	7
2016 Pocono	1	4	9
2016 Daytona	1	4	6
2016 Bristol	0	3	6
2016 Talladega	0	2	6

Previous Seasons

2015 Road Courses	4	7	11
2015 Texas	3	8	9
2012 New Hampshire	3	7	13
2015 Daytona	4	5	7
2014 Dover	3	6	11
2013 Martinsville	3	6	10
2014 Michigan	2	8	10
2011 Pocono	3	6	9
2012 Charlotte	3	5	10
2011 Texas	3	5	10
2013 Pocono	2	7	10
2014 Phoenix	3	5	9
2010 Pocono	3	5	8
2010 Phoenix	2	6	11
2012 Phoenix	2	6	9
2011 Richmond	2	6	9
2013 Dover	2	6	8
2012 Talladega	2	6	7
2011 Kansas	2	5	11
2011 Dover	1	7	11
2015 Dover	2	5	10
2015 Michigan	2	5	9
2012 Texas	2	5	9
2015 Kansas	2	5	8
2014 Charlotte	2	5	8
2013 Road Courses	2	5	8
2010 Richmond	1	6	13
2011 Road Courses	1	6	12
2013 New Hampshire	1	6	11
2012 Kansas	2	4	10
2013 Michigan	1	6	10
2014 Richmond	2	4	9
2014 Martinsville	2	4	9
2012 Michigan	2	4	9
2015 Charlotte	1	6	9
2012 Road Courses	2	4	7
2015 Phoenix	1	5	11
2013 Phoenix	2	2	6
2011 Phoenix	1	4	6

Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/2
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 1 (.500)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 12.50
 Yahoo! Points: 67.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 41.25
 Draft Kings Points: 44.00
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 14.17

The same rationale applies to the changing of the guard as to the relative strength of the marquee teams. There is only so much room at the top and not everyone can ascend into the top 10 with enough frequency to make them a consistently good value.

Blaney lagged behind Elliott all of last year and the same thing is likely to be true of their sophomore seasons. That is not to say that Blaney will not be an occasionally good value, but it is going to take a while before patterns emerge to tell fantasy players exactly when to activate the No. 21.

20. Ryan Newman

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$17.75
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/16
 Top-fives: 4 (.250)
 Top-10s: 8 (.500)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 7.67
 Yahoo! Points: 80.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 44.50
 Draft Kings Points: 45.25
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 19.83

Based on his Vegas record, one might be inclined to make Newman a Sleeper this week. He has earned three top-fives, one more top-10, and another top-15 in his last six races on this track. If he practices well, there is going to be a huge temptation to activate him, but fantasy players will not know how he

end, and Roush threatens—well, the math simply does not work out in Gibbs' favor.

16. Ryan Blaney

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$20.00

Laps in Top-10 at Las Vegas (L 3Yrs)				
Rank	Driver	Laps	%	Possible Laps
1	Brad Keselowski	668	83.4%	801
2	Martin Truex Jr	622	77.7%	801
3	Dale Earnhardt Jr	616	76.9%	801
4	Kevin Harvick	615	76.8%	801
5	Chase Elliott	202	75.7%	267
6	Jimmie Johnson	601	75.0%	801
7	Kyle Busch	390	73.0%	534
8	Joey Logano	580	72.4%	801
9	Matt Kenseth	476	59.4%	801
10	Kasey Kahne	395	49.3%	801
11	Denny Hamlin	388	48.4%	801
12	Ryan Blaney	222	41.6%	534
13	Ryan Newman	322	40.2%	801
14	Austin Dillon	248	31.0%	801
15	Kurt Busch	152	28.5%	534
16	Kyle Larson	224	28.0%	801
17	Paul Menard	191	23.8%	801
18	AJ Allmendinger	121	15.1%	801
19	Jamie McMurray	113	14.1%	801
20	Clint Bowyer	87	10.9%	801
21	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	45	5.6%	801
22	Aric Almirola	23	2.9%	801
23	David Ragan	4	0.5%	801
24	Trevor Bayne	2	0.2%	801
25	Cole Whitt	-	0.0%	801
26	Michael McDowell	-	0.0%	801
27	Danica Patrick	-	0.0%	801
28	Landon Cassill	-	0.0%	534
29	Matt DiBenedetto	-	0.0%	267
30	Jeffrey Earnhardt	-	0.0%	267
31	Timmy Hill	-	0.0%	267
32	Chris Buescher	-	0.0%	267
33	Reed Sorenson	-	0.0%	267

is going to ultimately perform until the very last lap.

