

DAN BEAVER'S FANTASY RACING NEWS

VOL. 2; ISSUE 4

KOBALT 400
LAS VEGAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY



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Volume 2, Issue 4

OVERVIEW

After a staggering nine penalties for speeding at Atlanta Motor Speedway, NASCAR allowed crews to watch pit road data in real time during practice at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. In the Kobalt 400, there were three speeding penalties and only one of those affected a driver in the lead pack: Kyle Busch was

sitions of their actual finish (.308) and 26 within five spots (.667).

Phoenix should be just as predictable.

FEEL THE RHYTHM

Short, flat tracks are rhythm courses.

Going fast on one of these

That cadence does not begin overnight and it is not automatic. It takes years of experience to develop that kind of discipline, but once a driver finds the right balance, it becomes part of their long term memory.

Flat tracks in general and short ovals of one-mile or less in length in particular are prone to streaks. This week's top-10 will be dominated by



caught speeding on his lap-125 entry.

With that variable taken out of the equation and Daytona International Speedway fully in the rear view mirror, Vegas was a lot more predictable. Last week's ranking predicted 12 drivers to within three po-

courses is counterintuitive. Most drivers like to carry as much speed as they can into the entry and then deal with the consequences in the center of the turn. To go fast on a short, flat track, drivers have to back the corner up and brake much earlier than feels natural.

drivers like Kevin Harvick, who has the longest active streak at Phoenix and Kyle Busch, who has been the best on the combined short, flat tracks.

With little banking to lean on through the corners, finesse comes into play. That makes

Phoenix, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Martinsville Speedway, and Richmond International Raceway into drivers' tracks.

Horsepower is important there as it is on all tracks, but it is a smaller percentage of the equation. Driver skill makes up the difference and there will be some interesting dark horses in the teens.

Here, more than on any other track type, the rookies are going to be difficult to predict. Since it takes a while to compete at this level on minimally-banked courses, they should only be used when they fit a perfect slot on one's salary cap roster.

In NASCAR, rules such as this are rarely inviolable. Last year Chase Elliott and Ryan Blaney both swept the top 10 on this course, so anyone who wants to roll the dice on the freshmen certainly have some rationale to do so—and a couple are even listed as sleepers. The rookies will also continue to be the top picks in Yahoo!'s Group C because of the strength of their teams.

Top-12 Drivers

1 Kevin Harvick

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$28.50
Wins at Track/Attempts: 8/28
Top-fives: 13 (.464)
Top-10s: 17 (.607)
Last 3 Years

Driver	Wins
Kevin Harvick	8
Jimmie Johnson	4
Dale Earnhardt Jr	3
Kurt Busch	1
Kyle Busch	1
Denny Hamlin	1
Kasey Kahne	1
Matt Kenseth	1
Joey Logano	1
Ryan Newman	1

Current Track: 1.67
Yahoo! Points: 10.70
NASCAR.com Points: 141.50
Draft Kings Points: 130.17
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 13.67

Surely you weren't expecting anyone else in the top slot this week.

Six of Harvick's eight career wins at Phoenix have come in the last 10 events. Of the four races he did not win, he finished second twice and fourth once. That leaves only the spring 2013 race as an outlier. He had mechanical difficulty that race. He has dominated Phoenix like no other recent driver on any track.

But, therein lies the problem. Harvick has been so dominant that he will not differentiate your lineup from the competition. He will be expensive in every salary cap game and the trick is going to be with whom to match him.

2. Joey Logano

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$28.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/16
Top-fives: 4 (.250)
Top-10s: 9 (.563)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 6.67
Yahoo! Points: 85.00
NASCAR.com Points: 55.13
Draft Kings Points: 53.29

Driver	Top-5s
Jimmie Johnson	15
Kevin Harvick	13
Denny Hamlin	10
Dale Earnhardt Jr	9
Ryan Newman	9
Kurt Busch	7
Kyle Busch	6
Matt Kenseth	6
Kasey Kahne	5
Brad Keselowski	4
Joey Logano	4
Clint Bowyer	2
Jamie McMurray	2
Derrike Cope	1
Kyle Larson	1
Martin Truex Jr	1

Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 3.83

Harvick entered last year's fall Can-Am 500k in need of a victory to advance to the championship race. He had a shot late in the event, but found Logano hard to get around for a top-five position. On the final stop, Harvick fell back a little; Logano went on to win the race and that makes him one of only two drivers other than Harvick to win on this track since 2013.

Logano is going to be up on the wheel after last week's altercation with Kyle Busch. Both drivers want to prove they are the better driver and confirm the old adage that success is the best revenge. Busch might still retaliate for the last-lap spin, but with his sponsor M&M Mars saying they do not condone his actions, he is probably smart enough to wait several weeks and make it look like an accident.

3. Chase Elliott

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$27.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/2

Driver	Top-10s
Jimmie Johnson	19
Kurt Busch	17
Kevin Harvick	17
Kyle Busch	15
Dale Earnhardt Jr	14
Denny Hamlin	13
Matt Kenseth	11
Ryan Newman	11
Joey Logano	9
Kasey Kahne	8
Brad Keselowski	7
Martin Truex Jr	7
Clint Bowyer	6
Jamie McMurray	4
Paul Menard	3
AJ Allmendinger	2
Ryan Blaney	2
Derrike Cope	2
Chase Elliott	2
Kyle Larson	2
Aric Almirola	1
Austin Dillon	1
David Ragan	1

Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 2 (1.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 8.50
 Yahoo! Points: 76.50
 NASCAR.com Points: 42.00
 Draft Kings Points: 45.00
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 7.67

Elliott is getting off to a career start. He had legitimate shots at winning the Daytona 500 and QuikTrip 500 late in the going. Last week, he was never a serious contender for the win, but he ran in the top five most of the afternoon and finished third. That has easily made him one of the best values in the game, even though his salary cap is much higher in 2017 than it was in 2016.

Yahoo!'s Group B can be difficult to handicap. It is easy to exhaust drivers and still not get them activated at the right time, but while a racer is on this kind of streak, it pays to ride the bandwagon.

4. Kyle Larson

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$26.75

Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/6
 Top-fives: 1 (.167)
 Top-10s: 2 (.333)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 13.17
 Yahoo! Points: 69.40
 NASCAR.com Points: 27.88
 Draft Kings Points: 29.50
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 6.00

In the first three races of 2017, only one driver at any Yahoo! level has earned maximum points twice. Larson was one of the top-two at both Atlanta and Las Vegas on the strength of a pair of second-place finishes. He also finished second at Homestead last fall, but the most relevant result came at Phoenix in November. He finished third in the Can-Am 500k to kick start his incredible run.

5. Kyle Busch

Yahoo! Group: A
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$27.00
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/23
 Top-fives: 6 (.261)
 Top-10s: 15 (.652)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 10.60
 Yahoo! Points: 77.50
 NASCAR.com Points: 66.50
 Draft Kings Points: 41.10
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 14.83

Busch won his second career race at Phoenix in 2005. He was solid after that victory, but mostly finished in the top-10 and had only two top-fives between 2006 and 2014. He missed the first 2015 race due to injury, but then rebounded with a fourth in the fall. Last year, he swept the top five with another fourth and a second in the fall race.

Busch finished runner-up to Logano in that most recent race on this track and if the win comes down to the two of them in the Camping World 500k, he has the justification

Driver Rating: Phoenix			
Rank	Driver	Best	Avg.
1	Jimmie Johnson	149.9	111.2
2	Kevin Harvick	150.0	110.7
3	Chase Elliott	106.7	103.9
4	Kyle Busch	143.8	98.4
5	Kurt Busch	150.0	98.3
6	Denny Hamlin	131.8	95.6
7	Joey Logano	125.6	92.4
8	Brad Keselowski	122.4	92.4
9	Matt Kenseth	120.9	89.0
10	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	127.3	88.7
11	Kyle Larson	100.4	87.5
12	Ryan Newman	112.5	86.1
13	Martin Truex Jr.	121.4	84.5
14	Ryan Blaney	85.2	83.8
15	Erik Jones	83.1	83.1
16	Kasey Kahne	122.2	80.7
17	Jamie McMurray	123.9	77.2
18	AJ Allmendinger	114.3	76.5
19	Clint Bowyer	114.5	75.8
20	Aric Almirola	88.2	72.6
21	Austin Dillon	92.1	70.7
22	Paul Menard	106.8	67.7
23	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	78.0	65.5
24	Alex Bowman	138.0	61.5
25	Ty Dillon	74.0	61.2
26	Michael Waltrip	118.0	54.8
27	Elliott Sadler	87.1	53.8
28	Danica Patrick	66.4	53.6
29	David Ragan	78.8	53.2
30	Reed Sorenson	71.0	51.1
31	Matt DiBenedetto	57.7	48.1
32	Trevor Bayne	54.8	47.4
33	Landon Cassill	57.6	43.0
34	Cole Whitt	58.1	42.1
35	Michael McDowell	48.2	38.4
36	Chris Buescher	37.2	37.2
37	Brendan Gaughan	47.4	33.8
38	Jeffrey Earnhardt	31.6	31.6
39	Timmy Hill	37.9	30.0
40	Joey Gase	29.9	28.8
41	DJ Kennington	28.8	28.8
42	Gray Gaulding	24.7	24.7

to get a little rough after last week's incident.

6. Kurt Busch

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$23.00
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/29
 Top-fives: 7 (.241)
 Top-10s: 17 (.586)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 11.50
 Yahoo! Points: 81.20
 NASCAR.com Points: 42.88
 Draft Kings Points: 34.08
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 12.67

While his current teammate Harvick garnered all the press for winning four consecutive Phoenix races from 2013



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through 2015, Busch was quietly following closely behind. He enters the weekend with six results of seventh or better in his last seven races and the only time he failed to do so was because of an engine failure in his first Phoenix attempt with Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR). This week, Busch is going to be the far better value in salary cap games and he is one of the top choices in Yahoo!'s Group B.

7. Brad Keselowski

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$27.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/15
Top-fives: 4 (.267)

Top-10s: 7 (.467)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 10.83
Yahoo! Points: 72.20
NASCAR.com Points: 43.00
Draft Kings Points: 43.13
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 16.00

Keselowski finished 11th or better in eight straight races from 2012 through 2015. Last year was not as kind. He sustained crash damage in the spring and was only 14th in the fall.

A top-15 might be acceptable for most drivers on most

tracks, but with two top-fives in his last two starts, Kez has raised the bar. Still, he will be a top-10 value each week and fantasy owners need to consider him.

8. Ryan Blaney

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$20.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/2
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 2 (1.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 9.00
Yahoo! Points: 74.00
NASCAR.com Points: 33.00
Draft Kings Points: 36.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 12.17

When considering Young Guns, Blaney has been overlooked. Elliott and Larson are performing so well, that challenges for top-10s are not enough; in order to be a good value among the drivers with four or fewer years' experience, they must seal the deal and finish in the top 10. Blaney did just that last year. He qualified 12th and finished 10th in the spring. He started and finished eighth in the fall, and that kind of consistency makes him incredibly attractive.

Total Top-5s: Season	
Driver	Top-5s
Brad Keselowski	2
Chase Elliott	2
Kyle Larson	2
Ryan Blaney	1
AJ Allmendinger	1
Paul Menard	1
Matt Kenseth	1
Martin Truex Jr	1
Kasey Kahne	1
Joey Logano	1
Aric Almirola	1
Kurt Busch	1

9. Jamie McMurray

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$21.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/27
Top-fives: 2 (.074)
Top-10s: 4 (.148)

Last 3 Years
Current Track: 11.33
Yahoo! Points: 71.40
NASCAR.com Points: 30.75
Draft Kings Points: 32.88
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 13.50

McMurray does not have the long list of top-10s that many of the competitors above him do at Phoenix, but he has made up for that in consistency. In his last six attempts on this track, he has scored a worst result of 16th and averaged 11.3. In 2015, he finished second to Harvick and that shows that he has a

strong upside.

The real reason to take a risk on him in the Camping World 500k is because of how well he has run in the first three races of 2017. He has challenged for top-10s most of those afternoons and found just enough speed in the closing laps to be 10th at Atlanta and eighth at Vegas.

10. Martin Truex Jr.

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$27.50
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/22
Top-fives: 1 (.045)



DAILY FANTASY MOCK DRAFT

Victoria Beaver

Phoenix is the first short track the drivers will visit this season. Like most short, flat track, there is not much difference between the two races. Streaks on this track type are common, often broken up by only misfortune or misadventure. It is easy to go by the numbers. On one hand, that makes drivers easy to handicap, but it also raises the stakes. Winning a DFS contest this week will be about having the best available driver in each salary cap range.