Newman has shown promise this year, but it only takes a minor problem to drop a driver from the top 10 to the back of the pack. Last week's battery issue on both Newman's and Dillon's cars show this organization is pushing the envelope. That is the only way to go fast and they seem to have found something important in the performance of their cars. Until they convert those strong runs into solid finishes, it is best to play it safe, however.

27. Daniel Suarez

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$17.75
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years

Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 25.00

A fast car is not enough to get to the front of the pack.

Suarez's talent is not currently in question, but it might soon be if he cannot overcome another obstacles. It would appear that he is being far too conservative on the track. If a driver is afraid of making a mistake, that keeps him from racing on the edge. When one stays too far away from that

line, the competition pounces like a hungry wolf on a limping lamb.

29. Michael McDowell

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$10.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/7
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 34.00
Yahoo! Points: 24.00
NASCAR.com Points: 6.67
Draft Kings Points: 8.33
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 21.50

McDowell will make his way back into the list of sleepers before the season is over, but for the moment it is best to let him rest. If Jones and Ty Dillon are able to challenge for top-15s, they are going to dominate Group C. They are

Avg Running Position: Season to Date			
Rank	Driver	Starts	Avg.
1	Chase Elliott	2	6.47
2	Kevin Harvick	2	6.86
3	Kyle Larson	2	7.13
4	Brad Keselowski	2	9.23
5	Kurt Busch	2	11.09
6	Joey Logano	2	11.86
7	Jamie McMurray	2	12.03
8	Austin Dillon	2	12.34
9	Ryan Newman	2	12.60
10	Martin Truex Jr.	2	14.28
11	Trevor Bayne	2	15.54
12	Ryan Blaney	2	15.67
13	Kasey Kahne	2	15.77
14	Clint Bowyer	2	17.58
15	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2	18.04
16	Jimmie Johnson	2	18.23
17	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	2	18.64
18	Danica Patrick	2	19.18
19	Denny Hamlin	2	20.43
20	Paul Menard	2	20.81
21	Kyle Busch	2	21.56
22	AJ Allmendinger	2	21.61
23	Ty Dillon	2	21.67
24	Cole Whitt	2	21.72
25	Michael McDowell	2	22.74
26	Erik Jones	2	23.26
27	Aric Almirola	2	23.29
28	Landon Cassill	2	23.78
29	Chris Buescher	2	24.99
30	David Ragan	2	25.05
31	Matt Kenseth	2	25.16
32	Matt DiBenedetto	2	26.27
33	Daniel Suarez	2	29.56
34	Jeffrey Earnhardt	2	31.20
35	Corey Lajoie	2	33.66



LAS VEGAS

MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Track Type: Intermediate
 Track Size: 1.5-miles
 Banking/Turns: 20 degrees
 Banking/Front & Back Straights: 9 degrees
 Race Length: 267 laps / 400.5 miles
 Stage 1 & 2: 80 Laps (each)
 Final Stage: 107 Laps

3 Things to Know

14

**Most Cautions at
Las Vegas Motor Speedway
(2009)**

6

**Most Top 5 Finishes
Matt Kenseth**

4

**Most Wins
Jimmie Johnson**

- Carol D'Agostino, Skirtsandscuffs.com

more expensive in most salary cap games, but not enough so to completely change one's manner of play.

If the No. 95 team picks up where they left off in 2016, there is plenty of time to jump on McDowell's bandwagon.