Splurge

Kevin Harvick

Fantasy Power Rankings Average: 4.05

Harvick has the best Fantasy Power Ranking average at Phoenix out of the current starters, and he was second best on short flat tracks last year. Of course, that means he will be especially expensive in DFS games, but it is go-

ing to be difficult to win without him. He has won at the track eight times, four of those wins came in a streak between the fall race of 2013 and spring 2015. In the last four races, he has finished better than he has qualified and moved up an average of 6.25 positions. In three of his last four starts he has led the most laps, which makes him attractive no matter what scoring structure is used.

Brad Keselowski

Fantasy Power Rankings Average: 6.33

Keselowski currently has the third-best Fantasy Power Ranking at Phoenix, but he's the overall best on short flat tracks. Keselowski is a sturdy pick at Phoenix, although he has stronger finishes at the fall race than the spring. Keselowski led laps in both 2015 races, the highest being 54 from the spring. Due to a late race tire problem in spring 2016 that caused him to finish 10 spots behind where he qualified, he has a place differential of -0.25. If we ignore that race and look at the last four without it he has a much better place differential of +2.25.

Top-10s: 7 (.318)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 18.17
Yahoo! Points: 57.20
NASCAR.com Points: 25.13
Draft Kings Points: 28.33
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 16.83

Most of the old statistics have to be ignored for Truex. His last two seasons have shown so much improvement that the years with Dale Earnhardt Inc. and Michael Waltrip Racing are meaningless. While he improved almost everywhere else, Phoenix has lagged behind, however. Since joining Furniture Row and even during the last two years, he has mostly landed in the low-teens. He earned one top-10 in 2015, but that is not enough

to make him a favorite to win or even finish in the top five.

Still, Truex has momentum on his side and has a few surprises left, so he cannot be overlooked and ranking him 10th falls in the category of hedging one's bets.

11. Kasey Kahne

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$22.50
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/25
Top-fives: 5 (.200)
Top-10s: 8 (.320)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 16.17
Yahoo! Points: 57.60
NASCAR.com Points: 28.25
Draft Kings Points: 29.50
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 13.50

Kahne fits into the same cate-

gory as Elliott and Larson this week. His results have not been as great and he has not shown the same level of speed, but his improvement is just as dramatic. Players who have already jumped on his bandwagon were rewarded with three consecutive results of 12th or better.

Those who haven't might only have a limited time to ride his momentum. It is not too late get on board until he scores back-to-back results outside the top 15.

12. Ryan Newman

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$17.50
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/29
Top-fives: 9 (.310)
Top-10s: 11 (.379)

Mid Range

Denny Hamlin

Fantasy Power Rankings Average: 13.62

Hamlin has some of his best finishes on short, flat tracks. At Phoenix, he is only 11th-best with a 13.62, but he is fifth-best on similarly configured tracks. He tends to finish around where he qualified, so fantasy owners should pay attention to his starting location. He's moved forward an average of 1.25 positions in his last four Phoenix starts. Since Hamlin is not at his absolute best at there, he should be placed last so owners can make sure he fits an appropriate niche.

Kyle Larson

Fantasy Power Rankings Average: 14.33

Larson's average at Phoenix is right behind Hamlin's, but with fewer races under his belt he might catch the competition by surprise. His best finish there was a third last fall. The biggest problem with Larson is that he loses place-differential points. His differential is -4.75 spots. He has not yet been good enough to jockey for first and lead laps track, but with his current momentum that could change

Steal

Ryan Blaney

Fantasy Power Rankings Average: 9.00

Blaney has only raced at Phoenix twice but so far he has pulled two top-10 finishes out of the hat. That gives him a much higher average than similarly-priced drivers. Blaney finished eighth after starting eighth last fall and advanced two positions from 12th to tenth in the spring for an average finish of ninth bolstered by a place differential of +1.

Aric Almirola

Fantasy Power Rankings Average: 18.84

Almirola has finished better than he's qualified in nine of 12 attempts, but he usually qualifies in the mid pack. Fantasy owners should not expect major points for his finishing position, but he has moved up an average of 6.5 positions in his last four starts. Almirola has also finished on the lead lap in 10 of his Phoenix starts and was running at the end of all 12. That puts him in a position to capitalize on attrition.

Last 3 Years
Current Track: 13.83
Yahoo! Points: 61.60
NASCAR.com Points: 26.75
Draft Kings Points: 34.17
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 20.00

Consistency has been the hallmark of Newman on nearly every track in recent seasons. That failed him at Phoenix last year when he crashed out of the Can-Am 500k 51 laps into the show and finished 39th.

He entered that race with a five-race streak of top-12 results, however, and rebounded with another 12th in the fall. He should be predictable once more and could be one of this week's top differentiators.

SLEEPERS

16. Erik Jones

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$19.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/1
Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 19.00
Yahoo! Points: 54.00
NASCAR.com Points: 13.50
Draft Kings Points: 13.50
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 22.67

He got off to a shaky start at Daytona, but it looks like Jones will fulfill his role in what we predicted would be a great Rookie of the Year battle. He ran in the top 10 for sizeable portions of the Quik-Trip 500 and Kobalt 400 and earned top-15s at the check-

ers. Phoenix is not typically kind to rookies, but last year Elliott and Blaney swept the top 10 there.

It is probably too soon for Jones to get his first single-digit finish, but he should be good for a couple more top-15s in the next few races.

18. Clint Bowyer

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$16.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/23
Top-fives: 2 (.000)
Top-10s: 6 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 25.83
Yahoo! Points: 35.20
NASCAR.com Points: 23.50
Draft Kings Points: 19.04
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 20.83

Now that Bowyer has a top-10

to his credit, he will become a weekly threat. His confidence probably took a bit of a hit last year racing for HScott Motorsports and as problems piled up early this season with SHR, there must have been thoughts about how long his bad fortune would go on. Getting back on the lead lap at Atlanta was critical; that allowed him to finish 11th. He carried that momentum to Vegas and finished 10th.

Bowyer could surprise fantasy owners this week, but it has not been one of his better tracks. That is why he is ranked 18th. While he has two top-fives there, the most recent of these came in 2008. His last top-10

Top-fives and Top-10s					
By Car Owner, Last Three Years					
Owner	Attempts	Top-5s		Top-10s	
Joe Gibbs	19	7	37%	10	53%
Tony Stewart	20	7	35%	10	50%
Roger Penske	10	3	30%	7	70%
Rick Hendrick	20	5	25%	11	55%
Chip Ganassi	10	2	20%	3	30%
Richard Childress	16	1	6%	3	19%
Wood Bros	2			2	100%
Petty Enterprises	10			2	20%
Barney Visser	5			1	20%
Jack Roush	15			1	7%
BK Racing	13				
Front Row Motorsports	12				
Harry Scott	9				
Jay Robinson	7				
Tommy Baldwin	7				
Michael Waltrip	6				
Frank Stoddard	5				
Germain Bros	5				
Tad Geschickter	5				
Bob Leavine	3				
Michael Hillman	3				
Mike Curb	3				
Curtis Key	2				
Joe Falk	2				
Johnathan Cohen	1				
Mark Beard	1				

3 Yr. Avg. Yahoo! Points at Phoenix			
Rank	Driver	Avg. Points	Attempts
1	Kevin Harvick	107.50	6
2	Joey Logano	87.33	6
3	Brad Keselowski	77.83	6
4	Kyle Busch	76.80	5
5	Chase Elliott	76.50	2
6	Denny Hamlin	75.83	6
7	Dale Earnhardt Jr	75.00	5
8	Ryan Blaney	74.00	2
9	Jamie McMurray	72.00	6
10	Matt Kenseth	70.60	5
11	Kurt Busch	70.00	6
12	Kyle Larson	66.50	6
13	Ryan Newman	66.00	6
14	Jimmie Johnson	60.50	6
15	Aric Almirola	59.67	6
16	Kasey Kahne	59.67	6
17	Martin Truex Jr	55.67	6
18	Erik Jones	54.00	1
19	AJ Allmendinger	53.00	6
20	Paul Menard	51.67	6
21	Ty Dillon	50.00	2
22	David Ragan	46.33	6
23	Austin Dillon	43.67	6
24	Danica Patrick	42.67	6
25	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	42.67	6
26	Clint Bowyer	42.00	6
27	Landon Cassill	39.60	5
28	Matt DiBenedetto	38.00	4
29	Trevor Bayne	35.50	4
30	Chris Buescher	30.00	2
31	Michael McDowell	30.00	4
32	Reed Sorenson	28.67	3
33	Cole Whitt	26.80	5
34	Jeffrey Earnhardt	26.00	1
35	Timmy Hill	6.00	1

came in 2013 and he has not scored a top-15 in five races.

20. M McDowell

Yahoo! Group: C
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$10.25
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/13
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 31.00
 Yahoo! Points: 31.33
 NASCAR.com Points: 10.50
 Draft Kings Points: 11.00
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 21.50

McDowell was unable to capitalize on his late-season surge last year on his hometown track. He sustained crash damage in the Can-Am 500k, lost six laps in the process, and could salvage

only a 34th-place finish. He should have been much better given his performance on other tracks in those closing races. Now, he has a chance to impress the fans who watched him rise through the ranks. Top-10s are difficult for Group C drivers to obtain, but last week's 18th-place finish and a laps' led bonus made him the best value at that level.

21. Daniel Suarez

Yahoo! Group: C
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$17.25
 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: 23.33

Enthusiasm for the strength of this team got in the way of accurately predicting how big a struggle getting accustomed to racing with NASCAR's elite would be for this inexperi-

enced driver. Suarez was thrown into the big leagues with very few seasons in any of the support divisions, so the fact that he is improving should be viewed as a positive. After all, the exact same thing happened with this organization and Logano.

Last week, Suarez finished on the lead lap for the first time in his career. He earned his first top-20. Now, there is reason to be hopeful that he will get his first result in the teens on a course that rewards patience and skill.

22. Paul Menard

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: 0/20
Wins at Track/Attempts:
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 3 (.150)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 20.17
Yahoo! Points: 52.80
NASCAR.com Points: 23.63
Draft Kings Points: 19.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 16.83

Finding a fourth sleeper was difficult this week. Richard Childress Racing has run well, but they seem to have trouble closing out races. Newman's record was just strong enough to put him in the top 12 for Phoenix. Austin Dillon has better combined numbers on this track and in the last six races, but simply was not exciting enough to profile. Menard gets ranked just below the midline.

He finished 10th in last fall's Can-Am 500k and that should cause fantasy players to take a second look. He has not yet backed up one top-10 with another on this track and proba-

3 Year Avg. Finish on Flat Short			
Rank	Driver	Avg.	Attempts
1	Kyle Busch	8.45	20
2	Joey Logano	8.70	23
3	Kevin Harvick	8.96	23
4	Brad Keselowski	11.22	23
5	Matt Kenseth	11.55	22
6	Dale Earnhardt Jr	11.94	18
7	Denny Hamlin	12.26	23
8	Jamie McMurray	13.09	23
9	Kyle Larson	13.64	23
10	Kurt Busch	14.04	23
11	Ryan Newman	14.09	23
12	Martin Truex Jr	14.74	23
13	Jimmie Johnson	15.48	23
14	Kasey Kahne	15.74	23
15	AJ Allmendinger	17.26	23
16	Aric Almirola	17.65	23
17	Chase Elliott	18.10	10
18	Ryan Blaney	18.78	9
19	Austin Dillon	19.39	23
20	Paul Menard	19.78	23
21	Ty Dillon	21.00	2
22	Clint Bowyer	22.30	23
23	Danica Patrick	23.26	23
24	Trevor Bayne	24.94	16
25	David Ragan	25.78	23
26	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	26.09	23
27	Landon Cassill	27.70	23
28	Michael McDowell	29.09	12
29	Chris Buescher	29.22	9
30	Matt DiBenedetto	30.88	16
31	Cole Whitt	31.26	20
32	Jeffrey Earnhardt	34.71	7
33	Reed Sorenson	34.94	17
34	Gray Gaulding	38.00	2
35	Timmy Hill	39.50	8

bly will not do so this week, but if he can squeeze out a result in the low- to mid-teens, he could be an acceptable value in some games.

BUSTS

13. Jimmie Johnson

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$26.50
Wins at Track/Attempts: 4/27
Top-fives: 15 (.556)
Top-10s: 19 (.704)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 18.33
Yahoo! Points: 56.40
NASCAR.com Points: 38.3
Draft Kings Points: 29.96
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 19.00

There is an inherent problem in trying to get a round peg to fit in a square hole: Some-

thing gets broken along the way. In an effort to make auto racing look more like traditional stick and ball sports, NASCAR set up a system that does not reward overall excellence. Johnson won two critical races last year, but those are his only two top-10s in the past eight races. One was the championship event, so he got to take the Cup home. What he is not doing, is adding many fantasy points to a player's total.