Other Drivers

14. Jamie McMurray

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$21.00
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/14
 Top-fives: 1 (.071) / Top-10s: 4 (.286)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 14.00
 Yahoo! Points: 64.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 27.83
 Draft Kings Points: 31.50
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 13.50

18. Trevor Bayne

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$17.25
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/6

Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 1 (.167)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 21.67
 Yahoo! Points: 48.67

NASCAR.com Points: 31.33
 Draft Kings Points: 33.00
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 20.50



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Avg. Start at Las Vegas			
Rank	Driver	Avg. Start	Attempts
1	Joey Logano	1.67	3
2	Brad Keselowski	5.67	3
3	Kasey Kahne	8.00	3
4	Jimmie Johnson	8.33	3
5	Aric Almirola	10.00	3
6	Martin Truex Jr	10.00	3
7	Austin Dillon	11.33	3
8	Kurt Busch	12.00	2
9	Matt Kenseth	12.67	3
10	Ryan Newman	12.67	3
11	Dale Earnhardt Jr	12.67	3
12	Kyle Larson	13.00	3
13	Kevin Harvick	13.33	3
14	Jamie McMurray	15.33	3
15	AJ Allmendinger	17.33	3
16	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	17.67	3
17	Denny Hamlin	18.33	3
18	Clint Bowyer	19.33	3
19	Paul Menard	20.00	3
20	Danica Patrick	20.33	3
21	Kyle Busch	21.50	2
22	Ryan Blaney	22.00	2
23	David Ragan	23.33	3
24	Michael McDowell	32.33	3
25	Trevor Bayne	32.33	3
26	Matt DiBenedetto	34.00	2
27	Cole Whitt	34.00	3
28	Landon Cassill	34.50	3
29	Reed Sorenson	40.00	2

Current Track: 25.00
 Yahoo! Points: 42.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 0.50
 Draft Kings Points: 4.17
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 21.67

26. Austin Dillon

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$21.25
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/4
 Top-fives: 1 (.250)
 Top-10s: 1 (.250)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 13.67
 Yahoo! Points: 68.33
 NASCAR.com Points: 18.50
 Draft Kings Points: 28.83
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 26.00

28. Chris Buescher

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$9.00
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/1
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 26.00
 Yahoo! Points: 40.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 0.00
 Draft Kings Points: 17.00

Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 27.17

30. David Ragan

Yahoo! Group: C
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$6.00
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/10
 Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 1 (.100)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 28.67
 Yahoo! Points: 34.67
 NASCAR.com Points: 6.33
 Draft Kings Points: 10.00
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 29.67

31. Matt DiBenedetto

Yahoo! Group: C
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$7.00
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/2
 Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 37.50
 Yahoo! Points: 30.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 6.00
 Draft Kings Points: 17.00
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 24.20

32. Landon Cassill

Yahoo! Group: C

22. Danica Patrick

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$12.75
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/4
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 23.00
 Yahoo! Points: 46.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 15.83
 Draft Kings Points: 18.83
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 24.33

24. Paul Menard

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$15.00
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/10
 Top-fives: 1 (.100)
 Top-10s: 3 (.300)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 10.00
 Yahoo! Points: 75.33
 NASCAR.com Points: 49.33
 Draft Kings Points: 48.50
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 17.83

25. Aric Almirola

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$12.25
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/8
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years

3 Yr. Avg. Draft Kings Points at Las Vegas

Rank	Driver	Avg. Points	Attempts
1	Kyle Busch	68.00	2
2	Brad Keselowski	65.17	3
3	Joey Logano	61.83	3
4	Kevin Harvick	61.00	3
5	Dale Earnhardt Jr	58.25	3
6	Paul Menard	48.50	3
7	Jimmie Johnson	48.23	3
8	Ryan Newman	45.25	3
9	Ryan Blaney	44.00	2
10	Denny Hamlin	40.25	3
11	AJ Allmendinger	39.00	3
12	Martin Truex Jr	38.08	3
13	Kasey Kahne	33.17	3
14	Trevor Bayne	33.00	3
15	Jamie McMurray	31.50	3
16	Kurt Busch	29.38	2
17	Austin Dillon	28.83	3
18	Matt Kenseth	24.67	3
19	Clint Bowyer	20.33	3
20	Danica Patrick	18.83	3
21	Kyle Larson	18.00	3
22	Chris Buescher	17.00	1
23	Matt DiBenedetto	17.00	1
24	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	16.83	3
25	Jeffrey Earnhardt	16.00	1
26	Reed Sorenson	16.00	1
27	Landon Cassill	15.50	2
28	David Ragan	10.00	3
29	Timmy Hill	9.00	1
30	Michael McDowell	8.33	3
31	Cole Whitt	6.67	3
32	Aric Almirola	4.17	3
33	Chase Elliott	-16.00	1

Season to Date Grid										
Driver	Starts	Wins	Top-5s	Top-10s	Avg Fin	Start	Laps	Poles	DNFs	DNQs
Kurt Busch	2	1	1	2	4.00	10.50	525			
Kasey Kahne	2		1	2	5.50	27.50	525			
Joey Logano	2			2	6.00	10.50	525			
Kyle Larson	2		1	1	7.00	12.00	525			
Michael Waltrip	1			1	8.00	30.00	200			
Chase Elliott	2		1	1	9.50	6.00	525	1		
Ryan Blaney	2		1	1	10.00	25.00	524			
Martin Truex Jr	2			1	10.50	22.00	525			
Trevor Bayne	2			1	11.00	13.00	525			
Brendan Gaughan	1				11.00	39.00	200			
Brad Keselowski	2	1	1	1	14.00	6.00	468		1	
AJ Allmendinger	2		1	1	14.50	29.00	522			
Paul Menard	2		1	1	15.00	25.00	522			
Aric Almirola	2		1	1	15.50	21.50	521			
Kevin Harvick	2			1	15.50	3.00	522			
Matt DiBenedetto	2			1	18.50	23.50	521			
Landon Cassill	2				19.00	27.00	522			
Jamie McMurray	2			1	19.00	5.00	466		1	
Cole Whitt	2				19.00	27.00	523			
Elliott Sadler	1				20.00	40.00	199			
Clint Bowyer	2				21.50	15.50	453		1	
Matt Kenseth	2		1	1	21.50	12.50	428		1	
Michael McDowell	2				22.00	29.00	520			
Ricky Stenhouse Jr	2				22.00	13.50	458		1	
Ty Dillon	2				22.50	22.00	465		1	
Joey Gase	1				23.00	29.00	196			
David Ragan	2				24.00	27.00	511			
Danica Patrick	2				25.00	18.00	453		1	
Daniel Suarez	2				25.00	20.00	464		1	
Austin Dillon	2				25.50	14.50	518			
Jimmie Johnson	2				26.50	21.00	451		1	
Erik Jones	2				26.50	28.50	428		1	
Kyle Busch	2				27.00	12.00	428		1	
Denny Hamlin	2				27.50	7.00	381		1	
Ryan Newman	2				28.00	8.00	507			
Corey LaJoie	2				29.00	31.50	506			
Chris Buescher	2				29.50	32.50	450		1	
Jeffrey Earnhardt	2				29.50	33.50	462		1	
Reed Sorenson	1				31.00	33.00	320			1
Dale Earnhardt Jr	2				33.50	7.00	426		1	
Derrike Cope	1				36.00	38.00	298			
DJ Kennington	1				36.00	28.00	127		1	
Gray Gaulding	1				37.00	31.00	253		1	
Cody Ware	1				39.00	39.00	74			1

NASCAR.com Cap: \$7.75
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/6
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 36.00
Yahoo! Points: 29.00
NASCAR.com Points: 10.00
Draft Kings Points: 15.50
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 22.83

33. Cole Whitt

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/3
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 35.67

Yahoo! Points: 20.67
NASCAR.com Points: 5.67
Draft Kings Points: 6.67
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 19.00

34. Reed Sorenson

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/6
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 39.00
Yahoo! Points: 24.00
NASCAR.com Points: 16.00
Draft Kings Points: 16.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 35.50

35. Corey LaJoie

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 29.00

36. Gray Gaulding

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$6.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
Top-fives: 0 (.000)