15. Denny Hamlin

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$25.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/23
Top-fives: 10 (.435)
Top-10s: 13 (.565)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 10.83
Yahoo! Points: 80.20
NASCAR.com Points: 36.13
Draft Kings Points: 35.08
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 14.33

Hamlin enters the weekend with three consecutive Phoenix top-10s. One of these was a third in last year's edition of this race and he has a victory as recently as 2012. That begs the question as to why he is a bust this week. The answer is because Joe Gibbs Racing just seems to be lacking the overall power they had in 2016 and when they are not on their A game, Hamlin is often the driver who suffers. Phoenix is his bellwether and when he is struggling, it is the short, flat track on which he is most likely to fall outside the top 10. In fact, three of his results on this track in the past four years ended well outside the top 20.

19. Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$22.00



this week because of strategy.

His results are not where they should be so far in 2017, but then again neither are his shop-mate Johnson's. The question has to be asked if Earnhardt is struggling because of lingering effects from his concussion or if critical resources at the organization have shifted to Elliott and Kahne. Either way, he is costing fantasy owners points.

By the numbers, Earnhardt should be one of the top choices this week. He has six results of eighth or better in his last seven Phoenix starts. If he cannot improve his performance on this course this week, fantasy owners should leave him in the garage until Talladega SuperSpeedway.

25. AJ Allmendinger

Yahoo! Group: B

NASCAR.com Cap: \$16.00

Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/17

Top-fives: 0 (.000)

Top-10s: 2 (.118)

Last 3 Years

Current Track: 19.50

Yahoo! Points: 55.60

Wins at Track/Attempts: 3/28

Top-fives: 9 (.321)

Top-10s: 14 (.500)

Last 3 Years

Current Track: 11.80

Yahoo! Points: 71.75

NASCAR.com Points: 47.67

Draft Kings Points: 50.00

Avg. Last 6 races ^

Cup results: 27.67

Earnhardt is listed as a bust

Points' Leaders						
Rank	Driver	Points	Race Wins	Stage Wins	Playoff Points	Points' standings
1	Kevin Harvick	91		3	3	8
2	Martin Truex Jr.	127	1	2	7	4
3	Brad Keselowski	132	1		5	1
4	Kyle Larson	131				2
5	Chase Elliott	129				3
6	Joey Logano	119				5
7	Ryan Blaney	106				6
8	Kurt Busch	93	1		5	7
9	Kasey Kahne	88				9
10	Jamie McMurray	86				10
11	Trevor Bayne	82				11
12	Clint Bowyer	73				12
13	Matt Kenseth	71				13
14	Aric Almirola	70				14
15	Denny Hamlin	68				15
16	Paul Menard	62				16
	Kyle Busch	50		1	1	19

Track Sweeps (Drivers Sweeping Top-5, -10, and -15s in a season)

Track	top-5s	10s	15s
2016 Michigan	4	7	10
2016 Texas	3	7	11
2016 Road Courses	3	5	9
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

NASCAR.com Points: 26.50
 Draft Kings Points: 27.50
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 15.83

Better careful what you wish
 for because you just might get
 it. Teams wanted harsher pen-

alties for things like loose lugnuts and NASCAR answered. As a result, Allmendinger is without his crew chief for two more weeks.

Overall, he has not been all that bad at Phoenix. Allmendinger has a pair of top-10s to his credit on this track in 2011 while racing for Richard Petty Motorsports.

He earned an 11th with James Finch in 2013. Since then he has failed to crack the top 15. He came close four times with results of 16th or 17th—and that would actually make him a sleeper, if not for one thing.

If only he had his primary crew chief.

26. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$14.00
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/8
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 24.67
 Yahoo! Points: 40.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 2.75
 Draft Kings Points: 12.33
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 24.33

Roush-Fenway Racing is improving. They have been part of the storyline in each of the first three races until a couple of misfortunes sidelined Stenhouse:

An accident at Daytona and broken axle at Las Vegas sent him home in the 30s. He will rebound sometime this season, but that is unlikely to happen at Phoenix. Even when

this team is at their best, they are not particularly strong on short, flat tracks.

Laps in Top-10 at Phoenix (L 3Yrs)				
Rank	Driver	Laps	%	Possible Laps
1	Kevin Harvick	1,360	91.9%	1,480
2	Joey Logano	1,325	89.5%	1,480
3	Chase Elliott	525	82.4%	637
4	Kurt Busch	1,219	82.4%	1,480
5	Matt Kenseth	917	72.7%	1,261
6	Kyle Busch	845	72.3%	1,168
7	Brad Keselowski	942	63.6%	1,480
8	Dale Earnhardt Jr	700	60.6%	1,156
9	Martin Truex Jr	752	50.8%	1,480
10	Denny Hamlin	725	49.0%	1,480
11	Kyle Larson	616	41.6%	1,480
12	Jimmie Johnson	598	40.4%	1,480
13	Kasey Kahne	556	37.6%	1,480
14	Jamie McMurray	479	32.4%	1,480
15	Erik Jones	70	32.0%	219
16	Ryan Newman	471	31.8%	1,480
17	Austin Dillon	344	23.2%	1,480
18	Ryan Blaney	64	10.0%	637
19	Aric Almirola	133	9.0%	1,480
20	Paul Menard	106	7.2%	1,480
21	AJ Allmendinger	46	3.1%	1,480
22	David Ragan	7	0.5%	1,480
23	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	6	0.4%	1,480
24	Danica Patrick	2	0.1%	1,480
25	Trevor Bayne	1	0.1%	1,168
26	Clint Bowyer	1	0.1%	1,480
27	Matt DiBenedetto	-	0.0%	1,168
28	Landon Cassill	-	0.0%	1,167
29	Cole Whitt	-	0.0%	1,156
30	Michael McDowell	-	0.0%	949
31	Chris Buescher	-	0.0%	637
32	Reed Sorenson	-	0.0%	636
33	Ty Dillon	-	0.0%	625
34	Jeffrey Earnhardt	-	0.0%	324
35	Gray Gaulding	-	0.0%	324
36	Timmy Hill	-	0.0%	219

Other Drivers

14. Matt Kenseth

Yahoo! Group: A
NASCAR.com Cap: \$26.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/28
Top-fives: 6 (.214)
Top-10s: 11 (.393)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 11.80
Yahoo! Points: 71.25
NASCAR.com Points: 33.17
Draft Kings Points: 35.35
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 14.50