Last Six Races (Sorted by Avg. Finish)								
Driver	Starts	Wins	Top-5s	Top-10s	DNFs	Avg. Fin	Avg. Start	Top 10 laps
Joey Logano	6	1	3	6		4.67	7.00	1,605
Jeff Gordon	1			1		6.00	10.00	364
Kyle Larson	6		3	3		8.00	11.00	1,096
Michael Waltrip	1			1		8.00	30.00	17
Chase Elliott	6		2	3		9.17	6.00	1,253
Kevin Harvick	6		2	4		10.67	6.00	1,318
Brendan Gaughan	1					11.00	39.00	11
Kurt Busch	6	1	2	3		11.33	13.67	564
Alex Bowman	3			1		11.67	12.00	401
Kyle Busch	6		3	4	1	12.00	14.17	1,028
Kasey Kahne	6		1	3	1	13.33	25.00	403
Jamie McMurray	6		1	3	1	13.50	10.50	688
AJ Allmendinger	6		1	3		13.50	17.67	583
Matt Kenseth	6		2	4	1	13.67	11.00	1,337
Denny Hamlin	6		1	4	1	13.83	8.00	1,014
Ryan Blaney	6		1	2		14.17	14.83	366
Brad Keselowski	6	1	2	2	2	15.50	8.50	1,372
Greg Biffle	4					16.00	23.75	73
Jimmie Johnson	6	2	2	2	1	17.33	15.83	950
Martin Truex Jr	6		1	3	2	17.83	17.17	1,188
Paul Menard	6		1	2		17.83	20.33	112
Cole Whitt	2					19.00	27.00	44
Ryan Newman	6			1	1	19.83	10.83	566
Elliott Sadler	1					20.00	40.00	29
Trevor Bayne	6			1		20.50	21.00	38
Michael McDowell	6			1		21.50	28.00	77
Aric Almirola	6		1	1		21.67	22.00	59
Carl Edwards	4	1	1	1	1	22.50	9.25	722
Landon Cassill	6					22.83	30.17	4
Tony Stewart	4					23.50	16.25	62
Clint Bowyer	6				1	23.83	25.50	162
Casey Mears	4				1	24.00	21.00	6
Matt DiBenedetto	5			1		24.20	27.40	11
Danica Patrick	6				1	24.33	21.33	38
Daniel Suarez	2				1	25.00	20.00	2
Ricky Stenhouse Jr	6				3	25.50	20.83	227
Austin Dillon	6				1	26.00	14.33	835
Ty Dillon	3				2	26.00	26.00	30
Erik Jones	2				1	26.50	28.50	168
Brian Scott	4					26.50	29.75	4
Chris Buescher	6				1	27.17	30.17	46
Corey LaJoie	2					29.00	31.50	-
Joey Gase	2					29.50	34.00	1
David Ragan	6					29.67	28.17	135
Regan Smith	4				1	30.25	29.25	6
Michael Annett	4					30.25	38.25	2
Jeffrey Earnhardt	6				1	31.67	35.17	6
Dale Earnhardt Jr	2				1	33.50	7.00	72
Dylan Lupton	2					35.00	38.00	-
Reed Sorenson	6				1	35.50	36.00	2
DJ Kennington	2				1	35.50	33.50	-
Derrike Cope	1					36.00	38.00	-
Ryan Ellis	1					38.00	35.00	-
Gray Gaulding	4				3	38.25	34.67	-
Cody Ware	1				1	39.00	39.00	-
Josh Wise	1				1	40.00	40.00	-
Timmy Hill	1				1	41.00		

Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/1
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 33.00
Yahoo! Points: 26.00
NASCAR.com Points: 5.00
Draft Kings Points: 16.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 31.67

38. Derrike Cope

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/6
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 36.00

39. Timmy Hill

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/2
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 38.00
Yahoo! Points: 16.00
NASCAR.com Points: 9.00
Draft Kings Points: 9.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 41.00

^ The last six races average is from the last six races of this season; the driver may not have run in all of those events. This statistic and the average finish for the last three years include failures to qualify (DNQ) as if they were actually finishes; i.e. the first non-qualifier is credited with a 44th-place finish. This is true for the

Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA

Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 38.25

37. Jeffrey Earnhardt

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.00

statistics at all levels of the game, but is more like to skew the numbers in Group C where DNQs are a more frequent way of life.

Consecutive Races: Running at End / on Lead Lap (LL)			
Rank	Driver	Running	LL
1	Kyle Larson	27	5
2	Joey Logano	20	8
3	Michael McDowell	18	0
	Ryan Blaney	18	0
5	Landon Cassill	14	0
6	Kurt Busch	13	4
7	David Ragan	12	0
8	Matt DiBenedetto	11	0
9	Trevor Bayne	10	2
10	Michael Waltrip	9	4
11	Chase Elliott	8	5
12	Kevin Harvick	8	1
13	AJ Allmendinger	8	0
	Paul Menard	8	0
15	Joey Gase	7	0
	Aric Almirola	7	0
17	Cole Whitt	6	0
18	Elliott Sadler	5	0
19	Austin Dillon	4	0
	Corey LaJoie	4	0
21	Brendan Gaughan	2	2
	Kasey Kahne	2	2
	Martin Truex Jr.	2	2
24	Ryan Newman	2	0
25	Clint Bowyer	1	1
	Kyle Busch	1	1
	Ty Dillon	1	1
	Erik Jones	1	1
	Matt Kenseth	1	1
	Brad Keselowski	1	1
	Jamie McMurray	1	1
	Danica Patrick	1	1
	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	1	1
34	Chris Buescher	1	0
	Jeffrey Earnhardt	1	0
	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	1	0
	Jimmie Johnson	1	0
	Reed Sorenson	1	0
	Daniel Suarez	1	0
	Derrike Cope	1	0
41	Denny Hamlin	0	0
	Gray Gaulding	0	0
	Timmy Hill	0	0
	DJ Kennington	0	0
	Cody Ware	0	0

Number of Top-10s Backed up With Another

This is the number of times in 2017 that a driver backed up one top-10 with another finish of 10th or better, (total number of top-10s for the season in parenthesis):

Kurt Busch: 1 (2)
Kasey Kahne: 1 (2)
Joey Logano: 1 (2)
AJ Allmendinger: 0 (1)
Clint Bowyer: 0 (1)

Brad Keselowski: 0 (1)
Kyle Larson: 0 (1)
Ryan Blaney: 0 (1)
Matt Kenseth: 0 (1)
Aric Almirola: 0 (1)
Chase Elliott: 0 (1)
Paul Menard: 0 (1)
Martin Truex Jr.: 0 (1)
Kevin Harvick: 0 (1)
Matt DiBenedetto: 0 (1)
Jamie McMurray: 0 (1)
Trevor Bayne: 0 (1)
Ricky Stenhouse Jr.: 0 (0)
Erik Jones: 0 (0)
Ty Dillon: 0 (0)

Michael McDowell: 0 (0)
Kyle Busch: 0 (0)
Landon Cassill: 0 (0)
Denny Hamlin: 0 (0)
Danica Patrick: 0 (0)
Cole Whitt: 0 (0)
Jimmie Johnson: 0 (0)
Austin Dillon: 0 (0)
Ryan Newman: 0 (0)
Daniel Suarez: 0 (0)
David Ragan: 0 (0)
Chris Buescher: 0 (0)
Corey LaJoie: 0 (0)
Jeffrey Earnhardt: 0 (0)
Dale Earnhardt Jr.: 0 (0)
Reed Sorenson: 0 (0)
Derrike Cope: 0 (0)
Gray Gaulding: 0 (0)

DRIVER PERFORMANCE

Here are the top performances by driver so far this season. The full list can be found each week by clicking on the "Driver Performance" link in the "Research" section of your team roster:

Yahoo! Group A:

(1) Joey Logano: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Kevin Harvick: Atlanta (week 2)

Yahoo! Group B:

Top two each week.