17. Austin Dillon

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$21.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/6
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 1 (.167)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 24.17
Yahoo! Points: 43.60
NASCAR.com Points: 14.13
Draft Kings Points: 12.58

Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 27.33

23. Aric Almirola

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$12.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/13
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 1 (.077)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 16.17
Yahoo! Points: 59.20
NASCAR.com Points: 33.00
Draft Kings Points: 32.17
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 21.50

24. Ty Dillon

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$12.75
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/2
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 21.00
Yahoo! Points: 50.00
NASCAR.com Points: 39.00

Draft Kings Points: 29.00

Avg. Last 6 races ^

Cup results: 24.75

27. Trevor Bayne

Yahoo! Group: B
NASCAR.com Cap: \$17.50
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/5
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 28.25
Yahoo! Points: 35.50
NASCAR.com Points: 12.50
Draft Kings Points: 14.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 18.83

28. Matt DiBenedetto

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$7.25
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/4
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 27.00
Yahoo! Points: 38.00
NASCAR.com Points: 18.50
Draft Kings Points: 20.00

Avg Running Position: Season to Date			
Rank	Driver	Starts	Avg.
1	Chase Elliott	3	5.84
2	Kyle Larson	3	6.56
3	Brad Keselowski	3	6.87
4	Martin Truex Jr.	3	10.04
5	Joey Logano	3	10.09
6	Jamie McMurray	3	12.19
7	Ryan Newman	3	12.56
8	Ryan Blaney	3	13.04
9	Kurt Busch	3	13.47
10	Kevin Harvick	3	14.46
11	Trevor Bayne	3	15.43
12	Austin Dillon	3	15.45
13	Kasey Kahne	3	15.65
14	Jimmie Johnson	3	15.76
15	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3	15.83
16	Clint Bowyer	3	16.87
17	Kyle Busch	3	16.96
18	Denny Hamlin	3	18.04
19	Erik Jones	3	18.97
20	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	3	19.61
21	Paul Menard	3	20.26
22	Matt Kenseth	3	21.08
23	Ty Dillon	3	21.91
24	Aric Almirola	3	22.35
25	Danica Patrick	3	22.50
26	Michael McDowell	3	22.89
27	AJ Allmendinger	3	23.10
28	Cole Whitt	3	24.84
29	Chris Buescher	3	25.24
30	Landon Cassill	3	25.49
31	Daniel Suarez	3	26.89
32	David Ragan	3	27.24
33	Matt DiBenedetto	3	27.31
34	Jeffrey Earnhardt	3	32.48
35	Corey Lajoie	3	35.01



Track Type: Short Track
Track Size: 1 Mile
Banking/Turn 1 & 2: 10-11 degrees
Banking/Turn 3 & 4: 8-9 degrees
Banking/Frontstretch: 3 degrees
Banking/Backstretch: 8-9 degrees
Race Length: 312 Laps /500 Kilometers
Stage 1 & 2: 75 Laps (each)
Final Stage: 162 Laps

3 Things to Know

8

Most Wins
(Kevin Harvick)

22

Number of Different
Pole Winners

15

Most Top 5 Finishes
(Jimmie Johnson)

- Carol D'Agostino, Skirtsandscuffs.com

Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 23.00

29. David Ragan

Yahoo! Group: C
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$6.25
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/20
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 1 (.050)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 24.50
 Yahoo! Points: 48.40
 NASCAR.com Points: 21.71
 Draft Kings Points: 23.46
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 28.33

30. Danica Patrick

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$12.50
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/9
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 24.67
 Yahoo! Points: 47.20
 NASCAR.com Points: 22.00
 Draft Kings Points: 21.83
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 26.33

31. Chris Buescher

Yahoo! Group: B
 NASCAR.com Cap: \$9.25

Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/2
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 31.00

Yahoo! Points: 30.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 10.00
 Draft Kings Points: 13.00
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 26.50



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

NASCAR.com Points: 17.50
Draft Kings Points: 15.30
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 22.00

35. Timmy Hill

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/4
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 43.00
Yahoo! Points: 6.00
NASCAR.com Points: 1.00
Draft Kings Points: 1.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 39.00

36. Gray Gaulding

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.75
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/1
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 37.00
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: 4.00
Draft Kings Points: 7.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 37.00

37. Jeffrey Earnhardt

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.00
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: 10.00
Draft Kings Points: 13.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 31.50

38. 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: 32.33

39. Derrike Cope

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

32. Landon Cassill

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$8.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/13
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 29.33
Yahoo! Points: 39.60
NASCAR.com Points: 23.00
Draft Kings Points: 24.40
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 22.50

33. Reed Sorenson

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.00
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/12
Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 31.67
Yahoo! Points: 28.00
NASCAR.com Points: 7.00
Draft Kings Points: 17.73
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 34.33

34. Cole Whitt

Yahoo! Group: C
NASCAR.com Cap: \$5.50
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/7
Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 32.60
Yahoo! Points: 24.00

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
Kyle Larson	3		2	2	5.33	9.67	792			
Joey Logano	3		1	3	5.33	9.00	792			
Chase Elliott	3		2	2	7.33	8.00	792	1		
Martin Truex Jr	3	1	1	2	7.33	15.33	792			
Kasey Kahne	3		1	2	7.67	20.67	792			
Michael Waltrip	1			1	8.00	30.00	200			
Ryan Blaney	3		1	2	9.00	17.67	791			
Brendan Gaughan	1				11.00	39.00	200			
Brad Keselowski	3	1	2	2	11.00	4.33	735	1	1	
Trevor Bayne	3			1	11.67	15.33	792			
Kurt Busch	3	1	1	2	12.67	12.67	788			
Aric Almirola	3		1	1	15.00	24.33	788			
Jamie McMurray	3			2	15.33	6.67	733		1	
Paul Menard	3		1	1	16.33	21.33	789			
Matt Kenseth	3		1	2	17.33	9.67	695		1	
AJ Allmendinger	3		1	1	17.67	27.00	788			
Clint Bowyer	3			1	17.67	14.67	720		1	
Elliott Sadler	1				20.00	40.00	199			
Denny Hamlin	3			1	20.33	9.67	648		1	
Michael McDowell	3				20.67	28.00	787			
Matt DiBenedetto	3			1	21.00	26.00	786			
Jimmie Johnson	3				21.33	19.33	718		1	
Landon Cassill	3				21.67	27.00	786			
Ty Dillon	3				22.00	22.67	732		1	
Cole Whitt	3				22.00	29.00	787			
Erik Jones	3				22.67	21.67	695		1	
Joey Gase	1				23.00	29.00	196			
Kevin Harvick	3			1	23.00	8.33	590		1	
Daniel Suarez	3				23.33	17.00	731		1	
Ryan Newman	3				24.33	12.33	774			
Kyle Busch	3				25.33	11.00	695		1	
Austin Dillon	3				25.33	17.00	784			
David Ragan	3				25.67	28.67	775			
Ricky Stenhouse Jr	3				25.67	18.67	719		1	
Chris Buescher	3				27.33	30.00	716		1	
Dale Earnhardt Jr	3				27.67	10.67	693		1	
Danica Patrick	3				28.67	21.33	699		2	
Jeffrey Earnhardt	3				30.33	34.33	723		1	
Reed Sorenson	2				31.00	35.00	582			1
Corey LaJoie	3				32.33	32.33	522		1	
Derrike Cope	2				35.50	38.00	552			
Gray Gaulding	2				35.50	33.00	513		1	
DJ Kennington	1				36.00	28.00	127		1	
Timmy Hill	1				37.00	39.00	135		1	1
Cody Ware	1				39.00	39.00	74		1	

Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/16

Top-fives: 1 (.063)

Top-10s: 2 (.125)

Last 3 Years

Current Track: NA

Yahoo! Points: NA

NASCAR.com Points: NA

Draft Kings Points: NA

Avg. Last 6 races ^

Cup results: 35.50

^ 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 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.

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):

Joey Logano: 2 (3)

Kurt Busch: 1 (2)

Brad Keselowski: 1 (2)

Martin Truex Jr.: 1 (2)

Kyle Larson: 1 (2)

Matt Kenseth: 1 (2)

Chase Elliott: 1 (2)

Kasey Kahne: 1 (2)

Jamie McMurray: 1 (2)

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	4	6		3.83	7.67	1,321
Kyle Larson	6		4	4		6.00	10.00	1,200
Chase Elliott	6		3	4		7.67	7.17	1,475
Michael Waltrip	1			1		8.00	30.00	17
Brendan Gaughan	1					11.00	39.00	11
Alex Bowman	3			1		11.67	12.00	401
Ryan Blaney	6		1	3		12.17	12.83	571
Kurt Busch	6	1	2	3		12.67	12.67	545
Jamie McMurray	6		1	3	1	13.50	9.83	487
Kasey Kahne	6		1	3	1	13.50	22.50	426
Kevin Harvick	6		2	4	1	13.67	5.83	1,282
Denny Hamlin	6			4	1	14.33	9.17	704
Matt Kenseth	6		1	4	1	14.50	8.83	984
Kyle Busch	6		2	3	1	14.83	14.17	754
AJ Allmendinger	6		1	2		15.83	20.83	90
Brad Keselowski	6	1	2	2	2	16.00	5.50	1,289
Martin Truex Jr	6	1	2	3	2	16.83	17.33	953
Paul Menard	6		1	2		16.83	19.67	132
Greg Biffle	3					17.00	23.33	73
Carl Edwards	3	1	1	1	1	18.00	10.00	586
Trevor Bayne	6			1		18.83	19.17	81
Jimmie Johnson	6	1	1	1	1	19.00	18.00	716
Ryan Newman	6			1	1	20.00	12.17	500
Elliott Sadler	1					20.00	40.00	29
Clint Bowyer	6			1	1	20.83	23.00	169
Aric Almirola	6		1	1		21.50	24.33	55
Michael McDowell	6			1		21.50	27.33	82
Cole Whitt	3					22.00	29.00	44
Landon Cassill	6					22.50	29.17	4
Erik Jones	3				1	22.67	21.67	327
Tony Stewart	3					22.67	19.67	16
Matt DiBenedetto	5			1		23.00	28.20	11
Daniel Suarez	3				1	23.33	17.00	2
Brian Scott	3					24.00	28.00	4
Ricky Stenhouse Jr	6				2	24.33	19.17	232
Ty Dillon	4				2	24.75	25.50	35
Casey Mears	3				1	25.00	19.33	-
Danica Patrick	6				2	26.33	22.00	38
Chris Buescher	6				1	26.50	29.50	51
Austin Dillon	6				1	27.33	12.67	740
Dale Earnhardt Jr	3				1	27.67	10.67	186
David Ragan	6					28.33	31.50	135
Michael Annett	3					28.67	37.67	-
Joey Gase	2					29.50	34.00	1
Regan Smith	3				1	30.33	32.00	-
Jeffrey Earnhardt	6				1	31.50	34.83	4
Corey LaJoie	3				1	32.33	32.33	-
Reed Sorenson	6				1	34.33	36.60	2
Derrike Cope	2					35.50	38.00	-
DJ Kennington	2				1	35.50	33.50	-
Gray Gaulding	4				2	37.00	34.33	2
Ryan Ellis	1					38.00	35.00	-
Dylan Lupton	1					39.00	39.00	-
Timmy Hill	2				2	39.00	39.00	-
Cody Ware	1				1	39.00	39.00	-
Josh Wise	1				1	40.00	40.00	-

Ty Dillon: 0 (0)
 M McDowell: 0 (0)
 Kyle Busch: 0 (0)
 Landon Cassill: 0 (0)
 D Earnhardt Jr.: 0 (0)
 Danica Patrick: 0 (0)
 Ryan Newman: 0 (0)
 Cole Whitt: 0 (0)
 Austin Dillon: 0 (0)
 Daniel Suarez: 0 (0)
 David Ragan: 0 (0)
 Chris Buescher: 0 (0)
 Corey LaJoie: 0 (0)
 J Earnhardt: 0 (0)
 Reed Sorenson: 0 (0)
 Gray Gaulding: 0 (0)
 Derrike Cope: 0 (0)
 Timmy Hill: 0 (0)
 Cody Ware: 0 (0)
 DJ Kennington: 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)

(1) Martin Truex Jr.: Las Vegas (week 3)

Yahoo! Group B:

Top two each week.

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

Ryan Blaney: 0 (2)
 AJ Allmendinger: 0 (1)
 Aric Almirola: 0 (1)
 Paul Menard: 0 (1)
 Denny Hamlin: 0 (1)
 Kevin Harvick: 0 (1)

Matt DiBenedetto: 0 (1)
 Clint Bowyer: 0 (1)
 Trevor Bayne: 0 (1)
 Jimmie Johnson: 0 (0)
 Ricky Stenhouse Jr.: 0 (0)
 Erik Jones: 0 (0)

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

(2) Kyle Larson: Atlanta (week

Consecutive Races: Running at End / on Lead Lap (LL)			
Rank	Driver	Running	LL
1	Kyle Larson	28	6
2	Joey Logano	21	9
3	Ryan Blaney	19	1
	Michael McDowell	19	1
5	Landon Cassill	15	0
6	Kurt Busch	14	0
7	David Ragan	13	0
8	Matt DiBenedetto	12	0
9	Trevor Bayne	11	3
10	Chase Elliott	9	6
11	Michael Waltrip	9	4
12	Paul Menard	9	1
13	AJ Allmendinger	9	0
14	Aric Almirola	8	1
15	Joey Gase	7	0
	Cole Whitt	7	0
17	Elliott Sadler	5	0
	Austin Dillon	5	0
19	Kasey Kahne	3	3
	Martin Truex Jr.	3	3
21	Ryan Newman	3	1
22	Brendan Gaughan	2	2
	Clint Bowyer	2	2
	Kyle Busch	2	2
	Ty Dillon	2	2
	Erik Jones	2	2
	Matt Kenseth	2	2
	Brad Keselowski	2	2
	Jamie McMurray	2	2
30	Derrike Cope	2	1
	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2	1
	Jimmie Johnson	2	1
33	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	2	0
	Chris Buescher	2	0
	Jeffrey Earnhardt	2	0
	Reed Sorenson	2	0
	Daniel Suarez	2	0
38	Denny Hamlin	1	1
39	Gray Gaulding	1	0
40	Kevin Harvick	0	0
	Corey LaJoie	0	0
	Danica Patrick	0	0
	Timmy Hill	0	0
	DJ Kennington	0	0
	Cody Ware	0	0

2), Las Vegas (week 3)

(1) Kasey Kahne: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Chase Elliott: Las Vegas (week 3)

Yahoo! Group C:

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

(1) Erik Jones: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Michael McDowell: Las Vegas (week 3)

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)

3 Yr. Avg. Yahoo! Points at Phoenix			
Rank	Driver	Avg. Points	Attempts
1	Kevin Harvick	107.50	6
2	Joey Logano	87.33	6
3	Brad Keselowski	77.83	6
4	Kyle Busch	76.80	5
5	Chase Elliott	76.50	2
6	Denny Hamlin	75.83	6
7	Dale Earnhardt Jr	75.00	5
8	Ryan Blaney	74.00	2
9	Jamie McMurray	72.00	6
10	Matt Kenseth	70.60	5
11	Kurt Busch	70.00	6
12	Kyle Larson	66.50	6
13	Ryan Newman	66.00	6
14	Jimmie Johnson	60.50	6
15	Aric Almirola	59.67	6
16	Kasey Kahne	59.67	6
17	Martin Truex Jr	55.67	6
18	Erik Jones	54.00	1
19	AJ Allmendinger	53.00	6
20	Paul Menard	51.67	6
21	Ty Dillon	50.00	2
22	David Ragan	46.33	6
23	Austin Dillon	43.67	6
24	Danica Patrick	42.67	6
25	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	42.67	6
26	Clint Bowyer	42.00	6
27	Landon Cassill	39.60	5
28	Matt DiBenedetto	38.00	4
29	Trevor Bayne	35.50	4
30	Chris Buescher	30.00	2
31	Michael McDowell	30.00	4
32	Reed Sorenson	28.67	3
33	Cole Whitt	26.80	5
34	Jeffrey Earnhardt	26.00	1
35	Timmy Hill	6.00	1

Driver Rating: Season to Date			
Rank	Driver	Standings	Rating
1	Brad Keselowski	1	115.0
2	Martin Truex Jr.	2	110.9
3	Kyle Larson	3	108.8
4	Chase Elliott	4	108.1
5	Joey Logano	5	102.3
6	Kevin Harvick	8	98.8
7	Ryan Blaney	6	91.9
8	Kurt Busch	7	89.2
9	Jamie McMurray	10	84.5
10	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	27	81.7
11	Jimmie Johnson	18	80.1
12	Kasey Kahne	9	79.2
13	Kyle Busch	19	78.0
14	Ryan Newman	17	77.0
15	Erik Jones	20	74.8
16	Trevor Bayne	11	73.9
17	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	29	73.4
18	Matt Kenseth	13	72.4
19	Austin Dillon	25	71.3
20	Clint Bowyer	12	70.8
21	Denny Hamlin	15	70.8
22	Paul Menard	16	68.7
23	Aric Almirola	14	64.1
24	AJ Allmendinger	34	62.3
25	Ty Dillon	23	62.2
26	Danica Patrick	30	58.4
27	Michael McDowell	21	57.3
28	Chris Buescher	33	56.0
29	David Ragan	31	55.1
30	Daniel Suarez	28	49.5
31	Cole Whitt	24	48.8
32	Matt DiBenedetto	22	48.7
33	Landon Cassill	26	47.7
34	Jeffrey Earnhardt	35	31.5
35	Corey Lajoie	36	30.4

(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 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 on to 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

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.

Avg Running Position: Season to Date			
Rank	Driver	Starts	Avg.
1	Chase Elliott	3	5.84
2	Kyle Larson	3	6.56
3	Brad Keselowski	3	6.87
4	Martin Truex Jr.	3	10.04
5	Joey Logano	3	10.09
6	Jamie McMurray	3	12.19
7	Ryan Newman	3	12.56
8	Ryan Blaney	3	13.04
9	Kurt Busch	3	13.47
10	Kevin Harvick	3	14.46
11	Trevor Bayne	3	15.43
12	Austin Dillon	3	15.45
13	Kasey Kahne	3	15.65
14	Jimmie Johnson	3	15.76
15	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3	15.83
16	Clint Bowyer	3	16.87
17	Kyle Busch	3	16.96
18	Denny Hamlin	3	18.04
19	Erik Jones	3	18.97
20	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	3	19.61
21	Paul Menard	3	20.26
22	Matt Kenseth	3	21.08
23	Ty Dillon	3	21.91
24	Aric Almirola	3	22.35
25	Danica Patrick	3	22.50
26	Michael McDowell	3	22.89
27	AJ Allmendinger	3	23.10
28	Cole Whitt	3	24.84
29	Chris Buescher	3	25.24
30	Landon Cassill	3	25.49
31	Daniel Suarez	3	26.89
32	David Ragan	3	27.24
33	Matt DiBenedetto	3	27.31
34	Jeffrey Earnhardt	3	32.48
35	Corey Lajoie	3	35.01