(1) Kurt Busch: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Ryan Blaney: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Kyle Larson: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Kasey Kahne: Atlanta (week 2)

Yahoo! Group C:

(1) Michael Waltrip: Daytona

1 (week 1)

(1) Erik Jones: Atlanta (week 2)

NASCAR.com Fantasy Live

Top five game finishes

(1) Ryan Blaney: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) AJ Allmendinger: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Paul Menard: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Joey Logano: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Kurt Busch: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Kevin Harvick: Atlanta

(week 2)

(1) Brad Keselowski: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Chase Elliott: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Kasey Kahne: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Kyle Larson: Atlanta (week 2)

Draft Kings

Top five game finishes

(1) Ryan Blaney: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) AJ Allmendinger: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Paul Menard: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Michael Waltrip: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Brendan Gaughan: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Kevin Harvick: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Brad Keselowski: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Kasey Kahne: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Matt Kenseth: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Chase Elliott: Atlanta (week 2)

TWITTER LEAGUE

It's not too late to

Driver Rating: Season to Date			
Rank	Driver	Standings	Rating
1	Kevin Harvick	1	117.0
2	Brad Keselowski	3	108.7
3	Kyle Larson	6	106.7
4	Chase Elliott	4	104.0
5	Kurt Busch	2	100.0
6	Joey Logano	5	99.4
7	Martin Truex Jr.	7	92.6
8	Ryan Blaney	8	87.4
9	Jamie McMurray	12	83.4
10	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	33	80.4
11	Kasey Kahne	9	79.6
12	Ryan Newman	20	75.5
13	Austin Dillon	23	75.4
14	Trevor Bayne	10	73.1
15	Jimmie Johnson	32	72.7
16	Paul Menard	15	71.0
17	Kyle Busch	25	68.4
18	AJ Allmendinger	11	68.2
19	Clint Bowyer	14	68.2
20	Danica Patrick	22	67.3
21	Erik Jones	29	66.9
22	Matt Kenseth	16	64.3
23	Ty Dillon	26	64.2
24	David Ragan	30	63.6
25	Denny Hamlin	19	63.3
26	Aric Almirola	13	61.5
27	Michael McDowell	27	57.3
28	Chris Buescher	35	57.2
29	Cole Whitt	17	52.5
30	Matt DiBenedetto	18	50.4
31	Landon Cassill	21	48.8
32	Daniel Suarez	31	44.2
33	Corey Lajoie	34	33.4
34	Jeffrey Earnhardt	36	31.0

join the Dan Beaver Twitter League. Players can join or leave groups throughout the season and your team can accumulate points in up to three leagues. This is one of the most competitive leagues in the game since most or all of the players get their excellent information from the pages of these previews.

Simply log onto Yahoo! Sports and navigate to the fantasy racing page (<http://racing.fantasysports.yahoo.com/auto>). Click on the "create or join a group" button and follow the instructions.

Dan Beaver's Twitter League Group ID#: 38

Avg Running Position: Season to Date			
Rank	Driver	Starts	Avg.
1	Chase Elliott	2	6.47
2	Kevin Harvick	2	6.86
3	Kyle Larson	2	7.13
4	Brad Keselowski	2	9.23
5	Kurt Busch	2	11.09
6	Joey Logano	2	11.86
7	Jamie McMurray	2	12.03
8	Austin Dillon	2	12.34
9	Ryan Newman	2	12.60
10	Martin Truex Jr.	2	14.28
11	Trevor Bayne	2	15.54
12	Ryan Blaney	2	15.67
13	Kasey Kahne	2	15.77
14	Clint Bowyer	2	17.58
15	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2	18.04
16	Jimmie Johnson	2	18.23
17	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	2	18.64
18	Danica Patrick	2	19.18
19	Denny Hamlin	2	20.43
20	Paul Menard	2	20.81
21	Kyle Busch	2	21.56
22	AJ Allmendinger	2	21.61
23	Ty Dillon	2	21.67
24	Cole Whitt	2	21.72
25	Michael McDowell	2	22.74
26	Erik Jones	2	23.26
27	Aric Almirola	2	23.29
28	Landon Cassill	2	23.78
29	Chris Buescher	2	24.99
30	David Ragan	2	25.05
31	Matt Kenseth	2	25.16
32	Matt DiBenedetto	2	26.27
33	Daniel Suarez	2	29.56
34	Jeffrey Earnhardt	2	31.20
35	Corey Lajoie	2	33.66

Password: FantasyRace

ANY LAST MINUTE QUESTIONS?

Follow Dan Beaver on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/FantasyRace> and chat during the weekend.

That is also a great place to comment on what you read in the preview and let us know what stats you would like to see in future articles.